



THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER



JANUARY 2008



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

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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 i.e. 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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NATURAL HISTORY WALK

2 February, 2008

Walk in Garigal National Park and visit
the St Ives Blue Gum High Forest
(Rosedale Road)

The St Ives Blue Gum High Forest is an endangered ecological community which is the last remnant of its kind in the world. It has survived under remarkable odds. Members from the South Turrumurra Environment Protection group (STEP) will lead the tour and talk about the unique features of the forest and the campaigns under way to preserve what is left.

The walk starts at St Ives (Cnr Douglas Ave and Acron Rd) and includes the Cascade Track, Middle Harbour Track and Bungaroo Track back to St Ives to visit the St Ives Blue Gum High Forest. There will be a car shuffle between the start and end of the walk.

On the walk, STEP members will give an update on the local history which will include where Governor Phillip camped in 1788 and a flora and fauna commentary.

There will be a limit of 15 people
More information will be available in the
Summer Walks Program

Bring: BINOCULARS, LUNCH AND WATER

To find out details and book for the walk
contact:

Nancy Pallin (STEP) 9416 7334 (h)
Pam Campbell (SBW) 9570 2885 (h)
or 0431 873 599 (m)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

David Trinder

You may have read a letter from Chris Dowling complaining of too much concentration on the past and Coolana and not enough on walking. Thank you Chris for making these points, we all want to keep the Club healthy. We have recently been through a period of concentration on Coolana and the past. Coolana is a beautiful site and is important to many members, generally not the currently walking members but walking members from the past.

The Coolana toilet has been planned and discussed for at least one decade; it is now operating and is appreciated by the members who use the site. The 80th Anniversary celebrations were a legitimate look at the past and the long history of this great Club. The events were successful and enjoyed by many members. Anniversaries don't happen very often, we won't have another one for ten years. They are both done now and they have had little effect on our walking.

The Committee is very aware of problems with the electronic communications and we are doing something about it. We can not send out short notice emails or short notice promotions without a days work from somebody because the service providers have changed their spamming protection procedures. We have decided to adopt the Google Groups system. Invitation have been sent by Google to join either the Members group or the Prospective members Group. Unfortunately only 20% of people have accepted the invitation, some may not have received the invitation. Ron Watters is organising for them to be sent out again; after that anybody who does not accept the invitation will not receive mass emails from the Club. If you don't receive an invitation soon contact Ron or myself

The web site needs some upgrading as we all know. We are still thankful to Eddie and John for the work they have done on it in the past. However it is difficult to alter. Upgrades are being done by Chris Wong but in the long run we have to rebuild it with software that is available now and was not when the site was originally built. The new site will be flexible and can be altered more easily. Rebuilding the site is either an expensive exercise or it will take a while to do; we have opted for the less expensive slow method. There are other electronic matters to get right and it is our intension to get it all working well by the end of this year.

In March we will have the 2008 Annual General Meeting which will include the election of a new Committee. Some current members are standing down and have to be replaced and you may want other members to be replaced. The Committee is not a closed shop and we will be looking for Leaders and other Members to take positions on

the Committee or to assist Committee members with their jobs.

David Trinder



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

A Future for SBW?

In the December issue of this magazine Eddy Giacomel expressed concerns that the lack of new board members threatens SBW's future existence. I can think of another (possibly related) reason that may limit the club's future existence: it is too focused on the past and on Coolana.

It is well and good to celebrate/commemorate what has happened in the past; however if SBW is to survive the focus should be on bushwalking instead of on history and a property that most members do not ever use.

Large amounts of time, effort and money are being expended on social functions and on Coolana. Wouldn't some money be better spent on advertising and promoting the club so as to attract new members, especially at a time when the website is in need of updating? Maybe there are other ways of rejuvenating SBW.

I expect that this letter will attract responses containing various levels of sarcasm and vitriol; however I know that opinions similar to mine are held by other members.

Chris Dowling

EDITORIAL

Thanks to those people who have submitted reports of their walks over the Xmas period. I look forward to receiving more !!

On the 16 April this year there will be a Photography Competition. I look forward to organising it and receiving lots of entries. Competition Rules are on the last page of the magazine. There are some excellent photographers in the club so now is a golden opportunity to start gathering some great snaps.

I am looking for someone to replace me as Editor at the March General Election - the Editor's role is interesting and there is a lot of autonomy. There is an opportunity to learn various desktop publishing packages (Microsoft Publisher/Adobe Indesign). If you wish to extend your skills in desktop design, then being Editor of 'The Sydney Bushwalker' will assist with building your skills. Give it some thought. I am available to assist if you are interested.

Regards Pam Campbell

The Mid-Week Walkers

The Mid-Week Walkers are an informal group of SBW members who have time to spare for mid-week activities, some of which are shown on the Walks Programme and some organised at short notice and advised by monthly newsletter sent to all on my Mid Week Walkers list. The extended walks, usually one per month, attract a good following.

If you would like to be added to our email list please let me know. You are welcome to join us in any activity at any time

Bill Holland

We had a very successful year last year and our enthusiastic mid-week walkers are looking forward to more stays in unusual places this year. So far, firm planning has only covered the next three months but already suggestions are in hand for later in the year. Please feel free to join us.



Pebbly Beach Monday 4th - Friday 8th February 2008

Pebbly Beach is on the New South Wales South Coast, about 300 km south of Sydney and 22 km north of Batemans Bay. It is within the Murrumbidgee National Park, so there is abundant wildlife around the beach and cabins.

The hills surrounding Pebbly Beach are covered with extensive forests. The forests are home to a great variety of animals and colourful birds. Pebbly Beach is one of the best places in Australia to see kangaroos close up. Dolphins are often seen playing close to shore near the rock platforms or beach.



Newnes Cabin Monday 7th - 11th April 2008

After having to cancel last year due to booking problems we will try for Newnes again this time in Autumn. It is well worthwhile. The old town area has been extensively enhanced and there are many walks in the area.

I have booked one cabin. It is in the vicinity of the old Newnes Hotel and sleeps six comfortably. There are two more cabins available if necessary. Also there is room for tent camping adjacent to the cabins - first come, first served with beds.

The booking is for Monday to Friday but you can join for any day/s. Newnes is a great area for walking e.g. the remnants of the old railway, the Glow Worm Tunnel, Pipeline Pass etc or just exploring the mining town ruins. We will be there mid-week away from the crowded weekends.

