

July 2013

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Photo: Camino de Santiago. By Susi Prescott

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From the Vice President

Leigh, our president, is overseas for three weeks so I am stepping into the breach. This is the time of the year that walking is a sheer joy with the clear, bracing air of our wonderful winter. Even the rain is good when it falls as it rejuvenates the bush to walk through on the sunny days.

We talk quite a bit about Coolana but for those of you who haven't been there I can share my memory of the district, the Kangaroo Valley, when I first visited the area. I was intrigued that it was like a hidden valley, a bit like Shangri-La from

James Hilton's book, *Lost Horizon*. Kangaroo Valley is sandwiched and actually hidden between two ranges of mountains with a coastal stream that runs away from the coast instead of towards it indicating the unique topography of the valley that occurs nowhere else on the South Coast. So my message is for all of you who haven't been to our property in the Kangaroo Valley, go there. It is a sheer delight.

Happy walking

Roger Treagus

From the Committee Room

Overseas trips and school holidays took their toll, and only five Committee members were present at the meeting on 3 July. As usual, there was some good news and some bad, but on this occasion most of what was reported was definitely on the bright side.

The best news of all was that we had no fewer than eight Prospective members qualifying for full membership. This may or may not be a record, but there is no doubt that it is far more than usual. Congratulations and welcome to:

- Jade Chang
- Barbara Laborczfalvi
- Joe Laborczfalvi
- Natalie Veinberg
- Stephen Tree
- Robert Schroettner
- Petros Nikoloudis
- James Chatman

Treasurer Margaret Carey was not at the meeting, but she reported beforehand that just over 400

members had paid their renewal subscriptions for 2013. That is a quicker response than we have had in previous years. Unfortunately the number of renewals registered in the database was quite a bit lower. Presumably this means some members send in their money, but neglect to update their record in the database. Reconciling the bank statement with the database is quite a big job for Margaret and Membership Secretary Sue Bucknell so, if you have yet to renew, please make sure to update the database. If you try to do so but have problems, let Margaret, Sue or the President know.

The bad news was that two applications for funding of work at Coolana were rejected. One application was to the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, and the other was to the State Government. It was disappointing to miss out, but we had not budgeted to receive anything from these sources, and there is enough money in the bank to complete all the work planned for Coolana this year.

*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*



**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!**

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.

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!

Willis's Walkabouts

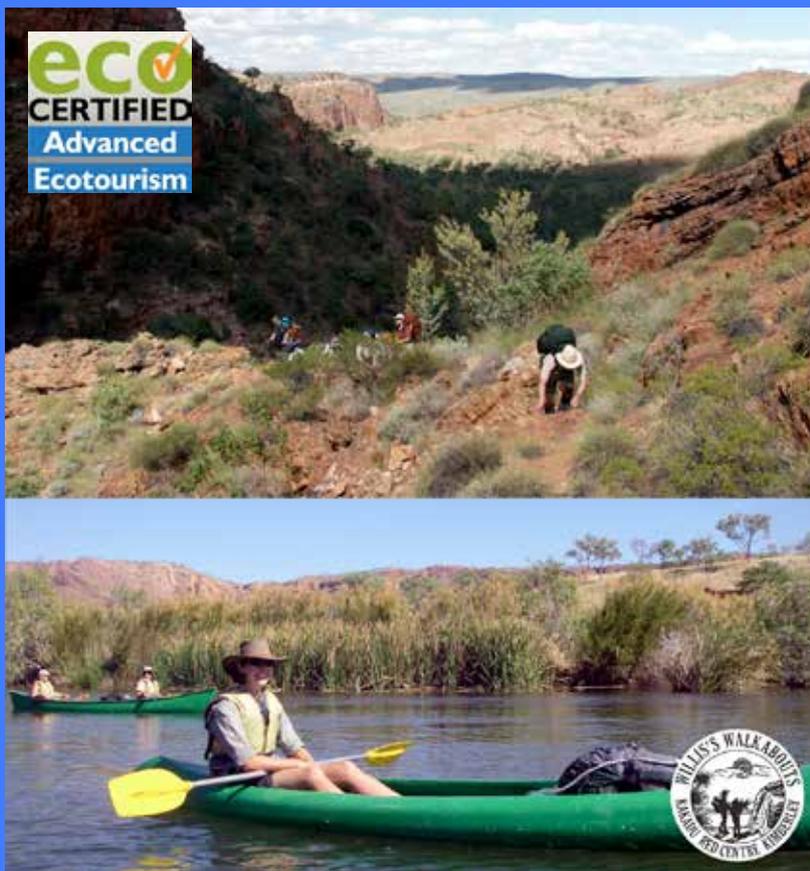
Kimberley Highlights 22 August - 7 September

This is a wonderful trip that doesn't get the attention it deserves. You begin with a leisurely four-day paddle down the Ord River, stopping to explore places most paddlers never see. This is followed by a six-day off track walk in the Carr Boyd Range where swim follows swim as you make your way past numerous spring-fed waterfalls. The final section is again untracked. You drive to El Questro, take a helicopter into the Cockburn Range and do a leisurely seven-day walk past art sites, pools and caves as you work your way back to where you began.

Too long? All three of the sections can be done on their own.

On all sections, you spend your evenings relaxing by the fire as your guide cooks you a three-course meal.

If you'd like a relaxing wilderness experience in three of the Kimberley's best areas, you owe it to yourself to have a look at the trip notes on our website.



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. Here are firm dates for the months ahead:

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.



Ron Watters

If you know this bloke and would like to see him, he would like to see you too.

Ron is a Past President of the Club, he is living in a nursing home and he is healthy.

This is how you can get there. He is at the Chesalon Nursing Home at 15 Lenna Place Jannali, 02 8539 7022, it is a few hundred metres from Jannali railway station.

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: Palm Beach circuit

7 July 2013: Roger Treagus

This walk had been postponed twice, once because of severe weather and twice because of my attendance at a funeral.

So it was good that the numbers for the walk did not reduce too much. The day was a glorious winter's day and started with a ferry trip to Currawong on the western shore of Pittwater. Here we met Stephen and Yvonne who had previously walked down from the West Head Road.

We started the walk by walking north along the shoreline to Great Mackerel Beach and Resolute Beach for morning tea. The view from Resolute is stunning taking in the entrance of Pittwater into Broken Bay and Barrenjoey headland. We lost a walker there as Jan headed back home after joining us just for the walk to morning tea after her night shift. Nick, recently out from England, thought it was wonderful that you could drink from almost all of the streams we crossed.

We ascended to the great West Head lookout and inspected the old tramway, a 50 degree inclined plane from the plateau down to the rocks constructed during WWII to convey heavy artillery down to the gun emplacements used to defend us against a sneak Japanese attack.

We then walked on to the Flint and Steel Bay track and down to lovely Whitehorse beach. This is where the walk suddenly deteriorated as the old track was impossible to find in the heavily overgrown bush. The 500m to Hungry Beach took an hour of solid bush bashing in true off track mode. True to it's name, Hungry Beach was a welcome lunch spot. In the pool there we saw a Port Jackson shark looking a bit dead.

