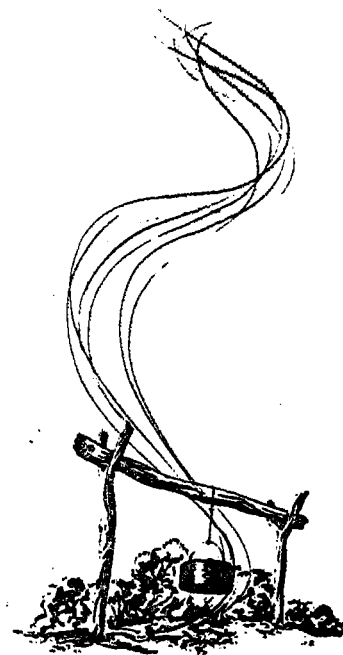




# *The Sydney Bushwalker.*



A MONTHLY BULLETIN OF MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE SYDNEY BUSH WALKERS,  
BOX 4476 G.P.O. SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2001. CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY  
WEDNESDAY EVENING FROM 7.30 P.M. AT THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE BUILDING,  
14 ATCHISON STREET, ST. LEONARDS. ENQUIRIES CONCERNING THE CLUB  
SHOULD BE REFERRED TO MRS. MARCIA SHAPPERT - TELEPHONE 30.2028.

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NEVILLE PAGE, 14 BRUCEDALE AVENUE, EPPING. TEL. 86.3739 (H)  
TYPIST: KATH BROWN                      DUPLICATION: FRANK TAEKER

EDITORIAL

A lot of words have been spoken recently about the low proportion of S.B.W. prospective members who ultimately achieve full membership. The 1974 figures, as embodied in the latest annual report, are as follows:-

	<u>1973/74</u>	<u>1974/75</u>
Applications for prospective membership	104	125
Applicants attaining full membership	21	30
Percentage becoming full members	20%	25%

This certainly looks rather low. Is it a matter for serious concern, however? Over the years the question has been raised on numerous occasions, and special efforts made to improve the figures. But looking at the results on a comparative basis there is quite a consistency. Some past years' figures are:-

	<u>1967/68</u>	<u>1968/69</u>	<u>1969/70</u>
Applications for prospective membership	118	118	120
Applicants attaining full membership	27	43	25
Percentage becoming full members	23%	36%	21%

This leads one to conclude that either

- a) we are not doing enough to encourage new members, or
- b) bushwalking simply doesn't measure up to the intending members' expectations.

Let's face it. The reason why we have a system of prospective membership is to allow newcomers to get some exposure to true bushwalking before finally committing themselves. Many such people have no idea what bushwalking entails when coming into the Club, and the reality treats them to a rude shock. We shouldn't be forcing these people to enjoy what we enjoy. It is only to be expected that a substantial leakage will occur for this reason.

It can be argued that such rationale invites criticism on the grounds of elitism. This must be quickly dispelled. There are few organisations or activities which are as free from barriers, prejudice and cliques, whether based on age, religion, race or anything else, than the Sydney Bushwalkers. The only prerequisites are a love of the bush and regard for our environment.

One factor which must account for many prospectives not becoming full members is that bushwalking is a time-consuming and totally absorbing activity. Unlike tennis or football or most other sporting activities, which take a short time only to partake of, bushwalking involves whole days, and whole weekends from Friday evening. This obviously doesn't appeal to everyone.

So let's not become too concerned about percentages. But at the same time let us do our utmost to make all prospective members feel welcome, and encourage them in whatever way we can.

BALI (ONE OF THE 18 VERSIONS!)

by Helen Gray.

Bali is certainly the peaceful paradise the tourist brochures describe. Its completely tranquil life-style can only be marvelled at when one looks at its history.

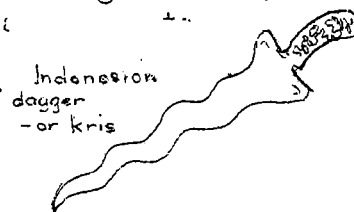
In about 1500 B.C. the ancestors of today's Balinese arrived from Southern India and mixed, presumably, with the descendants of Java Man. The earliest writings found in Indonesia (from the 9th century) tell us that, even then, the island's way of life was well and truly established, including its agriculture, methods of building, stone and wood carving, and cock-fights. Hinduism from Java arrived in the eleventh century and from then on Bali was involved in violent wars, as was Java, as various dynasties fought for power. One campaign is briefly recorded in Javanese chronicles: "In 1343 Bali, against whose vile and base-hearted ruler an expedition was sent, was overthrown and everyone slain."

