



THE SYDNEY BUSHWALKER

November 2013

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

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Tichka Plateau, Western Atlas, Morocco. David Angell

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Spring Social Program

November

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.

December

4th @ 7pm Committee Meeting - Observers welcome

11th @ 8pm Introduction to SBW - New members evening. An opportunity for those thinking about joining the club to learn more about it.

18th @ 6:30-9pm The Fabulous SBW Xmas Party

The club provides drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), plates and crockery. All you need to do is bring a plate of food, and enjoy yourself. A not to be missed opportunity to catch up with old friends and new. This event is held at the back of the KNC. An alternative venue will be provided in case of rain.

21 Dec-5 Jan Christmas/New Year at Coolana

Come to the Club's property at Coolana in the beautiful Kangaroo Valley and join others for relaxing days. Come for any, some or all of the days. Celebrate the New Year in SBW style. Family groups will appreciate water and toilet on site. Your choice of easy walks, quiet reading, swimming and canoeing.

January

8th from 6pm SBW Beach picnic at Balmoral Beach

The annual SBW feature event. Come to the southern end of Balmoral Beach from 6pm and join with old and new members for a very enjoyable evening. Bring along a picnic meal or buy fish and chips at the nearby shops.

February

5th @ 7pm Committee Meeting - Observers welcome

12th @8pm Introduction to SBW - New members evening. An opportunity for those thinking about joining the club to learn more about it.

19th @7.35pm Bryce, Zion, the Grand Canyon, and Iceland too thrown in
Catherine Mullane and partner Ian will present on these 3 iconic great parks of the US South West, which they visited in 2013 as part of Ian Wolfe's US expedition. They also went to Iceland for a week, and will discuss this trip too.

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.

President says...

In the ABC's currently running program "Keating", interviewer Kerry O'Brien puts it to the former Prime Minister that Bob Hawke had not thought him ready to lead. Mr Keating's reply? "He would say that, wouldn't he?"

I feel a bit like that when talking about our activities programs. I always say they're terrific; but then I would, wouldn't I?

You can judge for yourself. The new summer activities program has just been released. My own reaction to it was one of considerable frustration; far more great trips, particularly extended ones, than I can possibly find time and money for. And a little bit of selfish trepidation, as well. How can I get people to come on my trips, with all that fantastic competition lined up against me?

Congratulations to all the leaders who have contributed to this mouth watering menu of activities. Congratulations also to Tom Brennan, our new Activities Secretary, whose first program this is.

My campaign to get regular mid-week walks into our program has been modestly successful. We have had Tuesday walks on offer every week since 12 October, and the schedule of Tuesday activities continues through to 17 December. I figure we'll be forgiven if we don't offer walks on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, but don't let me stop you if you'd like to lead one then! My thanks to Richard Darke and Bill Holland, who have offered to lead

Tuesday walks, giving me a break.

So far we have averaged four participants per walk. Not great, but not too bad either.

There have been three successful training exercises in the last month. Twenty-four people attended the basic skills workshop in Centennial Park on October 19, and a week later there were six participants in an abseiling course at Wahroonga. Then, on 9-10 November, seven members attended an advanced skills course at Coolana.

The continued push on enhancing our members' skills is no doubt the main reason we continue to see good numbers of graduating Prospectives. In November we welcome and congratulate seven new Full Members: Rick Martin, Gray Thorn, Virginia Leadbitter, Sally Reynolds, Daryl Watson, Gordon Jagger and Gisela Shumacher.

There's some good news on the conservation front this month. Please read Conservation Secretary Pam Campbell's report in this issue about coal mining.

Finally, we have received an attractive offer, through Bushwalking NSW, from Brindabella Ski Club. The club has two lodges in Guthega and one in Thredbo. They are underutilised when there is no snow, so the club is offering its facilities as a base for SBW activities between the October and June long weekends. For further information, contact me or go to www.brindabellaskiclub.org.au.

Leigh McClintock

Office Bearers

Members are welcome to contact the following officers on club matters

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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.

Conservation Report

Pam Campbell

Gardens of Stone Campaign – good news!

The proposal by Coalpac Pty Ltd to extend its current mining operations out of the Invincible mine has been withdrawn. This was following a recommendation by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure that it be refused because it was “incompatible with the natural setting which includes unique rock formations and sensitive and important biodiversity areas”. The extended area would destroy 800 hectares of Ben Bullen State Forest.

The DP&I has rejected the CCP “in its present form” and “the independent Planning Assessment Commission” (PAC 2) will now make the final decision. There is still work to be done and Coalpac may well submit a ‘new’ development application.

Members of the Colong Foundation, the Lithgow Environment Group and Blue Mountains Conservation Society have formed the Gardens of Stone Alliance. The Alliance aims to make Ben Bullen State Forest a State Conservation Area along with the Newnes Plateau, the broken stone country to the west of the Plateau and the Airly-Genowlan mesa to the north in the Capertee Valley.

Organisations such as the National Parks Association and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW support the Alliance. You can show your support for the GOS Stage 2 proposal by visiting the area to find out more (walks are led by Yuri Bolotin and advertised in the SBW walks program), attending meetings and rallies organized by the Alliance or if you are time limited you can:



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

www.bushwalking.org.au/mag.html

Send an email message to the Premier:

www.nccnsw.org.au/content/protect-gardens-stone

Write to the Premier: The Hon Barry O’Farrell, MP, GPO Box 5341 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Points to mention

- I would like the NSW Government to declare the Ben Bullen State Forest, NSW a State Conservation Area as a matter of priority.
- This should stop open cut coal mining and open up opportunities for recreational tourism in an easily accessible area of NSW.
- The Ben Bullen State Forest is home to literally hundreds of native plants and animals, some of which are threatened to extinction. Examples include lyrebirds, squirrel gliders, spotted quolls and powerful owls.
- The unique habitat contains internationally significant pagodas which the Planning and Assessment Commission stated were “worthy of total protection”.
- On the 1st June 2012, the Office of Environment and Heritage wrote in its submission on the Coalpac Consolidation Project that Ben Bullen State Forest “has long been identified by OEH as being of suitably high conservation value for future reservation under the National Parks and Wildlife Act.”

To find out more about the Gardens of Stone Stage 2 proposal go to the following links:

www.bluemountains.org.au/gos2.shtml

www.bluemountains.org.au/documents/hutnews/ricer/1311news_rich.pdf

Upcoming Events

International Mountain Day – go climb a mountain! Wednesday 11 December, 2013

www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/international-mountain-day

Next Year

World Parks Congress 2014 – is an international event taking place every ten years. Next year it will be held in Sydney. The theme is: Parks, People, Planet – Inspiring Solutions. The congress will be hosted by Parks Australia and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The web site is as follows:

worldparkscongress.org/index.html

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

Communications problems with the club?

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

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

Contact communications@sbw.org.au

Website - contributions, suggestions, errors?

Contact webmaster@sbw.org.au

Address and email change? Please login to members.sbw.org.au/default_login.aspx to view your Membership Profile screen and the use the green links on the right hand side of the screen to change items as needed.

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

Walking a new stage of the Great River Walk

Roger Treagus

On Sunday 27 October our party of 11 set out from Pitt Town near Windsor to walk a newly surveyed, never before traversed section of the Great River Walk. This was because the walk along the banks of the Hawkesbury below Windsor traversed some private property and access was via protracted negotiation with each landowner. In fact much of the entire route was private property, one of the reasons why it took us four years to walk the entire route (between 2000 and 2004 from the source near Crookwell to Broken Bay). This section, between Pitt Town and Portland Reach although not scenically spectacular held its own particular interest in that it was "new" country to bushwalkers.

The day was pleasantly warm when we started off in Scheyville National Park walking on a track comprising a strip of mown grass around Long Neck Lagoon. The Lagoon is a nationally significant destination for migratory birds. We then traversed a bit of suburbia to reach Cattai National Park just up the road. Both National Parks are really little known compared with their big brothers, Blue Mountains and Wollomoi a few kilometres west.

