

# THE Bushwalker



Magazine of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc  
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## The Loved to Death Syndrome Part 1 - Wilson's Promontory

**The southern most feature on the Australian mainland was set aside as one of Victoria's first National Parks in 1908.**

This was a spectacular achievement, protecting nearly 50,000 hectares and 130 km of coastline in a largely undisturbed state.

*by John Macris  
Confederation's Conservation Officer*

downgrading of the lighthouse road to a walking track.

Instead people were shocked to find recommendations for built accommodation within the park.

The plan proposes that a 150 bed 3-4 star licensed lodge be built at



*Wilson's Promontory National Park photo courtesy of Webster's Multimedia*

Wilson's Promontory is now extremely popular with walkers including many from New South Wales, where, with rare exception, the experience of solitude and genuine remoteness is hard to find along our coast. In recent years overnight walking in the park has been under a permit system so as to keep numbers to acceptable levels for the areas natural integrity to be maintained.

The draft of a new plan of management for the Park was hoped by those who enjoy the Prom as it is, to recommend conservation priority and the official

Tidal River and a 45 bed serviced lodge and four huts for the use of commercial operations be built in remote areas of the park. The lighthouse track issue was left open with possibilities including track extension and greater use by management vehicles.

A very strong public response has been generated, with the Victorian National Parks Association spearheading action against the plan. Confederation has written to Victoria's Minister for Conservation Marie Tehan adding our voice to the strong opposition to development on Wilson's Promontory.

## Warragamba Dam - The Latest Chapter.

A new safety upgrade proposal for Warragamba Dam has been on public display since November. This proposal is for a new side spillway to be built so as to make the dam 100% structurally secure in the largest probable flood. Unlike the previous proposal to raise the wall of the dam by 23 metres, this structure will not allow the temporary or permanent storage of water above the current full storage level and thus poses no threat to upstream wilderness areas and wild rivers like the Kowmung.

The former Dam raising Environmental Impact Assessment was made available to interested groups after the abandonment of the proposal. Within its numerous volumes (some would say well concealed) was a cost to benefit analysis that forecast a massive expansion of housing on the floodplain once mitigation was available. This is along a river system already in a poor state of health from urban pressures. In contrast, the new project and accompanying floodplain management strategy will help to spare the floodplain from further development.

Although it might not be normal practice for bushwalkers to be making supporting submissions to a major capital works project, in this case we know what the alternative was and submissions are now very important to see the spillway commenced. The dam raising has thankfully been rejected by the current State Government in favour of this option and if construction can proceed within the year then the aims of the anti raise the dam campaign will have been finally achieved in full.

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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 Inc represents approximately 62 clubs with a total membership around 7500 bushwalkers. Formed in 1932, the 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. Or web site <http://www.fastlink.com.au/subscrib/bushwalking/index.html>

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# One flash and he's gone!

It is too early to say signs look hopeful. But they don't look bad either. From what I've heard so far, I feel optimistic that access to places currently 'off limits' may be permitted in future.

## Return of lost sheep

I have had a couple of conversations recently with the President of the Catholic Bushwalking

standards, it should be this Confederation and not any professional body. We expressed our extreme displeasure at having the pastime of bushwalking described as part of the 'outdoor recreation industry.'

## Draft Code of Ethics

A revised Code of Ethics is included in this issue of The Bushwalker. Please let me have

## A few fast words from the President

Here's a quick report, written hastily before I dash off for my annual sojourn in the Tasmanian wilderness.

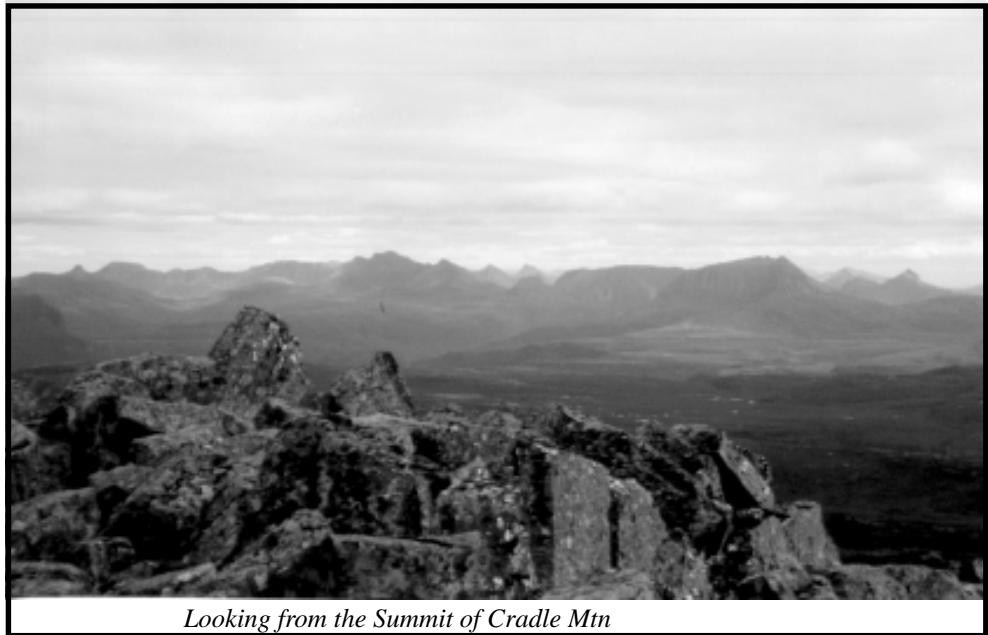
### Blanket consents

There has been no further word from the NPWS on the 'blanket consent' shemozzle reported in previous issues of The Bushwalker. I hope this is because the Service has found a way to change the offending regulations.

