



THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER

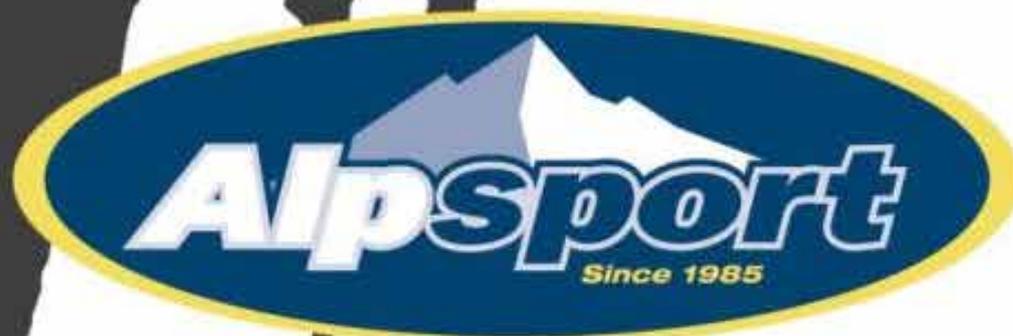
May 2013



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Photo: Grose River, Stephen Brading

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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.

Autumn Social Program

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

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

June

- 5th @ 7pm Committee Meeting - Observers welcome
- 12th @ 8pm Introduction to SBW - Evening for those thinking of joining
- 19th @ 7.35pm Dennis Trembath will speak on trekking in Turkey

July

- 3rd @ 7pm Committee Meeting - Observers welcome
- 10th @ 8pm Introduction to SBW - Evening for those thinking of joining
- 17th @ 7.35pm Fabulous SBW mid winter feast, drinks provided, bring a plate.

August

- 7th @ 7pm Committee Meeting - Observers welcome
- 14th @ 8pm Introduction to SBW - Evening for those thinking of joining
- 21st @ 7.35pm Kenn Clacher will speak on trekking in the Dolomites and on Corsica

More information about our guest speakers will be available closer to the time.

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!

Vice-President says...

Normally your new President would have a few words to say in the first magazine after his election and that of the new committee. However, Leigh is overseas leaving your newly-elected and quite green (meaning ignorant) Vice-President to run the shop. In doing that I have been greatly assisted by the continuing help of past President Ian Wolfe whether he be here or on remote Easter Island – the emails just keep coming showing how global we are all becoming.

New committees usually need a little time to get familiar with their roles and become really effective but this one is doing really well in tackling two challenges, developing and delivering an electronic subscription renewal system plus compiling a really good winter walks program.

There have been a few glitches with the conversion to an electronic renewal system for which we apologise. The Committee welcome your comments and feedback about your experience with it. The glitches are really just learning experiences for us in our quest to get the system to run perfectly.

On the walking front, look forward to lots of Q walk opportunities for both day and overnight walks, which should help our prospectives expedite their progress towards full membership.

We are now coming into the best walking weather of the year with the low humidity and sunny crisp days so make the most of it. Make time to get out there and unwind in our beautiful bush.

And finally an appeal. We are looking for a new communications secretary. The role is about managing Club communications, electronic distribution of newsletters, magazines and other information, and optimising the use of electronic technology. So we need someone who can find their way around a computer and its software. If you are considering it I can tell you it is a very interesting job and you will get plenty of support.

See you on the track and happy walking

Roger Treagus

From the Committee Room

Since your new committee was elected they have met twice and addressed the following issues amongst numerous other issues:

- Subscription Renewal system – monitoring and fixing faults in the system
- Electronic event update system – ensuring data of prospective's Q walks and walk data are properly recorded and distributed
- Monitoring status and progress of Coolana grant application and its implication on Coolana property maintenance especially regarding weed control
- Overview of activity program development

The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month and you are most welcome to attend as observers.

New members:

- Fiona McRostie
- Cathy Hui
- Catharina Muller
- Gia Weightman
- Gloria Roberts
- Michael Gadiel
- Tracey Avolio
- Nicola Piper
- Joost Steenvoorden
- Anita Paddock
- Elicia O'Reilly



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

www.bushwalking.org.au/mag.html

MINUTES OF THE 86TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SYDNEY BUSH WALKERS INC

HELD AT KIRRIBILLI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE ON 13TH MARCH, 2013

With Ian Wolfe (President) in the Chair and 38 Members present.

APOLOGIES:

Patrick James, Don Finch, Ros Kerrigan, Shirley Dean

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

New member Robert Carter was presented with Flannel Flower badge and welcomed into the Club.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 14th March 2012 were accepted.
 Moved: Jim Callaway Seconded: Rick Angel

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising for discussion.

ANNUAL REPORTS:

Resolved to take the annual reports, as circulated to Members, as read and received.
 Moved: Jim Callaway Seconded: Margaret Carey

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

There were no queries with the Financial Statements. It was resolved to accept the 2012 Financial Statements, as circulated to Members as part of the Annual Report.
 Moved: Leigh McClintock Seconded: Richard Darke

MOTION ON MEMBERSHIP FEES

The following motion was put to the Members: That annual membership fees in 2013 remain at the current level.
 Moved: Leigh McClintock Seconded: Jim Callaway Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2013:

The Membership Fees for 2013 are therefore as follows:
 Single Active, electronic communications.... \$37.50
 Single Active, posted communications.....\$50
 Active Members, posted communications sharing a Household\$80
 Non-active, electronic communications\$20
 Non-active, posted communications\$35

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

Resolved that, as only one nominee for each vacancy having been received, the following members were declared elected.

