

THE YODGELLERS RANGE

A monthly bulletin of matters of interest to The Sydney Bush Walkers Incorporated, Box 4476 GPO, Sydney, 2001. Club meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 7.45 pm at the Ella Community Centre, 58a Dalhousie Street, Haberfield (next door to the Post Office). Prospective members and visitors are invited to visit the Club any Wednesday.

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## WHILE THE BILLY BOILS.

Once upon a time, winter was THE walking season. Cool and usually dry, it was ideal for those long hikes in the wilds of Kanangra and Ettrema. Now it seems that anyone who can put one foot in front of another, spends the winter skiing. Walks are being cancelled for lack of interest, and not only in SBW. Other groups are having the same problem.

Summer in Sydney is too hot for vigorous walking. Which leaves only a couple of months in spring and autumn for doing anything interesting. Have we all become weather-wimps, demanding a hut for cold nights? Or are we no longer able to light a fire outdoors in wet weather? Will only perfect weather now bring us creeping timidly out of hibernation? Mustn't be too cold, or too hot - rain would cause panic and despair.

Yet some of my happiest times were spent in winter weather. Helping skilled bushmen light an un-dousable fire during a thunderstorm on the Kowmung. Or boiling my breakfast billy beside Corang River, where frost made ice-castles of all the tents.

All gone - never to return? I hope not. Perhaps new members, who are still excited by the adventure of going bush will be brave enough to pit themselves against the elements, and discover that they can win.

So next winter perhaps?

See you on the track....

*Monag*



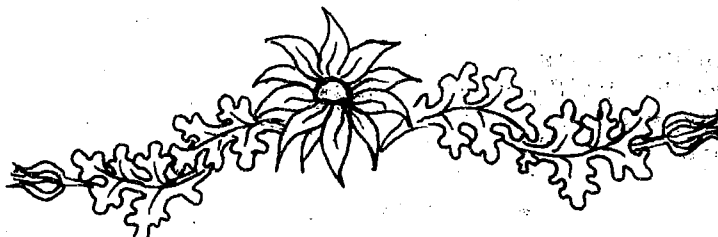
## THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

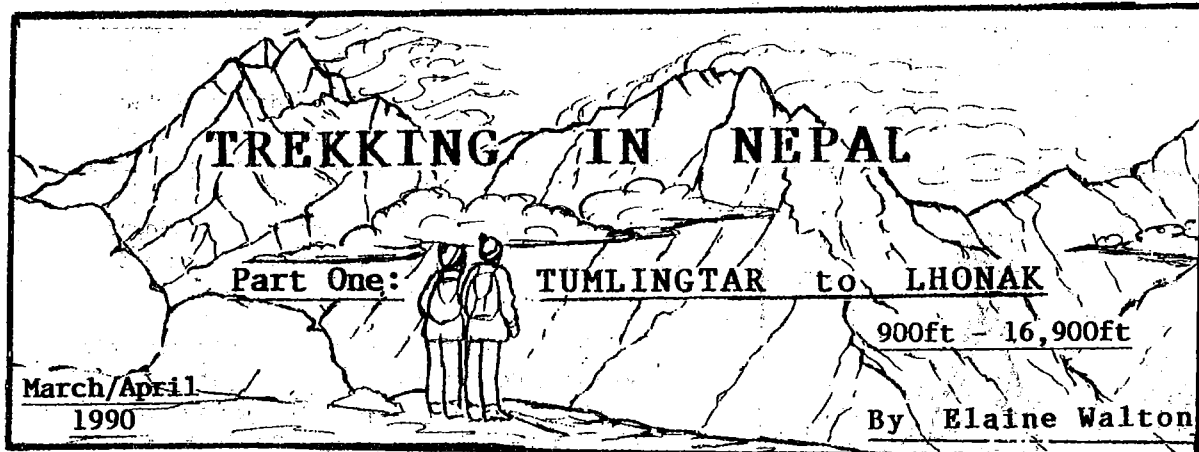
The September General Meeting came and went without too many people noticing. Most members seemed to be away seeking frostbite in the snowfields, including your usual reporter, Barry Wallace. Others, including the Club Secretary and the Club Vice President, were busy with other things. The Walks Secretary was/is away overseas and the Federation Delegate/s were somewhere. This left the field pretty much to the President who, along with about 16 members, soon became bored with the whole thing and went home.

