

THE Bushwalker



Magazine of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc

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Time for 'True Believers' to Speak out on Wilderness

Older bushwalkers like me can remember when there were no walking tracks in the Blue Mountains.

Now there are so many tracks it's hard to believe that only a couple of decades ago you rarely saw a footprint in many of today's most popular bushwalking areas.

Until the middle of this century most wilderness areas in NSW were visited by only a handful of hardy people on foot or on horseback. Bulldozers and the motor car changed all that. When fire trails became the fashion in the '60s, bushfire authorities pushed trails along every ridge, opening up thousands of hectares of bush to motor vehicles.

Now that almost everyone owns a car, even the farthest corners of our national parks are within easy reach. This has led to a huge increase in visitors, even to places far removed from formed roads and developed visitor facilities. The resulting onslaught has not only upset the peace and tranquility of the bush, but also caused appalling physical damage to the natural landscape.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is supposed to encourage recreational activities only where they are compatible with preservation. But many national parks are suffering from the pressure of too many visitors. This human invasion will destroy all attempts at preservation unless it is severely constrained.

The trouble is that everyone thinks he has a fundamental right of access to every metre of public land. Most reasonable people probably

agree that we should preserve our remaining natural areas in perpetuity. But we are all very reluctant to accept any restrictions on our own activities. All the conflicts over recreational access to national parks and wilderness areas arise from this anomaly.

The huge increase in activities away from developed visitor facilities is creating major problems. For example:

- Abseiling instruction at Mount Portal Lookout on the eastern edge of the Blue Mountains National Park has increased to such an extent that a large area has been badly damaged. Soil and undergrowth have been lost and trees scarred.
- Erosion on the Three Sisters at Katoomba from excessive rock climbing and abseiling activities is clearly visible from the tourist lookout at Echo Point. Commercial operators are respon-

by **Brian Walker**

sible for much of this damage.

- Tracks leading to many popular Blue Mountains canyons are now seriously eroded. The worst damage occurred after the publication of a route guide that led to an enormous increase in the number of visitors to the more accessible canyons.

Continued on page 16

VRA Honors Bushwalkers

The Volunteer Rescue Association Inc (VRA) honored Peter Treseder and Keith Maxwell for achieving twenty five years with the rescue organisation. They were presented with their certificates by The Hon Bob Debus, MP, Minister for Emergency Services, in a ceremony at Randwick Barracks during the annual Conference of the VRA. The conference was

opened by Mr Harvey Black, Vice-President of the VRA. Conducted over two days, the conference was in two sections: land and marine. Many delegates from country areas were present as well as representatives from the police and civilian rescue organisations.



Peter Treseder, Hon Bob Debus MP, and Keith Maxwell

Peter Treseder's story "Rescues" page 5

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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 or e-mail.

Advertising rates are available on request. Ring John Clarke on (02) 9744-1916

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The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW represents more than 60 clubs with a total membership around 7200 bushwalkers. Formed in 1932, the Confederation provides a united voice on conservation and other issues, runs training courses, and provides for the public a free wilderness search and rescue service. People interested in joining a bushwalking club are invited to write to Bushwalkers NSW at the above address for information on clubs.

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The Bushwalker is the magazine of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. It is published quarterly. The aim of the magazine is to provide 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.

Agreement reached on blanket consent

by Brian Walker

At a recent meeting between Confederation executive members and officers of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife service (NPWS), agreement was reached on how bushwalking clubs will apply for permission to conduct bushwalking and related activities in all NSW national parks.

The agreement follows months of negotiations to find a way around certain provisions of the NSW Government's Land Management Regulation 1995 that say the prior consent of the NPWS must be obtained before any activities involving risk may be undertaken in national parks.

Because national park authorities maintain that bushwalking and related activities such as canyoning, abseiling, liloing and cascading are risky activities under these regulations, the Confederation has been trying to have the regulations changed so that clubs do not have to get permission for every single activity on their programs.

Turning a blind eye is not good enough

It appears the NPWS never had any intention of enforcing these regulations. Their purpose is sim-

ply to provide a defence against legal action if there is an accident involving people participating in 'risky' activities. But Confederation was concerned that our insurers might refuse to pay a claim from a bushwalker injured on any activity in a national park that was conducted without permission.

Everyone concerned agrees the present, badly drafted catch-all wording creates more problems than it solves. Unfortunately it exists at the moment and the NPWS cannot simply ignore it.

NPWS Central Region Operations Manager, Chris McIntosh, outlined changes to the unsatisfactory consent arrangements previously proposed. The scheme now is that blanket consent must be applied for annually. When granted, it will apply to all Confederation's member clubs (approved organisations under the rules).

This means that individual clubs won't have to make separate application except in certain circumstances. Clubs will have to provide the NPWS with copies of their walks programs as soon as they are published. Programs should be mailed or faxed to each NPWS district that manages the national park in which programmed activities will be conducted. NPWS will provide us with a list of districts and contact details. This information will be passed on to clubs as soon as it is available.

The NPWS has told us that as long as each club program gives the broad intention of activities for the period it covers, that's all they require. No further action will be necessary unless the number of people on any activity exceed those shown in the accompanying table.

If the number attending any activity is likely to exceed the notification number, the leader must in-

(*6 in designated wilderness or in local Plans of Management where numbers are specified.)
Note: District managers may nominate certain areas where the above numbers are clearly not appropriate. They will also inform clubs if other groups are planning activities in the same area at the same time.



Robyn Cox opens bush dance

Annual bush dance

Another successful bush dance was held at Petersham Town Hall on September 20.

It was very well attended, even the wet weather couldn't deter the 300-400 people who enjoyed the music of "The Currency Lads". Many great prizes were presented and the committee would like to thank Paddy Pallin for the two Gortex jackets donated and also the many other sponsors who gave prizes of vouchers and goods.

As expected, Bankstown Bushwalking and Social Club won for the sixth year the best decorated table.

Thais Turner deserves most of the credit for this club winning the title. She worked into the early hours of the morning to complete her costume and some of the table decorations. Many other clubs decorated their tables with Mt Druitt, Sydney Uni, and the Scripture Union being the most outstanding. The Sydney branch of the National Parks Association went to a lot of trouble with one of their numbers breaking an ankle just to give their table a look of authenticity. Sydney Uni also celebrated their 50th anniversary with a cake and celebratory Geko T shirts.

See photos page 15

History of The Outdoor Club of NSW

by Jan Teudt

The Outdoor Club was founded in 1954, and from its small beginnings has grown to a membership of 140. Its main purpose is to encourage people to experience the pleasures of bushwalking, packwalking and camping, and the outdoors generally.

Operating on a six-month program we offer walks every week-end, packwalks every couple of months and our camping covers bush camps, camping in caravan parks or cabins. Occasionally we have weekends with hotel accommodation. Bikeriding also finds its way onto our program, along with train trips, beach walks, days on Sydney Harbour or the Hawkesbury River, and the recent addition of fishing.

Another popular activity is the Christmas/New Year camp, cur-

rently held at Swansea. Every second year we take a four day Australia Day week-end and head for Guthega and some mountain climbing among the glorious alpine wildflowers. At Easter we have a 10 day trip away, which also includes walking.

Overseas and interstate trips have been on past programs, and currently have a trip to Western Australia in October. Added to this we have a restaurant night each month, the occasional theatre night and other social activities.

Visitors are most welcome to attend our meetings, where Coordinators give details of their forthcoming events. They can also join us for three activities before any membership requirements apply.

We meet the first Wednesday of each month (except January, when it's the second Wednesday) at the City of Sydney RSL Club, 3rd floor, 565 George Street, Sydney, at 7.45pm. A special \$4 flat rate for parking after 6pm is available at Wilsons Parking (entry in Goulburn Street, just around from George Street). In order to receive this special rate parking

tickets must be stamped at the RSL's Reception.

We hope you will join us at our meetings, an participate in our activities.



