



Jan 2014

Photo: Brendan Anderson

## In this issue ...

From the President .....	iii	Coolana Bush Care Weekend .....	4
From the President of Bushwalking NSW .....	iii	Trip Report: Circumnavigation of Upper Middle Harbour .....	5
Summer Social Program.....	iv	Toilet Training .....	6
Trip Report: Mt Kosciuszko.....	1	Dead Horse Gap to Cascade Hut Return .....	6
Trip Report: Mt Hay Range.....	2	Tracks and Access Report .....	8
Dot Butler honoured with street name .....	3	Walks and Activites Report .....	9

### Office Bearers

Members are welcome to contact the following officers on club matters

**President** Leigh McClintock  
[president@sbw.org.au](mailto:president@sbw.org.au)  
Tel: 8920 2386

**Vice President** Roger Treagus  
[vicepresident@sbw.org.au](mailto:vicepresident@sbw.org.au)  
Tel: 0423 262 313

**Secretary and Public Officer** Glenn Draper  
[secretary@sbw.org.au](mailto:secretary@sbw.org.au)  
Tel: 0413 831 286

**Treasurer** Margaret Carey  
[treasurer@sbw.org.au](mailto:treasurer@sbw.org.au)  
Tel: (02) 9957 2137

**Activities Secretary** Tom Brennan  
[activities@sbw.org.au](mailto:activities@sbw.org.au)

**Membership Secretary** Sue Bucknell  
[membership@sbw.org.au](mailto:membership@sbw.org.au)  
Tel: 0417 435 634

**Skills Enhancement Sec.** Richard Darke  
[skillenhancement@sbw.org.au](mailto:skillenhancement@sbw.org.au)  
Tel: (02) 9960 6384

**Communications Sec.** John Flinr  
[communications@sbw.org.au](mailto:communications@sbw.org.au)

**New Members Sec.** John Kennett  
[newmembers@sbw.org.au](mailto:newmembers@sbw.org.au)  
Tel: 0411 108 971

**Social Secretary** Christine McColl  
[social@sbw.org.au](mailto:social@sbw.org.au)

**Conservation Secretary** Pam Campbell  
[conservation@sbw.org.au](mailto:conservation@sbw.org.au)

**Confederation Delegates**  
Tony Holgate  
[confederation1@sbw.org.au](mailto:confederation1@sbw.org.au)  
David Trinder  
[confederation2@sbw.org.au](mailto:confederation2@sbw.org.au)  
Jim Callaway  
Rosemary Macdougal

**Walks Report Secretary** Lucy Keatinge  
[walksreporting@sbw.org.au](mailto:walksreporting@sbw.org.au)

**Magazine Editor** Joanna Penney  
[editor@sbw.org.au](mailto:editor@sbw.org.au)

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.

# EXPERIENCE IS EVERYTHING



EXOFFICIO®

Air Strip  
Mens long  
sleeve shirt  
**\$109.95**



Dryflylite  
Womens  
check long  
sleeve shirt  
**\$89.95**

**SYDNEY** 507 Kent Street. Ph 9264 2685

**MIRANDA** 581-587 Kingsway. Ph 9525 6829

**KATOOMBA** 166 Katoomba Street. Ph 4782 4466

MAILORDER Customer Service & Information 1300 654 259

ONLINE SHOPPING [www.paddypallin.com.au](http://www.paddypallin.com.au)

*Paddy Pallin*  
SINCE 1930

# From the President

Leigh McClintock

## More Positions Vacant

We need a new Editor – fast. Joanna Penney took over at short notice in 2012 and has consistently produced a handsome product, which we have all appreciated. Unfortunately, this issue is the last time we will be able to enjoy her work.

The editor puts together four magazines and eight newsletters every year. In these days of multichannel, instant communication, magazines and newsletters may sound a little old-hat. We use (unedited) emails and Facebook to bring you the news while it's still news, and members can always go to the website to find what they need to know about the club. But the newsletters, and particularly the magazines, occupy a special place at the apex of our communications; they testify that our club is vital, interesting, a quality organisation. They have to be good. They need to be edited by someone who really cares about making them, and us, look good.