FORTHCOMING MIDWEEK DAY AND EVENING WALKS (Please refer to the Summer Walks Programme for more details)

Tuesday 22nd January: Leura Falls and Wentworth Falls

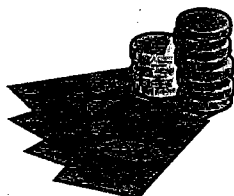
An easy day of messing about between the two cascades, both below and above the cliff lines. 14km

Wednesday 23rd January: Summer Evening Walk

Meet at Cremorne Wharf at 7-00pm and walk back to Kirribilli while discussing walking, gear and places we have been. Potential and experienced walkers welcome. Finish for dinner at Kirribilli Pub

Tuesday 12th February: Berowra Valley (evening)

Meet 6 pm at Hornsby Station and walk the Blue Gum Track to Leaders house at Westleigh for an evening barbecue or drive direct to the house if you just want to join the barbecue. Grade: (Easy)



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2007

	2007 Current Month	2007 Year to Date	2007 Budget	% to Budget	2006 Actual
Cash Receipts					
Members Subscriptions	\$ 90.00	\$18,786.00	\$18,500.00	102%	\$ 18,536.00
Prospective Fees	\$ 1,289.00	\$ 7,545.00	\$ 6,500.00	116%	\$ 5,309.00
Investment - Conservation	\$ 35.02	\$ 552.49	\$ 470.00	118%	\$ 460.00
Investment - Coolana	\$ 87.42	\$ 1,364.30	\$ 1,180.00	116%	\$ 1,380.00
Investment - General	\$ 92.63	\$ 930.42	\$ 770.00	121%	\$ 895.00
Magazine Advertising	\$ 550.00	\$ 1,470.00	\$ -		\$ 1,280.00
Donations - Coolana	\$ -	\$ 55.00	\$ -		\$ 1,250.00
Other	\$ -	\$ 532.00	\$ 300.00	177%	\$ 50.00
Grant - Coolana	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -		
Investment - Redemption	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		\$ -
Total Receipts	\$ 3,144.07	\$40,235.21	\$33,720.00		\$ 29,160.00
Cash Payments					
Magazine Printing	\$ 374.88	\$ 5,919.85	\$ 3,500.00	169%	\$ 4,691.00
Magazine Postage	\$ 440.26	\$ 4,819.41	\$ 5,500.00	88%	\$ 5,460.00
Magazine Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Coolana Rates	\$ 77.00	\$ 1,291.79	\$ 1,700.00	76%	\$ 1,634.26
Coolana Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 671.55	\$ 2,000.00	34%	\$ 2,148.00
Coolana Equipment		\$ 499.00	\$ -		\$ -
Coolana Toilet - Coolana	\$ -	\$ 1,807.90	\$ 1,200.00	151%	\$ 8,805.00
Rent- Club Rooms	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 4,775.00	\$ 5,200.00	92%	\$ 4,700.00
Donations - Conservation	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	50%	\$ 50.00
Insurance - Public Liability	\$ -	\$ 2,476.65	\$ 3,400.00	73%	\$ 3,305.00
Insurance - Personal Accident	\$ -	\$ 3,280.70	\$ 2,200.00	149%	\$ 2,145.00
Affiliation - Confederation	\$ -	\$ 2,255.00	\$ 2,255.00	100%	\$ 2,255.00
Postage, Phone & Internet	\$ -	\$ 1,063.08	\$ 1,400.00	76%	\$ 1,274.00
Administration	\$ 599.99	\$ 2,631.68	\$ 2,000.00	132%	\$ 1,975.00
80 th Anniversary	\$ 79.18	\$ 2,980.38	\$ 3,000.00	99%	\$ 105.00
Expenditure on Coolana Grant	\$ 4,125.00	\$ 4,125.00			
Transfer to investments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Total Payments	\$ 6,896.31	\$38,846.99	\$33,855.00		\$ 38,547.26
Cash Surplus /(Deficit)	- 3,752.24	1,388.22	\$ (135.00)		\$ (9,387.26)
Non Cash Activities					
Depreciation	\$ (133.00)	\$ 1,604.30	\$ (1,596.00)		
Bank Funds Invested			\$ (5,500.00)		
Total	\$ (133.00)	\$ 1,604.30	\$ (7,096.00)	\$ -	\$ -
Net Surplus /(Deficit)	\$ (3,885.24)	\$ (216.08)	\$ (7,231.00)		\$ (9,387.26)
Cash at Bank - Adj		\$ 6,701.48			\$ 5,313.26

CONSERVATION REPORT

by Bill Holland

Our rain gauge at home showed that the rainfall in 2007 was nearly twice that recorded in 2006 and this is apparent in the lushness of our rainforest garden. I am sure you have noticed the improvement in the bush when walking and the ample supply of creek water compared to this time last year. Nevertheless, news of the intense storms and flooding on the far north coast shows that climate change and global warming will continue to have impact on our daily lives. Each of us needs to take action to lessen our impact on the environment and we can do this in several ways. Individual actions may seem minute in the global context but the aggregate of these actions really matter.

Looking ahead for 2008, there remain as always the need to confront several conservation issues. I have not had the opportunity to research and comment on issues this month so I have borrowed some news and comments from the National Parks Association website www.npansw.org.au and included a letter sent by the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs on the effects of mining in the Tahmoor Gorge.

Bill Holland

Environment News and Comments

Red Gum Campaign Fires Up

NPA's Red Gum win in October, brought on by its court case against Forest NSW, has resulted in a major shift in the debate to secure national parks for the Red Gum Forests, Paul Winn and Carmel Flint report.

September and October saw dramatic progress in the campaign to create national parks in the River Red Gum forests. The combined pressure of the NPA legal challenge, and a forest blockade by the recently formed NSW Red Gum Forest Action, forced the hand of the Minister for Primary Industries and Forests NSW (FNSW).

The legal challenge by NPA was brought under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, which requires that developments that are likely to have a significant environmental impact must have an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared beforehand. NPA's legal argument was that without first obtaining an EIS, FNSW was breaching planning law by logging these internationally recognised Ramsar wetlands, and the many threatened species habitats which they contain.

NPA Journal Volume 51 Number 6 Dec 2007 - Jan 2008

The Opera House without its sails?