Perhaps we should take this state of affairs as a hint that the General Meetings need some revision. A questionnaire has been sent out, apparently not a moment too soon. Should we have General Meetings at all? Should they be limited to one hour and then followed by talks/ slides/ wine-tastings? (Singly or concurrently, and not necessarily in that order)

Well, you have the questionnaire - so come along - some practical and/or imaginative suggestions please!

Ed.





We arrived in Kathmandu near lunchtime from Bangkok and had two free days sightseeing as it was necessary to spend that amount of time obtaining the trekking permits etc. necessary for the trek. We left our hotel for a 3.15 pm flight to start our trek from Tumlingtar but after being in the air for 25 minutes had to return to Kathmandu because the weather had closed in. From the air I could see what I had only seen in photos - little villages stacked high on terraced mountains - the scenery was unreal. I wondered to myself how the people got up there but I was to find out soon enough.

Our second attempt was successful as we left at 7 am in the morning and when we arrived at Tumlingtar breakfast was awaiting us on the airport grounds prepared by the cooks and sherpas. What scenery to sit and watch while you eat - we had table and stools to use and these were carried by the porters on the track. While we ate, the luggage was sorted out, weight was distributed as some porters carried more and received more payment for it.

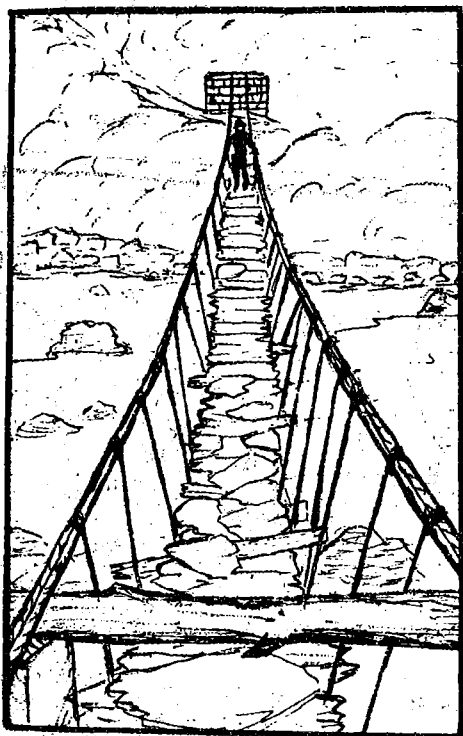
Then we started walking down towards the Arun River for lunch - passing through small farms where farmers were guiding their ploughs pulled by bullocks through the fields. We waited for two hours for lunch - it was always a hot lunch. At first it seemed to be a long time but later into the trek we appreciated the rest. After lunch it was all up hill.

We camped on a mountain with superb scenery at Kharang and not a cloud to be seen - we could see Mount Makalu, fifth highest mountain in the world. We found that in the morning the views were generally good, but by afternoon the clouds started to steal the scenery. The locals always found us interesting - one does get used to them after a while, just standing and staring at you while you eat or in fact do anything. It is all very interesting to them as the Kanchenjunga Track has not been opened very long to tourists.

Our second day along the track gave us the view of the Himalayas stretching as far as the eye could see. The walking was not hurried and we walked at our own pace. One sherpa who was the leader always sent ahead and whoever wanted to walk fast could go with him. The other three sherpas spread themselves amongst us and one always brought up the end. There was no pushing at any time except when we were walking over dangerous slip areas and we were advised to hurry across.

It was market day at Chainpur, which is held every Friday. People come from far afield bringing their wares to sell and they return home late in the evening. To a Nepalese, distance and time are of little concern.

On the track we passed through villages and we were always greeted with "Namste", a Nepalese greeting which means "I salute the God in you". The little children just stand with hands in prayer formation singing this out until you respond with the same. The voices echo all over the fields and in fact we missed them once we got up to Ghunsa which is the highest permanent village and is at snowline level. Any village above Ghunsa is a summer monsoon grazing camp and is abandoned for the winter.



