

# BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs  
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## FRANKLIN RIVER DECLARED NATIONAL PARK

The Tasmanian Government has proclaimed the catchment of the Franklin River and the Davey River as a Wild Rivers National Park. This park does not include the Prince of Wales Range nor the Denison-Spires region.

Legislation for a Lower Gordon Hydro Scheme (the Gordon above Olga Scheme - which does not affect the Franklin River) has been rejected twice now by the Tasmanian Upper House. This house favours the Gordon below Franklin Scheme. The national park proclamation did not need assent by the Upper House.

The Wild Rivers Park, though smaller than first announced last year, is good news as it gives the Franklin better protection than conservation area status. However, it must be remembered that Lake Pedder was in a national park that was revoked for a hydro scheme.

Dave Noble

## NEWNES PLATEAU

The Electricity Commission has recently released an Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed coal mine on Newnes Plateau to be known as the Bird's Rock Colliery. The headworks for the mine are to be sited in the headwaters of Carne Creek otherwise known as the east branch of the Wolgan River. Mining would be underground, extending north towards Bird's Rock and east into tributaries of Bungleboori Creek.

Submissions objecting to the proposal have been submitted by Federation, the Colong Committee, NPA, TEC and NPWS. Conservation groups believe that the Bird's Rock EIS is the worst since the new Environment legislation came into being. In fact, TEC believes that the EIS contravenes the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and has threatened the Electricity Commission with legal action if the EIS is not withdrawn and rewritten. Even the Forestry Commission is reported to be unhappy with the proposal as the proposed railway servicing the mine will go through one of its pine plantations.

The proposal if it goes ahead will have severe impact on the natural environment of Upper Carne Creek and could cause pollution to the Wolgan River. Numerous swamps at the head of Carne Creek could be drained. These swamps are particularly important ecologically, supporting many interesting plant species and two rare birds, the Tawny Grassbird and the Beautiful Firetail.

Water for the mine and for coal processing will be obtained from tributaries of Carne Creek. These tributaries at present are an important wildlife habitat mainly because of the relatively large amount of water flowing along them. Reduction of the water flow due to damming of these creeks would seriously downgrade their value as habitat and would surely cause changes in vegetation along the creeks.

The proposed mine will be serviced by a railway running from Newnes Junction. The route of the line is to the east of the old Wolgan Valley line and crosses into the catchments of Wollangambe and Bungleboori Creeks. The line will have a deleterious impact on the Wollangambe Wilderness being visible and audible well into this area.

Recent cliff collapses at mines in the Lithgow area have highlighted the problems of siting mines in dissected sandstone country. The EIS claims that there are no significant cliffs in the area to be mined. On a recent inspection trip cliffs of 30 to 50m were commonly sighted as were a few small canyons which would be destroyed if the walls collapsed.

The EIS reveals that the impact of the mine on the community will be quite small. Federation believes that there is no justification for the mine. The deadline for return of submissions was 3rd April, however late submission should still be sent to Lithgow Council. It is also necessary to support TEC should the case come before the Land and Environment Court, as appears likely.

Cathart Bushwalking Club, Springwood Bushwalking Club and SUBW. Most walks concentrate on the creeks themselves and the shrub swamps.

The upper part of Carne Creek and its tributaries, south of Bird's Rock, are particularly interesting. Side creeks often provide small canyons many of which are yet to be explored.

Perhaps the most spectacular features of the area are the waterfalls and cascades. Creeks generally flow from shrub swamps over a series of cascades before dropping over 20m waterfalls into ferny gorges. The two best waterfalls are to be found on tributaries of Carne Creek (GR 421051, 406038, Cullen Bullen 1:25,000). Both are covered with black algae with numerous channels of water flowing down into sandy pools.

Tunnels appear to be common in this area. One was found to extend for 15m up a side tributary of Carne Creek (397051). A more interesting example is to be found at 405042 where the creek flows through cracks under huge sandstone boulders to emerge 15m downstream. It is possible to follow its course part of the way before rock impedes further progress. A short distance further on the creek flows through yet another tunnel.

not difficult to find. Most passes involve some rock scrambling and a few include tree climbs. The easier passes are generally fern filled gullies.

