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Photo: South Coast Track, Anna Thorwart

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President says...

When I became the new President of the Sydney Bush Walkers on 13 March, I was told that I was the fifty-first to hold the office. Among my predecessors there are some whose names are so well known that they can rightly be called legends. In my 12 years with the Club I have met many serving and former Presidents, none of whom would like to be called a legend, but every one of them is a fine person with really impressive records of bushwalking achievement and of selfless dedication to serving our members. I do not feel that I deserve to be counted among them; I can only promise to do my best to live up to their legacy.

The weekend after the AGM I went to Coolana for the annual Club reunion. I had never been to a reunion, and I had not been to Coolana since 2002 when I went to get the navigation and first aid qualifications I needed to graduate from Prospective to Member status. New Presidents are "initiated" at the reunion; the very word is scary, thanks to what we have read about such rituals in the armed services, university colleges, and so on. I had heard that our own initiation ceremony involved a certain amount of mumbo-jumbo, with bones, symbols of office and incantations. I had my reservations.

My apprehension was misplaced. What actually happens is that all the former Presidents who are present (there were seven or eight of them this year) form up in a line, and in turn they present the new President with the symbols of what the club is all about – a boot to signify walking, a flannel flower to represent our love of the wilderness, clasped hands of friendship, and a map of Australia to show

our sense of adventure. These are all carved out of horn, and they date back to 1939! Finally, lest anyone get too carried away with the gravitas of the event, I got the bone. The significance of the bone, which is displayed at general meetings of the membership, seems to be unclear. Some say it denotes strength. Others suggest it's just a bit of irreverent humour. Whatever, the bone now has a prominent place on one of our bookshelves at home, and my wife is slowly learning to tolerate it.

I found the whole process quite moving. The demonstration of support and goodwill from so many of my respected predecessors was very reassuring. And the formalised reminder of what our great Club is all about, was effective and timely.

We have had a few issues managing the handover from the old Committee to the new. The club's communications have become more sophisticated to keep up with the modern world, which is good. But it also complicates the handover. Some of us are better at handling the technology than others. This year, the problem has been exacerbated by the temporary absence of a few of our most experienced Committee members. I myself am going to be away for all of April and May, leaving the leadership with Vice President Roger Treagus. I thank Roger for the willing way he has stepped up to the plate, and I apologise to any of you who may not have been able to find the right Committee member to deal with a particular problem. Please be patient – we'll be up and running smoothly in no time at all.

*Yours,
Leigh*

New members:

- Anita Paddock
- Elicia O'Rielly,
- Joost Steenvoorden
- Nicola Piper



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

www.bushwalking.org.au/mag.html

Have you seen the latest Colong Foundation Bulletin?



If not, you can download it from the Colong Foundation website at:
www.colongwilderness.org.au

Trip Report: NZ South Island – Lewis Pass & Beyond

Feb 2013: Ian Wolfe

It didn't start well. As the mini van drew to a halt at Lewis Pass it was heavily buffeted by the wind and driving rain, so it was a struggle getting into the full length Gortex, as the sandflies began to munch on us (it was such a joy to recall the cutting incision of their mandibles). For the next two hours we traversed quite a nice track in pleasant rainforest (which fully lived up to its name). We all got completely soaked due to the heavy rain, and we had fun traversing the rising side creeks (it's so comforting to have the foam turn a mild pink due to the sediment, and to have rolling rocks caress your ankles when fording). Its known as Cannibal Gorge, due to the rumoured habit of Maori raiding parties, having decided that they had dragged their captives far enough, stopping for a snack

We got to Cannibal Hut just before dusk, and found it to be a large hut populated by two trampers, who were operating under the mistaken belief that they had it all to themselves. Most of us had a pleasant night, but some earth tremors were mistaken for alleged snoring.

Next day it was drizzling, so we walked for an hour to Ada Hut, which was supposed to be our turnoff to for the first climb. As we could clearly see the light snow that had fallen overnight on the hills, we had our first crisis of confidence. It would have been cold, wet, slippery and dangerous to attempt a crossing of the Pass in such conditions, so we all stood around looking at the ground, wondering who would be sensible enough to be a wet blanket and admit it. In the end the silence was eloquent, so we reluctantly elected to use our spare day so early in the trip. After the previous inhabitants of the hut had finally exited, we thought we might have the place to ourselves. But then some riff raff turned up from CMW! As many of them were either dual members of SBW, or people we had walked with over the years, it was a very pleasant and unexpected reunion!

Next day was clear, so we headed off up a faint foot pad towards Three Tarn Pass. The first few km were quite nice, with the vista of the rising mountains, but then we encountered the scree slope. As scree slopes go it was actually pretty good – stable, compacted, small rocks, etc – but it was a concave slope, so when you thought you were 80% up it, as you crested the curve, you then came to realise that you were only 40% up (and with a nine-day pack at 1,500m this was a tad disheartening). The first tarn was very pretty, as was the Pass itself (although it seemed to be missing its other side . . .). A steep diagonal descent (ie. don't look down, and just keep scrambling) led us to the lower tarns and a five-star

spot for for lunch (amphitheatre of jagged peaks, snow, crystal blue sky, glistening tarns etc.)

But then we had the steep descent, on slippery, snowy grass with rolling, fist sized rocks underneath. En route we met an Aryan God labouring up the slope, he seemed happy and oblivious to the challenges ahead (*insert Wagnerian interlude here*). Lower down we picked up a foot pad in the valley and eventually debouched at the small Bobs Hut for the night. The resident deer hunters had thoughtfully stripped their rifles of both bolts and bullets.

All the next day we walked up a river valley, mostly in the forest and 70% on a slight track – this was lovely with clear blue water, gushing cascades and moss forest. We made camp at the tree line and pondered the towering ridge line and Passes to come. Climbing up to Durville Pass was OK, as there was low cloud and we couldn't see the top, and thus laboured under the delusion that the top was "just there". There was another nice tarn for first mornos. The picture below is actually from the Pass and shows the route we then had to traverse – to put the scale in perspective, a human is but a pinprick in the picture.

You see the scree slope on the right hand side – it was about a 40° slope, and with an 800m run out – and the centre bit was one of those "how can I make my finger nails immediately grow in to crampons" moments. That said, the rest of the traverse was quite good, with lots of refreshing rock scrambling and leaping (this is where a nine-day pack comes in to it's own, as it gives you momentum, and heft as you land).

Having attained Thompson Pass we descended to the tarns for lunch – this is where we had a second crisis of confidence – it was only 1pm, a beautiful day and the mosquitoes were abundant. Here our Leader had absolutely no shame in utilising the ultimate weapon – that is, guilt. He pointed out that we had squandered our rest day and we needed to make up lost time, but if we wanted to to lolligag at the tarn, we could . . . But we understood the shame game and agreed to make it a real Three Pass Day. And so down we strode, then crawled up Waiau Pass and down the Scree Slope from Hell to Lake Constance. Fortunately, my Mr Gadget-Super-Watch could not record routes with ascents of more than 2,000m and descents of 2,000m in one day. Suffice to say it was a tired set of Bunnies that watched the hares cavort in the grassy glades at the headwaters of the lake.

Thence it was down to Blue Lake to peer into what is apparently the clearest water in the world – it



Lake Angelus

would have been nice to spend the remains of the day there, but we were still seeking to get back on schedule, and get ahead of the forecasted impending weather change. We had a nice descent to the fork in the track where we had a late lunch, and had to make a Decision. One route was another 800m ascent over Travers Saddle, with the accompanying scree, the other was a mere 14 km stroll down the valley to the Lake. As the latter would give us more weather options we elected to take the valley route – and a sylvan stroll it turned out to be.

