THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER

A MONTHLY BULLETIN OF MATTERS OF
INTEREST TO THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKERS,
NORTHCOTE HOUSE, REIBY PLACE,
CIRCULAR QUAY, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

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Editor: Neville Page, 139 Riverview Road, Avalon, N.S.W. 2107.
Typist: Lesley Page " " "
Club Committee Representative: Dorothy Noble.
Office Boy and Production Manager: Owen Marks.
Business and Advertising Manager: Don Finch.

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JUNE, 1970.

EDITORIAL

It became known some years ago that a licence was to be given to a cement company to mine limestone deposits at Church Creek. Bushwalkers and other conservationists protested about the move, but all to no avail. It seemed that there was no hope of saving the area, and that Mount Armour would disappear from the face of the earth. It was put down by most as a lost cause.

But then a group started to organize themselves, later to become known as The Colong Committee. A meeting was convened by the Sydney University Conservation group, and representatives of interested parties and individuals brought the first ray of hope by way of concerted actions and protest. Today Colong is virtually a household word; due entirely to the unfailing efforts of this group of dedicated people.

Nothing has ever made such an impact in Australia before in matters of conservation. The Colong cause has been brought "into every home"; one of the initial and prime aims of the Colong Committee from its inception. More than that, conservation has become a political issue, and it seems that this is the only way to stir up some action. But still conservationists have little reason to make them complacent about Colong. The battle is a long way from being won. The Associated Portland Cement Company is free to mine limestone at Colong any day it wishes.

Not only that, but the Kanangra/Boyd National Park is being further exploited and despoiled by what has now been called "The Rape of the Boyd". Licences have been issued for the clearing of the Boyd Plateau in readiness for pine planting. Many people have written to the Premier asking for the Boyd Plateau to be included in the National Park have received a standard letter in reply.

Mr. Askin says that the Minister for Conservation "has explained that the volume of present logging activities is no different from that carried out over the past 30 years" If this were true the entire forest would have disappeared long ago.

The State Government obviously intends to press ahead with its aim of planting the Boyd Plateau with pine. What can be done in the face of such forces? The Colong Committee has shown what can be done by means of persistent and continued protest, and by bringing the facts before the general public.

Unfortunately the great majority are content to stand aside and leave the task to a hard-working minority. What can I contribute? is the question often asked. This is what you can do:-

1. Write to your locally elected Member of Parliament, both State and Federal, pointing out your feelings and pointing out your disgust at the whole scandal. And don't write just once; follow it up again and again as new facts and new considerations come to light.

2. Send a telegram to your local Member when you hear that a vote is to be taken on some Bill associated with the Colong cause.

3. Obtain onro share in the A.P.C.M. by donating $3 to the Colong Committee. Then enforce your rights by attending the Shareholders' meetings of the company and registering your diapproval. This is a very effective way of drawing attention to the cause, as all the financial journals and daily papers give a good coverage of these meetings.

4. Write to the newspapers.

MAKE UP YOUR MIND NOW TO THROW IN YOUR WEIGHT TO HELP THE CAUSE. Turn to page 29 immediately, tear out the form, and become a shareholder! Make this your first tangible move to help save Australia for future generations. If you're already in there helping, don't slacken up yet; there's a lot more to be done.

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OLD MAGAZINES

Pat Harrison is trying to build up his collection of past Club Magazines and old "Bushwalker Annuals". If you have any you don't want, give Pat a call, or see him in the Clubroom . His address is 47 Sunnyside St., Gladesville, NSW 2111. Telephone number at home is 89-5352.

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Putting together next month's magazine will be on Tuesday, 21st. August. The venue will be the home of Craig and Marcia Shappert at Tamarama. If you can help, ring Owen, on 30-1827. Closing date for contributions for publication will be 7th. August.

THE MAY GENERAL MEETING

**********BY JIM BROWN**********

In the beginning we learned that Helen Lowry and Greg Thorn were the new members for the month, neither being present to be welcomed at the General Meeting. During this prelude Phil Butt was writing on a blackboard a long list of possible names for the Kangaroo Valley land - shorter names than the 18 letters we now have to use to describe it.

Correspondence told us that several changes of personnel had occurred, with Betty and Ernie Farquhar returning to the active list, Roger Gowing and Helen McMaugh going non-active, whilst ex-Tiger of the thirties, Tim Coffey, had re-enlisted. There were also letters from National Parks Association in which Paul Barnes referred to a sewage treatment works likely to outflow into Wentworth Creek, a proposed fire trail through a wilderness area, and a need for another Trustee for the Heathcote Primitive area.

At Phil Hall's suggestion we nominated Jim Callaway for the Heathcote area trust: Paul Barnes other letter had been set aside for dealing by the Conservation Secretary, but the matter of Wentworth Creek came under notice, and on a motion by Alex Colley we decided to write the Minister for Local Government seeking an assurance that the sewage received adequate purification treatment before release into the stream.

The Treasurer's Report disclosed $1058 in the trading, and was followed by a Walks Report recording a reasonable level of activity in April. On the first week end Bill Gillam went into the Splendour Rock country with a party numbering 8, while Doone Wyborn and team of four found the Budawangs fresh and green, except where a fire had seared some scrub in the Valley of the Monoliths. There were two Sunday walks that week end; Nancy Alderson and party in the Berowra Waters area found lyre birds, and that even rarer avis - a made fireplace in Kuring-gai Chase. Jim Callaway's crew had four swims, he "did not kill anyone" and they were back to Waterfall by 5.30 p.m.

The second week end of the month was Federation Reunion, attended by (was it 12 or was it 30? S.B.W.). Anyway Alan Pike scored a credit for the Club by coming third in the billy boiling contest. On the Sunday, Bill Hall, dputizing for Sam Hinde

who was Federating, took a party numbering 21 into the Woronora-Kingdom Come country. The Friday evening trip on the following week end saw the beginning of Barry Pacey's trip to Little River (where the going was described as "scungy") and to Sugarloaf in Megalong Valley. Sam Hindo had the day walk in the Bundeena - Marley strip of coast.

On the final week end of the month, there were two Friday starts, both on Yadbora Creek: Marion Lloyd took a team up to Pigeon House to find that the Bi-Centenary Celebrations had led to the erection of ladders and a direction "sun-dial" on the summit to commemorate the naming of the mountain from the Endeavour in 1770. Meanwhile Don Finch and party - finally two parties - went up Yadbora Creek, found a new access to the Corang plateau, and circled around the main vantage points.

In Federation affairs it was said that the S & R Insurance Scheme was to be the subject of discussion with Police officials: there had been a bumper harvest of lost property after the Reunion (did someone mention a bike?). A warning was given about slanted-face karabiners, and there were rumours of the demolition by the National Parks Service of huts in the Snowy Mountains. One old S/M Authority hut was reported to have been removed, and the destruction of Tin Mines Hut and Mawson's Hut were forecast - enquiries were being made of the NP & WL Service.

Now we had come to the recommendations of the Land Management Committee, which had been published in the March edition of the magazine. There was discussion on the way of access to the Club land, which seemed to be in some doubt: at present we came in through a strip of Crown land which was under lease to the original owner of the riverfront blocks, but was now (possibly) being sought for lease by Mr. Holland, who owns the adjoining property.

