



# THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER



November 2012



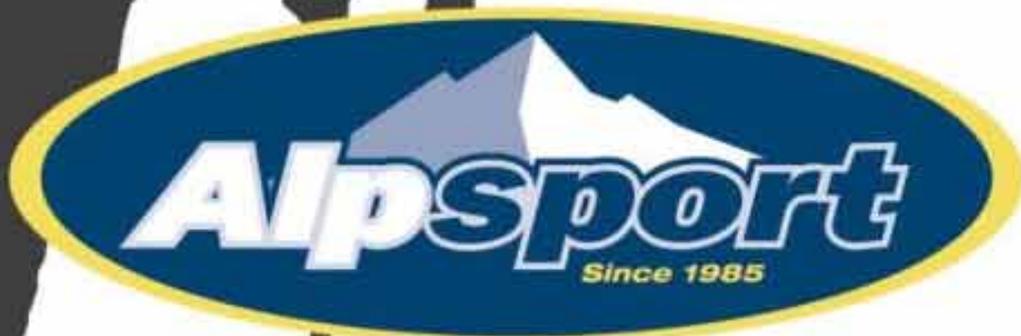


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# November 2012

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Photo: 2012 Photo Competition, Quirky Winner, Dennis Shaw

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Opinions expressed in this magazine are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of The Sydney Bush Walkers.

# Call for Nominations for the 2013 Committee

## SBW Committee

Members are requested to consider nominating for next year's Committee.

The following roles are available, and will be elected at the Annual General Meeting on 13 March 2013:

- President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer

Five Ordinary Committee Member positions: The current Committee recommends to the Members that the specific roles for these positions for the 2013 term be:

- Membership Secretary, New Members Secretary, Activities Secretary, Skills Enhancement Secretary, Communications Secretary

In addition, the current Committee is recommending that there be a number of Associate Secretary positions for: Social, Conservation, four Confederation Delegates, Editor, Business Manager and Web Master/Mistress. These positions are not elected and would be appointed by the Committee. While they are not formal Members of the Committee, the Associate Secretaries can attend Committee Meetings, as needed, to speak to specific matters of relevance to their subject area.

Your current Committee has put in a large amount

of focused work to "Clean Up, Catch Up and optimise the functioning of the Club". This has been quite successful, and is largely complete. In addition, we have initiated a number of projects to further streamline and facilitate the efficient and professional operation of both the Club and the Committee. This has already led to the workload beginning to trend sharply downwards and as these projects are delivered, this trend will continue.

For SBW to prosper and to deliver value to its members, you would appreciate that we do need members to rotate through being on the Committee, as well as in the various volunteer roles, and to give of their expertise. Please consider nominating, as this is a good way to give something back.

For Committee positions: Two members need to nominate the Candidate by completing the Nominating Form on the back page (a soft copy is on the web site) and send it to the Secretary (preferably by email to [secretary@sbw.org.au](mailto:secretary@sbw.org.au), by hand at a Club meeting, or by post to the Club's PO Box). [Note: physical signatures in ink are not required, and emails will suffice].

For Associate Secretary positions: Self-nominate by sending an email or a letter to the Secretary.

## SBW Skills Enhancement

### Richard Darke, Skills Enhancement Secretary

There has been a lot of recent activity on the Skills Enhancement front. Not only did 28 Prospectives complete their Basic Skills Workshop on 20 October, but another 16 full Members attended the two ropes and abseiling courses put on by Claudia Douglas and Tom Brennan during October, both of which had waiting lists operating.

The facilitators who made these events possible received a lot of unsolicited, appreciative emails

Photo by Jahangir Alam



following the courses, as per the selection printed on the next page. Many members put themselves out to act as facilitators, but I'd particularly like to acknowledge the tireless efforts over the past couple of years put in by David Trinder, Ian Wolfe, Patrick McNaught and Claudia Douglas

Looking forward, we have the Day Leaders Workshop scheduled for Coolana on 10–11 November and another Basic Skills Workshop on 8 December. Anyone who may be interested please contact [skillsenhancement@sbw.org.au](mailto:skillsenhancement@sbw.org.au). A number of the abseilers have gone on to sign up for canyoning trips being put on by Tom and others. Watch for more of these in the Summer Activities Program.

There will be additional ropes courses made available in coming months to cater for the increasing number of full members wanting to get involved in canyoning. Unfortunately, due to their popularity, these ropes courses have to give priority to Members over Prospectives – so any Prospectives who are interested, get your Q walks done, and you will be eligible! Again, look in the upcoming Summer Activities Program and SBW Newsletters for details.

I have been on a number of nice day walks recently, including one where we had to dodge a bushfire (well done, John!). I also went on the 85th Anniversary of the Club's first walk, and I can report that North Era Beach is looking pretty good

- In the October Newsletter, James Cryer suggested that we should have an Honorific Title for those people who have completed the K2K – OK, my suggestion is *Tiger*, and for anyone who has completed the 6Ft Track, K2K and the 3 Peaks, we can confer on them the ancient Norse/Saxon Praise Name of *Beserker*!
- Prospectives – please seek to book in on Q activities so that we can look to induct you as full Members before the end of the year.
- The last Basic Skills Day for Prospectives will now be on Saturday 8 Dec – please register with Richard on [skillenhancement@sbw.org.au](mailto:skillenhancement@sbw.org.au)
- SBW's World Famous Xmas Party will be on Wednesday 19 Dec at the KNC from 6pm, and we will be celebrating the gazetting for the Dot Butler Conservation Reserve along with a number of Dot's relatives.
- I attended Bill Capon's funeral recently, along with a large contingent from the Club. Marella Hogan spoke very well, and lots of Caponesce escapades were recounted at the Wake – a great leader and eccentric character.

*If the Bushfire gets too close, don't forget to put on more SPF Suntan lotion....*

*Ian Wolfe*

## Skills Enhancement Appreciation

Hi Richard,

Thank you for arranging a very informative day. There was some great learning across all subjects! Please pass on my gratitude and thanks also to the SBW Facilitators: David, Lisa, Tom, Patrick and John. Their valuable time was much appreciated.

Kind regards,  
Tracey

*Hi Richard,*

*I just wanted to say thanks again for the great day on Saturday, and can you please pass on my thanks to the other facilitators also.*

*I really enjoyed the day, great to meet you facilitators and the other prospective newbies on the day.*

- Inducting 12 new members (a new record)
- A range of Coolana related matters
- The regular Business As Usual items
- We completed the annual review of our Procedures Manual and this has been uploaded to the Members Area, for referral by insomniacs
- Out peak representative body, Bushwalking Australia, will be conducting its national Seminar in Sydney this year over the weekend 17-18 Nov <http://www.bushwalkingaustralia.org/>

### **Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) Grant for Conservation at Coolana**

Over the last 6 months the SBW Bushcare Group has assiduously applied the \$4,520 of grant funding provided to spray the lantana and plant re-vegetation trees. We wish to publicly acknowledge and thank the SCA for this very useful contribution.



### **Please welcome the following new members:**

- Meredith Junor
- Darryl Sullings
- David Carmichael
- Jim Vaughan
- Frances Bottrel
- Bruno de Villenoisy
- Alexandra Lazar
- Vicky Zhang
- Stephen Krouzecky
- Elena Bogatova
- Graham Lane
- Marlene Fransen

*Really appreciate you all taking the time out of your lives to come teach us some skills and tell us some stories.*

*Hope to see you all on a walk soon. I've just requested to go on my first Q walk, looking forward.*

*Thanks & regards,  
Suzi*

Dear Richard,

Thank you so much for organising the Basic Skill Workshop. I learnt a great deal from you, David, Tom, Lisa, Patick and John . So valuable, I really appreciate it!

Kind regards,  
Jade

# The Sydney Bush Walkers Original Constitution

## Objects

To amalgamate those who esteem walking as a means of recreation.

To form an institution of mutual aid in regard to routes and ways and means of appreciating the great Outdoors.

To establish a definite regard for the welfare and preservation of the wild life and natural beauty of this country.

To help others to appreciate these natural gifts.

## Constitution

Clause 1 This club shall be known as "The Sydney Bush Walkers". (Name determined at third meeting of Club Friday, 9 December 1927)

Clause 2 It shall be affiliated with the Mountain Trails Club of N.S.W.

Clause 3 It shall consist of Members who have complied with the conditions of membership, and have been nominated by one Member and endorsed by six others and have been formally elected. (Abeyance)

Clause 4 The office bearers shall consist of an Honorary Secretary who shall be elected annually or whose appointment shall be ratified annually; of an Honorary Treasurer who shall be elected annually or whose appointment shall be ratified annually; and of a chairman who shall be elected at each meeting. (Amended)

Clause 5 The final discussion and acceptance of constitutional matters shall rest with the Members of the Club at a General Meeting only.

Clause 6 Fifteen members present at a General Meeting shall wholly constitute a quorum. (Quorum clause)

Clause 7 The passage of a motion to formulate or amend a constitutional matter shall be stopped unless there be at least a three-fourths majority of the number of those present in favour of the motion, the chairman having one vote only (Majority clause).

Clause 8 Where the three-fourths majority rule as set out in Clause 7 prevents a measure passing into force, the members present may direct the Secretary to obtain from all absent members their votes under cover; such votes to be opened at an ordinary meeting in the presence of the Secretary, the Chairman and any members present; and such second meeting absentee votes shall finalise the constitutional matter under discussion.

Clause 9 The meetings of the Club shall be held as follows: General meetings half yearly, on the second Friday in March and September. Ordinary meetings monthly on the second Friday.

Clause 10 The Secretary shall notify all members of the General Meetings and shall embody in the Notice of Meeting particulars of any constitutional or other important matters for discussion; also any six Members may direct the Secretary to convene a Special General Meeting and the Secretary shall notify all Members regarding the proposed business of that meeting within 7 (seven) days.

Clause 11 A Member shall have power to nominate any member absent from the State, as an Honorary Member.

Clause 12 An entrance fee of ten shillings shall be charged new members and such fee shall include the cost of the Club badge and the first year's subscription.

Clause 13 An annual subscription shall be levied upon all Members, other than Honorary Members, absent from the State.

Clause 14 Membership in this Club shall be open to persons of both sexes.

Clause 15 An executive committee shall be formed at each half yearly general meeting – that is to say,

the Executive Committee shall hold office for half yearly periods. It shall include the Honorary Secretary and the Chairmen for the last meeting and the present meeting and three lady members and three gentlemen members nominated by the meeting.

Clause 16 In the event of a Member misconducting himself at a meeting and such misconduct being proved by a majority vote of members present at the same meeting, he shall be suspended pending the opinions of all the Members of the Club. If three-fourths the number of all members desire it, he shall be expelled forthwith from the Club.

### **Conditions of Membership**

1. Intending members shall be at least 16 years of age.
2. Intending members shall be requested to accompany some Members of the Club on one or two trips after nomination and before election.

9 December 1927

### **Alterations to Constitution**

1. Clause 4 – 10 February 1928

The officers of the Club shall be elected annually and shall consist of a President, 2 Vice Presidents, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer, who shall act, ex officio, on the Committee.

Fifth Objective: To promote social activities amongst members

### **Initial meetings of The Sydney Bush Walkers**

First: 21 October 1927, immediately following the closure of the Mountain Trails Club meeting of that date.

Second: Friday, 11 November 1927, following an announcement of a new walking club in *The Sun*, 5 November, 1927

Third: Friday, 9 December 1927; Name proposed by Maurie Berry and adopted at the third meeting of Club

Fourth: 10 February 1928, first elections of office bearers; President: Jack Debert; vice presidents: Roy Rudder and Alan Rigby; treasurer: Vera Rankin. SBW Club badge, designed by Alan Rigby, was selected.

## **DVD Review – *The Hunter***

### **'Tassie' Wolf**

This film was released earlier in the year and stars Willem Dafoe, with Sam Neil in a support role. The acting is just OK and the plot is a bit of a stretch (hunting down a Tassie Tiger in order to extract their DNA to make commercial products . . .).

