

of the

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
G.P.O. Box 2090, Sydney, 2001.

ISSN 0313-2884

ISSN 0313-2884

ANOTHER WRAN BUSHWALK

On the first weekend in May the Premier, Mr. Wran, went for a day trip along the Goulburn River in the upper Hunter Valley. The walk started on a basalt cap overlooking the river and headed down a gully and along the river passing one of the many aboriginal sites in the area prior to stopping for lunch.

During the lunch break the Premier announced that the Government would shortly dedicate a Goulburn River National Park, an area of 70,000 hectares just to the north of the existing Wollemi National Park. The new Park contains a number of unique plant species and was an important route for aborigines travelling between the west of the State and the coast.

There are many ideal campsites along the river although weed growth can be annoying. Side-tributaries are generally present whilst ridges vary from open to scrubby. Impressive views can be obtained from Mt. Dangar at the eastern end of the Park. As the Park includes 68 km. of the Goulburn River, river-based trips should be popular. However, the river is normally quite shallow and it might only be liable after big floods.

Federation congratulates the Government and specially the Premier for the creation of this Park and hopes that it will be followed by more new parks in the coming months.

Roger Lembit
Conservation Director.

SEARCH AND RESCUE CLUB

CONTACT LISTS

It is essential if Search and Rescue is to work for the safety and benefit of walkers, that an up to date list of your club's phone contacts be forwarded to the S & R committee in June each year. If any numbers do change during the year then a short note just giving the corrections necessary to our master list should be sent.

A minimum of two, preferably three of your contacts who can be phoned night and day is essential from each club.

The contact needs to be aware of the abilities of the walkers in the club and especially the frequency of attendances at S & R practices.

In order to be able to respond quickly to an alert, the contact should always have a pencil, paper and a list of walkers available for alerts, beside the phone.

And of course, don't forget to include in your rucksack a list of the S & R committee and your club contacts' phone numbers. Accidents are unpredictable and you just can't rely on someone else to have the list.

Finally, if you do arrive at a phone box in the middle of the night after walking out from an accident site and you don't have the small change to call Sydney, make a reverse charges trunk call to one of the committee. We will accept the call (and charge the Federation).

Keith Maxwell
Field Officer.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

PHONE CONTACT SYSTEM

During a recent alert it was obvious that some members of the newer clubs are not fully aware of how our phone contact system works.

The system as evolved is designed to share the cost of phone calls as well as minimising response time. It is a pyramid of three tiers.



Should an alert arise any club member, not necessarily a club contact, can notify any member of the committee. Usually the director is contacted but in his absence the field officers/rescue officers can call out S & R.

The director will take down written details of the alert including accident details and pre-existing medical conditions (if applicable) and next of kin.

For your own safety then it is imperative always to leave as much as possible of this type of information with someone reliable who you will see immediately when you arrive back home from your trip.

The response to an alert varies from whether it is an overdue party or an accident.

Normally for an overdue party the director would be contacted the day AFTER the party was expected out. In almost all instances overdue parties have safely walked out within 24 hours of their expected time out. Thus unless circumstances dictate otherwise a minimum of 24 hours is allowed before searching is commenced.

The director would then put the committee "on alert". At this stage club contacts would NOT be notified but discussion within the committee drawing on the differing experience of the field officers/rescue officers would decide the appropriate action.

Most times this generates more questions than answers. As well as phoning back for additional information the director will now simplify the lines of communication as much as possible. Thus within the committee the director's phone or a mutually agreed phone of another club becomes the central number. All information and decisions will flow to and from this phone.

Similarly if your wife's, or brother's mate's mother is waiting for a phone call to pick him up at Katoomba when they walk out we would communicate directly with the mother so as to be notified immediately that they arrive at Katoomba. Also, you, the wife and the brother and etc. should now completely avoid phoning any member of the committee. This is necessary to keep the phone lines as open as possible.

If a search is required the director will delegate certain clubs for a particular committee member to phone. He/she will then phone ONE club contact from your club as in the list supplied each year by your club. This club contact's phone number now becomes the phone number for your club. All information to and from the committee to your club members will flow through this phone.