It was suggested that perhaps the official way in was in an access strip along the river bank, and the point was made that efforts should be directed towards getting a legally defined method of access from the top road. The President said the new Management Committee and the Hon. Solicitor would be asked to look into the sundry problems.

All seemed in agreement with Item 2, that there should not be road access beyond the car park area when that is defined. Except that some felt the monetary aspect was unimportant - we just didn't want a road and its associated vandals no-how. No. 2 was adopted. There was no room for real argument about No. 3 unless we bought a cow and became tillers of the soil, we had no real basis to seek a Crown lease of the intervening ground.

Item 4 had to do with the hut, and proposals for a water supply, either by tank or a plastic pipe from the creek. Finally it was resolved that, for the present, no action in connection with huts or water supply be taken. Item five was adopted after it was stated that no camping fee would be charged others for using the area: the position is as it was with the Club land at Era - available for recreational camping by all, but no direct invitations.

The next two items (6) preferable to camp on the river flats until the Water Board's flooding occurs, the choice of any reunion site being left to the conveners, and (7) the fencing of the area be avoided if possible, were both adopted in short order. Item 8, that rates should be aa charge on club funds, brought a few brushes: some sought to urge that the new management committee seek means of escaping this impost, but the general thinking was "how else can they (the rates) be met, " and so (8) was adopted. Item 9, with the proposal to have the area proclaimed a wild life refuge was adopted, together with a rider by Laurie Rayner to have warning signs erected.

Items 10 and 11 proposed some planting of native trees and shrubs to mask old timber-cutters depredations, and the retention for several years of the Management Committee, elected at the Annual Meeting, and both were carried.

Amongst the more ribald suggestions at this stage was one that, instead of a wild life refuge, the area be dubbed a cemetery or a seminary, and all charges therefore avoided. Owen Marks said that farmers would believe a seminary was a stud farm.

Now we began to look at the long table of possible names: the hour was advanced and people beginning to wilt perceptibly. One group included the "name it tonight at any price" supporters - but stronger were those who wanted to dally. Bob Younger said in a casual way, "There's no urgency", and the blackboard was hidden away for a month. Ramon U'Brien wanted "Banksia Terraces" added as a good old Anglo Saxon alternative to the spate of aboriginal names.

Belatedly we were at General Business, and Owen Marks telling us the walks programme, on a new inflated price scale, would cost almost $100 four times a year - about 25c. per copy. He suggested we investigate other means - if necessary a stencilled-duplicated version on rather stiffer paper inserted at the rear of the magazine. Pat Harrison thought we ought to pass over examination of other avenues and go straight to the dup-

licated job, but as this cut across the intent of Owen's proposal, and there was some time to shop around, his original motion was carried.

Several additional mapping and first-aid questioners for membership applicants were appointed, and Alex Colley gave us details of how, for a mere $3 we could become shareholders in the A.P.C.M. (Colong Destroyers) Company, and throw our weight about at their highly entertaining annual meeting, also receiving a dividend of about 3 cents.

Last shot of the meeting came from David Ingram who had been troubled all evening over a remark about prize-money for the billy boiling contest at Federation Reunion. He heaved a sigh of relief on being told it was an order for goods at Paddy's emporium, and we all heaved a final sigh of relief at 10.3.p.m.

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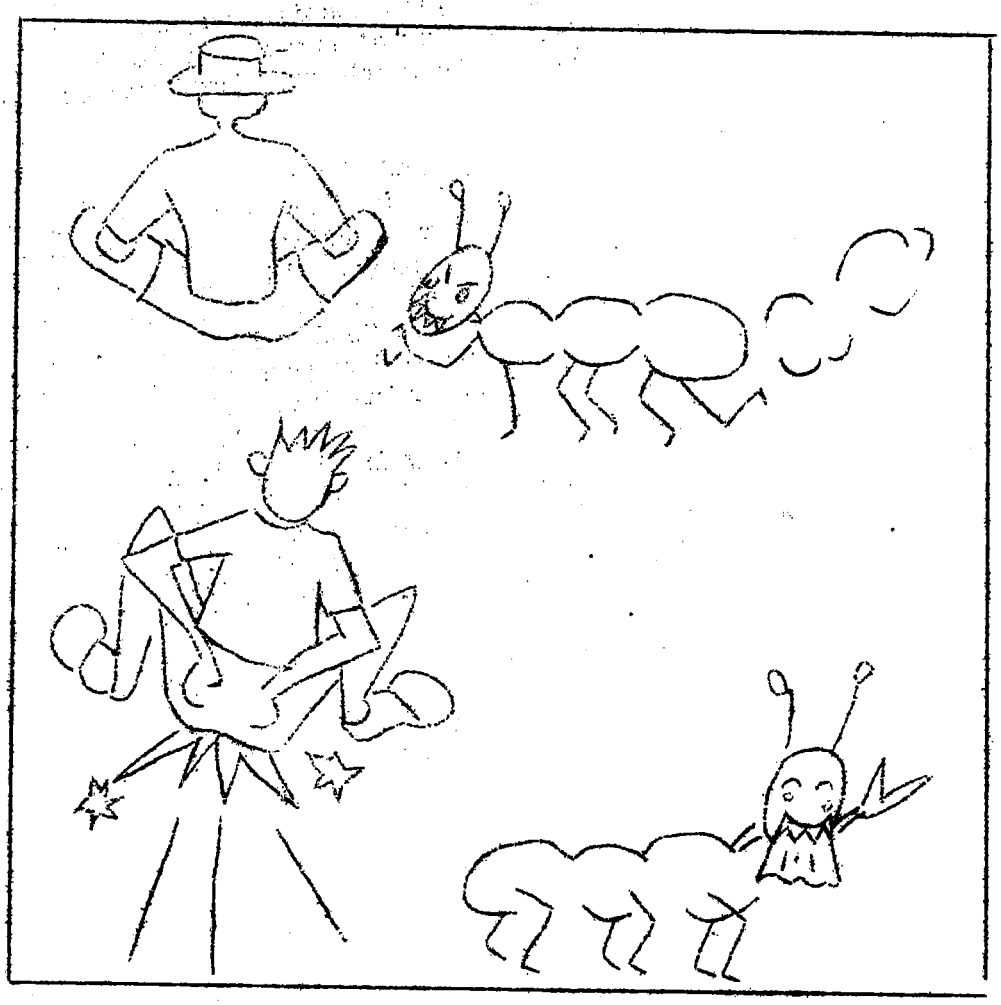


THIRTY ON THE DEUA AT EASTER

********** By Spiro Ketas **********

LEADER: Frank Rigby; accompanied by 20 S.B.W.'s and 9 A.C.T. walkers.

The hired Braidwood tourist bus arrived at 8.15 a.m. at our Araluen camp-site, but as the leader and a couple of drivers had gone to park the John White van (now proudly possessed by Don Finch) at our walk's proposed finishing spot, we had to keep the obliging bus driver waiting. In due course we took off on what was to be a memorable bus jaunt.

The driver was intent on pointing out things of local interest and we stopped first to examine the fairy's tree, a large white gum with a hollow trunk in which the fairies dwell. It was obvious that they lived there as one could see the furnishings; tiny cute beds, tables, chairs, etc. A few miles on we entered the quiet town of Major's Creek and our driver took us on a "Cook's Tour" of the town, pointing out the old church, the old police station, the post office and the one and only pub, but despite despite desperate pleas from the thirsty members of our party our strong-willed leader sadly ordered the driver on as he was to reach our first camp-site on the Deua that night.

