Riding to the Roof of the World

Confederation’s immediate past president, Brian Walker, relates his experiences as he cycles through West Bengal on an Australian-made Greenspeed recumbent tricycle. His goal is Darjeeling in the foothills of Kanchenjunga, the world’s third highest mountain.

At last, I’ve made it! I am actually in India, sweetering in the humid air inside the arrival hall at Calcutta airport, surrounded by shouting Indians with enormous bundles wrapped elaborately in pink and blue plastic. No sign of my precious trike yet, I’m anxious to have it arrived safely.

A window shutter is broken so anyone using the toilet is in full view of passers-by. In India nothing gets fixed.

In 15 frustrating minutes I can’t unravel the chain. The real frustration begins - trying to find someone who can send an email message for me. All my inquiries are met with dumb incomprehension and shrugs.

Finally I locate the operator of a computer who won’t let me near his precious equipment, but grudgingly agrees to send my message if I write it down.

Several more hours are spent fiddling with the derailleur, to no avail. Then my luck changes - I bump into an old friend who was once the Hare Krishna secretary for Australia years ago. As soon as he hears of my problem he escorts me back to the office, ousts the computer guardian and opens up the e-mail program himself. Success!

Unfortunately my friend is leaving the next day, but he tells me there is a bus on Friday to Mayapur where I know more people and expect to be more welcome than I am in the Calcutta temple. The bus has a roof rack that will hold the trike so I purchase a ticket. With my usual optimism I believe all my problems will be solved once I get to Mayapur.

The 100km trip takes more than three hours. The roads are packed with buses and trucks, and I am vastly relieved I am not cycling. The road surface is unbelievably bad. As the monsoon season is not yet over there is water everywhere and many areas are flooded - the Ganges is running a banker.

I finally arrive in Mayapur, hot, sweaty and somewhat scruffy, still wearing the clothes I left home in three days ago. I decide to send a fax to Australia just in case my wife doesn’t have it in the mail box.

Continued on Page 8

Bushwalks in the Proposed Forest Reserve System

by John Macris, Conservation Officer

The Carr Government was elected to office on a strong environmental platform. “Saving the old growth and wilderness forests” was a widely publicised commitment of Bob Carr:

It should be acknowledged that a good start was made towards achieving what has been termed a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system. Through 1995-96 a logging moratorium was placed over most of the old growth forests and identified wilderness in the east of the State while an initial assessment took place of areas likely to be needed for the forest reserve system. 120 million dollars of State and Federal money was allocated to industry adjustment, so as to allow the transition of jobs from native forest to plantation or other sectors.

Over the past year however there has been signs that the process has begun to stall. Accompanying the September 1996 announcement of some initial forest parks and wilderness declarations, was a 10 year resource security undertaking for the industry, which meant if necessary wood supplies would be...
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

Distribution is through affiliated clubs, major retail outlets, council information centres and national park offices. Address all correspondence to The Editor, The Bushwalker - Bushwalkers NSW PO Box 2090 GPO Sydney 1043.

E-mail turton@fastlink.com.au

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents approximately 67 clubs with a total membership 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 for the public a free wilderness search and rescue service. 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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The Bushwalker 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.
Every weekend, hundreds of Australians take to the bush in search of peace, tranquillity and plain good fun.

For many people, the experience of bushwalking is a longing that will not go away, and attracts the young and the old. Indeed, there seems no age barrier for this pastime as is evidenced by the many walking clubs in almost every city in Australia. I joined one such group recently, and gained a first hand account of the "bushwalking experience".

The Wayward Wanderers is a Sydney based group, headed by Michael Heffernan, in another life, an administrator for MMI.

Michael started walking as result of his decision to give up smoking. "It was either that or golf," he said, "I prefer walking, it's better for you, and you never lose!"

What motivates him to walk now is his desire to keep off the dreaded weed, the company of good friends, and just by chance, the Wanderers always seem to end their walking day in a cosy pub somewhere.

My trek with the Wayward Wanderers began at 8am on a crisp June morning, at the meeting point, the George IV Hotel at Picton.