Thus you club's contacts must be available night and day and record written details of the call out.

Within your club the contact will arrange whatever system he/she thinks appropriate to phone members. The members notified should also take written details of the alert but under NO circumstances contact the committee.

If you choose to attend the search then you MUST inform your club contact before leaving home who MUST record your name. Once final numbers are known your contact will phone the committee and give the NUMBER of walkers coming only.

So long as you drive to and from the search by the shortest practical route you are covered by insurance from the moment you leave home.

When you arrive at the S & R base remember you must also record your name in the base logbook.

When you are present on a search unless otherwise instructed all enquiries from the press MUST be directed towards the committee.

By rigidly following this system our call back time is minimised. It has sometimes happened that the missing party has walked out just as clubs were being contacted to go and search for them. By following the above system the committee were the first to know that the party was safe and were able to immediately call off the alert and minimise inconvenience to club members.

For an accident the committee may respond immediately using the above system or depending on circumstances may choose to ask the Police Rescue Squad to do the rescue but always considering the safety of the injured person uppermost. Either way we still must notify the Police of a search or an accident alert answered.

However the Police are under NO similar obligation to contact Bushwalkers' S & R if they are told of an alert. So unless it is a matter of life and death do not contact the Police. Bushwalkers' S & R is for your safety and benefit.

Keith Maxwell
Field Officer.

BITS AND PIECES

- On a weekend early in the May school holidays the National Parks and Wildlife Service saw fit to undertake controlled burning in the Mt. Solitary area.
- The F.B.W. Tracks and Access Officer, Mr. Robert Sault, is currently investigating the question of access along the Six Foot Track through Megalong Valley to the Cox's River.
- Annette Stewart, of SPAN, was recently rescued by helicopter from Murdering Gully near Kanangra Walls. After falling 4m, she suffered facial and internal injuries. This is the third rescue of a SPAN member in recent times.
- Some walkers recently reported seeing some other people with dogs at Colong Caves. Dogs are illegal in most national parks and any sightings should be reported to N.P.W.S. rangers together with car registration numbers.

The South-West Tasmania Committee (N.S.W.) recently had full details of a recent climb...

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The spate of accidents reported in the March Newsletter has highlighted an important feature of bushwalking - that it is very hard to obtain accident insurance. A little research has revealed that whilst bushwalkers may be able to obtain cover from insurers (at a high premium rate - \$250 p.a.), "mountaineering" activities are excluded. Usually this is described as using a rope to practice the sport, thus rockclimbers, abseilers, canyoners, "pack-haulers" could have their insurance policy avoided by this clause.

Federation has authorised Murray Scott to investigate this matter together with the rights and liabilities of bushwalkers. To support our cause, we have asked clubs to forward their walks programs for the past year so that we approach an insurance agent with some figures. To date the response has not been good and we urge all bushwalkers to check to see if their club has complied. It's in your own interest (and your family's) to see that this is done.

An alternative was discussed at the Conference of Interstate Bushwalking Federations. Provided we can establish and maintain a national body, then there's every likelihood that we could be eligible to join the C.A.S.I.C.O. Sports Injury Scheme.

The main cover is for injury or death whilst playing or practising the sport of your club, either officially or privately. Costs vary depending upon the sport, but it can be as little as \$2.50 per year per person. It's interesting the wide interpretation placed on this description of "sport", jogging and skipping is classified as practising to play any sport. People travelling to and from playing their sport are covered by restricted benefits.

Obviously it requires a lot of work to come up with a satisfactory arrangement, and the Federation will not be rushing into any arrangement blindly. The recent incidents have brought home to a number of people just how dangerous our sport can be - WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

Welby.



