

Sydney Bush Walkers Newsletter

APRIL 2011

Sydney Bushwalkers
PO Box 431 Milsons Point NSW 1565

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President Says

Your new committee has “settled in” and commenced working on the ongoing tasks, and is also appraising some areas for potential enhancement (particularly in building additional functionality into our web site - so can anyone who is a “IT Guru/Web Coder” please get in touch with Karl on communications@sbw.org.au)

- ✿ A successful “Potential Leader Workshop” was recently held in the pagoda country north of Bell (details in the following article). This one was a “2 day pack carry” with surprise “events” occurring along the way. It proved a fairly good formula to gain skills/awareness via “experiential learning” in a fun and low key manner. We are contemplating running another workshop latter this year, for Potential Leaders who are initially only interested in leading Day Walks - the weekend would operate from a Base Camp and have 2 separate day loops of activities i.e. Day Packs only
- ✿ Don Finch complemented this with a Navigation Instructional, and more are programmed as part of a deliberate plan to grow our Leader base
- ✿ A number of Members have indicated that they would like to see more Easy/Medium Weekend Walks i.e. “walk in” for a couple of hours with a pack to a nice spot to base camp. Then do side trips for two x 2/3 of a day, before walking out on Sunday afternoon. Can some of the Leaders in the club please look to see if they can put on such trips? This is also a great way for new Leaders to gets some practice
- ✿ We also hear that a % of Prospectives are a bit wary about doing their overnight Qualifying Walk - this is understandable, as it can be a “big step”. Whilst interacting with Prospectives on Day Walks, can Members please talk to Prospectives and “ease the way” by pointing out that only a Fly rather than a full tent is needed, that a stove is not needed, and that the joys of Dusk and Dawn in the Bush are well worth it (Prospectives - the New Members Secretary has some loan gear if you need it)
- ✿ Lots of additional material has been loaded to the Members area of our web site <http://www.sbw.org.au/> , If you have mislaid your User ID and Password please email Karl on communications@sbw.org.au and he will have you “reset”
- ✿ Many Members have already renewed their membership and a number have elected to convert to receiving electronic communications - besides the big advantage of timeliness, this has the added benefit of meaning that you will get the electronic Newsletter each month in addition to the quarterly Magazine
- ✿ The Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) is running their annual Nav Shield Rogain on the weekend of 3-4 July. This has a day event and a 2 day event - it’s a good way to practice your navigation and to learn a bit about yourself under “pressure” - refer: <http://www.bwrs.org.au/?q=NavShield>
- ✿ SBW has had a long history of doing endurance walks - the Tigers, the 3 Peaks and the K to K etc - this tradition continues to this day in the form of a number of Club Members regularly participating in Endurance Eventing - on recent example is a Member who participated in the multi day *Marathon Des Sables* in Morocco (refer: http://www.darbaroud.com/index_uk.php and click on the Union Jack to get the English Version) - after perusing the great photos, from the “Competitor” Menu item, type in 607 to see where in the field of 938 competitors she came (and, not that it would ever make any difference, then filter to see how many females there were)

Finally, we are now in autumn, which I believe is the best time to go walking in NSW - not to hot, nor to cold, plenty of daylight, reasonable availability of water and minimal snakes... The Club has a wide variety of trips on offer, especially over Easter. Please seek to craft the time to “get into the blue” in some shape or form.

Regards,
Ian Wolfe
President of SBW

Please welcome the following new members

- ✿ Jacqueline Yates
- ✿ Alex Gould
- ✿ Cristina Gines
- ✿ Anna Wells

Editor's Note

We have another bumper edition of the Newsletter thanks to your efforts. I would like to draw your attention to one article in particular.

Dirk Goës recently led a children's walk to Little and Big Marley Beach in the Royal National Park. Dirk has in the past, lead a number of children's walks, introducing his own children and others to our wonderful bush. But this particular walk had a utilitarian purpose; participants used their time to help clean up the beaches. The children and their parents picked up seventeen bags of rubbish! We think you are awesome Dirk, thank you!

Please be aware that we have enabled most of the URLs listed throughout the Newsletter so that they are now "live" i.e. "hover" over them and then click to be taken to the indicated location - this is particularly applicable for the latest Colong Foundation and Confederation Magazine - which are now just 2 clicks away and provide considerable additional reading material"

Thank you to all of our contributors. Your efforts, in taking the time to record your experiences and share them with us, are much appreciated. Club members love your stories!

Melinda Turner (editor@sbw.org.au)

"Honorary" Membership of SBW conferred on Ros Kerrigan



Ros at SBW 80th Reunion

In addition to the standard categories of Prospective and full Member, the club has two special categories of Membership. The first of these is "Honorary Active" Member, and this is for full Members who have contributed to the Club in multiple areas over many years and ways, in an exemplary manner (leading walks, enhancing the skills of Leaders, Members & Prospectives, serving on Committee, contributing to Coolana and other areas of contribution). Awarding "Honorary Active" status to a Member is signal honor, and a mark of the Club's respect for the person's and the high quality of their sustained contribution. Our current list of Honorary Active Members can be found in the Member's area of the web site at: http://www.sbw.org.au/content_common/pg-Honorary-Active-Member.seo

In addition, we have a category called "Honorary" Member, and this is for people who are not Members of SBW, yet have contributed to the benefit of the Club in a sustained, significant and enduring manner. This is a very rare honor, and until the conferring of this award, there were only two current Honorary Members.

The Committee of SBW wishes to announce that, following a nomination supported by many Members, it has conferred Honorary Membership of the Sydney Bush Walkers on Ros Kerrigan, in recognition of her exemplary services to the Club in the field of Conservation of the Club's Flora and Fauna Reserve at Coolana.

Over many, many years she has cheerfully worked for a number of weeks each year, often in trying environmental conditions, to apply her extensive expertise and knowledge of plant species to good effect. The testament to her endeavors is the large number of flourishing trees that now cover both river flats at Coolana. With every season that passes, the current and future Members of SBW will "stand in the shade" that she has helped nurture.

Many Members have had the pleasure of her company at Coolana, and also on many walks to the remote and wild places of Australia. They have paid testament to her companionship and to her capacity to be a very positive and empathetic member of the Party.

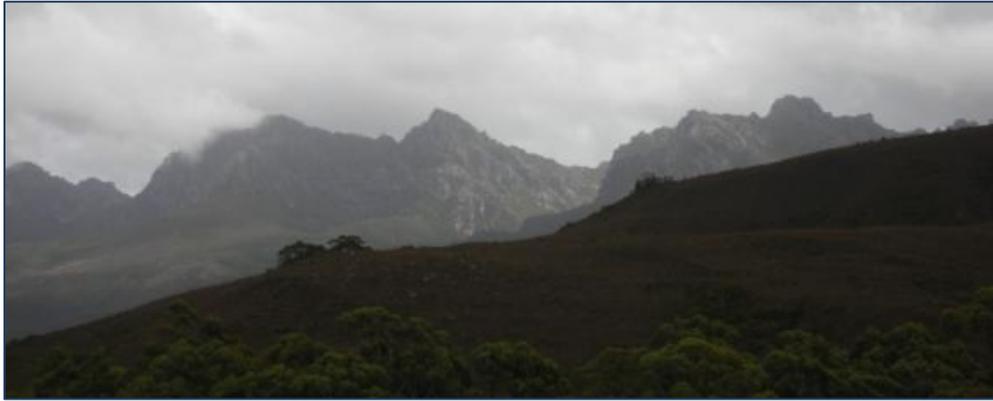
On behalf of the Committee and the Club

***Congratulations Ros!
Welcome to SBW***

Ian Wolfe
President of SBW

Western Arthurs / Feb 20 ~ 28

David Trinder



Moody Western Arthurs from near Scotts Peak Dam

Neil had a beautiful plan worked out for the trip.

- Day 1, we fly to Hobart, meet a bus that takes us to the south west, Scotts Peak Dam beside Lake Pedder, and walk to Junction Creek to camp.
- Day 2, carry the second week's food to Cracroft Crossing, a 37 km trip, and stash it (animal proof), for us to pick up after the first week on the mountain range.
- Walk 5 days on the Western Arthurs range.
- Come down to Cracroft Crossing to pick up the food drop and camp there.
- Go back up and walk another 7 days, including a day to climb Federation Peak.
- Meet the bus at Farmhouse Creek on day 16, it would take us to Hobart airport and we fly home.
- He had 3 bad weather days built into all this.

On Day 1 we met at Hobart airport as planned, it was raining lightly but in the south west on Tasmania where we were going it was raining heavily. We took a "bad weather day" before we even started the walk and stayed near Hobart for 1 night. That was the first change of plans. The next day was better so the bus took us out to Scotts Peak Dam and we started walking in light rain. The track to Junction Creek is very poor. Most of it is swamp or mud. You either walk through the mud, which is sometimes up to your knees, or you walk through the bush around it and make the swamp wider. It took nearly 4 hours to do 8 km. On arrival we were cold and drenched so we built tents and got into sleeping bags to warm up before dinner.

On Day 3 most of the group rose early and left at 6 AM to do the food drop. They were back in 3 hours because they could not cross flooded creeks on the Arthur Plains. That was the second change of plans, we would now have to take the 2 weeks of food up the mountain and carry it all the way. The next day was still foggy with light rain and in that we climbed the 800 m with heavy packs up Alpha Moraine to Mount Hesperus and along the tops, passing beautiful lakes and magnificent rocky towers, none of which we could see. The first camp was at Lake Cygnus and on arrival we entered tents and sleeping bags to re-warm. The next morning (Day 4) was still wet and foggy so we stayed put for another "bad weather day". The afternoon however cleared and we took advantage of the lack of fog to retrace our steps and look at Lake Fortuna, the rock formations and distant views that we had walked past on the previous day.

On Day 5 the rain and fog had returned but since we had been in our sleeping bags for 40 hours we set off for the next camp site, Lake Oberon. The track was good, mainly built of rocks, but it was circuitous, going up and down and all directions to negotiate this very complex and steep, interesting country. We were passing many beautiful lakes and rock formations but we could only see vague towers of rock like cathedrals in the mist. The descent to Lake Oberon was very exposed, a 20 m vertical climb down with adequate hand and foot holds, but still dangerous. The Parks Service has built timber platforms at the camp sites for pitching tents on. At Lake Oberon there were 4 of these platforms, 3 had one tent on each and there was 1 left for our 4 tents. A young couple with a small tent on the middle of a platform refused to move over for us; bad camp manners. We squeezed 3 tents onto 1 platform and Jenny slept on flat, wet ground beside the lake and this resulted in her sleeping bag getting wet overnight.

