



ALAN P. RICHY

THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER



JUNE 2007



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JUNE 2007
Issue No. 871

THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER

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THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER

is the monthly bulletin of matters of interest to members of:

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About Our Club

The Sydney Bush Walkers 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 Program (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 The Snowy Mountains, the Warrumbungles as well as interstate ie Victorian alps.

Our meetings start at 8pm and are held on Wednesday evenings (see Social Program) at Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, 16 Fitzroy Street, Kirribilli (near Milsons Point Railway Station).

Visitors and prospective members are welcome

www.sbw.org.au

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President's Report

by David Trinder

By now you should have received the Winter Walks Program and Social Program in hard copy. The soft copies have not yet been sent due to new difficulties in sending mass emails. We are addressing this problem.

In the past leaders have been sending their Walk Activity Reports and their Walk Attendance Forms to Ron Watters for club records, who in turn forwarded the reports to Barry Wallace for mention in his monthly Walks Notes articles.

In an attempt to streamline this process leaders are now being asked to:

- email their Walk Activity Reports directly to Barry Wallace for inclusion in the magazine, and
- email a list of the names of walkers and the performance of prospective members to Ron Watters for club records

The committee is reviewing risk management guidelines with regard to some of the more risky activities such as kayaking and abseiling. We would like to reduce the risk of members being hurt.

We are also looking at enhancing the conversion rate of prospective members to full membership. Our aim is to assist them through the process.

New members contribute to the life of the club in many ways; their vibrant enthusiasm and infectious excitement is palpable. They remind other members of their initial love of the bush. We need to encourage them and help them become competent.

The Club's Eightieth Anniversary is nearly upon us and we look to celebrate this occasion with a number of events.

On Sunday, October 21 there will be a **Big Picnic** at Manly Dam, with a leisurely walk around the Dam (optional) to be followed by a spit roast.

On Wednesday, October 24 there will be a club room event at which there will be a **Cake Cutting Ceremony**.

On the weekend of October 27/28 the **Eighty Years Reunion** will be held at Coolana.

And on Saturday, November 3 the **President's Anniversary Walk** will be held.

We invite you all to come along to these social celebrations and help ensure that the club's 'Eightieth' anniversary becomes an occasion to remember.

David Trinder

New Member's Notes

by Jodie Dixon

New Member's Secretary

Joining the club at the Prospective members evening this month was Sharon Bousfield, Gerard and Toni Hackwell and David Jordan please make them feel welcome.

There has been much talk about the number of Prospective members who go on to become full members. The talk has largely centred around what we can do as a club to help our Prospective members through the qualifying process. There are already a few people very giving of their time in support of our new members, people such as Ron Watters, Bill Holland, Patrick James, Don Finch and Peter Love. I am very grateful for their continued help.

We presently offer support in the form of training evenings at the club rooms, the Coolana training weekends and easier walks designed to give Prospective members a chance to get used to walking with an overnight pack. I am wondering what else we could do to offer support, training and encouragement to the very keen but perhaps inexperienced people who choose to join our club.

So I am asking for suggestions from our Prospective members and our full members in regard to what, we as a club, could do to further help with the qualifying process.

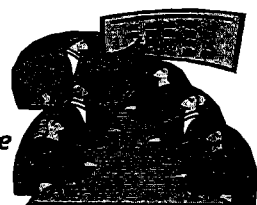
I would love to hear your suggestions, just send me a message to newmembers@sbw.org.au. Suggestions of sherpas and pack mules probably won't be taken seriously, but you can give it a go.

Happy Walking

Jodie Dixon

From The Committee Room June 2007

*A report of proceedings at the
Committee meeting 6th June 2007.*



- Matters arising from the previous meeting included; discussion on the "Walk Notes" appearing in the Club magazine and a resolution to update this report to more recent walks; discussion on abseiling training and formation of a sub-committee to review the Club constitution.
- Letters had been received from Warwick Blayden on the membership list and from Australia Post re signatures for mail collection.
- Letters had been sent to Neil Schaffer regretting his resignation from the Club and seeking permission to print his resignation letter in the club magazine.
- The President reported on the progress in putting together position descriptions for Committee members.
- Following a query from Confederation it was agreed that SBW does have risk management procedures in place and our insurance return has been updated accordingly.
- The Treasurer's Report was accepted and included the following accounts for payment: magazine postage \$458; social expenses \$137 and hall rental \$470.
- The Honorary Solicitor's comments on risk management was noted and the Walks Secretary will draft specific waivers for special activities for consideration at the next meeting.
- He also commented on Warwick Blayden's letter and indicated that SBW meets the criteria for exemption from the requirements of the Privacy Act.
- Arrangements for the coming Mid winter Feast on 20th June was discussed. This led to discussion on difficulties in sending reminder notices to members when ISPs are blocking large distribution lists.
- Membership matters included a resolution that Paul Barton be admitted to full membership of the club. There was also discussion of conversion of prospective members to full membership.
- In the absence of the Conservation Secretary the President had attended the last NPWS/NPA meeting and will attend the next on behalf of the club.
- It was reported that shooters' access to some forestry tracks has been withdrawn due to illegal hunting activity.
- Our Confederation Delegate reported that the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Splendour Rock had been well attended and that Confederation is encouraging volunteer work with NPWS.
- Work is to commence on updating the Club website and the Electronic Sub-committee will investigate the problem of mass mail-outs.
- The Committee considered and approved upgrading of some recent walks to qualifying (Q) status.

COOLANA REPORT - March 2007

Gretel Woodward

We had a great team for our May bushcare weekend, which turned out to be a great boys weekend of search and destroy tactics used on lots of the old wattles which have long passed their use by date as a shade tree but just wonderful for cutting down and building very impressive bon fires.

The team consisted of Don Finch, Paul Kerrigan, Rick Angel, Philip Worledge, Tony Manes, Chris Miller, Gemma Gagne, who were all mainly involved in the collecting and burning of excess timber and then there was Mae, Ros Kerrigan and me who were doing the passive work of weeding and planting trees. Gemma had been at Coolana all week, Don, Paul, Ros and Gretel arrived Thursday, Tony on Friday and the rest on Saturday, with a short visit on Sunday by George Gray.