This, as it miraculously turned out was also the finishing point, and thankfully, apart from refreshments, also heralded a much needed warm fire and soft armchairs at the end of a long day.

After one of Michaels special zinger tea brews, we were ready to hit the track, a leisurely hike of 16km or so down the Captain Starlight Trail to the

Bushwalking - A First Experience

By Charles Silvestro
'The Wayward Wanderers'

Nattai River, where we would stop for lunch, then follow the river for a while to an obelisk known as Russell's Needle, before heading back upriver and to the civilised warmth of burning wood and brewed hops. It wasn't long before I found my place in the pack; at the back.

We followed Michael like sheep, sometimes in single file, sometimes in pairs. It was reassuring to one was left behind. It was reassuring to front walkers would stop and wait for the stragglers, and as we each filed past, he called Hollow Rock.

This, as it miraculously turned out was also the finishing point, and thankfully, apart from refreshments, also heralded a much needed warm fire and soft armchairs at the end of a long day.

One of Michaels special zinger tea brews, we were ready to hit the track, a leisurely hike of 16km or so down the Captain Starlight Trail to the

A typical group of walkers enjoying a well earned rest

Australians take to the bush in search of peace, tranquillity and plain good fun.
Personal Accident Insurance
A very Personal Experience

In the Spring issue of The Bushwalker, Maurice Smith wrote an interesting article about Confederation’s Personal Accident Insurance cover.

Well, I can report firsthand on the value of that cover. In October, while leading an NPA walk from Kanangra to Mt Cloudmaker, I slipped and broke my left ankle. We were lucky that another walking party in the area had an analogue mobile phone, with which to call for help. As many walkers with digitalis will know, they don’t always get a signal from Kanangra Tops.

Two hours after the call an SES crew and

a paramedic from Oberon arrived on the scene. It was decided it would be much too difficult to stretcher me out through the heath, so the Care Flight Rescue helicopter was called in.

Now these things are not cheap and if you think it’s all done for nothing, think again. The Ambulance Service do bill you for the evacuation. In my case it was $1,228.

I was not covered by a private health fund, nor did I have ambulance cover. So the three dollar investment I made when I renewed my NPA membership last August worked out to be a pretty good one. Not only has it covered the cost of the helicopter but also my ongoing physiotherapy. Although it wasn’t necessary for me, the policy also covers things like loss of income. I wasn’t doing anything particularly difficult when I suffered my injury. It’s the type of thing that could happen to anyone, anywhere. If such a small cost can save you anywhere between three and five thousand dollars it’s got to be one of the best deals going.

Continued from Page 3

Michael wasted little time in shuffling us back to our feet, for stage two of this walk, the quest to find Russell’s Needle.

This was the point where he took out the salt shaker, and declared, “be alert for leeches!”

We all protested strongly that he never mentioned anything about leeches until now.

“Didn’t I, I meant to,” he said with a cheeky grin, and turned upriver with a cheery “Wagons Ho!”

The walk along the river bank was glorious to say the least, clear, smooth flowing water, wonderful rock formations and some beautiful floral displays. We all kept a special lookout for platypus, but sadly, none were found.

Soon, we were amongst the thick of it, mixing it with the real bush. Michael had led us into some heavy scrub, and had lost the trail. Sensibly, he stopped us there, while he went ahead to try and pick it up again. Again, another chance for a breather, some more water, and a quick photo session.

At that point, we heard the familiar sound emanating from the bush, “Cooee, Cooee”

Ah yes, no matter where you go in this great country, you can always depend on that sound.

Michael had found the trail, and we pushed on towards his call.

We walked for another hour before he called a halt for lunch, in a nice area on the bank of the river, still some kilometres from Russell’s Needle.

It seemed that objective would be unobtainable today, as Michael calculated that this would be about as far as we could go in order to make it back comfortably before dusk.

I was impressed by his ability to keep a constant eye on all things, the trail, the weather, the distance, the terrain, and the first timers like me, not had for someone who says he doesn’t organise anything.