A half a billion years ago the Arthur Range was pushed up in a fold like a large, long hill. Since then many glaciers, especially the last one have carved out both sides of this hill into a concave shape leaving a narrow, irregular row of stone spires at the top and lakes on both sides low down. It is truly the most interesting country you will see anywhere.

The next day, Jenny left us and returned to the carpark. The remaining 4 set off for the High Moore camp site in drizzle and fog and again the track was well built and easy to follow. Because the country is so mountainous, steep and irregular the track again follows it up and down and in all directions with several exposed vertical climbs up and down. By the time we reached High Moore we had done 3km, as the crow flies, in 7 hours of hard walking.

Western Arthurs / Feb 20 ~ 28 ^{cont.}

During the day the weather cleared for the second time on the trip. At High Moore we were able to pitch tents in fine weather and make dinner outside the tent on the platforms. Some people climbed the surrounding mountains to take in the views of the surrounding mountains, lakes and distant plains.

By now the plan had been forgotten and we were wondering whether we could do the whole Western and Eastern Arthurs. Lake Haven was the next camp site. Karl was out in front, track finding most of the time and Neil was keeping an eye on his troops. The weather had reverted to crud and the track was steeper, muddier and there were more exposed climb downs and ups, very hard work and tiring. We had one bad fall but the pack / back protector prevented injury. On arrival at Lake Haven, we were cold and wet so the routine of tents and sleeping bags was followed to re-warm.

Neil had a small radio that he was using to receive weather forecasts on AM local ABC radio. There were murmurings in the ranks about being too exhausted to go all the way. The choices were to walk 10 hours each day and complete the range or escape down Moraine K and return to Junction Creek and then the carpark. The morning forecast was for a day or 2 of rain then snow. That made the decision easy and the escape option was taken.

The question was asked, "Why does the Parks Service not improve the muddy tracks, a lot of people use the Junction Creek track?" We decided that while the Service is building new tracks elsewhere to encourage tourists and while the Arthur range is very exciting country it has bad weather most of the time and it has many unsafe areas which would be expensive to make safe. That limits the walkers to people with a mania for Tassie.

Thank you to Neil for ably planning and leading a great trip and for his '2IC' Karl.

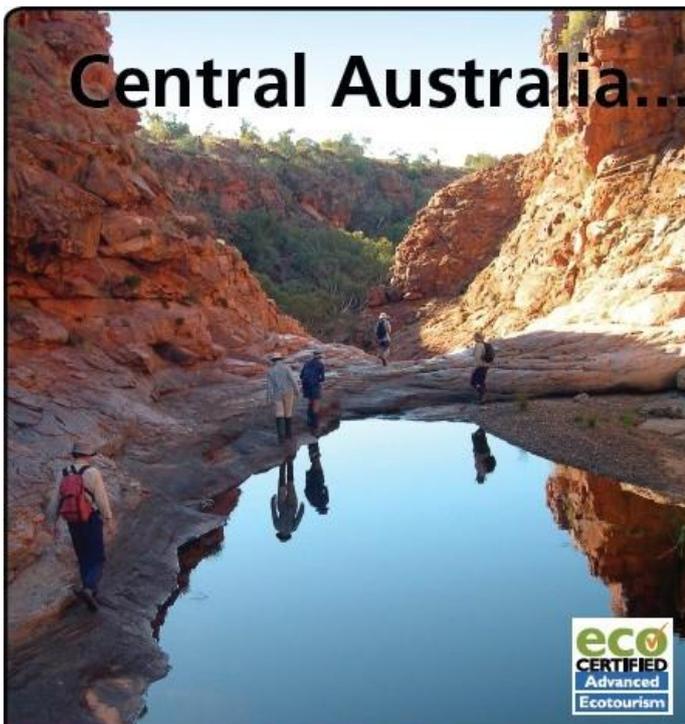


Participants were

Neil Hickson (leader)
Karl Miller
Melinda Turner
Jenny Landon
David Trinder

Beautiful campsite at High Moor

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS



Central Australia...

It's green again

Another magic year to bushwalk the Centre

The amazing rains of 2010 have continued into 2011 making this another great year to visit the Centre. Waterholes are full and wildflowers are spectacular.

The Larapinta Trail is easy, spectacular, and full of people. Our trips get you away from the crowds and take you to the best places we've found in over 20 years of walking there.

We go off-trail in the **Macdonnells** to get to some amazing places that couldn't be included on the Larapinta Trail.

We cross **Finke Gorge NP** (contains Palm Valley) via one of the most scenic 4WD tracks in Australia, stopping to do some of the best day and multi-day walks the park has to offer.

In **Watarra** (contains King's Canyon), we do a single walk through deep gorges and across red dunes. We enjoy spectacular cliff-top views and camp near lovely waterholes unknown to the general public.



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Clean Up Australia Day at Marley Beach / March 6

Dirk Goës



17 bags of rubbish collected at Little and Big Marley.

(L to R): Grace, Tomoko, Ayumi, Chris, Southerly, Kai, Dirk, Jessica, Caroline, Jenny (Photo by Kyong)

It was a beautiful early autumn hiking day for our trek to clean up Little and Big Marley Beach. Mixed sun and cloud with a cool southerly breeze made for pleasant hiking and clean-up conditions. First we cleaned up at Little Marley beach where we found a large amount of plastic, beer bottles (who would carry large amounts of beer for 4km?), rubber boots, fishing gear, cans, tins and all kinds of rubbish. Even so camping is not allowed at Little Marley there is plenty of evidence of camping and rubbish being left behind. We also found a large battery (from a boat?) that was too heavy for us to move. After lunch we cleaned up at Big Marley Beach which was not quite as messy but we did find one syringe and needle. In total we filled 17 large bags of trash and recycling which we left at the designated spot for the rangers to pick up.

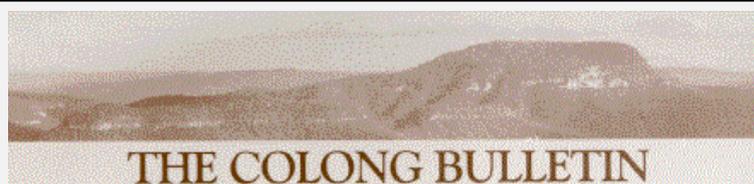
It was not all work so; we had a relaxing lunch in the shade at Little Marley and a swim in the afternoon before hiking back. We chatted to some sea-kayakers who paddled in from Bundeena and Caroline administered first aid to a Polish tourist who cut herself while swimming.

My youngest son Southerly (aged 4) made his SBW debut by completing the whole hike with enthusiasm. Jessica, Kai and Chris also powered through the hike and did a great job helping with the cleanup.

Thank you to everyone who participated. Marley Beach is beautiful and wild and it feels great to do a little bit to help keep it pristine. The Royal National Park being so close to Sydney is a very high use park with large visitor numbers and needs very bit of help it can get.

Participants were:

Tomoko Sugiwaka (M)
Ayumi Hasegawa (V)
Caroline Rogers (P)
Jessica Rogers (8)
Christopher Rogers (6)
Jenny Xia (M)
Rosemary MacDougal (M)
Grace Law (P)
Kyong Choe (V)
Dirk Goës (M)
Kai Goës (7)
Southerly Goës (4)



Have you seen the latest Colong Foundation Bulletin?
If not, you can download it from the Colong Foundation website at:
<http://www.colongwilderness.org.au/>

Kayak Training / March 12 - 13

Daniel Laver



Paddling around 'The Crater'

Day 1

The group convened at Little Manly boat ramp at 9.30am on the Saturday morning. After carrying the boats to the water's edge Owen ran through some basic boat handling techniques and safety checks, followed by the all-important weekend weather forecast. By this point everyone was eager to get on the water because the sun was out and the temperature rising. We started by practicing the sweep stroke and seeing how far we could 'edge' our kayaks. Michele was the first to capsize, but was back in her kayak in no time using her perfected 'cowboy' self-rescue technique. A short time after Dan followed suite and Owen took the opportunity to demonstrate an assisted rescue. We then paddled to Collins Flat and across North Harbour.

We spent the remainder of the day practicing our skills in the calm water of Collins Flat.

Day Two

With the absence of Michele, the group assembled on Sunday morning for a second day of kayaking. We discussed the anticipated change in weather conditions due at mid-afternoon and decided to paddle out early around North Head so we could experience how the kayaks handled in a bit of swell. It wasn't long before Gemma went quiet, which was a sure early sign of sea sickness, but she held it together well.

Margaret declared a 4 on the 'comfort scale' however as we turned to head back into calmer waters her camera was out so clearly feeling more comfortable. Arriving back at Quarantine Beach we practiced the techniques from the previous day. After a quick coffee, which took an agonizingly long time to be served we got back into the boats and most of the group had the obligatory dunk in the water.

Lunch was followed by more capsizing, assisted rescue practice and towing. Dan was keen to get some expert tips from Owen on the principles of the Eskimo Roll (after reading about it in a library book and being none the wiser). Owen was a little reluctant at first, as he explained that it normally takes at least a few hours to learn, but demonstrated the basic technique.

Dan was determined to have at least five goes at the basic role and managed a complete one on his fourth attempt, much to the surprise of himself and Owen. He should have stopped there, but decided to have another go as Gem had missed the first. Only this time he completed a half turn (the easy bit) and showed he still has some way to go.

It was a great weekend and a big thank you to Owen for giving up his time and sharing his extensive knowledge.



Owen showing how it's done by climbing into the kayak, (while inverted) and rotating the kayak upright



Quarantine Beach

Gems and Treasures of the Newnes Plateau / March 23

Michael Keats

Inexplicably the rugged western selvedge of the Newnes Plateau is rarely visited by bushwalkers, - perhaps it is the proximity to Lithgow and coal mining, perhaps because it is a dry harsh place, perhaps it is not remote enough or perhaps it is ignorance as to what treasures lie within.

On 23rd March 2011, nine bushwalkers 'discovered' a few of the amazing features of a very small section this superficially bland uninteresting area. The most dramatic discovery was a series of huge, almost continuous overhangs, some more than 150m in length and stretching in all for more than 2 kilometres. The second discovery was of a most beautifully executed survey point, the rock chiseling so refined and fresh it could have been completed by a very skilled artisan only days ago. The third 'discovery' was of two caves - an Aboriginal art cave and Aboriginal relic cave.

The journey from Clarence to the start of the walk was eventful. State Forests are currently harvesting old growth logs from a section north along the Blackfellows Hand Trail; The Australian Army have established a temporary camp on the south side of the trail near the Bungleboori Camping Ground end; a drilling survey crew was passed on the trail, and to cap it all a road maintenance crew was on the job grading and rolling a significant section of the trail. Fortunately we left all that activity behind when our convoy ventured down a forestry access road.