We crossed all kinds of bridges from two pieces of bamboo, wire and one had all stones replacing broken slats of wood - some engineering went into that idea - it looked as though it could fall at any time. A lot of the bridges get washed away during the monsoon season and are replaced when necessary.

We walked along Tamur River and Ghunsa Kola always climbing and one could notice the river climbing with you right up to the glacier which was our ultimate destination. On the track towards Sokathum we passed several families of monkeys playing around the rocks. At Dobhan we had our last river swim, as from then on the water was freezing.

When we asked the sherpas how far to-day they would reply, "A little bit up and a little bit down," and time meant anything from 30 minutes to two hours, so we got used to Nepalese trekking after a while. The tracks were a bit rocky and uneven in parts, but well worn, as the locals use them all the time. Footwear varied, mainly bare feet or thongs and occasionally sandshoes. Even elderly ladies had bare feet and their skin was like leather. They didn't have a lot of warm clothing, for warmth they usually had shawls, but they never looked warm.

Houses are mostly made from stone with mud joints and painted over. Bamboo is used a lot as it is their main building material and the leaves are used on the roof. We saw a lot of plumbing where bamboo was used as piping - the largest bamboo we saw was 5" in diameter.

On day 14 we arrived at our furthest campsite, two and a half hours from Lhonak which is the base camp for Kanchenjunga. It was a frozen campsite completely covered with ice and surrounded by large snow covered mountains. We couldn't camp at Lhonak because of the freezing conditions and it would have been too cold for the porters. As it was, they went down lower for the two nights and would return when we were ready to leave. Although they had been issued with some warm clothing it was not enough for the biting cold.

There was no SBW style campfire as all the wood for cooking was carried for two days from below, so it was just for boiling the pot.

Some of us saw the footprints of the Snow Leopard and we were glad that was all we did see.

The next morning our cup of tea arrived at 5 am and breakfast was to be at 6 am as most of the group were walking to Lhonak to have a look at Kanchenjunga. It wasn't the best day for scenery as the clouds closed in early. The weather was minus degrees and George counted ten pieces of clothing he had on.

When it was time for the tents to come down the next morning, hot water had to be poured over the pegs to remove them.

TO BE CONTINUED

\* \* \* \* \*

## Conservation

While politicians whimper and vacillate, trying to decide if they should bow to conservation or commerce, the N.P.W.S. sent a submission to the Resource Assessment Commissions' Forest and Timber Resource Inquiry. It is such sound and simple commonsense that it is worth printing here. ED.

"The National Parks and Wildlife Service considers that the future of the timber industry must lie in hardwood and softwood plantations, established on currently cleared land. The use of plantation timber will reduce the pressure on native forests for sawlogs and pulpwood, permit longer rotations in managed native forests and enable unlogged forests to be retained.

"Intensive logging operations in native forests, such as those typically associated with pulpwood supply, have significant adverse effects on the natural systems. In particular, arboreal mammals and hollow nesting birds are seriously depleted by these activities. Native forests should not be used for the supply of timber for wood chip exports or new pulp mills. Supplies to existing industries should be phased out and converted to plantation timber where appropriate.

"The remaining old growth and lightly logged forests of New South Wales are a tiny proportion of the original forests of the State. They represent the last chance to protect the forests, with all their natural and cultural values, from development and degradation. The present system of conservation reserves does not provide an adequate sample of forest ecosystems and needs to be expanded. In particular, old growth forests, forests on high nutrient soils and forests of the western slopes and plains need to be included.

"Systematic surveys of the flora and fauna of the State's forests need to be undertaken. They are essential to our understanding of the status of the natural heritage of the forests. Such studies are necessary to enable decisions about forest management to be put into a State wide perspective."