It was a perfect autumn day, and the warm sun penetrated the buse's windows as we turned onto the jeep track that took us past "Khan Yunis". The long bulky Bedford merrily bounced along the narrow road as its sober occupants enjoyed this different style of bush transport. We passed a homestead and the farmer and his family gazed with amazement at the unexpected Good Friday sight. He jumped into his Land Rover and followed us in hot pursuit, cutting across country to intercept us, his hands waving furiously, his pipe blowing clouds of grey smoke into the air, and the hairs of his thick black moustache fluttering frantically in the wind. Any moment now we expected a blast from his shotgun, but he simply informed us that our bus would not be able to squeeze through his narrow bridges. Our driver was able to negotiate a mile or so further and we alighted at the next farm house. After paying our respects to the farmer we set off.

The party's taste of luxury travel, the hot midday sun, and their heavy packs, slowed down some of its members as we climbed a couple of gentle slopes and then down to the Shoalhaven River where our leader halted the group for lunch and tried to count heads: a frustrating task when an exhausted party of 30 walkers engaged in various midday chores are strewn around the narrow upper reaches of a wooded river. But Frank didn't seem to mind, so long as he knew where Joan was, because he said, "She's carrying all my food!"

After lunch we took off, our next stop being on a long high ridge. As Frank and a few helpers searched for a comparatively easy way down to the creek, we took advantage of the position to admire the view. Indeed Nature, the supreme artist again presented us with a breathtaking sight. Untidy, steep ridges, overrun with untidy native trees criss-crossed with equally untidy creeks and consequent untidy gorges combined somehow to give an overall picture of tranquility, and at the same time an awesome majestic balance miraculously attained from this collective untidiness. We stood and gazed in mutual admiration and I suspect in mutual philosophical thought.

Reluctantly we left the tops and dropped down the very steep slope, slowly descending, sliding bottom first at times on the stony surface, the unfortunate vegetation suffering as thirty pairs of frantic hands and feet sought braking spots. Half way down the ridge we were surprised to hear loud gunfire and we hoped that the shooters were not directing their rifles our way. As it was close to sunset we decided to camp on the creek rather than press onto the river.

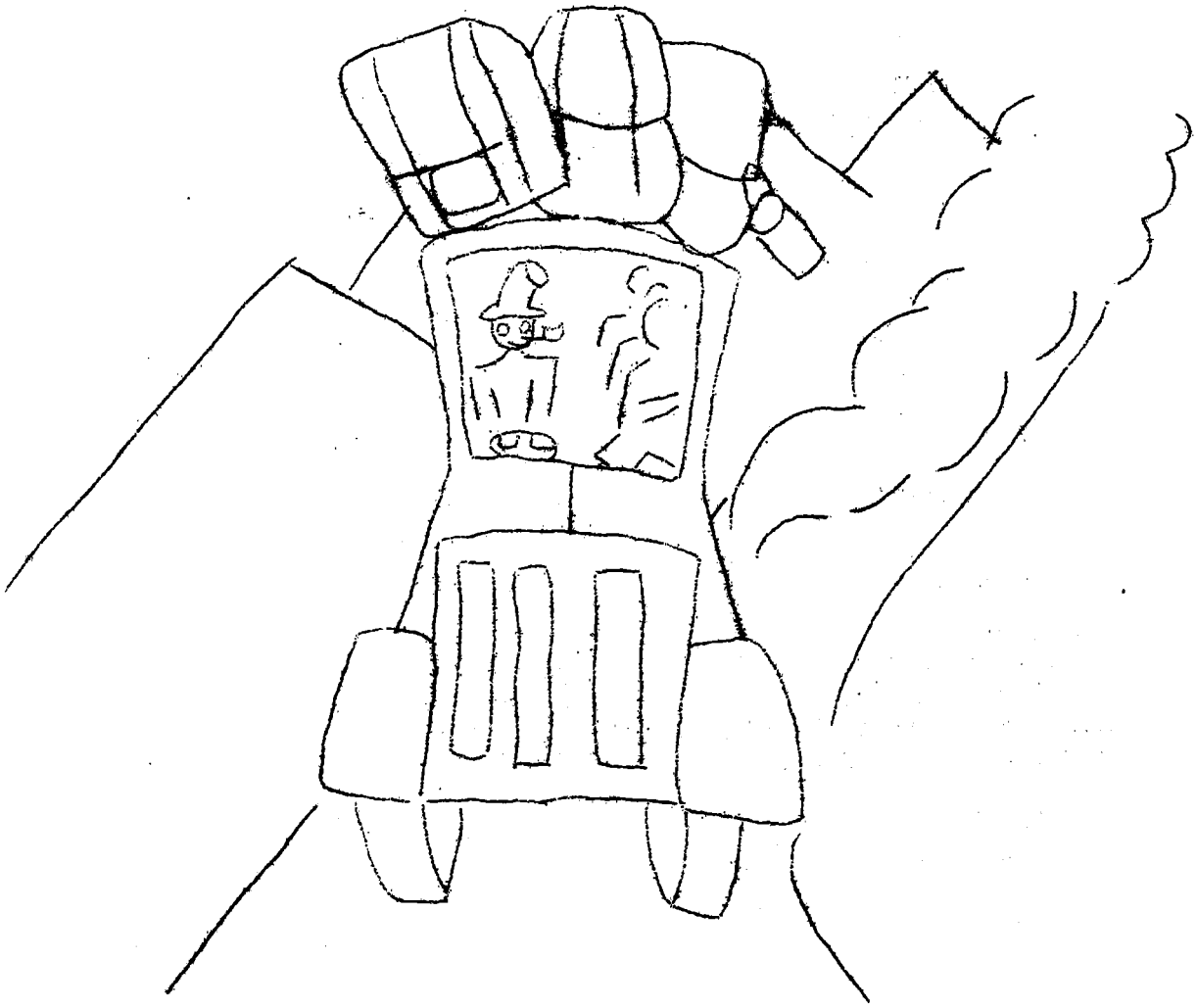
In the morning we set off at 8.30 onto Bendethera Homestead where we were kindly offered fried eel, home-grown water melon and sweet corn by the "weekend farmer's" wife. We learned that the proposed steel works people of Jervis Bay were interested in buying up land in the area for its limestone, and very high tempting prices were being offered. We shuddered at the thought of yet another "peaceful retreat" being despoilt by "progress".

That day and the next two days we followed the Deua downstream at times walking along the not too distinct cattle tracks as they rose up and over hills **outting** off some of the many curves in the river. At times the animal tracks disappeared altogether and we had to push our way through some thick undergrowth; i.e. the people in front whilst the tail-enders of the party benefitted from the trampling of many feet.

On the rare occasions when all the party members were together, we presented a strange sight as sixty, odd-sized feet supporting 30

walkers of various and arguable aesthetic value marched one behind the other through the bush, an odd human caterpillar and an interesting study of enforced togetherness. The weather was glorious and there was no shortage of good camp-sites, though frequently our leader was accused of misrepresenting the walk as his promise of miles of lovely river flats did not eventuate.

