

ALAN P. RICHY

# THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER



MAY 2004



Print Post Approved PP 235723/01270



1045 Victoria Rd  
West Ryde 9858 5844

Come in and see one of the best lightweight and roomy bush walking tents currently available. It sleeps 3 and weighs in at only **2340** grams complete (with the mesh inner tent and pegs.) Or just **1260** grams fly, pole and pegs.

### GOLITE HEX 3 or 4 SEASON SHELTER

#### USES

3 or 4 season hiking or backpacking, winter camping, mountaineering

Price: \$ 599.00

#### WEIGHT

800 g canopy + 370 g pole + 90 g pegs and sack

#### DESCRIPTION

This 4-season, extremely versatile, roomy 3-person, canopy-style shelter is bound to become your favourite all-year home-away-from-home. Unlike a tent, which essentially

requires you to use poles, inner tent with floor and fly whenever you pitch it, the Hex 3 is a component system: You can use just the canopy with or without a floor, or just the bug net inner tent, or the canopy with the bug net. And you can pitch the Hex (canopy or Nest) over a paddle on a canoe trip, or over a ski pole on a ski-tour. Or hang the canopy via its top loop from a branch or a line suspended between trees. You can dig a snow pit under it and increase the amount of usable space; you can pitch it over rocks; and you can put it up quickly by yourself in the nastiest weather. How's that for versatility.

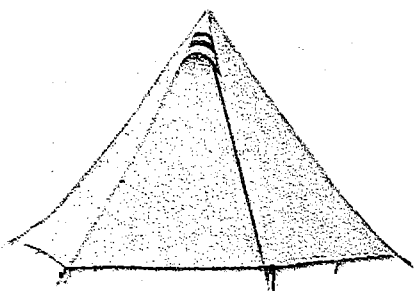
Dual roof vents provide excellent air flow, and the supplied extra guy lines can be used to pitch the leeward side (the side facing away from the wind) well off the ground to increase ventilation. SiLite construction and the six-sided shape with extra stake-outs midway along each side add up to an incredibly wind-stable, weatherproof shelter. Functional details include reflective, adjustable guy points: the adjustability ensures a good, taut pitch, while the reflective strips simplify pitching the Hex in the dark (and mean that it's much easier to find your Hex when returning to camp after dusk - and less likely that you'll trip over a corner once you have...)

Available in Sun for people who want to be seen, and Forest for those who don't.

*For even more versatility, there will be a new trekking pole extender that will enable you to leave the Hex 3 pole at home and use any standard trekking pole to pitch the Hex 3! Available soon*

#### FEATURES

- SiLite™ silicone-impregnated rip stop nylon
- Hexagonal shape sheds elements superbly
- Adjustable aluminium centre pole (also available as a separate item)
- Top loop
- 2 large roof vents
- 2-way door zipper
- Reflective adjustable stake out loops
- 9 Y-stakes
- Floorless design
- 4-season palace for 2 or home for 3
- Stake sack, SiLite™ stow sack included



#### HEX 3 FLOOR Only

Price: \$ 169.00

#### WEIGHT

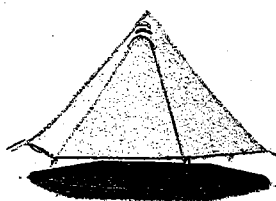
620 g

#### DESCRIPTION

Perfect for those who want a waterproof floor, but don't need full bug protection.

#### FEATURES

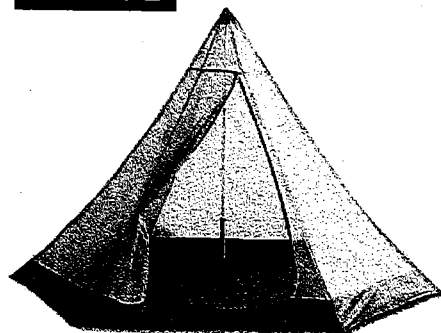
- Clips into Hex 3 canopy at 6 corners
- Abrasion resistant Cordura® centre



pole patch

- 6000 mm waterproof floor
- 4-inch bathtub design

#### HEX 3 NEST (No pole)



Price: \$259.00

#### WEIGHT

1080 g net + 90 g pegs  
(if you already have the shelter then you won't need to take 2 lots of pegs and keep the weight down)

#### DESCRIPTION

The perfect companion to the Hex 3 shelter when you're heading into mosquito or insect-laden adventures. Can be pitched separately when desert camping.

#### FEATURES

- No-see-um mesh canopy
- Full length 2-way C-shaped door zipper
- Foam cone pole seat at apex Pole Only Pole Only
- Abrasion resistant Cordura® centre pole patch
- 6000 mm waterproof floor
- 4-inch bathtub design
- Stow sack

Pole Only  
Price: \$85.00  
Weight 370 g



# MAY 2004

## Issue No. 834

THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER is the monthly bulletin of matters of interest to members of  
**The Sydney Bush Walkers Inc**  
 PO Box 431 Milsons Point 1565.

**Editor:** Bill Holland  
**Production Manager:** Frances Holland  
**Printers:** Kenn Clacher, Barrie Murdoch,  
 Tom Wenman Don Brooks Fran Holland

### Highlights - June Social Programme:



**HEY LOOK !!**

There are Two Social Nights in June

Mark your calendar for:

#### Wed 16th Slide Night – Canada

At 8pm Mark Dabbs will present highlights of his North American and Alaskan trip - including walking Mt Logan at 20,000 ft and the breathtaking Queen Charlotte Islands.

#### Wed 30<sup>th</sup> The SBW Mid-Winter Feast

From 6-30pm - The return of the annual Winter Feast. Come any time and bring a plate of food to share. Prizes for the most unusual and most delicious winter dish. Hot gluhwein and cheese fondue. Wear your winter walking gear and bring along your cold winter walk photos, slides or a CD.



#### Contact The Editor:

Copy for publishing in the SBW magazine should be received by the editor by the end of the first week of each month. Letters stating your viewpoint on matters of interest are most welcome.

Please send your submission in by mail (preferably typed), on floppy disc, by fax or by email addressed to The Editor

Telephone: 9484 6636  
 Email: [billholl@hotmail.net.au](mailto:billholl@hotmail.net.au)  
 Fax: 9980 5476 (phone 9484 6636 first)

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### The Sydney Bush Walkers Inc.

Our Club was formed in 1927 for the purpose of bringing bushwalkers together; enabling them to appreciate the great outdoors; establishing a regard for conservation and promoting social activities.

The Club's main activity is bushwalking but includes other activities such as cycling, canoeing and social events.

Our Walks Programme (published quarterly) features day walks on most Saturdays and Sundays, some mid week walks and overnight weekend walks.

Extended walks are organised in areas such as Lamington, Snowy Mountains etc as well as interstate.

Our meetings are held on Wednesday evenings (see Social Programme) at Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 16 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli (near Milsons Point Railway Station). Visitors and prospective members are welcome.

**General Enquiries:** Phone 0500 500 729  
**SBW Website** [www.sbw.org.au](http://www.sbw.org.au)

### Office Bearers

<b>President:</b>	Maurice Smith
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Rosemary MacDougal
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Tony Marshall
<b>Secretary:</b>	Leigh McClintock
<b>Walks Secretary:</b>	Peter Love
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Caro Ryan
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Ron Watters
<b>New Members Secretary:</b>	Grace Martinez
<b>Conservation Secretary:</b>	Pamela Irving
<b>Magazine Editor:</b>	Bill Holland
<b>Committee Member:</b>	
	Barry Wallace Heike Krausse
<b>Delegates to Confederation:</b>	
	Jim Callaway - vacant -

### Contact The Committee:

Members are welcome to contact the following officers on Club matters:

**President:** **Maurice Smith**  
9587 6325 (h) [mauricethewalker@ihug.com.au](mailto:mauricethewalker@ihug.com.au)  
**Vice President:** **Rosemary MacDougal**  
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**Secretary:** **Leigh McClintock**  
8920 2388 (h) [mcclintock@pacific.net.au](mailto:mcclintock@pacific.net.au)  
**Treasurer** **Tony Marshall**  
9713 6985 (h) [tbuilder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tbuilder@bigpond.net.au)  
**Members Secretary:** **Ron Watters**  
0419 617 491 [wattersr@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wattersr@bigpond.net.au)  
**New Members Secretary:** **Grace Martinez**  
0405 473 029 (m) [gracie\\_mar@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gracie_mar@yahoo.com.au)

### Message from President Maurice:

It may seem strange to say that I was privileged on 28 April to attend the funeral of a long standing club member. Yet, it is true. In a more detailed tribute in this edition you will read more about our former colleague Robert (Bob) Duncan's extraordinary life. The large number of SBW members attending Bob's funeral was a remarkable tribute to a well-loved club member. On behalf of the club I extend to Bob's wife and fellow member Rosslyn and their children, Emma and Michael our deepest sympathy on the sudden loss of Bob who died whilst bushwalking in the Bungle Bungle Ranges in West Australia.

Among the many issues that challenge us is the need to develop new trip leaders, especially, of the female persuasion. If we were to look back over the club's rich history is likely that we would find that a great many of the club office bearers started out in the club as "humble" trip leaders. So if we are to have a reliable supply of new trip leaders and thus potentially club executives who will bring to the table new ideas to old challenges then we need to ensure that we do all that we can to encourage trip new leaders.