A decision on protecting the Yengo Wilderness under the Wilderness Act remains in limbo more than ten years since its nomination by environment groups. Now there is a serious proposal from the Department of Environment and Climate Change to declare the Yengo Wilderness without its centrepiece, Mount Yengo, which dominates Yengo National Park and can be seen for over 100 km away. Perhaps they want to leave their options open for a stunning mountain top cafe and souvenir shop?

Let Environment Minister, Phil Koperberg, know that the Yengo Wilderness must include Mt Yengo and the dirt trail circling its base by writing to him at PO Box A250, Sydney South NSW 1232.

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Mining and cliff line instability

Confederation has received a letter from David Clarkson, Community & SMP Co-ordinator, Tahmoor Coal Pty. Limited (Xstrata Coal) re advice regarding mining adjacent to the Bargo River Gorge and the risk of cliff line and steep slope instability

"Tahmoor Colliery advises that mining activities will be conducted adjacent to the Bargo River Gorge until mid 2010.

During this time there may be a slightly increased likelihood of cliff line and steep slope instability along the Bargo River and tributary creeks.

Why are you being advised?

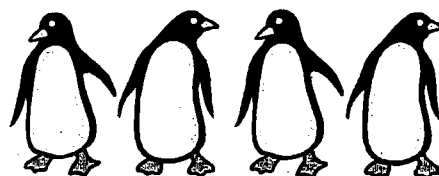
Tahmoor Colliery has identified recreational bushwalking as a key activity in the Bargo River Gorge and as a result suggests that you either postpone any planned walks in the area or avoid walking or stopping directly beneath steep slopes or cliff lines when walking in the Bargo River Gorge or surrounding creek gorges. Even though the risks are no higher than they would be naturally, as a further precaution the colliery has placed warning signs at most public access points to the gorge area.

Further Information

If you would like further information please contact the Colliery on 1800 037 334.

Alternatively the colliery produces weekly updates on mining progress and subsidence impacts. To receive weekly updates please email David Clarkson on the address below.

Email: dclarkson@xstratacoal.com.au



CAMPFIRE CLASSICS AT THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Don Matthews

In the December Magazine, a note on the place and historical importance of the Club's Annual Reunion was followed by an account of the Anniversary Performance of 'The Frame-Up', a comic sketch from Dot Butler's repertoire. A second offering on the night was based on her skills in physiotherapy.

DOCTOR DOT'S CLINIC

An early version of this sketch was performed at the Reunion in 1985. It was cobbled together by this scribe at Dot's request from a list of activities "used by physiotherapists", as Dot put it, "to turn rabbits (the bushwalking variety) into tigers". It has been reworked over the years, and in the 2007 version, the 'activity' verses are followed by the arrival on stage of five "patients" who are in need of Dr Dot's help.

- Pain in the ankle
- The inebriate
- The 'lock-knees' (the result of 42K in less than a day)
- The 'bean counter's blight' (of the Hon Treasurer)
- The constipated would-be toilet tester...

On this occasion, Dr Dot was played by the writer, the Nurse and Narrator by Helen Gray, and the patients, selected at short notice by Casting Director Don Finch in the interest of heightened spontaneity, were in order of appearance, Jim Percy, Spiro, Linda Tarran, Barry Wallace and Tony Holgate, all of whom, as you would expect, threw themselves into their allotted roles with considerable gusto.

The introductory "list of techniques put in verse" can involve varying degrees of audience participation, depending on the mood of the gathering, which adds to the fun.

The curtain opens:

Nurse:

We'll now in one brief stretch of time
By verse and rhetoric and mime
Teach you the way to health and vigour
And how to make your muscles bigger
Or ease a blockage, clear a clot;
Now greet the famous Doctor Dot.

Doctor Dot:

Hello good evening and bon nuit
My Clinic's open and it's free;
But first some techniques put in verse
And demonstrated by our Nurse.

(....first we have verses about wringing, knuckling, stroking and trampling, and then in verses 5 and 6...)

Side swinging will expand your lungs
And Just as liquor loosens tongues
Leg stretching if you really bend 'em
Will regulate a tightened tendon.
Add to all this there's clapping, cupping
If hacking's not enough try chupping
Or kneading, helps he blood get coursing
But gently, there's no need for forcing
Pounding, you'll find, sloughs excess fat
It needs a wallop, not a pat
And rolling of the toes and fingers
Will give a flex that lings and lingers.

But that's enough of basic drill;
We have some patients who look ill!

....In the 'Patient' segment, there is plenty of scope for comic by-play, and our players indeed made the most of their opportunities. It was wonderful to behold! Patients #1 and #2, one writhing in agony, the other in a state of amiable befuddlement were kindly but firmly dealt with by the means of pills, potions and stern advice. The next sufferer needed a different approach...

**Patient #3 (lock-knees) first appeared in 2004:
(enters, walking without bending knees)**

...She's got terrible aches in her knee joints-
She's just back from a bit of a run.
She says 42K done in less than a day
Can no longer be thought of as fun!
Now she can't bend her knees
And she says could you please
Find a cure.....?

Doctor Dot:

...Consider it done
Your knees are in lock-up from going fast forward
They now need a spell in reverse.
So walk from Jenolan
But backwards you mind,
And to help you we'll lend you a nurse....
So off went Linda, very carefully....

**Patient #4 (Hon. Treasurer) was written for
Maurice Smith, and played by him in 2004.
Hence the advice about Ettrema:**

You have bean counter's blight
Sure as day follows night
And for that I have sadly no brief,
But on Ettrema Creek
Though the prospect is bleak
You may find a degree of relief.

For 2007, we added an impromptu alternative, in case Barry referred to the location:

'And if that doesn't suit then the Kowmung may do, But see that you start up at Budthingeroo!

And Barry disappeared in the direction of the Kangaroo, crying out as he went, "to the Kowmung".

In an update of Patient #5, a 'Toilet Tester' for the 'New Facility' seemed a natural!

....We found this lad lying all dazed by the creek
And we don't know how long he's been there.
He says "I can't go, I can't go, I am weak

Doctor Dot:

Right, sit him down here on this chair...

First we'll check out his brain for contiguous thought

With a test that is painless and quick.

It will show if he's just in the grip of the grape

Or been hit on the head with a brick.

....His brain having been restored to working order during the next several stanzas, it turns out that:

He's been eager to test the new DUNNY
(State-of-art, as you very well know)

But he finds to his great disappointment
That he's simply UNABLE TO GO!