Next day we had a steep climb on a good track up through the forest to pass through the tree

line to once more be on the tops. This provided extended views of a number of large lakes as well as the surrounding ranges. Mornos was held at Mt Cedric in the company of an Israeli girl of Ethiopian extraction as well as a Kiwi family doing our trip in reverse. Thence it was along a series of ridges to get to Lake Angelus for lunch. This mountain lake sits in a plateau surrounded by jagged peaks and is a truly magical place. We lazed away the afternoon talking to the garrulous Hut Warden, and swimming in the adjacent minor lake. Although there was a fair amount of rain that night, the next day indicated that it might clear – so we did a side trip up Angelus Peak via Sunset Saddle and were rewarded with the cloud lifting as we summited. We also met some Chamiox mountain goats and envied their adroitness when traversing the slopes.

That afternoon we elected to walk out as the weather was due to change. This too was a very pleasant stroll along Roberts Ridge to our final hut, overlooking the town of St Anaud far below. On the morrow we followed the zig zag track down into the trees and around to the Lake and thence to the town. As we were now a day early we scrounged up a bed and had a pleasant meal in the hotel restaurant. In all, a fantastic trip with unbelievably good weather in spectacular country.

www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/west-coast/greymouth/lewis-pass-tramping-tracks/

Mitchell Plateau No. 2 7-20 July 2013

Bushwalking at its best. Why waste your holiday sitting in a 4WD? Using light aircraft and helicopters allows us to reach this remote Kimberley Park in under two hours, allowing us more time to enjoy the spectacular scenery and wealth of Aboriginal art sites.

This trip is in two sections. On the first, we explore the Mitchell River between the two largest waterfalls. A helicopter then brings us to spectacular Donkins Falls. We then work our way back to the start. Both sections include at least one day walking without full packs.

Special offer. Recent circumstances have given me pause to reflect on my life and business. As a special thank you for your support, any Sydney Bushwalkers member who books either our Mitchell Plateau No. 2 or our Drysdale River trip (2-16 June) and quotes this ad, will get a **special \$1000 discount**. Ask us about other SBW specials. **Note:** some of our other discounts do not apply with this offer.

Willis's Walkabouts



Trip Report: Coolana, Easter 2013

Ian Wolfe

Dodds Pass – Day trip

Some “pass-the-parcel” phoning around a couple of weeks beforehand finally connected us with the relevant landowners, required to gain access permission (the key was to mention that “we own land lower down in the valley opposite Bendeela” as this established the bond of dirt under the fingernails). We spent a pleasant night at Coolana in preparation for the walk and started the day with a coffee and bacon pie from the Kangaroo Valley Bakery (they open at 6am every morning).

After rendezvousing with the rest of the party, we drove up the scenic, winding, Upper Kangaroo Valley Road to park the cars at Flat Rock. We thence walked up the dirt road, gradually ascending through a mixture of rainforest and pasture. We actually walked slightly past the turn off to the upper farm track, as it was indistinct ie grass and 100m west of where it is shown on the map. However, shortly thereafter we met the farmer and had a nice chat.

We perused Dodds Lagoon, which is a curious little natural pond perched on a shelf on the side of the mountain surrounded by grass with a backdrop of forest (it felt a bit like being in Switzerland). As it was pea green, we were not tempted to have a swim. The start of the old Bridle Track was located 150m to the SW, and had obviously been built to handle a horse and cart. Via a pleasant gradient, we followed it up through rain forest to the Escarpment and then through the cliffs for mornos. For a short time we were in a strip of the Budderoo National Park, and then the Yarrowa State Forest, as we traversed the track on the top of the plateau to the farmland beyond.

Then it was a bit like walking in southern England, as we walked around the paddocks saying hello to fat cows. Lunch at Dodds Lagoon Trig provided great views of the upper Kangaroo Valley and across to Ebbs Pass which we had descended the previous Easter. Having had enough of the paddocks, we

walked along the Escarpment in fairly open bush to find the remnants of the old winch machinery at the top of the Murray Incline. The Incline is an old timber extraction railway on a steep gradient. This was followed down through the cliffs into deep rainforest and over remnants of the railway ties.

Eventually we found the link track back to Dodds Lagoon and emerged onto the paddocks once more. Here we de-leached and had afternoon tea. Then, it was back down the hill to Yeola. Here the caretaker proudly displayed his miniature helicopter which he flies via an electronic link to the integral cameras (he advised that he had flown it down the length of the M4, and under the underpasses), and we formulated some plans for him to film the location of some of the more obscure passes in the upper Kangaroo Valley in preparation for next Easter. Once back at the cars we did a quick change and drove to the Old Store Barrengarry for their world famous pies for a munch. Some of us returned to Coolana for a pleasant dip in the river and a convivial evening around the campfire.

300m Ridge – Overnight trip

The original plan had been to cross just below the Tallowa Dam, and then ascend Parnoo Plateau via Cathedral Cave. Unfortunately, the significant amount of water cascading over the spillway would have meant that we would have needed very long snorkels to cross the river, so we implement the pre-prepared Plan B.

After doing a car swap we headed off from the Bugong Fire Trail across the plateau. This was initially in turpentine forest, and then reasonably open Banksia heath. After some careful navigation, by time and bearing, we found the extension ridge and lolly popped along enjoying some good views from the cliffs to the west. Lunch was taken at the cliff terminus at the 324 spot height to enjoy great views of the Shoalhaven Gorge and beyond to Drovers Ridge.





After descending the first cliffline, we navigated along the following ridges to the unknown second cliffline. This proved ok and we descended steeply down to Ron's (as in Watters) Creek. After a bit of a scout around to find the best spot, we had a nice swim in the river being buffeted by the current before making camp on the flat under the native lime trees. This was a very pleasant sojourn and that night we enjoyed the distinctive flapping of owls as they hunted in the forest.

Next day we climbed out of the creek, up a fairly clear ridge covered in Burrawangs. Thereafter we traversed the minor ridges to the knoll of Three Mates Ridge. After some fairly dense scrub we found the finger cliffline and climbed up for good views of Heifer Creek and Brooks Plateau to the north. The finger ridge was quite good walking on the rock for a fair distance, but then we moved onto the

broader plateau. This was an exercise in patience as we threaded our way through some fairly thick undergrowth in parts. Eventually, we found the remnants of an old 4WD track (shown on the photo on the reverse side of the map) and followed this back to the road.

A fairly pleasant stroll brought us back to the carpark for the Four Lookouts walk. Thus encouraged, we walked out to the Tallowa Dam Lookout to see the water going over the spillway. After retrieving the other car we went back to Coolana for a nice swim and then into the Kangaroo Valley Village to the pub for tea (where we spotted Warwick Deacock striding along the road and stopped for chat).

In all a good walk with great views in terrain frequented by Ron. Parnoo Plateau next year (fingers crossed).

Inauguration of the Dot Butler Conservation Reserve

In the late afternoon on the Saturday of the Reunion, people turned up at the Dot Butler Lookout by various ways and means. Some came from the carpark along the escarpment, others via the circuit track through Palm Jungle and an intrepid few emerged from the depth of the Reserve below.

Amongst the multitude were some of Dot's relatives, including her daughter Rhona (AKA Aluna Clearwater, who is now looking very much like Dot did at the same age, and who has much of the same energy and passionate attachment to unique perspectives!) and Dot's granddaughter Lyra (she is Wade's daughter and has the same long lean frame and face) who brought along her two little munchkins. Also there were a number of Members who had been long-term friends of Dot and Warwick Deacock, who introduced Dot to Coolana, as well as

a fair number of active Members .

We gathered on the edge of the cliffline overlooking the large bush basin that encompasses the Reserve and through which Dot's Creek flows. The current and immediate past Presidents said a few words to welcome everyone, and to outline the process of getting the Reserve named. We then filled our lungs and let fly two resounding *day-os* which rebounded from the cliff walls of the escarpment to echo back at us. And somewhere in there, we heard a distinct chuckle emanating from above....

Then it was into party mode with munchies and wine being consumed as people recounted "Dot moments". We all then carefully toddled down the hill to the river flats for supper and the conferring of the bones of office on the new President.



