



THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER



AUGUST 2011





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August 2011, Issue 902

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THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER
is the quarterly bulletin of matters of interest to members of
The Sydney Bush Walkers
PO Box 431, Milsons Point NSW 1565.
Editor: Melinda Turner

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About Our Club

The Sydney Bush Walkers Club was formed in 1927 for the purpose of bringing bushwalkers together; enabling them to appreciate the great outdoors; establishing a regard for conservation and promoting social activities. The Club's main activity is bushwalking but we also have other activities such as cycling, kayaking and social events.

Our Walks Program (published quarterly) features day walks on most Saturdays and Sunday, some midweek walks and overnight weekend walks. Extended walks are organised in areas such as the Snowy Mountains and the Warrumbungles, as well as interstate and overseas trips.

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

Visitors and prospective members are welcome

www.sbw.org.au

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The President Says

Having just come back from an 8 day traverse of the Flinders Ranges I have the beauty of the Wilderness bubbling within me. Certainly there was the vision splendid of the sunlit plains extended from the top of St Mary's Peak. There is a very real psychological change that occurs on day 4, and all Members of the party demonstrably reached a new plateau of heightened "oneness with nature".

This was a little chastened by the prior news of Frank Rigby's passing. However, at 84 he had a pretty good innings. This included visiting Lake Pedder in 1958 on the first SBW trip to the Lake.

He had walked all over Australia into a lot of little know country, one such trip was down the upper Dueda River, others were into the Western MacDonnell's and overseas as well (Refer to: http://www.gandy.id.au/wm_pictures.htm for some pictures of the McDonalds). He inspired many Walkers and Leaders, and served the Club in myriad ways. We await advice of where he wishes to have his ashes scattered, but it may well be that he rejoins Joan under the magnificent Blue Gum on the western Flat at Coolana.

Conversely Members would be heartened to know that Alex Colley recently celebrated his 102nd birthday, with a number of SBW Members in attendance.

In respect of the Club:

- ✿ We have now added to our web site at: http://www.sbw.org.au/content_common/pg-sbw-bushwalkers-wilderness-rescue-squad.seo a page on the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS). This recognises the contribution of the Members of SBW who are active in the Squad, and give of their time for training and to be on standby for "Call Outs"

Continued next page

The President Says ^{cont.}

- ✿ The foreshadowed amendments to the Constitution have been distributed to Members and we are to conduct a Special General Meeting on Wed 14 September (to coincide with the required 6 monthly General Meeting) to examine and vote on the proposed changes. An Information Session was held on Wednesday 10 August at the Club Rooms for Members to ask questions and raise issues, and a small number attended to do so.
- ✿ Helen McDonald has stood down from the position of Secretary and Helen Lalas has “stood up” to assume the role. Helen McDonald will be participating in another notable Endurance Race around the area of Everest Base Camp in November.
- ✿ Due to this shift we are now looking for someone with “Marketing Expertise” to take over the “**Business Manager**” role from Helen Lalas - the function of this role is to source and manage Advertisers for our Magazine (and also in prospect, the web site). Please contact me if you have an interest and expertise in this area
- ✿ We ran a very successful Skills Enhancement Workshop for Prospectives in late July, to assist them in developing the competencies to pass their Q Tests. Twenty one Prospectives attended to “*gain the knowledge*”
- ✿ By the time that you receive this Magazine we will also have conducted the 17 August Social Night with Richard Pattison presenting on Leadership insights drawn from having participated in Expeditions that have climbed the seven highest peaks of the seven continents. This to be a precursor to the conduct of a Weekend Workshop over 15-16 Oct to skill up potential Day Trip Leaders. Can the more experienced Members please look to potentially attend, and then “ease” into leadings some trips
- ✿ The Scattering of Wilf Hilder’s Ashes is to occur from the summit of Clear Hill on Narrow Neck on **Sunday 4 Sept**. Ian Rannard will lead a walking party, and there may also be a separate convoy of 4WD vehicles for those not up to the stroll. Come along and stand on the Summit to give Wilf a Bushman’s farewell in the form of a “Dayhoo” that will make the Ranges ring
- ✿ A big “**Thank You!**” to Linda Wilhelm for recently making a generous donation to the Coolana Fund
- ✿ For a Gallery of Henry Gold’s photos refer to: <http://www.colongwilderness.org.au/GoldGallery/default.htm>
- ✿ The 6 Ft Track and K to K trips are approaching for the Tigers in waiting

A large number of Members have used the winter period to visit “hot weather” locations in central and northern Australia. Another group is shortly to head off to Japan to traverse the central Ranges and experience the Autumn colours. With spring approaching, it’s time to dust off the canoe and shine up the canyoning Karabiners.

Rolling on.

Ian Wolfe
President SBW

From the Editor

As you will have heard by now, Wilf Hilder recently passed away. And as a tribute, we have dedicated this magazine to Wilf. Wilf was a larger than life character who has left behind an indelible legacy for all Australian bushwalkers. I hope you enjoy the stories and photos that we have been collected.

As always, my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed.

Melinda Turner
editor@sbw.org.au

From the Committee Room

- Rosemary MacDougal was appointed as the replacement fourth SBW Delegate to Confederation.
- Candidates for the “Commendation for Contribution to SBW” Award were reviewed and an initial group of recipients agreed

The usual “Business As Usual” matter were addressed i.e. finances, activities and membership matters

Please welcome the following new members

- ✿ Carol De Sain
- ✿ Will De Sain
- ✿ Neena Wang
- ✿ Lloyd Hansen
- ✿ Graham Byrne
- ✿ Jan Spencer

**FORMAL NOTICE OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE SYDNEY
BUSH WALKERS INC TO BE HELD AT THE KIRRIBILLI
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE AT 7pm
ON 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2011 IN THE MCMANUS ROOM**

Agenda

1. Apologies:
2. Matters arising from the DRAFT MINUTES of the AGM held on 9 March 2011:
3. Status of the Club - Finances, Membership and Activities
4. General Business
5. Closure

It is anticipated that the General Meeting will last for 20-30 mins. An informal Q & A session on the proposed Constitutional changes will then be conducted till 7.55pm

**FORMAL NOTICE OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SYDNEY BUSH WALKERS INC TO BE HELD AT THE
KIRRIBILLI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE AT 8pm
ON 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2011 IN THE GALLERY ROOM**

Agenda

1. Apologies:
2. Examination of the Proposed Changes to the Constitution:
3. Vote on the Proposed Changes to the Constitution
4. Closure (by 9pm)

Depending on when the Special General Meeting concludes, we may then have some social drinks and nibbles.

**Farewell
to
Wilf Hilder**



A simple memorial service and bushwalker's farewell to Wilf Hilder will be held at Clear Hill on Narrow Neck in the Blue Mountains National Park on Sunday, September 4. A day walk to Clear Hill will commence from the locked gate on the Narrow Neck Fire Trail at 10am. I suggest walkers consider taking the 7.18am train with me from Central arriving at Katoomba 9.20 am from where we will share taxi fares to the locked gate. There is no track work planned for the Blue Mountains Line on Sept 4. The distance to Clear Hill from the gate is 9kms where the service is scheduled to begin at 1pm. The Katoomba Office of the NP&WS has generously offered to provide vehicular transport from the locked gate for some older or less able bushwalkers who may wish to attend. The vehicles will depart later than the walking party but the number of available seats is limited. If you are interested in joining this group you must contact me for details before August 31. On our return to Katoomba we will meet at a pub near the station (its name and location will be announced on the day) for drinks.

Please contact Ian Rannard on 9958 1514 or email him ianrann@bigpond.com for more information

Wilf Hilder - the Bushwalkers Champion

Michael Keats

“Honest but devious,” “You cannot be a stirrer and be popular.” Not credos that most would use to describe themselves. There is a disarming directness and honesty about Wilf that created polarity on contact. If you appreciated sardonic dry wit, the dispassionate double entendre then Wilf was your friend. Supersensitive, humorless types should not apply for friendship! They simply would not understand.

Dip into the as yet unwritten bushwalking topographic lexicon and you will find a lot of entries attributed to “Wilf Hilder.” This applies to generic terms as well as place names. It is Wilf who gave us the term “pagoda” - how on earth would you write up a walk in the Wollemi Wilderness without using it? Anyone who has walked in “Pagoda Country” knows just how apposite the term is.

Wilf's was the name behind so many thematic place names across a dozen 1:25,000 topographic sheets in the Greater Sydney area. All the musical names of the Upper Wollemi (Yodelers Range etc to be researched); all the railway names around the Wolgan Valley and Newnes - Rail Motor Ridge, Derailment Hill, Firebox Ridge etc to be researched. The Ettrema, Tolwong and Caoura sheets are dotted with mining and convict names researched by Wilf and later endorsed by the GNB process. For areas around Yalwal, Wilf devised names for features taken from the first settlers as shown on the original Parish Map. For the river reaches on the Shoalhaven he enshrined the names of the canoeists who explored the then turbulent waters of that untamed river.

Wilf started bushwalking very early in life - as a preschooler! His first walks leader was Marion Burley - Griffin, wife of Walter, the designer of Castle Crag and the National Capital, Canberra. Professor Jill Roe, historian elicited this piece of trivia from Wilf in a private discussion.

Wilf was a pupil at a preschool where Marion taught. Marion's passion for the Australian Bush meant that ‘bush walks’ were an essential part of the learning process for her young charges. Wilf was a keen participant and his love for the bush was nurtured from that time. He was hooked.

Wilf's father, a sea captain with Burns Philp, did not share the same passion although Wilf does recall being carried in on his dad's back into Burning Palms on the south coast in 1936. For his dad walking and picnics were recreation, for Wilf the bush was and is a heaven on earth. It is a solace where he ‘lives.’

Hilder senior was very concerned to see young Wilf get a real job, and not spend all his time messing around in the bush, so young Wilf started his career as a compositor with the Radio Printing Press, an organization that produced a monthly journal for the burgeoning electronics industry.

The transition from compositor to research officer with the Geographic Names Board is too long to recount here. For 7 years Wilf occupied this position, busy learning and absorbing as much information as he could. Wilf's noted capacity for an intellectual stoush was never far from the surface.