**eastwood
camping
centre** PTY LTD.

BUSHWALKERS

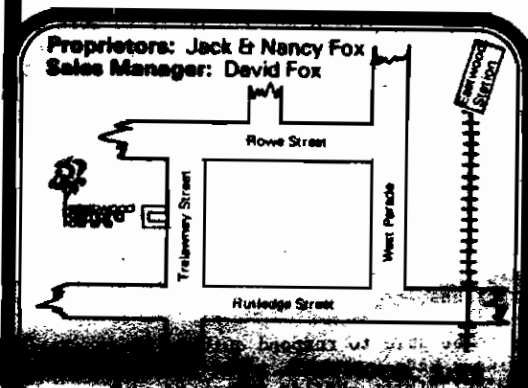
Lightweight Tents • Sleeping Bags • Rucksacks • Climbing & Caving Gear • Maps • Clothing • Boots • Food.

CAMPING EQUIPMENT

Large Tents • Stoves • Lamps • Folding Furniture.

DISTRIBUTORS OF:

PaddyMade • Karrimor • Berghaus • Hellmark • Bergans • Caribee • Fairydown • Silva • Primus • Companion • and all leading brands.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I find it most disturbing that you should see fit to publish articles such as that by "The Flame" in the March 1982 Newsletter. This person claims to be a conservationist, however by his actions he is doing the conservation movement a great disservice. Already so-called guerilla conservationists have come under attack in the popular press e.g. The Bulletin. It can only cause harm to associate in peoples' minds vandalistic acts such as those claimed to have been carried out by The Flame with conservation.

In order to preserve wilderness areas we should be trying to educate the general public to appreciate restoration as carried out

In order to preserve wilderness areas we should be trying to educate the general public to appreciate the values of large areas of natural land. Wilderness restoration as carried out by The Flame can only alienate the general public with the result that bushwalkers are considered to be elitist.

I find the article inflammatory and seek your assurance that articles of a similar nature will not be published in future Newsletters.

Roger Lembit
Sydney University Bushwalkers.

Dear Sir,

I refer to an article in your Newsletter of 3/82 (Vol. 7) entitled 'Wilderness Restored' in which a clean-up operation in wilderness areas by members of your association was described.

While the principle of this operation is laudable, I am concerned that an over-zealous approach could lead to the destruction of Aboriginal sites - in particular, stone arrangements which are relatively rare in N.S.W. In an undisturbed state, Aboriginal stone arrangements can be in the form of cairns, pathways or circles, while those in a disturbed state can, to the untrained eye, appear to be merely part of a natural weathering pattern.

As most of the Aboriginal stone arrangements that we have on our files in N.S.W. occur on platforms of sandstone on ridge tops, I would ask your members to proceed with caution when cleaning up these areas in particular and report any likely sites to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Some cairn-type arrangements have also been located in dense forest, and care should be exercised here as well, particularly as it is an offence under N.S.W. legislation to disturb or destroy an Aboriginal site, with a penalty of \$1000 fine or imprisonment in aggravated cases.

It is often difficult to ascertain whether a stone arrangement is Aboriginal or European in origin but, as early European stone arrangements have a special historical significance, stone piles especially of obvious age or in relatively inaccessible areas should be left intact. European stone arrangements can represent early Parish, Portion or property boundaries or surveyors' markers.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Jenny Hanrahan
Acting Site Registrar
National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Dear Editor,

Just before Easter, while we gathered in the traditional meeting place for bushwalkers, in front of the large block of home units near the station in Moseley Street, Strathfield, several residents of this home unit block made a point of telling us just how much they objected to bushwalkers, who, they claimed, left rubbish on their lawn, put rucksacks over the fence and sat on it, and who made a noise, especially early on Sunday mornings.

The home unit block is about 100 metres from a pub and Strathfield Station, so I can't imagine that bushwalkers are responsible for all or even most of the trouble that the residents complain of. Nevertheless we are a very visible group to pick on, and the people are entitled to object if people sit on their fence or put their rucksacks on their lawn.

Therefore, in the interests of public peace and order, we should meet outside the pub.

something that a number of bushwalking groups are already doing, it might help to overcome the ill-feeling towards bushwalkers that some of these residents appear to feel.

Michael Glass.

