

# THE Bushwalker

Magazine of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc

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<http://www.bushwalking.org.au>



## BUSHWALKERS WIN PRESTIGIOUS NAVIGATION EVENT

Keith Maxwell Director  
Wilderness Rescue

A six man team from Sutherland Bushwalking club won this years Nav. Shield event with a score of 900 points (more results, see page 5).

The 10th Nav. Shield (The NSW Emergency Services Navigation Shield) was held near Nerriga in the Northern Budawang / Ettrema region on June 27th/28th, 1998. This truly rugged, wild country is inland from Nowra and represented a return to our beginnings. The try out and first Nav. Shield were both held to the west of Nerriga.

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue (BWR) is the Search and Rescue Section of the NSW Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs Inc. BWR as a member squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc. (VRA) runs the Nav. Shield to showcase its ability and provide navigation training to Emergency Services personnel.

This event is the premier navigation training event for Emergency Services in Australia and is recognised by the NSW State Rescue Board who sponsor the winning and class shields. It is set in typical country for bush search and rescue. Emergency Services personnel from all over Australia participate as teams in either a ONE day or TWO day event.

Throughout the bush course there is a randomly distributed pattern of checkpoints; far more than anyone could possibly get to. A checkpoint is an orange and white flag with a clicker punch, set at a specified Grid Reference. Checkpoints have a points value according to how far away and how difficult they are to find. The aim for teams is to devise a route that moves across country to gain the maximum possible number of points without being late. Truly a test of bushwalking skill.

For safety all teams must pass by one radio checkpoint per day. These radio checkpoints were manned by BWR personnel with communications assistance from radio amateurs of WICEN

*Continued on page 16*



*The Winning Team from Sutherland Bushwalking Club*

## BLUE MOUNTAINS FOR WORLD HERITAGE ?

John Macris Conservation  
Officer

### SOME ENTHUSIASM WARRANTED

After several years of strong advocacy and numerous studies, the State and Federal Governments have at last submitted a nomination for world heritage listing of the Blue Mountains. If this nomination is successful, over one million hectares would be inducted into this rather exclusive club which

presently includes the Great Barrier Reef, the Australian wet tropics rainforests and Tasmania's south west. Listing as a World Heritage Area places responsibilities on the Federal Government, who are signatories to an International treaty, to protect the identified values from degradation. This was the way in which the Franklin dam was stopped by the Commonwealth in 1983, although more recently Governments have backed away from taking hard decisions about protecting such areas, eg Hinchinbrook Channel. The nomination extends from the Southern Highlands to the Hunter Valley, incorporating Thirlmere Lakes, Nattai, Kanangra Boyd, Blue Mountains, Wollemi, Yengo and Gardens of Stone National Parks along with the Jenolan Caves reserve. This is fairly similar in extent to the area proposed in the 1989 report by Dr Geoff Mosely commissioned by the Colong Foundation.

Since that report, further studies had in fact identified a much larger area with potential World Heritage values, including the metropolitan water catchment areas and Morton and Goulburn River National Parks. These areas, along with just about any place with coal or other mineral potential have not been nominated by the Governments. This means for instance that the impressive eastern Burratorang Walls have missed out, as has the remarkable pagoda country of Mt Airley.

Minor disappointments having been aired, the values which are hoped to weigh in favour of this nomination include the area's great diversity of eucalypt vegetation, the fossil record showing 430 million years of plant history, the Jurassic remnant

*Continued on page 18*

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS THE BUSHWALKER

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**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 70 clubs with a total membership of around 10,000 bushwalkers. Formed in 1932, the Confederation provides a united voice on conservation and other issues, runs training courses for members, and provides a free wilderness search and rescue service for the public. People interested in joining a bushwalking club are invited to write to the Secretary, Bushwalkers NSW at the above address for information on clubs in their area. Or web site <http://www.bushwalking.org.au>

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

Bushwalkers win Prestigious Navigation Event.....	1
Blue Mountains for World Heritage?.....	1
Redressing Misconceptions.....	3
What You Can do to Prevent Road Kill.....	3
Walk Your Way Around NSW with YHA.....	4
Legal Officer Sought.....	4
Bush and Wilderness Safety.....	5
Why Should I Join a Club?.....	6
Confederation's Draft Policy on Natural Areas.....	7
New Records for Peter Treseder.....	8
The Rhyme of and Ernest Tramer.....	10
These "Boots" were made for Walking.....	11
Insurance News.....	12
Philosophy of Bushwalking.....	13
10th Annual Emergency Services NavShield.....	16
Letters to Editor.....	17
First-Aid Training.....	17
Search and Rescue Training Weekend.....	17
Along the Track (Tasmanian Permit System).....	18
Minimul Impact Party Sizes.....	18

## REDRESSING MISCONCEPTIONS

*A reply to Clio, by Andy Macqueen*

Who is this 'Clio' who anonymously accuses me of pedantry [Addressing Misconceptions, The Bushwalker, May 1998]? We can't escape the fact that Confederation was first born in 1932, under the name 'The Federation of Bush Walking Clubs of New South Wales'. The Coast and Mountain Walkers was not around then: it was formally admitted to the Federation on 26 July 1934, two years after the initial nine clubs. (Before some CMW member chucks a Volley through my front window, I hasten to say I've got no axe to grind here. The club I belong to wasn't formed till 1967.)

At the Federation's meeting of 27 November 1936 (not September) the original constitution was replaced with the new one which Clio mentions. The relevant motion was passed in amongst routine business items. There was no fanfare, no commencement of a new

the list of founding clubs of 1932 doesn't count because the name and constitution were altered in 1936, then by implication the 1936 list has no relevance either, for the organisation's name and rules changed again in 1991 when The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Incorporated was formed. On that basis CMW would indeed be a foundation member-along with dozens of other clubs in 1991.

In the rest of Clio's article, he or she entirely misses the point made by both Colin Gibson and myself. Neither of us has suggested that the Federation had a role in the saving of Blue Gum Forest. We say that the success of the forest episode was a major factor in drawing the clubs together in the first place. The bushwalkers could see what could be achieved by having a united voice. When in September 1932 Federation's secretary Harold Chardon wrote to the Sunday Sun

advertising the new organisation, he chose to cite the example of Blue Gum Forest as the example of what could be done.

The New South Wales Federation of Bush Walking Clubs [note how the 'NSW' had already crept in front of the title] has been founded by the bush walking clubs ... with

a view to the protection and promotion of mutual aims and interests, to protect flora and fauna, to provide a clearing house for information as to the various routes and centres of interest and scenic beauty, to protect and develop recognised walking areas, and, most important of all, to keep our bush scenery in their naturally lovely condition. Some such action as this was forecast some time ago by the movement that, aided by some valued personal generosity, eventually resulted in the purchase of the Blue Gum Forest, this region now being saved to perpetuity as a walkers, and campers paradise. [The full text of this letter is in



Photo by Bruce Salton.

Block donated by Coast and Mountain Walkers.

A CAMP IN THE BLUE GUM FOREST.

meeting, or even a new page in the minutes. The new constitution introduced an earth-shattering change of name: the 'New South Wales' was brought to the front of the title.

That the new constitution listed the CMW as one of the 'first' (but not 'founding') members must be seen in the context of that new constitution, not in the broader context of the entity's history. Numerous published articles over the ensuing years always talked about Federation starting in 1932 and never even mentioned the 1936 changes or the 1936 list of 'first' clubs.

If we take Clio's pedantic line that

The Bushwalker Vol 21 No 3, Autumn 1996]

For many years the Federation maintained close co-operation with the trustees of Blue Gum Forest, some of whom, such as Joe Turner and Dorothy Lawry, were active in both organisations. At various stages Federation endeavoured to have adjoining areas added to the reserve. **You can read all about it in 'Back from the Brink'.**

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT A ROAD KILL

Slow down when driving at dawn and dusk as many animals are most active at this time.