What saves the film is the fantastic scenery – besides the shots of the Tiers and the lakes around the Walls, there is quite a bit of time spent in what is known as the Central Plateau. Of all the places that I have walked across this wide wide world, this is one of the most eerie. When I pulled my copy of John Chapman's guidebook down off the shelf, I found that the edges of the pages were still stuck together from the last time I ventured into this wilderness.

As Chapman writes: "The track from Lake Nameless to the Walls of Jerusalem is a track in name only, and only experienced bush walkers should venture into this area. Rain, fog, sleet and snow are frequent visitors to the Central Plateau, creating problems

with navigation. Also, local ironstone deposits render compasses unreliable . . . At least two full days are required to reach the Walls via 40 Lakes Peak." (I trust that you get the picture? And there are a lot more than 40 lakes, all about the size of a football field to wind through.)

One point of note is that they obviously secured a good continuity man, in that the steel traps that Dafoe lays are all done correctly to mask them for "sign and scent". So too are the range of improvised traps that he makes out of wire and stakes (it's a dying and arcane art). One criticism is that despite Dafoe yomping across lots of button grass, not once does he scare up a Tiger Snake – don't I wish!

And for those who think that the aggro between the Loggers and the Greenies is a bit overdone, well it's actually understated (as anyone who walked into a pub in Queenstown full of HEC workers during the height of the Franklin blockade will attest!).

# Vale Bill Capon

21 September 1939–24 October 2012

Tony Marshall



Within SBW, Bill Capon was renowned both for his eccentricities and foibles, and for the many challenging, memorable walks he led.

Bill joined SBW in 1976 and I met him in 1977 on a Kanangra to Katoomba trip. During a break at one of the tops approaching Narraweene, Bill rummaged around in his pack. He pulled out a hunk of cheese which was sprinkled with grit and bits of dead leaf. He eyed it for a moment, then popped it into his mouth and continued rummaging. In some ways, this set the tone for the next 35 years.

Bill had a quick wit even allowing for his seriously painful puns. As I write in the saddest of moods, I can't help laughing when I remember some of the many stories involving him. He was a genuine eccentric, but also enjoyed that reputation and played to his audience.

There were few trips on which he had a full kit. Omissions ranged from forgetting a mug or his sleeping bag or bringing the wrong map. He lost and misplaced things – there must be a compass or pair of his glasses lying in the bush just about everywhere he walked, and he could never find his car keys at the end of a walk. Somehow all of this grew from merely exasperating to be part of the legend.

Bill was a master navigator, a companion on whom you could absolutely rely, and someone truly at home in the bush. I navigate by making a mechanical translation from the map to the features around me. With Bill it was something more intuitive; he saw the country in the map. He led challenging trips through unfamiliar territory. Things sometimes went wrong, and in such situations he recovered well and always with good humour. While I had absolute confidence in his ability to cope with an emergency, it's not just the dramatic things that count on a walk. Bill was at the front when the scrub was thickest, and did more than his share at camp. In the bush, Bill was skilled,

if unconventional. Because he often he forgot pieces of gear, he was innovative, using shoelaces for tent guys and sticks for tent pegs. To Bill this was small stuff; he had the bushman's knack of making himself comfortable.

Bill contributed so much to the SBW. For more than two decades, he led wonderful walks. He was always looking for something new. You could sense his sly grin at the other end of the phone when he called to advise he had been up with the maps and the port. He would spread his maps over the floor and study them with the aid of a glass, or two, of port, considering why no one had ever walked from A to B – and how it could be done.

In the 1990s, as the SBW Walks Secretary, Bill was active and thorough. He worked hard to get a balanced program, with a range of interesting trips in a variety of areas. He not only made countless calls to leaders, encouraging them to put walks on the program, but thought up routes and found someone to lead them.

Later, Bill embarked on an ambitious project that few people would have had the knowledge or stamina to realise. His aim was to produce a database of all the overnight walks listed on the SBW Walks Program since its start in 1927. Bill's approach was characteristically low tech – 'cut and paste' meant exactly that. He was justifiably proud of the result, which is available on the Club website. Days before his death, he was planning to improve and update the database.

Bill worked for many years as a teacher, conscientious in trying circumstances. He had an astute business sense and, after retiring from teaching, successfully managed real estate projects and other investments. His interests included a deep appreciation and extensive knowledge of wine and classical and jazz music.

Bill was as a kind, generous and considerate friend and we feel the loss. His marriage and his family were the core of his life. Our thoughts go out to his wife Terry and his sister Sue.

In recent years, health issues curtailed Bill's strenuous walking. However, as always, he was active and busy and these had little effect on his full life. In August he was diagnosed with leukaemia, a dreadful shock to friends and family. On October 24th he died peacefully in hospital having spent the previous day with Terry.

Bill was often the subject of affectionate campfire banter. Nothing is surer than that this will continue. For as long as it does, he will be with us.

# Trekking in the Atlas Mountains

Gerry Leitner, The Gipsy from the Vienna Woods

During my three years in Morocco, from 1955–58, I was Base Commissary Accountant at Ben Guerir Air Base, a USAF Strategic Air Command Base during the hey-days of the cold war. This Air Base was located 60km north of Marrakech and some 150km south of Casablanca directly on the main Casa-Marrakech highway. This was also the time when the former colonial empires began to crumble and indeed most of Morocco was a war zone. Nevertheless, despite some inconvenient occasions (I was in a shoot-out in Casablanca on my arrival and another in Marrakech), true to my adventurous spirit I did some remarkable trips around Morocco:

- Oukkaimeden ski resort was a French Army-run resort not far from Marrakech in the Djebel Toubkal area. An Austrian Foreign Legionnaire was one of the ski instructors!
- A 2 week bicycle trip across the Haut Atlas via the Tizi n'Tichka pass to Ouarzazate and beyond, into the beginning of the Sahara Desert. Again part of it was in a war zone.
- A visit to the mountain kasbah of the El Glaoui, the Pasha of Marrakech (who was against the return of the arab Sultan), he was a Berber chief and wanted the Berbers to form their own state, independent of the Arab speaking population.
- Visits to the Atlantic seaside resorts of Agadir and Safi.
- Visits to Tangiers and Tetouan (in the then Spanish zone of Morocco).



- Marrakech and Casa were weekend trips.

Sometime in 1956, the Sultan came back from French exile in Madagascar, and Morocco became independent. The changes I noticed were:

- No Muslim of Moroccan descent was allowed to drink alcohol. The Muslims of Algerian descent still could as they were French citizens.
- Street names were changed to Arab writing and previous Moroccan rulers.
- The shops had to have their trade and name written in arabic. This was, strangely enough, done by ex-Foreign Legionnaires who had learned Arabic during their service.

This may sound like a trip down memory lane but this is better looked upon as a time capsule report of a live witness who saw Morocco before it became a coveted tourist destination.

## First Ascent of Big Ben on Heard Island

Many people think that Mt Kosciuszko is Australia's highest peak – it is actually just the highest peak on the continent of Australia. Somehow, in the post-colonial shakeout, we ended up owning Heard Island, way down south west of Perth in the Antarctic seas (although on Antarctica, in our treaty territories – which as sovereign land we do not “own” – our Treasurer will be happy to hear that we have Mt

McClintock at 3,490m).

Heard Island is basically a huge volcano, and Warwick Deacock's 1963 attempt to climb to the top was unsuccessful. In 1965 he decided to have another go at trying to summit Big Ben, which is the name of the volcano massif. The highest point of the caldera is Mawson Peak at 2,745m above sea level, and it had defeated all previous efforts due to the very poor and frequently changing weather (not to mention the rumbling of the volcano, the production of steam, gas clouds and other distracters). Tim Bowden has written a detailed article in the ANARE Journal which recounts the various attempts and the mounting of the epic successful expedition: <http://www.timbowden.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/bigben.pdf>. Colin Putt (a member of SBW) was one of the successful summiteers, and they all sailed down and back in the yacht *Patanela*.

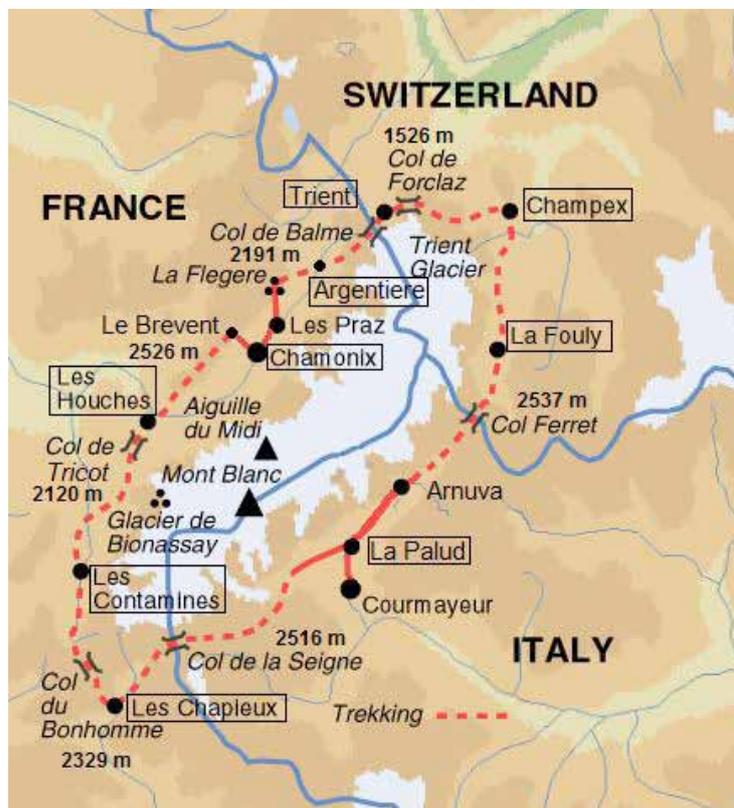
Summit of Big Ben, Jan 1965.  
Photo by Grahame Budd



# Tour Mont Blanc – An Alpine Adventure

Almis Simans

What makes the Tour du Mont Blanc (TMB) one of the world's classic hikes? It's the mix of awe-inspiring mountain views and the vibrant influence of three distinct European cultures – French, Swiss and Italian.



Hiking nearly 140km with only a light pack, you circumnavigate the sparkling glaciers of Mont Blanc, Western Europe's highest peak at 4,808m, cross borders on foot and experience challenging but spectacular hiking in the Alps. Seven valleys radiate out into France, Italy, and Switzerland accompany this immense, glacier-clad massif.

After reading this attractive introduction to the TMB, Carol and I knew that it was time to attempt this iconic walk. When you're in your late 50s you start thinking about doing these challenging walks before you get much older.

We flew to Geneva, a mini bus transfer to Les Houches (France), and began our walking journey of the TMB, following the 12 day itinerary. Mid-June to Mid-September are the best months to travel.

As we dipped into a new valley each day, we savoured the changes in language, landscape, architecture, and cuisine. Each valley is separated by a *col* (mountain pass), which always seemed to take an eternity to reach. We walked from village to village along high trails into dream-like landscapes. Out of 12 days, we had three which were windy and wet, the others were crowned by clear blue skies.

The cultural and architectural delights ranged from the lovely medieval city of Courmayeur, Italy, to the French resort town of Chamonix and quaint alpine villages in Switzerland where we enjoyed delicious, hearty meals, local breads, cheeses and wines.

Lodging included two nights in alpine refuges with shared facilities and the rest in comfortable hotels and auberges. It is advisable (almost mandatory) to reserve your accommodation. Along the TMB you will find huts, *gites* (halts) and hotels where you will be served dinner and breakfast. Dormitories (*dortoirs*) are equipped with blankets, but if you plan to stay in one, take a sleeping bag liner.

All the cols presented us with spectacular views, but I would have to give first prize to walking along the Grand Balcony above the Chamonix Valley. Every day we were ascending and descending at least 500m, with our last day a descent of 1400m, so good walking preparation is necessary.