Moved: Tony Holgate Seconded: Jason Lorch

Committee Positions:

President..... Leigh McClintock
 Vice President Roger Treagus
 Treasurer Margaret Carey
 Secretary & Public Officer..... Glenn Draper
 Activities Secretary Shahram Landarani
 Membership Secretary Sue Bucknell
 New Members Secretary John Kennett
 Communications Secretary Ondrej Ivanic
 Skills Enhancement Sec. Richard Darke

The outgoing committee members were thanked for their efforts over the past year.

Non-committee positions

As appointed by the Committee were endorsed by the Meeting.

Associate Secretary positions (not formally on Committee but able to attend any meeting):
 Social Secretary Christine McColl
 Conservation Secretary Pam Campbell
 Editor Joanna Penney
 Confederation Delegates David Trinder, Tony Holgate, Jim Callaway, Rosemary McDougall, (Ian Wolfe as stand-in)

Volunteer positions:

Webmaster..... Jim Vaughan
 Business Manager Jim Close
 Archivist..... Bill Holland
 Hon. Solicitor..... Richard Brading
 Hon. Auditor..... VACANT – nominations requested
 Coolana Sub Committee..... Rick Angel, Don Finch, Patrick James, Barry Wallace
 Search and rescue contacts Barbara Bruce, Ian Rannard, Craig Austin, Tony Marshall
 Kosciuszko Huts Delegates David Trinder, Ian Wolfe

Thanks to all outgoing and continuing members and particular thanks to:

Chris Sonter, Hon. Auditor, standing down after 25+ years.
 Caro Ryan, standing down as Webmistress after many years.
 Kenn Yeok Williams for assistance with database management and the migration to the new system.

MOTION ON FUTURE SIZE OF THE CLUB

The following motion was put to the Members: That SBW target growing to:

- a. About 300 full Members engaged in 7 or more days of activities per year
- b. About 400 Prospective Members

- c. About 400 full Members engaged in less than 7 days of activities per year
 - d. This motion be re-appraised at an AGM at least once every three years"
- Moved: Richard Darke Seconded: Roger Treagus
Motion carried.

MOTION ON APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

The following motion was put to the Members. "That the SBW Committee is authorised to investigate and potentially secure, on a contract basis, the services of a part time Administrative Officer to facilitate the operation of the Club"

Moved: Caro Ryan Seconded: Richard Darke
Motion carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A reminder from the President about the Coolana Reunion, inauguration of new president and celebration of gazetting of Dot Butler Conservation Reserve.

The President Elect, Leigh McClintock, addressed the meeting and acknowledged the prodigious efforts of the retiring President Ian Wolfe.

Closed: 8.45pm

Signed as a true and correct record:

.....

President: Ian Wolfe

Date:

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

Trip Report: Mountain Lagoon to Colo Meroo Reserve via Brian Corliss Pass 34a

Stephen Brading



Our group, consisting of Jim Vaughan, Alan Osland and myself, left Mountain Lagoon at 8.45am and set a blistering pace along the "forget it" (Gosper) Ridge service trail. The start of the ridge leading to Brian Corliss Pass 34a required bush bashing, indicating nobody had used this route recently – I used it last in the summer of 2009. With compass assistance we reached clearer walking, following old footpads that came and went. This time I stayed on the eastern side of the ridge top, unlike my two previous visits.

Eventually we reached a point where I could see the sand of the Mt Townsend bend beneath us with a steep vegetated descent adjacent to us. Having canyoned with Alan, I asked him to lead the group down as his rock scrambling skill exceeds mine. We

descended rapidly through the vegetated section of the spur to a rocky descent area as we progressed through a sandstone cliff line. When we could descend no further we contoured back along the rock face until a long ramp allowed us to access the top of a gully. Halfway down the ramp we passed an old cairn indicating we had probably located the "easier" pass described by Brian Corliss guidebook. As there had been a major flood recently in the area we followed the gully all the way to the Colo River, passing through a beautiful cool temperate rainforest for much of the way.

After morning tea on the bank of the Colo we waded and swam across a deep pool, scoured out of the sand of the Mt Townsend bend by the flood water travelling out of the gully we had just walked down. Alan demonstrated his superior fitness for the next 5km, leaving Jim and me behind as we walked down the sandy Colo riverbed. Although the water level was low, I swam three pools with the longest being about 100m. The sand had not compacted firmly so we were pushing through quicksand, in many places sinking to our knees regularly. About 500m upstream of the Reserve I sank to my torso and had to slide my way out. Fortunately for us, the flood (17m height was reported) had swept away nearly all of the vine vegetation and lantana on the river bank, allowing us to walk on the high bank bench all the way to Colo Meroo Reserve

After lunch we followed the Colo Meroo foot track along Mailes Ridge and the Gosper's Ridge service road back to the cars. We finished our very enjoyable 9 hour day at 6.45pm. Jim has made an entertaining video of the trip, which can be viewed on the website.

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.

Book Review: Top Walks in NSW by Ken Eastwood

Roger Treagus

Ken Eastwood has written a book detailing 64 walks in NSW, covering all parts of the State. It is a very attractive small book to look at with copious photos and illustrations, including quite reasonable maps for each walk that is described.

The walks are well described and go into commendable detail to guide walkers doing the track for the first time. It is not just a dry set of directions but a narrative that reaches to the significance of the area, the scenic qualities and the botany where this is relevant. The book described some walks not normally covered, such as Burning Mountain, the Light to Light and Cathedral Rocks.

The book is pitched to an audience ranging from novices to keen walkers which means that its track walking times and grading estimates may not apply well to everyone. It seems that generally the grading appears to be an overestimate given the concept that it is based on a fit middle aged walker.

