

THE Bushwalker



Newsletter of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc
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New Reserves for NSW

By John Macris Conservation officer

With the passing of the first year of the Carr Government it is worth looking over the new parks and wilderness areas and also taking note of the promises that have not been delivered as yet.

Now About These Promises.....

Prior to the 1995 election the ALP opposition promised to declare 24 new National Parks or similar reserves in its first year of office. Their policy release named the 24 parks without



Mr Bob Carr - Premier NSW

As of April 1996, 26 new reserves or additions to reserves have been delivered but several of the originally promised areas have not been gazetted. Instead the Government has concentrated on meeting the promise by announcing some different parks to make up for areas not delivered. Lets look at New South Wales in regions and see what the Government has and has not delivered.

1. North Coast and Ranges:

Toonumbar and Tooloom National Parks protect two areas of former state forest in the Richmond Range. Vegetation including Red

Gum forest, Moist Eucalypt and Rainforest are contained in the two parks. The total area protected is 9703 hectares. There is a great deal more of the Richmond Range in need of protection including untouched stands of rainforest in the Yabbra Scrub.

Mount Jerusalem National Park is a 970 hectare reserve significant for its stands of Blackbutt forest and rainforest among other types of vegetation. The park is less than 3 km from Nightcap National Park and the remaining state forest separating them needs to be added to the park.

Cudgen Nature Reserve preserves a small (464 ha) remnant of natural coastline and estuary on the Tweed Coast. A large Koala population is present in the area.

Billinudgel Nature Reserve near Brunswick Heads is also an important coastal and estuarine area. A locally led campaign to save some privately owned natural lands is looking like paying off and this should see the reserve grow from its present 357 hectares to at least 800 ha when finally acquired and added to the park. Some 15 km south of Billinudgel the promised Cape Byron Nature Reserve/State Recreation Area has not been delivered due to an unresolved Aboriginal land claim. Further south at Yamba promised additions to Yuruygir National Park have not been delivered.

Demon Nature Reserve north of Washpool National Park is hopefully the first stage of a significant

new park in the Demon Fault area. Only 1000 hectares of former Crown Land and state forest has been gazetted while large areas of surrounding leasehold land were proposed for inclusion by the local proponents. About 25 km north of Demon the promised Cataract National Park has been delayed by the Regional Forest Assessment process.

continued page 16



Upper Falls Hastings River
Werrikimbe Nat Park
Photo Ted Daniels

Tribute to Milo

Dunphy By Colin Gibson

See page 7

LATE NEWS: The Confederation is now on the Internet. Home Page address is:
<http://www.cooee.com.au/subscrib/turton/index.html>



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The Bushwalker

Contributions, letters to the editor, original cartoons and suggestions are welcome. They should be sent to the address below. Except for short notes or letters, all contributions should be accompanied with text file on three and a half inch floppy disk in IBM format.

Advertising rates are available on request. Ring John Clarke on (02) 744-1916

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The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents approximately 55 clubs with a total membership around 5000 bushwalkers. Formed in 1932, Confederation provides a united voice on conservation and other issues, runs training courses for members, and provides for the public a free wilderness search and rescue service. People interested in joining a bushwalking club are invited to write to the Secretary of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs at the above address, for information on clubs in their area

The Bushwalker is the newsletter of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. It is published quarterly. The aim of the newsletter is to provide articles and information of interest to the members of clubs affiliated with the Confederation and bushwalkers generally. Any opinions expressed by individual authors do not always represent the official views of the Confederation.

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President's Report



MAY
1996

First there was the NORLD. It was a new beastie and it came on us by surprise, nosing around the campsite and threatening to make things unpleasant. But we kept an eye out and no raids eventuated. We carried on walking and enjoying our free way of life.

But the NORLD gave birth to the ORCA, which had more teeth and was very earnest indeed. Pretty soon, NORLDS and the ORCAS were attacking from all directions. Bushwalkers were being nipped and gnawed at everywhere, and those with messy campsites had to abandon the show altogether. Only those who kept immaculate sites survived, and even they had to work hard to keep it so.

You might have heard of the NORLD before: the National Outdoor Recreation Leadership Development

Project. After two or three years of to-ing and fro-ing, its recent outcome was a set of National Activity Standards, which have been proposed as the basis for an accreditation scheme for outdoor leaders. The Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia (ORCA) has now been set up to take charge of the apparently inexorable push towards national leader accreditation.

The main targets are the commercial guides and other professional operators. The Chief Executive Officer of ORCA, Robert Ridley, recently advised Confederation that he did not believe volunteer organisations will be legally bound to conform to set leadership standards. However, he also put the view that land management agencies would eventually stipulate leadership standards as a condition of entry into controlled areas. Perhaps he was thinking about canyons ... or perhaps cross-country ski fields ... or perhaps national parks in general ...

Confederation will resist compulsory accreditation or standards schemes for volunteer bushwalkers. After all, we go bushwalking to get away from

red tape! But the best way to stave off the threat is to keep the camp in order: to be able to demonstrate that we have an excellent record in the outdoors, and that we have responsible leaders.

So, what sort of safety record does your club have? Are all trips responsibly led, or do you have an embarrassing number of horror stories? Would your club's activity leaders qualify in such subjects as navigation, emergencies and leadership skills? Or is the club so short of willing leaders that any Tom, Dick or Harriot who offers to put a trip on is welcomed with open arms?

We will shortly be sending a survey to all clubs, to find out what approach they have to training and assessing their members and leaders, and to inquire if there is a role for Confederation in better fostering the training (informal or formal) of bushwalkers. A further objective of the survey is to stimulate some soul-searching within the clubs.

I encourage all walkers to think about these issues, and raise them at their clubs. The ORCA will not go away.
Andy McQueen

