

THE **Bushwalker**

APRIL 92

Newsletter of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.

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APOLOGY.

SINCE we last went to print we have had a number of problems to overcome. We apologise to our contributors, readers, and our advertisers for the inconvenience that this has caused.

This present format will, I hope give way to something resembling the January issue with our next publication.

For those who wish to send news or articles which they think will interest the readers of the Bushwalker would you please send them to Gordon Lee, 2 Bower Bird Cl., Glenning Valley, 2259.

FEDERATION'S CALENDAR. 1992.

May 30/31	First Aid Training
June 27/28	S & R Rogain
Aug 22/23	A.G.M. & Conference
Sept 2	Bluegum dedication Blackheath
Sept 4	The Ball (Bush Dance)
Sept 5/6	60 th Anniversary of the saving of Bluegum
Oct 17/18	S & R Training weekend
Oct 24./25	First Aid Training

FEDERATION NEWS

INSURANCE still seems a hot topic with the clubs. An insurance investigative committee was formed, headed by Brian Walker of CMW to

look into all aspects of our present Insurance cover, both with regard to Public Liability and Accident

The report of the findings of the committee is that "surprise, surprise" there is nothing to report. What is covered and the conditions are fully laid out in the policies which have been sent out to each Club.

So Please Read Thoroughly these papers in order to help prevent the useless time wasting that has occurred in the past asking for information that can be had by reading the documents.

FEDERATION CORRESPONDENCE

WE recently wrote to the Minister for the Environment, Tim Moore, on the continuing presence of cows in the Cox, Kowmung, Gingra area of the Kanangra-Boyd N.P. The following reply was received.

"Thank you for your letter of 23 Jan. 1991 in which you expressed concern over the increasing incidence of cattle agistment and the consequent damage to the Kanangra Boyd N.P. I apologise for the delay in replying. (Our letter dated 3 May.- Ed.)

Both the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Water Board share your concern for this area. Since the dedication of Kanangra Boyd N.P. in 1977, the N.P. & W.S. has attempted to control the numbers of straying cattle in the park. Initially, this was done by advising local landholders that any straying cattle from adjoining properties should be removed.

In July 1988, a public meeting was convened to

determine the numbers of cattle remaining in the Park and methods of removal. At this meeting it was estimated that between 100 and 300 head remained in the Park. To assist in the prevention of further cattle incursions, and in the recovery of the area, licenses were granted to private persons to round up and remove cattle from the vicinity.

This mustering and removal of stock has recently been completed. Any remaining cattle shall now be progressively destroyed by implementing an aerial control program based on the availability of the Service helicopter.

There have been no recent sightings of wild horses in the Kowmung river area. It is possible that evidence of horses that you observed resulted from the cattle mustering. Any other overnight horse-riding trips would require the written approval of the district officer-in-charge and no approvals have been issued for this purpose.

The extremely rugged and inaccessible nature of the area creates many difficulties in the removal of cattle. However, the Service recognises the destruction that can be caused by the grazing of livestock and will continue with the program of stock removal from Kanangra Boyd National Park. You may also be assured that the Water Board will continue to work with the Service to address land management issues that threaten the environmental quality within the Joint Management Area."

This was signed by Tim Moore.

The next letter was also signed by Tim Moore.

I refer to your recent letter regarding the use of oversnow vehicles within the Kosciusko National Park.

As previously advised to the Confederation directly by the N.P. & W.S., the Plan of Management for K. N. P. provides for the use of oversnow vehicles by the Service staff for management purposes. Police and ranger use of oversnow vehicles in all back-country areas requires the approval of the Chief Ranger or the Sergeant of Police, whilst their use in wilderness areas is for essential management purposes only.

The amount of fossil fuel saved by not using these vehicles is negligible, while on the other

hand their use is considered to be an efficient, time saving and controlled method of conducting patrols and in training for search and rescue operations.

CAR PARK VANDALISM — Mt Tomah.

UNFORTUNATELY, as has been reported in the past, in areas where walkers normally park their cars some vehicles have been vandalised. It is with regret that we warn those who wish to "do" Claustral Canyon that cars parked at Mt Tomah have been broken into. Although we issue this warning we realise that there is little that can be done to prevent this in this area. However walkers should take the usual precautions that apply when parking in the city and ensure that nothing of value is left or visible in the car.