By the 15th century, Java was fast becoming Islamic. One Javanese ruler was told his reign would end in 40 days; it did so in less, as he chose to have himself burned alive rather than abdicate. His son, however, fled to Bali with a huge entourage of rulers, priests, writers, artists and musicians. This group is responsible for introducing the shadow-plays, the gamelang orchestra, and the masked dances to Bali.

Unfortunately, this group also helped the Balinese to over-run the neighbouring island of Lombok, and for many centuries the defeated people were virtually slaves.



When the Dutch arrived nearly 120 years later, at a time of great prosperity in Bali, relations between the two countries were at first friendly. However, after two centuries of unscrupulous bleeding of the country by the Dutch East India Co., the Dutch Government stepped in, took control of the company, and the struggle for power between the Dutch Government and the Balinese monarchy began. Wars raged over the smallest incident, such as the rights of salvage on a vessel wrecked off Sanur Beach. (The suppressed people of Lombok gained the Dutch as allies and wars raged on this island too). These wars were massacres; there are accounts of Balinese with kris and swords fighting gunfire and cannon bombardment from off-shore ships. I wonder just how many Balinese were left when the Dutch gained full control in 1904.



The Dutch military ruled for 10 years, then followed civil rule until the 2nd World War and the Japanese occupation. Two days after Japan's surrender in 1945 Soekarno proclaimed Indonesia's Independence. The Dutch found this unacceptable and yet another 4 years of bloody battles followed (including one in Bali where a commander and his entire army were destroyed) before the Dutch relinquished all rights.

The attempted communist take-over of 1960 ended only months of peace. At this time the Balinese rebelled against the communists among them and a systematic slaughter began, not only of active communists but suspected sympathisers - in some villages all the men and boys were killed in the hysteria of the time. The Hindu Balinese are suspected of taking advantage of the chaos to kill many Muslims and Christians too.

And the present? Bali is utterly peaceful. It is almost impossible to believe these gentle people were capable of the atrocities of last decade. We were advised never to mention it in Bali; the people themselves can hardly believe it happened and wish it forgiven and forgotten.

. . . . .

The 1974-75 invasion of Bali was somewhat less eventful. At near midnight on Friday 13th December 18 S.B.W.s and torrential rain hit Denpasar Airport. We were immediately surrounded by men vying for our patronage at their losmans (guest houses). The man we chose because we could understand his English the best piled us into two huge American cars and in minutes we were at his losman at Kuta Beach. For the first time I encountered the Balinese characteristic of never sleeping - although it was 1 a.m. Bali time and 3 a.m. Sydney time, the owner gave us cups of tea and exchanged pleasantries until we insisted we must sleep.

George, the girls and I were woken in the early dawn by a noise in our room. The cupboard against the wall was moving. "Hello!" said Owen's voice from behind it, "I've found a secret door!" Unconvinced that 2 hours sleep was adequate, we all none the less set off for a walk to the beach. Even at that hour the hawkers appeared from nowhere on the seemingly deserted beach, laden with batiks, paintings and carvings. (Peter Scandrett succumbed and bought an inexpensive painting, although we "rubbished" him for buying on the first day, assuring him he'd see far better paintings elsewhere. We never did, to Peter's delight.)



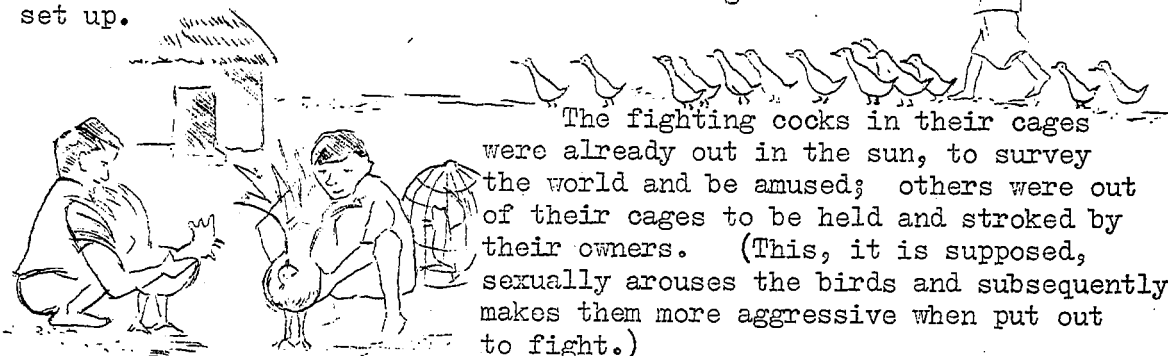
After breakfast we set off for Denpasar (the capital) and the bank. I looked around for my 9 year old, Kathleen, who had already caused me concern by disappearing before breakfast to reappear later with tales of the new and wonderful sights she'd seen. Once again she'd gone. Someone said he thought he saw her get on a bus for the city. George, Susan and I set off in pursuit. We spent a why-did-we-ever-come, or why-did-we-ever-bring-HER hour searching, with help from others, when Craig Shappert announced she'd just been seen sitting in a fruit juice bar sipping avocado puree with Owen.