Fortunately, we have publishing software to help. The software and a bit of coaching from Joanna will

help you find your feet and your editorial voice. You don't have to be an expert, but you do have to care. We have more than 800 members: I know there are some good potential editors among you. Please get in touch.

We are also looking for new Committee members, a new Secretary, and somebody to take charge of our social activities. We are a group of people who associate primarily on the track, but it has always been recognised that there is also value – and joy – in getting together occasionally off-track. The Social Secretary's main job is to come up with ideas for bringing us together for fun, once a month. There are certain established traditions, like the Christmas party, but for the most part anything goes – provided it is legal and can draw a crowd. Christine McColl has done us proud with a varied, entertaining and often informative social program, but after three years she feels she has done her bit. I thank her on behalf of all of you, and would love to hear from anyone wanting to take over. This is one area where it might be good to have a small team running things; it would be great to get a few volunteers.

# From the President of Bushwalking NSW

David Trinder

Last November I attended the annual "Face to Face Meeting" of Bushwalking Australia Incorporated, (BAI) in Queensland. Present were the Presidents and usually another representative from each state.

Insurance was a big item on the agenda because BAI arranges the insurance for all clubs in Australia. Bushwalking Australia has engaged Marsh Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd to manage its insurance requirements, including obtaining the policies and cover we require and handling claims and enquiries from member clubs. Marsh have set up a dedicated telephone number of 1300 723810 for Bushwalking Australia member clubs to directly contact them for all enquiries regarding claims, policy terms and coverage, Certificates of Currency or additional cover. The following policies are provided

- Personal Accident Insurance,
- Public Liability Insurance,
- Associations Liability Policy.

The insurance section of the BAI web site should be used for information and claims, <http://www.bushwalkingaustralia.org/insurance>. Clubs should not have an insurance officer or information about insurance on their web sites. The insurance section of the BAI site is kept up to date and should be the only reference. Visitors on club walks should sign an acknowledgement of risk before each trip, club

members are required to sign only once per year, usually at their annual renewal.

At the meeting, it became obvious that the states operate differently. Most of the other states have contact with their state Governments and receive grants to assist with their operation and ask for track upgrades, etc. The NSW Committee is different and prefers no contact. Bushwalking Victoria is providing membership to non-club walkers and is negotiating with the insurance broker to provide a special rate for the organisers and the members of non-club individual trips.

Some of the states have developed a Strategic Plan, the basic aim being to get more people bushwalking.

New South Wales has a well-trained and effective rescue organisation, the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Service that the other states don't have.

It is difficult for the smaller clubs to provide training for leaders and members. Victoria is organising training for small clubs by grouping a few clubs together. The NSW clubs have a preference for not being organised into training.

I will be happy to receive the thoughts of NSW clubs on any of these issues via the admin office email, [admin@bushwalking.org.au](mailto:admin@bushwalking.org.au).