But fear not, for Doctor Dot has all the answers, and all ends happily, after some inspired antics by Tony the would-be Toilet Tester.
Dot herself would have loved it!

Later in the evening, Barbara Bruce, talented performer at many a Reunion joined Helen and the scribe in "The Bare Facts", the true story, in verse (Kath McKay) and song (from the Chronic Opera of 1955) of two gentlemen SBWs, who, in the late 1940's, were taken to court for sunbathing 'au naturel' at Era. But that's another story... and another Campfire Classic!

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Kakadu - wide angle

Who better to give you the widest possible view of the park than someone who, over the course of more than 30 years, has spent more time bushwalking and covered more ground than anyone else now alive?

Kakadu is a cultural landscape. Not only are there thousands of art sites, the entire landscape has been shaped by Aboriginal people over

thousands of years. It is one of the few places in the world which has been declared World Heritage for both natural and cultural reasons.

We know where the art sites are. We work with traditional owners. Some trips are accompanied by Aboriginal guides and take you to places you could never get permission to visit on your own. On others, we now include short walks with Aboriginal guides. Those who have done the walks have come away rapt, having, for that brief period, been able to see the park through Aboriginal eyes.

See our website...

or give us a
call for details.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au



Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: walkabout@ais.net.au

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

GENOA RIVER

26 December to 1 January 2008

by Kenn Clacher

Our Christmas - New Year 2007 walk was a walk of fours. There were four in the party, and a further four has indicated their intention of coming but had withdrawn. We walked for four days along the Genoa River (plus a day to walk in and a couple of hours to walk out). We had at least four swims each day on the river and generally walked for no more than four hours per day. We made four shortcuts to avoid long loops of the river. We encountered at least four million flies and four thousand mosquitoes and saw at least four hundred tracks of big lizards or goannas on the sand.

The Genoa River rises to the south of Bombala and flows south-east across the NSW-Victoria border and through the Genoa Wilderness which includes the Southeast Forests National Park (in NSW) and the Coopracambra National Park (in Victoria). It meets the sea at Mallacoota, splitting the Croajingolong National Park. In its middle reaches, between Yambulla Creek and Wangarabell the Genoa River forms an impressive gorge 30km long on its meandering way to the sea. This is the Genoa Wilderness and is a remote, rugged and beautiful, region. It is accessed from the Cann Valley Highway or the Princes Highway near the border.

The Genoa River gorge may be compared to the Colo River gorge, with some important differences. The Genoa is less deep, and the sides generally less precipitous, but it is possibly more scenic than the Colo. Walking along the Genoa is much easier and far more pleasant than the Colo because of the presence of extensive rock shelves and long stretches of river suitable for rock hopping and wading. There are some stretches of granite stream bed which make a welcome change to the usual sandstone and form most attractive landscapes.

We drove down from Sydney on Boxing Day and camped at a National Parks camping area at the end of Waalimma Road. After a short car shuffle on Thursday morning we set out for the Genoa River via Yambulla Peak. A notable feature of the party was that the combined weight of packs for six days for the party of four was about 45kg, excluding water. And this included goodies for New Year's Eve! For once, Kenn had the heaviest pack in the party.

After a few kilometres the fire trail we had been following petered out and we encountered some thickish scrub around Yambulla Creek before gaining pleasant open forest on the flanks of Yambulla Peak. After lunch Karl and Kenn headed for Yambulla Peak while Edith and Mary enjoyed a siesta (practising for following days?). The peak had views of Mt Wakefield and Nungatta but these were mostly obscured by the vegetation. From

there it was all downhill to the river. After encountering some scrub we broke through to the Genoa River near where the Yambulla Peak Track crosses it. A little scouting for a campsite found a good wide, long sandbank with swimming hole immediately adjacent, in a stretch of river marked by rocks, rock shelves and cascades,

Next day we started our journey down the river. The distance in a straight line from this campsite to the waiting car was less than 13km, but the Genoa River flows in anything but a straight line. Ahead of lay something like 30km of walking along the river! Nonetheless we expected to reach the car in a little over four days at a reasonably leisurely pace.

Initially the river was fairly rocky with easy rock hopping. A little scrub bashing was needed occasionally. Several swims kept us cool as the temperature mounted. In this part of the river there were lots of rocks in the river and as we progressed we occasionally needed to take to the sides of the river and wriggle through the scrub. By lunchtime it was really warm, so a siesta was declared until the temperature cooled. After our siesta and another swim we had a couple of hours walking to a good small campsite on a flat rocky shelf.



Typical stretch of Genoa River

Because the heat of the previous day showed no sign of relenting, we made an early start to get as much walking done as possible before it got too hot. Despite several swim stops it was quite warm walking. The dark-coloured rocks soaked up the heat of the sun from a brilliantly blue sky and radiated it back onto the party. On this morning the river started to lend itself to wading to avoid the scrub on the sides, and to keep cool.

We reached a shady lunch spot around midday, and Karl discovered a most agreeable natural spa in the river. With the temperature in the shade in the high 30s and the rocks too hot to touch, we needed little persuasion to spend the afternoon alternating between the shade and the spa before making camp on a big sandbank nearby.



Siesta time

Another early start the next morning began with a couple of shortcuts over low ridges, which saved some time and effort by reducing distance and avoiding battling through scrub on the river banks. The second of these shortcuts brought us out onto a most delightful stretch of the river with extensive rock terraces. Again the day was very hot and by lunchtime we had to seek shade near an attractive waterhole, where the afternoon was whiled away alternatively swimming and sheltering in the shade. Karl however tired of this demanding activity and explored over a nearby hill and downriver.



Freeway

The next day, our last on the river, followed the same pattern. By now we were making maximum use of the long shallow pools for wading, and we also took another two shortcuts to bypass long loops of river. Another day of brilliant blue sky again heated the rocks above touching temperature. By lunchtime we had reached the point where we would leave the river. On the way we stopped while Karl and Kenn explored the Ivor Track, marked on the NSW map but not on the Victorian one.

We had to erect a fly to provide shade from the sun for the afternoon when we weren't again indulging in a natural spa in the river. Kenn wandered downstream along stream bed or banks

that by now were either sandy or easily negotiated rock terraces. He encountered the lessees of the cattle property "Wangarabell" that we had to cross the next day to get to the car. They were setting up on the bank to prepare for a New Year's Eve party, complete with shade and beer which was freely offered.

