

# THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER

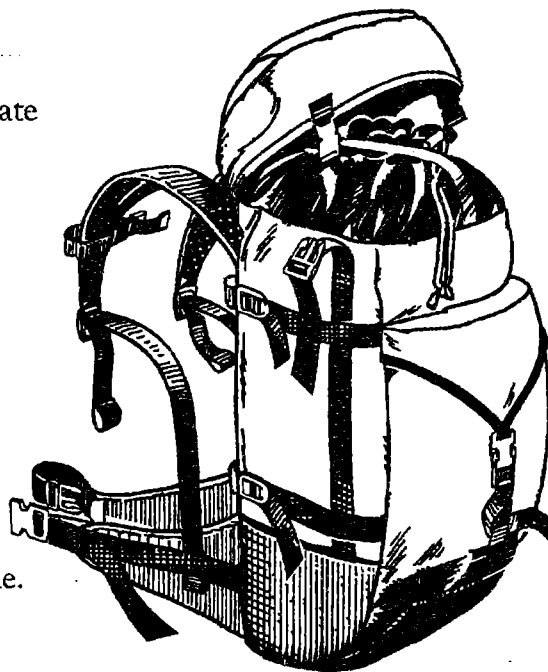


APRIL 2001



# TRIASSIC DAY PACK

Amongst the vast array of day packs that decorate the shelves of outdoor shops, it's difficult to pick something with the right features, what with 101 different types of nylon, all sorts of different canvases, airflow systems, expanding pockets and neon colours. So it's nice to know that if you're the type of person that wants simple robust functionality that reflects years of local bushwalking experience with solid locally made material then the BLUE MOUNTAINS TRIASSIC could be your best companion for many years to come.



## Pack Review

by David Noble

It's good to see a pack made in the Blue Mountains for use in the Blue Mountains. The "Triassic" features two shoulder strap sizes so that the pack can be properly hip loaded, sitting down comfortably in the lumbar region of the back. This is sometimes difficult especially if you are a taller person. The harness system also includes a thick waist belt and chest strap enabling a tight fit which is great when climbing over rocks.

The volume is large enough to allow a 50m rope and wetsuit to easily fit in and the top is made larger so that your stuff slides in and out with ease. The pack has a large front pocket for those essential items such as a torch, and a top pocket for the map and camera. The pack is large enough to be used as a weekend pack when no ropes etc. are needed. This can keep the bulk down and stop you from packing too much on those weekend bushwalks.

The "Triassic" is made from durable 12oz canvas which can withstand the abuse given to it in canyons and when walking through scrub. All the seams are double stitched and sealed to prevent failure. It is also very water proof, on a recent trip down "Hole In The Wall" canyon, no water entered the main compartment despite a number of lengthy swims.

The pack is bush green in colour making the walker almost invisible in the bush. This is handy for sneaking up on wildlife with a camera or just blending in to the wilderness as you walk along. Good for those who like to keep the visual impact minimal too.

A quality Blue Mountains pack for our tough conditions, the "Triassic" carries a lifetime guarantee on workmanship and materials.

Overall an excellent pack for either short or tall with the 2 shoulder strap options. And great for canyons or short weekend trips.

**NB: David Noble is a keen canyoner and bushwalker. He is also the discoverer of the rare Wollemi Pine (WOLLEMIA NOBILIS) found in 1994.**

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**THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER** is a monthly bulletin of matters of interest to members of The Sydney Bush Walkers Inc  
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**THE SYDNEY BUSH WALKERS INCORPORATED** was founded in 1927. Club meetings are held every Wednesday evening at 8 pm at Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 16 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli (near Milsons Point Railway Station). Visitors and prospective members are welcome any Wednesday.

**General Enquiries:** phone 0500 500 729  
**SBW WEBSITE** [www.sbw.org](http://www.sbw.org).

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## APRIL 2001

Issue No. 797

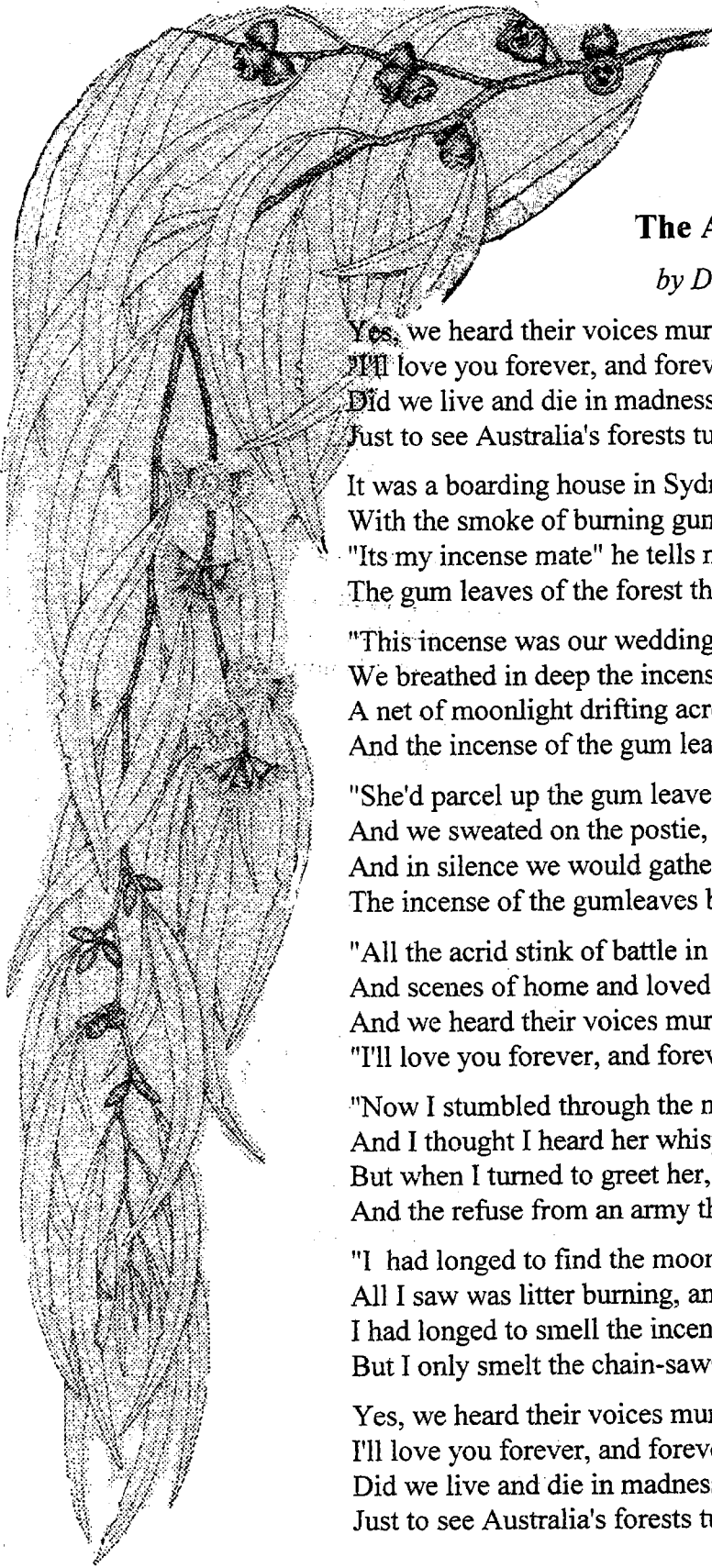
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The Sydney Bushwalker magazine is printed on recycled paper.