ULTRA VIOLET RAYS v BUSHWALKERS

SKIN Cancer has figured prominently in the news lately with the emphasis on surfing and sun-baking. The warnings given apply as much to our recreation as they do to all other outdoor sports.

Care should be taken at all times to decrease the chances of developing skin cancers by following a few simple rules :-

1 Protect the face. Wear a wide-brimmed hat or better still one of those peaked caps with protection for the neck and ears. Use the highest value sunscreen and don't forget the lips.

2 Wear a long-sleeved shirt NOT a T-shirt. Sleeves can be rolled up T-shirt sleeves can't be rolled down.

3 Don't leave your lillywhite feet exposed for too long in direct sun though the feeling may be exquisite. Walking with sunburnt feet is no joke.

All of the above is even more essential in areas

where the exposure is greater as in the alpine and desert areas such as the Snowy Mountains or Central Australia. If you have lilywhite legs it may be advisable to take a pair of cotton longlegged pyjama pants or similar apparell to wear as overpants in these areas.

DON'T BE BLASE! Skin cancer is a major killer and disfigurer in this wide brown sunburnt country of ours. TAKE CARE!

TO TREK OR NOT TO TREK.

FOR those trying to make up their minds, here is some useful information which may help you decide. The facts and figures quoted are the result of literally painstaking research carried out in Kathmandu in September, 1991. The estimated inflation rate in Nepal is 15%, so add that to the calculation you make for 1992. All monies quoted are converted to AUS dollars at the exchange rate current in 1991. These rates are listed at the end of the article.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

1. Mr A.G.Punt, President of the T.A.A.N.(Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal.)
2. Interviews with 4 separate Trekking Agencies .
3. Prices Brochure from the Royal Nepalese Airline.
4. Tourist Information Centre, Kathmandu. 5. Information gleaned personally.

From the President of TAAN I was given the list of Agencies in that organisation as at Sept. 1991 and will gladly check an Agency for you if you ring me on (043) 885 589.

As I see it there are three ways of going about it:—

DOING IT ON THE CHEAP. Organise a bunch of buddies - you get a better discount on airfares that way - then go see a few travel agencies, get their best offer on the flight. There'll be an o'night stopover in Bangkok on the way out.

BANGKOK. I can only recommend one Hotel, The Liberty, 215 Pratipat Rd (Baht559

- A38 dbl) with a good cheap restraint. If you are travelling with someone who knows their way around B'kok then Khoa San Rd is cheaper where you can get reasonable acc. for between Baht 80 to 200 (\$AUS 5/10 dbl) What you choose will depend on budget, luggage, knowledge etc.

Getting there and back from the Airport can be a problem. Some of the choices are 1.Taxi: You should'nt pay more than B120 (\$AUS 6) to Liberty or B200 (AUS 10) to Khao San. 2.Mini Bus: These come in about every hour and could cost up to B60 (\$A 3). If you are going to Liberty then a Fax to that Hotel could possibly arrange transport. 3.Local Bus: These are the cheapest. Taking these will depend on the amount of gear you are carrying and knowing how to get where you want to go. 4.Trains: There are two, Ordinary and Special. The Station is just "across the road" from the Airport. The Special costs \$A 4 and the Ordinary \$A 2. These take you to Hualamphong station (Central - B'kok). You have to know how to get to where you want to go from there. Take Tuk Tuk or Taxi.

KATHMANDU. When you get through the Airport check, take the map offered to you as you leave the airport. This may help you get round the city. When you get outside there will be lots of Hotel touts lined up with boards announcing their Hotels. Look for Annapurna Lodge or Hotel New Ganeesh. Both are clean and cheap. Ann. L. R120 (\$3.20) N. Gan. R450 with breakfast (\$12) These prices are for doubles with bathroom and toilet attached. Singles are 75% cheaper and both singles and doubles with communal bath and toilet are cheaper still.

You can trek on your own but your choice of routes is limited. The "popular" routes have lodges and "tea houses" along the way where you can get food and accommodation. These include Everest Base Camp, treks out of Pokhara to Annapurna Base Camp, Ghorapani and the Jomsom trail etc.. These are the long ones. There are shorter — enquire.

Going on your own may mean the hiring of porters and/or a guide. Remember NOT to hire them "with food" for you will have to pay for it. When you're paying for it boy can they eat, so

strike a rate "without food". Also solo can be more expensive. Single rooms can sometimes be as dear as a double if you are paying for the room.

