

THE BUSHWALKER

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Newsletter of the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW)
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PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

Christmas Greetings
from Federation



The Federation comes under criticism on two main counts: -

1. For things it has done, and
2. For things it hasn't done. It's a no win situation.

It's been said before and I'll say it again. Federation is only as good and efficient as those who make up the Federation's Council. These people come from the Councillors you (The Clubs) send to the meetings as your representatives.

From the Councillors present

come those willing to do a job on the executive - and these are precious few.

NO ONE IS OF ANY USE as an office bearer **UNLESS** they have the time and the motivation to do a job. All the officers have to be capable of **GIVING SOME OF THEIR TIME** to Federation matters otherwise the whole thing grinds to a halt.

This has been said before too.

The reason the S & R functions befo

so well is because those who run for office do so because they want to. I wish this could be said of Federation.

Before you criticse Federation next time ask yourself a few questions. 1. Would you be willing to give up some of your time to act as a Federation Councillor? 2. If you were a Councillor would you be willing to become an office bearer? 3. If you think you could do a better job, you're the person we're looking for to come on in and take over.

Gordon Lee

Conservation Corner

BARRINGTON TOPS

Newcastle Bushwalking Club in their submission on the draft management plan for Barrington Tops believe that all trails that lead to the park should be closed to vehicles starting with the immediate closure of the Careys Peak to Lagoon Pinch trail. Parking and camping areas should be established at the start of walking trails.

Rather than spend money on repair and upgrading tracks, the club pointed out that steps to control feral pigs and the noxious weed Spanish Broom should be implimented. Some areas like The Junction and Big Hole may need to be rehabilitated.

"Some people with limited foresight may see the closing of trails to vehicles as locking up the area. A truer description is

the reverence of a valuable and irreplaceable wilderness". (NBC Nov'87).

PROPOSED BLUE MOUNTAINS ADDITIONS

The Government is investigating the addition of almost 9000ha of the Banshea, Gurnang and Mt Werong State Forests to the Blue Mountains National Park.

Pressure is expected from the timber and coal industries for these forests have provided timber for years to the Lithgow and Bathurst areas. Hardwood from the area is used for pit props in the Lithgow mines and cessation of logging would lead directly to the loss of over sixty timber industry jobs.

JOIN THE SEARCH

Peter Treseder is to spend Saturday (January 30) searching for relatives of the 'Plesiosaur' to support the creation of an aquatic park in the Blue Mountains. Participants will need snorkles, goggles, flippers and a costume as they swim up Govetts Leap Creek. Any one wishing to take part in this research should contact Peter in January on 489 4182 (h).

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

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

Correspondence concerning the Newsletter should be addressed to The Editor, Newsletter, PO Box 228, WEST RYDE 2114.

Federation Report

From the Minutes...

* The Federation has formed a 'Kowmung Committee' to investigate the ramifications of a proposed increase in the height by 5m of Warragamba Dam. Stage two will be the construction of a spillway, and stage three will be the building of a second dam.

Fifty years ago the Federation formed a 'Warragamba Dam Sub Committee' to investigate the proposed construction of a dam on the Warragamba River. It came to the conclusion that no good purpose would be gained in protesting against the dam. By late 1938 the first stage (a 15m wall) had been built of the planned 90m wall. The dam was officially opened in October 1960.

One could imagine that had the dam been located elsewhere, the Burragarang Valley would have become a richman's playground. The 'traditional' walking routes (established prior 1900) would have been so restricted that they would have been beside the highway down the valley.

* The Tracks and Access Director is writing to the Lands Dept to have the road from Sassafras to Newhaven Gap gazetted. As a further step the Director of the NPWS is to be ask to have the road out to Quilty's Clearing closed to all traffic so as to allow for revegetation.

* Whilst the Federation is compiling a policy on horse riding in national parks the Carlon family, who run Packsaddlers in the Megalong Valley, were interested in learning of SBW's views. As Honorary Members of that club, the Carlons would be vitally affected should horse riding be banned.

SBW voted unanimously that it "does not support the banning of horse riding in every National Park in NSW and we support the continuation of the 'Packsaddlers' riding school activity in the Kannagra Boyd and Blue Mountains National Park".

The Carlons have been at Green Gully since early this century and for many years were only accessible by a sulky track. In their isolation the Carlon family use to welcome returning bushwalkers crossing their property with a cup of tea and a chat. The Carlons were also called upon many times to assist any walker in distress.

Later when the road was extended to their property, the Carlons saw a way of introducing non walkers to the countryside. Now any weekend one will find the cars of bushwalkers and horse riders were parked outside their gates.

* Only 49 bushwalkers attended this years Federation Reunion which was hosted by Mt Druitt B.C. at the Upper Colo picnic area. And we congratulate them on a fine effort. It's a pity however that other clubs did not support the activity - of the 49 who attended, 29 were members of the host club.

* 201 walkers and associates came to our annual Bush Dance (Ed. it's not really a Ball) and added an additional \$1000 to the Federation's coffers. Unfortunately this was quickly spent at FBW's October meeting.