Although we have a large percentage of female members, you are under-represented in the trip leaders grouping. Why is it so? How do we re-dress the imbalance? What do we have to do to help our potential aspiring female leaders. Ladies, put your heads together and generate some constructive ideas.

Here is an interesting challenge for trip leaders – I have noticed that quite a few trip leaders who are leading walks of qualifying standard do not want their walks marked with a "Q". Anecdotal advice is that those leaders do not want to be "overwhelmed" with a large number of prospective members wanting to get another Q walk under their belt. Come on leaders, those prospective members need to have plenty of opportunities to become qualified. Among the current crop of prospective members are our future trip leaders and club executives. Leaders, think back to when you were a prospective member. What would have happened if you didn't have the opportunity to qualify and then subsequently to lead trips?

I, for one enjoy meeting and walking with prospective members, they are certainly an interesting "crop" as we have ever had. So leaders, please re-consider about grading your walk of qualifying standard as a "Q" walk.

Lastly we are trialling a new walks grading system in the Winter program. We will be holding a special night, open to all-comers, in mid-July to review our experience with the walks grading system.

Maurice Smith

## Editor's Note:

In nearly every issue of the magazine this year there has been a plea for our members to write a letter to the Premier urging preservation of wilderness areas or other conservation issues.

This is in keeping with one of the main objects of our club "to establish a definite regard for the welfare and preservation of wildlife and natural beauty of this country" and "to help others appreciate these natural gifts".

Unfortunately, our State Government appears to be weakening its previously admirable protection of our environment.

James Woodford's article in the SMH 10/5/04 has the headline "Premier is turning a paler shade of green". He claims "changes that threaten species and favour developers diminish Bob Carr's conservation credentials" and points to such issues as the "gutting of government conservation bureaucracies - publicly owned land transfers to farmers - cloud seeding at Kosciuszko - approval of filming in the Grose Valley and proposed changes to The Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995".

He suggests that more changes are in the pipeline aimed at a more developer-friendly regime.

On a personal note it saddens me to see this government slipping into market place economics and prepared to sacrifice its conservation ideals. The Federal Government also, despite protestations to the contrary, is directing funds away from wilderness conservation bodies to support farming and other rural interests.

So I will keep writing my personal letters and Pamela Irving, our Conservation Secretary will write on behalf of the Club - but what about you?

Will you make the effort to assist in the continued preservation of our wilderness areas?

Each letter individually worded, is noted very carefully by the political parties so please take the time and make the effort to register your disapproval.

Moving on to this month's magazine we have excellent reports of extended walks but still lack concise reports of interesting day walks. Sometimes we tend to forget that day walks are a major feature of our club programme and members are interested in reading about them. Barry Wallace, of course, covers the month in his Walks Notes but I would like to see more.

Helen Gray has a tribute to Bob Duncan, whose sudden death was reported last month, and includes the poem by Don Matthews that she read so movingly at the funeral service.

*Bill Holland*



## Treasurer's Report - April

*Maurice Smith filling in for Tony Marshall*

The following is my report on the club's finances which are in a healthy state.

Set out below are the figures for April.

Bank Balance 1 <sup>st</sup> April	\$ 1,771
Income Received:	
Membership fees	10,858
Interest	112
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>10,970</b>

Expenses Paid:	
Clubroom rental 3 months	995
Magazine postage	347
Coolana plants	169
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>1,511</b>

Bank Balance 30th April \$11,231

Members, thank you for your prompt payment of your annual subscriptions.

*Maurice Smith*



**Get out your Cheque Book !**  
Annual subscriptions for 2004  
are now due

## NSW WILDERNESS TRANSIT

### BUS To



### JENOLAN CAVES. KANANGRA WALLS.

### YERRANDERIE GHOST TOWN

### STARLIGHTS TRACK. BUNGONIA CAVES.

### WOG WOG. NERRIGA

Departs from Sydney's Campbelltown Railway Station

Via Penrith, Katoomba & Blackheath for

**Kanangra Walls** Mon & Wed at 11am. Frid at 7am

Returns 4pm Mon, Wed, Frid.

Via Starlights, Mittagong & Marulan for

**Wog Wog-Nerriga** Tues. & Thurs & Sun at 11am

Returns 4 pm Tues, Thurs, Sun.

**Yerranderie Ghost Town** first Saturday in each

month, returns Sun at 1 pm (any Friday min 6)

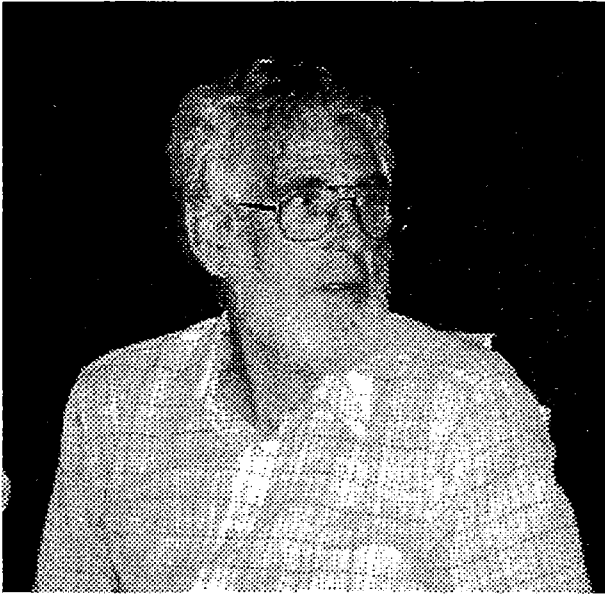
Group booking discounts or charter service

Tel 0246 832 344 Mob 0428 832 344

[www.wildernesstransit.com.au](http://www.wildernesstransit.com.au)

## Farewell Bob Duncan

*Helen Gray*



On April 19<sup>th</sup> 2004, in the Bungle Bungles in W.A., the life of Bob Duncan came suddenly to an end.

We had broken camp early that morning, leaving an idyllic site where, the previous evening, we had swum in a deep pool, watched the sun set on the amazing rock formations, and slept out under a spectacular desert sky. It was a lovely morning; not yet hot, and easy walking along the rocky bed of Piccaninny Gorge. Our companions on this Willis Walkabout trip were an interesting, fun, easy-going group, and we chatted as we walked along. I was a few feet in front of Bob when I heard something fall. I thought he must have dislodged a rock; there wasn't the usual scuffle of someone falling over, but I looked behind to see Bob lying on his back, eyes closed and seemingly snoring. I thought he was fooling; having fallen, he was pretending he had lain down for a quick snooze. But it wasn't so.

Bob stopped breathing moments later. Despite almost one-and-a-half hours of CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation from the 3 nurses and two others experienced in first aid in our group, he didn't revive. His face showed no sign of pain and it was hard to believe he wasn't just peacefully sleeping. A complicated day with park rangers, police and helicopters followed. Bob's body finally arrived at Kununurra hospital, thence to the Perth coroner, and to Sydney for a moving farewell.

[A short anecdote. On a previous walk, we had talked about not wanting a long old age, but a long middle. The hospital contacted me with a query; did I mean 1939 when I gave Bob's birth year as 1929? His body was that of a man in his early 60s. You achieved that long middle, Bob!]

Bob, from Adelaide, came to Sydney in the early '50s to work for CSIRO, and joined SBW in 1954.

He seemed reserved and serious, but once on a walk his true self was revealed. Apart from his strong opinions, his amazing intellect and broad knowledge which he readily shared, he was a wit, a larrikin and a clown. Any strange happenings were Bob's doing; weird noises in the night, unrecognisable birdcalls, mysterious footprints, and glowing lights in trees and even distant hills. ["Duncan! Where are you?" was the accusing question after any strange phenomenon. When a dingo stole a sleeping bag on a Central Australian trip - a REAL dingo - Bob was the first suspect.] Bob was a strong walker and often on the hardest trips going. One of the hardest was in 1959 in the then untracked south west Tasmania, where Bob fell and broke his skull, which resulted in a difficult [and expensive!] helicopter rescue and considerable publicity. He continued with his outdoor activities for the rest of his days: downhill and cross-country skiing, diving and snorkelling, caving, alpine climbing, "bombing" [from alarming heights!] and ice skating.

Dr. Robert Duncan's other life was that of a CSIRO senior research officer in radio physics, internationally known as such for having proved the theory on Jupiter's rotation, and his work on solar waves, Eta Carinae, the ionosphere, and more. He was a lover of classical music [not just of those gutsy, funny songs he sang as he walked along, and at reunions] and a member of choirs all his life. It was in one of these choirs that he met Rosslyn, whom he married in 1967.

The types of bushwalks Bob went on - hard walks, exploratory walks - meant that sometimes [actually, often!] something went wrong. Bob's recounting of them made hilarious listening and reading. He was magazine editor in 1964, and those funny and irreverent stories in varying styles by "Wombat", "Bandicoot" and other marsupials were mostly written by him. From then to the present, Bob continued working on the SBW magazine, as printer and then collator.

