

THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER



NOVEMBER 2009





1045 Victoria Rd West Ryde NSW 2114. Tel. 02 98585844
www.alpsport.com.au - alpsport@optusnet.com.au

Tents

Bushwalking Packs

Travel Packs

Travel Wear

Sleeping Bags

Rainwear

Icebreaker Merino

Snow Wear

Bushwalking Boots

Sleeping Mats

Climbing Equipment

Cookware

Water Filters

GPS

PLB'S

Books and Maps

Family Tents

Tarps

Camping Tables & Chairs



icebreaker.com
PURE MERINO





November 2009, Issue 895

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
The President Says - <i>Ron Watters</i>	2
From the Editor - <i>Melinda Turner</i>	3
From the Committee Room - <i>Helen MacDonald</i>	3
Conservation Report - <i>Maureen Carter</i>	4
Proposal for a new class of SBW Membership - <i>Chris Miller</i>	5
Alex Colley Receives Australian Geographic Award - <i>Christine Austin</i>	6
Shorter walks in the Lane Cove NP - <i>Patrick MacNaught</i>	7
Weekend visit to Colo Merroo campground/17-18 Oct - <i>Stephen Brading</i>	8
Paralyser / Guouogang trip on 17 -18 Oct - <i>Melinda Turner</i>	9
Help Needed	10
Picasa Web Albums and Google Groups - <i>Karl Miller</i>	10
Mount Werongaine - <i>Vivien de Rémy de Courcelles</i>	11
Walking in the Kimberley - <i>Cath Mullane</i>	13
Walks & other activities / 1 - 31 October 2009 - <i>Stephen Brading</i>	16
Coolana Report - <i>Don Finch</i>	20
Ultralight Gear for Sale - <i>Karl Miller</i>	21
The Mid Week Walkers - <i>Bill Holland</i>	22
Upcoming Events	23
Social Notes - <i>Kathy Gero</i>	23
Summer Social Program - <i>Kathy Gero</i>	23

THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER and the SBW NEWSLETTER
are the monthly bulletins of matters of interest to members of
The Sydney Bush Walkers
PO Box 431, Milsons Point NSW 1565.
Editor: Melinda Turner

Opinions expressed in this magazine are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of the Sydney Bush Walkers. All material in this magazine is copyright. Requests for reproduction should be directed to the Editor: editor@sbw.org.au

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 Warrumbungle's 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

Office Bearers

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

President:	Ron Watters
9419 2507 (h)	watters@bigpond.net.au
Vice President:	David Trinder
9542 1465(h)	dt28@tpg.com.au
Secretary:	Helen MacDonald
8212 5468(h)	macdonald-helen@bigpond.com
Walks Secretary:	Tony Holgate
9943 3388(h)	tholgate@optusnet.com.au
Social Secretary:	Kathy Gero
9130 7263 (h)	kathygero@aol.com
Treasurer:	Leigh McClintock
8920 2386 (h)	mclintock@unwired.com.au
Members Secretary:	Brian Holden
4294 3074(h)	jholden6@bigpond.com
New Members Secretary:	Jodie Dixon
9943 3388 (h)	newmembers@sbw.org.au
Conservation Secretary:	Maureen Carter
9773 4637 (h)	moz.carter@pacific.net.au
Magazine Editor:	Melinda Turner
4284 0616 (h)	editor@sbw.org.au
<u>Committee Members:</u>	
Bill Hope	
9960 1646(h)	bill.hope@optusnet.com.au
Vacant	
<u>Delegates to Confederation:</u>	
Wilf Hilder	walkingwilf@bigpond.com
Jim Callaway	9587 8661 (h)

The President Says

What a pleasant surprise to meet long standing member and past President Ian Debert on Patrick McNaught's walk in Lane Cove national Park. Rain did not dampen the spirits of the new members. Photos of a most enjoyable day have already gone up on the web site. Thanks, Lily.

Lily has joined our web team. Formerly employed by our ISP Host NetStarter, Lily has a good knowledge of the site and will provide invaluable assistance in maintaining and improving the site. Congratulations to Vivien in leading his first walk along Kangaroo Creek. Lots of new members and photos.

The Indoor climbing course at St Leonards organised by Helen has been most successful. And there are pictures on the web site of the participants showing off their style. Returning from the Blue Mountains last Tuesday I saw the sign to the Penrith White Water Centre. Now that Summer is upon us rafting there would be a fun day. Would like to have a tigger co-ordinate. Any takers?

Giving advance notice of activities helps members plan their busy schedules. As soon as you have an idea let me know and I can put it up on the Short Notice page in the Members Area. No problem if your plans vary, just keep me posted and adjustments can be made to keep everyone informed.

The Summer Program launches our program of upgrading skills for leaders. February has a special navigation day in Kuringai Chase National Park and a remote first aid course with realistic scenarios run by Wild Aid will be held. Some of our members have experienced that with the Bush Club and speak highly of the experience.

Christmas is now rapidly approaching. It's only 6 weeks to our Xmas party. A relaxed laid back affair in the grounds of Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, ideal for a summer evening. Bring a plate of food to share. Chat with old friends, make new friends. See you there.

Ron Watters

From the Editor

Welcome to our first professionally printed magazine. I hope you enjoy it.

The printer has promised me our photos will look better. Please send them in as separate files to your articles. Keep the resolution high.

This will help me in laying out the magazine. It will also help the webmaster when uploading the final documents to the website.

If you have any problems downloading the magazines or newsletters because of the document size please let me know.

A very big 'thank you' to Kenn Clacher who has printed the magazine in the past. And a very big 'thank you' to the many other volunteers, who have helped to print, collate and distribute the magazine in the past. It is a massive task, whew!

Melinda Turner

From the Committee Room

At the October meeting:

President's Opening Remarks

- Ron updated the Committee on Wilf Hilder's health.
- Leader Development

Ron advised the Committee that there are currently 9 full members and 7 prospective members suitable for leadership.

The Committee discussed various options for encouraging potential leaders to take the next step.

It was suggested that the person who proposed a potential leader should continue to encourage them to start leading walks. It was also put forward that initial walks should be with a mentor and that joint names are put on the walks programme.

Tony and Bill are working on Leader Training Modules and will present this further at the next meeting.

Canyoning Competency

It was agreed that a competency check-list be used for canyoning activities. Tony Holgate, Ian Wolf and Claudia Douglas are working on a proposal.

Correspondence - letters

- Bob Younger has donated \$200 to Coolana
- Frank Hartigan has requested to lead canyoning trips on summer programme
- Warwick Blaydon has resigned
- Geoff Bradley has resigned and enclosed a book on orienteering and a compass for club use.

Correspondence - email

- Confederation - latest draft of Adventure Activity Standards to be commented on by 19th October.
- Editor sent in request to offer Sock Revolution a free advertisement in the October Newsletter as a thank you for sending in two pairs of socks for members to try.

General Business

Collating and Printing

Quotes have been obtained for the printing, collating and distributing of the club magazine as follows:-

1. Bertram Printing - \$2100 per quarter
2. Snap Printing - \$1108 per quarter

The Committee agreed to accept Snap Printing's quote and trial it for 12 months. The Committee also unanimously agreed that this should be discussed with the current collating team first.

Half Yearly General Meeting

As there was not a quorum for the Half Yearly Annual General Meeting only notes were taken. Ron summarised the meeting to the Committee.

New Members

Applications for full membership were received from Ondrej Ivanic, Janina Grzazek, Emily Clough, Sue Yap, Arthur Panopoulos, Karen Kool, Paul Irwin, Sandra See, Tim Fielding and Brian Surin

From the Committee Room cont.

Unpaid Subscriptions

Currently there are 70 unpaid members on the database. The committee agreed to split the list and phone to make sure that members did not think they had paid and to confirm if they wished to renew their membership.

Walk upgrades

It was agreed that Helen's Bundeena to Otford walk and Sharam's Evans Lookout walk should be upgraded to 'Q' status

Treasurers Report

Leigh is away so no monthly statement for September was submitted for review

Accounts for Advertisers

Accounts for advertisers were posted out on 7/9/09 with a letter explaining the changes with regards to the club's e-mag. Advertisers were invited to update their ads to include links to their businesses.

Accounts for Payment

1. Replacement of abseiling ropes \$450
2. Printing of archival copy of newsletter/magazine approved.

Helen MacDonald

Conservation Report

I thank Melinda for looking after my conservational reporting responsibilities whilst I have enjoyed a few months of travelling in Western Australia, South Australia and even some cross country skiing. We visited many beautiful national parks in those two states and I hope to do a photo essay on them soon.

At the end of my wanderings I encountered four freezing days walking in the Budawangs in the pouring rain with four brave young women who were completing the outdoors component for their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. They never complained once about the atrocious conditions but as we huddled in a cave near Burrumbeet Brook on the first night, without a fire, as they are outlawed in caves now, I did start to think about how much our spirits would have soared if we were safely tucked up in a New Zealand or Tasmanian style hut.