Lunch was a chance to reflect in the days walk so far, and for me, to think about the walk back... And up, it wasn’t the most pleasant thought at the time.

Most of the group had come well prepared for a bush lunch, some had fruit, some had sandwiches, and some had caviar.

Above all, each was well equipped to enjoy the day, in the company of great friends.

And this seemed to me to be the overiding theme in this adventure, your life, and to love for the rest of it.

Bushwalking, a must to experience at least once in your life, and to love for the rest of it.

There are numerous bushwalking clubs scattered all over Australia, I’m certainly going to keep at it, but a hint for first timers, start with the easy ones, take plenty of water, some fruit to eat, and above all, enjoy.

LET NATURE FEED ITSELF.

The foods we sometimes feed wildlife are like ‘junk food’ - animals and birds might seem to enjoy, but they can actually be causing harm. For example, milks and sugars can cause severe diarrhoea and dehydration.

When birds or possums feed regularly in our neighbourhood they learn to depend on us and they can lose their feeding skills in the wild. Their search for the right food and shelter is a question of survival - it’s when everything they have learnt matters most.

Even feeding lorikeets from a single bowl can transmit psittacine ‘beak and feather’ disease. This deadly disease stops the feathers growing and deforms the beak and claws. It means the bird is unable to fly and can suffer a slow death by starvation or feral attack.

As you can see, when people interfere with nature even if they think they’re doing the right thing, things can go wrong. Our message is simple

LET NATURE FEED ITSELF.
ALONG THE TRACK

Alex Tucker Tracks & Access Officer

1) BLUE MOUNTAINS CROSSING WALK

I have had no formal response to the advertisement in the August issue for an Honorary Project Officer. However, some of the four proponents of the possible options seem prepared to act jointly if this is necessary.

Meanwhile the Conservation Alliance has advised that our submission was included in their short list for funding but was unsuccessful as available funds were sufficient only for one project in each state. However, they asked us to try again this year and are ready to discuss the details of our project before we submit an application.

Our next step is to advise Bob Debus MP for Blue Mountains of the situation and ask him to convene a meeting of the two Councils, NPWS and DLaWC to decide if the Project should proceed. At a previous meeting with Confederation representatives, Mr Debus had indicated that he would consider this action at an appropriate time.

2) WARRINGAH PITTWATER COASTAL WALK

Stage 1 of this walk was a Bicentennial Project resulting in the construction of linking tracks between the beaches between Dee Why Head and Mona Vale Head and tracks around Bilgola South Head and Bangally Head linked by some road walks. If the January Confederation meeting agrees, we will be advising Pittwater Council that Confederation would like to see the walk completed to Barrenjoey Head and suggesting that they seek funding from the Centenary of Federation Committee. I recommend that our preferred option should be a route without road links. This will not be easy to achieve.

Maps such as Mona Vale and Broken Bay 1:25 000 and in street directories show Recreation Reserves extending almost continuously between beaches. However, in several places the boundaries of private lands extend almost to the cliff edge and the Reserve at these “pinch points” is mostly at the rock platform 50 metres below. Even where there is 2 metres or more of reserve at the top, geotechnical consultants have advised Council of high risks of eventual cliff collapse due to wind caves.

Purchase of even small areas of private property would be expensive, but this is one option that we will ask Council to consider, along with new track construction or stairways or even (horror) safety rails, near pinch points.

I would appreciate reader’s comments on this submission to Council, so that we can, if necessary, demonstrate bushwalker’s support for the completion of the walk.

POST BUSHFIRE FAUNA SURVEY

I was contacted in January by the leader of a WIRES group who were conducting a fauna survey in the Cole area. They had CMA maps but had been advised that Bob Buck’s map would help them identify safe and suitable locations for sampling. I soon confirmed my impression that the map had been out of print for many years and that the only hope was to find someone who was prepared to get his own copy photocopied. Most of the likely people were away from their phones and in the meanwhile WIRES had found such a Person through another channel. I was able to pass on to them the caution from several of my contacts that some of the passes that Bob classified as “Simple” were found to be “Formidable” by experienced walkers or almost impossible without ropes and associated hardware.