Bob was one of SBW's real characters who will be remembered and talked about on many a walk and at many a campfire. He was a true friend to many of us; considerate, kind, loyal. He was also a gentle man in the true sense.

Bob; we wish you had lived longer. Your family, and friends, miss you very much. But as every true bushwalker says: what a way to go!

*Helen*

## The Magic Of Summer

Don Matthews

*The magic of Summer is over,  
When we walked on the hills and the shore,  
And we camped in the rain and we grimaced with pain,  
At the weight of the loads that we bore.*

*But what will now happen in Autumn,  
When the days become shorter and cold,  
Will you gaze in my eyes with a look of surprise,  
That a man can be active though old.*

*And in Winter when everything's frozen,  
Will you patiently lead me on still?  
From one walk to the next, even though you are vexed,  
By my slowness in going uphill.*

*If you will, then the breezes of Autumn,  
And the wintry gales that blow,  
Will not mean a thing, for the pleasures of Spring,  
Will be with me wherever I go.*

Bob, like many of us, loved the sentiments of Don's poem when we first heard it in 1984. It was read at Bob's funeral. Don added an extra verse last year (Helen).

*Heigh ho for the pleasures of Springtime,  
Heigh ho for the joys still in store,  
We can't keep on going forever,  
But there's time for a little bit more*



### Brazilian Forests Chewed up by Beef Eaters

2003 was the worst year yet for Amazonian deforestation. Satellite photos show that almost 25,000 square kilometres of the world's largest continuous forest was destroyed last year. That is an area equivalent to the area of a square 160 kilometres by 160 kilometres. That clearing rate was an increase of 40% on 2002. According to the Indonesian based Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) this year's loss could be worse.

The clearing is being driven by the increasing European demand for beef and the fear of mad cow disease and foot and mouth in European herds. Brazil is now the world's largest exporter of beef, its exports increased five fold in six years and Europe takes 40% of it.

Brazil has had foot and mouth in its herds but this problem is about to be overcome and that will cause further increases in beef exports and with it deforestation. A report from Cifor suggest that giant ranching operations linked to European supermarkets now dominate the beef export market.

A few weeks ago Brazil's president, Luis Inacio Da Silva announced measures that would control deforestation in the Amazon. The Government was committing itself to better planning, law enforcement, monitoring of deforestation and greater support of indigenous territories and community forestry. CIFOR says that the Brazilian Government is going in the right direction but unless action is taken urgently the Brazilian Amazon could lose an additional area the size of Denmark in the next year and a half.

Apart from the loss of habitat for their animals and the loss of ancient ecosystems, large amounts of carbon locked in the forest is released into the atmosphere through burning or rotting.

David Trinder

Reference: Sydney Morning Herald 3-4 April 2004.

### The Coolana Fund:

Donations to the Coolana Fund are very welcome and will be used to provide income to assist with the maintenance of this wonderful property. Many thanks to those who have already donated and to those who have indicated an intention to include the Coolana Fund in their wills.

Please send in your donation, addressed to

**"The Coolana Fund"**

*The Sydney Bush Walkers Inc*

*PO Box 431 Milsons Point 1565.*

### No Go for Movies in Wilderness Areas

Director Rob Cohen's \$130 million action-adventure movie, *Stealth*, has been filming at Fox Studios and locations around Sydney since the start of the year. It is about the American military's attempt to control a rogue *Stealth* fighter plane. Their planned two day shoot in the Blue Mountains wilderness area was blocked by environmentalists in the Land and Environment Court, who argued successfully that it contravened the laws covering national parks. The film makers couldn't wait, with delays costing \$500,000 a day and the crew scheduled to leave for filming in the Flinders Rangers and Thailand, they said they would find somewhere else.

Our green Premier who has created many national parks was disappointed after promising the site to the filmmakers. He has been promoting the state for movie locations to gain some of the Hollywood dollars and is now planning to change the laws so movies won't be stopped in future.

Conservationists opposed the filming at Mount Hay because of risks to the habitat of the giant dragonfly and a rare sponge. The Court found that Wilderness Areas are sacrosanct and that they should be protected against any commercial activity.

The Greens MP Ian Cohen welcomed the filmmakers' decision to find another site and offered to help find one. There are many non-wilderness sites that would also be satisfactory.

David Trinder

Reference: Sydney Morning Herald 1-2 May 2004.

### News From Coolana

Don Finch



The SCA tree plantings continue during Easter, Shirley and family planted out 40 long stem She-Oaks and 40-tube stock She-Oaks.

The Coolana Committee has decided to move towards developing a plan to install a composting toilet at Coolana. Patrick has offered to coordinate and do the legwork he has started on getting together the relevant information.

The Coolana Committee has also decided to develop a plan of management for Coolana. Rob Pallin has kindly offered to assist with this effort.

Arrangements have been made with the KV Bush Fire brigade to fit a RFS lock to the sump buster and to inspect the property for bush fire control.

## From The Committee Room - May

*This month we introduce a report on proceedings at monthly Management Committee meetings. Here is a brief outline of matters discussed and decisions made at the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2004*

- The President and the Secretary signed the documentation to transfer of the club's shares in Natural Areas Limited to the NPA.
- The Committee accepted the Treasurer's report for the year to end April and approved the following payments:
  - Aussiecom Internet Consulting \$110 (renewal of domain name for two years)
  - Bill Holland \$442.88 (magazine related expenses)
  - Berry Mountain Nursery \$38 (plants, SCA grant). Australian Bush Heritage Fund \$100 (in memory of deceased member, Bob Duncan).
- The recommended mileage allowance for car sharing on walks to be increased from 10 cents to 20 cents/km.
- The Committee discussed and approved the Winter Walks Programme. It was noted that there were plenty of training walks for the Six Foot Track, fewer Easy walks than usual and very few Qualifying walks in the second half of the program
- There was considerable difference of opinion on the standards necessary for Qualifying walks.
- Two walks were retrospectively upgraded to Q status - Bill Capon's Easter walk, and Kathy Gero's walk in the RNP in the weekend of 2-3 April.
- Barry reported that about two-thirds of walks result in a completed walks form. Peter said that there had been quite a high level of cancellations, which often were not reported.
- Caro's proposed social program for the winter was adopted. The Pack n' Eat would stand on its own feet, rather than try to be the mid-winter feast as well. A separate date, 30th June, was set aside for the mid-winter feast. The Secretary to book a room at the KNC
- Maurice asked the Secretary to also book a room for 14th July, for a leaders' night. The special theme would be experience with the trial grading system.
- Edith Macauley, Joe Strater, Linda Starkey and William Starkey were accepted as Active Members.
- The Committee agreed to consider the President's opinion on Confederation's draft risk management policy as the club's position

### WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

## The Red Centre



Our trips go to  
wonderful places  
you will never  
find if you go on  
your own.

You certainly won't  
see them with another  
tour operator.

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Our reputation has gained us permission to visit magnificent areas not open to the general public.

**Watarka.** No other area in central Australia gives you the experience of EVERY major habitat (mountains, desert dunes, riverine, gorges) — and art sites as well. (Our website has a report one of our clients wrote about one of our Watarka walks.)

**West Macdonnells.** Deep, rugged gorges, permanent waterholes and spectacular mountain views. Our walks include the only nearly permanent creek in the region.

**Great weather.** Crisp, clear days and cool to cold nights in winter, hot to warm days and cool nights in spring.

*Want more information.*  
Visit our website or ask for our brochure and trip notes.



Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: [walkabout@ais.net.au](mailto:walkabout@ais.net.au)

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

## THE WALKS PAGES

### Walks Notes 12<sup>th</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup> March

The weekend of 14, 15 February saw a complete absence of weekend walks, but there were a number of day walks. Zol Bodlay led a party of 9 on his Saturday walk along the beaches of Boudi National Park. Conditions were hot and the party enjoyed swimming at three spots along the way. Don and Liz Wills were also out that day with 10 starters for their walk in Lane Cove National Park. Here too conditions were very hot, but the party coped, with lots of ice creams, and crashed out at the leaders' place for a barbecue at the end of the walk. There were even three blow-ins who turned up just for the barbecue. On the Sunday Kay Chan led a party of 3 on her walk in the Royal from Otford to Burning Palms while Errol Sheedy and a party of 5 covered the other end of the park with a trip from Engadine to Heathcote. Errol reported that temperatures of 35 degrees in the shade forced the reluctant party to enjoy a number of swims in Kangaroo Creek where the water levels were considerably lower than usual.

No report has been received to date for Wilf's Thursday walk from Waterfall to Engadine.

Similarly, no reports are available for the three overnight walks for the weekend of 21, 22 February. Tony Holgate had a scheduled walk for Saturday 21 Feb. but we have no information on the fate of this one either. The Sunday walks went, but did not fare well as far as attendance was concerned at least. Jim Callaway led himself on his trip from Bundeena to Otford and in a bit of unfortunate scheduling Tony Manes led a party of two on his walk from Bundeena to Otford the same day.