There was a ribbon around a tree at the start of Jim's track up the western escarpment from the beach. However, once on the track our pleasant ascent was

short lived as we promptly lost the track and spent the next 45 minutes almost on hands and knees inching our way through horrible tobacco plants and vines up the steep slope until mercifully reaching the markers indicating we were on track again. So in the end the off track section took almost 2 hours to go 750m.

At the top, on the ridgeline separating Hungry Beach from Little Pittwater, we were rewarded with a stunning view up the Hawkesbury River to Brooklyn. We passed the sign for Jim's track (circa 1937) that it seems NPWS knows nothing about.



After this it was a straightforward walk back to the road and then down the Mackerel Track to Mackerel Beach and the ferry across to Palm Beach.

Our original plan to walk to the Basin the catch the ferry was abandoned because of all the time taken to get through the thick bush near Hungry. The weather all day was glorious and the cake at the wharf while waiting for the ferry was a nice way to finish.

Left: Morning tea on Resolute Beach. Right: Structure on the hill behind Hungry Beach



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

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A letter from Peru on return from walking the Compostela – the Way of the Stars.

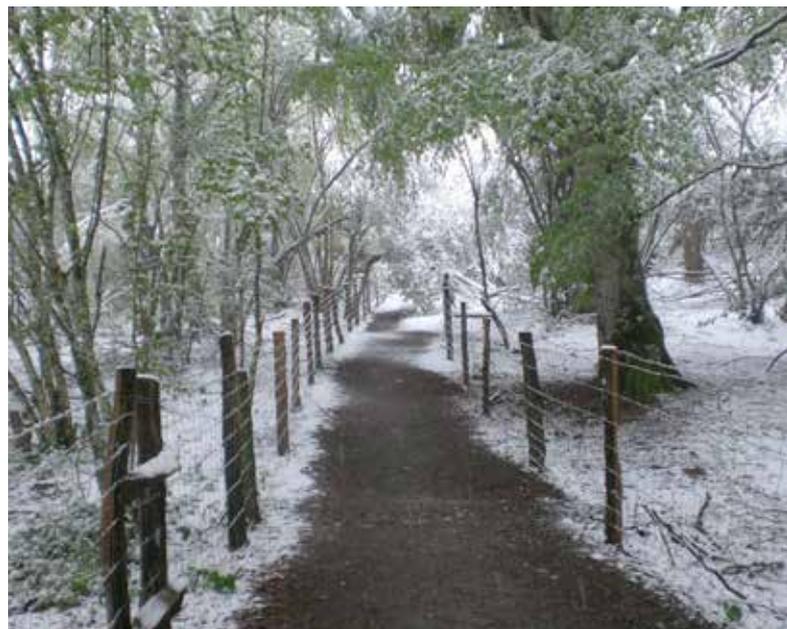
Susi Prescott

Back in Arequipa, Peru, sitting at my computer, I look out at the garden and reflect that, just over a week ago, three pilgrims reached Finisterra, on the Atlantic coast of northern Spain, and posed in triumph on the cliff at the 'end of the earth', alongside charred offerings of burnt walking gear from those who had gone before.



each day but get up, have breakfast, pack up our few belongings and start walking; and at the end of the day, find a bed, a shower, unpack, enjoy good company over food and wine, and go to sleep.

Naturally, there were blisters, tendons, knees, backs, and shoulders, which caused considerable



The two Susies, known along the way as 'Susie squared', walked a total of 875km over 37 days on the Camino Frances from Saint Jean Pied de Port. Romi, daughter of the shorter Susi, joined us for the 90km from Santiago.

We celebrated our arrival at Finisterra with a very long lunch by the port looking out at the colourful fishing boats. Needless to say, the excellent local white wine played a considerable part in our celebrations, finally numbing the scorching blister on my little toe which had accompanied me day in, day out for three weeks.

Now, a week later, we have scattered from the end of the earth to the corners of the globe – Susie 1 back to Australia, Susi 2 back to Peru, and Romi to Germany. The wonders of air travel.

As for this type of foot travel, it has a lot to offer – as we discovered on our pilgrimage. Just putting one in front of the other, with nothing else to do

grief along the way, together with the unseasonably cold weather. However, despite one hypothermic day of snow and ice on the Pyrenees, this generally meant that we escaped the usual soaring heat and enjoyed cool conditions for walking almost the whole Camino.

The countryside was sublime, enhanced by wildflowers, lining the path or covering entire fields in lilac, blue, pink, purple, red, white, yellow; not to mention poppies straight out of a Monet. Little stone villages, elegant cities, tiny churches, magnificent cathedrals, and always enough sun to admire them. Enormous storks' nests, balancing precariously on church spires, electricity towers, and the odd Corinthian column, diligent parents in residence, blissfully unaware of the possibility of imminent collapse!

Sometimes we chatted along the way, but often only the rhythm of our steps broke the silence. As we became more physically tired, no energy remained





for the thoughts which usually race interminably through the 'monkey mind'. We found ourselves simply experiencing the present, the beauty of the moment. From this tranquility came a means to identify and ponder deeply-held notions . . . about the world, and indeed ourselves.

Our fellow pilgrims were a merry bunch – all ages, races, persuasions, shapes and sizes. Mothers and daughters, fathers and daughters, Wanda, who at 76 far out-paced us, with her grand-daughter of 22. Friends, couples, also many walking solo. We would meet up at meals or on breaks, then we'd not see people for a few days, or even weeks, and then they'd turn up again. Meanwhile other new faces would appear. It was a continual moving circus but particularly thrilling to actually see so many once in Santiago, to find out how they'd fared.



Above: Susi and Susie with Wanda and her granddaughter.



Some had walked up to 1,600 kilometres, one retired couple having stepped out of their front door on the French Brittany coast, and headed east then south; a German group had done the same from their home in Augsburg, turning south-west.

Several had walked the Camino in France from Le Puy to St. Jean, before even beginning our part of the Compostela across Spain.

We were particularly taken with Dante, the canine pilgrim, who carried his own pack with sleeping mat on his back, and two side pockets filled with dog food. Photo No 19.

After bemoaning the loss of my French to Spanish over the past 6 years, my chats with the many pelegrins français on the Camino restored it so well that now it is popping out here in Peru!! I even scraped up some German, but it usually only lasted half the sentence and then I'd finish in Spanish, much to the puzzlement of my listeners!!

Our arrival in Santiago was naturally a highlight, especially with Romi there to greet us. We attended not only the noon Pilgrim Mass, but also, accidentally, half of a previous one, having arrived early to secure our seats. Both were deeply moving, the climax being the botafumeiro. This enormous silver incense holder hangs from a very long, thick rope attached to a pulley system in up in the cathedral tower, and on certain days (but nobody knows when), it is lit and four hefty priests heave on the rope, literally jumping with all their weight to make the botafumeiro swing on a huge arc across the entire length of the transept of the cathedral, Photo No 20. It went faster and faster, careering over us, clearing our heads by a whisker, back and forth, higher and higher until it seemed to just stop short of crashing into the tippy-top of the vaulted ceiling!! Essential in earlier times to fumigate the often disease-ridden pilgrims, it is used only sporadically these days - and we had the incredible fortune of witnessing this spectacle not once but twice! Romi suggested we may have been a particularly smelly bunch that day!