Wilf was one of the first councilors to serve on the Blue Mountains Place Names Committee, representing the NSW Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs. Here he had frequent contact with Myles Dunphy, Cliff McIlroy and Bernie Dowd amongst others. Perhaps these associations sharpened and honed his acerbic wit and provided a blue print for much that followed.

When the Army came into the office wanting place names on some of the proposed 1:100,000 sheets, Wilf happily obliged, unfortunately he used a lot of names recognized by bushwalkers, but not by the establishment! Wilf was in his element and on discovery was shunted off to a section where he could be less of an embarrassment to his boss.

On one occasion after a ‘run in’ he was offered a position in Hay (as close to NSW Public Service purgatory as you can get) as a grade 1 Officer at a higher rate of pay. Wilf did not like the idea of going to Hay so he wrote a submission to his boss suggesting that if he was worth more money, why did he have to go move Hay to get it! He was roundly accused of insubordination, and yes, you guessed it he was moved to another area. This time the post involved developing and delivering training courses to do with Aboriginal Relics. His continued capacity to rub the establishment up the wrong way finally landed him in Arrears in Accounts. Somewhat ignominious, but then that is Wilf.

Wilf was a scout and went on to become a Rover Scout in 1942. His first big camp was in the Blue Gum Forest in 1955. His recollection is that the Blue Gum Forest was not all that impressive.

Soon after he became a solo walker. He kept away from the well-trod paths of the Blue Mountains and specialized in the wilds of Burrier and the Shoalhaven River.

In 1958 Wilf joined the Catholic Bushwalking Club but unsurprisingly soon found he had a clash with the Chaplin whom he regarded as a manipulator, trying to match make suitable boys and girls. The establishment felt Wilf did not fit, however the younger clergy soon found themselves on Wilf's side.

Wilf Hilder - the Bushwalkers Champion ^{cont.}

A year later Wilf joined the Sydney Bush Walkers. Here he found here a more liberal group and served on the committee. He was offered but did not accept higher office. Almost a year later again he became a member of the Coast and Mountain Walkers and enjoyed many ventures with Col Watson whom he regarded as a great navigator.

Five more clubs accepted Wilf into membership - the Warragamba Walkers, the Kamerukas (they were great singers), the Ramblers the Bush Club and the NPA.

Perhaps the most famous club of all that I hear Wilf belongs to is one that arose out of the original Warragamba Walking Club - The Recidivists. When I challenged him on membership there was a slight inclination of the head, a twinkle in those piercing blue eyes and we moved on to discuss something else. The recidivists receive frequent reference in his Track Notes prepared diligently each month for the NSW Confederation of Bush Walking Clubs.

Recently Wilf accepted higher office to the extent that he was the President of the Australian Confederation of Bush Walking Clubs. This is a position of enormous responsibility to the tens of thousands of Australian Bush Walkers. One thing I know for sure is that when it comes to getting a message through to those who want to mess with Bushwalkers and their rights, no one could put a case more convincingly. You can also be sure that if there was an Achilles heel to be penetrated, Wilf would have found it!

“A Very Friendly Man”

Allan Wells

I first walked with Wilf in the early eighties on a leg of Bruce's Walk, along with Jim Smith and other participants but didn't really get to meet either of them as it was such a large group.

In 1988 I was on the Fairy Bower track at Mt Victoria searching for a “man-made” dam wall that would lead me to the old chert incline railway, according to Jim Smith's guidebook “How to See the Blue Mountains” (1st edition). I had my 12 year old daughter Miriam with me at the time and was sitting down on the track absolutely ‘stumped’ as the man-made wall we crossed took us absolutely nowhere-just a steep talus slope covered with thick scrub. While musing over my predicament with guidebook in hand two blokes approached us walking up the track with a bush saw and other small hand tools. The taller, more senior gentleman said hello and inquired as to where I intended walking. I told him where I had been and that there must be a mistake in the guidebook because the ‘man-made’ wall back up the track led nowhere. The almost immediate response of the younger man was “Oh yeah, I forgot about that wall!”



*Wilf on a Christmas walk led by Ian Rannard from Suggan Buggan to Thredbo Dec 95
Photo by Allan Wells*

The older fellow said, “You'd better sign that guidebook for him Jim” and then proceeded to introduce themselves as Jim Smith and Wilf Hilder. I asked both of them to sign the book as I knew they were both bushwalkers of some repute.

Wilf then offered to take both Miriam and I down to the ‘correct’ wall and up the other side of the creek to the incline railway, filling us in on its history along the way. I came away with the impression that here was a very friendly man, keen to share his love of history and bush lore and graced with a keen sense of humour. That impression of Wilf still lingers with me today.

We didn't meet again until the early to mid nineties on an Ian Rannard SBW Easter or Christmas/New Year trip (memory fails me) and of course a number of subsequent trips over the years. I have lots of fond memories of his yarns, humour, quaint sayings and his yodelling (usually whilst ascending a stiff climb while the rest of us were struggling for breath!)

On the subject of Bushwalking he was a walking encyclopaedia.

On one particular Easter trip, led by Ian Rannard, we were on the Hume and Hovell track and preparing to participate in “Happy Hour” when the heavens opened up and everyone, except Wilf and I, abandoned food and fire and fled to their shelters. Wilf and I proceeded to consume said Happy Hour while Wilf joked and taunted the tent dwellers. We both ended up ‘as full as googs’ and neither bothered cooking tea that night.

On another Ian Rannard trip we were trying to find a spur down onto the Shoalhaven River. Wilf had assured us that a particular spur had a track ‘as wide as a freeway’ and we'd get down without a problem. After some time of traversing this spur, clinging on like mountain goats, our progress was halted by a waterfall in a side gully and we ended up spending the night in the gully with small rocks falling around us, except for a few members of the party who managed to find an old copper mine adit to sleep in. The next day Wilf copped a friendly ribbing about his ‘freeway’ but on a later trip Annie Maguire and Frank Grennan found Wilf's ‘freeway’ just as he'd described it!

Due to personal circumstances I lost contact with Wilf many years ago but he certainly enriched my life.

“The Best Years of my Life in those Mountains”

Paul Jennings

In March 2010 James Cryer, the club’s archivist and historian, and I interviewed Wilf Hilder with a view to finding out more about our club’s early years. After a long struggle with cancer, Wilf died last month. He had been a founding member and the club’s second president. What follows here is an account of some of his recollections and some impressions of our own regarding Wilf and of the funeral.

At the end of 1975 the club was formed and according to Wilf, had 15 members in that year. The largest grouping within that first membership were Catholic Bushwalkers such as Peter Harrington, the club’s first president, long time newsletter editor and later Life member, Laurie Bell, one time president and significant contributor to the trips programme, Wilf himself, and others. He also recalled Robert Owen, who came from Scouting, Don Richardson, who had an interest in the developing resort at Perisher, Gerry Armstrong, whose wife helped considerably with the newsletter, and Dave Biggs who had a cross country skiing shop and was later made a Life Member.

Those years, and shortly after, were the heyday of cross country skiing. Most of those people were already highly skilled and capable of looking after themselves out of doors, but many things to do with actually coping with snow in Australian conditions were being more or less discovered anew. Most of the conventional wisdoms and ski touring practices of today come from that era, some of course in slightly modified form. The only map which existed was the 1:100,000 Kosciusko map and some aerial photos. What areas were actually skiable and how they could be accessed had to be discovered by these people. Wilf became interested in the northern part of the park, and over many years developed a sketch map of the area between Selwyn and Tabletop, and centering around Four Mile hut, for which our club became the caretaker group. This map is full of detailed information and is as much a map of Wilf as anything else. He often recalled the dangers of navigating in magnetic areas such as this and would cite an incident at a point south of Four Mile where he watched his compass swing around 180 degrees in two or three metres. This map he was able to use for a celebrated K to K with Paddy Pallin, another Life member, in 1977. The eastward lean of Four Mile hut, due to its rotting corner stumps, only developed around the beginning of the 80’s, and he remembered it being perfectly upright in the 70s. The huts were generally the foci of those early trips, sometimes staying out for up to 7 days at a time and using a particular hut as a base. A lot of club trips were spent looking for old huts and ruins. In the time before the destruction of Moulds Hut, he recalled watching corroboree frogs and doing some work there with some NSC people and some Sydney Bushwalkers. This latter club became his major affiliation in later years. He also recalled skiing from Mungyang to Jagungal and back in a day. It was while talking about actual trips during our interview, that he paused and said to James and myself that ...they were “the best years of my life in those mountains”.

Many trips were worked around a full moon, choosing a weekend just before. This aided driving and made it easier to see animals. The drive down was a major affair. With quarter windows open, the relief driver in the front seat and a third person sleeping in the back. Friday night sleeping was at places like the stacked concrete pipes or ladies’ toilets at Mungyang power station, or under the road bridge at Berridale or at Mt. Gladstone at Cooma.

Wilf had input into the historical sections of a number of very useful instructional books on how to ski cross country in Australia which were published in those early years. These included Ian Hampel’s “An Introduction to Ski Touring”, and a publication with the same title put out by the NSW Ski Association which was illustrated by Peter Harrington’s witty drawings of a bewildered, but generally cheerful, egg-like figure in various poses skiing in the snow. The somewhat downhearted figure below headed the chapter on Equipment.



“The Best Years of my Life in those Mountains” *cont.*

Wilf served for several more years on our committee, as Vice President, Secretary and general committee member. His membership lapsed for some time after that and a period followed in which he did not ski again. He came to the 25th anniversary dinner which the club held in the year 2000, and renewed his membership for some years after that, but could not ski due, by this stage, largely to knee injuries. He became a key figure in the NSW Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs, being its president up till a few years ago. He was also president of the Australia wide umbrella organization at one time. At the interview our aim was to glean as many snippets pertaining to the club's history as possible, and our focus was not so much on Wilf himself. We were conscious however that we were in the presence of a formidable figure, and an observant, alert and inquiring mind which had a keen interest in many things, but particularly the human dimension of Australian landscapes.