We were able to travel just under two kilometres down this track before a large, recently fallen tree put an end to further progress. Stepping out of the vehicles under a cloud covered sky it was a pleasant 16 degrees with very low humidity - near perfect walking conditions. As is so often the case in this part of the Ben Bullen State Forest, bike trails abound, one beginning where the road¹ was closed by the fallen tree.

0912 the group moved off using the old track formation for about 200m. At this point we headed west and in less than 20m it was pagoda country and a steep but easy negotiable descent into a tight ravine network described by several members as "a green cathedral," architecturally, 'Eucalypt Australian'. It was certainly very pleasant, the vegetation lush and the tight cliff lines perfectly sculptured to frame the sky. It was a place where the all the senses were heightened. The only downside was the presence of many very old cut stumps. A fact of life, as it is after all an active State Forest currently regrowing.

Moving down this valley we had our first exposure to the ochre colored, cavernously sculptured cliffs that are a feature of this walk. The impossible pink and ochre colored compound curves, high caves, low caves, re-entrant caves, and slots of all configurations - it was like walking through a huge combined Salvador Dali painting cum Henri Moore sculpture. Was it good? It sure was.

This was the beginning. The tight ravine now widened and was joined by similar ravines from the north and south. It was a playground full of options. Very firmly we focused our attention on climbing the southern cliff line of the widening ravine to the base of the cliffs. Crossing Kangaroo Creek I took a water sample for Dr. Ian Wright for the UWS water data bank.

Arriving at the base of the cliffs we entered the beginning of the overhang ledge feature that was to be almost a constant for the next two kilometres of walking below the cliff line. It is truly a ledge overhang sequence to rival anything comparable in the entire Greater Blue Mountains National Park. As would be expected, the west facing overhangs were dry and full of colour. There were several beautiful amphitheatres, some with tiny waterfalls others completely dry.

Our rate of progress was slow as each square metre of gallery wall was scanned for any sign of Aboriginal artwork. We had no success in the morning at all. Morning tea was taken at 1023, in another overhang with stunning views across the ravine gully of Kangaroo Creek. Needless to say those in the party with cameras were kept very busy.

After morning tea we resumed our ledge walking. A rather challenging section saw the party divide into two groups - one group prepared to negotiate a very exposed rock scramble to regain the ledge some 4m further on and the rest of the party who did a retrace, a descent and then an ascent. I was in the scramble party and we had a bit of time to explore and photograph an incredible amphitheatre with a very high, convoluted overhang. Total magic prevailed.

The ledge adventure continued with one discrete section exceeding 150m in length. We were not the only visitors who thought this ledge was pretty good. A plump Red Belly Black Snake sunning itself was disturbed by our presence and disappeared into a long rather thin hollow log. The bore of the hollow was small so we speculated as to whether the snake could turn around to exit.

¹ This forestry access road will form the basis of another walk. Although the map shows the road ending near spot height 1119, the on ground reality is that this road extends at least a kilometre further north, and significantly provides access to a long narrow dissected cliff lined peninsula. A challenging rock isthmus has to be negotiated before the cliffs can be explored.

Gems and Treasures of the Newnes Plateau / March 23 ^{cont.}

Pushing along we came to a feature that had all of us amazed. Where the ledge takes a sharp turn on a cliff point there is a residual, cylindrical boss of rock and tunnel right on the end of the point. A broad platform circumscribes the area. In turn this boss supports the rest of the cliff above. It is as though a circular loop had been constructed for a railway; however the whole feature is natural. All this is at GR 316 058.

But wait, there is more. On the west face of the boss there is a magnificently executed surveyor's broad arrow with the number '55' underneath. Research by Brian Fox confirms that the arrow related to the eastern boundary of Portion 55, Parish of Cox, County of Cook. He has turned up the original Survey Plan C1376-1507. It is dated 15th November 1886. On a section of the plan below the mark is on the bluff marked, 'L' which is a reference to one of the corners. The perfection of this assemblage of the surveyors mark and numbers after 145 years is breathtaking.

To make the discovery even more significant the site also includes the original, hand built low rock wall or 'Lock Spit', which was part of the tradition of surveying at the time. Few examples of such work still remain undisturbed.

We were on an absolute high in every sense. What else would we find on this day of adventures? Continuing along the ledge we entered a re-entrant gully to the east that presented more cliff lines but because of its southerly aspect lots of vegetation. The ledge temporarily disappeared. At 1230 a decision was taken to drop down into this gully, cross to the other side where we could see the dry open ledge continue.

At 1245 decided to stop for lunch in the sun on another stunning ledge. Over lunch a study of the map showed that we had explored very little of our planned route. It was absolutely certain we would not complete more than a quarter of the route as designed. Lunch was short - 15 minutes as there was still much to discover. To make progress we dropped down again into a small gully to be surprised by finding an abandoned electrified pumping station set in a wired enclosure marked, '11000 Volts Keep Out.' The 4 inch diameter pipe now severed and the switching gear partly disabled. We assumed that this installation was related to the nearby Angus Place Colliery operation.

We moved on following a long abandoned service road for about 200m before once more heading up to the base of the southern cliff line. Again we were on a continuous ledge and overhang and actively looking for any sign of Aboriginal art. At 1235 we entered the art galleries. These consisted of two separate long caves. In the tattered NP&WS visitor's book, diagrammatic plans of the two caves and the artwork are given. One cave is described as a 'rock art cave' and the other as a 'relic cave'.



Hand stencils in the gallery

The rock art cave is 79m long and has 8 separate sites all depicting hand stencil art. The stencils are in two colours creamy white and red. Suitable ochre is found on the cave floor. The stencil arrays are mostly of one or two hands; however one has more than a dozen images. Several hand images appear to be of children.

In the relic cave we could find no remaining evidence of any kind. Several rocks could have been stone tools. There is a collection/pile of rocks that may have been of significance but this is uncertain.

The visitor's book has an added entry, which reads "site was discovered in 1928 by Nelson Morgan and Robert Drury". Given that the surveyors were active in the area in 1886, it is almost certain that the caves sites were known much earlier but not recorded. The NP&WS also note in the book that they conducted a 'significant clean up' of the site 19th September 1979.

Of great concern is the development of a huge vertical crack through the centre of the art gallery. This crack has already fractured the gallery wall and could easily result in the total collapse of the entire overhang. Given that coal mining is taking place underneath, we wonder whether the colliery operators are on notice to try and save the gallery before it is too late.

We left the site at 1400 and commenced our return journey via the road and bike track network. Reached the vehicles at 1525. This area has a lot more to offer. We will be back for further exploration.

The Party. Michael Keats, leader, Marion Davies, Yuri Bolotin and Caro Ryan, (all SBW and BC members) Roger Clarke, BC and UBMBWC, Robert Sterry, Stephen Murray, Yvonne Lollback and Brian Fox (all BC).

Editors Note:

This walk is one of more than 150 walks included in the 8 volume work by Michael Keats and Brian Fox on the soon to be released, "Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond."

Leadership Workshop / March 26 – 27

Jason Lorch



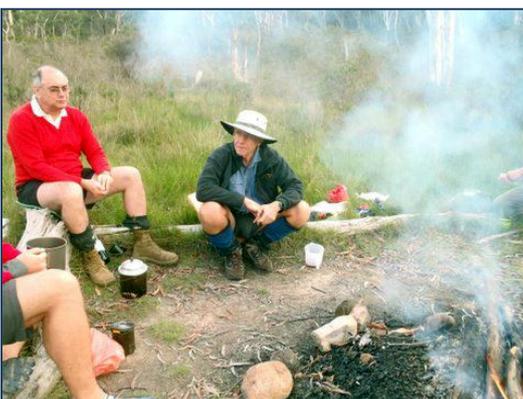
Pagoda
Photo by John Pozniak



Tough terrain
Photo by Jason Lorch



Wollangambe Crater
Photo by John Pozniak



De-briefing session
Photo by John Pozniak

It was an early start for all involved in this first of a kind SBW Leader Workshop weekend. What was in store for us and what could we expect were my thoughts as I fumbled for the OFF switch on the alarm clock, which was now outrageously flashing 5:00am.

We all made our way to the meeting point on Sandham Road (just off Bells Line of Road) in the Blue Mountains. On the journey up there was heavy fog which evaporated, with rays of sunshine breaking through to allow us small and fleeting windows of breathtaking scenery. This was accompanied by quotes from our president - "this be canyon country". These only fuelled the eager anticipation to get the day started, and leave behind the stressful smell of the city and head off into the calming wild. On arrival, we greeted each other and went through the usual SBW formalities and then were off.

Day 1

The walk commenced just off Bells Line of Road at Bell in the Blue Mountains. The aim of our first day was to head for camp at the Wollangambe Crater.

The day started out well with each of us taking turns in leading the group. We had opportunities to stop and discuss the changing land around us and how this related to the map. Knowledgeable advice from our three leaders with their great insight was freely offered whenever any questions arose. This mix of land reading and map navigation is the glue that binds the whole navigation skill set together.

Suddenly out of nowhere one of the leaders was on the ground moaning in agony! We spotted the culprit dangling loosely from a nearby shrub - the infamous Black Bellied Rubber snake. You guessed it; this was one of many scenarios that were to be thrown at us throughout the two days. Instantly we all had to deal with this and of course it was much more difficult than you'd first imagine. After each scenario we broke for 10 minutes and debriefed on where we went wrong and what could have been handled better. Notes were made and we quickly moved on.

Snake bites, activating the EPIRB, communications with rescue teams, dealing with concussion and members suffering from shock along with bush fires and preparing for a possible helicopter airlift were just a few of the many scenarios that were covered.

The day was drawing to an end so we continued on to the Wollangambe Crater campsite. On the way we had some tricky areas to traverse so more discussions and teachings were given on path finding and scouting for difficult routes. On reaching the crater we quickly set up camp and scurried around for some firewood. Happy hour items were pooled together, the fire was ignited and the next day's bearings and ETA's were noted. We then all settled in for the night and a Day 1 de-brief.

Around the campfire some very useful sessions were held regarding walk planning skills and what to expect as far as preparation, safety, organisation and communication. We talked in depth about the subtleties of camp etiquette, ended with more first aid topics, and topped the night off with some jokes. I think a compulsory joke telling elective is must add-on to the workshop.

Day 2

Sunday started early with the campfire for something hot to drink before the rain settled in. There's nothing like a fire to attract the attention of other bushwalkers, so very shortly we were all

Leadership Workshop / March 26 – 27 ^{cont.}



Tricky crossings
Photo by John Pozniak



Camp Cave
Photo by John Pozniak



Goochs Crater
Photo by Jason Lorch



Homeward bound
Photo by Jason Lorch

standing around the fire with pots in hand and breakfast was on the boil.