Much time was spent exploring the semi-deserted houses at "Candolie" and "Alpine". Old ancient treasures such as rusty tools, butter churn (I suggested it was a portable W.C.), cutlery, crockery, brass beds, picture frames, bottles, crocks, etc. were unearthed and examined with a professional air of a Double Bay antique dealer. The Earth also sprouted forth its goodies; mushrooms in their hundreds, blackberries and wild grapes, and although we missed out on our miles of "lovely" river flats we all enjoyed our 40 mile trip on the Deua.



A VILLAGE IN A NATIONAL PARK

**********By Margaret Wyborn**********

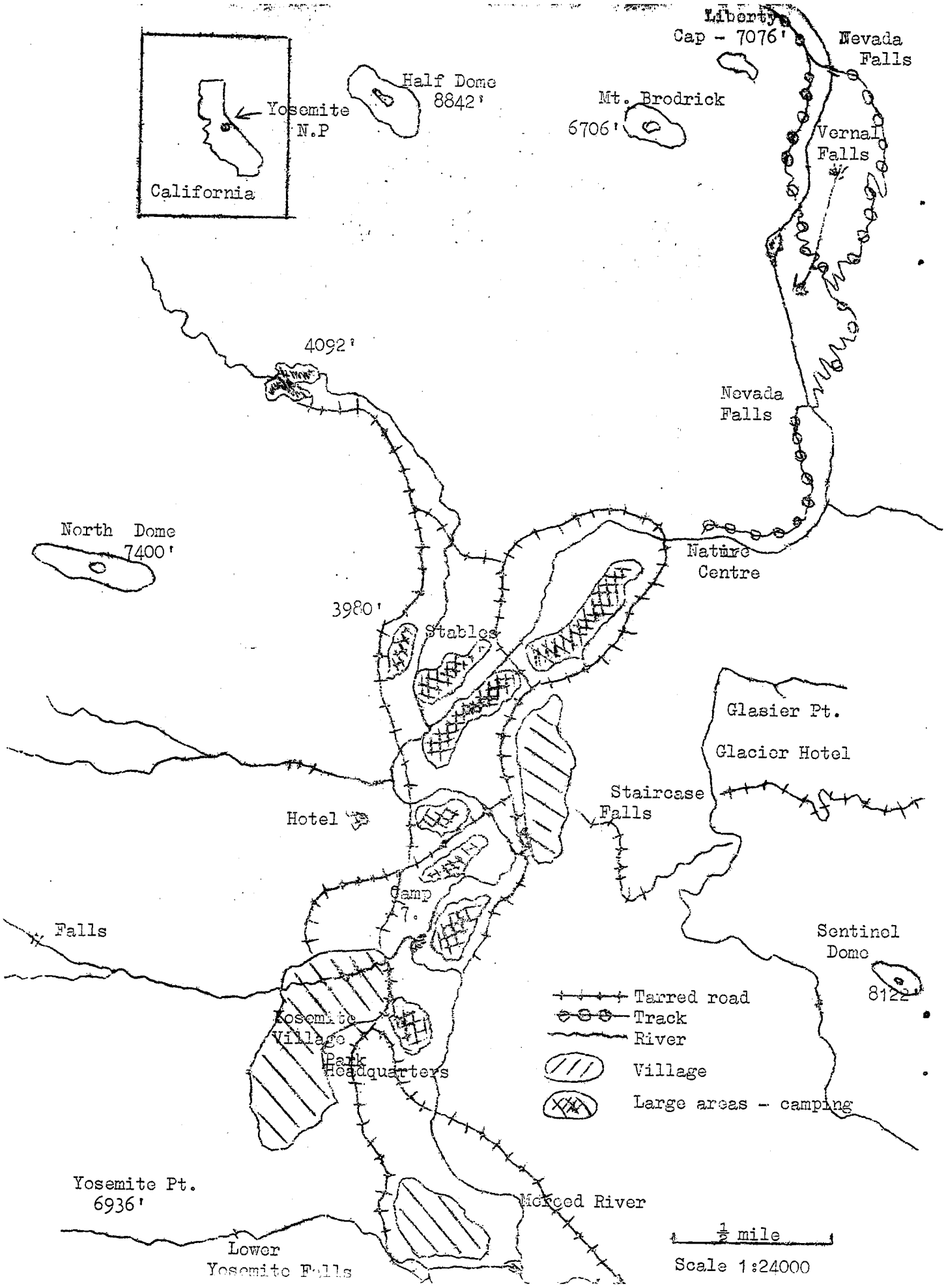
As a couple, our hitchhiking efforts through the U.S.A. were good. Business people were our most likely sources, but holidayers also did their share in taking us to our destinations.

The last snow that we had seen had been on the two extinct volcanoes in Mexico, Popocatepetli and Ixtaccihuatl. And now 3000 miles, two weeks and many deserts later we travelled to Yosemite National Park in the snow.

Heavily fruit and grain grown plains in California were left behind as we started to climb into the U.S. Coastal Range. At this time a young couple were driving us in a VW towards the Park. With 60 lb packs jammed onto our knees we only saw a bit of the scenery. We travelled along well-tarred highway, winding its way high above the Merced Gorge through coniferous forests. Autumn was showing itself amongst the greenery in the deciduous trees. We passed through a tunnel and into the main Yosemite Valley. A beautiful sight! Waterfalls tumble from hanging valleys down the faces of shining granite cliffs, groves of giant sequoias (conifer, bearing its cone not before 100 years and grow to 3000 years plus) and extensive forests of pine, fir and oak were to be seen.

Yosemite village was 3 miles further. On the way, we stopped to take numerous photos of the waterfalls, granite walls etc. What a wonderland! But we were soon shot back to earth, when we arrived in the centre of the village. A supermarket, bakery, hairdresser, cafe, dining room, several souvenir shops, post office and finally Park Headquarters. All this in a National Park?!!

We were both astounded at its enormity. We slowly dawdled passed the shops and entered the Parks Visitors Centre. Here we learned how the valley was firstly formed by the uplift of this granite block and its wearing down firwt by stream erosion, then by glacial erosion. There was also a photo display of Yosemite historical background and today's activities in the park. We asked where we could camp for the night. She rattled off four camping areas (out of nine) of which one was for pets also. We walked for a quarter of a mile. "It must be here somewhere." Numerous questions and a mile further on we found camp seven (pets prohibited). While we were searching dogs barked from all


Yosemite N.P
California
Half Dome 8842'
Mt. Brodrick 6706'
Liberty Cap - 7076'
Nevada Falls
Vernal Falls
4092'
Nevada Falls
North Dome 7400'
Nature Centre
3980'
Stables
Glasier Pt.
Glacier Hotel
Staircase Falls
Hotel
Camp 7.
Falls
Sentinel Dome
8122'
Tarred road
Track
River
Village
Large areas - camping
Yosemite Village
Park Headquarters
Yosemite Pt. 6936'
Merced River
Lower Yosemite Falls
½ mile
Scale 1:24000

sides. We picked a nice spot next to the Merced river. Aroad ran over a stoney bridge nearby giveing us a nice foreground for photographing half-Dome - a famous rock climbing face of 3500 feet high.

The following day we decided to go up half dome during beautiful weather. We walked along tared road for one and half miles to the nature centre (naming vegetation and animal life in the park) where our track started. The 4-5 ft. wide tarred track led over a bridge giving a view of the beautiful Nevada Falls, 50ft. high. Higher up the Merced river one could see another waterfall, three times the height. Printed signs showed up like sore thumbs amongst the vegetation pointing towards intersting features along the trail.

