

# THE **Bushwalker** Jan - 91

Newsletter of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.

ISSN 0313-2684

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## **OBITUARY**

Almost anyone who bushwalked from the 30's to the present day in NSW would have heard of Paddy Pallin and probably used gear made by him and possibly was guided in their walking by the information contained in the booklet "Bushwalking and Camping" by the same man.

Some of those who ventured into the bush may also owe their lives, in part, to him for as well as being involved with the setting up of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs of NSW, he with others instituted within Federation a search and rescue group whose record is second to none and is still in operation today.

With the passing of Frank Austin Pallin on thursday 3rd January 1991, we pay tribute to a man whose influence on the bushwalking fraternity has been written into history. We extend to his family and friends on behalf of all bushwalkers our deepest sympathy and hope that some comfort can be had in the knowledge that his was a life that will always be an example for others to follow.

Gordon Lee.

## THE BUSHWALKER

GPO Box 2090 Sydney 2001

This newsletter is published by the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.

**Distribution** is through the affiliated clubs to their members.

**Contributions** and suggestions are welcomed.

Material can be sent to the above address, marked for the editor.

All material should be accompanied with the name and address of the author or it may be attributed to the editor.

Any opinions expressed are those of the individual authors and do not represent the official views of the Confederation.

Material can be sent on disc (ascii text files, 5.25" disc) or by phone to the Outdoor BBS on 046-581881 (24hrs)

**Advertising rates** are available on request, ring 548-1228, to discuss your needs.

**The Bushwalker** is published quarterly as a volunteer effort and so any assistance offered is most welcome. The aim of the bushwalker is to provide articles and information that relate to and are relevant to the member clubs of the Confederation. With your help we may achieve this.

**Information** about the Confederation can be obtained from our volunteer answering service. This operates from the 548-1228 number. The service operates both in and out of office hours, but no late night calls please.

Editor : Gordon Lee (SBW)

## Park Watch

The Confederation is hearing more details of activities within parks that are of concern. It was the suggestion from Ray Hookway (Letters) that Confederation become involved, that prompted some of us to think along those lines.

As well as pigs in the KNP we have been told about

Increased cattle and horse usage in the lower Kowmung.

More marking of side tracks off the Gingra Track in the Kanangra Boyd.

Recent four wheel drive incursions to Etrrema Ck.

Increased pig numbers in the Morton NP.

Four wheel drive access to the western side of the Kowmung River near the gauging station.

We would greatly improve the chances of doing anything about these problems if clubs that frequent those areas could keep us updated on what is happening. Documenting times and locations while it is still fresh in your mind would help, and if you carry a small camera could you take photos of anything that you think is relevant.

Our parks are a very limited resource and we need to take care of them. We tend to be the people most actively involved in them, so it should be reasonable to take some part in protecting them. If park management are not told of incidents such as these then there is little they can do.

We would like to have information on any situation that you think needs attention. Send the information to the GPO Box listed on page three. If your club attends meetings of the Confederation then your representative could bring it along.

This is not a job that someone else will do, so don't complain do something about it.

## Annual General Meetings

These are normally (always?) boring tiresome affairs that are best forgotten. That is probably a fair description of the normal situation with the Confederation. To improve on that we have decided that we should run the 1991 AGM during daylight hours on a weekend. This should achieve a number of results (apart from boring you for longer). We will have an opportunity to raise a number of topics in workshops that can have contributions from members. There will be guest speakers on topics such as insurance and incorporation. There is now a real chance that interested country clubs can attend and have input to their Confederation.

As the time for the meeting is still a number of months away (August) we do wish to hear ideas from clubs on what you would like included and how you can help. We will also be allowing a number of non members of the Confederation to attend as observers (write to the Confederation for details if you are interested).

Many issues arise that affect bushwalkers and their activities. A strong Confederation can be an effective voice for the serious walker and a means of educating the novice, but this means involvement. Ask your club for details about the AGM as they are available and watch the next issue of the Bushwalker for further details.

**Ps** the Confederation now has its meetings at the Ashfield RSL. The third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. The room we use is upstairs and there is food and drink available downstairs.