# Summer Social Program

## 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](mailto: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.

## DISCOVER PLACES FEW HAVE EVER SEEN

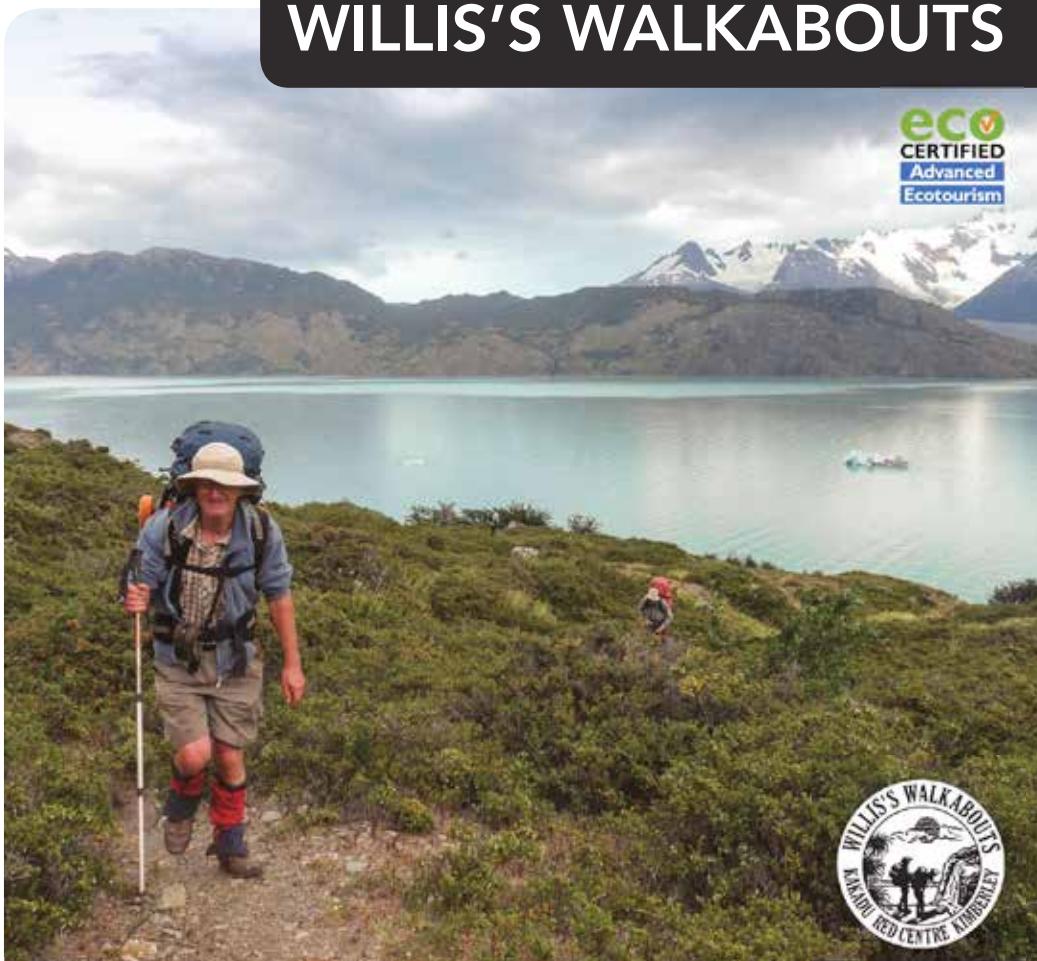
Trekking deep into the wilderness and getting off the beaten track – we offer you an overseas experience like no other.

**Patagonia, Vanuatu, Scandinavia, Southern Africa and more;** our unique trips get you away from the crowds and into wonderful places no other tours will go.

We can't explain what makes our trips so different in a small ad like this, so, if you want a **one of a kind** overseas holiday, explore our website and see what we have to offer. You won't regret it.

Willis's Walkabouts, leading people towards new horizons in small groups with unforgettable scenery and memories that last forever!

## WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS



# Trip Report: Mt Kosciuszko

Rosetta Lee

No one joined my two week programmed walk to Mt Kosciuszko and Snowy River National Park Vic, except Peter and Gillian Kaye who only joined with me for two days to walk in Mt Kosciuszko. Peter has been an SBW member for nearly 50 years and they both are both very experienced walkers. We met for the first time at YHA Thredbo on 2 December. We checked the weather forecast and decided to go to the summit the next day as the forecast was not good for the following days.

I took two hours to walk from YHA to Eagles Nest Restaurant, which is the highest restaurant in Australia, while the others took the chairlift. It was very windy but the sun was shining. Peter and Gillian are retirees but they both walked faster than me. The track from the restaurant to the summit is paved by metal or gravel.

We were all walking this track for the first time. I felt very bored on this track, as it was not very interesting. Some of the areas were still covered by ice, although it was summer, and the water was very clear and cold. We were surprised that there were a lot of people walking to the summit without any equipment, many with only a bottle of water. The track is 13km return to the chairlift or Eagle Nest Restaurant.

We passed two glaciers which I didn't expect, seeing as this is the summer season.

We took two hours to reach summit of Mt Kosciuszko (2228m). This was the first time for Gillian and me – Peter had been there before but he used a different track. We started the return after lunch at the summit. I requested to visit the highest toilet (2100m) in Australia. It was very clean with toilet paper and hand gel. After Gillian said the door was more secure than an ATM, Peter felt he had to try it too.

We arrived back at Eagles Nest Restaurant at 3.00pm, and had the requisite cup of tea before taking the chairlift back to Thredbo Village, where Gillian invited me to have dinner with them. She is a good cook – Peter is a lucky man.