At the Nevada Falls, the paved track gave way to a dirt track. Numerous long zig-zags brought us out into the open where the track had been blown out of a rounded granite hill. Bear tracks were noticed on the fresh snow.

We recrossed the Merced above Nevada Falls (with the aid of a wooden bridge). As it was getting towards lunch time, we decided to climb Liberty Cap, which was off the well beaten track. We clambered through thick brush and a foot of snow in sandshoes up to the top. Liberty Cap is also a granite dome, with large stumped pines growing in the rock cracks. A 360 degree view of snow covered hills and mountains surrounded us. The camera was very busy on the top that day. We raced back in the sunshine taking the track (N°2) that followed the Verced River very closely. Vernal Falls 700 ft. high spread its spray around us, and still reached us, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile further along the track.

Instead of buying 'pressed logs' for burning in our camp fire we gathered a few twigs as these were much cheaper. While we were cooking the left-over dehyde beans from A.A.E., a commotion near the public toilets attracted our attention. I needed some water so I got my torch and billy, and walked off. Four black bears were raiding the garbage bins. There was one adult mother bear, plus three cubs (3-4ft. tall). They did not take any notice of the people flashing cameras and their screaming kids.

"Don't go any further, bears are out there," a ten year old yelled at me. Some parents try anything to keep their kids inside their house-caravans. Walking back in the dark with the water, I could not help but notice T.V. sets in every trailer along the way. Why do some people go out to these beautiful areas bringing with them, modern civilization. Is this not what we are

trying to escape during the weekends and our holidays?

Disallusioned with the Park, which in fact contains a village of approx. 2000 people, we quietly left for Vancouver.

On leaving our impressions were that Yosemite National Park was indeed a place of extreme beauty. But is rapidly being destroyed by people. It seems a shame that Yosemite Village is situated in one of the most beautiful spots of the Park. It would be much better if commercialism was kept to the boundaries of the park.

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FEDERATION NOTES

********** By Jim Callaway **********

Hall-Committee : Two more volunteers have been obtained; one from C.M.W. and one from C.B.C. Nin Melville suggested that one delegate per Club be the rule. Another request for volunteers was made.

S & R Report ; There were two searches conducted during the month. A party of Wahroonga Scouts were delayed on a walk over Mount Solitary. The other was for the Y.H.A. Campers in the Budawangs. The party had split into two groups while on the walk, and one section was late in returning. S & R was not informed when the delayed section returned at 3 p.m.. Arising out of this Nin Melville requested that when lost parties return, that they advise S. & R. likewise.

A new stretcher has been purchased for $65. At a meeting of the S & R Section it was decided that the shortened name for the Section would be Bushwalkers' S & R. A new Rock Rescue Officer has been appointed. A new microphone and lead has been purchased for the main radio set. Colin Putt donated two Nandy Bully tackles. The S & R Demonstration will be held on 16th. 17th. and 18th. October. Practice for the Demonstration will be held on 17th, 18th. July.

A meeting of the Rescue Clubs was held at Wagga on 17th. May

1970. The meeting consisted of five rescue clubs plus Federation. The constitution was challenged concerning our position and it was stated that that we may join on a voluntary basis. Ten dollars was forwarded as affiliation fees. The Government Insurance Office is to be approached on the matter of insurance cover during S & R rescues.

Information: Maps - Apsley 2"-1 mile has been issued by the Lands Department in six different colours. Araluen Provisional will be issued in August. Scale will be in meters: 1 - 25000. Another map issued is Batemans Bay South. The Lands Department has a map showing expressways, etc. in the Hawksbury River area. The walk out to Cliff Trig does not have to be done via Jerusalem Bay as there is now a footbridge over the expressway, 50 yards north of Cowan station. When purchasing a compass make sure that it is a compass for the hemisphere that you are using it in. There is a counter weight on the needle on opposing ends.

General Business: There is a movement for the formation of an Orienteering Organisation which will include several clubs besides bushwalking clubs. The Coast and Mountain Walkers will be shortly organising a "clean up" at Batsh Camp. Another of these clean-ups will be held at Kanangra on the last weekend of June. Mr. Lang expressed concern over his dingo traps being set off and not reset.

Paul Barnes stated that the Minister for Lands had refused the nomination of Mr. Lumsden as a Trustee on the Royal National Park Trust on advice from the local Committee. In reply to Paul's letter concerning nomination for the position of Trustee for the Heathcote State Park, Federation nominated Bob Sneddon and Jim Callaway.

Nin Melville has a new telephone number; 412-1653.

Wilf Hilder moved for the formation of a Federal Federation of Bushwalking Clubs.

Conservation: The Mining Act and Wildlife Bill were dealt with. The planned Conservation display has been cancelled. The President asked if delegates could assist the Men of the Land Society with the water pollution problem. A special form is available.

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MOUNTAINS BY MOONLIGHT

********** By Ramon U'Brien **********

The party: Laurie Rayner (leader), Francis Windward-Smith, Beryl Hand, Lyn Faithful, Irene Upson, Hans Beck, Stephen Guthridge, Doug Ackland, Enzo Tarloo, and yours truly.

Friday, 11.30p.m., thick fog, very cold, on the Putty Road, 6 miles past the Putty turnoff. Sighted: one large white calico bag tied on to tree right hand side of road, beside a roadside mail box. 100 yards farther down the main road is the sign "Owens Creek". On examination, calico bag found to contain address of Laurie Rayner in Lahore.

Doug drives his V.W. down the track while Francis, Irene and I look for signs of bushwalkers. Just near main road is one house on slope, 100 yards further is gate, then another house just visible through the fog. After 3 more gates we are in a large paddock and decide to camp.

Saturday 7.30 a.m. rays of sunshine pierce the fog and we find ourselves alone in a wide flat valley. While we pack up, a frisky grey horse prances around us but won't let us touch him. Back through the 3 gates to the house where we find Laurie, Stephen and Enzo just lighting a fire. During breakfast the others arrive and we are greeted by the farmer who says he will judge who is the best cook.

This is Burrawcell, and the creek, signposted Owens Creek, is Burrawell Creek. The farmer allows us to use water from his tank and tells us he will escort us through his property.

At 8.30 with the sun shining brightly we set out down the creek escorted by the farmer on a horse and his two dogs, who have great fun chasing the cattle ahead of us. The first few miles are level going over grass in the wide valley with rough barked apples, angophoras here and there and, as we proceed, groups of stringy bark saplings along the track. The ruins of an old but are passed as the shadows grow shorter under the low sandstone hills. When we pause to take 5, we see two large wallabies (or small kangaroos?)

The valley has closed in at 11 o'clock and the farmer tells us that "It's too cold to go through the Gorge in winter" and that he will show us the way to the MacDonald River via the ridge.

However, this is a test walk and Laurie tries to explain this to the farmer as we leave him stunned and plunge into the icy shadows of "The Gorge". This is delightful walking with lots of mossy rocks and green foliage along the sides of the sandy creek bottom. It is about 4 miles long and contains a magnificent stand of white angophoras. The only disappointing feature was that the creek was just not quite narrow enough to jump over in some places so everyone emerged onto the wide sandy bottom of the Mac Donald at 1.30 p.m. with wet feet.