As the sun lowered we were able to move to our campsite, another sandbank where preparations were made to celebrate New Zealand New Year. This was duly accomplished. A really early start on New Year's Day had us back at the cars by around 8:00 a.m. and back at the other car and on the way back to Sydney soon after.



New Year's Eve

We were lucky that the choice of this walk was ideal for the weather that we encountered. There was always a pool to swim in and the length of the walk allowed long lunches spent in the shade, generally lasting until dinnertime. It was a delightful walk in idyllic surroundings.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

The Membership List for 2008 will be printed mid January, 2008. Would you please look at this years Membership List and **MAKE SURE** your contact details are correct. If there are any changes that you have not already informed me of, please email: fernband@bigpond.com or a letter to Fran Holland, 216c Quarter Sessions Road, WESTLEIGH. 2120 so I can make the changes before the print run.

MAY 2007 WALKS NOTES

Barry Wallace

Walks notes covering the interval 12 April 2007 to 01 May 2007.

Sunday 15th April delivered fine autumnal conditions, just right for Ian Thorpe and the party of 2 on his exploratory walk out from Deep Pass South to Mount Norris and Derailment Hill in the Blue Mountains National Park. After a very cursory look at Deep Pass they scaled Mount Norris and headed briefly East along Railmotor Ridge, then South and West to arrive on the group of pagodas immediately South of Mount Norris. Here they morning-tea'ed and took in the lovely views. Then it was off to try to make their way through the confusing array of pagodas and rock gullies on the Western side of Derailment Hill.

The first attempt failed due to the party's lack of vine climbing skills when confronted with a dark, deep, rock slot. The second try wasn't much better, but the third brought them out on top of the Western side of the hill with impressive views out to the North-West and West. Next came the descent to "Thorpe's Folly" as named by Caro Ryan on an earlier visit; but once again this route proved elusive with creeks that started out as wide, easy gullies turning into treacherous, wet, deep, rocky walled slots. Making the most of a pagoda that offered sun or shade to one's preference they stopped for lunch, after which Ian spent more time looking for a way down. The party eventually took matters into their own hands and headed off West down Derailment Hill.

Once again third time lucky, they crossed the creek to a promising looking slot through the cliff-line on the opposite bank. Another no-goer, but close by Peter Love located a way up, emerging at a spot with superb views of Derailment Hill glowing softly in the afternoon light. From there they followed an old fire-trail back to the access road and the cars; then headed off to Bilpin for dinner at the Apple Bar.

There was another day walk that same day. Nigel Weaver led a horde of 24 on his qualifying walk out from Cowan to Vize Spur and Ten Bob Ridge. Conditions were fine and rather warm. They got away from Cowan station around 0900h and walked to Jerusalem Bay to admire the views, then headed to Vize Spur for an off-track descent into the back end of Porto Bay. This accomplished they crossed a small brook and set off up the steep ascent through several cliff-lines to a good lunch spot near the top of Ten Bob Ridge. The after lunch going was rough due to the presence of a myriad of fallen saplings, necessitating a high stepping gait just to make progress. This proved very draining in the afternoon sunshine. Nevertheless they managed to admire the good views of Porto Bay and the nearby hills and still arrive back at Cowan by 1720h. Chris Dowling's qualifying day walk out from Carlons Farm on Saturday 21 April attracted 8 starters but turned

into two walks, one of which was a qualifying walk and one of which took a shortcut up Breakfast Creek to accommodate a lack of fitness. As far as we can tell they all completed a walk. The following day Ron Watters and a party of 10 set off in sunny conditions downstream from Tallowa Dam wall to Fourth Lookout, a high mass of granite boulders, then down through cliffs and gullies to the Shoalhaven River. Here they avoided the worst of the nettles by tracking along close to the water's edge to Heifer Creek. This proved to be a delight, with Cabbage Tree palms, rock orchids and no scrub in the creek; and rising around 430 metres over 4 kilometres. All traveled well and were out by 1615h and away to Mittagong for dinner at a services club. The story is that Maurice and Ron are already planning the next trip in that area.

As far as walks reports go this was a busy weekend! Bill Hope led a qualifying walk down to the Colo River with 8 starters on the Sunday, complying in all respects with the advertised description of the walk. We are assured the party enjoyed the trip from the top of Bob Turners Track to the Colo, especially the last 100 metres or so where there was an exciting dirt slide, sensually enhanced by a scarifying encounter with a bed of lawyer vines garnished with a sprinkling of lantana. The trip up the Colo to Bob Turners Track went to plan albeit with a latish (aka in the dark) finish at the top.

Anzac day saw cold wet conditions for Ian Rannard and his party on their walk down into the Megalong Valley from Katoomba and back via Devils Hole. A good day was nonetheless had by all, however legion they may have been.

Saturday 28 April was a truly mystical day by Tony Manes' account of this overnight walk, another qualifier, in the Morton National Park. Light drizzle and foggy conditions combined to give the true feel of the Budawangs. Conditions cleared as they reached Mount Talaterang giving a truly spectacular sunset with the mist still swirling up from the valley below. The leeches were there too, mostly on the Saturday due to the wet conditions. Sunday was almost leech free, with panoramic views all day and a cool South Westerly breeze. David Trinder was out on the Saturday as well, with his day walk out from The Oaks near Glenbrook attracting 5 starters. They delayed the move off a little due to heavy rain and the presence of the picnic shed. Once this eased they re-arranged the trip to optimise the experience and stay a bit dryer by going down Red Hands fire trail and following a compass bearing down into Kanuka Brook where they scored a dry overhang for lunch. The Brook was beautiful but a bit difficult so they spent most of the time high on the North side. From Glen Vera Creek junction they walked out to the road via a ridge-line. All in all an enjoyable walk in the rain with a bit of navigation practice thrown in. This month's deadline presses so we will end here for now.

“Walk Around China”

China Volkssport Association (CVA) is a professional walking organisation which has organised walks in China to coincide with the 29th summer Olympic Games. There are seven different walking routes and CVA has the support of travel agencies and every participant will be provided with CVA walking certificate and souvenirs.