Being summer, there were lots of walkers about, however this was not a turn-off, as we met many fascinating people from around the world with their own travel stories. One middle-aged Dutch couple had previously walked the TMB, and this time they were doing it in reverse (clock-wise). There was also a Japanese family, including grandparents, who were out for a day walk to Col Tricot!

There is a section of the walk south of Tres-les-Champs which is dubbed *Passage Dangereuse* due to the 45 minutes of climbing up and along a series of metal ladders, but it was well worth doing. We utilised *teleferiques* (cable cars) when possible to avoid crowded and uninteresting parts of the route.

So, if you're over 50 and thinking of walking one of Europe's most popular alpine trails – now is the time to do it!

See more Walking Journeys information at our website: [www.goodwalkingbooks.com](http://www.goodwalkingbooks.com)

*Have you seen the latest Colong Foundation Bulletin?*



**THE COLONG BULLETIN**

*If not, you can download it from the Colong Foundation website at:*  
[www.colongwilderness.org.au](http://www.colongwilderness.org.au)

# Trip Report: Cowan to Berowra

1 October, Leader: Nigel Weaver

We had ideal weather for this very scenic walk in Berowra Valley Regional Park. The walk has spectacular views from several vantage points, and also happens to have several major ups and downs along the way!



We departed from Cowan station with a group of 31 people, and followed the Great North Walk in a westerly direction, stopping at a couple of lookouts on the way until we eventually got to our wonderful lunch spot high on a ridge above Berowra Waters. What a great place for lunch! After this break we followed the track steeply down to Berowra Waters, and continued southwards alongside Berowra Creek, gaining height as we progressed. In this section of the walk it was a little hot under the westerly sun. Along the way we stopped at a couple of lovely lookouts with more good views of Berowra Creek. After a while we turned eastwards, finally emerging at Berowra in the middle of the afternoon, to finish off this very scenic walk.

There were plenty of bright yellow and white wildflowers, which nicely lit up the bush under the sunny conditions. On the other hand, the pink boronia bushes had faded by this time of the year. Meantime a few of our group were able see a couple of waratahs, bright red in the bushland.

Overall it was a great day, and demonstrates once again that there is a very real demand for attractive day-walks on long weekends.

Photos by Stanley Wong.



## Leader Profile

Richard Darke



**Occupation:** Retired (SBW Skills Secretary)

**Age:** 65

**Suburb:** Mosman

### How long have you been bushwalking and what got you started?

I started walking seriously while living in Hong Kong, of all places, in 1985. There is some really good walking in the New Territories there. In fact I led a week-long SBW trip there in 2005, which sold out.

### Which walking area has been your favourite so far and why?

Gosh, so many to choose from – the Bolivian Andes, New Zealand, the Dolomites in Italy, not to mention Kakadu and the Overland Track in Tassie.

### What's at the top of your walking to-do list?

Nepal's limited access Mustang region for a month in March/April 2013 – the joys of being retired!

### What are your passions besides bushwalking?

Reading, cinema, looking after our place on Jamberoo mountain and doing bowel cancer peer support for newly-diagnosed patients.



# Potential size of SBW going forward

## SBW Committee

The Committee is distributing this article with the aim of generating dialogue and debate amongst members ahead of the Annual General Meeting on 13 March 2013 – we want to ascertain the views of the majority of members (both full and Prospective) in order to provide guidance to next year's Committee.

### We currently have:

- 548 full members (57 are in the Membership class "Inactive")
- About 200 members engage in <7 days of activities per year,
- About 200 members engage in 7 to 14 days per year, and
- About 150 members engage in >14 days of activities per year.

Note: the term "about" as used for Activity Reporting is about 35% under the actual (Leaders – please remember to submit your Activity Reports so that we can have complete records for insurance purposes and of the actual activity levels).

- 35 full members did not renew (moved overseas/ interstate, infirm, deceased, etc)
- 55 full members have converted from Prospective so far this year (49 for the full year in 2011). This may drop the conversion rate to 5:1, which is below the historical average.
- 331 Prospectives (new applications roughly equal non-renewals ie. basically level)
- Grand total of full and Prospective members: 885
- 12 new Leaders this year (we need about 50–60 active Leaders and we have approx. 45)

We have not been actively advertising the Club in any form – new Prospectives come from the website and referrals from members. We did experiment with using the Social Media software known as "Meet Up" but turned it off, as we were getting too many people to handle.

We have not been actively advertising, as we are slightly behind keeping up to the demand by Prospectives for overnight Q Walks – **this is the current choke point** (which is being addressed by running workshops for potential new leaders and encouraging existing Leaders to each put on at least one overnight Q Walk per year.

We will not resume advertising until we have the enhanced software for Membership Applications/ Renewals and the management of Activity Bookings is bedded down.

Lots of smart people have studied in detail the effectiveness of associations run by volunteers. The "tipping point" is about 1,000–1,200 members requiring what is known as "Medium Maintenance" – our current Full Members doing >7 days/yr and our Prospectives fall into this category (680 at present, so in theory we have a fair amount of room to expand if we wished to). It does not really matter how many "Low Maintenance" members an association has (and they actually provide a solid level of financial certainty), and organisations just have to endure the small number of "High Maintenance" members!

### For the future:

- As more leaders put on more overnight Q Walks, we can potentially accept more Prospectives
- We could easily attract more Prospectives by actively advertising (by way of an example, NPA has over 5,000 members)

The objectives of SBW, as detailed in our Constitution by our Founding Members, are pretty explicit in conveying that the Club does have some level of theoretical obligation around what is now known as Social Responsibility to the people of NSW:

- To amalgamate those who esteem walking as a means of recreation
- To form an institution of mutual aid in regard to routes and ways and means of appreciating the great outdoors
- To establish a definite regard for the welfare and preservation of the wild life and natural beauty of this country
- To help others appreciate these natural gifts.

As such, it could be suggested that we should continue to grow the Club to a "practicable" level, which raises the following implications:

- If we choose to, we can actively grow the Club by 75–100 or more new full members per year. Do we just keep growing? Do we want a "target" membership number ie. 1,000, 1,500, 2,000? (Denver in the USA is roughly the same size as Sydney, has a similar range of outdoor activities, and the equivalent of SBW is a Club with 5,000+ members)
- Do we need to consider taking on part-time staff? We can thus move to a situation where we have about 450 full members engaging in more than 7 days of activities/year (this number to easily generate 15–20 new leaders each year).
- Even with purpose designed web based software, and great procedures, managing a Club of more

than 1,200 "Medium Maintenance" members (MM&Ms) necessitates that the Committee and volunteers are supported by paid part-time staff for approx. 20–60 hours per month. As the numbers of members keeps increasing, the paid staff hours also needs to progressively increase, much like NPA. Note: this would probably best be done on a contract basis with people who have their own ABNs, rather than via direct employment by SBW (and could be done in a shared office, or via a work from home arrangement). Fees would need to be able to cover staff contract payments upwards of \$20K/year.

- Growing above 1,200 MM&Ms will have organisation-wide "cultural" impacts, as the balance between old and new members changes. This challenges the transition of the existing norms and ethos to the new members. Having larger numbers will mean that members will not know the bulk of the attendees on a walk, and they will only rarely see them ever again – it changes the activity to more of a "transaction", rather than an "integrated team of friends" activity.

Having part- or full-time staff inevitably sees the power structures shift in a significant degree to the staff. This can often create more of a corporate and commercial orientation, and changes can affect the inclination of members to volunteer their services (this can be positive or negative, but if managed properly, the staff can do much of the mechanical administrative work).

### Options for the future:

The following are "Straw Person" proposals, designed to assist Members to formulate their thoughts ie they are deliberately stark, and somewhat provocative:

- Option 1 – Cap the Club at 1,000 members total and seek to convert more Prospectives to full members who do >7 days per year.
- Option 2 – Keep growing the Club at a rate of about 75+ new members per year (and increase the flow through of overnight Q walks) and in 2–3 years contract for one or two part-time staff, and then in another 2–3 yrs, one or more full-time staff (ad infinitum?).
- Option 3 – Grow the club to 1,000 MM&Ms (at a rate of no more than 15–20% per year), then appraise taking on one part-time staff member, then grow to 1,200 MM&Ms. Then consider capping the numbers of MM&Ms by making the Prospective qualifying more stringent.

Like on a bush walk, we are approaching a fork in the track, where we have a number of routes open to us. Let's think about which route we want to select, before we get there.

Please consider these issues, talk about them around campfires and at meetings, send out your thoughts on Google Groups, write a Letter to the Editor, send an email to [secretary@sbw.org.au](mailto:secretary@sbw.org.au), ring or buttonhole a Committee Member. Form an opinion.

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## New Member Profile

Bruno De Villenoisy



**Occupation:** Share trader

**Age:** 54

**Suburb:** Newtown

### How long have you been bushwalking and what got you started?

About 25 years. I wanted to explore the bush.

### Which walking area has been your favourite so far and why?

Bibbulmun Track in WA and the Blue Mountains. Challenging, remote and extraordinarily beautiful.

### What's at the top of your walking to-do list?

The Three Peaks in the Blue Mountains.

### What are your passions besides bushwalking?

Reading, swimming, cooking and surfing the internet.

## Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby

Dear Secretary of The Sydney Bushwalkers,

On behalf of the Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby, I am writing to thank you for your most generous donation of \$300 to the Friends for their work to help save the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby from extinction.

Your donation is much appreciated and it will be put to good work.

Your sincerely,

Susan Robertson,  
President,  
The Friends of the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby, Inc.

## Rocky Mountains Rollick

(Late July to early November 2013)

Ian Wolfe

I have commenced to plan this sojourn – it will be based out of a spacious (and inexpensive) lodge on the shores of Little Bitter Root Lake in Montana <http://www.citypopulation.de/php/usa-census-montana.php?cityid=3043830> The Plan is to spend 3–4 months hiking in the Rockies. Once the snow retreats, there are a large range of spectacular day and multi-day hikes in nearby Glacier National Park <http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm>

The plan is to also do a number of 2-3 week circular, vehicle-based forays into the parks/forests in the adjacent States (Waterton, Mt Rainer, Crater Lake, etc). If the snow comes early we will head south to Utah to Arches, Bryce and Bridges, and of course Zion <http://www.nps.gov/zion/index.htm>

People can come for 2 or 3 weeks or longer. The walking will primarily be long day walks on trails (as this works best with how the US National Parks are set up, and the altitude – mostly 4–10,000ft). However, there will be a number of multi-day hikes and a fair amount of using the gear in established camp grounds.

Please send expressions of interest to [ianmcwolfe@hotmail.com](mailto:ianmcwolfe@hotmail.com) and or give me a ring (02) 9904 3370.



**The latest edition of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs magazine is now available for downloaded at:**

[www.bushwalking.org.au/mag.html](http://www.bushwalking.org.au/mag.html)

# Leader Profile

Jason Lorch

**Occupation:** Social Product Manager

**Age:** Guess

**Suburb:** Earlwood



## How long have you been bushwalking and what got you started?

Only seriously started since moving to Australia from Wales eight years ago. Great weather means more opportunity to get out there. I grew up in West Wales on a farm and always walked and cycled around the coastline and mountainous areas. So it was in my blood from an early age.

## Which walking area has been your favourite so far and why?

I would have to say the Blue Mountains. To me, it feels like a playground. With a never-ending source of adventure and beauty to explore. A landscape that can seriously challenge you and will always reward you with something spectacular at the end.

## What's at the top of your walking to-do list?

The list is growing every year. Ok, how much space do we have? Top of my hiking list would be the Cordillera Huayhuash circuit in Peru, Fitz Roy Trek in Patagonia, the John Muir Trail in the US and of course the Larrapinta Trail and some Kakadu trips in Australia. New Zealand is another place I really want to discover, tramping and possibly some climbing in the future. I also have a long time passion to experience that vast and captivating land below us, Antarctica, and then there's all those high altitude hikes and climbing in the European Alps. That's just the tip of the iceberg...

## What are your passions besides bushwalking?

Music (listening and playing), game design for good, studying human behaviour, photography, film/documentaries, animal welfare and most of all being able to explore, discover and share amazing experiences with others. SBW has certainly ticked this box for me.



