



September 2013

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Photo: Lesley Clarke

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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.

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AUSTRALIA'S MOST EXPERIENCED BUSHWALKERS

President says...

By now everybody will have had the chance to absorb the spring activities program which, as usual, is packed full of great proposals. Congratulations to our Activities Secretary Shahram Landarani, and thanks to all the leaders who have once again offered their time and expertise to make it so interesting for all the rest of us. Do yourself a favour, and repay their generosity, by joining them on the track (or on the climbing wall, the end of an abseiling rope, or on the water in your kayak).

There is something for everyone – almost. There is one kind of activity that is hard to find – midweek day walks. Toni Bachvarova has a Wednesday walk to Walls Pass this month (it will probably have happened by the time you read this), and one on Narrow Neck in October. Otherwise there is nothing for members who, because of work or other reasons, have difficulty in getting out at the weekend.

The club has made several attempts to remedy this lack during the years I have been a member. All such attempts have fizzled out. There have been few starters and mid-week leaders have become discouraged, and given up. It could be that the demand really isn't there, but I think it might have been because people didn't have enough time to get used to the idea. Perhaps, if members know well in advance that midweek walks will definitely and regularly be programmed, they might start to organise their schedules so they can join in.

I think it's worth a try. I will start the ball rolling by putting on a walk every Tuesday from October 15 to November 26. If no one comes, I'll give up when summer arrives. If, on the other hand, lots of members sign up, I'm sure we'll be able to recruit other, better leaders. Details will be forthcoming in due course via the short notice activities newsletters.

Our club is based on healthy outdoor activities, and that's naturally where most of our organising efforts go. But it is a club, and clubs are social organisations. A good club is a place to make and meet friends. We always say "I'll see you on the track", but our social nights exist precisely because we know that 'on the track' is not the only place to enjoy the company of our SBW friends.

I was very embarrassed earlier this year, when a couple of our social nights were very poorly attended. We messed up our communications to members about the events, and the resulting poor turnouts were an insult – albeit an unintentional one – to Social Secretary Christine McColl and to the guests she had arranged to come to talk with us. Fortunately we seem to have got our house in order, and attendances have recovered well. In August it was standing room only for Kenn Clacher, who was sharing his experiences in the Dolomites and Corsica. I have never seen so many members gathered together, except for Christmas parties and big anniversary dinners.

The camaraderie was palpable. If you are not a regular attendee, give it a try. And join us for dinner beforehand at the Mad Italian (It's not a iunatic from Calabria, it's a restaurant around the corner from the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre!). In recent months we have been getting a dozen or more members showing up, all of whom clearly enjoy the opportunity to catch up. No need to book. Just come upstairs around 6.30, at which time it seems there is always plenty of room.

Changing the subject entirely, I turn to insurance. All participants in our activities are covered by a personal accident policy arranged by Bushwalking Australia, and for which we paid \$4,700 this year. It is our biggest ongoing regular expense. If you would like to know what you are getting for that money, go to Bushwalking Australia's website (www.bushwalkingaustralia.org.au) and click the Insurance tab. It is the most useful explanation I have seen.

This month we welcome four new members, who have completed all their qualification requirements. Congratulations to:

- Angela Barton
- Cathie Goss
- Simon Hager
- Anne-Marie Cooper.

Leigh McClintock



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!

Spring Social Program

September

18th @ 7.35pm Lesley Clarke will describe the Club's recent extended trip to remote mountainous Bolivia and the depths of the Amazon jungle. Come and be awed by the stories and images

October

2nd @ 7.35pm Committee Meeting - Observers welcome

9th @ 7.35pm Introduction to SBW - Evening for those thinking of joining

18th @ 7.35pm Matt McClelland, bushwalking author and owner of wildwalks and bushwalk.com, and walks co-ordinator for National Parks Association will discuss the lessons learned from the 'No Hunting in NSW National Parks' campaign. He will discuss the role the wider bushwalking community can play in the protection of our wild places. He will also discuss the value of native landscapes and his desire to see them better protected. Matt will also share a bit about the workings of and the future of wildwalks as well as his desire to see more people learning to love wild places.

November

8th @ 7.35pm Committee Meeting - Observers welcome

15th @ 7.35pm Introduction to SBW - Evening for those thinking of joining

22nd @ 7.35pm Richard Darke and a group of SBW and non-SBW members walked some 320km and up (and back down) 14,100 vertical metres earlier this year, along the northern Annapurna Circuit and then across the Tibetan plateau to Mustang and Lo Monthang. Come along and view Richard's slides and ask him about trekking amongst the world's highest mountain ranges.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARIES NOW . . . THE FABULOUS SBW XMAS PARTY

**THIS WONDERFUL END OF YEAR EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE KNC ON
DECEMBER 18, FROM 6.30 to 9pm. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.**

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!