Confederation's President Brian Walker and Canberra Bushwalking club's president Janet Edstein at the recent Confederation's AGM in Canberra

Lithgow - Wallerawang District

Over the Blue Mountains and down into the valley lies the town of Lithgow, about 40 minutes from Katoomba

In this valley are many great places to visit such as The Old Steel Works, Jenolan Caves, Eskbank Historic Home, State Mining Heritage Park, Hartely Historic Village. Nearby is the Zig-Zag railway with steam train rides daily.

Further along is Wallerawang, a small town, with a lot to offer the tourist, Wollemi National Park with plenty of bushwalking and camping. Glow worm Tunnel is a popular walking destination.

Blackfellows Hand area is an area which is accessible by foot and the aboriginal stencils are thousands of years old.

Whether you enjoy history or just like walking you must visit the Lithgow - Wallerawang area.

**Bushwalking,
Camping, Weekends
Away ...**



**Sound Interesting to you ?
Come along and join us.**

The Outdoor Club
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and canoe**

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Robert & Linda Cluff

Ready to Rescue Adventures and Dreamers

The Peter Treseder story, by Lois Miles

Peter Treseder, an adventurous banker who lives in the northern Sydney suburb of Wahroonga, defies pigeonholing.

He has braved mountains and deserts, crocodiles and pirates and in 20 years of chalking up 'firsts' and breaking endurance records he has never needed rescuing.

But in September his 25 years in search and rescue was recognised by a long-service medal. He is patron of the search and rescue group of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs.

He has been out on a lot of searches in those 25 years but is not critical of those who need help - 'people not being fit enough, taking on too much, not being prepared well enough, accidents, but I don't resent going out.

'A lot of people going out on the rescues think the people who need their help are crazy but they have not been involved in the doing side. I guess I am one of the few people around who are involved in both sides.

'I can see where the doers are coming from, what motivates them. I guess I have a basic belief that risk taking, as long as it is done responsibly, is a good thing for society, as it is only by people taking responsible risks that businesses



will be formed, alliances put together and society as a whole will tend to move forward.' (Treseder's job with the Commonwealth Bank, incidentally, involves picking up the pieces when big risks fail to pay off, chasing the assets of big-time loan defaulters such as Christopher Skase.)

'I think, generally, people should be allowed to push out and extend themselves and extend soci-

ety at the same time.

'But some people will need rescuing in that process and I think society needs to be prepared to pick up the pieces occasionally.'

Treseder has been extending his horizons for more than 20 years, whether bushwalking, where he holds more than 200 endurance records, crossing the continent on foot or by four-wheel drive, canoeing or climbing remote mountains.

His latest exploit was making the first unsupported crossing of South Australia's Simpson Desert with long-time friend and adventure companion, Keith Williams, who was also awarded a 25-year rescue services medal by the

government. They walked 550km from Cowarie Station near Lake Eyre north to Mount Winneke in 21 days, carrying all their food, water and equipment in specially designed buggies. They dragged and pushed the buggies all but the last 80km when they loaded themselves up with three days supply of water - the ration was 5 litres a day - to cover the final stage unencumbered.

'What motivates me is to explore in the traditional style of the early explorers, to be the first or do it faster.

'I also like to be at the cutting edge of a number of sports, going from really difficult rock climbing to walking across a desert where different skills are required, with different risks.

While most of his exploits are 'self-propelled' he also holds the single-handed and two-man record for crossing the continent in a four-wheel drive vehicle, going from Cape Byron along the 26th parallel to Steep Point, Australia's westernmost point.

He had planned to walk back east, using food dumps he had made on the western journey, but 300km out he broke his foot, one of the few times injury stopped him. Treseder was the founding

president of the Three Peaks Outdoor Society, which after 15 years is still going strong. These days his weekends involve camping trips with his family - wife, Beth, and daughters Marnie, 5, and Kimberly, 3, conceived after he explored remote gorges in the Kimberley. He is still dreaming and planning the next awfully big adventure, a journey on foot to the South Pole. This would involve being flown to the starting point at the beginning of summer, then being picked up at the pole after he and his companions, Ian Brown, operations manager for the Blue Mountains National Park, and Keith Williams, a Department of Sport and Recreation program director at Orange.

Treseder admits it is a very expensive operation but, as he tells the many groups he talks to, from school children to businessmen, ordinary people can achieve great dreams. **'If you have a dream, you can fulfil it.'**



The Editor and the Committee would like to wish all readers a great Christmas and a very good New Year - and good walking one and all.

NSW Pioneers National Insurance Scheme for Bushwalkers

After many months of, at times, work that he describes as very !!!*** frustrating, the Confederation's immediate past Secretary and current Insurance Officer, Maurice Smith is very pleased. On behalf of the Confederation and the other state bushwalking bodies (there is an equivalent of thr Confederation in each state of Australia)

Maurice has established a national insurance scheme for bushwalking clubs and their members.

When Maurice spoke to me, he said that up until now, each state bushwalking body and has had to make its own arrangements for insurance cover for its affiliated clubs and club members. When Maurice started talking with the other state bodies he found considerable differences in the costs of insurance paid by each of them. It turned out that in NSW we had the best insurance deal.

When he discussed the possibility of a national scheme with Confederation's insurance broker it quickly became apparent to Maurice that there were benefits by creating a national scheme. Prior to the creation of the new scheme the Victorian Federation

Maurice has established a national insurance scheme for bushwalking clubs and their members.

had already switched over to using our insurer. Maurice told me that he shopped around for insurance brokers who could set up the national insurance scheme. However, in the end it was our present insurance broker who provided us with the best deal. Ian Hopper, the Director of Australian Sports Insurance Brokers, responsible for setting up the national scheme is delighted that he was able to set up this scheme for the Confederation and the other states.

Maurice tells me that the new scheme is open to all the state bushwalking bodies, their affiliated and club members. It provides public liability cover, optional personal accident cover, optional overseas travel cover and optional income protection cover. If you are interested in getting more information about the scheme have a word with your club's secretary as the details have been provided to them.

Colin Wood

Twenty Five-year-old record falls

October 1996, Peter Treseder broke Warwick Daniel's long held record for the classic Katoomba-Black Coola-Bimlow Peak return trip.

Warwick's record was cut by 1 hour 17 minutes to 16 hours 48 minutes.

**Patagonia
Same as 1st
time**

Wilderness Rescue Looking for more Helpers

We would like you to be part of the Confederations' selfhelp rescue group.

Our aim has always been to look after our own and to be a community resource to enhance the image of bushwalking. Wilderness Rescue is 60 years old and the recognised specialist group in bush rescue of the Volunteer Rescue Association of NSW (VRA). It is NSW State Rescue Board accredited.

There are several ways to help. The most basic way is to be part of an active group in your club available for callouts. The commitment required is not large. First enjoy your bushwalking. What makes us strong is the bushwalking skills of our members. Next get your Senior St John Ambulance First Aid Certificate. (One weekend's training every three years via our discounted fee course). Attend one of March - October training weekend each year. Lastly make sure that your club S & R contacts have your current work and home phone numbers. Tell them of your enthusiasm. If you are not happy with any of your club S&R Contacts kick them out and do the job yourself.

Club S & R contacts are how we call on bushwalkers for CALLOUTS. We need three per club with work and home phone numbers. The three is so as to be sure of always catching one for a callout. The contacts' job is to provide a two-way flow of information between the club and S & R. When a callout happens your job will be to co-ordinate the bushwalkers required from your club. It is a hectic time requiring patience and good telephone technique.

Once everyone is on their way to the search headquarters notify S & R of how many to expect. With

just a few bushwalkers from many clubs we have when equipped with our effective HF radios a mighty force able to be redirected/redeployed in the field to match events as they unfold. No other service in NSW can match us for numbers of skilled personnel so effectively controlled. We have a great record of success in bush search and rescue.