We chose a short 10km walk the next day because the weather forecast was still not good. We walked from Charlotte Pass to Blue Lake. It was cloudy from the start, and very windy, although not as much as the day before. We were concerned when we met the glacier, as it was very steep and the ice seemed very slippy. I suggested we walk down to the gully to cross the glacier at the bottom. I felt more confident crossing at the bottom and we walked off track to get back to the track.

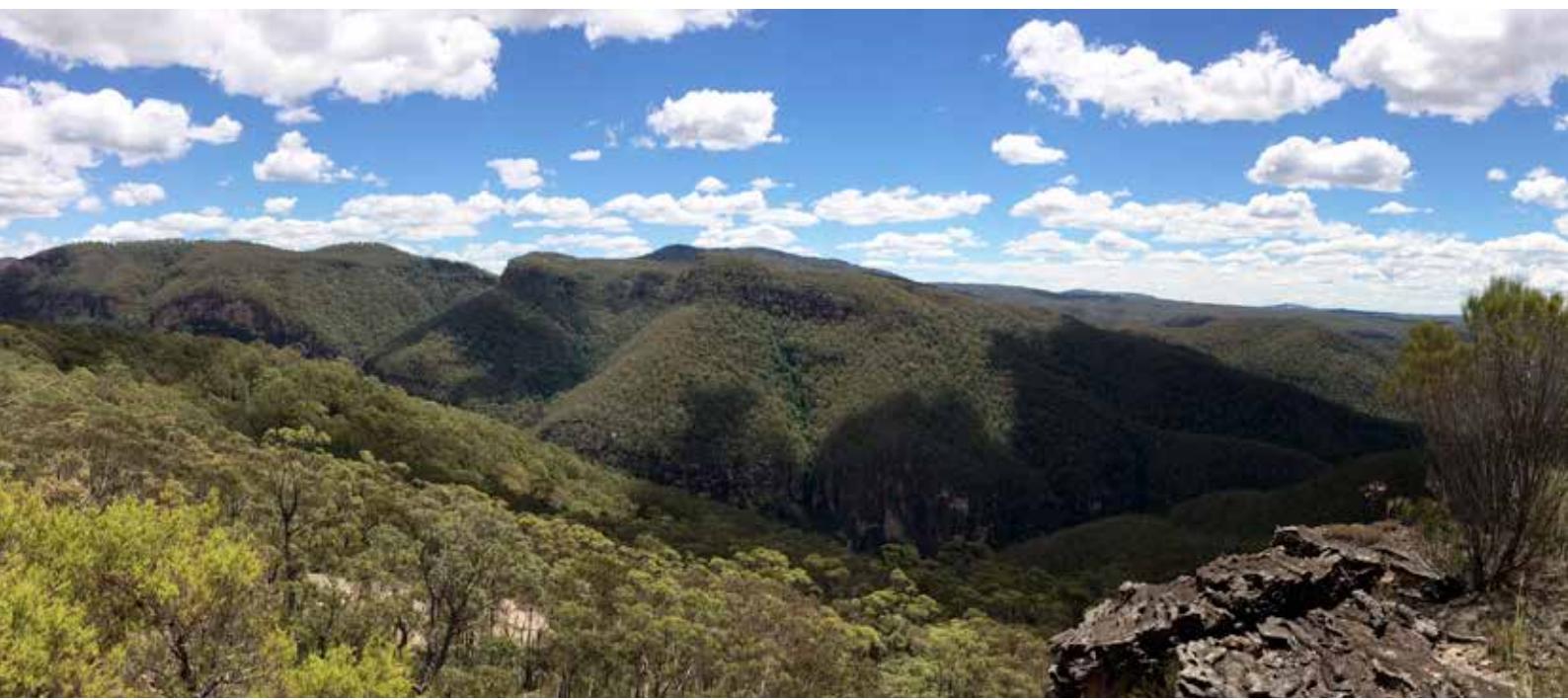
Unfortunately, the fog was very heavy. We could not see anything when we reached the T-junction and there was no point climbing up or going down. We decided to go back to find a spot for lunch, so we missed the Blue Lake. The sun was shining when we were at Jindabyne having our hot chocolate but rain developed when we were heading back to Thredbo. We made a good decision to terminate the walk early.