So that's about it. We did it and we not only survived – we had a truly wonderful time! And with the generous help of so many, the pilgrimage has so far raised \$9,030 for the kids of 'Elohim'. I am hopeful of reaching the target of \$10,000.

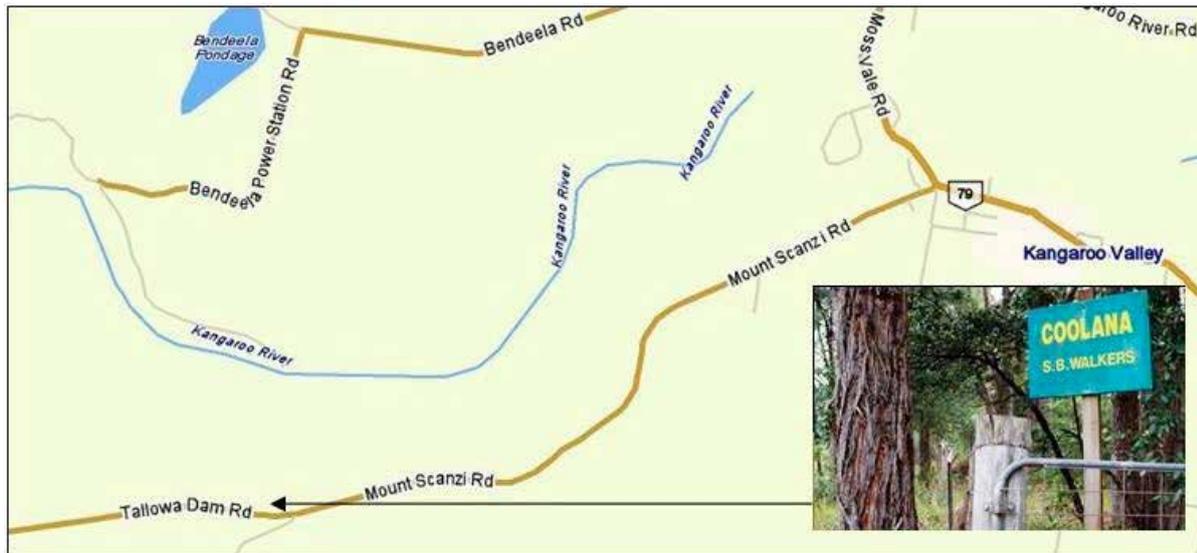
Abrazos del Perú,
Susi (the short one)



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).



Trip Report: Garie Beach

10 June 2013: Stanley Wong

Nigel's walk started with a big group on a sunny morning at Garie Beach. We headed up Garie North head after traversing Garie beach and had our morning tea with a great view. After moving through Curra Moors trail and a short road bash, we entered Walumarra Track. As we continue into Forrest Island track the trees are getting taller. The crossing of Hacking river was a little more difficult

than expected as the water level was quite high. Many new members enjoyed their first wet feet experience at the crossing. As we progressed into Couranga track the rain started and getting heavier. New members had a chance to test their rain gear. When we got back to our carpark the rain was still continuing and everyone was happy to get into their cars or the train.



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.

84 Parks have closed areas, there are no fire bans.

Barren Grounds Nature Reserve

The reserve will be closed for vehicle and foot traffic until the end of July for Road Work.

Blue Mountains

Breakfast Point Lookout at Wentworth Falls is closed until further notice.

Burralow Camping and Picnic Area is open to 4WD vehicles from the Kurrajong Heights (eastern side) via Tabaraga Ridge Fire Trail. The Burralow Fire Trail from Bilpin (western side) remains closed.

Campsites at Euroka - Euroka campground: Darug campsite now closed until further notice for maintenance and upgrade. Camping is available at other sites at Euroka.

Snowy Mountains

Lowells Flat and MacIntyres Hut Camping areas are closed (Ends Monday 29 October)

Trail Closures - Flea Creek camp ground.

The following trails are closed until further notice: Waterfall, McIntyres, Lowells Flat, Follys, and Bag Range. This is due to deteriorating road conditions

Two Sticks Road is closed between Piccadilly Circus and Curries Road until further notice due to deteriorating road conditions.

Central Coast

Daniels Point Road in Jilliby State Conservation Area is closed between Watagan Forest Road and Maculata Fire Trail until further notice. Closure is due to severe erosion of the creek banks at Daniels Point Road creek crossing.

Middle Ridge Road is closed until further notice due to an infestation of Myrtle Rust.

All roads in Jilliby SCA can be slippery after rain events. Drivers are cautioned to take extreme care - roads are most suitable to 4WDs.

Lemon Tree Forest Road in Jilliby SCA is temporarily closed until further notice to all vehicles from Prickly Ridge Road to Yambo Forest Road due to road damage from rain and vehicle activity.

Prickly Ridge Road is only suitable for 4WD

Red Hill Road is closed.

Snowy Mountains

Bridge washed away on Buddong Falls Track

Creel Bay road and the boat ramp are closed due to rising dam levels - Creel Bay

General Park wide advice and warning - many areas are flood affected - exercise extreme caution - Geehi Dam.

Please stay on sealed roads within Kosciuszko National Park until further notice. Roads could be affected by rock fall and other debris.

Geehi Dam Road is closed beyond the lookout.

Access to the Rock Flat picnic and Camping ground has been closed indefinitely due to significant damage due to flood waters in the Goobragandra river.

Port Phillip Fire Trail is closed at the causeway of Tantangra dam - Ghost Gully campground. Road and trail closures, Goobragandra Powerline Road - Broken Cart campground

The Tin Mines Barn within the Pilot Wilderness Area is closed.

Winter Road Closure apply until 5th October

Morton National Park

Red Hills Fire Trail Closure (Ends Friday 31 August)

The Tianjara Artillery Impact Area, in the northeastern part of the Budawangs, is permanently closed to certain activities because of danger from Unexploded Ordnance.

Tianjara Fire Trail is closed until further notice, due to wet weather and environmental damage.

Watagans National Park

Bangalow Road, Bangalow and Gap Creek Camping areas are closed until further notice

Click Creek Fire Trail is closed to all vehicles due to storm damage.

Drivers should take care on Watagan Forest Road.

Wollemi National Park

The California Trail is closed for road works from Thursday 25th August 2011 until further notice. Glow Worm Tunnel Road 4WD only. Grassy Hill trail is closed. Part of Martindale Trail is closed.

Worimi National Park

Partially closed areas Worimi Conservation Lands including Stockton Beach. - Stockton Bight.