Dear Sir,

Here follows two letters in one. The first in regard to the "What's New" item on P.4 Dec. 1981 Newsletter concerning an article appearing in Mountain #79, "Food for Thought". The author, Ron Gregg mentions two books, "USDA Handbook 8 - Composition of Food" and the "Composition of Food" by E. McCance and E. Widdowson as being extremely useful in determining food selection to obtain the greatest possible nutritional and energy value. I have been using an Australian equivalent for many years, namely the "Tables of Composition of Australian Foods" by S. Thomas and M. Corden from the Commonwealth Department of Health published by the Australian Government Publishing Service, 1970 (possibly there is an updated version).

I have planned menus around "fresh" foods and a minimum of "supermarket" freeze driers for years, the use of "specialist" (Mountain House, Alliance, etc.) freeze driers being far too expensive, except as luxuries. I definitely agree with Ron Gregg's conclusions.

Secondly a letter of a much more serious note. Upon completion of a 6 day solo raft trip down the Colo River in early February, '82, I carried my pack + paddle from the Putty bridge to the Total Gas Station, then back for the raft, back to the Total; I had finished my trip; a milkshake, a pack of cigs - in civilisation again; asked for some 20¢ then up the road to the phone booth; the receiver was broken in half; so I walked back to the Total and asked the man if I was able to use his phone reverse charges to Sydney to arrange a lift home; shock - he said NO.

I explained - he still said NO. A bit disheartened (this man being the third person I had spoken with in six days) I walked up to the next shop/service station and asked the girl behind the counter if I could speak to the owner; the lady came out; I explained my predicament with the phone booth, the refusal from the shopkeeper and then asked if I could use

phone; she also replied NO. By now I was upset and fast losing my faith in the kindness towards my/our fellow man.

Sullen, I walked back to the Total, cursing the hot gravel; I walked on. Asking this man again, explaining that the other shopkeeper had refused me the use of her phone, I again was told NO, I could not use his phone. I then, much against my character, told him what a disappointment it was to experience this kind of selfish unfriendly reception upon my return to "civilisation" after being "in the bush"; I swore.

Having then to hitch home with a lot of gear, I had time to reflect on the attitude of the two shopkeepers, and my own actions towards them. I came to two conclusions, firstly that they were just unfriendly, unhelpful people; and that it was part of the local community feeling displayed against bushwalkers because of the gazetted of the Wollemi National Park. As a solution, I will never patronise these two establishments again, instead I will drive to Wilberforce and more friendly people. I would be interested to hear if others have had similar receptions at the Putty bridge.

Phillip Ward.

HAMMER ATTACK ON MITTAGONG MAIN STREET

On Saturday morning 6/3/82, twenty-six Youth Hostel Association members and friends intending to walk along the Wollondilly arrived in nine cars to offload at Bullio. One car had a broken fan-belt so remained, the other eight were driven down to Goodmans Ford, leaving six cars at the first closed gate on the Barrallier Road where we intended to finish the walk. The six drivers were driven back to Bullio to where the walk started.

I led the large party over Bullio Hill, Rileys Range and down a rough road to the River opposite Stringers Flat where we stopped from 1.30 till 3.30 p.m. for a swim and late lunch. We never crossed the river, but followed it upstream in a Westerly direction to camp for the night one kilometre before Tomat Creek.

On Sunday morning eight members walked the 4 kilometres up Tomat Creek and climbed to the base of the main Tomat Falls. This group met another group near Goodmans Ford at 5.00 p.m. This group had walked the 12 kilometres and some for 1 kilometre more without a pack.

We stopped for a hamburger in Mittagong, I was getting something out of my pack, under the V.W. bonnet when I heard an infuriated (madman) farmer scream abuse at me, calling me a "CONSERVATION CUR". He accused me of walking on his property, causing \$600 damage, growing marijuana and interfering with his cows. He wanted revenge, waving a hammer around my face. I managed to stay calm and stand my ground, telling him at no time were we near his cows, or marijuana and I didn't know what damage he was talking about.