Peter Love and Rosemary McDougal led a combined car shuffle trip in Morton National Park over the weekend of 28, 29 February with a total of 10 walkers participating. Ken Smith had the Saturday walk that weekend, with the 8 walkers who came along being diverted

somewhat due to a landslide early in the week that caused the closure of Federal Pass and Furburs Steps. The substitute walk went from Medlow Bath to Blackheath in fine, warm weather conditions. Ron Watters led a Sunday trip in Morton National Park with a party of 10 in fine conditions. They reported a large waterfall in Burrawang Creep that does not show on the map. Despite this unexpected impediment to progress they were able to finish the walk in the last of the sunlight at around 1930 hours. There was also an unscheduled bicycle trip on that Sunday with Patrick James leading a party of 3 on a Gerringong to Berry wine and food bike ride.

Zol Bodlay cancelled his Saturday walk scheduled for the weekend of 6, 7 March due to a persisting deluge. The 3 paddlers on Pamela Irving's overnight kayaking trip to Berrowra Waters were made of sterner stuff, or less familiar with the weather forecast. They encountered rain from Saturday afternoon but were well equipped with tarpaulins to survive through until it fined up on the Sunday. No reports appear to have been received for Stephen Dolphin's Morton National Park weekend walk or of Maurice Smith's Gourmet Weekend trip in the same area. Chris Miller re-arranged his trip out from Carlons Farm due to the weather conditions, with the party of 5 enjoying some quality time at Jenolan Caves. Nigel Weaver led a party of 5 on his Sunday walk out to Mount Solitary from The Golden Stairs. Conditions were cloudy and misty with little rain. Despite the mist they reported great views from a number of sites along the way. Ken Smith's qualifying walk along a section of the Great North Walk on the Sunday attracted 4 starters. Ken reported lots of wildlife sightings, hundreds of leeches along the track and localised hordes of mosquitoes.

Here endeth the walks reports for this month.

Barry Wallace

### 42 Days in South America

Club members are invited to participate in my next journey to South America

Destination: Ecuador, Northern and Central Peru

Time: End of rainy season, from say middle of April 2005 onwards

Duration: 42 days (plus)

Preliminary cost estimate

with 5 day cruise in the Galapagos Islands A\$5 800.00 per person

without Galapagos Islands A\$3800.00 per person

Cost includes food, accommodation, air travel Sydney and other travel expenses

There will be some national park walks.

For more information please phone Gerry Leitner 9608 1169 [travelcom@optusnet.com.au](mailto:travelcom@optusnet.com.au)

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## In Search of the Brush Tail Rock Wallaby *Jan Roberts*

Our journey started early Good Friday from Chatswood as a cool, pale sky gave way to another brilliant blue, sunny autumn morning. Tony and Tess Holgate, Mary Liu (new prospective to SBW) and I were all keen to leave the city for an extended Easter walk in New England's National Parks. Having endured 10 weeks of enforced sedentary activities, (the result of a fractured fibula), I was looking forward to getting out there again.... and also to see the rarer wildlife including the endangered brush tail rock wallaby.

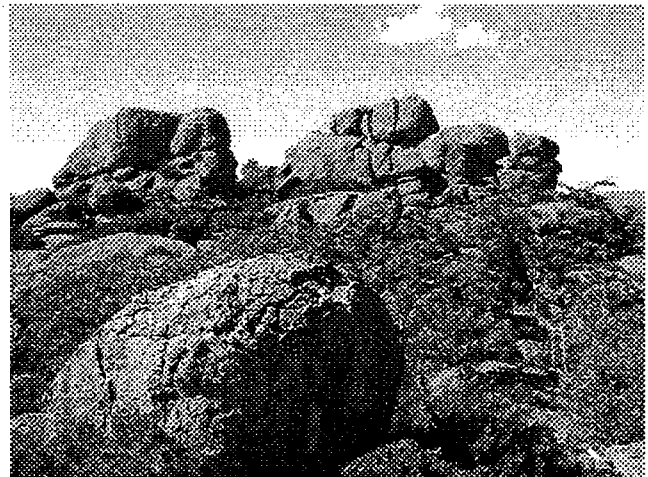
The trip up the New England Highway was an easy one and we chattered away of walks past and in eager anticipation of those to come with Mary, who was to experience her first SBW overnight walk. We arrived (after a number of refreshment stops) as dusk was gathering in the grassy forest of gums and stringy barks of the Barokee Rest Area at Cathedral Rock National Park. Cathedral Rock is 70 km east of Armidale on the New England Tablelands and is host to a wide diversity of flowering plants, birds and animals.

Patrick McNaught and Edith Macaulay had driven down from Byron Bay and welcomed us as we clambered for warmer clothes in the early evening chill air. Sadly, bush fires 14 months earlier had severely scorched the Banksia forests surrounding the camp site, and I hoped the numerous nectar feeding birds were still finding a home in the park. Our walk the following day would disclose the extent of the fire damage - and hopefully the regeneration under way.

Next morning after a dewy breakfast we headed up towards Cathedral Rock, while Patrick and Edith made a fast recognisance to Armidale for forgotten medical supplies. I was a little anxious about over extending my ankle, but Patrick told me he had thought about this and had bought pain killing medication....just in case it was needed - I was ready for anything!

We made our way to the Cathedral Rock track, following the wetlands from the campsite, through mossy sub-alpine woodland and banksias, 6 km to the magnificent granite tors above. On the way up we were relieved to see much of the vegetation had escaped the fires, and signs of new life was everywhere following recent rains. A pair of wedge tail eagles soared around our heads as we perched on top, and took in the magnificent views of Round Mountain and surrounding tablelands in the crisp morning air. It was lovely to be back in New England's parks.

Next stop was Woolpack Rocks where Patrick and Edith caught up with us for lunch. Well named, the granite boulders here resemble giant packs of wool ready for shipping to some exclusive suit factory. Most of the party decided to explore further and scrambled off, while Tess snoozed and I rested my ankle while observing the antics of a praying mantis as it basked in the sun; it's antenna and front legs tucked away for maximum 'veg out' and heat absorption.



Our next stop was Guy Fawkes River National Park for a 3 day walk. The Guy Fawkes River was named in 1845 by Major Parkes, an early settler in the Dorrig area who just happened to rest there on the day it seemed. Guy Fawkes NP is a vast and secluded wilderness encompassing 62,700 hectares of rugged river country with the Guy Fawkes River following the Demon Fault Line through the middle of the Park. Guy Fawkes NP is also home to a wide variety of birds, grey kangaroo, wallaroos, several species of wallabies and greater gliders. I was very keen to see all of them, in particular the shy and endangered brush tail rock wallaby.

First we visited Ebor Falls where the Guy Fawkes River takes its first spectacular plunge off the Tablelands, and then on to the Chaelundi Rest Area - possibly the best campground ever - with soft, 'tent peg friendly' lawns, fringed by tall, waving emerald kangaroo grasslands. We left the cars and headed off on the escarpment walking track to Lucifer's Thumb and Chaelundi Bluff for a late lunch. Here the view was to die for - wooded spurs and ridges interlock like giant's hands until the scene is lost in the distant haze. Far below could be seen Guy Fawkes River winding away and I hoped my ankle would be up to the 3 hour vertical challenge ahead.

Maybe I'd need Patrick's medication.

Lunch over we descended slowly down the spur - me slower than everyone but mobile - through the woodlands of yellow box, red gum and stringy bark. It was indeed challenging stuff as I felt my feet sliding out from under on a number of occasions. Finally just on dusk we reached the river without mishap and eager to set up camp before the dark.

Earlier a posse of horsemen returning up Jordan's Trail hot and tired on their mounts had warned us that the river bed was badly affected by Cobblers Pegs, ...and they were right. The gravel river flats were chin high in some areas with pesky seeds that clung to every part of the body and soul. Still - a clearing was found by Tony and Patrick and after a major gardening effort we spent the next 2 days in remote wilderness bliss, under sparkling star filled skies at night, and blazing blue days by day. Sightings of

birds were numerous, with tiny Superb Blue Wrens and a myriad of other small birds waking us to the milder mornings of the river flats, and as we bathed in the 'warmish' (to me it's never warm) Guy Fawkes River the occasional Azure Kingfisher would skim the water's surface.

Tony, Patrick and Edith took off to explore upriver after a late and long breakfast while Mary, Tess and I enjoyed the autumn sun, reading and bird watching. Another mild night was spent around the campfire under a brilliant canopy of stars, while Tony swapped food ideas with Mary who had bought 14 varieties of Tofu on her first SBW walk to keep her pack light.

Next day we started our climb out early with the dew licking our gaiters and boots protecting us from the Cobblers Pegs on the bank – if only we could have cleared them all. The temperature was surprisingly hot, and required frequent stops to drink and to take in the stunning views of the vast gorge slipping away beneath.