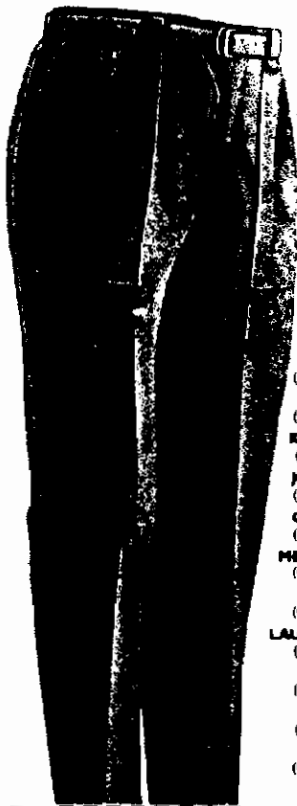
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*Paddy Pallin*

THE LEADERS IN ADVENTURE

AC 260341

# CONSERVATION

## Who gives a dam

The following extract was found in the newsletter of the River Canoe Club (Splash) Nov 1990

The club has received replies from both the Federal and State environment ministers to the letters sent regarding the damming of the Shoalhaven River.

The following extracts are from Tim Moore's letter.

"On current estimates of growth, the dam would need to be in service and storing water by the year 2005. This would require construction to commence by the year 2001."

However the Minister hops that "...construction of this \$200 million dam could be deferred by up to 30 years..." if "...the community reduces its overall water consumption."

I have on behalf of the club (*how nice of him*), written back to the minister to ask whether, as an alternative, the existing Warragamba Dam in the Blue Mountains could be extended.

There is opposition to the Welcome Reef Dam from other quarters as well. The Nature Conservation Council of NSW will consider a motion from one of its committees at its coming annual conference.

The motion urges the government to abandon the dam on the grounds of lack of demonstrated necessity and potential for destruction of wetlands and forest areas.

*This leads to an interesting idea of canoeists and conservation, conserve it if you paddle in it but otherwise who gives a ... This is hopefully an isolated individuals own personal view?*

Ed.

## Wilderness in New Zealand

The sixties and seventies saw in New Zealand a growing awareness of the need to formally designate wilderness areas. One of the questions asked was should we provide "mountains with or without handrails?" To what degree

should people be assisted to achieve their wilderness experience? Here in NZ our wilderness policy is quite clear the designated wilderness areas are to remain in a state of nature and to have no tracks, bridges or huts.

(In the USA) I took part in a trip along the John Muir Trail from Yosemite National Park 218 miles to Mt. Whitney and to the road end at Whitney Portal. The JMT passes through a combination of National Parks and National Forests, in which are a number of designated wilderness areas. To tramp along the JMT, a Back Country Permit (free) is required and only postal applications to the appropriate authority are considered; a quota system being apparently in force.

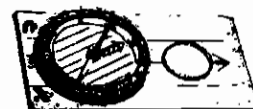
I found it impossible to compare my daily wilderness experience on the JMT, where one may meet ten to several hundred persons each day, with that in the Tasman Wilderness where one is unlikely to meet a fellow tramp at all on the longer 5-day cross country routes.

*It makes you think, I wonder what is happening to Wilderness Legislation in this state? Are we looking at the same future, as our wild areas shrink and population and tourism increase*

*Extracted from an editorial by Arnold Heine in the Federation Mountain Clubs of NZ Bulletin.*

## Kowmung River

The confederation has sent a series of letters to the authorities about the situation on the lower Kowmung. Recent walks have shown an increased effect on the river banks from cattle and apparently horses. Some of the older walkers have suggested that the damage to banks is the worst they have ever seen. It would be a shame to save the Kowmung from the Water Boards attention and lose it to erosion and weed invasion from large feral animals. We will inform you of the replies.