### Access to prohibited catchments

I have been to several meetings at Sydney Water Corporation on the subject of access to lands now jointly controlled by Sydney Water and the NPWS. Sydney Water is going to great lengths to ensure all interested parties have a chance to put their cases.

A series of seminars involving various stake-holders (including bushwalkers) will be held early this year. Confederation will be involved and I aim to ensure that our arguments for improved access are strongly presented. I will report in more detail as events unfold. At this stage it is all talk and no action.



Looking from the Summit of Cradle Mtn

**We expressed our extreme displeasure at having the pastime of bushwalking described as part of the 'outdoor recreation industry.'**

Club. There are signs that this club, once a strong supporter of Confederation, is considering re-joining. I'm sure many members would be pleased to see this long-established Sydney club back in the fold.

### ORCA

Confederation continues to keep a wary eye on the introduction of standards for outdoor professionals. Recently, we learnt that our involvement had been misrepresented and had to ask that Confederation not be shown as an official supporter of these proposals.

We are firmly of the belief that if any organisation is going to specify bushwalking leadership

your comments, suggestions, amendments as soon as possible. The final draft will be presented for consideration soon, possibly at the next general meeting in February.

I'll catch up in the next issue with anything I've forgotten to mention. In the meantime, don't forget: communication is a two-way flow. The management committee needs your input. With phone, fax or E-mail, it's never been easier to contact the key office bearers. So let's have your comments, suggestions, recommendations.

### Happy New Year and Good Walking in 1967

## The Naming of Singajingawel Creek Mt Solitary

### Singajingawel

By Dorothy Lawry

Published in 'The

**Bushwalker' 1939** (Sydney Bush Walkers, The H.H. Club)

**Apparently it is high time that the origin of this name was recorded.**

Recently the founder of one of the younger walking clubs said to me: "I think 'Singajingawel' is the most musical and pleasing of all the aboriginal place-names I have heard; don't you?"

"Sorry," I replied, "but it is not aboriginal. It is a corruption of 'Sing-a-jingle-well.' and it was so named by my friends, the Taylors, in October, 1930."

This is the story of the naming:

In October, 1927, Evan Taylor, his wife, Dorothea, and I set out to try to clamber on to, and over, Mt. Solitary, Dorothea and I

just took a light lunch and explored up the "Knife-edge" and along the top of the mountain, finding water in two creeks before we turned

back to camp We all returned to Katoomba across the Jamieson Valley.

**Continued on page 8**



*View from Mt Solitary looking south*

Patagonia same as last time

# Philosophical Bushwalking Course

by Roger Lainson, Yarrawood Bushwalking Club.

## A what?? What is this person raving about?

Let me explain. To my mind, bushwalking as a social event makes a most interesting contrast with normal suburban social life. Most of us spend most of our time being competitive and dependent. We compete all the time - for road space, for jobs, for educational places, for desirable partners, for business, for social prestige ... the list goes on and on. At the same time, we depend on a host of other people - to provide us with food in the shops, to provide heating and lighting, transport, mail, and so on. Very few of us actually produce any of life necessities, and none of us produce all of life necessities.

A friendly bushwalking group has quite the opposite emphasis. Walkers are self-reliant, even if just for the weekend. They take pride in carrying all their weekend requirements in a manageable pack, and many get quite a kick out of this feeling of temporary independence. Members of the group also cooperate, by sharing the scroggin, slowing down for the not-so-fit in the

party, pitching in to collect firewood for all, and generally looking after each other. This change of social emphasis is one reason why bushwalking is a different world.

And the course? Well, the Club to which I belong has for many years run a formal course which is an Introduction to Bushwalking and Camping. We don't give lectures on philosophy, but we do try to teach the practical aspects of bushwalking. There is so much for a beginner to learn ...

## Suitable equipment,

For example. We start by trying to tell people what they really need to go day walking and base

## Introduction to Bushwalking and Camping.

camping: suitable clothes, how to choose a sleeping bag, what sort of

tent to borrow and how to put it up, what a daypack looks like and what to put in it. We tell them what they don't need to buy. We try to help them sort out what they need as individuals. We don't tell them the philosophy (at least, I can't remember a leader actually raving on like this) but we try to show people how to be self-reliant as well as comfortable and safe.