I have been following the debate this year about commercial tourism development in our national parks and have attended a meeting and sent in a submission to the NSW Government urging them to keep private eco-resorts and their ilk out of our parks and instead to provide good basic facilities and camping opportunities and to allow the local towns to benefit from the patronage of parks visitors. However, since last week I have been reflecting on my own warm experiences of staying in huts in New Zealand, Tasmania and basic refuges in other countries whilst the elements rage outside and I wonder about us doing similarly in our lovely state.

I know the arguments about keeping our parks in pristine condition to preserve our flora and fauna and I was impressed by a recently constructed toilet cleverly located near some well used caves, but, what is so terrible about introducing Tasmanian style huts to our parks or installing those UFO style toilets that are helicoptered in and out? Properly constructed and well maintained tracks and huts would encourage visitors deep into our parks and show them what we have to preserve for the future. If families are encouraged to take their children at no cost, as they are in New Zealand, we could be raising the next generation to value and protect our wild places and spread the word amongst their friends.

If a country with a small population like New Zealand or a small state like Tasmania can provide good basic facilities why can't New South Wales? Are we being elitist in saying that people who want to see our wild places must suffer or miss out? I would be interested to know what other members think. Would my four companions in the Budawangs be likely to fight for their preservation if threatened with coal mining, as our current political masters are quite likely to do, or would they still be trying to forget their uncomfortable time pushing through wet vegetation on overgrown tracks? Don't just sit there ranting about my ill conceived arguments, write to the editor!

Maureen Carter

Proposal for a new class of SBW Membership – A “Coolana Member”

At the September 2009 Six Monthly general meeting I outlined a proposal for a new class of SBW membership tentatively titled a “Coolana Member”. Its aim is to increase the use of Coolana by providing an additional path for new members to join the club. So that the general membership could consider the idea, President Ron Watters asked that I write an article outlining the plan. This follows, in three parts:

- Part 1. Outlines the proposal in detail and explains how it would work,
- Part 2. Explains the benefits to the Club, and
- Part 3. Provides answers to questions that you probably have.

How would it work?

SBW would create a new class of membership - effectively an associate member - that I have termed a *Coolana Member*.

A *Coolana Member* would:-

- Pay an annual subscription equal to that of a full member (or as determined) and so be covered by the existing insurance policy.
- Be welcome to use Coolana and attend any club activity deemed to be "social" (Xmas parties, slide nights, reunions, city activities etc).
- Be welcome to attend club meetings, but not be able to serve on Committee positions or vote on resolutions.
- Optionally receive an electronic version of *The Sydney Bushwalker* and monthly newsletter.

A *Coolana Member* would NOT:-

- Receive the walks program or be able to go on formal SBW walks activities.
- Receive any paper versions of magazines, annual reports etc, all communication would be electronic, which is easier to manage.

To become a *Coolana member* one would:-

- Firstly become a prospective member is the usual way.
- At the end of this 12 month period the person then has three choices - (a) Move onto full membership as now, (b) Leave the club, as now or (c) Subject to their application being accepted become a *Coolana Member*.
- Achieving satisfactory completion of qualifying walks is NOT required, but the first aid and / or map reading tests can be retained if desired.
- If desired, full membership could subsequently be obtained by reverting to a prospective member and then completing the existing requirements.

Benefits to the Club

The main benefits to the Club are:-

- It provides a bigger pool of members who can help finance & maintain the property.
- It provides another option to retain prospective members who presently leave the club. Currently there are really only two options - full membership, or leave the club, possibly never to be heard of again. With this option, SBW retains contact with these people, including via email, and hopefully, over time, some will ultimately choose to achieve full membership.
- We are extremely lucky that earlier generations had the foresight to acquire the property. It would be very difficult for a club like SBW to ever purchase such a place again. Given that we already own it, this provides the means to ensure that we can retain it. The toilet is in, the river flat is (almost!) cleared, the water supply has been improved - we just need more people to use it.
- Membership fees are recurring and can help offset the increasing cost of running the property, notably rates.
- This is a way of broadening the scope of SBW membership, whilst still retaining our core values. It also provides a mechanism for allowing, for example, locals in the Kangaroo Valley area, who are able to help with maintenance, to use the property.

Some Questions you may have

SBW has members interested in other activities - cycling, kayaking, skiing, rock climbing etc. Does this mean that we should also have separate membership classes for these groups? Will this fragment the Club?

No. Coolana is different because the club already owns the property and needs to fund & maintain it.

Assuming this is introduced, will anyone actually want to use it?

Proposal for a new class of SBW Membership cont.

Only time will tell, but I firmly believe the answer is yes. Coolana is a great property approximately 2 1/4 hours drive from a city of about 4 million people. The transport links - either via the inland or coastal roads are good. There are no NPWS restrictions. The State Government has a policy of urban consolidation which in practice means that more people will be living in units. Coolana is the backyard that they haven't got.

How many Coolana Members should we have?

See how it goes but I think we should aim for an initial membership of 100 people. Assuming a nominal annual fee of \$50 this will provide about \$5K income pa, less costs. This amount would be very useful in offsetting the running costs of the property.

What is expected of a Coolana Member?

They would use the property and contribute to the general maintenance of it.

Does this preclude SBW allowing other groups to use Coolana?

No. There is a separate proposal that SBW should allow other related groups to use the property. The two ideas are not mutually exclusive.

Conclusion

I appreciate this is probably a significant change for the club and no doubt it will be refined. However I believe the proposal provides the basis for the ongoing upkeep of Coolana and I commend it to you.

Chris Miller

Alex Colley Receives Australian Geographic Award

On the 16th October, Alex Colley received the Australian Geographic award LIFETIME OF CONSERVATION. The Society Awards Night was held at the Wentworth Hotel hosted by Sorrel Wilby.

Alex was accompanied by Sally, the Recreational Officer from Turramurra House where Alex lives, and a nurse, Natasha. Craig and I were also very honoured to be present, along with Colin and Jane Putt, members of the Society.

During pre dinner drinks in the foyer Alex was introduced to a number of people from the Society including Dick Smith. He was delighted by the nonhuman guests - a python and a lace monitor.



*Alex and the
lace monitor*

Alex was the first of a number of Society awardees to be presented. The citation was given by Sorrel Wilby and in reply Alex said that he was attracted to conservation when he first joined the SBW in 1936 and met Miles Dunphy. He sincerely hoped that, as natural areas disappear; future generations will appreciate the work of early conservationists.

This is the second celebration for Alex this year for on August 1st he turned 100.

Many thanks go to Shirley Dean who supplied all the background information to the Australian Geographic Society. Unfortunately Shirley could not attend the ceremony.

Christine Austin

Shorter Walks in Lane Cove NP

I have been running a series of shorter walks in the NP to see what sort of response there is amongst members. The stimulus was the frequent comment that people wanted to do a walk but still have time to do other things in our rather busy weekends. The idea was to extend these to the Blue Mountains etc as people felt they had the time and fitness. So far three walks have been done all based on Chatswood Station.

The first walk was the standard circuit via Ferndale track, Great North Walk down Lane Cove River, back up to Fullers Bridge via the true left of Lane Cove and back to Chatswood Station via true left of Blue Gum Creek. It was a good walk with beautiful weather and the main other entertainment when I got a real fright when I nearly trod on a Red Bellied Black and jumped about 3 feet into the air. I know RBBs are rather timid but I am a bit wary of snakes having reputedly being bitten by one a few weeks ago on one of Nigel Weaver's walks. Actually, I suspect the snake got more of a fright than I did. Several of the walkers joined me later at home to partake of tea and coffee.

The second walk was from Thornleigh to Chatswood Station via the Great North Walk. Well, it was actually supposed to be from Chatswood Station to Thornleigh but we decided it would be easier to walk downhill from Thornleigh. Again, quite a good turnout although we lost a few who got a little confused by the starting point (in spite of my email). Beautiful weather again but one of my daughter's came and set a cracking pace. I had to tell her several times to slow down as some of us old folks had trouble keeping up. No snakes that day which was probably good.

The third walk was really a swim. This will put them off I thought to myself but to my amazement all seventeen people turned up. It started raining in Blue Gum Creek (true right) and I suggested anyone who wanted to could retreat up Fullers Road. I wonder why we didn't see any Powerful Owls that I told everyone to look out for. All carried on and we went down the true left of Lane Cove River. It was a touch soggy and I would say there was 2 -5 cm of water on most of the track down to Epping Road. Everyone seemed to enjoy going across the spikes but a few of the shorter folks were definitely taking it easy so they did not have to take a real swim. The rain actually eased off at Epping Road and I again offered an escape route to any that wished to take it. There were no takers and also everyone ignored McDonalds (I did actually offer it). We had a few more minutes respite from the rain to let us have lunch on a wooden platform with no roof but shortly after the rain really hit us again. We took a break at the shelters at Blackman Park where the rain was something like water out of a tap and then we hurried on to Linley point to take the bus back to Chatswood Station.