## The Anzac's Incense

by Denis Kevans

Yes, we heard their voices murmur, as the streamers broke and flew,  
"I'll love you forever, and forever I'll love you,"  
Did we live and die in madness, in a waste-land over there,  
Just to see Australia's forests turned to woodchips over here?"

It was a boarding house in Sydney, an old man sitting there,  
With the smoke of burning gum leaves drifting round him through the air,  
"Its my incense mate" he tells me, "it comes from down the Coast  
The gum leaves of the forest the ones I love the most,

"This incense was our wedding gift it was our wild bouquet,  
We breathed in deep the incense, before I sailed away,  
A net of moonlight drifting across her face and hair,  
And the incense of the gum leaves round us everywhere.

"She'd parcel up the gum leaves; and she'd post'em far away,  
And we sweated on the postie, and his parcel on that day,  
And in silence we would gather, and we'd breathe the incense in,  
The incense of the gumleaves burning in our dixie tin.

"All the acrid stink of battle in that incense sped away,  
And scenes of home and loved ones, entered in, as bright as day,  
And we heard their voices murmuring, as the streamers broke and flew -  
"I'll love you forever, and forever I love you."

"Now I stumbled through the nightmare of a forest I once knew,  
And I thought I heard her whisper - "Sonny, Sonny, is it you?"  
But when I turned to greet her, just a splintered stump I saw,  
And the refuse from an army that has won the forest war.

"I had longed to find the moonlight, as it lingered on her hair,  
All I saw was litter burning, and the smoke fumes everywhere,  
I had longed to smell the incense that is always in the green,  
But I only smelt the chain-saws, and the stink of dieselene."

Yes, we heard their voices murmur as the streamers broke and flew -  
I'll love you forever, and forever I'll love you,"  
Did we live and die in madness, in a waste land over there,  
Just to see Australia's forests turned to woodchips over here?

*The 'Anzacs Incense' has been awarded equal First Prize in the Forests 2000 Poetry Prize" – judged by Judith Wright - over 200 entries from Australia and overseas.*

*Copied from the November 2000 Colong Bulletin with permission of the author and the Colong Bulletin Editor*

## Message From The New Editor

The April magazine comes to you largely with the help of the previous editor Ray Hookway who passed on many articles to me.

My understanding is that the editors job is very simple

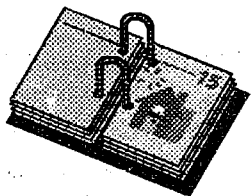
1. Collect articles
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I can handle (2) And (3) But need your help with (1) HELP!!!!

Letters are particularly welcome on all subjects and have a better chance of publication than letters to the SMH

Please send your submission in by mail (preferably typed), on floppy disc, by email or by fax (see below) etc.

My address is 216C Quarter Sessions Rd Westleigh 2120. My email address is billholl@hotmail.net.au If sending a fax the number is 9980 5476 but in order to ensure that the modem is connected please phone 9484 6636 first. *Bill Holland*



## Magazine Deadlines

Copy for publishing in the SBW magazine should be received by the editor by the second Monday of each month.

The deadline for last-minute urgent items is the second Wednesday of each month as the magazine is usually printed on the following Thursday.

## 'Sydney Bushwalker' Collating

Members are invited to assist with the collating of the May magazine and Winter Walks Program at the Holland's home at Westleigh on Thursday 17th May from 6pm. Contact Fran Holland beforehand for details on 9484 6636.

## Annual Subscription Now Due \*

The Annual General Meeting on March 14th determined that the SBW annual subscriptions for the year 2001 would remain at the 2000 level.

Single Membership	= \$37
Household membership	= \$61
Non Active Membership	= \$13
Non Active + Magazine	= \$26
Magazine only	= \$13

Payment can be made by mail or at the club on Wednesday nights. A form to facilitate the payment was enclosed with the March magazine. This should be returned with your cheque to the Treasurer at our Milsons Point Box number.

Prompt payment will help reduce the treasurer's work load and ensure that you are covered by club insurance and that you receive the magazine and walks programs.

Please also note any changes to your address or phone number on the form to permit Barry Wallace to update club records.

*\* Not applicable to Prospective Members*

## Death of John White

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of John White; late of Bridport Tasmania and Mt. Tomah NSW.

John was a member of SBW for many years and President in 1966/7.

John died in the hospital on 5th April after a long illness of some months. He is survived by his wife Heather and sisters Ethel and Beverley.

A service was held at the crematorium in Launceston on Wednesday 11th April. An ashes ceremony will be held at one of John's favourite places at a date to be advised.

### The March Annual General Meeting.

There were around 35 members present when the President called the meeting to order at around 2001 hours. Apologies were tendered for Maurice Smith, Bob and Roslyn Duncan, Shirley Dean, Joy Hynes, Ian Debert, Peter Stitt, Erith Hamilton, John De Coque, Stephen Anstee, Greta James, Liz Miller, and Fazeley Read.

New members Heike Krausse, Paul O'Brien and Lyn Terrey were welcomed into membership.

The minutes of the previous AGM were read and accepted as correct, with no matters arising.

The annual reports were accepted, and the Treasurer's report, accounts and statements were accepted by the meeting.

A vote of thanks to the Hon. Auditor was passed by acclamation, as was a vote of thanks to the Hon. Solicitor.

The election of office bearers proceeded concurrently with the other business of the meeting, with scrutineers Tony Holgate and Patrick James generally unemployed until the constitutional amendments were considered. A motion from the floor saw the meeting resolve to handle the ordinary motion prior to the motion requiring a special resolution.

After some debate the motion that we accept an offer from Elysabeth Leigh to assist in a free of charge no obligation review of the management structure of the club was passed.

Each constitutional amendment was debated and voted down in turn, with the final item lapsing due to the earlier decisions.

A motion that the committee review the constitution was passed.

In view of the lateness of the hour we dispensed with the presentation of the walks reports, and the President closed the meeting with a slightly croaky "let us reunite" at 2220.

*Barry Wallace.*

**Don't forget the annual SBW Concert on Wednesday 23rd May. All are welcome to participate - see Page 18**

### Presidents Report.

Welcome to our new Committee members, Carol Beales, Kay Chan, Gemma Gagne, Pam Morrison, Peter Dalton, Chris Dowling, David Trinder and Tom Wenman.