The Classical Walk Routes in China

Route	Time	Highlights	Cost
1. Shanhaiguan Pass—Juyongguan Pass—Jiayuguan Pass	11 days	Walk three Passes of the Great Wall	BMB 13300 / Person
2. Beijing—Guilin—Lijiang county	11 days	A Romantic Walking Trip	BMB 12930/ Person
3. Shanghai—Suzhou—Hangzhou	14 days	South of Yangtze River, A Pretty Land	BMB 4390/ Person
4. Beijing—Xi'an—Dunhuang—Xinjiang	14 days	Ancient Silk Road	BMB 15620 / Person
5. Beijing—Tibet—Ningxia	14 days	Folk Customs of west China	BMB 13580/ Person
6. Beijing—Chengde—Inner Mongolia	9 days	Culture and folk customs	BMB 8530 / Person
7. Walk the World Heritages in Beijing	7 days	The World Heritages	BMB 5100/ Person

Cost Includes:

Airport Tax and the fuel fare; all transportation within China; entrance tickets listed in the schedule; accommodation at 3/4-star hotels; three meals a day; air-conditioned coach with guide service; luggage handling and transfers from airport to hotel and vice versa; the souvenirs of CVA and the Walking certificate.

Cost Excludes:

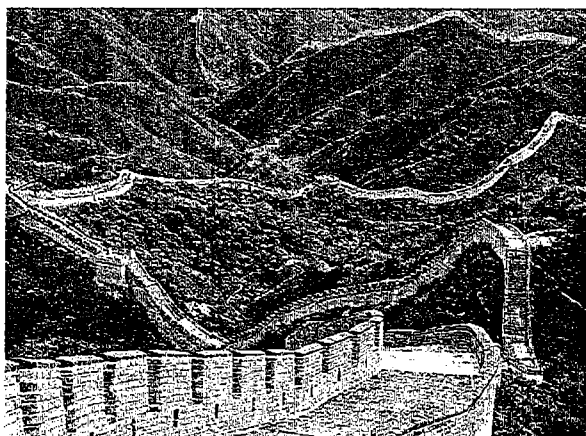
Excess baggage and any personal expense; overseas-unexpected accidental insurance; tips; drinks.

Shanhaiguan Pass—Juyongguan Pass—Jiayuguan Pass —Walk three passes of the Great Wall

Cost: RMB 13300 / Person

Single supplement: RMB 2530 / Person

Brief: Great Wall is the symbol of China. It is one of the most amazing feats of human labor. It is one of seven largest men - made wonders of the world, as well as the heaven of outdoors-lover. As a professional walking organization, CVA organizes Great Wall walks every year since its establishment in 2002. More and more walkers at home and abroad are attracted to these great walks. At the very time of 2008 Beijing Olympic game, we will support and witness this great event by walking.



If you are interested in travelling to China contact:

Sarah Zhang

China Volkssport Association, Beijing Today Walk Center

Tel:010-84896319, Fax:010-84896317

Add.:17D Building 1 Century Mansion No.45 Xiaoguan Beili

Chaoyang

District, Beijing

P. C.: 100029

www.chinawalking.net.cn

IAN WOLFE - LEADER PROFILE

Pam shamed me into writing this article.... All names have been changed to protect the innocent and any relation to actual events, or people living or dead is purely coincidental. Any litigation is to be addressed to my Cayman Islands address....

Origins:

It started long, long ago and it was all his fault! He said "This new home is a great place, lets go exploring, SHE won't mind"..... Being a trusting 2 yr old, I foolishly listened to Sebastian, so off we went into the wild wood of the Lane Cove National Park. Needless to say, we made full use of the day and trooped home, tired and dirty just on dusk. SHE who must be obeyed was not amused, nor were the Firemen and Policemen that she had called.... When confronted, Sebastian gave them his best droopy earned, big brown eyes look, and clearly conveyed "Who me, I am but a mere Basset Hound".

Walking Style:

- When in doubt ...go somewhere new. If you have to revisit the same old place, take your really old map, which has frayed along the fold lines and is now a series of separate squares. Then shuffle the squares and .. Hey Presto! You have a brand new area for your trip which is bound to generate exciting challenges about 4pm,
- "Carpe Diem" it is unlikely that your foot will fall on the same green sward again, so "climb whilst the sun shines" and there is nothing that concentrates the mind quite so much as descending down a cliff line in the falling dusk to find the Pack that you dropped before heading off on a "Lets Do It" side trip,
- A lot of my trips are in Mountains, thus I have come to appreciate that the fundamental characteristics of Mountains is ... Mountain Weather, as such fog and occasional sleet is to be welcomed?,
- Extended multi day trips into wilderness areas are very rewarding. Problem is that the Packs get tired of carrying all the weight, being scratched by scrub and hauled up and down cliff lines. So, they need to have a "Rest Day" every now and then. Its important though, to ensure that whilst the Packs are resting, that the Carriers maintain fitness and agility, in order to look after the Packs when walking recommences the next day. Therefore, Carriers need to use "Rest Days" to climb mountains, ford rivers and give the Packs a real break by being out of sight for all of the day.

Favourite Areas:

- Anywhere there is ski-able snow (in Oz this means that you can still talk over the sound of gravel grating on the base of your skis - as Loui Armstrong said: "You gotta have sole!"),
- SW Tassie - having walked in S Korean, China, Spain, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, England, America, NZ, Thailand, Egypt, Turkey and places I can't mention - Tassie is the most rewarding for challenge, views, mountain aura, micro views, spectacular sunsets and variable weather,
- Coolangoobra for canyoning (N of Glen Davis) - it's the new Mecca

Most Memorable Trips:

- Walking - a 14 day traverse of the Wilmont and Franklin Range in SW Tassie - only 20 mins rain in the entire trip, lots of Olegas Trehanus moments & I found the 2 critical passes first go!
- XC Skiing - No, not Ken catching an edge and then doing the disappearing act, rather an 8 day trip across the Howitt High Plains to the Cross Cut Saw and then out via the Bluff. Much of it in fresh new snow
- Canyoning - Spring Creek at Bungonia, best canyon in the World

Leadership Moments:

- Any Capon Caper (I was there when he Cherynobilled twice! And I was the one that found the cave now known to posterity as "Capon's Salvation")
- Whilst ascending the ridge to Mt La Perouse, we had to crawl on hands and knees due to the strength of the wind - I had to put rocks in Louise's pack to stop her being tumbled like a weed
- Getting "Moosed" in Glacier National Park in Montana (surprisingly, they have a high pitched grunt)
- Being on top of Mt Jagungal in winter basking in the light of a full Moon and no wind.