We all got thoroughly wet and somewhat to my amazement, everybody seemed to have a good time and even the seven prospectives all wanted to come walking again (hopefully in finer weather). We finished off at "Shades" for hot chocolate with marshmallows and chips after apologizing profusely to the Doorman. He didn't seem to mind our dampness. The photographs are all courtesy of Lily Ng (one of our intrepid prospectives). I will list all those who came on our "swim" first: Maria Fitzpatrick, Christine Edwards, Corey Sylvester, Baek Heesuk, Anna Vaughan, Nance and Martin Morgan, Helen Lalas, Ron Watters, Lily Ng, Mark Dabbs, Linda Tarrant, Margaret and Nigel Weaver, Ian Debert, Belinda McKenzie and myself. On the other two walks have also come: Claudia Douglas, Patrick James, Rachel McNaught, Lloyd Francis, Sheila Zaman, Sara Ching, Tim Yudel, Pamela Irving, Denza Mazevska and Jim Pearce

Since I can't really think of a lot else to say on this rather gray Monday PM, I thought I could give a little publicity to my walk next month (my favourite Lane Cove walk which I used to use as a training walk). All welcome. There is a barbeque at the end at my place in Chatswood. The intention was that you had to come on the walk to get into the barbeque but it is nearly Christmas and at the least all those who have been on any of the four walks (and probably a few others) are welcome. See the program for the walk.

Patrick McNaught



Patrick gives a brief introduction



The 3rd walk was really a swim!



After 5 hours we reached the bus stop

Weekend visit to Colo Meroo campground/17-18 October



Colo River at pass bottom



Looking upstream



Chris Turton and Martin Morgan

A late start allowed Pam and Martin to be picked up at Richmond railway station at 8.30am. After stopping for a coffee purchase on the way we arrived at 9.30am at the meeting point where a large group with another bushwalking club had also just arrived.

After sorting who belonged with which group the parties left on their separate walks. The Gaspers Ridge fire trail is very pleasant walking and the group set a comfortable pace while enjoying the bush. Martin had hired a pack for the walk, which Yvonne set up for him. Alpsport had also hired a good lightweight Wilderness Equipment tent that looked brand new.

Lunch on Mailes Ridge overlooked Brian Corlis Pass 34. We had a good view of the small cliffs, which made that route too hard for this trip. While on the track we saw and heard lyrebirds, cockatoos both black and white as well as other birds. I managed to locate and remain on the footpad most of the time and we arrived at the camp ground at about 3.15pm with each walker carrying some firewood.

We busied ourselves collecting more wood, though finding a blacksnake reminded us to take care, building a fireplace on the site of previous ones complete with log seats, collecting water and pitching tents. The folding saw I carried was useful in cutting and breaking timber to good lengths. The campground had brush turkey bellbirds, currawongs and many other day birds with owls calling at night.

A brief heavy rain shower during which we moved the firewood and ourselves under cover in the shelter structure interrupted happy hour. After the shower we moved back to the fire and cooked dinner. Two people arrived at 7.15pm in the last daylight. Apart from this couple the campground was ours. Next morning I followed the farm track to its end at a smaller shelter structure with river access that had not been overgrown with lantana.

9am we left camp and headed back up the steep 300 metre climb to the top of Mailes ridge where we had morning tea. From there we made better time back to the cars than our outward trip with various people leading while I brought up the rear. We arrived back at the cars by 3pm.

The walk finished with coffee, milkshakes, and apple pies at Bilpin. Walkers were Stephen & Yvonne Brading, Pam Campbell, Penelope Irvine, Sue Yap, Chris Turton, Martin Morgan

Stephen Brading

Paralyser / Guouogang trip on October 17-18.

Participants: David Trinder, Melinda Turner, Frank Hardigan, Mark Dabbs and Arthur Panopoulos.

On the 17th and 18th of October David Trinder led a Guouogang walk via the mighty Nooroo Buttress.

We started the day with a swift road bash along the King Pin fire trail and reached Mt Thurat in no time. Then it was off along Thurat ridge for the Paralyser cairn. We took a slight detour along the way to check out the top of Carrabeanga Falls. The views down to Kanangra Creek and across to the Gangerangs from here were spectacular, leaving us in no doubt as to the verticality of the terrain ahead.

After a quick snack we headed for Paralyser. Here we stopped for lunch, performed the obligatory logbook signing ritual, and then tackled the rather large descent into Whalania Creek. This area of Paralyser bottoms out with a steep scree slope, which I tend to treat with a certain respect. (I.e. sliding down on my posterior)

Aching knees were finally relieved as we arrived at the bottom. On a recent walk we found a way to avoid the compulsory 'climb' down into the creek by veering 50 metres or so to the east. And this was the route we took to make our final descent into Whalania Creek.

The beautiful, wee campsite here is always a welcome sight. There was dry wood remaining from our last visit and we settled down to a pleasant evening around the fire. Good company and a brightly burning fire, the promise of a snugly sleeping bag and well deserved sleep.

We awoke to bird song and an overcast sky, perfect conditions for an early morning ascent of Nooroo Buttress. For those who may not have heard of Nooroo, it rises about 1,000 metres within two kilometers. Some people refer to it as 'notorious' because of the knife edge ridges, I call it 'beautiful'; the joy of vistas revealed as you climb higher, exhilarating.

At the top we fought the usual battle through the 'Guouogangicus shitticus' (I'm sure this is the correct Latin name for the wonderful vegetation encountered here) and finally reached the Guouogang cairn in time for morning tea.

And this is where things start to get interesting.

During a recent 'Killer Miller' walk up the Krungle Bungles, Karl mentioned a plane crash site that was supposed to be close by. On that particular trip we did have a quick search for the crash site but failed to find it. David happened to mention this to one of his bushwalking neighbours who said, 'I was there a little while ago, I can get a GPS reference for it.'

So with said coordinates and GPS in hand we took off for Mount Queahgong. We were given the following instructions:

"The WGS84 reference for the crashed plane is easting 34741 and the northing is 49752 on the 3rd edition Jenolan map. Walking up the Krungle Bungle range 600m after Mt Queahgong walk to the northern edge of the ridge at the grid reference above, look over the edge and you will see the wreck 30 m away from you. There is a green tape on the tree at the point where you look over."

We arrived at the given position, no plane. Everybody sat down to consider the options, talk it through. And it was during this little male 'pow wow' that I stood up to stretch my legs and take in the views. And there to my surprise was the plane. Not 30 metres below us.



When mountain meets plane, the mountain is guaranteed to win.....

Paralyser / Guouogang trip on October 17-18 cont.

During the half an hour that we spent at the site, I could not help but feel a certain unrest. If that plane had been 20 metres higher it would have cleared the ridge!

I guess when mountain meets plane; the mountain is guaranteed to win.

Time forced us to retreat back up the Krungle Bungles for the path home. An uneventful afternoon saw us take the 'high road' out via Ferny Flat. Picking up the Belarah and Queen Pin fire trails ensured a quick exit back to the cars.

Another great adventure out at Kanangra!

Postscript: Attempts to research the history of this wreck have been largely unsuccessful.

The 'Press On Regardless' Archives of the Sydney University Bushwalkers hold the article 'Girls Gasping Through the Gangerangs' by Denise Black and Carol Isaacs. (1966). The article states:

"On the narrow ridgeline of Mt. Queahgong, we discovered a recent plane wreck. One wing was poking up out of the side of the ridge. The surrounding vegetation was burnt and the fuselage was just a lump of fused metal. Carol remembered that this plane had crashed about twelve months prior to our trip and it had taken the police a long time to find it."

If anybody has information about the history of this wreck I would be interested in hearing from them. (turner.melinda@gmail.com)

Melinda Turner

Help Needed

Advertising Manager for Magazine Needed

The Sydney Bushwalkers Magazine needs someone with good communications skills to manage our present advertisers and look for more advertisers.

Please contact our President, Ron Watters with expressions of interest. Ron can be contacted on 9419 2507 or 0419 617 491 or wattersr@bigpond.net.au

Senior First Aid Teachers Needed

The club is looking for a qualified Senior First Aid teacher to help run our "First Aid Training" for new members. The training days are always fun and you will pass on knowledge that is always invaluable in the bush.

If you can help please contact Tony Holgate on 02 9943 3388 (home) or 0434 968 793 (mobile)

Picasa Web Albums and Google Groups

Picasa Web Albums - We have a new, easier way to get your photos available to share on the website. Essentially you can upload your photos to a Web Album (Picasa) and let us know the link. Many of us are using web albums to share with family and friends already. Please click on (or paste the following link into your browser) for instructions on how to upload your photos:

<http://www.sbw.org.au/SiteMedia/w3svc853/Uploads/Documents/Picasa%20Web%20Album%20-%20Beginners%20Guide.doc>

Google Groups - To encourage interactive use of this facility, it is now possible for anyone in the group to create a message to the whole group (rather than asking Ron to send it out). If you are not on the list and aren't getting short notice and alteration updates, just drop me an e-mail and I'll add you.

Maybe you have wanted to plan a walk - You could ask "Who has walked in MacDonnells and can point me in the direction of water here?" Or "Who is the Blue Break Guru, I want to head out there next Easter?" Maybe you have a day off in the middle of next week. "Hi, I'm heading up to Blackheath next Wed, if you want to join me on this exploratory walk Please Note - No commercial messages, no chain or joke mail to be sent. Moderation is in place but the message should go out within a few hours.