CONGRATULATIONS PETER

The Confederation of Bushwalkers NSW would like to congratulate Peter Treseder on his latest achievement.


They started their 1400km journey at Berkner Island and arrived 60 days later after rising 10,000 feet and averaging approximately 22km/day. The starting weight of their sleds was 150kg each. Their diet consisted of a calorie intake of 6,500 per day made up of soup, pasta, museli, chocolate etc, plus a high fat biscuit made up for the expedition by Arnotts, one of the major sponsors of the trip. All three suffered frostbite, Ian being worst affected and requiring injections and daily dressing of the wounds on his inner thighs. This crossing by these brave Australians shows us that there are still some challengers waiting out there for man to overcome.

Peter is the leader of the Confederations rock squad rescue team, and was recently awarded with his 25 year medal for services rendered to the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.
walks of varying degrees of difficulty:

**North East Region**

*Doyles River State Forest* - View the area from Mt Seaview off the Oxley Highway. Explore the rainforests and eucalypt forests of Fenwicks Creek in a proposed wilderness area.

*Enfield/Riamukka State Forests* - observe unlogged tableland hardwoods. Walk into remote rivers like Mummel and Rowleys Rivers.

*Myall River/Bulladelah State Forests* - make a side excursion to these forests as part of a trip to Myall Lakes.

**Southern Region**

*Benandarah/Termeil State Forests* - east of the Princes Highway between Tabourie and Batemans Bay. These are long standing proposals (more than 40 years) for inclusion in Murrumurrag National Park.

*Dampier State Forest* - Contains the largest contiguous area of rainforest in the south of the State. Parts are proposed for addition to the Deua Wilderness and National Park.

*Badja State Forest* - part of an identified wilderness centred on the rugged Tuross River. Together with the previous area would complete the linked reserve system in the southern ranges as a continuous protected area from the Illawarra to the Victorian Border.

The third region is upper north east which is more than 5 hours travel. Information is available for those interested in making a longer trip to the far north.

To discuss these or other areas as potential places for your walks program, please contact me on the number listed under office bearers on page 2.

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The Bushwalker

Cookery Corner

Phil Patterson
Kowmung Curry
Rice or pasta
Small tin red salmon
Small tin coconut cream
Lemon grass
3 cloves garlic
Tablespoon fresh sliced ginger
Sliced red capsicum
1 teaspoon Green Thai Curry Paste
Fresh cut coriander

Boil rice pasta for 10 mins. Mix all other ingredients in separate pot and stir until well blended adding salmon last to prevent breaking. Serve over the pasta.

Thanks Richard and Phil.

Richard Thompson NPA

As a long time Bushwalker and NPA Walks Leader, Richard prefers to spend his time around the camp fire watching others cook. His ideal, no nonsense meals are all pre cooked and heated over the campfire!

Starters: Sui Min Pot Noodle
Heat as per instructions

Main: 'Cook in the Can' Curry
Tom Piper Sweet Curry
Heat as per instructions

Desert: Pot of fruit salad (any brand)
Wine: Vintage 'Chullora' Individual cask red!

Where will you walk this year?

Australia
We have a large range of guided walks in many wonderful locations, ranging from difficult treks to easy supported walks.
Great holidays, great value.
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Overseas
Ever thought of walking overseas?
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A great way to explore the world!

Details, details, details
Whether you prefer organised walks or "do it yourself" trips, we can help you get there, get around & get home with competitive airfares, inexpensive accommodation & track transfers.
We take care of the details.
You enjoy the journey.

Walk Safely - Walk With a Club

From page 1 check the e-mail for a few days. After visiting numerous offices I finally find someone who agrees to send my fax - then the power goes off! Why am I surprised - after all, this is India.

While waiting for a reply to my messages I decide to go for a walk. All the low-lying land around the temple is under water; the once-beautiful temple garden is a muddy swamp. There are birds everywhere - white egrets wade among the reeds, a large hawk or eagle perches on a tree behind the restaurant. This morning the air is filled with the sounds of doves and bulbuls.