Lecture delivered, everyone reunited, we all set off for Ubud. Ray Hookway had suggested we should stay there and we thank him for his advice. Ubud was just commencing a 10 day religious festival, a once-a-decade event. We were to spend the next week there, watching wonderful dances and processions and temple festivities day and night. But first there was accommodation for 18 people to be found. Owen had himself and 5 others organised within minutes, but it took some hours before the remainder were settled.



We Grays shared a house with Ken Ellis, Frank Taeker, John Campbell and Heather Williams. We had 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms (i.e. hole in the floor, tub of cold water and ladle), a loft with a library of a few dozen books. A verandah with cane furniture overlooked a well-kept tropical garden. The doors and shutters were of carved wood, the roof of thatch. This delightful home cost us each 80 c a day - typical of accommodation costs for us that holiday.

By the time we woke each morning, the day for the Balinese was in progress. Women had already gathered water from the streams. The duck-boys were on their way to the rice fields, their charges waddling behind, in line, following the flags their masters carried. Others were already working, leisurely, in the paddies - the rice needs little attention in fertile, tropical Bali. The street stalls were being set up.



The fighting cocks in their cages were already out in the sun, to survey the world and be amused; others were out of their cages to be held and stroked by their owners. (This, it is supposed, sexually arouses the birds and subsequently makes them more aggressive when put out to fight.)

\*\*\*\*\*

Illustrations also by Helen Gray.

(To be continued)

\*\*\*\*\*

THE APRIL GENERAL MEETING.

by Spiro Ketas.

The April General Meeting commenced at 8.20 p.m. with forty members present. Only one new member, John Crain, was welcomed into the Club. Helen then quickly disposed of the previous month's minutes and proceeded to the correspondence.

Letters in of any interest included a reminder that the Paddy Pallin Orienteering Contest to be held on 24th April and a letter from the Total Environment Centre requesting answers to a great deal of complicated questions pertaining to conservation issues and a letter from the Shoalhaven Shire Council informing the Club that our protestations concerning the proposed installation of a garbage dump adjacent to "Coolana" will only be considered when the decision to install the garbage dump is finalised. An answer to our query which understandably distressed the Coolana Management Committee as it (the Committee) feels it will then be too late. And finally a letter from Kath Brown expressing some concern at the inconsistency of grading test walks on recent walk programmes. The club agreed that it was a matter that should be immediately rectified and would earnestly look into the matter using as a very helpful guide a painstakingly typed list of all the test walks which appeared on the walks programmes over the past 3 - 4 years.

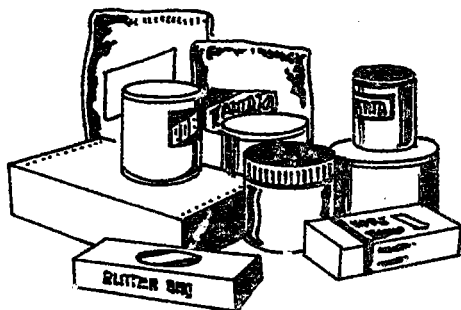
The only outgoing letter of any significance was one by our Conservation Secretary Alex Colley to Vincent Serventy whom the Minister for Urban and Regional Development and Environment and Conservation appointed as an advisor, together with 17 other people, submitting on behalf of the Club a very general list of areas considered as top priorities for preservation and another general list of considered main throats to the few remaining wilderness areas. Unfortunately we received his letter late January taking about 4 months to reach us.

Next our Treasurer read our financial report indicating a closing balance of \$1,320.