The Committee has accepted some proposals for changes; significantly, Kay Chan, our New Members Secretary, will be on duty from 7-30pm and those enquiring about membership will be asked to attend at this time and be given the opportunity to join the meetings in the main hall.

Given the importance of statistics and recognising George Mawer's efforts, the Committee appointed him as Walks Recorder. Please re-read his letters in the January and March magazines and give him your full support to build up the Club's data base. Walks Report forms will be sent out with walks programmes and should be completed and returned by leaders direct to George after completion of each walk.

Alex Colley's thought provoking Letter to the Editor in last month's magazine "The Future of the SBW" is worthy of serious consideration. As you know, last year I asked for positive suggestions to improve and streamline our activities. The response from club members was very good and resulted in considerable discussion at the committee as to the practicability and ways and means of implementing these ideas.

The new committee has taken this to heart and is determined to revitalise our General Meetings and promote bushwalking as much as possible. It is proposed to replace our current walks reports at the general meeting with a promotion of the next month's walks and a monthly report from the Walks Recorder. More detailed reports of interesting or unusual walks may appear in the magazine.

The committee has also recommended that current walks leaders be encouraged to present slides, photos or discussions of their walks as part of each general meeting. These recommendations will be discussed at our General Meeting in May.

*Wilf Hilder*

## Walking In The Cazorla National Park *Ian Wolfe & Louise Verdon*

Having completed our tour of Andalusia we stopped off in the Cazorla National Park for three days in the hill country. The Lonely Planet "Trekking in Spain" Guide had initially alerted us to this area which is not only the largest of Spain's National Parks but is also the largest in Europe. A search of the book stores in Granada had eventually yielded a copy of the 1:40,000 Sierra de Cazorla Tourist & Hiker's Map. Even better, I had been able to find an English version which not only had the map but also an information booklet which provided all sorts of useful ideas on places to stay/go as well as flora and fauna. This gave quite a good level of detail on this plateau area which is about 30 x 50km.

Although called a National Park this area encompasses a number of pre-existing towns and commercial enterprises. As such the Park is challenged by the need to ensure *"the ordering of resources within its boundaries, with a view to attaining a balance between necessary economic and social progress for all its towns and the preservation of natural and cultural heritage for future generations"*. Readers will note the complete absence in this quote, from the Park's literature, of any concept that such areas have a right inherent to themselves to exist in a natural state independent of humanity!

The village of Cazorla itself is on the edge of the escarpment that forms the western boundary of the park and its white clad buildings climb the hillside in a haphazard manner. Our abode was the YHA in the form of a renovated mansion and apart from the motor bikes using full throttle to get up the steeply cobbled streets it proved very pleasant, especially as there were a number of Tapas Bars in close proximity.

On our first afternoon we elected to do a car tour around the park on the fairly well graded dirt roads. This allowed us to get a "feel" for the place and a sense of the scale as well as to ascertain the start/finish points of our proposed day trips. The drive itself is mainly on large terraces suspended half way up the limestone escarpment and winds its


way through Scotch Pine forest. The road traversed a number of ridgelines and these provide extensive views across the plains as well as into deep gorges over narrow stone bridges. In all a pleasant way of wetting the appetite to do some walking!

The following day we arose early and drove up to the start point above the old Castillo Yedra. Here we picked up a *camio* which is a medieval mountain path. These were used in times past as the main means of communication between the mountain villages for commercial, religious and social interchange. As such they find all the easiest ways and low passes, are well graded, generally 1.5m wide and are well benched into the hillside ie they are like a mini road. As such they form a very pleasant means of traversing the hills.

The *camio* zig zagged up through the pine, past limestone bluffs and up to a high pass which revealed vistas to the east and west.

*(continued next page)*

### NSW WILDERNESS TRANSIT

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### Walking In The Cazorla National Park *(continued from previous page)*

A short stroll south along the range brought us to the summit of Gililio (1,847m) quite close to a small herd of the rare indigenous, wild mountain goat. These small brown animals are quite shy but very cute with their curved horns, beards and striped bums. The summit also had some quite good fossils of trilobites and ammonites to examine.

Thence it was along the main ridge called the Comas de los Castellones with the track contouring around the knolls to unfold a magnificent vista of new views. This included close range perspectives of mountain dales and vales capped by rugged rock formations as well as more extensive panoramas across the plains. The vegetation included a number of deciduous trees with some being strident strokes of red and crimson against the dark green of the pine.

Lunch was taken on suitable hillside where we looked out across a valley at another *camio* along which came 10 men dressed in bright orange. As they were about 500ms away it was hard to determine exactly what they were specifically doing. Debate ranged from practicing mountain rescue techniques to them being a lost DMR Team engaged in track maintenance (ridiculous as it may seem the latter is exactly what they were!).

Thence it was around and along the ridge to debouch into a splendid mountain glade on a high terrace far above the valley floor at 1,602 m known as the La Lagunilla. This we shared with the tinkling bells from a scattered herd of goats and sheep. A steep descent down through a deep forest brought us to a fire road to link up with the local Parador after observing some mountain deer at close range. Paradors are part of chain of state run hotels set up by Franco with a delightful old world feel to them. This provided a very nice spot for afternoon tea with the waiter practicing his English on Louise (inevitably he had a cousin in Sydney!) whilst I examined the hunting lodge décor.

The ascent, by an alternate route, to the main ridge was enlivened by a feeling that we were being "watched". After some

examination of the terrain, I detected a magnificent set of antlers attached to some very big brown eyes about 150m away which were closely scrutinising us. Given that the Buck had been completely still and had not revealed himself in any way I have decided that my sixth sense is alive and well!

At the pass, called the Puerto de Teijo, we came to a crossroad of *camios* and selected one which would take us to the "Escalator". The map showed the route clearly and this involved a descent into a creekline but when the *camio* disappeared I began to have my doubts. Bar a substitution of pine trees for gumtrees we could have been in the Bungonia area and yes, you guessed it, we shortly came to the top of a very large waterfall. The canyoneer in me was salivating but being without the necessary ropes and abseiling gear our options were limited..

*(continued next page)*

#### **Holiday Accommodation Available**

South Coast Beach Break at Berrara. Special rates for SBW members and families (from \$30 per week night). Relax with water views in a comfortable cottage that sleeps 8. Telephone Maureen or David Carter 9773 4637.

#### **Request For Assistance - Biography of Marie Byles**

Ms Anne McLeod is in the process of researching a biography of Marie Byles (born England 1900, emigrated 1911), the first woman to practice as a solicitor in NSW, graduating from Sydney University in 1924. She would appreciate hearing from anyone with any first hand experience of Marie Byles, to assist her in fleshing out the story with personal anecdotes.