# Everest Base Camp

28 march - 14 april 2013



Join SBW Member Chris Burke (1st NZ woman to climb the 7 summits) as she leads a trip into Everest Base Camp.



Spend two nights at Base Camp hearing stories about climbing this iconic peak.

Stunning scenery in the spiritual Khumbu region of Nepal. The trip of a lifetime!

No climbing involved - all on trekking terrain.

Highly experienced local Sherpas from Himalayan Ascent will accompany the trip and take care of logistics.

Contact Chris: [cpjb@ymail.com](mailto:cpjb@ymail.com) for details or [info@himalyanascent.com](mailto:info@himalyanascent.com) between 29 Aug - 8 Oct whilst Chris is climbing in the Mountains.

# November 2012 - Club Status Report

Ian Wolfe, SBW President

As we no longer have the half-yearly general meeting, and as foreshadowed last year, the Committee is providing the following Report on the Club in order to keep you informed of our current status.

## General

- We have a very active program of interesting outdoors trips of all types, and the operations of the Club are in a good state.

## Activities

- There is a comprehensive program with a large number of interstate and overseas trips.
- In the last 10 months there have been 290 trips of all types with over 2,000 participant days
- The Short Notice Activities Program is updated each week via a broadcast email.

## Skills Enhancement

- The Club has conducted: Prospective Skills Tests on Q Walks, navigation weekends, rogaining, basic and advanced paddling, XC skiing (in partnership with the NSW Nordic Ski Club).
- Over 100 Prospectives attended Basic Skills workshops in February, May, August and October, with one more workshop planned for December.
- A Potential Overnight Trip Leaders workshop was held in April and attended by six new leaders, and one for Potential Day Trip Leaders was run at Coolana in November with seven new leaders.
- Funding for leaders to attend First Aid courses continues, as well as for members who have done at least seven days of activities in the last year.
- The plasticised Leaders *Aide Mémoire* cards have been distributed to at Social Meetings. Don't forget to ask if you still don't have a set.

## Membership

- 548 full members (57 Inactive); 337 Prospectives.
- 55 Prospectives have become full members so far this year (49 for all of last year).
- 35 members did not renew (no longer walking, moved away, deceased, lost contact)
- Net position of 885 members
- We have focused on seeking to run more Q Walks, including over multiple days, and using Coolana as a base camp.
- 25 members elected to convert from print to electronic communications when they renewed.

## Financials: (as at end Oct)

	Income	Costs
Budget (for the full year Jan to Dec)	\$50,620	\$47,712
Actual (for the 10 months YTD)	\$47,772	\$32,044
Cash Surplus: (YTD) (less \$700 expenses approved at the November Committee Meeting, \$6K provision for probable website invoices, \$5K provision for pending Coolana maintenance invoices). Actual current net Surplus is approx \$4K		\$15,727
Cheque A/C:		\$22,228

## Investments

General Fund: (which on prudential grounds is 100% of our annual costs, plus reserved funds for further enhancement of the website)		\$41,394
Coolana Fund: (donations/bequest are encouraged)		\$26,881
Conservation Fund: (donations/bequest are encouraged)		\$11,186
Total		\$79,461

## Communications

### Website:

- Lots of additional material, especially club traditions and virtual walking (to meet the needs of members whose ability to get out and about is constrained)
- Enhanced to include Member Applications and Renewals. Provision of Trips Formulation, Trips Booking and a Committee Portal is in advanced scoping.

### Magazine/Newsletter:

- Great content and quality, progressively loading past copies to the web.
- Successfully shifted to an enhanced electronic template.

### Email:

- We have implemented Mail Chimp for the distribution of bulk emails and converted Google Groups for use as a Member Forum (as well as Facebook for personal updates).

## Coolana

- Attributes widely advertised and utilisation has increased.
- Just under 300 trees planted in order to reduce the long-term weed control program.
- A comprehensive Plan of Management has been formulated and approved for piloting over the next year.
- The grant from the Biodiversity Fund for \$20,700 was approved and expenditure has commenced. The \$4,500 grant received from the Sydney Catchment Authority has been fully utilised.
- The spread of Lantana from the western boundary has been dealt with by near eradication of this and other noxious weeds.
- The Conservation Agreement has been signed and finalised – and this has flown through to a 94% reduction in the Rates.
- The Valuer General's assessment was successfully challenged and the valuation reduced to \$600K.
- The application to the Geographic Names Board have the large adjacent Conservation Reserve named after Dot Butler was successful, and was formally gazetted in August.
- We have become an active member of the Community Liaison Group for the development of the Bendeela Camping Ground Master Plan.

## Governance

- Risk Review conducted and processes enhanced.
- Recognition of members via conferring Honorary Active Membership and awarding Commendations continues.

**Social Program** Active and well attended

**Conservation** Far more active. Gardens of Stone, Capertee, Kakadu and Kimberlys.

**Confederation/BWRS** We have increased our level of interaction and focus to ensure SBW issues are favourably appraised. Offered the use of Coolana and given our skills documents free to them. David Trinder was elected as the President of Confederation in August. A number of members attended the Navshield 1 and 2 day rogaining events and scored well.

**The Way Ahead** Continue to consolidate the Club's processes and extend the enhancement initiatives. Then proceed to grow the Club at a sustainable rate (as there is significant demand in the public area).

## Conclusions

We have continued to conduct a large number of enhancements over the last six months, and pushed ahead with a number of longer term improvements. The aim being to streamline the effort needed to operate the Club, improved the Prospective to Member experience, and to position the Club to best adapt to the future.

## DISCOVER PERU - MAGESTIC & ENCHANTING

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# A day out with Beijing Hikers

Richard Darke

In September I found myself in Beijing visiting family, with no thought of doing any bushwalking in this bustling city of 20 million. However, while deciding on our itinerary, we stumbled across [www.beijingshikers.com](http://www.beijingshikers.com).

Much to my surprise, this commercial organisation turned out to offer a broad range of easy to reasonably challenging day and overnight walks, not only in the capital region, but also further afield in far-flung Chinese provinces such as the far-western Kashgar and Xinjiang, the Gobi desert, as well as Gansu, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces. In a typical week, they put on six local walks near Beijing.

Fortunately, I had my walking boots and day pack with me, as it happened that I was on my way home from doing Kenn Clacker's 12 day Alta Via 1 walk in the Italian Dolomites. Thus it was that at 8.00am on a warm, sunny autumn Saturday I found myself on a 2 hour bus ride out of the city, bound for the High Tower walk. This was a 16km Grade 4 (on a scale of 1-5) trip. It offered the prospect of scrambling up and down 900m in the rugged mountains north-west of Beijing, and the added spice of taking in a 14th century section of the Great Wall.

At a cost of RMB350 (less than AUD50), I thought it was a bargain. This sum included bus transport, water, snacks and walking poles, as well as three local guides, plus a slap-up meal and beverages at the end of the walk.



Local villagers watch us set out on our walk

While I was a bit surprised to find 30 people signed up (limited it seemed only by the number of seats on the bus), the leaders proved to be very well organised. Of the guides, Sun Hui-Jie (Way Jay) took the lead. She spoke excellent English, to our obvious benefit, though many of my fellow walkers did speak Mandarin. Yang Yanjing, whose prime focus is on finding new walks and making



A Beijing Hikers route tag

local logistical arrangements, was familiarising Hui-Jie with the route of this walk, but he spoke only Chinese. The third guide took up the rear.

The party members were primarily locally-based expats rather than visitors like me. They came from all parts of the world and comprised many nationalities. It was a very interesting group to walk with, ages ranging from the low-twenties to the late-sixties. Consequently conversation ranged far and wide.

The leaders communicated with one another via walkie-talkies. Because this large group got quite spread out, and to allow people to walk at their own pace, the leader marked the route with red Beijing Walker tags, the tail-end Charlie taking the tags down again as he passed. Beijing Hikers pays close attention to the need to keep on good terms with local land owners and villagers, and uses local resources and knowledge when planning their trips.

The high point of the walk



They pick a restaurant at the end of each walk not because they get kickbacks (they don't), but because it serves good food.

The bus wound its way up into the mountains. We then started walking from a picturesque, photogenic village with recently-harvested corn cobs drying in the sun, and the locals gossiping in groups as they watched us pass. Soon we were climbing steeply and at a cracking pace up a ridge out of the valley, past the village dam, out of the trees whose colours were just beginning to turn. Then it was on up through low vegetation which allowed fine views to a hilltop with engraved boundary stones marking the border between Beijing and neighbouring Hubei province. High above us we could now see the Great Wall sinuously following a mountainous spine.

In some areas the Wall has been extensively restored, but most of what we saw was unimproved, albeit still of impressive size. We were able to walk on top of it in places, and could see it snaking steeply off into the distance in both directions, with regular watch towers dotted along it. A pleasant surprise was that we could enjoy all this in peace. We didn't see another soul for the whole of the walk.

All too soon, after 4½ hours of brisk walking, it was time to drop down from this panoramic ridge with its stunning views into a different valley. In the small village where the walk ended and where the bus was waiting, the sole cafe put on the promised meal, of local food and a liberal supply of Beijing beer (included in the price), and which certainly



The end of the walk (the Great Wall is on top of the hill in background)

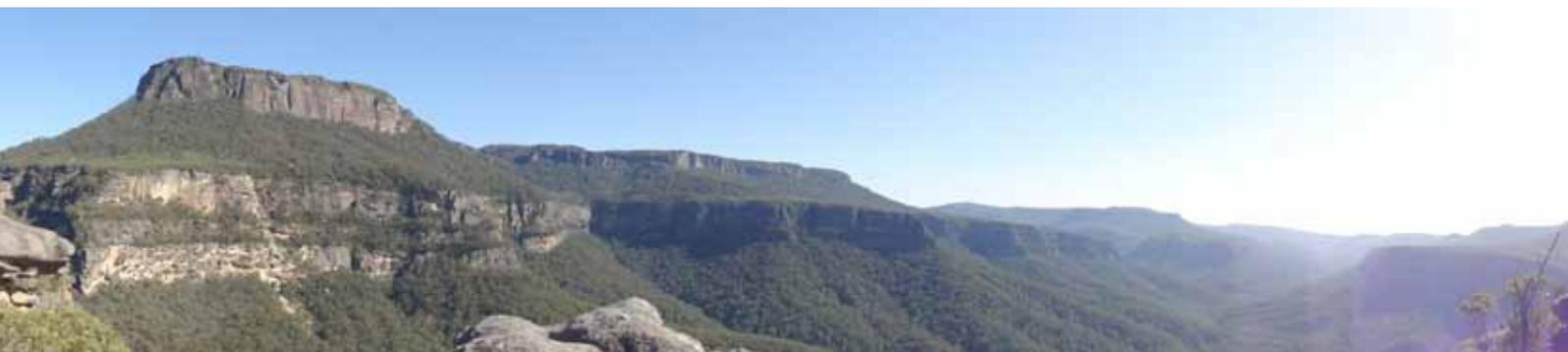
lived up to expectations.

After this solid workout, and the fine late lunch, most of us slept on the bus back to Beijing at the culmination of an excellent day.

I enjoyed myself so much I am now exploring the possibility of getting Beijing Walkers to put on an extended SBW walk in the Mongolian desert or the high plateau of Xinjiang province. If the logistics work out, and I find this can be done at affordable cost, I might just get around to organising it. No promises, but keep an eye open in upcoming SBW Walks Programs for a possible Chinese adventure!

## Trip Report: An Introduction to the Budawangs

21-25 Sept: Lisa Sheldon



So you decide to take a few days off work, create a long weekend, and go somewhere you haven't been before. You call the leader (who you haven't met) and explain a bit about your walking experiences and what you enjoy about walking. I haven't been to the Budawangs before – the leader says "you're going to love it".

Food for four days is sorted, pack is packed and ride organised. There's the usual chit chat on the way down, until the driver says "you haven't been before? You're going to love it". It was talked up big and didn't disappoint for a second.