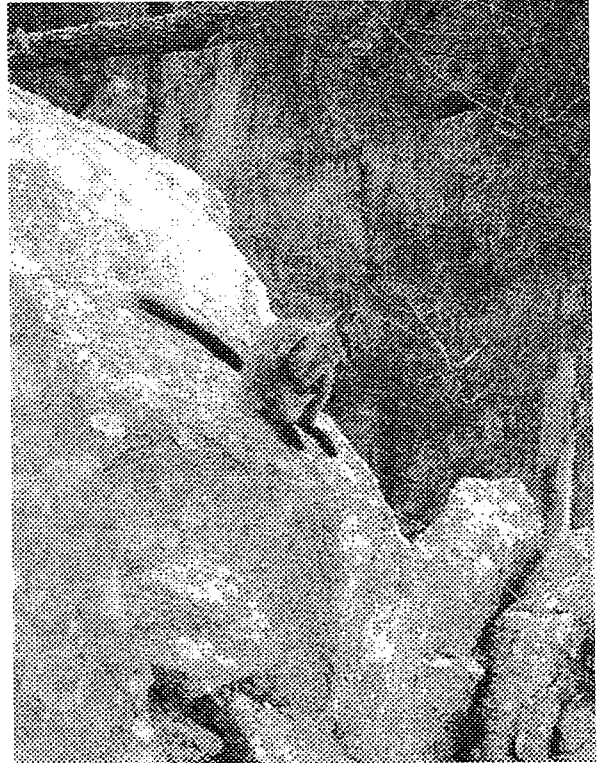
Still, there was no sign of a brush tail rock wallaby.

Back at our oasis campsite at noon, our little group dropped their packs and flopped onto the cool grass before setting up camp. Obviously happy to see us return, little wrens appeared at our camp next to the babbling Chaelundi Creek, and danced around the picnic table while we prepared lunch.

The following day was spent driving through the beautiful Bellingier Valley and up the Dorrigo Mountain to the Dorrigo Plateau. The magnificent Dorrigo National Park (and Mount Hyland Nature Reserve where we also walked) is World Heritage listed rainforest areas. The walking was cool and damp and in sharp contrast to climbing out of Guy Fawkes River the day before. Amongst the wildlife spotted on the day were superb lyrebirds, red necked wallabies, mucho bush turkeys, and 6 bushwalkers scoffing on scones, jam and cream at the Canopy Café. The return 28k trip to camp at Guy Fawkes was deliberately slow to avoid and observe abundant wild life crossing the road. Thankfully, we managed to miss them all.

Next morning, still determined to see a rock wallaby, I set out in the pre dawn chill back to Lucifer's Thumb where they have been sighted from time to time according to the literature. And finally success – as I reached the end of the track

overlooking the gorge, there to my right on a rocky outcrop was a grey wallaby tilting its finely chiselled face towards my approach. No mistaking this animal with its very long black bushy tail and huge hind legs that looked strangely out of proportion to the rest of



its body.

At least one and hopefully many more Brush Tail Rock Wallabies are still alive and well in Guy Fawkes River National Park. A wonderful 7 days of wilderness and wildlife – thank you Tony for a wonderful Easter plus!

#### Are you on the SBW Email List?

Once a month, we send out a friendly email to SBW Members and Prospectives.

The email acts as a reminder of the upcoming social event for the month, along with a short note on something of interest to our members.

If you'd like to be added to the list, simply send an email to: [social@sbw.org.au](mailto:social@sbw.org.au)

#### Stand up for Tasmania's Forests on World Environment Day 2004

Put it in your diary. Every voice counts.

World Environment Day is YOUR opportunity to join with people around the country to say NO to the destruction of Tasmania's ancient forests. Please join us. You and your friends can make the difference.

SYDNEY - Public Meeting + Concert

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 3.30pm - Sydney Town Hall**

With Jimmy Barnes and band, award-winning Tasmanian author Richard Flanagan and Triple J's Adam Spencer

## Walking The Western Arthurs

Maureen Carter

This walk occurred in February 2004. The party consisted of Maureen and David Carter, Carole Beales, Phil Patterson and two NPA members from outside Sydney.

"Have we really only traveled one kilometre in the last three and a half hours?" "You can't be serious about climbing along that ledge – look at the drop" or, simply, "You've got to be joking". These were all comments made by the party, of six that I led on our February Tasmanian walk.

Although I organised the 13 days walking in the Western Arthurs and Mt Anne region, and was nominally the leader, I was more than happy with the team approach to our adventure. I say this to encourage others to research a walk, put it on the program and then be confident that your party of walkers will all assist in the navigation, rope work and support of less confident people that is especially required in this type of rugged terrain.

The six of us met in Hobart and discussed, with some trepidation, our expected ordeal over delicious Indian curries. We had all read and heard accounts of blizzards, hail, torrential rain, high winds and thick fogs that affect those that dare to visit this isolated area.

We were deposited by our Tassielink bus at Scotts Peak Dam by 11am and, after concealing a barrel of food in the bush, to be collected eleven days hence, we set off sagging under heavy packs for the three hour walk along a track consisting of boardwalks and mud to Junction Creek, where we scrubbed our shoes and gaiters to prevent the spread of phytophthora. Several shady camp sites were available on the creek but we elected to camp a kilometre away in another clump of eucalypts and tea trees with glorious views of the Western Arthur Range and Mt Rugby. Next morning we left the Port Davey Track to climb up Moraine Alpha which was a series of steep steps in the grey quartzite mountainside that is covered in low scrub. Already my walking pole was redundant, as I often needed to use hands to aid my ascent. We lunched with views of Scotts Peak and Lake Pedder and completed our 640 metre climb by mid-afternoon. Then, as we climbed the 150 metres to Mt Hesperus, the mist began rolling in to obscure our views of Lakes Fortuna and Neptune below us and our home for the night at Lake Cygnus. The sun occasionally broke through to light up the Capella Crag. Our 5 tents were accommodated on the plastic matting, however, on subsequent nights it was essential to limit the tents to 3 or 4. A spotted quoll visited Carole and, uncharacteristically, did not investigate our packs. The biggest talking point at camp was the strange UFO-like object hidden in the bushes, which was the fly-in/fly-out toilet. This gave us the confidence to drink the water untreated and no one had tummy troubles.

On day 3 we found Mt Hayes and Lake Ceres obscured in the mist but the veil briefly lifted to reveal the sheer northern wall of Square Lake. It was

here that Phil made his first of many attempts to catch us a fishy meal without the success he had experienced on the Overland Track. Sadly, the rain accompanied us down our first challenging scramble towards Lake Oberon, surely, the most precious jewel in the Arthur's crown.

We assumed that the renowned wet weather was set in but remained optimistic and knew we had four spare days to sit it out. We spent the next day drying clothes and exploring our surroundings with views of Scotts Peak to the north and Port Davey to the south bathed in sunshine. The mist swirled around the amphitheatre on Day 5 but it looked thin enough to clear as the sun burnt it off. This then became the pattern for the next eight days and I crossed my fingers as I announced to the troops at breakfast that I had spoken to the Mother Goddess of the Universe who had promised a fine day. David conferred with Hughie and between them they got it right with only occasional showers at night and only one brief gust of wind at High Moor to remind us of what can happen.

Chapman warns that "reasonable" weather is essential for these two most challenging days following the serrated ridges to the east. I hoped he was exaggerating when he wrote that "the route followed is at times dangerous being poised above high cliffs". He was not. We began in high spirits and passed packs when necessary staying close together for safety. We expected anxious moments as we traversed narrow ledges hanging on to remnants of *Richea scoparia* and other tenacious shrubs clinging to the mountainside, and our fears were not unfounded. We were accompanied by clear



views of Lake Uranus all morning and crested Mt Capricorn for lunch, leaving Mt Pegasus far behind. The vertical descent down eroded earth ladders made me very appreciative of teamwork as Alan often described the next hand and footholds in a very soothing voice. The wet rocks and muddy steps made us filthy and most of us suffered a torn garment, but Phil's robust orange pants (or were they russet?) remained intact. Our first distant views of Federation Peak and the Eastern Arthurs were a highlight but so was the sight of our camp at High Moor and it was only 4.20pm with plenty of daylight

to wash, bask in the sunshine with a book and wander amongst the peaks.

Our first objective the next morning were the Beggary Bumps which we negotiated well, even though we unwittingly chose the exposed ledge, rather than the scramble over the top. We mostly used the rope for pack lowering except at the Tilted Chasm, where it provided welcome psychological assistance, as the scree has disappeared from under the tree roots causing a short drop. We regularly peered from cliff edges into the void and, at times like this, the others were amused by my classification of the difficulty of the next section, which depended on the type and number of expletives I used.

Chapman had led us to believe that we would easily conquer the Dragon, but, he does not give full credit to the descent, which was an unexpected replay of the previous day's descent of Mt Capricorn. When we arrived at our eyrie for lunch we counted our bruises caused by the tangle of roots whilst traversing or descending. We felt close to our destination for the night at Haven Lake but we still had many obstacles to negotiate before that cup of tea, including the numerous knolls towards Mt Taurus and the steep descent from it. At least Lovers Leap and some other formerly daunting sections have now been re-routed. Thank you Tasmanian Parks for looking after our safety and our comfort too, by providing tent platforms that do the double duty of reducing the impact on the environment and provide walkers with a dry tent base. We often wondered how long these eroded tracks will last as this magic place is loved to death. By 5pm we were soaking in the lake, the billy was boiling and anti-inflam's were being consumed.

Although we were making good progress, after assessing the well being of the party, we decided not to move on to Lake Rosanne and complete the full traverse but to exit down Moraine Kappa instead. Alan did this the next day with two photographers but we enjoyed an R and R day at Haven Lake with some local exploring, which did not include the recommended side trip up Mt Aldebaran, as I sought to avoid more muddy, scrubby steps and a 300 metre climb.