If you hit an animal or find one injured, keep it warm, dark and quiet. Call WIRES on 1800 641 188 or take it to your nearest vet (they usually treat native wildlife free of charge). Remove any carcasses well away from the roadside. Native scavengers such as the Wedge-tailed Eagle won't leave their food until the last minute and with a wing span of up to 2.8 metres it can take them a few minutes to escape. In this instance, one road kill victim can cause a second death.

Check the pouches of animals as there may be young inside. If there is a baby inside, leave them in the pouch and place the mother's body in a cardboard box. If the young are out of the pouch, or if the mother's body cannot be transported, wrap the animal snugly in a soft, warm cloth. Placing the animal under your shirt is the best way to do this.

PLEASE DO NOT try to feed native, injured animals. Animals in shock are not interested in food and incorrect feeding can be detrimental to their health. For example, cows milk can be harmful to marsupials.

### Sydney's Black Spots

In a recent survey conducted by WIRES volunteers and compiled by Professor Des Cooper of Macquarie University, 14 roads were monitored over a six week period in Spring 1997. A total of 381 dead animals were found on 199 kilometres of road. 87% of these were native species.

Wakehurst Parkway and Mona Vale Rd are two of the worst known roads in Sydney for road kills.

# “WALK YOUR WAY ROUND NSW” WITH YHA

**YHA has over 30 hostels dotted throughout NSW.** Many are conveniently located in or near some of the state's most beautiful National Parks. Next time you plan an excursion to the wilderness call YHA for your accommodation. Here's a few ideas for your next wander.

After a day tramping a myriad of tracks which crisscross the Blue Mountains, “Blue Mountains - Katoomba YHA” offers a warm, friendly atmosphere. Situated minutes from both the town centre and the Three Sisters, this hostel is ideally suited for groups. For \$15 per person per night, your group can rest their weary legs in front of a crackling fire, cuddle up with a book in the reading room, or play pool in the games room.

For those who want to get away from it all, “Garie Beach YHA” is located in the Royal National Park. Your group can wake up to the sounds of waves crashing on nearby Garie Beach, only 50 metres away. This cosy 12 bed hostel is situated half way along the Coastal Track.

“Scone YHA” is close to Barrington

Tops National Park. This World Heritage-listed National Park allows the walker to experience areas of sub-tropical rainforest to warm and cool temperate rainforest, as well as sub-alpine landscapes. At the end of the day, sit back at Scone YHA and gaze at the stars while your hosts create a delicious camp fire damper.

Kosciusko National Park is right at your doorstep when you choose to stay at “Thredbo YHA”. From late Spring to early Autumn bushwalkers can experience the beauty of flowers and crystal clear lakes, and meet the challenge of climbing Australia's highest mountain. Accommodation starts at \$16 per person per night outside the ski season.

For only \$27 for YHA Group membership your group can experience the wonders NSW National Parks have to offer without the worry of organising accommodation. For more information call Helen at YHA NSW on

(02) 9261 1111.

Fax: (02) 9264 4516

## LEGAL OFFICER SOUGHT

*Nuri Chorvat Training officer*

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs is looking for a legal officer to assist us in the following ways, anyone who may be interested please contact the editor.

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Incorporated is a voluntary body (charity) which represents the interests of affiliated bushwalking clubs (approximately 70 clubs) within NSW. The basic membership criteria includes having a constitution with similar objectives (ie. a general appreciation for conservation and protecting environment and wilderness areas, social interaction, outdoor activities, helping members learn about outdoor skills, etc), an activity program which includes at least 50% bushwalking and a minimum of 12 members.

The affiliated clubs (referred to as “approved organisations”) are not required to comply with any decisions made by Confederation. ie. Decisions are not binding. They are free to act as their members determine. One of the reasons

*Continued on Page 15*

## walk on the wild side with yha

**Thredbo YHA- Kosciusko NP**  
In the heart of Thredbo Village:  
Wildflowers and mountain walks  
right on your doorstep.  
Only \$16 per person per night.



**Bundanoon YHA - Morton NP**  
Set in an attractive village  
which borders acres  
of native bushland.  
\$14 per person per night

⌘ Over 140 hostels throughout Australia

⌘ Kitchen facilities available ⌘ Many hostels provide catering

⌘ YHA Group membership for YOUR club only \$27

⌘ Friendly, social atmosphere ⌘ Clean, safe, comfortable

**Katoomba YHA  
Blue Mountains NP**  
Minutes from the Three Sisters  
and miles of walking tracks.  
\$15 per person per night

**Scone YHA- Barrington Tops NP**  
Spend the days discovering the  
wonders of Barrington and the  
evenings gazing at the stars while  
munching on homemade damper  
\$13 per person per night

### FOR BOOKINGS & DETAILS OF OTHER LOCATIONS

YHA NSW, GPO Box 5276 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Ph: (02) 9261 1111 Fax: (02) 9261 1969

E-mail: [yha@yhansw.org.au](mailto:yha@yhansw.org.au)



# BUSH SAFETY

In the last "Bushwalker" I referred to the difficulties the Police had in locating a missing businessman on the Central Coast when they had no good information of where he might have been. Now there have been some classic bush searches for lost / overdue person(s) who left none or inadequate details of their planned bushwalk at home. There are still bushwalkers "somewhere" in South West Tasmania.

Of the range of other potential bushwalking risks most can be reduced or eliminated by following my simple list of **Do's and Don'ts**. If bushwalking is to remain the great unregulated sport that it is then all bushwalking clubs need to encourage adherence to these or similar principles. Safe bushwalking does not have to be boring bushwalking!

## WILDERNESS SAFETY

- ☺ DO give complete route details of WHERE you are going to relatives/friends or Police. Include details of where your car will be parked.
- ☺ DO tell them WHEN you are LEAVING and RETURNING and any SPECIAL medical conditions e.g. diabetes, asthma.
- ☺ DO notify them of your SAFE RETURN.
- ☺ DO take the correct MAP and COMPASS. Know how to use them.
- ☺ DO take appropriate clothing/footwear. Always take a windproof/waterproof PARKA and clothing that can keep you WARM WHEN WET e.g. wool and definitely NOT jeans.
- ☺ DO take waterproof MATCHES and some SPARE food in case of delays. Always take some cold snack food such as dried fruit, nuts or chocolate for quick energy.
- ☹ DON'T overestimate your abilities. Always ALLOW TIME for the unexpected e.g. thick scrub, cliffhines.
- ☹ DON'T go faster than the slowest member of your group. At regular intervals do a HEAD COUNT of your group.
- ☹ DON'T SPLIT up your walking Group (except for below) during the trip There is safely in numbers.
- ☹ DON'T leave an injured person ALONE in the bush. A walking group of THREE or more will allow one to look after the injured while the other goes for help.
- ☹ DON'T keep moving when LOST. Find a campsite with water nearby and one that will be visible from a helicopter. Wave vigorously at any helicopters; they are probably looking for you!
- ☹ DON'T forget if you are OVERDUE PHONE home from the FIRST phone box/Police Station you come to.

REMEMBER - YOUR SAFETY IS DEPENDENT ON YOUR FITNESS AND EXPERIENCE AS WELL AS  
YOUR EQUIPMENT AND THE TRIP LEADERSHIP. EVERY TRIP MUST INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE  
EXPERIENCE BUSHWALKER TO EVERY THREE INEXPERIENCED WALKERS.