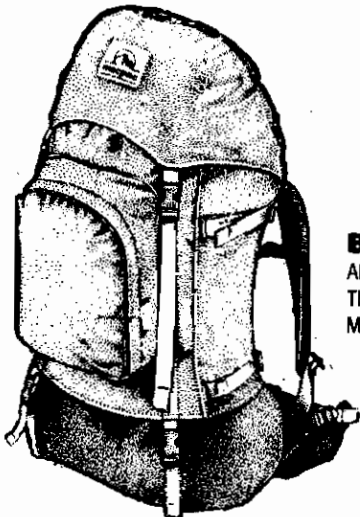
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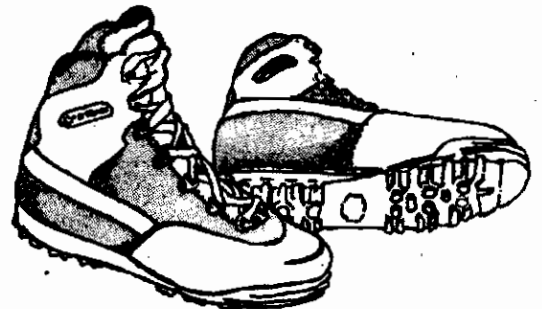


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# BITS AND PIECES

## Some Thoughts On Snake Bite

Much attention is given to the victim of a snake bite and we hear very little from the point of view of the snake. This may be an attempt to redress some of that.

### How to react -

If a snake has gone to all the trouble to bite a person many hundreds of times it's size then the least you can do is to scream hysterically and run around in ever decreasing circles. How else can the valuable venom that has been used on you be effective?

Your companions can best be involved by arguing amongst themselves on the method of first aid that they are sure they read on the back of a weetbix packet (or was it Vita Brits?).

When your friends have finished arguing they can then attempt to catch you and finish the snakes job by scaring you to death with the suggestion that they will use the really neat 8 inch long survival knife to cut out the poison.

If you have weakened enough so they can use the knife then it would be best to seal the gushing wound created with a burning stick, there being no hot tar available.

### How to find a snake-

Most snakes are very self effacing and it is much easier for them to bite you if you could make a bigger effort to wander around in areas of long grass or to investigate hollow logs without making enough noise to warn the snake.

Wearing sandals or thongs on your next bushwalk would make the job much more reasonable for the snake as well.

### Getting help -

If you are too much of a wimp to hop out after your friends have used their Rambo Field Surgery kit to amputate the affected limb then you could call S&R, but remember, it is best to take no notice of where you have left the victim and do your best to forget the way you have come. You could really excel yourselves and leave the victim on his own when you go for help. All

of this would make S&R feel that the job was more worthwhile.

I hope this has made you more thoughtful of the rights of the poor snake, they need a little fun to brighten up their lives as well.

## Walking in the Heat

The information given here was directed at walking in the tropics but is also relevant for other hot weather walking.

Exercise produces heat. The body loses heat through sweating. When it is humid, sweat evaporates more slowly so heat tends to accumulate in the body, causing a rise in temperature. Fluid should be replaced as fast as it is lost but your body can absorb only about one litre per hour. It is easy to sweat more than this. If you don't drink until you're thirsty, your fluid debt is unlikely to be paid off until the end of the day (or later).

The answer is simple: Drink early and often - a big drink before breakfast and another before you start out. Have a drink at every break and plenty at the end of the day. Drink water.

Many people think they need more salt because they are sweating more. Drinking anything other than water, or perhaps weak black tea (*Earl Grey*?) can be worse than nothing in very hot weather. The addition of salts and/or sugars to drink delays the absorption of water from the stomach. Salty or sugary drinks will actually cause water to be absorbed from the blood into the stomach - the last thing you need.

If you must have staminade, saline or something similar, drink plenty of water first, and only then make up a weak solution of your drink.

The most important thing you can do before going on a walk is to make sure you are reasonably fit. Fit people sweat more and earlier than unfit people. This helps keep their body temperature down.

Snacking is an enjoyable part of bushwalking. However before popping a

few lollies into your mouth, think of this:

First they cause a concentrated sugar solution in your stomach.

Water is then absorbed from the blood into the stomach. You get a bit dehydrated;

Next a burst of glucose enters the blood stream. This may give you quick energy but your body over-reacts to this excess and 20 mins. later, your blood sugar level will be lower than it was before you had the lollies.

Better snacks include fresh fruit, sandwiches, rolls, unsweetened muesli slices, dried fruit.