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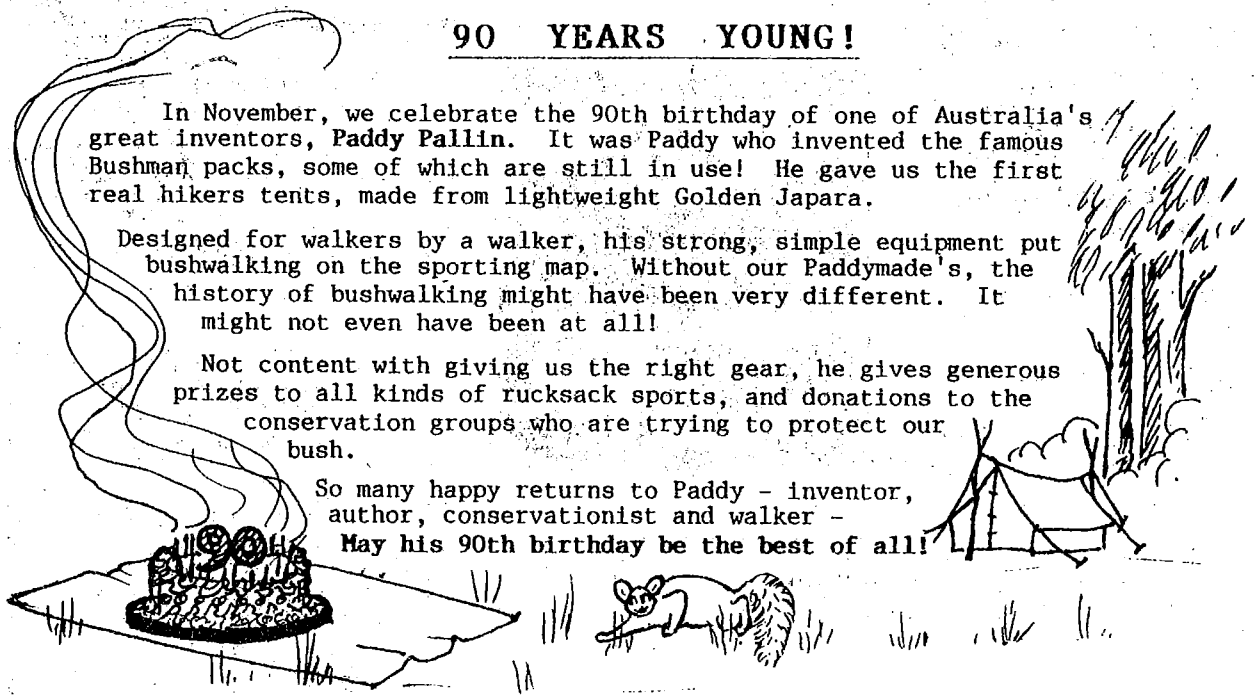
## 90 YEARS YOUNG!

In November, we celebrate the 90th birthday of one of Australia's great inventors, Paddy Pallin. It was Paddy who invented the famous Bushman packs, some of which are still in use! He gave us the first real hikers tents, made from lightweight Golden Japara.

Designed for walkers by a walker, his strong, simple equipment put bushwalking on the sporting map. Without our Paddymade's, the history of bushwalking might have been very different. It might not even have been at all!

Not content with giving us the right gear, he gives generous prizes to all kinds of rucksack sports, and donations to the conservation groups who are trying to protect our bush.

So many happy returns to Paddy - inventor, author, conservationist and walker -  
May his 90th birthday be the best of all!



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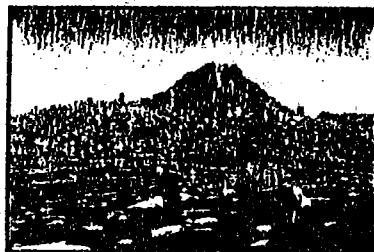
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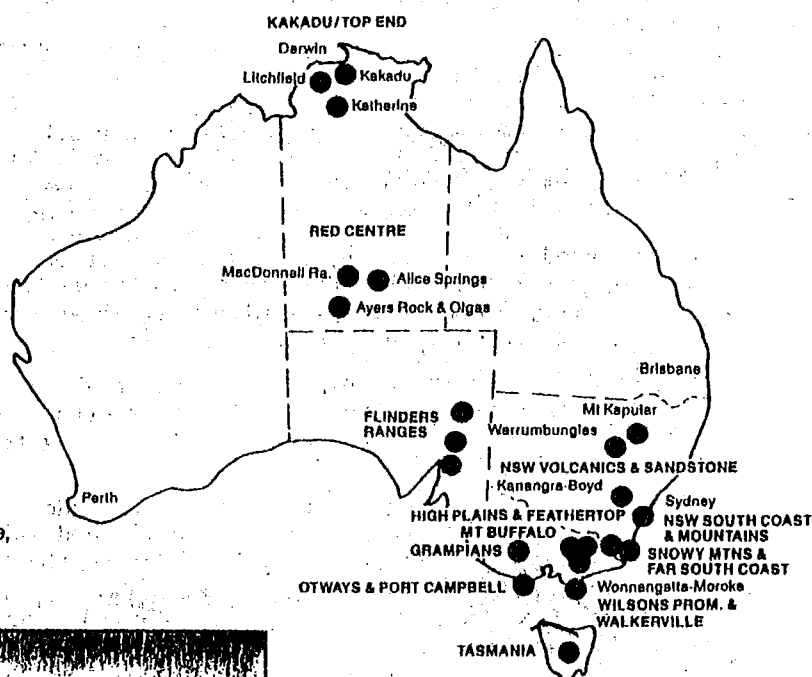
From 4-day Victorian tours to 16-day Red Centre, we cater for all preferences and pockets.