Our President Barry Wallace opened the Walks Report with a colourful account of the 1975 Re-union at Wood's Creek held on 15/16th March. Conditions on Saturday were very sultry and overcast climaxing in a heavy downpour of rain at about 5.00 p.m. which fortunately ceased after 20 minutes or so. Considering that no song leader was available this year to lead the 80 or so members at the usual campfire gathering, the groups managed remarkably well, no doubt assisted greatly by 3 or 4 young female guitarists in the audience. Jim Brown presented another of his delightful satires which your reporter did not see in its entirety as he was engaged in helping Owen Marks, Don Finch, George Gray and Laurie Quaken in preparing the supper of barbecued sausages, bread and butter, tomato sauce and cocoa and coffee, a change from the usual biscuits. The few remaining "snags" of the original 290 were eagerly devoured at breakfast time. There was the usual campfire singing till the small hours of the morning with Colin Putt, Geoff Wagg, Jim Brown, Don Matthews and a few others in fine voice. A good time was had by all (ask anyone about our illustrious damper judge).

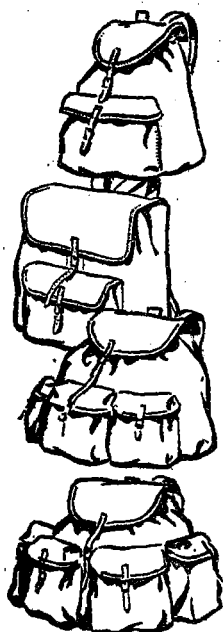
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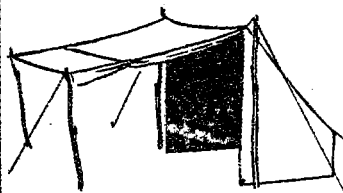
### PIONEER RUCKSACK

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### 'A' TENTS

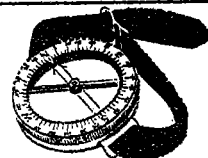
One, two or three man. From 2½ to 3½lbs. Choice of three cloths. Supplied with nylon cords and overlapped doors. No walls.



### WALL TENTS

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# Paddy's

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The next weekend 21/23rd Bill Burke's and John Campbell's walks combined into one attracting 5 members including Joan Rigby from Canberra. They proceeded down Bungonia Gorge and Bungonia Creek and onto Jarrara Creek, not Barber's Creek as planned. A very long abseil, 2 ropes did suffice. The other two members being Joe Marton and David Rostron. The same weekend Diana Lynn's trip to Mt. Solitary attracted 6 members and 7 prospectives and all went smoothly. Carl Bock's Sunday 23rd walk was attended by 35 starters. A nice clear day out to Patonga Heights and the ferry just got the party back in time to meet up with the train. Tony Denham's walk on the same day was described as an easy day made somewhat "more harder". Four prospectives to Burning Palms.

Easter Trips: Apparently Ray Carter's Bendethera trip did go, no details.

Helen Gray's Mt. Bimberi adventure drew 28 starters. Most days sleet and snow or rain except for one fine day. As compensation though the evenings were fine and clear and all camp stops in daylight. Unfortunately Mt. Morgan and Mt. Murray were both covered in cloud, climbed Bimberi and Kelly. One casualty David Rostron's new luxury Ford Fairmont got stuck in sideways over a bridge.

Nasty weather prevented Gordon Lee's small party from covering the Barrington Tops area as planned, they had to contend with some major amendments.

The first weekend in April Jim Vatiliotis' walk to Tiwilla Plateau provided an interesting and uneventful walk for the 4 man party, arriving back at the cars at 3.30 p.m. That Sunday, April 6th, eight people followed Peter Miller down to Little Blue Gum from Victoria Falls. John Holly's trip from Tahmoor to the Bargo River attracted 18 people, but had to finish at Bargo instead of Thirlmere because of a permanently altered train service. John Campbell's abseiling trip did not go.

Barry then proceeded to read out the Federation Report. A new map has been issued on the Kosciusko area but Federation is concerned at the small scale and is plugging for a bigger scale. Search & Rescue received at \$75.00 donation from a young lass for services rendered in Bungonia Gorge, giving Federation a closing balance of \$1,837. The Federation Ball is to be held on 19th September at the Petersham Town Hall. Strong rumours still persist of no access to Wog Wog Creek. Disturbing reports of pollution in Wentworth Creek, Jamieson Valley and Wallangambe Creek.

A provisional Federation B. W. C. Policy on Camping and Access was issued for perusal.

Most of General Business was engaged in lively discussion on Coolana. A motion to reclassify our land, thus saving on rates was overwhelmingly lost, the general feeling being that we should not devalue our valuable club asset. Another motion to take out an all risks, public liability policy was also lost, but a motion that the Coolana Management Committee be given authority to proceed with planning a shelter hut on Coolana was carried.