Useful Leadership References: "Wind in the Willows" & the "Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy"

Ian the Wolf



OTFORD TO BUNDEENA IN STYLE

Ron Watters

Apple and blackberry pies with Ice cream, coffee and bubbling conversation on a sunny Saturday morning at the Otford Pie Shop with two full days to savour the coast.

Definitely a beginning with style.

The sea was pounding in against the rocks making a spectacular sight. A laid back late elevenes at the lookout overlooking Werong Beach is a perfect spot for our second morning tea. The day is humid and the shade in the Palm Jungle very welcome. The pace is well, andante, in keeping with the theme of the weekend.

We admire the cabbage palms and the angophoras with their twisted branches and roots growing from rocks. Alas the tide is high and the surging waves make the Figure 8 Pool not the place to be. And the beach is closed. We seek it here, there, everywhere but the shade is ne're. A low rock overhang beckons. Hobson's choice: have a damp seat in the shade or be dry in the sun. A five star view, but not a five star lunch spot.

But Jeanne has style. She finds a natural bath tub fed by cooling spray from the surf going whump, whump against the adjoining rocks.



Go Jeanne !!

Ascending from Era Beach we met an echidna searching for lunch. Very nonchalant he did not mind Jan taking a close up snap.

Garie Beach kiosk is a welcome oasis before the last climb of the day to the YHA hostel hidden in the trees with views across the sands of Garie beach.

The gas man cometh! Three cheers for Don for saving dinner by getting the gas stove going.

Happy hour just got longer and longer-a sumptuous spread with red wines to produce a mellow drift into dinner.

Awake to the sounds of birds and the crashing of the sea. Morning strolls by the sea for some but the thought quickly dismissed by others as they enjoyed the luxury of mattresses and pillows and contemplated a leisurely breakfast-with style of course.

At Curracurang we divert to the waterfall and its lovely fern fringed pool. A delightful swim.

But at Wattamolla the rain finds us. Drizzle all the way to Bundeeena arriving at 4:30pm a suitable stylish time to finish. Did you ever hear of a coffee shop that ran out of coffee and sent the waitress to the supermarket to buy some more?

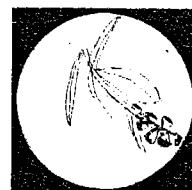


Coffee and cake to end the walk

But Tom has style; he sweet talked the owner of the shop next door (lady of course) to produce some coffee.

The rain pelted down as we made the ferry sending a damp dozen to Cronulla. But some found an inventive way of drying off in style, leaping aboard the train with seconds to spare. Being a gentleman I do not say whom or how.

Many thanks to my co leader Jeanne and companions Jan, Pamela, Kaye, Patrick, Edith, Don, Liz, Tom, Chris and David who made the weekend such an enjoyable occasion. Definitely worthy of an encore in Summer 2008.



TOWRA POINT WETLANDS

Pam Campbell

On Saturday 12 January, I did a 4 hour tour of the Towra Point Wetlands with a guide from National Parks and Wildlife Service. I would recommend it to members of SBW as it was very informative and access is only permitted with a guide.

We were warned about the mosquitoes, but only encountered a couple. There is abundant birdlife (fairy wrens, silvereyes, sacred kingfishers, terns, parrots, owls, stilts and oystercatchers). Flora included (pittosporums, native cheese plants and bush berries, mangroves and eucalypts). Of course there were weeds (Bittu Bush, asparagus fern and lantana) which the local volunteers have been keeping at bay.

It was interesting that we had to wade through the water to get to the beach and on the return leg encountered the high tide which rises from under the ground.

Sand was dredged approximately 4 years ago and dumped along the coastline to prevent erosion due to activity at the airport and within the Bay. Natives were planted to reinforce the ground and to enable the nearby wetlands to return to having fresh water as opposed to the current salt water.

Towra Point Wetlands is 3 metres above sea level and extensive views can be seen of Cronulla, Brighton-le-Sands and the airport. This trip would be graded easy as there were not many hills.

If you are interested in a tour of the Towra Point Wetlands you can contact: The Royal National Park Visitors Centre - 9542 0666 (7 days a week)



On the beach at Towra Point



High Tide

BIRDS FOUND AT TOWRA POINT



Variegated Fairy Wren



Red Browed Finch



New Holland Honeyeater

SOCIAL NOTES

Hi Everyone,

I am sure you all have had a most enjoyable Xmas and New Year with family and friends.

Our SBW Xmas party was, as always, a fun event with wonderful weather and a good turnout of around 70 people over the course of the evening. Thanks to all who could come along.

The Balmoral Picnic had a smaller than usual turnout despite the terrific weather. Those of us who attended had a very pleasant evening beneath the sprawling branches of a wonderful tree (an angophora). We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful city.

The February social evening relates to the Bush Wilderness Rescue Squad. SBW club members, Caro Ryan and Mark Dabbs who are members of the 'Squad' will let you know what is involved in being part of this worthwhile cause. They may even play a DVD on the former.

I am still in need of a presenter for the March social night. Any ideas/suggestions are most welcome - indeed essential.

The SBW AGM will be held in March. All positions are open. New members are encouraged to being part of the Committee.

Enjoy our summer. Bye for now.

Kathy

NEW MEMBERS REPORT

Jodie Dixon

Hi to all,

Hope everybody has had a great Christmas and New Year. With 2007 having come to a close I thought I might just let everybody know what has happen with our Prospective Membership for the year. There have been 124 people join the club as prospectives in 2007 and I hope they are all enjoying there walking..

23 people have gone on to become full member , with 3 more applications to be finalized at the next committee meeting. Welcome aboard to all of our new full members. They are as follows

Rae Rogers, Marcia Grew, Belinda Grew, Helen Logie, Sandy Logie, Karen Carkner, Richard Maneschi, Paul Barton, Michael Bradburn, Paul couvret, Joanne Cheng, Annette Schmeidel, Marion Davies, Colin Bird, Fran Zoechmann, Rory Fagan, Brendan Harper, Nick Richter, Janice Johnston, Virginia Riley, Timothy Yewdall, Hugh Fyson and Isabelle Kmita.

Happy walking!