She can be contacted on email: [animac@webtel.net.au](mailto:animac@webtel.net.au) or Tel : 9555 2015.

Anne has provided a short history of Marie Byles for interested readers and this will be published in a later issue.



**Walking In The Cazorla National Park** *(continued from previous page)*

There was a Rider Hagaard-like ramp which could have been made to "go" on one side but prudence took the better part of unfounded optimism and we "piked". This involved a climbing traverse up to an adjoining ridge to link up with another *camio*. This climb was enlivened by the soaring and swooping of some very large eagle like birds with bare heads and necks. As such I took them to be Condors and a very fine sight they were indeed. Thereafter we had a pleasant stroll down the mountain with only one section requiring some "logical interpretation" of where the link trail should be going (Spain is a wonderful country but much of the detail provided by the locals is indicative rather than definitive!). This included a slightly airy ledge walk which provided good views down onto the ruined

Castillo de Cinco Esquinas de Salvatierra far below. The walk finished at an old church called the Ermita de la Virgen de la Cabeza before dropping back to Cazorla. In all this was some 22 km

with a fair amount of up and down. However, the *camios* allow you to stroll quite happily at an average of 3-4km per hr and, apart from a couple of spots, the trails are fairly well marked. Late autumn is a great time to go with it not being too hot but you do need to carry water for the entire day (except for the Parador of course).

After some Tapas Bar crawling we found a lovely old restaurant which served mountain specialities which included wild boar for dinner as well as lovely bean soup.

□ □ □ □

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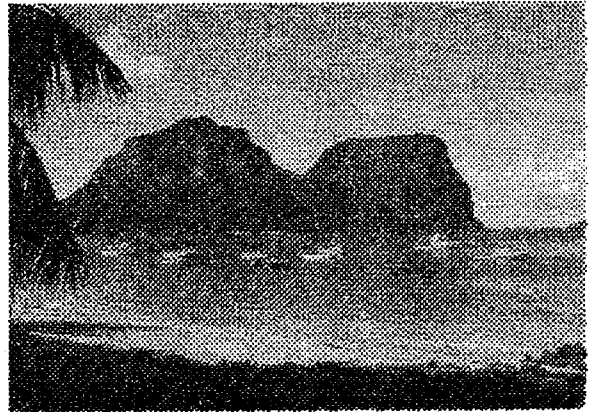
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**Mt. Gower,** *By Dick Whittington.*

Many bushwalkers choose to take holidays at Lord Howe Island and this is not at all suprising, since bushwalkers are usually well able to appreciate the natural wonders and ambience of this unique place. Amongst the natural wonders are the coral lagoon, the rainforest with its palms and magnificent banyan trees, secluded beaches and the two great mountains at the southern end of the island, Mt. Lidgbird and Mt. Gower. These are the largest remnants of the rim of an ancient volcano of which the island is comprised. Mt. Lidgbird is strictly off limits to walkers but Mt. Gower, the higher of the two, rising to almost 900m may be climbed in the company of the local guide.

Upon sighting the mountain I realised that I must immediately book for a guided ascent, and so two days later, after an early breakfast I was at the rendezvous point with about 15 others. The guide arrived on a mountain bike, a minor detail but one I liked, since whilst bicycles are everywhere on the island, the locals generally use their cars for even the shortest trips. Our group consisted of persons of all fitness levels as one might expect. We had a young oarsman from a well known Sydney private school and a member of the Springwood Bushwalkers who carried so little surplus mass, that in his dark green and grey clothing, he was in danger of disappearing altogether whilst standing sideways amongst the pandanus. There was also a young woman who had previously been observed on Neds Beach and whose fine physique was perhaps more appropriate for the beach than for a steep mountain trail.

Before coming to grips with Mt. Gower it is necessary to sidle around the flank of Mt. Lidgbird on a rock shelf about 50m above the ocean. From this location one is afforded an excellent view of the lagoon and the northern hills beyond. Looking down we were able to see many large kingfish in the clear water immediately below. A thick rope had been strung along this rock shelf and with this extra security we were able to fully appreciate the view. This did not instill full confidence in all members of the party and the girl from Neds



beach was required to be encouraged by several young men. As we began the ascent of Mt. Gower a pattern was established, whereby the young oarsman would lead to a nominated point, followed by the slender bushwalker, they would then wait for the party to regroup. Our guide stayed in the middle of the party, providing for those nearby, a wealth of information regarding island life and recent history. At one point he spotted a kyak, a mere speck in the ocean far below, this was one of the the local fitness supremos circumnavigating the island. We had by this time left the big timber and were on a steep rock rib from which we gained a fine view of Mt. Lidgbird. Again the exposure was reduced by the presence of a thick rope. By venturing away from the rope by a few metres it was possible to view the spectacular Balls Pyramid, rising more than five hundred metres out of the ocean in isolated splendour.

Upon leaving the rock rib the summit plateau was gained. It was as if we had suddenly entered another world. The vegetation was low and dense yet it was possible to move quite freely. As I looked around I wondered if the great fantasy writer J.R.Tolkien had been inspired by such as this. Our guide took us to a small clearing for lunch, from here the entire island was spread out before us. As I relaxed and contemplated the view on this balmy winters day, watching the antics of a Lord Howe Island Woodhen that had paid us a visit, it occurred to me that this must surely be one of the very best day walks. I wanted to spend more time in the summit region but our guide correctly anticipated that getting down would be slow. He was right, but for once I wanted to go slowly, I wanted to linger in this extraordinary place.

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## WILDERNESS 2000 EXHIBITION

*Have you ever wanted to own a Henry Gold photograph?*

Well, here's your chance. The Colong Foundation for Wilderness will be presenting an exhibition of spectacular photographs by Henry Gold as part of its **Wilderness 2000** campaign. It will take place at Bondi Pavilion Gallery from Monday 14 to Sunday 27 of May 2001 daily from 10am to 5 pm.

Henry Gold has provided images for the Foundation's campaigns, as well as those of the NPA, since the 1960's. Henry's images are powerful persuaders. They have converted many members of the public to become wilderness supporters. His work has been used to lobby governments and has been presented in many books and magazines. The exhibition features some of Henry's more recent work from the last decade which has not been displayed before.

Part of the proceeds from the sale of the photographs will go towards the **Wilderness 2000** campaign being conducted by a coalition of environment groups, including the NPA, the Wilderness Society and Colong. The campaign seeks to protect about 51 million hectares of wilderness in 51 new areas and additions. The official launch will take place on Tuesday 15 May at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome.

## Book Review - A Wild BlueWander

*Poems by Colin Gibson. 76 pages.*

Colin Gibson wrote these poems hoping that they would convey to the reader impressions of the wild country he loves.