The fire lighting and building persons worked as a team, Don on the chain saw, followed up mainly by Paul, Tony, Chris (who also did some mowing), Gemma and part of the time Rick and Philip who collected fallen branches, logs cut up by Dons chainsaw, built the most beautiful bon fires, set them alight (I think there were 11 separate fires) and they burnt for days. The old house slope was cleared, the shed and toilet slope was cleared, part of the camping flat was cleared and a couple of the worst spots on the Eastern flat were also set alight. There are still a lot of old wattles but these can only be done as they fall and will take quite a few years yet for them to be eliminated, however there are now lots more camping spots available after the tremendous effort that was made this weekend to clear as much as possible. Gemma and Tony stayed on the Sunday night to make sure all the fires were out before Coolana was returned to its normal tranquil state. We have to specially thank Gemma for spending so much time at Coolana doing general maintenance which does get neglected due to everyone leading such busy lives these days.

Ros and I were helped part of the time on the Eastern flat by Rick and Philip who carried over the star pickets, tree surrounds, water and cleared the tracks for us on the Eastern flat so we could plant White Cedars and Lomandras grown by Ros and most of the Casuarinas grown by me. As usual we ran out of time and have had to hold over some trees until next time, however

I am not sure of the exact number we managed to plant but it would have been at least 50. We will count them next time.

Another job that we didn't have time to finish was the scattering of the Kangaroo grass, Wallaby grass and Microlaena grass which we have in the shed and has to be done this winter.

We have had a bit of a set back on the Eastern flat, Tony spotted over 20 (what he called Euros)* on the Eastern flat on Friday night which explains why 5 of

our largest, healthiest trees had their tops chewed off, however four of the trees are shooting again, one is looking decidedly poorly, however they all have a chance of recovering. Our 2006 planting is now down to 95% and all our 2007 planting is doing exceptionally well at this stage except for the aforementioned 5 chewed trees.

We had some minor vandalism over Easter and I think I need to remind our members again of how fortunate we are to own a special place which enables us to visit at any time we like, to get away from

the unnatural life we all lead these days and spend time enjoying the beauty and serenity of Coolana. Personally I just love the sound of a Wombat chomping away just outside my tent at night when I am at Coolana. Having said that I was not too pleased with the Possum who chomped through my Chinese suitcase and ate my breakfasts last weekend, my fault entirely I should not have left the bag outside my tent. I digress, it is also important that the property gets used as much as possible by the members as a deterrent to anyone determined to cause mischief.

Coolana is looking particularly beautiful at the moment just visit and enjoy but it would be nice if visitors could please sign the book in the three sided shed just so we know that the facilities are being used from time to time. One thing you should not do is play with the water system unless you know exactly what to do, last weekend it was stuffed again and had to be fixed by Paul.

** Couldn't find any reference to a Euro on Google only Kangaroos (large macropods), Wallabies and Wallaroos (smaller macropods). Please explain.*



SBW 80TH ANNIVERSARY

This historic occasion will be celebrated with a number of events, designed to suit all members, young, not-so-young, new and prospective.

It's a time for all of us to reflect on the history and great achievements of our wonderful club so we hope to see as many members as possible at each event, with a particular invitation to our new and prospective members. More details will follow but, at this stage, please ink in the following dates:

SUNDAY 21st October

Walk around Manly Dam (optional)

followed by spit roast lunch with free champagne

WEDNESDAY 24TH October

Clubroom event, including birthday cake

SAT/SUN 27/28 October

Coolana 80 years reunion

SATURDAY 3rd November

President's anniversary walk

Cost of the catered spit roast lunch will be \$20 adults (\$10 children). Vegetarians will also be lavishly catered for.

We have reserved an idyllic picnic spot on the banks of Manly Dam, with beautiful natural features, including masses of native birds. Let's keep the club spirit alive and make these celebrations memorable.

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AN UPDATE FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP LIST

Would you please add the following new members to your list and make them feel welcome when you meet them on a walk.

Richard Maneschi

11b Owen St

Willoughby 2067

Phone: 9411 6593

Michael Bradburn

4/83 Birriga Road

Bellevue Hill 2023

Phone: 9365 7076

Paul Barton

25/80-82 Pacific Parade

Dee Why 2099

Phone: 9981 2647

also a reminder - if you have any changes to your contact details, please let me know.

Fran Holland

CONSERVATION NOTES

For those interested in conservation the Colong Bulletin provides a wealth of information. I look forward to receiving my copy and this month I would like to mention some of the items in the Bulletin's May issue.

In an article "The Leaking catchment" Alex Colley comments on long wall mining and the damage to the catchment caused surface fractures. The metropolitan water supply can ill afford this loss of water. Keith Muir writes of Blue Mountains City Council's draft strategy to allow residential development to proceed ahead of reticulated sewage services - a strategy that would see untreated sewage escaping into drinking water catchments. He also covers the "Helicopter Menace" from a resubmitted application for joy flights over the Gardens of Stone National Park.

"Grazing, Blazing and Science" is an opinion article by Phil Ingamells as part of the debate on allowing grazing in alpine areas. He refers to real science showing that cattle grazing did not reduce the intensity of the 2003 fires in the alpine area.

Of particular interest to bushwalkers is a report in the Bulletin on the declaration of the Mummel Gulf Wilderness (11,736 hectares) and North Ettrema ((8,930 hectares) as additions to our wilderness areas. The North Ettrema area includes Yarrunga creek valley and the plateau between Bundanoon and Sandy Creek.

Steve Kidd from Katoomba asks "where have all the native animals gone?" and talks of the early settlement days and the effect shooting parties had on native wildlife - a slaughter that continues today except the motor car has replaced the shooters.

Yes, the Colong Bulletin is a worthwhile read and is available to members of Colong Foundation's For Wilderness Ltd.

Finally, I would like to thank President David Trinder for attending the NPWS/NPA meeting in late April during my absence. These meetings are very worthwhile and SBW is fortunate to be invited to attend.

Bill Holland

ENVIRONMENT NEWS AND COMMENTS

Authorities investigate Gwydir Wetlands clearing

The New South Wales and federal governments are investigating the clearing of part of a crucial wetland recognised for its huge array of waterbirds. The Gwydir wetlands in north-western NSW are an internationally recognised breeding and nesting site for a huge colony of waterbirds, including the ibis and the egret. But about 750 hectares has been cleared by a local landholder. **ABC 20/5/07**

Critics are out of touch

Former NSW Environment Minister Bob Debus has accused the environmental movement of being 'out of touch with reality' in their opposition to the Emirates Resort planned for the Wolgan Valley. "Their objections are just not reasonable in the real world," Mr Debus said. He was commenting on objections to aspects of the Emirates development raised in the past week by prominent enviro groups, the Colong Foundation and the National Parks Association.