### ★ Attention to Camp Comfort

Essential for a happy group. 2 inch foam mattresses, doonas, your own pillow from home, chairs with backs, large tents with a torch light in each.



### ★ Budget Prices



## PROGRAMME

1990		
Oct 13-16	Gramplains	4 days
25-28	Gramplains Over 50	4 days
Nov 3-6	Wilson's Prom Over 50	4 days
10-18	NSW South Coast & Mtns	9 days
23-26	Otways & Port Campbell Coast	4 days
Dec 1-4	Mt Buffalo	4 days
8-11	Wilson's Prom & Walkerville	4 days
26-30	High Plains & Feathertop	5 days
1991		
Jan 5-13	Snowy Mtns & Far South Coast	9 days
19-27	Victorian Alps	9 days
Feb 8-22	Tasmania Grand Tour No. 1	15 days
Mar 1-15	Tasmania Grand Tour No. 2	15 days
Mar 29-Apr 1	Otways & Port Campbell Coast	4 days
Apr 13-23	NSW Volcanics & Sandstone	11 days
27-30	Gramplains	4 days
Jun 1-18	Red Centre No 1	18 days
Jun 22-Jul 8	Kakadu/Top End No 1	15 days
Jul 13-27	Kakadu/Top End No 2	15 days
Aug 3-18	Red Centre No 2	16 days
Sep 8-21	Flinders Ranges Grand Tour	14 days
Oct 2-6	Victorian Desert Parks	5 days
12-15	Gramplains	4 days

### Are you on our mailing list?

If not, why not send for our new brochure or ring us

Name .....

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P.O. Box 886, Croydon, Vic. 3136  
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NOTES FROM THE OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING

Bill Holland

Notice of changes to meetings:

The committee has appointed a sub-committee, under Greta Davis, to review the Club's activities and recommend changes aimed at encouraging more members, and prospective members, to participate in Club events. Attendances have been low, particularly at the monthly general meetings.

Greta has sent out survey questionnaires to all members (with last month's magazine) and these are due to be returned by the October general meeting.

Already the committee has received feedback indicating that changes should be made to the format of the monthly general meetings. Therefore, we have decided to adopt a less formal structure for these meetings and to widen their appeal by including other events of general interest on meeting nights. Supper will be provided in the hall and general meetings will be preceded by dining at the nearby restaurant for those members who wish to come straight from work.

Greta would welcome your suggestions for other improvements.

Notice of proposal to change the Club's location:

Many members have expressed concern that the present meeting place at Haberfield is not conveniently located from their homes or employment. The hall is quite a distance from the nearest railway station and requires a long walk down darkened streets. Prospective members have difficulty in locating the hall in an unfamiliar suburb. At times the hall is not available to the committee or for meetings due to holiday closure or other circumstances.

At the October committee meeting it was resolved that alternative meeting places should be investigated and a recommendation for change, or otherwise, be put to the members at the November general meeting when the results of Greta's survey will be available.

The reason for putting this to the November meeting is to comply with the booking schedules of local council and hall authorities who finalise the coming year's reservations at about this time.