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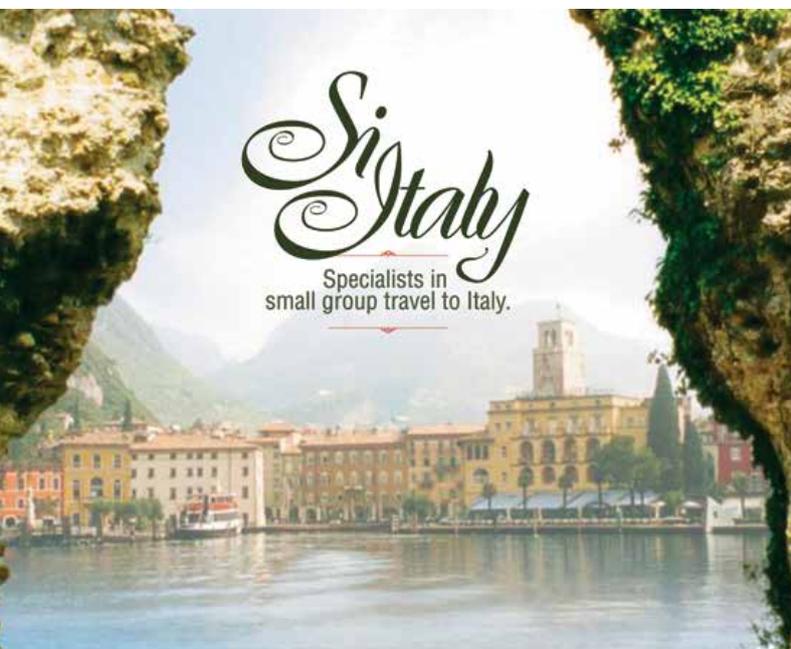
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Online Renewal of Membership Process

NB: For Members who have nominated posted communications, the below does not apply.

If you have elected for electronic communications, you will shortly receive an email prompt to conduct your renewal, with a link to launch the site.

Your information on SBW's database will be automatically populated – if anything has changed, please update it. Otherwise, simply conduct the required payment to complete the action. This should only take 2–3 minutes for most people (in order to avoid a session time out, please seek to complete the renewal in one go, and not pause for a cup of tea).

You will need to have handy:

- Your online banking details. When you get to the Payment Section, please pause and open a new session with your own bank and conduct an electronic deposit (we are not using credit cards in Phase 1). SBW's bank account details are listed on the right hand side of the screen – in your bank screen, make the payment and copy the Transaction ID into the indicated field on the SBW web page. Please seek to pay by EFT rather than by cheque, as it is secure, swift and accurate; whereas cheques have to pass through many hands before they are fully cleared and require a lot of transcribing of details by our volunteers ie a range of things can go awry.
- If you have a current First Aid certificate – insert the organisation (St John, Red Cross, etc), qualification level and expiry date (so that we can prompt you for renewal ahead of time and encourage you to access the subsidy SBW provides). We need this information to help contain our insurance premiums, as well as the ongoing management of the risks associated

with our outdoor activities.

- If you own one, your car registration number, its colour and people carrying capacity (this information will be used in Phase 2 of the web upgrade to help facilitate organisation of transport).
- The name, phone number, and preferably an email address, for your Emergency Contact (this should not be the person you walk with).
- Please seek to supply an individual long term private email address rather than an employer/education email address.
- Date of birth – this is used by our insurer to calculate age brackets, and is part of the total insurance appraisal (we will keep this information completely confidential).

When conducting Renewals, please use your nominated email address and password in the renewal screens. Once you have finished please print and save the Success screen so that you have a receipt and a record of your transaction.

If you can't remember your password, please click on the *Forgot your Password* text at the bottom of the login screen and your password will be emailed to you. Please record this somewhere you can remember for future reference.

Honorary Life Members – you too will receive a renewal email, for the purpose of ensuring that we have your updated details. No financial payment is required. Please enter a zero (0) in the Payments and Transaction Details fields.

Should you have any questions, please email communications@sbw.org.au or membership@sbw.org.au

Confederation Name Change

On 19 March 2013, The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Incorporated officially changed its name to Bushwalking NSW Inc. The name change was voted upon and carried at the last General Meeting.



SBW Social Media

To advise members of time urgent items, send an email to 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

If you are not a member of facebook, sign up by going to www.facebook.com then add our page

Trip Report: Mt Talaterang weekend

16–17 March 2013: Stephen Brading

This is one of my favourite bushwalks because the views are magnificent and the access is good. I made four trips to the mountain last year. It is isolated and provides plenty of interesting challenges. Our party was a snapshot of the diversity found within SBW, with the oldest walker being over 70 and the youngest being 27. Fitness and experience within the group varied widely. The group comprised of Tony Manes, Ted Nixon, Melinda Turner, Cathy Hui, Stanley Wong, Stephen Tree and me.

Most of the group met for breakfast at the North Nowra McDonalds where one of Melinda's car tyres went flat while people ate. So we had a 10am start for the walk. The tourist section of the track was in great shape and the footpad out to Gadera Point was almost as good. Although the clarity of the view across to the Castle and other Budawang features were obscured by blue haze cameras were given a workout as we walked, and we still made good time to Gadera Point.

The group handled the Gadera Point down climbs through the cliff line well. This was a first time experience for Cathy and a test of Ted's flexibility. I found a couple of really small blackish brown snakes (baby browns) on the track in the exact spot I found an identical snake 4 months ago. We also disturbed a tiger snake later in the day.



The walk then followed a sheltered hot and humid wooded ridge top saddle behind a small conical hill and across another saddle before the sharp climb to the top of the first Mt Talaterang cliff line. This tested the endurance of most of the party. We also collected the odd leech here.

Lunch was at the top of Pallin Pass. There were views up and across Holland Gorge, though a blue haze because it was a still, hot day. We continued climbing up the good footpad to the top Talaterang cliff line, where I found the short-cut avoiding

the logbook and swamp, which had been totally overgrown since last October by high vegetation. We bush-bashed through the clearest part to regain the cliff edge and moved through the vegetation to reach lengthy rock platforms. At the end of the platforms the footpad down a spur to the top of the lower Mt Talaterang cliff top had been improved by the passage of a large group of people in front us.

By the time we reached my choice of afternoon tea spot with a great view of Pigeonhouse Mountain (called The Breast by Aboriginals) the group in front were only five to ten minutes ahead. By consensus our group decided to forgo afternoon tea in order to overtake the slower group (they left the cars 2.5hrs before we did) and before they could follow us to our campsite. The slower party of at least ten (all alpha male) had no idea where they were spending the night and had no tents. 15 minutes later we met Tony who walked in a day ahead of us and I handed over the leadership role to him (my seven trip experience is no match for his 40+). He then took us to the camping cave arriving just after 4.30pm.

We settled in and collected water and firewood before happy hour out on the rock with a view to the Castle, Byangee Walls and if the weather is clear, Victoria. But cloud came up and we were soon enjoying our treats in a whiteout. Dinner followed until drizzle moved us undercover. Conversation and port followed with a beautiful star show when the sky cleared for a while and finally I climbed into my sleeping bag at midnight. Rain followed almost immediately.

I arose around 7.30am and took some photos of the view and we reluctantly left the camping overhang around 9.30am and commenced the return walk.

Nowra RSL smorgasboard was up to its usual standard on the way home. In summary an excellent weekend, in a great location with a really entertaining group of people.



Trip Report: South Coast Track

2-11 Feb: Anna Thorwart

Day 0: After leaving a stormy Sydney after an hour delay, we finally arrived Friday evening in Hobart where, luckily, Ed and Jo's food for the next ten days was waiting for them in their hotel room as planned.

Day 1: Melaleuca – Point Eric. We took the 9am flight with Paravion to Melaleuca. As it turned out, this would be the last flight of the day going to Melaleuca as the pilot had to wait there until the weather cleared up to fly back to Hobart. This was particularly lucky for us, as a large commercial group was scheduled for the same day but because of the delay they were always a day behind us. After one of the volunteers currently stationed in Melaleuca showed us the birds at the feeding station, we took off for the South Coast Track in drizzling rain and walked the 11km down to Cox Bight and our campsite next to Point Eric. As was true for the rest of our track, the creek crossings were easy, the mud not too bad and the boardwalks slippery.