On day 8 we enjoyed an easy three hours walk and scramble over Mt Scorpio with ample stops before climbing down before lunch to Lake Vesta where we spent two comfortable nights. We spent our last rest day wandering around Lake Juno and



Promontory Lake then walked to an unnamed 1004 metre peak to say a final farewell to the Eastern Arthurs and even dipped into a freezing lake. The next day our descent of Moraine K was like a walk in the park and presented no problems until I encountered a fat tiger snake and instantly ordered Ian to do snake-scarer duties in front of me. The Arthur Plains had dried considerably in the last seven days making the walk in to Junction Creek quite comfortable. We enjoyed our last night in this special place accompanied by the sounds of the creatures above us (perhaps gliders or possums?) showering tea-tree flowers onto our tent.

In reviewing this most challenging and rewarding of walks we were extremely pleased that we had escaped the atrocious weather that batters these high, rugged peaks. We were even more delighted when we had two more glorious days which included a scramble up Mt Eliza, a long walk with clear views of Mt Anne with its dolerite columns, and, a memorable sunset. The main topic of conversation was the annoying resident rat at the hut. Ratty was saved by its pretty face, and David was glad he had not taught it to "fly" when his research revealed that it was an endangered broad-toothed rat (*Mastacomys fuscus*).

I spent some time that last night looking at the brilliant starry sky and recalling with satisfaction that I had led my first long walk with less anxiety than I anticipated. This was due to the support of the party and, I had spent many wonderful hours walking in silence, reflecting on the beauties of this most rugged terrain.

Anyone interested in walking the Eastern Arthurs next year?

Maureen Carter

### Colong Foundation for Wilderness

#### Will you help stop the rot ?

The Government has recently passed special legislation that removes roads from Kosciuszko National Park and has introduced a planning policy which allows ski resort development without public comment and review. **Please write a letter of protest today.** Address your letter to:

*The Hon Bob Carr - Premier of NSW  
Level 40, Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place Sydney NSW 2000*

## Rain Creek – Easter 2004

Kenn Clacher

A party of 6 set out from Mount Irvine on Friday morning after a traffic-free trip from Sydney. Our intended route involved crossing the Wollangambe River and Bungleboori Creek before entering Rail Creek. The plan was to then walk down Rain Creek and Nayook Creek to and then along the Wollangambe River before climbing out near the junction with Bowens Creek and undertaking a long ridge walk back to Mount Irvine. There was some trepidation about finding the passes into and out of the creeks and rivers, as none of the party had been to any of them. The location of the passes was however roughly indicated in a hazy description of the walk that appeared in an old walk guide distributed with *Wild* magazine some time ago.

There was actually a track for much of the way to the first pass, in the vicinity of Tesselate Hill. The track appears to be the result of tourists going to look at the tessellated rock just north of Tesselate Hill. [Similar tessellated rock shelves are seen in abundance in the Grampians.] The pass into the Wollangambe near here is opposite the creek that joins the Wollangambe at GR 647 968. Because it is in such an unlikely-looking spot the leader had actually been there the previous weekend to verify its existence. With a bit of winding about and a couple of short steep bits it is not too difficult once you know where to go.

The pass out was up the spur on the SW of the creek junction. Then some ridge walking was required on the northern side of Lost Flat Mountain to reach the Bungleboori. This required some careful navigating as the terrain here is quite flat and compasses are unreliable owing to magnetic rock. Nonetheless we managed to find the right ridge to the claimed pass into the Bungleboori on the spur at the big bend at GR 626 996. A pass was duly found, requiring bridging about 6m down a classic slot which was the major obstacle. Ropes for belaying and pack hauling came in handy. Despite the *Wild* guide's suggestion that it was possible to get to Rain Creek from Mount Irvine in a (long) day, we made camp on a delightful rock shelf on Bungleboori Creek at about 4:00. The imposing cliffs opposite on the creek bend made it a spectacular campsite.

The way out of the Bungleboori was to the NW via the spur on the upstream side of the creek that entered opposite our descent spur. On the way down the previous day this had appeared relatively straightforward. It was, provided the party brings a portable footstool to combine with the local trees to get up a small (2+m) cliff line near the bottom. Ian Wolfe's back represented the stool for the leader and the ropes then helped get the rest of the party up. Another ridge walk then took us to Rain Creek. The pass here was not clear from the *Wild* guide nor the map and the leader, wishing to avoid some scrubby creek walking, took a punt on the spur at GR 612 036. This proved to be negotiable without too much difficulty, being the only pass on which pack hauling was not needed. There were a couple of other places

downstream where easy passes appeared to exist.

The first kilometre of Rain Creek was a bit scrubby, but gradually the going got easier in parts. There were some quite attractive parts to the creek but progress was generally slow. It was hoped that we would get to Nayook Creek to camp but the light was running out and we camped in a cosy grotto just short of Nayook Creek.

Nayook Creek between Rain Creek and the Wollangambe is a delight. The creek flows over wide rock shelves between towering cliffs and the walking was generally easy. It is similar to Angowara Creek near the Colo. Then we meandered along the Wollangambe which was also attractive, with some nice rock shelves, good walking and swimming. We arrived at our campsite at around 3:00 pm. This was at GR 711 055, at the bottom of a likely-looking ridge we hoped to scale next morning to get back to the cars. The guide was no help here, as it suggested exiting to Mount Tootie, up one of Bob Buck's easier passes. Some of the party used the time afforded by the early stop to wander up the ridge to confirm that it was indeed negotiable. It was, with one steep part where the rope was set up to help the party the following morning.

Our camp that night, again on an attractive rocky, sandy shelf was interrupted by a diamond python which wandered through the campsite while the party had dinner. It appeared to be not at all intimidated by the fire or the people. We also had a few drops of rain, which was a surprise as the days and nights so far had been beautifully clear. The suggestion of rain was enough to prompt the timid to change their minds about sleeping without cover and put up tents, leaving the hardy to brave the elements, which cooperated as soon as the others' tents were erected.

We started early next day to gain the top of the ridge before the sun got too high and hopefully get an early finish. Although the ridge was climbed without trouble, thanks to the previous day's preparations, the ridge walk proved to be a bit slow. The views were great, over Bowen's Creek on one side and the Wollangambe on the other. There were a couple of slow sections: one where a cliffline was shown on the map and was walked around, and one where there was a large cliffline which was not shown on the map and some scouting was required to get around it.

We eventually got to Tesselate Hill and the track we had used on the way out three days previously. From there it was easy going on the track and we got to the cars before dark. This had been a very enjoyable walk in some remote and rarely visited territory. Nayook Creek had been magnificent, well worth the effort and worthy of another visit.



### First Aid Certificates

To encourage leaders and members to get their St John's First Aid Certificate, the Club will subsidise the cost of gaining an accredited Senior First Aid Certificate.

**ANZAC Weekend in the Wild Dog Mountains 23-27th April** *Mark Dabbs*

Participants: *Leader John Bradnam, Patrick McNaught, Jacqui Joseph, Roger Martin, Julian Nirio, Alison Nirio, Mark Dabbs*

Did we succeed to include the intended route which was: Carlons farm, and his creek, Blackhorse Ridge and his/her gap, Mouin Creek, Ghost Dogs Gully, Little Dingo Gully, Splendour Rock, Merrigal Creek, Blue Pup Spur, Knights Deck and his pups, Breakfast Creek, Pots and Pans Ridge, Iron Pot Mountain and back up and Carlons farm? You'll have to read on. Oh, we also weren't meant to go over Mouin Falls – slight slip here? Ha, ha!

The party appeared strong, keen and eager to start at 8.00am – other than the 2 who had to brave the dark and come up during the early hours of the morning – they lacked a little sleep. One had only 4 hours and had been up since 4.00am!

The day started fine, sunny and slightly cool. BUT was better than contending with a howling gale for those who camped at the car park Friday night.

Our route seemed demanding with its many ups and downs along with the part exploratory nature of the rarely visited creeks. Wonder why they are so rarely visited?

The trip to Blackhorse Gap was reasonably uneventful. Other than the grunt, groan, old tired bones and slightly heavy pack up Blackhorse Spur. Must be getting old now that I have reached 22! (Editor: How many years ago was that Mark?) Could also be that little bit of extra food thrown in at the last minute. Some of us underestimated the steepness of the hill but still managed without letting on the struggle we were going thru.

None of the party had travelled past Blackhorse Gap so out with the map and compass. Well actually, only John got his compass out, some of us held our maps and pretended to know where we were heading, while others just went ahead assuming they knew where they were heading. All was going to plan. Then things started to become a little unstuck. Mark suggested an interesting ridge rather than the dense bush in West Mouin Gully. Bad move ... Direction re-routed, John readjusted his compass and our track finder, Patrick, headed off in the right direction searching for the clearest way. We followed. Not using map or compass, we of course, blindly followed ... Oops. Is this the ridge? - No it drops off a little to quickly. OK move on. This must be it. (In hindsight – after crossing 2 extra creeks we had gone too far. Isn't hindsight great?) Down the ridge we went. Mmmmmmm, seems to be going a little steep... Hey that ridge over there looks like the correct ridge. Gee, it's a big gully between it and us. OK, lets continue down this ridge. Boy, does it drop off quickly... Some of us were not quite prepared for this steepness. Actually, you could say, some weren't keen on this down hill section at all. Ah, the bottom ... this isn't where we should be. Lets have lunch. Isn't that what you always do in these situations? Position redetermined. No problems, we were sort of back on track but in Middle Mouin Gully. The creek was a bit rough but do-able.