The S&R committee is not the group of the best bushwalkers in NSW but rather (hopefully) the best coordinators of bushwalkers in NSW. To do this, our members have between them a diverse range of skills including clerical, equipment maintenance, radio operations, computing (yes - what isn't these days?), helicopter signaling and field officers in charge of callouts.

Do not be shy, you are bound to have some skills we could use or we could teach you new ones. The workload when shared 'is not excessive but together are very impressive and most satisfying.

This year marks the 25th year of involvement of Keith Maxwell and Peter Treseder with the Search and Rescue (Wilderness Rescue) service

Our major event each year, the Rogaine, is eagerly awaited by many teams who keep returning and is partly sponsored by the NSW State Rescue Board (the state government

body charged with overseeing preparedness for rescue of all the emergency services). It has a proud tradition of looking after its own and of being an active member of the VRA. You will find bushwalkers are great people to work with as they so often see a job that needs to be done and just do it. No fanfares but done well. The VRA contains many country squads of similar temperament and friendliness. Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue is a great concept but needs the continued support of the Confederation Clubs and their members, i.e. YOU, to stay as the



strong organisation it is. Your involvement will ensure S & R remains relevant to the needs and aspirations of bushwalkers.

*Keith Maxwell - Director
Peter Treseder - Patron*

Bushwalker Wilderness Rescue needs your help

This year marks the 25th year of involvement of Keith Maxwell and me with the Search and Rescue (Wilderness Rescue) service, which itself is celebrating its 60th year of continual service to the people of Australia.

I am looking to expand the roll of the rescue committee and I am looking for enthusiastic people to assist.

If you are interested, give me a call any night of the week between 7pm and 9pm on (02) 9489 4182

Peter Treseder - Patron

New Tracks & Access Officer

Alex Tucker (NPA) has been appointed Tracks and Access Officer, a position left unfilled since the AGM. This left a vacancy on the management committee for a member without portfolio. Ken Smith (SBW) was elected to this position. These appointments must be confirmed (or not) at the next General meeting in November.

Meeting Changes

At the Confederation's annual general meeting in August, it was resolved that general meetings will in future be held quarterly instead of monthly.

The day-to-day business of the Confederation being handled by the management committee.

This was a controversial change that has been under consideration for some time. There was vigorous debate for and against the move. When it came to the vote, the proposal was carried by a comfortable margin.

In the course of the debate, it became obvious that many members were concerned that they would lose touch with what was going on if they couldn't attend monthly general meetings.

The new president, Brian Walker, sought to put these concerns to rest by stressing that he will be giving priority to internal communications. As he was also re-elected as Communications Officer, you'll know who to blame if you aren't kept informed.

The main line of communication will be The Bushwalker. The journal will now be mailed to each Confederation member as well as being supplied in bulk to their respective clubs. Articles will provide background information on the many issues dealt with by the management committee and the action taken. General interest articles will still be sought, but the emphasis will be on more specific information for members, rather than for the general public.

Management Committee officers will report to members at each quarterly general meeting. Members at a general meeting are entitled to discuss any matter dealt with by the management committee. A general meeting can amend or overturn any action taken by the management committee so there is still plenty of power in the hands of the masses.

For the coming year, general meetings will be held on the fourth

Tuesday in November, February, and May and prior to the AGM in August. The next general meeting will be on November 26 at 7.30pm at Ashfield RSL Club.

This change in meeting procedure puts responsibility for running the Confederation in the hands of the management committee as stipulated in the Confederation's rules. Anyone wishing to become more involved is welcome to join one of several sub-committees working on key portfolios.

At the first meeting of the new management committee recently, the president announced a change in procedure aimed at giving committee members more time to consider matters requiring attention. In future any item for consideration by the management committee should be sent to the secretary or the president to be placed on the meeting agenda. An agenda will be mailed to committee members about a week before each monthly meeting.

The management committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month. To get an item on the agenda, simply phone, fax or e-mail it to the secretary or the president. Here are the contact numbers:

Bill Holland, Secretary -

Phone: 9484 6636 (H)

Brian Walker, President -

Phone: 9969 8476 (H & W).

Fax: 9960 5772.

E-mail: walka@ozemail.com.au

To all country Confederation members

We would like all country Confederation the opportunity to attend the general meetings held quarterly, with this in mind the committee wants to make available accommodation for any country member that wants to come. Please contact any member of the committee.

Continued from page 12

A number of Confederation officers will be involved in discussions of issues concerning the joint management plan and the committee is taking pains to keep informed of all developments, providing input wherever possible.

Licensing of commercial operators in parks

The NPWS is looking at ways and means of upgrading commercial licensing procedures for organisations wishing to conduct commercial activities in national parks. The old rules are unsatisfactory because when they were prepared, no one envisaged the kinds of activities now being conducted in parks. The service is currently going through a benchmarking process to determine best environmental practice.

Although the need to regulate commercial activities is obvious, particularly in the more popular areas, there's still a long way to go before this will be achieved satisfactorily.

The next meeting between the Confederation and NPWS is scheduled for March next year. In the meantime, there will undoubtedly be regular liaison with the service on matters of concern to bushwalkers.

Up-market Training weekend

The weekend of 22-23 March will see our usual training weekend turned into something special.

The location will be the Wombeyan Caves. It will coincide with the midyear conference of the Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA). The VRA will take over the entire campsite.

A camping fee will apply, showers and toilets will be available. There will be catering for the VRA delegates and a Saturday movie.

Catering for all those attending will be available, at a price. Sunday will include some joint lectures with the VRA. Not like our usual training weekends at all!

Scone - more than just a weekend away

Scone is just three hours drive north from Sydney - within easy reach for a weekend away. At the northern edge of the Hunter Valley, Scone is known as "Home of the Horse". It is recognised as one of the world's largest thoroughbred districts, with many of the top sporting horses coming from the area.

Aside from the equine attractions, Scone is also well known for its wines. The famous Rosemount Estate boasts a rich history of viticulture dating back to 1864. Rosemount is one of Australia's most successful vineyards along with the nearby Arrowfield Winery, renowned for its white table wines. Spend a leisurely afternoon touring the vineyards, making the odd purchase for later consumption.

There's lots of great walking tracks along the Barrington Tops or exploring Lake Glenbawn. A visit to Burning Mountain is a must. It's the only example of a naturally burning coal seam in Australia.

Scone YHA, located in the old Segenhoe Schoolhouse, is the perfect base for all these activities and more. It's just \$13.00pp/pn and group catering is available. For bookings or more information contact Scone YHA on (065) 45 2072.

Insurance Questions

by Maurice Smith

This is the fifth in an occasional column dealing with bushwalking insurance-related matters.

Recently I was asked about insurance cover that applied when several members of a bushwalking club were asked by their local police to assist in what could have been a very dangerous situation. Some visiting climbers in the Warrumbungles got into trouble when the weather took a turn for the worse and darkness was fast approaching. Some climbers in the local bushwalking club were requested by police to assist the stranded climbers.

Potentially, the club climbers may have been required to climb at night, in snow and ice conditions, while wearing heavy packs. The thought of climbing in those conditions sends shivers down my spine. As it turned out a local helicopter was able to get to the stranded climbers just before the club members started their climb.

However, the question arose, what was the insurance cover in that situation? Also of interest to me was what is the insurance cover in any other situation where we are asked to assist the police, volunteer rescue association or other emergency service.

After a few telephone calls I found that where club members are called upon to assist in any emergency situation, cover is provided by WorkCover. Thus, the club climbers were covered by

WorkCover. The workers' compensation benefits that apply to employees in a work related situation apply equally to club members in these emergency situations. While the list of WorkCover benefits is quite long, in summary they provide for death, permanent or temporary disability, hospital and medical benefits as well as income support.