At issue is the plan by Emirates for a land swap where more than 114 hectares of forested land owned by Emirates will be exchanged for a lease of 39.5 hectares of National Parks land that has been degraded by years of cattle grazing. **Lithgow Mercury**

Illegal hunting closes trail

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have reported more evidence of illegal hunting adjacent to the South East Forests National Park. As a result an access trail through the park to an area of leasehold land in neighbouring State Forests will be permanently closed. The NPWS is working with the leaseholder to prevent further public access onto land he is currently leasing from the Department of Primary Industries to graze cattle at Kilarney Swamp 15 kilometres east of Bombala. **22 May 2007 Bombala Times**

Illegal hunters warned of national park penalties

There is a warning to illegal hunters today that they will face stiff penalties if they are caught shooting in south-east NSW national parks.

The move comes after reports of indiscriminate shooting of native animals and vandalism in reserves north-east of Bombala. The service's regional manager, Franz Peters, says the incidents have been on the rise since some state forests have been opened to licensed hunters to cull feral animals. **ABC May 2007**

No carbon trade deal from APEC

THE world's biggest grouping of energy-consuming countries has failed to move towards developing a universal emissions trading system. At the APEC energy ministers' meeting in Darwin yesterday, only New Zealand's David Parker spoke in favour of emissions trading systems that would set a price for carbon and give some certainty to companies investing in emissions abatement technologies.

But there was some progress on an informal proposal that the 21 APEC members develop a collaborative agreement on research into emissions abatement technologies that could be announced by Prime Minister John Howard at the APEC leaders' summit in Sydney in September. This would promote the APEC view that climate change can be ameliorated by technology rather than by mandatory caps on emissions. It would also allow Mr Howard to say that APEC 2007 was achieving progress on energy sustainability and energy security, two key areas of concern among its membership.

Tentative moves to have APEC consider emissions trading schemes at the Darwin meeting were scuttled by US deputy energy secretary Clay Sell, who made it clear they were not on the Bush administration's agenda. **Nigel Wilson, Energy writer**

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WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE NO MAP, NO COMPASS

As a responsible bushwalker with SBW you will have undergone training in map reading and navigation and will have been advised of the merits of taking your own map and compass. However, it is always handy to be prepared in the event of a mishap (you could lose your pack with your compass and GPS) and the following information may be of assistance:

Finding North with a watch

- Hold your watch flat in your hand, face upwards. Point 12 o'clock towards the sun.
- Find the halfway point between 12 o'clock and the hour hand on your watch.
- In the southern hemisphere, the halfway point will be due north.

Finding North with a stick

- Put the vertical stick into the ground as straight as you can. Note where the end of its shadow falls and mark its position with something.
- Wait for about half an hour and mark where the shadow has moved to.
- Draw a straight line between the two markers and it will run directly west to east.
- Bisect it with another straight line at right angles, and that will run north to south.

** The real problem with this method is finding a vertical stick. Most sticks lying on the ground are horizontal.*

DIGITAL WATCH?

It doesn't matter if your watch has no hands. Get a page from your notepad and draw a clock face. Fill in the numbers, then draw the hour hand on the paper (or in your head, then you can re-use it whenever you need to). North is the midway point between 12 o'clock and the hour hand.

HIGH NOON

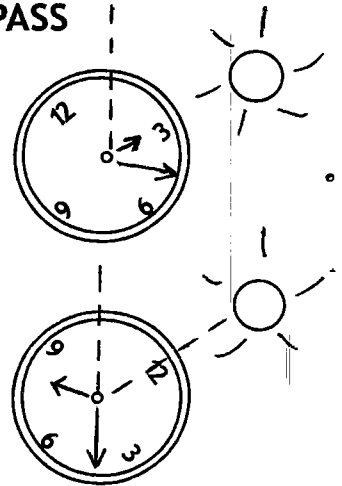
Here's a quick way to find north. If you put a straight stick in the ground at 12:00 noon, the shadow will point south in the southern hemisphere and north in the northern hemisphere.

Note:

None of the above are bullet-proof ways to find north. However, if two or more of these techniques indicate that north is in the same direction, you can have more confidence in them.

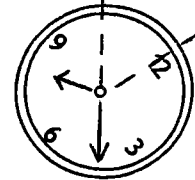
Northern Hemisphere

Once you've pointed the hour hand at the sun, you'll find due south between it and 12 o'clock.



Southern Hemisphere

Make sure that 12 o'clock is pointing at the sun and then find the point midway between it and the hour hand - that will point north.



Finding North in Other Ways

- Moss almost always grows on the south side of trees, rocks and boulders
- Clouds generally go west to east - but you can't rely on it
- Trees grow thicker and more lushly on their sunny, north-facing sides and more sparsely on the south. You can judge this by looking up at the trees, but it's an inexact way to find north.
- Ants are most likely to set up colonies that get regular sunshine. Since the northern side of a tree or a rock or any other natural features receives more sunshine, the ants make for that.

THE S.T.O.P. PRINCIPLE

There are different kinds of lost. The first kind is where you're only lost temporarily, for a few minutes or even hours, before you get your bearings again. Then there's the other kind of lost, which is a bit more tricky. The best chance of making sure you only ever experience the first kind is to admit you're lost early on and then apply the STOP principle.

Sit. Stop what you are doing. Don't walk any further. Admit that you're lost.

Think about the last time you can remember when you knew your location. If it's close by or you're confident that you can backtrack there, then head for that spot. Otherwise stay where you are.

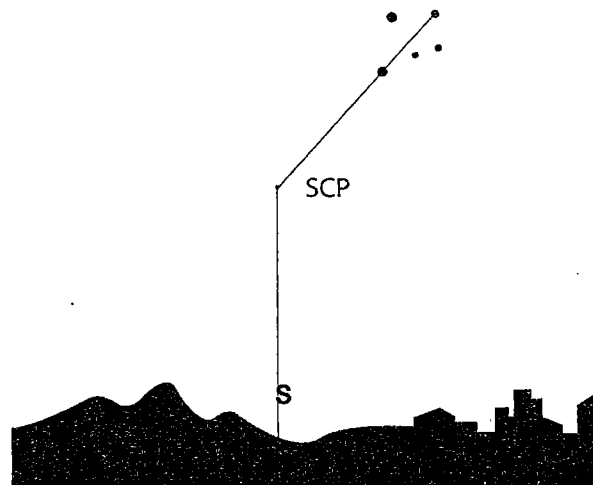
Observe. Look around. Get your map and compass out, check your notepad for the written record of the trip so far, and see if you can work out where you are. If there's higher ground nearby (only if it is close by), go up and take a look. You may be able to find yourself.

Plan. If you're definitely lost, you can't backtrack, and there's no obvious way to find out where you are, stay calm. The best plans are made by calm people.