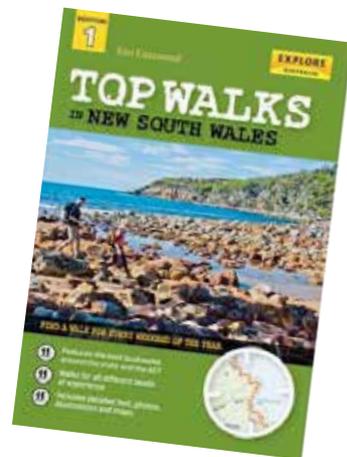
The book is good on its map suggestions and

transport details. However, it suggested that you can go for a walk lasting a few hours without a map or compass which, for a novice, may not be good advice. Advice on first aid and a reference for more information would be useful. Also some basic map reading guidance is absent. Considering the trouble that the publisher has gone to in drawing the maps this information or URL's covering this topic is needed.

Of course in writing a book about NSW walks it is always an easy target to criticise a book by what walks it has left out. But nothing about the Hume and Hovell, the Brindabellas (even though half of them are in the ACT), more parts of the GNW than just one and the north east NP's (New England NP, Border Ranges NP, etc.) is an omission.

Overall though it is a worthy addition to the genre and in fact raises the bar from previous works.

Published by Explore Australia Publishing 2013.



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



SBW members visit Elohim School in the Squatter Settlements of Arequipa, Peru

Susi Prescott



On 3 May, 2013 Kenn Clacher and Edith Baker travelled 20 hours by bus from La Paz to Arequipa to visit me and travel out to Elohim in the desert slums outside town.

Kenn regaled the kids of Years 4 and 6 with his tales of world travel and trekking, his delivery in excellent imperial Spanish, complete with lisp, only occasionally needing me to translate into street Peruvian. By the end of his sessions most of his young audience had chosen their future careers as trekking guides in their own wonderful country!

In the brand new computer lab both Edith and Kenn assisted the four-year-olds with great aplomb, helping them to manipulate the mouse and understand how its movements related to the little arrow on the screen.



True to form, the intrepid pair has now set off to Colca Canyon for four days walking, before another monster bus trip back to Copacabana on the shores of Lake Titicaca in Bolivia where they will join Lesley Clarke and her group of tricky trekkers to conquer four weeks worth of spectacular mountains and rainforest in Bolivia. *Buen viaje to all!!!*

Meanwhile, I will head for Spain to walk the Camino Frances to raise funds for Elohim. A long way, yes, (800 km) but all on defined paths, no serious altitude (after crossing the Pyrenees at the start), shower facilities, and a bunk to sleep in, under a roof, each night. Hmmm – am I getting soft?

To find out more about Elohim, and the Camino effort to raise funds, please visit my website on www.susitraveller.com.

Un abrazo fuerte del Perú.



Trip Report: Pierces Pass to Mount Banks

Helen MacDonald

Three years ago it took me 10hrs to walk from Pierces Pass to Zobel Gully due to almost impenetrable lawyer vine, fallen trees and generally having to bash through untamed bush. With this in mind the group were on the track by 8am and set off at a fairly speedy pace. A quick crossing of the Grose had us at the Blue Gum crossroads by 10.30am. Bombarded by mozzies no-one wanted to hang around and after putting on 'scrub bashing' gear we headed towards the turn off for the Lockley track and then followed the Grose River downstream.

At 25°C the weather was perfect for a cooling walk in the river. It was incredible to see the impact of the 8m swell that had flowed down the Grose a couple of months earlier. The impenetrable bush I'd suffered before had been totally flattened and the fallen trees washed well downstream, giving us a fairly easy sandy passage next to the river. The swimming hole at GR560 766 was too inviting to walk past, even with the mozzies trying to move us on!

We found a nice shady spot for lunch at Rockey Points Creek 3hrs ahead of time – this was going to be our campsite for the night! We walked in the Grose and headed up higher to follow an indistinct footpad when we needed to avoid the 'rapids' and

started looking for an early camping spot by Zobel Gully at 4pm. We found the perfect spot by the river at GR592 783. It looked like the area may have previously been covered in nettles/weeds, but all that remained now was a perfect beach to set up camp. A quick dip followed by an entertaining evening by the campfire was followed by not such a fantastic night shared with the mozzies that had the leader regretting sleeping under a fly!

Day 2 – on our way up Zobel Gully by 8.30am. Thankfully we were in the shade for the steep ascent. We decided to try a slightly different route heading NNW to avoid the thickest part of the lawyer vine (well over head height!) and then at 400m heading NNE to the base of the cliff line. This turned out to be a good move as not too many tangles encountered. In the middle of Zobel Gully by 11.30am so enough time to drop packs and walk to the very end to enjoy the amazing canyon walls and tiny trickle of a water fall. The 'reverse ramp' out of Zobel soon had the group back out in sunlight by 12.30 and enjoying lunch with views over to Mount Hay and Bogong Crags. All that was left was 10km of fire trail along the Explorers Range that was nicely broken up by stopping to enjoy some of the best views over the Grose Valley. Back at the cars by 5.00pm.

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Si Italy's Favourite Walks in the Dolomites and Lake Garda

September 6 – 19, 2013

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We meet in Venice for transfer to Riva del Garda, stay in a lovely family-run hotel near the lake, spend our first full day walking the dramatic Ponale Track, then farewell Lake Garda with a leisurely ferry cruise along the entire length of the lake.

From Sirmione, on the southern shore of Lake Garda we travel to the Dolomites. These highly distinctive mountain landscapes with dramatic vertical rock walls, pale coloured peaks, towers and pinnacles in a variety of distinctive sculptural forms are of exceptional natural beauty.

