

NEWSLETTER of the BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs N.S.W.

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FBW REUNION - 1984 SHOALHAVEN RIVER

A good time was had by the forty or so people who ventured down the difficult (!) two miles descent of Long Point to the Shoalhaven River for the annual FBW Reunion on 10-11 th March 1984. With apologies to those omitted about 5 SUBW members, 12 Fairfield, 5 Camden, 4 Ramblers, 1 ex-Sutherland, 1 Outdoor Club and 12 Spanners arrived.

20-a-side volleyball and a rather treacherous and bruising 110 course took their toll (despite the great excavation efforts of Steve Prothero, Deviant and others), although it is rumoured everyone arrived back for an ale or two at Marulan.

Saturday night saw the murdering of the Roebuck Shearer and Danny Boy.

Prizes were distributed on Sunday afternoon by lot with SUBW mysteriously taking 2 of the top 3 prizes!?

Thanks to Caving Equipment, Eastwood Camping, Mountain Design, Mountain Equipment and Paddy Pailin for the prizes; "Mr. Music" for the concertina and recorder playing; Jahn for carrying in those heavy attendance books; the Brigadier and Nipper for collecting prizes; and all those who turned up. For those who failed to do so, tough! You missed a great weekend and probably the best summer weather this year.

Micheal Donovan

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON LARGE PARTIES

Walkers who have visited the Western Arthurs in Tasmania will be aware of problems associated with large parties in the area. The log-book at Junction Creek includes many comments on two particular parties of excessive size. (I believe that one Christian party was driven off the range by an act of God - bad weather caused a tent to be blown into one of the lakes - Ed)

The impact of large parties in popular areas with restricted campsites such as the Western Arthurs will be evident to many walkers. Safety of other parties is threatened as large parties can take up all available sheltered campsites. "Clogging" of campsites can also cause further damage to vegetation as parties attempt to find new sheltered sites.

Large parties cause additional demands on firewood (if they don't use stoves), water and toilet sites.

In short it is selfish and inconsiderate to other walkers to have large parties in popular areas with restricted campsites. Federation has recommended that parties of larger than three, three-person tents should not be permitted in such areas, particularly the Western Arthurs.

Walks leaders from various clubs should take notice and place suitable limits on party size in such instances.

It is my belief that Federation should continue to set standards such as these to ensure that bushwalking areas are not threatened by over-use with consequent compulsory restrictions and permit systems. Other readers are requested to forward their comments on this and similar issues to the Newsletter Editors.

Roger Lambit
Vice-President

FLORA PUBLICATIONS

A field guide describing 60 species of trees growing in the ACT has been produced by the National Parks Association of the ACT. Divided into three parts (Eucalypts, Acacias and other species), the publication uses a simple botanical key to help users. Copies can be obtained for \$4 (plus \$1 to cover postage) from the Association, P.O. Box 457, Canberra City 2601 or from the Total Environment Centre, Sydney.

A quarterly publication, Hawkesbury Flora, featuring articles of local interest, fire and flora etc. in the Hawkesbury/Blue Mountains, is being produced by the Society for Growing Australian Plants, NSW Ltd., Hawkesbury Environs, P.O. Box 52, Kurrajon Heights 2758. Priced at \$2.50 per issue, all enquiries should be directed to the Society.

On Wednesday, 25th January 1984 Paddy Pallin lead a party of Mrs Higgs, Mrs Parsonage and their respective children (a total of 7 persons) down into the gorge below Carrington Falls. Their route was to descend from Missingham Lookout and return up Missingham Pass. (The tracks in this area are often poorly defined near the bottom of the gorge.)

Rain, which continued to Friday morning, prevented them from crossing the river and returning via their entry route. The only other alternative route out of the gorge the party knew also required crossing the river.

Paddy's son, Bob Pallin searched for them during Thursday. He also came in from Missingham Lookout but couldn't cross the river and saw the missing party but was unable to communicate with them due to the roar of the river. He did not come back till after 8 pm. and some fears initially were also held for his safety.

The callout to Search and Rescue came on Thursday night. The S&R base was located at Carrington Falls and 4 search parties were sent out between 5:30 am and 6:20 am on Friday, 27th January. All search parties carried extra food, clothing, sleeping bags and reliable fire lighting gear.

One party was sent in down from Missingham Lookout to cover the unlikely chance that the missing party had been able to cross the river. Another search party was sent in well downstream (on the same side as where the missing persons were last seen) and walked upstream in case the missing party was walking downstream to a road end. The third party was sent down Missingham Pass in case the missing party had found the track up. The fourth party went down a pass, that Paddy did not know of, that did not cross the river and came down very close to where the missing party was last seen.

The fourth party found the missing party at 7:20 am. All persons were well and only required some warm clothing and food. However a helicopter flying over the gorge from a local television station had them a bit nervous about ratbag press comments. S&R and the Wollongong police in charge made a point of not releasing any names of the missing persons.