Day 1 – The group meets up at Long Gully carpark, one member short (Kaye had already started up the mountain!). We headed across the creek keeping our feet dry and went up the Castle walking track, with various stops and breaks during our 700m ascent (and heavy packs – eating my breakfast that morning had not really lightened the load!). The boys took the lead with the girls puffing along at the back – if anyone asks we were looking at the views, which were spectacular.

The early cloud cover quickly blew away, leaving blue skies, dry ground after the previous nights rain,



Ian and David going deep

180 degree views of the valley behind us and the Castle and mountains in front. We proceeded past the Natural Arch and Seven Gods Pinnacles (wow!) and several party members went for an adventure over an extended lunch time to see the views from several LO spots at the pinnacles.

We then proceeded through the Green Room and Monolith Valley to our campsite (happily out of the wind and threatening rain) at Sunrise Cave. Several people went back and found the elusive Sunset Cave as well.

Day 2 dawned clear and dry as we checked on the neighbouring snake in a tree (we think he was a bit sick), and headed off the western side of Donjon Mountain. We dropped into Angel Creek following a faint trail, and meandered through the heat to the top of Crooked Falls. A climb of 150m on the western side thanks for waiting at the top!), then a 450m descent back to Angel Creek and Holland Gorge – one of those descents that started off easy then turned into an hour of steep descent on loose little rocks. It was just the right angle that if you were slipping or tired, simply crouch down a bit and your bum would touch the ground and provide instant seated relief.

Angel Creek was our saviour again and led to a very nice lunch stop (apart from an elusive green water dragon who proved difficult to photograph). A few

Happy campers



more kilometres saw us at camp and enjoying happy hour.

Day 3 was another clear day and after shaking off a few leeches, we proceeded to rock hop and amble along Holland Gorge. One by one we all succumbed to wet feet, apart from new SBW member, Alan, who was obviously experienced and persisted time and again in crossing the river without getting his feet wet – even more impressive considering I was wet to mid-thigh.

At one point Ian and David persisted in going up river, getting deeper and deeper, while the rest of the party looked on, thinking “really, do we have to?”. Common sense prevailed and the rest of us scrambled up the bank to proceed with only damp feet while Ian and David swam through the river to meet us – exiting the river after spotting a red-belly black snake which apparently liked the same exit ramp as our intrepid swimmers!

The possibility of a full dunking to reach camp led even Alan to change into his open-toed river shoes (and did I mention he was fit? His backpack was bigger than me!). We were lucky though and found a very convenient tree fallen across the river, and everyone arrived safely at camp at the junction of Clyde River and Cooyoyo Creek.

An early start on day 4 saw us climbing the ridge with a spectacular clear blue sky and making for the top of Byangee Walls. Several people needed a bit of help to scramble up to the top (“hold onto the rope, breathe in, squeeze and inch past the rock” – maybe I shouldn’t have finished all the grog and tuna the night before!). The vistas at the top were well worth the effort, with the group posing for photos, phoning family and acting like excited tourists rather than experienced bushwalkers who had just walked four days in paradise without seeing a drop of rain or another soul.

Eventually we did have to descend from our little piece of heaven, returning to Castle Gap and along the cliff line. We took in an early lunch at the Natural Arch, and had a look at the Cathedral, then found a firetrail (boring – far too early to return to civilisation) to take us straight to the cars for a quick change, then long drive back to Sydney. The coffee and cake on the way back was a consolation for our still eager spirits.

Back at work the next day and my desk buddy asks if I had a nice, relaxing couple of days. My answer: “I had an awesome time! Relaxing? [thinking back to squeezing up Byangee walls at the same time the previous day, puffing up each and every hill and getting up at dawn] Yeah, it was quite relaxing.”

Leader: Ian Starkey

Walkers (joint with Bush Club): Kaye Birch, Lisa Sheldon, Colin White, Steve Deares, Alan Osland, Rosemary MacDougal, Maureen and David Carter.

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- ❖ **Laya Gasa Trek**  
20 May – 6 June 2012
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Number of participants

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# Trip Report: Jugglers and Grand Canyons

4 Nov: Tom Brennan and Rod Wales



I had a fairly large group interested in this trip, so with Rod's help, we split into two parties at the start of Jugglers Canyon. While the abseils in Jugglers Canyon aren't too hard on a canyon scale, there were still a few challenges for beginners and experienced abseilers alike. Though I missed out on seeing the splash, Vivien! Everyone successfully negotiated the abseils, and the two parties rejoined at Greaves Creek.

Vivien and Emmanuelle were tag-teaming minding baby Justine, so Vivien headed off to find Emmanuelle while the rest of us

scrambled down the old Rodriguez Pass track to the top of Beauchamp Falls for an early lunch, a new spot for pretty much everyone. After lunch, we headed back up the tourist track to the start of the abseil into the Grand Canyon, swapping Vivien for Emmanuelle along the way. There was a massive amount of construction work going on on the track, evidenced by the huge number of white bags of sandstone blocks that had been chopped in.

As is pretty normal, we entertained a few inquisitive tourists watching us abseil in to the canyon, though they missed out on seeing the beautiful world that is hidden below the rim. Despite there only being the one abseil, Grand Canyon has a few challenges of its own. There were a few unanticipated swims, though most people stayed pretty dry until the final "refreshing" 30m swim near the end.

We seemed to be the only group that day not getting lost exiting out of Jugglers Canyon. A father and two children were heading first towards Neates Glen, then Evans Lookout, before we pointed out the start of the Pilcher Track to them. In the mean time, Vivien rescued another party of canyoneers that had ended up at Evans Lookout, by driving them all the way back around to the Katoomba Airfield!

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# Summer Social Program

All meetings/events are held at Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre and start at 7.35 pm, unless indicated otherwise.

Please assemble downstairs until the yoga class finishes, so that the class can have a peaceful ending.

## December

**Wed 5 @ 7pm** Committee Meeting. All welcome to observe

**Wed 12 @ 8pm** Meeting for people interested in joining SBW – an introduction to the club.

**Wed 19 @ 6.30pm** Our annual fabulous Xmas party. Do not miss this great chance to eat and booze and catch up with fellow club members. The club supplies all drinks, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, plates and cutlery. All you have to do is turn up with a plate of food and enjoy yourself.

Location: at the back of KNC unless it pours with rain, in which case a rainy day alternative will be supplied.

As we will be conducting some very short official business, formal notice is given that a General Meeting of SBW is to be convened at 7pm 19 Dec 2012 at the KNC - the Agenda is limited to Opening, Committee Announcement, then Closure.

**Dec 22–Jan 2** Come to the Club's property at Coolana in the Kangaroo Valley (see directions in magazine). Join others for a relaxing time with your choice of what to do – easy walks, swimming, bird and wombat watching, reading, or just chilling out in a gorgeous location. You could even whip into the township for coffee and cake! No need to book, just turn up.

**Dec 31** New Years Eve at Coolana. There may be no fireworks, but there will be a welcoming fire, permits permitting, maybe some singing and general good cheer. A great way to greet the New Year, in a beautiful outdoor setting. No need to book, just turn up.

## January

**Wed 9** Beach Picnic at Balmoral Beach.

The annual SBW beach picnic. Come to the southern end of Balmoral Beach and join with old and new members for a very enjoyable evening. Bring along a picnic or buy food at local cafes. BYO boules and croquet sets and display your skill to your peers. This event is co-ordinated by Bill Holland, so call him on 0418 210 290 or email him on [billholland@bigpond.com](mailto:billholland@bigpond.com) if you need more information.

## February

**Wed 6 @ 7pm** Committee Meeting. Observers welcome.

**Wed 13 @ 8pm** Meeting for those interested in joining SBW – an introduction to the club

**Wed 20** Social Evening. Hiking in the Dolomites and on Corsica: Kenn Clacher. The Alta Via No. 1 (AV1) in the Dolomites region of northern Italy and the Grand Randonnee No. 20 (GR20) on the French island of Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea are two of the iconic walks of Europe. Both are on most lists of the best walks in Europe and the GR20 is reputed to be the toughest of the hundreds of GRs in Europe. In August and September 2012 Kenn Clacher led club walks that completed both the AV1 and the GR20. Both walks featured spectacular mountain scenery and fascinating cultural features.

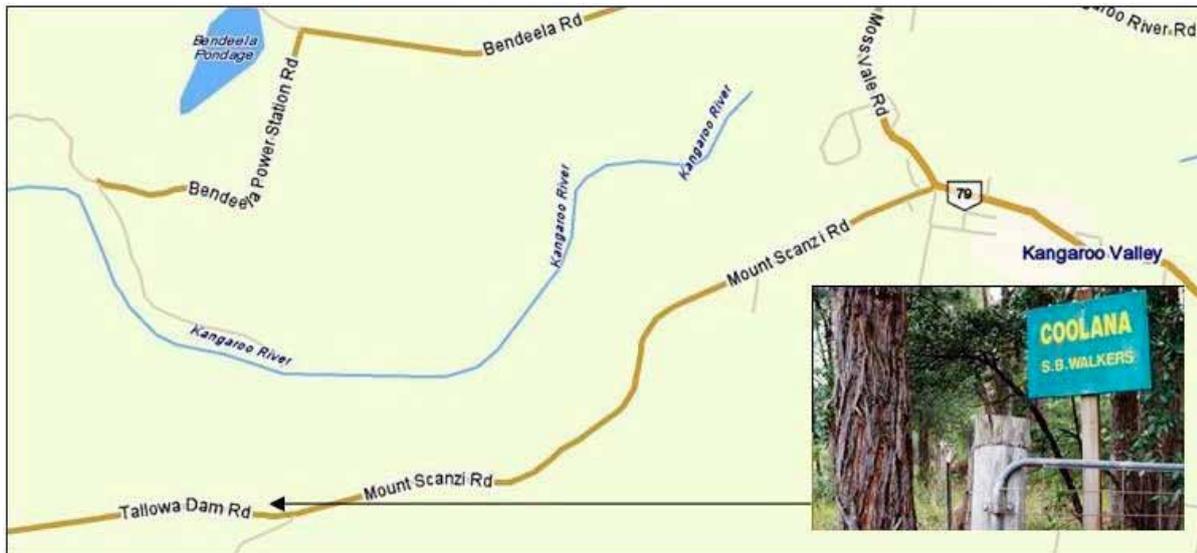
### COME AND SUPPORT OUR GUEST SPEAKERS!

**Why not come along and meet for dinner at Kirribilli before one of the social evenings? If you have any ideas for social events, contact Christine McColl: [social@sbw.org.au](mailto:social@sbw.org.au). Have you had a great trip somewhere you would like to share? Let us know!**

# 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 ie 2.5 to 3 hrs dependant on traffic conditions and breaks.



Just N of the village (see Map), turn W onto the Mount Scanzi Road, and drive 5 kms to the intersection of the Mount Scanzi Road and Tallowa Dam Road (just past the Power Lines). At the junction, keep going straight ahead on Tallowa Dam Rd for 100 metres, to the signposted entrance to Coolana. The entrance is on the N side of the road at grid reference 692513, on the Burrier Map (8928-2-S). Open & close the gate, and drive 400 metres on the dirt track to the car park. It is possible to camp near the cars (as this is near the Escarpment, take care at night). The primary camping area is on the Flats beside the river, 600 metres down the hill following the 4WD Track (which is easy to follow at night with a torch!). The track is suitable for hand trolleys.

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

The Kangaroo Valley Village has a number of facilities: a Pub, Mini Super Market/Service Station, Stores, Cafes, Tourist Shops and activities etc, refer: <http://www.kangaroovalleytourist.asn.au/home/> Details of the Birds & other Fauna can be found at: <http://www.kangaroovalleytourist.asn.au/dir/wildlife>

## National Parks:

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

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

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

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

# Tracks and Access Report

David Trinder

This report includes relevant extracts from the NPWS Park Closures section of their website at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/FireClosure.aspx>. For further information refer to the link.

On 10th November 79 Parks had closed areas, 8 parks were affected by fire and there were 12 parks with fire bans.