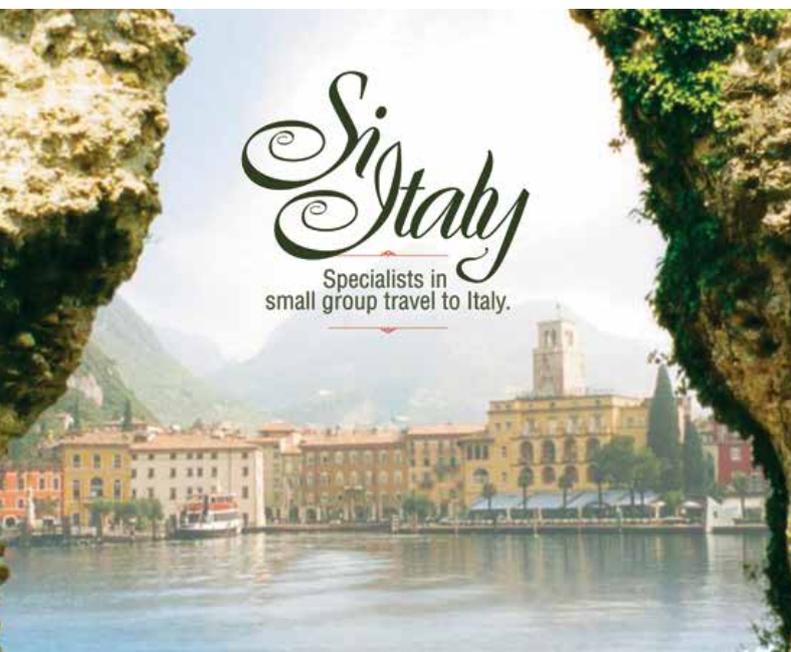
During eleven days at our beautiful 4-star alpine hotel we lead you on a variety of exhilarating hikes and rambles through villages and larch forests. We walk panoramic ridge-top Viel del Pan, traverse the lunar-like landscapes on Sass' Pordoi, explore Bolzano where Latin and German meet in a fascinating blend of cultures, visit the famous 'Ice Man' Archaeological Museum, trace the Ice

Man's tracks in Val Senales and enjoy the Renaissance beauty of the city of Trento. After a day's walking you can relax before dinner in the wonderful pool, spa and sauna complex of our hotel and enjoy the views from your hotel balcony.

This tour is being offered at the special all-inclusive price of \$5800 and includes all the features our regular guests have come to expect of any Si Italy tour:

- charming accommodation in superior 3 star hotel and 4 star hotel with fully-equipped relaxation and health complex,
- all meals including rich and varied buffet breakfasts, diverse lunches from mountain picnics with fresh local produce to hearty dishes in alpine huts and gourmet dinners in hotel and other restaurants chosen for their food and ambience,
- wine with dinners,
- all transfers,
- ferry trip on Lake Garda,
- travel in comfortable air-conditioned minibus,
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- bilingual guide/driver
- entry to scheduled activities

This tour is filling quickly so if you're interested please contact us immediately for a detailed itinerary and to avoid disappointment.



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LAKE GARDA
THE CINQUE TERRE



Si Italy Tours offer you that special Italy experience. Great fun, local culture, superb food, fine wines, charming villas and hotels, exhilarating walks and stunning landscapes.

Phone 1300 307 701 www.siitaly.com.au

Trip Report: NZ South Island – Arthurs Pass and surrounds

Feb 2013: Ian Wolfe

After our Lewis Pass to St Arnauds trip we caught a bus through the mountains to the west coast, and down to the coastal town of Greymouth. We stayed at a hostel which was a refurbished pub run by a crazy Israeli (are there any other kind?) – the rooms had been brightly painted with orange, red and green. We had a rest day touring around town and restocking for the next trip. Andrew and I were forced to do a tour of the Monteith Brewery and to engage in some serious research into the quality of their produce and marketing campaigns. That night we sampled the delicious local seafood in the form of green lipped mussels and whitebait patties.

The next day we travelled down the coast, with a stop at the scenic Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki. Eventually we arrived at Arthurs Pass village and toured the informative Rangers Station – which was fortunate, as we learnt that our intended route for the next morning was also the route for the annual Coast to Coast endurance race. Luckily, there was an alternate route for us to ascend Avalanche Peak, and we took this to attain the summit for mornos. This was just in time to see the lead male runners arrive – they come in two forms, whippets (thin, and lanky) or bulldogs – whichever they are, they delight in bounding across the steep rocky terrain. The lead ladies followed soon after and were far more elegant in their technique.

For the next 2hrs we traversed the ridgelines chatting to the safety staff enroute, and stepping off the track as the contestants ran past. Eventually we got to the saddle where the route heads downhill – this was a 40% scree slope that extended for 1.5km and dropped 700m. Worse, we could see that it was a very loose scree slope comprised of fist sized rocks that formed a sliding mass around the contestants as they descended. We wisely elected to have lunch and let the herd pass us by. Our descent



was less than pleasant, but we eventually drew breath at the base and massaged our wobbly knees and aching cartilages. The medium sized Crow Hut was only a short stroll down the mountain and we were entertained by the interpersonal relationships flowing back and forth between the members of the resident Kiwi party.

The next day started with a pleasant walk down the river valley mostly in the forest. This soon ended when we met the broad Waimakariri River valley which is about 2kms wide and covered in alluvial material – mainly gravel and stones of varying sizes, interspersed with the meandering river. Whilst the “Plain of Stones” was a bit tedious to traverse, it did give very good views of the towering peaks on all





sides and the river crossings were refreshing. We spent the night at the large Carrington Hut before heading up the next day to the small Waimakariri Falls Hut – the falls are a bit like Danae Brook and have a swing bridge at the exit.

On the morn we walked up to Waimakariri Col, mainly in scree but also on some snow patches. This allowed us to peer down into the valley of the Rolleston River and confirmed that we had made the right decision not to ascend that way. This Pass was very spectacular with lots of snow covered peaks and a number of glaciers all around. On the way down we paused for a regroup, and I sat on a Mini Minor-sized boulder which then began to rock and roll – some nibble foot work saw me avoid its path as it rolled 10m down the hill, much to the consternation of the rest of the party.