Food, as usual, is plentiful. Breakfast costs me about 50¢; lunch and dinner are free. Rice is accompanied by dahl with two or more vegetable dishes and a pakhara, followed by a Bengali sweet, fresh fruit or sweet rice.

I am persuaded to remain in Mayapur until September 12 when a number of people who live along my proposed route will be here for the Radhamastami religious festival (in celebration of the birthday of Krishna's consort, Rhada). I am to meet them and arrange where and how to contact them.

The anxiously-awaited instructions

To page 10

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THE BIG PICTURE

Rescue in NSW has you as a worker for Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue (BWR) part of a major community resource. BWR is just one of the many squads of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Inc. (VRA). BWR is the specialist Bush Search & Rescue group of the VRA with accreditation from the State Rescue and Emergency Services Board.

SEARCH & RESCUE CALENDARS

This pocket size (rucksack portable) little gem is out again. It has lots of valuable information such as Confederation and S & R activity dates, Public and School Holidays, Full Moons and how to contact your own self help rescue section of the Confederation - Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue. Copies have been sent to your club. Get one of these little gems to-day.

Keith Maxwell
DIRECTOR,
Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue.

A BOX OF BANDAIDS AND A COUPLE OF ‘ASPROS’

If this describes your comprehensive First Aid Kit then you haven’t done an accredited First Aid course as offered by Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue at special discount rates for walkers. All conscientious trip leaders should have at least a Senior St John First Aid Certificate (or better). First Aid training is worth having for its ability to save lives in all sorts of situations (not just for bushwalks). All bushwalkers available for Search & Rescue Callouts should have a Certificate or be soon to do it.

Wilderness Rescue is running a Senior St John First Aid course on 30th/31st May. Another course will also be available on the last weekend in October (24th/25th) if you are unable to attend this course. Club Walks Program Secretaries please note to pencil in the last weekend of May and October 1999 for similar First Aid courses.

Bookings are essential and can only be done in May. The venue will be confirmed with your booking. A $20 non refundable deposit will complete the booking but should not be sent until you have ascertained that there is a place for you by contacting our Instructor and First Aid Training Co-ordinator -

Mr David Sheppard at home on (0242) 26 6565

Unless you are on your clubs list of bushwalkers available for Search & Rescue Callouts the total cost will be $80. The additional $60 is to be paid on the morning of the start of the course. For bushwalkers on the Callout list the total is $60. To prove that you are on your clubs list you will need a brief note to accompany your deposit from your Club Search & Rescue Contact. We know who they are when we need them but don’t ask us who is your Club Contact as the course cost may go up over $80!

OTHER COURSES - The St John “Remote Area First Aid” course run by Confederation is a more detailed course that takes either 3 or 4 days over two weekends. These are run several times per year but not on fixed dates each year as per the above course. Contact the Instructor for dates and bookings. This course is often taught mid week (often by our Instructor). Bookings for mid week courses must be done through the Sydney Office of St John Ambulance in Surrey Hills. If you have sufficient people interested in doing either course in your club a special course could be arranged on an appropriate weekend. Go back to page 1 of ‘The Bushwalker’ and start reading all over again if you cannot think of whom to contact.

ROGAINE 98

It’s time to start planning your clubs’ Rogaine teams. As usual the site is a secret for as long as possible. Sometimes its even a secret from us as we have been unable to confirm the site until very close to the event. This year it may not be north of the Harbour Bridge but then again the possible site isn’t confirmed yet.
An aim of the Rogaine is to encourage navigation training by bushwalking clubs and other emergency services. Thus the course is set up to be straightforward. Checkpoints are always set in obvious places such as the top of hills or creek junctions. There is a choice of either the one day or overnight event. Everyone starts together but returns by 7pm Saturday night or 2pm Sunday.

**TRAINING** - This is a great opportunity to train members in navigation. In my club I regularly hold a navigation training day prior to the Rogaine. The beginner navigators then enter the one day event on their own for some concentrated practice and usually end up around midway of the results. This gives them a tremendous confidence boost.