Due to the nature of the terrain the helicopter was unable to render assistance and soon left.

After having a "cuppa" the missing party with the added assistance of a fifth party from Camden Bushwalkers, that arrived at 7 am returned to base arriving approximately 9:40 am.

The S&R trailer was last to leave the site (as usual) just after 10 am.

Wollongong police have had to conduct many searches in their district using SES and other volunteers. They were extremely pleased with the speed, efficiency and smoothness of our operation.

My special thanks go to the keen bushwalkers from Span Unlimited, Sutherland Bushwalkers, NPA and Camden Bushwalkers. If these names seem familiar there is a simple reason - they regularly attend S&R practices! All clubs are welcome at practices.

Paddy Pallin, as well as being a father figure to the bushwalking movement, was also S&R's first director around 1934. Bob Pallin was also a director of S&R (before Fergus Bell). I have sometimes considered service in S&R as akin to insurance premiums; you help others in case, due to unforeseen circumstances, you may need help. Thus it was a pleasure to assist Paddy Pallin when he was overdue.

Keith Maxwell

Field Officer for
Bushwalkers S&R.

PERSONAL KIT FOR SEARCHERS FOR S&R

Bushwalkers Search and Rescue with the continued support of the Federation clubs will remain the only group able to competently search all bush country in all weathers.

The following is meant to be a reminder checklist of equipment. We will not check to see if you have brought all the items but will send you out as though you have!

All persons attending an alert should have LIGHT overnight equipment suitable for all weathers such as -

- Frameless rucksack
- Sleeping bag
- Bivy bag
- Tent fly (optional)
- 2 litre water bottle (old wine cask inner)
- Food for 48 hours - 40% of which must require NO cooking
- Clothing that remains warm when wet eg. wool
- Suitable wet weather gear
- Beanie or balaclava
- Scrub gloves (gaiters optional)
- Your personal abseiling harness, abseiling system (eg. rack, figure 8) and prussick slings
- Reliable fire lighting equipment (all weather)
- Sunburn cream (from October to following April)
- Garbage bags (for keeping things dry in your rucksack)
- Torch
- Bushwalkers first-aid kit
- St. Johns first-aid certificate
- Correct map (if you have it) and compass

I trust that this list will help clear up misunderstandings of what we expect bushwalkers to bring to an S&R event.

LILYVALE STATION

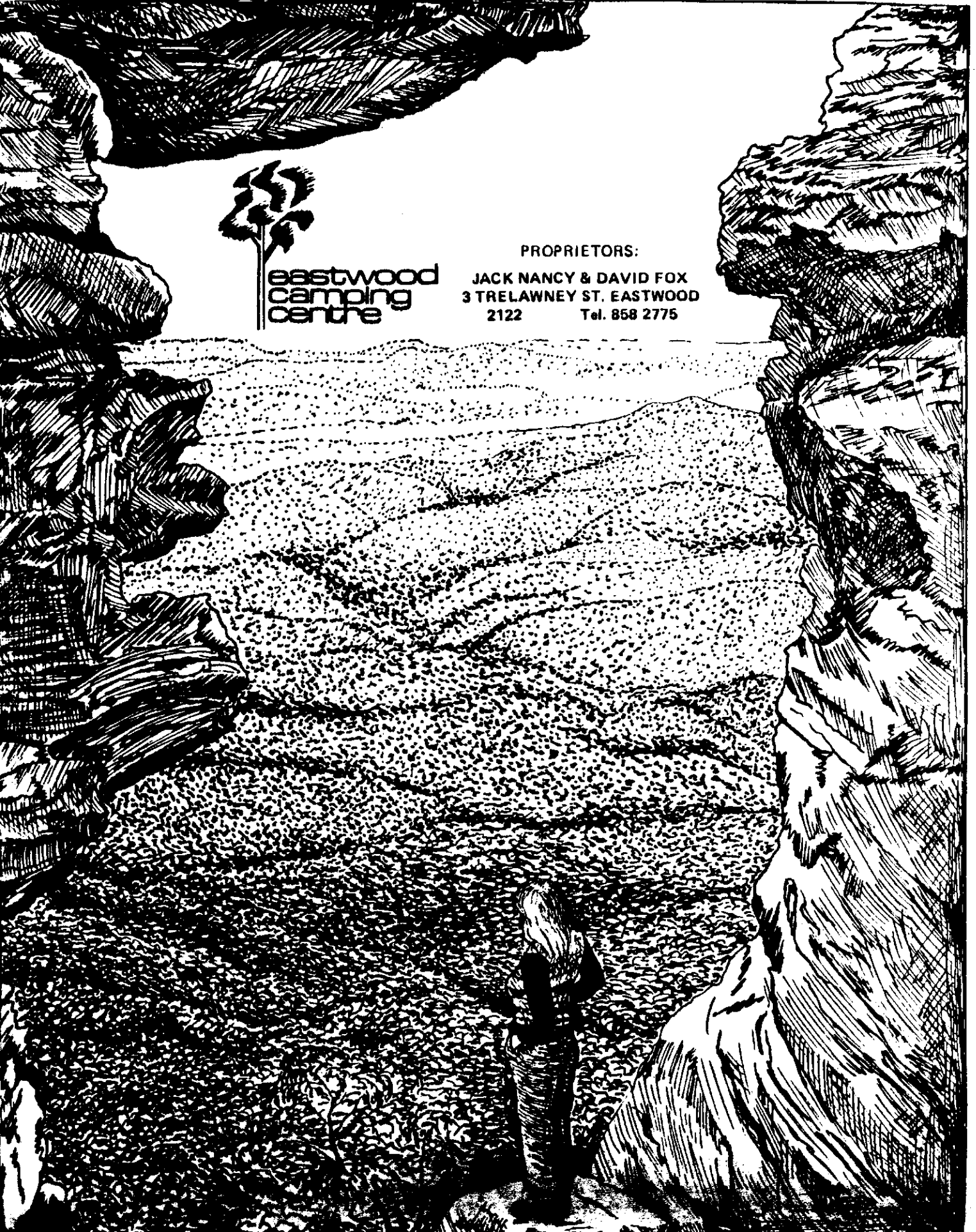
The State Rail Authority has closed Lilyvale Station following recent inspection to upgrade platforms. Costs to restore the platforms to a safe condition cannot be justified and could not be recouped from revenue. Travellers will now have to use Otford Station to commence/finish their trips.