*From a talk given by Dr Geoff Thompson of the Australian Sports Medicine Federation to the Darwin Bushwalking Club and reproduced in "Boots'n'All", Peninsula Club Newsletter, June 1990.*

## New Coal Seam Cave Track

Recent track maintenance at Kanangra Walls (Tops) by the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs in conjunction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service has resulted in the re-routing of the Coal Seam track.

The new section of track starts on Kanangra Walls where the old Coal Seam and Cloudmaker tracks separate (at the rock outcrop that everybody uses as the lookout into Kanangra Falls and over to Thurat Spires). The new track goes off to the right and up onto the large rock ledge just up the hill a few meters. The large rock ledge has had several cairns placed on it as a guide. Numerous tracks through the scrub have been blocked off so only one track is used.

On the large rock ledge the Coal Seam track and the Cloudmaker track separate. The Cloudmaker track goes to the left and then climbs the ridge (as yet unworked on and not moved).

Continued page 8



## The Warragamba Walking Club

*This is the first of a series of historical articles from Jack Clark, now of the Brisbane Waters Outdoor Club.*

*Jack was an active walker in the 1940's and is still going strong. The articles give a fascinating look into a different era of bushwalking. The Bushwalker would like to thank Jack for sharing this history with us.*

According to Wilf Hilder in "Pigeon House and Beyond", the first recorded bushwalking club in NSW was the Warragamba Walking Club. This was founded in 1895 by William Mogford Hamlet and two other Englishmen, Gordon Grant and R.D. Cummings. The first lady members were admitted to the club in 1909. Historians have therefore accorded the title of "Father of the bushwalking movement in NSW" to William Hamlet.

In 1910, Hamlet was still the President of the club and its secretary was H.J. (Jeff) Tompkins who was also employed by the department of Public Health.

Miles Dunphy had been inspired by the writings of Hamlet, Tompkins and Donald MacDonald and so in October 1914 with Herbert Gallop and Roy Rudder, they established the second recorded bushwalking club in NSW - the Mountain Trails Club.

William Mogford Hamlet was the second NSW Government Analyst, a position that he held from 1887 to 1915. It is coincidental that the writer of these notes was the eighth NSW Government Analyst, occupying that position from 1969 to 1980 and is also a keen bushwalker.

A previous Deputy Government Analyst remembered Hamlet as being a most polite English gentleman of the Victorian era. He was of medium build, wore a goatee beard and had a glass eye, having lost the sight of his eye in a laboratory accident.

Tompkins wrote a book in 1907, titled "With Swag and Billy". The second edition (1910) contained an introduc-

tion by William Hamlet. Referring to Tompkins book, we can gain a good idea of the activities of the Warragamba Walking Club. They were light weight bushwalkers, within the constraints of the equipment available to them. The emblem of their club was a Waratah adorned with a closed sandal. In those days, just before the age of automobiles, much interest was taken in physical fitness. Cycling was popular and there was a bicycle boom in the late 1880s and the 1890s and some writers who were famous in the physical culture field stressed the value of walking as an exercise.

The Waragambans (as they called themselves) usually ended their day's walk at a boarding house, hostel or farm where they secured overnight lodgings. They usually enjoyed an evening meal at these lodgings but they were away early the next morning, travelling four or five miles before they had breakfast on the track.

Most of the walkers carried a swaggy's roll with a "nosebag" or gunny bag swung over their left shoulder and carried in front. In their swaggy's roll they carried a macintosh cape, a sleeping bag made from a blanket or rug sewn down one side and the end (but only for certain trips), a change of clothing, etc. For its construction, Tompkins recommended using a piece of "good American cloth one yard by two and four saddle straps, two to go around the swag and two to swing it". once the walkers got under way, their outer jacket was strapped to the outside of the swag.

They also recommended walking as a pastime for ladies but quaintly commented, "If it be girls in their teens, a mixed party in which dad is included is the correct and conventional thing". A photograph shows five women ready for the track. They carried smaller swaggy's rolls slung behind but no gunny sack in front. Perhaps the men carried their food! Only one of them was sensibly clothed - the others wore long full skirts and wide fashionable hats.

Tompkins said that they tried to maintain a rhythmic pace of three miles per hour although Hamlet referred to a

pace of 3 1/2 miles per hour. The majority of the walks covered 15 - 20 miles a day but it will be noted that many of these were on dirt roads and often over fairly level ground.