ANOTHER KIND OF EXTREME

patagonia

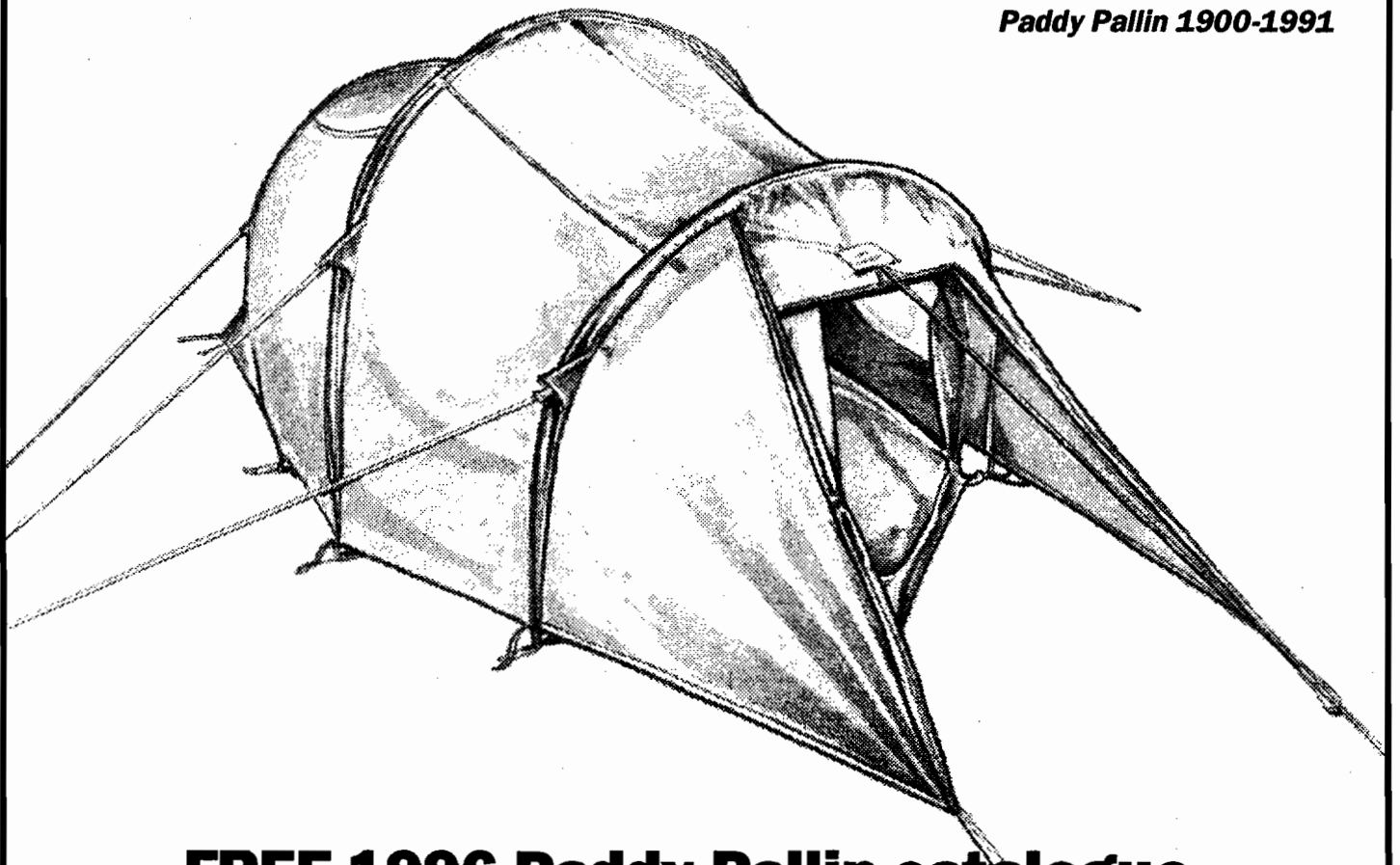
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Walk the 'Wild' West. Mungo Kinchega Mootwingee

Mungo: Walk the Mungo National Park and you follow in the footsteps of 40,000 years of modern man. Once an area of lakes teeming with fish and water fowl, thousands of centuries of climate change have transformed the area into the dramatic semi-arid environment seen today.

Mungo forms part of the Willandra Lakes Heritage Area with the National Park covering one of the original dry lake beds. It is bordered to the east by the beautiful Walls of China. The Walls, named by Chinese workers living on Mungo Station, form a perfect landscape of eroded 'lunette' dunes. White sand from the upper beds has been removed by the prevailing westerly winds, exposing clay and fine sand outcrops, the whole area having been sculptured by thousands of years of climate change and weathering.



Cawndilla Lake Kinchega NP

The park abounds with native fauna; hundreds of grey kangaroos, Western Red Kangaroos, Mallee Ringneck Parrots and Wedge Tailed Eagles, all set in a dramatic landscape of saltbush plains and mallee scrub.

Mungo Station was acquired in 1979 and gazetted as a National Park. In 1984 it was increased by 30,000 hectares with the acquisi-

tion of neighbouring Zanci Station.

Kinchega: Leave the semi-arid region of the Willandra Lakes and experience the quiet serenity of the Kinchega National Park. 110 kilometers south-east of Broken

forests of Lake Cawndilla. At sunset the stark remains of the drowned trees stand silhouetted against the golden red sky - a sight to impress even the most experienced bushwalker.

Mootwingee: Travel 130 kilometers north east of Broken Hill and you reach the rugged sandstone Bynguano Ranges of Mootwingee National Park.

Home to the Aboriginal peoples for thousands of years, the area is scattered with art galleries and rock engravings which capture the spirit of the land and the culture of the Mootwingee people.

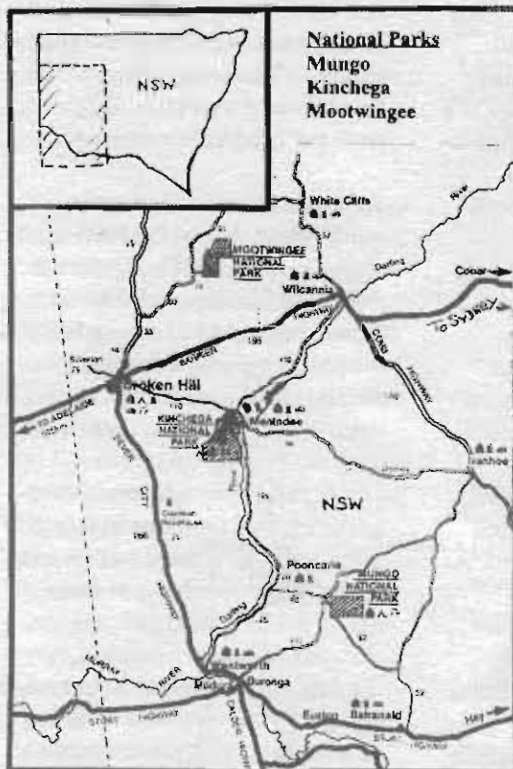
Some of the best walking takes you through beautiful red rock gorges and out onto vast, seemingly endless 'gibber' plains, teeming with wildlife. Twisted mulga trees and cyprus pines appear to cling to bare rock faces casting shadows into shallow rockpools.

Walk all these national parks and you experience three different types of semi-arid landscape - miss them, and you miss out on something very special that the Australian outback has to offer.

All three national parks offer exceptionally good camping facilities for the car based camper with optional bunk house accommodation at Mungo and Kinchega.

NPWS information and bookings are available on the following numbers:-

Mungo: (050) 23 1278
 Kinchega: (080) 91 4214
 Mootwingee: (080) 91 2588
Vivien Dunne NPA



Hill the park forms part of the beautiful Menindee Lakes system.