Day 2: Point Eric – Louisa Bay. The weather was clearing up when we made our way over the Red Point Hills to our first "proper" creek crossing across Faraday Creek, which was only knee-deep, and then on to Louisa Creek. As it was still early afternoon, we decided to go down to the camp site in Louisa Bay. The official track junction is now at GR 874 461 and part of the track is on boardwalks. The last 20m descends steeply down the cliffs to Louisa Bay, but there are ropes (and fellow bushwalkers) to help. We had a fantastic swim, shower and dinner at Louisa Bay.

Day 3: Louisa Bay – Louisa River. A short day through the swamps to the beautiful forest of Louisa River, where we relaxed and prepared ourselves for the Ironbound the next day.

Day 4: Louisa River – Little Deadmans Bay. A big day over the Ironbound, with ascent and descent of 920m each over 12km. In the end, it was not as bad as expected as we had perfect weather (no wind or rain and enough high cloud to prevent the sun from burning us) with brilliant views across the whole South Coast. The way up is the easy part, as it goes along open plains on a solid track. Coming down, the trail meanders steeply through

rainforest, with a lot of slippery stones and roots and trees. In the evening, we had a few bruised knees

and a few less brain cells due to several head butts, which were unevenly distributed across our group. However, we arrived in Little Deadmans Bay without any major injuries and tired but happy. (We were told that one should treat all water as the place is known for gastro, probably because all commercial groups have a rest day here.)

Day 5: Little Deadmans Bay – New River Lagoon. As we had caught up now with one commercial group who was heading to Osmiridium Beach and the news from the other was that they would skip their rest day at Deadmans Bay and head to Osmiridium Beach as well, we changed our plans and decided to go only to the campsite at New River Lagoon instead (other walkers reported afterwards that there was not enough drinking water at Osmiridium Beach). After a late start, we walked through the muddy swamps behind Deadman Bay to Prion Beach, where we were surprised by a large seal sunbathing next to Goring Creek. We filled our bladders as there is no reliable fresh water creek at New River Lagoon and then walked the 4km along Prion Bay. Whereas the other groups, who were heading further on, crossed the Lagoon at the mouth on foot, Ed rowed us over to the camp site a little further inside the lagoon, where we had a pleasant afternoon and night with views of Precipitous Bluff and the mountain ranges behind it, and the company of some wallabies, possums and Tasmanian devils.



Day 6: New River Lagoon – Surprise Bay. We walked atop New River Lagoon and down a sandy climb to. There, Jo and I were discussing how lucky we were to walk the track in this direction as we weren't sure if we'd be able to get up the sandy climb. As we found out 30 min later at the other end of the next beach, we would. A storm was building out to sea when we arrived at the camp site on top of Surprise Bay and bets were taken when it would hit us. No clear winner could be announced as the storm never actually came. As a pleasant surprise, fires are allowed at Surprise Bay and we took the opportunity to get rid of most of our rubbish – including the hotel reservation of Ed and Jo back in Hobart, including their access code.

Day 7: Surprise Bay – Granite Beach. A very short day across just one headland to the next beach. We had a spectacular spot at the top of the camp site at Granite Beach and a relaxing afternoon and evening with books and tea. Unfortunately, the previous groups left the camp dirty (including fresh food), the toilet more or less full and the lid broken. There is another campsite right on the other side of the creek which might have been a better alternative.

Day 8: Granite Beach – South Cape Rivulet. After a windy and stormy night, we started the climb up to the South Coast Range. Overall the day had 750m up and down, with a couple of 400m hills, to cross along the South Cape Range. The first part was pretty muddy and Jo and I lost both the main track and Ed once, when we used a side track to walk around a mud hole. It started raining as we crossed the top of the range and as it was pretty cold, we had only a quick lunch break. The way on the other side was easier and, sheltered by the mountains, the weather cleared up, so that we had some good views along the cliffs. When we arrived at the South Cape Rivulet campsite, we were alone, as we had



been since Deadmans Bay. Half an hour later, we were introduced back into civilisation by a group of 15 girls on a school camp and a family. The latter took pity on us and gave us our first fresh fruit and vege in a week. (The water of South Camp Rivulet was brackish and not very tasty. There are some small creeks further along the beach.)

Day 9: South Cape Rivulet – Cockle Creek. We slept in and spent the morning at South Cape Rivulet. After brunch, we walked out to Cockle Creek. This was one of the muddiest section of the whole track – and our freshly cleaned boots and gaiters were soon dirty again. As it was a long weekend in Tasmania, Cockle Creek was crowded but still a nice spot to finish the walk and eat all the remaining food.

Day 10: Cockle Creek – Hobart. The pre-booked bus left Cockle Creek around 11.30AM. After stopping for lunch on our way, we were back in Hobart around 3.30pm.

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

Website - contributions, suggestions, errors? Contact webmaster@sbw.org.au

Address and email change? Please login to 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 and click **Forgot Your Password** at the bottom of the Login Box – then follow the prompts.

Support our **NO HUNTING** in National Parks Campaign



T-shirts or signs for purchase!

By popular demand, NPA has produced a range of items supporting the No Hunting in National Parks campaign.

We now have organic cotton T-shirts with the logo No Hunting in National Parks available for purchase in five sizes.

We have also printed more of our A3 corflute signs in two designs, "Not Happy Barry" and "No Hunting in National Parks". These are perfect for attaching to your front fence, placing in your front window or carrying at rallies.

All proceeds from sales will support the No Hunting in National Parks campaign.

There are two ways you can purchase these:

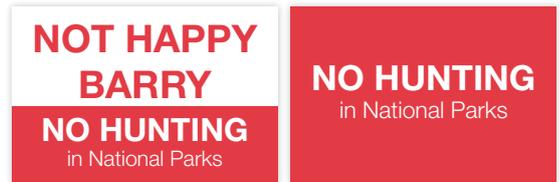
- 1. Visit our office** – Level 2, 5 Wilson St, Newtown NSW 2042. (No postage and handling cost if purchased this way).
- 2. By post** – fill out the tear-out form opposite this page and send it back to us at National Parks Association of NSW, PO Box 337, Newtown NSW 2042. (Please note: the tear-out form is double sided. One side is a T-shirt and sign order form, and the other side is a separate donation form. Please just fill out the sections that are relevant to your wishes.)

100% Organic T-Shirt

Please note, the t-shirts are unisex and are available in five sizes.

Cost: \$15 each + \$8 P&H

Size: For men: standard sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL.
For women: S = 8–10, M = 10–12, L = 14–16, XL = 18–20, 2XL = 22–24



A3 Corflute Signs

Cost: \$32 for 10 or \$55 for 20 (incl P&H)

Two types available in batches of 10 (see above): "Not Happy Barry" and "No Hunting". Batches can be 10 of one type or a mixture.

Order Form: **NO HUNTING** in National Parks Campaign Items

Name _____

Address _____ Suburb _____

State _____ Postcode _____ Phone _____

T-shirts (\$23 incl P&H)

Please specify the quantity of each size desired

.....SM ...L.... XL..... 2XL....

A3 Sign (\$32 for 10 or \$55 for 20 incl P&H)

Please specify the quantity of each type desired (batches of 10)

....."Not Happy Barry" "No Hunting"

I would like to pay by cheque/ money order (attached)

Or **Credit card** MasterCard Visa

Card #

Expiry (mm.yy)

Name on card _____ Signature _____

25th Annual NavShield, 6–7 July 2013

Great Club Navigation Training Opportunity!

The NSW Emergency Services Wilderness Navigation Shield (NavShield), is an overnight event where teams attempt to gain as many points as possible by finding their way on foot, through unfamiliar wilderness terrain to pre-marked checkpoints.