Tompkins gave details of many walks which were grouped according to their duration, from half day walks to excursions taking up to ten days. Many of the shorter walks were in the suburbs of Sydney. In those days there were areas of bushland between some suburbs, many orange orchards, some farms and the roads were of dirt. Tompkins mentioned that the road from Ryde to Parramatta may "become to dusty to render walking agreeable". Most of the traffic consisted of horse drawn carts, carriages and bicycles. By 1910, motor cars were becoming more common.

Their walks included some past Wisemans Ferry, one to Wombeyan Caves and others to Kangaroo Valley, Burragorang Valley and the Hunter Valley. In the Blue Mountains, Tompkins reported on a two day walk from Katoomba to Jenolan Caves along the route of what is now known as the "Six Foot Track" but most of the other walks in this area were along dirt roads.

The more active Waragambans sometimes walked over 30 miles in a day. Hamlet and Tompkins made a fast walking trip from Sydney to Melbourne, walking along the edge of the Pigeon House country near the Budawangs and in the Gippsland Ranges in Victoria. They wrote up the former part of their trip in an article published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 27 July 1912. Hamlet was then 62 years old.

The bushwalking movement owes a debt of gratitude to Hamlet and Tompkins whose enthusiasm led them to publicise their belief in bushwalking as a healthy pastime. Many people took up bushwalking as a result and some of them formed bushwalking clubs which are still in existence today.

*L.G. (Jack) Clark*



# SEARCH AND RESCUE

## Whats Been Happening

In the last few months we have had two callouts to assist in the search for elderly people that have walked away from nursing homes. The reason that we were called is due to the location of the homes in the vicinity of bushland areas.

The first call was to the Yarrawarah Hospital near the Heathcote National Park. This was successfully concluded when the patient was found after a few hours searching (near the grounds of the hospital).

The second call was from the Queen Victoria Hospital in the Blue Mountains. The missing person in this case was more able to walk and despite the efforts of a large number of searchers from many groups he was not found.

The Search and Rescue committee would like to thank all the members who responded to the calls (with very little notice) and once again performed a hot difficult job.

## Coming Up

June the 29-30 is the date for this years Search and Rescue Rogaine. We have expanded it to encourage less experienced walkers to develop their skills in the shorter one day event.

For the more experienced walkers we would like to see you come along and try to win the shield from the very successful NSW Uni/Sutherland team. The event will be held near Tallowa Dam in the Morton National Park. The Shoalhaven River will be one edge of the course, so it is going to be a scenic as well as a challenging event.

To enter you need a team of four to six people (for the two day event) and some minimum walking equipment. The event runs from 8am Saturday till 2pm Sunday and the direction you go and how long at night you travel for is entirely up to you.

If you want to try the one day event we will accept a team from two to ten people (so it can be used as a club training event).

We hope that as well as improving navigation this event will give you practice in route choice through differing terrain.

For more information on the Rogaine ask your club for an entry form (they should have them soon) or ring

John Tonito on 528 6174 (h).

## For Sale

Anyone who has been to a practice or callout would have seen the search and rescue trailer. This is a large double axel trailer with a large storage capacity. This is now a problem for us to tow, as the number of people with a suitable vehicle has dropped alarmingly. So that we can have a trailer that is easier to tow we wish to sell the current one and buy a smaller four wheel drive trailer. If anyone would be interested in buying the old trailer then they could ring

Keith on 622 0049 (h) for more details.

## Do You Know ?

How many people does it take to carry out someone with a broken ankle? Judging by what I saw a few weeks ago, between 20 and 30 plus two helicopters.

At the bottom of the Grand Canyon track, where it meets Greaves Creek, a very small and slender lady lay on a stretcher. A space blanket over her and a uniformed medico adjusting an inflatable splint around her ankle. Standing around were 20 or so walkers and six or seven guys dressed in overalls, clutching portable radios. Deciding there were more than enough observers, I continued up to Evans Lookout.

Coming down were more guys in overalls, with ropes and sundry equipment.