Fed by the Darling River, Kinchega is an oasis for wildlife, waterbirds and wandering emus. River gum



Walls of China Mungo NP and coolabah forests along the eastern boundary give way to bluebush sand plains in the interior, both contrasting with the white sandy beaches and black box



Dress in the Bush - Then and Now

Clia

I recall reading recently the controversy that Olympian Jane Flemming raised when she organised, and appeared in, another calendar of sports women following the controversy over the first issue. Dress standards have relaxed to allow athletes to wear form fitting costumes as they pursue their goals in the sporting arena. Yet as we recently reflected upon the cessation of hostilities fifty years ago, it's interesting to observe the change in dress standards. When hurdler

Clarice Kennedy first wore shorts in 1930 she had to obtain permission from various police stations to be seen in venues under their jurisdiction. But it wasn't only women who offended. Until this century the wearing of shorts by adult males was not acceptable by the public and then only tolerated during sporting events. As late as 1898 cyclists on the race track were still being criticised (and occasionally fined) for wearing obscene or indecent shorts.

Whilst runners in the 1904 Stawell Gift wore shorts down to their knees, an English soccer club was fined for wearing shorts that didn't completely cover their knees. The official report stated considerable embarrassment had been caused to ladies present at the game. Early bushwalkers, Myles Dunphy and Berth Gallop, wore khaki or white trousers during their long walking - holiday in 1913. Eventually Myles cut his pants off at the knee, whilst Bert resorted to football shorts - first time, Myles noted, that anyone had worn shorts into the bush. Later they met the Walkers Ltd. who travelled in *white running trousers cut short above the knees, socks and shoes. Otherwise their legs were bare.*

Then came an increased interest in walking both sexes and Sydney Bush Walkers was formed. A walk in June 1929 had both males and females wearing army shirts and shorts, long socks and boots. The club's first minutes book recommends a woman's clothing should be (in part): dark walking knickers, waist belt and suspenders (garters not advisable) and a pair of dark bloomers.

By 1934 Paddy Pallin noted most walkers of both sexes preferred shirts and shorts. In those days of Saturday morning work, walkers wore their shorts either underneath their work clothes or carried them in their packs. They would then change into their walking clothes at Central Station or else in the train, however, small carriages did make changing difficult. Once at the station there was no time to charge

Myles participated in some of the Walkers Ltd. trips and late in 1914 he recorded that the party would dive behind some bushes and resume their way clad in regulation short whites and singlets. (Myles initially wore a pair of mounted police trooper's corduroy knee-breeches). Next year Myles went on a trip in mixed company wearing cut down knee-long football breeches and noted that the girls soon got used to this attire.

Approval for exposing legs in public came slowly. By 1925 short skirts and exposed knees was the vogue for females. Jack Debert recalled that in 1927 any male walker who left home in shorts was faced with derisive cries of *Yah, yah, yah, footballer.* Veteran Victorian walker, Bill Walters, was wearing shorts as early as 1922.

But now Jantzen takes over and gives you shorts that slim you. And shirts so trim on you. You can climb cliffs if you want to and your Jantzen shorts stay snugly up ... your Jantzen shirt stays snugly down. So be attractive while you're active. Jantzen takes care of everything except the powder on your nose.

In 1935 the Baptist minister of Granville objected to female athletes running in shorts at the annual NSW Christian Endeavour Union field day. He argued that although shorts could be worn in the privacy of the gymnasium, he thought it an admirable opportunity for our Christian maids to set a more exalted standard. Another Baptist Minister felt that the women should wear divided skirts.

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- a case of just going. As the hiking craze grew during the depression, the front page of one edition of the Women's Weekly had an artist's drawing of two female hikers in shorts. Prominent Catholic Archbishop Duhig claimed the attire of female walkers led to an opportunity for immorality. One female responded. Attract attention! There's too many in shorts for it to be a novelty now. Legs are limbs, anyway.

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Cartoonist

The cartoons in this story were drawn by Joanne Wells a member of Macarthur NPA. Joanne is the Activities Co-ordinator and leads a fair percentage of the walks. She loves to get into the bush and combine her two passions art and bushwalking. I hope to be able to present more of Joanne's work in future issues.

TRIBUTE TO MILO DUNPHY

The achievement that gives the bushwalking movement perhaps the most honour it can claim is the fact that almost since the earliest days of effort in the field of conservation bushwalkers have been chief among the protagonists. Since the distant days of the 1920's and 30's, when Myles Dunphy quietly and painstakingly began compiling his concept of the Greater Blue Mountains National Park, bushwalkers have been among the readiest to espouse the principles of nature conservation, and to support the efforts of those whose work in the advocacy of national parks has been the carriage of the conservation movement for many years. By the 1960's Myles had come to the end of his active role as the leading advocate for national parks in this state.

The groundwork had been laid, and just as well, for what lay ahead was a set of environmental crises that few could have anticipated. The "forces of darkness" had always been around, but since the post-war boom years they had grown in dimensions, and in capabilities. Many of our most precious natural assets, Australiawide, were targeted for their development potential under the ideological banner "you can't stop progress".

How fortunate for the cause of environmental preservation for the baton to pass from one master to another, from father to son, Myles to Milo. Versed in the craft and lore of the bush by his father, Milo brought to the burgeoning wilderness movement his own tremendous resolve and unquenchable determination to fight the good fight. When it came to the serious issues those who found themselves taking counter positions to Milo quickly found him to be a very formidable opponent!

Never one to mince words he yet spoke with a decisive quality that could be inspirational to others; his impassioned plea for Lake Pedder at the death rings through the years. When many were only devastated by that great tragedy Milo never lost sight of the vision and ever since proclaimed that the lake should be rescued, the road to Scott's Peak ripped up and the wilderness restored.

Milo was a warrior. When direct action arose spontaneously at Terania Creek there were many (as there have been since) with respectable reputations as conservationists quite taken off guard, and very unsure as to how to relate to this bold new factor. Milo, with the great respect for grass-roots activists he has always had, grasped the nettle and went straight to the front. Emphatic in his support he praised the protesters as Australians enacting their patriotic obligation. In essence it was the day his father had decades before anticipated, when concerned and enlightened citizens would "meet the spoilers with force" and demonstrate that the community would no longer merely remain spectator to such well-rehearsed acts of shameless profiteering.

Across this state and this country Milo was prepared to assist and encourage others into action. He was counsellor to a flourish of community based action groups and individuals, all of which were able to draw on his experience and that of the Total Environment Centre (the first umbrella organisation of its kind) which Milo piloted for more than two decades.

With so many threats great and small to heritage and environment Milo was like a Field Marshal with his perception and eye for detail. In his versatile mind there was

always much to be done, and there were occasions when, unable himself to take up the running, he would work to put the pieces into place, to guide others and connect key players, thereby reviving worthwhile causes that had for too long been languishing.

Loyalty was important to Milo; in the cut and thrust of modern conservation politics Milo always stood firm, arguing that the strength of the movement is in unity. His strong sense of justice for our beleaguered natural heritage never wavered.

Vale Milo Kanangra Dunphy: how very proud as bushwalkers we have been of you; your insight and unique range of abilities will for long be missed.

Milo is survived by his wife Dorothy, son Guy and the entire conservation movement.

