

July - 92

THE Bushwalker

Newsletter of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.

ISSN 0313-2684

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FEDERATION CALENDAR.

- Aug. 22/23 A.G.M. and Conference(5)
 Sept. 2 Anniversary of Bluegum Dedication. Blackheath.
 4 Bluegum Bush Dance. Petersham Town Hall.(5)
 5/6 Back to Bluegum Campfire and Cleanup.(7)
 Oct. 17/18 S & R Training Weekend.(8)
 24/25 First Aid Training.(9)
 Nov. 14/15 The "Claytons" Reunion.(2)

For more details of all these events see inside on pages noted above in parentheses.

WARNING. KEEP OFF THE GRASS

THERE are more hazards in the bush when bushwalking than dislodged rocks and stinging trees. Grass can be extremely dangerous when it is found in unexpected places. All "Offtrack" walkers should be aware that their lives could be in danger if they inadvertently stumble across a "crop" (of "Grass") in the bush.

This warning comes from a detective involved in a recent raid by the SWOS Squad, Drug Enforcement Authority and Police on a well-tended 22 million dollar Cannabis plantation in an isolated area of the Mt Kaputar NP near Narrabri NSW. This warning goes for any State Forest, National Park, Water Board Catchment or any isolated section of the Bush.

The warning continues **"If on a walk you find anything man-made, strange or unnatural, don't try to investigate. Backtrack along the route, make a note of its position, bypass the area if possible and contact the police when you get back."** If you think this warning is over reactive then read on.

In the incident mentioned the route to this crop was down a power-ylon maintenance track and where it ended the persons involved had their own 4WD track for about 3/4 Km into the bush. From here the first of 10 flying foxes and a well worn walking track commenced. Had this track been followed it would have led right into the middle of the crop.

The area was protected by solar-powered infra-red beam alarms and three guard posts, one each up and down the creek, the third on a small hill overlooking area. There was also a dog so vicious that it had to be shot by the police. When the raid was made the "farmers" had no hesitation in firing at the police.

There was lots of evidence of the extent to which the "farmers" had gone to establish the plantation. There were concrete dams, a well-established irrigation system, potting houses and everything that went with good gardening. Everything visible from the air had been carefully camouflaged. It was estimated that it had taken 4 years to reach this stage.

On a lighter note, the "farmers" at least were conservation minded. With all their crop works they had only badly disturbed the undergrowth. No trees had been removed. In stark contrast to this the police cut down at least 20 big trees to get their helicopters in to remove the gear and the evidence. The cannabis that was not

removed was burnt on site.

A veritable arsenal was found on site so TAKE HEED OF THE WARNING ABOVE, otherwise you may find that you end up as a statistic on a police report.

Contributed by Robert H. Smith - Narrabri Bushwalkers.

CONGRATULATIONS PETER TRESEDER O.A.M.

As most of you would be aware, Peter Treseder is the Assistant Director of our Search and Rescue Unit. Earlier this year Peter was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division in the Australian Honours List - the O.A.M.

We believe this is only the third OAM ever awarded specifically for Bushwalking. The award was made for his services to Search and Rescue; his extraordinary adventures which have been at the cutting edge of our Sport for the last decade; his continuing commitment to motivating the Australian Public to a positive attitude to life and for letting people know how lucky they are to live in a fantastic country like ours.

Also this year he was awarded the Australian Geographic Society's "Spirit of Adventure" Silver Medallion. This is the reason for our congratulations. It would be worthwhile to let Peter tell you, in his own words, his philosophy and the reasons for doing the things he does. This is lifted from the acceptance speech he gave on receipt of the Silver Medallion.

"...When I was growing up I learnt at school about people like Scott, Mawson and Kingsford-Smith. Their achievements to me at the time

seemed to be so great, that in my mind they became almost superhuman...God-like. They appeared to me to be larger than life and as a normal person I could never hope to emulate them.

As I matured and was successful at my own adventures, I began to realise that their achievements were not beyond my grasp and that they were, indeed, just ordinary people like you and me. They did however, possess a vision for the future, were prepared to work hard to achieve it and were not scared of failing. They possessed the spirit of adventure.

Adventure exists in the outdoors, in the arts, in business...everywhere. One of my fundamental beliefs is that anyone from any walk of life possesses this spirit and can achieve anything they set their mind to. I also believe that if everyone worked towards these ideals, society would be better off: ordinary people striving for greatness!

We all, therefore, have the capacity to make a positive contribution to society. But adventure by its very definition, has an element of risk involved. It must be remembered that occasionally, whilst striving towards a particular goal, people are going to make mistakes, and society has to be prepared to pick up the pieces. It must not dampen the individual or group spirit.

This award is therefore dedicated to the hundreds of men and women who are involved in Bushwalkers' Search and Rescue, who are prepared to "pick up the pieces" at no extra cost to the community and, so, **ENCOURAGE THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE.**

**THE "CLAYTONS" REUNION
OR
A BUSHWALKING CLUBS
GATHERING
OR
THE CONFEDERATION
REUNION**

WHEN: W/END 14/15 NOV. '92.

WHERE: YARRUNGA CREEK,

MORTON NATIONAL PARK.