At his funeral it was little surprise to see so many people from other compartments of his very full life that we were only faintly aware of. A rare gathering of the tribes, as James described it. Freemasonry was a big part of his life which was almost unknown to those who knew him from bushwalking and skiing, and vice versa. His Masonic colleagues performed some of their rites and their presence was a very moving part of the funeral. We also learnt of some of his many other involvements, for example the Railways Historical Society and The Bluegrass Society. Indeed Ian Rannard (SBW) and his friend Jim Smith, who have been given the monumental task by the family of going through Wilf's double garage size store of magazines and papers, had come across “thousands” of Bakelite bluegrass records. The funeral started as the coffin was carried in, with banjo and guitar plucking away and a voice (Slim Dusty?) singing ‘Walk a Country Mile’. This was a fabulous start to the ceremony. The funeral was attended by club members Steve Poole, Alan Oakey, James Cryer, Ian Griffith, Ian Wolfe and myself. Ian Wolfe gave a superb eulogy, replete with Wilf vignettes and alluding to the complex and feisty character of the man himself. Ian Giffith presented a card to the family on behalf of the club.

Something of a virtuous circle from the point of view of our tiny club has now been completed. At the same time that Wilf has perhaps gone to meet the great architect of the universe, our club has been readmitted to the Confederation. After a period of isolation we are now back in the main stream. We have the work of a few people to thank for this, but that is another story. On the executive of that organization, up till the time of his death, Wilf was a critical supporter of this move. Another promise, made to James and myself at the interview, was to chase up early NSC material in the Mitchell library. This he did over several days and the club will be the recipient of the fruits of this research when Ian and Jim shortly finish their work. It was Wilf's wish that his ashes be scattered along Narrow Neck and this has yet to be organized, but will no doubt take place later this year, and be a fitting way in which Wilf's long association with, and love of, our mountains can continue forever.

Paul Jennings.

Wanderings with Wilf – a tour down memory lane

James Cryer



*Wilf with a swag,
mid-1980s*

In the great pantheon of bushwalkers and cross-country skiers, we still hear the footsteps of the giants such as Paddy Pallin. But not far behind, are some of the other greats of the bushwalking ‘hall of fame’- whose footsteps still reverberate around the canyons of the mind.

And up there, leading the pack would be Wilf Hilder- indestructible, indomitable, contrarian - but never boring. He was someone who epitomizes the spirit of adventure - feisty, fearless and forthright. He was someone who challenged the status quo, the orthodox and conventional wisdom.

Such strong-willed characters can draw friendly-fire. Their views can polarize and divide. But one thing must be said; any pronouncement that Wilf Hilder made had been thoroughly researched, checked and validated.

You could have asked him about Barralier's expedition across the Blue Mountains in 1803 and you'd get a detailed analysis backed up by academic and practical research. If you had asked him about the origins of the iconic “Three Peaks” walk in the Blue Mountains ... or the correct pronunciation of ‘Jagungal’ ... or who built which Snowy Mountains hut and when - Wilf would give you chapter-and-verse, backed up, not only by extensive research, but by first-hand personal experience.

Sadly this has come to an end, the era of another remarkable man moves into history.

“Big in spirit, in generosity and in friendship”

Jim Smith

Wilf Hilder, that great explorer of the Australian mountains, is now walking in "the undiscovered country" from which no traveller returns.

How full of life and enthusiasm he was when I first met him on Boxing Day 1982. He came to the reopening of a historic walking track in the Blue Mountains, the Gladstone Pass. This track intersected with the then uncleared Lindeman Pass track, built around 1910. At the junction I saw Wilf looking longingly up the old, heavily overgrown pathway. His desire to see it all led to us having our first big adventure together. Over a couple of years we found and re-cleared all six km of this historic pass between Wentworth Falls and Leura.

His energy and persistence in this task was remarkable, as was his ability to see the then very faint signs of ancient benching and stonework beneath more than half a century of leaf litter, debris and regrowth.

I wrote a book about the Lindeman Pass and I wanted Wilf to do a chapter for it. Many deadlines went by without him producing the promised material. The next time he visited I said "Okay Wilf we are not going walking this weekend. Here is pen and paper and a desk. I will bring you your meals and cups of tea until you have completed the work." I kept him virtually imprisoned for four days. It was worth it, because his eventual contribution to the book is a classic of bushwalking literature, with its dramatic tension, vivid descriptions of the bush and his self-deprecating humour. Reading it makes you wish more of his writing had been published.

Wilf and I later re-cleared virtually all of the forgotten historic tourist walking tracks of the Blue Mountains, a total of close to 20 km. He particularly enjoyed the reopening ceremonies we held, when the local community was invited to see the long lost treasures we had uncovered. We received much criticism from the authorities responsible for the areas in which these old tracks lay and from some politicians. If you knew Wilf you will know that he was never discouraged by criticism or threats. These only made him more determined to do what he thought was right. When travelling along muddy sections of track, or over wet sloping rocks, he often told me that they were "as slippery as a politician's tongue".

Wilf was well-known for such humorous sayings. I lost count of the number of times I heard him say that "Blind Freddy without his guide dog" would have been able to see what was so obvious in his eyes, but perhaps not to others. I'm sure many of you have your own favourite Wilf Hilder expressions.

Wilf had a tremendous passion for finding evidence of past human activities, both black and white, in the bush. Aboriginal campsites, stone tools and art, any evidence of mining or logging, and traces of old roads, tracks and survey marks all excited him. He would discourse at great length about the significance of these artefacts. Once he had formed his theories as to their meaning, it was virtually impossible for him to entertain other viewpoints. Many of you would have heard him doggedly defending his historical interpretations against people who had once disagreed with him; sometimes years after the other parties had lost interest in the controversy.

In 1950s copies of the Waysider, the magazine of the Catholic bushwalking club, you will see a number of references to 'Big Julius'. Some of you may not have known that Julius was the name given to him by his parents. Wilfred was the name he gave himself. He was a big man: big of frame, and big in spirit, in generosity and in friendship.

Wilf was very generous in sharing information from his large collection of experiences and historical archives. He spend a lot of time replying to queries from bushwalkers and historians, finding and copying relevant documents and photos to send to them. His most common 'signoff' on his letters to friends was "good walking". Walking in wonder through the bushland was the expression of his spirituality. That is what he meant by "good walking".

One of his greatest gifts to me was to take me on three five to seven day walks through the heartland of the Gundungurra Aboriginal people in the southern Blue Mountains. I had told him that I felt I did not know the country of these people well enough for my planned thesis. He devised three epic walks following Aboriginal trails, sleeping at their campsites and dreaming where no white people had dreamed before. His knowledge of the Aboriginal way of life added great depths to my research.

It was always a revelation to stand on any high point in the Sydney, Blue Mountains or Alpine regions with Wilf and listen to him name every large and small feature in the landscape below. His brain held many wonderful maps which are now gone.

On his last day of life, Wilf was not able to move or communicate. He had often made up humorous names for the places we had walked together. I leaned close to him and referred to some of these personal place names. I could tell by the change in his breathing that he had heard me and remembered our visits there with fondness.

How do you say goodbye to someone who has given you almost 30 years of friendship? My last words to him were "thanks for all the memories". I know that many of you here have your own precious recollections of times with Wilf and would have said the same to him.

“Your Friends Will Miss You”

John Poleson

When I was seventeen I joined the Catholic Bushwalking Club. I had been active in Scouting and wanted to join a bushwalking club. My mother feared for my morals and insisted that it must be a church group, hence the Catholic Bushwalkers. In those days they were a very active group and I made some great friends. One of my friends was a big, powerful looking young fellow called Julius Hilder. That is his real name and he hated it. He was an avid collector of early country music and his hero was singer Wilf Carter. He was so keen on Carters music that his friends gave him the nickname of Wilf. He liked it and it stuck. I have known Wilf as a friend for fifty three years. The other SBW member that walked with him in those days was Jim Calloway.



Wilf at SBW 80th reunion at Manly Dam

Wilf served an apprenticeship as a Printer and went on to work for The Land, a rural interest newspaper. He left his trade and joined the NSW Department of Lands in a clerical position. In later years he was appointed to the Geographic Names Board

Wilf was a determined honest person who spoke his mind. His membership of the Catholic Bushwalkers ended when he protested about the influence that some members of the Catholic priesthood had on the club. In those days the priests' word was law and their decisions overrode those of the committee. This was not to Wilf's liking and he mounted a strong opposition to their authority. Unfortunately he won the battle but lost the war and ended up resigning from the club. I think that he was a member of the Coast and Mountain Walkers after that and then SBW. Wilf was a great joiner and was probably a member of every walking club in Sydney.

In his early days he took a lively interest in the design of walking equipment. In those days the only walking boots were heavy hobnailed boots. Wilf conducted a number of experiments in improved footwear. Ripple soled shoes were the fashion and he tried them out on walks. The result was disastrous. He then discovered Dunlop Volley sandshoes and they became all the rage. He experimented with ultra light foods. There was a liquid diet supplement called Metrical. If you wanted to lose weight you ate nothing but Metrical for a few weeks. Wilf thought this was a great idea and started turning up on weekend walks with nothing but Metrical, the experiment didn't last long.

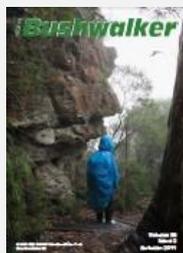
Wilf was a great historian and those of us who attended his walks always came home with some new snippet of history. He carefully researched all of his historical details and his facts were always accurate. His father Captain Bret Hilder was a famous nautical navigation expert and his influence must have spread to his son. Wilf's navigation was always spot on and he prided himself on his detailed knowledge of mapping.

He was a great joiner and his interests were many and varied. Nordic skiing, cycling, Scottish dancing, Free Masonry, bluegrass music, Australian folklore were just some of his interests. Deep down he was a spiritual person who conducted a lifetime search for the deeper meaning of life. He investigated many religions and philosophies. He looked into the Quakers, Buddhists and the Unitarian religions.

He joined the Theosophical Society, an organization promoting religious tolerance. He remained a member and became the Sydney President. He had been born a Catholic and had a deep respect for its basic tenets but being Wilf he couldn't stand its Vatican dictatorship and lack of personal freedom. He was an original thinker and a rebel. Wilf did not suffer fools gladly.

Wilf regularly spent Christmas at our place with Lynne and our family. They liked him and enjoyed his company and were all saddened to watch his gradual decline. His last years were painful as the illness got worse. He is at rest now but I will miss his friendship. My own walking days have declined due to a spinal cancer that did a lot of damage. Fortunately, that cancer is now in remission. I only wish that the same thing could have happened to him. I frequently offered to drive him down to Royal National Park for a picnic and short walk. Even that was too much for him and he always declined.....