As soon as the fire was doused we headed off in search of a camp cave near by. On the way a brief re-group was held, this was to run through some very useful river crossing techniques. We discussed the risks and potential dangers a fast moving body of water can present and what to do to minimize any casualties. Never underestimate the power of water.

The camp cave was not far from here and what a camp cave it was. Situated next to the creek and a reasonable size, which could comfortably fit 20 people, possibly more.

From here we again took turns in leading the group and this time there was little interaction from the leaders, through very tough and demanding terrain until we found our way back on top of our designated ridge.

The last leg of the journey was used to practice pacing and other similar techniques for a more precise navigation method.

A quick lunch break at Goochs Crater with a friendly red bellied black snake (a real one this time) just for good measure and then we were off again for the final leg of the journey.

Rain had started to slowly ease in so when we arrived back at the cars for around 5:30pm, it was perfect timing, 10 minutes later it poured down. A quick coffee and something to eat at the nearest café and all went our separate ways.

Closing thoughts

I have to admit I didn't know what to expect from this weekend but I certainly gained a lot more than I thought possible. As well as the more obvious skills picked up, what we all took away from this was a greater understanding of the subtle nuances that comes with the responsibility of leading a group of people. All of you who have ever thought about leading and have always been a little shy or unsure should come along to the next one and experience it for yourselves.

This is a great workshop for aspiring new leaders and current leaders who just want a re-fresher on certain areas. The area was significantly challenging to navigate and we were often told "If you can navigate in this part of the country then you can navigate anywhere in the World". Now who are we to argue with that!

I can't praise the organizers of this weekend enough, giving up valuable time to share their insights and experience with us. You just can't put a price on that.

This is what makes SBW so unique. We have a myriad of talented people in the club who freely share their knowledge. We should all take a (careful) step back occasionally and thank our lucky flannel flowers for that.

Participants were:

Bill Hope (Facilitator)
Peter Love (Facilitator)
Ian Wolfe (Facilitator)
Jason Lorch
Ondrej Ivanic
Theresa Wannish
John Pozniak

Walks & Other Activities / March 1 - 31

Stephen Brading

Leaders:

After an activity please email completed Walks Attendance Form and Activity Report to:
walksreporting@sbw.org.au
brading123@optusnet.com.au

This ensures that the 5 people who take action on Walks Reports receive them promptly.
Please keep the signature sheets as these are a legal document

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>SAT 5 MAR - Day Walk - M122 12km Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park: <i>Mt Kuring-gai station - Apple Tree Bay - Cowan Creek - Waratah Bay - Berowra station.</i> Walk Report: Under a cloudy sky we followed the main track from Mt Kuringgai, and then took the short and well-defined branch track in a south-easterly direction to a good lookout. From there we did an exploratory section, by following a rarely-used indistinct track that wound steeply downhill through open bushland until we reached the entrance to Appletree Bay at the footbridge. After this we followed the main track along the shoreline of Cowan Creek, with pleasant views all the way on the right. We had lunch at the end of one of the sheltered bays, where there was light rain for a few minutes before it stopped. After reaching Waratah Bay we followed the track steeply uphill to Berowra station to bring this pleasant walk to a close.</p>	<p>Nigel Weaver Margaret Weaver Lisa Sheldon John O'Riordan Jenny Xia (P) Martin Samociuk (P) Glenn Draper Misako Sugiyama Shahram Landarani Jan Dormor Christina Graf (P) Kevin Liu (P) Ann Zhang Yu (P) Helen Lalas Elanore McKendrick (P) Sun Clement</p>
<p>SUN 6 MAR - Day Activity - S111 8km Clean Up Australia Day at Marley Beach: See Newsletter article</p>	
<p>SUN 6 MAR - Day Activity - M222 10km +/- 300m Bell Creek Canyon: <i>Mt Wilson - Little Bell Canyon - Belfry Canyon - Bell Creek Canyon - Clatterteeth (Du Faur Creek) Canyon - Joes Canyon - Mt Wilson.</i> Activity Report: It was a balmy 9 degrees when we arrived at Mt Wilson, with a somewhat depleted party from when the trip had originally been scheduled in January. The route we took involved 5 different canyons (Little Bell, Belfry, Bell Creek, Clatterteeth (Du Faur Creek) and finally Joes Canyon), so no-one could complain that they were short changed! Little Bell involved some interesting rope work, while Belfry and the lilo section of Bell Creek were the pick of the canyons for quality.</p>	<p>Tom Brennan Rachel Brennan Jim Close Neil Soutar Andrew Vilder</p>
<p>SUN 6 MAR - Day walk - M212 Q The Pittwater track in Ku-ring-gai Chase NP: <i>Follow Pittwater on lesser known or overgrown tracks from West Head to Elvina Bay and back up onto West Head Road.</i> Walk Report: After dropping a car at the end of the walk, a smiling bunch of walkers made their way to West Head. Following the compulsory stop at the lookout, walking went underway. The leader brought a surprise with the wet crossing of a stream at Great Mackerel beach he had forgotten about. Not long after, it turned out that his reading of the tide chart was not that accurate either resulting in a bit of bush bashing and wet feet. The Basin campground was very busy but not enough for a group of 11 bushwalkers to pass unnoticed by the ranger. Did you know there is a landing fee of \$3 at the Basin? Even if you only pass through. We made good use of the facilities. After morning tea, it was time to cross the inlet that was rather deep owing to the still high tide. Help was offered in the way of a boat carrying our backpacks while we swam across. Another surprise awaited us further on when we met Michelle and Owen going in the opposite direction to ours. A stop at a lookout, more walking through the bush and over rock platforms and we reach the second inlet we had to cross. This one was only about waist deep... for the 6 ft tall leader! Lunch was had in the sun to dry. A bit of firetrail walking had us warming up for the overgrown track that crosses Salvation creek. The place was drier than the last 3 times we walked there which made the walking easier but the big waterfall before Elvina Bay could only be called a rock fall. We took the track that passes by the side of 2 graves (one dated 1867) to climb to the top where we enjoyed another lookout. We made it to the car after taking a look at the aboriginal engravings that can be found close to the Elvina Bay trail. A great day with a great group of new friends.</p>	<p>Vivien de Rémy de Courcelles Emmanuelle Convert Christian Vallence Andy Ojong Jan Spencer (P) Graham Byrne (P) Tony Ryan (P) Rachel Ryan (P) Adam Pritchard (P) Anna Thorward (P) Noelene Maxwell (P)</p>

Friday 22nd April - Good Friday Traverse of Mount Solitary

Start the Easter Holiday with panoramic views, exposure, scrambling and two satisfying climbs. Kings Tableland to Golden Stairs. Great lunch spot with views deep into the Kanangra Wilderness. Afternoon tea on the castle. Longish day with over 1000m of ups plus downs. Car swap.
 Grade: L332, 20km Leader: Dirk Goës, 9569 4854, 0430 146 682, dirk.goes@yahoo.com

Walks & Other Activities / March 1 – 31 ^{cont.}

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>WEEKEND 5-6 MAR - Weekend Walk - M233E The Blue Labyrinth: <i>Woodford - Woodford Range - Unnamed ridge - Glenbrook Creek - Magdala Creek - Springwood.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Walk Report:</p> <p>Steve Dolphin stood in for Tony Holgate as leader on this walk. Steve reported, "... walk went well; the ridge took more than 4hrs to walk across dense 2 to 3m high scrub, most of the way. Once we got to Glenbrook Creek we walked down stream for about half an hour looking for caves and found one that could have held 20 people and had three fire places and a wood pile. All the perspectives put their tents up in the cave. The rest of the walk was straight forward. Nice place very close to the city.</p>	<p>Stephen Dolphin Anna Wells (P) Lynette Preston (P) Cristina Gines (P) Jacquie Yates (P) Alex Gould (P)</p>
<p>WEEKEND 5-6 MAR - Weekend Activity - S223E Grade 4 Canyon Kanangra Abseiling (Kalang Falls & Dione Dell) : <i>Kalang involves 9 abseils, is dry but requires careful footing on wet rock, total descent of 400m, then return by long and steep off-track ascent of Murdering Gully. Dione Dell involves 4 abseils and 2 waist deep wades.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Activity Report:</p> <p>The team of eight on the Wednesday prior to the trip suddenly became four on Thursday arvo due to various reasons, unfortunately too short notice for others to attend. Nevertheless, the trip went as planned, Kalang Falls took 9 hours through early morning drizzle and mist, the key point of note being the second abseil where the leader had to prussik up the rope twice then re-rig so the rope would pull through. Saturday night was rather damp around the fire at Boyd Crossing, but a better day on Sunday for Dione Dell, taking 6 hours. Videos available here: Kalang: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poOBq5sTT2M Dione: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxA4FhUgWfg</p>	<p>Richard Pattison Kenn Clacher Peter Hinchy Christina Day</p> 
<p>SAT 12 MAR - Day Activity - 221E Canyon Grade 4 Galah Canyon: <i>Newnes Forest area canyon, (Medium-Difficult Level). 3km walk in and out along the road, tricky abseils, scramble down slippery log, longest abseil 23m. Some wades and short swim.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Activity Report:</p> <p>Programmed leader Rod Wales was ill on the morning of the trip so Terry Moss accepted the lead for this activity. All participants set off from the Barcoo Swamp camp area at approx 8am. After a 3.5km walk along a very overgrown track, everyone else wished they had Sue's foresight and brought their gaiters. (Sue is the one who doesn't look like she was attached by a knife wielding assassin). Various guides gave differing rope requirements and abseil heights. On the day 2 40 metre ropes were required. Once in there were very nice canyon sections. The canyon opened out after the last abseil. We walked 300 metres and turned right and Neil climbed up the 6 metre slot first and then top belayed the rest of us as we climbed up. Of course the 3.5km walk back provided more lacerations. Fortunately the cool overcast day was excellent for the long "track" walks. We arrived back at the Barcoo Swamp camp area at 7pm having enjoyed an excellent day. To be repeated next season WITH ROD.</p>	<p>Terry Moss Huw ap Rees Neil Souter Sue Bucknell</p>
<p>SUN 13 MAR - Day Activity - 222E Canyon Grade 4/5 15-20km +/- 600m Heart Attack Canyon: <i>Newnes Forest area canyon (Advanced Level). The name says it all! One big heart stopping 45 metre abseil down into the abyss and you cannot see the bottom from the top. Many smaller abseils, with swims, rock hopping and climbing.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Activity Report:</p> <p>With a party of seven, the walk started at 0830 hrs. The weather was overcast and mild, The access to this canyon was significantly overgrown from my previous trip 4 years before, it is clear the canyon is not used much these days, this caused a slow trip on the overgrown access fire trail. (6 kms and 2.5 hrs), the creek leading into the canyon was also severely overgrown and covered in fallen Timber, which slowed us down dramatically, although all the bush bashing was forgotten when we arrived at the first abseil at 1300 hrs, This was an impressive 45 metre straight down abseil into the canyon, which everyone completed well. The canyon then bends and twists down streams with many climb downs and over log jams. The second abseil is a technical abseil of 10 mtrs with a difficult start, about this time a thunderstorm and rain started. The storm did not last long but it was incredible how much water was now flowing into the canyon from the rock walls above, We continued and exited the canyon soon after. We then retraced our trail back to the cars. Finishing just after sunset at 1945 hrs. Estimated time 9-10 hrs Actual time 13,25 hrs A very long and tiring, but satisfying day, Everyone enjoyed themselves particularly on the main abseil.</p>	<p>Terry Moss Peter Hinchy Christina Day Neil Soutar Huw Ap Rees Sue Bucknell Sonja Steidle</p>
<p>WEEKEND 12-13 MAR - Weekend Activity - Social SBW 74th SBW Reunion at Coolana, Kangaroo Valley: <i>5 PM Music in the Bush Concert Part 1, at 5.45 PM Investiture of the President, at 6 PM Music in the Bush Concert Part 2, 7.30 PM Reunion campfire ignition.</i> See magazine article:</p>	<p>50 Attended</p>

Walks & Other Activities / March 1 – 31 cont.