DETAILS: Contact Graham Cummings
(047) 742 365 Home
(02) 215 6710 Work

WITHOUT any coercion Camden Club has volunteered to host a weekend get-together in the manner of a Fed. Reune. The theme

LETTERS

HIMALAYAN TREKKING - A BALANCED VIEW

It is good to see the reappearance of the "Bushwalker" after such a long absence, but I was disappointed to find that it contained a biased article relating to trekking in Nepal. As one of the "semi commercial" trek organisers that the author advised the readers to beware of, I want to take a few minutes of your time to set the record straight.

Firstly the views expressed in the article were formed after the author spent three weeks in Kathmandu during which time he did no trekking at all. His only experience of trekking the Himalaya was a trip he did in 1976.

How do I know this? The author was booked to come on one of my treks but two weeks before we were due to leave he was advised by his doctor not to trek due to a knee injury. Despite the short notice he was still able to get a refund of more than fifty percent of his land costs not only for himself but also for his wife. Try getting that from a commercial agent in Australia! Had he arranged travel insurance, as he had been advised to, do, he would have recovered all his costs. Enough bitching!

As with most things in life, when organising a trek you get what you pay for, but there are a few things that you can do to cut costs but also make sure you get the most out of what should be the trip of a lifetime.

When To Go: The peak trekking



of the gathering is "CONVERSATION NOT COMPETITION".

Confed's Annual Reunion which, sadly, hasn't been strictly annual and neglected most years, will not die again this year thanks to the members of this club. With some gentle persuasion I'm sure we might sneak in the odd "Billy-Boil", "Damper-Bake" or "Sandshoe-Toss" just to keep tradition going.

seasons are September to November and February to April. December and January are possible but it is mid-winter and most of the high passes will be closed by snow.

Getting There: You get to Kathmandu either via Bangkok or Dehli. We normally go via Bangkok - it's a bit cheaper. Either way you have a stopover, but going through B'kok you only stopover on the way. You can get a same-day connection on the way back. There are a number of good hotels in the \$35-40 per night bracket and the cost will include all transfers from the airport and return the next morning. You only have about ten hours in B'kok so it's not worth wasting time trying to save a few dollars. When we organise a trek all the accommodation arrangements are made in advance.

Which Style of Trek? Trekking in the Himalaya can be divided into two broad categories. "Tea House" trekking and Camping. Tea House trekking is where you travel alone or in pairs from village to village, eating and sleeping in specially built lodges along the way. This type of trekking is only practical when you are travelling the more well-developed routes like the Annapurna region in central Nepal or Solu Khumbu in the Everest region. Camping is the style normally favoured by the larger groups whether they be commercial or simply a group of mates.

Whichever style of trekking you chose you will, at best, miss out on a lot if you do not go with a guide who can speak a little English. The beauty of the mountains, while obviously an important part of any Himalayan trek, is only part of the overall experience. Without somebody with you who can explain the culture and history around you, you will miss out on so much.

On the more serious side, the Himalaya are the world's highest mountains and conditions can change dangerously quickly. You only have to look at the example of James Scott ("The Iceman") to see what can happen to trekkers who venture into the mountains alone and ill prepared.

How to Get Organised: It is possible to make all the arrangements yourself, but this will be time consuming and you may not get as much out of the trip as you would with someone to do it for you. But if you really want to do it on the cheap,

have a go. If you want any advice I will be pleased to help.

Using a Trekking Agency in Nepal is another way to go, but which one? and do you really want to leave your arrangements up in the air until you arrive? An agency will have a number of scheduled treks but these will generally be only in the more developed areas and the dates and itineraries will be inflexible. Most agencies will arrange Sherpa and porter hiring for you if you want to go tea house trekking and they will also arrange your Trekking Permit and transport to and from the start of the trek. The big unknown with agencies is the quality and experience of the staff they employ, especially for treks into remote regions.

Using one of the major commercial agencies in Australia is another option. This by far the most expensive way to go as they have to support an organisation in Australia as well as in Nepal (or wherever you are trekking). If you can afford it and you want to trek in the more conventional areas then this could be for you. The big disadvantages are that the itineraries are quite inflexible and you have no idea who your companions will be until you get there. Also, because they have to remain reasonably competitive, the big companies have to compromise their services in order to maintain a profit margin. Some examples of this are seen in the ratio of staff to customers they provide. This can effect the level of enjoyment that the customers experience and ultimately could affect

group safety.

Finally there is the option of having your trip organised by a "semi-commercial" of the type so mistrusted by the author of the previous article. I believe that we can offer a trip that has a number of advantages over any of those described above.

- * We cater for special interest groups, mainly bushwalkers, and can tailor a trip to meet the particular group in question.

- * Because we only organise a limited number of trips we can use an elite group of staff with experience in catering for all types of activities. I believe our staff to be the best group available to trekkers. (It was our people who searched for and rescued James Scott)

- * Because we don't have to support a commercial organisation in Australia we are able to offer better value for money than you get from a "big" company.

- * When we organise a trip we make sure that all members get to know each other before we leave. This way any special requirements can be catered for.

Tony and Jill Parr.

A REPLY.

As the author of the article "To Trek or not to Trek" it is with regret that I am forced to reply to the letter above by Tony and Jill Parr in which I have been accused of being "entirely inaccurate and biased". This questions my integrity, accuracy and honesty and is tantamount to being a called liar which, unfortunately, is

*Native rosemary for remembrance
Placed by the plaque so bare,
With thoughts of other walkers
Who could not be there.*

*Then back to our campsite
For a cup of tea that cheers.
The service now is over,
But we'll be back next year.*

Jack Cummings - Camden Bushwalkers.