If you cannot navigate you are really a follower still learning the craft of bushwalking. I am never a passive follower always taking an interest in where a bushwalk is going as I have seen too many blunders.

**LEADERSHIP** - If you have large numbers on bushwalks it could be that your club has a shortage of leaders and not that they all greatly love the area. Why not get together a mixed team(s) of trainee leaders and experienced leaders. The trainee should do the lot; i.e. navigation, route selection and monitoring of progress (that may require changing of plans). The experienced leaders should provide a confidence boost but not take over unless something goes badly wrong. A debrief should be held after the Rogaine for the trainee to discuss how to lead better in the future.

**FOOD** - This is available at the end of the day. So when you return tired and hungry there is a hot meal and drink just waiting for your cup and plate. You can then do some serious socialising with the other bushwalkers present as you all wait for the presentation. We try to do the presentation no later than 90 minutes from the finish time. So when you head home you know your results and will probably be discussing how to do better in 1999.

So why not start planning your teams. The Rogaine is always on the last weekend of June so this year it will be on 27th / 28th. The entry forms will be sent to all bushwalking clubs around late April. The one day teams must be 2 to 4 persons while the limit on two day teams is 4 to 6.

Continued from Page 9

arrive and I adjust the derailleur properly. To my consternation this does not entirely solve the problem. Riding is possible, but there is a disconcerting series of jerks and loud crashes from the cogs that is a quite alarming. Deciding some oil may help, I study my Bengali phrase book and discover the magic words saikel tel (cycle oil). After a long search I finally obtain some oil, but it makes little difference. Perhaps the stiff links will loosen up once I get out on the road - I’m certainly not going to stay here for weeks until a new chain arrives from Australia.

National Highway 34 - the main road to Darjeeling - is no more than a series of potholes linked together by patches of fractured bitumen. I soon realise the trike and I are in for some punishing riding. Yesterday while inspecting the road I was accosted by an old man who said, in beautifully enunciated English, “Excuse me, Sir. I make my living by begging. Could you please make a small contribution? Any small amount to suit your convenience would be satisfactory.”

In a quiet backwater I see a couple of ferries picking up people wanting to get to the opposite side of the river. The boats have flat decks on which the passengers, many with bicycles, stand precariously. They are powered through New Ireland. Alternatively, canoe the Sepik River, hike with Huli Wigman or bike through New Ireland.

PNG has a special adventure for you - a short walk with Huli Wigman or a boat trip through New Ireland. For further details contact:

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Air Niugini
by inboard diesel engines. Beyond the backwater the river is racing, big bunches of water hyacinth and other debris flying along. I am impatient to start my ride and get away from the frustrations involved in getting even small things done. Just finding some glue to seal my letters before posting them was an amusing but trying experience. I meet the people who have agreed to provide support along my route to Darjeeling.

At 7.30 in the morning I leave without fanfare and am on my way. The minor roads are crowded with rickshas, bicycles and oxcarts, but no trucks and buses. The sight of my trike causes great excitement wherever I go - men fall off their bicycles or collide with one another while gaping. An old man peeing against a wall turns around and almost sprays another while gaping. An old man peeing against a wall turns around and almost sprays another while gaping. An old man peeing against a wall turns around and almost sprays another while gaping. An old man peeing against a wall turns around and almost sprays another while gaping. An old man peeing against a wall turns around and almost sprays another while gaping. An old man peeing against a wall turns around and almost sprays another while gaping. An old man peeing against a wall turns around and almost sprays another while gaping. An old man peeing against a wall turns around and almost sprays another while gaping. 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Continued next issue