Somewhere about now it dawned on me that of the 7 in the party, 4 were prospective members. Good walk for them to start on!

Our aim was to camp at the junction of Ghost Dogs Gully – hopefully. It looked flattish on the map. We were aware there were a few waterfalls of 10-20 metre drops so sidling around these would be required. At one of these waterfalls, our faithfully route finder – Patrick, and great rock climber - found a "good" way around. That was until he stepped on the foothold and it tumbled 5 metres down the vertical rock. This made things a little hard for the rest of us. Finally we were at the big falls – we thought. This involved quite a detour – half hour or so. At the bottom of these we stopped for a rest and redetermined our position. Not being 100% certain we pulled out our trusty GPS with its ever ready batteries. According to the GPS we had 100 metres to go. Must be just around the next corner. No, maybe the next corner. Or then again, maybe it's the next corner. Ooh, look at this big waterfall.

Maybe this is the one we were looking for? Another detour. Very steep sides. Bit of boot skiing down the side of this one. Fun!! Another 100 metres or so. Ok, we've being going now for an hour of "maybe another 100 metres", and darkness is fast approaching. More map studying. Yep we know exactly where we are on the map - not quite where we intended due to an error with the GPS. It had given an error due to probable reflections off the rock walls. We were close to the Cox River. This would make a good camp spot. Somewhere around this point a voice was to be heard saying (or was it screaming?) "I want to go home!!!!"

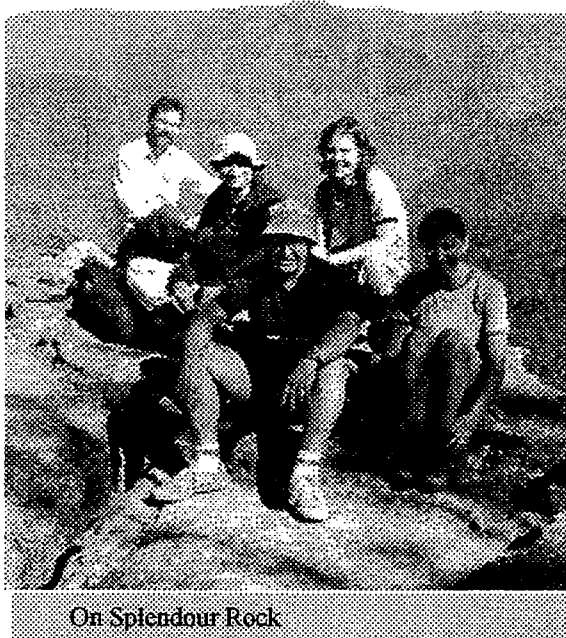
About half a kilometre before the Cox we found a great camp spot, flat, lots of wood, close to fresh water. So it appeared in half-light anyway. And the weary old bones also suggested this was far enough. By this stage it was 6:00pm. It had been a good 10-hour day. Tents were pitched in the semi dark to dark, fire made, Happy Hour commenced. Out came all the goodies. Along with the delicious, mouth watering, scrumptious Caramel Mud Cake. Oh, heaven... Rather than carry it for another day, it was decided to eat it all now!!! Dinner was a bit hard to fit in!

The party had performed well. No grumbling when we adjusted the route or found we weren't quite where we should have been. All had high spirits to the end. A great bunch to be with. Some showed real "grit".

Morning and a 6.00am call to rise and get moving. (Actually, John slept in for 15 minutes – unheard of - so we had an extra 15 minutes of bliss). We were away by 7.30am following a slightly changed route. Up Little Dingo Ridge, Spotted Dog Ridge, Little Dingo Hill and onto Splendour Rock. None of us had been this way before so it was most interesting. The grunt up the spur tested us again.

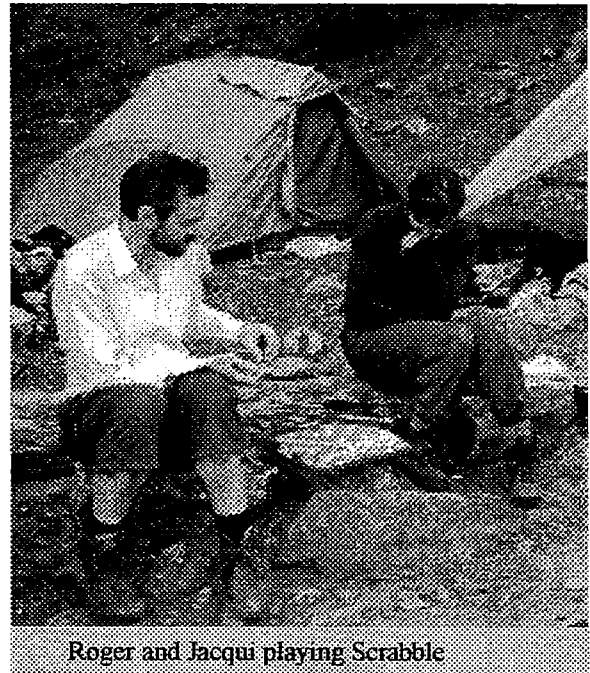
Glad I'd gotten rid of the mud cake – that reduced the load by 1kg at least! At Splendour Rock we had a debate on whether to use Thommos chains or find the route up on the western side. Some felt the chains were a tad exposed. Being good walkers we kept together and headed around the west in search of a route up. Patrick, Jacqui, Roger and Mark found a possible way up, which involved a bit of a leg up because of a slight lack of footholds. The others had moved on. Oops, we had split up. Roger headed off to the others to inform them of our find leaving Mark to await their return. Or so he thought. Half an hour later and Mark gave up waiting and headed to Splendour Rock. They were all there eating lunch!!! No comment...

Again, the day was superb. A clear blue sunny sky. Distant views to Kanangra Walls and Lake Burragorang. Absolute heaven. Glad we went up rather than bypass Splendour Rock.



On Splendour Rock

The original plan was to go down Merrigal Creek but we instead chose to follow Brindle Dog Ridge down to the Cox's River. This was a wise decision. We seemed to be travelling a little slower than we hoped. The navigation to this ridge could be a little tricky but with John out front using his map and compass we had no problems. The spur down to the Cox's presented a little testing for some but all made it to the bottom in one piece – just. Was that a scream of delight I heard from one member upon arriving at the campsite? Why was Mark running down the ridge? Some say it was to grab John's pre-booked tree that he hoped to hold his fly up with. Fortunately, Mark relented at the last minute and no fights ensued. We had arrived at a considerate 3.00pm so had heaps of time for body washes, pitching of tents and firewood collecting in the 4 star campsite. Very relaxed compared to the day before. To help keep Jacqui sane Roger challenged her to a game of Scrabble on Jacqui's board. I do not dare say



Roger and Jacqui playing Scrabble

who won!

There was some concern over the howling Dingoes heard on the way down the spur. Fortunately they stayed on their side of the river. They were magnificent to hear in the wild.

Again we were to rise at 6.00am. This time John used another technique to wake us. Start breaking wood for the fire over rocks near the tents. Seems to wake one no matter how deep the sleep!!! Thanks, John...

We were away by 7.30am again and straight into our first river crossing. Mmmmmmm, the water was a tad coooooo!!!! We followed the Cox's River up to Breakfast Creek – after passing 5 other parties still camped by the Cox's. Boy, they were slow starters. Rather than taking the "easy" track back we managed to persuade all that the "stroll" up to Ironpot Mountain via Pots and Pans Ridge would be far better. I do believe part way up I heard someone suggest they wanted to go home!!!! Or was it "take me home... NOW". Whatever, we all made to the top in a fine state. Again we had beautiful weather and fantastic views. All that was left was a small stroll back down to the cars. Someone forgot to mention the steep down bit though! We arrived at the cars by 2.00pm. A great walk into some rarely visited areas of the Wild Dog Mountains. Of course we had the obligatory milkshake in the Megalong Tea Rooms then the Fish and Chips at Blackheath. But that goes without saying!!!

Thank you John and all for your fantastic company and a really enjoyable walk. Well worth the trip even though slightly different to the intended route.

See the photographs of this walk of the Website (<http://www.sbw.org.au>).

**Wanted** - Leaders prepared to place easy or easy/medium day walks on our Spring Walks Programme.

## Odds and Ends

### Try Something A Little Different !



Some weekends offer more than a weekend walk - there's perhaps a little sparkle added; something unusual to cater for the seasonal conditions or perhaps the not quite so fit walker.