This is bushwalking country, usually described in prose or depicted in photography. Describing it in verse is no easy task. Colin's descriptions are very imaginative, though some of the similes are rather irrelevant. And bushwalkers don't "wander". They set out determined to cover a given route in a given time; the scenery is a background to their enjoyment.

Colin appears to be a bit of a loner. Most committed bushwalkers do enjoy walks on their own, but the company is perhaps the most enjoyable aspect of our walks. The discomforts of bushwalking are rather overstressed in the poems. They are soon forgotten and it is the happy times that are remembered.

Many of the legendary bushwalkers, such as Myles Dunphy, Max Gentle and Jim Brown are mentioned and conservation is a recurring theme. The book is well designed by Colin Wood and artistically decorated with the drawings of Lloyd Jones, Joanne Wells and Andrew Wong.

*Reviewed by Alex Colley*

*Book can be purchased for \$16 or \$20 on CD  
inc postage from Norwood Greenaisance 29  
East Parade Fairfield NSW 2165*

## Weekend Walk with a Mentor

*Maureen Carter*

On the weekend of 31 March/1 April I decided to follow my own advice and lead my first overnight walk without handing over the lead, but, with a watchful mentor. We had to change the planned route in Kanangra to a less challenging walk, as both David and I were recovering from the flu, but this suited most of the party too.

So, as an experienced day walk leader used to tracks, what did I learn? That party members are very tolerant of learners stopping regularly to take bearings, especially as it gives them a chance to catch up; navigating with a map and compass is quite easy as long as you do it regularly; you can follow a river on the map and know precisely where you are; the leader is never alone as there is nearly always someone in the party who has been there before; other members of the party will be more than happy to contribute information; and, much more.

We had a sparkling Kanangra weekend, I gained mountains of confidence from the exercise and I can't wait to lead a trackless walk. I am indebted to David for staying at the rear of the party and never undermining my decisions.

I particularly want to encourage women in the Club to lead walks. So, give me a call on 9773 4637 to hear the full story and perhaps I can offer to be a mentor for you.

## Demise of a Unique Environment Shop

*This article has been written by a long-time volunteer (over 10 years) and the opinions expressed are not necessarily the views of the Australian Conservation Foundation.*

On 6th May 1985, under the guidance of Ken Ferrier, a small band of dedicated volunteers opened a shop in the Argyle Centre at The Rocks at Sydney Cove. They planned to sell mainly books to promote the aims of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and perhaps make a few dollars.

After a shaky start the ACF shop gained sufficient support to afford to pay Ken a nominal salary as manager and the enterprise expanded to include an additional shop in George Street. For many years both the ACF shops operated successfully and met the objectives originally set in 1985.

In 1994 the Argyle Centre closed, the George Street shop moved a few doors and Ken Ferrier retired. These major changes inhibited progress until another dedicated manager, Helen Thal was appointed. She moved the business back on the track of serving the community and promoting the ACF. Helen retired in 1997 and the present manager Jeff Poole was engaged.

In the second half of last year the bottom fell out of the shop's business due to a

combination of the burden of GST and the Olympics trading well below expectation. Christmas and post-Christmas sales were a disaster. There are no signs of a recovery so the shop will be closing down at the end of May.

We are having a "Closing Down Sale" during the month of May and we invite all of the SBW members who have supported us in the past to take advantage of the bargain prices.

The closure of the shop is not a reflection on the ACF which during the troubled trading times has gone from strength to strength. It is a sign of the times that the general public are turning towards conservation issues and organisations perhaps as a protest against Federal Government actions.

The shop management and volunteer staff would like to thank members for their past support and advise that the ACF office will be moving to a new address in June/July.

Our email address remains  
"Sydney@ACF online.org.au"

□ □ □ □

## The ACF Environment Shop Clearance Sale



All sorts of bargains for  
all sorts of people...



ACF Environment Shop, 33 George St, The Rocks. ☎9247 4754

## At The Reunion

The Annual Reunion attracted about 35 people despite rainy weather in Sydney. In Kangaroo Valley it was clear blue skies although windy on Saturday morning. The evening campfire was followed by damper making on Sunday morning and a walk by most of the group on the new track to the official opening of the "Dorothy Butler Look-out".

Among the items presented at the Reunion Campfire was the following "Song of Protest". It was written by Don Matthews and sung by himself and Geoff Wagg. Old hands would remember when the Magazine Editor was more than happy to receive contributions hand-written on any old scrap of paper. With the help of a long suffering typiste, armed with scissors and paste, the copy would be converted into something reasonably presentable. Nowadays, copy is required in a format suitable for the computer age eg *"Copy can be sent to me by email or on a 3½ PC floppy disc or as plain copy using any common word processing program."*

Reference is made to GPS and EPIRB which need no further explanation; however, the comment "Bushwalkers won't be druv" is self-explanatory - the origins of the phrase are to be found in the June 1985 edition of the Sydney Bushwalker

## Song of Protest

Do you want to write an article  
Then get a floppy disc  
You just can't take a pen and write  
It isn't worth the risk  
They'll look upon your shaky hand  
A frown upon their face  
You might as well just write in sand  
It's lost without a trace

In years gone past, in no great haste  
We typed across the page  
You couldn't always read the words  
Corrections took an age  
We cut it up with scissors  
and we glued it up with paste  
'Twas rough around the edges  
But impeccable in taste

*Chorus:*

*But please don't blame the Editor  
It's just the way things are  
The typist quit on Tuesday  
Took the scissors in her car  
The paste has gone all funny  
And has hardened in the jar  
So please don't blame the Editor  
It's just the way things are.*

We'll have to watch our P's and Q's  
In this the Brave New Age  
When phosphorescent screen dictate  
And not the printed page  
And goodness knows who'll get to see  
Our Magazine-On-Air  
As matrices of ones and noughts  
Lay all our secrets bare

And what about the GPS  
Its battery may run flat  
And then how do you figure out  
Just where the heck you're at  
At least with map and compass  
You've a chance to reach your goal  
Except when at the creases  
There was just a great big hole

*Voice 1.*

We've left the EPIRB till the last  
Its got me in a spin  
What happens when it goes off  
Does it make an awful din

*Voice 2*

Oh no its done by satellites  
All silent in the sky  
Don't ask me to explain it  
I don't know the reason why  
We'll form a "Back to Basics Club"  
We'll throw the Gizmos out  
We'll come to General Meetings  
And we'll sing and dance about  
We'll get back all our vigour  
Lost in sitting at a screen  
For "Bushies Won't Be Druv" they said  
And we'll know just what they mean

*Chorus*

*But please don't blame the Editor.....*

## Off The Wall

by *Kenn Clacher*

The Walls of Jerusalem is an area renowned for its spectacular beauty and tranquility. It is located in the central part of Tasmania, about 20km east of the overland track between Cradle Mountain and Lake St Clair. It encompassed the heads of several valleys at around 1,250m – 1,300m elevation, containing beautiful lakes and surrounded by imposing sheer cliffs up to 200m in height. It is bounded on three sides by the flat, exposed, lake-strewn Central Plateau and on the other by the north-western edge of the Great Western Tiers.