Colin Gibson



On 26th February Milo Kanangra Dunphy received an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of NSW. Information courtesy of NPA. Photo by John Sinclair



Bushwalker Wilderness Rescue News

NSW WILDERNESS NAVIGATION SHIELD 1996

This event will be held on the 29th & 30th June, 1996 (Always the last weekend of June). It will be in the Blue Mountains. Parking in the base site this year will be limited due to its small area. Also road traffic will be strictly controlled with some groups ferried to site should inclement weather occur.

The event now generates tremendous publicity, and could have up to 400 participants this year from around Australia. Truly a national event.

Truly a national event with 400 participants

All clubs are encouraged to use this event for training purposes for their newer members as well as the competitive side for their more experienced members. The State Rescue Board has endorsed category plaques for the winners of each section.

Of course the running of such an event requires long time planning and the assistance from volunteers. S&R has a real need for assistance from within the walking movement in the following areas:

1. Navigators to help set and collect checkpoints
2. Kitchen hands wanted to feed ravenous participants.
3. Assistants required for town entries, check in and awards presentation.
4. Trainee radio operators to assist with radio traffic.

What category do YOU fit in to help us?

If you are able to help please contact John Tonitto 528-6174.

Registration forms and information packs will be sent out in April to club contacts and other rescue services.

The new mobile number for Wilderness Rescue is 019-395 047.

S&R CONTACTS

The S&R Committee can be contacted in one of four ways:

1. Using the pager number 016020 # 277321
2. Writing to P.O. Box number 22 Canterbury 2193
3. Attending a monthly meeting.
4. Contacting the following:

Keith Maxwell -
Director 622 0049
Peter Treseder - RockSquad 489-4182
Tony Parr 047-587-421
John Tonitto - Secretary 528-6174



CALLOUTS

5/3/1996
S&R was contacted on the 4/3/96 by concerned relatives of a father and son team overdue on a two day walk from Pigeon House to the Castle via Byangee Walls. S&R then contacted the police who unsuccessfully tried

contacting the relatives. At this stage the police were unclear if there really was an overdue party.

At 11-00 pm relatives again contacted S&R and after consultation with Wollongong police a call-out was instigated. S&R was able to field two experienced teams to check the intended route. During the day further information came to light that they were intending to traverse Pigeon House Gorge, Mt Talaterang, Darri Pass and the Castle. As teams had already departed it was intended to search that area with 30 or so persons the following day. The missing party had failed to find Darri Pass and had continued up Angel Creek where they were stopped by Crooked Falls. They retreated to the top of Mt Tarn where they were able to communicate by mobile phone with police. Polair picked them up next morning.

S&R would like to thank the following clubs for their assistance - Canberra, Milton NPA, Sydney Bushwalkers, Southern Highlands, Three Peaks and Warragamba Walkers.

ASSISTANCE TO CLUBS

The S&R committee is available to talk to clubs regarding S&R procedures, what it expects of people turning out on callouts, why training weekends are important and reinforcing the bush skills that most members possess. The committee will also assist in encouraging members who would like to be involved and need to discuss their involvement with their employer.

Club contacts who would also like assistance in developing their callout procedures, please contact Keith on 622 0049.

Our 60th year

MARCH 23-24th PRACTICE

This year, 1996, is a special one for Wilderness Rescue as it celebrates its inception 60 years ago. From that initial search in 1936 for a group of overdue youths in the Grose Valley, it has assisted the police and the community in finding lost and overdue people in the wilderness areas of NSW. Throughout that time the dedication and professionalism of its members has been exemplary and unselfish. To honour all those who have been associated with the group it is hoped to have an anniversary dinner on the 2nd November this year.

It is imperative that all S&R Contacts encourage their members to attend the practice weekends set down throughout the year so that they are familiar with procedures and also come to know the committee members that might be calling them out in the wee hours. Several clubs have also had groups available as second response groups. While this may be useful in extended searches where large distances need to be covered in bad weather conditions, helicoptered these days tend to increase the likelihood of a result on the first day. So those members who respond immediately are usually involved in the search, while second response groups may not.

The S&R picnic in January was mainly attended by committee members. It is hoped we will be able to encourage more contacts and friends to attend this new annual event.

The site chosen for this weekend was River Island, near Mittagong. The area is surrounded by steep hills with the Wollondilly River flowing along the valley floor. The exercise Saturday involved a real life situation which occurred about 18 months ago. A man went missing from a nearby resort and was never found, our job, to find any trace of him. The group was split up into about 7 groups and each given a search area. The hills around are very steep so the going was tough. Several parties found groups of bones, but they were probably animal, although police have taken several to examine.

Saturday night we had the usual camp-fire and discussion, some tall tales were told, all quite true I'm sure!

Sunday we were split into two groups to find a "contaminated" drum and its neutraliser then to be transported over the river by flying fox.



The debrief

Several male members and a few female were wanting to search further downstream towards the nature retreat (nudist colony) no doubt to question them on the whereabouts of the elusive drums.

The highlights of the weekend was the amount learned and the chance to meet members of other clubs.



A welcome break from the search

Thanks to David, Steve & Dave for a memorable weekend. Valuable lessons were learned about search techniques, teamwork and clear communication.



Bushwalkers and Wildlife

You've found an injured possum on a walk, who can help? WIREs is the largest native animal care group in Australia, providing expert care for sick, injured and sick native animals, then releasing them once they are healthy.

We are a non-profit organisation which relies the support of the community. If you would like to assist WIREs in the work we do, please fill in the form below and post to.

NSW WIREs Inc PO Box 260
Forestville NSW 2067
☎ (02) 9975-5567

Name.....
Address.....

- I would like to support WIREs please find enclosed a cheque for \$.....
- I would like to become a FRIEND of WIREs. My membership will help WIREs look after native animals in distress. I will receive a quarterly newsletter plus FRIENDS membership pack.
- I would like to know how I can become a volunteer of WIREs



Cookery Corner



Breakfast pancakes

For overnight walks
 2 level teaspoons of egg substitute
 2 level dessertspoonsful of milk powder (full cream)
 1 dessertspoonful of malted milk powder (optional)
 Sugar to taste
 Pinch of salt
 1 cup self-raising flour

Mix all ingredients well and place in snap-top plastic bag.

Onsite - add water very slowly, until desired consistency achieved, this way you should not get any lumps. Cook over Trangia with simmer ring on, but fully open. Grease pan with marg (once only). Hint - grease

pan before leaving home. Makes about four pancakes.

Apple turnovers

We all have that sandwich maker in the back of the cupboard-well you can make a great tasting apple or any other fruit turnover with it.

Ingredients:

Puff pastry
 Tin of Pie Apples or other fruit

Cut the pastry sheets into four, place one sheet on maker, pile with ingredients (be generous) place other sheet on top and cook for about 10-12 minutes, great for snack or dessert.