Rest in peace old mate, your friends will miss you.



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>

A Day With Wilf

Susi Prescott

8.30 a.m.: Macquarie Park, City of Sydney

Having all caught crowded trains and buses to (Semi) Circular Quay Station, we stand in our SBW circle introducing ourselves. Eight or so middle-aged citizens in sturdy walking shoes, sensible shorts, shirts and hats, with backpacks, right in the middle of the thoroughfare; smart suits, leather shoes and briefcases sidestepping us to rush on to their various work places.



Jan Roberts writes "...my favourite photos of Wilf from a Northern Beaches walk a couple of years back. We came across a whole lot of rubbish dumped at one of the lookouts and Wilf collected it all up and lugged it back down the hill to a bin. Typical of the man, and one of a kind."

Formality completed, Wilf draws our attention to the clock at the top of the elegant building over the road, and we turn our collective gaze skyward . . . causing the pedestrian equivalent of a motorway pile-up as several of our professionally-dressed companions also stop to peer upwards.

With grey clouds looming low, we set off at a brisk pace to begin the umpteenth leg of Wilf's (Semi) Circular Quay Extravaganza.

9.30 a.m.: Botanical Gardens.

The first raindrops fall during lively debate over the distinguishing characteristics of 'Moreton Bay Figs' as opposed to 'Port Jackson Figs', and the importance of taking into account 'individual differences' when trying to identify specimens.

Hurrying over the damp grass to shelter in the loos, we are mortified to be chased by the young gardener who has just seeded and watered the green slope which we'd taken to be the public path.

10.30 a.m.: Woolloomooloo

The sun has come out in time for us to admire the renovated wharves and begin the plod up to Potts Point. Wilf keeps us entertained with tall tales and true of serving the public in government offices, the day job he suffered for decades so he could spend his weekends and holidays bushwalking.

11.30 a.m.: somewhere in Darling Point

We find ourselves directionally challenged, but not for long.

'I've found it! This way!' calls our intrepid leader, and we all obediently follow him into a lush green area of well-kept rainforest and beautiful flowers, separated by neat paving. As we stroll along the path and admire the healthy plants, I wonder at this lovely waterside park, and ask Wilf its name.

'I don't know the exact address,' he says cheerfully as he reaches the gate, opens it, and shepherds us out of the exclusive private garden into the street. 'But it was a great short cut! I'll have to remember it for next time!'

12.30 p.m.: somewhere near Double Bay

We reach our designated lunch spot, a waterside park somewhere in the most exclusive area of the eastern suburbs. The heavens open once more. We rush toward a rotunda for shelter. The local tramp sees us coming and hastily de-camps. We munch our sandwiches, as he wanders beneath shop awnings, doubtless muttering about 'tourists' and 'land rights'. We wave to him, inviting him back into his abode, but he pays us no heed.

2.30 p.m.: Ferry Wharf, Rose Bay

By now the sun has come out with a vengeance, and soaking gear begins to dry. Eight bedraggled walkers of a certain age sit on the jetty enjoying ice creams. By three o'clock a crowd of small boys in Cranbrook uniforms has joined us. We all climb aboard a sleek, shiny hydrofoil which races over the blue waters of the harbour to deliver old(er) and young safely back to (Semi) Circular Quay.

I did this walk at least seven years ago, probably more, however its wacky eccentricity remains etched in my memory as a typically surprising and hilarious day on a walk led by Wilf Hilder.

Vale Wilf, I won't be forgetting you any time soon.



Newcastle Bushwalking Club

Two pdfs on the early years of the Newcastle Bushwalking Club can be downloaded from the following site.

<https://sites.google.com/site/newcastlebushwalker/Home/our-history-1>

“...it was the Army Commando Course”

Maureen Carter

Wilf was well known for the huge amount of money he had amassed in Water Board fines & one time we telephoned him for advice on walking a certain section of the Wild Dogs in the Blue Mountains. Wilf gave us two descriptions of the best route to take - the strictly legal one & the more interesting one. He also told us when the Water Board personnel were likely to patrol in their vehicle & helicopter. Heaven knows which of his contacts kept him informed on Water Board movements.

My favourite memory is of booking onto a walk he was leading from East Hills Station (close to home) & finishing at Campbelltown. I was keen to learn some new local walking tracks & duly followed Wilf, along with about a dozen other keen Sunday walkers, into bushland on the southern side of Heathcote Road. Most people know that this land belongs to the Army & entry is prohibited. Wilf did not seem to acknowledge this. At one stage we were surrounded by very unusual hazards & when I remarked that this seemed to be some sort of obstacle course, Wilf quite nonchalantly informed us that it was the Army Commando Course. Having passed that test we next found ourselves advancing towards the Sunday morning parade & a very important looking Officer, who was not amused, bailed up Wilf. We marched out the other end just as Wilf intended & continued to enjoy a sunny day, also visiting The Masonic Homes & gardens on our way to the bushland surrounding the Georges River.

“It was always an adventure, walking with Wilf!”

Richard Darke

I joined SBW in the late nineties. I did all my test walks & Coolana within 4 weeks of joining, inspired by Wilf. I remember my first overnight pack walk. Such a useless pack; falling apart, overloaded, and staggering up the Illawarra Escarpment. As I recall, Wilf was doing a series of walks along the length of the escarpment, from the Royal NP to the Shoalhaven River, and I did several of these with him.

A typical Wilf walk: Taxi to Avondale Colliery on escarpment near Dapto on Saturday morning - Bush bash to the top of Mars Pass (because we missed finding the track) - Up onto the 4WD track bordering the Metropolitan Water Catchment above Lake Avon - Encounter with 2 Rangers in 4WD, asking what we are doing in the catchment.

Wilf assured them we were just walking along the road, and would exit back down the escarpment to camp that night. As soon as they were gone however, we doubled back in the opposite direction to camp inside the catchment area, at Summit Dam, a great (illegal) swimming hole and camping spot! Thence down Calderwood spur on Sunday morning, back down the escarpment towards Tongarra. The aim was to climb the escarpment again “somewhere around” Macquarie Falls. Of course, there was insufficient time to find a way up, so we ended up doing a 17km bash up Macquarie Pass to catch the bus back to Wollongong Station - where we just missed the train! Never boring, walking with Wilf. The next stage of the walk involved illegal camping on the Barren Grounds....It was always an adventure, walking with Wilf!

“... he looked like a Greek God”

Pam Organ

Some years ago Pearl Gillott led an odyssey up the entire NSW coast from Sydney to the Queensland border - I think it took four years or more, as Pearl was determined to cover every km of the distance. It was all public transport with help from school buses or taxis for the really isolated bits. For one of the many trips involved in this endeavour, we used the caravan park at Minnie Waters for our base, radiating north and south. We took a school bus to Woolli and Pearl charmed a local fisherman into ferrying our group across the river, so that we could hike to Stockyard, to link up with Pearl's previous trip, and return to the rickety little wharf by 3pm, where the fisherman would pick us up again. We slogged along a timber trail all morning, but it became clear that we would not make Stockyard in time, so Wilf Hilder, fleet of foot, volunteered to go ahead alone and make sure that Pearl's goal would be reached. The rest of us headed for the coast and returned north along the beaches and rock platforms with about twenty minutes to wait for our boatman. No sign of Wilf, and we became very anxious in such an isolated area, but with just one minute to spare, Wilf appeared triumphant - and I mean triumphant. He appeared, racing along, with an Olympic Torch held aloft as he ran. The torch may not have been an original from The Games, but it really was a decent facsimile. Our champion had made it to Stockyard and picked up his trophy on the way. To our hugely relieved group, he looked like a Greek God.

Thank you, Linda Wilhelm for your donation to the Coolana Fund

Many members love Coolana and show their appreciation in different ways. Some people help out on the maintenance weekends. Others help out by making financial contributions to help with the constant expenses that the property incurs.

Linda Wilhelm is the most recent member to make a donation to help the Coolana Fund.

You have our sincere thanks!

"It didn't deter Wilf"

Roger Treagus

My wife encouraged me to do an SBW walk as a visitor prior to joining back in 1991. So my first walk was up the Great North Walk near Mangrove Mountain, the leader was of course Wilf. Once I was introduced to him on the walk I got the immediate sense he was a colourful character with his running and fascinating commentary on the local history. It was not until we arrived at the gates of a property that I appreciated just how colourful. I considered Wilf as the easement king; he knew them all working for the Dept of Lands. This day he had identified an easement that legally he could walk along through this property and save us several kilometres. But the gate was locked and two very large and loud dogs came running at the gate to guard it. With all the commotion the property owners came down to tell us to rack off. Wilf took umbrage with this approach and proceeded to cite easement law to them and shouted out the rights of people to walk on the easement. With that the owners started to become threatening mentioning the machine guns they had mounted on their veranda. Eventually Wilf saw that he was not going to get access this way so we backed off and walked on the recognised track. A week later Wilf contacted us to say that he had re-examined his maps and the easement did exist. The very next walk with SBW was again with Wilf who walked for most of a day with just his underpants as somehow his clothes had been taken away during a car swap that morning and were waiting for him at the end of the walk. It didn't deter Wilf. Every walk I ever went on with Wilf I laughed and laughed. He was like that. He was an original and no other bushwalking club had that much entertainment on a walk. He made bushwalking live. So I joined SBW

Update on Ron Watters / Immediate Past President



Ron Watters has now moved from Greenwich Hospital to Chesalon Care, 15 Lenna Place in Jannali
Telephone: 95287779.

This is close to the shops and he can go down the street for coffee.
Please feel free to visit Ron; he would love to see you!

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Build Up



Bushwalking

The most **dramatic** season of all!

Our **Build Up** trips are the most laid back and relaxed that we offer – early starts, early finishes and long lunch breaks sitting by tranquil pools. On Kakadu Highlights 11 & 12, you finish the trip with a night on a houseboat. **Dramatic?** Storms come and go – warm rain needs to be experienced to be believed. Frogs call and birds sing. The land turns green, almost as you watch. All nature rejoices in the change.

