

THE

BUSHWALKER

PRESIDENTS PRATTLE

Federation has been taken to task for a lack of direction, specific aims and leaning too much on the activities of the Search and Rescue Unit.

It would be marvelous if we were a large and financially endowed organisation able to have, even one paid full time officer. Since this is unlikely we have to rely on enthusiastic people volunteering to do an extracurricular and unpaid job as a Federation officer.

However we do manage to get some things done, other than what is done by S&R.

We have managed over the last two years to produce a reasonably creditable newsletter. The Bushwalker is an important part of Federation, as it is our way of communicating with all club members. With some more input from clubs we could improve further.

In this is illustrated the cold hard fact that Federation is the clubs and

without the participation of clubs the whole organisation grinds to a halt.

We have formed a Kowmung Committee to monitor the Water Board's and the Government's plans for the Warragamba Dam and its tributaries. What happens to this, one of the last unpolluted wild rivers in the Kanangra Boyd NP is of prime importance to all bushwalkers.

Recently in the area of consultation the NPWS southern region has suggested regular liaison meetings with the Federation to discuss ways in which we can help each other.

Remember we are a far flung collective body and unless you tell us what you want acted on (and are prepared to help) then don't complain about inaction.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy Bushwalking New Year.

Gordon Lee

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This Newsletter is an occasional publication and is distributed free, through its member clubs, to the members of those clubs.

Contributions to the Newsletter are always considered (and should be accompanied with the name and address of author). All material not otherwise acknowledged can be attributed to the Editor. Any opinions expressed are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, NSW.

KISS YOUR KOALAS GOODBYE

Not our words, but the heading of a press release from Tim Moore (Minister for the Environment)

On June 4 1988 Mr Moore placed a protection Order on an area of Bushland at Wedderburn, near Campbelltown. This was to provide a breathing space for a local Koala habitat that is to be partially subdivided (26 blocks of about 4 Ha)

A very commendable action, for as Mr Moore states in his press release.

" Present trends indicate that Australians can kiss their koalas goodbye unless action is taken immediately to protect surviving Koala colonies. He says a new survey on Koala populations in the state shows that their numbers are dwindling, and most now live outside the national parks, where they're vulnerable."

"During the time the Interim Protection Order is in place, further options will be canvassed to permanently protect the koalas. The Council and the landowners will be able to explore options to protect the koalas' habitat."

This was an action that received much widespread publicity. What got less attention was the removal of the Protection Order only one month later.

At the time the Minister was able to declare that a voluntary agreement with the landholders will protect the Koalas.

Yet Mr Moore has also suggested that koalas need some isolated wilderness areas to be set aside for safe breeding colonies, maybe the Wedderburn koalas are not to breed? (it might frighten the dogs)

We can't have it both ways, either koalas are worth the cost of preserving

or we make inexpensive pronouncements on them while they die out.

Money for a Koala fund is also being sought. With all deductions of \$2 or more being tax deductible

Cheques should be made out to the following

Koala Fund
P.O. Box 792
Campbelltown NSW
2560

For more recent information contact

Julie Shepard 046-366301 (h)

BITS & PIECES

Easy Care Travelwear

Paddy Pallin's new Travelwear Longs are the most comfortable, practical pants ever designed for people on the move.

Light, cool Longs are made from Exodus, a remarkable new fine weave fabric. They shrug off wind and showers, pack down small and weigh only 250 gm. Best of all, Longs dry fast for easy wash and wear.

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THE LEADERS IN ADVENTURE

HELP WANTED

Federation Auditor

Qualifications: Needs to be a qualified Accountant or Auditor.

Duties: To audit the books of account for the Federation at the close of the financial year.

Remuneration: This is a love job. Here is your chance to do your bit for Federation, apply quickly before someone else gets the job.

Hours: Just a few.

Ring: Rose Maxwell for further information on 622-0049

COUNTRY CLUBS

Federation is to approach the country clubs to see whether they are willing to have a bushwalker (living in Sydney) to represent that club at Federation meetings.

BALL

One hundred and twenty one people attended the Federation's Ball in September. Mt Druitt won the table decoration prize, and a profit of \$120 was made.