For Sale

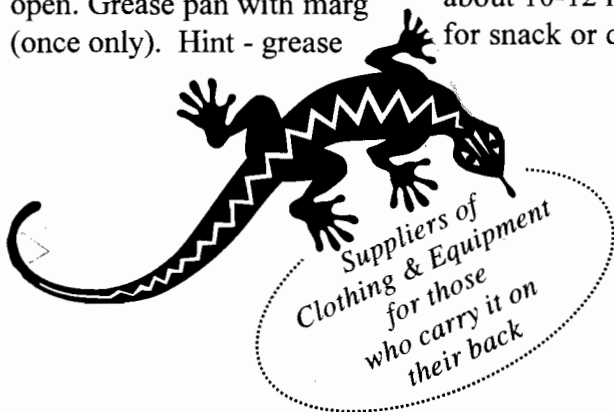
Khatmandu Dumper - too small.
 Size - Medium only worn once, \$100 - 02-5271083

One Planet - Chameleon overpants never used - Size-small \$150 - 02-5271083

REMEMBER!

DATES FOR 1996

- Put them in your diary now!
- Make sure they get into your club's walks program.
- 25-26 May: First Aid Course (phone Keith Maxwell, 6220049)
- 29-30 June: The Navigation Shield Rogaine
- 24-25 Aug: Annual General Meeting and Reunion in Canberra
- 24th Aug - 1st Sept Great Grose Gorse walk
- 20 Sep: Annual Bush Dance
- 19-20 Oct: Search and rescue training weekend
- 26-27 Oct: First Aid Course

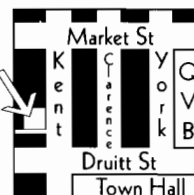


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COMMERCIAL COMPANIES PROFITING FROM TREKS

Elwyn Morris

I would like to suggest that all bushwalking clubs adopt the policy that any treks or trips listed in their walks program, that profit a commercial company, name the company. Otherwise members may think the trip is non-profit, or benefits the club itself.

The Company should also be required to take out advertising or pay a fee to the club, whose membership, unpaid organisers, and newsletter it is using to make what often comes to thousands of dollars a week profit. A fee should also be paid for publicity through club talks and magazine articles. After all, though there's nothing wrong with adventure companies offering free trips to club leaders for finding customers, they thereby save on the high costs of finding, instructing and organizing them, and have less trouble with them than with inexperienced walkers who don't know each other.

The trip may cost between \$100 and \$300 more per person per day than if the walkers went independently. This applies to Australia and New Zealand, but especially to the Third World. In Nepal, for instance, you can hire your own experienced local guide who speaks English for round \$10 a day for a group of six, porters for \$5 (the companies pay less) In Cuzco, you can book at short notice the four-day guided Inca Trail for round \$70. Lonely Planet lists many options, with phone and fax numbers, which some club leaders are quite capable of following up for themselves. Most Australian companies are using the same locally-based ones that you could, plus an airline. The leader could still get a free trip, while members would pay less each.

There are other drawbacks to using Australian companies. For people with more than two to four weeks to spare, the trips are too short, wasting the expensive airfare. And because of the high Third World profits, safer, healthier, more accessible and, for an Australian, equally spectacular walking in America, Canada and Europe tends not to be organized or even mentioned. Within a region, a

trek with fewer rewards for walkers but more for an adventure company may be favoured. For instance, in the Himalayas, Nepal is in my opinion rightly more popular than Ladakh, which is promoted, I believe, by a Queensland-based travel agent using a Delhi trekking company and a Sydney leader getting a free trip for finding ten people. Not only does Nepal have more varied, famous and accessible mountain scenery and treks, but more differing local cultures, crafts, medieval towns and architecture (some with erotic carvings). Khatmandu has cheap markets, guesthouses, restaurants, bike and equipment hire, local trekking guides, transport to everywhere, and rafting and gamepark trips.

Weekend bushwalkers could also easily do their own unguided 15-day Pokhara to Jomson trek below Annapura, eating and staying in lodges for a few dollars a day. As with most walking abroad, the tracks, bridges, and steps are a lot easier than we're used to, and it's hard on this justifiably favourite trek to get lost or even lonely. Healthwise it's safer, as you can buy hygienically prepared food and bottled drinks. The budget guide and trekking books have the details. (I use Dymocks, George Street Sydney and Travel Book Shop, Bridge Street Sydney.)

Paddy Pallin Wild Spaces Environmental Film Festival

The first Sydney International Environmental Film Festival Wild Spaces', Will be held in Sydney on June 1st & 2nd June

The festival aims to show film makers' varied expressions wild Spaces and to encourage discussion on Australia's social values in relation to the county's environment, setting the stage for an informative and entertaining weekend. Film and videos in the form of shorts and documentaries and features made by activists through to much admired international standing will be screened.

'Paddy Pallin Wild Spaces' will incorporate wilderness exploration and adventure, natural history, social justice issues, and music environmental campaigns. Deep ecology and music.

Venue 1 Dendy Cinema, 261 King street Newtown.

(Saturday 11 am to 5pm)

Venue 2: Mount-Eagle iron Works', 150 Wilson St Newtown (Saturday 7.30pm and all Sunday) For more information, festival programs or group bookings call (02) 517 2697.

Annual Bush Dance

Friday 20th September 8-00pm
Petersham Town Hall

Theme this year - 60th anniversary of Wilderness Rescue



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Come along & make up a table with your club

1996 Confederation Reunion and Annual General Meeting Canberra 24th-25th August

The Canberra Bushwalking Club is hosting the 1996 Annual General Meeting of the New South Wales Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs.

The planned weekend activities provide an opportunity for members of affiliated clubs to meet, mix and mingle. The venue, a bushland setting at Camp Cottermouth and the Greenhills Conference Centre, is 20 minutes from Canberra City.

Directions

■ When travelling to Canberra via Goulburn or Yass:

- on arrival in Canberra, go south along Northbourne Avenue, continuing through the city, after which the road becomes Canberra Avenue,
- continue south, across the lake until you get to the circle nearest Parliament House (Capital Circle),
- go around Capital Circle as far as you can, exiting at Adelaide Avenue,
- travel west along Adelaide Avenue until you get to the signposted exit to Cotter (on the left). Take this exit, and
- continue generally westward for about 13km and you'll arrive at the entrance to Greenhills and Camp Cottermouth (on the left).

■ Travelling to Canberra via Queanbeyan or Cooma:

head westwards towards Parliament House along Canberra Avenue, until you get to Capital Circle, -from there (Capital Circle), the directions are the same as for those coming via Yass or Goulburn.

AGM

The Confederation's AGM is scheduled to start at 1pm in the Greenhills hall.

A light afternoon tea will be provided.

Camping

The cost per person for camping at Cottermouth, adjacent to Greenhills, is \$5.00 and includes the use of barbecues, toilets and hot showers. Canberra Bushies will be providing a hearty soup to ensure the cockles of your heart are warmed.