I enjoy the Build Up walks so much that I'll run either Kakadu Highlights 11 or 12 for as few as 2 people at no extra charge.

Join me and see why I think this is such a special time of year.

Russell Willis



12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au Phone 08 8985 2134 Fax 08 8985 2355

Walks & Other Activities / July 1 - 31

Leaders:

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

Please send this within 48 hours and keep your copies as these are legal documents.

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>SAT 2 JUL - Day Walk - M331 (Medium/Hard) Q 18km Bungonia SRA: <i>Long Point Lookout - Shoalhaven River - Bungonia Creek - Mt Ayre - Bungonia Creek and return.</i></p> <p>Walk Report: After a foggy morning which obliterated the promised magic view at Long Point we made our way down to the valley below. The weather soon cleared to a wonderful sunny day. The group of experienced walkers and fit prospective walked well and conquered the twin peaks of Mt Ayre and Long Point. Thanks to everyone who came on the walk - we all had a great time together.</p>	<p>Tony Crichton Gail Crighton Michael Cook Melanie Ng Arthur Panopoulos Chad Lusseni (P) Elias Bou-Obeid (P) Kat Duda (P) Kim Bailey Virginia Riley Margaret Rozea David Trinder Tim Sutherland (P) David Angell Melinda Turner? Lisa Sheldon</p>
<p>SUN 3 JUL - Day Walk - M111 (Easy) 16km Duffys Forest Area: <i>Perimeter Track, the Wilkins Track, and the Long Track out to Peach Trees</i></p> <p>Walk Report: There were 25 participants on this short-notice walk, and the walking conditions were fine and mild. Our large group of walkers headed off from Duffy's Forest down Kulgoa Road and then along the Perimeter Track. After about an hour we branched onto the Wilkins Track, following it out to a pleasant lookout that gave good views of Smiths Creek and the rugged hills of the Cottage Point area. We returned to the Perimeter Track, and walked around to the Long Track which took us all the way out to Peach Trees where we had lunch at a great lookout overlooking Cowan Creek and across to Waratah Bay. After lunch we returned via the Long Track to some cars which we had positioned in Bulara Road, Duffy's Forest. We finished off the walk in a jolly mood with coffees, milkshakes and ice creams in the pleasant patisserie at Terrey Hills.</p>	<p>Nigel Weaver Margaret Weaver Misako Sugiyama Subhash Devabathini (P) Pamela Irving Jim Close Tim Yewdall Karen Kool Sarah Wang (P) Leigh McClintock Nick Evans (P) Marie Fleri (P) John Kennett Janet McIntosh-Waterhouse Rick Angel Alessio Martini (P) Hugh Fyson Gabrielle Shaw (P) Patrick McNaught James Cryer Gueza Chavez (P) Marina Chan Nigel Wingate Julian Martin Christine Edwards</p>
<p>WEEKEND 2-3 JUL - Weekend Walk - M232 Q Blue Mountains NP - "Wild Dog Mountains" : <i>Carlons Farm - Carlons Creek - Black Horse Ridge - Mobbs Swamp - Splendour Rock - Brindle Dog Ridge - Merrigal Creek (Camp spot) Blue Pup Spur - Blue Dog Ridge - Cattle Dog Ridge - Breakfast Creek - Carlons Creek - Carlons Farm</i></p> <p>Walk Report: We set off from Carlons farm and headed down Carlons Creek amid a few moans and groans due to the usual suspects, "nettles" that are here in abundance. I personally think a Man .Vs Nettles battle should commence and we strike back and stew the lot of them! Anyway... We made our way up Black Horse ridge as the weather was lifting offering us glimpses of peaks and blue sky. A quick pace from the summit got us to the track and we took a short but well deserved break at Mobbs Swamp, which was very swampy. A little bush bash and we found the track leading up to Warrigal Gap. Thanks to Will for showing me this as previous attempts have taken me on different ascents each time, some more tedious and unnecessary than others. A brisk walk across Mount Merrimerrigal and Mount Dingo for a quick lunch at Splendour Rock. Log book signed, we made our descent and headed across Brindle Dog Ridge and down to our camp spot at Merrigal Creek just before the sun set. Happy hour witnessed the very best in culinary cuisine with brie and gorgonzola filling oozing between a pitta bread calzone style treat! Nice one Annie, definite points scored for this. With a blazing fire and great company we managed to stay up till a rock n roll 9 o'clock! They don't call us Tiggers for nothing. Working off the breakfast, we had a big climb up Blue Pup Spur then headed over to some fantastic views for an early lunch on Cattle Dog ridge. We quickly descended and made our way back up to the cars for 3pm. Time to head off to Megalong tea Rooms for some well deserved comfort tukka albeit served by a Quentin Tarantino doppelganger.</p>	<p>Jason Lorch Rebecca Lorch Theresa Wannisch Vanessa Diener (P) Phil Barnsley (P) Annie Cumpston (P) Will De Sain (P) Carol De Sain (P)</p>

Walks & Other Activities / July 1 - 31 ^{cont.}

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>SAT 9 JUL - Day Walk - S223 10km Great North Walk Area: - Cowan to Brooklyn <i>Cowan to Brooklyn via Peak Hill.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Walk Report:</p> <p>Caro kindly led this walk for Nigel who was ill with THAT cold..... Thank you Caro</p>	<p>Caro Ryan Brendon Anderson Max Stummer (P) Renee Gruber Girija Page (P) Sharon Chan (P) Jan Dormor Julian Martin Lynette Preston</p>
<p>SAT 9 JUL - Day Walk - L332 Q 25km Blue Mountains NP - "Wild Dog Mountains" : <i>Dunphys camp ground - Carlons Ck - Black Horse Ridge - Mobbs Swamp - Knights Deck - Blue Dog Spur - Breakfast Ck - Ironmonger Hill - Ironpot Mountain - Dunphys Camp ground</i></p> <p>Walk Report:</p> <p>Dunphys camp ground was almost full to the brim, so many bushwalkers (a few SBW members also). The busiest I've ever seen it here. The theme of the day was pace, so, we set off at a quick one and continued this throughout the day. First challenge of the morning was Blackhorse ridge and this was no issue for the group. A quick break and we blazed our way to Mobbs Swamp for a water pick up. David kindly led us to the cave that I never knew existed! Cheers David. Then we double backed and made our way to Knights Deck for lunch where along the way we met a convoy of bushwalkers, mostly from the Bush Club but some familiar faces from SBW. We decided to join up and all take lunch together on Knights Deck. This was a great lunch spot with welcomed company. After saying our goodbyes we took to the track first to get ahead of the larger group and made a blistering pace down Blue Dog spur where a few of us turned it into a trail run event. A quick drink at the bottom and then we hauled ourselves up to Ironmonger and all the way back to the cars at Dunphy's, stopping briefly to take in the Aboriginal markings on Ironpot. Megalong tearooms were calling us so we had to obey, a great end to a really enjoyable and challenging day. A really strong group which I think could be pushed even more next time, watch this space for an extended version of this walk.</p>	<p>Jason Lorch Rebecca Lorch Huw ap Rees Sandra See Lyndall Hord (P) Kat Duda (P) Helen Macdonald Melinda Turner David Trinder</p>
<p>SAT 9 JUL - Day Walk - 222 Hinchinbrook</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Walk Report:</p> <p>Walk went well - no injuries to report - attendance form attached. Photos are available at http://gallery.me.com/roryfagan#100425</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Rory Fagan Vivien de Rémy de Courcelles Michael Rodd (V) Sue Bucknell Russell Walker (P) Emmanuel Covert</p>
<p>SUN 17 JUL - Day Walk - M111 (Easy) 12km Bobbin Head: <i>Murrua Rd - Benowie/Murrua Track - Sphinx Track - Bobbin Head - Gibberagong Track - Gibberagong Waterholes - Hawkesbury to Harbour Track - Murrua Rd.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Walk Report:</p> <p>Over 35 people wished to join this suburban walk. This highlights the current need for more walks of this type on the program. There was a pretty representative cross section of SBW members on this walk with large differences between fitness levels, experience and walking speeds.</p> <p>Overall the walk could be described as social with plenty of time to take in the scenery and have conversation. Ku-ring-gai Chase always looks its best when it is wet. We had overcast dry weather for most of the day however the arrival of drizzle finished lunch and encouraged me to skip the Apple Tree Bay Loop in case the weather did not clear.</p> <p>In summary a relaxing enjoyable day with interesting company.</p>	<p>Stephen Brading Yvonne Brading Philip Worledge Judy Tent Kim Robinson Kim Bailey Jan Mohandas Margaret Mohandas Lucy Moore David Bell Shahram Landarani Sun Clement Rosemary MacDougal Jacqueline Pearse Bob Eggleton Frances Bertrand George Bertrand Ton Moss</p>