What to do

To find South:

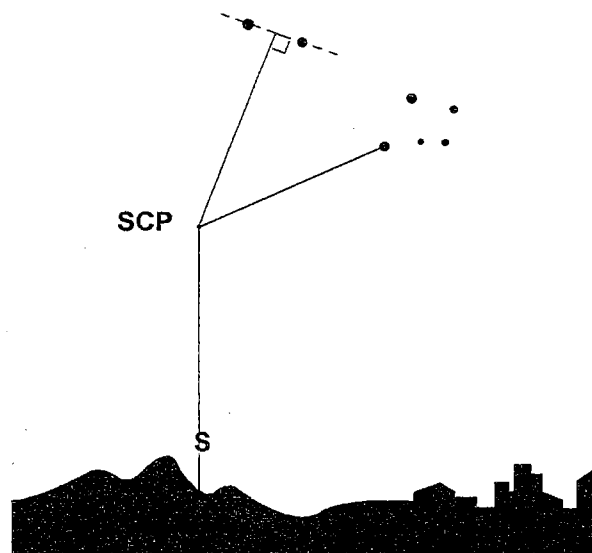
- 1 Find the Southern Cross.
- 2 Draw an imaginary line through the long axis of the Southern Cross beginning with the star that marks the top of the cross (note: during summer the Southern Cross is low in the sky and therefore upside-down).
- 3 Extend the line four and a half times the length of the cross.
- 4 This will bring you to the point in the sky called the South Celestial Pole.
- 5 From this point, drop a line vertically down to the horizon. This gives you the direction of true South. (Compasses find magnetic north/south, not True North/South, so a compass will measure magnetic south to be 11 degrees west of True South in Victoria.)



Alternative method of finding South:

This method involves using the two bright Pointer stars - Alpha Centauri and Beta-Centauri - that lie near the Southern Cross in the constellation of Centaurus.

- After step 2 above, draw a perpendicular bisector between the two Pointers, that is, a line starting at the mid-point between the two Pointers and coming out at right angles. This line should cross the line you drew in step 2.
- The intersection of these two lines is close to the South Celestial Pole.



TRACKS & ACCESS REPORT - March/April 2007

Wilf Hilder

BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK. I have been asked to identify the photograph on the front cover of Dianne Johnson's "Sacred Waters - the story of the Blue Mountains Gully Traditional Owners" Halsted Press 2007. After initial investigation when the book was published earlier this year, I have now studied the photograph and the Bimlow 1:25,000 topographic map. The sandy peninsula in the centre of the photo has a rocky crown near its point.

This crown of Megalong conglomerate used to be a regular feature (but very brief) on T.V. reports of Warragamba dam levels showing parts of the dwindling lake and were taken from a helicopter. Most of the peninsula is under water at maximum dam level (117 metres) and is shown as an island on the Bimlow map at 595 419 and named KERSWELL POINT after 19th Century lower Cox River Valley pioneers George and William Kerswell and 2km magnetic east of Kerswell Hill.

Thanks to bushwalking historian Jim Barrett for the historical information. The highest rocky hill on the end of the Bimlow Tableland - the prominent wooded ridge across Greenwattle Arm - is therefore Junction Hill. The photo was taken from the historic MacMahons Lookout some 500 metres south of the name on the map. The lack of sharpness in the photo is undoubtedly due to it having been taken with a telephoto lens camera.

MEDLOW GAP. Some time in the early 1930's Walter Tarro - Duke of Clear Hill - a sign writer by trade - constructed what must have been the most ingenious bushwalking sign I have ever heard of - a metal silhouette of a dog on his haunches with one paw pointing to its right. After painting it black he carried it out along Narrowneck and nailed it to a tree at the junction of the Black Dog Track - the traditional Gundungurra trade route - and the track running over Debert's Knob (I meant Mt. Debert). The black dog sign with one paw pointing to the right (east) showed the route to Black Dog Ridge and soon became a famous landmark until destroyed by the January 1939 bushfires. To date I have not seen a photograph or know of any other bushwalker who has seen a photo of this famous bushwalkers landmark. Given Tarro's very limited navigation skills he probably needed the sign for his own benefit - unkind you could say, but true.

Another famous bushwalkers landmark in the 1950's and 60's was the NO RIGHT TURN sign on the pole of Sawtooth Trig Station on MOUNT CLOUDMAKER. Yes

Sawtooth Mountain was the name given to the mountain by stockmen long before Myles Dunphy named it Cloudmaker.

WILD DOG MOUNTAINS. Speaking of Myles Dunphy place name changes I note that you won't find Purple Dog on Dunphys Gangerang map because it was changed to Blackhorse Ridge, which was presumably an old local name. This change was not made until after World War 2, probably when Myles overhauled his Cox River Valley names and created many new Aboriginal names for his new Gangerang map See also "Day Walks in Therabulat Country" by well known bushwalker, Michael Keats, self published 2006 page 155. Nortons Gully named after the Megalong pioneer family, was transferred to the next tributary upstream and Myles renamed it, Carlons Creek. See Jim Barrett's Place Names of the Blue Mountains and Burraborang Valley 1994 self published page 35. See also Michael Keats - doyen of the Wild Dogs - "Day Walks in Therabulat Country" pages 172 - 173. Obviously those who object to the main watershed of the Wild Dog Ranges from Yellow Pup Point to the Blue Mountains Range being named "Peter O'Reillys Range" have very selective memories when it comes to place name changes in the Cox's River Valley. It is important that this well known watershed have an historic place name.

TASMANIA. David Springthorpe (CMW) reports that the fee for using the Overland Track in Tasmania will rise from \$100 to \$150 for the next summer season - bookings open from Monday 1st July. Obviously the Van Diemens Landers (Tasmanians to us) have found out that there's gold to be got from us Mainlanders.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS ON CD. I often get asked about the CD set of topographic maps of all NSW issued by the Land & Property Information section of the Lands Department - cost \$275-00. Walkers hope to print out copies of the relevant parts of maps for bushwalks. Firstly I hope your printer has waterproof/damp proof inks in it, as mine hasn't. Secondly only the old editions of the topographic maps are on CD. The new edition maps on the new grid system are not on the CD's because they can't be joined to the old maps. So until all the old topos are replaced by New edition maps - many years away I believe - the CD's will continue to be out of date by at least 20 years.



FRENCH LANGUAGE WALK - MAY 27 2007

Richard Maneschi

Patrick James successfully led Alan Sauran, Carol Werner, Danny Moss, Judith Nataf, Judy Casey, Richard Maneschi, Ruby Gamble, Ruedetti Werner, Sali, Suzanne Aubrun (skilled in simultaneous walking and needlecraft), and Tom Moss on a 10k coastal walk from Maroubra to La Perouse.