**Remember -WALK SAFELY - WALK WITH A CLUB**

## SOME RESULTS FROM THE EMERGENCY

### SERVICES NAVIGATION SHIELD

#### 2 DAY EVENT

<b>CLASS ONE</b>	
Sutherland Bushwalkers	900
Kangaroo Valley Bushfire Brigade	870
Shoalhaven Ambulance	680
<b>Best armed services Team</b>	
RAAF Lrt - 503 Wing	590
<b>Best SES Team</b>	
Wollongong SES	580
<b>Best Police Team</b>	
Katoomba Police Rescue	500
<b>CLASS TWO</b>	
NSW Cave Rescue	710
<b>CLASS THREE</b>	
Hotchkis & Nerrie	910

#### ONE DAY EVENT

NPWS Blue Mountains	540
Wild Dogs Bushwalking Club	520
<b>Best SES Team</b>	
VICSES Central	450
<b>Best Bushfire Team</b>	
Winmalee Bushfire Brigade	280
<b>Best VRA Team</b>	
South Coast	210
<b>Best Police Team</b>	
Illawarra Police Rescue	190
<b>CLASS TWO</b>	
Span Bushwalkers	120
<b>CLASS THREE</b>	
Mansfield & Sage	270

# WHY SHOULD I JOIN A CLUB? - SOME VIEWS



## TRACKS & ACCESS

*Alex Tucker*

One of the most enjoyable activities in bushwalking is the yarning around the fire after a good meal. This is the time for new members to tap into the collective experience of the older ones. Are you hoping for walks relating to an existing interest, botany, geology, or looking for a new interest caving, abseiling? There will usually be some one there that is an expert or who knows of one.

Some scenic areas are on private land and some National Parks are accessible only through private land. Many landowners have had bad experiences of city based walkers. Some will allow only members of clubs known to them to go through their property. Someone around the fire will know the owners name or can suggest you talk to Joe or Josephine at the next club meeting.

Do you want to go farther afield to Kakadu, Hinchinbrook or Tasmania? Fred here has just come back from a trip or Roger is talking about a forthcoming trip next Wednesday night. They can tell you the best season for your chosen area, in terms of good weather and smaller numbers of other walkers.

You may have a special interest in Aboriginal cave paintings in Kakadu? George at the Darwin museum is the man to contact before you finalise your itinerary.

You cant get all this specialised knowledge and advice from a Tourist bureau, or on the Net. The sales assistant at the bushwalking shop hasn't all night to chat with you. So join a club and get the information the easy way.

## BUSHWALKER WILDERNESS RESCUE

*Keith Maxwell*

Several distinct advantages arise from joining a Confederation Bushwalking Club. You gain access to cheap First Aid training and each year you can refine your navigation skills at the Navigation Shield. By involvement in the S & R Section (Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue - BWR) you can join a broad community of fellow walkers as part of a great self help resource.

Club membership means that training in recognised St John Ambulance First Aid courses is available at a special discount. BWR has accredited Instructors who present either the standard Senior Certificate or advanced Remote Area Certificate in a form relevant to bushwalkers. An even better discount is available for bushwalkers on our Call-Out Lists. Courses can even be arranged for your club only at a time that suits your members. It could not be simpler to get First Aid qualified.

The skill of navigation opens up vast untracked areas of National Parks to explore. The National Parks of NSW are a real treasure of areas seldom visited or photographed. The areas of easy tracks are over run with 'hikers' but you don't have to go far off track to lose the crowds. As a Club member you can participate in the annual NSW Emergency Services Navigation Shield where you can hone the navigation skills learnt in your club to become a true bush navigator. The Nav. Shield is a true bushwalkers navigation event!

BWR is the self contained, self help rescue section of the Confederation able to search all terrains in any weather. A bold claim that few can match. Involvement in our training weekends can be either as beginner or advanced level. As a beginner you learn the basics of bush safety to help keep you out of trouble. At the advanced level you can learn the extra skills that makes BWR a very special rescue resource to the people of NSW. Whilst looking after fellow lost/injured club members you can also do a community service for the people of NSW by helping rescue the wayward and inexperienced. At our training weekends you will definitely enjoy the company of the bushwalkers from the other clubs and exchanging ideas and information. I have enjoyed the company of my fellow club members but even better have had the company of bushwalkers from many clubs of the Confederation through BWR.

## INSURANCE

*Maurice Smith*

Have you heard the term "bush lawyer"? For me, the term means a

bushwalker who professes to know enough about some aspect of the law to be able to provide deeply profound legal advice to fellow club members. Often the legal adviser is prompted to give that advice when another club member asks a leading question along the lines of "what's the legal position if . . . . . happens?". All you have to do is fill in the missing word. Quite often it is amazing that variety of advice that is offered, especially when it comes to the field of insurance.

When you are a member of a bushwalking club your club will have access to the two insurance policies that are obtained on behalf of all clubs. These policies are

(a) **the public liability insurance**, all clubs are required by Confederation to have this type of cover, and

(b) **personal injury insurance**, this cover is available to all clubs, it is up to each club whether they pay for this cover for their members.

Let me assure you that the cost of both types of insurance is amazingly low. In fact, many clubs join Confederation just to get access to our low cost insurance policies. Just an aside. The same insurance policies are shared by the bushwalking clubs in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

Further details of the insurance policies are set out in a separate article titled "Club Insurance Policies".

**DON'T MISS  
THE  
BUSHWALKERS  
ANNUAL  
BUSHDANCE AT  
SYDENHAM  
TOWN HALL  
ON 18TH  
SEPTEMBER  
1998**

# CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS DRAFT POLICY ON NATURAL AREAS

## DEFINITIONS:

**Biological Diversity (Biodiversity):** The variety of lifeforms, the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems they form. This is usually considered on three levels: genetic diversity; species diversity; and ecosystem diversity (NSW draft biodiversity strategy Feb1997)

**Ecological Objective:** Management criteria which give effect to the protection of ecological values of a natural area.

**National Parks Estate:** Areas gazetted or declared under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (1967) or Wilderness Act (1987). Includes National Parks, Nature Reserves, Wilderness Areas, State Recreation Areas and Regional Parks.

**Natural Area:** Any area having predominantly intact native indigenous vegetation cover and containing suitable habitat for its dependent fauna.

**Precautionary Principle:** Provided with limited information or uncertainty, to take only decisions which do not foreclose on future options for the effective protection of natural areas.

**Protected Area:** Generic term for lands reserved either in the National Parks estate, Crown Reserves, Flora Reserves, Forest Preserves, Water catchment areas and freehold title lands under a Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA). Wildlife sanctuaries are not considered to fit this definition as their long term tenure and land use is uncertain. Neither, due to the same limitations, are freehold lands presently zoned by local Government for nature conservation.

**Public Reserve:** A subset of Protected Area including only those which are publicly owned.

**Special Water Catchment:** Areas within the hydrological catchment of a water storage which are zoned for protection of drinking water quality by acting as a natural buffer zone around the storage.

**Wilderness Area:** An area of land that is, or is capable of restoration to be, of sufficient size to enable the long term protection of its natural systems and biodiversity; that is substantially undisturbed by modern technological society, and within its edges, remote from points of mechanised access and other evidence of colonial or modern technological society. Includes, but not limited to, areas identified or declared under the NSW Wilderness Act (1987).

## OBJECTIVES:

To protect, rehabilitate and manage natural areas to ensure the long term sustainability of their native biodiversity. To provide a range of opportunities for self reliant recreation in natural areas. To encourage activities by land managers and all visitors/users of natural areas to conform to Confederation's policies.

## VALUES:

High value is given to:

✘ Protection of native biological diversity and the maintenance of ongoing ecological and geomorphological processes and systems

✘ Provision of opportunities for spiritual reward associated with remoteness, solitude and self reliance in natural areas.

✘ Provision of opportunities for non-motorised, self reliant recreation in natural areas, especially bushwalking.

*By John Macris Conservation Officer*

## APPLICATION TO NATURAL AREAS:

Resolution of conflicting objectives and values will be determined by evaluation of their local, regional and state significance, with greatest emphasis given to the protection of native biological diversity and ecological objectives taking precedence. Where doubt exists or information is insufficient, the precautionary principle should apply.

For example, opportunities for bushwalking should be provided only if scarce natural attributes such as state listed threatened species are not impacted upon or wilderness values not degraded.