Things were getting more interesting as we walked into old grazing land housing mobs of kangaroo. On the earlier reconnaissance I saw over 100 big greys enjoying the conditions in this uninhabited part of the park. In this northern part of Cattai is the abandoned Hope Farm with Australia's oldest industrial building, an old mill, just across the river from Australia's oldest church, at Ebenezer. This land was part of a first fleet land grant to the Arndell family who held it for over 160 years until National Parks took it over. As such it was the only original land grant still unaltered.

Picking our way through the scrub we then came to Little Cattai Creek, about 10 metres wide near the mouth. The fine silt here could not be walked on as you sank to the waist very quickly, so we crossed on a lilo, the system adopted being a paddle across and then retrieval of the lilo for the next paddler by pulling on a rope tied to the lilo.

Crossing the Cattai



The inn at Cattai

This system had its teething problems as the first person across was left temporarily stranded in mid-stream when the rope got tangled and could only be let out half way. This was a source of amusement for the spectators but judging from the expletives coming from the lilo, a joke not shared by the paddler. The ferrying took almost an hour. For this stage to become a permanent walking path there will need to be a proper crossing of the creek.

From the feeling of remoteness in Cattai, crossing the creek propelled us straight into the manufactured civilisation of a resort golf course. And in the middle of the manicured landscape was the ruins of an old 19th century Inn built for the river traffic plying between Sydney and Windsor carrying vital food supplies for the infant colony.

We now headed down Cheezmans Road, north of the Riverside Oaks Golf Course with a plan to cross three private properties to access Charcoal Road. I had researched which landowners to contact to seek permission and got the ok from all of them, just like I did for the 80 or so properties for the original 2000-2004 series of walks. But this time it went



wrong as the way encroached onto a bit of land (on the ground but not on the map) and that landowner had not been consulted. And as bad luck would have it, we met up for the first time at the front gate, just as we were to go through. A rejection, in these circumstances was inevitable which meant an extra 4km road bash to avoid the area.

Time was ticking on. It was 4.30pm and we suddenly had 4 extra kilometres added to the 3km still to walk. People were getting a bit tired as well. Enter Sam, our iron man runner: fit, young and enthusiastic. He volunteered to run the 8km to the cars via the road. I figured that the time it would take us to walk on to Pacific Park Ski Gardens would be about the time Sam would take to jog the much longer distance back to his car parked at the planned end of the walk and then drive back to Pacific Park, which then became our rendezvous point.

It was getting on to 5.30pm before we finally make it all the way around the forbidden property and started down a side road to Charcoal Road heading north to the delightfully 1950s retro ski gardens. Here were ancient caravans whose wheels had been removed decades earlier and old "Ford" signs. Even the toilet had a heritage order on it. After climbing over our last fence and jumping our last small creek we arrived at the riverside café and ordered cold drinks, admiring the reflection of a sinking sun on the river. After just one swig, Sam's vehicle appeared to ferry the drivers back to the remaining cars at the end and then for them to rescue the rest of us.

After a very late start, getting lost in Cattai NP and then the avoidance of the forbidden property we called a halt here at the ski gardens with just 3 km of the original walk still to do on another occasion, probably in a second attempt next April.

We proved the route was indeed walkable, which was significant for the big picture as it provided the link to a guaranteed route all the way to the sea from Portland Reach, down the bicentennial road to Wisemans, the track through Dharug NP, access across mangrove Creek and on the Mt White, off track through Popran NP and then links through to Brisbane Waters NP, and ferry access to Barrenjoey and the terminus.



Top and middle: Long Neck Lagoon.
Bottom: Pacific Park Ski Gardens

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*



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 emailing billholland@bigpond.com.

It's getting closer to Christmas and the recent weather reminded us of the warm to hot months ahead. Only one activity remains for this year and I hope to see many of you at Dunns Swamp in late November – see below.

Eleven of us attended New England last week and as usual it was well worthwhile. The weather was cooler than here in the city and we enjoyed walking each day in fine conditions. Four others were booked to attend but could not make it due to the fires and illness.

The group explored the tracks close to Banksia Point, then further afield to Cathedral Rocks. On our last day we walked across to Wrights Lookout for smoky distant views.

After Dunns Swamp we enter the quiet Christmas/New Year period. Our first activity scheduled in 2014 is Myola in February. Once more, we have booked the two adjoining houses and firm bookings have been received to fill both houses. A waiting list will be prepared.

I am giving a lot of thought to the following months. So far there is only moderate interest in the suggestion to hire a bus and travel to Victoria but as I would like to limit the party to only eight people it may still go ahead. The suggestion remains to travel down the NSW coast to Victoria, then along Great Ocean Road to Glenelg River National Park and return via The Grampians and Riverland. The options will be to camp along the way or use park facilities. The estimated cost for the bus is about \$300 per head. Please let me know if you are interested.

As suggested last month here are other places to visit next year – would you please email me with your reaction keeping in mind that the months suggested could be changed if required.

February: Myola – Now fully booked – waiting list only.

March: Victoria – Great Ocean Road, Grampians etc

April: Broken Hill by train, as earlier suggested or a lodge in Jindabyne.

May: Wombeyan, Jenolan or other caves area

June: Newnes Cabins

And the last for this year is:

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 but please let me know if you are coming as I need to advise NPWS.

A poster for the Australian Climbing Festival. The background is a photograph of a mountain range under a blue sky with light clouds. In the foreground, a person's hand is shown in silhouette, holding a large, red, rectangular sign that reads "AUSTRALIAN CLIMBING FESTIVAL" in white, distressed, block letters. Below the sign, the text "BLUE MOUNTAINS 17-19 OCTOBER 2014" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the poster, three lines of contact information are listed in a black, sans-serif font: "www.australianclimbingfestival.com.au", "www.facebook.com/AustralianClimbingFestival", and "acf@australianclimbingfestival.com.au".

AUSTRALIAN CLIMBING FESTIVAL

BLUE MOUNTAINS 17-19 OCTOBER 2014

www.australianclimbingfestival.com.au
www.facebook.com/AustralianClimbingFestival
acf@australianclimbingfestival.com.au

Trip Report: Carlons Farm

13-14 July 2013: Rachel Grindlay

"Ambitious" was a term used to describe this trip both before and during the walk. We made good progress from Carlons over Ironpot Mountain and descending Goolara Peak. However, the ascent of Black Glen Spur was stalled temporarily by some seemingly impassable cliffs. Reconnaissance in multiple directions soon found a suitable route but regathering the other reconnoiters took time and a quick council of war was taken once all reassembled – to push on and probably finish in the dark or come up with a new plan. We agreed to push on (some more reluctantly than others) and made excellent time up the remainder of the ridge.

The Cronje Mountain fire trail appeared freshly graded and was easy walking. We descended Wild Stallion Spur (rather than Whipcrack Hill as was planned). It was a lovely ridge though steep towards the end. We made it to the intended campsite

before dark – locating the campsite at the junction of Jenolan River and Mumbedah Creek took a little time. We had an excellent fire and enjoyed a hearty happy hour after a challenging day.

Sunday got the heart pumping immediately with the ascent of Mt O'Reilly straight out of camp. Making good time we ambled down the Krungle Bungles before steeply descending from what we thought was Scrubbers Saddle. Examination of the GPS route when we got home indicated we had come off early. From there we were back in known territory just the final climb up Ironmonger and back to the cars.

A tough but enjoyable weekend. The 3 prospectives performed admirably and will be an excellent addition to the club (their combined bushwalking experience probably outdid the experience of the 4 full members on the trip!).

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Si Italy tours offer you some special 'Spring in Italy 2014' experiences for keen leisure walkers and foodies.



Why not join us for these exhilarating walks in northern Italy and take advantage of our special 2013 price?