"Where's the helicopter?" I inquired facetiously. "It will rendezvous in about ten minutes" was the solemn reply. Sure enough, it came roaring

over the trees, closely followed by a Channel Ten helicopter. They circled in tandem for a long time, and I wondered if the rotor blades would fit into that narrow crevice.

At the Evans car park were two police paddy wagons and five fire trucks from all the nearby towns. Obviously, the local Emergency Teams were having a field day with a Real Live Rescue. I recalled to mind two occasions when SBW members suffered similar injuries, and were taken out by their own parties.

I never did learn how the story ended, but perhaps the patient enjoyed all the fuss.

*This story was taken from the Newsletter of the Sydney Bushwalking Club Inc. and of course, without knowing all the details it is difficult to say, but it does seem we are becoming keener on our technology without thinking about the appropriateness of it.*

## From page 6

The new Coal Seam track climbs straight up the ridge off to the right of the rock ledge, the start is marked by a cairn.

Near the top of the ridge the new track swings to the right then slowly sidles back down through grass and low scattered heath to join the old track after about 500m. This new section avoids the high banksia and dense heath of the old track.

The completion of maintenance on the track will be carried out over the next two years. First will be the finishing of clearing on the Coal Seam track, followed by the Cloudmaker track being cleared to Gordon Smith pass. Then the ruts will be filled in and the track stabilised.

The clearing of the current Coal Seam Cave track is to be completed on the weekend of 13 and 14 April 1991. Contact Garry Phillpott

for more details 745 3624 (h).



## Bushwalkers on the Move

This is it, the winner of our photo competition.

We think that this best exemplifies most bushwalkers ideas on the ideal way to move.

We are arranging with Ms/Mr ? Ratcliff from Bankstown the collection of his prize. In the next issue we will be running another competition (with a different theme), so keep watch and have a go next time.

## 1991 NEPAL TREKS

There are some vacancies on two treks that we are organising in September / October 1991.

### ROLWALING VALLEY TREK

From the foothills of the Solukhumbu region we will trek up to Everest base camp following a route not normally taken by many tourists. We then head west into the remote Rolwaling valley crossing the 5750m Tesi Lapcha Pass. From the pass we will attempt the climb of Parcharmo, a beautiful 6300m peak on the rim of the valley. We then return to Kathmandu via the Rolwaling Valley passing such famous peaks as Gauri Shankar - one of the sacred mountains. This can be a difficult trek and members must be prepared to demonstrate some basic ice / snow climbing abilities by attending at least two training weekends in the Snowy Mountains this winter. Duration of trip 42 days ex Sydney.

### EVEREST BASE CAMP TREK

This trek will accompany the Rolwaling Valley group as far as base camp. From the high camp at Gorak Shep the party will climb Kalla Pattar where we will have spectacular views of an Everest sunset. Next day we will travel up to base camp before starting the descent to Nameche Bazaar. After leaving the Rolwaling Valley group we will then fly back to Kathmandu from Lukla. This trek while strenuous at times should present no problems to any active bushwalker. Duration of trip 32 days ex Sydney.

For more details contact Tony or Jill Parr on 51-4759 or write:  
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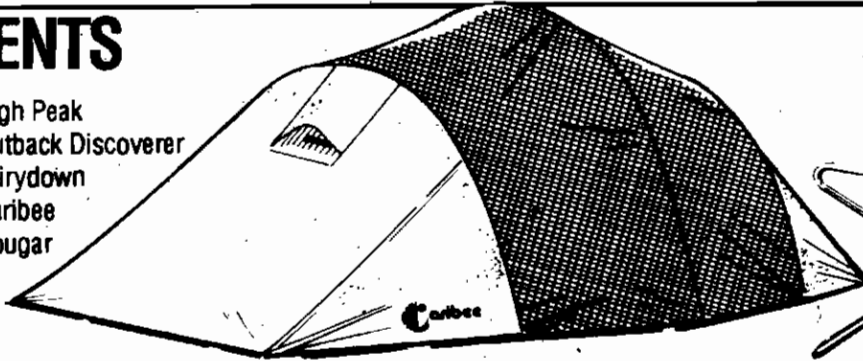
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125 PARRAMATTA RD. 51 3865

**PENRITH**  
CNR. HENRY & LAWSON ST. (047) 32 2355

**FYSHWICK**  
76 WOLLONGONG ST. (06) 280 7169

**WARRAWONG**  
131 KING ST. (042) 76 2233

REBC/SYD/1275/R

## Pigs Again

We have received another letter from Ray Hookway (pig damage in KNP) about his representation to the minister. It seems he has received a reply about his concerns, it only took two and a half months, not to long probably for them.