Whilst in a motion-carrying mood the Club carried a motion aligning our policy on existing Kosciusko huts with the Kosciusko Huts Association policy. Case presented by Gordon Broome and the motion moved by Alex Colley.

The hour hand reached 10 as the Club approved \$30.00 expenditure on an agricultural pipe for Coolana, and after hasty walks announcements the meeting closed.

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#### DESTINATION MAWSON'S.

by Patrick McBride.

The following events happened in 1973 which is beginning to be far enough away now to dim the memory, so before all is lost and forgotten and people are left to puzzle over some cryptic and unlikely-sounding references in the hut logs, I am setting down this chronicle of a very unusual skiing week-end.

It was in September and looking to be one of the last skiing trips of the year when three of us from BOSTA (Bond's Ski-Touring Association) decided it was time for a proper finish to the season, a great trek across to White's, then over to Mawson's and finally up the mighty Jagungal himself. Everyone tries to get to Jagungal in winter because it is hardest to do it then.

A second group had already gone down on Thursday with similar aims and on Friday, while we kept the country on its feet back in tropical Sydney, Chris Kirkby, Ian Gibson and Max Crisp battled their way over miles of soggy wet snow and through rain swollen creeks almost to the lower slopes of Jagungal before being forced to return. It was an intrepid and determined effort, particularly the running barefoot through creeks to keep their socks and boots dry. They say the snow felt warm underfoot on the opposite bank.

We ourselves motored down on Friday night and skied and walked over a patchy cover to White's River Hut, arriving about 1 a.m. After a late breakfast we skied to Schlink Hilton for a leisurely lunch and were able to greet the other party arriving from Mawson's Hut just as we were finishing.

Arrangements were made to rendezvous at Mawson's in the afternoon and there partake of a great feast of goodies.

So while Chris, Ian and Max opened their playlunch boxes we set off up the valley to the top of the Kerries. The weather deteriorated rapidly from calm and sunny at the hut to overcast and windy halfway up and long before we reached the pass we had on our parkas and were being buffeted by strong gusts of wind together with heavy rain and patches of fog.

There is an important pass near the top of the range where one must

turn off and head north so as to drop into the correct valley for Mawson's, and I missed it. Having severely underestimated our rate of travel in the mist and being unable to pick out any landmarks I kept on the E.N.E. course too long. At least these are the excuses I advance to counter the veiled references to Mawson's which seem to crop up when I enter a discussion on navigation. In fact, the week before I had met Wilf Hilder and party in the same area and skied up the Kerries with them before pointing out some directions and returning to the Hilton and dinner. Wilf and Co. then spent five soul-searing hours struggling with the topography of the Valentine's River before gratefully collapsing into Mawson's at 10.30 p.m. But back to our adventure.

It was strikingly apparent that we were off course when a brief lifting of the mist showed a deep valley ahead and quite unfamiliar slopes behind us. Convinced that Mawson's lay to our left we began to sidle northwards, hoping to catch a glimpse of some recognisable feature.

As we waited in the lee of a boulder and Bruce scouted ahead to a likely valley there was a sudden patter of voices and Chris and Ian skied over a ridge into view looking rather surprised to see us. They had set out much later and when the weather became difficult had decided to keep following our tracks, despite quite justifiable misgivings about the route being followed (Moral - never rely on ski tracks). They were expecting to find us at Mawson's in due course. They were also in a hurry because they had lost Max on the slopes of Gungartan.

Max had diverged round a hill for a comfort stop intending to rejoin them by continuing on round the side, but instead had disappeared. Searching for his tracks they encountered ours instead and decided to follow them straight to Mawson's (Ha!) hoping to find Max there. In any case the conditions were becoming far too bad to hold any hopes of locating someone.

It was with mounting anxiety that the parties exchanged news, because like Chris and Ian, Max was carrying only a day pack with no food or bivouac equipment. Pooling our mental resources we were able to establish that we really did not know where we were but were probably still well south of Mawson's. To drop down to the Valentine's River and then follow it to the pole line was possible but meant a couple of hours of heading straight into the wind and rain. Otherwise we could travel downwind and aim for Tin Hut, relying on Roy's 4-man tent if the worst came to the worst.

One member harboured the notion that if we kept on going south we would find an easy way down to lower ground so you can see that thought processes were not running any too clearly. The weather made up our minds for us with a wind now close to gale force and the rain beginning to penetrate our clothing.