Bushdance

On Saturday night there will be a bush dance in the Greenhills hall, commencing at about 7pm. Admission \$5/person. Please note that no alcohol is permitted in the Greenhills hall, however, the Canberra Bushies will again be coming to the rescue with a supper.

Sunday Morning

A bushwalk along tracks following the Murrumbidgee River is planned. Bring a picnic lunch (swim in the river if you don't feel the cold ... no sense, no feeling).

Queries and advance bookings should be sent to: Janet Edstein (CBC President) ph. (06) 288 1398 (ah) David Campbell (CBC Confederate delegate) ph/fax (06) 2541511 (ah)

Hope to see you there. Remember to bring your winter thermals - Canberra nights can go to -5°C or lower during August.

PROGRAM

Saturday

Midday or earlier: Arrive and set up camp.

1.00: AGM (Reports, special issues, and elections. Afternoon tea provided.)

Evening: Cook your dinner; join in the bush dance.

Sunday

Go for a walk in the nearby ranges (organised by Canberra Bushwalking Club).

The detailed agenda and other details will be sent to all Confederation members and club secretaries by July.

The Friends of Blue Gum Forest are pleased to announce The Great Gorse Gorse Walk, Number 3!

24 August - 1 Sep

Join in the continuing program to eradicate Gorse and Broom from the Gorse. The 1994 and 95 walks were very successful, but follow up is required. Details are not finalised, but once again there will be a range of opportunity to participate: come for a day, or the whole nine days:

Tackle a rugged part of the valley, or just an area up top. Join in with dedicated bush conservators and have a good social time while you're at it. No prior experience necessary. Register your interest with Ranger Cath Ireland, by phoning NPWS Blackheath (047-878877). Clubs: **Put this on your program, and get a team together**

Correction

In the February edition of *The Bushwalker*, the article "In the Beginning" I mentioned that the Blue Gum Forest benefactor Jim Cleary was sacked from the ABC in 1945. In fact, he was not sacked: he resigned, over dissatisfaction with his situation



Poet's Corner

Life or Debt?

Sit on the rock and plainly see
 No change perhaps for a million years.
 They're growing here, so tall and free
 As if in a dream, midst all your fears

Embrace the trunk, feel strength and pain
 No life without them: sad but true.
 But cousins elsewhere, mercilessly slain
 Change planet's colour to a dirty hue.

Carpets of green, unaware of danger,
 Branches aloft, in prayer to the breeze;
 Smoky clouds of chainsaw's anger
 Cut life down with savage ease

As brutal teeth slice tender green,
 We all on earth stand but condemned
 When see, how wide the victor grins
 Is it only time before the end?

But where is hope, to poor and wronged
 Do we not each bear souls of truth?
 How madly drives our social throng
 Toward death, decay and more untruth.

Only our minds now hug the trees
 So sadly cut in madness torn,

And by the grace of God, can please
 To give him but our lives, reborn.

Let debts be wiped, no price can pay
 The debt to God for life itself;
 Share what we own, in every way
 So we undo the greed of self.

Jim Wallace
 24/12/95

To all members of bushwalking clubs:

Are you receiving this newsletter on a regular basis?

Copies of the newsletter are mailed to all clubs. Most clubs request sufficient for every member and distribute them accordingly, but others only request a few, content to distribute them only to those members who happen to turn up at the next meeting.

If you do not receive every edition, as a matter of course, take it up with your club's committee!

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Cooee! YHA can stretch your club's budget further! Group membership costs just \$26 and gives your club access to over 150 hostels throughout Australia. All YHAs offer comfortable, affordable accommodation, a social, friendly atmosphere and a dry roof over your head! Fully equipped kitchens mean you can leave your camp oven at home and save even more by cooking your own meals. Larger groups can be catered for at a low YHA price.


Why not get your club together and check out the National Parks accessible from the following YHA's:

- ★ Pittwater - Ku-ring-gai Chase NP
- ★ Girvan - Myall Lakes NP
- ★ Garie Beach - Royal NP
- ★ Scone - Barrington Tops NP
- ★ Bundanoon - Moreton NP
- ★ Merimbula - Ben Boyd NP
- ★ Batemans Bay - Murrumbidgee NP
- ★ Thredbo - Kosciuszko NP
- ★ Shoal Bay - Nomaree NP
- ★ Katoomba - Blue Mountains NP



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FROM \$6 Per Person



BLUE MOUNTAINS CROSSING WALK PROPOSAL

Have you ever considered walking across the beautiful Blue Mountains?

Scripture Union Bushwalkers recently completed this most enjoyable traverse via a series of walks from Lapstone to Lithgow. Having previously done the Great North Walk to Newcastle, our club wondered whether it would be possible to establish a similar walk across the Blue Mountains. This could perhaps be as a project to mark one hundred years of Federation in Australia, in 2001.

The "Bushies" route across the Mountains was certainly interesting and varied, relying strongly on tracks shown on topographic maps and in bushwalking books. Places and areas visited included Glenbrook Gorge, Lapstone Zig Zag, waterfalls of Hazelbrook and Lawson, Devils Hole track into the Megalong Valley, Mt Boyce rock climbing area and Lockyers Track to Hartley Vale. Well-known attractions such as the Three Sisters and Govetts Leap were also visited.

We were pleased when earlier this year the Confederation agreed to support investigation of the feasibility of a continuous "Blue Mountains Crossing Walk". A working group has been formed, and copies of maps for the route suggested by Scripture Union Bushwalkers for study have made available to a number of clubs. The working group has been considering possible principles for any "crossing", including:-

- * scenic route offering a range of bushwalking experiences
- * incorporate existing tracks to maximum extent possible

- * suitable for day and overnight walkers of reasonable fitness and experience
- * majority of trackheads accessible by public transport
- * any new sections of track to be of low environmental impact.



Megalong Valley

Wellknown walker Wilf Hilder has kindly provided Confederation's working group with details of a

to Lithgow! Wilf's walk took twenty-one days and included a leg from Wentworth Falls to Katoomba via Mt Solitary, and a trip to Blue Gum Forest via existing tracks.

At the time of writing it appears that a Blue Mountains Crossing Walk complementary to the Confederation's Grose Valley Wilderness Area proposal may well be achievable (for example, involving no new tracks into the Grose).

To become a reality, a Blue Mountains Crossing walk would obviously require the support of government and landowners. Referral to the NPWS for reviews required by law would also be involved. Nonetheless, our club is hopeful that at least the concept of a continuous walk across the Mountains will be referred "up the line" for examination.

If you would like more information on Confederation's consideration of the "Blue Mountains Crossing Walk" proposal, please contact Tracks and Access Officer, Michael Maack, on (047) 51 3623(H) or the author on (02) 630 3371(H).