I am also asked quite often whether a particular activity is covered by our insurance. The activities that our personal accident insurance covers are bushwalking, camping, caving, canoeing, abseiling, canyoning, liloing, bicycle touring, cross-country skiing (but not downhill skiing), swimming, running, rogaining, mountaineering, rock climbing, and rafting.

Members of clubs that don't insure their members for personal accident insurance, can still obtain personal accident cover at remarkably cheap rates by making a supplementary payment to their club. This payment is then passed on to the Confederation and we obtain the personal accident cover for you even though your fellow club members aren't insured.

Remember, also, that when you have personal accident cover it travels with you. This means if you are walking with another Confederation-affiliated club and you have an accident, you are still covered even if that second club doesn't insure its members. Also you are covered when walking anywhere in Australia with your club. Not bad value for the price of an ice-cream bought at the end of a bushwalk.

Cheers and good walking.

Not bad value for the price of an ice-cream bought at the end of a bushwalk.



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Blue Gum Forest/Acacia Flat - Calling Camp Ground Hosts & Search for forgotten Logbooks

by Andy Macqueen
Confederation's Training officer

Following several incidents of vandalism, and concerns about degradation generally, NPWS and the Friends of Blue Gum Forest are inviting responsible walkers to be "camp ground hosts". This would involve visiting the area say once a year, for a weekend or a few week nights, with friends, to provide a greater level of presence and information.

This has nothing to do with the old "honorary ranger" system, rather the role would be to give out MIB information and invite visitors to join the Friends of Blue Gum Forest, and to fill in a report on the state of the area, number of campers, noting any damage, description of perpetrators, etc. Training would be provided, as well as some form of identification.

At least one club has already agreed to sponsor a weekend. How about your club?

Interested individuals or

clubs should contact Ranger Cath Ireland, NPWS PO Box 43 Blackheath 2785.

At least one club has already agreed to sponsor a weekend. How about your club?

The 65th anniversary of the reservation of the forest will be held on the weekend of 6/7 September 1997. A ceremony will be held at the Blackheath NPWS Heritage Centre on the Saturday afternoon, in conjunction with the launch of a book on the forest. That will be followed by a camp at Acacia Flat, and - on the Sunday morning - a historical tour of the forest, starting with events as early as 1859.

Have you ever wondered what happens to all those tattered logbooks sitting in tins or bottles in caves or on mountain tops?

Perhaps your club has a collection of them, or perhaps you have a couple in your bottom drawer.

There are many completed logbooks in Confederation's collection in the Mitchell Library archives, but there are no doubt many more out there, virtually forgotten. Some of these logbooks may be valuable - not only as heritage documents, but as sources of important data for future park and wilderness management.

NPWS has commenced a track monitoring project in the Blue Mountains district. The idea is to establish a system of monitoring of the condition and usage of various tracks and routes. The Confederation is represented in the project's steering committee by Andy Macqueen.

Though the project itself does not involve collection of information on historical usage, such information will become important: the underlying purpose of the project is to provide a basis for future track management, with the eventual possibility that users might have to be regulated in some areas (as in Tasmania).

Bushwalking With a Purpose !!

The National Parks Association is not only the Largest Bushwalking Club in NSW
It is also the Largest Conservation Society in NSW

Bushwalking gives you the knowledge to share in;

- ◆ Recommending new national parks
- ◆ Monitoring park management
- ◆ Encouraging Biodiversity

Armidale (Northern Tablelands Region)
PO Box 372 Armidale 2350

Blue Mountains
PO Box 148 Springwood 2777

Central Coast
PO Box 30 Erina 2250

Central West
PO Box 100 Wallarawang 2845

Clarence Valley
PO Box 425 nGrafton 2460

Far North Coast
PO Box 593 Alstonville 2477

Far South Coast
PO Box 797 Bega 2550

Hawkesbury Cumberland
PO Box 737 Windsor 2756

Hunter
PO Box 12 Lew Lampton 2305

Illawarra
9 Joseph St Woonona 2517

Lauchlan Valley
PO Box 593 Parkes 2870

Macarthur
PO Box 792 Campbelltown 2560

Mid North Coast
PO Box 1188 Pt Macquarie 2444

Milton
PO Box 176 Ulladulla 2539

Southern Highlands

PO Box 1368 Bowral 2576
Southern Sydney

PO Box 67 Oatley 2223
Sydney

PO Box A81 Sydney 2001
Tamworth-Namoi

PO Box 185 Tamworth 2340
Three Valleys

445B Stuarts Point Rd
Yarrhapinni 2441

**For membership enquiries
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**Imperial Arcade 4th Floor 83-
87 Castlereagh St
Sydney 2000**

Telephone (02) 9233-4660
Fax (02) 9233 4880

E-Mail npansw@msn.com.au

Calling all Log Books! Continued from page10

Andy is particularly concerned that management policies designed for 'problem areas' might be inappropriately applied to other areas which are not suffering any increase in usage or degradation.

We need to understand the long term usage trends. Hence the potential importance of old logbooks.

Andy would like to compile a register of logbooks - both those still out there. And those which have been collected - in the Blue Mountains, Wollemi and Kanangra Boyd. (Later, the register might be expanded to cover other areas.)

Please contact him if you or your club -

- sponsor any logbooks which are still "out there".
- have any logbooks you would like to see donated to the collection in the Mitchell Library.
- have a collection which you wish to retain, but the details of which you would be prepared to make available for analysis.

Write to Andy Macqueen through the Confederation, or at 39

Bee Farm Road, Springwood 2777, advising of location and time span of each logbook.

The register will be published in The Bushwalker. It is envisaged that certain locations/logbooks will be picked for priority research attention, and volunteers invited to analyse them - as has been done in the past by Dave Noble, Col Gibson and others in past editions of The Bushwalker.

DATES FOR 1997

Put them in your diary now! Make sure they get into your club's walks program.

22-23 Mar: Bush survival training weekend

24-25 May: First Aid Course
(phone Keith Maxwell, 96220049)

28-29 June: The Navigation
Shield Rogaine

22 Aug: Annual Bush Dance

23-24 Aug: Annual General Meeting and Reunion

6-7 Sep: 65th Anniversary for Blue Gum Forest - to be held at Govett's Leap and in the forest

25-26 Oct: First Aid Course

Forum on Remote bushwalking

As another means of gathering data on use of tracks and routes, and to further explore the issues for future track/route management in remote areas, NPWS is planning, to hold a public forum on management of remote bushwalking in 1997.

The purpose will be to develop appropriate guidelines for management of unconstructed walking routes, particularly within declared or proposed wilderness areas, so as to minimise associated environmental and social impact. Strategies for regulation of use as well as maintenance/construction standards appropriate to wilderness areas will be considered at the forum.

Experienced walkers with a historical knowledge of remote area use, as well as newer walkers with an interest in management issues, will all be welcome.

Readers of The Bushwalker will be advised of further details when they are available.

Andy Macqueen the Confederation's Training Officer

Mountain Design

new

Keeping the lines open by Brian walker

The Confederation's management committee places high priority on keeping the lines of communication with and the National Parks and Wildlife Service open.

Twice a year Confederation office bearers meet with senior executives of the NPWS to discuss matters of mutual interest. The most recent of these meetings was held on 9 September 1996. The main topic of discussion was the blanket consent requirements covered in a separate article.

Other matters reported on by NPWS officers included:

Progress on management and wilderness proposals

Wollemi National Park management plan has been approved for public exhibition. The Wollemi wilderness proposal should be completed by the time you read this. It is planned to have both the management plan and wilderness proposal on public exhibition at the same time.

Blue Mountains National Park management plan is being completely re-drafted. It is still a few weeks away from presentation to NPWS head office. Delays have been caused by World Heritage proposals. Because of the level of community interest, the period for public exhibition is likely to be extended.

The Kanangra Boyd Wilderness Proposal is now almost ready for public exhibition. Outstanding access negotiations have been finalised and some exclusions have been re-examined.