In looking for alternative accommodation the committee has in mind the management guidelines adopted by the Club two years ago, in which is stated:-

"The Club shall endeavour to meet in premises that are -

- central, i.e. close to the city
- near public transport (train)
- adjacent to restaurants and other social facilities
- of presentable quality
- suitable for the Club's range of activities
- with provision for storage of Club's records etc."

Finding a suitable hall is not an easy task. There is no guarantee that a better location will be available.

Resignations from Committee:

Don Finch resigned from the committee in September, due to work pressures and John Porter resigned in October.

Ian Debert and Kay Chan have been appointed to fill the vacancies on the committee. Ian takes over as membership secretary and Kay becomes our Club delegate at Confederation meetings.

Transport Cost:

Increased petrol prices have made it essential that persons offering transport to walks should not be disadvantaged. An article will be placed in next month's magazine drawing attention of all participants to cost of getting to and from walks.





by Ian Wolfe

For three years I strove to get there - this small inconsequential slab-sided but on the Finn River. For two years in a row the snow levels and weather conspired against me and forced the implementation of 'Plan B'. But at last there was an auspicious conjunction of circumstances which resulted in the three of us standing on our skis at Munyang, in late July.

Across the bridge and up the aqueduct track we skied. Up, up on to the crest of Disappointment Spur, up, up into the sun and blue sky. It was my first ski trip for the year and with each stride the spirit of the mountains coursed more strongly through my veins and sloughed off the shackles of the world below. Any of you who have ever stood and felt the view which the high country provides, will immediately know what I mean.

'Twixt snow gum and Bogong we journeyed, to stand at last on the summit of Gungartan. Dicky Cooper to the west and fair Jagungal shining white and bright to the north. A pleasant ache in ine thighs went well with the crisp, cool air. Then it was but a short slither and slide down to Tin Hut, our abode for the evening. Small but cosy, able to sleep six on bunks, it served our needs well.

The morrow dawned bright and beautiful, so we sallied forth with day packs to climb The Porcupine and then to descend Bar Ridge and stand on Green Knob which afforded us views of the airstrip at Island Bend as well as a great telemark run down through the trees.

Then lunch at Finn River - but where was Bolton's Hut? Certainly not at grid 298811 (Mount Korne 1:50,000) where the Lands Department purports it to be. Nor was it within a 300 metre radius thereof. Unfortunately, time did not allow us to conduct a proper search, but huts do not hide, nor do they lurk, so where, therefore, is Bolton's Hut? Well, I have my suspicions, which will serve well as an excuse to visit this interesting area again. (Note - good snow levels are necessary.)

The rest of the day was filled by a very pelasant ski up Finn River and back to the hut that Dr. Schlink built.

Monday again provided sun and blue skies, so northwards we went to stand firstly upon the summit of The Brassy's Peak and then on the Big Brassy. Far down we looked towards the Burrungubugge (go on, try saying it first off without twisting your tongue), and to the site where Alpine Hut once stood.

'Though we loitered long, at alst we turned our skis homeward. Up along the Valentine to climb through Gungartan Pass we strode, with the rhythmic push and glide of the diagonal stride. We had lunch - oh, what a lunch - sitting on a white, clear saddle, with the vista one way rivalled by the vista the other way. Whither indeed, which way to look.

Downward then, swooping and carving through the snow gums and powder snow, as the telemarks flowed magically into each other. Off with our heavy packs and back to the top for one more run before returning to the road and sliding, with aid of an occasional





pole-plant, down from Schlink's Pass all the way to the bridge. A short push and an endless snow-plough back to Munyang, although one of us was tempted by the pipeline route.

Three days of snow, sun and serenity. Bolton's, Bolton's - I don't care where you are!

(Just for the record, Bolton's is in fact at grid 303810 some 500 metres from where shown on the Kancoban map. See "Huts of the High Country" by Klaus Keinke.)

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#### SOCIAL NOTE

DEVON HILLS WOOLSHED - Dinner and dance - Kangaroo Valley -

3rd NOVEMBER

Put up your tent at "Coolana" - walk or drive to the dinner/dance - sleep on our own land - Sunday for swimming in the river, walking or just lazing.