## Blue Mountains and Wollemi National Parks

Breakfast Point Lookout at Wentworth Falls is closed.

Gulguer Nature Reserve will have a hazard reduction burn in a few months' time; check the website for updates.

In the Kanangra-Boyd National Park, Beefsteak Creek fire trail is closed for maintenance.

In the Yellomundee Regional Park, Shaws Farm House site is closed due to possible asbestos contamination.

In the Yerranderie State Conservation Area, Yerranderie Escorted Access Tours are suspended until further notice due to road conditions. Caution is required by bushwalkers at river crossings, including the Wollondilly River, due to elevated water levels.

## Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands

The Tianjara Artillery Impact Area is closed for certain activities because of the danger of unexploded ordnance. The Tianjara Firetrail is closed due to environmental damage; repair is scheduled for 2013.

## Central Coast, Newcastle, Sydney

Barrington Tops National Park. A major fire is burning, see Rural Fire Service website. The Antarctic Beech Forest Track is partially blocked by tree falls. Gloucester Tops Road is closed until further notice due to fire.

In the Jilliby State Conservation Area middle Ridge Road is closed due to an infestation of Myrtle Rust. All roads in Jilliby SCA can be slippery after rain.

Part of the Lemon Tree Forest Road is closed. Part of the Prickly Ridge Road is only suitable for 4WD vehicles.

In the Ku-ring-gai National Park there is no access past Empire Marina building to North Turramurra and St Ives.

In the Leacock Regional Park the Glenfield Fire Trail cycle track is being upgraded and diversions may be in place.

In the Monkerai Nature Reserve a major fire is burning, see Rural Fire Service website.

In the Mount Royal National Park Carrow Brook walking track is closed due to Myrtle Rust infestation. Mount Royal Road is closed until further notice.

In the Myall Lakes National Park a blue-green Algal alert is in place for Two Mile Lake, Boolambayte Lake and Bombah Broadwater. People should not come in direct contact with the water.

Stoney Creek Road is closed due to a bridge collapse which prevents passage from the Old Pacific Highway to the Grandis.

In the Parr State Conservation Area there is a major fire, see the Rural Fire Service website.

In the Popran National Park, Popran Creek has been temporarily closed until further notice. Hominy Creek Walking Track is temporarily closed to visitors due to erosion and poor conditions due to extreme weather.

In the Watagans National Park the Bangalow Road, Bungalow and Gap Creek Camping Areas are closed until further notice. The Click Creek Fire Trail is closed to all vehicles due to storm damage.

Wollemi National Park has closed areas. The California Trail is closed for road works until further notice. Part of the Martindale Trail is closed.

## Mid North Coast, New England Tablelands

In the Cottan-Bimbang National Park the Knoddingbul Road and Stockyard Creek Road are closed at Oxley Highway due to the un-trafficable surface of Knoddingbul Road.

### SBW Social Media

To advise members of time urgent items, send an email to [sbw27@googlegroups.com](mailto:sbw27@googlegroups.com)

If you are not a member of GG, sign up at <https://accounts.google.com/>. Then search for and select the Group Sydney Bush Walkers

To share updates on your outdoor activities use:  
[www.facebook.com/#!/SydneyBushWalkers](http://www.facebook.com/#!/SydneyBushWalkers)

If you are not a member of facebook, sign up by going to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) then add our page

# Walks and Activities Report

Lucy Keatinge

Leaders: After the activity, please email completed Walks Attendance Form and Activity Report to: walksreporting@sbw.org.au Please keep the signature sheet as this is a legal document.

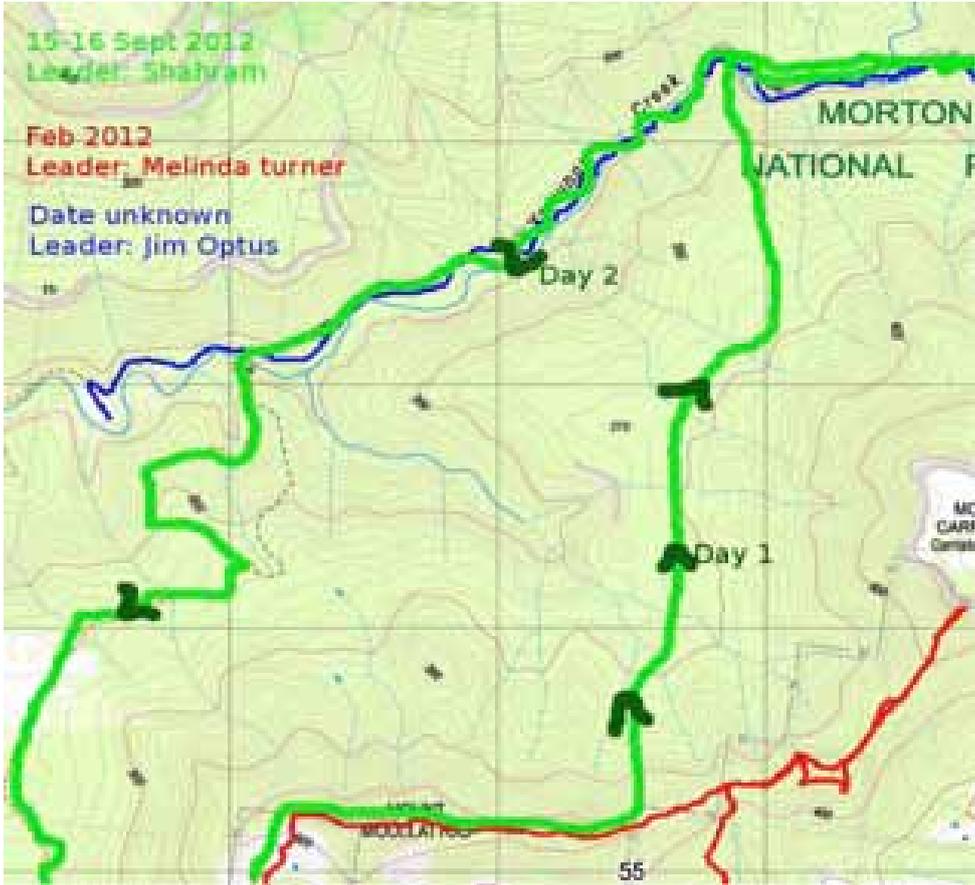
Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p><b>26 Aug–8 Sept</b></p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Lago di Braies <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Belluno</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Standard AV1 route north to south with some of the party making a side trip over Pelmo and some finishing by the via ferrata Marmol.</p> <p>This was an excellent walk in spectacular country. It involved around 150km of walking and 8,000m of ascent and descent over 12 days in the Dolomites region of Northern Italy. The party spent each night in a succession of very comfortable refugios, which were very comfortable and provided good meals, beer, wine and even a hot shower on occasions. The weather cooperated most of the time and we managed to fit into all the refugios when we wanted to.</p>	<p><b>Kenn Clacher</b></p> <p>Edith Baker, Colin Atkinson Richard Darke Jan Mohandas Margaret Mohandas Rod Hastie</p>
<p><b>11 Sep–25 Sept 2012</b></p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Conca <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Calenzana</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> GR20 (Grand Randonnée No. 20) from south to north, with a side trip to the Corsican village of Zicova and all the high route options taken except one.</p> <p>The GR20 involves around 200km of walking and 14,000m of ascent and descent over 15 days on the island of Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea. It is reputed to be the hardest of the European GRs, primarily because of very rocky tracks and some steep, exposed sections requiring a little gentle scrambling. The party spent each night in a succession of refuges which were not as well appointed as those in the Dolomites but nevertheless provided adequate food and shelter. The terrain is generally quite rugged while being quite different from the Dolomites. We were very lucky with the weather and had only one wet day. This rain caused a higher-than-normal demand for beds in the Refuge de Petra Piana and for a while it looked like we would have to sleep in a tent which all the refuges hired out. This was avoided by having to complete the most hazardous ascent of the whole trip to gain access to a loft in the refuge which nevertheless provided a cosy sleeping area.</p> <p>After seven days Jan and Margaret took advantage of the GR20 crossing the train line at Vizzavona to make an early exit and Colin took advantage of the road into Haut Asco to make a late exit to address logistics problems. Consequently Kenn and Edith were the only two to complete the whole route.</p>	<p><b>Kenn Clacher</b></p> <p>Edith Baker, Colin Atkinson Jan Mohandas Margaret Mohandas</p>
<p><b>8–15 Sept Southern Alps Lodge, Charlotte Pass</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Charlottes Pass</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Skiing - day trips from Charlotte Pass</p> <p>A great time was had by all in better-than-usual snow conditions.</p>	<p><b>Kenn Clacher (Organiser)</b></p> <p>Richard Winthorpe Craig Austin Caro Ryan Maureen Carter David Carter Bob Horder Neil Hickson and about 23 others</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p><b>20–24 Sept Budawang National Park GRADE: M232</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Long Gully Carpark</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Long Gully Car park, Kalianna Ridge, Mount Nibelung, Mt Cole, Angel Creek, Hollands Gorge, Clyde River, Cooyoyo Creek, Byangee Mountain, Castle Gap, Long Gully Carpark</p> <p>Day 1 – From Long Gully carpark climb Kalianna Ridge, (Castle Walking Track) to saddle between Mount Nibelung and The Castle (449913), then through Nibelung Pass between Mount Nibelung and Mount Mooryan in to Monolith Valley, through the Green Room (past the natural arch and Seven Gods Pinnacles) and camp in Sunset Cave at the northern end of Mt Cole. (approx 700m climb)</p> <p>Day 2 – From western side of Donjon Mountain (435930) drop in to Angel Creek and along to Crooked Falls, climb up (150m) from Crooked Falls to under cliff line on western side, then down ridge (450m) to junction of Angel Creek and Hollands Gorge, along Hollands Gorge and camp at junction of Hollands Gorge and Camp Cave Creek.</p> <p>Day 3 – Hollands Gorge to Clyde River, along to junction of Clyde River and Cooyoyo Creek camp.</p> <p>Day 4 – Climb ridge to base of Byangee Mountain (300m climb) (option for side trip with climb on to top of Byangee Mountain 100m scramble up slot) on return then to Castle Gap and along base of the The Castle cliff line to the Byangee Track and back to Long Gully Carpark.</p>	<p><b>Ian Starkey</b></p> <p>Alan Osland Rosemary MacDougal Maureen Carter David Carter Lisa Sheldon</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Kaye Birch Colin White Steve Deares</p>
<p><b>4-19 Sept Spain: Camino del Norte GRADE: L221</b></p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Oviedo <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Santiago de Compostela</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> This part of the Camino del Norte follows the north coast of Asturias west to the Galician border at Ribadeo. It then cuts inland, south-west, to join the Camino Frances at Arzua. From Arzua it is another 38km west to Santiago de Compostela. The whole trip was 354km, which we did over 15 days, including two rest days</p> <p>The way in Asturias had a relatively high proportion of urban going, with quite a lot of road bashing. Things changed once we got into northern Galicia, which is much more empty. There were more pilgrims around than expected, many on bikes. As a result the albergues tended to be full, and we mostly had to stay in commercial accommodation (which is still very good value). Highlights were the monastery at Sobrado, which incorporates the albergue, and Santiago itself. We saw the incense holder swinging in the cathedral, and dined at a Michelin-starred restaurant.</p> <p>The weather was good the whole way – just a few mornings when we donned rain gear for a short period. We also managed a swim in the Atlantic at a very attractive sandy beach – a little chilly but very acceptable. Things were made generally much easier by the presence in our group of a native Spanish speaker (Grace).</p>	<p><b>Leigh McClintock</b></p> <p>Elena Bogotova Cathy Piggott Grace Love Peter Love Ken Williams</p>



SBW members are eligible for Free Paddy Pallin Club membership.

Take along the Paddy Pallin ad in this newsletter and they will honor this offer!