Camp caves are plentiful in the area at the base of cliff-lines. Some are quite large and could accommodate sizable parties quite comfortably (404051, 398052). The caves present a welcome diversion to the fern bashing which most walks entail.

Overall, the area provides some interesting contrasts and could be visited more often by walkers. Like much of the country north of the Bell Road you never know what is around the next bend until you get there.

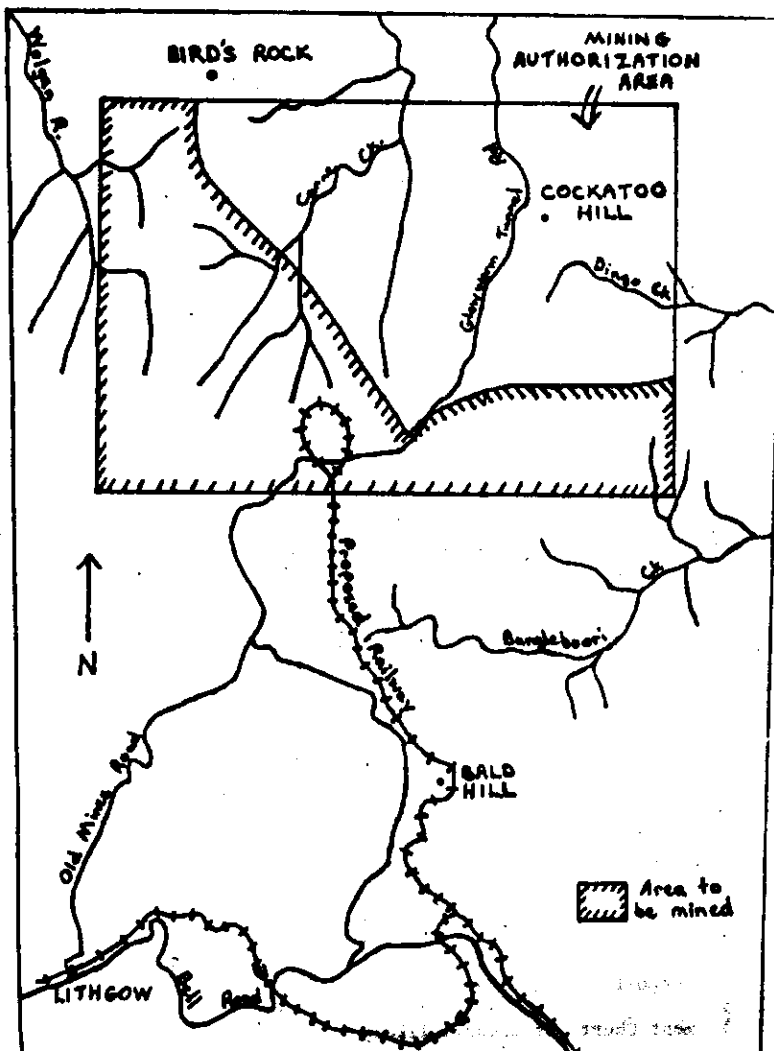
Roger Lembit

Conservation Convenor.

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### FROM THE MINUTE'S

Survey boxes have been placed in the Budawangs by a student to assist his studies.

It was discussed that a "Wild Waters Club" be formed to protect the remaining wild rivers (in N.S.W.?) and the Federation was to lend support with advertising.

Apart from Washpool, Mt Boss and Mt Banda Banda appear to be also threatened by forestry proposals.

Federation has set the fees for 1981/2 at seventy cents per capita (per club). Thus your 70¢ will be distributed to the general running costs of Federation (50¢), Conservation (10¢) and Search and Rescue (10¢). Unlike previous years, this will not be discounted for country clubs for all will benefit from advertising, conservation support and S & R. Search and Rescue belongs to the State Volunteer Rescue Assoc., thus virtually covering the whole of N.S.W. with some form of support.

## BOOK REVIEW

"BUSHWALKING IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS" Greg Powell

143 pages, \$9.95

The book starts with the laudable aim of looking at the area of the Blue Mountains Tourist Map from an historical point of view and suggesting suitable trips. However history is the past from yesterday backwards. So how do you choose your history?