Southern Italy and Sicily's Lesser Known Tracks (5 – 20 May)

Dramatic peaks, ravines, volcanoes, beaches and plunging cliffs are the landscapes of this exciting walking and cultural tour through southern Italy and Sicily. Start with three days of sensational walking around Sorrento, Pompeii, the Island of Capri, Positano on the Amalfi coast and from Termini to Marina di Cantone on the Sorrentino Peninsula, taking in the panoramas, food, wine, ancient history of this beautiful area. Enjoy two nights in Maratea, Basilicata's coastal gem. In Sicily, walk rocky paths, climb Mt. Etna and travel to Taormina, Ragusa, Modica, Piazza Armerina, Agrigento, Petralia Sottana in the Madonie Mountains and Syracuse, where the Greek and Moorish influences are still such a part of the dark beauty of modern Sicily.

Coastal Walks: Rome, Giglio Island, Lucca, Cinque Terre (28 May – 11 June)

We have combined the walkers' paradise of the Cinque Terre, a UNESCO heritage site, with the beautiful walled city of Lucca and the wild beauty of Giglio Island in the Arcipelago Toscano National Park to create a spectacular and exciting itinerary for keen and experienced leisure walkers. On Giglio, stay in a wonderful family-run hotel right on the beach at Campese to experience the sights and aromas on coastal and ridge-top walks and to enjoy exceptional food and wine. While in Lucca, we'll walk the wonderful 16th century walls of the city, stroll the streets and alleyways and browse the elegant shops of this medieval city. Become part of the picturesque Ligurian landscape with seven days of hiking and exploring the Cinque Terre towns and tracks, taking a ferry trip to Portovenere, and completing the promontory walk to Portofino from the lovely Abbey of San Fruttuoso.

Favourite Walks in the Dolomites Mountains (27 June – 10 July)

The highly distinctive Dolomites mountain landscapes with dramatic vertical rock walls, pale coloured peaks, towers and pinnacles in a variety of distinctive sculptural forms form the backdrop to these wonderful walks. During five days at our beautiful alpine hotel in Val di Fiemme we lead you on a variety of exhilarating hikes in the Dolomites peaks of Latemar, Sella and Marmolada and rambles through villages and larch forests. We walk panoramic ridge-top Viel del Pan and approach the base of Marmolada Glacier, traverse the lunar-like landscapes on Sass' Pordoi, explore Bolzano where Latin and German meet in a fascinating blend of cultures and visit the famous 'Ice Man' Archaeological Museum. At Lake Garda, time to walk the dramatic Ponale Track and climb to Bastione, one of the many remaining Scaligero fortifications.

Please contact us for a detailed itinerary or to chat about our Si Italy tours.

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Learn to Paddle

Don Andrews

There are a number of different ways to do this.

The most common way is to buy a second hand or new sea kayak and then teach yourself to paddle it, which is easy in flat water as they are really stable. But to improve your balance you have to go out in rougher water. After capsizing a number of times you will have learned how to get back in. This can be a dangerous way to learn. Your balance has improved and you can re-enter but you still have to learn the forward stroke and the other strokes as you have no technique.

Another way is to buy a sea kayak and join a Sea Kayak Club or get an instructor to teach you. This way you learn to re-enter and the different strokes. You still have to improve your balance, which means paddling and capsizing in rough water but you have been taught to re-enter first. You have also been taught the forward stroke but no-one teaches the forward stroke as well as a flat water coach.

In the above scenarios you have learnt to paddle but your sea kayak is now probably no longer suitable, so you buy another one.

The best way is not to buy a sea kayak, but learn to paddle a flat water racing kayak. With a flat water coach teaching the right technique from the start in a TK1, you then go into a K1 without the

seat and then a K1 with a low seat, increasing and decreasing seat height and swapping between TK1 and the K1 to get balance and technique right. This way you learn the forward, back and side stroke, you have learnt to wash ride, and will be a master at slap supports and bracing. You will still capsize a number of times, but in flat water and with a coach in attendance. After 5-10 lessons, you can try different sea kayaks in flat and open water. Your balance will be so good that you won't capsize. You can then buy a suitable sea kayak suitable. At this stage learn wave running and surf landings from a sea kayak instructor.

Or, buy a racing kayak and join Lane Cove River Kayak Club. LCRKC would supply a trailer and 4-5 TK1s and I would supply 4-5 racing kayaks. A lesson is one and a half hours and costs the \$20 kayak hire (the money goes to LCRKC). There would be 5 trainee paddlers per session, with possibly two sessions a morning at Middle Creek Reserve, Narrabeen Lake.

I will be looking at training LCRKC members and members of Sydney Bush Walkers. If you are a member of LCRKC or SBW and are interested in learning to paddle as a beginner or to upgrade your skills in the new year, please email me at daandrews41g@yahoo.com.au.

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!

Trip Report: Red Ledge Pass

3 Oct 2013: Toni Bachvarova

It was an unusually chilly morning and everyone was happy to start walking on the road at a fast pace. Soon we headed on the track to the Red Ledge, admiring the views to Megalong Valley. Below the pass we went cross-country until we joined Mitchell's Creek Fire trail. There was flowing water in the creek, unlike back in January on Karl Miller's walk. A couple of hours later we started the ascent to Glenraphael Head on the steep ridge; around the head it was slippery in places and quite scrubby. On the rocks at the bottom of the cliff there were some beautiful Streaked Rock Orchids.

Already running a bit late, we had our lunch in the gully below Dunphy's Pass and soon after that we started traversing the long ledge. It was surprising to see the log book dated back 16 years. The views towards the Wild Dogs and distant Kanangra Mountains were magnificent! Fighting the thick Banksia scrub towards the top of the pass was once again a memorable experience and we braced

ourselves for crossing the grassy swamp, but to our surprise there was a trail, which made our passage easier. According to the logbook the last party was there back in July! Finding the pass to Harmil Ledge was easier the second time, and half an hour later we were at the nose of Glenraphael Head playing the scrambles on the pass.

Since we were running late, the decision was made to traverse back to the ledge and head up the fire trail. From the fire tower we turned towards Carlon Head and everybody had fun climbing down and up the spiked rock face. Back at the top we were rewarded with spectacular sunset panorama of the mountains – from Broken Rock Range across the Gangerangs to the mighty Mt Guouogang, Mt Jenolan and the Black Range!

As expected, the last 4km saw us walking in torchlight back to the cars. It was another fantastic day in the mountains with the great company of strong and capable walkers.

Wet Season for Beginners

The wet season in the Top End and Kimberley is **spectacular** and **enjoyable** and there are **no crowds**.

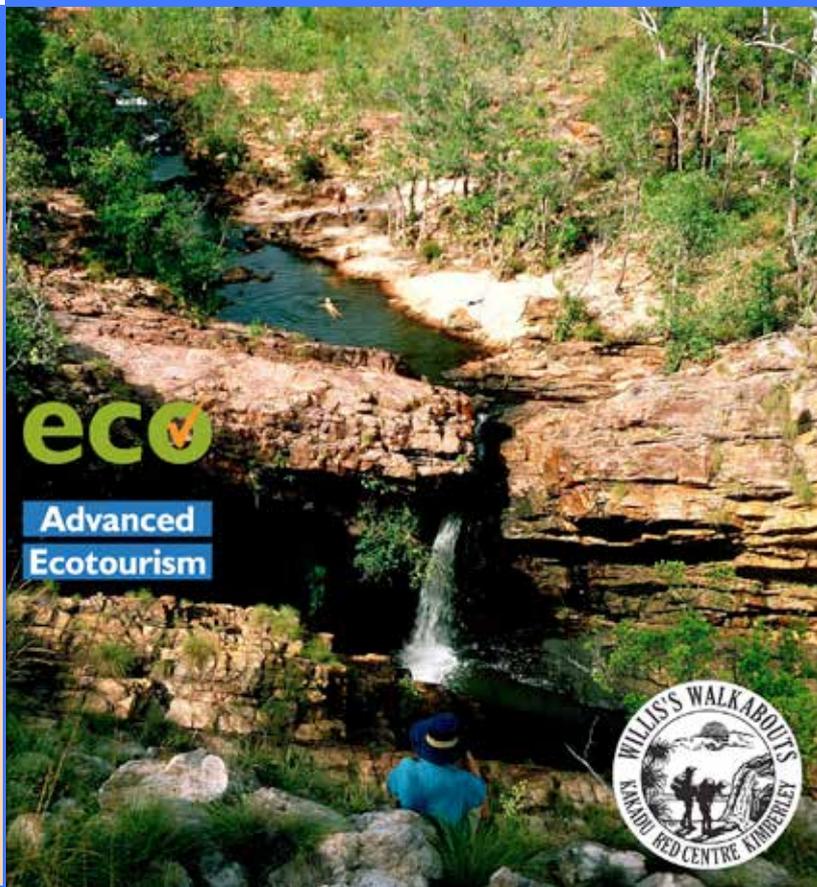
For bushwalkers who might be a bit nervous about committing themselves to a major wet season expedition, we've designed two introductory trips which allow participants plenty of time to acclimatise as we work our way from day walks up to longer overnights. Both are divided into sections, any of which can be done on its own.