## THE FOLLOWING POLICIES APPLY TO ALL NATURAL AREAS:

✘ Protection under legislation such as the NP & W Act or Wilderness Act for all publicly owned areas with suitable conservation values

✘ Protection of privately owned natural areas with conservation values sought through voluntary acquisition or voluntary conservation agreements (VCAs)

✘ All users of natural areas conform to Confederation's Code of Ethics

✘ Walking tracks may be established provided they are sited and constructed to minimise environmental degradation by users and maximise visitor enjoyment

✘ Facilities such as established campsites and trails are located on the edge of natural areas

✘ No dwellings for private or exclusive commercial use

✘ No built accommodation provided in public reserves, except those referred to in Appendix 1 of this policy

✘ Vehicle access only provided for short distances from a natural area's edge on roads of two wheel drive standard. Through roads not provided or maintained

✘ Trails suitable only for four wheel drive vehicles not provided because of the erosion, pollution and disruption of quiet enjoyment this usage causes

✘ Horses excluded from protected areas due to the erosion and pollution they cause and their general intrusion into native habitat

✘ Bicycles only permitted on public roads and maintained management trails

✘ No mining or mineral exploration in protected areas

✘ No grazing of livestock in protected areas

✘ No timber harvesting in protected areas

✘ Land managers to actively pursue eradication of all introduced animal species

✘ Control or eradication of introduced plants to receive a high priority by land managers and through community involvement

✘ All natural bush regeneration activities encouraged

✘ Users of natural areas to be educated about ensuring the long term protection of biodiversity

## THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONALLY APPLY TO WILDERNESS AREAS:

- ✘ Exclusion of roads or vehicular trails. Existing trails in wilderness areas should be closed and actively revegetated
- ✘ Walking tracks only located at the perimeter or threshold of wilderness areas
- ✘ No new track construction and no upgrade work other than to protect sensitive features from existing usage patterns, or to address essential safety issues
- ✘ Management and recreation entry only by self reliant means such as walking, canoeing or skiing
- ✘ Self reliance of users encouraged.
- ✘ Minimal and non-specific public promotion, in particular no through-route guides
- ✘ No new human built structures and no maintenance of existing structures

## THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO WATER SUPPLY SPECIAL CATCHMENT AREAS

- ✘ Land Management to be carried out by the National Parks and Wildlife Service
- ✘ Transfer of tenure from water corporation to NPWS estate at no cost, as provided for under the Water Corporatisation Act (1994)
- ✘ Funding of land management and ongoing voluntary acquisition of inholdings provided to NPWS via an annual catchment levy from water rates
- ✘ Sydney Water's multiple barrier approach to water quality protection is supported
- ✘ Restrictions on recreational activities resulting from the multiple barrier approach are supported

## LONG DISTANCE WALKING ROUTES

### POLICY:

The establishment of major extended walking routes such as along the eastern ranges or coastline are subject to the following policies:

- ✘ Use of tracks or trails within national parks for long distance walks is conditional on being consistent with the park's plan of management policies for levels and type of use
- ✘ Tracks are routed to avoid areas of wilderness, sensitive natural or cultural features or critical habitat
- ✘ The provision of accommodation infrastructure to support such tracks should only be provided off park in nearby or adjoining areas so as to both protect the park's natural values and provide benefits to surrounding communities
- ✘ Any new track construction to be subject to environmental review and public exhibition prior to commencement
- ✘ Where existing long distance tracks are routed through declared wilderness, eg Australian Alps, they should not be sign posted except at the wilderness boundaries

## CONSERVATION CORRIDORS POLICY:

High value is placed on achieving the addition to the National Park Estate areas of State Forest, Crown land, leasehold and freehold (by acquisition) which, in addition to protecting important values, also provide linkages between major existing reserves such as those along the Great Eastern Escarpment, coastal areas or western rangelands.

## APPENDIX 1 - KOSCIUSZCO HUTS

The general policies on natural areas and wilderness state that there should be no built accommodation or other structures retained. The Confederation has recognised the dilemma posed by the existence of huts in Kosciuszco National Park. In 1977 this organisation adopted a specific policy on huts in the park. The fundamental points of this are set out below for retention as official Confederation policy.

### VALUES:

a) Historic: A hut may be said to possess historic value if it represents an example of building techniques and styles, or of land use practices which are no longer used and which are unlikely to become normal practise in the future.

b) Management: A hut may be said to possess management value if its existence results in less impact though overuse of a popular locality. *This value is acceptable only to the extent that other visitor management options to reduce impacts have been fully explored.*

c) Survival: A hut may be said to possess survival value if it is located in an area where, due to a lack of sheltered campsites, the probability of death from exposure is greatly increased over the average probability in the park. *Mitigating against this value is the evidence that a number of fatalities have occurred where people were reliant on reaching a hut in extremes of weather, rather than using self reliant methods of shelter eg snow cave or quality 4 season tent.*

d) Training value: A hut may be said to possess training value if it is situated such that it is easily accessible by novice bushwalkers and ski tourists, and can form a base for an introduction to an area or activity.

### GENERAL POLICY:

The conflict between the above values and the general policy on built accommodation in natural areas and structures of any sort in wilderness, can be resolved when it is recognised that in the longer term huts are not permanent structures. Eventual collapse from general decay is an inevitability which maintenance will greatly postpone but not prevent. There is also a strong probability that natural or human introduced fires will forestall the process of natural deterioration. Thus all huts have a finite life which, with care, will be measured in decades rather than years. On this basis the following policy statements can be made:

1. Removal of existing huts should be carried out if consistent with the park's plan of management.
2. No existing hut should be replaced in the event of its destruction, regardless of the untimeliness of its loss.
3. No new huts should be built.
4. Maintenance of huts should not venture beyond general upkeep of the basic structure. There should be no upgrades of shelter from basic to more elaborate accommodation.

### RETENTION ZONE:

One area of the park has been identified, where a number of the outlined values of huts are high and wilderness values relatively low. This is in the near vicinity of the Snowy Scheme hydroelectricity infrastructure between Guthega and Whites River. As such, it is suggested that in this narrow corridor, hut values would predominate and warrant retention, provided such huts are not used for exclusive or commercial private accommodation.

## GUIDE TO APPLICATION OF POLICY FOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT ON PAGE 19



## NEW RECORDS SET BY PETER TRESEDER

### THE FIRST UNSUPPORTED *Interview by Colin Wood*

#### CROSSING OF THE STRZELECKI DESERT

In May 1998, Peter completed the first unsupported crossing of South Australia's, NSW's and Queensland's Strzelecki Desert.

Starting near Mulka Station (Birdsville), at the western edge of the desert, he completed the 270-kilometre crossing to Waka Station (Fort Grey) (eastern edge of the desert) in 34 hours 22 minutes.

Most of the crossing was through trackless desert and he carried all his food and water requirements in a pack.

#### THE FIRST UNSUPPORTED CROSSING OF THE TIRARI DESERT

In May 1998, Peter completed the first unsupported crossing of South Australia's Tirari Desert.

Starting near Mulka Station (Birdsville Track), at the eastern edge of the desert he completed the 110 kilometre crossing to Lake Eyre (north), at the western side of the desert, in 12 hours 58 mins.



*Peter preparing for First Crossing of Timor Sea by Canoe*

Most of the crossing was thorough trackless desert and Peter carried all his food and water requirements in a pack.

#### YODELLERS RANGE TRAVERSE IN ONE DAY.

In April 1998, Peter completed the first traverse of the entire Yodellers Range

in one day.

The Yodellers Range is located in the extreme north of the Greater Northern Blue Mountains. It is arguably the most spectacular and most outstanding sandstone ridge system in the state.

The Yodellers traverse is usually attempted over about 4 short weekend stages and is unequalled for quality rock scrambling. The traverse is often very exposed.

Starting at the junction of the Mytle Creek and Emu Creek roads, Peter completed the 30-kilometre circuit back to the road junction in 9 hours 57 mins.