ADD for Back from Brink
NEW
CLUBS AFFILIATED WITH THE CONFEDERATION

Active Singles Bushwalking Club
A.N.C. Bushwalkers Inc
Bankstown Bushwalking Club Inc
Barrier Rangers
Berowra Bushwackers Club
Brisbane Water Outdoors Club Inc.
Canberra Bushwalking Club Inc
Catholic Bushwalking Club
Central Coast University of the 3rd Age Walkers
Central West Bushwalking Club Inc
Coomaburra Bushwalking Club Inc
Endeavour Campus Walkers
Fairfield Bushwalking Club Inc
Geehi Bushwalking Club Inc
Goulburn Bushwalking Club
Glen Innes Bushwalking Club Inc
Gunnedah Bushwalking Club Inc
Hawkesbury Canoe Club Inc
Hunter Area Walkabout Club
Ku-ring-gai Recreation Association Inc.
Ku-ring-gai Bushwalkers
Lake Side Lurchers
Morisset Bushwalkers
Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club Inc
Mudgee Bushwalking Club Inc.
Narrabri Bushwalking Club Inc
National Parks Association Inc.
Nepean Bushwalking and Outdoor Club
Newcastle Bushwalking Club Inc
Newcastle Family Walkabout Club
Newcastle Ramblers Bushwalking Club
Northern Rivers Bushwalkers Club Inc
Outdoor Adventure Club
Outdoor Club of NSW Inc
Ramblers Bushwalking Club
Scripture Union Bushwalkers’ Club
South Coast Bushwalkers Assoc.
Shoalhaven Bushwalkers Inc
Southern Highland Bushwalkers Inc
Span Outdoors Inc
Springwood Bushwalking Club Inc
Sutherland Bushwalking Club Inc
Sydney Bush Walkers Inc
Sydney University Bushwalkers
Tamworth Bushwalking & Canoe Club
The Bush Club Inc
The Coast and Mountain Walkers of NSW (Inc.)
The Inverell Bushwalking Club Inc
The Macquarie Explorers Club
The Southern Adventure Society
University of Technology, Sydney - The Wanderers Bushwalking and
The Wilderness Society (Sydney) Inc
Three Peaks Outdoor Society Inc
Upper Blue Mountains Bushwalking Club Inc
Upper Lachlan Bushwalkers
Warragamba Walkers Inc
Warringah Bushwalking Club Inc
Watagan Wanderers Inc
WEA Illawara Bushwalkers Club
WEA Ramblers & Naturalists Club
Weekday Walkers Inc.
Y.E.C. Bushwalking Club
Yarrawood Bushwalking Club Inc
YHA Social & Outdoor Club - Sydney Region

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To become a member of the Rogaine Association phone Graeme Cooper (02) 6772-3584 email gcooper@metz.une.edu.au or visit the website at http://rogaine.asn.au

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs represents over 65 clubs and 8500 walkers in NSW. Visit our website at http://www.bushwalking.org.au - email turton@fastlink.com.au. Phone (02) 9548-1228

Any member of any club may attend meetings of the Confederation.

### Calendar of Events 1998

**Put it on your Fridge**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>8th-9th NSW Rogaine Championships North of Maitland</td>
<td>Sydney Metro</td>
<td>17th Confederation Meeting</td>
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<td>28th-29th Search and Rescue Training weekend</td>
<td>Kowmung</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>4th Autumn 12/24 hour Rogaine</td>
<td>Sydney Metro</td>
<td>18th-19th &amp; 25th Remote area First-aid</td>
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<td>21st April Confederation Meeting</td>
<td>Kowmung</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>16th-17th &amp; 23rd Remote area first-aid</td>
<td>Sydney Metro</td>
<td>19th Confederation Meeting</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>14th Paddy Palin Rogaine</td>
<td>Sydney Metro</td>
<td>16th Confederation Meeting</td>
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<td>20th-21st &amp; 27th Remote Area First-aid</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>18th 19th &amp; 25th Remote Area First-aid</td>
<td>Sydney Metro</td>
<td>21st Confederation meeting</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>5th Lake Macquarie Rogaine</td>
<td>Sydney Metro</td>
<td>15th Confederation Meeting</td>
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<td>18th Confederation’s Ball/Bush Dance</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>17th-18th &amp; 24th Remote area First-aid</td>
<td>Sydney Metro</td>
<td>15th Confederation Meeting</td>
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<td>19th-20th &amp; 26th Remote Area First-aid</td>
<td>Kowmung</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>8th Upside-down Rogaine</td>
<td>Sydney Metro</td>
<td>17th Confederation Meeting</td>
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<td>21st-22nd &amp; 28th Remote Area First-aid</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>15th Confederation Meeting</td>
<td>Sydney Metro</td>
<td>19th-20th &amp; 26th Remote Area First-aid</td>
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<td>December</td>
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BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Andy Macqueen
Confederation’s historian