He turned his attention to my car, banging his hammer on my windscreen and said "how would you like it if I smashed your car up"? I said that I wouldn't like it and that I hadn't interfered with his property. He said the next time his cattle are interfered with, he would smash every car he sees parked opposite the Douglas Scarp Road at Bullio. His rage never waned and he left after dinging my car bonnet.

I followed him to his truck and ten minutes later at the Police Station where I went to report the threat on my life, was told that I had been trespassing on Mr. G.'s property and caused \$600 damage. Mr. G. had phoned the rego of the three cars parked at Bullio and the Police had, via computer, the drivers' names and addresses.

I gave the Police the whole story as above and said how I usually get on well with the farmers and usually ask permission and get it to leave my car next to the Bullio farmer's house. I have told them where I was walking and they have said that would be okay but don't go near Mr. G.'s property. "He has been known to shoot trespassers"! The Police verified this story, adding Mr. G. was well known in the area for his rage and that his son left him over his fierce temper. The Police lamented that Mr. G. had no right to threaten me - did I want to sue for damages to my car? - to which I answered no! The Police then phoned Mr. G. requesting his presence at the station to tie the matter up.

Mr. G. was warned not to take the Law into his own hands, but to call the Police.

Mr. G.: The damage is done and the culprits have escaped before you do anything. I must protect my property the best way I know.

Police: If I hear of any more similar action by you, you will be charged.

Me: What damage was I supposed to have done?

Mr. G.: You walked through a herd of my cattle, to scatter them after I had rounded them all up.

Me: Did you see me doing this?

Mr. G.: Yes.

Me: How many walkers were in my group?

Forty quiet seconds pass by.

Me: Approximately how many...5...6...10...20

Mr. G.: I think there were six.

Police: Mr. Stocker had 26 in his party.

Me: Where did you see us. Where was your herd of cows?

Mr. G.: Near the road you walked down, I saw your footprints.

Me: How far down the road?

Another long pause and more prompting by me. The Police watched with interest.

Me: Were we halfway down the road, three quarters, at the river....Where?

Mr. G.: About halfway.

I produced a map and showed him where we walked, which was in no part of his property. I suggested that he get his facts right before accusing somebody. The Police agreed with me and insisted that Mr. G. never take the law into his own hands again.

Mr. G. insisted that he must protect his property, he was all smiles when relating the time he caught a "Conservation Cur" boiling his billy on a fire fuelled with fence posts. The bushwalker was supposed to have said "Piss off you bastard, this land will all be national parks one day and the sooner the better". Mr. G. claimed he forced the bushwalker to strip, took his clothes and shoes, whipped his bottom with a stock whip and promised more if he didn't leave. I feel the policeman's reply was wasted.

The land we walked on was mainly belonging to Bullio Pastoral Company, private land. Get their written permission, park the cars elsewhere or keep out altogether were the policeman's last words. **A SAD LOSS OF LIBERTY.**

PAID SEARCH LEAVE

Public servants are entitled to four days with full pay for emergency leave (such as being on a S & R activity, fighting a bushfire, etc.). The relevant Clause is 61 Q of the Commonwealth Public Service Board Act - the State Regulation Act has a similar provision though the clause is unknown at this stage.

For those who have an interest in the flora of Tasmania, the Illustrated Guide to Tasmanian Native Trees by J. B. Kirkpatrick and Sue Backhouse (\$6) is a handy little publication. It has a simple to use key for identification and the language is non-technical. The only criticism is that perhaps a bit more information could have been added to aid description of each species (e.g. flower description and season, particular scents or odours) Copy purchased in Paddy's shop in Hobart but also noted in other stores.

BUSHCRAFT LEADERSHIP COURSES

For several years now the Victorian Walking Clubs (Federation) have been involved in a Bushwalking and Mountaineering Leadership Certificate Course run by the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation. Basically it is aimed at training people to lead groups into various outdoor sports with a maximum of enjoyment and safety, and a minimum of fuss.