All equipment necessary for the traverse was carried.

#### NEW RECORD FOR KATOOMBA TO MOUNT CLOUDMAKER RETURN.

In April 1998, Peter established a new record for the Katoomba to Mount Cloudmaker return traverse.

Starting at Cliff Drive Katoomba and proceeding via Narrowneck, Yellow Pup, Strongleg Buttress, Dex Creek and Mount Cloudmaker, the return trip was completed in 8 hours 15 minutes.

*Southern  
Cross and wild  
sports Same*

## THE RHYME OF AN EARNEST TRAMPER

By K.M. (Sydney Bush Walkers) 1937

Tramp, tramp,  
What if you've got the cramp  
What if your heels begun to and your nerves are on the ramp  
The peace of the dusk is round us and we'll soon make camp,  
So tramp, tramp, tramp.

You of the huddled houses, who've never humped a load,  
What do you know of the free life and the lure of the winding road,  
Of the pain and the joy undreamed of in our weariness and scars,  
And the fresh tang of the dawn-wind, and the friendship of the stars?

The rains may fall and the storms come or the sun blaze down,  
It's all the same to our Brotherhood of the Lean and Fit and Brown.  
O this is the test for a real man to prove his spirit's worth  
In the grim peaks and the silences of the wise old earth.

What if the world declares we're mad?  
It's a saying the world has always had  
For those who escape its toils:  
We carry peace in our bulging pack  
And laughter races us up the track  
To the place where the billy boils.  
So,

Tramp, tramp,  
What if your blanket's damp?  
What if the track is inky black and the moon's not raised her lamp?  
The rain's stopped and the wind's dropped and we'll soon make camp,  
So tramp, tramp, tramp.

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Brands include SALOMON and SCARPA boots, ONE PLANET (J&H), ADVENTURE DESIGNS, GREAT OUTDOORS, COLEMAN and many more. Bushwalking club members living in the Macarthur Area no longer need to travel

are arriving shortly, with lots of exciting goodies for the GREAT OUTDOORS. And yes - BOOTS gives a 10% discount to bushwalking club members on just about everything they stock.

*The most important part of the BOOTS philosophy is - PEOPLE.* This applies to both their customers and to their staff. BOOTS doesn't take life too seriously - they all enjoy the GREAT OUTDOORS, and like their customers, they try to get away as often as they possibly can. They use the products they sell, and only recommend gear they genuinely believe will perform to expectations and presents best possible value for money.

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(Ask for John, the guy with the ponytail, and get him to tell you his latest joke - you never know, he might - one day - actually come up with a GOOD ONE!)



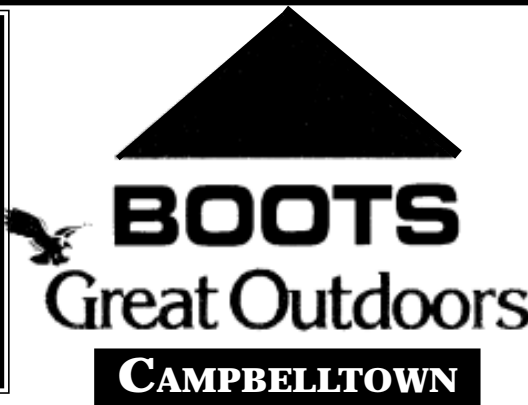
Boots Camping - sets up for last minute shopping at Nav. Shield

household name in the outdoors and adventure scene for now a little under 30 years. After having operated stores in Prospect, Lidcombe and Erina at the central coast, BOOTS opened its fourth store in **Campbelltown** in September last year. BOOTS GREAT OUTDOORS not only offers a wide range of BBQs, outdoor furniture and family camping equipment but also specialize in top quality bushwalking and hiking gear of all kinds.

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# INSURANCE NEWS

## DO LAND MANAGER'S HAVE TO WARN LAND USERS OF DANGERS ON THEIR PROPERTY?

*Maurice Smith Insurance Officer*

In the recently decided case of *Romeo v Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory (NTCC)*, a case that went all the way to the highest court of the land, the High Court of Australia, by a majority of 5 to 2 decided that a land manager does not have to warn users of the land of the dangers that are inherent and obvious. So long as the land manager does not increase the risk, the land manager need have no concern.

This was a major test case arising when a young woman (less than 16 years old at the time of the accident) fell over a 6 metre cliff at a lookout near Darwin.

The park in which the lookout was

located was the responsibility of the Northern Territory Conservation Commission.

As a result of the fall she became a paraplegic. At the time of the accident it was quite late in the night and the court found that she was affected by alcohol. There was no safety fence at the point where she fell. She had been to the lookout point on a number of occasions.

Ms Romeo sued the NTCC for compensation on the basis that they have failed in their duty of care in not giving a warning of the presence of the cliff or to erect a fence at the top of the cliff to prevent people from falling from the top of the cliff.

Several quotes from the judgement make for interesting reading, although some of the language is a bit stilted. For example Chief Justice Brennan in paragraph 19 of the judgement said "There is no warrant to extending the duty of statutory care (*of the NTCC*) to the taking of steps to protect particular entrants from the consequences of their failure to take reasonable care to protect themselves." Justice Toohey in paragraph 53 said "But in the present case the risk existed only in the case of someone ignoring the obvious". Justice Kirby in paragraph 123 said "Where a risk is obvious to a person exercising reasonable care for his or her own safety, the notion that the occupier must warn the entrant

about that risk is neither reasonable nor just."

If the case had been decided in favour of Ms. Romeo one can contemplate all sorts of consequences for us in our bushwalking activities. Would NPWS have to erect a warning sign or fence on every cliff top? Would they require a signed disclaimer of liability before we could step onto their land?

The decision may well affect the way land managers, such as the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, will manage the land under their control. For example, in a recent meeting they wanted to ensure that we and our

member clubs had an appropriate level of public liability insurance. As you will be aware Confederation obtains for the clubs a \$10 million

public liability cover.

Anyone interested in the detail of

this case can obtain a copy of the entire judgement from the Internet



Web site [www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/high\\_ct/recent-cases](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/high_ct/recent-cases).

## CLUB INSURANCE POLICIES

This article summarises for club members the two types of insurance that clubs can obtain through the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW.

### PERSONAL INJURY

Clubs can choose whether to cover all of their members, in which case, they receive a benefit, all the visitors of the club are also covered for personal injury, for up to 5 visits in the course of the insurance year. Alternatively, clubs can

decide to not insure their members and instead they make this cover available to their members. If clubs take this option then the free insurance cover for visitors does not apply.

The cover operates for just about all club activities and it starts from the moment that you leave home until the moment that you arrive back home. So you are covered even when travelling to and from a club activity, although the level of cover is reduced, because other cover, such as motor vehicle third party cover applies.

The policy requires that you claim first against Medicare and any private health insurance fund of which you are a member. Firstly you should be aware that if you are injured on a club activity you won't get rich. The policy will help ease the pain in the hip pocket, I can attest to that as a result of a claim that I made this year. The national Medicare insurance legislation does not allow any insurance policy to provide cover for the Medicare gap.

The major benefits that the policy provides is that it covers for items that Medicare doesn't cover, for example, physiotherapy and emergency transport (land ambulance or helicopter rescue).

The personal cover also provides for death, permanent disability benefits and temporary disability benefits, although I hope that there is never any need to make a claim at this level.

In the event of you having an accident on a club activity, the insurance company **must** be notified within **30 days** of the accident. You do this by telephoning the insurance company on **1 800 679 096** and asking for a claim form for insurance policy number 009326.

The following activities are covered under this policy – bushwalking, bicycle touring, canoeing, canyoning, cascading, caving, cross country and downhill skiing, mountaineering, rafting, rock climbing, swimming, track clearing, abseiling, scouting, reekies and previewing trips, leadership and navigation courses. This cover also applies to

social and fundraising activities. The cover is world-wide except for USA and Canada.