‘WILD PLACES: Wilderness in
Eastern New South Wales’

Text by Peter Primeau, photography by Henry Gold, 288 pages, published by the Colong Foundation for Wilderness Limited, 1997. Retail price $34.95

A great deal of water has plunged through the wild gorges since the first edition of ‘Wild Places’ was published in 1983. The Wilderness Act has come into being and wilderness areas have been declared in accordance with it; there has been more debate on many wilderness and biodiversity issues; the Wollemi Pine has been discovered; and the Mabo decision has thrown out the notion of Australia as a Terra Nullius. Perhaps most importantly, we have progressed from a time when the wilderness movement was riding on a growing wave of support, to the present climate of organised and vocal opposition to wilderness.

It is thus timely that a second edition of ‘Wild Places’ should make its appearance.

The first edition quickly became a desirable adjunct to any wilderness lover’s bookshelf— or coffee table. It was a handsome, hard-covered volume filled with magnificent black-and-white wilderness photographs. But it went far beyond that: it contained a wealth of information, firstly on the philosophy of wilderness and, secondly, on the geography and history of the 22 wild places it discussed. However, so formidable was that wealth of information, presented on large pages with long lines and countless words, that I suspect only a handful of ardent wilderness philosophers and historians read it from cover to cover.

In the second edition the emphasis is on the text rather than the photos. It has a smaller format, with a soft cover, and there are fewer photos. Also, the photos are necessarily smaller and their quality has suffered slightly from a reduction in contrast. On the positive side, the book costs less than it would if it had retained its former attributes.

If all this means that the second edition is more likely to be purchased for the value of its text instead of its beauty, then it is a good thing, for we seem to be at a stage where wilderness is in the future of wilderness in this state. It behoves us all to be thoroughly informed about all the matters involved.

The first fifty-odd pages are devoted to the same well-researched and argued dissertation on the philosophy of wilderness as appeared in the first edition, substantially edited and updated in places. With an excellent reference list and presentation of alternative views, the many historical perceptions of our wilderness are discussed, and a detailed account is given of the arguments and battles for wilderness preservation. There is new discussion on issues like biodiversity, fire history, and the significance of the Mabo decision.

Not everyone will agree with all the arguments. However, to the extent that the author has acknowledged the alternative views, the work is balanced.

The bulk of the book is devoted to a detailed account of the 22 wild places presented in the first edition, plus five ‘Further Areas’— the Nattai, Grose Valley, Border Ranges, Kaputar and Coolangubra. The material on the former has been updated, mainly to take account of events since 1983, but there appears to have been little revision of most of the material— unfortunately perhaps. For instance, the section on Kanangra could have done with some updating in the light of the recent publications by Jim Barrett. As for the ‘Further areas’, it is not clear why they should have virtual footnote status in the book. If they deserve to be regarded as wild places as much as any of the other 22, why are they simply not slotted in with the rest?

Without wading deep into the text, it is difficult to see which of the 27 areas, or which parts of them, have now been identified or declared under the Wilderness Act. This is understandable, bearing in mind that the book does not pretend to be a guide to declared wilderness areas. However, I think an additional chapter in which currently declared areas were listed and cross-refered to the 27 wild areas would have been helpful—the reader could then more easily appreciate just ‘where we are at’ with wilderness.

Similarly, it would be instructive if the sketch maps in the book showed the gazetted boundaries of declared wilderness areas.

In conclusion, the original ‘Wild Places’ was valuable both for its text and its inviting beauty. This second, less costly edition has lost some of the latter, but it remains the only comprehensive written work promoting wilderness in this state. I am inclined to the view that, with the passage of 14 eventful years, the book might have deserved a more extensive overhaul. However, it is a fine piece of work, and if you missed out on the first edition I strongly recommend you buy the second. And read it.

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