It is possible to visit the Walls of Jerusalem in a day trip from a conveniently located car park near Lake Rowallan at the bottom of the escarpment. This is the usual starting and finishing point for visit to the Walls, even extended ones. But for such a magical and mystic place it seemed more appropriate to consider it as a wilderness and arrange our visit accordingly. A study of the guide books and maps revealed a likely approach by the Higgs Track which provides a two-day walk from the north-eastern foot of the Great Western Tiers. For our retreat, the overland track, two or three days from the Walls, provides a convenient route to regular transport links. This allows two or three days camped adjacent to the Walls (camping within the area is strongly discouraged, if not forbidden outright).

There were a couple of reservations. The Higgs Track is not well marked, and peters out a day short of the Walls. This would not normally be a problem but the Central Plateau is very flat and the guides and maps warn of unreliability of compasses owing to ironstone deposits. The elevation of 1,200m – 1,250m and the exposed nature of the plateau also leads to extremes of weather and frequent poor visibility. This risk was emphasised a few weeks before our trip when a metre of snow fell. So we were prepared to take the carpark route if the weather forecast for the walk in was not good. The weather appeared ideal when we started out. A big high pressure cell was

arriving over Tasmania and fine weather was forecast. So we decided to take the Higgs Track. Kenn & Edith, Paul & Kirsten, Stephen and Kieran were joined at the last minute by Ken who materialised out of nowhere as we boarded the bus in Launceston. Although the bus driver had never heard of the Higgs Track we found the start with no trouble. Someone forgot to tell the local clouds about the forecast though, and we had to make the 800m climb up the Great Western Tiers in cloud. The previous week on the South Coast Track early cloud often cleared around midday so we anticipated clear skies by lunchtime, which is what happened.

The track up the Tiers was easy to follow and reasonable once on top. Main features of the first day's walk were Ironstone Mountain and Lake Nameless. Ironstone Hut, which is similar to some of the Snowy Mountains huts in size and condition, is located on the shore of Lake Nameless and provided a good spot for afternoon tea. Forty Lakes Peak, a little further on, provided great views of the peaks of the Walls of Jerusalem for the first time, as well as of many of the lakes of the Central Plateau. Camp that night was a little further on, on lumpy grass that had the party members grumbling until each discovered that they could appropriate their own private lake and the lumps could be accommodated in comfort.

Next morning, horrors, visibility was poor so we gave it an extra hour to clear. After an hour it was worse so we decided to go anyway as we wanted to reach the Walls that day. Navigating by stumbling through the murk with misguided compasses was not on the agenda but the backup was to be the proliferation of lakes on the Plateau. One could tell one's position simply by looking at the nearest lake and identifying it by its characteristic shape, so the theory went. Easy!! That turned out to be easier said than done.

*(continued next page)*

## Off The Wall *(continued from previous page)*

We had three maps of the area we were in, each of a different scale and vintage. The same lake on each map was of a different shape. And there were so many lakes, plus some of the smaller ones were not marked. Also, although there was only 20m or so of relief between lakes, one could not generally see the next lake on the route. So forget about navigating by the lakes. Instead we navigated by compass and expected that if the magnetic variations were so severe as to throw us appreciably off course, that would become apparent somehow, sometime.

As it turned out, we had no need for concern as the compass seemed to take us more or less in the right direction. On the one occasion that we finished up on the wrong side of a lake it was identifiable from the map. Eventually the cloud cleared around mid afternoon to reveal the Walls where they should have been. [There has been a suggestion that a GPS verified our position once or twice, but it is not something anyone will admit.] The good thing about walking in this area had been the lack of mean scrub. As we neared the Walls the vegetation become more dense, but still not a problem. Camp for three nights was established in a sheltered spot in the vicinity of Zion Gate.

Next day it rained, but not enough to prevent a walk through the middle of the Walls to the other end and lunch overlooking some of Solomons Jewels, which are picturesque lakes on the walk in from the carpark and the usual camping area. The overcast added to the atmosphere. Indeed, some people will claim that one has not been to the Walls of Jerusalem unless one has been snowed on there. On the way back to camp the clouds cleared sufficiently to encourage an ascent of Mt Jerusalem. From there almost the whole of our route was visible, from Ironstone Mountain and Forty Lakes Peak on our way in to Mount Geryon, the Acropolis and Mount Olympus on our way home. The Central Plateau, with its multitude of lakes, was also spread out before us. We hoped for further improvement on

the morrow for a planned tour of the remaining high spots

We weren't disappointed. There was not a cloud in the sky as we climbed Solomon's Throne then walked across the shallow saddle to King David's Peak. At around 1,480m it is the highest point in the area. We stayed there for around three hours and still did not have enough of the fabulous views and the atmosphere. All the major peaks which flank the Overland Track were lined up in full view. Our route for the next few days, past Lake Ball, Lake Meston, Junction Lake and the Travellers Range to Du Cane Gap was also in full view and whetted out appetite for what was to come. Kirsten took the opportunity to go through her Yoga routine. She will never find a more serene spot in which to Yoga. We still had time to climb the Temple, which sits right in the middle of the Walls and gives good 360° views of the immediate area. Steve walked to the Temple Hut ruins on the NE slope of the Temple.

The walk out started the next day. The walk down Jaffa Vale to Lake Ball was delightful. There is a track from there to Junction Lake past Lakes Adelaide and Meston, almost fiord-like with steep slopes rising from the shores to high skirting ridges.

How does a walk leader develop maximum unpopularity? Try handing each party member a flat torch battery, weighing around 1 kg, to carry out for three days from Meston Hut. This is a bright, picturesque hut on the slopes overlooking Lake Meston, spoiled by being used as a dump for items that people could carry in but could not carry out.

After a long day's walk we camped at Junction Lake. There we had to decide whether to cover the remaining distance to the overland track via the very scrubby banks of the Mersey River, through the Never Never, or to climb up to Lake Artemis, Lake Eros and the Travellers Range and then

*(continued next page)*



## Off The Wall

*(continued from previous page)*

descend from the Range to Du Cane Gap. The high road promised to be far more scenic, less scrubby and had features with far more enticing names, but again somewhat exposed in the event of bad weather. As the weather was fine we opted for the high road.

After the track petered out somewhere beyond Lake Eros, the promise of less scrub seemed illusory. Some of the party were not accustomed to good solid scrub and showed no inclination to becoming comfortable with it. Kirsten was the exception as she discovered that, suitably attired with Gore-tex all over, nothing stopped her. She nearly ran over the leader, such was her momentum. After taking a couple of hours to cover a few hundred metres we gained the sanctuary of bare rock and very pleasant walking to the top of Du Cane Gap. The terrain was similar to the Central Plateau, except that the vegetation was more varied and the area more scenic, especially as we were getting nearer to the peaks of the overland track. We camped on a beautiful lake that night, hoping for a clear morning to make the most of the view from the very edge of the top of Du Cane Gap.

