

2000 Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Navigation Shield Report

The 2000 Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Navigation Shield was held on the weekend of 1/2 July, 2000. This year it attracted 420 people in 119 teams from emergency services from NSW, ACT and Victoria.

The event was held in the area surrounding Dunns Swamp and Kandos Weir, around 30km East of Rylstone. The terrain was varied, with rough, rocky pagodas rising from flat, wide valleys. The course involved a lot of challenging navigation in the vague valleys and interesting route-finding as you made your way along the ridges liberally covered in pagodas. The scrub levels was generally quite light so cross-country walking was easy.

The course was very pleasant walking with many participants vowing to return to the area with a camera and a bit more time on their hands. The views from some of the pagodas and mountains on the course were wonderful.

Early fears of bad weather proved unfounded. Both the Great Western Highway and Bells Line of Road were closed early on Friday morning due to snow, but thankfully both were opened by mid-morning and the weekend proved to be quite mild.

The winners of the 2000 Navigation Shield was a team of four from Blue Mountains National Parks. They said they covered 56km during the 30 hours of the event, of which only 13km was on roads or tracks - an impressive effort which gained them 1460 points. Behind them was Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue teams in second and third place, Berowra Bushwackers with 1210 points and Springwood Bushwalking Club with 1200 points. The one day event was won by Baulkham Hills Bushfire Brigade with 560 points. The highest score in the one day event was achieved by the Rogaine Class team of Mein and Pope with 650 points.

The VRA class shield was won by NSW Cave Rescue with 620 points. The two day class 2 event was won by another NSW Cave Rescue team with 1000 points. The best score by a VRA team in the one day event was 370 points by Berrima District Rescue Squad. Congratulations to these teams for a good effort on a challenging course. In the two day event there was four VRA teams, and 14 Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue teams. In the one day event there was six VRA teams and 17 Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue teams. This year also saw 40 people achieve 5 year participation prizes, and 5 people achieve 10 year prizes. Well done to all the Navshield stalwarts.

There was no major incidents during this year's event. A small number of people retired with minor injuries. The only incident which required a significant response was a team support vehicle who decided to four-wheel-drive to Mt Coricudgy and got bogged only two kilometres from the top - almost 20 kilometres from the base site. This incident was quickly fixed by some Wilderness Rescue personnel with off-road driving equipment and experience.

The organisers of the event wish to thank:

- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- NSW State Forests
- Owners of the properties "Ganguddy", "Snakehaven" and "Grassy"
- WICEN - Event communications
- Land Information Centre - Event maps
- State Rescue Board - Class shields

- Lunar Lighting Balloons - Base site lighting
- The event helpers - especially those who helped with course setting and administration and last but not least the Bushrangers.

For further information, visit the Navshield web site:

<http://www.bushwalking.org.au/>

and click on the "NavShield 2000" link

Make sure you and your squad are ready for next year's event. The best thing about this event is that it is a different location every year, and we already have some interesting ideas for next year....

Glenn Horrocks

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Field Officer

and 2000 Navshield Course Setter