Green Kimberley: 13 January - 1 February 2014

Kakadu Light: 4-16 February 2014

For general information, see our **What to Expect** page. www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/wet2.shtml. For information about a particular trip send us an email or click the links on the availability page on our website: www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/avail.shtml

Willis's Walkabouts



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au rwillis@internode.on.net Ph: 08 8985 2134

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: 13/11/2013 10:07AM
11 parks currently affected by fire
89 parks with closed areas
179 parks with fire bans

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

For park safety related information please visit the NPWS fires/closures safety page external link. Internet Explorer 10 users: Some functionality on the NPWS website is currently not compatible with Internet Explorer 10. If you find that functionality on this website is unresponsive, you can try running your browser in compatibility mode: Press F12 on your keyboard to display the developer tools. On the developer tools menu, select Browser Mode then select Internet Explorer 9 or Internet Explorer 8.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Sydney Region

Abercrombie River National Park: a fire ban applies
Agnes Banks Nature Reserve has closed areas due to fire danger

Newcastle and Hunter

Bandicoot Island Nature Reserve : a fire ban applies.
Barrington Tops National Park Closed areas, Fire ban: A park fire ban applies in the park.

Berrico Nature Reserve: a fire ban applies in the park.

Black Bulga State Conservation Area: a fire ban applies in the park.

Booti Booti National Park: a park fire ban applies.

Bulahdelah State Conservation Area: a park fire ban applies

Curracabundi National Park: a park fire ban applies

Mills Island Nature Reserve: a fire ban applies

Minimbah Nature Reserve: a fire ban applies

Moffats Swamp Nature Reserve: a fire ban applies

Monkerai Nature Reserve: a fire ban applies

One Tree Island Nature Reserve: a fire ban applies

Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve: a fire ban applies

Seal Rocks Nature Reserve: a fire ban applies

Shark Island Nature Reserve: a fire ban applies

Smiths Lake Nature Reserve: a fire ban applies

Stormpetrel Nature Reserve: a fire ban applies

Wallingat National Park: a fire ban applies

Central Coast

Bouddi National Park: A park fire ban applies

Munmorah State Conservation Area: a park fire ban applies

Blue Mountains

Fire affected areas in the Blue Mountains remain closed until they can be properly assessed and made safe: The web site lists the parts that are open and those that are closed. Fire ban: A park fire ban applies in part of the park.

Capertee National Park: a park fire ban applies

Kanangra-Boyd National Park: Partial closure due to a fire ban

Marrangaroo National Park: a fire ban applies

Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area: Park fire ban applies

Turon National Park: a fire ban applies

Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands

Bargo River State Conservation Area, Parts of this park are closed due to fire damage and a current fire.

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>13-14 Jul 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232E</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Carlons Farm</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Carlons Farm, Tinpot Mountain, Goolara Peak, Coxs River, Black Glen Spur, Cronje Mountain, Wild Stallion Spur, Mumbedah Creek (Camp), Mt O'Reilly, Scrubbers Saddle, Coxs River, Ironmonger Spur, Carlons Farm (only change to planned route was to descend Wild Stallion Spur instead of Whipcrack Hill)</p> <p>See full report page 7</p> | <p>Rachel Grindlay</p> <p>Tom Brennan Alan Osmond Frances Bottrell</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Roy Jamieson Bruce Farmer Simon Hager</p> |
| <p>13-14 Jul 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: M323</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Kanangra Walls carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kanangra, Gangerang Range, Mount Cloudmaker, Ti Willa Top, Little Gingra Buttress, Gingra Range, Kanangra Tops, Kanangra</p> <p>Beautiful weather... dry, cool during the day and mild at night. Wonderful campsite. All went well and great company.</p> | <p>Owen Kimberley</p> <p>Michele Powell Wil Desain Carol Desain Melinda Turner David Carmichael Stephen Brading Yvonne Brading</p> |
| <p>13-14 Jul 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Kanangra Walls carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kanangra carpark, Kanangra Plateau, Crafts Walls, Mount Cloud maker, camp overnight in Hundred Man Cave, look at Thousand Man cave on Sunday morning then return to carpark.</p> <p>In fine weather 17 people, including 7 Prospective Members, made their way in 2 separate groups along the Gangarang Range to Mount Cloudmaker and down to Hundred Man Cave. The cave was cosy and a camp fire was the centre of attraction for cooking, conversation and keeping warm while light rain fell outside. On Sunday morning we explored Ti Willa Plateau and Thousand Man Cave and returned to the cars before 4 PM. Thank you to Philip Worledge who led the second group. All prospective Members passed their overnight walk.</p> | <p>David Trinder</p> <p>Robert Carter Philip Worledge Judy Tent Sheila Zaman Joe Strata Tracey Avolio Jeff Boyd Virginia Waller</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Paul Irwin Alan Carpenter Dave Mollison Lisa de Meur Sarah Paparo Sarah Gough Jason Miller Gisela Schumacher</p> |

| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
|--|---|
| <p>14 Jul 2013 AREA: Botany Bay National Park GRADE: M323</p> <p>START PLACE: Maroubra Beach FINISH PLACE: La Perouse</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Maroubra Beach, Magic Point, Little Bay, Cape Banks, La Perouse.</p> <p>On a fine and mild day our party set off from Maroubra Beach and followed the rather soggy tracks to Magic Point, enjoying the fabulous coastal views along the way. We continued around the headlands to Malabar Beach, and then went further south along the clifftops to lovely Little Bay for lunch under a rock overhang with views across the bay. From there we continued along the coastline to Cape Banks, and then headed for Henry Head. Looking back, we sighted a couple of frolicking whales in the waters just off Cape Banks. We finally reached La Perouse where we rounded off a very scenic day with coffee and cake at a local café.</p> | <p>Nigel Weaver</p> <p>Margaret Weaver Rae Ogilvie Tim Yewdall Ted Nixon</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Sheila Maidment Teresa Leopold Tomas Lhotsky Kevin Reeves Manuel Renu Melinda Long Xiao Lui</p> |
| <p>18 Jul 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: X331</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Katoomba</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Katoomba, Fern Bower, Sublime Pt Fire Trail, Kedumba Valley Rd, Kedumba Valley camp site ,Solitary Pass ,Eastern Col, Korrowal Knife Edge, Federal Pass, Fern Bower, Katoomba</p> <p>It was fantastic day for a walk in the mountains with mild weather and spectacular views to the misty Jamison Valley and across to Mt Solitary. We started with strong fast pace and reached the Mt Solitary track turnoff after just 2.15 hours. We resisted the temptation to turn right and kept on the boring undulating Kedumba Valley Rd reaching the crossing just after 11 am. Up the Col Alex left me behind climbing the slippery slope with ease.</p> <p>We had unexpectedly early lunch at the lookout shuffling through the brand new logbook. Walking across the top was as always very enjoyable with the scenic views around. We met few people on the north side of Solitary including two guys with large packs steaming up the rocky edge. The walk back on Federal Pass was smooth and fast and only interrupted by some shy-less lyrebirds performing just next to the track. The 40 km loop was done in just under 9 hours which meant we didn't have to use our torches.</p> | <p>Toni Bachivarova</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Alex Allchin</p> |
| <p>20 Jul 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M231</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Govetts Leap</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Govetts Leap, Junction Rock, Beauchamp Falls, Grand Canyon, Neates Glen, Braeside Walk, Govetts Leap.</p> <p>This walk replaced a programmed walk that Caro was unable to lead due to involvement with BWRS on the search for a missing person. An enjoyable walk with a good amicable group. The weather was quite cold and windy, but dry, and we were in the valleys out of the wind for most of the day so walking conditions were good. We had morning tea before reaching Junction Rock, lunch near the top of Beauchamp Falls and an afternoon tea stop near the top of the Braeside Walk. Janina and Sarah coped well with 600 metres of ascent on what was just their first and second SBW walks respectively. One participant suffered hip pain but soldiered on. The walk finished before 3.45pm, and we all visited the Altitude Cafe in Blackheath for refreshments before the drive home.</p> | <p>Chris Dowling</p> <p>Joanna Penney Peter Cai Fiona McRostie</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Janina Szyndler Melinda Long Sarah Chun</p> |

| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
|---|--|
| <p>20 Jul 2013 AREA: Ben Bullen State Forest GRADE: S222E</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Ben Bullen State Forest</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Park the cars at GR 281 188 on Moffitts Trail. Explore the Poseidon Ridge of the Poseidon Arena.. Then climb the E side of Zeus Ridge (we explored the W 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>Andrew Vilder Melinda Turner Robert Schroettner</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Rick Martin Sacha Loutkovsky</p> |
| <p>21 Jul 2013 AREA: Royal National Park GRADE: S121</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Garrawarra carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Garrawarra, The Squeezeway, Burning Palms, Semi-Detached Point, Thelma Ridge, Garrawarra</p> <p>This is a walk with many wonderful views of this spectacular section of coastline. On a fine and mild day we set out from Garrawarra, took a morning break at fabulous Bulgo Lookout, and then did the long rough descent to Burning Palms via The Squeezeway. The track is little-used these days, and is effectively impossible to follow; however, the woodland is fairly open, which enabled us to make our way down the steep slopes to the Palm Jungle Track just south of Burning Palms. We then walked north along the beach and had lunch on the sunny rock shelves near Semi-Detached Point. From there we made our way around to North Era and up to the crest of Thelma Head where we were rewarded with more magnificent views, both north and south. We then went westwards up Thelma Ridge where once again the track is nowadays impossible to follow through lack of use, except for a few sections on the middle slopes. At the top there were more great views from Governor Game Lookout before we made our way back to Garrawarra to conclude a highly scenic walk.</p> | <p>Nigel Weaver</p> <p>Margaret Weaver Margaret Carey Tim Yewdall Lyn Terrey Misako Sugiyama Glenn Draper Rolf Marsden Inma Suarez Lucy Keatinge Rosemary MacDougal Karen Carkner Yeok Ken Williams Nigel Wingate</p> |
| <p>21 Jul 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232 Q WALK</p> <p>START PLACE: Kedumba Gates FINISH PLACE: Kings Tableland Road</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kedumba Gate, Kedumba Farm, Rolling Stones Pass, Lions Head, Double Hill, Car swap</p> <p>The predicted snow and sleet never eventuated and the party enjoyed sunny weather with a moderate cool westerly breeze- perfect conditions for climbing a hill. The same route as described on my previous walk took us to Kedumba Farm. From where we proceeded to climb up the old fire trail. A pit stop halfway up the climb for lunch and then continued up through Rolling Stones Pass. We signed the log book then followed the track out to Lions Head. Fantastic views were enjoyed for 20 minutes at this spot. We then followed the track back to Lions Head to the cars which we had left earlier. A great day was enjoyed by all. All prospectives walked well and handled the small off track component well</p> | <p>Paul Barton</p> <p>Stephen Brading Petros Nikoloudis Robert Schroettner Jeff Boyd</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Johan Davydov John Storer Michael Sparrow Rick Martin Monica Fahey Angela Barton Catherine Hoare Dorindah Appiah</p> |



SBW members are eligible for Free Paddy Pallin Club membership.

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

| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
|--|--|
| <p>27 Jul 2013 AREA: Royal National Park GRADE: L212</p> <p>START PLACE: Heathcote Station FINISH PLACE: Bundeena</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Heathcote Station, Engadine Track, Kangaroo Creek, Audley, Winifred Falls, Anice Falls, Mt Bass Train, Mowlee Ridge Trail, Coast Track, Bundeena</p> <p>The weather gods were very kind to us with a very pleasant and sometimes warm mid-winter day. Eighteen enthusiastic walkers met at Heathcote Station for this fairly straight forward walk traversing the Royal west to east.</p> <p>A steady pace was set resulting in an early morning tea at Audley. An extended break was taken at Winifred Falls before heading to Anice Falls. The option on an amended route was put to the team whereby we would follow Mt Bass Trail to Bundeena Road, then take Mowlee Ridge Trail to the southern end of Marley Beach for a late lunch before following the Coast Track into Bundeena. The challenge of additional distance (28.3 km) was off-set by the opportunity for a scenic lunch spot and possibly for migrating whale sightings – well, there were no whales although we did see a seal from the northern headland at Marley. After a few stops along the coastal cliffs to take in the views and a few photos, we arrived at Bundeena with time to spare to catch the 4.00 pm ferry to Cronulla.</p> <p>Overall, a great team to lead on a very pleasant day. Congratulations to Gabrielle Boyle and Laura Illingworth for completing their first walk with the club.</p> | <p>Robert Carter</p> <p>Nicola Piper Barabara Laborczfalvi Joe Laborczfalvi Petros Nikoloudis Tim Yewdall Sarah Gough John O’Riordan Alan Osland Jade Chang Lisa Ochs Pam Campbell</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Laura Illingworth Alan Carpenter Wayne Gardner Bronwen O’Dwyer Virginia Leadbitter Gabrielle Boyle</p> |
| <p>1 Aug 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: X331</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Govett’s Leap Lookout</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Govett’s Leap, Junction Rock, Acacia Flat, Blue Gum Forest, Perry’s Lookdown, Blue Gum Forest, Lockley’s Pylon, Blue Gum Forest, Govett’s Leap</p> <p>It was another long distance midweek walk which failed to tempt many people to take on, so Alex and I headed to Blackheath a week earlier than planned. The views of Govett’s Leap and the marvellous Grose Valley cheered us on our descent to bottom of the falls. The rest was the same old Yo-Yo. Across to Blue Gum Forest, huffing and puffing behind Alex upwards Perry’s Lookdown and then rush back and up to Lockley’s Pylon. Any of the vantage points to the valley presented us with awe-inspiring views across to Mt Banks and Mt Hay. We resisted the temptation to admire the views for longer and hurried back to Junction Rock. The weather was wonderful and we didn’t mind the refreshing drips on the climb back to Govett’s Leap Lookout. Mission completed in 7,5 hours.</p> | <p>Toni Bachvarova</p> <p><i>P Member</i> Alex Allchin</p> |
| <p>25 Aug 2013 AREA: Kuring gai Chase National Park GRADE: S221</p> <p>START PLACE: Mt Kuring Gai Station FINISH PLACE: Berowra Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Mt. Kuring Gai Station. Take walking track along Cowan Creek. Arrive at Berowra Station</p> <p>A nice summer day - in winter. The small group was eager to pursue a spirited pace. The leader was happy to oblige. Birds, flowers, a creek, the occasional tree. Lunch was sufficiently long to allow time to recover some of the expended spirit. Afterwards, a swim followed by an inspired scramble to Berowra Station.</p> | <p>Calogero Panvino</p> <p>Vivien de Remy de Courcelles Emmanuelle Convert</p> <p><i>Visitor</i> Justine de Remy de Courcelles</p> |

| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
|---|--|
| <p>11 Sep 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M332</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Glenraphael Drive</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Locked Gate, NN Fire tower, Cedar Head, Walls Pass, Cedar Creek, Ruined Castle, Golden Stairs</p> <p>Walls Pass is rarely visited despite its close and accessible location. It was first visit for the whole party and everyone was in anticipation for the challenges of the terrain. The track to Cedar Head was easy to follow and after short retracing a cairn marked the turnoff to the Pass. The rope we carried for the descend of the rock face turned out to be unnecessary as the chains provided the best assistance. After the excitement of negotiating the tricky scramble we braced ourselves for the expected thick scrub around Cedar Creek. With some challenging route finding around Cedar Head and some more scrambling down the narrow edge we were happy that the only really hard lawyer vine overgrown area was just below the head. Finding the pass to Cedar Creek turned out to be harder only due to my poor preparation and mixing different track notes and grid references. Once at the right spot though descending in the creek was easy for everyone's relief. Despite our worries the ridge towards the Ruined Castle did show no traces of previously reported spiky scrub and in no time we all cheered the well manicured track at the top. The walk back was well earned relaxation. All challenges of the day were easily negotiated with the combined effort of the whole party. A wonderful day in the bush with great company!</p> | <p>Toni Bachvarova</p> <p>Daryl Watson John Flint Brendon Anderson Sandra See Bruno De Villenoisy Alan Carpenter</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Alex Allchin</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Alan Michie</p> |
| <p>15 Sep 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M232</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Golden Stairs</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Descend 370m from Golden Stairs car park to Federal Pass. Along the track to Mt Solitary summit & return via Ruined Castle.</p> <p>Weather was fantastic. 7 of prospective members climbed to the top of Ruined Castle. The only full member felt not well & left early. Therefore, I walked with 8 prospective members. They all fitter than me. The leader became tail-end-Charlie from the junction of Federal Pass ascent to the Golden Stairs car park.</p> | <p>Rosetta Lee</p> <p>Skye O'Donnell</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Christina Pattison Genevieve Savill Angela Beveridge Peter Beveridge Jason Miller Stuart Corner Danielle Stachiw Bill Wood</p> |

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

| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
|--|--|
| <p>21-22 Sep 2013 AREA: Kanangra-Boyd National Park GRADE: M222 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Kanangra Car Park</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kanangra Car Park, Kanangra Tops, Gordon Smith Pass, Kilpatrick Causeway, Crafts Wall, Mt Berry, Mt High & Mighty, Mt Stormbreaker, Mt Cloudmaker, 100 Man Cave (overnight), Side trip to 1000 Man Cave, Return</p> <p>Absolutely ideal weather conditions topped off a great weekend of walking. Following a relatively early start from Kanangra carpark, we scrambled down Gordon Smith Pass and explored to locate the Aboriginal ochre rock art along the cliff line. Good time was made along the roller coaster ride of a track arriving at the top of Mt Cloudmaker for a late lunch and then 100 Man Cave with enough time for a short side trip to 100 Man Cave. Although weather reports had indicated over 30mm of rain during the preceding week, the Ti Willa Creek tributary starting from 100 Man Cave was dry and we needed to walk approx. 600m downstream to locate small shallow pools with enough water for over overnight and next day requirements.</p> <p>A great evening was had around the campfire before retiring to rest for our return walk next morning. Prior to leaving 100 Man Cave we took on extra water due to the hotter conditions and also to re-supply our colleagues from the K2K2DAZE who had run into trouble the previous day. Peter Cai and his mate, Derek, had also arranged to walk out and meet us on the return trip which was much appreciated along with Peter's amazing photos. Congratulations to our six Prospective members who successfully completed their overnight Q-walk and to Wayne Gardner who now qualifies for full membership. A tremendous walk that I will certainly put on the program again when the weather cools down.</p> | <p>Robert Carter</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Susan Fagoaga Jessica Wheatley Daryl Watson Wayne Gardner Virginia Leadbitter Monica Matisan</p> |
| <p>22 Sep 2013 AREA: Kuring gai National Park GRADE: M233</p> <p>START PLACE: Cowan FINISH PLACE: Brooklyn</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Cowan to Brooklyn bush explore. The plan is to traverse to Porto ridge without taking the fire track and then to Brooklyn. Lots of bush bash and off tracks. Exploratory walk. Unknown area to the leader.</p> <p>Very good day to do this activity. After going up the first hill we realized that one of the members is not fit enough to continue in the off-track section, so Oliver who has led so many walks in the club and is experienced walker kindly walked with him on the fire track back to Brooklyn.</p> <p>After we turned off at GR326831 from the track, almost above the creek which is at the bottom of the hill that people ascent after Jerusalem Bay.</p> <p>Continued along the contour, visited some Waratahs and headed down to Porto bay. On ascend to Porto ridge we had to negotiate a long cliff line. Had lunch on the way to the top and got to Brooklyn without any problem.</p> <p>An illustrated walking track from the point we left GNW can be downloaded from http://connect.garmin.com/activity/381446847</p> | <p>Shahram Landarani</p> <p>Nima Zarbakht Sun Clement John Kennett Linda Tarran Julian Martin Oliver Crawford Jim Rivers</p> |
| <p>3 Oct 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park, Narrow Neck GRADE: X333</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Glenraphael Drive</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Glenraphael Drive, Redledge Pass, Mitchell Creek Fire Trail, Medlow Gap Fire Trail, Dunphy's Pass, Glenraphael Swamp, Harmil Ledge, Glenraphael Head, Medlow Gap FT, Carlon Head, Glenraphael Drive</p> <p>Full report see page 10</p> | <p>Toni Bachvarova</p> <p>Kenn Clacher Edith Baker John Flint</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Alex Allchin</p> |

| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
|--|--|
| <p>5-6 Oct 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: M322E</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Iron Pot Ridge (vicinity Carlons, at the south end of the Megalong Valley)</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Iron Pot Ridge, Ironmonger Spur, Coxs River, Scrubbers Saddle, Krungle Bungle Range, Mount O'Reilly, Mumbedah Creek/ Jenolan River junction (camp), Lower Jenolan River Gorge, Goolara Peak, Tinpot Mountain, Iron Pot Ridge.</p> <p>Yet another good one. Blue skies. A bit warm on the climb to Mount O'Reilly, so we took our time, but still there (at M O'Reilly) for lunch. Stunning rock orchid display on the walls of Lower Jenolan River Gorge. The one deep wade in the Gorge was deeper than anticipated... apparently having been previously scoured-out by floodwaters... being over head depth.</p> <p>So, pack liner bags and pack cover float, with a shortish cold swim, were necessary. Starting to warm-up again as we summited Tin Pot for lunch at the aboriginal grooves site.</p> <p>Back home in time for TV viewing of R League Final, but, sadly, Manly lost.</p> | <p>Owen Kimberley</p> <p>Michele Powell Tim Sutherland Marella Hogan</p> |
| <p>5-6 Oct 2013 AREA: Kosciuszko National Park GRADE: M233</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Dead Horse Gap</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Car camp in Thredbo (Ngaigo Campsite). Day 1: Dead horse Gap, Rams Head, Cootapatamba Hut. Day 2: Abbott Peak. Day 3: Summit, chair lift, Thredbo. Could be extremely cold at night. Get prepared to walk in snow without snow shoes.</p> <p>Departed Sydney on Friday evening about 7pm and camped in Thredbo (Ngaigo Campsite) at about 2pm.</p> <p>Day 1: Dead Horse Gap, South Rams Head, Rams Head Ridge And Cootapatamba Hut. Very windy and lots of walking in snow.</p> <p>Day 2: Walked to the West side of Kossie and headed toward Abbott peak but noticed that the ground was fully covered by snow and there was a forecast of shower for the night. So instead of ascending Abbott Peak and Mt Townsend which both were fully covered by snow and camping there (original plan) we decided to continue walking and headed up from the east side (1km south of Mullers pass) to the top of Kosciuszko and followed the track and arrived Eagles Nest at lunch time. We still had enough time so instead of taking chair lift and following Thredbo river to our car, we tried to find the track that goes from Eagles Nest to Dead horse gap (turns off the main track at about 300m before the lifts – Should be easy in summer) but it was all covered by snow and we couldn't find it. So following the same bearing of the track in the map and staying in the same contour, we eventually met the track after 2km west where there is a weather station. My guess is that the track was following the ridge top and we were walking parallel to the track about 200m lower. Following the track arrived at where the car was parked at 4pm and stayed the night in YHA Thredbo.</p> | <p>Shahram Landarani</p> <p>Nima Zarbakht</p> |
| <p>5-Oct 2013 AREA: Kanangra Boyd National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Kanangra Walls Carpark</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Kanangra Plateau, Coal Seam Cave, Gingra Range, Kowmung River to camp, Spur up to Compagnoni Pass, Hundred Man Cave to camp and return to carpark.</p> <p>Weather was excellent, The whole group walked well on some difficult country. The leader broke two bones in his right hand and the group assisted where required. It was interesting climbing Compagnoni Pass with one good hand and a few strong helping hands. The whole group learnt some navigation.</p> | <p>David Trinder</p> <p>Rod Wales Robert Schroettner P Members Matthew Anthony Rick Martin Gordon Jagger Dorinda Appiah</p> |

| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
|--|---|
| <p>12-13-Oct 2013 AREA: Pittwater to Hawkesbury River GRADE: Hard</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Palm Beach</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Palm Beach, Patonga, Brooklyn, Bar Island, Spencer and return</p> <p>Left Palm Beach at 9.15 a.m. on Saturday 12 October with four paddlers headed for Patonga. We paddled into a five knot nor'wester on an incoming tide. Arrived at Patonga at 10.15 a.m. to meet up with two other paddlers. Proceeded on to Peats Ferry boat ramp arriving at 11.40 to meet five more paddlers. We then went on to Bar Island for lunch then on to Gentleman's Halt camping area across the river from Spencer. We arrived there at 3.00 p.m. before the tide changed.</p> <p>Nice camping area with fireplaces and toilet. Next morning we left at 7.50 a.m. on an outgoing tide. The tide changed at Milsons Passage and five members left us at Brooklyn. We continued on with two members heading for Patonga and the rest of us back to Palm Beach against the tide in 20-30 knots nor'wester. Interesting conditions at West Head. We arrived back at Palm Beach at 11.30.a.m. The return journey was done in a fast 3 ½ hours. Everyone paddled well and appeared to have a good time.</p> | <p>Don Andrews</p> <p>Gray Thorn Hans Schmidt Bradley Russ Kerrie Allsop Mark Dabbs Lisa MaCarthy Skye O'Donnell Mike Floyd Alan Osland</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Buzz Power</p> |
| <p>12 Oct 2013 AREA: Blue Mountains National Park GRADE: M231 Q WALK</p> <p>START PLACE: Pulpit Rock carpark FINISH PLACE: Perrys Lookdown</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Pulpit Rock, Govetts Leap, Braeside Walk, Neates Glen, Grand Canyon, Beauchamp Falls, Junction Rock, Blue Gum Forest, Perrys Lookdown.</p> <p>An enjoyable day with no dramas. Good amicable group. We had morning tea near the top of the Braeside walk. The lunch stop was between Beauchamp Falls and Junction Rock. It was a clear sunny and very warm day; we had a stop between Junction Rock and Acacia Flat so that participants could cool off in the creek. Walk finished just after 4.30pm.</p> | <p>Chris Dowling</p> <p>Tim Sutherland Nicola Piper Petros Nikoloudis Stephen Brading Peter Cai Marcia Kaye Lisa Ochs</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Sally Reynolds</p> |
| <p>12 Oct 2013 AREA: Ku Ring Gai National Park GRADE: M223 Q WALK</p> <p>START PLACE: Gunyah Beach FINISH PLACE: Cowan Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Ferry from Brooklyn to Gunyah Beach, climb north-west end of beach to above Eagle Rock, climb Gunyah Hill, Cliff Trig, Taffeys Rock, Pound Spur, Jerusalem Bay, Cowan Station.</p> <p>Warm day, great ferry ride to Gunyah Beach. View aboriginal stencils before climbing up stunning rocky ridge on the north western end of the beach. Off track became more difficult as we turned inland through to Gunyah Hill and Cliff Trig where we signed the log book. On to Taffeys Rock and good track all the way back to Cowan, arriving around 5pm.</p> | <p>John Kennett</p> <p>Joanna Penney Robert Carter Lisa Sheldon Jim Close Tim Yewdall Julian Martin</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Michelle Kelly Virginia Leadbitter Kevin Reeves Janina Szyndler Lin Kennett Melinda Long</p> |

| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
|--|--|
| <p>13 Oct 2013 AREA: Mt Wondabyne Brisbane Water National Park GRADE: M221E</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Staple Lookout Woy Woy</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Start at Staple Lookout. Fire trail to Kariong Brook Falls for morning tea. Back to the fire trail which is part of the Great North Walk. Climb to Mt Wondabyne for lunch. Turn to the fire trail call Tunnel Track back to Woy Woy Road & Staple Lookout.</p> <p>13KM, extremely hot (35C), windy, can't stay at the top of Mt Wondabyne for long. A prospective member was suffering of the climb up (150m). She has never walked before. Finished at 1:40PM which is never happened before.</p> <p>Enjoyed the ice cream & cold drink at a café after the walk.</p> | <p>Rosetta Lee</p> <p>Barbara Gray</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Lyn Hungerford Paul Ma Georgie Warren Orr- Walker Jessica Conroy Svet Orrock Ying Li</p> |
| <p>15 Oct 2013 AREA: Macquarie Pass National Park GRADE: M222</p> <p>START PLACE: Clover Hill Road car park FINISH PLACE: Macquarie Rivulet car park</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Clover Hill Road runs west off the Illawarra Highway, about half way up the Macquarie Pass. It is blocked by a gate at the small car park, which is just a few metres off the highway. The route follows Clover Hill Road west for about 2 km, sidling around the contour, and then drops down into the creek (rivulet) at the top of Rainbow Falls. From there, the objective was to follow the creek upstream as far as possible within the time available. The return trip was along the course of the creek, back to where it crosses beneath the Illawarra Highway. We had left a car there.</p> <p>It was a beautiful day; the bush was attractive and the many waterfalls very nice to look at. The water levels in the creek was higher than expected in view of the prolonged dry spell, but making the many crossings was not particularly difficult.</p> <p>There was a lot of rock-hopping along the rivulet, and a lot of bush bashing along the south bank, west of Rainbow Falls. As far as Clover Falls, the way is marked by pink ribbons, probably left by a commercial adventure company that runs abseiling days down the bigger falls. We turned back there, deciding it would take too long to reach Macquarie Falls (the highest fall, coming off the escarpment.)</p> <p>There are several delightful falls and pools along the rivulet. Unfortunately it was just a bit too early in the season for a swim. The water was still very cold. We got a very good close-up look at a male lyrebird during one of our breaks. Stanley Wong took some lovely photos, which can be seen on http://www.flickr.com/photos/24147949@N02/sets/72157636580288124/</p> | <p>Leigh McClintock</p> <p>Richard Darke Stanley Wong Robyn Christie</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Linda Groom Peter Conroy</p> |
| <p>19 Oct 2013 AREA: Centennial Park GRADE: Skills Workshop</p> <p>Basic Skills Workshop: Navigation, First Aid and Bushcraft training</p> <p>Another good training day at Centennial Park, with enthusiastic participants, in perfect weather. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Mustafa Tirpanci, Niamh Kilgallen, Rick Martin, Virginia Leadbitter, Sally Reynolds, Peter Mills, Genevieve Savill, Marena Manzoufas, Xiao Luo, Gisela Schumaker, Paul Maddock, Laurence Manser, Lynette Hoffman, Sheree Symonds, Svetlana Orrock, Yolima Carrillo, Peta Leeman, Ying Lee, Marianne Davies, Jessica Conroy, Catherine Hoare, Monica Fahey, Kevin Reeves, Anne Lind</p> | <p>Richard Darke</p> <p>Facilitators John O’Riordan Aaron Walker Patrick McNaught</p> |