Karl Miller



Mount Werongaine, or how to get lost and wet in style.

Participants: Emmanuelle Convert
Ondrej Ivanic
Vivien de Rémy de Courcelles

The 'Mt Werongaine' (aka NSW rogaining championship) was held on the October long weekend. Emmanuelle, Ondrej and I took part in this event while two fellow SBW members Sue Bucknell and Caro Ryan were on call with the BWRS to ensure the safety of all. As for every rogaine, the exact location was revealed only a week before the event. It came along with the news that it was snowing there the weekend before the event while the course setters (including SBW Tom Brennan) were hanging the flags.

It seems that the road to Mt Werong has been upgraded recently, probably to facilitate access to the pine plantations in the area, and we made good time to reach an already buzzing hash house. We got our maps and set up camp before deciding on a strategy.

For those unfamiliar with rogaining, it is a kind of orienteering without a set course. It is not a race per se: teams of 2 to 5 members have between 2 and 24 hours (depending on the event) to collect as many points as they can or want. In the hours preceding the start they are given a map indicating flags that are worth points according to the physical or navigational difficulty to reach them. It is then up to each team to decide on a course and try to score as many points as possible.

As an example, the winners of the 15 in 24 hour's category at the Mt Werongaine scored 1700 points, an impressive 680 points clear of the second team and only 30 points shy of the second place of the full 24 h category. On the other end of the table, the last team scored only 40 points by clearing 2 of the easiest flags. We had a chat with the two girls in that team while one of them was drying her pants after the other one had pushed her into a creek: it was their first rogaine and they had the time of their life. Some teams preferred not to walk at night, others stayed on track all the time whereas we went for the high scoring flags and the path of least resistance. Well, at least we tried.

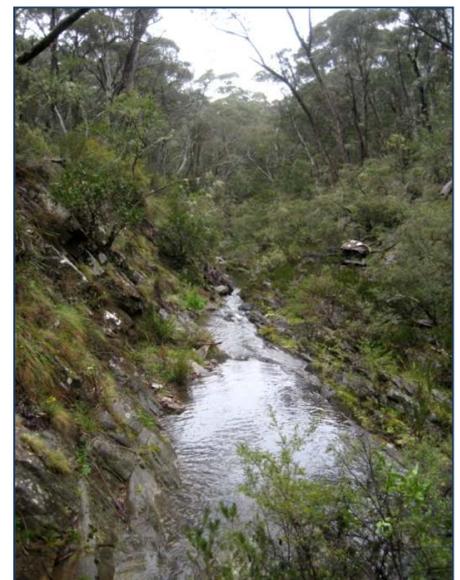
Five minutes before the start, we decided to do our planned loop in a clockwise way instead of the anti-clockwise way as originally decided. This went against our principle learnt at the Lake Macquarie event of not changing plan at the last minute!

Within 10 minutes, we were already spotting a couple of wallabies. They were the first of a long list of animals including lyrebirds, black cockatoos and other birds and mammals.

We found the first flags quite easily and without much delay. One of the good things about rogaining is that you are using all the techniques for orienteering from interpreting the landscape to taking a back bearing. It can even be as simple as having a look at your compass to decide which ridge to follow as Emmanuelle was pointing out when we were looking for 34. You also discover new areas, great lookouts or beautiful potential campsites as for checkpoint 85 that stood near a grassy flat at the junction of 2 delightful (even in the rain) creeks.

Besides basic orienteering, rogaining teaches us how to read the bush. Mt Werong was typical dry ridge walking, with narrow, bouldery and sometimes flowing creeks. The Lake Macquarie rogaine on the other hand had very overgrown under storey and wide and dry creeks covered by rock slabs. Therefore, while we favoured creek walking at Lake Macquarie, ridge walking was in order at Mt Werong.

A couple of mistakes cost us some time and energy on the way to 64 from 85. A new lesson was learnt there: if you want to climb a spur on the right of a creek, you'd better not go on its left. We went onto what we thought was the wrong spur and crossed over a gully to the next one. We consequently spent one and a half hour searching for 64, climbing some very steep hills whereas we had previously spent about half an hour to go from flag to flag. Tiring and demoralising but happy and relieved when finally finding the checkpoint.



Where???

Mount Werongaine, or how to get lost and wet in style cont.



Emmanuelle and Ondrej

The following couple of flags brought night and 150 points with them. Points are calculated by multiplying the first number of a flag by 10 in this case 50 pts from 55 and 100 pts from 101.

It was fully dark by the time we left 101 walking along a spur down to a creek junction. We kept learning from mistakes: At night, if you are not following a creek or a ridge, take a bearing... We didn't and struggle for a while looking for 67!

Later on we found a firetrail not marked on the map that confused a number of teams including us. Back on track going toward flag 78, we were having a chat with the member of

another team who happened to be a Frenchman from the coastal village where my parents have a house and I spent all my holidays.

What are the chances to meet someone from Lacanau (pop 3500) now living in Canberra while rogaining in the Australian bush at 8.30 pm at night?

From checkpoint 78 it was a long road bash on firetrail to the Hash house. We missed 42 and went straight to the all night café where scalding hot soup and toasty cheese sandwiches were served.

We had been advised to stay on tracks or firetrails at night but have come to the conclusion that it is not the best tactic for scoring points as you don't want to leave the easy walking of a track to venture on the side looking for flags. This is especially true if you have walked in the rain for the past 9 hours and you know there are 6 kilometres between you and your sleeping bag.

We were walking in a mist that was so thick that we lost sight of each other from time to time. On the other hand our torches were turned off as the glow of the full moon and the relatively pale surface of the trail allowed us to see enough to walk. Sue and two other BWRS members passed us in their 4WD and tempted us with a lift which we declined.

We finally arrived at the hash house at 11.45 pm almost 12 hours after we left it. It was about time as I was almost sleep-walking the last few kilometres. Dinner was had and we hit the sleeping bags.



Emmanuelle, Ondrej and Vivien

We spent a leisurely Sunday morning chatting with other rogainers, a couple of whom might join the club. After breakfast, cup after cup of tea and coffee, and more food, a team meeting was called. We decided against going back onto the course.

We handed in the electronic bracelets used to record our visit to each flag and our score came out at 600 points placing us in 22nd position in a field of 40 teams.

As always, we couldn't help but looked at what could have been done better and where we would stand if we had done any other flag. It was good fun despite the almost constant rain and the fairly cold weather. At least we didn't get snowed in or lost!

All in all rogaining is an "à la carte" bushwalk where everyone can discover new places while developing their orienteering skills and

understanding of the bush, building confidence in their own abilities all in a very safe and social environment. The food is good too!

If you want to give it a try, check out the NSW rogaining website at <http://www.nswrogaining.org/index.htm>

Next event is the Australian championship in March in the Snowy Mountains.

The Paddy Pallin rogaïne is a good way to start. It is a 6 hour event with lots of flags close to each other and is the one that got us hooked on rogaining. It will be held north of Sydney in June 2010.

There are also 'socialgaïne', a mix of street and track walking and a 'metrogaine', a more city based type.

Vivien de Rémy de Courcelles

Walking in the Kimberley

In June this year I had the privilege of joining seven other intrepid Sydney bushies on an adventure in the far North West - yep the Kimberley Mitchell Plateau. I have to pinch myself sometimes to realize that I am not dreaming with an offer like this. Fourteen days walking with four blokes and three other gals. The trip was admirably planned and executed by the indomitable Captain Steele (Wayne to his friends). Other stylish walkers included Marella Hogan, Bob Milne, Wendy Lippiatt, Tony Marshall, Bill Hope and Virginia Riley. Average age was about 50 something. Average pack weight at the start of the walk about 20 kilos per person. Not bad for the middle-aged set.



The mighty Mitchell River

The Mitchell River flows south to north emptying into Admiralty Gulf - Timor Sea. The river is fed by creeks to the east and west. The walk was in an area with no tracks, few named watercourses, dense vegetation and millions of sandstone rocks. The rocks and formations here have been undisturbed for millions of years. The walking was planned to move from Merten/Mitchell Falls across country to the upper reaches of the Hunter River circumnavigating two river systems. As stated we had fourteen sleeps to play with.

All of us have walked in the Kimberley previously and have the adventure pretty well nailed these days. However, never underestimate the heat - which this year (first week of June) was pretty warm. And so we began our wanderings, firstly skirting around the Mitchell Falls (fabulous views from above) and then moving off in a westerly

direction to another gorge system (with the exciting name of West Gorge). All of us were looking forward to sleeping under the stars, near running water and safe from the crocs (we envisaged that we would be safe from salties being at least 30 kms inland and above the active areas. Rock shelf sleeping has many advantages -you don't need a tent, it is easy to get out of bed at night if you need the little room, the night sky provides more entertainment than Parramatta Road on a Saturday night, you can watch the 'freshies' (crocs that is) eyes peeping out of the pools below and feel reasonably safe (sort of).