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>13 April 2013 AREA: Bungonia National Park GRADE: M223</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Bungonia Campground</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Bungonia Campground, Stan Jones Fire Trail, Dog Den Hill, Spring Creek Canyon, Shoalhaven River, Trestle Track, return to cars.</p> <p>Advertised as Mystery Canyon, but was in fact Spring Creek. Perfect weather for this trip as not too hot and the sun warmed the open drops most of the day. Started at Bungonia Campground and drove to the Trestle Track junction with Stan Jones fire trail. We left cars and proceeded along the Stan Jones fire trail and exited at Dog Den Hill and proceeded to walk down to Spring Creek. The canyon is clear of any debris or rock falls and all the anchor points, save the old piton, have been replaced with stainless steel fittings. We undertook the various descents without trouble and much fun. The exit was initially lilo along the Shoalhaven River and exit up the first spur to the Trestle Track and 5km walk to the gate at Stan Jones fire trail.</p> <p>See You Tube video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZvIH23_YLo</p>	<p>James Swinton</p> <p>Lucy Keatinge Alan Osland Neil Sutar Daryl Sullings Grant Carter</p>
<p>14 April 2013 AREA: Morton National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Belmore Falls Carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Originally advertised as Minnamurra Canyon. When we arrived at Knights Hill Rd we found a huge sign that unequivocally forbade rope sports in the Canyon (pity)</p> <p>Proceeded to a very satisfactory alternative of Belmore Falls at the suggestion of Michael Carmichael. Proceeded down the old track under the cliff line to the bottom of the first big waterfall. Then proceeded down a spectacular series of falls and cascades to the bottom. Walk out was a scramble up the true right back to the start. Injury to one member when a rock fell on his foot. He and two members kindly escorted him out.</p> <p>You tube video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2I4fYrudXI0</p>	<p>James Swinton</p> <p>John Robb Sue Bucknell Neil Soutar Lucy Keatinge David Carmichael Brendan Anderson</p>
<p>27-28 April 2013 AREA: Morton National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Yaboro Flats Carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Planned an exploratory walk from Yaboro Flats carpark up Kalianna Ridge to the Castle. Then walk down to Cooyoyo camping area. Next day (exploratory) walk south along cliff line to Castle Gap. The ascend Byangee Mountain and return via Byangee trail to carpark. Taxing, ropes, exposure.</p> <p>High camp on Castle. Windy overnight, dry. Plenty of water in pools. Sunday morning proceeded to make way to Castle Gap. Cut south under castle cliff line (easy) and then descended to the Gap. Within 100m of gap, the scrub was too dense to pass and time running out. Elected to return via Meakin Pass and Kalianna Ridge.</p> <p>Video on You Tube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtz4wVseTfA</p>	<p>James Swinton</p> <p>Melinda Turner Don Andrews Tara Cemeron Jouni Leppanen</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Michael Gadiel</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>1-24 May 2013 AREA: Spain GRADE: X221</p> <p>START PLACE: Madrid FINISH PLACE: Santiago de Compostela</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: No SBW members wanted to come on this trip, but I had three friends join me. I modified the itinerary to suit them. Altogether we did about 570km, from Madrid to Sahagun via the Camino de Madrid, then from Ponferrada to Santiago via the Camino de Invierno. We did the Sahagun – Ponferrada bit by train, stopping in Leon for a bit of sightseeing (fantastic cathedral).</p>	<p>Leigh McClintock</p>
<p>25-26 May 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: L332</p> <p>START PLACE: Scenic Railway Katoomba FINISH PLACE: Furber Steps</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Scenic Railway, Furber Steps, National Pass, Jamieson Valley, Kedumba Farm Service Road, camped at abandoned Kedumba Farm, Sunday: road and track to the East Col and then across Mr Solitary, Tramway track, exited at Furber Steps.</p> <p>A small but quick party made the most of a perfectly fine weekend, being the first true autumn weather. While day one is said by some to be a 'road bash' it has colossal views of the Kings Tableland and finishes through a fine stand of blue gum before reaching the Kedumba Farm campsite. The evening was a memorable combination of a full moon and autumn mist. The traverse of Solitary and walkout on Sunday went smoothly in great conditions.</p>	<p>Brendon Anderson</p> <p>Chris Birch Stephen Brading Bruno De Villenoisy</p>
<p>1 June 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M332 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Pulpit Rock Carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Changed original plan to increase it to a 22km loop: Pulpit Rock Carpark, Govetts Leap, Lockleys Pylon up/down, Perrys, Pulpit Rock</p> <p>The walk was planned as an introduction to K2K pace so no time to stop and admire the lovely views. Apart from very short stops to re-group a good solid pace saw everyone back at the cars in 7hrs. One of the group who couldn't face the thought of the last 4km road bash decided to add on a trip back down Perrys and a climb up Govetts!</p>	<p>Helen MacDonald</p> <p>Jim Vaughan Caro Ryan Jane Fielding Julio Rodrigues Alan Osland John Flint Bruno De Villenoisy</p> <p><i>P Members</i> James Chapman Alan Carpenter</p>

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Contact communications@sbw.org.au