All meetings are held at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, Fitzroy St Kirribilli. Parking can be found in the area, and the KNC is within easy walking distance of Milson's Point station.

Club members meet before the social evenings at the Mad Italian, a cheap and cheerful Italian restaurant just around the corner from the KNC in Broughton St Kirribilli. Why not come along and join them, from 6.30 on.

WildEndurance 2014

Registrations for WildEndurance 2014 are opening in the next couple of weeks and now is the time to get your team together. What are you up for next year, the 50km or the 100km? Either way you will have an awesome experience walking the most spectacular trails in the Blue Mountains on the 3-4 May 2014.

There have been loads of improvements to make the 2014 event even better, more prizes along the way, easier fundraising initiatives and a great new 'Map App'.

The Route starts in beautiful Megalong Valley, takes you up on to the Narrowneck ridge, under the magnificent Katoomba cliffs and around the Three Sisters, through the wonderful Jamison valley, along the Andersons and Ingar trails, over Wentworth Falls and Lilians Bridge, past The Pool of Siloam and along Prince Henry Cliff Walk to the Finish at Katoomba Oval.

The route is challenging and exhilarating. With training, any reasonably healthy person can complete the event and you are guaranteed a memorable experience.

Register before 30 November for the Early Bird Discount, you save \$30!



So grab your friends and colleagues, pick a fun team name and start thinking about training. If you can display some flyers or posters at work drop them a line at wildendurance@wilderness.org.au

Every step along the way raises funds to protect Australia's beautiful places and threatened species through our work at The Wilderness Society. Check out the website for further details: www.wildendurance.org.au/

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

Sydney Summer Series

Orienteering Association of NSW

The Sydney Summer Series is about to get underway for 2013–14. This is a series of running events timed over 45 minutes that involve visiting a variety of local features, or checkpoints. The checkpoints are marked on specially prepared orienteering maps that are used to help navigate your way around the local parks, streets and bush tracks where the events are held.

The checkpoints have different score values and the runners with the highest scores at the end of 45 minutes (in their age classes) are the winners.

The Summer Series events are for everyone, attracting walkers and joggers through to champion runners. If you like running or walking with a navigational challenge, you will love the Summer Series.

What to Bring: You don't need any gear apart from your normal jogging shoes and appropriate clothing (shorts and T-shirt are fine). Compasses (if needed) can be hired at the event and instruction is available to all first timers.

Cost: Entry fees, including a map, are \$10 for Open and above, and \$8 for Juniors. Non-members \$3 extra. Electronic timing sticks will be used at most events. These can be hired for \$3-4. Spare maps are normally an extra \$2 each.

Gear for sale

Mountain Design Whitetower sleeping bag, 800 loft goose down, rated to minus 20c weight 1.6kg. Excellent condition-\$225.

Contact David Rostron on 9451 7943

Have you seen the latest Colong Foundation Bulletin?



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

Facilities: All venues will have drinking water available. In most cases toilet facilities are close by.

Start times: Start times for most events are between 4.30pm and 6.45pm, but some have an earlier start option too. All events are on regardless of the weather.

Prizes: Prizes will be awarded to the placegetters in a series of age categories at the last event in March. Progressive results will be on display at each event and on this site with the best 12 scores counting for the final tally and prizes.

Groups: Although we prefer individual entries, there are reasons some competitors prefer to run as a group – parents and small children for instance. When a group want to enter and run together, ALL competitor's names must be clearly noted on the registration card. This is to ensure compliance with the OANSW insurance policy. Note that group results are to be included in the result listings at each event but will NOT count in the overall age group progressive point-scoring.

The first event starts in Blackman Park, Lane Cove from 3pm on 2 Oct 2013. Check out the website for further details: www.sydneysummerseries.com.au/#programme



The latest edition of the Bushwalking NSW magazine is available for downloaded at:

www.bushwalking.org.au/mag.html

EXPERIENCE PATAGONIA - NATURE AT ITS FINEST

Patagonia is one of the world's ultimate trekking destinations. The sheer remoteness of the region combined with jaw-dropping scenery is what attracts so many walkers to this part of Southern Argentina & Chile. Viva Expeditions specialise in small group expeditions and independent itineraries in Patagonia and throughout Latin America.



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RAN International Fleet Review

The Royal Australian Navy International Fleet Review is without doubt one of the largest and most exciting public events held on Sydney Harbour since the Sydney Olympics in 2000. With a full program of events on the Harbour and on land for over a week, Sydney-siders will be able to take part in one of many unique activities, but the jewel in the crown of the International Fleet Review will be the Fireworks and Lightshow Spectacular held on Saturday 5 October at 7.40pm.