TRACKS

Barrington Tops National Park Plan of Management has gone to the Minister for approval and it is hoped that the Government will not bow to pressure from the Forestry Commission to have old roads reopened.

A 'No Camping' sign has been erected at Mt Wilson.

HUTS

It's good to see that Harry Stephenson's 'Cattlemen & Huts of the High Plains' has been reprinted. The soft cover version is selling for \$20 though it was seen recently going for \$12 at 55 Hunter Street in the city. Other books (Pallin & Dunphy publications) were similarly discounted. Also noted was Paddy's autobiography in a second hand book shop.

Tabletop Press (Klaus Hueneke) has gone into the mail order business with a number of alpine related publications - including the last copies of Handcock's 'Discovering Monaro'. Their address is 40 Miller Street, O'Connor ACT 2601

THE COURTS

Recently a professional sportsman was awarded \$750,000 damages for injuries he received whilst visiting the Blue Mountains National Park.

He was on a camping trip and had joined his companions in swinging from a rope hanging from a tree into a pool. At one point he lost his grip and fell awkwardly into the water hitting his head on a submerged object. As a result he became semi-quadruplegic and ended his sporting career.

He sued the State Government for breach of duty in failing to warn swimmers of the potential danger of the pool.

The Government denied negligence claiming that the victim had "voluntarily assumed the risk of injury inherent in the frolic of jumping or diving into a pool from a swinging rope".

The Judge said the public were "encouraged, permitted, and allowed" to use the facilities, and that warning notices should have been posted to warn of the dangers. He refuted the Government claim that the victim had been guilty of contributory negligence by merely swinging on the rope.

It took nearly nine years for the man to receive redress in the courts.

What would have happened if the group leader, who permitted, allowed and encouraged the activity was also sued?

This case is just another example of why bushwalkers should consider insuring themselves

BUSHFIRES

With the advent of a bushfire summer it might be worthwhile keeping the following points in mind.

Construct your campfire so that flames cannot spread to the surrounding environment. Never leave a campfire unattended. Before breaking camp totally extinguish your fire. Obey the current fire lighting regulations.

If a bushfire ignites DON'T PANIC, keep your party together. Decide upon an escape route and make sure every member knows where they are heading.

Drink as much water as possible to counter increased perspiration. Fill all available water containers.

Radiant heat causes most bushfire deaths. Plan an exit route

DOWNHILL and to the rear (upwind) of the fire. Move quickly but do not run. Aim for open spaces away from trees or vegetation, or to running streams, pools and dams - but not elevated tanks. Keep to vehicle tracks if possible.

Shield your body with clothing; preferably wool (not nylon or other synthetics). Protect your head from radiated heat. Watch out for spot burns on clothes and hair caused by flying sparks and debris.

Other suitable shelters include eroded gullies free of scrub, depressions left by fallen trees, deep wheel ruts and behind logs and large rocks. Clear away as much flammable material as possible. Lie low where the oxygen level is best, complete the shielding of your body by using clothing, soft earth, wet bark, etc. and wait for the fire to pass.

Run through flames only as a last resort. Choose a place where the fuel is sparse, free of obstructions and where you can see through the flames. Flames that are greater than 1.5m in height or depth are too hazardous to enter. Cover all exposed skin, take deep breaths (without inhaling smoke and fumes) and move briskly, without running, and watch for hidden obstructions.

If you are caught in your car, park in the clearest area available such as an old gravel quarry, on a section of road with the least curbside vegetation or against an embankment in the cutting. Turn the ignition off, turn on the headlights and stay in the car till the fire has passed. Close all the windows and vents. Lie on the floor and shield your body from radiation with clothing, etc.

HISTORY

Nearly sixty years ago there appeared a prospectus in The Bulletin for the Garie (National Park) Development Co Ltd. This company aimed to raise funds to develop the Garie area into " a high class seaside subdivision for the discriminating Public wanting a surfers and golfers paradise". Fortunately the gradual deteriorating economic conditions meant that the company never got far with its plans.