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>WEEKEND 12-13 MAR - Weekend Activity - Medium 90km Southern Tablelands to the Coast Mountain Bike Ride: Activity Report: The initial plan was to leave the car at Moss Vale station and then ride to Coolana but, as everybody came by car, we decided to drive closer to Kangaroo Valley hence limiting the amount of ride on sealed road and started at Fitzroy Falls. The first part of the ride was fairly slow as we enjoyed views from the different lookouts which could be found all along Red Hills Fire Trail. Morning tea was had at the Wombat Hill Lookout where it was possible to see what was going to be the next part of the ride, a long windy down hill road. Everybody managed to get down almost unscathed, the leader did show how to fall graciously from her bike without a single scratch but a bruise. Next it was a test to see who would cross the ford without getting wet feet. I believe only one cyclist managed to keep his feet dry. After the crossing it was time to see who was the fittest for the up-hill. This time, Jason impressed us all as we never managed to catch him up... Once we got in Kangaroo Valley, we had all (minus Jason who was already in Coolana) a well deserved ice-cream (the shop is for sale by the way!) The weather closed in as we left Arthur who decided to ride back to his car (hat off to him!) and we had a really wet ride to Coolana. So much for keeping our feet dry at the ford. Special thank you to Rebecca Lorch who drove Vivien and Tom back to the cars at Fitzroy Falls and Spiro, Don and Barry who welcomed Theresa and myself with Spanakopita, rocky roads a warm cup of tea when we arrived in Coolana totally drenched .</p>	<p>Emmanuelle Convert Vivien de Rémy de Courcelles Arthur Panopoulos Theresa Wannisch Tom Brennan Jason Lorch</p>
<p>WEEKEND 12-13 MAR - Weekend Activity - M2E Kayak Competencies and Skills Training - Sydney Harbour : Activity Report: SATURDAY'S ACTIVITIES: Took place on the sand of Little Manly, Quarantine Beach, Reef Beach and Collins Flat. Activities on the waters adjacent to the above mentioned Beaches and with a scenic paddle into Dobroyd Crater (very special inclusive of its Depression era shacks). SUNDAY'S ACTIVITIES: At Little Manly, Quarantine, Collins Flat. Again, on- water with a paddle out to North Head (past the cliff lines of the inner part of the Head) where we practiced turning / boat control in a one metre swell. It was a very successful weekend with delightfully warm water for the "wet" activities. Hopefully the participants will be able to pass on what they have learned to their SBW paddling partners and that they will now feel more confident and competent (and safer), especially when paddling on lakes, estuaries and bays etc. Everyone performed well. Congratulations go to the women for their assisted rescues (of the men) and to Daniel for his "screw roll" on Sunday (which should be the basis for a future campfire yarn).</p>	<p>Owen Kimberley, Michele Powell Daniel Laver Gemma Laver Rob Barrie Margaret Barrie Terry Fake</p>
<p>SAT 19 MAR - Day Walk - L323E 25km +/- 1400m South Ridge of Mount Solitary & Coal Miners Pass: <i>Kings Tableland, descend Goats Pass, Kedumba Crossing and up to the south ridge of Solitary. Lunch on Solitary, then descend Coal Miners pass on the northern side and traverse under cliffs back to the main Solitary track and return to the cars on the Kings Tableland.</i> Walk Report: The forecast of "a shower or two" was true in that it was one all day non-stop shower. The walk went as planned, a big road bash, a slippery scrambling ascent of Mount Solitary's south ridge where we used a handline twice for safety before sheltering in a lovely cave for lunch near Point Repulse. Then back into the mist around Point Repulse and across the top of Solitary, down Coal Miners' Pass followed by a scrubby contour back to the main track (probably best/quicker/less painful to return up the pass straight away) then back to the cars. 11 hours in total with only 30 mins rest at lunch, plenty of leeches, we even took some to the Grand View pub with us for dinner!</p>	<p>Richard Pattison Tom Brennan Rachel Grindlay Stephen Dolphin Vivien de Remy de Courcelles Emmanuelle Convert</p>
<p>SUN 20 MAR - Day Walk - M222 14km Blue Mountains National Park: <i>Glenbrook station - Glenbrook Gorge - Tunnel View Lookout - Portal Lookout - The Ironbarks - Glenbrook Causeway - Glenbrook station.</i> Walk Report: When the going gets tough, the tough get going. When I went to bed on Saturday night, it was raining and I had a party of 14. By the time the walk started on Sunday morning, the rain had pretty well stopped, and the party was down to seven. We soon learned that Glenbrook Ck was up, and expected to rise further. We went down into the gorge and confirmed that, indeed, the creek was up - too far up to tempt anyone to cross. We climbed back up to the Glenbrook shops, to have a coffee and consider our position. Everyone wanted to walk, so we drove to Lapstone and followed the railway line back from there, concentrating on railway history as we went. When the line was duplicated along its current alignment nearly a century ago, a spur line was built to the edge of Glenbrook Gorge, and from there a funicular "tramway" took construction materiel down to the tunnel under construction on the side of the gorge. You can still see where all this took place. There are some excellent views in the area, down into the gorge, and further to the west. We finished early enough to catch the 2.31 train back to Sydney. Roger said he had just set a personal best earliest finish time for an SBW walk. It wasn't quite what we wanted to do, but we all made the best of a bad hand, and enjoyed a pretty easy day, with lots of opportunity for conversation.</p>	<p>Leigh McClintock Helen Lalas Daniel Eckermann Misako Sugiyama Lynn Terrey Roger Browne Geoff Coleman</p>

Walks & Other Activities / March 1 – 31 ^{cont.}

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>WEEKEND 19-20 MAR - Weekend Walk - M322E Q Blue Mountains NP - Krungle Bungles and Jenolan River : <i>Carlons (Dunphys Carpark) - Ironmonger Spur - Coxs River - Scrubbers Saddle - Krungle Bungle Range to Mount O'Reilly - Mumbedah Creek (camp at river junction) - Return same route.</i> Walk Report: The weather was foul - it did not stop raining, but the walk went well. As noted above, the walk was modified on the Sunday, namely it was decided not to walk down the Jenolan River. The River had risen overnight and, after the first river crossing of the many intended, we decided to return via Saturday's route. This entailed an extra unintended 500 metre climb and 600 metre descent to and from Mount O'Reilly before the 580 m climb up Ironmonger Hill after the Cox's River which was by then at armpit depth when we crossed. We missed out on the walk down the Lower Jenolan Gorge and the climb up Goolara Peak (there would have been no view due to low cloud anyway). Despite the conditions we were back at the cars by 4 o'clock. The Prospective members, Robert, Neil and Carina performed and contributed well and are to be congratulated on successfully completing their overnight "Q" walk. Neil and Robert are both experienced Kiwi "trampers" and appeared to be quite at home in the rather challenging conditions. May all three of you have many years of on-going bushwalking pleasure.</p>	<p>Owen Kimberley Michele Powell Andreas Ojong Jouni Leppanen Robert Bettis (P) Neil Cartwright (P) Carina Dennis (P)</p>
<p>TUE 22 MAR - Day Walk - S111 9km or M211 18km Spit to Manly and back: <i>A classic harbour walk from the Spit to Manly with fish & chips for lunch and optional return.</i> Walk Report: Morning coffee at Clontarf, fish & chips at Manly for lunch and ice-creams at Clontarf on the return made it a sociable event as well as a pleasant walk with detours to the Grotto Point lighthouse and Washaway Beach.</p>	<p>Helen Lalas John O'Riordan Roger Browne</p>
<p>SAT 26 MAR - Day Walk - M213 Bonnum Pic/Wanganderry Walls: <i>Wanganderry Rd (at Ben Har) - Wanganderry Walls - Bonnum Pic Creek - Bonnum Pic - Track back to (Ben Har) Wanganderry.</i> Walk Report : Started 9am and finished 7pm. Parked cars besides yards on Wanganderry Rd near Ben Har at 481000- Followed fenceline of lot 92 East then went North along fencelines of lot 39 and 37 to fence corner of lot 37 at 487011. Lot 77 is not fenced. I also suspect these fencelines are not in the exact positions shown on the map. Followed a track to point 737 at 483028. Left track here and navigated the ridgelines out to Wanganderry Walls and then North East along cliffline to small lunch cave at 493061 with a great view looking toward Bonnum Pic. Back tracked to 490047 and from here went West down spur into Bonnum Pic Ck. Crossed immediately and ascended spur on other side as we didn't fancy walking through the thick growth along the creek. At the top of the short but steep climb we continued heading West (Now following Ian's navigation) crossing the gully approximately at 476043 then over to the major cliffline at 472044. Here a cairned route with an intermittent track was intercepted and followed North to Bonnum Pic. A 20m tape is useful (but not essential for the very brave or the stupid scrambler), for negotiating an exposed sloping rock located just before the Pic. The descent off the rock is only 3m but extra tape is needed to attach it to an anchor tree 15m back. (Many thanks to Jeff Boyd for bringing his tape.) After taking in the wide vistas all the way down to the dam and signing the log book we retraced cairned route, which eventually becomes a track, back to pt 737 at 483028 then back to cars following outward route. All the prospectives walked well and persevered with a tiring walk through long periods of scrub which was very thick in places. Many thanks to all participants who made the leaders job easy by being a great social bunch, assisting with the navigation, taking on the role of tail end Charlie and generally keeping the party together through the thicker sections of the scrub. After discussing the route with Melinda Turner and Ian Thorpe it was decided that due to the length of the walk and the scrub involved that the trip was suitable to be upgraded to a qualifying walk. We also enjoyed a meal at Mittagong RSL afterwards. It should be noted that the start of the Bonnum Pic Track, beginning from the sign post beside the Burnt Flat Ck fire trail, has fallen into disuse and is difficult to follow. Albeit a simple compass bearing from this sign post will allow the crossing of the numerous gullies to join the track somewhere near 483019??? However, in the leader's opinion, having crossed these gullies on previous reces to the area, they are not worth crossing so the alternative route described above was used. NB Use it at your own risk as it does cross lot 77 which at present doesn't seem to be in use but may still be private property and watch out for any stray bulls who seem to enjoy chasing tall skinny lonely bushwalkers into the scrub.</p>	<p>Paul Barton Marina Chan Jeff Boyd Jodie Dixon Rolf Marsden Renee Neely Inma Suarez Girija Page Ian Thorpe Tim Yewdall Melinda Turner David Trinder</p>



Have you seen the latest issue of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs Magazine?