The Spectacular will be the most complex, highly choreographed fireworks, projection, lighting and live action show ever seen in Australia and centres around Sydney's famous Harbour and Opera House.

The Spectacular will see Sydney Harbour come alive as never before in a 30-minute show that celebrates over 100 years of proud history of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), and in particular, commemorates the original seven warships that entered Sydney Harbour in 1913.

Fireworks will be launched from city rooftops, barge positions from Cockatoo Island to Fort Denison, the

Harbour Bridge, and for the first time ever, from the decks of RAN warships. This will all be joined by a lightshow from land, warships and Harbour Bridge positions, and a full projection show telling the history of the Royal Australian Navy on the Opera House sails, Harbour Bridge pylons and National Maritime Museum roof.

Live action scenes will also take place on and off ships and support boats, plus choreographed flyovers from Navy and Air Force aircraft. The entire show will be choreographed to a soundtrack created in collaboration with the Royal Australian Navy's Director of Music, Lt Commander Paul Cottier.

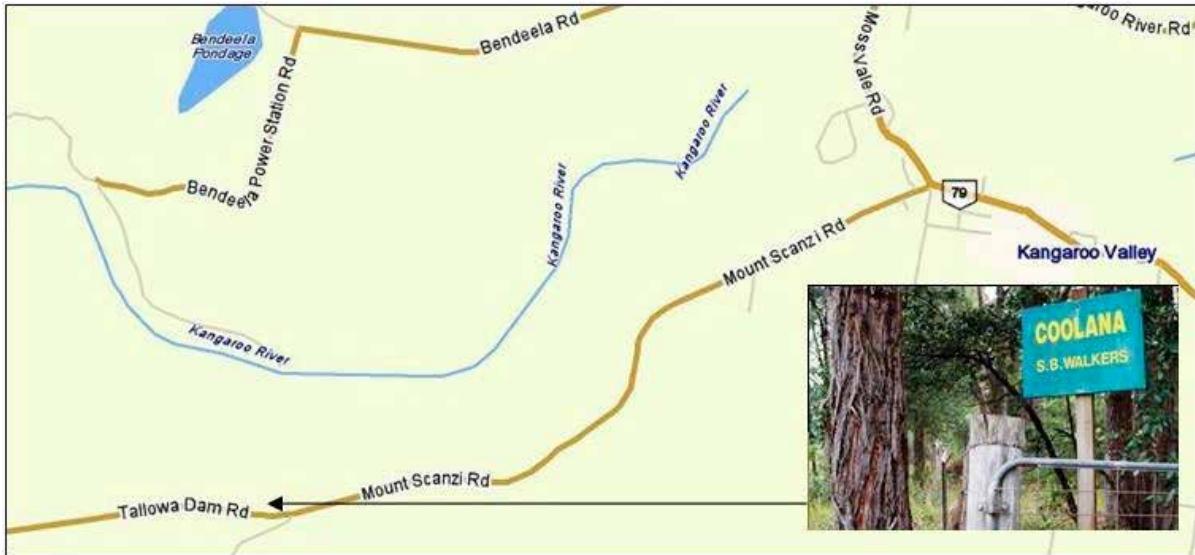
The RAN and Imagination Australia are creating a fireworks and lightshow that is bigger and better than anything ever attempted in Australia. The Spectacular is something that will live in the memories of every officer, sailor and the rest of Sydney for many years to come, so head down to the Harbour and watch this once in a lifetime event.

For more info visit www.navy.gov.au/ifr/events/ifr-spectacular

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).

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.

Here are the events for the rest of this year :

October: New England National Park (Mon 21–Fri 25)

We will stay at *The Residence* and *The Chalet* at Banksia Point. There are opportunities for lots of walking, animal and bird watching in New England and other nearby 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.

I have already received enough firm bookings to fill

both houses but if you would like to be added to the waiting list or camp at a nearby camp ground please let me know.

November: Dunns Swamp (Mon 25–Fri 29)

Dunns Swamp is near Rylstone and is very popular for camping and bushwalking. It boasts one of the cleanest waterways in NSW, making it great for a swim or canoe paddle. Basic facilities for campfires and toilets are available in the camping reserve. There are many walking tracks and large rock formations that offer spectacular views of the river and surrounding bush.

The plan will be to base camp during mid-week to avoid the weekend crowds. The weather at this time of the year should be warm and very suitable for water activities.

No deposit is necessary for this activity.

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

The wet season is SPECTACULAR!!

Don't believe what you see on TV weather reports. Weather symbols designed for temperate climates don't work for the tropics.

January, our wettest month, is far from the hottest. Most rain comes in short, sharp bursts. We average sunny skies 45% of the time compared to Melbourne's 54%. Melbourne gets far more 35° days than Darwin.