And then there are the midweek activities for those who have the time and inclination to find the alternative to working. Here are some easy out-of-the usual walks in June:

#### Thurs 3rd June      **Royal NP**

Ferry from Cronulla and experience Bundeena's best-kept secrets. Grade: (medium) 16 kms

#### Sat 19th June: **Gooches Crater and Beyond**

Fantastic sandstone formations, pagodas, caves and a perfectly formed crater. Grade: Easy

#### Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> June: **Walking and Whale Watching**



A coastal walk with spectacular views of rugged coastline. Last year we saw five whales as we rested on the cliffsides.

#### Sun 27<sup>th</sup> June: **Walking and Whale Watching**

Yes, the same walk but on Sunday this time

Looking even further ahead there are two activities for the mid week enthusiasts

#### 15th - 17<sup>th</sup> Sep **Bicycle Ride - Robyn's Farm**



Easy rides in the Bathurst area.

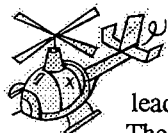
From Wed to Frid with the option of extending into the weekend)

#### 4<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> Oct **River Murray Houseboat -**



Starting from Mildura we will be aboard for four nights. Some walking and much socialising

### **EPIRB - Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon**



SBW has purchased an EPIRB for use by club members, in particular walks leaders.

The GME Electrophone MT310 is a self contained radio transmitter, which transmits an internationally recognised distress signal on the aviation emergency frequencies for a minimum of 48 hours. These frequencies are monitored not only by commercial and military aircraft but also by the COSPAS/SARSAT satellite systems. Weight 185g. The Club Secretary, Leigh McClintock will manage the EPIRB. So if you would like to take the EPIRB for a walk give Leigh a ring on 8920 2386 and arrange to collect it.

### A Note from Our Conservation Secretary

I'm interested in getting information on ethical investments and looked up the internet using Google (searching Australia only). I am overwhelmed to discover that there are 20,800 entries on ethical investments. Does anyone in the club have first hand experience with, or information on, such investments?

Pamela Irving [pamela.irving@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pamela.irving@optusnet.com.au)

### Expressions of Interest Required

20<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November

#### **Hong Kong - New Territories**

It would surprise many people to know that Hong Kong is comprised 50% of mountainous national parks, and that there are excellent day walks ranging from 10 to 50 km in glorious scenery. I am looking for expressions of interest in a week of day walking in Hong Kong, where I lived for 12 years, and know intimately. There are many interesting country villages to explore. Interesting culture. The end of most walks would be at a yummy local restaurant. Public transport is cheap and excellent, and November should have the best walking weather of the year. We'd end up with a shopping day in Shenzhen China, an experience in itself with drop-dead prices! Anyone interested, please contact me so we can plan well in advance.

Grade: 15-25 km per day, 200-600m up & down. All on track

Leader:

Richard Darke 9960-6384 or 0402 413 299

### Weekend Walking Gear for Hire

The club now has a small pool of weekend walking equipment available for hire. The rates for weekly hire are:

Weekend pack: \$15

Sleeping bag: \$15

(For hygiene reasons you must provide and use

your own sleeping bag liner)

Sleeping mat: \$5

Ground sheet: \$2

Tent: \$20

Complete kit \$50

Equivalent refundable deposit required.

Contact: Geoff McIntosh 9419 4619

## SOCIAL NOTES

To everything, there is a season. And the season we're all thinking about now is Winter! That great time of the year when walkers achieve peak fitness, spend a lot of time trying to keep warm at nights and moan about short days!

The winter social program is keeping us all rugged up and warm at the clubrooms over the coming months with a North American slide night with Mark Dabbs. He had a wonderful trip to the USA and Canada and is keen to share his experiences and great photos with us.

Now, you can't get much more Mid Winter than the 30 June and this year Bill Holland will be running the fabulous Mid Winter Feast which promises to be a visual and gastronomic spectacular .... (I've heard he'll be wearing his thermal underwear Superman style on the night!!!!) Check out the program for the details.

There's a night specially aimed at all the wonderful Prospective members in July with a 'How to Pack/What to Eat' night. We'll tackle the age old question: exactly how do I pack an overnight pack effectively and lightly? And what on earth do we eat/cook out there in the bush?

I'm calling on all members to volunteer for this night to come along and volunteer their tips, suggestions and ideas for cooking whilst Tony Manes will talk us through the packing dilemma. Please bring some recipes printed out and be prepared to chat about them or even better, bring your stove along and do a quick demo of the recipe for the group. Much more interesting! Please email me at [social@sbw.org.au](mailto:social@sbw.org.au) if you can volunteer.

Now.... must go and find my ugh boots!

See you on the chilly track.

Caro ☺

### June Social Programme

Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7pm	<b>Committee Meeting</b> – Committee members and observers welcome.
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8pm	<b>Introduction to SBW</b>
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	<b>Slide Night – Canada &amp; USA</b> Mark Dabbs presents highlights of his North American and Alaskan trip
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	<b>Introduction to SBW.</b>
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup>	from 6.30	<b>Mid-Winter Feast</b> Bring a plate of food to share Bring along your cold winter walk photos, slides or a CD

### Model Dental Patient



The Hammetts were shown into the dentist's office, where Mr. Hammett made it clear he was in a big hurry.

"No expensive extras, Doctor," he ordered. No gas or needles or any of that fancy stuff. Just pull the tooth and get it over with."

"I wish more of my patients were as stoic as you," said the dentist admiringly. "Now, which tooth is it?"

Mr. Hammett turned to his wife...

"Show him your tooth, Honey



### Finding the Thanksgiving Bird

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store, but couldn't find one big enough for her family.

She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"

The stock boy replied, "No ma'am, they're dead."



### Express Line

A woman rushed into the supermarket to pick up a few items. She headed for the express line where the clerk was talking on the phone with his back turned to her.

"Excuse me," she said, "I'm in a hurry. Could you check me out, please?"

The clerk turned, stared at her for a second, looked her up and down, smiled and said, "Not bad."

### Have You Changed Your Address?

If you have changed your address or phone number recently, please advise:

Members: Ron Watters

Prospectives: Grace Martinez

The advice should be in writing directed to the Club's postal address



### Contributions Welcome:

Members' contributions to this magazine are very welcome. Send in your interesting stories of recent walks, letters, notices, jokes etc by mail (preferably typed), on floppy disc, by fax or by email addressed to The Editor

Fax: 9980 5476 (phone 9484 6636 first)  
[billholl@hotmail.net.au](mailto:billholl@hotmail.net.au)

“We have to use with skill what simple equipment we can  
carry on our backs to achieve shelter,  
prepare food and have a night's rest”

*Paddy Pallin, 1900-1991*

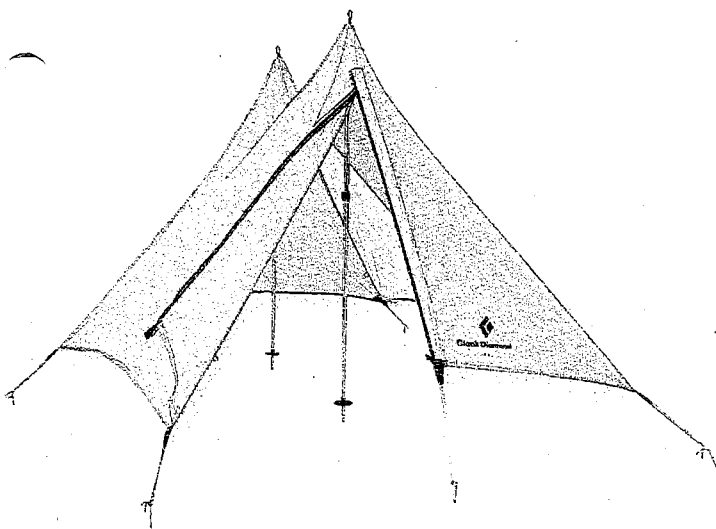
If you really want to get the best  
out of what you carry with you,  
then move up to **Black Diamond**, exclusive to **Paddy Pallin**.



**Black Diamond Moonlight Headtorch:** Constantly frustrated with replacing your torch battery? Then the Moonlight is for you. With 4 ultra bright, energy efficient LED bulbs, it provides 70 hours of constant light. It weighs a mere 90g (without batteries) so you'll hardly know you're carrying it. Ideal for night walking, cooking and reading.



**Black Diamond Contour Trekking Pole:** Trekking poles don't just improve your balance and reduce the strain on your lower limbs; they help re-distribute the load to your upper limbs as well, meaning you can keep going for longer. The Contour, featured, is ideal for comfort over long periods of walking with an ergonomic 15 degree correction angle in the upper shaft and soft dual density hand grip. It also features a unique NEW adjustment system, making these the most easily adjusted poles on the market.



**Black Diamond Betamid Tent:** When you want to go ultra-light or you need extra storage space, the Betamid has you covered. This compact, floorless tent will go anywhere and pitches using a pair of trekking poles! Weighing in at a fraction over 1kg, it sleeps two and stands strong against the elements. (Optional, detachable tub floor is also available.)

**Store locations:** Sydney: 507 Kent Street • Miranda: 527 Kingsway • Parramatta: 74 Macquarie Street • Katoomba: 166 Katoomba Street

Also in Canberra and Jindabyne

Website: [www.paddypallin.com.au](http://www.paddypallin.com.au)

Mail order: 1800 805 398

A stylized, handwritten signature of "Paddy Pallin" in white script on a black background.