Fifty years ago last October the long awaited Katoomba Military Map (1:63,360) appeared. Till then bushwalkers had had to rely upon drawing their own maps based upon Parish Maps, Myles Dunphy's sketch maps and later upon the Burratorang Tourist Map. However this did not last long and when war was declared all maps were withdrawn from sale. The Katoomba sheet remained current till the 1970's when the present larger scale maps were printed.

Christmas will also celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the first full traverse of the Kowmung River. Till then the river had been considered too rugged and walkers had resorted to bypassing the river gorge at various places.

Gordon Smith lead a party of SBW's down the Tuglow River to Morong Falls where those who could only afford a few days away returned to Sydney. The rest found that the children's rubber surf floats were unstable and they eventually resorted to wrapping their packs in ground sheets and floating these downstream.

They made a side trip to Yerranderie to pick up supplies and other club members for the remainder of the trip. They placed buckets of icecream in their billies and carried them back down to the Kowmung - probably the first and only time this treat has been enjoyed upon the river. Paddy repeated this trip the following Easter pulling out at Yerranderie.

CALENDAR

Jan 17	FBW General Meeting, 176 Cumberland St., Sydney
Feb 7 21	S & R Meeting, Marrickville FBW General Meeting
March 7 21	S & R Meeting, Marrickville FBW General Meeting*
April 4 8/9 18	S & R Meeting, Marrickville FBW Reunion FBW General Meeting**

* Deadline for contributions for next 'Bushwalker'

** Next issue of 'Bushwalker' due

PRODUCT REVIEW - Super Volleys

For at least the last twenty years, Dunlop Volleys have been the choice of

footwear of most non-gear-freak walkers in NSW. As suggested by the following table, they offer a good compromise between performance, light weight, wear, and cost.

Since the early seventies, volleys have been available in two styles, the traditional OC and the slightly more upmarket International. The OC is a little

lighter and cheaper and seems to wear at least as well as the International.

Thus it is favoured by many serious walkers, although most people buy the International because it is more widely available.

Although volleys may be the best bushwalking footwear available, their design is certainly not optimal for the job. The market is too small for any manufacturer of mass-produced (i.e. cheap) footwear to target with a specifically designed product. Any wearer could tell you of minor design changes which could easily have been incorporated to improve the performance of his volleys. The most obvious shortcoming is the rate at which the uppers wear through, almost always around the sides of the toes. Under most circumstances (except maybe sandstone creek-walking) this occurs long before the soles start wearing out.

About a year ago, Dunlop introduced the "Super Volley", although it has

only recently become widely available. Its upper is essentially the same as the International, but its sole is thicker and more rigid and it has a somewhat different tread. The feature that makes it worthy of attention is a strip of leather reinforcing around the front half, covering most of the area of maximum wear in the International.

Experience so far indicates that this does improve their life considerably. Last year in Patagonia, in conditions similar to off-track New Zealand, Dave Noble wore Supers while the rest of us had Internationals or OCs. Most of us had medium to large holes by the end of the trip, but the Supers were still in good condition. Admittedly Dave spent some time slinking around the back streets of Santiago while the rest of us were on Aconcagua.

The tread on Supers (of black non-marking rubber) is similar to that on many special-purpose squash and court shoes. Its pattern is quite like that on other volleys, but it is rounded off at heel and toe. One would expect it to be less efficient on wet rock than the traditional volley sole, like other court shoes I've used. However experience in both sandstone and Kanangra-Boyd canyons indicates no noticeable difference. The tread wears at least as well as that on the International.

Whether the thicker and more rigid sole of the Super is a good thing or not is a matter of opinion. People with old tired feet like myself will like it, also people who do a lot of road and track bashing.

The Super has a more pointed toe than the International. For people with

normal-shaped feet, this is a disadvantage.

Like the International, the Super has plastic "achilles tendon protectors", presumably to protect your ankles from the bites of very small dogs. For those people who find these cut into their heels and cause blisters or worse, it is easy to remove them using a sharp knife --- preferably before you wear them the first time.

The weight of a pair of size 12 Supers (minus ATPs) is 1.00 kg. Compared with Internationals at 0.88 kg and OCs at 0.80 kg, they are quite heavy, heavier even than many leather tennis shoes.