The theme was a French language walk. Once the walk started the unachieved objective was to speak French for the entire journey. There were zero injuries, whales and dolphins were seen, and a dog was assisted. We formed our circle outside the Maroubra surf club, under the alert eyes of the lifesavers. Patrick welcomed everyone and requested that we not walk too fast, or we'd arrive at La Perouse before morning tea.

We started off keenly, speaking a lot of French as we walked south along the beach, over rocks and into the bush beside an ancient sandstone wall. Through a gap in the wall we walked to a track which led to Magic Point, Maroubra Beach's southern headland.

With cliff risk management in mind, Patrick warned us to stay one body length away from the cliff edge. While Patrick was giving the safety advice I spotted dolphins in the sea below. I decided not to interrupt Patrick's important speech, however when I saw WHALES I shouted "REGARDEZ LES WHALES!" We saw the black curved back and fins of the leviathans.

After morning tea (thank you Alan for the chocolate pastry), we walked south. At Long Bay we saw a dog swimming, wagging his tail, and barking seal-like at the gulls and cormorants. We then saw the dog swimming out to sea. Patrick called out to the dog, which then swam back to shore.

As we walked along the coast, less French was being spoken. We bush bashed through four golf courses; Patrick advised us about golf course risk management, walking safety and etiquette. We had lunch at a scenic cliff top at Randwick golf course. Thank you Alan for sharing a bottle of red wine! Encountering the MINMI shipwreck, Patrick read his research of this remarkable ship which wrecked here many years ago. At beautiful Congwong beach, there was a family speaking French, unlike us.

We arrived at La Perouse. Patrick showed us a famous tomb: Pere Receveur (1822) - who was chaplain and scientist of the French expedition led by La Comte de la Perouse. The explorers arrived in Botany Bay on January 26, 1788, in French ships La Boussole and L'Astrolabe, and landed on the northern side at La Perouse (named in his honour). La Perouse found most of the First Fleet anchored in Botany Bay.

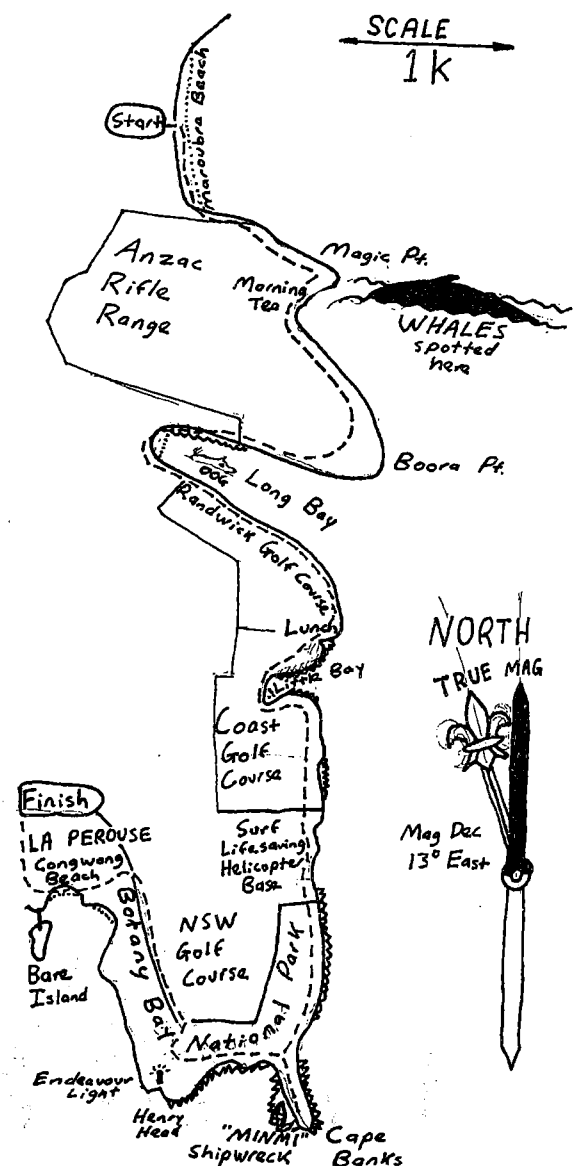
We saw the snakeman and his snakes, had an icecream and caught the L94 bus back to Maroubra.

Patrick said that La Perouse was a bit of a tourist trap, and that Sydney's entire Eastern Suburbs were a tourist trap.

Merci Patrick for a fun and interesting tour! We feel proud to be in the great SBW.

Richard Maneschi was born in the USA, and has lived in Belgium and Canberra, where he explored the outback ACT. After moving to Sydney he joined the Port Jackson Sea Scouts and SBW. This is his first article for The Sydney Bushwalker.

La Promenade Française Pentecost Sunday, May 27 2007



AN INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND AT COOLANA

Sharon Bond

All new members of SBW hear about Coolana upon joining but the value of this jewel in the hinterland of the NSW South Coast cannot be fully appreciated without a visit.

On Saturday 19 May, seven recently joined prospective members travelled to Coolana eager to learn about bushwalking, first aid and navigation and to get some tips on packing and camping for walking. Our leaders for the weekend were Bill Holland and Patrick James who were ably supported by Rick Angel.

Saturday morning was filled with travelling, unpacking, meeting, erecting tents, admiring the view and we managed to squeeze in some instruction from Patrick on first aid and navigation instruction from both Patrick and Bill before lunch. The fire was started so we could enjoy a cup of billy tea with our home made sandwiches. After lunch we began our navigation instruction. Regardless of your previous knowledge of first aid and navigation anyone can benefit from these sessions, Bill and Patrick are happy (and indeed expect) to instruct complete novices so no previous experience is necessary, which was great news for our little group. After all this sitting and eating we were ready for a walk. Mid afternoon we set off on a 90 minute exploration of an area of Coolana and the neighbouring property. The weather was absolutely perfect, sunny and warm, just enough heat in the sun for us to be comfortable but the enervating effects experienced in summer were long gone.

As any new member of SBW quickly learns, happy hour is an essential part of a walking day. As the sun was disappearing for the day we all gathered around the campfire once again to crack open some bottles of red, munch on shared nibbles and discuss the learnings

of the day. Happy hour seemed to flow seamlessly into dinner which was indicated by the appearance of many bright, shining new billies looking for a good spot to settle among the embers. Over dinner there was much enquiring and discussion about camping food, equipment and experiences. It was only after this discussion dwindled out that a couple of song books appeared and we were introduced to the bonding experience of singing around the camp fire.