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Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>1-2 June 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park, Jenolan Karst National Park, Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: L231 Q WALK</p> <p>START PLACE: Explorers Tree FINISH PLACE: Jenolan Caves</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Six Foot Track with overnight on Black Range, return bus to Katoomba.</p> <p>The weekend went as planned with 12 enthusiastic walkers starting out from Explorers Tree on a rather chilly and overcast Saturday morning. The weather forecast was for wet and cold conditions across both days, however we were lucky with the rain holding off until we reached our campsite near the "Pluviometer" on Black Range. The ascent up Mini Mini Saddle and then Black Range was daunting with full packs – all of us have now committed to revisit our UL approach – however everyone did extremely well and we were able to set up camp before dark and the rain set in.</p> <p>A great night was had around the campfire with a very memorable happy hour that didn't seem to end (could have accounted for some of the extra pack weight...). It rained constantly overnight so we decided to knock over the next 8km along Black Range in the rain and have breakfast under the shelter at Black Range campsite which ended up being a very popular decision. The temperature dropped as we left Black Range on our final leg into Jenolan Caves, however the rain finally abated as we walked into Jenolan Caves Cabins where the grassed area was full of feeding Wallabies. Our final descent to Jenolan Caves was completed by 1.10 pm with time to spare (including a visit to see the resident platypus in Blue Lake) before our bus trip back to Katoomba.</p> <p>There was great camaraderie within the team (Lisa suggested we call ourselves 'The Rum Corp') considering the conditions and a few minor injuries made this walk an absolute pleasure to lead. Congratulations to the Prospectives – Cathie, Barbara, Joe, Petros and Rob who all did extremely well and have now successfully completed their overnight Q walk.</p>	<p>Robert Carter</p> <p>Lisa Sheldon Glenn Draper Frances Bottrell Jen Edwards John O'Riordan Julian Martin</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Barbara Laborczfalvi Petros Nikoloudis Robert Schroettner Cathie Goss Joe Laborczfalvi</p>
<p>2 June 2013 AREA: Ku-ring-gai National Park, Berowra Valley (Great North Walk) GRADE: L231 Q WALK</p> <p>START PLACE: Hawkesbury River Station FINISH PLACE: Berowra Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Brooklyn Station, Brooklyn Dam, Jerusalem Bay , Cowan Station, Joe Craft Creek, Berowra Waters, Berowra Station</p> <p>As it rained all night before the walk only three of the 10 people booked in decided to turn up. Until morning tea at Jerusalem Bay the rain was light and did not bother us. The bush was looking its best. Then the temperature dropped, wind increased and the rain became heavier. The amount of water in the creek on the way up to Cowan Station provided scenic waterfalls, and the track we were walking on became a creek for much of the time. We sheltered at Cowan Station for a second morning tea before venturing out into the rain and wind in conditions more akin to being on a boat in bad weather than on land.</p> <p>Joe Crafts Creek was up and the usual crossing was unusable. Sally and I crossed on the safer and deeper upstream side of the usual crossing which was a waist deep wade for Sally. David skillfully negotiated a tricky shallow crossing just below the normal spot without losing his footing. We located and enjoyed lunch in the shelter of an overhang after the Berowra Reserve campsite as the weather improved. By Berowra Waters Ferry some blue sky appeared and we packed away the rain pants and jackets. Further on rain had piled stick and bark debris up to the deck of the foot bridge on the Benowie track so David and I removed some of the flood material allowing some of the water to flow under the bridge to reduce the possibility of the bridge being washed away. We got to Berowra Station in sunshine at 4.30pm completing a memorable days walking in good company</p>	<p>Stephen Brading</p> <p>David Trinder</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Sally Reynolds</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>2 June 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park, Kedumba Valley GRADE: M232 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Kedumba Gate</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kedumba Gate, Old Road beside goat track, return via goat track</p> <p>Commenced walking at 9.15am from Kedumba gate in persistent rain. Proceeded down Kedumba Valley Rd to 56H KH 57054 58860 where we took an old fire trail that followed the spur downhill to 56H KH 56289 58853 where it makes a hairpin turn (at this point it is worth noting that the track to Kedumba River and the East Col of Mt Solitary is just to the north on the other side of the gully). From the hairpin turn, the old firetrail proceeds in a generally southerly direction to the terminus of the goat track, where both the old firetrail and the goat track rejoin the Kedumba Valley Rd.</p> <p>As it was raining heavily we decided not to proceed to Kedumba Farm for the scheduled lunch stop. Instead we walked up to the chains on the goat track at 56H KH 56740 58120. We noted several old insulators and some wiring from an old telegraph or telephone line. In the wet conditions, the chains proved too difficult for some members of the party and so we back tracked down the hill to the terminus of the goat track and then generally north along old firetrail to for about 400m to where a spur crossed the old fire trail on its way down to the Kedumba River.</p> <p>Led by Chris, we walked and scrambled up this spur that had remnants of an old barbed wire fence. The rain ceased so lunch was enjoyed not only by us but also the resident leeches, who found Melinda very much to their liking. After lunch we investigated another old firetrail at 56H KH 56808 58255 that went SE and after making two sharp bends ran into a dead end in a side gully. Not put off by this failure, the party decided to complete the upper section of the goat track. Under Chris's guidance, the Prospectives handled the scrambling in the gully at the very top of the track well. A quick stop at the Cleary Bulldozer Memorial and then back to the cars for an early 2.30pm finish.</p> <p>An enjoyable walk with good company. The sharing of knowledge, of the various routes around the goat track made it a valuable experience for all who attended. All GPS grid references are WGS84 using MGRS (military grid reference system).</p>	<p>Paul Barton</p> <p>Edward Squires Chris Dowling</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Melinda Long Stuart Corner</p>
<p>8 June 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Galong Farm</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Galong Farm, Ironmonger Hill and Spur, upstream along the Coxs River, Quartpot Ridge (north of the gully), Tinpot Mountain, Ironpot Mountain, Galong Farm.</p> <p>Short notice walk. An enjoyable walk with an amicable group. Weather was good – cool but not cold, cloudy but dry. The participants had varied fitness levels and some participants, including the leader, were affected by pre-existing injuries, but we all completed the walk without any dramas. Walk finished at 5.10pm.</p>	<p>Chris Dowling</p> <p>Huw ap Rees Peter Cai Sandra See Tim Sutherland Margaret Rozea Jim Close Karen Kool</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Tammy Safi</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>8-10 June 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park, Kanangra-Boyd National Park GRADE: M323</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Dunphy's Carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Carlons, Medlow Gap, White Dog, Cox River, Mt Cookem, Scotts Main Range, Sullivan Yards Spur, Kowmung River (camp), Gogok Spur, Wonga Wonga Spur, Gangerang Ridge, Gentles Pass, Carra Tops, Strongleg, Kanangra Creek (camp), Yellow Pup Spur, Medlow Gap, Carlons.</p> <p>Great weekend with eight keen walkers. We were blessed with great campsites on both nights, even though the first was an exploratory, lovely open ridges without too much scrub and good weather – just a bit of drizzle on Monday when we were on our way back to the cars.</p> <p>We set off bravely through 'the corridor' avoiding the potential \$11,000 fine for walking in the Water Board restricted areas. Bravely, because this means quite a bit of firetrail road bash. Several walkers showed an interest in brushing up on their navigation with Tara confidently leading us through much of Sunday. Well done!