Ray still is of the opinion that the NPWS is unaware of the full extent of the pig problem away from the fire trails and commonly used huts. To improve this situation he suggests that if we use bushwalkers to collect information and forward it through the federation we may get some more response.

This is a worthwhile suggestion and we are willing to act as a referral centre for such reports, photos would be a big help in convincing people. This can be done for any area that you think is a problem and not just KNP.

## New Magazine ?

I am intending to publish a magazine called NSW Bushwalker, for distribution throughout NSW. Naturally, it will be about bushwalking and allied subjects. I am looking for contributions from bushwalkers to print in this magazine. your articles can be about bushwalking trips. your stories may range from 150 words to 2000 words. I will pay at the rate of \$25 for every 300 words. Send in photographs of camps and scenery etc. and the space used by these will be at the rate of \$25 to a page. We will return all photographs. In particular I am looking for stories that contain humour, danger, and other points of interest such as track notes. Stories may be about your walking experiences anywhere in the world. Besides points of interest we are interested in the ease or difficulty of finding tracks, or the way you took, track notes such as water, camping sites, condition of the track, etc, and anything that might make it easier for the newcomer or the next party that comes along. We are also interested in your descriptions, views, opinions. above all, tell us about your trip. Letters \$10 if published.

NSW Bushwalker will contain contributions from bushwalkers, and articles about various walks, information about camping and picnic spots, a wild food column and hopefully a column about survival taken from the SAS Handbook. Also it will probably contain a novel series, a never before published book about the invasion of Australia.

*Greg Pring*

*What can we say, If you have an interest then the address given was, 90 St Claire St, Bonnells Bay, NSW, 2264.*

*If you have a comment or observation write to us (address on page two).*

## Marathon Walk

I am currently looking for walking companions for an extended walk (22 weeks) from Coffs Harbour to Cairns, commencing on 1st Feb 1992.

It is a totally expense shared non-profit trip intended as a self-fulfilling challenge and adventure.

While the basic objective is to traverse from city to city other implications and rewards will come from the accompanying lifestyle. The trip will include logistical and domestic support and will consist of a degree of comfort and privacy which is appropriate for an extended walk.

The trip will be for people who want to walk, who have a healthy disposition and who enjoy a challenging outdoor lifestyle with a touch of adventure. It will provide the opportunity to experience a diversity of landscapes and trail sophistication. It will not totally be bushwalking in the normal sense of the term, however bushwalking will constantly be an option in route selection and will no doubt be a popular rest day activity.

Route selection will give a high priority to the 'quietest' option ie. fire trails, tracks etc.

The group will be encouraged to reflect a responsible attitude and will adopt the general bushwalking

guidelines regarding respect for the environment and private property.

Emphasis will be placed on finding group type people who can contribute to formulating health, safety and comfort guidelines and who are willing to assist with preparatory activities.

For further information and indication of interest please ring me on :

(02) 525 1675 (first)  
or on (02) 522 8596

*Ross Hufton.*

## Waterboard Safari ?

*This is an abbreviation of a letter from a member of the Fairfield club.*

Whilst checking possible access to a proposed walk in the Oakdale area, I was confronted by a Waterboard Ranger in a four wheel drive at a locked gate that leads to a now disused colliery. I casually climbed the gate and walked passed him, exchanging "G'day's", and proceeded on.

A short time down the road a convoy of heavy four wheel drives drove by with families, push bikes, dogs etc, this was followed by another two convoys.

Another few hundred meters on another ranger pulled up to question my presence. He suggested I was not allowed in this section and should leave, a fact of which I was unaware. He did eventually allow me to continue.

Are Waterboard employees leading safaris through catchment areas ?

Later on I was passed by a further two light trucks, one towing a horse float.

It seems that the area is restricted to mainly walkers but has a lot of other traffic.

*J Suprain.*