The next morning heralded another beautiful day in the valley. Yes, we had certainly been blessed with the best of the autumn weather. Following breakfast which was had congregating around another cooking camp fire, which also helped to combat the slight autumn chill, we started with gear (tents, packs, clothing) explanation then resumed first aid class followed by more navigation tutoring before heading off for a two hour walk to see another part of Coolana. This walk introduced us to rock scrambling as we scrambled our way to the high point that is Dot Butler Lookout. From the lookout we were able to practice our navigation with maps spread out on the rocks and compasses in hand. In the afternoon we did a trial navigation test, to check what we'd learnt, before packing up our tents and reluctantly leaving Coolana. Another SBW tradition is to stop along the road home to have one final debrief over food and beverage, so our group of 10 lobbed into the Kangaroo Valley Fudge Shop just before closing to enjoy an ice cream or milkshake together before heading home. Yum!

A few other impressive points to note: The wombats. Watch out for the many wombat holes across the property, especially on the river flats but these are a small price to pay for the joy of seeing these big boofy creatures in the wild. The much talked about new toilet



looks very impressive and a bit of an oasis in the wilderness, if this is what you are looking for, unfortunately we were a little early to see it fully operational although I am assured this day is not far off. Maintenance - 60 wild hectares can take care of itself but if this was allowed not much of Coolana would be accessible for member enjoyment. To enable and encourage regular use of Coolana, maintenance is performed by members on scheduled weekends per month. These are advertised in the newsletter and would be another great way to see Coolana and meet other members. However, members are not limited to organized maintenance weekends to help care for Coolana. It was my good fortune during the introductory weekend to meet Gemma, a long standing member who now lives in Queensland but on her trips to NSW she loves to spend some time at Coolana weeding the area in front of the shed to ensure continued access to the river flats. I appreciated the opportunity to spend some time with Gemma and learn of her appreciation for Coolana and the legacy of older members who taught Gemma which plants to value and which were weeds to be purged. And when Rick, Bill and Patrick were not involved in tutoring or leading walks they were engaged in mowing, trimming or maintenance on the water system. A dedicated bunch indeed.

This introductory weekend was my first SBW event and as such I highly recommend it to other new members. Coolana is beautiful and an absolute treasure and a privilege to enjoy it as a member of SBW. Bill and Patrick share their passion for all aspects of bushwalking and it's a great way to meet other members of the Club. Thanks to the other prospective SBW members who made my first SBW event at Coolana on the weekend of 19 - 20 May a very enjoyable one, look forward to seeing you on a track again soon.



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WALKS NOTES *Barry Wallace*

Walks notes covering the interval 7 October 2006 to 1 November 2006.

Due to time pressure last month, **Richard Darke's qualifying tour of the locations named after Norse Gods, out from Victoria Falls Road on Saturday 7 October, leads this month's narrative.** The 16 valiant explorers and dreamers who turned out for the fray kept a sharp lookout in case the blond Viking Valkyries, who legend has it carried off warriors killed in far-off battles to the Norse heaven (Valhalla), should be on the prowl. Richard says that while they did not encounter any of these lithe, lissom lasses they did, in their search, visit Iikara Head for morning tea, and had a pleasant lunch in the sun on Valhalla Head. After lunch it was on via Thor Head and the abandoned Asgard coal/shale? mine to Asgard Head where afternoon tea was enjoyed. Despite the massive defending ramparts below Asgard Head a subtle serpent, in the person of a rather large red-bellied black snake, managed to slither among the resting party. Richard provides quite a lot of detail about the various gods and their practises but on this particular day Thor produced no thunder or evidence of extra marital dalliance; possibly he was asleep. They did however enjoy a particularly warm day for October, tempered the while with a pleasant breeze. The manifest skills of the various navigators and trainee navigators, poring over the maps and compasses eventually guided the party safely to the Ivanhoe pub in Blackheath. I take it from that it is no longer called the New Ivanhoe. Some people just lack persistence. Richard notes that on his next foray into this area, the wearing of Viking helmets to protect walkers from possible encounter with Thor and his mates will be compulsory.

The weekend of 14, 15 October saw Don Finch out in the Boyd Crossing area with a party of 8 for a navigation instructional walk. The weekend was pleasant, with the prospectives showing a keen interest in the navigation that was constantly conducted over the weekend. Bushwalking food and gear was also discussed in some detail over the weekend. All 5 prospectives passed the basic mapping knowledge test to qualify for membership, with 2 in particular showing significant aptitude. **Mark Patteson led a Saturday walk from Mount York picnic grounds to Hartley Vale that weekend with a party of 9.** The very warm conditions were moderated by a nice breeze and the group enjoyed a pleasant day, ending up at the Mount Victoria pub before heading back to Sydney. Mark observes that the countryside thereabouts is tinder dry.

David and Maureen Carter had chosen the off-centre weekend of 21 to 23 October to lead a walk in Morton National Park out from Little Forest car-park

to base camp for a couple of nights in a luxury overhang. The party of 9 enjoyed the walk in through spring flowers and just a touch of thick scrub. Even the scrub was made bearable by the scent of the hakea in full flower and the glimpses of the delightful flag iris hiding in the grasses. A long lunch at the cave, followed by a sprint to the top of Pigeon House and back before dark filled in the rest of Saturday. Sunday dawned fine and sunny. The party, ably led by a consortium of navigators, accomplished the descent into Pigeon House Gorge safely and were then challenged by the route finding required to ascend the Eastern side of the gorge back to Wombat Fire Trail. On arrival back at the sheltering overhang dinner extended from 1530h into the night whilst the party assisted in reducing the port ballast for one member's pack. Monday was another good day with the birds providing wake-up music as they feasted on the nearby blossoms. The short walk back to the cars was accomplished without the use of a rope for the ascent of Rusden Head. What a group of champions says Maureen. **Chris Dowling was out that weekend also, with a party of 10 on his Sunday walk from Pulpit Rock to Perrys Lookdown.** The day was cool and cloudy but fine with no dramas for the party. Abundant Waratahs and other wild-flowers were a feature of the walk throughout. It seems an interpretive sign has been erected in Bluegum Forest at the bottom of the track from Perrys which mentions the role of SBW in the purchase and conservation of the land. No mention of powder monkeys one trusts.