Jodie

SBW PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



JUDGING IN THE CLUB ROOMS

8pm- Wednesday

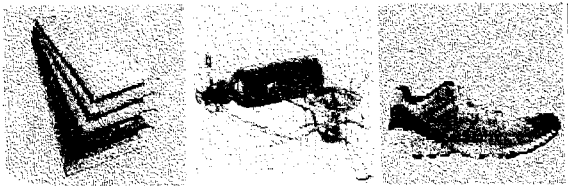
16 April 2008

There will be 5 categories in the competition as follows:

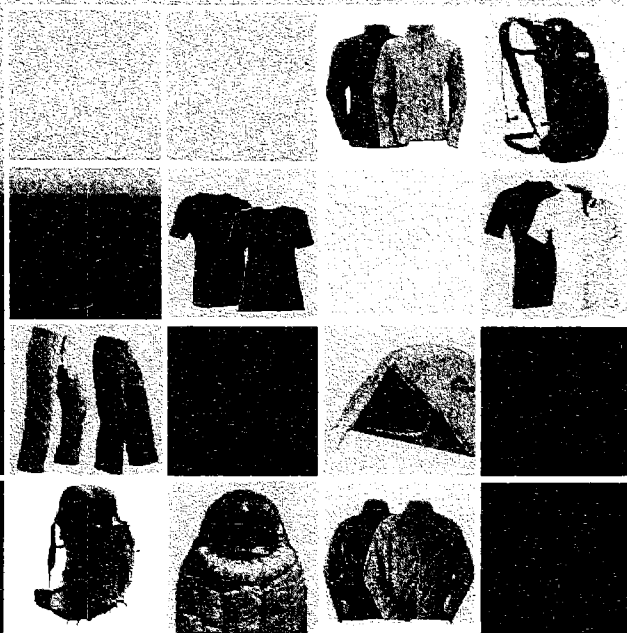
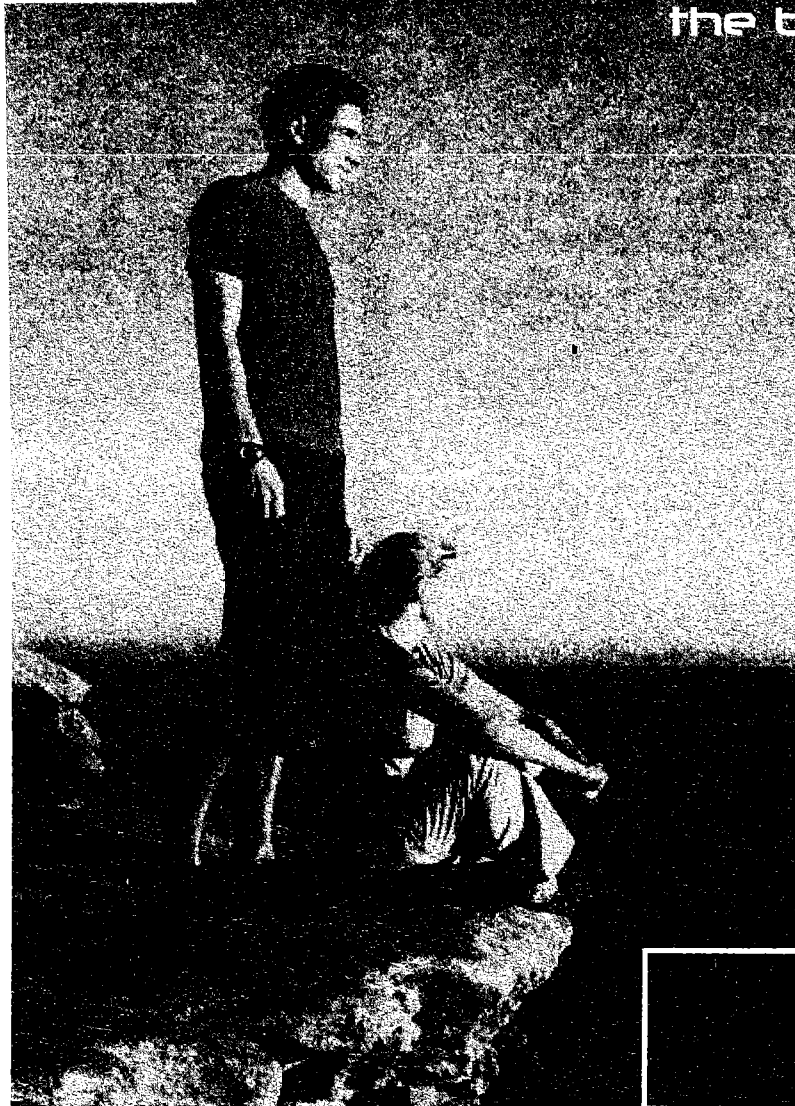
Australian Scenery	Non Australian Scenery	Native Fauna	Native Flora
SBW in Action			

Competition Rules

- The competition is open to members and prospective members of SBW. Prospective members should check that their prospective membership has not expired. There is no entry fee. **To enter the competition phone Pam Campbell (9570 2885).** Late entries may be accepted up to the night of the competition if there are not too many entries in a category.
- The entrant may take photographs on a digital or non-digital camera. It is not permissible to enter photos taken by someone else. The entrant must attend the night of the competition.
- The number of photographs per entrant is limited to 2, 3 or 4. The limit will be advised on the night and will depend on the number of entrants.
- The judge will be supplied by a well established camera club or renowned photographer. The judge's decision is final.
- Photographs may be black or white.
- Photographs remain the property of the entrant. Do not send photographs to the club, by post or any other means. Photographs must be delivered in person to the clubrooms on the night of the competition and collected in person on the same night when the competition is finished. No responsibility will be taken for loss or damage.
- Maximum size of photographs is 20x25cm in all photograph categories. The size limit is due to space limitations. Postcard size 10x15cm photographs are acceptable. There is no minimum size. Photographs should include the name of the entrant on the reverse of the photograph.
- There is a \$70 gift voucher for the winner of each category, a total of 5 gift vouchers. No one person can collect more than one gift voucher. If first place in a category is awarded to someone who already has won a gift voucher in another category, the gift voucher is awarded to the second place winner.
- Matching of prizes to categories will be done on the night by drawing names from a hat. The order of judging will be determined on the night of the competition.
- Donators of prizes will be included in the following editions of the magazine.
- **Pam Campbell (competition organiser)**



the bushwalking specialists



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NEW ZEALAND

berghaus
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ORIGINAL HYBRID FOOTWEAR

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Paddy Pallin

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