Greg Powell has chosen many tit bits of the past but has failed to give an overall selection system.

The material is loosely divided into information on 8 different areas of the Blue Mountains Tourist Map. One chapter for each area.

There are many factual errors. For example, on page 99 Greg says that Christys Creek is a good exit route from the Kowmung River. Now Christys Creek has three branches. Only one branch, East Christys, will get you out quickly, otherwise you could be stopped like Barrallier was. Also cattle have not been able to graze inside the church at Yerranderie since at least 1973 (p. 47). These and other errors tend to suggest that Greg has relied on others for his information on the more difficult areas to get to.

Much information is of the type that quickly dates such as the scrub since the 1977 bushfires.

So what are Greg's attitudes to the low grade wilderness of this area? Page 63 gives Greg's contribution to the lowering of the wilderness quality. He painted the EXIT sign in Wollangambe Creek!

There is also no index.

Making allowances for these failings how interesting is the book? Very interesting for most of it. Barrallier's journey to Brynes Gap and Barralliers Falls is always interesting. So too is the information on Yerranderie. Calveys much faster trip following Barrallier's route is also interesting but not included by Greg.

However this information is readily available in other sources. Greg quotes the out of print Gundungara book on Yerranderie but try to beg, borrow or steal a copy and read the other valuable information in this book. Similarly check your local library for "Shale Railways of N.S.W." for much additional information.

Finally, much of Chapter 10 could be better spent than on tiresome description of exposure (hypothermia) and the basics of bushwalking. Obviously Greg is concerned that the complete beginner does not get into trouble in the bush and gives 4 further references.

These books give excessive detail for beginners and beginners (and scouts) are better advised to just buy Paddy Pallin's "Bushwalking and Camping" and the Hobart Walking Club's "Safety in the Bush".

At \$10.00 for only 143 pages it would have been better to include more original information than repetition of the bushwalking basics.

"Bushwalking in the Blue Mountains" is an informative book that could be greatly improved. Is this book worth buying? I'm not sure that it's worth \$10.00. There are a large number of prints in this book but the print quality is so bad as to make 40% of them redundant. Less prints would make greater value for money. Will I buy a copy? Probably not, as I've now read the book and know where to borrow the copy I've reviewed.

Keith Maxwell

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## PHONE CHANGES

Keith Maxwell - S & R Field Officer 88 9514 (N)

(Keith's home phone no. has changes also)

Fergus Bell - S & R Director 667 0511 (N)

urgent calls only



A number of new publications have come onto the scene recently including a new revised edition of 100 Walks in New South Wales. Included in this group is:

100 Walks in Northern Queensland (covering a number of island trips, Hinchinbrook, Palmerston N.P. and the Atherton area)

100 Walks in Southern Queensland (covering Carnarvon and Lamington N.P.s, Fraser Island)

A pictorial publication "Australian Caves and Caving" edited by Ross Ellis gives any potential caver an idea of what caving is all about.

"Bushwalking in the Blue Mountains" by Greg Powell which at the time of writing (this article) had not yet appeared in the local bushwalking shops. It was available at Myers (\$10) and possibly at other booksellers. The book covers the area of the Kanangra-Boyd N.P. up to the Dumbano/Yarraman Creeks area. At a quick glance it seemed fairly comprehensive and includes details of early explorations by Barrallier, Caley and Paterson. (See review this issue - Ed.).

And there are the regulars "The Melbourne Walker" and "Walk 1981", both selling under \$2 each.

Other new books that can be obtained by mail order include:

"Explorers of Western Tasmania" by C.J. Binks - a high quality large format book - 'the story of the explorers who penetrated the mountains and valleys of Western

Tasmania between 1815 and 1880'. Available for \$32 postage paid from Tasmanian Wilderness Society, 129 Bathurst St, Hobart, 7000.

"Northeastern NSW - Bushwalking, Canoeing, Caving, Climbing" by Univ. New England Mountaineering Club. A more comprehensive update of the former "New England Tableland" guide-book. Includes walks descriptions for Border Ranges, coastal areas, Washpool, New England Gorges, Warrumbungles etc. etc. - a lot of useful information. Recommended. Available from Univ. New England Mountaineering Club, C/- Univ. New England, Armidale, 2351 for \$5.25 postage paid.