We headed downwind. A half-hour later found us crossing a large flat expanse, mostly wet to the skin and with spirits at a very low ebb. Suddenly there appeared a fence post and lo, up there on the hill was where the hut lay, just beyond the coppice of snow gums. We had managed to take exactly

the right course and were on a direct bearing for the hut, more by good luck than good management as it happened.

There have been parties in summer who have camped within a hundred metres of Tin Hut and not found it until the morning.

The hut was of course empty (overcrowding in huts is a myth) and once inside we lit a fire and settled down to worry about Max.

I was sitting facing the window and could hardly believe my eyes when a spectre in oilskins glided past in the rain. The next minute a knock at the door heralded the man himself, looking quite cheerful and far less weather-beaten than we had been.

After losing the other two he had made a brief search, then had settled down with map and compass to plan a course, deciding that from his location Tin Hut was the best bet. It was an amazing coincidence (and spot-on navigation) that he also found the hut, under these conditions.

Our gloom now changed to cheer, tempered only by the thought of all the cheer sitting in the packs at Mawson's. The hut rations which we felt justified in making use of were far less palatable. The mattresses and blankets were handy and we kept the fire burning all night for the comfort of the three without sleeping bags.

In the morning there was less wind but still quite uninviting weather. We returned over the range to Schlink Pass leaving the second party to complete the trip to Mawson's and collect their packs.

Readers with curiosity may be wondering how Max could manage in one day two such conflicting performances; to be able to find Tin Hut first up, in near white-out conditions, and to be able to get lost round a little hill. Well, now he is safely out of the country in Saudi Arabia or somewhere, I can reveal it. It is all a matter of which way you read north on the compass.

\*\*\*\*\*

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SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTWOODCHIP INQUIRY

The chairman of the Committee, Senator Jim Keeffe, has announced that the Senate had referred to it for examination and report:

The impact on the Australian environment  
of the current woodchip industry programme

The members of the Committee are:

Senator J.B. Keeffe -- Chairman (ALP QLD)  
Senator P.E. Baume (LP NSW)  
Senator N.T. Bonner (LP QLD)  
Senator G.S. Davidson (LP SA)  
Senator J.I. Molzer (ALP VIC)  
Senator J.A. Mulvihill (ALP NSW)

To ensure that as wide a range of views as possible is presented for consideration, the Committee has invited written submissions from all interested persons and organisations who feel they could assist it in the inquiry.

Senator Keeffe stated that the Committee expected to commence public hearings during the second half of the year, and it might invite people who had presented submissions to give supporting evidence.

This is a matter which is of concern to all bushwalkers, and therefore views of S.B.W. members are invited for possible inclusion in a submission to the Senate Committee. Interested persons should contact the Club Conservation Secretary, Mr Alex Colley.

SOCIAL NOTES FOR JUNESpiro Ketas

On June 18th Hector Carruthers will be presenting two interesting films on Rhodesia, namely: "Operation Noah" and "Turn Back Elephant". "Operation Noah" deals with the rescue of thousands of animals in the wake of a dam construction and "Turn Back Elephant" concerns the serious elephant survival problem.

Of course, Hector is well known to fellow members and his past social evenings have been most enjoyable.

On June 25th, the St John's Ambulance Brigade will be staging a First Aid demonstration. This should be particularly interesting to prospective and new members and to all those old members who wish to keep abreast of newly revised First Aid techniques.

FEDERATION NOTES

## MEETING — 15th April 1975

Four S.B.W. delegates attended the meeting: Frank Molloy, Jim Vatiliotis, Jeff Bridgor and Allan Martin.

(1) A letter was received from Southern Tablelands Dingo Destruction Board, saying they regret any inconvenience caused by the traps to walkers and other animals (?) but they have a job to do. Due to the location of traps they cannot be checked every day. If wild life (other than dingoes) is found in a trap, please release them. Do not spring the traps.

(2) A new Game Reserve for conservationists has been opened at East Glen Innes: "Kangawalla", over 1000 acres. Southern Boundary is formed by the Mann River. For further details contact

Mr Bob Lee,  
305 Grog Street  
Glen Innes, 2370

## (3) YERRANDERIE AREA

Mr Tony Burke who owns the Post Office and land at Yerranderie is organising outdoor activities on a commercial basis. He has approached the N.P.W.S. for support in obtaining access through Mr Lang's property. Access would be restricted to visitors to Yerranderie and bushwalkers. It appears that this road was built to provide access to the D.C.A. tower. There is a possibility that it may be a public road. N.P.W.S. has written to Federation seeking members' views.