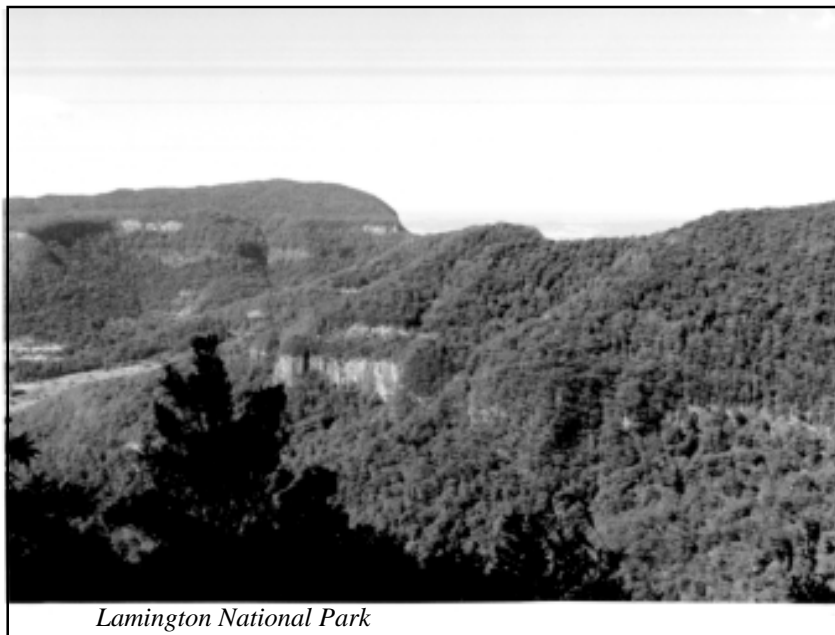
The course also devotes a lot of time to map reading and compass work. Our Club (like every

other, I suppose) has unwritten but quite clearly recognised ethics about map reading. These are that it is quite OK for all walkers in the group to actively discuss where we are and where we are going - in fact most leaders positively encourage this. So most walkers bring their own map and compass, and enhance their enjoyment of the scenery by keeping track of progress. Independence, you see. At the same time it is recognised that after all the argu ... er, discussion, it is the leader's responsibility to make the final decision about the route for the good of the whole party. Independence - and cooperation.

Fortunately, bushwalking isn't just about philosophy. It's about walking, and great scenery. It's about simple satisfying meals, and sitting around the campfire. It's about moderate exercise, and good companionship. Oh, blow the philosophy - let's go for a walk!

**For details of Yarrawood and its course, see the ad on page nine or contact the Secretary, Yarrawood Bushwalking Club Inc, PO Box 113, Bexley North, NSW 2207.**

## REMEMBER!



Lamington National Park

**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

# SKILLS & TRAINING: WHAT IS THE FUTURE?

Andy Macqueen  
Training Officer

**These days there are many issues troubling bushwalkers:** legal liability and the possibility of being sued; the need to make less impact in the bush; regulation by land managers; and the rise of commercial guiding - to name a few. If we in the clubs do not all behave responsibly, we may one day face compulsory training and accreditation schemes. We might even see the demise of club-based walking.

The key to responsible behaviour is education. That doesn't mean we all need to do a diploma of bushwalking, but we do need to be skilled - not only in traditional things like map and compass, but also in the latest ideas on party management and minimal impact.

Last year a survey was sent to all clubs, including the individual branches of NPA. The purpose was to find out what training is going on, and to ask how Confederation might become more involved.

**The response was fantastic.** Forty-four clubs responded, including 38 affiliated clubs (two-thirds of those surveyed) and 6 individual NPA branches. Both city and country clubs were well-represented. Many clubs mentioned that the very exercise of completing it had been valuable. Following is a summary of the findings of the survey.

## Historic incidents

The first question in the sur-

vey was to probe the 'safety record' of clubs. And it appears from the response that we have an excellent record: though there were reportedly some 34 searches/rescues and one death in the last ten years, most of these (including the death) related to genuine accident, weather problems, etc. Only four incidents might have been attributable to leadership shortcomings.

Even if the number of incidents for all Confederation clubs was 60 (one per two months on average), this is small given the huge number of walks which clubs run - there are hundreds of club walkers out each weekend - and the high frequency of rescues going on in the bush generally. The number of potentially 'negligent' incidents appears almost insignificant.

The incidents should also be seen in the context of the thousands of person-days put in by bushwalkers during the same ten year period, through the Wilderness Rescue service.

## Current training methods

The survey found that most clubs do not offer formal training for their members, though many provide informal instruction during activities. Many indicated that they needed to upgrade their training.

Some clubs do address training needs. Some hold in-house training sessions on various topics and skills, and others issue mem-

bers with an instructional handout or guidebook. A quarter of the clubs take advantage of Confederation's First Aid courses. Some clubs have a person responsible for training, and one club has a whole committee which runs a 3-stage bushwalking course.

Consistent with the informal training approach, no club responding had formal requirements for skill levels for new members - except one which requires new members to do a First Aid course.

A few clubs have mechanisms for making an assessment of the suitability of prospectives before they qualify for membership. This usually means that prospectives have to satisfactorily complete two or three walks. Some respondents pointed out that responsible leaders should screen aspirants according to the demands of the particular walk.