In past years, for Confederation clubs claims under this type policy have been reasonably common. Typically the claims have been as a result of falls sustained on a club activity. Indeed this is how my accident last year came about.

### **PUBLIC LIABILITY**

This type of policy covers the club, its officers, its members and visitors in the event of becoming legally liable to pay compensation for Personal Injury, Property Damage or Advertising Liability arising out of actions taken against clubs or their members. The level of cover is \$10 million world-wide. This level of cover has doubled from the previous year.

The cover applies to the club as a legal entity in its own right, the club's officers, the club's members and to club visitors. Typically, such claims will result in a court case before payment is made. Fortunately, no claims of this nature have been made against Confederation's policy in the time that Confederation has been obtaining this insurance for its affiliated clubs.

### **INSURANCE COVER CHANGES**

From 1 July 1998 Confederation has a new insurance broker and insurance risk underwriter. The insurance broker is Jardine Sport, a division of Jardine Australian Insurance Brokers Pty Limited based in Melbourne. All contact with the broker **must** be via Confederation, clubs are asked not to approach the broker directly, except for injury claims as set out below.

For clubs there is very little difference in the cover provided. For the personal injury policy the main differences are:

- The coverage is now worldwide, except for USA and Canada, previously it was only within Australia
- Activities covered now include downhill skiing, previously this activity was excluded
- The age limit for payment of death and permanent disability claims is now 80 years, previously it was 65 years
- The new method for making a claim for personal injury is to telephone

the insurance broker on **1 800 679 096** and ask for a claim form for insurance policy number 009326.

There is no change to the time limit for notification of claims. In the event of sustaining and injury you **MUST** contact the broker within **30 days**. Failure to do this may well result in the claim not being approved.

## **THE PHILOSOPHY OF BUSHWALKING**

Frank Davis expounds on the art of being seen as a good walker.

### **To begin with, a few definitions:**

**Philosophy:** A science, which seeks to systematize and interpret knowledge through basic concepts of reality, validity and value.

**Bush :** Woodland, a stretch of forest, uncultivated country.

**Walk :** To advance by alternate steps, stroll, to go restlessly about.

Is it then reasonable to suggest that the basic concept of bushwalking is to proceed, step by step across the country? If it is as straight forward as that, why then are bushwalkers such a disparate lot? Walkers are as diverse as the variety of packs they carry, the footwear they espouse or the other impedimenta they tend to accrue. Let's explore some of the differences, and why not start at ground level?

Footwear ranges from Scarpa at \$350.00 plus down to the ubiquitous Volleys at under \$35.00. There are legions that insist that unless you wear Volleys you can never truly be a walker and that they provide the best grip apart from bare feet. With Volleys designed to slide on a loam surfaced tennis court I can only wonder at this claim; and I bet unprotected ankle bones tremble when transiting protruding rock surfaces.

With some walks providing terrain where smooth soles and slippery surfaces tax the concept of the coefficient of friction and centrifugal force, choosing footwear is of critical importance.

The selection of socks, gaiters, shorts and shirts depends on whether you are out to make a fashion statement or to prevent delicate parts of your anatomy from being impaled on protruding sharp sticks or abraded on rough rock faces. If you can find things that keep your anatomy intact and look cool as well then you are indeed blessed. Zips, buckles, side pockets, mesh pockets; backpacks have all of these and more. if you can fit in everything you need (or want) to carry then who cares what colour it is. Unless of course it clashes with that beaut new shirt

which washes easily, dries fast - but best of all is a fantastic purple. As well as a daypack you probably need a second slightly larger one for overnight walks or even a third for extended walks. What colour are they to be?

Count the different styles of hats you see on any walk. They vary from none, through beanies, baseball caps to wide brimmed Akubras. Do you bump your head more often when wearing a wide brimmed hat because you can't see past the brim?

Harking back to one of our definitions: to go restlessly about, brings us to location. Some walkers, usually leaders, exhibit an innate sense of location and direction, they rarely consult a map and always seem to arrive at the nominated destination unfurried. Others, with prolonged, intense study of map and compass also reach their goal but don't appear to be as relaxed.

Many are content to blindly follow these leaders with complete faith. I confess to being in this category, being content to gaze around and search for photographic subjects. Many, no doubt, would call this laziness, and maybe they are right.

There are some, fortunately only a few, who regard map and compass as some kind of lucky charm to be carried, more in hope than in expectation.

All right, that's the how - now the why. There are botanists, some of whom fail to see the bush while searching for a flower. To some the distance and destination are of more concern than what is encountered on the way. Some tie bits of plastic on trees to indicate the route, (to find their way next time - or back?) Others strip these markers and kick down rock cairns to 'preserve the wilderness' - even in RNP near cemented paths.

There are two metre walkers and there are three metre walkers. The first try to deflect intruding vegetation so that it returns to its normal position as they pass, these you walk two metres behind. Some seem to carry the offending branch as far as possible, then release it so that it returns like the plaited thong of a stock whip, these you walk ... yeah! you've guessed it.

Which side of the coin makes for a good walker? Well neither... and both really. All have an equal right to enjoy the bush. All have equal responsibility to respect and protect the bush. Just take it easy bushwalking should be enjoyed, not endured. Disagree with some (or all) of the things I've said? Well then don't just sit there and grumble. Pick up a pen, or dip your thumbnail in tar, write to the editor and say so. **Reprinted from The Sydney Bushwalkers February 1998**

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From page 4

clubs join is for the inexpensive insurance which is available to affiliated clubs and their members. The insurance is provided through a registered insurance broker.

Confederation has a number of policies which are directly related to the objects in the Constitution. One of these relates to training and the distribution of relevant training information to affiliated clubs (and their members).



**Concerns:**

Confederation is concerned that if it publishes information (either printed as a generic "club booklet" or on the internet) relating to how members or leaders should act and/or what they should carry, then this information could be used to prosecute a leader and/or club if an incident occurs and legal action is taken.

The concern is that by publishing/recommending practices for what many bushwalkers would generally

consider to be the actions of a competent leader, we could be creating a difficult situation for those leaders that may behave differently. Our intent is to help our clubs by showing leaders what is expected of them and to raise the "minimum standard" of leaders? Given that much of the information already exists in the public domain, are we causing a problem by collecting this information and distributing it to our clubs?

How can we pass on this valuable information to potential new leaders?

By raising the issue of **risk assessment for clubs and members.**

**1. CONCERNING CONFEDERATION**

What liability exists for Confederation (its committee) if it publishes information (eg. printed and on the internet) relating to recommended practices and actions of leaders and/or members?

**2. CONCERNING THE AFFILIATED CLUBS**

What liability is imposed on clubs who may choose not to use the recom-

mendations/suggested practices?

What liability exists for Clubs (and their committee members) if they fail to ensure that their leaders are competent to lead club activities?

Is there an obligation on a club to help train it's members in bushcraft skills (eg. navigation, map reading, etc)?

What actions can clubs take to minimize their exposure to civil action by injured members?

**3. CONCERNING THE LEADERS OF CLUB ACTIVITIES**

(eg. Bushwalking, canyoning, abseiling, canoeing, caving, skiing, cycling, etc)

What liability is imposed on leaders who may choose not to use the recommendations/ suggested practices?

What actions can leaders take to reduce their exposure to civil action by injured members?

What "minimum standards" of behaviour are expected of leaders by the courts?

What "duty of care" is expected of the leaders?

How can we protect our leaders?

*St John same*



# THE 10TH NSW EMERGENCY SERVICES NAVIGATION SHIELD NAV. SHIELD '98

From Page 1

(another VRA squad). Thus progress of teams can be monitored or any injuries reported.

This year was our biggest ever with 111 teams and 424 participants. Now finding an appropriate location to stage this size of event is always difficult and we were extremely grateful to have this great open farmer's paddock close to firewood. Unfortunately the surrounding country was our toughest ever. While there was little relief the ridges were broad and ill defined whilst the creeks had impenetrable head high scrub. The severest of injuries were just sprained ankles but all participants were cut to pieces! Maximum scores were lower than previous years with some egos extremely dented.