In Tasmania, the State Government set up a similar course administered by the Bush and Mountain Walking Leadership Training Board. They have some fifty candidates presently enrolled and the first person has just completed the course.

One can imagine teachers, youth organisers and scouts attending these courses but what about bushwalkers? Certainly a certificate does not make a good leader or organiser nor does it make one an expert. However do we really understand the requirements when we put our name down as a trip leader - are we really that competent? Do we really know what to do at the time of an emergency or trouble? Perhaps by educating ourselves we can ensure that we do the right thing by everybody.

URBAN WALKS - U.S. STYLE

"San Diego may very well be the walking mecca of the world. With a climate to encourage walking nearly any time of the year San Diego is a perfect spot for outdoor exploration". (President's message).

With an opening paragraph like this, read on to see the (typical) walks being offered;

6.30 p.m. - walk - Moderately fast walk through a park and for a look at a new industrial area.

6.45 p.m. - Puffing Billy Drive - A hilly walk with Annabel punctuated with perfectly stunning views overlooking Mission Bay. A flashlight is a must (to look at the views?? ed.).

2.30 p.m. - Orpheus Ascending (and Homemade Pie) - Leucadia is a small seaside community with streets named for Greek gods and other myths. We'll walk the neighbourhoods and the beaches and even stop at a few nurseries to see what springtime has brought. Followed by a home-cooked meal and possibly the best homemade pie in the country at a

A big range of Paddymade bags -the choice is yours.



KIANDRA — compact! Mini size, mini weight with high quality and high comfort. Kiandra is a "3 season" semi-rectangular down-filled bag with ripstop nylon outer and cotton inner lining which ensures unlimited comfort. Able to mate with similar Paddymade bags. Kiandra's so small, ten will fit into an average size rucksack.



HOTHAM — versatile! The most popular Paddymade sleeping bag, perfect for every conceivable type of outdoor adventure. Hotham's box walls and high quality loft down, ripstop nylon shell and its ability to mate with similar Paddymades, make it the versatile, happy compromise sleeping bag.



BOGONG — the snow bag! The no-nonsense, no compromise winter sleeping bag. A versatile flat opening semi-rectangular bag, nevertheless is designed for truly cold conditions — perfect for skiers and climbers. Mates with similar Paddymades.



SNOWLORD — Everest conditions! The top-of-the-range tulip shape specialist sleeping bag. Designed for superior performance for major overseas climbs, extremes or high altitudes. Slanted walls, tapered ripstop nylon shell and boxed foot section make Snowlord the ideal "expedition" bag for serious users.

PADDYMADE SLEEPING BAG COMPARISON CHART

MODEL	WEIGHT INC. STUFF SAC.	CONSTRUCTION	FILL WEIGHT	FILL	TEMP. RATING*	ZIP	SIZE IN STUFFSACK cm
KIANDRA	1.25 kg	Sewn Thru	500 g	550 Loft Down	5°C	Full Zip	30 x 17
BIMBERI	1.00 kg	Box Wall	550 g	550 Loft Down	-5°C	Side Zip	30 x 17
HIGH PLAINS	1.80 kg	Box Wall	1100 g	Featherdown	-5°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
HOTHAM	1.60 kg	Box Wall	700 g	550 Loft Down	-5°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
MELALEUCA	1.55 kg	Box Wall	800 g	550 Loft Down	-15°C	Side Zip	34 x 23
BOGONG	1.60 kg	Box Wall	900 g	550 Loft Down	-15°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
SNOWLORD	2.00 kg	Slant Wall	1100 g	550 Loft Down	-25°C	Side Zip	37 x 27

All bags fit people to 190 cm (6ft 3in) tall; bags to fit people 205 cm (6ft 9in) are available in most models.

*Temperature Ratings are a soft measurement — they represent an average expected performance level for a standard person although individuals will differ by up to ± 10°C. Paddymade reserves the right to alter these specifications without notice.