Walks & Other Activities / July 1 - 31 ^{cont.}

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>WEEKEND 16-17 JUL - Weekend Walk - S232 Q 16km +/- 850m Blue Mountains NP: Across the Grose: <i>Mt Hay to Mt Banks via Shaw Gully (Byles Pass) and Garrad Gulch</i></p> <p>Walk Report: The weather forecast for the weekend was a little grim, though the weather bureau did have a cute picture of the sun poking out from behind the clouds, which in turn were dripping with rain. A shower or two, as they quaintly described it. Possibly they forgot about the more continuous drizzle that fell all the way up the mountains. Getting an accurate forecast from the weather bureau is like getting a straight answer from a politician. I contemplated the wet bush, the lack of views, the probability of a crap campsite and considered calling it all off. But having organised all of the logistics, and got everyone there, piking just didn't seem right. I had never even been out to Mt Hay before. Neither had anyone else. So it was convenient that there was a track of sorts to the western Boorong Crag. We had morning tea on the top in the mizzle, admiring the panoramic views of the cloud that surrounded us on all sides. Navigation to the head of Shaw Gully was straightforward, and we dived off into the creek, pushing through thick scrub and enjoying our first encounters with the lawyer vine. A handy overhang above the gully provided a sheltered spot for lunch, with a decent waterfall below us looking like the first challenge of the afternoon. The mist cleared, and the only real obstacle in the gully turned out to be the drop through the cliffs above the Grose. We set up a couple of short tapes for what would probably be an easy scramble in the dry. Some big boulders and more scrub brought us down to the Grose late in the afternoon, where we searched for a while for campsites. Good ones were thin on the ground. The best was at the downstream side of the Shaw Gully junction, cramped and a bit vegetated, with a limited supply of wood. Thankfully the skies cleared and we were able to enjoy dinner and a fire without the indignity of huddling under our tents and flies. Our fire was on a slope, which caused Melinda a few difficulties, losing first her newspaper, and then her cup down the hill and into the river! The pitter-patter of rain on the tent at 7am the next day didn't help with an 8am departure. The weather was like a bad TV rerun - more mist and drizzle. It was 8:30am when we headed off to wade across the freezing Grose River. Huw and Smiffy tried to run across in the hope that their feet would get less wet, demonstrating ingenuity, but no improvement in dryness. We made our way along the Grose and up the beautiful rainforest gully of Garrad Gulch, variously scrambling up boulders in the flowing creek, or climbing the steep slopes on either side. At one point we climbed high above the creek around a waterfall, only to be unable to regain the creek level. Rachel scouted out a traverse on a higher narrow ledge and we were back in business. Eventually the creek forked and we pushed on to the saddle, and scrambled up on the eastern ridge of Mt Strzelecki for lunch. The clouds parted briefly, and we were tantalised with views from the spectacular knife-edge ridge. Things slowed down when we hit the top of Mt Strzelecki, the lawyer vine taking over the small basalt area on top of the peak. I was not looking forward to Mt Caley, knowing that it had a larger basalt cap, and with good reason. I'd suggest waiting til after the next fire to visit, or alternatively wait another hundred thousand years or so for the rest of the basalt cap to erode. Mt Caley is purgatory for bushwalkers. You know you're in a bad, bad place when the lawyer vine is not the baddest plant in the bush. The Kangaroo Thorn (<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>) won this battle of the baddest, with its hundreds of long sharp spines just itching to break off in your skin. Rachel bravely led the charge, forging a path through the worst of the worst. It seemed an eternity, though it did take us nearly three hours to cover not much more than two kilometres across the tops and down to the end of the fire trail near Zobel Gully just before 4pm. At this point we were back in control, though still nearly 10km from the cars. We picked up the pace, stopping briefly for cloud-shrouded views on the eastern slopes of the peak. At the Mt Banks turnoff I figured I needed to complete the walk as described - up and over the summit. Leaders have been lynched before for "breach of program". Gotta keep the party happy. Though actually most of the party was more than happy to keep wandering the fire trail back to the cars. Smiffy, Huw and I headed up to the summit in the dark to bag Mt Banks. Finally we drove around to Leura and Smiffy, Huw and I did the car retrieval from the Mt Hay car park, before joining the rest for dinner at the Grand View. An interesting weekend in the footsteps of history.</p>	<p>Tom Brennan Rachel Grindlay Melinda Turner David Trinder Andrew Smiffy [P] Scott Kirby Huw ap Rees</p>
<p>SAT 23 JUL - Day Walk - X331 36km Blue Mountains NP: <i>Six Foot Track on Megalong Valley Road - Coxs River - Coxs River Campground - Mini Mini Range - Pluviometer and return.</i></p> <p>Walk Report: Walk went ahead as programmed despite the threat of showers. We were rewarded with a nice cool day, which helped us on our way up to the Pluviometer. We didn't stick around up there for too long as it was decidedly cool! Made our way back to the cars in good time, everyone out before dark.</p>	<p>Melinda Turner Sandra See Kat Duda Brendon Anderson Arthur Panopoulos</p>
<p>SAT 23 JUL - Day Walk - M222 Q 15km +/- 500m Blue Mountains NP: <i>Govetts Leap Lookout - Grose Gorge - Blue Gum Forest - Evans Look out - Govetts Leap Lookout</i></p> <p>Walk Report: After a delayed start involving a slow goods train the 11 walkers met at Blackheath. With only 4 cars there was just enough transport to drive the party to a point where a circular walk could be done so Tony modified the walk to enter Govetts Valley via Perrys and exit via the Horse Track.</p>	<p>Tony Holgate Stephen Brading Pam Campbell Caro Ryan Kavita Johsi (P) Jim Close Phil & 4 Other</p>

Walks & Other Activities / July 1 - 31 cont.

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>SUN 24 JUL - Day Activity - Basic Skills for New Members: <i>Join us for a day in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to brush up on practical first aid, navigation and bushcraft and progress towards full membership. Opportunity for some field-based practice.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Activity Report:</p> <p>Once again thank you Lucy and David for providing this instruction.</p>	<p>David Trinder Lucy Moore Lloyd Hansen (P) Kat Duda (P) Ray Osborne (P) Chad Lussen (P) Stephen West (P) Subhash Devanathini (P) Kavita Joshi (P) Wil De Sain (P) Carol De Sain (P) Graham Byrne (P) Jan Spencer (P) Tim Sutherland (P) Gillian Whitney (P) Peter McDonald (P) Neena Wang (P) Michael Cook (P) Melanie Ng (P) Nima Zar (P)</p>
<p>WEEKEND 23-24 JUL - Weekend Activity - S333E (Grade 5 & 6 Canyons) Bungonia canyoning (Long Gully & Fordham Canyon): <i>A weekend of abseiling (with full packs) at Bungonia for a small party, camping on the Shoalhaven. Long Gully has 9 or 10 abseils, the longest being 56m. We will abseil with full weekend packs.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Activity Report:</p> <p>Following heavy rain over the previous week registering this as the wettest July in 60 years, the leader wandered down to the Shoalhaven on Friday afternoon to check on water levels - the Shoalhaven definitely swollen but Long Gully only had a trickle, that was also a good opportunity to carry down camping gear, ropes for Sunday, dessert and also collect some fire wood to shelter under a tarp. Saturday went as planned with a very efficient descent through Long Gully canyon only taking 4 hours from car to river, the highlight being the 56m second abseil, the rocks were slippy throughout but everyone managed fine. We spent the remainder of the afternoon exploring upstream, bouldering through the Blockup gorge and skimming stones at Spring Creek. We had a fun night around the camp fire and enjoyed apple crumble with custard. The Shoalhaven was still too swollen on Sunday to attempt a crossing for Fordham canyon, so a change of plan: we wandered downstream, climbed Mount Ayre, visited Hogan's Cave, then descended into and out of Becks Gully back to Stan Jones car park. The park rangers offered great service with jump leads to get one car alive again, then we stopped at a chaotic Macca's for coffee and cake on the way home. Fordham Canyon remains for another time...</p>	<p>Richard Pattison Tom Brennan Rachel Grindlay Andrew Smith (P) Sue Bucknell Neil Soutar</p>
<p>WEEKEND 23-24 JUL - Weekend Activity - Medium Kayaking Hawkesbury River Paddle: <i>Paddle from Patonga up to Brooklyn and return for the day.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Activity Report:</p> <p>Due to the poor weather forecast 3 people pulled out. However, 3 visitors from Canberra came up. The aim of the weekend was to prepare for a Whitsunday 10 day kayaking trip. Life is hard isn't it!! The rain on Friday night and forecast high winds did not sound promising. However, after the rain on the drive to Woy stopped we had a great day. The current under the rip bridge was just that. Hard work! Winds only appeared at the end of the day and these were only up to 15 knots so quite easy paddling. The surf and waves at the entrance to Brisbane waters was putting on a show so we kept back from it and instead had a lovely lunch on the sandy beach in great sunshine. Sunday proved to be even better. We had another 2 SBW members turn up for the day. They told us Saturday had been raining all day at their place!! Sun was out today and no wind. Even though Owen and Michelle tempted it with their sails hoisted. the trip across to Refuge bay presented some lovely swell. No breakers so no great rides. The water fall at refuge Bay put on a good show! The return journey was uneventful. The Canberra crew wished to be back early for their long drive home. At the Patonga creek entrance there was a bit of white water which presented some fun and games. More fun for some than others. The water was a little cool!!! However, a few tried it out. Well, not through choice. the waves caught them and shot them off in the wrong direction and gave them a good dunking!! However, all arrived safely back at Patonga. A clean up of the house and all off home for an early finish. It was a great weekend with fantastic company in a beautiful area. Thanks all.</p>	<p>Mark Dabbs Lisa Mackay Owen Kimberly Michelle Powell</p>