If not, you can download it at:
<http://www.bushwalking.org.au/mag.html>

Walks & Other Activities / March 1 – 31 ^{cont.}

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>SAT 26 MAR - Day Activity - M2E KAYAK COMPETENCIES AND SKILLS TRAINING: <i>Sydney Harbour, vicinity of eastern Middle Harbour</i> Activity Report: The broad range of activities and topics was similar to those of the previous Training Session of 12 - 13 March 2011. This Session was however more advanced to suit the prior skills level of the participants. Launching/ landing location was moved to Clontarf (instead of Little Manly) to suit the weather conditions on the day. There were, on the day, strong winds (approx 22 knots gusting to 30 knots on the main part of Sydney Harbour). We, as a group, focused on boat handling, assisted rescues, towing etc., in wind affected conditions. We only ventured as far from sheltered waters (to the area east of Middle Head) as dictated by the Group's comfort level. A successful event.</p>	<p>Owen Kimberley Michele Powell Ken Collins Mark Dabbs Lisa McCarthy</p>
<p>SUN 27 MAR - Day Walk - L221 Q 28km Royal National Park: <i>Cronulla station - ferry to Bundeena - Wattamolla - Garie Beach - Otford station.</i> Walk Report: In spite of quite a bit of rain we had a good walk down the coast from Bundeena to Otford and even arrived nearly an hour early for the train although no view from Bulgo lookout. There were 19 participants. Thanks especially to David, Helen and Roger for helping me out at the end.</p>	<p>Patrick McNaught David Bell Lisa Sheldon Nicky Williams Jenny Xia Adam Pritchard Jane Fry Rory McLeod Gloria Roberts Helen Lalas Stanley Wong Annick Boismenu Lorraine Mathot Simon Ellis Glen Draper Roger Browne Jacob Fry Tony Holgate Shahram Landarani</p>
<p>WEEKEND 26 - 27 MAR -Leader Training weekend <i>Bell-Wollangambe Crater(Camp)-Wollangambe River-Wollangambe Cave-Gooch's Crater-Bell</i> See separate Newsletter article</p>	

If you own a mobile phone, this might save your life.

We all carry our mobile phones with names and numbers stored in its memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency). The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognised name for this purpose.

In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialling the number you have stored as 'ICE'. For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, etc.

SBW members are eligible for Free Paddy Pallin Club membership.

All of the Sydney area store staff (Sydney, Chatswood and Miranda) have been honoring this discount in store and would like to formalize the offer and promote it more actively to SBW club members.

Club membership is usually \$16.50 and entitles members to 10% off all year round as well as exclusive club nights, early sale notification via an e-newsletter and a biannual award winning catalogue mailed out.

Make sure that you mention this the next time you are in Paddies!

The Coolana Reunion, 2011.

Patrick James



Waiting for the concert



Geoff Coleman on guitar



President: past and present



Tiggers



Around the fire

Hughie, Hughie what are you doing? It was Saturday afternoon (12 March), close to blast-off time for the *Concert in the Bush*, and Hughie caused the skies to open up and the rain came bucketing down. A zillion mm of rain fell in the blink of an eye. Saturday morning had been fine; around the memorial tree the ground had been cleaned and tidied ready for later. A mid-morning cleansing and refreshing dip in Kangaroo River signalled the end of preparations and the start of celebrations.

Lunch was typical camping fare made immeasurable better by having a decent chair to sit on. By lunchtime most had arrived; although more cars could have been packed in some chose the easy option, parked their cars near the transmission line easement and entered Coolana by means of our Road Reserve.

By the time lunch was over the sky was eight okta's dark, (one *okta* means one eighth of the sky) sombre, menacing rain cloud. Not surprisingly it started to rain, first sprinkles of rain which became a light shower, then a shower which merged into a heavy shower and finally a monster downpour. When will it stop? By 3 PM I was worried and by 3.30 PM very worried; this was seriously compromising the Pre-concert Socialising and pre Happy Hour activities. Plan A became Plan B with Supper at 7 for 7.30 PM Saturday in the hut and the concert and Presidential investiture postponed to 9.30 AM Sunday. Plan B quickly fell into a heap and Plan C was Presidential investiture at about 7.15 PM, followed by Supper around the camp fire followed by the concert 9.30 AM Sunday.

The new president, Ian Wolfe, a wolf in bushwalking clothing (or even a bushwalker in Wolfe's clothing), in the presence of nine ex-presidents and forty-five witnesses was invested as the fiftieth president of Sydney Bush Walkers Inc. Included among the gathering nine was one ex-president who was attending her 51st consecutive Reunion! Thus half of Plan C was completed and then was altered to Plan D to meet the special requirements of Frank Rigby.

Frank has been a member for yonks and was President in 1967-1968. Joan Rigby, Frank's wife, died in recent times and Frank had been waiting for the opportunity to scatter Joan's ashes at Coolana. Frank and Joan were very keen Coolana devotees. Joan in particular was the main mover and shaker in the renaissance of Coolana; she got the weed eradication started, she got the revegetation started, and lots of others followed in her footsteps. It was totally appropriate, fit and proper that Joan's ashes were to come to rest at Coolana. At about 9.30 Sunday morning with 40 or 50 people present at a simple ceremony, Joan's ashes were scattered around the Memorial Tree, a giant Eucalyptus.

At the 1999 Reunion, some of Marie Byles' ashes were scattered at Coolana beneath the same giant Eucalyptus. Marie was also a long time member and was the Club's legal adviser in the purchase of Coolana. So now the Memorial Tree is special to both Marie Byles and Joan Rigby.

The concert finally got underway at about 11AM on Sunday with forty-nine people in the hall being entertained and amazed by guitar, harmonica, piano, saxophone and vocal presentations under the musical direction of Sue Yap.

A few people availed themselves of the opportunity to download the photos they took over the weekend onto Fran's computer. A DVD of the many Reunion 2011 photographs will be available soon. After the concert, under a beautiful blue sky, most went back to the car park into their cars and back home for a shower and clean clothes

The Midweek Walkers

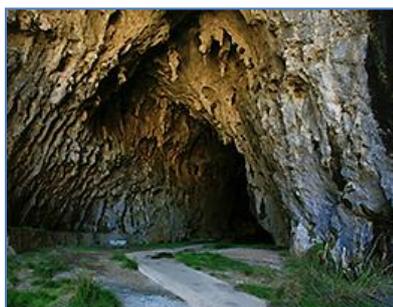
Bill Holland

The Mid Week Walkers are an informal gathering of people in SBW who find the time to enjoy walking, cycling, kayaking during the quiet times of the week when others are working hard to support us.

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.

If you would like to be added to our Midweek Walkers mailing list please let me know by contacting Bill Holland 4296 3084 or by email to billholland@bigpond.com

Yarrangobilly Caves (Monday 9th - Friday 13th May)



The Yarrangobilly Caves are located in the northern part of the Kosciuszko National Park, just off the Snowy Mountains Highway between Tumut and Cooma. Come and discover Nature's wonders inside the Snowy Mountains, providing tickets for guided and self-guided cave tours and access to a natural thermal bathing pool, barbecue facilities, picnic areas and a number of short walks. While the caves are some of the most beautiful in Australia, the landscape above ground is truly awe inspiring and well worth taking the time for a wander, you never know what you will come across".

The East wing of Yarrangobilly Caves House sleeps up to 9 people in separate rooms. When we were last there a few short years ago we had a great time with VIP treatment and exclusive tours of the caves. The cost will range from \$20 per night per head if we can get the maximum booking of 9 people. As I have made a firm booking I would like you to let me know ASAP if you would like to be included in our group

Fraser Island - June, July August or September



Fraser Island is a World Heritage Listed sand island located off the coast of Queensland. The local aboriginals called it K'gari which, in their native tongue means 'Paradise.' Once on the Island you will have the opportunity to see Fraser Island's amazing wildlife which includes over 300 species of birds, dingoes, turtles, dolphins, sharks, humpback whales and much more. There is also an amazing array of lakes, mangroves, rainforests, sand dunes and beaches.

Although details have to be finalized we will probably catch a bus from Rainbow Beach and camp at Central Station. We may stay for a few days longer than normal in this magnificent area so please let me have your suggestions. I assume perhaps two days each way getting there and six to seven days on the island.

Can't think of a walk to lead?

There are well over 1000 overnight and extended trips outlined in the Historical Walks Database.

This can be found by logging in to the Members Area on our website:

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

Then follow the link "Historical Walks Record".

Here you will find a list of all the overnight or extended walks run by the club from its' inception to the present day. Look at the region you are interested in and see what walks have been done there in the past! Use this wonderful resource to help plan your next walk!

Kosciuszko Huts Update

There are some good photos and an article on the rebuild of Whites River Hut on the KHA main web page and the repainting of Deskhos Hut -refer:

http://khuts.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=67&Itemid=92



Rebuilding of Whites River

There is also an interesting article/Diary of a trip along the Snowy River over Xmas in 1934/5 (bottom left of the web page)

The KHA annual general meeting will be held on 14th May at the Tumut Bowling Club, 24-30 Richmond St, Tumut. There will also be a diner afterwards at the Woolpack Hotel in Tumut. As I will be “away”, I am looking for a Member who is able to attend (please ring me)

Upcoming Hut maintenance trips/events are:

- 16 -17 Apr - Disappointment Spur Hut
- 17 Apr - Kiandra Open Day
- 27 - 30 Apr - Kidmans Hut
- 29 Apr - 1 May - 4 Mile Hut - contact Paul Jennings on 9637 1272.

There are also a number of “TBCs” in the calendar web site for later in April/May

- Cootapatamba Hut
- Cesjacks Hut

Contact hmosouth@kosciuszkohuts.org.a to register

More information can be found at:

KHA web site: <http://www.kosciuszkohuts.org.au/>

KHA Blog: <http://khuts.org.blog>

KHA Forum: <http://khuts.org/forum> where you can directly interact and have “your say”.