Federation has protested to the Water Board about trail bikes in the Byrnes Gap Area. The Water Board has advised that the bike riders have purchased land in the area. The Board has power to prevent them from riding in the area if they remain on public roads.

## (4) BOYD PLATEAU AREA

No pine planting will take place in this area. It has been suggested that this area be made a National Park. See clipping in Sydney Morning Herald on 14th April 1975. F.B.W. has moved to support "Save Native Forest" in question and to fight for a Royal Commission to be held.

## (5) MEDLOW GAP

The gate on the fire road is now locked, and a fence has been constructed around the gate, barring access.

(6) Federation Reunion was held on 12th and 13th April 1975 and approximately 135 club members attended. No S.B.W. members were present.

BOYD PLATEAU: NO CHANGEReprinted from Sydney Morning Herald 14/4/75

Conservation groups have won their five-year campaign to prevent the bulldozing of the Boyd Plateau, south of the Jenolan Caves. Following the release of the State Pollution Control Commission's report, the Minister for Lands and Forests, Mr Morris, announced yesterday that there would be no planting of pines on the plateau.

The commission recommended against Forestry Commission proposals to clear 6,700 hectares (16,000 acres) of virgin forest and replace it with commercial pine.

It also recommended that there be no further change to the natural environment within the State forest on the plateau.

Mr Morris indicated yesterday that he was also in support of the plateau being incorporated in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park — another long-time demand of conservationists concerned with the preservation of the area. "There seems to me no logical reason now for leaving the plateau outside the park," he said.

However, he would still have to discuss the matter with the director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mr D.A. Johnstone, to see if this would involve any complications.

The vice-president of the Australian Conservation Foundation, Mr Milo Dunphy, described the decision yesterday as "one of the biggest victories NSW conservationists have had in a long time. It has taken five years of work by about 100 conservation groups and over 1,000 individuals", he said. "It has been a most exhausting struggle."

Mr Dunphy said he hoped the decision would usher in a new era of decision-making on land use in NSW. "It is doubtful whether this is evidence of a major change in attitude by the Government, but perhaps it shows a more helpful approach by the new Minister for Lands", he said.

The Pollution Control Commission's report said the plateau had a high value for scientific studies as a habitat for animals and for recreational and aesthetic purposes.

Mr Morris said he and the Forestry Commission were keen on ensuring that forestry operations did not prejudice the environment. "There were conflicting views over the Boyd Plateau's value as a pine plantation or its retention as a native forest so the Government had referred the matter to the State Pollution Control Commission. "I do not hesitate to accept fully the findings of the umpire," Mr Morris said.

WALKS SECRETARY'S NOTES FOR JUNE

by Bob Hodgson

- 6,7,8 June - Bob Younger will lead you on this classic test walk from Carlon's Farm out to the magnificent panorama of Splendour Rock, then down to the soft green grass banks of the Cox's to camp. Great value.
- Sunday 8 - Mr Nice Guy Joe Marton will be heading this good little test walk work out on the tracks of the Jamison Valley. Echo Point, Ruined Castle, Mt Solitary and the Golden Stairs are just some of his objectives.
- Sunday 8 - Tony Denham has a slightly less energetic walk. Nevertheless, it is still guaranteed to keep you warm. Tony will take you from Waterfall to Otford via Frews Creek and Bola Heights. A very worthwhile walk.
- Queen's birthday weekend 13-16 - A leisurely voyage through the Budawangs with Frank Roberts at the helm is just one of the fantastic trips we have planned for you this weekend. Starting at Yadboro, Frank intends to circumnavigate the most spectacular section of the Budawang escarpment -- from the Castle to Corang.
- 13-16 - At last a way of walking Barrington Tops without that laborious slog up the Corker or other worse ridge. Helen Gray has all the answers with a base camp and day trips to your favourite Barrington landmarks with a minimum of fuss.
- 13-16 - For the keen novice nordic skier, Gordon Broome will co-ordinate transport so that you and our excellent nordic instructors will arrive at the same place and time. No other details are available at this stage as things are so entirely dependent on the weather.
- 20,21,22 - Down the Nattai with Hans Beck is the formula for this weekend's test walk. Starting at Hilltop Hans has concocted a trip that takes you down Reedy and Martins Creeks to the Nattai and a nostalgic look at the much maligned reunion site of McArthurs Flat.
- 20,21,22 - Gordon Lee is leading this walk with a historic note, with a base camp at Newnes. Somehow or other Gordon intends to be in the railway tunnel at night to view the glow-worms as well as going on a day trip to Glen Davis. These glow-worms are a fantastic sight and well worth the trip.
- Sunday 22 - An interesting push down the old engineers track is the start of Victor Lewin's Sunday jaunt into the upper Grose River. Depending on time Victor intends to see what



effect the mining of coal is having on the environment in this area. You will also be pleased to know that the return route is via the tracked Victoria Falls route.