## Leader competencies

One club indicated that its walk leaders have to hold First Aid qualifications. That was the only instance reported where walk leaders had to meet a qualification criterion. (Another club stated that abseil leaders must pass an abseiling course, though as this activity was not specifically canvassed there may be other clubs in this category.)

A third of clubs indicated that the suitability of their leaders is judged informally during the programming process. Some rely on casual peer-observation of prospective leaders in the field, and in some cases new leaders are actually tested in the field by observation by a more experienced leader.

Two clubs mentioned that they encourage walk leaders to undergo First Aid training by offering 50% subsidy of costs.

Some clubs admitted that they 'took all comers' as walk leaders, and the only control likely to be exercised was reactionary - in response to adverse reports by par-



Looking south along the Coast track

ticipants. Another said the question of leader competencies was not relevant, claiming that its trips are led not by individuals but by consensus among experienced members.

**What might Confederation do?**

Almost all of the respondents expressed interest in some form of training by Confederation. The most popular suggestions may be summarised as follows:

1. There is very strong demand for regular articles on skills in The Bushwalker.
2. There is very strong demand for a model 'Operations Manual' for clubs, identifying common practices and standards for bushwalking.
3. There is strong demand from non-country clubs (defined as clubs in the Sydney-Wollongong-

Blue Mountains-Newcastle area) for centralised weekend courses, particularly in First Aid (Senior and Remote), navigation, leadership, and emergencies. (There was strong endorsement of the courses which Dave Shepherd and others have been running.)

4. There is demand from country clubs for training packages for in-house use.

5. There is demand from non-country clubs for a directory listing volunteer and professional trainers, training organisations, texts and other resources.

**We might even see the demise of club-based walking.**

**Practicalities**

It is all very well saying what Confederation should do, but without the people and enthusiasm to do it we are wasting our time. Nearly half the respondents pro-

vided names of people in their club (35 people in all) who reportedly have appropriate skills and a willingness to be involved in Confederation programs, mostly on a voluntary basis. Other clubs claimed to have suitable people but did not identify them.

Almost two thirds of clubs indicated they would be likely to accept a scheme wherein Confederation trainers were paid for their services, and clubs or trainees were charged for the training service on a non-profit basis. (The remaining respondents were split between those who were opposed and those who had no view.) There is, at the moment no push for Confederation to move to 'professional' training, but it is an aspect which may one day have to be addressed.

**Where to from here?**

It seems we could do more to help meet the training needs of clubs. But we still need to decide exactly what, who and how.

**There will be a one-day workshop on Saturday 12 April,** to come up with a strategy for future training by Confederation. It will also be an opportunity to hear about the latest developments in ORCA, and the new national Outdoor Recreation Competency Standards. Any member of a Confederation club with an interest in bushwalker skills and training is encouraged to attend. Further details are in the accompanying advertisement. Details of the training survey results will be available at the workshop.

**TRAINING WORKSHOP**

**'The Future of Training in Confederation'**

*Review of survey results: what do clubs want?*

*What's in the new national competency standards, and what's going on in the rest of the outdoor recreation sector?*

*What is our vision with regard to the standards and training of bushwalkers in clubs?*

*What is Confederation going to do, and how?*

- \* **Saturday 12 April - 11am to 5pm**
- \* **Mitchell Park, Cattai National Park** - turn right (eastwards) off Cattai Road, 6 km from Pitt Town
- \* **Morning & afternoon tea, & BBQ lunch provided**

Any member of a Confederation Club will be welcome.

To register, please contact the convenor,

**Andy Macqueen, at 39 Bee Farm Road Springwood 2777, phone 047-512556.**

It is with sadness that we report the serious illness of Robert Lembit a member of Sydney University Bushwalkers and also a past secretary of 'The Confederation' from 92-94. We wish him well and hope he is back walking very soon

**From Page 4**

**The naming of Singajingawel Creek Mt Solitary**

Our second attempt on Mt. Solitary was made on the Eight-hour Week-end in October, 1930, when Evan's sister, Dorothy R. Taylor accompanied us.

Between these two trips our small group of walkers, "The Wraggle-taggle Gypsies." had scattered to the ends of the earth, literally; the Sydney Bush Walkers had been formed: and I had joined it and had obtained from the club a little songbook which contained many old favorites. On the 1930 trip I took this book, as Dorothy was one of our "Wraggle-taggle" songsters. and she sang to us most of the way along the old tram-track such "jingles" as "Some Folks," "Funiculi Funicula," etc., etc

**The Actual Naming**

We clambered up the Knife-edge, crossed the knob of Mt. Korrowall passed the big cave, proceeded along the top of the mountain, saw-and named—"Squirm

Cliff," and camped in the hidden valley at the eastern end of the mountain. This was a pleasant camp, with more singing, and, when we had to return there for the second night because we could not get down on to Korrowall Buttress, Dorothy decided we must name the camp-site and the valley: she suggested "Sing-a-Jingle-well." which we adopted. On the same day we had named "Point Repulse" above the Buttress, but I do not think that name has become generally known like Singajingawel .