Narrow Neck- Photo Courtesy Webster Publishing

mighty 250km Blue Mountains crossing he led some time ago with Sydney Bushwalkers from Sydney

-Tony Miller, Scripture Union Bushwalkers

New Reserves for NSW Continued from page 1

Bongil Bongil National Park additions of 460 hectares include the Bonville Creek estuary and the coastline south to Tuckers Rocks. In a welcome move for coastal protection the intertidal zone has been included in the park - a fairly new practice, this means that the coast between high and low tide is managed as part of the park. About 20 km south along the coast the promised Warrel Creek Nature Reserve has not been delivered pending the results of an Aboriginal land claim.

Guy Fawkes River NP additions of 10 200 hectares comprise ten separate parcels of land around the Henry, Aberfoil and Guy Fawkes Rivers. An important promised addition on the Sara River has not been delivered due to mining interests.

Willi Willi National Park is a late inclusion to make up for other promised areas which were not delivered. However it is a welcome new park of 9620 hectares. The area is within the identified Werrikimbe Wilderness but disappointingly has not been declared wilderness.

Yessabah Nature Reserve is a 10 hectare area protecting limestone formations including the Daylight Cave and Bent Winged Bat habitat. The reserve is 15 km west of Kempsey.

Ben Halls Gap National Park is 2500 hectares of former state forest at the junction of the Liverpool and Mt Royal Ranges. Some magnificent rare sub alpine forests are preserved in this park. Close to 100 km west along the Liverpool Range, the promised Coolah Tops National Park was almost but not quite gazetted. A park of at least 20 000 ha (the size of the existing state forest) is hoped for. The area contains superb snow gum forests.

Tomaree National Park additions of 1370 hectares protect a large part of the Anna Bay Sand Beds which support both Eucalypt forests and

swamps. Almost neighboring Tomaree to the south west, the promised Stockton Bight Coastal Reserve has not been delivered due to a number of complications including the extraction of water from an aquifer under the proposed area.

2. South Coast and Ranges:

Euroboballa National Park protects 2180 hectares of coastline and lakes between Moruya heads and Tilba Tilba lake. The park consists of 10 sections in roughly 3 clusters giving protection to 30km of a 50 km (approx) stretch of coast. Like Bongil Bongil the park extends to the low water mark along the coast.



Tomaree NP-Photo courtesy Webster Publishing

Probably the most notable undelivered promise is the South East Forests National Park. Labor has promised a 90 000 hectare park comprising of 50 000 hectares of existing National Parks and 40 000 ha added from state forests to create a single continuous reserve stretching from the Victorian border to the southern edge of Wadbilliga National Park. The challenge for the Government is to protect all remaining old growth forest, to preserve vital habitat including corridors to coastal forests to the east and to declare the Coolangubra Wilderness Area with steps taken to restore degraded areas.

Yatheyattah Nature Reserve preserves 19 hectares of rainforest near Lake Conjola.

Brindabella National Park of 12 050 hectares at the northern end of the Australian Alps is a welcome

smaller sibling to the neighboring Namadgi and Kosciusko National Parks. This park will hopefully grow to the west with future additions including areas of the Buccleuch State Forest.

3. West of the Divide:

Western forests, woodlands, wetlands and grasslands are poorly represented in the NSW reserve system. These new parks are a most welcome step in the right direction for conservation in the west and central west.

Culgoa National Park of 15 615 hectares protects the Culgoa Floodplain and its grasslands and Coolabah forests. The park adjoins Queensland's Culgoa Floodplain National Park.

Torington State Recreation Area (29 350 ha) is an area which was proposed as the Binghi Wilderness Area more than a decade ago. The addition of this area to the National parks

estate is a positive step but activities incompatible with wilderness such as fossicking, mining and grazing are unfortunately likely to continue.

Goobang National Park at 42 600 hectares is the largest remnant forest in the central west of the state. The park is centred on the Hervey range near Parkes.

Abercrombie River National Park (19 000 ha) is in three sections centred on Silent Creek and the Abercrombie River.

Gunderbokka National Park (43 590 ha) south west of Bourke is centred on a rocky range with surrounding plains. Some credit must go to the previous Government for the establishment of this park as it was purchased during their last term with specific funds granted for the creation of a major new western park and was even announced in early 1995 by minister Chris Hartcher.



Tarawi Nature Reserve (33 570 ha) on the South Anstralian border preserves a poorly represented mallee shrubland community. The reserve adjoins the Dangalli Conservation Park across the border as well as a private wildlife sanctuary.

Lake Urana Nature Reserve and **Wiesners Swamp Nature Reserve** at 300 and 103 hectares respectively protect two small pieces of remnant Riverina vegetation.



New England Black Butt
Photo by John McCormack

4. The Sydney Region:

Scheyville National Park (950 ha) contains remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland and the Longneck Lagoon wetlands.

Castlereagh Nature Reserve (492 ha) south of Windsor protects a number of rare plants and otherwise largely cleared habitat. Slightly east of Castlereagh the promised Maroota National Park is yet to be gazetted pending an Aboriginal land claim. Further east still the promised Berowra Valley National Park will now remain as a Crown bushland reserve managed by Hornsby Council. This is probably an acceptable outcome as the park is well cared for as is.

Dharawal State Recreation and Nature Reserve (5940 ha) east of Appin represents another gap filled in the long campaign to provide a green belt of National Park land around the Greater Sydney region. O'Hares Creek - the main watercourse in the park is among the most untouched streams near Sydney and the Wedderburn Koala colony is protected. In an appalling concession,

500 ha of the former Crown Reserve has been left out of the new park to become a rifle range.

Wollemi National Park Additions (3600 ha) protects a large part of the Rocky Creek area which was formerly part of the Newnes State Forest. Confederation played a major role in the lobbying which brought about this addition.

**5. Marine Parks:
A Disappointment**

Jervis Bay and Solitary Islands Marine National parks - The promised legislation to create Marine National Parks has not been before parliament. Although there is some resistance in the community to creating no fishing zones you may be surprised to learn that in the few years since the first Marine Parks were declared in New Zealand, the concept has come to be supported widely including by fishermen who benefit from the restocking of fish populations these protection zones provide. Meanwhile areas like Jervis Bay and Solitary Islands await the protection they deserve. So Bushwalkers, please spread the word about marine parks!

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New Wilderness Declarations For NSW But Many Promised Areas In Doubt.

By John Macris Conservation Officer

The first 8 of the Government's promised 16 Wilderness declarations have recently taken place.

Virtually no areas of state forest have been declared while the Government's Interim Forest Assessment process awaits completion. More worrying than this however are the boundary concessions given to horse riders and off road vehicle users. The new Wilderness Areas are:

Barrington - 32 500 hectares have been declared out of an identified 63 000 ha. Significant areas of state forest may be added later this year but the Bicentennial bridle trail and several vehicular trails are expected to be retained, severely reducing the size of the declaration.

Budawang - 70 000 hectares declared out of an identified 80 000 ha. The future inclusion of state forest lands east of the current park boundary should see most of the wilderness ultimately declared, however an area of Morton National Park around Mt Tianjara has been left out of the wilderness.