ANZAC DAY 1993

Next year is the only one in seven when it is possible to get bushwalkers and friends to the ANZAC Service at Splendour Rock. It gives us Saturday to walk in and have a Campfire evening and Sunday for the Service and walk out.

PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY and in **YOUR CLUB PROGRAM** and come and join us.

defamatory and could be grounds for legal action. Because of this I have to answer these accusations so may I point out :-

1. All the facts and figures quoted in my article can either be substantiated from documents in my possession or by verification.
2. I could not have gone trekking and gathered the information in my article. This had to be obtained in K'du and required a lot of leg work.
3. The refund received was not 50%+. \$830 out of \$2450 is 33%.
4. Insurance could not have been obtained because there was no Company name, no contract and no receipts.
5. The hotel quoted at \$35.40 does not specify single or double. We paid \$142.40 a double at Indra Regent. Liberty (quoted from receipt) was \$28 a double. Difference was more than a FEW dollars.
6. All the agencies to whom I applied quoted for the trek set out in my article. They were so close in amounts that there was no need to separate them.
7. As we gathered from the Ad. in Bushwalker Jan. '91 we thought the trip was an arrangement among friends.

Gordon Lee.

HANDY HINTS

EQUIPMENT MINIMUM

NEWCOMERS will benefit from the list set out below. Walkers can also become blasé about the gear they should carry on Daywalks and the worst offenders are more likely to be regular daywalkers.

A short day trip can easily turn into an overdue disaster. This can result from a number of factors - bad weather, a slow walking group, harder terrain than expected, poor navigation, or an injured party member. At worst the group may be caught in the dark and have to spend the night in the bush. And remember, good planning can make all the difference. Each person should take the following:

MINIMUM EQUIPMENT

PARKA and HAT - Never rely on weather reports - they use crystal balls.

WARM JUMPER or JACKET - Woolen or thermal. Both keep you warm even when wet.

WATER CARRIER with WATER - Unbreakable drink bottles or wine-cask bladders work well.

FIRST AID KIT - Should contain 2 Stretch Bandages, Army Field Dressing, Sticking

ANZAC DAY SPLENDOUR ROCK-1992

*The morning star fades slowly.
The cross hangs low to the trees.
At the memorial on Splendour Rock,
There stands bushwalkers three.*

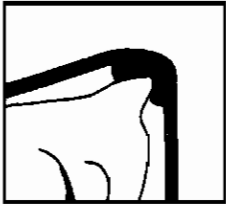
*Alison, Jack and Graham
Stand awaiting the dawn;
Remembering friends and relatives
Dead in War's dark storm.*

*The dark is slowly fading,
Then like a muted roll of drums,
Over the Nattai ridges
The dawn light comes.*

*The Ode is slowly spoken -
"They will not grow old ..."
A minutes' solemn silence:
Thoughts of soldiers bold.*

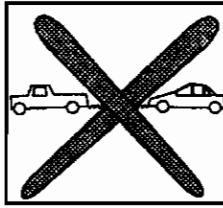
*No trumpet's Last Post wailing,
But from the forest mute,
A birdsong high and trilling -
Nature's own tribute.*

HOW TO ... Care for your ropes.



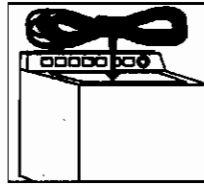
i) Always properly protect your ropes at abrasion points.

ii) Never use life-support ropes to lift heavy objects or in any way which subjects the rope to extreme loads. e.g.: as a tow rope.



iii) Protect your ropes from excessive heat and chemicals. Nylon will be affected by heats in excess of 200 C. Your rope should be protected from all compounds containing acids and alkalis, as well as oxidising agents and bleaching compounds.

iv) Keep your ropes clean. Dirt causes both internal and external abrasion to kernmantle ropes. Ropes can be washed in cold water using a paste made from mild soap (Lux flakes are ideal!) Do not use detergents containing bleach. Fabric softeners (such as Comfort) may improve the flexibility a little. Don't be afraid to use a nail brush to really scrub particularly dirty ropes. Once washed and rinsed, pull your rope through a descender (whaletails and racks work best) to remove excess water. Dry in a warm place away from direct sunlight. Do not use dryers as these will make your rope stiff.



v) ALWAYS check your ropes before and AFTER each use. You should check in particular for damage to the sheath. If you can see the core at any point in the rope, that section should immediately be cut out or the rope "condemned".

WHAT KNOTS TO USE AND WHAT KNOTS NOT TO USE



Figure of 8 Knot

i) You should be able to do all your rigging for abseils, ascending, climbing etc with just three knots in kernmantle ropes. These three knots are a double figure eight for tying off to anchor points. A double fisherman's knot for joining lengths of rope (and making loops of course). The best knot to use for mid-line loops is the alpine butterfly. This gives you a loop which is easily adjusted to any position along the rope and most importantly, which can be loaded in three directions at once.

ii) It is important to note that many knots that were suitable for use in laid ropes, do not necessarily hold well in ropes of a kernmantle construction. Foremost amongst these is the bowline. The bowline traditionally maintained its holding power because of the "lay" of the rope. Kernmantle ropes do not have this feature and as a result, under cyclic loads - such as those generated by people abseiling and ascending - bowlines can - and we have seen this happen in many instances - work themselves loose. A double figure eight knot works much better as your knot for your anchor point.