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p><b>16 Sept Blue Mountains National Park Grade: M221</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Glenbrook Station</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Glenbrook station, Glenbrook Gorge, Tunnel View Lookout, Euroka, Nepean River, Euroka, Glenbrook Causeway, Jellybean Pool, Glenbrook station</p> <p>It was a fine and sunny day for this walk. From the Visitors Centre at Glenbrook we went on the foot-track down to Glenbrook Creek at the bottom of the gorge, and then did the steep climb up the other side, eventually reaching Tunnel View Lookout from where there are great views of the mountains to the west, the Cumberland Plain to the east, and the deep gorge in right front of us. We then followed tracks around to Euroka clearing, where we took a foot-track eastwards down to the Nepean River where we had lunch on the banks. We returned to Euroka via a different route, and then followed the foot-tracks down to Glenbrook Causeway, where we turned downstream to Jellybean Pool. From there we took the foot-tracks steeply uphill until we got to the carpark at the Visitors Centre. A group of us went the Jazz Apple Café in Glenbrook, a pleasant way to round off the day.</p>	<p><b>Nigel Weaver</b></p> <p>Denise Shaw Frances Bertrand Lloyd Francis Stanley Wong Marina Chan Tim Yewdall</p> <p><i>P members</i> Catherine Pelosi Nicola Piper Dario Ferlin Liana Warner Catharina Muller Aaron Walker Melissa Suen</p>
<p><b>15–16 Sept AREA: Morton National Park GRADE: M233 Q WALK</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Jacks Corner</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Jacks Corner, Mount Moollattoo, follow the ridge to get to the saddle and then head down to Yarrunga Creek follow the creek to find the 5 star camp site between a side creek and Yarrunga. Follow the creek back to the fire trail.</p> <p>Because there was only one car we couldn't do car shuffle, so I decided to change the second day plan and follow the creek to get back to the fire trail. Had intended to find the ridges to go McPhails trail and try a track that goes to the top of Mount Carrialoo and then follow McPhails trail down the road.</p> <p>Following is the map that Jim had sent to me showing the other walks (Melinda in red and Jim in Blue). I have illustrated my track in green.</p> 	<p><b>Shahram Landarani</b></p> <p><i>P Member</i> Sina Arbabzadeh</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p><b>15–16 Sept</b></p> <p>Lesley and I slept up at the Boyd River campground on Friday night, waking to beautiful clear skies. Met up with Tony, Jim and Stephen early Saturday and drove to our starting point.</p> <p>Walked in on the firetrail and then picked up Surprise Ridge to take us down to Hollanders River and morning tea break at the old fishermans hut (starting to slip into a sad state of disrepair). Then headed up onto Bull Ant Ridge to view Chardon Canyon from the top and lunch at Tuglow Falls. Dropped down to the river and had a clear run along the river to our campsite.</p> <p>Sunday was another beautiful day, and we made our way up to Box Creek Falls at a leisurely pace. These falls are really quite spectacular and views to match. Tony's great navigating helped us to pick a great route to Black Banksia Falls where we had lunch. Then up and out to firetrail and cars.</p>	<p><b>Melinda Turner</b></p> <p>Tony Marshall Lesley Clarke Jim Close Visitor Stephen Ford</p>
<p><b>29 Sept–1 Oct AREA: Barrington Tops National Park GRADE: M232 Q Walk</b></p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Corker Track <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Lagoon Pinch</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Lagoon Pinch, Corker Track, Careys Peak, return</p> <p>We started with a 900m climb up the Corker Track and traversed the plateau to camp at Junction Pools. Part of the plateau is closed because of Phytophthera so we returned via Mount Barrington and Careys Peak to camp at Wambat Creek. It was an enjoyable boys weekend with good weather. The altitude is 1500m and temperatures were below zero at night so it was like a continuation of winter. Snow Gums and Antarctic Beech trees were notable.</p>	<p><b>David Trinder</b></p> <p>Jim Close David Merrick Bruno De Villenoisy</p>
<p><b>29 Sept– 1 Oct AREA: Blue Mountains National Park (Yerranderie) GRADE:M332</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Yerranderie (Ghost Town)</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Yerranderie, Colong Gap, Mootik Plateau, Colong Swamp, Mount Armour, Church Creek/Kowmung River junction (camp), Old Inglis Selection Track (no longer any track), Scotts Main Range, Mount Feld, Butchers Creek (Brandy Point), Topsy Ridge (camp), Axehead Mountain, Byrnes Gap, Yerranderie.</p> <p>We started walking from Yerranderie at 9.15am Sat after a quick inspection of the (historic) ghost town. Then we passed the old mine working before following the route of the former bridle track (which has now all but disappeared) up to Colong Gap. Weather was ideal for walking, just a bit cool and route generally was as described. Really clear visibility and there were some magnificent vistas, particularly from both ends of the Axehead.</p> <p>By consensus we had a 7.15am start on Monday so that we were back at the cars just after noon for the drive back to the big smoke.</p>	<p><b>Owen Kimberley</b></p> <p>Michele Powell Sue Bucknell Chris Birch Stephen Brading Melinda Turner Brendon Anderson</p>

## Communications problems with the club?

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

### Mailing list - want to join, not receiving, having problems?

Contact [communications@sbw.org.au](mailto:communications@sbw.org.au)

**Website - contributions, suggestions, errors?** Contact [webmaster@sbw.org.au](mailto:webmaster@sbw.org.au)

**Address and email change?** Please login to [members.sbw.org.au/default\\_login.aspx](http://members.sbw.org.au/default_login.aspx) to view your Membership Profile screen and the use the green links on the right hand side of the screen to change items as needed.

**Need your SBW website login details?** If you've forgotten or are not sure what your website login details are, please go to [members.sbw.org.au/default\\_login.aspx](http://members.sbw.org.au/default_login.aspx) and click **Forgot Your Password** at the bottom of the Login Box – then follow the prompts.

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p><b>1 Oct AREA: Berowra Valley Regional Park GRADE: S212</b></p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Cowan Station <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Berowra Station</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Cowan Station, Berowra Waters, Berowra Station</p> <p>This was a very scenic walk with several great viewing points of Berowra Creek and its surrounding hills. In particular, we had lunch on a high ridgetop with a wonderful panoramic view down to Berowra Waters far below us. The track was fairly rough in many places, with several long and steep ups and downs en route, and even steel footholds in some places to help us climb up or down rocks. Plenty of yellow pea-flowers and white wildflowers brightened up the bushland, but most of the pink boronia had already gone for the season. Overall it was a really good day in ideal fine and mild conditions.</p>	<p><b>Nigel Weaver</b></p> <p>David Bell Andy Craig Terry Moss Isabelle Moss Nigel Wingate Lisa Ochs Glenn Draper Stanley Wong John Kennett Daniel Eckermann Lloyd Francis Margaret Weaver Lisa Sheldon John O’Riordan Tim Yewdall Margaret Carey Pamela Irving Michael Bickley Lucy Keatinge Julian Martin Doreen Provan Lyn Terrey Graham Byrne Jan Spencer</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Nina Wang Stephen Krouzecky Tracey Basman Ju Suntiruxpong John FitzGerald Steve Tusler</p>
<p><b>6 Oct AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M231 Q Walk</b></p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Pulpit Rock <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Perrys Lookdown</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Pulpit Rock, Govetts Leap, Braeside Walk, Neates Glen, Grand Canyon, Beauchamp Falls, Junction Rock, Blue Gum Forest, Perrys Lookdown.</p> <p>An enjoyable walk with a good friendly group. There was fog and drizzle in the morning but the drizzle had stopped by lunchtime and the temperature was good for walking all day. There is lots of trackwork being done in the Grand Canyon. We had morning tea near the top of the Braeside Walk and a lunch stop between Beauchamp Falls and Junction Rock. It was the first Blue Gum Forest to Perrys Lookdown ascent for five of the participants.</p>	<p><b>Chris Dowling</b></p> <p>Stephen Brading Joanna Penney Huw ap Rees Stanley Wong Greg Bray Virginia Waller</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Jim Vaughan Melissa Suen Kerrie Buhagiar</p>
<p><b>6 Oct AREA: Grose Valley Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: L332 Q Walk</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Grand Canyon Car Park</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Grand Canyon, Horse Track, Junction Rock, Blue Gum Forest, Govetts Leap, Cliff Top Track, Evans Lookout</p> <p>Great day out in the Grose Valley. Clouds kept the views hidden but gave the Blue Gum a magical atmosphere. Good to see a couple of fit new members on their first walk with the club.</p>	<p><b>Christian Vallence</b></p> <p>David Trinder Glenn Draper Lisa Ochs Kevin Songberg Jane Fielding</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Cathy Hui Sam Rees-Jones Lealah Dow</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p><b>7 Oct AREA: Garigal and Sydney National Park GRADE: L221</b></p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Ralston Place, Belrose <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Tania Park, Balgowlah Heights</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Bantry Bay, Natural Arch, Ararat Reserve, Seaforth Oval, Seaforth Streets, Spit to Manly Track</p> <p>You could not have ordered a more perfect spring day for a walk, anywhere in the world. In fact, at many times throughout the day, we wondered if we were somewhere else, other than being right in our own backyards, literally.</p> <p>We're so blessed in Sydney to live in a city where the bush and National Parks come right to our doorstep, so for this Q walk we walked 25kms through Garigal and Sydney Harbour NPs to follow the trickle from a creek, all the way to the sea...the full length of Middle Harbour.</p> <p>A full day with a solid pace throughout, saw many of the Prospectives complete their single longest ever day walk – well done. After a surprising start, which saw a sign of track closed at the Heath Track in Belrose, we ventured further along to find another track entrance without a sign – no breaking the rules here!</p> <p>With the warmer temps, we refilled water bottles at lunch and were then very thankful for the kind gents at the Armenian Club in Frenchs Forest for letting us refill yet again from their kitchen... although being Oktoberfest, we were reluctant to walk past the Austrian Club without a refreshing weisse bier...but we were strong and carried on!</p>	<p><b>Caro Ryan</b></p> <p>John Flint Sandra See</p> <p><i>P members</i> Janine Trapp Teresa Leopold Deb Hayes Rocio Pizzaro Dario Ferlin Anna Martinis Peter Mulholland</p>
<p><b>6-7 Oct AREA: Wollemi National Park GRADE: 212</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Deep Pass (WEST) Car Park</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Deep Pass exploratory walk</p> <p>Everyone enjoyed climbing through slots near camp and crawling through glow worm tunnel near slots. Leader and Prospective members explored Deep Pass Canyon in the afternoon. Others walked to base of canyon and then returned to camp. Much enjoyment was had by all around the camp fire at night as we joined with the Bush Club and NPA members for happy hour, dinner and sing alongs after a few wines. Weather was overcast/foggy with a very mystical atmosphere. A few showers during the evening but nothing that made anyone leave the entertainment around the fire.</p> <p>Sunday was a beautiful clear sunny day which saw the leader and Prospectives enjoy the River Cave Canyon while others had a lazy day in camp. Waratahs and snakes were out so walkers had to keep a keen eye on the ground and around the bush while walking to and from the River Cave Canyon. The weekend was finished off with a Banquet meal at the Hazelbrook Thai Restaurant.</p>	<p><b>Tony Manes</b></p> <p>Kay Chan Ian Evans Carole Beales</p> <p><i>P members</i> Michael Browning Rob Schroettner</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Kris Stephensen Tony Dumett Jayden Stephensen Kye Stephensen</p>

## Can't think of a walk to lead?

There are well over 1,000 overnight and extended trips outlined in the Historical Walks Database, found by logging in to the Members Area on our website and following the link to Historical Walks Record

[www.sbw.org.au](http://www.sbw.org.au)

Here you will find a list of all the overnight or extended walks run by the club from its inception to the present day. Look at the region you are interested in and see what walks have been done there in the past!

Use this wonderful resource to help plan your next walk!