Paddy Pallin

Sydney: 69 Liverpool St. (02) 261 2685
Miranda: 527 The Kingsway. (02) 525 6829
Parramatta: 61 Macquarie St. (02) 633 3746

Outdoor Shops

Canberra: 46 Northbourne Ave. (062) 47 0949
Melbourne: 55 Hardware St. (03) 67 4845
Hobart: 32 Criterion St. (002) 31 0777

RESULTS OF REUNION CLUB COMPETITION

ON 6-7 MARCH

POINTS SCORE (Clubs that failed to score are not mentioned)

Sutherland 6, Camden 7, Fairfield 8, Ramblers 11, SUBW 14, SPAN 26.

TROPHY WINNING CLUB 1992 - SPAN

INDIVIDUAL CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS:

1. Mens Lilo Slalom Race
1st - Sutherland 2nd - SPAN
2. Womens Lilo Slalom Race
1st - SPAN 2nd - SUBW
3. Junior Lilo Slalom Race
1st - Fairfield
4. Volleyball Club Championships
1st - SPAN 2nd - Camden
5. Best Female in Costume at Bush Dance - SPAN
6. Best Male in Costume at Bush Dance - Ramblers
7. Best (Only) Couple at Bush Dance - Fairfield
8. Treasure Hunt
1st - SUBW 2nd - Ramblers 3rd - Camden
9. Tug of War
1st - SUBW 2nd - SPAN 3rd - Combined Ladies Team
10. Water Bag Drinkathon
1st - Sutherland 2nd - Camden
11. River Relay
1st - Ramblers 2nd - SUBW 3rd - SPAN
12. Carry a Body Across the River and Back
1st - SPAN 2nd - Camden 3rd - SUBW
13. Miss Nobbly Knees
1st - SUBW 2nd - SPAN 3rd - SPAN
14. Mr. Hairy Legs
1st - Ramblers 2nd - SPAN 3rd - SPAN

All prizes kindly donated by:-
Paddy Pallin Pty. Limited; Southern Cross; Mountain Equipment;
with the Trophy Wall Plaque provided by SPAN.

Representatives from the following clubs participated in events:

Camden	Northern Rivers	Sutherland
Coast and Mountain Walkers	Ramblers	Uni. of N.S.W.
Fairfield	SPAN	Uni. of Sydney
Macquarie Mountaineering Soc.	Springwood	

BIG HOLE

The Park Service has been at work and has created a picnic area and parking area about two kilometres away from the Big Hole, Deua National Park. This is situated off the Snowball "highway" between Braidwood and Cooma via Snowball. Originally access was via a fern but the new route has

The existence of this phenomenon has been known for some time and it was visited by Major Mitchell c. 1830 who recorded "I was shown an 'autre vast' which, for aught I know, may involve in its recesses, more of the wild and wonderful, than any of the 'deserts idia' which I have since explored". He stated it was 400 yards deep and 300 yards across, and "in the eastern side of the bottom of this subsidence, a long opening extended under the rock, and seemed to lead to a subterraneous cavity of great dimensions".

Since then people have marvelled at it and tried to descend to the floor. It was given some prominence when a swindler reported the discovery of gold and diamonds, and wanted to set up a company to extract these riches.

In March 1874, a fellow fortifier of the 304 B.P. had descended 250 feet and when he was halfway down he said he could see the lowest part of the hole but he could not descend further. It can be descended by ladders, depending upon which side is approached, requiring 300 or 350 ladders.

Many ideas have been given to its formation. "I am inclined to believe that the existence of the peculiar work of nature is coeval with the creation of the isthmus" (March 1874). More likely it seems that the formation is the result of a chamber in the underlying limestone collapsing.

Clio.



The Bushwalkers Newsletter is published approximately every 2 months. The views contained inside do not necessarily represent the views of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs (N.S.W.). Distributed free to affiliate clubs and by subscription to individuals. Circulation: 2,000.

Please send articles, correspondence, book reviews, details of unusual or epic walks etc. to

The Editor
Bushwalkers Newsletter
P.M.N.
G.P.O. Box 2090
SYDNEY NSW 2001