The weekend of 21, 22 October was appointed the time for Ron Watters' Sunday walk in Budderoo National Park. The party of 15 got away at around 0930 after setting up the necessary car shuffle and descended a hole to the cliff base that is described as definitely not for the rotund. The boulder climb to the base of Gerringong Falls was strenuous, taking an hour for the 500 metres. It was all worth it as the party admired the falls from in front, and behind per courtesy of a conveniently located overhang. There was a good almost rectangular pool as well, deep and around 25 metres by 10 metres. It was cold too, so no-one went for a dip. They even moved off downstream to the cascade to avoid the blowing spray and have lunch in the sun. The boulder field was relentless, with the huge boulders offering no let-up until they arrived at Pensons Falls at around 1640. Here they climbed to traverse along the 300 m contour, make the most of the remaining light and arrive at the cliff base in rapidly fading light. A break in the cliff, not evident on the map enabled them to arrive at the top as darkness overtook them. Maurice then delivered some outstanding torch-light navigation to take then across the plateau directly to the cars. Alas it was takeaway chicken in the park at Mittagong to round off a challenging day enjoyed by all.

The following weekend Maurice, he of the torch-light navigation led a party of undisclosed strength on his overnight introductory walk out from Yalwal to Diggers Flat on Danjera Creek and back. Overnight conditions were quite cold with water freezing in the billys. There were numerous side trips and all-in-all it was a very relaxed weekend. Kathy Gero led a party of 9 on trip from Cowan to Mount Kuring-gai on the Saturday of that weekend. Conditions were sunny with a cooling breeze taking the edge off the temperature. Some of the members even braved the waters at afternoon tea along the Lyrebird Track. They arrived at the end ahead of expectations but managed to while away the time sorting out some misalignment of cars, keys and people. That's life as Kathy observes.

We will leave it there for now. More next time.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS ?

If you have changed your address or phone number recently, please contact by phone or email:

Members: Fran Holland

email: fernband@bigpond.com

phone: 9484 6636

Prospective members: Jodie Dixon

email: newmembers@sbw.org.au

phone: 9587 6325

This will ensure that our records show your current address and prevent delay in receiving the magazine each month.

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY TRAMPING CLUB 75th Jubilee from Friday 27 July 2007 to Sunday 29 July 2007

On 11 April 1932 Auckland University College Tramping Club was formed, now AUTC.

So now we are 75 and it is time to celebrate our 75th Jubilee. We will begin with a formal dinner on Friday night, 27th July beginning at 7pm in the Engineering School Atrium on Symonds Street, City Campus. This will be fully catered and hopefully attended by about 300 people.

Over the weekend we will also hold a traditional May Camp (May? well until the mid-90s May Camp was held during the May University Vacation but now there is no May Vacation so it is held in July) with special events for graduated members of AUTC on Saturday evening: this will be at Hunua. We will head out to Hunua on Saturday morning for day walks and to continue to catch up with old friends and then have a big dinner and party, true May Camp style, that night. All guests are welcome to stay overnight if they choose.

There will be a Jubilee magazine available, telling some of the great stories from the different generations (such as how Sir Ed Hillary attended the first hut birthday and how a group spent 6 days searching for a hut due to bad weather and were found by a float plane just as their food ran out).

To register and reserve places for various events as well as a copy of the jubilee magazine and a tee shirt, go to the Auckland University Tramping Club web link:

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

Our postal address is AUTC c/- AUSA, Private Bag 92019, Auckland.

Pictures showing the designs on the tee shirts may be found at

MWIRIWE FROM RWANDA! *Susi Prescott*

Dear friends,

Well after 2 weeks here I sit in my bedroom in a round cement floored Rwandan hut writing this with a Mbanza (banana liqueur) at hand while the sounds and smells of a beans and cabbage dinner float in my direction (much yummiier than you may imagine); I hardly know where to begin.

So to start with a trip to the rural Rwandan version of Franklin's this afternoon, to the market of Rusuzemero, two km away, for the week's supplies. Jean de Dieu, 22 year old brother of Christine, without whose vision and hard work none of this would have been possible, is working for 3 months before he goes to University, basically keeping me alive here!! He buys my food, cooks it, collects water 800 m down a slippery goat track and up again, 60 litres at a time (even the tiniest children are sent to fill their little containers and carry them back on their heads). He also sends messages down a mysterious bush telegraph system which (sometimes) result in someone arriving on a motor bike to transport me the 12 bone shattering km to the nearest town of Muganza - and sometimes not!! We Westerners like our independence but here it is simply not possible.

Anyway - back to the market. We walked up hill and down dale 2 km along the mud track, packed hard by thousands of bare feet and rendered treacherous by a slick from this morning's short rain shower. Rwanda is known as 'The Land of a Thousand Hills' (or 'Milles Collines' for those who've seen 'Hotel Rwanda') and all around me here are hills bearing a patchwork of green and brown fields and terraces; banana plantations; mud brick huts and eucalyptus trees! And we thought they were Australia's national tree - they seem to grow all over the world.

The hills have an interesting effect on mobile phone reception - I am now the proud owner if a Rwandan MTN mobile phone, the network of which covers the whole country, providing you can get reception; and there is but one spot; halfway up the hill opposite my house; where I can get reception. I've sent a few messages, but unless you reply immediately; I lose reception as I head down the hill and your message is lost forever in the ether as the MTN network doesn't send reminders about messages left from other networks.

I seem to be continually straying away from my market afternoon. Quite briefly, there was no way I could have got lost as I was followed everywhere by a crowd of hundreds, simply astonished at my odd appearance i.e. my white skin. I'm used to it by now, being the

first white person ever seen by most of the people here. We purchased an entire sack of cabbages, stuffed the backpack full of sweet potatoes and onions; plus bananas and another whole bag of avocados; I couldn't believe we'd eat that much in a week!! J de D and friend lugged it all home while I strolled along not carrying a thing, and then he cooked (some of) it up into a beautiful dinner. I am very lucky to have such wonderful help but it's not as if I can pop down to Franklins if I've forgotten something!!

Having such good help means that I can concentrate on the task at hand - which is to train the teachers at the Rugerero school - and others in the area - for the need is desperate and every teacher I meet begs me to come to his/her school; Rugerero is about 2 and a half km uphill from my house and each day I set out at 7:30 (with tape recorder in backpack) to start at - (well, around about - after all this is Africa).

My first morning I had the entire school of over 1000 children following me; squealing with delight or fright (I'm not sure which!) if I stopped and turned around. However we have gradually got used to each other; although it will be some time before teachers and students become more comfortable with 'interactive' methods, as opposed to the 'talk and chalk' so firmly entrenched here! There have been memorable moments, however.

Like singing 'Dans mon jardin' in a classroom, filled to bursting with children flapping their hands as rabbit ears and hopping up and down, while dozens of others crowded to peer through the gaps in the half collapsed wall, as the sky got darker and darker until finally the heavens opened - and on and on we sang; drowning out the thunder and rain.