Ian Wolfe

(KHA Delegate) / 0413662370

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See www.spanishadventures.com

Email Aussie Garry in Santiago:
garry@spanishadventures.com



For Sale



Would you like to sell some of your old gear?
Members are invited to send in pictures and a description of any gear they may wish to sell.
Advertising charges for members will be set at \$20 per 1/8 page and this will be used to offset magazine printing costs.



Printer

The Committee had decided to sell the Club printer as we now have the Magazine commercially printed. It is a Ricoh Priort JP5500. There is also a Manual and some boxes of ink and paper.

More information can be viewed at:

[http://www.ricoh-](http://www.ricoh-photocopiers.co.uk/Digital_Duplicators/Priort_JP5500.htm)

[photocopiers.co.uk/Digital_Duplicators/Priort_JP5500.htm](http://www.ricoh-photocopiers.co.uk/Digital_Duplicators/Priort_JP5500.htm)

If you are interested in learning more please contact Ian Wolfe at president@sbw.org.au



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Henry Gold's Images of the Wild

An exhibition of wilderness photographs at the Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Bondi
From Tuesday May 31 to Sunday June 12.
Gallery hours are 10am - 5pm daily

The exhibition will be officially opened by Bob Carr Wednesday June 1 at 6pm.

Henry Gold has supported the environment movement for over forty years, as its honorary photographer. Henry knows wilderness intimately as a photographer and through his many adventures with the Sydney Bushwalkers, which he joined in 1956. His photographs are not just artistically appealing, they have been a major influence in campaigns for the preservation and World Heritage listing of, not only the Blue Mountains, but also the NSW rainforests.

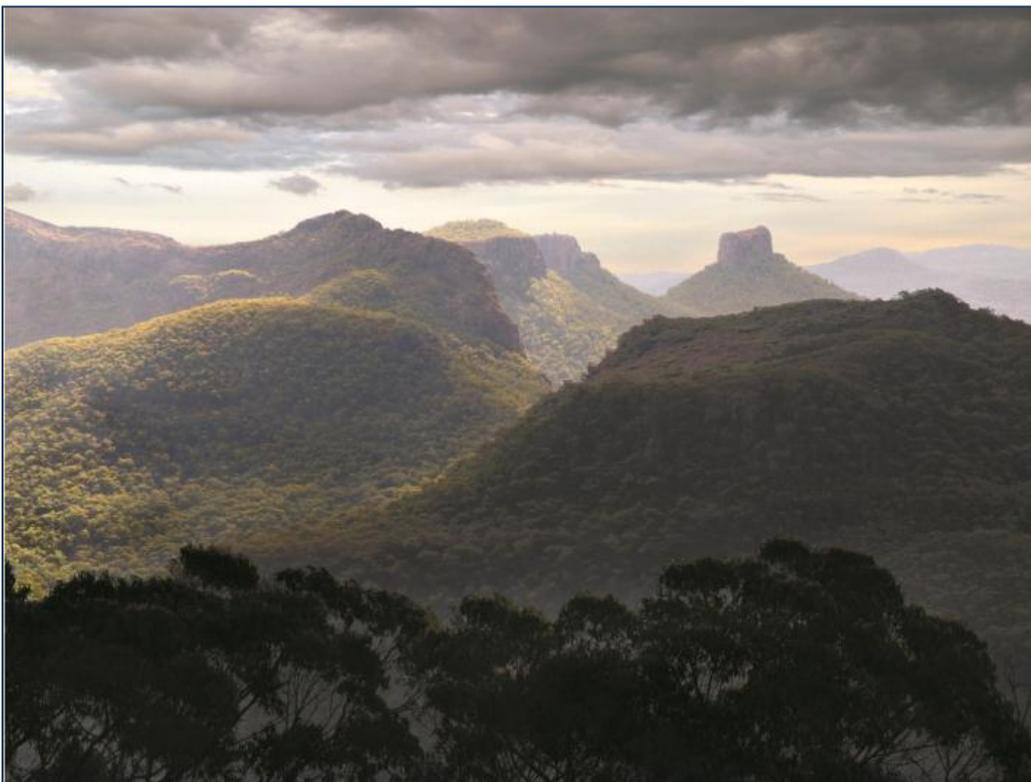
In 1967, Henry's images featured in the classic campaign brochure "Quarrying Valuable Scenery" that helped to save the Colong Caves in the southern Blue Mountains. Throughout the campaign to protect the Colong area and Boyd Plateau, Henry Gold provided the photographic material for pamphlets, press articles and special issues of conservation magazines, such as Habitat. Henry Gold's photographs have been used to publicize wilderness protection ever since.

Henry has been instrumental in bringing threatened wilderness areas to the attention of decision-makers who cannot or will not visit these areas. He has photographed the Forbes River, Upper Hastings and Washpool forests, provided illustrations for the former Australian Heritage Commission publications, and contributed to the Australian Conservation Foundation books "Australian Natural Heritage" and "The Gift of the Forest". There can be no doubt that Henry Gold has won many to the cause of nature conservation.

Henry has become one of Australia's foremost landscape photographers. He has contributed countless images to conservation magazines particularly the Journal of the National Parks Association of NSW, as well as producing images for the "MacDonnell Ranges", "Wild Places", "The Colo Wilderness", the "NSW Wilderness Calendar".

He has undertaken numerous lengthy field trips, often alone, to obtain images for the protection of wilderness and in 2006 was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his service to wilderness preservation.

Major campaigns 1968-2000 in which Henry Gold's photographs played a key role:



Yulludunida Crater, Mount Kaputar NP, NSW

- Colong campaign
1968-71
- Boyd Plateau
1972-75
- Greater Blue Mountains
National Park
1975
- Kakadu National Park
1976
- Colo Wilderness
1978
- Rainforest campaign
1973-83
- Old Growth Forest
campaign
1992-98
- Blue Mountains World
Heritage campaign
1986-2000

The *Images of the Wild* exhibition will feature Henry Gold's colour images of wilderness, including colour panoramas for the first time, as well as his stunning black and white photography.

The exhibition is on at *Bondi Pavilion Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Drive on Bondi Beach from Tuesday 31 May to Sunday 12 June, 10am-5pm daily.* All proceeds from sales will support the Colong Foundation for Wilderness.

“Own” your own Tree



Olegas Truchanas

In 1931 a party of friends, on a bushwalk to the Grose Valley, heard the horrible sounds of broadaxes thudding into the magnificent towering Blue Gums that soar skywards from the river flats. They found the Farmer, and did a quick whip around to donate the cash that they had on their persons, to provide a deposit to purchase the land. They subsequently approached their other friends, and cobbled together enough funds to complete the purchase of the land (this was a very significant sacrifice, given the straitened economic situation of the times) and subsequently donated the land to the people of NSW. Through their efforts the trees and land were saved, and the area is now an enduring National Park for the benefit of current and future generations. <http://www.penrithweb.com/panorama/pan-bluegum.html>. From the collective experience of these original bushwalkers, a nascent club was invigorated and endures to this day as our SBW.

Thus, the protection of trees is in our “DNA”. I would imagine that most Members have walked at least once or more in the “Cathedral of Trees” that is Blue Gum Forrest. Over many years I have seen the members of party after party *touched* by the grandeur as they enter the forest, as the ambience of the place seeps into them. All exit refreshed and rejuvenated (as they need to, as in any direction, it’s a steep climb out of the valley!).

For those of you who have planted a tree, it’s a pleasant task - you select a location, dig a hole, fill a bucket with water, watch as the life giving water seeps into the ground, plant the mulch and then carefully extract the treeling and tamp it down. Then you stand back with a sense of accomplishment, of having “done something good”, and say “now grow your heart out”.

However, the heightened pleasure comes when you return year after year, and see “your tree” grow and flourish. The day comes, remarkably soon, when you can prop your back up against your tree, and sit in it’s shade, and “contemplate “ - to yarn with friends, to quietly have a meal or just to read a book of poetry and take in the whisperings of nature around you. Then, when the tree gets bigger, to give it a good pat as you visit, and even a “hug” (Fellas, it’s OK, you can sneak out at night to do it, when no one else is watching.), and say “we did this together”.

This is a particularly good thing to do with children, and to bring them back as the years unfold - they really “*get it*” and develop a keen sense of anticipation of seeing “their tree”.

Well, SBW extends this unique opportunity to all our Members and their friends. Come to Coolana over the weekend of 7-8 May, when it’s not too hot or humid, and plant some Trees. Pick a special one, and a location, take a GPS reading, and some digital photos and place your name on a label affixed to the tree guard.

Then come back, as the years allow, to see your efforts flourish and endure, stretching unto the utter horizon of your life. There, to walk in the Cathedral of Trees that Coolana is becoming day by day, drop by drop, inch by inch, as the trees grow towards the sky.

Attributed to **Olegas Truchanas**

<http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A160499b.htm>
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.pic-vn3885846>

The Great "Pass" Project



Paddy Pallin

In days of old, when the SBW Walks Program issued on its roneoed sheets (i.e. before Photocopiers were created) we reverently unfolded our tattered copies of Bob Buck's Colo River Map, or the Gundungera or Gandangera "Specials". We searched through the "hatchings" (how hills were indicate before contours were invented) to seek out the Passes that the Leader had indicated would be traversed. Then, if the Trip had Passes on it, that we had not traversed (and we knew this from the marginalia we had scribbled in pencil with the details of the Pass), we rushed to book in on the trip, so that the "knowledge" of how the Pass "went" could be acquired.

Not that this was a sure and certain way of gaining the "knowledge" , as certain Leaders considered various Passes to be "their own", and guarded the details very carefully. Often it was, that when approaching a Pass, the normally very navigationally competent Leader, seemed to "lose his way" and become "disorientated" - resulting in us all being led a merry chase, whilst he sought to deliberately confuse everyone as to where the Pass really was. There were also a lot of instances where the Leader engaged in detours to scenic points, and long afternoon teas to while away the time before a Pass was approached just on Dusk. Or, even more cunningly - to camp in a cave just short of the Pass, and then "because with will be a long day" there was need to "do the Pass" in the gloom of Dawn.....

Fortunately the days of such subterfuge have mostly gone. However, so are these Leaders who knew "the way", and the tattered maps in the garage drawers are food for the mice. Soon the "knowledge" will pass from the Memory of Men. Then, truly the world will be a smaller place, with vast areas of the Maps becoming less and less frequented.