And finally, a promising new magazine due to come out in July, called "Australian Wild". It will cover bushwalking, ski touring, canoeing, climbing, conservation, caving etc.

Edited by well known Victorian climber Chris Baxter. It will be published 4 times a year. Subscriptions are available for \$5.85 (one year) or \$11.70 (2 years) within



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## FUTURE EVENTS

### Mountaineering Talk - 14 May

Russell Brice, a New Zealand mountaineer, is giving a talk and slide show on his successful climb of Ama Dablam in the Himalayas last year. It will be held on Thursday, 14th May at 8pm in the Electrical Engineering Theatre, LG1, at the University of New South Wales (entry Barker Street gate). The talk is being organised by the University of New South Wales Bushwalking and Mountaineering Club. There will be a static display, refreshments and a chance to talk to the climber. All welcome.

### Nordic Open Day

Sunday May 24 10am - 3pm at Macquarie University Gym Complex. Bring the family. There will be a 5000m running event, an orienteering event and a X-country ski race of grass. Organised by Nordic Committee, N.S.W. Ski Assoc.

### Search and Rescue Practise

11-12 July, 1981

Details will be phoned to club S & R contacts on Friday 10 July.

### Bushwalkers Ball

Tentative date - 25 Sept. 1981

Ashfield Town Hall. 8pm-1am.

One of the pleasures of bushwalking is the fun of picking a spot in the bush, then meeting mates from all over the State at that spot. This year, it was the turn of the Central West Bushwalking Club to host the forty-ninth State reunion of the N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs. An idyllic spot was chosen for the occasion, at the bottom of the Six Foot Track of the Megalong Valley, on the Cox's River. A small group went in to prepare the way on the Friday evening of the last weekend in March. All told, seven club members from the Central West group stayed over the weekend, with another three going in for the Saturday only.

Our day trip was a rather strenuous one, and those of us on it found ourselves wishing we had stayed over the weekend, all the more so when glowing tales of exotic sagas came back to us from the lucky ones. Our group arrived in time for the traditional billy tea and lunch on the Saturday. At this stage, only a small handful of people had arrived, and much speculation was aired on just how many would be turning up. As the day wore on, however, bushwalkers in all shapes, hues, and sizes, came pouring out of the bush in all directions, with a final estimate of about 120 in attendance - this was twice as many as last year. On the Saturday afternoon, we strolled up the river to a great swimming spot, complete with its own natural slippery dip, tried out by those with a rugged posterior. Later came a vigorous game of volley-ball, following which the day trippers reluctantly left, and the party really got into gear!

As the night came down with a crash over the bush clad hills around, a large camp fire was lit. A sing-along and bush dance (what else?), with music ably supplied from the ranks of the University of New South Wales Bushwalking Club, the well-known band, right around the Megalong Valley, called "Cambage Spire". Following the enthusiastic socialising on the Saturday night, Sunday morning got off to a rather quiet and meditative start, but things soon livened up again with a series of competitions to make even Olympic athletes blink. The rock piling contest was won by the Kameruka Club, and the water drinking contest was surprisingly taken out by Sydney University. The Great Cowpat Throw was by Steve Prothero of SPAN fame, lang may his lum reek. The guy who won the rock hopping race went so fast we never did

of life was not overlooked either, with various items having been sung, declaimed or otherwise presented the previous evening, including a spirited rendition of a great poem by a well-known Bathurst lady.

After such a burst of activity, all that remained to be done was pack up and go home. One of the nice things about these people was to see the way the litter was picked up and packed out also. All in all, an enjoyable if somewhat strenuous weekend, and we of the Central West look forward to 1982 knowing that our act will be a hard one to follow!

Peter Hallinan

Central West Bushwalking Club

Just to add - the attendance book had 147 people sign it - and this does not include those who forgot to sign. They were from 17 clubs, SPAN having the largest group. Springwood Bushwalking Club wishes to thank those who helped carry out one of their party with a broken ankle on an improvised stretcher on the Sunday morning. - Ed.



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