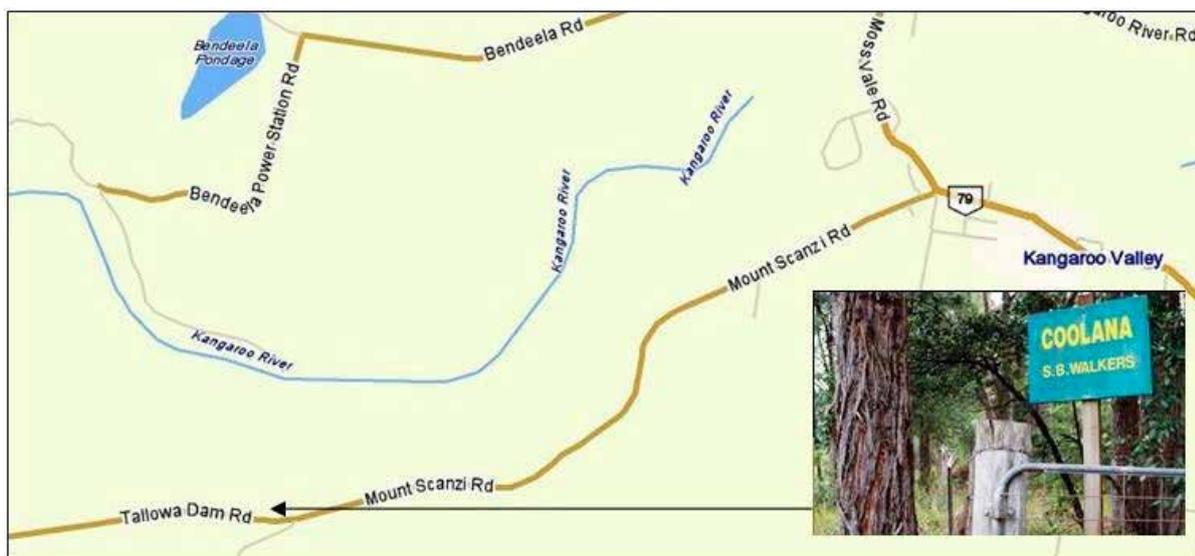
| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
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| <p>19 Oct 2013 AREA: Kuring gai National Park GRADE: M223 Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Hawkesbury River Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Hawkesbury River Station, Port Ridge, Saddle between Porto Ridge & Peak Hill, Mud Point, Saddle between Port Ride & Peak Hill, Peak Hill, Sandy Bay, Dead Horse Bay, Parsley Bay, Flat Rock Point, Hawkesbury River Station</p> <p>An interesting walk in Kuring-gai Chase NP to the rarely visited Mud Point area with an adventurous group of walkers who keenly embraced this mostly off-track adventure. Although not a long walk, the challenges presented through relatively thick undergrowth and navigating through numerous minor cliff lines was enough to keep the group focused. We had a number of spectacular views from the north overlooking Port Bay and the often walked areas around Taffys Rock. The usual 'take it as it comes' descent from Peak Hill to Sandy Bay was made pretty easy under expert guidance from John Kennett. Thanks also to Jim Close for keeping us on track through the off-track. A welcome lunch break on top of Peak Hill had great views. A warm day and great company followed by a quick visit to the Fishermans Arm to 'rehydrate' before heading our separate ways back home.</p> | <p>Robert Carter</p> <p>Peter Cai John Kennett Julian Martin Jim Close Petros Nikoloudis</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Georgie Warren Orr-Walker Paul Ma</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Peter Thomson Tiger Tang</p> |
| <p>21-25 Oct 2013 AREA: New England National Parks GRADE: Various</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Rainforest and Mountain tracks</p> <p>Eleven of us attended New England last week and as usual it was well worthwhile. The weather was cooler than here in the city and we enjoyed walking each day in fine conditions. Four others were booked to attend but could not make it due to the fires and illness.</p> <p>The group explored the tracks close to Banksia Point, then further afield to Cathedral Rocks. On our last day we walked across to Wrights Lookout for smoky distant views.</p> | <p>Bill Holland</p> <p>Fran Holland Barrie Murdoch Mary Carter Burt Carter Judy Barnes Colin Barnes Rick Angell Gerry Lritner John Pozniac</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Kate Murdoch</p> |
| <p>26 Oct 2013 AREA: Ku Ring Gai National Park GRADE: Skills Workshop - Abseiling</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Wahroonga</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Abseiling workshop</p> <p>Despite having to move from Mt York to Wahroonga due to bushfires, the workshop went well. A bunch of enthusiastic new abseilers had a good day out on the crags, learning the ropes (so to speak!). A few hearts were set pumping with Rod's final tricky overhang abseil.</p> <p>Thanks to Rod Wales and Andy Ojong who volunteered their time to assist with running the day, belaying, setting up and coaching everyone</p> | <p>Tom Brennan</p> <p>Facilitators Andy Ojong Rod Wales</p> <p>Maria Talisaysay Mark Talisaysay Skye O'Donnell Michael Gadiel Geraldine Vaughan</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Siddhartha Majumdar</p> |

| Date, Walk Location & Route | Participants |
|--|--|
| <p>27 Oct 2013 AREA: Cooks River Parklands, Wolli Creek Bushland GRADE: M111E</p> <p>START PLACE: Canterbury Station FINISH PLACE: Bexley North Station</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Canterbury Station, Cooks River, Wolli Creek, Bexley North Station.</p> <p>This suburban walk was a replacement walk for a Glenbrook area walk which was cancelled due to park closures caused by bushfires. Our party left Canterbury and went eastwards alongside the river through pleasant parklands, stopping to look at an old but very smart-looking sandstone sugar mill along the way. It is now a block of apartments just up the riverbank. We continued downstream, and had a great view of two bright white spoonbills ferreting for food in the nearby river shallows.</p> <p>We reached Waterworth Park at the confluence of Cooks River and Wolli Creek, where we turned south-west through the valley on bushland foot tracks, stopping for lunch on top of Nannygoat Hill from where there are good views. We finally reached Bexley North station to finish off a short but pleasant walk in this little-known area of Sydney.</p> | <p>Nigel Weaver</p> <p>Graham Byrne Julian Martin Tammy Safi Misako Sugiyama Ted Nixon</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Mike Cave Laurence Manser Bill Wood Elizabeth Ryan</p> |
| <p>29 Oct 2013 AREA: Illawarra Escarpment Jamberoo GRADE: M222E Q WALK</p> <p>START AND FINISH PLACE: Misty Lane, Jamberoo</p> <p>ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Misty Lane, Paddy's Pass, Barren Grounds, Budderoo track, Powerline Pass, Barren Grounds, Qwerty Pass, Misty Lane</p> <p>After all the hot, dry weather the day was cool and fresh with a little drizzle for this mid-week walk. The Prospectives handled the off-track sections and cliff descents with no problems. Trip took 6 ½ hours, we walked 18.5 km, and climbed 580 metres in total.</p> <p>A cordial group, and a good day out in the bush. No wildlife dramas.</p> | <p>Richard Darke</p> <p>Margaret Rozea Leigh McClintock</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Peter Mills Monica Faheey Linda Groom Peter Conroy</p> |

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).

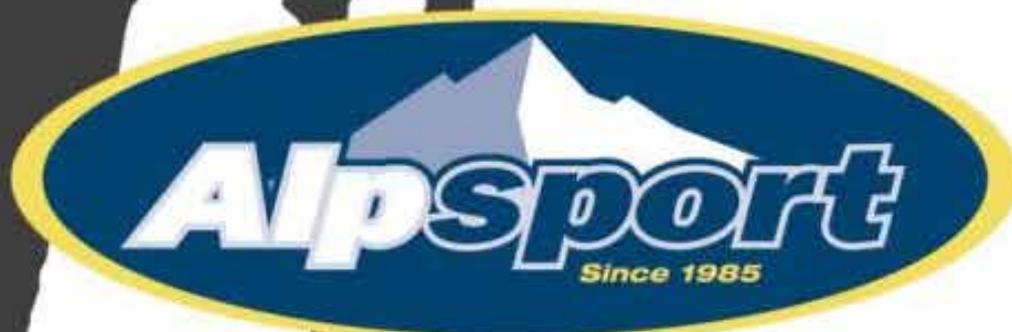


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