Supers cost \$27 for seconds at surplus stores, or around \$40 at shoe shops. This is about 40% more than Internationals. Considering the extra wear you should get from them, this seems quite competitive --- on a per trip basis, they may well be cheaper. Dispite their extra weight, I think they deserve serious consideration, especially for those long trips where you have to take two pairs of ordinary volleys, in case the first wears out

Thanks for this review go to John Atkinson from the Sydney University Bushwalkers.

	Performance (sole grip etc)	Life (hard walking)	Weight (larger sizes)	Price (cheapest source)	Cost (per day)
Imported Boots:					
Light weight	good	50 days	1.1kg	\$150	\$3
Leather	good	200 days	1.8kg	\$200	\$1
Work boots	poor to good	100 days	1.6kg	\$50	\$0.50
Running shoes	poor to fair	10 days	0.6kg	\$40	\$4
Tennis shoes:					
Leather	good	60 days	0.9kg	\$50	\$0.80
Cheap	fair to good	5 days	0.7kg	\$10	\$2
Volleys	very good	20 days	0.8kg	\$18	\$0.90

MORE BITS AND PIECES

WALKING SKILLS

one very important skill that all walkers try to develop, is the ability to judge how long a particular walk could take.

The following clues come from George Carter, in the Canberra Bushwalking Club.

Once you have chosen a measured stretch that you regularly walk, time yourself.

You will probably find that it takes about 12 minutes to walk 1 km on a footpath and this can be used a guide for estimating distance walked on fire roads.

Try walking a measured distance on a fire trail and then return by walking in the bush alongside the road. You will find there is a fairly substantial deference even in open forest. My guess is that the fire trail will take about 12 min/km and the bush will take about 20 min/km.

Try a steep walk up the side of a mountain. Depending on your fitness you will probably find that gaining 100 metres vertically adds anything from 5 to 10 minutes to the time it would have taken to walk the same distance on flat or more moderate terrain. There can be enormous variation up hills within your group, depending on fitness.

In order to gauge your speeds in medium and thick scrub, rock hopping along a creek etc. you will have to make your own observations on walks

(both with and without packs) As a general suggestion the following times could be a rough guide for an average party.

track	12 min/km
open scrub	20 min/km
medium scrub	30 min/km
thick scrub	40 min/km
rock hopping	30 min/km

Remember these are only rough guides and the best estimate is made from long experience with many walks.

INSURANCE

Once again the complex problem of insurance has been raised.

Gary Duncan, from G D Duncan & Assoc. Pty Ltd (insurance brokers), recently address a meeting of the Federation. He said that The Commercial Union Assurance Co. of Australia had a policy which may be suitable for bushwalkers.

For a cost of \$1.50 per member the company would insure a minimum 4500 members of the FBW for a maximum cover of \$2,000,000 per claim. This policy would cover person to person claims, and all club activities provided they did not involve seacraft longer than three metres or aircraft. (Search & Rescue activities are already covered under a separate scheme).

If the Federation did not attain the required 4500 membership, then the Company would entertain making up the shortfall by increasing the \$1.50 premium.

Copies of the proposed Liability Insurance Policy has been distributed to the Clubs. Just to confuse the matter further another delegate presented, on the same night, an alternate policy from Norwich Winterthur Ins. (Aust) Ltd.

BUSHWALKING MAKES THE BIG TIME

Late in 1986 the Australian Bicentennial Authority formed an assessment panel to run a programme that became known as the 200 Greatest Stories Never Told

Most of us would have heard the media advertisements for stories of Unsung Heroes & Heroines. Over 4000 stories were submitted Australia wide and from this, the magic 200 were selected.

Included in the 200 was our very own Super Tiger Walker, Peter Treseder. The book lists Peter's Barrington Tops to Walhla run as his greatest achieve

ment to date and mentions his interest in linking the National Parks from Cape York to Wilsons Promontory.

Peter feels that his inclusion in the book is not just a recognition of his achievements, but an acknowledgment of wilderness sport in general.