Thus, I am commissioning the Great "Pass" Project - henceforth, when Leaders traverse the wilds and come to a Pass - pull out your trusty GPS and take a Plot, have someone take some digital Photos of the approaches, leave the GPS "On" so that it "tracks" as you ascend/descend the Pass, take another plot and more photos at the exit - then make a few notes (into your Dictaphone of course). Thereafter, when you get home, download the files, convert your notes to text, and send it to the Communications and Walks Secretaries for uploading to the Member's area of the web site. It will then become a valuable resource for new Leaders to access when planning and conducting trips into remote areas.

To the old Leaders who led me astray so often. I know it will hurt, but can you please do your part, and extract those old maps and dog eared, sweat stained secret Notebooks, and write up your secret ways. Then post or email them into the Walks Secretary so that we can preserve the "knowledge" and give effect to one of the Objectives in our Constitution "*to form an institution of mutual aid in regards of routes and ways and means of appreciating the great outdoors*" , and if you wish to embellish you notes with Dragons and Mermaids in the corners, that would be good - as we can scan them in!

To Go where the Brave Dare not Go
Paddy (Never Truly Lost) Pallin

Communication problems with the club???

Would you like to change your mailing address or have you lost your website password??? Don't know who to contact???

Please use the contacts below to resolve any problems you may have!

Website - Members' area access problems, change password???

→ Contact Karl at communications@sbw.org.au

Website - contributions, suggestions, errors???

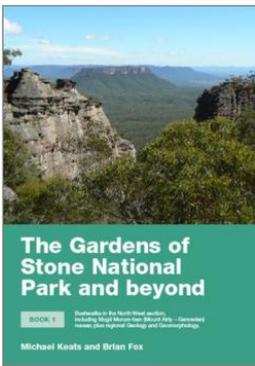
→ Contact Caro or Lily at webmaster@sbw.org.au

Address and email changes???

→Contact Ken at databasemanager@sbw.org.au

Mailing list - join, not receiving, problems???

→ Contact Karl at communications@sbw.org.au



The Gardens of Stone National Park and Beyond Unbeatable Pre - publication Offer

Michael Keats

Over the next three years Michael Keats and Brian Fox, authors of the acclaimed book, “The Upper Grose Valley - Bushwalkers Business”, will be releasing a unique eight (8) volume work on the Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond.

This is the first time that a work of such magnitude on NSW most magical sandstone featured National Park has ever been attempted. With over 4,000 pages in full colour this work is without equal. It sets a new benchmark for books on our National Parks.

The eight informative volumes include over 150 walks as well as comprehensive material on the Geology, Geomorphology, Climate, Aboriginal history, Historical Maps, the major Rivers and Water Pollution, Regional History and the Origin of Local Place Names, Flora and Fauna, the Last Three Centuries of European Settlement, together with information on threatened species and environments.

This pre-publication offer is your opportunity to be assured of owning your complete set. The full set of books retailing for \$400, (2011 prices), can be yours for a massive 20% discount, \$320, plus postage and packing (\$62) for the eight books, if you register and pay before 30th June 2011.

The first volume detailing 24 walks in the in the Mount Airly - Mount Genowlan area, (now the Mugii Murum-ban SCA) together with regional Geology and Geomorphology, is due for release in late 2011.

The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond - titles in this series

**Book 1 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalks in the North West section, including Mount Airly - Genowlan mesas; plus regional Geology and Geomorphology.**

**Book 2 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalks at Newnes and along the Wolgan - Capertee Divide; plus regional Climate.**

**Book 3 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalks at Donkey Mountain, Carne Creek, South of the Wolgan River and
MOUNT CAMERON; PLUS REGIONAL ABORIGINAL HISTORY AND HISTORICAL MAPS.**

**BOOK 4 - THE GARDENS OF STONE NATIONAL PARK AND BEYOND
Bushwalks in the headwaters of Bungleboori Creek, Wollangambe River,
NAYOOK CREEK; PLUS THE REGIONAL RIVER CATCHMENTS AND WATER POLLUTION.**

**Book 5 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalks in the Ben Bullen Ranges; plus regional history and local place names.**

**Book 6 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalks on the northern Newnes Plateau; plus regional Flora and Fauna.**

**Book 7 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalks in the southern Newnes Plateau; plus the last
Three Centuries of European Settlement.**

**Book 8 - The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond
Bushwalks in the headwaters of Deanes Creek, Rocky Creek and Budgary Creek;
plus threatened species and environments within the region.**

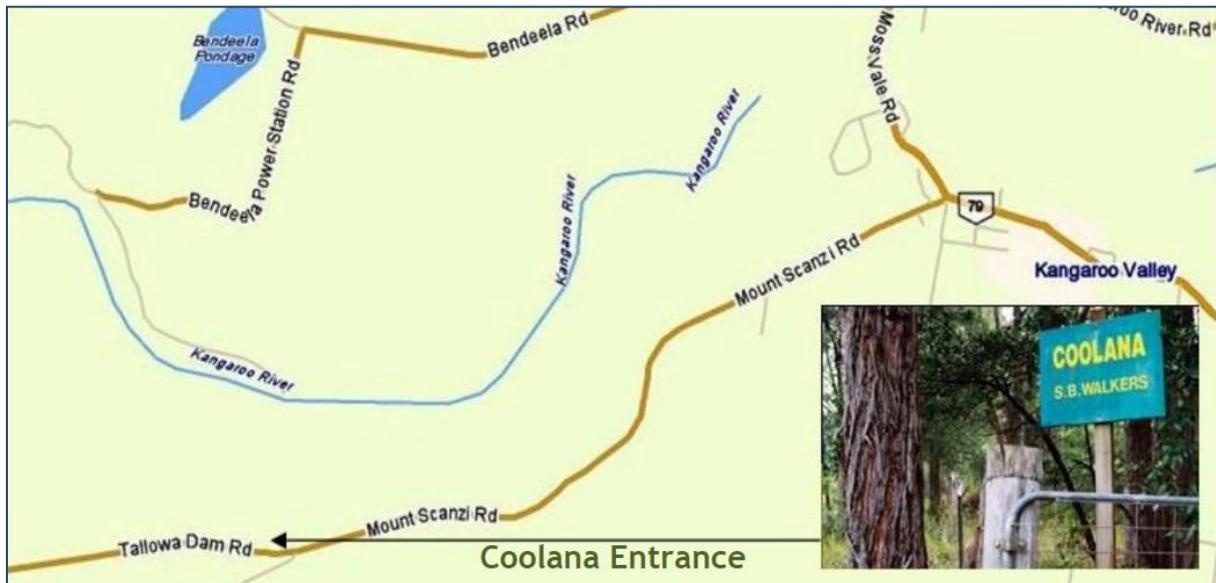
Each book stands alone as a separate work and contains its own index, bibliography and important information. To really appreciate the diversity and unique features of this very special National Park and its surroundings and unprotected areas, all eight books should be on hand as you explore one of the richest natural assets of the State of NSW.

Please contact Michael at mjmkeats@easy.com.au for more information.

How to get to Coolana

“Coolana” (an aboriginal word which means “happy meeting place of the future”) is located in the scenic Kangaroo Valley south of Sydney.

Directions: Drive down either by the Princes Highway via Berry, or the Hume Highway via Mittagong. Then drive to the historic Village of Kangaroo Valley. Total distance is 185km via the Princes Hwy & 175 km via the Hume Hwy i.e. 2.5-3hrs dependant on traffic conditions and breaks.



Just N of the village (see Map), turn W onto the Mount Scanzi Road, and drive for 5 km to the intersection of the Mount Scanzi Road and Tallowa Dam Road (just past the Power Lines). Turn right onto Tallowa Dam Rd and continue W for 100 metres to the signposted entrance to Coolana. The entrance is located at grid reference 692513, on the Burrier Map (8928-2-S), on the N side of the Rd. Then drive 400 metres along the dirt track to the car park. It is possible to camp near the cars (however, this is near the escarpment, so please take care at night). The primary camping area is on the flats beside the river, which is 600 metres down the hill following the 4WD Track.

Facilities: There is a large open three sided **Shelter Shed** (for wet weather), 2/3 of the way down the 4WD track, and a **Composting Toilet** just up from the Camping Flat. Untreated **water** from our creek (which has a pristine catchment area) is piped to a tap near the Shed, and to a tap on the camping flat. Tank water from the Shed supplies water to a sink by the toilet. There is no power (the lights in the toilet and the exhaust fan are operated from a storage battery and a solar panel).

The **Kangaroo Valley Village** has a number of facilities: a Pub, Mini Super Market/Service Station, Stores, Cafes, Tourist Shops and activities etc, refer: <http://www.kangaroovalleytourist.asn.au/home/>

Details of the Birds & other Fauna can be found at: <http://www.kangaroovalleytourist.asn.au/dir/wildlife>

National Parks:

Barrens Grounds: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N0401>

Budderoo: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N0069>

Morton: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N0022>

Guides:

The NSW NPWS publication 'Walks Guide, Kangaroo Valley & Adjacent National Parks' describes 25 graded walks in detail from 1 (easy) to 7 (very difficult) and is available for purchase from the NPWS Fitzroy Falls Visitors Centre (02 4887 7270) and from retailers in Kangaroo Valley (Hampden Cottage Craft, Homelea Cottage, Kangaroo Valley Woodcrafts).

SBW members are entitled to a 10% discount on all paper materials brought at Mapworld.

(Kent St shop: 280 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia)

Just tell the shop attendant before they ring up the sale please!

Autumn Social Program

Kathy Gero

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE KIRRIBILLI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
AT 8pm UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.

- April 13
8pm **New Members Night**
Introduction to SBW for intending Prospective members
- April 20
There s no social night due to Easter
- May 4
7pm **Committee Meeting**
Observers welcome
- May 11
8pm **New Members Night**
Introduction to SBW for intending Prospective members
- 18 May
7.30pm **Ecotraining (Australia) with James Hutchison**
The aim of Ecotraining Australia is to raise the standard of knowledge and awareness of Australia's cultural & natural heritage by reconnecting people to nature through positive experiences with our land. This is done with courses in Tourism and Green Skills. Come and learn about this fascinating initiative.
***Please note that the normal time for social evenings has been changed from 8pm to 7.30pm.
This gives us more time to socialize!***

COME AND SUPPORT OUR GUEST SPEAKERS!

Why not come along and meet for dinner at Kirribilli before one of the social evenings?

Our Social Secretary, Kathryn Gero has changed her email address.

Her new email address is: kathymg73@gmail.com

If you would like to organise a social event for club members contact Kathy and share your ideas with her!

FREE PADDY PALLIN CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Sydney Bush Walkers receive a **FREE Paddy Pallin club membership** (normally \$16.50) entitling them to **10% off all year around**, exclusive club member nights, advance e-notification of new gear and upcoming sales and our award winning catalogue mailed straight to your door! Simply present your bushwalker membership card at Paddy Pallin Sydney, Miranda or Chatswood.

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