MIDDLE RANGE. All as for the foregoing. Again a group is cheaper on airfares. When you have settled down in K'du, go to several trekking agencies and enquire as to the possibilities - choice of treks, conditions and prices. It helps if you know something about the country and where you want to go. Another suggestion is that if you have 6 people, why not split into 3 groups and with a similar set of questions 3 agencies can be consulted at once, then compare notes and decide.

The going rates vary from \$US 35 to \$US 70 per day, from basic acc. to delux - tables and chairs and showers each night. \$US 40 seems to be a good basic price.

Climbing can be arranged at a little extra cost. An example of cost is given below.

MAKALU AND EVEREST BASE CAMP.

Approx. 30 days.

Fly from K'du to Tumlingtar	\$US 44
Trek 30 days @ \$US40/day	1200
Trekking Permit approx	15
Fly out Lukla	77
Spending Money (less \$77)	50
(optional in small denomination Rupees) ———	
(\$AUS 1840)	1376

Don't forget that these prices will be subject to inflation as stated in Nepal in 1992. So it would have been possible to do this trek in 1991 for approx. \$AUS 4000. This of course is without food; sundry fares and any purchases for extra clothing, gifts etc, but does include air fare, trek fees, airport tax, 1 weeks' acc. in B'kok and K'du and taxi to and from B'kok to airport. Don't forget Health and Travel Insurance.

DAREST. Go through a Trekking Agency in Australia. This will relieve you of any running around doing it yourself activity but, as you will find out, it will cost. Stay with the Recognised Agencies.

BEWARE of "Privateers" or "Semi-Commercials" who may offer prices which seem to be better than those of the recognised Agencies for they may not be as attractive as they are presented. Check with what is contained here or with me on the number previously with me on the number previously quoted.

REGARDLESS of whether you go with a Recognised Agency, Privateer or Semi-Commercial Organiser be sure that you get contracts for all the conditions that apply, such as refund in case of cancellation (very important), what exactly the trekking fees cover, whether the accommodation charges are reasonable etc..

Exchange Rates 1991; \$US1 = \$0.76AUS
Nepalese R49 (black) Baht 25.

#A bit early for this one but (come winter) make a note in your diary.

DEAD HORSE GAP.

THERE is something special about skiing untouched snow, the feel of cold air on the face and the challenge of the next hill. Cross-country skiing has never been better than this winter with an abundance of snow everywhere.

It was our original plan to ski the Main Range of Kosciusko, high winds and poor visibility changed our plans. Dead Horse Gap was our alternate route which is just 5 Km from Thredbo Village.

The tour begins from the road where it crosses the Thredbo River. The route moves up a gentle slope that follows the Thredbo upstream. The river winds through a beautiful valley with wooded slopes lining the sides.

There are several side creeks which can provide interesting detours. We were able to find numerous slopes suitable to practice our telemark turns. If the river is followed up for 8Km there are the ruins of an old hut to explore.

Dead Horse Gap is a great place to spend a day skiing. It is well sheltered during poor weather and is easily accessible from the road.

With attention being focused on cleaning up Australia the following article is worth repeating.

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 (043) 885 589, 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)
(043) 885 589

COME CLEAN — GO CLEAN.

WHETHER we walk the footpaths of our city streets or the tracks of our National Parks we are confronted with the ever present pollution of rubbish.

During a recent National cleanup campaign several tracks in the Royal National Park were cleared of all rubbish. In one case 17 large garbages of assorted gunk were removed. Unfortunately a couple of weeks later those tracks were in the same state as they were before the cleanup.

It is self-evident that those areas of greater popularity are where the accumulation of rubbish is worst, more especially those which can be reached by car. However when this type of pollution is found in an area where only bushwalkers can get to, then you realise that not all are aware, or do not practice, Bushwalking Ethics.

I certainly do not know what the answer to this problem is. If anyone reading this article has a sensible suggestion as to how this social evil can be redressed then please write to the editor.

Although I know I am preaching to the converted I would like to repeat what I have so often said in the past. CARRY OUT WHAT YOU CARRY IN ! And if possible carry out a little more so that you make up for those who don't appreciate the bush as much as we do.

COME CLEAN — GO CLEAN.