Don't believe it? The met bureau links on our wet season information page will let you judge for yourself. www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/wet.shtml

Our **What to Expect** page tells you even more. www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/wet2.shtml

Once you know the truth, think about coming along and finding out why many local people think this is the best time to go bushwalking. **Easy, hard and everything in between**, we offer trips to suit every bushwalker.

Willis's Walkabouts





Trip Report: Bolivia Part 2 – Cordillera Apolobamba Trek

26 May–1 June 2013: Lesley Clarke

This eight day trek crosses the Cordillera Apolobamba from north to south, mostly above 4,000m with the highest pass at 5,100m. Apolobamba is north-west of La Paz and crosses into Peru. This is one of the best treks in Bolivia but in the past few years few groups have done it, possibly deterred by the challenging road journey to the start and finish – we passed just two other walkers. The trek followed the Cordillera Real and again was organised by Gilf Laurente and Colonia Adventures.

We began the first day in La Paz after the Festival del Gran Poder, loading all the gear and ourselves into a minibus to head out to Pelechuco where we would start the walk. This was a long day's drive due to the poor state of the roads which would keep us to a max 30kph for most of the trip. The road heads towards Peru, with Lake Titicaca on the left and the Cordillera Real stretching out to the west. After turning off the main road to the east, a drive through a national park provided Cordillera Real photo opportunities and sightings of vicunas and Andean geese.

A bogging incident at dusk and an even slower drive up the narrow, steep, winding roads after dark to Pelechuco meant an arrival at 10pm. Martin, our cook, and hostel owner Reinaldo and his wife were there to greet us and quickly produced delicious fish, chips and rice.

The next morning we emerged from our comfy, warm beds to learn that the horsemen, having concluded the night before that we were not coming, had resumed the endless festival celebrations, this time Mother's Day. Hangovers prevailed and the muleros and horses had gone home. Gilf and Reinaldo were left to load a small 4WD with the gear, while we set off with Hector. We climbed up through the pretty Spanish colonial village, through wildflowers and past waterfalls, the occasional condor on the wing. Hector is full of information on local life and mining activities. When not guiding, he is a miner. Trekking he says, with hours from 5am until 6 or 7pm, is a soft job.

Gilf caught up to us well before lunch. With no vehicle or horses in sight, the decision was made to camp at the lunch spot rather than risk a late camp at 4,800m. Some soaked up the sun, while others walked to a lake and by mid-afternoon the 4WD arrived and camp was set up. The horses were expected at around 2am.

Day 3 breaks and no horses. So we had breakfast, packed up and set off for Piedra Grande (Big Rock), while Gilf and Reinaldo set about finding a bigger vehicle to take the gear on. We followed Hector up an Inca road through a narrowing valley to a narrower pass for morning tea. There are great views here of snowcapped mountains, before a very steep



descent to a green flat, passing herds of alpaca along the way. A valley walk took us to lunch, before continuing past the village of Hilo Hilo to Piedra Grande, where a campsite was found. The vehicle arrived and so too did the horsemen and horses.

By next morning, some of the horses have bolted. At this point Gilf looks decidedly pale. While the horsemen set out to retrieve the offenders, the gear was loaded into the vehicle and we set off towards Vizcachani, which means place of vizcachas (a small Chinchilla-like rodent). It's about 4 hours along a stunning, alpaca-lined valley to the pass, between the Cuchillo (knife) mountain ranges, and past glacial lakes and hanging glaciers. Vizcachas abound in the rocky outcrops. It's a 700m climb to the Sunchuli Pass at 5000m, the last part on zigzags up the very steep scree slope. We are following an old Inca road and can't help but comment on the skill of these roadbuilders 500 years ago. Sounds of dynamite from the local mines shatter the silence.

The pass is the crossover from Apolobamba North to the southern part of the range. Madidi NP lies to the east and the views of mountain ranges all around are incredible. It's a sharp descent for an hour to our lunch spot not far from a mining town, where Martin produces chicken in a delicious sauce.

We have a second pass today, which involves traversing a steep slope. But the pass is gained easily and from the top we can see our camp already set up, with horses and mules all present. It's a beautiful sunny afternoon and after another steep descent, we reach the Vizcachani camp at 3:30pm. There are no vizcachas to be seen.

The Day 5 walk takes us up a steep road to the lookout at the top of Mil Curvas, or 1,000 curves.

After taking in the views, we descend the curves, down a very narrow, steep chute with probably a thousand zigzags. We pass old Inca ruins on the way and Reinaldo points

out an old Spanish grinding stone, still lying in a field. Our lunch spot is beside a river and it's here that we meet the only other trekkers, a young French couple, who are about to walk up Mil Curvas. From this direction it's about 3 hours to the top, which doesn't look much fun with a full pack.