Again the weather cooperated. The sky was clear and we were able to make the most of a breathtaking panorama stretching from Cradle Mountain to Mount Olympus. Then it was a case of finding and following the track down to the Gap and the Overland Track and so to Narcissus Hut and home. Walkers on the Overland Track can go to the Travellers Range from Du Cane Gap as a side trip. Coming from the south, just turn right at the big tiger snake basking in the sun by the side of the overland track at the top of Du Cane Gap.

The walk had been a most enjoyable one, with the weather coming good at the right times and our route adding interest to what is in any case a special part of Tasmania.

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## Organisational Renewal

On April 3 a group of interested club members, met with Elyssebeth Leigh to consider issues relating to the vitality of the club. We discussed 'organisational renewal' in the context of the club's long tradition as a well known walking club and the factors which have sustained us eg. member commitment, passion for shared goals and strength of relationships.

Elyssebeth pointed out that all these factors are vital for continuity - but are not sufficient of themselves to ensure survival and renewal of energy. So the meeting considered "What does SBW mean to me - now?". The ensuing discussion ranged across many fond memories and present concerns.

Some concerns considered were:

- The divergence between 'serious' and 'casual' walking as reasons for membership as a potentially divisive concern. We are proud of our tradition of 'serious' walks - but some feel this is less well supported at present.
- There seems to be less emphasis on 'researching and developing' new walks and a reliance on the 'tried and true' trails.

Some of the questions to be explored at the next meeting are:

- What is required to renew interest in the exploration, discovery and 'serious' walking aspects of SBW activities?
- To what extent should we embrace diversity?
- How can SBW improve the means of mentoring and supporting prospective members through the important and challenging early stages of membership?
- How can SBW renew connections among leaders (our most vital element), walkers and walks so that everyone is proud of the program, interested and keen to be involved, and able to support and sustain the needs of all?

The next meeting will be held on May 1st at Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 8.00pm. All welcome!

## NEW MEMBERS PAGE:

### Welcome:

Please welcome the new members who joined us in March:

Jane Beeby	Lindon Richards
Christine Innes,	Alice Shaw
Max Lanser,	Kay Livingstone
Ross Maxwell	Ljubica Senicic.

### Congratulations:

And congratulate those who graduated to full membership during February and March:

Heike Krausse	Stephen Anstee
Lyndall Terrey	Paul O'Brien
Geoffrey Bradd	Ken Lowe
Richard Thompson	

### Easy Walks For New Members

Sat 12th May: Blue Mountains NP 12km  
Linden to Hazelbrook. Historical walk on tracks. Nancye Alderson (h) 9858 3317

Sun 13th May: Hornsby Area 14km  
Hornsby to Epping station via Blue Gum and Great North Walk. All on track  
Ken Cheng (h) 9868 6389 (w) 9850 8613

Sat/Sun 26th, 27th May: Morton NP 25km  
Meryla Pass to Griffins Farm via Tallowa Dam. An easy weekend walk all on track 50% with day packs. Includes training in navigation training and tests will be given if required. Bill Holland (h) 9484 6636

### Club Training Nights:

Kris Stevenson provided an educational and entertaining evening on "Cooking with interest for lightweight packing" to nine of our prospective members on Wednesday 4th April.

The next training night is on:

Wednesday 2nd May: 8-00 pm.

"How to pack for an overnight walk"

All new members and others are very welcome to attend this interesting night in the Clubrooms.

### Prospectives Training Week End

A Very Special Invitation to you to join us at the "Coolana" Wildlife Refuge in the beautiful Kangaroo Valley. All new members are encouraged to attend. The dates are **Saturday, Sunday: 19th, 20th May**

The weekend offers practical training in navigation, first aid and bushcraft. It provides an ideal introduction to camping and a chance to extend your social contacts within the club.

Tents and other camping gear are preferable but optional as there is a shelter shed on the site. Also, some gear is available from the leaders - see below. Please bring normal day walk requirements (including torch, raincoat, water bottle, insect repellent) as well as eating, cooking utensils, food for the weekend and refreshments for happy hour. We will do some short walks around the property so bring walking shoes, long lightweight shirt and trousers (not jeans) to handle scrub on some sections.

Experienced members may also attend to assist with training and join in the social activities around the camp fire on Saturday evening. Maps are provided but please bring a mapping compass. If you need to buy a compass please phone the persons listed below for advice before purchasing.

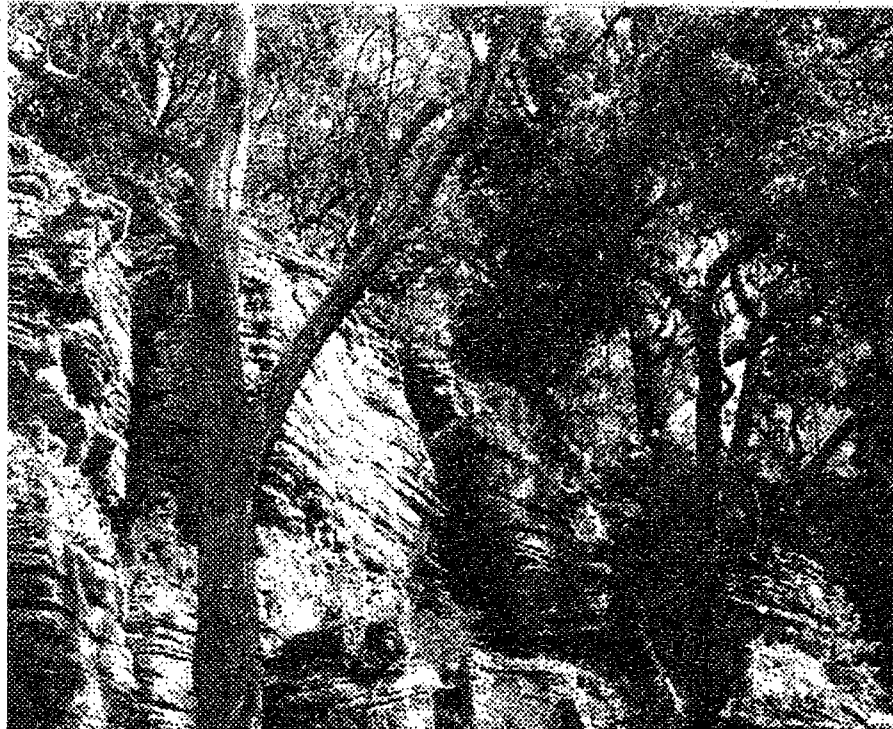
Activities start on Saturday morning and finishes late afternoon on Sunday. For transport assistance and location advice please phone:

Bill Holland 9484 6636 (h & w)  
Patrick James 9904 1515 (h & w)

### St John Senior First Aid Course

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs is conducting a Senior First Aid Certificate Course on the weekend 26th/27th May.