COME ROGAINING!!!

Rogaining is fun and you can learn to navigate so that you will not finish up like those poor souls you see below.



Where the hell was Checkpoint 3??

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

DURING the past few weeks the sport of Bushwalking has suffered some bad press. The unfortunate and tragic incidents around the State and in other States has negatively coloured the public's attitude to our sport. Such incidents are thankfully rare, but when they do occur in areas that are isolated, the cost to the taxpayer for the use of helicopters and police resources sometimes brings the call of user pays.

The Bushwalking community realises that bushwalking can be a dangerous activity if people set out on trips ill prepared. Our Club structures minimise this possibility. Clubs are a forum for the dissemination of information and the setting of minimum standards of equipment, in ethics and responsibility. The Confederation centralises all the Clubs' wisdom in formulating State-wide policy through the delegates to Confederation, and it provides a rescue support service in our Search and Rescue Group.

Clubs should avail themselves of the Confederation's resources in the first instance of an emergency IN THE BUSH. Our Search and Rescue Group was established as a member clubs' self-rescue body to help ourselves without wasting the community's resources. Things have not changed since the Group's inception in the 1930's.

As a member of the State Volunteer Rescue Association, S&R is obliged to contact the police immediately a distress signal has been received. Police, a-priority have the responsibility for conducting the search. By involving the Confederation S & R in the first instance, our S&R body can then advise the police on the best method of retrieval. The Clubs can be assured that we are using our own well equipped and trained volunteer resources to help ourselves.

BOOK REVIEW.—

TRAVEL COMPANION. ARGENTINA.

IF YOU ever have any reason to visit Argentina whether for business or pleasure then you should not go without a copy of Travel

Companion. Argentina. This volume - necessarily large — is an extremely comprehensive source of information covering everything you could want to know while travelling in that country.

The author, Gerry Leitner, has travelled extensively in this country and almost all the information contained in this guide has been gleaned by personal experience. It is set out in an easy to understand format and whether your visit is as a businessman, traveller or tourist then the price, \$30, would be money well spent.

I cannot speak from first hand experience but having travelled in India, Afghanistan and South East Asia using similar literature I would be more than happy to use this volume. Places of interest, how to get there, where to eat, where to sleep, all the essentials a traveller needs to know are all there at his fingertips.

One of the few criticisms I have of this guide, other than its size (127by190by35mm, .7Kg) was of the difficulty I had in finding the numbers listed in the key of the street maps on the maps themselves. Gerry informed me that this will be rectified in future editions.

Naturally some of the information will become out of date because of monetary changes and other factors, however most of the information will remain constant. Gerry intends to update the facts as often as is practicable.

Highly recommended. Don't go without it!

SMALL SEARCH AND RESCUE SPOT.

DO YOU want to have FUN and EDUCATE yourself at the same time ? then you may wish to gain a St John First Aid Certificate through an S&R arranged First Aid Training Course in May, 30 31. RING Keith Maxwell on (H) (02) 6220049, (W) 8058329.

OR You may wish to commence or expand your BUSH NAVIGATION skills or COMPETE for the CUP by coming to S&R's ROGAIN in June 27/28. You will need 4 bodies and you have the choice of a 12 hr (day) or 24hr (o'night) Course - the big one. RING Keith (above) or me — Gordon Lee (043) 885589 for details.



OUTFITTERS FOR THE SERIOUS BUSHWALKER

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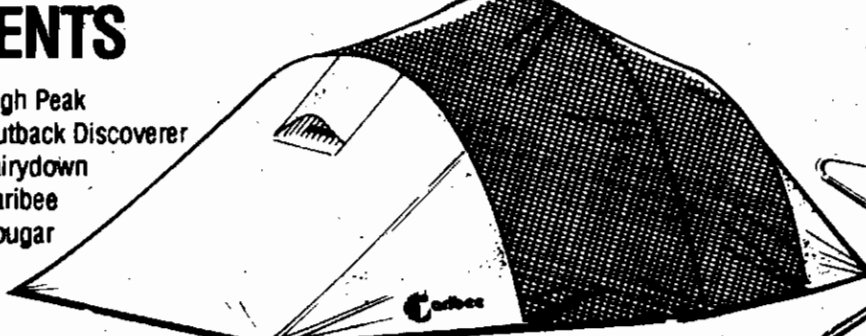
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