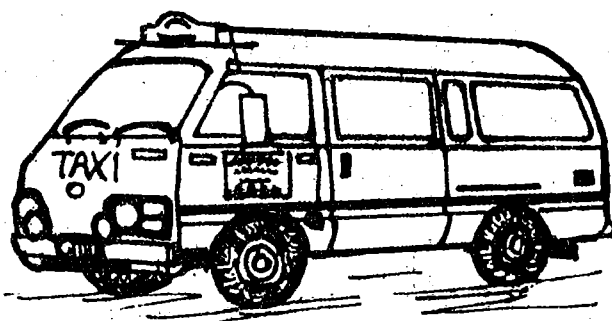
R.S.V.P. no later than 30th October - IAN DEBERT 982 2615 (H)  
or GRETA DAVIS 953 8384 (H)

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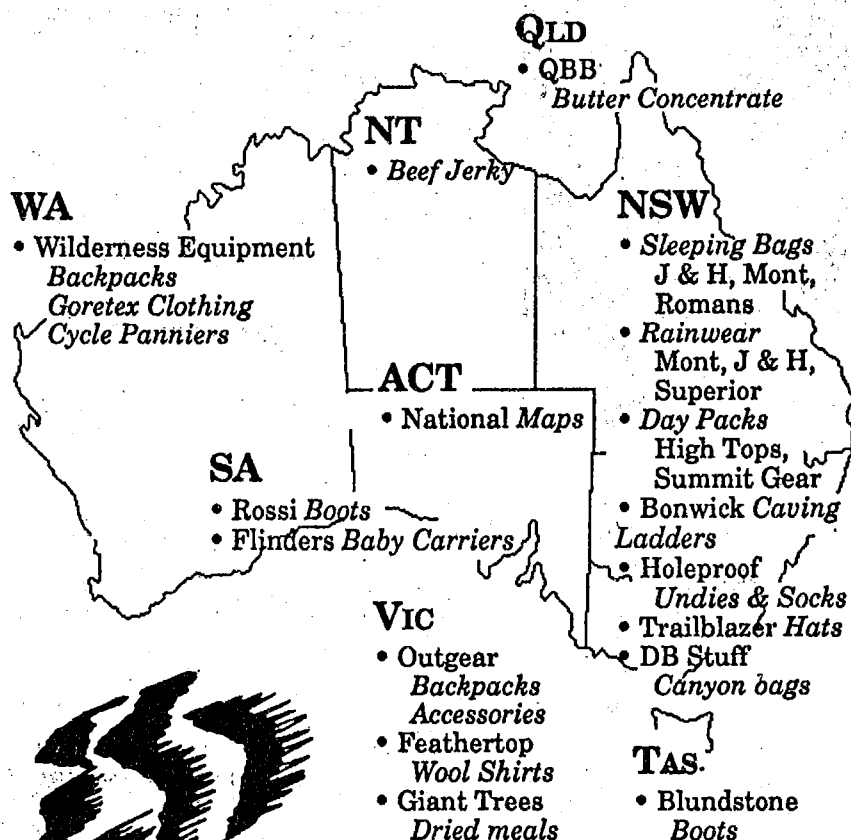
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PINDAR'S OCHRE PIT REDISCOVERED  
Hawkesbury River National Park

by Frank Woodgate

(First published October 1983)

Route: Wondabyne Station, Kariong Ridge, PIndars Gully and return. July 1983.

Starters: Carol Bruce, Marion Harris, Judy McHaffey, George Mawer, Colin Barnes, Laurie Quaken, Michael Holmes and the author as leader.

Object: To enjoy the wild flowers, explore Pindars Gully and Ochre Ridge, eat a few oysters and attempt to locate relics of previous occupancy of the PIndars Gully area before 1914.

The walk commenced at 9.51 am with a jump from the train at Wondabyne for some of the party due to the shortness of the platform and the excess length of the last carriage of the train. After a sharp climb up to the ridge from the station we were down past PIndars Cave by lunch time. We set up our camp above the 100 metres level in order to avoid any risk of the plague of mosquitoes usually abounding in the area in the warmer weather. Wild flowers, including pink boronia in particular, were in abundance.