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p><b>6–7 Oct AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M222E Q Walk</b></p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> 6ft track/Megalong Rd crossing <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Carlons Farm</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Six Foot track at cemetery, Coxs River, Lower Jenolan Gorge, Goolara Peak, Tinpot and Ironpot Mts, Dunphy Carpark</p> <p>Threatened rain held off as we made our way down to Coxs River and swing bridge. Some of the newer members tested the bridge while the rest of us took in the views. Stayed on the river for the rest of the day, making our way down stream at a leisurely pace. We decided to camp at the old campsite near base of Goolara Peak rather than the overused Jenolan River campsite. This turned out to be a good decision because there was lots of room with a very agreeable view of the river.</p> <p>We arrived at the campsite quite early, so we made up the time by having a long happy hour and dinner. Rain came in at about 7.30pm so it was early to bed.</p> <p>Awoke to a beautiful sunny morning and we headed up Goolara early to avoid the heat. The views from Tinpot and Ironmonger were splendid!</p> <p>Back at cars by about 1pm, allowing us to get on the road early and avoid the holiday traffic. A big thank you to all for your wonderful company! (Always a pleasure to have the 'Storm Troopers' along!)</p>	<p><b>Melinda Turner</b></p> <p>Tony Marshall Marella Hogan Catherine Mullane Michelle Powell Owen Kimberly Karen Brading Richard Brading</p> <p><i>P members</i> Amanda Nelson Eric Catuncan Marlene Fransen Graham Lane</p>
<p><b>13 Oct AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M111</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Bell Station</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Bell, Big Pagoda on ridgetop near Wollangambe River, return to Bell.</p> <p>On this walk we had a fine sunny morning and a cloudy afternoon. Had we come on the previous day we would have had driving snowfalls, freezing cold, and high winds! In fact, as we started our walk there was still lots of snow all around Bell station and in the nearby bushland, which is in on an elevated ridgetop. But luckily the tracks we followed gently downhill into the bush were not awash with snowdrifts, which had already largely melted. We made our way along the main track past several pagodas and quite a few waratahs which brightly lit up the bush. Once we reached the ridgetop near the Wollangambe River we found a large pagoda high on the ridgeline. It was great place for lunch because of the wonderful wilderness views which it provided over the adjacent valleys. We retraced our steps in the afternoon, arriving at Bell at around 4.45pm.</p>	<p><b>Nigel Weaver</b></p> <p>Margaret Weaver Rosetta Lee Margaret Carey Tim Yewdall Peter Cai Lloyd Francis Pam Campbell Terrence Biggs Patricia Sherry</p>
<p><b>13 Oct AREA: KuRingGai National Park GRADE:M222 Q Walk</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Cowan Train Station</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Cowan train station, Jerusalem Bay, Govett Ridge, Pound Spur explore, Govett Ridge, Taffys Rock and return.</p> <p>Great ridge walking on and off track with views over Porto Bay and Hawkesbury river with an explore of the nearby ridges that aren't on the usual Taffy's track.</p> <p>A lovely day in the sunshine for a walk. Group enjoyed the hill and views over the Hawkesbury from multiple locations. Pound Spur was an interesting detour with all scrambling on the rocks to conquer the high point although the rock platform destination was abandoned just short due to thick bush. Taffys rock did not disappoint with crystal clear views of the sailing boats on the water and green scenery on the surrounding ridges.</p>	<p><b>Lisa Sheldon</b></p> <p>John O'Riordan Ju Sutthinuch Suntiruxpong David Trinder Glenn Draper John Kennett Robert McIlwaine Tim Sutherland Julian Martin Elena Bogatova</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Walter Gordon Robert Carter Bruce Allen Karolina Adamczyk</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p><b>13–14 Oct AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232 Q Walk</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Kings Tableland (old Queen Vic Hospital site)</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Kings Tableland, Kedumba Pass, Kedumba River, Solitary Pass, Mount Solitary, Solitary Pass, Kedumba Crossing (camp), Lions Head, Lions Head Ridge, Kings Tableland</p> <p>Great walking weather and great company inclusive of campfire humour (with particular thanks to Don and Jim). A memorable walk.</p>	<p><b>Owen Kimberley</b></p> <p>Michele Powell Don Andrews Jim Close Caro Ryan Shahram Landarani Jouini Leppanen</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Amanda Nelson Michael Gadiel Frances Bottrell Alan Osland</p> <p><i>Visitor</i> Hans Schmidt</p>
<p><b>13–14 Oct AREA: KANANGRA GRADE: M333E (Canyon Grade 6)</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Kanangra Road</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> King Pin FT, Mount Thurat, Thurat Rift, Kanangra Creek, Thurat Spires, King Pin FT</p> <p>There were seven on the wait list, but the decision for a small team of four on this committing and exploratory trip was probably vindicated. The trip went as planned without incident with a strong group, the experience ranged from ~60 canyon trips to 700+! A 5 min video of the trip can be viewed here:</p> <p><a href="http://youtu.be/LD_hzHfdZwM">http://youtu.be/LD_hzHfdZwM</a>.</p>	<p><b>Richard Pattison</b></p> <p>Sue Bucknell</p> <p><i>P Members</i> David Carmichael Alison Curtin</p>
<p><b>20 Oct AREA: Ben Bullen State Forest GRADE: S222</b></p> <p>West of the Great Divide, these valleys encapsulate in a relatively small area, everything that is exciting and interesting about bushwalking – incredible rock sculptures, tall pagodas, narrow slot canyons, magnificent caves, verdant forests and more.</p>	<p><b>Yuri Bolotin</b></p> <p>Huw ap Rees</p> <p><i>P Member</i> Alan Carpenter</p>
<p><b>20 Oct AREA Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232 Q Walk</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> The Locked Gate at Glenraphael Drive</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Narrow Neck, Glenraphael Dr, Redledge Pass, Megalong, Mitchell's Creek, Fools Paradise, Glenraphael Drive</p> <p>It was an excellent day in the mountains and our group of enthusiastic walkers was rewarded with some stunning views of Narrow Neck's awe-inspiring cliffs and the vast country beyond Megalong Valley. Redledge pass did not present a challenge and we were surprised that the log book dates as far back as 1997! At the bottom of the ridge we came across the old mine tramline track and, despite the advice from Karl Miller and Richard Pattison, decided to follow it along the 790 m contour. It ended a kilometer later and we decided to keep traversing at the same level instead of backing down towards the creek. The terrain was hard and slow going – steep, slippery with debris, and overgrown with bracken and lawyer vine here and there. This did not scare us and we kept bushbashing to reach the upper part of Mitchell's Creek about an hour after lunch. After a refreshing stop at a beautiful amphitheatre, the famous coachwood tree was easily climbed and we passed the final section of scrub in high spirits. The last 5km back to the cars rewarded us with magnificent views to Jamison Valley and Mt Solitary.</p> <p>Special thank you to Chris Dowling for making the walk happen with his competent advice and generous help</p>	<p>Toni Bachvarova</p> <p>Alan Mitchell Chris Dowling Helen McDonald Joanna Penney Jim Close Peter Cai Christian Vallance Jane Fielding</p> <p><i>P Member</i> Jonno Downes</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p><b>21 Oct AREA: Middle Harbour GRADE: M211</b></p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Manly <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Seaforth</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Manly, Dobroyd Head, Grotto Point, Clontarf Beach, Spit Bridge, Powder Hulk Bay, Wakehurst Parkway</p> <p>A hazy lazy start from Manly Wharf with coffees in hand. Morning teas at Dobroyd Head and Grotto Point with wonderful views of the harbour. Another stop at Clontarf Beach and then lunch at the Spit. Post-lunch was a meander through the back streets of Seaforth with some interesting and entertaining commentary on contemporary architecture and a few more stops to view the inlets of Middle Harbour.</p>	<p><b>David Bell</b></p> <p>Lynette Preston Virginia Waller Stanley Wong</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Alan O'Regan Sagar Thakkar Vicky Zhang Melissa Suen Fiona McRostie</p>
<p><b>20–21 Oct AREA: Pittwater to Hawkesbury River GRADE: Hard Kayak Trip</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Palm Beach</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Palm Beach, Brooklyn, Spencer and return</p> <p>Left Palm Beach at 9.15am with three paddlers headed for Brooklyn. We paddled into a 20 knot norwester on an incoming tide. Arrived at Brooklyn at 11.30 to meet up with three more paddlers. Proceeded on to Gentleman's Holt camping area across the river from Spencer. We arrived there at 1.30pm just before the tide changed. Next morning we left at 7.45am on an outgoing tide. The tide changed at Milsons Passage and three members left us at Brooklyn. We continued on to Palm Beach against the tide in calm conditions arriving back at Palm Beach at 12 noon.</p>	<p><b>Don Andrews</b></p> <p>Daniel Laver Owen Kimberley Michele Power Kerrie Allsop</p> <p><i>Visitor</i> Hans Schmid</p>
<p><b>21 Oct 2012 AREA: Kuring-gai National Park GRADE: M222</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Berowra Station</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Berowra Station, follow Shark Rock Ridge to unnamed spur overlooking Cottage Point. Then to Want Spur and Want Trig, and return.</p> <p>The bush is even thicker on Shark Rock Ridge than the last Club trip in April. Thanks to some energetic and visionary members (one of whom may have been the Club President) we pushed on through head-high bush to the end of Want Spur for magical views over the waterways all the way to Lion Island. We also found the ancient, formerly believed lost, Want Spur trig. Then drama. A spot fire burst into life only 3–400m to the south west, presumably lit by cinders from a bush fire at Duffys Forrest 7–8km to the south. One decisive member (the Club President?) swiftly assessed the risk, confirmed our location, and showed the way to get up-wind of the fire. No one, no matter how tired, flagged on the way home to Berowra. Nothing like the prospect of getting caught in a fire to overcome tiredness. All in all a warning for the coming summer. On a low wind strength day that the RFS deemed suitable for Hazard Reduction burns, a dangerous situation can still occur.</p>	<p><b>John Kennett</b></p> <p>Ian Wolfe Rosetta Lee Julian Martin Lisa Sheldon</p> <p><i>P Member</i> Robert Carter</p>
<p><b>21 Oct AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M222 Dalpura Canyon</b></p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Bells Line of Road</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Bells Line of Road, Dalpura Canyon, Jinki Ridge, Bells Line of Road</p> <p>Four of us, including three canyoning virgins, set off into Dalpura Creek. Being mid-October, there were plenty of wildflowers to look at, including Waratahs, Sun Orchids, Tea Trees, Native Irises and Matchsticks. Soon we hit the canyon and enjoyed some scrambling, bridging and very cold feet. Everyone did well on their first canyon abseil, which was more awkward than they ones they had been doing a couple of weeks earlier at Mt York. A few waist deep wades rounded things out.</p> <p>At the end, we headed out to the cliff edge for lunch, which had great views, and also a great amount of wind! It was unpleasantly blustery on the ridge out, and began to rain when we hit the road. Instead of doing another short walk, we made an early finish and hit the Bilpin Fruit Bowl for hot chocolates and coffee.</p>	<p><b>Tom Brennan</b></p> <p>Geoff Bishop</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Julio Rodrigues Meredith Junor</p>

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# NOMINATION FORM

## For Election of SBW's Committee

### 2013 ANNUAL ELECTIONS

I, ..... (full name) a member of the Sydney Bush Walkers Inc (SBW) propose the nomination of the Candidate for election to the Committee position(s) of SBW.

.....  
(Full name of the Candidate)

.....  
Signature of Proposer (or by e-mail)      Date: .....

I, ..... (full name) a member of SBW second the nomination of the Candidate for election to a Committee position(s) of SBW.

.....  
Signature of Secunder (or by e-mail)      Date: .....

#### **Candidate Contact Details**

Telephone:    Work.....Home ..... Mobile: .....  
Email: .....

The Candidate, being a member of the SBW, is nominated for the position(s) of:

- President \_\_\_\_\_
- Vice President \_\_\_\_\_
- Secretary \_\_\_\_\_
- Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_
- Committee Member (5 positions) \_\_\_\_\_

(please indicate preferred roles:          New Members, Membership, Activities, Communications, Skills Enhancement)

(Members may be nominated for more than one position – please indicate at least one.)

.....  
Signature of the Candidate (or by e-mail)      Date: .....

Note: The Nomination Form must be delivered to the Club Secretary at least 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place.