The NPWS hopes that all these plans will be on exhibition at the same time so they can be viewed as a whole. If the period for public exhibition extends into the Christmas period, an extra month is sure to be allowed for submissions.

Sydney Water/NPWS Joint Management

The NPWS is focussing on the management plan for the areas controlled jointly with Sydney Wa-

ter. Other issues of land transfer and compensation will be dealt with outside the management planning process. All land transfers are on hold for the moment and will be dealt with some time in the future. NPWS says there are no territorial wars and no major problems are envisaged.

The NPWS representative seconded to Sydney Water is doing a good job liberalising Sydney Water's attitude to many aspects of management. Jeff Francis, Field Services Division Manager of the NPWS, says he is "beavering away and having a big influence on what Sydney Water is doing".

Sydney Water will shortly be issuing a number of discussion papers aimed at moving away from current practice. NPWS representatives expressed satisfaction with the way things are progressing. 'There's nothing to get hung up about at this stage. It's all going OK.'

Continued on page 8

eco-tours

Bushwalker Leader Standards, and You

When I was invited to attend a Melbourne workshop on national bushwalking leader standards, I had visions of sitting down to discuss exciting things like whether a walk leader should be able to use a Silva Compass with his eyes closed, or demonstrate how to make a bush stretcher half way down a cliff infested with venomous snakes.

So when I turned up and was informed that we were going to spend two days cutting and pasting existing standards, according to such considerations as ASF levels, CREAT standards, performance criteria, ranges of variables, evidence guides etc, I knew we were in for a heavy time.

Indeed, the Silva Compass and bush stretcher bits (so to speak) had already been dealt with: standards covering bushwalking, abseiling, canoeing, caving, rafting, rock climbing and ski touring reached a final draft stage at the end of 1995, having evolved through the 'NORLD' process of recent years.

The purpose of this September workshop was to knock the draft standards for bushwalking and ski touring into a format consistent with broader 'industry' standards. The workshop, held in Melbourne by ORCA (the Outdoor Recreation Council of Australia), was attended by 13 other invitees. I was the only representative of the bushwalking club movement. Other workshops were held to address the other activity areas.

By the time this newsletter comes out, the new national outdoor recreation competency standards should be about to be submitted to the Australian Standards and Curriculum Council for approval. If they are passed they will be published early in 1997. After that, we can expect the appearance of na-

tional training curricula and new outdoor training courses, and increased regulation of some parts of the outdoor recreation industry.

The final document will list skills classified according to whether they are applicable to the recreation sector generally, the outdoor recreational sector, or a specific activity (such as bushwalking). Skills will be pegged to different levels of performance (assistant leader, leader, manager etc), and will be described in terms of "performance criteria", "range of variables" (the sorts of circumstances to which the skill applies)

The Confederation will be doing its best to assist clubs make sense of the standards when they come out.

and "evidence guides" (the ways in which a person might be expected to show he meets the criteria in a formal assessment process).

If you think it's all going to be confusing, you may be right. The Confederation will be doing it's best to assist clubs make sense of the standards when they come out.

And if you think that all this standards business is going to create a nightmare of red tape and bureaucracy, and that the red tape might one day affect voluntary groups such as bushwalkers, you may be right again.

But there is some good news. The standards are not aimed at regulating us. They are not a licensing system: any regulatory measures relying on the standards will come from the land managers - such as NPWS - or our insurers. There is no threat from those directions yet.

More good news is that there should be nothing to fear in the standards themselves. The competencies they will specify should be motherhood to our walk leaders - if not, perhaps the leaders need to look seriously at their skills. (And no, you don't have to be able to navigate with your eyes closed.)

Like it or not, the standards will be with us to stay, and we must take notice of them. If we view them constructively, we can use them as the basis for ensuring that, at club level, our outdoor leaders are appropriately skilled - using whatever formal or informal means of training and assessment are appropriate. To ignore the standards is to invite disaster - in the outdoors and in the courts.

Meanwhile, there has been an excellent response to the training survey sent out to clubs earlier this year, to find out if there is a role for Confederation in the clubs' training systems. The survey results are being analysed and we will report on the outcomes in of The Bushwalker.

Andy Macqueen, Confederation Training Officer



Director Outdoor Education
"Glengarry"
Kangaroo Valley NSW 2577

Dear John

Just a quick note on behalf of all the Kangaroo Valley teams to thank you, and your team of helpers for another outstanding weekend at the Blue Labyrinth Search and rescue (rogain). We are always impressed at the organisation and efficiency of the event, and would like you to pass on our appreciation to all those involved. We feel the organisers never get enough thanks for the long hours they must put in to make it run so smoothly.

We always love coming to the event and look forward to next year. Thanks again

Ian Boyle

Director Outdoor Education
"Glengarry"
Kangaroo Valley NSW 2577
on behalf of the Kangaroo Valley teams

Cookery Corner

Cooking utensils

Weight is important on any bushwalk but particularly so on a long trip. These trips are often in the Snowies or Tasmania so you already have extra warm clothes and etc. in case of bad weather. The cooking set that I have found effective is a shellite stove, billy (and its lid), bludgers bowl (also with its lid), spoon and knife. Now Trangia stoves seem like a good idea but you couldn't get them for \$6.60 at the Paddy Pallin fire sale in February 1972.

My faithful Primus uses about 50% less fuel than the Trangia stoves of others. Obviously, less fuel to carry. The lid for the billy is taken to minimise heat loss during cooking in cold conditions. As well as cooking your food faster you use less of your precious fuel. A bludgers bowl is a plastic straight sided bowl of about three cup capacity. The lid



allows you mix instant puddings and keeps your cup of tea or soup warm while you are concentrating on cooking the next course. The size is important. You should be able to pour all your soup from your billy into the bludgers bowl so you can start cooking your main

course. Since so many main courses in freeze dried foods are a type of stew there is no need to wash your billy out. Not usually the case for desserts!

Again this size of bludgers bowl allows you to empty your stew from the billy if you have decided to have a hot dessert instead of soup. Now, since a cup of tea is not related to soup or stew you always do it first in your clean billy. The knife is mostly used for lunches. I like to take cracker type biscuits and margarine, Vegemite, jam and etc. in plastic film containers. I like

to take a range of these "spreads" as well as small amounts of chocolate, salami and cheese. The aim is to have a wide range of flavours so that don't become bored with your food and develop senseless cravings. No cravings at the end of the trip is a sign of good catering. Varied and tasty evening meals make the end of the day worth looking forward to.

by Keith Maxwell

For Sale

Women's "Scarpa" boots, size 38, worn twice, Phone Helen (02)9983-1397 \$100 ONO.

The three great lies in bushwalking are:

- This is the last hill
- I know where we are on the map
- trust me

outdoor life same
as last time

Annual Bush Dance

Below: Thais Turner (Bankstown) the Belle of the ball in winning costume.



Right: Sydney Uni celebrate 50 years with cake and Geko T shirts



*Above: A couple of happy couples.
Left: Mt Druitt with "headlines"
Below: More happy dancers at the Confederation's bush dance.
Far left: NPA's table with real live casualty*



Bankstown Bushwalking and Socials Club's winning table

Continued from page 1

- Campsites along the route of the famous Kanangra to Katoomba bushwalk are over-used and badly damaged, showing that even bushwalkers are guilty of careless treatment of the natural environment.

It is obvious that if the NPWS is to carry out its well-considered conservation programs, it must curtail many recreational activities in national parks and wilderness areas, **including bushwalking.**

As a first step, it will license commercial operators. There are already around 70 of them, including off-road and standard vehicle tour companies as well as organisers of an array of activities such as bushwalking, rockclimbing, caving, abseiling, canyoning, bush navigation, camping, white water rafting and bicycle touring.

The vast increase in the range and scope of recreational activities has resulted in a significant increase in illegal developments in national parks. In many places recreational users have undertaken

harmful construction work without the approval of the NPWS.