The course covers an area of 80–100km² and only traditional map and compass techniques are permitted. The course is set by a team of skilled navigators from the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad – the official Search & Rescue arm of Bushwalking NSW.

The course will be set in a secret location (within 2 hours of Sydney) and will take place on the first weekend of July 2013.

Encompassing the finest traditions and character of bushwalking, NavShield is an opportunity to get back to basics and work on important navigation skills, without the use of GPS.

It's an ideal training opportunity for Club members to learn and practice in a fun and enjoyable weekend. You can choose to make it as competitive or as amateur/fun as you like!

NavShield is the primary fundraising activity for BWRS, so come and support your Search and Rescue Squad, while taking part in a great, fun event.

Proudly supported by the NSW State Rescue Board, the event is open to rescue teams from around the world. Past events have seen entries from a variety of Bushwalking and Rogain Clubs, Police, Ambulance, Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, Volunteer Rescue Association and the Armed Forces.

Now is the time to organise your teams and add this to the schedule of events.

Registrations for this year's event are now open and all information is available on the Squad's website, www.bwrs.org.au.

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Kanga Bangas down on the Kowmung

Virginia Waller

Easter means many things to many people. For a bunch of SBW members, the recent Easter long weekend meant donning the overnight pack and heading west to Kanangra Boyd National Park.

Our group of 15 was led by David Trinder, but for logistics we split into two walking parties and camped together as one. The weather gods were smiling and the days were dry and sunny while night skies were clear and star-filled.

Day 1

Depart 10am from Kanangra Walls (elevation 1060m).

Our route followed the Gingra Track out past Cottage Rock. We left the Gingra Track at coordinates 330 041 0011 and 350 021 0011 and followed Bullhead Ridge down to Cambadge Spire and on to Sullen Tor (contour 300m). Sounds simple enough? Not when your pack is heavy and the terrain underfoot slides out from under you. To be polite, our party was on the slow side – we snailed into camp at 7pm. To be fair, we did take a few unplanned side trips (translated as navigational stuff-ups with a certain VW navigating). We had the bonus of an extra 100m climb as we took the turn for Bullhead too early and rather than climb across the gully all agreed to climb back and find the track. This was a wise choice as we found the track and a great lunch spot in the clearing.

The area around Cambadge Spire is particularly beautiful – tremendous views, soft grasses and Shea oaks mark the top – a good spot for resting before navigating the exposed way down. As the shadows grew longer I resorted to a not very alpinist technique of sliding on my bum with one leg outstretched the other tucked under – I was over balancing my pack and concentrating on not slipping. We over-stepped the mark and went slightly around to the left of Sullen Tor, hence we arrived in Arabanoo Creek and crossed into Christys Creek and finally made it to the KOWMUNG RIVER! The Kowmung is like something from a postcard – you'll pinch yourself to make sure you are really there, it is so idyllic.

It was a welcome sight to spy our fellow walkers resting by a magnificent fire – for which I think a certain M. Powell may have been responsible.

Tents erected (thank you Mr Tree) and packs stowed, the evening was spent lounging by the campfire, and I didn't hit the Therm-a-Rest® 'til 10pm.

Day 2

Walk along/in the Kowmung. Depart 8.15am.

After a terrific sleep in my Tectite 1 UL (and special mention of my ready to go cereal out of plastic-seal-proof bag, breakfast never tasted so good) I was ready to take on the challenges of creek crossings.

After the initial submersion up to your armpits in the creek the remaining crossings do become fun . . . I'm not being sarcastic, honest. We navigated our way down the serpentine body of the river into the early afternoon. Lunch was on a bank before Bullhead Buttress. We decided to head up over Bullhead and down on to Orange Bluff, the campsite for our second night.

We reach the delightful Orange Bluff just before 3pm and the afternoon was spent swimming, reading and snoozing by the Kowmung . . . Sublime!

Day 3

Climb out. Depart 8.15am.

Our route climbed up from Orange Bluff (elevation 250m) via Brumby Ridge, across Brumby Mountain (elevation 645m) and continued along the ridge and re-joins the Gingra Track at First Top Mountain (elevation 834m). We walked along the base of Cottage Rock and reached the cars early at 1.30pm for a very civilised and assorted lunch of Easter eggs, someone's orange, Robert Timms coffee - ahhhhhhh the joys having the car close and the Primus handy. Can thoroughly recommend the timber sheds as a lunch spot.

Request – need another dose!

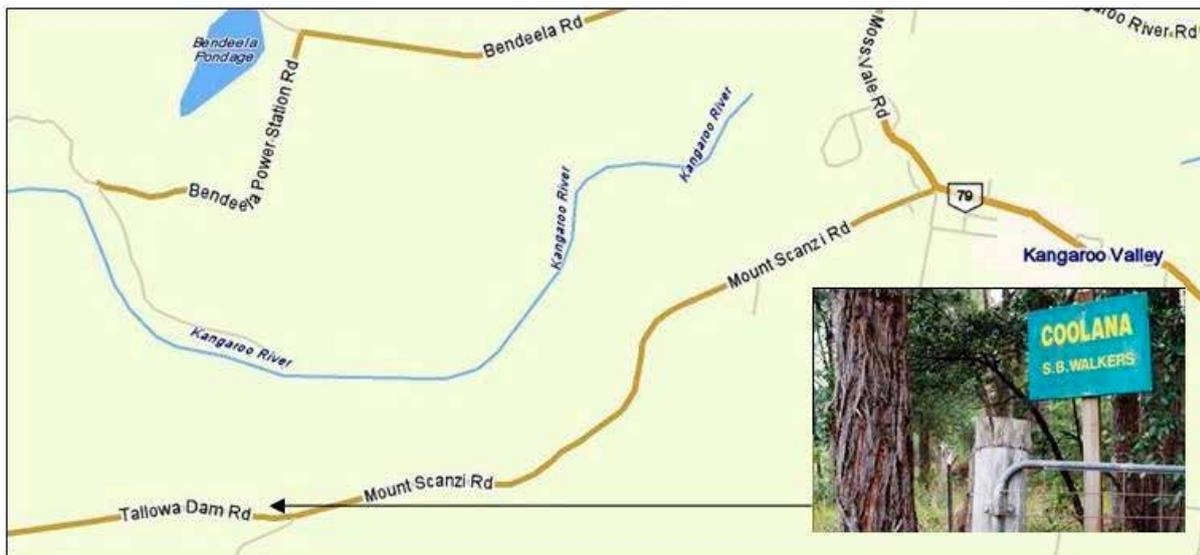
Post script: From here on I am definitely an ultra-light convert.



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. For further information, refer to www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/FireClosure.aspx.

No parks currently affected by fire
97 parks with closed areas
19 parks with fire bans

For hazard reduction burning information, major wildfire updates and a list of all current incidents in NSW, please visit the NSW Rural Fire Service website.

It is essential that if you are planning back country hiking, camping or four wheel drive access into National Parks that you check with your local NPWS office first to obtain the latest information.

Please note some National Parks and reserves have burnt areas due to hazard reduction burning or wildfires. It is very important that members of the public stay out of burnt bushland areas for the following reasons:

For safety reasons – only trees directly adjacent to the tracks/trails have been assessed for dangerous tree limbs. Trees inside the burnt areas, however, have been damaged by fire and branches/trees could fall down and injure someone.

To help the bushland regenerate – by keeping off the newly burnt ground it will protect and enable new growth to form to prevent unauthorised tracks forming throughout the bushland.

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

Basin Trail upgrade works (Ends Friday 31 May):

The Basin Trail will be closed from the Mackerel Service Trail to the Basin Campground in order to undertake upgrade works. The Basin Aboriginal engravings and the Mackerel Track will remain accessible. All access to the Basin Campground during this period is by water only. Services include Palm Beach Ferries, Barrenjoey Boating Service, Peninsular Water Taxis & Pink Water Taxis or access is available to private boats. Locations affected: The Basin track and Mackerel track, The Basin picnic area, The Basin campground

Upgrade of Barrenjoey Headland Access Trail - Barrenjoey Lighthouse

Access to the headland is via the Smugglers Walking Track ONLY. Please be advised that this track is steep in sections and people should be moderately fit and

prepared with good walking shoes, hat and water before embarking. It is anticipated that the works will be completed towards the end of June, weather dependent.