- Sunday 22 - A nice pleasant stroll in Heathcote State Park with congenial company with Meryl Watman is your other choice for today.
- 27,28,29 - Why not join Evelyn Walker for this trip to the famous Genowlan Circuit. The lucky ones on this easy/medium trip can enjoy really beautiful views and see fantastic craggy sandstone formations. Camp by the cars on Friday night and bring water for a dry camp in a cave on Saturday. But as you won't be carrying a tent the weight won't matter. Good for beginners too. Don't miss this.
- 27,28,29 - Tony Denham has produced a marvellous test walk for this weekend. He and his whole cast will act out a great journey. From Tanderra camp, via Hidden Valley to Monolith and return down Angel Creek and up Watson Pass. An epic scenic attraction.
- Sunday 29 - If you can't make Saturday night for the fun and frivolity of the camp fire, come anyway and do the Sunday walk. Peter Scandrett will be there to keep you happy out from Flat Top to Lockleys and Blue Gum and return. A day test walk with appeal.

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#### New National Park

A national park will be created near Singleton within 12 months. The Minister for Lands and Forests (Mr Morris) told the annual meeting of the Maitland branch of the Liberal Party this. The park would cover about 240,000 hectares west of Warkworth and Bulga and south-east of Bylong, Mr Morris said. "The new national park will preserve a wide variety of wild life and flora for the benefit of present and future generations in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. It would be the third major national park in the region. The others are Barrington Tops and Myall Lakes National Parks. The new park, for which a name had not yet been chosen, had been sought by conservation groups for many years", he said.

The resources commission of the NP & WS had undertaken a preliminary investigation of the area to be set aside and negotiations were under way with landowners. The topography of the proposed park is extremely rugged, with the Hunter-Hawkesbury watershed forming a large part of the southern boundary. Prominent features of the park will be Mt Monundilla and high points near Nullo Mountain rising as high as 1300 metres. The Widdon, Blackwater and Nullo area rivals the Blue Mountains in scenic attraction", he said.

"COOLANA" HUT

- Dot Butler

In the April Bushwalker a call was sent out for members to submit ideas on the type of construction and materials for our proposed hut at Coolana. Some interesting ideas have been submitted to date, ranging from a 3-sided corrugated iron shelter-shed with an earth floor and built-in fireplace to a much more grandiose confection of chicken-wire and concrete, something like a miniature Opera House - Artist, George Gray. Some people fancy a geodesic dome; others an igloo-type construction with a central fireplace around which all the party can sit on a wet night while the smoke disappears up the chimney via a suspended wide-mouthed funnel.

Responses from older members are very heartening. John Scott, master builder, has submitted information on foundations - a basic necessity to any type of building; Bert Whillier, also a builder, has provided a sketch-plan for the construction of a basic fireplace; Win Duncombe ("Dunc") - practically a foundation member, has been the source of hundreds of feet of chicken-wire should this be required in the final structure. Dot Butler can't be weaned away from the idea of building in river pebbles, seeing that there are countless thousands of them FREE FOR THE TAKING from the river-bed fronting our property. Tim Coffee suggests a likely source of cheap concrete blocks and is making enquiries about our obtaining a second hand tank. He has also given some professional hints on how to erect this.

It is now up to our present active members to let us have their ideas seeing that, after all, they will be the people most likely to get longest use from the place. Gordon Broome and his indefatigable Main Range Rats are an example to the rest of us; in innumerable private working-bees they have repaired and added-to and rendered habitable the Spencer's Peak hut at Kosciusko. And consider, also, the achievement of the River Canoe Club who, using the labour of their own members, have almost completed the rebuilding of their Club house burned down in September 1973.

We, also, have keen workers eager to get on with the job at Kangaroo Valley. The Club cannot proceed with plans for financing the project until the final building plan has been agreed on, so

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR IDEAS, preferably with accompanying sketch,

to the Coolana Committee Convenor, Dot Butler,  
30 Boundary Rd.,  
WAHROONGA. 2076

If you are too pressed for time to write, a phone call to her home (48.2208 evenings) will serve to get the message across.

The Coolana Committee will be holding a formal meeting within the next couple of weeks to come up with a working plan and wish to submit their findings to the JUNE General Meeting. So ACT NOW.

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