For instance, old tracks have been reconstructed and signposted; canyons have been 'improved' with the installation of bolts and permanent ropes; steps and handholds have been cut into rocks; signs have been painted on natural features; climbing areas have been 'developed' with the installation of bolts and chains; and hundreds of metres of tracks have been cut. Many of these illegal developments are in previously pristine areas.

As much of this vandalism has been carried out by commercial operators for their own purposes, it is not surprising that they are the first to be targeted by national park managers. They are now to be regulated after a fashion.

The NPWS admits that it is impossible for it to be effective alone. There is a powerful need for all recreational users of national parks to make some contribution to park management. Failure to do so will result in more and more restrictions being placed upon their activities.

Unfortunately, off-road vehicle owners and horse riders - who include in their numbers some of the most destructive users of national parks - are becoming increasingly vocal and politically active. They undoubtedly believe they are exercising their democratic rights. Acting solely out of self-interest, with little understanding or love of nature, they can't believe that everyone else is not similarly motivated. They claim they are being "locked out" of many areas that are being handed over to bushwalkers for the exclusive use of this 'privileged' group.

Bushwalking is a distinctly Australian pastime. Our bushwalking pioneers had a passionate love of the bush. They deliberately chose to experience wilderness just as it is, on its own terms, and took great pains to ensure they left it exactly as they found it. Their enjoyment of the bush was treated as a privilege, not a right.

These days, as a result of the widespread media promotion of outdoor pursuits, many people en-

Mountain equipment

ter the bush with no basic appreciation of nature at all. They regard the bush merely as a playground - a vast gymnasium that exists solely for their pleasure and gratification. In heedless pursuit of "fitness", "challenge" and "adventure" they indulge in a wide range of activities that are destructive of some aspect of the natural environment.

A pristine canyon of extraordinary natural beauty becomes a mere abseiling course for thrill seekers. Irresponsible off-road vehicle owners, testing their prowess as "bush drivers" smash through sensitive environments, damaging them irreparably. Spectacular scenic areas renowned for their beauty are traversed in a matter of hours, instead of days or weeks, as a test of physical endurance.

Many people regard the natural environment merely as an obstacle to be overcome, a place for individual egos to find self-expression no matter what the consequences. They act as if the bush is still unlimited, mindless of the fact that only a tiny fragment of the total area of NSW (1.5%) remains untouched.

Australia is the most urbanised nation on Earth. More than 70% of our population lives in the big cities on the eastern and southeastern seaboard. It is not surprising that most people have lost touch with nature. There is much talk about our "natural heritage", but very little understanding of what this really means. Unfortunately, the minority that still has a genuine affinity with the bush is scattered among warring camps where extreme views predominate.

The campaign for access to national parks and wilderness areas has been marked by the almost complete silence of many genuine bush lovers. Yet these people are the most sympathetic and least destructive users of national parks. Their silence is very damaging to their credibility.

These genuine bush lovers can be found in all the competing groups - bushwalkers, four-wheel-

drive enthusiasts, horse riders, farmers, conservationists - even shooters and timber-getters. Although it seems unlikely that such disparate groups could ever join forces, sheer pressure of events may one day bring this about. Love of the bush comes from the heart, not the head, and many bush lovers are distressed by the way the wilderness debate has degenerated into a "them and us" stand-off.

There will be no victors while the debate is based solely on self-interest. The rage of the more outspoken protagonists is currently hindering all attempts at rational discussion or compromise. The government is pulled this way and that, trying to satisfy everyone but satisfying nobody.

Unless the various groups, including bushwalkers, can find common ground where meaningful negotiations can begin, there is no hope for the future well-being of our national parks, forests and wilderness areas. The biggest losers will be future generations who will never see or experience what is about to be lost. To avoid this catastrophe, the "true believers" need to stand up and be counted.

REMEMBER!

DATES FOR 1997
Put them in your diary now!
Make sure they get into
your club's walks program.

22-23 Mar: Bush survival training weekend
24-25 May: First Aid Course
(phone Keith Maxwell, 96220049)
28-29 June: The Navigation Shield Rogaine
22 Aug: Annual Bush Dance
23-24 Aug: Annual General Meeting and Reunion
6-7 Sep: 65th Anniversary for Blue Gum Forest - to be held at Govett's Leap and in the forest
25-26 Oct: First Aid Course

Blanket Consent
Continued from page 3

will be held. The NPWS will provide us with a list of districts and contact details. This information will be passed on to clubs as soon as it is available.

The NPWS has told us that as long as each club program gives the broad intention of activities for the period it covers, that's all they require. No further action will be necessary unless the number of people on any activity exceed those shown in the accompanying table.

If the number attending any activity is likely to exceed the notification number, the leader must inform the relevant district office at least one week prior to the event. Even if exact numbers may not be known until the last minute, when there is any chance of the notification number being exceeded, the district office **must** be informed.

It is obvious that most club activities will have fewer than these numbers so no club should be greatly inconvenienced. These limits will be used as a trial for 12 months and then reviewed to see if any changes are necessary. Only the Confederation and the Scout Association are involved in this arrangement. All other organisations and individuals will have to apply for each activity. This is another very good reason for bushwalking clubs to belong to the Confederation and illustrates the benefits of having a collective voice.

This scheme will be applied as soon as the Service has finalised the administrative details. It is a stop-gap measure introduced to deal with an inappropriate regulation. The long-term objective is to change the regulation. The NPWS may use the information on club activities to seek help from bushwalkers in tracking the spread of weeds and feral animals.

At the Confederation's last management committee meeting, it was agreed unanimously to accept these arrangements and co-operate with the NPWS in their implementation.

by Brian Walker

Invitation to Re-enact “The Long Long Walk” **Advisory committee set-back**

Lakes Entrance to Wattamolla

An epic journey, with enormous historical significance for the South-East Coast of mainland Australia, will be re-enacted next year on its 200th anniversary.

The journey, inspired by the poem “The Long Long Walk” by Dorothy Philip, will retrace the route taken by 17 shipwrecked sailors.

The original story begins with the ship “Sydney Cove” leaving Calcutta, India, on November 10 1796, the ship encountered difficulties while heading north and was eventually wrecked on Preservation Island, just south of Flinders Island, on February 8, 1797.

On February 28, Captain Hamilton dispatched the chief mate (Hugh Thompson), the supercargo (William Clarke), three European sailors and 12 lascars (East Indian sailors) in the long boat for a voyage to Port Jackson to seek help. This rather optimistic attempt failed, and the long boat was wrecked south of modern day Lakes Entrance on the Ninety Mile Beach in Victoria. Mr Clarke, indicates that the group eventually left the area on March 15, initially going quite well. They forded several rivers and crossed one large river (possibly the Genoa River near Mallacoota) by building a raft. On their way, they met Aborigines. Several more groups were met in the next few days, although the natives were careful to keep their women out of sight. Early in April the survivors started to run short of rice and had to rely on shellfish provided by friendly natives. The long journey was beginning to take its toll. By April 16, nine of the men were unable to go on. For the rest of their journey there is almost no record. Clarke’s detailed account appears to end in the vicinity of Jervis bay.

Their luck ran out on April 26, when they came to “*a very deep bay*” (Jervis Bay) and hostile natives, whom they had managed to

placate earlier, attacked them. It is believed that the Shoalhaven was crossed on or about April 30, near Comerong Island. A few days later the chief mate (Mr Thompson) and an English carpenter were killed. Mr Clarke, a sailor and one lascar, were the only survivors, reaching Wattamolla on May 15, where they were rescued by a fishing boat.