Berowra Valley Regional Park

Impass of Calna Bridge, Crosslands Reserve

Due to unforeseen weather conditions the Calna Creek footbridge connecting Crosslands Reserve, Hornsby Heights and the Great North Walk north of Sam's Creek is impassable. Therefore access to the Great North Walk is from Glenview Road at Mount Ku-ring-gai. It is currently not known how long will be required to rectify this situation.

Warrumbungle National Park

Following the recent bushfire Warrumbungle National Park will be open in a limited capacity only.

Whitegum Lookout and Camp Wambelong will be open for day use only.

Whitegum Lookout Walk is the only walking track open.

John Renshaw Parkway is open.

For more information please contact the Coonabarabran Area Office on 02 6842 1311.



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!

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>2–11 Feb 2013 AREA: South West National Park, TAS GRADE: M232</p> <p>START PLACE: Melaleuca FINISH PLACE: Cockle Creek</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: South Coast Track from Melaleuca to Cockle Creek, with a side trip to Louisa Bay</p> <p>see page 9 for full report</p>	<p>Anna Thorwart</p> <p>Edward Squires Josette Squires</p>
<p>3 Feb 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232E Q WALK</p> <p>START PLACE: Tableland Road FINISH PLACE: Queen Victoria Hospital</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Tableland Rd, Double Hill, Lions Head, Lions Head Pass, Kedumba Crossing, Goat Track, Kedumba Fire Trail, Queen Vic Hospital.</p> <p>Perfect weather, stunning scenery and good company meant that a fun day was had by all.</p> <p>After a warm up along King’s Tableland Road, the group turned right onto a path near Double Hill and headed along Lions Head Ridge to a point south-west of Lions Head for morning tea.</p> <p>We then back-tracked 15 mins to the cairn and then headed down the gully. Towards the bottom we beared left to a large fallen tree at 578 562. We took a bearing to where we thought the track started, but then decided to head slightly more south to keep on the top of a slight ridge and suddenly came across the track. (It starts at 575 560, which is further east than indicated on the map). Navigating from there to the shady lunch and swimming spot near Kedumba Crossing was easy.</p> <p>After a leisurely lunch we collected water from upstream of the crossing of Waterfall Creek, made a short detour to some ruins, and then headed up Kedumba Road to a path going off to the left at 564 579. At 565 581 we turned sharp right onto the goat track. After some good exercise, and a few stops and plenty of nice views, we got to the road near Cleary’s Memorial via a fixed rope and tape. There was no sign of the chains that we’d heard about, so look forward to finding them next time. (According to a Michael Keats’ walk report, the GRs are 567 581 (top) and 567 581 (bottom). Thanks to Chris for finding those.)</p> <p>A stroll along the road took us back to the cars, & the cars to Wentworth Falls ‘pink’ pub by 5pm for some well deserved refreshments! Special thanks to Helen for good mentoring.</p>	<p>John Robb</p> <p>Jim Vaughan Peter Cai Helen MacDonald Chris Dowling Virginia Waller John Currie</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Anne-Marie Currie Ben Watt Tony Han</p>
<p>12 Feb 2013 AREA: Royal National Park GRADE: S221</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Garie Beach</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Garie Beach, Thelma Ridge, Garrawarra, Burning Palms Beach and return.</p> <p>The walk went in fine weather with great coastal views.</p>	<p>Bill Holland</p> <p>Ted Nixon Gerry Leitner</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Janette Allan-Fiore Colin Fulton</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>24 Feb 2013 AREA: Centennial Park, Sydney GRADE: Basic Skills Workshop</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Centennial Park</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Navigation, Bushcraft and First Aid Training</p> <p>On a day that threatened rain (which never arrived), five members trained 30 prospectives in navigation, First Aid and bushcraft in Centennial Park and progressed these people toward full membership.</p> <p>The trainers were Richard Darke who organised the day but could not be there, David Trinder who was leader on the day, Patrick McNaught, Glenn Draper, John O’Riordan, Karl Miller and Aaron Walker.</p> <p>Attendees: Stuart Murphy, Joost Steenvoorden, Gloria Roberts, Tammi Safi, Joanne McLachlan, Gray Thorn, Nicola Piper, Liz Sweetland, Ewen Ferguson, Steven Jackson, Barbara Laborczfalvi, Joe Laborczfalvi, Pamela Buchanan, Jason Miller, Anita Paddock, Ben Watt, Tracey Avolio, Alicia O’Reilly, Jenny Jones, Graham Lane, Marlene Fransen, Louise Nolan, Tanya Powell, Leah Cave, Jen Molocco, Giacomo Casalicchio, Sabrina Mina, David Doctor, Grant Carter, Larry Terrance.</p>	<p>Richard Darke David Trinder</p> <p>Patrick McNaught Glenn Draper John O’Riordan Karl Miller Aaron Walker</p>
<p>18 -22 Feb 2013 AREA: Myola, Jervis Bay</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Myola Beach</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kayaking, walking and cycling</p> <p>There were 16 of us staying in two houses close to the beach and river. The week was spent with kayaking, cycling and walking along the beach and in the bush. Long evening happy hours and socialising followed the daytime activities.</p>	<p>Bill Holland</p> <p>Lyn Poleson John Poleson Kate Murdoch Barrie Murdoch Jo van Sommers Jim Percy Jan Roberts Brian Ogilwy Tammi Safi George Mawer Rick Angel Patrick James John Pozniac Hubert Habich</p>
<p>23-24 Feb 2013 AREA: Wollemi National Park GRADE: M231</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Newnes Camping Gound</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: The Pipeline Track joins Newnes, in the Wolgan Valley, with Glen Davis in the Capertee Valley.</p> <p>Five of us camped at Newnes in the rain on Friday night. The other two arrived on Saturday morning, in the rain, and we walked from Newnes over the mountain to Glen Davis, in the rain.</p> <p>We had been hoping for a miracle in the form of a break in the weather, so our Saturday night camp at Glen Davis would not be totally miserable. In the event, the rain just got worse and worse. But we got our miracle – we found a house to rent for the night! With our clothes drying in front of a log fire, the electric kettle boiling and our dinners simmering in proper saucepans, I have never seen such a happy bunch of campers!</p> <p>The return trip on Sunday was blessed with dry weather and good visibility, enabling us to enjoy what is truly stunning scenery in both the Capertee and Wolgan Valleys.</p>	<p>Leigh McClintock</p> <p>David Bell Lucy Moore Graham Byrne Jan Spencer Don Andrews Rosemary MacDougal</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>2-3 Mar 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Carlon's Farm</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Saturday: Carlon's Farm, Bellbird Ridge (400m down, open, off track), Breakfast Creek, Faithful Hound Ridge (400m up, off track, mild exposure), Kennel Flat, Mt Dingo to camp, sunset and sunrise on magnificent Splendour Rock – 15km. Sunday: Mt Merrimerrigal, Wombat Parade, Blackhorse Mountain, Mount Mouin, Medlow Gap and fire trail to Carlon's – 18km</p> <p>Despite a forecast of showers for both days and heavy rain all week, the full group turned up and set off in cloud and drizzle. The descent of Bellbird Ridge was slippery at the bottom, and we arrived at the intersection of Lyrebird and Breakfast Creeks to find them both pumping with white water. We arrived at Faithful Hound with only one creek crossing but we had two swimmers before a safe thigh high spot was found. Leeches were on the attack! We could just see back across to Bellbird from the rock ledge at the top of Faithful Hound, then Steve navigated us up the ridge to Kennel Flats. Mobbs Soak was gushing clean water and everyone got their huge water carry up to Splendour Rock. The rain stopped while we pitched our tents but threatened to spoil the evening and make a fire impossible. The rain relented and Dan, Dirk and Tim conjured a great fire, so despite no sunset, 30mm overnight rain, no sunrise and only a fleeting view towards Kanangra Walls, we set off on Sunday in good spirits.</p> <p>Luckily the skies partially cleared as we got to the underrated Black Horse Mountain for morning tea. Everyone could spot the routes of all their previous walks in the Wild Dogs with the Krungle Bungles as backdrop. The two rock-ledge lookouts on Mt Mouin allowed us to see Narrowneck, the southern side of Mt Solitary, across to Lake Burragorang and back along the Wild Dogs Ridge to Splendour Rock. A quick descent to Medlow Gap was marred by another sustained leech attack resulting in a massive strip down de-leeching on the fire trail.</p> <p>The fire trail slog back to Carlon's was suddenly exciting when we found the usually tiny Sliprail Creek had been gouged into a 50m wide, 5m deep, valley by a landslide and deluge. Massive boulders had stripped the creek clean and debris showed the water level had risen to about 10m! The fire trail came to a ledge and disappeared, and it took us ten minutes to find it on the other side of the creek behind all the debris.</p> <p>We finished with coffee and apple pie in the Megalong Tea Rooms – our appetite not spoiled by Tim disgorging a bloodied leech as big as his little finger!</p> <p>Well done to Prospectives Steve, Steve and Robert for completing this tough Q overnighiter.</p>	<p>Huw ap Rees</p> <p>Dirk Goes Frances Bottrell Mary Liu Tim Sutherland Dan Laver</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Robert Fenton Stephen Cox Stephen Tree</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