Registration required by 7th May  
Carol Lubbers (h) 4758 8791



## COOLANA

*"COOLANA" was declared a "Wildlife Refuge" in 1974. It contains part of a natural cliff-line link from the upper part of Kangaroo Valley down to Tallowa Dam and the Morton National Park. This cliff-line is habitat to a remnant brush-tailed rock wallaby colony, a threatened species is presently located in the vicinity of the property. There is some delightful and varied bushland on the site including grassy river flats, eucalypt forest, cycads, palm jungle and rainforested creeks. Wallabies, wombats, lyrebirds and many other flora and fauna species are endemic to the area.*

*All members (including prospective members) and their families may use "Coolana" at any time provided they abide by the requirements of the Wildlife Refuge classification. This means no dogs or other domestic pets are allowed. There is no charge or fee for camping at Coolana and bookings or advance notification is not necessary.*

### Bush Regeneration and Maintenance:

The Walks Programme shows weekends when we meet at Coolana for maintenance, weed clearing and tree planting. All are welcome to join us for a pleasant and social weekend. During April and May the following activities are:

- 19th - 27th April Coolana holiday; a long break with light maintenance and exploring the 40 hectares of riverfront bushland. Join for any or all of the days.
- 19 -20th May Bird watching, plant identification and maintenance.

Contact: Gemma Gagne 9923 1468

### Other activities at Coolana:

For all SBW members who are celebrating a significant birthday this year (ending with an "O") Last year's party (130 attending) was just a full dress rehearsal for this year. Join us for a "Significant Birthday Weekend" on 5th and 6th May.

Contact: Patrick James (h &w) 9904 1515 or just turn up. All welcome whether celebrating or not.

Also, **Coolana Training Weekend** for new members 19th and 20th May

Contact: Bill Holland (h &w) 9484 6636  
Patrick James (h &w) 9904 1515

## Social Programme

All of the following activities will be held in the Clubrooms at 16 Fitzroy St Kirribilli unless otherwise stated.

### April:

Wed 25th **Anzac Day Holiday**

Club room closed.

### May:

Wed: 2nd **Committee Meeting** - 6.30 pm

Observers welcome

**Prospective Training** - 8.00 pm

How to pack for an overnight walk

Wed 9th **General Meeting** - 8.00 pm

Followed by a video 'A Singular Woman' about the life of Marie Byles, Australia's first female lawyer, avid conservationist and bushwalker who instigated Bouddi National Park. Screening again by popular demand.

Wed 16th **Walking in South Island** - 8.00 pm

Join club member David Trinder for a presentation of his February 2001 walks in this spectacular area in New Zealand

Wed 23rd **Annual SBW Concert** - 8.00pm

Don't be shy ... no reasonable act refused. Please contact current Social Secretary.

Wed 30th **Sleeping Bag Demo** - 8.00 pm

Coming into winter the nights are growing long and cold, so come and get the lowdown on the goosedown. Thermal mattresses discussed also.

Do you have any suggestions for future Social Programs? If so, please contact the Social Secretary Gemma Gagne 9923 1468

### Walks Notice -Change of Date

Maureen Carter's walk in the Royal National Park will not go on Saturday 5 May but on Saturday 12 May instead.



## The SBW Telephone Volunteers Required

The SBW telephone is in need of members to answer it to replace and/or supplement those who are already answering it.

SBW has a Telstra "one number". Calls to this number (0500 500 729) are diverted to volunteers' phones according to an automatic roster that enables calls to be shared amongst volunteers. More volunteers will mean that each will take fewer calls. Diversions are set up such that calls will only be diverted to volunteers between 9am and 5pm on days selected by the volunteers. If the volunteer's phone is not answered or is engaged the call is diverted to the next volunteer on the roster for that day.

Your phone number is not disclosed to the caller and there is no cost for receiving calls.

Most calls are from the public inquiring about joining the club and needing information about how to join, requirements for membership, etc. Currently the three volunteers take about 10 calls per week each.

If necessary it is possible to be taken off the roster at about one day's notice.

Your phone can be set to have a distinctive ring for SBW calls. Children, etc could be told to ignore SBW calls, allowing the call to be diverted to the next person on the roster.

Members requiring further information or wishing to volunteer, either for a longer period or for a short trial period (say 1 month) should call me on 9144 5095 (home).

SBW relies on its volunteers to operate and any assistance will be appreciated.

*Eddy Giacomel*

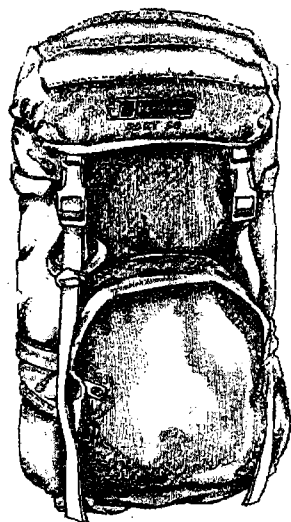
### Future Articles:

Walking in Barrossa Gorge - *Ian Wolfe*  
A Tale Of Two Nomads - 2 - *Ian Debert*  
Geoffrey Fixes the Binoculars - *Anon*  
Biography of Marie Byles - *Anne McLeod*

### Editors Note:

*All articles submitted will be considered for publication. Articles from new contributors particularly welcome*

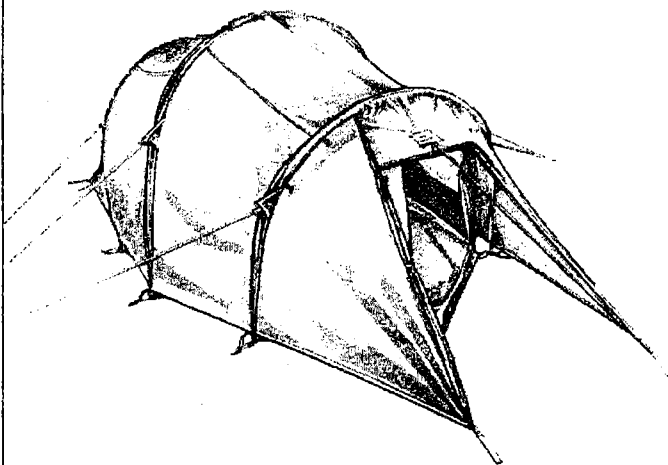
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Ever since Paddy Pallin began making his gear in his back room, Paddy Pallin has led the way in manufacturing and selling a range of quality products for fellow bushwalkers. We understand that walkers need lightweight, functional equipment which will perform in all kinds of conditions, so if you want the best products and the best advice, come in and see us.

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