Peter and Gillian headed to the coast the next day and I stayed in Thredbo to see the snow in summer and finish my Mt Kosciuszko trip.



# Trip Report: Mt Hay Range

24 Nov: Brendon Anderson



Due to recent fires, I had to accept an alternate walk was needed, which was no big concern my list of areas to explore was growing fast, but what would satisfy the seven eager explorers which had emailed me hoping for a day's bushwalking.

What I conceived was a part exploratory extension of a previous trip that would take us further along the Mount Hay Range to explore the ridges and gullies NE of Moogan Gully in particular two features I have seen recorded in this area the first being, Kolonga Tors and the second, axe grinding grooves. So there we were in the Mount Hay car park with perfect walking weather. So far so good! We set off making short work of Mt Hay and the scramble down to the rock pad that would take us to Boorong Crags. The plan was morning tea on the western crag. After morning tea we set our sights for Kolonga Tors recorded by Myles Dunphy at what appeared to be spot height .659. This required us to follow a series of indistinct and scrubby ridges the first of which I missed but thanks to a competent group of navigators this was noticed quickly and we retraced our steps through the scrub, all but 250m, but still, a scrub bash.

Back on the correct ridge the scrub worsened with the odd lawyer vine thrown in to the mix, by this time some of the party were no doubt wondering, what had they got themselves in for. I could only hope Kolonga Tor was a monument of towering rock, so we pushed on and up. Kolonga was living up to its aboriginal name, meaning 'out of the way place'. The scrub cleared as we approached spot height .659 and I was thankful the "E" I put on the walks grading stood for Exposure and not Excitement

because the rock mass protruding from the top of the knoll was barely 2 meters in height.

The suggestion was made to try our luck with the axe grooves that weren't far away, at which point we would have lunch. The ridge headed North and then dog legged East and became more rocky and exposed rising above the tree tops, a scramble to





the top revealed impressive views in all directions, was this what Dunphy knew as Kolonga Tor? To the south west was Mount Hay now just a lump on the horizon where we started our day, three and a half hours ago. To the North the Grose Valley narrowed like the neck of a bottle the cliff faces barely 300m apart now, much more like a gorge than a valley.

In awe of the view I momentarily forgot, what about the axe grooves. Our attention shifted to the ground that would hopefully reveal its secrets. Within minutes our efforts were rewarded and a precedent was set for the remainder of the day. Lunch was a heliophiles dream, although short, but the group was happy with frequent short breaks and we moved on.

We traversed the ridge South to its end, all the way hoping my interpretation of the ridge as mapped was accurate, would it take us all the way down to the creek with ease or will it drop sharply at its very end presenting a frustrating cliff? Like so many ridges I had walked in this area. But short of the odd scramble, we soon found ourselves refilling water bottles with the cool water of Moogan Gully. This section of Moogan Gully was new to me and the 10m water fall we encountered soon after was a surprise and testimony to this walk being part exploratory. We moved to the right of the water fall as it looked to offer the best chance of a pass. Shortly after we were below, and back in the creek, it had become a mass of boulders and flood debris that slowed our progress. But we weren't far from familiar ground and the highlight of the trip, it was the water fall as promised in my emails unlike the "surprise" water fall this one almost canyon like and stepped down in a series of cascades that could be scrambled with the help of a hand line.

The previous days rain resulted in a little more water than I had seen here before and really only added to the slipperiness of the rocks, but the group took it in their stride and made good use of quality hand holds and ledges and made it to the bottom safely. We had this walk beat! and the reward was an extended afternoon tea at the bottom of a water fall fit for any tourist track in the Blue Mountains, but at least for today it was ours.

Next we simply headed down the last of Moogan Gully crossed Mt Hay Creek and up a ridge that would see us at Hurley Heights and spot height .707 within an hour. Hurley Heights is a undulating fire trail and easy walking that gave us a chance to chat. Walking the final four kilometres I had time to reflect on the trip as I nurse countless scratches from scrub and lawyer vine, another walker suffers cramps while a second is inspired to take up canyoning.

## Dot Butler honoured with street name

Tiger walker Dot Butler has been recognised in Canberra by having a street named after her in the new suburb of Wright.