N.B.: Make sure that with all your knots, the tails are at least long enough to tie a thumb knot around the standing part.



Double Fisherman's Knot

Alpine Butterfly Knot



Plaster, Jelonet, Pain Killers, Sunblock, Sharp Blade or Scissors and Personal Items.

TORCH - Don't forget spare batteries and globes.

MATCHES - In a waterproof container. Film cassette canisters are good.

MAP and COMPASS - Not much good if you can't use them effectively.

FOOD - Enough for lunch and a bit extra. Scroggin is a good extra.

It is a good idea for the party to carry a tent-fly and one sleeping bag on extended day trips especially in high country.

Courtesy of SARMAG March 1992.

BARRINGTON PRACTICE April, '92

On the weekend of the 4/5th April S&R conducted a practice in the Barrington Tops NP with the dual purpose of also searching for the missing Cessna 210, Reg No VH-MDX, which crashed in the Tops area on the 9th August, 1981. No trace of the plane was ever found. With the aid of a computer simulation, the Wangat Valley became the most probable crash zone. A search area was established from the Wangat Trig. to the Mountaineer on the Eastern side of the Wangat River.

The Gods must have heard of our mission for Saturday's weather was

rain and mist, typical of the area. All groups remained in the field overnight ready to continue the next day, but even with better weather on Sunday, the searchers failed to find the plane. Only 60% of the area was searched. All groups remained in good spirits and had a relaxed trip back to Sydney in the S&R's subsidised mini buses.

S&R would like to thank all those members who so gave their time and assistance to this effort. The Clubs who participated were Bankstown, Sutherland, Sydney Uni, NSW Uni, Tamworth, Woolongong NPA, Three Peaks, Ramblers, Newcastle Ramblers and Mt Druitt.

John Tonito - S&R Committee.

THE FOUNDATION OF FEDERATION.

It is occasionally mentioned that the "raison d'être" of the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs (now Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc) was the Blue Gum Forest issue. However the Blue Gum campaign was well under way by then and was gazetted three months after Federation was formed.

Following the formation of the Sydney Bush Walkers in 1927 there was a proliferation of recreational walking clubs as the depression deepened. At that time the mainstream clubs felt that if the idea of the formation of a Federation was acceptable then perhaps their combined efforts could be of mutual benefit.

Conservation at that stage (in reality the protection of bushwalkers rights) was just making an appearance:

In August 1930 Jack Debert and Laurie Drake from the Sydney Bush Walkers, Harold Chardon and Myles Dunphy from the Mountain Trails Club, met at Drake's Cafe to investigate the matter of forming a Federation of Recreational Walkers. At that time SBW had about 140 members whilst the MTC had less than 30. MTC was not particularly interested in the project but wanted equal representation on any council, should it be formed. Consequently nothing came of this meeting.

However the idea did not die and in April 1932 a sub-committee was appointed to promote a Federation of Walking and Camping Clubs in NSW. Harold Chardon (as the pro tem secre-

tary) wrote to each bushwalking club asking for two delegates from each club to meet and discuss the proposed federation.

On July 21 a meeting chaired by C. Ritson with Chardon as secretary was held in the club rooms of the Royal Life Saving Society. Attending were representatives from the Hikers Club of Sydney, SBW, MTC, Bush Tracks Club, Sydney Uni. Bush Ramblers Society, Bushlanders Club, YWCA Ramblers Club, and the WEA Ramblers. The YMCA Ramblers sent their apologies.

It was moved that an organisation be formed and the name should be "The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs of NSW." Its objectives were :-

1. To unite all recreational walking Clubs with a view to the protection and promotion of mutual interests.
2. To accumulate knowledge and information re :-
 - a. Technique of walking and Bushcraft.
 - b. Information re Routes and Country.
 - c. Statistics.
3. To promote the resumption of suitable areas for the formation of walking parks and for the protection of tracks.
4. To prevent the incursion of roads into recognised walking areas.
5. To protect our native Fauna and Flora.
6. To prevent spoilation and vandalism in any shape or form and to educate the public to a greater appreciation of the bush.
7. To cooperate with other bodies for the furtherance of the objects of The Federation.
8. To encourage good fellowship amongst Federation Clubs.

A week later a meeting resolved that affiliation shall be open to all established recreational walking clubs whose aims and objectives were in accord with those of the Federation. Affiliation Fee was set at 75c for the first year.

A month later Harold Buckland was elected president. Myles Dunphy read out a letter suggesting the necessity for, and the benefit to be derived from the resumption of an area of land adjoining the Lilyvale Railway Station. It was moved that a subcommittee be formed "to collect information and to do all they deemed necessary to proceed with this matter.

Early in September '32 the Honorary Secretary wrote to the Sunday Sun announcing that a Federation had been formed and detailed its aims and goals. Clubs affiliated at that stage were MTC, SBW, Hikers of Sydney, NSW Amateur Walking Club, YWCA

Ramblers Bush Tracks Club (Wagga), Bushlanders Club of NSW, WEA Ramblers and Ramblers Club.