ANNUAL CALENDAR 1988		
13	May	Bush dance - to be confirmed
21/22	May	First Aid Course - see elsewhere this issue
23/24	July	S & R Practice
23	September	Bushwalkers Ball
8/9	October	S & R Practice
29/30	October	First Aid Course

FEDERATION REUNION - 5/6 MARCH

Fairfield Bushwalking Club is organising the 1988 Reunion to be held at Diggers Flat (Map;Yalwal 1:25000). To get there take the Turpentine Road out of Nowra and then turn right onto the Burrier Road. Follow this for approximately 10km and turn left on to the Yalwal Road.

This road leads to Danjera Dam and park cars at the picnic area 300m further on. From here it is an easy walk of 2km beside Danjera Creek along a track to Diggers Flat.

CARE - THE WALK IS ABOUT 5KM BESIDE DANJERA DAM

QUARTERLY CALENDAR		
JAN	* 5	Search and Rescue meeting, 43 Devine St.,Erskineville, (Tony Parr)
	* 19	FBW General Meeting 174 Cumberland St.,Sydney
FEB	* 2	S & R meeting, Marrickville.
	* 16	FBW General Meeting, Sydney.
MAR	* 1	S & R meeting 34 Inkerman St Parramatta (Herb Lippman).
	* 5/6	Federation Reunion, see elsewhere in this newsletter.
	* 15	FBW General Meeting,Sydney
	* 19/20	S & R Canyon Practice.
APR	* 5	S & R meeting, Marrickville.
	* 19	FBW General Meeting, Sydney
	* 25	Jan Wouters will be organising an Anzac Day trip to Splendor Rock.

FIRST AID CERTIFICATE COURSES

Club Walks Secretarys and others please note the following dates for weekend courses.

MAY 21-22, 1988
OCTOBER 29-30, 1988

For bookings phone Keith Maxwell 622.0049 (h) or Peter Treseder 489.4182 (h)

Every trip leader should have a First Aid Certificate.



* A Field Guide to the Native Trees of the A.C.T. covering some 60 species of trees in the Southern Tablelands can be obtained from the NPA of ACT Inc. GPO Box 457, Canberra ACT 2601. Cost (including postage) is \$5.00.

* On July 2, a meeting was held to form a Sydney Interest Group of the Kosciusko Huts Association. This was aimed at allowing Sydney members to contribute more to the work of the association by way of increasing membership, fund raising and publicity. A car pool is proposed for hut maintenance trips. Unfortunately the KHA has failed to give more information on the group so any enquiries should be directed to P.O. Box 626, Manuka ACT 2603.

* The Newcastle Bushwalking Club report that a 48 page booklet has been written on the "Watagan Walking Trails" by Barry Collier. There are eleven walks described and copies may be obtained via that club (c/- Newcastle Technical

College Union, Maitland Rd, Tighes Hill 2297) for \$5 plus postage.

* Peter Treseder proposed spending one day over the October long weekend scaling the Three Sisters but a bad dose of the flu put an end to that plan. However the S & R bucket brigade was out over the three days collecting donations to replace S & R's aging radios. A full report will appear in the next issue.

* Winners of the Federation's Guessing Competition drawn on 18/9/87 were;

- 1st John Baglin (no.228)
- 2nd Bob Cavill (no.057)
- 3rd Spiro Hajinakitas (no.005)
- 4th Bob Cavill (no.056)
- 5th Arnold Fleischmann (no.407)
- 6th Sharon Fulcher (no.958)

* S & R once again provided communications and the personnel to man the drink stations for this years Paddy Pallin Cross Country Ski Classic. Only 350 competitors took part in this 46km circuit due to icy snow and very

high winds. Only one accident was reported - that of a competitor who broke a leg on the icy road at Perisher Gap. Drink stations on Mt Porcupine and Betts Camp were quite miserable due to the wind. Many thanks to members of the Three Peaks and Camden Bushwalking Club who gave of their time.

* Peter Treseder has lowered his Three Peaks record from 15hrs 11mins to 14hrs 30mins. It was thirty years ago that the first Three Peaks trip was completed. Barry Higgins was one of those original 'peakers' and at the moment he and Steve Tremont are traversing the Great Dividing Range.

* The Brisbane Bushwalkers note that 'The Bushwalk Book in South East Queensland' by Ross Buchanan can be obtained from the Billabong Bookshop, 2 Queen St, Brisbane for \$12 (+ postage).

* "Walk 1988" from the Melbourne Bushwalkers will not be published this year.

Club News

* CMW have lifted their minimum membership age to 18 years to eliminate the possibility of the club having legal responsibility for minors. A further consideration was that the club would have no legal basis for enforcing minors to comply with any rules. For many years this club was one of the very few to have a teenage section (where the minimum joining age was 14 years).

* The SBW have produced a 160 plus page history of their club to celebrate their Diamond Jubilee. A limited print of 500 is sure to go fast and interested persons should contact that club for a copy - \$10. Include postage for the 260gm publication.