And the beautiful dark faces of Alphonsine and Francine; my two 17 year old star pupils in Year 5, with broad grins showing perfect white teeth, proudly bearing brightly coloured stickers on their foreheads reading 'magnifique' and 'fantastique'; many of the 'children' in Year 6 are at least 18, and those in Years 4 and 5 are between 16 and 18; this is because they lost parents to the genocide and became the heads of their families, missing years of school to look after younger siblings. They are so eager; and so well-behaved - in fact they tend to be very passive; happy to listen and repeat when told to. As a result their standard of French is woeful and their English is even worse! (but how is my Kinyarwanda???) It's been a real challenge to make them understand the concept of groupwork (the only way to manage such enormous class sizes - 100 in YEAR 5) and as for 'self-directed' ????? Once I get one group talking; and move to the

next group, the first group stops and stares - they are completely unused to doing anything on their own without the teacher watching.

We are, however, getting there . . .

I am preparing resource packages using all my old cassettes, worksheets etc; which is also providing some bittersweet reminiscences of over 25 years of teaching . . . I only work half the day at school and spend the other half preparing resources.

Last weekend I travelled 20 km on the back of a motorbike along 'roads' the condition of which defies description to visit a nearby village where I stayed with two delightful young French students (at 20, same age as Lisby) who are doing volunteer agricultural work for three months. They coped so cheerfully with the primitive conditions - it took them 40 minutes to boil a pot of water on their charcoal burner!

There I began to read 'Un Homme Ordinaire', the account upon which 'Hotel Rwanda' was based; Truly riveting reading which revealed the complexity of the situation which led to the genocide. I've been doing a lot of such reading - it's scary to pass people carrying machetes (as they all do where I live) and to reflect on what happened here 14 years ago. However the country seems to have rebuilt at an impressive pace and the atmosphere is one of peace and goodwill so far as I can gather. Each week, however, the 'Gacaca' village courts (the name means 'grass' which is where the villagers sit to hold the tribunals) continue once a week - 12 trained villagers or townsfolk act as judges to hear 100 witnesses at a time and pass judgement on individuals accused of the 'lesser' crimes. They are sentenced to village community work to compensate those they have harmed. Many teachers attend the Gacaca once a week then have to make up the time missed on a Saturday (as well as their students).

Well, time for me to stop. Sorry about this long, long email but, as I found out last week, attachments on hotmail in 3rd World countries don't always work!!

Hope you are all well,
Lots of love to you all,

Susi



REMINISCENCES BY NEIL SCHAFER

This year SBW and I have something in common. We both turn 80. Although I have been on the NON ACTIVE list for many years I have not been inactive.

At the age of 51 I discovered the sport of orienteering and after learning navigational skills to match my then fitness have competed with some success. Competitions have taken my wife and I to some 17* countries world wide. Most recently 2004 to Kazakhstan for the Asia Pacific Orienteering Championships.

On the bushwalking front for the past 14 years I have been active in The Bush Club. To celebrate my recent 80th birthday (22 March) I invited a number of my walking friends to a stay at Currango in the Kosciusko National Park where I managed to walk 3 days out of 4. However, the state of my knee joints is such that some serious surgery is required if I am to get about without constant pain. I am still trying to cope with orienteering, rationalising that I can cope with a short course. So this years Australia Day and Easter near Burra S.A. may be my last hurrah.

I did my first overnight walk with Sydney University Bushwalkers in 1947 and my last with The Bush Club in 2006. I still have fond memories of SBW in the 1950's, however I have decided to cease contact with the club and not renew my NON ACTIVE membership.

May SBW continue to prosper.
Best wishes

Neil Schafer

*Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Scotland, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA.

WALKING POLES

Although some walkers consider them an affectation, walking poles do have their advantages. They make life easier going uphill or downhill, they allow you to test in front of you for swampy ground, and two poles used together will reduce the amount of stress you place on your kees. A single pole is more useful in helping you to keep your balance over difficult terrain.

Poles can also be used with a tarp or poncho to make a shelter. Light poles are best, but they cost more.



Hi Everyone,

I hope you had an enjoyable Queen's Birthday long weekend despite the rain and probable cancellation of walks.

There has been some mix-up regarding the despatch of the Social Reminder. Consequently you have not received one for a couple of months. The problem is now rectified and so it will now be in your 'inbox'. If you did not receive the June reminder, please contact Bill Holland because he is sending them.

Our May Social evening relating to kayaking and canoeing was most interesting and informative. Numbers were down due to the above problem.

June sees us enjoying Xmas cheer and comradery at our Mid-winter Feast (which you hopefully attended!!).

The July Social Night features the SBW Bhutan Booties telling us about their trip to that magical kingdom last year. This is sure to be a most entertaining evening - so put it in your diary now. So when the weather is too irksome for walking, come along to the social nights to catch up with fellow walkers.

Enjoy your walks and I'll see you soon.

BUSHWALKING RECIPES

Pancakes

Ingredients:

1/4 cup plain flour
1/4 cup self raising flour
1 tbl sugar
1/4 cup milk powder
1 tbl powdered egg

Method:

Mix ingredients and place into a sealed bag.

To Cook:

Mix contents of bag with half a cup of water.
Melt some butter or margarine in a frypan over low heat.
Pour half the mix into frypan and cook until set.
Turn pancake over and lightly brown over side.
Repeat for second half of the mix.

Editor's Message



I hope everyone has been enjoying the rain of late. I will be on Peter Cunningham's Kimberly trip when the next magazine is due for distribution. Bill Holland has offered to be the Editor for the July edition. Send any stories or articles to Bill at his email address: billholland@bigpond.com. If you do send me an article during this time I will have an automatic message with Bill's email address.

The magazine will soon be put into an electronic format and if you have any suggestions or feedback please let me have them.

I have found the recipes submitted by various members very helpful for my upcoming Kimberly trip where I have to cook a 'light' meal for 12 people. My pack has to be under 15 kgs for the flight from Darwin to Kununurra so I need all the light weight strategies I can get.

Pam Campbell
Editor

BUSHWALKING RECIPES

Tomatoe Soup

Ingredients:

2 tbs tomatoe flakes
1/4 cup milk powder
1 tbl flour
1 tsp basil
1 tsp dried parsley
1/4 tsp garlic powder

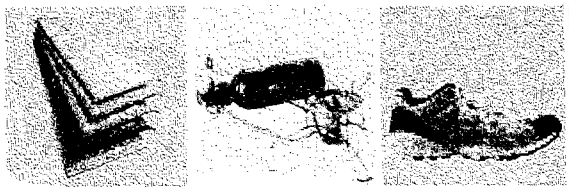
Method:

Mix all ingredients and place into a sealed bag.

To Cook:

- Place contents of bag into saucepan and gradually blend in two cups of cold water.
- Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.





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