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>2 Mar 2013 AREA: Royal National Park GRADE: M211</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Heathcote Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Heathcote Station, Heathcote Trig (GR 16897 26638), Karloo Track, Karloo Pool,Uloola Falls, Peach Trees Trig (GR 19583 24152), Uloola Track, Kookaburra Flat Track, Audley, Loftus Station, (train to) Heathcote Station.</p> <p>The wet weather all week and on the day of the walk did nothing to dampen the spirits of this enthusiastic and chatty group. Water levels on Kangaroo Creek were a concern (Audley end was too risky to cross) so we approached the walk in reverse, with an option to exit from Audley to Loftus Station, which was exercised after a rather wet walk in Audley – except possibly for the walker who took their trusty umbrella (we have photos)!</p> <p>We took the opportunity to explore a few faint side tracks that presented us with a wonderful set of cascading falls upstream from Uloola Falls and some extensive and well preserved Aboriginal rock engravings and sharpening grooves on a sloping rock platform further into the walk. Both trigs were located including an extended off-track ramble around Peach Trees Trig.</p> <p>The local leech population certainly sent out numerous welcome parties with some up close and personal attention required throughout the walk to de-leech (and post-walk, including a scream from the passenger seat on the drive back home as yet another leech made its way out of a boot!).</p> <p>All Prospective members (Tracey, Sarah x 2 and Petros) performed exceptionally well in the poor conditions and never lost their sense of enthusiasm and humour.</p>	<p>Robert Carter</p> <p>John Kennett</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Tracey Avolio Sarah Harris Petros Nikoloudis Sarah Gough</p>
<p>9 Mar 2013 AREA: Royal National Park GRADE: Easy</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Wattamolla</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Wattamolla, Big Marley Beach and return. Clean up Big Marley. Little Marley, Marley Headland and return. Joint NPA activity.</p> <p>A short walk from Wattamolla to the Clean Up activity around Marley. After some threatening weather, final numbers were seven. We followed the track to Little Marley, picking up rubbish along the way, and cleaned up the fishing rubbish along the Headland.</p> <p>After lunch on the Headland, we cleaned up the rock platforms to Big Marley, finding plenty of beer cans and bottles along the way. At this point a few turned back and the remaining three met NPA members halfway along Big Marley Beach.</p> <p>We did not reach the Lagoons. The sea was too wild for swimming, but the day was sunny and mild, as the rain held off. We finished with a clean up on the track back.</p>	<p>Lesley Clarke</p> <p>Neil Cartwright P Members Karolina Adamczyk David Gentle Fiona McIntyre</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Frances Gentle Linda Porter</p>
<p>9 Mar 2013 AREA: Ben Bullen State Forest GRADE: S222E</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Ben Bullen State Forest</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: 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>Yuri Bolotin</p> <p>David Trinder Peter Cai Daniel Deng Paul Barton</p>
<p>16-17 Mar 2013 AREA: Morton National Park GRADE: M222 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Mt Bushwalker Carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Mt Bushwalker carpark, Gadera Point, Mt Talaterang, Pallen Pass, Holland Gorge, Talaterang Creek, Camping Overhang, and return.</p> <p>see page 8 for full report</p>	<p>Stephen Brading</p> <p>Tony Manes Ted Nixon Melinda Turner Cathy Hui Stanley Wong</p> <p><i>Prospectives</i> Stephen Tree</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>17 Mar 2013 AREA: Avalon, Sydney GRADE: M212</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Avalon Bus Stop</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Bangally Head, Careel Bay, Stapleton Reserve, Angophera Reserve , Clareville Beach, Bilgola Plateau, Palm Grove</p> <p>Weather fine but swell dangerous so our rock hopping section of the walk had to be avoided and we used suburban streets to get to Bangally Reserve instead of the rocks. We did the unofficial "Yana Wendt" track to get to the Whale Beach lookout and then down to the lovely mangroves of Careel Bay. The walk was short but had a lot of variety with off track sections in three separate reserves.</p> <p>A highlight were ice creams at the Careel Bay marina and a swim at Clareville Beach with the aroma of BBQ sausages coming across the water.</p> <p>A feature of the walk was the number of easements between private property, some of which were certainly not obvious. This walk works best with the rock hopping section included and is really too short without it, so may need to include a coastal section which isn't affected by the state of the sea next time.</p>	<p>Roger Treagus</p> <p>Peter Cunningham Tim Yewdall Mark Patterson Jenny Paton Jan McLean Vicky Zhang</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Petros Nikoloudis Fiona McRustie Miu Pang Kan Lee</p>

Accommodation in the Kangaroo Valley

As an alternative to camping at *Coolana* there is the option of hut accommodation at *Chakola* (which is on the right a couple of kilometres before *Coolana*, on the road to Tallowa Dam). This is the facility run by Conservation Volunteers Australia, who orchestrate a large number of conservation projects across Australia primarily staffed by young visitors from overseas.

The Property has 16 small rustic cabins which can accommodate up to 37 guests. Cabins are basic but comfortable, and range in size from single, twin share and double to four-share dormitory-style rooms. Bed linen is available upon request for a small additional cost. Amenity blocks with showers and toilets are a short stroll from the cabins. A camp kitchen and dining area is available for self-catering.

Facilities include:

- BBQ
- Commercial grade kitchen stocked with all cooking utensils
- Shower and toilet blocks
- Table tennis and dart board in communal recreation area
- Wood heater with comfortable seating
- Training and Education Room for up to 37 people (i.e. as a Conference venue)
- Access to DVD and TV

www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/about-us/land-management/chakola