Great socialising between Emergency Services and comparing of notes occurs after the teams check-in and before the awards ceremony good hot food from our caterer encourages friendliness. Our laptop computer means results are quickly calculated and placings constantly revised (and printed out) so that the official presentation can be held around one hour after the finish time. Thus every participant goes home knowing their score and placing.

The awards at the major presentation for the two day teams, were given out by Mr Pat Rogan MP, Member for East Hills, deputising for the NSW Premier. As well as 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, BWR gives out shields and individual trophies for the best of each of the Emergency Services teams. Good effort is also encouraged with presentation of 5 year attendance cups. The end

of the awards presentation is a great relief. The course has been set; all the planning, co-ordination of helpers and resources is over. Every participant has safely returned. BWR has only to post the Results Packs out (at our leisure). Time to relax.

The Nav. Shield is the result of many individuals, groups and sponsors working together. BWR is highly appreciative of the following groups



*Bob King of Span is presented with his ten year medal by Pat Rogan MP*



*A Check-Point*

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#### WICEN PERSONNEL

Mal Alexander - Neil Fallshaw - Robyn Fallshaw - Bob Demkiw - Ashley Walker - Ron Hanks - David Horsfall - David Matthews - Peter Corkeron - John Loddging - Chris Stevens - Craig Smith Eve Hade - Owen Holmwood

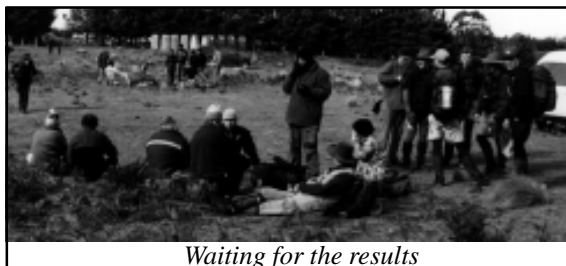
#### FIRST AID - BLUE MOUNTAINS RFS

Graham Carney - Paul Stone - Kerith Taylor - Terry Cameron - Mike Ives

#### SURPRISE AWARD

Our Search & Rescue Secretary, John Tonitto, has seen many Nav. Shield presentations. After all it was his idea and driving energy that has made it the event it is to day. Our 10th Nav. Shield had 111 teams with over 400 participants from each of the Emergency Services of NSW plus some from other states. At the presentation I move down the list of place getters and shield awards while John stands in the background pushing forward the individual trophies. This year I added something to the script. Harvey Black, Director of Training for the VRA, presented John with a plaque expressing the thanks of the Confederation for 11 years of outstanding effort.

11 years ago, (like all good products) we did market research with a try out navigation event. **Well done John.**



*Waiting for the results*



**NAV. SHIELD 98 COURSE  
SETTING HELPERS  
OVERALL PLANNING OF  
COURSE**

**Selection of Checkpoints**

Glenn Horrocks

**Course Survey**

Glenn Horrocks - David Moss - Peter - Mullins

**Checkpoint Setting**

Glenn Horrocks- Kate Brandis - Gareth Evans - Darren Gardner - Lee Herbert Keith Maxwell - David Moss - David Sheppard - Ken Smith

**Checkpoint Collection**

Glenn Horrocks - Leanne Baird - Bruce Franklin - Keith Maxwell - Margaret Rozea - Ken Smith

**Photographer**

Colin Wood

**FIRST-AID  
TRAINING**

Once again the opportunity has come around to learn First Aid on the cheap. This discounted course is a benefit for members of Confederation Bushwalking Clubs and will be taught by bushwalkers who are accredited St. John Ambulance Instructors.

The course is the Senior level St. John Ambulance First Aid Certificate and is offered on the last weekend of October - October 24th & 25th. Training will be eight (8) hours each on the Saturday and Sunday with the exam being held in the evening around a week later.

The Senior First Aid Certificate is a good introduction to First Aid and is the Certificate most workplace First Aid Officers and many child care workers have. All bushwalking trip leaders are strongly encouraged to have at least this Certificate. Since volunteers for S & R Call-Outs need this Certificate an additional discount is available for bushwalkers who have attended one of our recent training weekends.

A \$20 non refundable deposit is necessary to book your place on the course. The remaining \$60 (total course cost \$80; the usual course cost is \$135) is to be paid with the registration on Saturday morning 24th October.

For bookings phone - Keith Maxwell (02) 9622 0049 (home)

**S & R  
TRAINING  
WEEKEND**

The next Training Weekend will be held on 17th/18th October, 1998. The location will be on the Waratah Ridge Fire Road of Newnes Plateau at Grid Reference 471025 (Wollangambe 1:25,000; 893 I-II-S). This fire road is close to the start of the Plateau. A rough map showing appropriate turn-offs, and more complete details, will be sent with the Training Notice being sent to all clubs. This should be an enjoyable but intensive weekend. Training will build on skills practiced at the March Training emphasising search team co ordination and searching / rescue in rugged country. Bushwalkers trained already in abseiling should bring their personnel equipment. You must be over 18 years old and a full member of a Confederation Bushwalking Club to attend. Don't miss it.

**LETTERS TO THE  
EDITOR**



**Old Memories**

Dear Editor of 'The Bushwalker

Perhaps there are still a few grey-headed members, like myself, who's active years on the track were the Thirties & Forties, - the days of Steam-Trains, A-Frames, Ground Sheets & Mouth-organs, - & the 'Bushwalker' of fifty years ago sometimes published some quite outstanding poems from members.

Unfortunately, they have been mislaid over the years, but there may be some hope that some older members may remember them and/or have copies, - & the reprinting of them in our magazine could bring a lot of pleasure to the present-day stalwarts & some nostalgia for the oldies. Two of the best were

'THE BUSHWALKER' by Dorothy Lawry, of Sydney. Bush Walkers.

'I have been so keen a walker,  
Filled my lungs so full  
With the fragrance of the gums,

Their beauty, their scent  
Their aromatic breath & pungent death.  
yet by the walker's road I can escape  
And change and take another shape, -  
And so keep sanity still. long-drawn  
whistle of a train, Oranges, - and many a  
view sublime.'  
etc. etc.

Another, - by Albert Bussell, of Rucksac Club.

'By mountain pass & hillside track,  
By wattle & cedar & pine,  
An old campsite, a miner's shack,  
Fond memories of mine.'  
etc.

Yours Sincerely,  
Ron Woodland

Thanks for your letter Ron. I will put in some of the old poems starting with this issue. See page 10 Editor.

**BUSHWALKING FOR THE  
VISUALLY IMPAIRED**

Any club that would like to assist the visually impaired to enjoy the delights of bushwalking, please contact Lisa Madden at The Royal Blind Society at (02) 334-3333

**MISSING SCOUTS FOUND BY  
BUSHWALKER**

M.J. HUGHES

Hill Top NSW -

The minutes of the confederation meeting of 21/4/98 states in Keith's report re 5 scouts lost in the Nattai area, that others located the missing scouts.

Michael Course was the observer



who spotted the missing scouts from a light aircraft. He is a member of Southern Highlands Bushwalkers and is

one of the contacts for

Wilderness Rescue He has attended every Navex from 1992 to date, also many training weekends.

He is a member of the Berrima District Rescue Squad.

Therefore I must put the credit for the success of the search to the training given by Wilderness rescue.

Michael was put in as a spotter for his map reading skills, local knowledge and experience in light aircraft.

Malcolm Hughes (president) SHBW.



# ALONG THE TRACK

Alex Tucker Tracks and Access Officer.

## DRAFT AUSTRALIAN STANDARD FOR CLASSIFICATION AND MARKING OF WALKING TRACKS

The period of public exhibition has closed and the standards could be published early next year. The Tracks & Access sub committee made a submission generally approving the draft, but suggesting some minor improvements.