We have another pass to do after lunch. This is a long steady climb, after which we follow another Inca road to our grassy campsite at Jatunpampa. This is our last night's camping.

Day 6, our last day's walking, will take us to the town of Charazani. We descend from our campsite, cross the river and begin the climb to the last pass. There is a stop on the way to visit a traditional home of the indigenous Kallawaya people, who apart from being traditional healers, live as they have for hundreds of years. A grandmother and two children treated us to a demonstration of weaving, drying potatoes (oka, for use all year), grinding flour, cooking in the outdoor oven and a taste of roasted oka. Gilf continued with a further details of life in an Andean home.

From there we crossed the river, went uphill and climbed the final pass before descending to the town of Curva. Our van was waiting to take us on a spectacular 2 hour drive to Charazani and the hostel Inka Wasi. A visit to the hot springs for a shower and swim preceded afternoon tea. Yet another fiesta was taking place in the plaza, with alcohol flowing. Once the drunks become aggressive this is no place for tourists, so we returned to the hostel and another of Martin's delicious meals.

We were up early for the long drive back to La Paz. Following a spectacular road up the valley, past pretty villages and crops. We said goodbye to Reinaldo and Hector at a small town so that they could take a bus back to Pelechuco. A much shorter trip and uneventful this time, we arrived back around 3pm. We returned to the Naira for another celebration dinner and farewells to Gilf and Martin, who would be leaving early the next day for Peru and the long bus-plane-bus journey to Huaraz.

Trip Report: Six Foot Track in a day

Aug 26, 2013. Richard Maneschi



1813 was a dry year in Sydney. More land was needed to feed all the people who were arriving in Sydney, so after many attempts by others, Greg Blaxland, Bill Wentworth and Henry Lawson went for an historic exploratory Q walk and found the way across the Blusies to the grassy western plains by following the top of a ridge.

Two centuries later, 2013 has also been a dry year. David Trinder celebrated his twentieth walk of SBW's annual Six Foot Track in a Day by leading an expedition on the six foot track from the Katoomba Explorer Tree, through Nellies Glen, down the escarpent, to Megalong Valley, then beside Cox's River, over the river on CPL Bob Bowtell's swing bridge, climbing Mini-Mini Saddle, down to Alum creek, up to the Pluviometer, along Black range ridge, then descending to the Jenolan caves.

Walkers

David Trinder
Jim Vaughan
Robert Carter
Huw ap Rees
Frances Bottrell
Alan Carpenter
Rory Fagan
Jane Fielding
Barbara Laborczfalvi
Robert Schroettner
Nada Curac

Alice
Julio Rodrigues
Greg Bray
Karen Kool
Rick Martin
Petros
Sandra See
Lisa Sheldon

Supporters

Joe (Barbara's husband)
Richard Maneschi
Rosemary MacDougal

Photos by Lisa Sheldon



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: 16/9/2013 12:01AM

3 parks currently affected by fire

93 parks with closed areas

20 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 www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/.

It is essential that if you are planning remote bushwalking, camping with access into national parks that you check with your local National Parks and Wildlife Service Office first to obtain the latest information.

Sydney Region

Agnes Banks Nature Reserve

This reserve is closed until further notice due to recent fire activity and the danger of falling limbs or trees affected by fire.

Newcastle and Hunter

Barrington Tops State Conservation Area

Gloucester Tops road and Gloucester Tops Precinct closed for walking track clearing

All access to Gloucester Tops is temporarily closed, just past the Gloucester River camping area - to allow for the safe completion of work on the walking track.

Central Coast

Bouddi National Park

Old Wagstaffe Fire Trail No public access is available through private property. Signs indicate where public access is not permitted.

Dharug National Park

The 11km Walking Track in Dharug National Park is closed until further notice due to a land slide

Blue Mountains

Martins Lookout, Springwood

Local walking tracks in the vicinity of Martins Lookout remain closed due to recent hazard reduction burn and continuing high fire danger.(Namely Sassafras Creek / Glenbrook Creek areas) Walking tracks from Springwood to Martins Lookout also remain closed

The Undercliff and Overcliff tracks are closed between Princes Rock access and Lyrebird Lookout due to recent landslides. This means visitors doing the National or Wentworth Pass loops will need to return via the Shortcut Track.

The Den Fenella walking track will be closed 7 days per week during upgrade work which commenced 31 January 2013. The Den Fenella lookout remains closed due to structural damage on the bridge.

Illawarra and South West

Budderoo National Park

Carrington Falls camping area closed (Ends Friday 20 September)

Due to vandalism of facilities, the Carrington Falls camping area is closed until 20 September 2013. Please contact the Fitzroy Falls Visitor Centre on 02 48877 270 for advice on other camping options.

Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area

Areas closed due to rock falls - Dave Walsh's Track

The following areas are closed owing to land slide and rock fall hazards:

Five Islands Lookout, Mount Keira.

Area below Mount Keira summit, bounded in the north by the summit cliff line and Dave Walsh's Track, in the west and south by Mount Keira Road and in the east by a line from Geordies Flat (hairpin bend) to Victoria Lookout.

Morton National Park

Amphitheatre Walk/Nicholas Pass closure (Ends Tuesday 31 December)

Northern parts of park closed for aerial goat shooting (Ends Friday 20 September)

Bungonia State Conservation Area

Bungonia State Conservation Area will be closed for two weeks, from 6 to 20 September 2013 for goat and other feral animal control work.

Dharawal National Park

No public access to the section of the park within the Sydney Catchment Area

The southeastern section of the park, between the Southern Freeway and the Princes Highway, is located within a water catchment Special Area. This area is closed to the public except with the consent of the Sydney Catchment Authority.

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>1 Jun 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M221</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: White Cross Road, Winmalee</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: White Cross Road, Winmalee, Shaws Ridge, Bees Nest Hill, Grose Point Lookout, Blue Gum Swamp, White Cross Road, Winmalee,</p> <p>The party enjoyed a leisurely walk via Shaws Ridge out to the lookout where we had a short lunch break. The wind was cold at the lookout, and as it was threatening to rain we headed back to the cars via Blue Gum Swamp. A pleasant day out with good views and no dramas.</p>	<p>Peter Miller</p> <p>Shahram Landarani Jim Close Tracey Avolio Graham Byrne Jan Spencer Jan Roberts Karen Brading</p> <p><i>Visitors</i></p> <p>Melanie Brading Brian Ogilivvy</p>
<p>22–23 Jun 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: M232</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Kanangra Walls</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kanangra Walls, Brumby Ridge, Rainbow Bluff (camp), Hughes Ridge, Kanangra Walls</p> <p>Rainbow Bluff (base of Roots Ridge) hosted the 2013 Annual Wilderness Frisbee Event – an excellent choice with a tennis court sized grassy flat. Tom's Tiger Snakes were victorious over Rachel's Rock Wallabies by 3 games to nil, ending the organisers strangle-hold on the championship. A game of soccer and slackline balancing ended the day, before a very generous Happy Hour, meaning dinner remained in the packs.</p> <p>Sunday breakfast was interrupted for a soccer game, before a leisurely trudge out, beating the worst of the forecast heavy rain. Bring on the 2014 Event.</p>	<p>Richard Pattison</p> <p>Tom Brennan Rachel Grindlay Andrew Smith Toni Bachvarova Sue Bucknell Simon Hager Agnes Piasecki Jim Vaughan</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Melissa Thomas Alison Curtin</p>
<p>30 Jun 2013 AREA: Wollemi National Park GRADE: M233E</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: T3 Track (Mountain Lagoon)</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: T3 Track, Tootie Creek, Pass 32(a), D'Arcy Range, Mt D'Arcy, Tootie Creek, Cabbage Tree Creek, T3 Track</p> <p>Some would argue that you're not a real leader until you've managed to benight your party. I think that a solid three hours of off-track rock scrambling and scrub-bashing in the dark through Colo country, some of the roughest terrain on the mainland, must surely count towards that!</p> <p>Other than the conquering of Mt D'Arcy, sans views, the participants also got to enjoy a solid dose of the famous Colo scrub, some rain, freezing feet at our first crossing of Tootie Creek, and wet shoes at the second, and the anticipation of needing to find ourselves a pass near dark to get out at all. I must have had a great party, since there was hardly a word of complaint!</p> <p>On the plus side, we did get some spectacular views just after lunch, though these were short-lived. There also looked like there would have been great views in our after-dark section, but those had to be left to the vivid imagination of the walkers.</p> <p>Photos: ozultimate.com/tom/bushwalking/2013/20130630_mt_darcy/photos.htm</p>	<p>Tom Brennan</p> <p>Andrew Smith Antoniya Bachvarova Jason Lorch Rebecca Lorch Jim Close Jane Fielding</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>6 Jul 2013 AREA: Great North Road, Wisemans Ferry GRADE: M121</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Wisemans Ferry</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Wisemans Ferry , Finches Line of Roads, Great North Road, Wisemans Ferry</p> <p>A very pleasant walk in the brilliant sunshine. Morning tea on a rocky outcrop overlooking Wisemans Ferry and the river, then an easy stroll along the Great North Road to marvel at the hard work of the convicts cutting and shaping the sandstone blocks. We were back at the Ferry by 2pm and fortified ourselves at the hotel before driving home.</p>	<p>Peter Miller Rosetta Lee Lyn Terrey John Kennett Jim Close Tracey Avolio Karen Brading</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Petros Nikoloudis Amanpreet Singh Gargeet Kaur Lin Kennett David Mollison</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Melanie Brading</p>
<p>27-28 Jul 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Kanangra Walls Car Park</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kanangra Plateau, Gangerang Range, Mt Cloudmaker, Ti Willa Plateau, 1000 Man Cave and return</p> <p>Beautiful weather for a trip thru the Gangerangs. Big thankyou to all of my wonderful friends who helped me celebrate my birthday in fine SBW style.</p> <p>We were all very pleased to see Steven Dolphin back on track and co-leading. (It was a big party so we divided into two groups!)</p> <p>Also many thanks to the wonderful support of Grace Love, Peter Love, Christine Austen and Craig Austen for support of party members. Your wonderful example teaches me how to be a better, more thoughtful leader!</p>	<p>Melinda Turner Don Andrews Peter Cai Steve Dolphin Grace Love Peter Love Stephen Brading Yvonne Brading Stephen Tree Jouni Leppanen Virginia Waller Christine Austen Craig Austen</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Kathy Goss Louise Nolan</p>
<p>28 Jul 2013 AREA: Glenbrook Lower Blue Mountains GRADE: M121</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Glenbrook Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Glenbrook Creek, Jellybean Pool, Red Hand Cave, return</p> <p>Weather was perfect. Only the three of us so the walk was easy to manage. Two of the members have never done this popular walk before. Water was very clear. Climb up 300m along Camp Fire Creek Track, then turn to Link Track. Arrive at Red Hand Cave car park for lunch.</p> <p>The Red Hand prints were made over 1600 years ago. Make a circuit distance for 11km to return to Glenbrook station. We saw three black parrots. Flash toilet at the visitor centre. Nice spot for morning tea. Plenty of time to enjoy a cup of coffee at Glenbrook café before heading home.</p>	<p>Rosetta Lee Phillip Hayes Jo Rhoden</p>



Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>3 Aug 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232E</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Galong's Farm</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Galong Farm, Tinpot Hill, Galong Creek, Coxs River, Grand Bluffs, Goolara Peak, Tinpot & Ironpot Mountains, Galong Farm</p> <p>Short notice walk. An enjoyable walk with no dramas. Good amicable group. The weather was cool and mostly sunny with a fresh breeze; good walking weather. This is a walk with great scenery. We had morning tea at a sunny location between Tinpot Hill and Galong Creek. Lunch was at the base of Grand Bluffs near the crossing point to Jenolan Gorge. Walk finished before 4.30pm.</p>	Chris Dowling Jason Lorch Rebecca Lorch Tim Sutherland Darryl Sullings <i>P Members</i> Miriam Beck
<p>3 Aug 2013 AREA: Great North Walk Macquarie Park to Hornsby GRADE: M221</p> <p>START PLACE: Macquarie Park Train Station FINISH PLACE: Hornsby Train Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Macquarie Park train station, De Burghs bridge, follow Great North Walk track through to Thornleigh, Jungo, Fishponds, Hornsby.</p> <p>Fantastic winter sunshine – no better way to enjoy a walk with a small group as we powerwalked to Thornleigh (losing one member and picking up a few coffees) then meandered North to Hornsby for trains and for some more coffee.</p>	Lisa Sheldon Helen Lalas Jan Dormor Frances Bottrell <i>P Members</i> Stuart Murphy Richard Kelly
<p>4 Aug 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232 QWALK</p> <p>START PLACE: Furber Steps FINISH PLACE: Echo Point</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Furber Steps, Federal Pass, Ruined Castle, Cedar Gap, Off track to Kedumba River, Helicopter Landing Ground, Giant Stairs, Echo Point.</p> <p>A great day out in windy but pleasantly cool conditions. The party all handled the off track section and the long climb out of Kedumba River well. The only minor incident was when Jim left some gear behind on the climb out of Kedumba River. All ended well when he returned a week later to pick it up.</p> <p>We found a map error at the junction of Causeway and Leura Falls Creeks. The ridge down from the Helicopter Landing Ground is incorrectly shown to end at the junction of the first tributary upstream on Leura Falls Creek. This ridge actually finishes virtually at the junction of Causeway and Leura Falls Creeks where they become the Kedumba River. It's only out by about 100m but it is off putting when you are attempting to navigate by the topographical features and not with a GPS.</p>	Paul Barton Stephen Brading Barabara Laborczfalvi Joe Laborczfalvi Jim Close Petros Nikoloudis Nicola Piper <i>P Members</i> Joanne McLachlan Patricia Huang Angela Barton
<p>4 Aug 2013 AREA: Northern Illawarra Coastline GRADE: M112</p> <p>START PLACE: Coalcliff Station FINISH PLACE: Thirroul Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Coalcliff, Seacliff Bridge, Wombarra Beach, Austinmer Beach, Thirroul.</p> <p>It was a fine and mild day for this walk along the spectacular Illawarra coastline. There was a mixture of seaside rock platforms, beaches, grassy headlands, plus some rock hopping, mainly in the late morning. It was nice to walk along the splendid Seacliff Bridge, which gave us great views of the ocean and the waves crashing down below. An unexpected bit of fun was a "musical toilet" at Coalcliff Beach! Overall it was a great day full of grand coastal views.</p>	Nigel Weaver Margaret Weaver Steve Tusler Pamela Irving Rob McIlwaine Debbie Yeh Stanley Wong <i>P Members</i> Anastasia Korobova