After descending to Carrington Hut once more we then headed off the next day up the White River to Barker Hut. This is small hut perched on a jutting rock shelf just below a high saddle surrounded by pointy peaks. We strolled up to the saddle and on return, bathed in the small mountain tarn. That night the keas finally arrived and announced their presence in the early morning by landing on the tin roof and sliding down to then swing off the edge and peer in the windows at us. These parrots are quite a large bird, unafraid of humans and very curious.

After saying farewell to the keas we walked back down the river and then ascended to Harper Pass. This was up through a gorge section with lots of waterfalls from the side creeks. Adjacent to the Pass was a high campsite and accompanying tarns, which we visited to look at yet another Pass further on – from which some of us observed a party of

two descending down the steep snow slopes (accompanied by a slide and a short scream – but it was all OK). After a relaxed lunch it was back down the same route and back to Carrington for the night. The final day saw us walk down the river, partly on the Plain of Stones again, to Anti Crow Hut, and then to the Trail Head before walking up the tarred road back to the village of Arthurs Pass.

On the final day we caught the bus back to Christchurch for a shower and diner. As we walked through the earthquake devastated city to the restaurant it was a bit like a “Mad Max” film set, with propped up buildings, plies of rubble and then pockets of apparent normality (that night was also the second anniversary of the tremor that took over 130 lives, and there were a number of remembrance gatherings being held in the streets).

If you are in Christchurch, take time to visit the museum as it has:

- a) A good collection of moa bones (there were actually 15 different species of these large flightless birds), and
- b) the Antarctic Exhibition which has a number of artefacts from Scott’s, Mawson’s and Amuddsen’s expeditions – including rare films and photographs as well as sleds etc.

Another great trip with very good weather – the South Island of NZ has mountain scenery equivalent to Europe and the USA, a profusion of pleasant huts, reasonable trails, and the locals speak English.



Midweek Walking Activities

Bill Holland

There is an informal gathering of people in SBW who find the time to enjoy walking, cycling, kayaking during the quiet times of the week when others are working hard to support us. You are welcome to join us at any time and if you would like to be added to our Midweek Activities mailing list please let me know by contacting Bill Holland 4296 3084 or by email to billholland@bigpond.com.

The first half of the year so far has had successful events with the weeks at Myola, Canberra and currently (in May) Yarrangobilly. Nothing has been organised for June but here are firm dates for the following months:

July

Broken Hill (Thurs 18–Tues 24). This trip uses the daily XPT train to get to Dubbo then by coach to Broken Hill. It's a long 13 hour trip, leaving Central early on Thursday and arriving that evening in Broken Hill. The Outback Explorer train provides a direct train trip back to Sydney every Tuesday. It is all-day travel there and back leaving four days for sight-seeing in Broken Hill.

Although I will coordinate the activity for the week, attendees will need to make their own train booking. Please let me know if you would like to be added to the list. There will be no limit on numbers attending this activity!

August

Cutlers Cottage, Myall Lakes (Sat 17–Sat 24)

This was very popular last year and has been reserved again. Ideal for kayaking on the lakes, cycling or bushwalking.

This is a mid-week activity but we have extended the stay to a week (Sunday until Saturday) for a slightly extra cost. There is no obligation to use the full seven days. The location is ideal for kayaking, swimming and bushwalking. The cottage has comfortable accommodation but is limited to a maximum of 6 people. However, excess numbers can use the camping site next door at Korsmans Landing .

If you would like to be in the lucky six to use the cottage please send me full payment of \$100 per person as I have already paid for the week.

September

Lamington National Park, QLD (Mon 9–Sun 15)

It is some years since we made a visit to this area. It is a long way to drive so we will stop overnight at a national park camping spot along the way. We will camp next to our cars in the camping area in

the Green Mountains section of Lamington National Park. Camping permits are required and fees of \$5-45 per day apply.

October

New England National Park (Mon 21–Fri 25)

We will stay at *The Residence* at Banksia Point. There are opportunities for lots of walking, animal and bird watching in New England and other nearby national parks. The area is magnificent at this time of the year. Due to the distance we will combine transport arrangements where possible. Likely cost will be about \$25 per person per night. If you would like to be in the lucky eight to attend this event please send me full payment of \$100 per person.

November

Once more to Dunns Swamp on the edge on the Wollemi Wilderness. This has been voted the best hideaway camping place in New South Wales.

Accommodation is restricted to a small number, I will allocate rooms, etc, in order of receiving your deposit. Some have already indicated interest but I will now create a booking list to make certain that places are allocated fairly. This list will be closed when the number limit is reached. Latecomers will go on a waiting list.

That's all for now, don't forget to let me know if you are interested in any of the above.

*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*

Trip Report: Grose River & Dark Creek

4 May 2013: Stephen Brading

The walk consisted of Alison Bentley on her first walk with our club and me. We started walking at 8.30am and enjoyed the pleasant fire trail to the Grose River escarpment. Once there we found a view of the pools in the Grose River below.



The steep Fishermans "track" route was clear and presented no difficulty. We had morning tea in the small Engineers campsite by the Grose River. There has been major flood and it seems likely we were the first visitors at the campsite since then.