**eastwood
camping
centre**

PROPRIETORS:

**JACK NANCY & DAVID FOX
3 TRELAWNEY ST. EASTWOOD
2122 Tel. 858 2775**



It is essential that 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 the 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 club's 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 the 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).

This article was reprinted from the July 1982 Newsletter
by Keith Maxwell

CMW's 50th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

On 14th February 1934 eleven people met at the Strathfield home of Ninian Melville with the aim of forming a new club. Eight months later in a cafe, another group of people met, some 30 members and prospectives, and adopted a constitution thus formalising The Coast and Mountain Walkers of NSW.

The following month it was decided that the club dinner should be held on or about 14 February 1935 as the anniversary of the foundation of the club. It was agreed that the cost should not be more than 40 cents per head.

On 18th February 1984, a number of people attended CMW's 50th Anniversary Dinner (at \$13.50 a head). The rest of the year will be highlighted by glimpses of the more recent past with slides and films of various "epics".

HOW BIG A RISK IS BUSHWALKING ?

A couple of years ago a conference to form a national bushwalking body failed to get off the ground but did allow for an interchange of ideas. Out of this came the question of insurance for walkers with an Australian wide participation aimed at reducing premiums. With this idea generally in mind, the Federation has been investigating this matter, and whilst this is still in the preliminary stage, a brief description follows.

NSW Sporting Injuries Insurance Scheme

- * provision for death and permanent disability resulting from sporting injuries
- * established under legislation and backing by the NSW Government
- * cover for all normal sporting events and organised practice and training
- * provision for partial as well as total disability.

Confederation of Australian Sport (CASICO)

- * covers against permanent injury or death
- * engaged in organised training or practice for such activities
- * travelling to or from (directly) the sporting event
- * public liability
 - (a) death or injury to persons and/or damage to third party property
 - (b) member to member liability
- * special risks for loss of or damage to sports and associated equipment.

The investigations into these schemes are still in their early stages and a number of things still need to be clarified

- like how do you define the sport of bushwalking ?
- or should Paddy's term "ruck-sack sports" be used ?
- what premiums would be involved ? (eg. Rugby League Adult \$8, Nonadult \$2)
- what activities have been included ? ("mountaineering" or "use of rope" have been noticed by other policies).

Both schemes require State Bodies to apply but may accept individual clubs if for example the Federation (as the State Body) does not wish to become involved. Premiums could be collected at the same time a club collects its annual fees or when a person joins a club. Participation by club members would be voluntary. Non club members would be ineligible to participate in the scheme, so this would be a selling point for joining a club.

Interestingly whilst we were investigating this matter, the Attorney-General, Mr. Landa, proposed legislation which will protect people injured whilst visiting small (non-profit) sporting clubs. Because clubs have no legal status, members and office bearers are individually or co-jointly liable for any legal action taken out against the club. This scheme will allow incorporation (available now but very costly) for a fee of between \$30 and \$60. (This is something else the Federation is looking into for it appears to give a club legal protection not only for accidents but also for libel, slander, bankruptcy, etc.)

One area where the bushwalker does have protection is in search and rescue - from accidental death or bodily injury to any person caused in the course of activity. It also covers injury, damage or