### THE PITT WATER TRACK.

This is a proposal by Roger Treagus, a member of SSW, YHA and NPA for a continuous track from Elvina Bay to West Head, linking existing tracks, some of heritage value, by short lengths of new tracks. Confederation supports the concept in principle, with some reservations on the precise routing. A vital matter is the attitude of the managers of Ku Ring Gai Chase National Park. The draft Plan of Management will be on public exhibition in the next few months. Every club member should read the draft and make a submission for more or improved walking tracks or suggest tracks which should be closed for conservation reasons or because they are impossible to restore to a safe condition.

### COASTAL WALKING TRACK.

The Federal Members for Mackellar, Ms Bronwin Bishop and for Warringah, Mr Tony Abbott and the Councils of Mosman, Manly, Warringah and Pittwater have made a joint submission for National Heritage funding for a walking track from Bradley's Head to Barrenjoey. Again, much of the route will be on existing tracks. Confederation had earlier written to Pittwater Council asking them to consider completion of their section of the Warringah Pittwater Bi-Centennial Coastal Walk and consequently we have indicated support in principle with this larger project. We hope to be involved in any community committee to determine the details of the missing sections of track.

## TASMANIAN PERMIT SYSTEM FOR OVERNIGHT WALKERS.

None of us like to have restrictions on our choice of times or routes, but I think the Precautionary Principle, to which all Australian Governments are committed, obliges the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service to control the numbers of overnight walkers. The biggest restriction proposed is a reduction of 1500 in the annual numbers visiting the Walls of Jerusalem. This and other restrictions may be more onerous for Tasmanian clubs unless mainland clubs have become tired of the overcrowding of the Overland Track in the peak season. However the South Coast Track and the Port Davey Track will be promoted as "Great Walks" and together with side trips and rest days can fill in a leisurely 16 days. Even if you don't intend to visit Tasmania, their permit system may well be the basis for a similar system for the more popular mainland National Parks within the next 5-10 years.

### CARLON'S FARM MEGALONG VALLEY

NPWS has advised that they have purchased part of the lands owned by the Carlon family in Megalong Valley, known as Green Gully or "Packsaddlers", which adjoins Blue Mountains National Park. Carlon's has traditionally provided access to Breakfast Creek, the Cox and the Wild Dog Mountains. The land was purchased through the Dunphy Fund, to which Confederation has contributed and guarantees access to the Park by public roads and state owned property. There is no longer any need to cross private lands. Local land owners have frequently complained about bushwalkers entering their land without prior permission. The purchase will mean the end of commercial horse riding in the National Park.

The Carlon family will remain in residence for some months. The car park remains their property and they will continue to charge parking fees. Until the NPWS establish formal management of the purchased area, there will be no other parking available.



From page 1

## BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION

The fact that such a large intact natural area has been preserved so close to a major city, partially through accidents of history and at times through great efforts of the early conservationists, points to a need to ensure that what has been protected remains so. The listing of the Greater Blue Mountains as a World Heritage area would certainly aid the community in its ongoing effort to have this area well cared for and spared from careless exploitation.

## MINIMAL IMPACT PARTY SIZES

According to our 'Bushwalkers' Code of Ethics', the ideal size party in the bush is just four to six people. Small parties are safer, easier to manage, have less impact on the environment and other parties, and tend to provide a better experience for those involved. Large parties often amount to nothing more than a noisy mobile social gathering.

Past editions of The Bushwalker have mentioned how bushwalking clubs would be restricted in party size as part of the proposed blanket consent arrangements with NPWS. Those arrangements have not yet been sorted out, but in the Blue Mountains area at least, restrictions on party size look like coming in with the plans of management. The draft plan for the Wollemi National Park contains a provision for maximum party size of 8 people in the proposed Wollemi Wilderness; while the draft plans for the Blue Mountains and Kanangra-Boyd National Parks specify the following limits-

General limit throughout the parks 20 people

Limit in the wilderness setting 8 people

Canyons involving abseiling 8 people

Other canyons (not in wilderness) 12 people

The Kanangra-Boyd Wilderness includes most of the Wild Dogs, Kanangra and Kowmung areas. (If you're not sure, get the poster from NPWS.) When the Wollemi Wilderness is declared, most of the region beyond the Wollangambe will be affected. The Grose Wilderness (nominated by Confederation) will take in much of the Grose catchment (but not Acacia Flat and several popular access routes).

At its May meeting, Confederation voted to support the above limits. While the making of firm limits may seem arbitrary, there is no other practical way to regulate party impacts. And there is still provision in the plans for the limits to be exceeded, by permission, in special circumstances.

Some clubs already impose limits more or less consistent with the above, and most individual walk leaders try to keep their parties small. The introduction of legal limits is really a blessing-it provides a bulletproof excuse to cap your party size. If your club has a problem with too many people trying to register for every walk, then the answer is to hold more walks and disperse the impact.

**Apology**  
The Editor would like to apologise to Paddy Pallin for not giving recognition for using their article "Guarding against Giardia" in Volume 23 No 4

Appendix 2 - Guide to application of Policy for Recreation Management

	Natural Areas	Wilderness
<b>FACILITIES</b>		
<b>Marked routes</b>	Marked routes are permissible in places where safety is an issue or where navigation is difficult (such as to locate a cliff pass).	No new routes should be marked and existing markings should be removed except where safety would be critically affected.
<b>Walking pads and cut tracks</b>	Walking pads and cut tracks are permissible provided they don't result in erosion. Eroded tracks should be either closed and revegetated, repaired or converted to a constructed track.	Walking pads are tolerable providing they don't cause erosion. Existing cut tracks may be retained but new cut tracks should not be permitted. Eroded tracks should be closed and revegetated.
<b>Constructed walking tracks</b>	Constructed tracks are permissible, and encouraged in popular areas to provide access for many people while protecting against the impacts they may have. Such tracks should not detract from the natural surroundings.	Existing constructed tracks may be retained. No new tracks should be constructed nor existing ones modified except where the passage of feet is causing serious local damage.
<b>Roads</b>	Kept to a minimum, based on the need for reasonable public access and park management. Surplus fire trails should be closed and revegetated. Access roads should be suitable for ordinary vehicles to provide access for all.	Close and revegetate all roads. Access for management should be by foot or by air.
<b>KIND OF ACTIVITY</b>		
<b>Bushwalking</b>	Bushwalking is generally permissible if minimum impact practises are employed. In certain localities bushwalking access may be limited or controlled to meet conservation objectives.	Minimum impact bushwalking permitted. In some places, access may be prohibited or restricted for conservation purposes or the preservation of spiritual values.
<b>Canoeing and Rafting</b>	As for Bushwalking	As for Bushwalking
<b>Bicycling</b>	Permitted on vehicular roads only.	Prohibited except on roads (the presence of which is contrary to this policy).
<b>Rockclimbing, abseiling and canyoning</b>	Permissible if there is no significant environmental damage.	Permissible if there is no significant environmental damage and conducted without the installation of permanent anchorages.
<b>Horse riding</b>	Not permitted in the National Park Estate.	Generally prohibited.
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	Permitted on public roads only. Vehicle travelling speeds and noise generation should be tempered as much as possible in natural areas.	Prohibited except in emergencies.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
<b>Signposting</b>	Signs should be erected only on tracks which may be used by inexperienced people.	Signs should not be erected except on the periphery at access points.
<b>Printed guides</b>	Detailed route guides are permitted so long as they give due regard to protection and conservation.	Limited to general descriptions of the terrain etc, with only broad suggestions concerning route possibilities. Where a well established route passes through wilderness, supportive material should contain sufficient detail to guide the walker through.
<b>Communication</b>	Electronic devices may be carried by bushwalkers at their discretion, but use should be confined to emergencies.	Electronic devices may be carried by bushwalkers at their discretion, but use should be confined to emergencies.