By the third day we realized that we needed to re-configure the walk. Our revered leader had a conundrum - we were moving much slower than needed if we were to traverse the plateau and explore a river system to the west of the Mitchell River. This was due to a combination of intense heat in the middle of the day, forcing a rest period for up to three hours and the fact that we just weren't moving as fast as we might have (or once would've). Wayne had had a pretty sleepless night working out options A, B and C. Everyone appeared pleased when Captain Steele proposed that we head back toward the Mitchell River system via a parallel river system with the idea of exploring side creeks and testing the water quality for swimming purposes every so often.



Walking, walking, walking Kimberley style

So we decamped and moved off, carefully navigating around anything that looked like a 'distorted surface' - very rough loose rock that is incredibly difficult to cross. That day's walking was much easier, or I was getting the hang of it, mostly cross country before hitting a major creek in the

middle of the day. We called it quits and set up camp early. The mood had lightened, we were able to cool off and even have a play. Everyone had a book to read, or a facial (a la bush style) or contemplation. It was bliss.

And so the next eleven days settled into a lovely pattern. Up at 5:30am and walking before 7:30am to beat the heat. A quick swim usually about 9:30am and then pushing on before the heat of the day really set in. We were slowly navigating our way down a reasonably major creek system heading north-east toward the Mitchell River.

Walking in the Kimberley cont.

The creek had long reaches ending in small drops with little waterfalls every so often. Occasionally we would walk away from the creek but found the heat to be stifling. The vegetation was a mix of swamps, masses of broken rocks and clumps of palms and pandanus.

One afternoon we were entertained by Marella, Bill and Virginia fishing for 'sooty grunters' a small fresh water bream. Bill's salami (well and truly off by this stage) proved to be an enticing bait. Tony, who is our expert fish-cooking chef from previous trips, had brought along aluminium foil and dried lemon. We enjoyed a taste of fresh fish with dried lemon (tastes so good in the bush). As we pushed our way down the creek the terrain began to change with bigger rock surrounds - lots of clambering over boulders. This variety also gave us our first views of the mighty Mitchell River which was coming in from the south. At the junction we indulged ourselves by floating down the Mitchell River rapids under the cover of the tall pandanus trees which lined the banks. Our last night was spent on the junction of the creek and the river - which was rather spectacular with a broad expanse of flat rock with upper and lower stalls and a clear view of the night sky.



Fishing Kimberley-style

We reached Mitchell River on Day 7 (half way). From here the country really changed and walking was more of an artful navigation of river banks, rock hopping and river crossings. The water level in the river was still high and we treated it with great respect. Wherever there was a drop, we had to skirt around due to the rapids. Walking was slow but great fun. We weren't going far - now that we were back on the Mitchell, we were within striking distance of the walk finish but still far enough in the wilderness for the magic. A few of us were sniffing around for rock art. We had seen a little but the Mitchell River and its overhanging rock shelves promised more.

Days 8 & 9 involved a base camp at the junction of Camp Creek and Mitchell River. We had a day walk up into the middle reaches of the creek and poked around the higher bits where there had been a recent fire. Having a base camp was a luxury - everyone by this stage was so relaxed, no perturbations.



Kimberley art work

Marella and Bill were very keen but Wendy beat the lot of us by finding the most extensive and exquisite art work any of us have ever seen on one of these walks. It was in an overhang not far above the river and had art drawings throughout a whole cave system. The colours were fabulous; ochre, reds and charcoal. The art included Bradshaw - stylised human forms, an early form of rock artwork very similar to that of the East Africans and Egyptians. We also explored the cave system, which had separate chambers and a likely shelter for the nomadic artists and their families.

An interesting side trip was climbing down (in the heat) from the plateau to the base of the Mitchell Falls. From here we were able to walk along a wet slippery ledge and get directly behind the lower Mitchell waterfall. It was a pleasant change sit in the cool and look out onto the heat shimmering Mitchell gorge through the waterfall which roared and crashed only metres from us. We left Mitchell Plateau at the end of 14 days. A helicopter flight over the plateau and out to the coast was the final highlight. It was glorious and money well spent!

Walking in the Kimberley cont.

A few quick tips

Although we were out for 14 days, we had no need for food drops. This was due to very tight planning for food and cooking arrangements. We organized two food groups with communal breakfasts and dinners. Cooking was organized in exacting and fine detail. Most of the evening meals were 'home dried' and made up of carbs/protein and vegetables (total weight no more than 280 grams per person). Breakfast was a big, satisfying bowl of porridge (with dried fruit) and coffee. We ate very well. We have developed tried and true recipes, which we are more than willing to share with others.

We didn't take tents, although most of us took either a fly or some form of cover. Apart from a little dew early on in the walk there was no real need for cover. Rain is very rare during June.

Packs were generally 18-20 kilos in weight setting out. This soon dropped off as we ate our way through the food!

Clothing was limited but because we were able to swim frequently, we were cleaner than at home!

There was no on-track walking and navigation was with map and compass. Of course in this day and age, the GPS was a good insurance policy but not really needed on this trip.

We carried some communal items (three big billies, medical kit, medicinal rum, one PLB and two sat phones). This generally reduced our pack weight - Captain Steele developed an equitable weight distribution so we shared the load so to speak.

Designated jobs - collecting wood, fire lighting, cooking, washing up and even sweeping - all worked and in a relaxed manner! The success of any walk of this length is dependent on people's goodwill and contribution!

Cath Mullane

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

The Gorges of the Gibb

This is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Kimberley. During peak season, every camping area accessible to 4WDs is wall to wall with tourists. Thousands of people visit and 99.9% of those visitors miss the best that the area has to offer.

Forget the crowds – the best is seen when you walk. Why share a campground with a hundred other people when a walk of less than 5 km will get you a beautiful pool shared with no one but your walking companions?

Better still, our Gibb Road Gorges trip is one of the **easiest** we offer. **Insert dates here!**

Want more info? Visit our website or ask for the trip notes.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 rrwillis@internode.on.net

Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

River Road



Walks & other activities / 1 - 31 October 2009

Leaders please send your completed Walks Attendance Form and Activity Report to walksreporting@sbw.org.au.

This helps the Walks Secretary and New Members Secretary in noting progress of our new members, the Leaders' Development Group and the reporting of walks. Contact President Ron if you need the Attendance form in word.

Please keep the signature sheets as these are a legal document.

Thanking you in anticipation - Stephen Brading

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>FRI - MON 2 - 5 OCT - Warrumbungles: <i>Car camping with day walks through the Warrumbungles.</i> No Walk Report:</p>	<p>Don Finch & Others</p>
<p>SUN 4 OCT - <i>Bicycle Ride - Easy/Medium</i> Illawarra <i>Shell Harbour - BlackButt Reserve - Lake Illawarra - Warilla Beach - Barrack Point - Shell Harbour.</i> A scenic bike ride through forest, lakeside and beach. No Activity Report:</p>	<p>Bill Holland & Others</p>
<p>SAT - MON 3-5 OCT - <i>Marathon 48hr Walk - X453</i> Katoomba - Wild Dog Mtns - Kanangra: <i>48 hour attempt on this classic Tiger walk</i> CANCELLED DUE TO BAD WEATHER</p>	
<p>SAT - MON 3-5 OCT - <i>Canoe & Kayaking - Kangeroo Valley - Admiral goes south</i> <i>Tallowa Dam - Kangaroo River with side paddles exploring Bundanoon and Yurrunga Creeks</i> SEE ARTICLE IN OCTOBER NEWSLETTER</p>	<p>Ron Watters Patrick MacNaught Stanley Wong Hubert Habicht Margaret Malar</p>
<p>SAT - MON 3-5 OCT <i>Exploratory off track walk - S223E (Medium) 16km</i> Northern Wollemi NP <i>Great Dividing Range - Razorback Ck - Coricudgy Ck - phantom creek - Razorback Ridge - return.</i> No Walk Report:</p>	<p>Ian Thorpe & Others</p>
<p>SAT - MON 3-5 OCT - <i>Multi day walk 233E 30km +/- 1000m</i> Tallong Area - Morton NP <i>Funnells Creek fire trail - Funnells Pass - Funnells Buttress - Shoalhaven River - Fossickers Flat - Rotten Creek - South Head - Billy Bulloos Crown - Canoe Flat - Un-named ridge - Yager Lookout Fire Trail - Funnells Creek Fire Trail</i> No Walk Report:</p>	<p>Stephen Dolphin & Others</p>
<p>SAT - MON 3-5 OCT - <i>Multi day walk M332 (Hard) 40km</i> Wild Dog Mtns - Krungle Bungle Range <i>Dunphys car park -Cox River - Mt Guouogang - Krungle Bungle Range - Dunphys car park. CANCELLED</i></p>	<p>Stephen Brading</p>
<p>SAT 10 OCT - <i>Day walk M232E 20km</i> Mid Blue Mountains <i>Faulconbridge Ridge Firetrail to Kariwoga Ridge takeoff - follow ridge to junction of Springwood Crk and Grose River - Grose upstream to the track that leads to Faulconbridge Ridge - steep climb up - and then Firetrail back to NP gate</i> Walk Report: Weather was fine early clouded over by 10.00 am but the rain held off until we had made the 2 climbs on the track up from the Grose. There were magnificent views of the Grose River/Springwood Creek Canyons from the Kariwoga Ridge Knife edge at 769 771 We dropped off the ridge early and descended to the Grose approx half a kilometre upstream from the junction. Brian Surin and Arthur Panopoulos were each very helpful in finding the route down steep descents often with scrambling. It was interesting historically to pick up sections of the Engineers Track after 150 years. A good time was had by all.</p>	<p>Jim Percy Brian Surin Geoff Coleman Jan Dormor Arthur Panopoulos Sandra See</p>

Walks & other activities / 1 - 31 October 2009 cont.