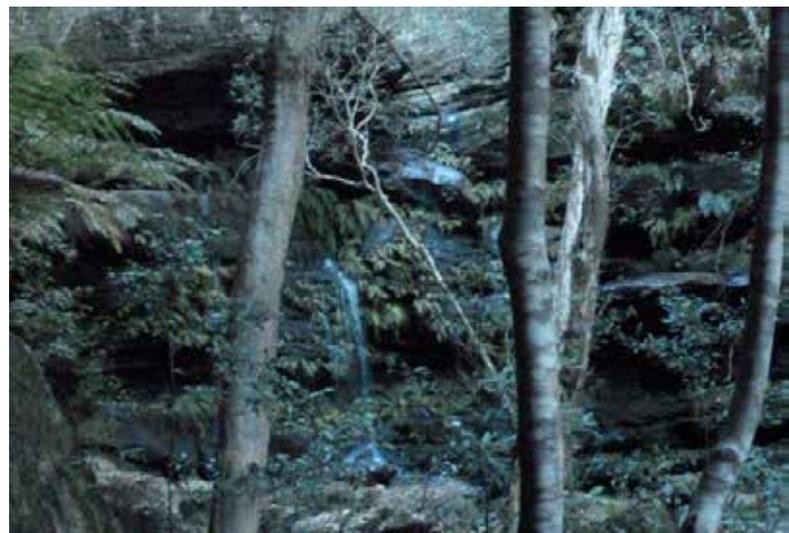


After morning tea we crossed the Grose and climbed to the overgrown Engineers Track and followed it upstream. The track around much of the base of Quodling Hill had been cleared by the flood and retaining walls supporting the track were visible.

In places the 150 year old track is practically in the same condition as when it was made.



Additionally, all the vegetation choking the banks of Grose River as well as the river itself had been washed away and the views of the river are magnificent. The flat area at the base of the creek between Quodling and Barton Hills had all brush cleared away by the flood and would make a good camping spot until it regrows. From this area the Grose River changes direction to north and the extra sun has resulted in extra growth in the track. However the 10 metre high flood has cleared much of this growth away. Opposite Dark Creek much of the bank has been washed away and we climbed to a small camping cave for lunch with a sand floor deposited by the flood about 15 metres above the river.

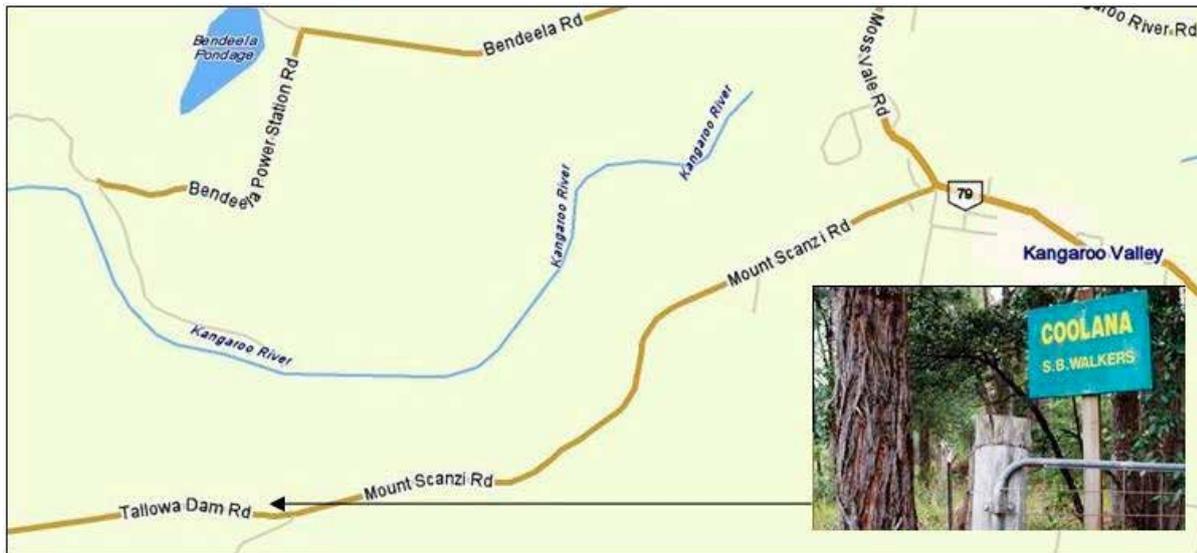


After lunch we crossed the Grose River and tackled the challenging Dark Creek canyon and after roughly 2 hours we had progressed slightly over 1 kilometre on the map by climbing around waterfalls and bus sized rocks which fill the creek. From here the going got easier and we made better progress reaching Dark Valley where we found a new exit route allowing us to bush bash to reach the fire trail as twilight ended. We donned head torches and walked in the dark to the car arriving before 6.30pm.

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.

Last update: 15/5/2013 12:45PM

No parks currently affected by fire

92 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 external link.

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 National Parks and Wildlife Service Office first to obtain the latest information.

In search of a Coms Secretary for the Club

Would you be interested in being SBW's Communications Secretary?

We are urgently looking for one. It is a very interesting job, managing Club communications, electronic distribution of newsletters, magazines and other information, and optimising the use of electronic technology. We need someone who can find their way around a computer and its software and is a bit of a "techo". In any case, you will get plenty of support from the Committee and others. If you think you might like to have a go please ring or email either Roger Treagus (vicepresident@sbw.org.au, mob 0423262313) or Shahram Landarani (activities@sbw.org.au, mob 0432880135) and we would be happy to discuss the details with you.

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.