Nowadays bush walkers dash over Mt. Solitary and do the trip from Katoomba to Wentworth Falls, or vice versa, in a short week-end, which seems a pity, for there is a surprising variety of country in the three or four square miles of that mountain-top, and many happy hours can be spent in exploring the various small valleys.

In 1930 and 1931 there were fewer walkers and much less

knowledge of the country available, so, as one who had actually been over Mt. Solitary, I was frequently asked for directions. Naturally, I always mentioned the best camp-site, in the hidden valley of "Sing-a-jingle-well," on the best of the three creeks in which one could be fairly sure of finding water Mrs. Taylor and I certainly were not the first people to get on to Mt. Solitary. There were very faint signs of a track up the Knife-edge in October, 1927. and the first thing we saw when we reached the top was an empty sardine tin! Someone had eaten sardines on a mountain that was reputed to be waterless!!

**Advertise here  
for \$40-00**

Kirra tours same as last time with phone change(9)



# Conservation Report

## The Loved to Death Syndrome Part 2 - Our Own New Policy

by John Macris Confederation's  
Conservation Officer

As the cover article By Brian Walker in the last Bushwalker proclaimed, its time for us true believers to make our voice heard in the increasing number of conflicts over the use

bushwalker support for them is assumed. The proposals for Wilson's Promontory (see article) would be described by some as eco friendly, however they are clearly unacceptable to

many bushwalkers and lovers of wild places. The same concept could one day confront us in the Budawang or southern Blue Mountains and the firmer our policy, the more decisively we could respond.

The core of the policy will be to divide natural areas into three categories: Wilderness, Parklands and modified open space. For each category, ideal walking route standards would be stated eg unmarked, low key pad, cut track with occasional marker, or built path. Other issues to be covered include built structures, vehicle use, no go areas of high sensitivity and areas where visitor numbers require regulation.

Once in draft stage the policy will be circulated to members before going to a general meeting of Confederation for resolution.

For more information contact Conservation Officer John Macris on the number listed under office bearers in this issue.




Hinchinbrook Island National Park - Photo courtesy Webster's Multimedia

of natural areas.

The Conservation and Tracks & Access committees of Confederation have been recently looking over old policies adopted in the late 1970's with a view to adopting a single new policy to replace these. The working title of this policy is Use of Natural Areas and it will supersede policies on walking tracks, wilderness use and huts.

### Why we need one

Some good examples of why having an adopted and up to date policy is of benefit are found by looking interstate. In Tasmania new quota systems and track maintenance standards have been introduced for walk-



## Yarrowood Bushwalking Club

**Introduction to  
Bushwalking & Camping**

Are you interested in Bushwalking  
but not sure how to get started?

Yarrowood Bushwalking Club is pleased to offer an easy-paced introductory course, now in its 17th year. Stage 1 of the course will teach you all about safe and comfortable day-walking and base camping in some beautiful bush areas around Sydney. Optional Stages 2 and 3 of the course progress to overnight backpacking and true wilderness walking.

- experienced instructors
- carefully and progressively graded walks
- learn how to walk and/or camp comfortably and safely
- learn about buying equipment sensibly
- learn how to use a map and compass properly
- meet new friends and enjoy the walks!

PO Box 113 Bexley North NSW 2207 Enquires phone (02)9660-8896

# Have your say on the Proposed Code of Ethics

Confederation President, Brian Walker, has re-written the draft BushwalkiCode of Ethics with extensive input from a number of other experienced walkers including Andy Macqueen and Maurice Smith. Based on the original code which was thought to be a bit too wordy, it will shortly be presented to a general meeting for consideration.

To ensure it truly represents the bushwalking community's beliefs, the draft is reproduced here for comment. If you would like to suggest changes or additions, please contact Brian urgently so your suggestions can be included when the draft is presented for consideration.

You can reach Brian on 9969 8476 (phone), 9960 5772 (fax in business hours) or walka@ozemail.com.au (E-mail).

## THE BUSHWALKERS' CODE (DRAFT)

This code is for everyone who goes walking in the bush. It was prepared by the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW.

### Purpose

**This document defines standards of right behaviour for everyone who seeks to enjoy the wild natural landscape by travelling through it on foot.**

### **Do not disturb**

If you enjoy the pleasures of bushwalking and other related self-reliant outdoors activities, you have a big responsibility to protect and preserve the natural landscape for the enjoyment of future generations. Your goal should always be to leave no sign of your passage. This Code of Ethics lists the essentials for enjoying the bush with minimal impact.

### ■ **Be self reliant**

☞ Enjoy the natural landscape as it is, on nature's terms. Carry with you everything you need for your comfort and safety. Leave nothing behind.

☞ For accommodation carry a tent or fly, or use a cave or rock overhang. Don't use huts except when conditions are really bad.

### ■ **Tread softly**

☞ Keep walking parties small in number; four to six people is ideal.

☞ Avoid frequently visited areas at the busiest times of the year.

☞ Use existing tracks; don't create new ones. In trackless country, spread your party out; don't walk in one another's footsteps. Avoid easily damaged places such as peat bogs, cushion moss, swamps and fragile rock formations.