You may like or hate 'Tiger Walking' but if it can bring a sense of adventure and some real challenge into the lives of some of our youth, then maybe this is better than many of societies conventional outlets?

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HE'S NOT A HAPPY BOY. SEE THE LOOK OF RAGE ON HIS FACE! HOW CAN THIS BE? HASN'T HE JUST SPENT QUITE A LOT OF MONEY ON XC SKIING GEAR? ISN'T XC SKIING MEANT TO BE FUN! (ONCE YOU CAN TURN) SURELY HE DIDN'T BUY THE BEST GEAR. HE DIDN'T BUY GEAR THAT'S BEEN TESTED BY THE PEOPLE THAT SELL IT. HIS TENT HAS CARBON CHARACTER, PRINTED ON THE OZ PERMIER "COTTONESQUE" FABRIC. NOT SO MUCH A SNOW TENT AS A "NO TENT".

THIS GOES WELL WITH THE OSTRICH FEATHER-LIKE SLEEPING BAG WITH A TEMPERATURE-RATING OF 17° CELSIUS. AND THE 31 SEAGULL FEATHER "NEELY WAWM" SKI JACKET. MADE TO MEASURE BY KALAHARI DESERT CRAFTSMEN. NOT QUITE THE SAME AS OUR SUPERDOWN GEAR. DUE TO LACK OF INSULATION THIS KNEE HAS BEEN LOCKED IN THIS POSITION.

HE TRIED THE SELF-DEFLATING SLEEPING SLAB. ITS A VERY GOOD CARBIO-VASCULAR DEVICE SO YOU CAN GET YOUR EXERCISE INSTEAD OF SLEEPING IN LUXURY ON ONE OF OUR THERMA-RESTS. THE ULTIMATE SLEEPING MAT!

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SURELY IT DOESN'T QUITE PERFORM DURING WHITE-OUTS OR WHEN OVERCAST. BUT IT'S GREAT FOR SCRAPING THE WAX OFF YOUR MICA SKIS. COMES WITH EASY TO USE INSTRUCTIONS.

HANDSPUN BEANIE TOO GOOD FOR HIM-EN! IT'S A SHOWER CAP FILLED WITH TISSUES! IT'S NOT EVEN A FAIRISLE PATTERN! HAS HEAT RETENTION PROPERTIES OF DRIED PILCHARD.

OH DEAR! LOOK AT THE PACK. YES, IT'S AN ORIGINAL 44 LATVIAN "SNOW" PACK, MADE OUT OF 2 MICRON "RIP-START" NYLON. WHY DIDN'T HE CHOOSE ONE OF OUR SUPERB PACKS? WE HAVE A PACK FOR EVERY BACK WITH SPECIAL ONE-WAY ZIP.

THE WORD "SNOW" IS DEEMED TO MEAN: SAWS, NOTHING, ONLY WEIGHT.

WHY SPEND MONEY ON THERMAL UNDERWEAR? WHY NOT 6 STAPLED BLOTTING PADS WORK? WHAT DOES IT MATTER, THAT 2 1/2 KILOS OF PERSPIRATION HAS FROZEN TO HIS LOWER TORSO.

BREADBAG GAITERS. GOOD FOR KEEPING FROZEN BRAND IN.

WHY DIDN'T HE TRY OUT OUR RANGE OF REAL MITS AND GLOVES.

SNAP-FROZEN SHIN (WE DON'T STOCK THIS ITEM)

REAL FISH SCALES

KEYRING TORCH. IT ONES GOOD FOR HOLDING KEYS TOGETHER.

OVERCOME MARSUPIAL.

MAYBE IT'S THE SOPHISTICATED "KANDILL" BRAND SNOWE THATS MADE HIM LESS THAN HAPPY. SURE, IT'S NOT THE WORLD'S FINEST LIKE THE KOK BY MSR. BUT IT DOES COME IN A DRIPLESS & MOBILE (AS SHOWN) THE ONLY PROBLEM IS DRIPLESS IS ALSO "UNLIGHTABLE". SIX COLD MEALS (RAW) AND ALL HIS MATCHES LATER HE MAY THINK ABOUT THE MIGHTY MSR.

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