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>SUN 11 OCT - Day Walk - M111 Metropolitan Area: - Eastern Suburbs <i>Watsons Bay-South Head-Watsons Bay-Parsley Bay-Vaucluse House-Neilson Park-Rose Bay- Double Bay-Point Piper-Darling Point-Edgecliffe RS</i> Walk Report: We took the 9.20am ferry from Circular Quay to Watsons Bay then walked to the South Head lighthouse where we had morning tea while admiring the view and guessing the straight-line distance to our ultimate destination, North Head. Then it was back through Watsons Bay and on to Edgecliff. The views from our route to the north shore and the City were excellent as usual and from time-to-time we were entertained by other happenings: dolphins surfacing in the Harbour just west of the Sow and Pigs, the filming of a rock music video from the footbridge at Parsley Bay, and a wedding reception at Strickland House and there were more good views from Duff Reserve, Point Piper and McKell Park, Darling Point. The walk finished at Edgecliff Station at 4.30. Altogether a very pleasant day.</p>	<p>Ian Rannard Huw Aprees (P) Yeok Ken (P) Lyn Cheeseman (P) Pam Campbell Pamela Irving Helen Lalas Jan Roberts Sue Yap Phillipa Williams Christine Edwards</p>
<p>SUN 11 OCT - Day Walk - M232 15km Upper Blue Mtns - Blackheath Area <i>Evans Lookout - Horse track, - Rodriguez pass track - Hillary waterfall - Govetts Leap - cliff track to cars</i> Walk Report: It was raining almost all the time we were walking. Lots of Waratah flowers. Beautiful sceneries from the lookouts and nice track within the rainforest along Pops Glen creek.</p>	<p>Shahram Landarani Julian Mailta Onores Nonl Amanda Miller (P) Magova Katarina (P) Kng Wow Garry Morphett Penelope Irvine (P) Kim Bailey Mark Boyle (V)</p>
<p>WEEKEND 10-11 OCT - Navigation & First Aid Training Coolana - Kangaroo Valley Activity Report: Did not go as all intending participants cancelled before the weekend.</p>	<p>Bill Holland Patrick James</p>
<p>WEEKEND 10-11 OCT - Introductory Abseiling Instruction Coolana - Kangaroo Valley</p>	<p>Claudia Douglas & Others</p>
<p>TUES 13 OCT - Day Walk - Easy 13km Illawarra Area <i>Killalea Beach - lagoon - Maloneys Bay - Bushrangers Bay - Boston Memorial</i> CANCELLED</p>	<p>Bill Holland</p>
<p>SAT 17 OCT - Day walk M221 15km Metropolitan Area - <i>Middle Harbour Creek Loop</i> <i>Keeping Middle Harbour on the left - follow Two Creeks Track, Lyrebird track, Bangaroo track, Two Creeks Track crossing Carroll Creek, Bangaroo Creek and Rocky Creek</i> Walk Report: A later start time was agreed due to lack of public transport to the meeting venue. A glorious day for any outdoor activities, especially by the water. A leisurely walk mainly by the edge of Middle Harbour. Being a small group made the pace quite lively so all enjoyed leisurely morning and afternoon stops. The leader was slightly disappointed that the tide was low so no real adventures were to be had crossing the creeks! The 15km walk was finished in 5 hours.</p>	<p>Helen MacDonald Ron Watters Emmanuelle Convert Marcia Kaye (P) Be Cortade (P) Virginia Riley Yeok Ken Williams (P) Tim Yewdall</p>
<p>SUN 18 OCT - Day Walk - Medium 13km Sydney South - Royal National Park <i>Heathcote - Kangaroo Creek (Head of Navigation) - Robinsons Roundabout - Wada Falls - Karloo Pool -Heathcote</i> No Walk Report:</p>	<p>Jim Callaway & Others</p>
<p>WEEKEND 17-18 OCT - 2 Day Walks - S223E 6km per day Newnes Area Day 1: Donkey Mountain. - Day 2: Circuit walk from Newnes No Walk Report:</p>	<p>Ian Thorpe & Others</p>

Walks & other activities / 1 - 31 October 2009 cont.

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>WEEKEND 17-18 OCT - Weekend Walk - M222 Megalong Valley Area Carlons Farm - Breakfast Creek - Coxs river - camp near Davies Camp. Return on Sunday No Walk Report:</p>	<p>Chris Miller & Others</p>
<p>WEEKEND 17-18 OCT - Weekend Walk - M222 Medium Q Mountain Lagoon - Upper Colo Area Mountain Lagoon - Colo Meroo Reserve - Mountain Lagoon. SEE SEPARATE MAGAZINE ARTICLE:</p>	<p>Stephen Brading Yvonne Brading Pam Campbell Penelope Irvine (P) Sue Yap Chris Turton (P) Martin Morgan (P)</p>
<p>WEEKEND 17-18 OCT - Weekend walk - L333 Hard 25km Kanangra Area Kanangra Road - Mount Thurat - Mount Cyclops - Mount Paralyser - descend 850 m and camp at Whalania Creek. Climb 1000m up Nooroo Buttress to Mount Guouogang and return to the Kanangra Road via the Krungle Bungle Range. Walk Report: From the Kanangra Road we took the King Pin Fire Trail and the Thurat Ridge to Mount Paralyser. On the way we made a detour to the top of Carrabeanga Brook and Falls and enjoyed the views from there. From Mount Paralyser we walked the 3 Peaks route down to Whalania Deep and made camp. On Sunday morning with a 7 AM start we climbed the Nooroo Buttress; it took us 3 and a half hours to climb the 1000m high ridge. After putting our mark in the book at the Mount Guouogang cairn we made another side trip to find the plane crash on the Krungle Bungle Range. This time I had the grid reference from a person from Sutherland Bushwalkers who had seen it and consequently we found it. It is 30 m north of the ridge at 347497 on the WGS84 Jenolan map. We returned to the cars at 7 PM.</p>	<p>David Trinder Melinda Turner Frank Hartigan Arthur Panopoulos Mark Dabbs</p>
<p>WEEKEND 17-18 OCT - Weekend Walk - M232 Medium Q Megalong Valley Area - Lower Jenolan River: Carlons Farm - Ironpot Ridge - Coxs River - Scrubbers Hump - Lower Jenolan Creek -Camp - Goolara Peak - Carlons. Walk Report: The weather was spot on for a relaxed w/e with plenty of chances to hone up on navigation and bushcraft skills for new members. A huge Goanna forced us to make a cautious detour on a very scenic Breakfast Creek. Turns were taken carrying an ultra-light pack. The climb rate immediately and dramatically changed as packs were moved around the party as we climbed Scrubbers Hump. The trail mix thief (a possum) was indignant when he dropped his ill gotten gains, that he had nabbed from a tent just moments earlier, and really let us know about it. He then attempted brazen acts of forced entry to no avail.</p>	<p>Karl Miller Stephen West (P) Jeff Boyd (P)</p>
<p>WEEKEND 17-18 OCT - Coolana Bushcare and Maintenance Kangeroo Valley: No Activity Report:</p>	<p>Don Finch & Others</p>
<p>MON-FRI 19-23 OCT - Midweek Camping - Deep Pass campground Wollemi National Park North of Zig Zag Railway Walk Report: The Deep Pass Mid Week event went very well with five participants and excellent weather.</p>	<p>Bill Holland Jim Percy Barrie Murdoch Karen? (V) Rick Angel</p>

Walks & other activities / 1 - 31 October 2009 cont.

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>FRI - SUN 23-25 OCT - 3 Day Walks - M222 Q Maureen's Meander to Melbourne walks. Friday: Minnamurra to Kiama - . Sat: Kiama to Gerroa - Sun: Gerroa to Shoalhaven Heads Walk Report: We had brilliant weather for our three day-walks from Minnamurra to the Shoalhaven River which completed Stage 12 of Maureen's Meander to Melbourne. It was out of order to allow for the completion of the walking track from Kiama South to Warri Beach. There were a variety of walking conditions with rock platforms to negotiate; several golden beaches to enjoy; the new wide track with its superb views and interesting dykes; close ups of many sea birds including a huge white breasted sea eagle; green hills straight out of Ireland; remnant South Coast rainforests; burrawangs & banksias; and we finished where migrating birds rest on the banks of the Shoalhaven River at a spot aptly named (for the birds) The Shoalhaven Heads International and Domestic Airports.</p>	<p>Maureen Carter & 3 members 2 visitors</p>
<p>SAT 24 OCT - Day Walk - M222 Southern Highlands - Shoalhaven River: Long Point - Shoalhaven River - Badgerys Spur. No Walk Report:</p>	<p>Brian Surin & Others</p>
<p>SUN 25 OCT - Day Walk - S111 Metropolitan Area - North: Chatswood Station to Linley Point SEE SEPARATE MAGAZINE ARTICLE</p>	<p>Patrick McNaught & Others</p>

RECEIVE A \$20 GIFT CARD FOR EVERY \$200 YOU SPEND*

During the Macpac Christmas Sale all Macpac Wilderness Club (MWC) members receive a \$20 gift card for every \$200 spent! Those gift cards are valid until the end of February, so they'll make terrific Christmas gifts for friends and loved ones!