☞ Wade along submerged tracks; don't create a

skein of new tracks around waterlogged sections.

☞ Except in really rugged terrain, wear lightweight walking shoes or joggers with non-skid soles rather than heavy boots.

☞ Become proficient at bush navigation. Don't build cairns, place tags and other markers, break off living branches or tie knots in clumps of grass to mark your route. If you have to do any of these things, you are lacking in bush navigation skills.

### ■ **Watch your safety**

☞ Know what to do in emergencies. Rescue operations often cause serious damage so take care to avoid the need for rescue.

☞ Acquire knowledge of First Aid so you know how to handle illness and injuries.

☞ Carry clothing and equipment to suit the worst possible conditions you are likely to encounter.

☞ Pack it in, pack it out

☞ Don't carry glass bottles, cans, drink-cartons lined with aluminium foil and excess packaging. If you simply can't resist carrying such things, don't leave them in the bush. Remember, if you can carry a full container in, it's no trouble to carry the empty one out.

☞ Remove **all** your rubbish including food scraps, paper, plastic, aluminium foil and empty containers. Don't burn or bury rubbish. Burning creates pollution and buried rubbish will be dug up and scattered by animals. Digging also disturbs the soil, causing erosion and encouraging weeds.

☞ Carry a plastic bag for your rubbish. If you find litter left by irresponsible people along the track or around a campsite, please remove it. Show you care, even if others don't.

### *Always remember—*

☞ Aluminium foil doesn't burn and plastics release toxic gases when burnt. Carry them out in your pack with all your other rubbish, including food scraps. Don't use your campfire as a rubbish incinerator.

### ■ **Take care with hygiene**

☞ Don't go to the toilet within 50 metres of campsites, streams and lakes, or in sensitive areas such as caves and canyons.

☞ Bury all faeces and toilet paper at least 15cm deep. In snow, dig through the snow first, then dig a hole in the ground.

☞ Things that won't easily decompose, such as used tampons, sanitary pads and condoms, should be carried out.

☞ Carry a lightweight plastic trowel to make digging easier.

## ■ Keep water pure

☞ Wash well back from the edge of lakes and streams so waste water falls on soil where it will be absorbed.

☞ Don't let soap, detergent or toothpaste get into natural water systems as they harm water life. Similarly, when washing cooking utensils, don't use detergent and don't let oils and food scraps get into streams or lakes.

☞ Always swim downstream from where you draw drinking water.

☞ Be **VERY** careful with fire

☞ Don't have a fire unless you are absolutely certain you can light it with safety. Instead of a fire, use a stove for cooking and thermal clothing for warmth.

☞ Fuel stoves are preferable to fires for cooking in places where even a tiny fire may cause permanent damage. These include some rainforests and all alpine regions.

☞ Don't light fires in hot, summer conditions and in dry windy weather.

☞ Don't light fires in declared 'fuel stove only' areas and when there is a declared fire ban..

### *If you must light a campfire, follow these rules:*

☞ In popular campsites, light your fire on a bare patch left by previous fires. Don't light it on fresh ground.

☞ Light your fire on bare soil or sand, well away from stumps, logs, living plants and river stones (which may explode when heated).

☞ Definitely **don't** build a ring of stones as a fireplace. This is unnecessary and unsightly. Destroy stone rings wherever you find them.

☞ Sweep away all leaves, grass and other inflammable material for at least two metres around your fireplace. (Major bushfires have been caused by careless campers who didn't take this precaution.)

☞ Burn only dead wood that's fallen to the ground. Don't break limbs from trees or shrubs.

☞ Keep your fire small—remember, the bigger the fool, the bigger the fire.

### *Before you leave—*

☞ Douse your fire thoroughly with water, even if it appears to be already out. Don't try to smother a fire by covering it with soil or sand as the coals will continue to smoulder for days. Only water puts a fire out with certainty.

☞ Feel the ground under the coals. If it is too hot to touch, the fire is not out. Douse it some more.

☞ Scatter the cold charcoal and ashes well clear of your campsite then rake soil and leaves over the spot where your fire was. You should aim to remove all trace of it.

☞ Choose campsites carefully

☞ Think twice about using a popular campsite to avoid overuse. When possible, find an alternative site.

☞ Don't clear vegetation to make a campsite and don't dig drains around tents for rainwater runoff.

☞ If you have to remove branches or rocks, replace whatever you move before you leave.

☞ Leave your campsite pristine. After a few days it should be impossible to see where you were camped.

## ■ Protect plants and animals

☞ Try not to disturb native wildlife. Remember, you are the trespasser.

☞ Give snakes a wide berth and leave them alone. They have more right to be there than you do.

☞ Watch where you put your feet. Walk around delicate plants.

☞ Don't feed birds and animals around campsites or they may become pests. Unnatural food is harmful for many species.

## ■ Respect Aboriginal heritage

☞ Many places have spiritual or cultural significance for Aborigines. Treat such places with consideration and respect.

☞ Obtain permission from traditional landowners or the relevant land manager to visit sensitive areas.

☞ Leave Aboriginal relics as you find them. Don't touch paintings or rock engravings.