In the afternoon we descended the rill on which we were camped and entered the gully proper. The idea was to negotiate the gully, which is very rough in parts, without packs. The gully contains a great variety of vegetation between the falls and the end, where it runs into the salt water of Mooney Mooney Creek. This includes sassafras, ferns, dendrobiums, etc. We followed the shore of the bay into which the gully turns and found a few edible oysters. There was also what appeared to be an old foundation excavation which is possibly the house site shown on the C.M.A. map at the north side at the entrance to the bay.

From the point we climbed to the top of Oxide Ridge to return to our campsite. This allowed us to avoid the heavy scrub and low cliffs at the south side of the gully. The light was fading as we sought our camp and after a few anxious moments when we dropped back down again we found the rill which we had come down earlier. Carol was the first to spot our tents. We soon had a blazing fire going to celebrate our return and to counteract a few showers of light rain that began to fall.

On Sunday morning we shouldered our packs and climbed Oxide Ridge again to follow it towards its southern extremity. On the way up the ridge Laurie spotted an excavation in the hillside. This was an open cut into the hillside approximately 20 metres in by 4 metres wide. The floor of the pit was littered with orange yellow rocks which presumably are the material which was mined as ochre. A wrought iron core extractor was near the pit and could reach 6 metres depth with the extension fitted.

We did not see any evidence of how the ochre was transported from the pit. However, on an earlier visit to the area, remains of a fence were seen west of the cave, so presumably horses or cattle were once on site. The top of the ridge is well grassed in places and may have once been cleared. The Pindar brothers after whom the area is named are rumoured to have been interned as aliens in 1914 and did not return to the area.

We followed Oxide Ridge, which abounded in boronias, bracken and rock lilies, to a spur from which one can look directly along the tollway bridge on the Newcastle-Sydney Expressway. The return route was identical to the outward journey.

This area of Brisbane Water National Park is relatively undisturbed except for rip marks made by wild pigs. For a location close to Sydney it has a lot to offer. However, like many areas off track, it can be very rough and because there are many similar ridges requires careful navigation.

A further visit is planned for the future at approximately the same time in 1984, when a variation of the route will be attempted.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MAIL BAG



In response to a question which you put in your article "The Storming of Byangee Walls" (Sept. 1990), the answer is in the book 'Pigeon House and Beyond - A Guide to the Budawang Range and Environs', a Budawang Committee Publication (1982). On page 187 it says:

**Pickering Head:** The eastern bluff of Byangee Mountain. Spectacular headland overlooking Clyde Gorge and junction of Pigeon House Gorge. It was named after Charlie Pickering, Chief of the Pigeon House Aborigines. Charlie was given a metal badge which named him chief of 'The Pigeon House Tribes'. Reference to this is made in John Fairfax's book, 'Run O' Waters'.

It is interesting to note that the name Byangee Walls is not explained in the above book, a thoroughly researched, comprehensive and beautifully presented volume, which all Budawang lovers should own. It is, however, noted in "The Sydney Bush Walkers - The First Sixty Years" (1987), that Byangee Walls was named after June Byatt and Ken Angel, who were SBW members.

AINSLEE MORRIS

*Many thanks for the information, Ainslee, its nice to think that Aborigines might have sheltered in the magnificent overhang we saw at the foot of Pickering Head.*

ED

## New Year In Kakadu

Give yourself something special this Christmas. Take advantage of the discount airfares to Darwin during December and January and treat yourself to a tropical trek through the wilds of Kakadu. See the park at its best: lush and green, wildflowers and waterfalls everywhere. Leave your sleeping bag and rainwear at home and see why most Darwin bushwalkers believe the green season is the best time for bushwalking. Consider joining us on one of the following.

**Dec 27 - Jan 9: New Year In Kakadu.** Follow the guide on an extended walk through one of his or her favourite areas.

**January 10-19: Kakadu Highlights.** Three short walks including a pack float down Katherine Gorge.

**January 9-26: Kakadu Super Circle.** A major expedition deep into the wilderness.

**January 21-29: North Kakadu Highlights.** An incredible concentration of aboriginal art sites, a helicopter ride into the rugged Northern Outliers, a leisurely walk out.

For full details of these and all the rest of our walks for 1991, write

**Willis's Walkabouts**  
12 Carrington Street  
Millner NT 0810  
Phone (089) 85 2134  
Fax (089) 85 2355