Two boats were soon dispatched on a rescue mission to Preservation Island. The boats reached Preservation Island, but on the return journey only Flinders’ boat made it back to Sydney. The other was lost at sea. To help remember this integral part of the region’s history, the Scout Association is re-enacting the walk. It will be in the form of a relay, leaving the Lakes Entrance area on March 15 and finishing in the Royal National Park on May 15. Members of the public, bushwalkers, etc are invited to take part in this re-enactment. Participants can take part in as much of the walk as they like. If any individual bushwalkers or clubs are interested in joining in this project, please contact:

**Warren Goodall, 21 Park Crescent, Oak Flats 2529.
Ph:(042) 572226.**

Acknowledgements:

“The Long Long Walk”,
Dorothy Philip.

Illawarra & South Coast Aborigines 1770-1850, Michael Organ,
University of Wollongong.

Walking the Wilderness Coast,
Peter Cook & Chris Dowd.

The Bairnsdale Advertiser,
Bairnsdale, Victoria.

Thanks go to:
Eurobodalla Scout District -
John Philip, Allan Barkley, Col
Cooper, Alison Philip and Terry
Jackson.

Advisory committee set-back

Several Confederation members have been appointed to NPWS Advisory Committees. They are: Andy Macqueen (Blue Mountains District), Barry Collier (Central Coast District) and Jim Callaway (South Metropolitan District).

In the letter of support for our endorsed candidates, the Confederation expressed the view that they had a strong case for inclusion by virtue of:

- their close familiarity with the parks in their areas
- their strong conservation views and
- their roles as representatives of a major recreational user group.

Unfortunately, several other members nominated by the Confederation for appointment missed out. the Confederation views this with concern. It means several important Advisory Committees now do not have bushwalker representation.

At the September Management Committee meeting it was resolved to write to the relevant Minister pointing out the imbalance created through the exclusion of bushwalkers - one of the biggest single user groups of national parks - from some important Advisory Committees.

The committee is hopeful that we may get a few more of our endorsed candidates appointed, at least on key committees such as Nowra and Snowy Mountains Districts.

Sports Expo Rejected

An invitation for the Confederation to take part in the Channel 7 Sports Expo at Darling Harbour in February next year was declined by the Management Committee at its October meeting.

Despite a recommendation from the communications sub-committee that we participate, the rest of the committee thought the high cost (around \$1,000) would not bring benefits.

Down the Track

by Alex Tucker Track's and access officer

Alex Tucker the Confederation's officer, says that he will be holding meetings to discuss tracks and access matters at least three times a year.

These will be at about 6pm at the Ashfield RSL Club on the nights of the quarterly general meetings, November 26, February 2 and March 27. Come and join us in the Bistro for a working meal.

Where necessary, additional meetings will be held before the monthly Committee meetings on the third Tuesdays. In between meetings, write to me C/o of the Confederation or by phone or fax (same number (02) 9451 4028) about any tracks or access problems.

Access denied

The article in the last issue of the Bushwalker inspired four responses from Internet users but not one by snail mail. Is there a message in that? One reaction was surprise that other walkers had similar experiences. So please don't assume that yours is an isolated example of Access Denied. I will try to follow up all reported cases and hopefully get them resolved.

This is no new disease. In my youth the flooding of Lake Burrogorang and the locked gate on the Bindook property made vehicle access to within walking distance of Colong Caves much more difficult and time consuming. Later the Newcastle Expressway cut off traditional access to Govetts Ridge and Gunyah Beach. It might have been possible to have had a pedestrian overbridge constructed at about half the cost of that useless "Fire Tanker" access bridge which now is described as the Jerusalem Bay Trail.

One Internet user recalled the days when the Rules Point road gave the Canberra walker direct ac-

cess to the Blue Waterholes until a landholder locked a gate on a side road through his property. There was a perception that the NPWS may have accepted this closure as an aid in controlling visitor numbers.

Most recently, access from Canberra/Goulburn to parts of Morton and Budawang National Parks is denied by a locked gate on the Endrick River road near Nerriga. It seems that the road diverges from its declared road reserve on to private property to avoid a swampy area. We will be trying to resolve this matter.

Closure of track to Portuguese Beach, Kuring-gai Chase National Park

Here the track is being closed by the NPWS following complaints that it is in a dangerous condition. It seems that this spur of the Bairne fire trail was never an official track and therefore has had no maintenance. Whether the closure is permanent or temporary depends on the costs of rectification and an estimation of the number of walkers that use this track. It is part of one of the few circular walks in KRGCNP. If you feel strongly for or against this closure let me know.

Some walkers may think that the complainants were misguided and that the track is no worse than most. Even if this were so, a failure by NPWS to maintain a track may well lead to legal action for negligence. I, for one, do not want the NPWS to incur the costs of such actions to the detriment of other activities. So lets have your complaints about any track that has gone beyond the typical "rough old track" and your support in pressing the NPWS and the Government to provide adequate funding for walking track maintenance.

Coolah Tops National Park

This was one of the recent crop of new parks promised by the Carr Government and the most controversial, since it involved revocation of a State Forest and the closure of a sawmill which was the major employer in the district. It we are fair dinkum about seeking more national parks we have a responsibility to help "to promote ecotourism". Bushwalkers can contribute by planning walks and camping trips in the new park. I hope that there will be room in this issue for some details of the potential walks. If not you can contact Ranger Michael Sharpe on (063) 77 1678.

Blue Mountains crossing walk

Further to article in the May issue of the Bushwalker, Tony Miller of the Scripture Union Bushwalkers and other walkers have had an interesting meeting with the Hon Bob Debus MP the member for Blue Mountains and the Minister for Emergency Services. An NPWS representative was present and confirmed that the service was continuing its assessment of the detailed proposals. Mr Debus gave his support to the project and asked to be kept advised of the progress of the NPWS review. Meanwhile, the Confederation will be seeking the support of the local councils and tourism authorities.

Great North Walk link track - manly wharf to Berowra

A feasibility study for this link track was on public display during June- July. A large number of favourable responses were received, mainly from the ratepayers of the local government

Continued on page 20

From page 19

areas affected. The proposed link uses mainly existing tracks, some of which will require upgrading or relocation. The Steering Committee will be meeting soon to assess the responses. I have made contact with the executive officer of DLaWC and responses from bushwalkers will still be considered. Please contact me if you are a potential user of the link or can comment on the proposal in the following areas:

Alternatives to the “Engravings Track” parallel to Wakehurst Parkway

- Proposed new track avoiding the flood zone above Bungaroo
- Best route from Middle Harbour Creek to St Ives Showground
- Best route from Wildflower Garden to Warrimoo Track
- Best route from Bobbin Head to Appletree Bay.

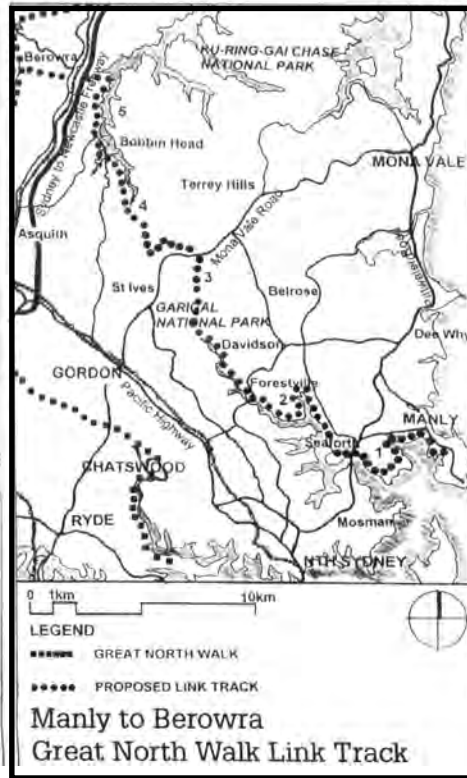
Great North Walk Benowie Track and alternative

The Department of Land and Water Conservation (DWaLC) has exhibited a map of the Benowie Track and an alternative route some two kilometres longer which extends from just north of the Rosemead Rd Trackhead and bypasses the Hornsby Rifle Range to rejoin the main track at the Bailey Bridge. Please contact me for a copy of the map if you can make any detailed comments on the alternative route and the condition of the main track.