</p> <p>Gentles Pass was on everyone's bucket list and we all found it with ease, thanks to advice from Karl Miller and Roy Jamieson, with a handline making pack hauling for the first 5m a lot easier.</p> <p>Sunday was an epic day, which saw us descending the last 300 vertical metres of Mt Strongleg in the dark, thankfully to arrive right at the campsite at the bottom on Kanangra Creek. We were all pretty exhausted, with a couple of us fighting the dreaded winter lurgy. Lovely campsite, good fire and drinking water. Unfortunately, Rebecca found the lone Stinging Tree on the outskirts of the campsite, but after a bit of Fixomull 'waxing' it seemed to calm down.</p> <p>Monday finished in the rain after a well deserved sleep-in and a 9.30am departure from camp. We had lunch in Mobbs Cave out of the drizzle and headed back to the cars for warming up and dry clothes.</p> <p>All round, a great circuit trip that takes in many of the A-List features of the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coxs River (twice at two different points) The 'Corridor' Views from Mt Cookem Kowmung River Lovely open ridge walking Gentles Pass Thigh burning Strongleg descent Kanangra Creek Wild Dogs 	<p>Caro Ryan</p> <p>Frances Bottrell Jason Lorch Rebecca Lorch Jane Fielding Alan Osland</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Tara Chapman James Chatman</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>8 June 2013 AREA: Nattai National Park GRADE: M232 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Wattle Ridge</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Wattle Ridge, Nattai Rd fire trail, Base camp at Junction of Allum and Nattai Rivers. Day walk to Bellon Pass via Wanganderry Tableland then return to base camp via Travis Gully and Nattai River fire trail. Return to Wattle Ridge via outward route</p> <p>The Nattai Rd fire trail provided quick and direct access to the lovely Allum Flat camping site. This allowed conservation of energy for the demanding 2nd day walk. We set out from camp at 8:20am and immediately ascended a spur and a ridge to the bluff at 56H KH 54835 09623 WGS84 MGRS. A quick exploration for a pass straight up the nose failed so we headed north keeping close to the cliff line. This was slow walking through thick under growth. Another failed attempt occurred at a slot pass, although a party with more able climbers may be able to make further progress up the slot than I did. Third time lucky at 54502 09996 where, after a zig and a zag, Angela found a walk up a dry creek. A little more simple route finding through the minor cliffs of the creek took us to 54381 10034.</p> <p>From here we walked through heavy scrub across to the western edge of the Wanganderry Plateau. Fantastic views into Wollondilly arm of Warragamba Dam were enjoyed along the length of the Plateau. We encountered no major difficulties with only minor scrambling required. However there was some more high quality scrub, which at times was very testing. Of note were some Aboriginal grinding grooves at 53552 10084. We signed the log book at the top of Beloon Pass and from here it was careful walking down the creek beds until the track was found at the creek junction 55703 13391.</p> <p>This track was followed down Travis Gully to Nattai River fire trail. The party wasn't impressed with the third ford of the Nattai River in the dark where the water was above the crown jewells. After a long but rewarding day we arrived back at camp about 6.20pm. On Monday we enjoyed a sleep in then left camp at 10am. Arrived back at Wattle Ridge car park after persistent rain at around 2pm. I would like to thank all members of the party for an enjoyable weekend.</p>	<p>Paul Barton</p> <p>Josette Squires Edward Squires Glenn Draper</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Angela Barton Peter Conroy Linda Groom</p>
<p>8 June 2013 AREA: Heathcote National Park GRADE: S212</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Waterfall Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Waterfall, Camp Coutts, Mt Westmacott, Westmacott north ridge, Kingfisher Pool Yelgun Cave, Kingfisher Pool, Waterfall.</p> <p>On a fine and mild morning our group headed off from Waterfall, following foot-tracks to Camp Coutts, and then up onto the south-east slopes of Mt Westmacott where we had a morning break with fine views across the valley. We then ascended to the top of Mt Westmacott where there are more lovely views. We then went off-track down onto the north ridge of Mt Westmacott. The bush was thick in various places, and we used rock platforms where possible to help our progress. We finally came out onto the Bullawarrang Track just west of Kingfisher Pool.</p> <p>We had lunch by Heathcote Creek beside a babbling waterfall. After lunch we followed rough tracks southward along Kingfisher Creek to see if we could find Yelgun Cave. We had no luck finding it, so we went back to Heathcote Creek under increasing cloud for a rest by lovely Kingfisher Pool, and then made our way back to Waterfall via the Bullawarrang Track. Overall it was a pleasant day out, with a sense of adventure tossed in as we wended our way off-track along the northern ridge of Mt Westmacott.</p>	<p>Nigel Weaver</p> <p>Graham Byrne Jan Spencer Misako Sugiyama Helen Lalas Pam Campbell John Robb</p> <p><i>P Members</i> David Mollison Lisa De Meur Richard Kelly Jade Chang Sarah Paparo</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>10 June 2013 AREA: Heathcote National Park GRADE: M121</p> <p>START PLACE: Garie Beach FINISH PLACE: Waterfall Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Garie Beach, North Garie Head, Curra Moors, Wallumarra Track, Forest Island, Couranga Track, Waterfall.</p> <p>On a fine and mild morning our party left Garie Beach and climbed to the top of North Garie Head where we enjoyed the fabulous clifftop views down the coast to Port Kembla and beyond. We then crossed the moors to Bertam Stevens Drive and switched onto the Wallumarra Track.</p> <p>Lunch was taken on a set of rock platforms at the end of the ridge, just before the track descends steeply down into the gully where Bola Creek was flowing fast. At the bottom of the gully we walked through rainforest, crossed the creek via a footbridge, and got onto the Forest Path which took us around the northern rim of Forest Island to the turnoff for the Couranga Track. We then had to ford Hacking River, which was running a little high. So it was compulsory wet feet for us all. We then followed the Couranga Track uphill, but as we ascended, alas, it started to rain lightly, and we ended up having to don our rain jackets. The light rain continued all the way to Waterfall, where we finished our walk with a soggy end. Overall it was a pleasant walk, with the best views in the early stages.</p>	<p>Nigel Weaver</p> <p>Margaret Weaver Tracey Avolio Nicola Piper Tim Yewdall David Mollison Stanley Wong Karen Brading Richard Brading Margaret Rozea Rosemary MacDougal Margaret Carey Frances Bertrand John O’Riordan</p> <p><i>P Members</i> David Mollison Sally Fallon Sarah Gough Emily Poole Bronwen O’Dwyer Sally Reynolds Daryl Watson Andrea James Patricia Huang</p>
<p>8-10 June 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START PLACE: Unirover Trail FINISH PLACE: Kanangra Carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Unirover Trail to Kowmung River, then down the Kowmung to Orange Bluff Camp site then up Brumby Ridge to carpark</p> <p>The Kowmung River is a wild remote river, you cannot drive to any part of it so the only access is to walk for 4 hours. It is pristine but most of the river that we traversed is slow. Jim had a collapsible fishing rod and on the last morning he caught a trout. We had fresh prawns for happy hour and fresh trout for breakfast. Both campsites were flat and grassy and talk around the camp fire lasted hours until 9 PM.</p>	<p>David Trinder</p> <p>John Flint David Merrick James Vaoghan</p>
<p>8-10 June 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Yerranderie</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Yerranderie, Axehead Range, Bull Island Creek, Bull Island Gap, Tonalli River, Yerranderie.</p> <p>This was a successful combined SBW/Bush Club walk.</p>	<p>Peter Cunningham</p>