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

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>2-3 Feb 2013 AREA: Nattai National Park GRADE: M222 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: High Range</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Mount Waratah, High Range, along the Nattai River to Hidden Creek and return</p> <p>Walk to then along the Nattai River with camp at Hidden Creek.</p> | <p>Glenn Draper</p> <p>Tim Sutherland Alan Osland</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Nicola Piper Shuwen Qui Reuven Gordon Michael Gadiel Sally Copton Gloria Roberts</p> |
| <p>9 Mar 2013 AREA: Hilltop GRADE: M222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Wattle Ridge</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Wattle Ridge to Rocky Waterholes Canyon</p> <p>A mix of fire trail, rough track and off track walking, exploring Rocky Waterholes creek, with rock scrambling.</p> | <p>Glenn Draper</p> <p>Edward Squires Jo Squires Pam Campbell Tim Yewdall Shahram Landarini Melinda Turner</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Nicola Piper Tracey Avelio Diane Zhang Liz Sweetland Yolina Carillo</p> |
| <p>23-24 Mar 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M332</p> <p>START PLACE: Pierces Pass picnic area FINISH PLACE: Mount Banks picnic area</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Pierces Pass picnic area, Grose Gorge, Blue Gum Forest, Grose River, Rocky Points Creek, Zobel Gully, Explorers Range, Mount Banks picnic area</p> <p>see full report pagexxx</p> | <p>Helen MacDonald</p> <p>John Robb Jim Vaughn Peter Cai Julio Rodrigues Stephen Tree</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Grey Thorn</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>30 Mar 2013 AREA: Royal National Park GRADE: L322</p> <p>START PLACE: Otford FINISH PLACE: Bundeena</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: The Coastal Walk</p> <p>Not named The Classic Coast Walk for no reason – walking the entire coastal edge of Royal National Park once again did not disappoint. It was a pleasure also to have the opportunity to introduce it to a number of newish members to our Club.</p> <p>It was a beautiful Autumn day, and so we were able to comfortably maintain a strong pace, enjoy our occasional breaks and a welcomed dip in the surf at Little Marley Beach.</p> <p>Thanks to all whom joined for your good company and a lasting memory. This was the final walk lead by this leader for a while as she is heading overseas for a couple of years.</p> | <p>Lynette Preston</p> <p>John Flint Mary Lui</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Petros Nikoloudis Sagar Thakar Nicola Piper</p> |
| <p>13 Apr 2013 AREA: Wollangambie GRADE: L332</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Govetts Leap Lookout</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Govetts Leap, Pulpit Rock, Perrys Lookdown, Blue Gum Forest, Lockleys Pylon, Junction Rock, Govetts Leap</p> <p>The walk started under beautiful sunny skies with great views of the Grose Valley, commencing from Govetts Leap lookout then along the cliff line to Pulpit Rock Lookout, along Hat Hill Road to Perrys Lookdown. We had morning tea at the top of the descent down to Blue Gum Forest – for a few members of the party it was their first taste of Perrys. At Blue Gum Forest we prepared ourselves for the climb up to Lockleys Pylon. The climb was surprisingly hot under a beautiful blue sky.</p> <p>We had lunch at the top of Lockleys with views all the way to the coast. We then descended back down to Blue Gum Forest, resting at Govetts Creek before our walk to Junction Rock, where we prepared ourselves for the final climb back to our cars at Govetts Leap Lookout. We finished our walk in darkness with the use of headlamps under a clear starry night sky.</p> | <p>Greg Bray</p> <p>Tim Sutherland Karen Kool Virginia Waller Cathy Hui Sandor Molnar</p> |
| <p>13-14 Apr 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Bells Line Of Road</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Bells Line Of Road, Sandham Road, Point 994, Point 978 LO, Wollangambie Crater, Wollangambie Camp Cave, Wollangambie River, Firetrail, Gooches Crater Sandham Road.</p> <p>Leaders Workshop</p> <p>Several future leaders met on a fine and chilly morning to discover the Wollangambie area. The walk proceeded with numerous 'incidents' navigational challenges and fun along the way.</p> | <p>Jim Close Lisa Sheldon Melinda Turner Peter Love Grace Love</p> <p>Aaron Walker Jim Vaughan Ed Squires Bruno de Villenoisy Glenn Draper Kevin Songberg Frances Bottrell Jane Fielding</p> |
| <p>14 Apr 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: S111</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Lawson</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Lawson, Dantes Glen, Empire Pass, Fredrica Falls, Lawson</p> <p>Very nice short walk during which we visited four waterfalls on the walk and saw what looked like a tiger snake at lunch time. Interestingly, the quality of the track deteriorated as soon as we passed the national park sign and improved when we left the park.</p> | <p>Vivien de Rémy de Courcelles</p> <p>Emmanuelle Convert</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Helen Lalas Melinda Long</p> <p><i>Visitor</i> Justine de Rémy de Courcelles (Baby)</p> |

| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
|--|---|
| <p>20 Apr 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: L332 Q WALK</p> <p>START PLACE: Kings Tableland FINISH PLACE: Sublime Point</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kings Tableland To East Col Mount Solitary, Miners Pass, Spurs Down To Kedumba River, Sublime Point Fire Trail, Ascent Of Sublime Point</p> <p>Wet day, weather added to the challenge especially coming up the East Col of Mount Solitary. Miners Pass descent went smoothy, Jim's excellent navigation got us to the Keduma through the maze of confusing spurs, then Jonno applied his local knowledge to find a way through all the hazards to Sublime Point. Reached our "shuffle cars" shortly after dark. Everyone worked together all day, helping through difficult bits, for a successful challenging trip.</p> | <p>John Kennett</p> <p>Nicola Piper Jim Close Lisa Sheldon Bruno De Villenoise Manuel Renu Stanley Wong John Flint</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Sally Fallon Jonno Downes Manuel Renu Paul Rossington Cathy Hui Tracey Avolio</p> |
| <p>26 Apr 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Carlons Farm</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Carlons Farm (Green Gully), Ironpot mountain, Tinpot Mountain (Aboriginal wells and axe grooves), missed Ironmonger Hill, unnamed spur, Ironmonger Gully, Breakfast Creek, Carlon Creek and Carlons farm</p> <p>Another great sunny day saw five keen individuals backing up for a consecutive day of walking in the Blue Mountains. The group enjoyed the 'wild dogs slide' as we missed Ironmonger Hill and proceeded down a spur littered with wombat trails to the cool rainforest of Ironmonger Gully. After a cuppa at lunch we proceeded up Breakfast Creek and Carlons creek (ouch – stinging nettle!) back to Carlons and the pub for dinner.</p> | <p>Lisa Sheldon</p> <p>Glenn Draper Frances Bottrell</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Jonno Downes Robert Schroettner</p> |
| <p>27 Apr 2013 AREA: Brisbane Water National Park GRADE: M121</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Wondabyne Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Wondabyne station, Pindar Ridge, Mt Pindar, Pindar Lookout, Pindar Cave, tributary of Pindar Brook, return to Wondabyne via the outward route.</p> <p>Our big group got together at the remotely-located Wondabyne station on a fine and mild day. We headed steeply uphill on a foot track to the clifftops, from where we followed the fire trails out onto Pindar Ridge. We then followed the foot track to Pindar Lookout from where there a great views across the valleys to the lower Hawkesbury River and Dangar Island. We then went to magnificent Pindar Cave which is about 60 to 70 metres long and about 10 metres deep. From there we followed an indistinct foot track across the slopes to a tributary of Pindar Creek, where we had lunch on rock shelves beside a gently babbling stream. We then returned via the outward route all the way to Wondabyne station where we flagged down the train for the journey home after a very pleasant day</p> | <p>Nigel Weaver</p> <p>Margaret Weaver Lucy Moore David Bell Misako Sugiyama Linda Mallett Jan Dormor Ted Nixon Lloyd Francis David Angell Vicky Zhang John O'Riordan Jeffrey Bridger Julio Rodrigues Michael Bickley John Pozniak</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Manuel Renu Alan Carpenter Sally Reynolds Thuy Ho</p> |

| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
|---|--|
| <p>27-28 Apr 2013 AREA: Morton National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START PLACE: Bungonia FINISH PLACE: Badgerys Lookout</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Down the Bungonia Gorge to the Shoalhaven, camped beside the Shoalhaven, walked down the Shoalhaven to Badgerys then up to the lookout. Good weather and a good walk</p> <p>Down the Bungonia Gorge to the Shoalhaven River, camped beside the river, walked down the Shoalhaven to Badgerys then up to the lookout. Good weather and a good walk. Very pleasant walking beside the pristine river with four river crossings. The crossings were not easy but nobody fell in or got washed away. Campsites beside rivers are usually good and this one was no exception.</p> | <p>David Trinder</p> <p>David Merrick</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Stephen Tree Michelle Ohemnessian</p> |
| <p>27 Apr 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M221</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Govetts Leap Carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Walk commences at Govetts Leap Lookout Carpark following the Braeside Track to Neats Glenn and into the Grand Canyon then following the Rodriguez Pass Walking Track to Junction Rock then to Govetts Leap to ascent back to the Govetts Leap Lookout.</p> <p>A logistical challenge organising this walk due to track work on the Blue Mountains Line resulting in no trains – luckily the team pulled together and carpooling was quickly organised where required.</p> <p>We had fantastic weather for this scenic walk through the Grand Canyon including a double rainbow in a small waterfall near the Evans Lookout track junction and an encounter with a large Red Bellied Black Snake sunning itself on the steps near Bridal Veil Falls despite the leader’s advice that ‘there won’t be any snakes today because they should all be hibernating by now’ (translates to - egg on leader’s face!).</p> <p>An enthusiastic and chatty group of 16+1 walkers including first time walkers with SBW (Shannon and Troy) and our adopted German backpacker (Dorethea) maintained a steady pace including the ascent up Govetts Leap considering a few of the team had spent 3 days prior in the Wild Dogs. Lunch was had at Junction Rock which resembled downtown George Street with several large groups of walkers all coming together at the same time.</p> <p>Thanks to the experienced leaders – Lisa, Frances, John and Glenn – for their support and encouragement on the day.</p> | <p>Robert Carter</p> <p>Lisa Sheldon Glenn Draper Frances Bottrell Nicola Piper Tim Yewdall John Kennett Stanley Wong</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Geraldine Vaughn Petros Nikoloudis Cathy Hui Shannon Meddings Troy Robinson Barbara Laborczfalvi Joe Laborczfalvi Sarah Gough</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Dorothea</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>27 Apr 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: L232</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Galong Farm</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Galong Farm, Ironmonger Hill & Spur, Breakfast Creek, Coxs River to Merrigal Creek, Blue Pup Spur, Blue Dog & Cattle Dog Ridges Breakfast Creek, Hobbles Spur, Galong Farm</p> <p>Originally Chris Dowling's walk but due to knee injury Helen MacDonald took on the role as Leader. A new area for her to experience and now well and truly hooked.</p> <p>The group of eight made good time down to the junction of Coxs River and Breakfast Creek. The shallow water and mild autumn weather made the river crossings refreshingly enjoyable! The Leader unfortunately misread her GPS (shouldn't rely on those things anyway!) and overshot the turn off at Merrigal Creek by 1.5kms! After a group discussion it was decided to stick to the original route even though the unplanned extra 3km meant the group would be walking out in the dark. After backtracking and a very quick lunch we set off up Blue Pup Spur at 2pm. A cracking pace was set to try and make up some of the lost time in daylight. Thanks to Stephen B's navigation we made Hobbles Spur just on dusk. Everyone enjoyed the walk out under a starry sky and full moon.</p> <p>We were greeted at the cars by Chris Dowling. Thanks to Chris for great track notes. We all plan to go back and admire those views another time with you.</p> <p>Note: that was an endurance walk pace guys – expect you all to sign up for K2K and 6FT.</p> | <p>Helen MacDonald</p> <p>Stephen Brading Karen Kool Greg Bray Virginia Waller John Currie Caro Ryan</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Ann Marie Cooper</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

Hanson Island, Johnstone Strait, BC. Photo: Michael Haring

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