SIGN UP TO MWC INSTORE OR ONLINE - IT'S FREE!

2009 MACPAC CHRISTMAS SALE

SAVE 25-50% OFF THE ENTIRE MACPAC RANGE

STARTS THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER



MERINO 130 L/S CREW
 INTRO \$49.95
 AFTER SALE \$99.95
SAVE 50%



RESOLUTION JKT
 RRP \$599.95
 NOW \$399.95
\$200 OFF
LIMITED STOCK



MACROLIGHT TENT
 RRP \$649.95
 NOW \$449.95
\$200 OFF



CASCADE & ESPRIT RANGES
 RRP FROM \$549.95
 NOW FROM \$384.95
30% OFF



LATITUDE RANGE
 RRP FROM \$599.95
 NOW FROM \$359.95
40% OFF

MACPAC SYDNEY - TOWN HALL ARCADE, 464-480 KENT ST (02) 9267 3510
 MACPAC CHATSWOOD - 416 VICTORIA AVE (02) 9419 2011
 SHOP ONLINE AT WWW.MACPAC.COM.AU OR PHONE MACPAC MAIL ORDER ON 1800 128 504

Discount off RRP. For a limited time (26th Nov 2009 - 10th Jan 2010) or while stocks last. Some items may not be available in all stores. *Conditions apply. See instore or online for details.



Page 19

Coolana Report



2003



2006



2009

Three photos taken on the eastern flat in 2003, 2006 and 2009 showing the weeds and the improvements.

During September Bill had a maintenance weekend at Coolana which was a little truncated due to the slow recovery from recent medical conditions of some of the participants. However some cut logs were stacked on the camping flat and Patrick continued his improvements at the toilet and preparations for the concert in March which include the concert site preparation and improving and extending the car parking bays.

October was a busy month at Coolana with Claudia running back to back abseiling instructional weekends. A Prospective training weekend an extended maintenance weekend and a day walk. On the weekend of the 17th 18th October there were 27 people at Coolana.

Arrangements were made with Shoalhaven Fire Control and the Kangaroo Valley Rural Fire Service to assess the log piles on the Eastern Flat for the purpose of issuing a fire permit. This was done on Wednesday 14th October, the FVRFS officer was very interested to access Coolana in future and he pointed out that the fact that our road which went all the way down to the river from Tallowa Dam road meant there was a possibility of using our road to stop a bush fire encroaching from the west. Subsequent enquiries have revealed that the NPWS lock used by the fox control team on the southern side of the sump buster can be opened by the FVRFS. With the permit issued the mandatory 24 hours notice of intention to light a fire was given and preparations began in earnest. The two 750 litre tanks on the Eastern flat were first topped up this required about 1000 litres of water on the Wednesday. All of this was used and a further 1200 litres was required to leave the tanks full at the end of the weekend. Bill had reported that there had been significant damage to the road due to water running over the top of the water diversion humps during a hail storm. No maintenance work had been done on the road humps since last year and the price was now severe erosion on several sections. A big weekend next autumn with a 4x4 vehicle, trailer, tonnes of material and plenty of helpers will need to be planned.

On Thursday 15th Ros and Paul arrived followed by Claudia about noon. Ros immediately started into tending trees and spraying weeds. Water drums, tanks and tools were shuffled around the Eastern Flat while picking up sticks to add to the piles took up any spare time. It was judged that the day was too windy to light the fires so we waited.

Very early Friday 16th the forecast south-westerly change arrived with a drop in temperature. Paul and Don were up at 5am and the first fires were lit at 6 am. SMS phone messages were sent to the FVRFS to alert them to our progress and the chap from the canoe hire in KV paddled down about 9 am to see what all the smoke was about. Ros made a start on weeds and looking after trees. Claudia arrived after breakfast and assisted tending to the fires this was an all day job. Pushing log ends in and raking over the coals was hot work. Extinguishing the fires was started at 4 pm we were able to leave them all blacked out at 7:30 pm, we were totally exhausted. Glenn arrived late in the day as did Patrick and Kim who were lining up for the abseiling.

Glenn was up early Saturday and started clearing out the road humps starting at the front gate and then on to replace track signs and clearing the walking tracks out to Dot's lookout and along the scenic track. A group of eight walked out along the scenic track to inspect the weeds in the creek to the west of Coolana. The track was cleared as we went and Glenn finished the whole circuit that afternoon with the leaf blower. Chris and Mai started on the link and the Davison track and finished it off on Sunday. Mean while Paul Irwin made a start on the Rigby track this was finished off by Glenn on the Sunday. The abseiling team had all arrived in time for the 10am start, the car park was looking full.

Coolana Report cont.

On Sunday it was more of the same only different Glenn back into signs and tracks, Rick, Susan, Chris, Mai, Ros and two Pauls at work on the Eastern Flat; spraying weeds, tending trees, picking up sticks and for Rick and Paul using the puller to recover star posts from around the flat. The road humps on the lower section of the road from where it turns to runs east to the shelter shed and down to the toilet were raked out and refurbished. A crow bar was found standing up in the ground and put into the tool shed. Leaves were raked out from behind the shelter shed. Glenn had managed to double book himself for this weekend by putting a day walk on the Campbell town bushwalkers program he solved this by inviting them to Coolana and they had an enjoyable walk around the property. There were 27 people at Coolana on the Sunday in 15 cars, 11 bushwalkers, 7 abseilers and 9 bush carers. Coolana is looking great lots of grass plenty of water and heaps of wombats, enjoy.

Don Finch

Ultralight Gear for Sale

Many of you will know I enjoy ultralight walking and regularly achieve sub 7kg for a weekend walk. Below are a couple of opportunities to get serious about your pack weight. Both the Tarp and the Highlite are my standard gear for NSW. Seeing is believing - Join me for a lightweight leap-about walk at the end of Nov. Numbers limited due to limited gear, see program for details. Cheers Karl



Garmin Geko 101 - \$100. Used, as new condition - At 88g (incl. batteries), and measuring 100 x 50 x 25mm, this is your absolute lightweight "Where the hell am I?" navigational companion. The 101 is the Geko base model, so it is not capable of transferring data to/from a PC or showing maps but it will nail your position when you don't!

Specification <http://www.ropemarine.com.au/index.html?lang=en-us&target=d29.html>



Western Mountaineering - Highlite - \$420. Brand new, unused, 6'. WM produce an unbelievably light weight range of sleeping bags using 850 fill power down and a minimum of extras e.g. just a half zip. The "Highlite" is rated at 4C and weighs just 485g. I use my Highlite regularly year round and have slept to 4C on several occasions (albeit with thermals and beanie) so the rating is accurate.

On a 5 day walk this year, with 4C predicted overnight, all four of us in the party, independently decided to take this bag (and would again). Get serious about reducing your pack weight. Specification - <http://www.paddypallin.com.au/default.aspx?page=78&product=313&Group=0>

Silnylon Tarp - Design as per my AAWT trip. Loads of room coming from its asymmetric shape, side lifters and beaks. Silnylon is the ultralight weapon of choice. Ripstop nylon, impregnated with silicone for water proofing. Measures 2.6m wide at front, 1.6m wide at back and 2.9m long (incl. beaks). Total Fly weight 285g. Including guys, pegs and emergency blanket for groundsheet, my shelter totals 430g and packs to 10cm dia. x 20cm. I will shortly get more material and can make them up for \$140. Alternatively I'll have the Silnylon available for sale at \$15/linear meter and you can make something up to your own design.



Contact Karl: KMiller@swiftdsl.com.au or 0428 458 788.

The Midweek Walkers

Bill Holland

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.

We welcome all members to our activities, including new members, their families and accompanying visitors. The range of activities caters for all abilities with emphasis on a more relaxed style of walking. Some even prefer to spend at least part of the time back at base reading, bird watching or just relaxing in the outdoors. In most cases you can join us for all or any part of the Monday to Friday events, but we need to know you are coming.

Looking now at our recent and coming activities:

Our trip to Deep Pass last month was successful. Good weather assisted in making the walking and camping very pleasant. For some, it was the first time in the area but for the others it was a return to great memories of the past. The high cliffs, gorges and rock formations are truly remarkable.

Looking back on 2009 we have had some interesting times. In February we went to Hat Head in mid Northern NSW: March saw us at Jindabyne; Canberra in April: Timor in the Hunter Valley in May; Newnes cabins in June; Currawong cottages in August; Glass House mountains in September and Deep Pass in October.