During the first year the following issues were raised and dealt with :- "It was moved that the Federation delegates should appoint honorary rangers to Royal National Park following vandalism and littering in the park.

A letter proposing same was sent to Ku-ring-gai NP. (So what has changed-Ed.) *Rail authorities attention was drawn to the transport of flora by train from Heathcote to Sydney. The Commissioner, Mr Cleary (who had been instrumental in saving Blue Gum Forest) was disposed to the idea and gave his private support.

Myles Dunphy presented a proposal to Federation for the resumption of land to add to the Royal NP. Later Myles drafted a letter outlining the proposal which was signed by delegates and used as a petition to the Minister for Lands. The Surveyor General subsequently saw a delegation from Federation and favourably received the petition.

The proposed alienation of the Garawarra lands by two farmers was challenged in the Land Court by bushwalkers. While he agreed to the conversion, the decision was delayed for a month to allow for objections. 4,683 signatures were gathered by bushwalkers to support the objection. The Minister refused to overturn the court's decision but accepted the need for reservation over remaining lands which led to the first "Bushwalkers' Park" - Garawarra.

Cllo.

"THE BALL" OR "BACK TO BLUEGUM" DANCE

WHEN: Saturday, 4 Sept. '92

WHERE: Petersham Town Hall

WHAT: BYOG & BYOF

HOW: Parr for details.

Pb (02) 5574759.

This function has always been known as the "Ball", heaven knows why. It has been held every year by Federation for Bushwalkers to have fun and raise money for Confederation's Funds. Only this year it coincides with the 60th Anniversary of Bluegum and Federation so it is being called The Bluegum Ball, for which I humbly apologise for my mistake above.

COME ALONG AND HAVE A DANCE - HAVE A BEER/WINE/MINERAL WATER - HAVE A YARN - HAVE FUN - ENJOY.

A.G.M. and ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLACE: Burwood RSL,

96 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood

DATE: Saturday 22 August 1992

TIME: 10.00am to 6.00pm

COST: \$5.00 per person (includes afternoon tea)

This is possibly the most important meeting in the Confed's Calendar. Here matters of concern and action are discussed and "quote" the Conference is a time for representatives of the Clubs to meet, exchange ideas and information, and find out what Confed. had been doing for, and on behalf of Bushwalkers.

You only have to give up ONE WEEKEND, 1/52nd of your year, to be there. Arrangements will be made to billet reps from outlying areas. Sunday 23 can be an optional Bushwalking day.

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Welcome



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60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLUEGUM DEDICATION

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONFEDERATION

THIS year marks the 60th anniversary of Blue Gum Forest being saved from destruction. The title to the land was purchased by the bushwalking movement and handed over to the State on September 2nd 1932.

To celebrate the Forest's "Birthday" the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc. is organising the following events.

THE BLUE GUM BALL / BUSH DANCE.
For details see "Ball"

BACK TO BLUE GUM WEEKEND.
Sat./Sun. 5/6 Sept. '92.

A Bushwalker's "get together" and campfire in the Blue Gum area on Saturday. Then on Sunday morning Bushwalkers will carry out a cleanup of Blue Gum Forest and Acacia Flat before an official function in the Forest attended by Local and State dignitaries as well as some "Old Timers" from 1932.



HOW IT ALL BEGAN.

THE Blue-Gum Forest action was the initiator of Conservation actions by combined groupings of Bushwalking Clubs and led to the founding of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs (later known as the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.) within NSW.

Tale of events that led to the winning of the Blue Gum Forest's inclusion as Reserve Lands and later as part of the Blue Mountains National Park began with a chance discovery by members of the Mountain Trails Club and the newly formed Sydney Bush Walkers that some trees within the forest had been ring-barked.

Investigations revealed that the ring-barking was being conducted by the lessee of the land, a Mr C.A. Hungerford of Bilpin. Discussions with him revealed that he would be agreeable to stay the ringbarking for the sum of £150. This amount was considered by Mr Hungerford as sufficient for him to make a fresh start in another locale.

Around the middle of July, 1932 the coalition of the Mountain Trails Club and the Sydney Bush Walkers authorised the formation of a Blue Gum Committee comprising of personages whose names are familiar with bushwalkers today ie. Wally Roots, Joseph Turner, Allan Rigby (one of the discoverers and a leading force in the push to conserve the area) Harold Chardon (who later resigned from the committee and was replaced by Dorothy Lawry) Myles Dunphy (whose part in the Conservation Movement is legendary) Harrold Perrot, Harold Buckland, and Roy Bennett (who was also President the Wildlife Preservation Society). The purpose of the committee was to examine ways of raising and obtaining the necessary finance to purchase the forest from the lessee.

Correspondence was exchanged with the lessee indicating the committee's view that the price was excessive, especially considering that the country was in the grip of the Great Depression. A letter from the lessee dated August 17th, indicated he would not lower the price but would postpone a part of the payment for a period.

The lessee's initial terms of payment offer (£50 deposit and balance paid over the next 12 months) was amended after a meeting was convened in the forest on 15 November, 1931 between Mr Hungerford, the Blue Gum Committee members and others including J.C. Lockley ("Redgum" of the Sydney Morning Herald). The agreed terms were a total of £130 comprising a £25 deposit with the balance to be paid by January 1, 1932.