Walks & Other Activities / April 1 - 30 ^{cont.}

Date, Walk Location & Route	Activity Participants
<p>WED 27 JUL - Day Walk - Gardens of Stone National Park : Walk Report: Park a vehicle on State Mine Gully Road at GR 393 977 (Spot Height 1190) and another vehicle at GR 421 972 on the Old Bells Line of Road. Return to the first vehicle. Walk south to pick up Farmers Creek and follow this for a bout 2 km before it enters a series of 'S' bends and creek junctions for about a kilometre. As we enter a cliff lined ravine that encloses the upper reaches of a dam, stay on the north side and circle under the cliffs for a further kilometre or so. After a few more twists and turns we head north up Farmers Creek for about 1.5km before a final 1 kilometre stretch back to the second vehicle. About 6 km, +&- 100m (many times).</p>	<p>Michael Keats Ian Starkey Marion Davies Yuri Bolton</p>
<p>SAT 30 JUL - Day Walk - M232E 12km +/- 620m Blue Mountains NP: Kedumba Valley Rd - Lions Head Ridge - Lions Head - Walk Report: The walk had been planned as a 'navigation practice day', but due to my co-leader injuring his leg and a few last minute cancellations there ended up being only 2 of us left to enjoy this spectacular walk and test our navigation skills! Rod's compass was unsure what hemisphere it was in; pointing N for S and S for N so not very useful! The weather was perfect and the views from Lions Head down to Kedumba Crossing and over to Mount Solitary and Narrow Neck were fantastic. The huge cairn at Lions Head pass made it easy to find our way down to the valley floor and finding our way out to Kedumba crossing turned out to be a great navigating exercise in why it is a good idea to learn what the 'curves' of contour lines mean! After a leisurely lunch at Kedumba crossing we headed off to find the 'goat track' - a very steep ridge climb with a few rock scrambles thrown in - more fantastic views and amazing to think this was the route originally used to get to Wentworth Falls. Thanks to Ian Thorpe & Owen Kimberley for providing great track notes so that the walk could still go ahead.</p>	<p>Helen MacDonald Rod Wales</p>
<p>SAT 30 JUL - Day Walk - M221 16km +/- 200m Northern Sydney: Mt Kuringai Station - Calna Creek - Berowra Creek - Cowan Creek - Mt Kuringai Walk Report: It was a pleasant sunny day with great company. The walk started from Mount Kuringai station with half the party arriving by train. It was suggested to the leader that she could have chosen a better place to start as there was no coffee shop around and a coffee kick was dearly miss! But all was forgotten when we started to go down along the Lyrebird creek and Calna creek, a light mist was slowly lifting up from the valley and as we were arriving at the Berowra creek the sun was warming up the water and it was so beautiful to see the steam coming up. We kept on seeing people walking the other way as there were a lot of teams training for the OXFAM trail. As soon as we got onto the great north walk, we walk through a marsh land with long grasses being decorated by myriads of little spider webs which at first sight many of us thought were flowers. Magical... Morning tea was had at a small saddle before going back up to Berowra. The second leg of the walk was in the Mt Ku-ring-gai National Park, there was much less people around and surprisingly quieter than usual on the water. But as soon as we got back on the OXFAM trail, it became busier again all the way up to Mount Kuring-Gai station.</p>	<p>Emmanuelle Convert Vivien de Courcelles Kavita Joshi (P) Martin Samociuk Kim Bailey Jacob Fry (P) Kevin Scott (P) Janice Scott (P) Paul Pinkerton Sue Pinkerton Robert McIlwaine Aman Singh (P) Geoff Bishop (P) Virginia Waller</p>
<p>SUN 31 JUL - Day Walk - M222 (Easy/Medium) 15km Brisbane Water NP: Brooklyn - ferry to Little Wobby - Spring Beach - Patonga Ridge - Walker Point - rowboat across Patonga Creek - Patonga Beach - Elephant Rock - Pearl Beach - Woy Woy. Walk Report: It was a fine and mild day, great for bushwalking. After taking the ferry to Little Wobby, we followed the fire trail south to Spring Beach, and then up the rough foot track to the heights of Patonga Ridge from where there are fabulous views of Hawkesbury River. We followed more foot tracks down to Little Patonga Beach, and then across to the heights above Patonga Creek. We had to make our way steeply off-track down to the shoreline, which we followed around to the home of the man with the mini-punt who took us across Patonga Creek to Patonga Beach. After this we took the foot track that rises steeply up onto the spectacular clifftops around Warrah Lookout. There were several great lookouts on the way, providing magnificent views across Broken Bay. We then followed a fire trail down to Pearl Beach from where we got the bus to Woy Woy station. It was a great day, full of wonderful views of the lower reaches of Hawkesbury River</p>	<p>Nigel Weaver Margaret Weaver Lynette Preston Marina Chan Shelia Zaman David Eckermann Robert Bettis Lyn Terry Rick Angel Misako Suiyama David Nordon Christine Edwards Nigel Wingate Jen Melocco (P) Rolf Marsden (P)</p>
<p>SUN 31 JUL - Day Walk - L222 (Medium) Blue Mountains NP & Jenolan Karst Reserve: Six Foot Track from Jenolan Caves Rd - Jenolan Caves - McKeown Valley - Fire Trails to return to cars. Walk Report: Driving to the six foot track crossing on Jenolan Rd I was surprised that the countryside was looking drought affected. The wombat road kill on the Jenolan Road is significant indicating wildlife is now eating grass at the edge of the road at night creating a driving hazard. Caves House (AKA Faulty Towers) cafe latest twist is that only a Cafe bar type machine provides coffee to purchase. It really is becoming carry in your own morning tea. Still the tame Crimson Rosellas make a pleasant distraction. The McKeown Valley Canyon sections are still moist and the nettle is thriving off the tourist path. Nima took us the entrance of the padlocked Mammoth Cave for a look. Further on we disturbed a wombat and some kangaroo on the large flat. Near Rowes Cottage ruin we located a geo cache with a notebook with the last dated entry in May 2009. The walk finished with some heart starting (or stopping) steep climbs up fire trails back to the cars.</p>	<p>Stephen Brading Yvonne Brading Chris Dowling Jim Close Kavita Joshi (P) Nima Zarbakht (P)</p>

Vale Frank Rigby



Frank at the SBW 80th
Anniversary at Manly
Dam

Members,

Helen Gray has passed on the sad news that Frank Rigby died last Friday 22nd July, on his eighty fourth birthday. Frank joined SBW in 1951, and was subsequently made an Honorary Active Member for his immense contribution to Bushwalking and the Club.

He was one of the great Leaders of the Club and he actively participated in the “great expansion” of walking into the Budawangs, Ettrema and other areas where he led many multi day walks. He also pioneered many new areas, and especially walking in the McDonald Rangers, south of Alice Springs.

He provided the text for the signature book “The MacDonnell Ranges”, with photography by Henry Gold, published in 1973.

He served as President for the period of 1967-68 and held many other roles. This included writing Chapter 4 (1957-67) of the Club’s History. (“Looking Back, From Seven to Seventy years” Copyright© Frank Rigby 1997. ISBN 0 646 34697 0)

Although very frail, he regularly attended the Club’s Reunions at Coolana, and last March we spread the ashes of Joan, his wife and partner in many adventures, beneath the towering Blue Gum on the Western Flat. He had a lovely demeanour, and was universally regarded as a true gentleman.

Helen advises that it is unlikely that a funeral will be held. However, if one eventuates it will probably be in Canberra, where he lived. We will pass on any details that come to hand (as I leave on Friday for a 9 day traverse of the Flinders Ranges, updates thereafter will come from our Vice President, Margaret Carey).

Regards,
Ian Wolfe

When commencing/ finishing a Walk at Carlons Farm (“Green Gully”) in the Megalong Valley

SBW’s association with the Carlons, the owners of “Green Gully” property in the Megalong Valley (also known as “Packsaddlers”) commenced in the 1930 when Norbett Carlon regularly gave advice and assistance to our exploration of the Wild Dog Mountains. His daughter Norma has continued this tradition. In recognition of her considerable contribution to SBW she was made an Honorary Member many years ago. We recently received an email from Norma, with the relevant extract as follows:

Dear Ian,

I miss very much the contact with the members these days as I am now up the top of the hill and don't see anyone unless I happen to be down in the gully at Linda's place. However, there is an open invitation for any members to hop in at my place at any time for a chat and a cuppa. I look forward to my first copy of the electronic magazine as I always scour it thoroughly for familiar names and to catch up on what you are all doing.

My regards to all

Norma Carlon.

So, please take up her kind invitation and drop in to say “Hello”.

**Could any SBW members with early memories
of Werona please contact:**

Margaret Littlewood
mlittlewood@aapt.net.au
02 9660 6171

or

Katrina Hasleton
khasleton321@bigpond.com
02 9798 6556

The Midweek Walkers

Bill Holland

The Mid-Week Walkers have had a quiet month, free from activities since June and this will last until September when we then go north to **Woolgoolga**. I would appreciate if you intend to join us and have not yet confirmed (i.e. paid a deposit). Please let me know as places are limited. Similarly, I need to finalise bookings for Cadman's Cottage at **Myall Lakes** in October.

Now we enter August and the weather will start to warm a little. Our activities for the rest of the year are in place and I will soon start to put together a programme for the first half of next year.



First we could consider a return to **Myola** or **Berrara** in the warm/hot month of February. Ideal beach weather at this time of the year. Next there is the Currawong Beach Cottages on Pittwater. I have pencilled in a booking for March - see below - but now Currawong has been sold it is under control of the council and discounts for union members no longer apply. This makes Midholme (the large house) rather expensive. Cabin bookings will be cheaper and make us more flexible with numbers. Please let me know if you can come to either of the above as I need to confirm and pay a deposit!



Also to be considered is a return to **Moonan Brook Forestry Cottage**. We were there several years ago. The cottage is described as a wilderness hideaway, adjoining a babbling brook - Moonan Brook - which has a source high in the Barrington Tops. It is secluded and peaceful. The cottage can sleep 8 and the adjoining bunkhouse a maximum of 16. Moonan Brook Cottage has been kept as a symbol of the past and has not changed to be in line with today's living.



Possibly this would be suitable for May or June. Similarly we could think about the **Newnes Cabins** at this time of the year. Looking further afield and perhaps later in the year we have not been to the Border ranges or **O'Reillys** at Lamington National Park for a few years.

Now, here is what we are planning for the rest of this year. If you would like to join us at any event please contact me on billholland@bigpond.com.

By The Beach - at Woolgoolga (12th -16th September)

We will rent a house on Arrawarra Headlands, very close to the beach and within easy distance of Wedding Bells National Park. Opportunities for whale watching from the headland, bird watching and walking in bushland - or just relaxing and enjoying the sun. The cottage is very comfortable and close to town facilities. There is limited accommodation (eight people) so early booking is required with \$50/head deposit.



Myall Lakes Cutlers Cottage and Korsmans Landing (17th - 21st October)

This is an activity ideal for kayaking, swimming and bushwalking. We have booked Cutlers Cottage which has comfortable accommodation but limited to 6 people. Cutlers Cottage is a three bedroom fully restored residence include a comfy lounge and dining areas & relaxing verandah with peaceful - views

overlooking Myall Lakes. However, excess numbers can use the camping site next door at **Korsmans Landing**. If you would like to be in the lucky six to use the cottage please send me \$50 deposit ASAP.

Dunns Swamp (21st - 25th November)

Dunns Swamp is near Rylstone and is very popular for camping and bushwalking. It boasts one of the cleanest waterways in NSW, making it great for a swim or canoe paddle. Basic facilities for campfires and toilets are available in the camping reserve. There are many walking tracks and large rock formations that offer spectacular views of the river and surrounding bush. The plan will be to base camp during mid-week to avoid the weekend crowds. The weather at this time of the year should be warm and very suitable for water activities. No deposit is necessary for this activity.

The Mid Week Walkers are an informal gathering of people in SBW who find the time to enjoy walking, cycling and kayaking during the quiet times of the week.

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

Kosciuszko Huts Update

Work parties have completed the rebuild of the chimney at Grey Mare Hut.