Opposite the creek junction there is a large flat sand bank where the tents were erected and lunch partaken of in the sun. At 2.50, all except Lyn, Irene and I set off without packs for Mt. Yengo which is about 2 miles and 1800 feet from the river to the top.

I went for a walk up the river which is dry with patches of quicksand here and there up to 18 inches deep (one thong was lost in it by a prospective). The bird life is prolific and very tame, some birds coming to within a few feet of me when I stood still. There were cliffs on each side of the river which looked climbable in most places.

Back to camp where a few cwt. of firewood was gathered and then tea cooked. At 5.30 the sky which had had a few clouds rolling across it became pitch black and rain started to pour down. As it had been such a beautiful afternoon when the climbers left they had taken jumpers, but no protection from rain. Three quarters of an hour later the rain had stopped and the moon was shining brightly from a clear sky.

At 7 o'clock cooees were heard from above so I stoked up the fire and made some tea (the two girls had retired by this) before assisting the climbers down through the cliffs - very slow going in the dark and wet.

Soon all were happily cooking tea, the conquest of Yengo being over. However, that was not the end of the day's excitement as Doug allowed his billy to boil dry and got red hot. In the billy was a one found tin of Caribbean curry which Doug apparently decided to share with us in an unusual way. POW! went the tin like a bazooka - straight up, and suddenly it was raining again-curry! We were again joined by the two "early birds" and activities continued until after 9.30 on a beautiful moon lit night.

The next thing I know I was being offered a free cold bath by Laurie at 7 o'clock Sunday morning so I was quickly out of my flea bag. At 8.45 we moved off and climbed up through the cliffs about 100 yards on the upstream side of Burrawell Creek. After about 500 feet of up, we were on the top of the ridge that the farmer had wanted us to take the previous morning and the walking was easy along the top, some of which had been burned in a bushfire last year, until 11 o'clock when we dropped down to a side creek of Burrawell and followed that down. From there it was top gear all the way back to the farm and cars which we reached at 1.30.

After lunch, most of the party thought that the weekend had been strenuous enough, so only Stephen, Laurie and I set out to Climb Mr. Wareng while the others set out early for home.

To get to Wareng, one goes 8 miles past Owens Creek just past the top of a steep rise where a road goes off to the right through a padlocked gate. This road is the Wareng fire trail. We set off along the fire trail at 3.00p.m. and met a man beside the Mac Donald River which it crosses. He was a timber worker who had been cutting timber under Wareng. He told us that the key to the fire trail was held at the Post Office which is the next house down the Putty Road towards Singleton and one should obtain permission there to go through the property. Mt. Wareng is owned by a man in Howe's Valley but the timber worker thought it would be alright to go up without asking so we continued on.

Fifty minutes after leaving the main road we were at the bottom of Mr. Warong and we went up the north ridge. A fork in the fire trail to the right just before Wareng leads to an earth dam and another ridge onto Wareng. The climb up Wareng took 30 minutes to the trig, from which there was a good view for about 50 miles. The scrub obscures the view, from Mr. Yenga I was told although it is a little higher there than Warong.

Both Wareng and Yengo are basalt intrusions which have been exposed by weathering and are about 3000 feet high. The summit of Wareng is quite small and rare of lush vegetation that is sometimes found on basalt tops is evident. Some very nice specimens of Fig and Currajong trees were seen near the top of the ridge and a pair of wombats was seen on the way down.

We were back at the car at 6 p.m. after a nice moonlight stroll along the fire trail.

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SOME OF HIS BEST FRIENDS

ARE BUSHWALKERS

(This article, by journalist Alan Fitzgerald, is reprinted from "The Canberra Times" as submitted by Frank Rigby. N.C.D.C. stands for National Capital Development Commission; the authority responsible for planning and developing Canberra.)

"We are as dedicated as anyone to the preservation of Black Mountain reserve as natural parkland", said an officer of the NCDC engineering section yesterday shortly before he neither admitted nor denied making the statement.

"Don't quote me, but I'll fight to the death to preserve its integrity, subject to road engineering priorities.

"It's nonsense of those bushwalking and fresh-air fiends to allege we have any other designs on the reserve just because we've drawn some lines on a map of it marked 'Tuggeranong Freeway'.

"You'd think from their hysterical reaction that freeways, concrete median strips, and flyovers were somehow incompatible with kangaroos, trees, and wildflowers.

"One has only to look at the magnificent results achieved on Capital Hill by the NCDC engineering planning section to see the harmony with nature achieved by a subtle blend of bitumen and formwork with native scrub and eucalypts.

"Any but the most biased observer would agree that NCDC development of Capital Hill has improved the area aesthetically from almost every angle.

"ItIs amazing what a good front-end-loader operator can do to an undistinguished and undeveloped hill if he works to a plan.

"You're not taking this down, are you?

"I mean Black Mountain reserve is all right if you like that messy sort of thing in the heart of a city.

"But apart from a few cranks - you're not taking not taking this down are you? - who really does?

"mind you, I am the first to agree that it's a nice idea to talk about going back to nature, ecology, and all that sort of rubbish.

"I'd love to have 1,250 acres of bushland in the heart of Canberra if only as an insurance against future demands of an overtaxed road system.

"It's much more efficient and considerably cheaper to be able to get your hands on a bit of parkland when you want to build a road, isn't it? I mean, it's the Australian tradition.

"But let's be realistic. The NCDC's job is to develop Canberra as a national capital. We would be failing to live up to our charter if we left large lumps of bushland around in an under-developed state, wouldn't we?

"You can't win with these people. You give them an inch and they'll want to retain another 100 acres.

"God knows we've tried to justify the Black Mountain reserve by adapting parts of it to useful purposes, such as the building of television stations, transmitter towers, toilet blocks, parking areas, water tanks, car dumps, and the like.

"But do these people appreciate what we're trying to do?

"You try to be reasonable but where does it get you? You tell them about the freeway and next thing they want to tell us where to put it.

"And because we tell them it will run from a point in the north to a point in the south they start to get very anxious to know about the bit in between.

"Everyone knows the shortest distance between two flyovers is a straight line of freeway. And anything in the way - in this case Black Mountain - must be moved to one side.

"We have carried out secret feasibility studies to see whether it is better to (a) Move Black Mountain to another site on the outskirts of the city; (b) Cut it down from the top to a point where it corresponds with the summit of Capital Hill and use the surplus to fill in the surrounding area so as to make a first class road surface; or (c) Leave it untouched save for a series of roads around the base.

"Frankly, I favour the latter. Both Black Mountain and Capital Hill by reason of being virgin land lend themselves to development as traffic roundabouts.

"And once we started drilling and setting off explosives all the fuss about protecting the flora and fauna would soon die away. At about the same time as the flora and fauna died away.

"It saddens me to realise some people can't see the almost limitless development possibilities of Black Mountain reserve.

"After all, God proposes - and the NCDC disposes.

"And remember, I didn't say that".