Ettrema additions - 6500 hectares declared out of an identified 17 800 ha. The largest area around Yarramunmun and Boolijong Creeks have been left out. A disappointing result.

Goobarragandra and Bimberi Additions - At Goobarragandra 28 500 hectares were declared out of an identified 34 000 ha with more to come later in the year from state forests. The Bimberi additions are 4500 hectares in the Scabby Range Nature Reserve. A separate identified addition to Bimberi of just over 3000 ha at Coolamine Plain was not declared.

Kanangra Boyd - 125 000 hectares declared out of an identified 130 000

ha. Areas still to be declared include parts of Yerranderie State Recreation Area and Jenolan State Forest plus possibly some freehold land currently for sale. The unfortunate exclusion was the western Boyd Plateau and Tuglow area. The declaration of the Sydney Water catchment areas however is very good news.

Macleay Gorges - 50 000 hectares declared out of an identified 165 000 ha. Some small areas of state forest are likely to be declared later in the year and leasehold land is continuing to be purchased for addition to the park and wilderness. The major disappointments are the concession to leave the Bicentennial bridle trail on its present route and the ribbon ex-



clusion of the Elcom trail to the Apsley River for vehicular access.

Warrazambil - 7050 hectares declared out of an identified 10 300 ha. The constraint on declaring more area is the need to close part of the Tweed Range Scenic Drive which is a popular tourist road. However the steepest and narrowest section of this road south of the Bar Mountain area could be closed to traffic with little effect on actual travel times to the main attractions of the range and allowing the addition of the eastern escarpment to the wilderness.

Werrikimbe - 26 500 hectares declared out of an identified 68 830 ha. Every conceivable boundary concession seems to have been made here. The Bicentennial bridle trail and every

minor vehicular trail have remained open. While there are large areas of state forest and the new Willi Willi National Park still possible to declare, these will be dependent on the closure of tracks like the Racecourse trail, Spokes trail, Kunderang track and Flat Top track.

The poor result at Werrikimbe must be a reminder to us that although elected on a strong wilderness platform, we cannot assume that the Government will automatically declare everything promised. In the next few months the remaining 8 areas will go on public display and the identified parts of State Forest Estate in most of the above listed areas will become available for addition to the

wilderness areas. The upcoming 8 display areas will be for Wollerni, Mann and Pilliga wilderness areas plus additions to Nadgee, Deua, New England, Guy Fawkes and Washpool.

Bushwalker input into the public comment process will be vital to show a depth of public support

particularly amongst recreational users of the bush. Confederation, through its conservation committee will be seeking the help of clubs and individual walkers to help us with letter writing or petitions to Government. Anything that you could do in this regard will make a real difference to the outcome of wilderness protection in New South Wales.

Those ready and willing to help should get in touch with **Confederation's Conservation Officer John Macris** either by writing care of Confederation or by phone on the number listed under office bearers in this issue.

Blue Mountains Canyon Nomenclature and History

by David Noble

This is an interim attempt to explain the names of some of the Blue Mountains canyons and give some historical details. No canyons north of the Wolgan/Capertee divide are mentioned or will be mentioned in any updates as it is my desire that no information on canyons in that area appear in printed form. Any comments, corrections or amplifications would be welcome. It is of course biased towards the canyons where I have personal knowledge of their naming and exploration. I would welcome some more information. An electronic version of this article can be found on the internet (via the following URL: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~dnoble/>). An extensive bibliography is also present.

Southern Grose

Mt Hay Canyon also known as Butterbox Canyon. First descent probably by a Institute of Technology Bushwalking Club Party in the mid fifties (Bob Holmes et al). This was prior to a descent by the Catholic Bushwalking Club in 1958. The CBC had tried to go up the creek in 1952 and explored the area from below. On one trip, they forced a pass up Butterbox Point (This may have been the same pass found by Tom Williams (on a trip with Bob Sault and Dave Noble and others in Dec 77).

Arethusa Canyon Extensively explored by SBW parties from below (it was possible to climb up the last waterfall on tree roots) prior to first (?) descent by YMCA rambblers in 1946. Apparently, the Ramblers noticed a rope hanging down the first abseil, so they may not have been first down.

Carmarthen Labyrinth

Thunder Canyon First explored by a SUBW party of Col Oloman, Gerry O'Byrne and Peter Scott, Feb 1961 (VS&M Vol 11 1992)

Claustral Canyon First explored by a UNSWBWC/SUBW(?) party of Rick Higgins and Terry Thomas in 1961 - probably shortly after the Thunder canyon trip. They bypassed the waterfalls. The waterfall section was first attempted by a Kameruka Bushwalking Club party consisting of Barry Dunnett, Aat Vervoon, John Pettigrew, Bruce Powell, Dave Rhodes, Steve Sessions and Dave Frost (1-2 Dec



62). They were stopped by lack of belay points on the last drop and had to climb up their ropes. They later walked up to the bottom of this section from below. The first full descent was made by another KBC party shortly after by Dave Rhodes, Jeff Boyd, Bruce Powell, Brian O'Halloran, Steve Sessions and Don Wilcox in Jan 63.

They placed a bolt on the top of the then blocked up keyhole. (VS&M Vol 11 1992)

Raynon Canyon First explored by a Kameruka Bushwalking Club party of Barry Dunnett and Dave Lambert (The original leader Les Watters was unable to attend), 27-29 Apr 1962 (VS&M Vol 11 1992)

King George Brook First explored by a UNSWBWC party of Terry Thomas and others, (late 62?) (VS&M Vol 11 1992)

Cayley Canyon Explorers Brook was first explored by a SUBW party in Oct 63 (VS&M Vol 11 1992)

Wollangambe Wilderness

Froth and Bubble Canyon (also known as Bubble Bath Canyon) named because of foam in the canyon when it was visited by a SUBW party consisting of Brad Phillips, Chris Cosgrove and David Noble in January 87. The day before they had been in Bungleboori Ck - north branch and experienced a massive 5m flash flood. Later on the trip they climbed out of Bungleboori Ck and climbed into the lower part of the canyon from below. The same storm had left all the foam in the canyon. It was named "Froth and Bubble" by Dave Noble and "Bubble Bath" by Brad Phillips.

Crikey Canyon - Named after a comment by Tony Norman (SUBW) early in 1982 when he was looking for a creek in a small valley near the Valley of the Swamps - "crikey, mother of God!" when he saw the creek a long way below down a narrow hole. Bob Sault writes "Ian, Norm, Damien (Michael Dougherty) and I "discovered" Crikey Ck either in late November or early December 1981, and went down it with a larger party in early 1982". Shortly after, the first SUBW party to abseil into the canyon consisted of Ian Wilson, Mike Doherty, Bob Sault, Tony Norman, Anne Gray, Nick Melhuish, Doug Wheen, Russel Looby and Mike Morgan. (VS&M No 2 - 1983). They saw no signs of any previous party and had to throw logs down the canyon for some of the belay points.

More about canyons in next issue

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