Here are the details of coming activities but the dates in 2010 are indicative only:

November: Dunns Swamp (Monday 23rd - Friday 27th November)

We have been here twice already but this particular area is so popular. The crowds at the weekend vanish during midweek and we have most of the campground to ourselves. Here again, we will have a large tarpaulin for extra shelter and the cars will be placed next or very near to our tents.

November has warmer weather making paddling and swimming a real pleasure. The area is well suited to canoeing and walking. There is no limit on numbers; family and visitors are welcome. Please let me know if you are coming.

15th - 19th February: Return to Currawong Beach:

Once again we will occupy "Midholme" the original homestead. The cost, based on ten people is low, approx \$20 per night. We will do day walks, short and long, or take the alternatives of tennis or miniature golf. Swimming at the private beach will be a welcome option.

22nd - 26th March: Tombara Holiday Units:

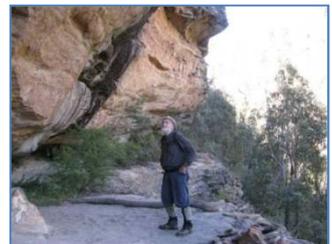
Situated on 28 acres of natural bushland, fronting the beautiful Mongarlowe River, Tombarra is a short drive from the historic township of Braidwood and very close to The Budawangs and other bush walking areas. It also offers swimming, tennis, kayaking, barbecue facilities or simply relax with a book and enjoy the peace. Costs will be \$20 - \$30 per night per head depending on numbers.

19th - 23rd April: Wilsons Promontory:

This is mainland Australia's southernmost national park, known for its beautiful rainforests, unspoiled beaches, and abundant wildlife. We plan to stay in holiday cabins and walk in the park and to explore major features. Due to the distance involved, we may be able to arrange car sharing to reduce the cost of travel.

This covers the first part of the year. Later we may be able to arrange to stay in **New England National Park** in late autumn or early winter and once more there seems to be an interest in **Lord Howe Island**.

If you would like to attend any of the above events or be added to our Midweek Walkers mailing list please let me know. My contact details are: 02 4296 3084 email billholland@bigpond.com



Upcoming Events

Music in the Bush



Classically trained musicians and singers needed.

In March 2010 SBW is staging a classical music concert, *Music in the Bush* (somewhat akin to the popular *Opera in the Outback* but without the fat lady singing). All SBW classically trained musicians and singers are invited to contact the Artistic Advisor as soon as possible to discuss the Concert and their potential involvement. The invitation is also open to close associates of SBW members and prospective members. *Music in the Bush* will be suitable for orchestral instruments and voice. The music envisaged at this stage will be the more popular classics suitable for an audience of diverse musical appreciation.

Please contact our Artistic Advisor, Claudia Douglas at claudiadouglas@westnet.com.au

Social Notes

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to our final magazine for 2009. Hopefully it has been a good year for you. It is now time to party!!!!

So, of course, we have our fabulous, traditional SBW Xmas party on Wednesday 16th December. This is always a terrific occasion to which everyone comes, 'catches up' with friends and plans future adventures. Just bring a plate of something delicious to share and the Club provides everything else.

There are several Xmas/New Year walking trips on the Walks Program for enjoyment. In early January we have the Balmoral Picnic which Bill Holland has kindly offered to organize again this year. With the hot weather, many walks are shorter with a large emphasis on swimming and relaxing.

There have been many wonderful social nights in the club rooms. Many members have contributed many hours to making these possible. So, a big THANKYOU.

Keep well and see you at the Xmas Party

Kathy Gero

Summer Social Program

Nov 18/8pm Hiking in the "fall" in the Rocky Mountains N.P. (USA) -2008

Club member, Ian Wolfe will awaken SBW members to the extreme beauty of the Rockies in Colorado. The foliage and terrain are amazing. A 'must see' evening.

Dec 16/6.30pm Traditional SBW Christmas Party

It's that time of year again so come along and celebrate Christmas with some old friends, meet some new ones. Bring along a plate of your favourite happy hour, the Club will provide the Christmas cheer.

Christmas/New Year Camping at Coolana in the beautiful Kangaroo Valley

All members, prospective members and their families may visit and stay at Coolana at any time. Christmas is a great time to enjoy our magnificent property. There is no need to book, just come and join the social scene. Water on site and the composting toilet make this a pleasant place. Stay for a New Year celebration!

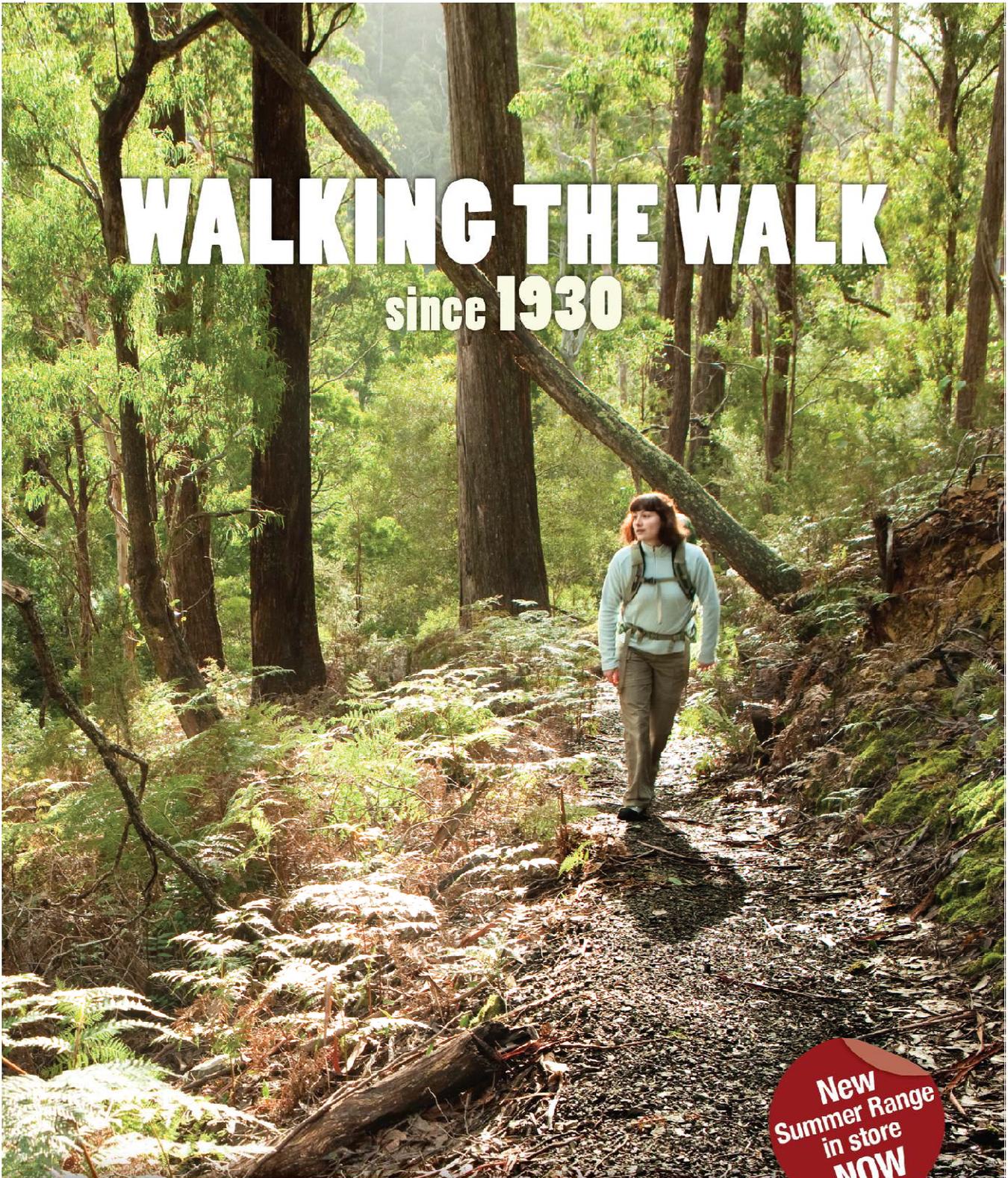
Jan 6 Evening Picnic at Balmoral Picnic

To start the New Year we're getting together again at the south end of Balmoral Beach. This annual event is a chance to relax with other members and friends, and perhaps enjoy a swim at the end of the day.

The Balmoral Picnic will start with a walk at 4pm (south end of Balmoral Beach), followed by the picnic at 6pm (south end of Balmoral Beach) which is BYO everything. You can buy fish 'n chips on the promenade.

WALKING THE WALK

since 1930



New
Summer Range
in store
NOW

MIRANDA • 587 Kingsway • ph 9525 6829
SYDNEY • 507 Kent Street • ph 9264 2685
CHATSWOOD • 424 Victoria Avenue • ph 9413 2400
KATOOMBA • 166 Katoomba Street • ph 4782 4466

MAILORDER • Customer Service & Information 1800 805 398
ONLINE SHOPPING • www.paddypallin.com.au

Paddy Pallin