<p>15 June 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: L332 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Govetts Leap Carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Govetts Leap, Pulpit Rock, Perry Lookdown, Blue Gum Forest, Lockleys Pylon, Blue Gum Forest, Junction Rock, Govetts Leap</p> <p>A great and challenging walk in the Grose Valley. The weather was clear and cool with a slight breeze and the views stunning. We started at 8am and all the party managed to finish before dark, around 5pm. The stats: distance 24.6km, ascent 1660m, descent 1660m</p>	<p>Bruno De Villenoisy</p> <p>Stanley Wong Sandra See Tim Yewdall Gloria Roberts John Flint Joe Laborczfalvi Virginia Waller</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Alan Carpenter David Mollison</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>15-16 June 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: S212</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Boyd Crossing</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Boyd Crossing, Kanangra Range, Bourne Soak Queen Pin Gully, Queen Pin, King Pin Boyd Crossing.</p> <p>Nav 101, a weekend of intensive map reading and compass work with GPS use and setup. Some rain on Friday night at Boyd Crossing, very cold overnight clearing to a fine cold weekend. Beautiful forest and grass to camp on in Queen Pin Gully. A small amount of pig damage, one pig seen south of King Pin.</p>	<p>Don Finch</p> <p>Ros Kerrigan</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Christina Pattison Alan Osland Rob Schroettner</p>
<p>15-16 June 2013 AREA: Gardens of Stone National Park GRADE: S222E/Canyon Grade 3</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Newnes Plateau</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Zorro Canyon; Sunnyside (Acoustic) Canyon</p> <p>The original trip was an abseil of Boars Head Rock. The forecast of a cold sou'wester made me change plans, and I managed to retain four of the original seven for the revised trip to two dry canyons in the Gardens of Stone. Zorro is a narrow crack-type canyon with a Z-shape near the end, with a couple of easy abseils. The shorter members of the party did have to endure a couple of short waist deep wades, while the tall managed to get away with knee deep or so. Cat managed to drop her lip balm into the slot at the end. Not to be outdone, Melinda had her camera fall from her pocket near the top of the final 20m abseil! Luckily it missed Simon and Cat down below. Being an Olympus Tough, it even continued to work!</p> <p>For lunch we drove out on another fire trail and walked out to the pagodas above Sunnyside Canyon. After lunch we climbed down the interesting slot entrance, and then walked up through the canyon. It has no abseils, but features some spectacular acoustic chambers. Then it was a short walk back to the car. Simon, Cat and I stopped for hot drinks and pies at Pie in the Sky on the way home - not that we really deserved it since we probably didn't walk more than about 4km all day, but some lovely winter canyoning in this little-known area.</p>	<p>Tom Brennan</p> <p>Melinda Turner Catherine Omal</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Simon Hager</p>
<p>16 June 2013 AREA: Brisbane Water National Park GRADE: M111</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Waterfall Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Woy Woy Tip, Rocky Ponds, Highway Ridge, Little Wobby.</p> <p>On a fine and mild day our group of walkers met at Woy Woy station, and took taxis to Woy Woy Tip to the start of the walk. We followed the fire trails around to Rocky Ponds where we had lunch at this lovely spot, with the water gently cascading over the rock platforms. We then followed a foot track southwards along Highway Ridge, eventually coming out on the high clifftops overlooking Hawkesbury River. The views are absolutely fabulous.</p> <p>We then followed an indistinct track southwards along the clifftops, and then turned down the steep gully that drops down to the southern end of Little Wobby. The track was hard to follow at various points, but we made it without too much trouble. At the bottom of the gully we went northwards along the shoreline past (and even underneath!) the houses at Little Wobby, and then did the lovely ferry trip across to Brooklyn to round off a very pleasant and scenic walk.</p>	<p>Nigel Weaver</p> <p>Fiona McRostie Linda Tarran Steve Tusler Misako Sugiyama Pamela Irving Graham Byrne Jan Spencer Lyn Terrey Michael Bickley Rosemary MacDougal Kay Chan Tony Manes Julian Martin</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>16 June 2013 AREA: Sydney Harbour National Park GRADE: L211</p> <p>START PLACE: Cremorne Point Ferry Wharf FINISH PLACE: Manly Ferry Wharf</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Cremorne Point ferry wharf, Mosman Bay, Taronga Zoo , Bradleys Head, Clifton Gardens, Chowder Bay, Balmoral Beach, Chinamans Beach, Spit Bridge, Clontarf, Manly ferry wharf</p> <p>Weather sunny, 18 degrees celcius, winds 25-30km/hr.</p> <p>Met up at 9.05am and started at 9.20am. Walk went largely as planned. Coffee break at Clifton Garden/Chowder Bay. Lunch at Spit Bridge by the water instead of Balmoral Beach.</p> <p>A couple of people were struggling 20 min before the end of the walk, so we had a 5 minute break. Estimated time of arrival was 4.00pm and we arrived at Manly wharf at 3.30pm.</p> <p>I knew previous to the walk that some of the Prospectives hadn't walked the distance before, and I gave everyone the option of vacating at the 14km mark when we arrived at Spit Bridge, as there are buses to Manly and the city from there. However, no one decided to take up this option. It was a good opportunity for prospectives to participate in a walk with a greater distance.</p>	<p>Jane Fielding</p> <p>Edward Squires Angela Mackenzie Paul Notholt Barbara Gray Karen Kool</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Michelle Smart Sarah Paparo Virginia Leadbitter Derek Austin James Chatman John Condren</p>
<p>16 June 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232 Q WALK</p> <p>START PLACE: Kedumba Gate FINISH PLACE: Kings Tableland Road</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kedumba Pass, Old Road near goat track, Kedumba Valley Rd, Spring Creek, Pass @583541, Kings Tableland Rd @597567</p> <p>Followed Kedumba Valley Road down past the hairpin and through the "swine line" gate. Ignored Sublime Point Rd turnoff and continued a few hundred metres to a cairn beside a tree marking the start of the old road. If anyone removes the cairn then another useful marker is a huge solitary 4m high boulder that is about 20m off to the western side of the road. This old road is hard to see at first but goes steeply downhill to a hairpin bend. It then runs roughly south as it contours across all the gullies until reaching the bottom of the goat track.</p> <p>From here we walked along the Kedumba Valley Road, through Kedumba Farm and onto the Spring Creek crossing. We had an enjoyable lunch on the bank of a tributary. Then along old farm trail and up the ridge, keeping left to avoid the lower cliffines. The top of this ridge becomes very steep. Angela Barton then led the party through the cliffline pass, which involves some some tricky scrambling and route finding. The trick was to keep right when reaching the major cliffline. All the party acquitted themselves well.</p> <p>Once on top of the cliffline we experienced some very high quality scrub. The leader was briefly navigationally embarrassed, but this only added to the experience and the adventure. A special mention for Lisa De Meur who is a prospective who had never experienced such a steep off track ridge with tricky and at times slightly exposed scrambling. Even though she suffered, Lisa persevered and completed the walk in good spirits. The other prospectives, Susan Fagoaga and Angela Barton, have much more experience in bushwalking than me and completed the walk with ease. Thanks to all the party for their good company on an enjoyable but challenging walk.</p>	<p>Paul Barton</p> <p>Julio Rodrigues Gray Thorn Andrew Vilder</p> <p><i>P Mambers</i> Susan Fagoaga Angela Barton Lisa De Meur</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Mike Barton</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>16 June 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M231</p> <p>START PLACE: Evans Lookout FINISH PLACE: Perry's Lookdown</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Evans Lookout, Horse Track, Govett Valley, Perrys Lookdown</p> <p>Beautiful weather in a beautiful location with good company made for a very pleasant day out. The flood cleared Govett Creek, providing a clearer view of the imposing cliffs. Some of us took a look at the Grose River, which has also had its riverbed cleared, however the bank is still overgrown. The Perry's climb divided the party. We finished the day mid-afternoon and were back in Sydney for dinner.</p>	<p>Stephen Brading</p> <p>Yvonne Brading Paul Bulkeley Leigh Mcclintock</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Dorinda Appiah</p>
<p>16 June 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M222 Q WALK</p> <p>START PLACE: Leura Cascades FINISH PLACE: Roberts Pass</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Leura Cascades, Lindeman Track, ascent of Sublime Point, Gladstone Pass, Lindemans Track, Roberts Pass</p> <p>Beautiful day. Local expert Jonno Downes provided all the key local knowledge for a fantastic experience. Fun, challenging ascents and descents, great views across the Kedumba Valley.</p>	<p>John Kennett Jonno Downes</p> <p>Nicola Piper Tracey Avolio Petros Nickoloudis John Robb Cathy Hui Robert Carter</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Patricia Huang Meg Kwon Manuel Renu Thuy Ho</p>