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>10 Aug 2013 AREA: Ben Bullen State Forest GRADE: S222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Ben Bullen State Forest</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Pagodas in Ben Bullen State Forest</p> <p>West of the Great Divide, these valleys encapsulate in a relatively small area, everything that is exciting and interesting about bushwalking – incredible rock sculptures, tall pagodas, narrow slot canyons, magnificent caves, verdant forests and more.</p>	Yuri Bolotin Simon Hager Amanda Nelson Paul Barton Alan Osland <i>P Members</i> Sacha Loutkovsky Allie Fenton Paul Young Damon de Costa
<p>17 Aug 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M231</p> <p>START PLACE: Victoria Falls car park FINISH PLACE: Evans Lookout</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Victoria Falls Lookout, Victoria Creek, Grose River, Little Blue Gum, Blue Gum Forest, Junction Rock, Horse Track, Evans Lookout.</p> <p>Short notice walk. An enjoyable day with no dramas. Good fit group. We started walking at 8.30am and finished at about 5pm. It was a fine and mostly sunny day; the morning showers that were forecast did not eventuate.</p> <p>At the big sign at the T junction in the Blue Gum Forest we met a group of walkers who had started walking from the Neates Glen car park intending to do the Grand Canyon circuit. In the Grand Canyon they had missed the turn-off to Evans Lookout and had kept walking despite being off their map. They asked us for directions on how to get back to Blackheath.</p>	Chris Dowling Virginia Waller Tracey Avelio Brendon Anderson Peter Cai <i>P Members</i> Angela Barton
<p>18 Aug 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: S232 QWALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: McMahons Point FT</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Pass down @569505, Head South under cliff line, Pass @563487 (4 metre chimney is straight forward, as it must be if I got up it). Scrub bash back to car on McMahons Point Rd.</p> <p>I had wanted to do this pass for about 4 years and thankfully it went well. Be careful when you ascend or descend these passes that you don't trip on the pink line.</p> <p>Thanks to Junior, "the old hag" (name given by herself), Pam and Danielle for a great day.</p>	Paul Barton Angela Barton Pam Campbell Melinda Turner <i>P Members</i> Danielle Stachiw
<p>17-18 Aug 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: M332</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Iron Pot Ridge (Carlon's, south end of Megalong Valley)</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Iron Pot Ridge (Carlon's), Hobbes Spur, Blackhorse Ridge, Mount Merrigal, Splendour Rock, Brindle Dog Ridge, Merrigal Creek (camp), Blue Pup Spur, Cattle Dog Ridge, Pots and Pans Spur, Iron Pot Mountain, Iron Pot, Ridge</p> <p>Yet another memorable bushwalk. Beautiful weather – dry, cool during the day and relatively mild at night. Special campsite. All went well and great company.</p> <p>Worth Noting: The party size was smaller than intended. It had already been limited due to a small campsite with restricted tent space. Then there were three last minute cancellations. One member whose bushwalking gear was stolen from a railway carpark and another with a sudden bad back episode.</p>	Owen Kimberley Michelle Powell Tim Sutherland Lucy Keatinge

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>18 Aug 2013 AREA: Kuring gai National Park GRADE: M221</p> <p>START PLACE: Berowra Station FINISH PLACE: Cowan Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Great North walk Track between Berowra and Cowan Stations</p> <p>Large group on a beautiful day. A few good hills tested everyone especially after noon when the temperature was more like early summer than late winter. Stunning and prolific spring flowers on the ridges between Berowra Waters and Cowan Station, including rock orchids on an outcrop overlooking Joe Crafts Bay. Great way to spend Sunday.</p>	<p>Paul Barton</p> <p>Robert Carter Nicola Piper Pamela Irving Petros Nikoloudis Andrew Vilder Inma Suarez Rosetta Lee Stanley Wong Misako Sugiyama John O'Riordan Sarah Paparo</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Rainer Weeger Melinda Long Lin Kennett Joy Gamutan Veronica Roller Jessica Wheatley</p> <p><i>Visitors</i></p> <p>Nora Ruppert</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!

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