Together the Clubs donated £18, while the Wild Life Preservation Society paid the deposit. To help raise the outstanding amount the committee hastily arranged a Blue Gum Ball and some Austen Socials. In the meantime a media campaign had begun. Impressed by the beautiful stand of blue gums, J.C. Lockley informed the public through the Sydney Morning Herald about the campaign.

Sponsors were found that were willing to donate materials and time to produce an information pamphlet. B.J. Ball Ltd supplied the paper, Hartland and Hyde, the block, John Sands Ltd printed the run of 2000 pamphlets. Many notable groups and people were mentioned in this pamphlet as lending their support for the cause.

It was becoming apparent that the finance arrangement was going to be difficult to achieve within the time period. It was decided by the committee that a loan was going to be needed from a friendly patron. One of the people mentioned in

the pamphlet was a Mr W.J. Cleary Esq. (the Chief Commissioner for Railways) a walking enthusiast, conservator and idealist. After an approach by some committee members he agreed to provide a loan of £80 over two years free of interest on condition that his anonymity be maintained.

The balance of the money was duly paid to the lessee; the Lands Department revoked the lease and then honoured the condition of purchase by reserving the land for Public Recreation. Final notification for the Blue Gum Forest Reserve appeared on September 2, 1932.

By the end of the next year the Blue Gum Committee raised enough finance from socials and other fund raising activities to completely repay the loan to Mr Cleary.

The early discovery of the ringbarking enabled the discoverers to organise a campaign that focussed on and won support from many sectors of the community in the preservation of areas with scenic and conservation values.

This campaign revealed the existence of a large number of people with a recreational love of the Australian bush. By the action of a few concerned citizens one of the most famous stands of forest in NSW was saved and it became the precursor of conservation action within the State for succeeding decades.

M.J. Dunphy, "The Blue Gum Conservation Campaign" THE BUSH-WALKER, Vol. 12 No8, 1964.

FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE

WHETHER the ordinary citizen likes to believe it or not the Bushwalking Movement has been in the vanguard of the force fighting for the preservation of our forests and the rest of our natural heritage which is dwindling fast. At the moment we have about 17 million people in one of the least populated (in persons per sq. Km) of any country in the world. How are we going to fare if our population grows to 30 or even as is suggested to 150,000,000.

We have enough problems to solve on our Eastern Seaboard now - sewerage and garbage disposal, air pollution and traffic chaos - to name a few without adding to these with increased population.

Bushwalkers must keep on fighting for what nature we have and for more if we can get it. MORE ESSENTIALLY we have to fight for a halt in POPULATION GROWTH, the disease which is killing the world.

SEARCH & RESCUE SPOT

See page 4 "Barrington Practice".

KANANGRA WALLS CALLOUT 9 to 11 February, '92.

BUSHWALKERS' S&R was contacted just prior to midnight on Saturday 8-2-92 to assist in the search for a couple on a five day walk from Katoomba to Kanangra Walls who missed their Friday evening rendezvous for transport home.

The weather was appalling. Heavy rain had begun to fall late in the week and did not ease off until 11-2-92. S&R sent out five search teams from Kanangra Walls on Sunday 9. One of the teams entered Kanangra Cr but found it impossible to move along the Creek. The three teams which went out to search the "High Gangerangs" took two hours longer than normal. They camped out overnight and resumed searching on the 10th.

A team was sent in from Katoomba towards the Cox. They were forced to come down off Narrow Neck as flooded creeks stopped them from reaching Medlow Gap. The local SES provided a team which searched off Guouogang to Konongaroo.

As any walker with knowledge of the area would gather, from the evidence above, this was a particularly challenging callout as the weather and the wet scrub made for very slow going.

Kanangra Walls is now within range of mobile car phones so S&R kept one Committee member in Sydney to co-ordinate fresh search teams. Thus we were able to offer a complete replacement set of personnel for Tuesday morning if required.

S & R PRACTICE

When: 17/18 October.

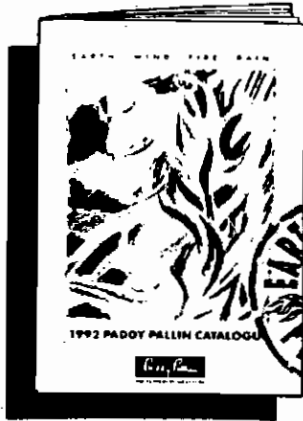
Where: Bungleboorie Cr area near Newnes.

There are only 3 S&R practices each year. One of these is devoted to the Rogain which concentrates on Navigation. It also affords some practice in the use of radios. The other 2, the above of which is one, have different skills in mind. The Barrington Practice was for the dual purpose of

brushing up search techniques and a genuine attempt to find the lost plane.

It is imperative for those Bushwalkers who wish to assist with S&R to attend at least one practice each year either to learn the skills involved or simply keep in touch. We have been going for nearly as long as Federation - 60 YEARS - let's keep it that way. Ring Keith (02) 6220049 for details.

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In addition we had personnel available to assist in the search in Snowy Mts for the missing group from Bateman's Bay.

On the morning of the 11th the weather finally cleared just enough to fly helicopters and the couple was located by an NP & WS chopper late on Tuesday morning. They were towards the north side of the Gangerangs in an area our teams had not yet moved into. Another NP & WS and Dick Smith's helicopter were also present and available.