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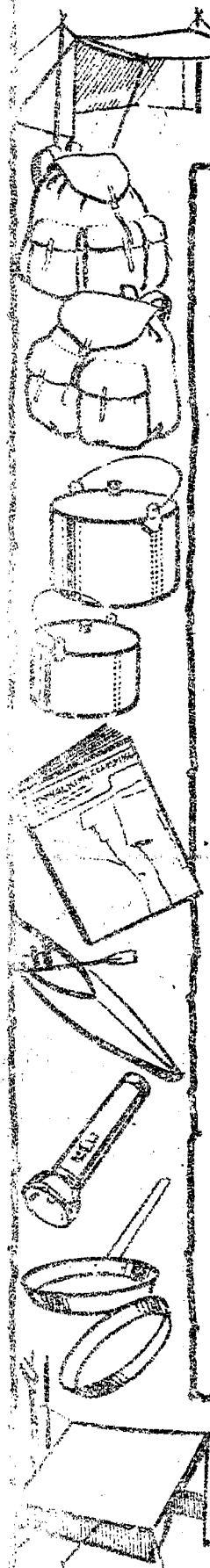
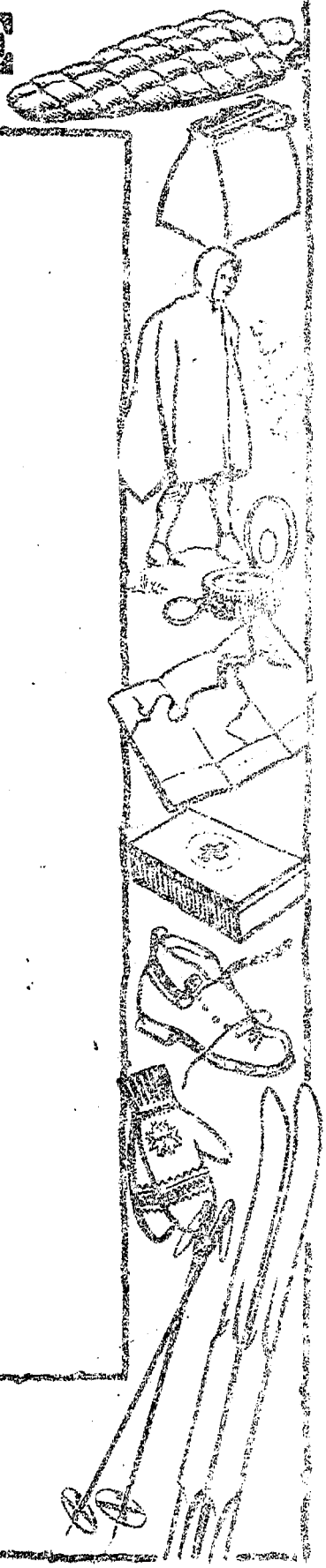
"Development for its own sake is not enough. We must also care for the environment we live in."

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
broadcasting to the nation on
Sunday, April, 26th., 1970.

PADDY MADE





WINTER'S HERE!

The South West winds are blowing, with rain, sleet, snow and cold temperatures. Tough and often dangerous combinations for any walker or skier, whether he is slogging up Yellow Pup, or ski touring on the Grey Mares.

When you tackle tough country and tough conditions, think before you go. Take a real lifesaver from Paddy's in the form of a "Bivvy" bag. A heavy duty polythene bag, 7' x 3'; light in weight and light on the pocket at 75 cents.

Ski touring is the popular activity for many bushwalkers. Join the swing. Ask at Paddy's for all information.

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COMING WALKS

********** By the Walks Secretary, Alan Pike **********

JULY 3RD. 4TH. & 5TH.

Two fantastic trips on this weekend: Roy Higginbottom will lead a party to Bonnum Pic - an outstanding vantage point for views of the Blue Mountains and Burragoranf Lake.

Laurie Quaken is leading one of his classic Blue Mountains walks taking in Splendour Rock, Cox's River and Galbng Creek. Although only 25 miles, it is quite a distance for these short winter days, however all of the miles are easy walking and provide wonderful mountain and river scenery. A test walk any prospective can be proud of.

JULY 10TH. 11TH. & 12TH.

You can always expect the unexpected on a pat Harrison trip. Nothing more to say except that it will be a great trip, as all of Pat's trips are. He even guarantees good weather for this one. (If you like sleeping in on Sunday monings, don't come!)

On Sunday Heathere Williams is leading her first walk, from Helensburgh, overland to Era and back to Otford via the coast and Palm Jungle. Of course, she intends to drop in on the instructional being held down that way, where all members of her party will be given free tea and biscuits.

JULY 17TH. 18TH. & 19TH.

Doone - a member of the intrepid Wyborn family is leading the Annual S.B.W. bike trip. This time, from Newnes Junction, the iron steeds will bear their riders, or vice versa, down the old railway and into the historic mining town of Newnes. Here, providing the pub hasn't fallen down completely, something will be available for the riders in need of reconstitution for the next day, which is all uphill, into Wallerawang.
Note: All steeds should be equipped with regulation light, tyre repairs, and a courageous rider.

The Sunday walkers are well catered for this weekend, whether they live in the south or the north of Sydney. Morag Ryder is conductiong a Mystery Tour up Cowan way, and Bill Hall is heading south to Waterfall.

JULY 24TH. 25TH. & 26TH.

Do you know what Russell's Needle is? Do you know where it is? Have you ever climbed it? Marion Lloyd is giving us the rare opportunity to find, explore, and conquer this mysterious peak on her walk, which also covers Nattai River and Rocky Waterholes Creek. This will be a beaut medium test walk for any Prospectives who want something "not too hard".

JULY 31ST, AUGUST 1ST. & 2ND.

Something for everyone this weekend. Doone Wyborn has a great trip for keen walkers. From Batsh Camp he takes his party through Barrallier Pass and Colong Gap to the Mootik Wall and famous Yerranderie Peak. Then, so that the second day isn't too easy, a sprint up to Mount Colong.

For the Flower People, that old hippie, Sammy Hinde has a Sunday walk to Wondabyne. Here you can meditate among the wildflowers and then blow your mind in a genuine aboriginal cave.

Craig Shappert is catering for the plonk-artists this weekend. He's taking them all up to the Hunter Valley where they can inspect vineyards, drink a little wine (if it's free) and have a very pleasant weekend, that's for sure.

******

The SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, AND NOVEMBER walks programme is now being collated.

LEADERS ARE WANTED!

Take the plunge; cast off your inhibitions and

LEAD A WALK !!!

******

SPECIAL WALKS NOTICE

Two Sunday walks on the current programme are dated 25th. July (which is a Saturday. Please alter your programme to 26th. July.

SEARCH AND RESCUE DEMONSTRATION

16th. 17th. & 18th. October. Practice on 17th. 18th. & 19th. July. See Alan Pike for further details.

Mountain Equipment.

NEW BIGGER SHOWROOM FOR WALKING GEAR.

"THE CANOE CENTRE", A COMPLETE DISPLAY CENTRE FOR "GEOFF BARKER" CANOES, KAYAKS AND ACCESSORIES.

HIRE YOUR FAIRY DOWN SLEEPING BAG, H?FRAME PACK OR TENT FROM OUR EQUIPMENT HIRE DEPARTMENT.

USE OUR NEW, FREE LIBRARY SERVICE FOR WALKERS AND CLIMBERS.

And just to make sure we are giving you top service we open at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday mornings - you can park right in front so make MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT your first stop!

165 Pacific Highway, North Sydney.

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SOCIALLY SPEAKING

********** With the Social Secretary **********
OWEN MARKS

On 1st. July, Jack Perry is going to entertain us. Most walkers know Jack, and no-one should be surprised at his "Walk Around Australia". For once there are no slides, and Jack is a wonderful talker. Ther is only one request: throwing peanuts will be frowned upon.