<p>22 June 2013 AREA: Ben Bullen State Forest GRADE: S222E Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Ben Bullen State Forest</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Park at GR 281 188 on Moffitts Trail. Explore the Poseidon Ridge of the Poseidon Arena. Then climb the east side of Zeus Ridge (we explored the west side in an earlier walk). Return to the cars.</p> <p>This area is full of amazing rock formations, magnificent pagodas and spectacular views. If open cut mining is allowed in other parts of the Forest (e.g. the Coalpac project), it is only a matter of time before the Poseidon Arena too will be destroyed. See it whilst you can.</p>	<p>Yuri Bolotin</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Daryl Watson James Chatman Angela MacKenzie Adam Frare Keith Muir</p>
<p>22 June 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Galongs Farm</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Galong Farm, Hobbles Spur, Breakfast Creek, Cattle Dog Ridge, Knights Deck ,Knights Pup, Breakfast Creek, Pots & Pans Spur, Ironpot Mountain, Galong Farm.</p> <p>An enjoyable walk with no dramas. Good amicable group. The weather was kind to us: we started walking in fog, which cleared to a mostly sunny morning. By lunchtime the cloud cover was increasing and rain seemed likely, however it did not eventuate during the walk. The rain started just after we commenced driving back to Blackheath.</p> <p>We had morning tea on Cattle Dog Ridge, lunch at Knights Deck and an afternoon tea stop at the base of Pots & Pans Spur.</p> <p>There was less water than usual in Breakfast Creek, and it was possible to do the creek crossings with dry feet.</p> <p>There are burnt areas on Cattle Dog and Blue Dog ridges from the recent hazard reduction burn, and the Knights Pup north-west of Knights Deck has been extensively burned. Knights Deck and the top of Cattle Dog Ridge have not been burned.</p>	<p>Chris Dowling</p> <p>Greg Bray Sandra See Karen Kool Melanie Freer Julio Rodrigues John Robb</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>22 June 2013 AREA: Nattai National Park GRADE: M222 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Stockyards Wanganderry Road</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Wanganderry Road Stockyards to Bonnum Pic and return.</p> <p>Great group of people. Threatening weather held off all day for clear views in all directions. Interesting walk out to the Pic across many rocky caps, along cliff edges to the "slide of death" where new recruit David coaxed, threatened and assisted the reluctant to cross to the spectacular Pic. Our group was only the fifth this year to make an entry in the log book.</p>	<p>John Kennett</p> <p>Peter Cai Tracey Avolio Nicola Piper Edward Squires Petros Nickoloudis Jim Close James Graves Robert Carter Leigh McLintock Jason Lorch Rebecca Lorch Sarah Paparo</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Wayne Gardiner Craig O'Brian David Moliison Lisa de Muer</p>
<p>22-23 June 2013 AREA: Morton National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Endrick River Ford</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Endrick River ford, Redgrounds Track, The Vines, walk to Aboriginal Bora Ground on Quiltys Mtn, return to bikes, camp at Blackett Creek, and return.</p> <p>We met at the Nowra MacDonalds and debated the wisdom of actually starting this trip given the appalling weather forecast. At the time, the sun was shining, so we decided to give it a go. On the drive out to Nerriga, James and I were regaled with Alan's wonderful story of his attempt on Aconcagua and this may have been the highlight of the weekend – if you ever get the chance, listen!</p> <p>When we arrived at the carpark, we did notice it was rather cold, but still not raining, so off we went. Redgrounds Track was a tad boggy in places, but we got the bikes through one way or another (pushing, dragging and riding). We made The Vines in good time, hid the bikes and headed up to the Bora Ground, where things got interesting. By the time we got up there the rain had set in and the cloud had dropped (on us!). Visibility was very limited and lunch was a rather soggy affair!</p> <p>On our return to the bikes a decision was made to head for the Nerriga Pub. (A strategic retreat, to plan the next offensive.) The pub was nice and warm.</p>	<p>Melinda Turner</p> <p>James Swinton Alan Osmond</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>22-23 June 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: M223 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Loombah Plateau</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Loombah Plateau, Redcliff Ridge , Hatchers Hollow (camp), Willa Gowar, Spring Ridge, Loombah Plateau</p> <p>A long drive out to Colong–Oberon stock route. Parked car near bend at 235241 Yerranderie 2nd edition AGD 66. Navigated across Loombah Plateau to start of Redcliff Ridge then followed this down to junction of Redcliff and Irrae Gower Creeks. We found it a little tricky to find the start of Redcliffe Ridge and care was also needed where the ridge splits at approximately 251240. A bit scrubby right at bottom of ridge. Once at the creek junction, a 400m walk downstream along creek brought us to Hatchers Hollow. We njoyed each others company around the camp fire on Saturday night at Very good camp spot. . Light rain and mist did not ruin the party. Much mirth was created by a disrespectful party member who threw his toilet paper, used to clean his dinner plate, straight into the leader’s dinner being cooked on the fire. NOT HAPPY!</p> <p>On Sunday we enjoyed a sleep in and left camp about 10am. Walked up to Spring Ridge at Willa Gowar. This ridge was also simply to follow uphill but maybe be a bit trickier to pick the turn points walking downhill. From Willa Gowar it was relatively flat walking back to the road at the non descript location of 234229. The scrubbiest part of the walk was on Loombah Plateau.</p> <p>On the road we met an old timer driving home to Oberon. He enthused about his days, 50 years ago, of droving livestock along the Colong–Oberon stock route and how in recent years he had on many occasions seen cars parked by the road for the walk down to Hatchers Hollow. He had always wanted to walk down to Hatchers Hollow but sadly was now too old. It made me appreciate how lucky I am to be part of a bushwalking club and fraternity, that have given me the experience and confidence to walk to such a beautiful and remote location. On the way home we stopped in at the Tourist Hotel for a quite drink and a feed, where we had the warm fire all to ourselves. Thanks to the party for their company.</p>	<p>Paul Barton</p> <p>Andrew Quartermaine Mike Floyd</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Angela Barton Gilda Floyd Robert Schroettner Rick Martin</p>
<p>22-23 June 2013 AREA: Morton National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Endrick River Ford</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Six Foot Track from Megalong Road to Coxs River, junction of Jenolan River (camp), Goolara Peak, Ironpot Mountain, Ironpot Ridge.</p> <p>The walk went as per the program. We stayed dry while walking on the Saturday and had tents up when the rain hit. We had an interesting first aid challenge on the Saturday night – someone managed to get a grass seed attached to their tonsils while eating dinner. The offending seed was eventually removed with some deft work with tweezers. The prospect of the person choking in the night was thus removed. An early start on the Sunday saw us back at the cars by lunchtime.</p>	<p>Michelle Powell (for Owen Kimberley)</p> <p>Anita Paddock John Currie Marella Hogan Cath Mullane</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Stephen Tree Jade Chang</p>
<p>29 June 2013 AREA: Woronora River Bushland GRADE: M111</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Engadine Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Engadine, Loftus Creek, Forbes Heights, Engadine</p> <p>On a rainy day, only three people went on this walk. We left Engadine and got onto the fire trail that goes down through the valley of Loftus Creek. About 2km along the trail we came to a ford where we could not cross the creek due to deep and fast-running waters. Because of this we took a foot track which went steeply uphill to the west, and we eventually came out in the residential area of Forbes Heights, where we followed the streets back to central Engadine.</p>	<p>Nigel Weaver</p> <p>Margaret Weaver</p> <p>Misako Sugiyama</p>
<p>Error in the May report: Walks report for the 14 April was reported as 1 April 2013. Apologies to N Weaver.</p>	

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