The NPWS have received a Government Heritage grant which will allow work next summer on the following Huts: restumping of Mackeys, Wheelers (and others)

There is more information in the Forum section on maintenance activities:
<http://khuts.org/forum/index.php?board=2.0>

Unfortunately the NPWS reports and increase in illegal activity in the KNP (Vandalism, Trail Bike Riding, Skidoo riding, Shooting etc). Whilst on a trip, if you see something inappropriate going on, please take a series of digital photos with a date/time stamp, seek to interview the people concerned to gain some details and then forward the information to the KNP Rangers with some brief notes.

Books available include:

“Rugged Beyond Imagination: Stories from an Australian Mountain Region” by the KHA Member Mathew Higgins - \$40 from most book stores and thorough Klaus Huenke

“A String of Pearls - the South Coast of NSW” by Klaus Huenke for \$45 plus \$10 postage at www.tabletoppressbooks.com

Kosciuszko Huts Association (KHA) Social Gathering - 26 to 27 Nov 11

Base camp besides the Geehi Hut on the Swampy Plains River - walks to adjacent stone huts (including Dr Forbes and Doctors Huts), fishing, novelty races, socialising and campfire Tall Tales etc. Details to be promulgated in due course on the KHA Web Site

More information about KHA can be found at:

KHA web site: <http://khuts.org/> (please note the “News Update section half way down the page which has a number of interesting Articles)

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

Ian Wolfe

(KHA Huts Association Delegate)

Pittwater Youth Hostel Open Day

The YHA Pittwater hostel enjoys a spectacular location in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase NP overlooking Pittwater. It is having a rare open day on 4th September and a special invitation has been given to all SBW members as an association between SBW and the Pittwater hostel goes back a long way. Free picnics and activities will be available and Roger Treagus will lead members on some local walks to beaches, waterfalls and lookouts. The hostel is accessible by walking on the Towlers Track from the West Head Road or by catching a ferry to Halls Wharf from Church Point. Roger has details and is on 0423262313 and rtreagus@optusnet.com.au



About Skills

Lucy Moore

1. **Mountaineering Slideshow**

Don't miss Club member Richard Pattison's mountaineering slideshow showcasing his phenomenal achievement summiting the world's highest seven peaks. Richard will also make some personal observations on the issue of leadership: 7.30pm Wednesday 17 August.

2. **Workshop for New Leaders**

The next leadership workshop is for members ready to lead day walks. Held in Coolana over two days (15 and 16 October 2011) the focus will be on experiential learning and include technical skills, party management and common scenarios. Facilitators are Peter Love and Stephen Brading. To find out more come to the briefing at 8.15pm Wednesday 17 August.

3. **Navigation Skills Exchange**

Current and future leaders are invited to discuss a special interest group on route planning and navigation. It is hoped that leaders with experience and knowledge of particular areas will make themselves available to newer members interested in planning walks in those areas. For discussion 8.30pm Wednesday 17 August.

4. **SBW First Aid Training** From time to time SBW schedules a first aid certificate course just for members and prospective members (Apply Basic First Aid - formerly called Senior First Aid). Cost to be advised. If you would be interested in attending please notify the Skills Secretary skillenhancement@sbw.org.au who will scout around for available trainers and dates (subject to adequate numbers).

If you have any enquiries please contact Lucy Moore at skillenhancement@sbw.org.au

Expressions of interest /

A mountain biking day out at Ourimbah State Forest!



Hi Guys,

I want to throw out an idea for a mountain bike day set in Ourimbah State Forest. This forest has a dedicated mountain bike track which caters for Cross Country (XC) and Downhill (DH). The tracks themselves are of such good quality and challenge that they are part of the national championships race tracks for both XC and DH.

<http://nobmob.com/rides/ourimbahstateforest>

I know there are keen bikers in the club and some more of leisurely nature. This day can cater for both but is quite challenging, some firetraps and a lot of single track.

<http://nobmob.com/rides/ourimbahstateforest>

The area boasts many Km of excellent single trail and even a Championship downhill course - it has it all.

This place is absolutely littered with both single trail and firetrails (all dedicated). The area has specially marked tracks that intertwine throughout the forest, speedy, twisty, swooping, rollercoaster style tight and technical trails. It also has a championship down hill run. I did this previously on my XC bike, a little unnerving to say the least considering I was clipped in, what a great rush! I would recommend at least a front suspension (hard tail) XC bike but if you have a full suspension XC bike then even better. If any of you have a DH bike then please bring it along, I 'bagsy' seconds on the downhill run please.

Leader: Jason Lorch
lorchio@hotmail.com
0404 776 221

Anonymous Donations

Members should be aware that, over the years, a significant number of Members have made sizable Donations and Bequests to support and accelerate the conservation work at *Coolana*. Often these contributions have been openly made, and thus allowed these Members to be thanked publicly. However, for a range of reasons, some Members have elected to contribute anonymously. We understand and respect such decisions, yet it does make it hard to specifically say “Thank You very much”.

Members are advised that one such Member has recently provided \$800 to purchase a new and powerful “self propelled” Mower (not a “ride on”). Those people who have used such a Mower will attest to the dramatic benefits of such a device, and the significant reduction in physical effort to control/direct the Mower, as well the massive increase in productivity.

This latest addition brings this person’s total contributions to over \$4,500. The Committee wishes to publicly thank this Member, on behalf of the Club, for their foresight and great generosity.

We would also request that other Members consider making such Donations, (and or provision for Bequests). These can either be made publicly or anonymously, whichever people are comfortable with.

In this vein, the Committee is finalising the wording of a number of proposed potential amendments to the Club’s Constitution. These will be put to Members in due course (Q3/4).

These will include re-inserting the equivalent of the provisions of the previous North Era Trust to cover the issue of the ongoing financial support of *Coolana*. This to specify in the Constitution, that funds donated for the support of *Coolana* can only be used for that purpose. Also, that *Coolana* is to be used for camping, conservation and skills enhancements. That either of these two clauses can only be amended via the calling of a Special General Meeting (requires 21 days formal notice) and the passage of a Motion via a 75% majority i.e. difficult to “undo” these clauses. The effect of these amendments would be to significantly secure the future and financial position of *Coolana*.

Regards
The Committee

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.

All SBW members are eligible for Free Paddy Pallin Club membership.

All of the Sydney area store staff (Sydney, Chatswood and Miranda) have been honouring 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.

Just print out the Paddy Pallin advertisement on the back page and take it in to your favourite Paddy Pallins’ store the next time you visit.

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) is celebrating 75 years of community service



It's now 75 years since BWRS starting searching for missing and injured bushwalkers! It was formed in 1936 when Police accepted help from the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs to search for a party of four young men who failed to return on time from an attempt to follow the Grose River. It was realized that the best people to look for those lost in the bush were experienced bushwalkers. Therefore Paddy Pallin, Rory Lifts, Ninian Melville, and Jean Trimble formed a dedicated search & rescue squad. In 1970 the squad was formally inducted into the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA), and later became incorporated as Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad Inc. (BWRS). In 2001 BWRS was modernized with a rigorous training program which allowed it to integrate with other emergency services. BWRS is staffed entirely by volunteers, and is always on call to attend searches at the request of the NSW Police.

On **Saturday the 12th November** BWRS is hosting a formal dinner at the Coogee Bay Hotel in Sydney to celebrate its 75th anniversary. We hope to enjoy the evening with invited guests such as the Commissioner of Police, The Minister for Emergency Services, The President of the VRA, past & current members of BWRS, members of the Police, and of course fellow bushwalkers! BWRS is particularly interested in inviting those older bushwalkers who have volunteered their time during their bushwalking career to search & rescue.

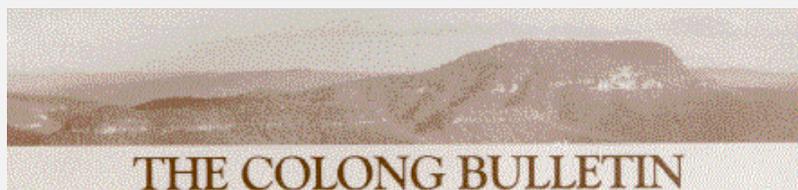
It is with pleasure that I invite you to join us on this very special occasion! Please forward this invitation to your respective club members. You may **BUY TICKETS** from the BWRS website by clicking on this link <http://www.bwrs.org.au/?q=node/648>.

For those people who don't live in Sydney, BWRS has secured some discounted accommodation rates for the first people to book. For accommodation enquiries please contact Steven Rutten at srutten@coogeebayhotel.com.au.

Thank you,
Anniversary Committee
Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad Inc

Have you renewed your membership for 2011?

If you have not received a membership renewal advice please contact Vivien (Membership Secretary) at: membership@sbw.org.au.



Have you seen the latest Colong Foundation Bulletin?
If not it can be downloaded for at
<http://www.colongwilderness.org.au/>

Spring Social Program

Kathy Gero

Sept 14
7 pm

Special General Meeting - Constitutional Changes

Aim is to examine and vote on the proposals.

Sept 21
7.30 pm

Sleep & Breathing at High Altitudes, & Acute Mountain Sickness

A guest speaker and research physiologist, Pamela Johnson, will be talking about her work on these topics in Nepal.

Many lovely slides about the countryside should make for a delightful evening

October 19
7.30pm

Trekking in Peru with Lesley Clarke & Kenn Clacher

This is a MUST SEE & HEAR presentation by our club members Lesley & Kenn - especially if you are contemplating doing the 2012 trip or any walks in Peru. This show covers the 2011 trip, visiting Choquequirau to Machu Pichu, Alpamayo and Huayhuash circuits.



November 16
7.30pm

Tiger Talk

Modern day endurance athlete and club member, Clare Holland, together with Karl Miller provide insight into "The Dark Side". They'll discuss the clubs annual endurance classics: The 6 Foot Track, K2K and 3 Peaks, plus other events. Most importantly learn the tricks of the trade they have discovered for getting through long distance events in one piece and smiling

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE KIRRIBILLI NEIGHBOUR HOOD CENTRE
PLEASE NOTE THAT SOCIAL NIGHTS WILL NOW START AT 7.30PM

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 communications@sbw.org.au

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

→ Contact communications@sbw.org.au

Website - contributions, suggestions, errors???

→ Contact webmaster@sbw.org.au

Address and email changes???

→ Contact databasemanager@sbw.org.au

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