National park watch

In the past few months detailed reports from bushwalkers have led to the charging of a number of people using national parks for illegal horse riding and horse camping. Our code of ethics requires us to observe the plans of manage-

ment of the NPWS and other land managers. We should also extend this to the reporting of apparent infringements, such as when vehicles are noted on management only trails. A record of registration numbers will assist in the manager’s investigations. If you are really keen, you can offer to testify in court. The Confederation attempts to comment on every draft plan of management which is publicly exhibited. Your local knowledge will always be welcome to our Conservation Officer, John Macris.



A Confederation construction corps ?

An 11 metre long bridge is located on the Great North Walk between Fuller’s Bridge and the Epping Road bridge. It was planned and built at weekends by men and women volunteers of the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV), Should Confederation be involved in such construction and upgrading work? More importantly would you and your club be prepared to join in?

Ten Little Walkers

Ten sturdy walkers walking in a line.
One got too far in front
then there nine

Nine weary walkers clambering over a gate. One failed to see the bull then there were eight

Eight hungry walkers eating chunks of devon.
One got a bad piece then there were seven

Seven camping walkers vibrantly alive. One dehydrated then there were five

Five fast walkers seeking more and more.
One could not keep up the pace
then there were four

Four storm-lashed walkers sheltering ‘neath a tree.
A branch fell one
then there were three

Three novice walkers learning what to do.
One lost his map and compass
then there were two

Two foolish walkers running just for fun.
One tripped and bumped his head
then there was one

One lonely walker sitting in the sun.
Developed serious sunstroke
then there was none

A search and rescue party went out to no avail.

Not one surviving walker was found to tell the tale
From the South-West Walker

Found - Weekend of 6-7 October pair of reading glasses - top of Mt Hi and Mighty, Kanangra-Boyd Contact Rolf Muller, Span (02) 9558 7422 H (02) 9555 1044 W

Conservation News

In recent months the confederation has been involved in lobbying which has led to some quite notable conservation gains.

One has been the decision of the National Parks and Wildlife Service to purchase a property of more than 300 hectares on the Jenolan River in the north of the Kanangra Wilderness. The Confederation, along with other organisations, raised the proposed sale of this land with the Government, pointing out that if the chance was missed to add this area to the park, development of the land causing a reduction in the wilderness values was likely, since the property has road access and river frontage.

The area will now be included in the Kanangra Boyd National Park and Wilderness.

Planning is underway for a joint Sydney Water and NPWS plan of management for water catchment areas. Confederation has made a preliminary submission in which we raised both access and conservation issues. Bushwalkers should look out for the draft plan early in 1997. We urge you to make submissions as clubs or individuals and be sure to include along with your claims for continued walking access. The need for Sydney Water funding of feral animal control (have you seen the pig damage to flats on the Kowmung lately?) and support for the addition of lands around Lake Burragorang to the Blue Mountains National Park. Submissions for the last round of proposed wilderness areas were overwhelmingly in favour of wilderness. The resulting declaration of 153,230 hectares of wilderness in October is a very good outcome. A Dunphy Wilderness fund is to be established with \$5 million to be spent over the next five years to purchase leasehold and freehold land identified as wilderness. Areas

by John Macris

which would particularly benefit from this include Guy Fawkes, Macleay Gorges and Washpool.

Negotiations over the future of large areas of the remaining native forests in eastern NSW have taken place over the last few months under a State Government run body. The Resource and Conservation Assessment Council (RACAC). Public submissions were sought on what percentage of native forest

should be deferred from logging while a major assessment is carried out over the next two years.

Once again, the great majority of submissions supported conservation. The outcome so far has been described by the conservation groups as good in the short term - with the addition of about 90,000 hectares to reserves and deferral from logging of 671,000 ha. In the long term, though, that large deferred area is placed in great uncertainty by the granting of 10 year wood supply

300 ha on Jenolan River added to the Kanangra Boyd National Park and Wilderness.

resource security to the industry. This means that if the overcutting of native forests we have seen in the past continues, the only native timber around to fill the guaranteed supply will be this deferred area. In short, it looks like being another two years of intense lobbying if we are to finally realise the promised "world class" forest reserve system in New South Wales.

Did you know

Holland and Israel are the worlds largest producers of Australian native wildflowers; and Portugal is the largest producer of eucalyptus oil. And we feel it prudent to grow olives and import ostriches

From Inverell BW by Bill Dempsey

The National Fitness Council of New South Wales expects shortly to launch a Youth Hostels Association in this State.

Under this scheme simple accommodation and meals will be available at a low cost at a series of sites linking up walks in the more accessible country districts.

More progress has been made in Victoria, where in a little over a year, an association of 300 individual members and fifteen organisations as group members, with sixteen hostels has been built up.

The Bushwalker 1941



Kanangra-Boyd National Park

Canberra Bushwalking Club - Ready to celebrate 50 years

The Club began in April 1947 as the Canberra Walking and Touring Club.

Most of the 11 foundation members were originally from Melbourne, Sydney and Hobart clubs. Membership soon grew to about fifty. Petrol was rationed in the early years, so walks were mostly



Rocking at the AGM - Canberra

in the ACT ranges. There were occasional trips further afield to the Snowy Mountains, Kangaroo Valley, and the Blue Mountains. Some of the club's early members were also members of the Canberra Alpine Club. They rekindled the Alpine Club's earlier interest in bushwalking.

In the early 1950s the Canberra Walking and Touring Club was deliberately allowed to become dormant as the Alpine Club was able to satisfy both the skiing and bushwalking interests of its members. It was assumed there would be a revival of the walking club as Canberra grew.

By November 1961 there were many new bushwalkers in the city

as the population of Canberra had doubled in the 50s. The Alpine Club expanded its skiing activities, changed membership regulations and increased fees. It was time to revive the bushwalking club. Nineteen people held a meeting and Jack Leslie, founder of the 1947 club, was appointed acting President of the

new club, with Geoff Mosley, later president ACF, the first secretary.

In the early years, a quarterly program was drawn up. The inaugural programmed weekend walk was a trip to Bimberi by a party of five led by Margot Cox, but there was a precursor weekend walk to Bungonia/Cedar Flat led by Gosta Lynga -

he's leading a 35-year anniversary walk at the end of November this year. The programs catered for a wide range of interests and abilities. The core activities comprised day and weekend walking for all grades with rock climbing, ski touring, snow caving and natural history excursions. Several significant early exploratory trips were held in the Woila, Ettrema and other areas. The club's name was changed to its present name in February 1965.

The magazine

'It' was started in December 1965. 'It' (as in "what are we going to call it?"), remains 'It' despite many attempts to change it. The club was incorporated in 1974, and published a book, "Bushwalking near Canberra", the same year. Cur-

rent membership is about 350 and the program of around 250 trips a year includes day and weekend walks and ski tours, extended trips to remote places, instructional trips, cycling, caving, rock climbing, abseiling, canyoning, and liloing.

There is also an active social program and monthly meetings are held. There is a club library and equipment is available for hire at concessional rates for use on club trips. The club has its own S & R structure and also participates, when requested, in Confederation call-outs. Participation on walks is not restricted to members.

We think we are probably the best located club in Australia in terms of ease of access to a wide variety of areas, but we may be biased.

To Save the Green

Out of the dark, our
earth was made
All clothed in blue and green
Twas here God's heavy
head was laid
with the endless time between

And what of time? These
hasty days
with green, so bruised and slain
how long before, our minds
amaze
Our cover of life remain?

O suffering earth, cry out to be!
cry out so loud and clear
give us the will to forever
change
the greed of ourselves, we plea

So life can be her own once
more

It's terrible death delayed:
And all be still, and lovely again
To declare what God has made

Jim Wallace
1/11/1995

**Paddy
pallin new**

**Alpsport same as last
time but phone
numbers have to
have '9' in front**