## ■ Be courteous

☞ Man-made noise is out of place in the bush. The sound of radios, CD players, mobile phones and similar devices is not in keeping with the natural environment. Leave the electronics at home.

☞ Ensure your behaviour and activities don't offend others.

☞ Camp as far away from other groups as conditions allow. Don't use another group's campfire without permission.

☞ Leave gates and slip rails as you find them. When you open a gate, make sure the last person through knows it has to be closed.

☞ Respect the rights of landholders and land managers. Don't enter private property without permission. In national parks, abide by plans of management and encourage others to do so too.

### *When in camp—*

☞ Do your share of collecting firewood, getting water and cleaning up the campsite before you leave.

☞ Don't throw rubbish on a fire where people are cooking. (In fact, don't throw rubbish on a fire at all, carry it out with you.)

☞ Don't step over other people's uncovered food.

**Minimal Impact Bushwalking = do nothing, leave nothing that shows where you have been.**

## Sydney YMCA A proud tradition in bushwalking

A Ramblers Club as a part of the Sydney YMCA was formed in the 1920's and operated for some years. It organised camping trips and weekend walks. This would have made it one of the first bushwalking clubs in NSW but it ceased activities after a number of years. A Ramblers club was active within the Melbourne YMCA and the Sydney YWCA had a walking club which was active in the 1930's.

Credit for the formation of the YMCA Ramblers mostly due to Harry Black. He had been a keen hiker as a youth but was introduced to "real" bushwalking in 1936. He was friendly with Bruce Symonds who was also a member of the YMCA. On most week-ends they went away bushwalking. They walked in various areas but mostly in the Blue Mountains. An initial attempt to interest three other members in forming a club was unsuccessful so they continued walking as a group of two. In time, other members of the YMCA joined them on walks and the club slowly built up. Then in 1938, the club was formed.

To join any of its clubs, a youth had first had to join the YMCA itself. Some of the clubs mentioned in its magazine "Youth" were the Vikings Club, the YY (containing members of both the YMCA and the YWCA), the Spartan Club (a devotional club), the Dramatic Club and the Invincibles. Older members could join the Y's Men club.

Girls could not join the YMCA but joined the YWCA instead. For the first year or two, the club was entirely male. Then some of the members' sisters asked to be included in its activities and a "Ladies Auxiliary" was formed.

War was declared in 1939 and a number of Ramblers joined the armed services. They mostly kept in touch by writing to the

*L.G.(Jack) Clark  
Brisbane Water Outdoors Club*

club and when in Australia on leave, some joined the club on its walks. Two of the Ramblers were killed during the War.

I joined the Club in 1942 but for the first few years only did occasional walks since I was doing a part time course at the Sydney Technical College. Participating in its activities was a major interest in my life. I described bushwalking in those days in an article "Bushwalking in the 1940's".

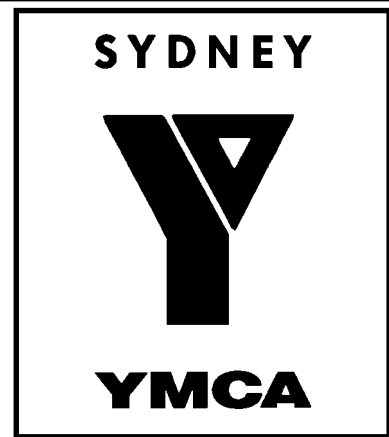
Lightweight gear for bushwalkers was sold by Paddy Pallin and we found it indispensable. Initially we hired some of our gear but we soon saved up and purchased our own equipment.

Few members in those days had cars and we mostly travelled to Katoomba by train for the start of a walk. Having made a round trip, we returned to the same station. At other times, we finished our walk at a nearby station such as Blackheath, or Wentworth Falls.

Some of the areas that we favoured for our walks were the Wild Dog mountains, Mt. Cloudmaker, Kanangra Tops, the Coxs river, Breakfast Creek, Mount Solitary, Blue Gum Forest, Kangaroo Valley via the Barren Lands and Woodhill. We came up from Megalong Valley either through the Devil's Hole or up Taro's Ladders at the end of Narrow Neck. There was no fire trail along Narrow Neck in those days, just a track that seemed interminable. At times we would stop and look back at Mt. Solitary and the distant mountains.

A satisfying walk of two or three days was from Central Burratorang Valley to Kedumba Creek then up the steep Kedumba Pass to Kings Tableland and on to Wentworth Falls. I did this walk with a friend a year after I joined the Ramblers.

In the warmer months we



camped instead of walking. Some of our camping weekends were spent at Era, Bouddi, Nortons Basin and Boatharbour, near Gosford. A favourite spot for some of us was Burratorang Valley. This was long before they flooded the valley.

We camped one Christmas at McArthur's Flat on the Nattai River. In those days trains ran on the loop line past Hilltop and Aylmerton. We started at the latter station and returned along Starlight's Track to Hilltop, past deserted farm houses and over rolling hills. That year, there was a plague of flies which were so numerous that they formed a dark mass on the back of our rucksacks.