None of the persons searched for in both the cases mentioned above were members of Clubs in Federation but this did not affect the response by Confed. bushwalkers. As a result there is a possibility that one of the Clubs involved may join Confederation.

Let me thank all those members of

Confederation who responded so magnificently when asked to join in the Search. Those Clubs who participated were: Bankstown, Berrima NPA, Canberra, Camden, CMW, Central West, Fairfield, Mt Druitt, SBW, SUBW, Span, Sutherland, Shoalhaven, Sydney NPA, Springwood, Three Peaks and Woolongong NPA. This list may be incomplete so please forgive if you were not acknowledged along with all those whose were on standby.

Keith Maxwell - Director.

NAVIGATION '92.

IF you are wondering what this is all about then remember that this is what was called the Rogain.

This year there were 57 teams in two events, a Day and an Overnight Course. The teams were comprised of 215 participants. It was never anticipated that the S&R Practice of four years ago would develop into an annual event of such magnitude.

There is the possibility that we may see teams from other States and even from New Zealand competing next year.

Unfortunately this year the weather was atrocious, a great tribute to those who participated. Navigation was hard enough in good conditions let alone those pertaining on the day.

It must be remembered that this was not strictly a male concern. There were a number of ladies who were members of the teams. Congratulations all!

The winners were as follows :-

24 Hr Event.

1st Kangaroo Valley Fire Brigade.

2nd Sutherland Bushwalkers.

3rd SPAN.

Special mention of the RAAF Richmond team who finished 4th when competing for the first time.

One Day Event.

1st Canberra Bushwalkers.

2nd Shoalhaven Bushwalkers.

3rd Hilltop Volunteer Bushfire Brigade.

Canoe Raffle.

Won by one of the lady members of the Southern Highlands Pipe Band.

The Canoe was donated by Canoe World of Woolongong. The prizes were presented by Senior Sergeant Bruce Gain representing the chairman of the State Rescue and Emergency Services Board. Sgt Gain told the assembled crowd that it was unique and gratifying to see the spread of Rescue and other Service Organisations taking part in this Exercise. This sort of intermixing was beneficial for everyone involved.

Ray Tyson (Sgt Tyson of Cliff



Rescue fame) always a popular figure with Bushwalkers, introduced Sgt Gain and had some very flattering things to say about S&R's organisation of Navigation '92.

We, that is the S&R group of Federation, in mentioning the following people and Organisations may have left someone out. If so, please accept our apologies.

Special mention to :- * VRA Sth Coast Support Unit who set up Base, supplied First Aid and emergency transport. * Members of the Southern Highlands Pipe Band, who "skirled" on regardless of the very unpleasant rainy conditions. * And to everyone (especially the ladies - young and not so young) who assisted with the "office" and the "kitchen," we offer our thanks.

S&R CALLOUT SEMINAR.

THIS was held on the 14th June after Peter Treseder had contacted every Club to request that reps. be sent to discuss the reasons for Clubs to have S&R Contacts and a system for reaction to a callout. **The Seminar was a resounding success.** 15 Clubs attended. Though unable to attend, the Country Clubs were in support of the Confederation S&R Group. Our thanks to Peter for the time and effort he put into this project. His diligence brought about the obvious result.

Clubs attending were Bankstown, Brisbane Waters, Bush Club, Camden, Mt Druitt, NPA Sydney, Outdoor Club, Ramblers, SBW, Sutherland, SPAN, Three Peaks, NSW Uni., Warringah and YHA Sydney. Congratulations ALL.

HANDY HINTS 2

SOME BUSH FIRST AID

The following notes have been edited by a bushwalking Medical Practitioner.

HYPOTHERMIA

"Exposure": This potentially fatal condition is caused by prolonged heat loss which lowers the body's core temperature to the level where normal muscle and brain functions are impaired. It can be induced by any combination of WIND, WET and COLD e.g. immersion in cold water.

PREVENTION: In cold, windy or wet conditions, prevent heat loss by covering ALL exposed skin, especially the head. Wear a beanie or balaclava, windproof/waterproof rainwear, and several layers of clothing which will stay warm when wet. Replace lost energy by nibbling high energy foods between meals.

SYMPTOMS: Lowered body temperature causes intense shivering, then tiredness, then slurred speech and slow thinking. This is followed by less shivering, poor muscular co-ordination and confusion, slowed breathing and heart rate. Continued cooling leads to unconsciousness and death.

TREATMENT: Immediately, get out of hypothermia causing situation, e.g. put up a tent, and slowly rewarm the patient. Replace as much wet clothing as possible with dry clothing and place the affected person in a sleeping bag. Having a person with normal body temperature in the same sleeping bag in a chest to chest position is an option if the the bag is big enough.

In early hypothermia give warm sweet drinks and high energy foods. Do NOT give alcohol or place too near a fire. If the patient is unconscious place in coma position. Watch for breathing and circulation failure - treat as necessary.

Keith Maxwell.

FIRST AID COURSE

When: 24/25 October.

How: Ring Keith Maxwell.

Book for this course with Keith to make sure you take of the advantage of doing your First Aid Cert. as cheaply as possible.

ERRATA

"To Trek or Not to Trek."

In this article which appeared in the April issue of Bushwalker the following errors appeared. In the estimate of the Makalu Trek the addition of costs should have been \$US 1386 and the conversion to \$Aust. 1815. at the end of the article the Exchange Rate for the American dollar had been reversed and should have been \$1.31 Aust. = \$1 US.