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>24 Mar 2013 AREA: Kuring-gai National Park GRADE: S222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Basin Car Park</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Jim's Track to Little Pittwater, north end of Challenger Head, rock hop to Hungry Beach, return Jim's Track. Sunny, warm day. Many pretty views over the Hawkesbury, lovely swim at Hungry Beach. Thousands of small crabs on Little Pittwater beach provided unexpected entertainment.</p>	<p>John Kennett</p> <p>Steve Tusler Misako Sugiyama Lynette Preston Julian Martin Ted Nixon</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Tracey Avolio Nicola Piper Andrea James</p>
<p>29 Mar 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: L331</p> <p>START PLACE: Wentworth Falls FINISH PLACE: Katoomba</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Wentworth Falls, Darwins Track, Kings Tableland, East Col, Mt Solitary, Koorowall Knife Edge, Landslide track, Fuber's Steps, Katoomba Scenic World Car Park.</p> <p>Fit group of walkers succeeded in the goal of traversing from Wentworth Falls (new track in area is great to walk on) up Mt Solitary (with a few undulations), and down the Knife Edge to the Fuber Steps and Katoomba. Walk was followed by some jazz and 'rehydration' at the pub before the drive home.</p>	<p>Frances Bottrell Lisa Sheldon</p> <p>Tim Sutherland John Flint Joanna Penney Robert Carter</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Cathy Hui</p>
<p>29-31 Mar 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Kanangra Car Park</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kanangra Car Park, Coal Seam Cave, Cottage Rock, Bullhead Range, Cambage Spire, Christys Creek, Orange Bluff, Brumby Ridge, Kanangra Car Park</p> <p>Three days in good weather, in the big mountains and along the Kowmung River, enjoyed by 15 people. We split into two groups so we did not exceed the correct numbers for a wilderness area. Many thanks to Owen Kimberly, the second group leader.</p> <p>Conversations around the camp fires were brisk and caused much laughter.</p>	<p>David Trinder Owen Kimberley</p> <p>Michele Powell Rosemary MacDougal Stanley Wong Dave McRae David Merrick Stephen Tree Pam Campbell Marlene Fransa Graham Lane Owen Kimberley Bruno de Villanoisy Virginia Waller Lucy Keatinge</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Diane Zhang</p>
<p>29-31 Mar 2013 AREA: Snowy Mountains National Park GRADE: M333</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Charlotte Pass</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: The plan was to get to Snowy Mountains on 29th and go directly to Kosciusko and spend the next 2 days wandering around and coming back on Easter Monday.</p> <p>As planned, Nima and I got to Charlotte at 1.30pm and walked to Kosciusko (from Main Range Track) and then went to Mueller Pass to find the campsite. We camped at a very beautiful (a bit high at the side of Abbott Peak) spot located at GR125 668 close to a side creek not marked on the map.</p> <p>The second day we walked to Mt Townsend, Muellers Peak then along the Main Range track to Mt Twynam and as it started to be very windy we decided to camp beside Strzelecki Creek at GR162 708 (Again, very scenic).</p> <p>The wind didn't stop at night and some rain and fog was added to the conditions so on the third day with 3m visibility we decided that we had enough fun and headed back to Main Range Track and then cars and Sydney.</p>	<p>Shahram Landarani</p> <p>Nima Zarbakht</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>30 Mar 2013 AREA: Newnes State Forest GRADE: M221</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: ZigZag Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: ZigZag Station, Farmers Creek Dam, Newnes Plateau, Clarence, ZigZag station.</p> <p>On a fine and mild day we headed off from the station and followed bush tracks up to Farmer's Creek Dam where we had lunch while enjoying great views to the sheer cliffs and pagodas across the waters. We crossed the creek below the dam wall on a foot track, and climbed up to a ridge from where there were good distant views of the nearby hills and valleys.</p> <p>We then took several firetrails across the plateau to Clarence steam train station from where we followed a great foot track through the heather-laden hillsides down to ZigZag station, with great views of the western escarpments along the way.</p>	<p>Nigel Weaver</p> <p>Margaret Weaver Chris Dowling Kim Fuller Tim Yewdall Vicky Zhang</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Sally Fallon Bronwen O'Dwyer</p>

Autumn 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.

May

- 1st @ 7pm Committee Meeting - Observers welcome
- 8th @ 8pm Introduction to SBW - Evening for those thinking of joining SBW
- 15th @ 7:35pm Everything you ever wanted to know about kayaking

Never kayaked before and want to know how to start? Want to see some great photos of kayaking trips? Patrick McNaught, experienced kayaker, will discuss what you need to do to start kayaking, and show slides from the many kayaking trips he has taken

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.

Have you had a great trip somewhere you would like to share? Let us know!



www.springgully.org
info@springgully.org

Help Protect Spring Gully

The Spring Gully Protection Group is working to protect 5.6 hectares of pristine bushland in Spring Gully, Bundeena, on the southern outskirts of Sydney.

The property borders the Royal National Park – the second oldest national park in the world. The land was gifted to the Boy Scouts Association of NSW in the 1960s. The land is now for sale.

Our aim is for the land to be added to the adjoining Royal National Park.

The land contains an unbroken canopy of Sydney sandstone gully forest, freshwater wetland and is an important habitat for many protected species and migratory birds.

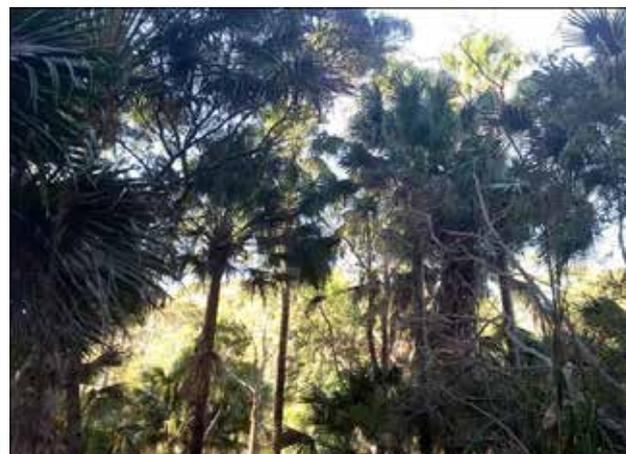
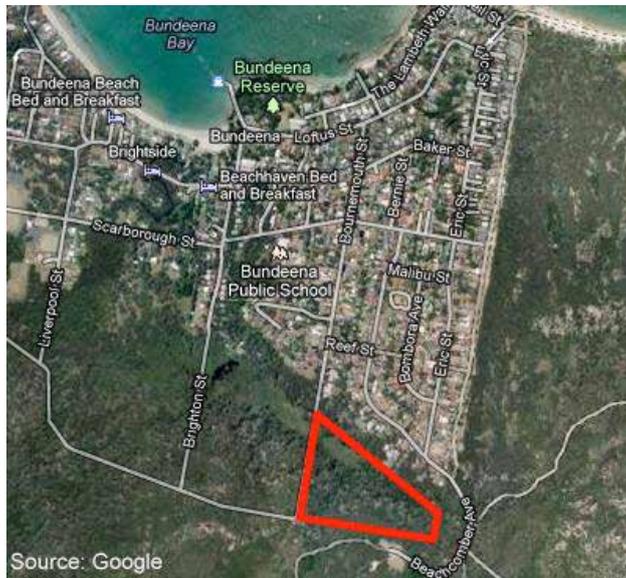
Spring Gully contains many sites of significant aboriginal heritage.

Any development of this land will not only result in loss of habitat and heritage but will degrade the environmental surrounds of the Bundeena township and the adjoining Royal National Park forever.

Visit

www.springgully.org

for more information on how you can help protect this beautiful and bio-diverse gully.





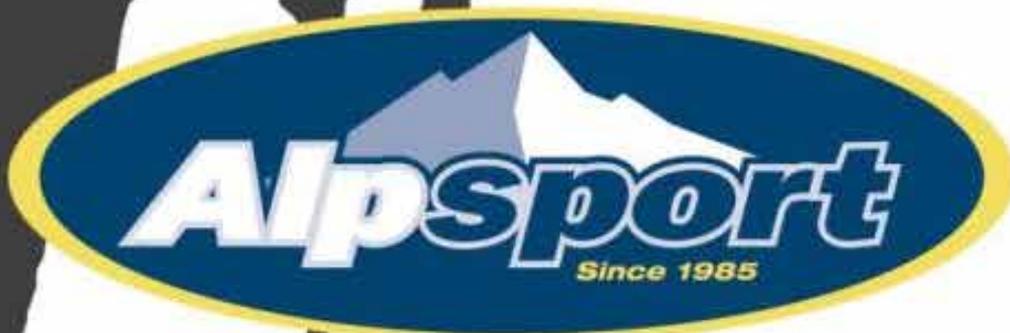
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