The Federation of Bushwalking Clubs was formed in 1932. Soon after its formation, the Ramblers affiliated with it, and became a keen supporter of its aims. Its members took part in its training weekends and went on a number of emergency searches organised by the Federation.

When I dropped out of the Ramblers in 1949, few of the persons with whom I had walked were still active with the club. By the early 1950's membership of the club had fallen drastically. Bruce Symonds was persuaded to take on the role of President with Gordon Hunter as Secretary. Under their combined efforts the club was soon thriving again, with a later generation of members

**Continued on page 15**

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*A group of high fliers from Sydney Bush Walkers club*

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**From page 13 Sydney Y.M.C.A. A proud tradition in bushwalking**

Harry Black continued bushwalking and outdoor activities over the years. In 1948 he was transferred to the YMCA in Canberra and organised a number of outdoor groups. In 1951 he founded the Canberra YMCA Ski Club and in the early 1960's was one of the founders of the Canberra Bushwalking Club. He led thirteen treks in the Himalayas and in 1957 and 1960 led ANARE expeditions to Antarctica.

Married life imposed its priorities on the earlier members and few of them were available for two day walks. However, a group of married Ramblers formed a group called the "XY's Club" consisting of some ex-Ramblers and their families. They organised day walks and other activities. Ross Webb formed a club within the YMCA called "The Hobnail Club" which encouraged young people to

take up bushwalking.

In 1984 I joined the Brisbane Water Outdoors Club and resumed bushwalking after a break of 35 years. I did more walks in 1986 than at any previous time in my life. I was doing fewer walks in 1991 and starting to find that the hills were becoming steeper. I now mostly do one day walks.

The history of most clubs is that they thrive for a while under the enthusiasm of the original members. There is usually a constant change in membership as older members drop out and newcomers join the club. If membership falls too low, the members may decide to disband the club. Then, some years later, a new club with similar aims may start again within the same organisation.

This was the case with the YMCA Ramblers. In October

1982 there was a major fire in the YMCA building in Pitt Street and the building was abandoned. Since facilities in the building were no longer available, some of clubs active at that time ceased to function. However, a new club called the Sydney YMCA Bushwalking Club was formed in 1993 and met in the Sydney YMCA. Membership in this club also dwindled and it ceased to function.

**DATES FOR 1997**

- 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

**Outdoor life one adds of two mountain equip**

## Blue Mountains Canyons Nomenclature and History

### Water Dragon Canyon -

named by a Catholic Bushwalking Club party (Martin Doyle, Peter Demspey, Mick Gorman and Anthony Gwyther) that visited the canyon (6 Feb 83). Named "Waterdragon" by the party "because there was a Waterdragon lizard sunning itself at the top of the abseil which had given us such a memorable day" (The Waysider No 178 Mar/Apr 1983). (Wrongly named as "Crayfish" canyon by David Noble in early Wild magazine canyon guides. Corrected in his October 93 "Blue Mountains Canyons" booklet published as an insert to Wild 50 - Oct 93)

### Why Don't we Do It On The

**Road** - named by Tony Norman after (probable) first descent. Named after a song on the Beatles "White Album". "Norm" is a very keen Beatles fan.

**Clatterteeth** - first visited by a SBW party in 1964, leader - Ross Wyborn. (The Sydney Bushwalkers - the first 60 years)

David Noble Sydney

University Bushwalkers

### Whungee Wheengee Canyon -

named by an SUBW party (B Phillips, A Norman, A Long (and others ?) - mid 80's) who were most likely the first party to visit all the canyon. The canyon was so named to be deliberately confusing with Wheengee Whungee Creek near Kanangra Walls.

**Arthurs Canyon** - named by a Springwood Bushwalking Club party (Tom Williams, Dave Noble, Gordon Thompson, Adrian Stanborough and others), Easter 1976 on a Wollangambe Wilderness traverse. Named after the nearby complex pagoda ridge - which had been referred to by C Cosgrove and D Noble as "the Western Arthurs of the Northern Blue Mts"

### Hole in The Wall Canyon -

named by Bob Sault and Tony Norman (SUBW) after noticing the sudden emergence of this canyon into Bungleboori Ck - north branch.

### Four Dope Canyon.(SUBW)

also known as "Birthday Suit Bertie Canyon" after Bob Sault's attire (or lack of it) during part of the canyon. (Doug Wheen: "Birthday Suit Bertie canyon has a certain ring to it") Named after a plantation discovered by the party at "Pot Hill" - the terminus of the Waratah Ridge road. Bob sault writes "The "Dope" in Four Dope Creek was as much to do with people being silly enough to go canyoning on a cold, rainy, unpleasant day. Doug drove that day, and was in the usual hurry to get back to Sydney for church." The first party down in October 1982 consisted of Bob Sault, Ian Wilson, Tony Norman and Doug Wheen (SUBW).(VS&M No 2 - 1983)

*Continued in another 'Bushwalker'*

## Eco tours same



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### Found

Photography gear in a small khaki pouch, found at Cedar Creek June 8th 1996 (sorry about the delay - been OS)

To claim, contact Glen Horrocks Three Peaks Bushwalking Club on (02) 9869-8524

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