Since I was the author of this article I apologise for any inconvenience.

Gordon Lee.



HAMLET AND HIS CROWN

READERS are warned that most of this essay is arrant nonsense. although as Jack Point would have said "There's a grain or tws of truth amongst the chaff". If you are not deterred, then read on -

Almost 25 years ago the first "official" Lands Department maps of the Budawang Mountains became available. They also included the northern extension into the Ettrema\Danjera\ Bundunda Creek catchments, and looking at them I was intrigued to see on the Touga sheet an isolated cliffy prominence, on the eastern side of Ettrema Creek, with the name "Hamlet Crown".

During the intrvening years I've wondered at the origin of the name, and I realise now that the answer was probably included in several articles or books I've read on the history of the bushwalking movement in N.S.W., but somehow it failed to "click" with me.

Any time over the years when I have chanced to ponder the name on the Touga map I would decide it had nothing to do with the dictionary definition of "hamlet" as a small village and most probably had its origin in the Shakespeare play "Hamlet, Prince of Denmark".

After all, I could argue, as a mediaeval Prince, Hamlet probably did possess a crown. Then, as shown on the map, it is an isolated crag, separated from the plateau by a prominent saddle.

Well, Prince Hamlet was something of a loner, out on his own, setting himself against the Establishment of his time. Indeed, rather an eccentric...I mean, have you ever heard of any other Prince strolling around the battlements of a castle in the dead of night nattering with ghosts? - or debating with himself at great length on the pro and con of committing suicide ("To be or not to be - that is the question?") let alone driving his girl-friend to such a state distraction that she ambles around crooning bawdy songs.

There was one difficult problem with my theory about the derivation of the

name. In the same region some of the ground features are named for the bush walkers who explored the area in the 1950's and 1960's. Otherwise there is a tendency for place names to be based on a specific theme.

In the Ettrema region it seems to focus on Crime and Punishment. Thus, Transportation Spur just across the Creek: Pardon Point and Reprieve Point are nearby, and on one ridge a selection of hills named Judgement, Felon and Handcuff.

You would expect that if Hamlet got a mention there might be other characters from the play; but I looked in vain for a Polonius or a Laertes. There is no Claudius, no Fortinbras, not even an Ophelia. Oh, no; Hamlet is there in splendid isolation.

The "penny dropped" when I saw in the "History" section of the January '91 issue of "The Bushwalker" that one William Mogfort Hamlet, sometime N.S.W. Government Analyst, was a pioneer bush walker, and one of the founders of the Warragamba Walking Club - predating by

almost 20 years the legendary Myles Dunphy and his Mountain Trails Club. On realising this, I should have kicked myself for not spotting the association of names before, but at my age kicking oneself is not recommended, even if physically possible.

Of course, since reading the Confederation's Newsletter, I can see it all. It's a tribute to one of the very early practitioners of our game. A well deserved one, too.

Jim Brown - Sydney Bush Walkers.

THE BUSH

Tenston fades as daylight

With a saffron sun.

Calm of mind - our very being -

Descends with evening.

Crackle of fire,

The tasks of bodily necessity

Restore the soul - in

The bush.

A kaleidoscope of colour

Reaches the eye with beauty.

Tree, cliff, stream,

It's everchanging composition

Relieves the dull monotone

Of whence we came.

Friendly, perhaps caring,

The babble of voices.

Revives the core of existence -

Communication - in

The bush.

Hill, scrub, distance,

A boulder blocked creek

Challenge physically,

Ache the muscles,

Regenerate the body.

A symphony of sounds,

A deafing silence.

We learn once more to listen,

We hear, we live - in

The bush.

Gordon Lee.

THE BUSHWALKER

GPO Box 2090 Sydney 2001

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

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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)
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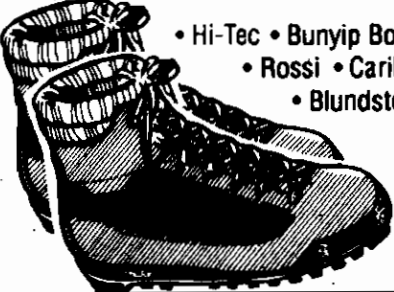
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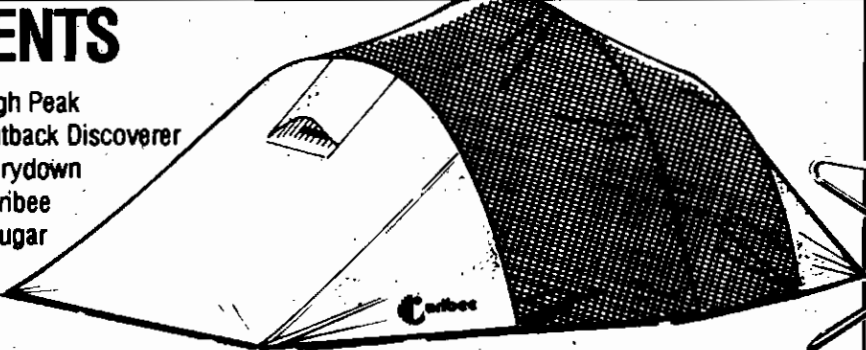
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