* One club has been reviewing their need for personal accident insurance coverage after their previous policy was not renewed. Part of the problem has been to find another company who was willing to take on the risk cheaply. Ironically recent issues of that club's journal have carried tales of accidents suffered on trips. Aimed at drawing a lesson from these incidents, it also highlighted the vulnerability of trip

leaders/club officials to legal action should a victim seek to gain recompense.

* Another club had a member who had business contacts and was able to wrangle up an insurance policy. This club had close contacts with another club and was able to link combine coverage under the same policy.

* One club that has been getting about is the Coast and Mountain Walkers. There has been walking parties to the Kimberleys, New Zealand, the Himalayas and a trek by a redoubtable duo into the wilds of Northern Canada, not to mention a lone club wanderer in South America. All this in 1987! If that's not enough there are already a handful of starters for a cycle tour through Europe next year. And if your not up to this, walks to the Budawangs, Blue Gum and the Kowmung remain as popular as ever.

* CMW has also found time to repair the track from New Haven gap to Folly's Point under NPWS supervision. Working over three weekends, it was perhaps appropriate that the job was completed in the 25th anniversary year of the discovery of Watson's Pass by club member Col Watson.

BUSH LEADERSHIP COURSE

It has already been stated that we (the Federation) have decided not to associate ourselves with the TAFE in the attempt to get this course integrated into the TAFE system. Although there have been many hiccups in the struggle to get this course off the ground, we have decided to go it alone.

The first segment of what we hope will be moulded into a full course (similar to the Victorians) will commence with a Navigation Course to be held on the weekend of April 16-17, 1988. This will be followed by a second weekend when participants will be tested on their ability to navigate a party through reasonably difficult country.

Those who wish to do the Bush Leadership Certificate and whose navigational ability can be proven will be given credit for this towards the Certificate. This part of the course may be done by those who do not wish to complete the full Leadership Certificate.



REPORT

BUNDANOON CALLOUT

On Thursday, 27 August, three young men set out for a car drive around the forest at the top of Kangaroo Valley. They passed a normally locked gate and drove down fireroads into the valley where their car became bogged in the National Park.

Rather than retracing their way back to Bowral (long), they decided to try a shortcut out of the valley they thought they knew. They had no maps and became disorientated and spent a night at the foot of a 60m cliff about 4km from their car. One lad had previously sprained an ankle so they stayed together waiting for rescue.

Serious searching began on Sunday using helicopters with local SES patrolling fireroads in the valley and on the plateau above.

Bushwalkers Search and Rescue was contacted at 10.30am on Tuesday when grave fears were held for their safety. Some night searching was done that evening but the major search commenced at 6am Wednesday. Our search base was near where their car was found and so search parties were sent out in all directions (like spokes in a wheel).

One search party was sent to investigate footprints found the previous day and were just beaten in finding the missing party (who were sighted from the cliff above) at 9.30am

The bushwalkers lent them clothes and also fed them. The three were in remarkably good condition despite five days and nights without food and only light clothing. Whilst they were in good enough condition to walk to a

nearby vehicle on a fireroad, it was decided to helicopter lift them out of the valley. The lost party had often seen searching helicopters but were unable to attract their attention. The S & R Committee would like to thank the 57 walkers present who represented a wide range of clubs including Mt Druitt, Camden, Three Peaks, Seventh Day Adventists, Span, SBW, CMW, Fairfield, Sydney University and Macquarie University.

All search parties were back for the debriefing before lunch.

P.S. It was a busy week! The following Sunday night S & R assisted a group of Duke of Edinburgh award walkers overdue in Heathcote State Recreation Area.

MILD ABRASION

A party was recently abseiling down Castle Head (off Narrow Neck) when their ropes jammed. The two ropes (both 11mm kermantle) were running through a 8mm kermantle sling which had been placed round a large rock at the top of the abseil.

After pulling on one of the ropes, they were then crossed and uncrossed with some movement back and forth plus flicking. Fortunately two of the party were able to scramble up a different route and free the problem. Those below started to pull the rope down and had taken in 10m when the whole lot came down. The sling had melted at the point where the ropes had passed through it.

A post mortem was held after the trip where the sling was tied round a tree and an old climbing rope was put through it. When this rope was pulled on both sides with some force, no waering of the sling was noticed.

But when slightly unequal forces were applied on each side, some movement in the ropes was produced, and

it took only about 30 seconds of this treatment before the outer sheath of the sling began to melt.

A bit of forgotten wisdom was recalled (refer "Single Rope Techniques" by Neil R Montgomery). Never let nylon run over nylon - use hemp as a belay sling for nylon rope.

(A condensed version of Rick King's article which appeared in The Waysider 205 & The Sydney Bushwalker Sept 1987).

SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTICE March 19-20

This exercise will be a canyon rescue on the Newnes Plateau with groups being sent out to search the nearby canyons of Rocky Creek, Breakfast Creek and Galah canyon and will involve a practice extrication of injured persons.

Drive past Bell along the Bell's Line of Road and look for the Dept. of Sport Rec. Education Centre sign then follow the yellow and black marker arrows. A base camp will be established at MR 438105 (Cullen Bullen 1:25000) and water will have to be carried in to the campsite.

We would like to see as many new faces as possible attend this activity. Obviously participants should have abseiling skills.