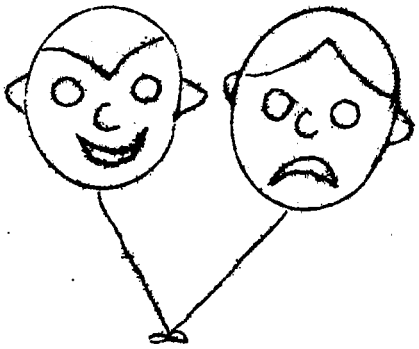
JULY 8TH. is the General Meeting

WEDNESDAY JULY 15TH.

Ron Knightley's belated talk on Angkor Wat. To those of you who have never heard of this name - shame on you! It is the greatest and largest religious structure in the world, and at the time of going to press is being occupied by the Vietcong.

WEDNESDAY JULY 22ND.

Members' Play Night. This will be a rare night in the annals of the S.B.W. Not for many years have we had a play night at our meetings. At rehearsals the possums at Dorothy Noble's place went berserk. We hope you won't!!



WEDNESDAY JULY 29TH.

"A Trip to Everest Base Camp" by our own Paddy Pallin. After seeing and hearing this talk you will want to be on the plane to Katmandu at Christmas time. Supper will be served in the Clubrooms on this evening.

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Your suggestions and any new ideas for the Social Programme would be greatly appreciated. You can help by indicating what your preferences are in Club social activities.

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ONE MORE MONTH

********** A Miscellany of Dotty Jottings **********

BY OBSERVER

Peter Kaye, who has been away for three years, has been sighted in the Clubroom recently, now accompanied by his English wife, Pat. Hope to see them on a walk soon.

******

Tony Carlon of Barrallier Post Office made a special trip to Sydney for Dot Butler's talk on the Andean Expedition. Hardly anybody could recognize him in his Carnaby gear, but Dot saw through his disguise and bestowed him with a big welcoming kiss.

******

Three walkers reputedly spent Sunday night of the long weekend on top of Mount Owen in the Budawangs. Intending only to do a short afternoon walk, they spent the night without any gear; not even a match.

******

Club Member Enzo Tarlao managed to alert Search and Rescue by being absent-minded. He was deep in thought figuring out the problems involved in cleaning a chandelier and fell over a blade of grass in Tomat Creek. The damage to his leg was sufficient to prevent him walking. Search and Rescue came out through Oberon to rescue him. Hearing voices in the early morn, Enzo jumped up. Lo and behold, his leg went "pop", and the offending ligament jumped back into place. His leg was as good as new! We don't know whether the S & R men believed him, but it made a good story.

******

Pity all those who were not present at the Brown's place on Friday night (19th. June) to hear the music and partake in the consumption of eleven pounds of cheese and an equivalent volume of wine. It was a very enjoyable evening, with the possible exception of the bod under the bed, whose opinion was unobtainable.

******

Elaine Brown is flying to England for a couple of months. She leaves on 13th. July and intends to see as many places as she possibly can. Owen was giving her some tips at the classical music night.

******

Roger Gowing and Ken Ellis have now reached Mexico in their globetrotting adventures, and when last heard of, they were sleeping on a sportsfield. In the morning they were surrounded by dozens of little boys who thought they were the touring British football stars. Roger and Ken played the part, and duly signed hundreds of autographs for the delighted children.

******

There have been reports of water at Bluegum causing sickness. This is something to bear in mind when camping there.

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COLONG COMMITTEE NOTES

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Despite unanimous resolutions in State Council and State Convention of the N.S.W. Liberal Party calling for the lease to be rescinded, no positive action in that direction has been taken by the Liberal Government. APCM is legally entitled to commence mining at Colong any day it chooses.

Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers already has 36 years supply at the increased rate of demand in its Marulan leases. Its reserves at Marulan, Portland, Charbon and Colong must total approximately 200 million tons. If the Company can demonstrate that it really needs more limestone in return for giving up the 50 million tons in its Colong lease then more might be granted at Marulan.

But the lease over the most highly dedicated public Reserve in N.S.W., the Colong Caves Reserve, at the heart of the Kanangra/Boyd National Park must be revoked.

Dialogue is needed between conservationists and industry. The N.S.W. Government has failed to act as a responsible mediator between the two interests. Because of the Government's failure it has fallen to the Colong Committee to bring home to the APCM Management the Company's responsibilities to the country from which it earns its profit.

THE RAPE OF THE BOYD PLATEAU

On April 14th., the question of logging on the Boyd Plateau was raised in Federal Parliament. Mr. A. Grassby, M.H.R. (Labor, Riverina) asked the Minister for National Development, Mr. Swartz

to appeal to Senator Cotton to stop Timber Industries Limited's logging operation on the Boyd. Part of Mr. Grassby's speech in the House of Representatives disclosed the following:

> "Timber Industries Limited is owned 43% by the Cotton family. Senator Cotton is a director and his brother, Mr. M. C. Cotton, is the Managing Director. The other major shareholding is that of the North and South Broken Hill companies. So at least we have a situation different from the foreign cement company which is despoiling Colong. We have an Australian company with a distinguished legislator and his family as a major force in it."

MINING EXPLORATION IN THE KANANGRA/BOYD NATIONAL PARK!!

On February 24th. the National Parks Association of N.S.W. wrote to the Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service referring to occupation ofm a site at Boyd Creek crossing in the Park by employees of Catawba Exploration Company. The Association stated the camp had been there for two months and was expected to remain a further three. We asked for details of the lease or licence under which it operated and when would such be terminated. The Director was advised of the pit toilet within twenty feet of the only permanent stream on the Boyd Plateau and asked what action was proposed regarding firearms.

Research by members of the Association in the public records of the Mines Department show that three applications cover areas of the Par: No. 554 includes three areas of the Park and was approved on 1/8/69; No. 826 was approved on 3/4/70 and No. 766 is pending. However the men camped in the Park made available a map titled "Exploration Licence 118" which purported to allow exploration over the bulk of the park. No public record of a Licence No. 118 is available in the Mine Department. Another map in use by the Company showed the location of over 50 sites within the Park from which samples had been taken.

JOIN THE COLONG SHAREHOLDERS' "CLUB"

Next year's goal will be at least 1000 Colong shareholders in Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (Australia) Limited. The benefits of becoming a shareholder in one of Sydney's unpopular companies are many. You will make 6 cents per year on your investment, consisting of two 3 cent cheques per year. You will receive a one-share Share Certificate which will probably become a collector's item in the future. You will be invited to the Shareholders' Meeting every year - this is an enlightening experience for all. You will receive a free subscription to the Colong Bulletin and continue to be informed of the latest happenings. And most important of all you will be participating in a form of Conservation protest unprecedented in Australia. OPPOSITE ARE TWO FORMS - USE ONE AND GIVE ONE TO A FRIEND.

ORDER FORM

For a three dollar ($3.00) donation to the Colong Committee I will receive in return ONE free share in ASSOCIATED PORTLAND ~~PORTLAND~~ CEMENT MANUFACTURERS (AUSTRALIA) LIMITED plus a free subscription to the Colong Bulletin (N.B. These shares of A.P.C.M. are listed on the Sydney Stock Exchange)

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