# Coolana Bush Care Weekend

Don Finch

## Thursday 19 December

After an early start from Sydney Ros, Phil, Don and Rick arrived at Coolana just on 8:30am and the camp in the car park was quickly established. Scott Hartman and Igor from Enviroquest P/L were met in the car park soon after. Enviroquest had been contracted to spray weeds on the camping and Eastern Flats and this they were in the middle of doing. They had used the road through the Quakers to access the EF. Enviroquest also used water from the large tank and have left a Storz fitting and cap in place for future use. The funds for this work are from the Bio diversity grant. The cicadas were deafening so I am told, me I just took my hearing aids out. Ros and Rick spent the afternoon tending trees around the old house site. Phil started into clearing dead wattle from the camping flat while

Don fiddled with the road.

## Friday 20 December

Barry arrived and assisted Phil with clearing dead wattle from the camping flat. Ros and Rick finished off the trees at the old house site then continued with the trees on the Eastern Flat. Leaves were blown away from the shelter shed and some tank fittings sorted out. All water tanks are full or very near the top. Water is back on to over the toilet hand basin and David and Patrick have been working on excluding rodents from the toilet. The toilet was swept clean of all scats and some toilet paper was supplied, extra stock under the toilet. Paul with grandsons Jamison and Ellery arrived late afternoon.

## Saturday 21 December

Early start to go out to the Dot Butler Conservation Reserve where the through track was cleared of logs and weeds including thistles 1.5 meters high. Weeds were sprayed cut and pasted as well and the top of site access ways were cleared by Phil and Barry. During the afternoon more wattles were cleared on the EF and road repairs were continued.

## Sunday 22 December

Another early start and more log clearing on the EF and spraying of weeds down river from the CF. Another load of gravel was placed on the road. The road is in good condition with all of the water diversion humps starting at the gate all the way to just above the shelter shed working as expected and no mud holes on the road. Just above the shelter shed an old road runs water onto the road and the increase volume was topping over one of the humps. Earth works and a new hump have fixed this problem. The diversion humps below the shelter shed that were eroding have been re-profiled. The road below the shelter shed is down to clay in places and should not be used during or after rain which will make the road very slippery and dangerous. A total of 89 volunteer hours have been added to the logs. It was a very convivial camp with such distractions as wombats, kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, black cockatoos and crows. The small birds were not as active. Adding to the cheer of the camp was some refreshment supplied by the club. The extensive cellar was appreciated and the beer and food stuffs were kept cold by some additional 12 bags of ice from Kangaroo Valley. Friday was a TFB and cooking was done on gas inside the shelter shed. Thanks again to all those who were able to attend at short notice.

# Spanish Adventures

~ Spain ~

**Customised Self Guided  
Cycling or Walking**

- Caminos de Santiago
- Picos De Europa
- Galicia
- Basque Country
- Analucia

**www.spanishadventures.com**

Email: Aussie Garry in Santiago:  
[garry@spanishadventures.com](mailto:garry@spanishadventures.com)

# Trip Report: Circumnavigation of Upper Middle Harbour

22 Dec: John O'Riordan

This walk was originally scheduled as an opportunity for Prospectives to further expand their knowledge of "Navigation" in a unique bushland setting. But, as it was only 3 days before Xmas it was inevitable that most members would be doing their last minute shopping and partying.

The thing I like about this walk is that it is a little known oasis with peaceful water views, nice sandy beaches and many rocky hide-a-ways where you can sit back and take in nature at its best as you watch the fauna go about their daily routine and marvel at the colourful palate of the National Park's colourful flora. On this trip we were rewarded with a Lace Monitor and numerous Water Dragons and an abundance of birdlife. We did not see any snakes but it is worth mentioning that on my two previous club walks I saw a Red Bellied Black and a very close encounter with a Brown snake that was on the track and moving head on towards us. Fortunately it decided not to be aggressive (otherwise we would have been in trouble) and eventually it moved to one side of the track whilst we elected to take a wider detour. Moral of this story, always be vigilant and treat wildlife with the greatest respect and you will be richly rewarded with their agility and sheer



Another reason I like this walk is that it is an ideal "summer walk" as there are numerous creeks to explore and paddle in as you watch the very delicate sand crabs go about their daily business. Throughout the walk there is ample protection from the sun with a rich canopy of towering Eucalyptus trees providing the perfect umbrella.

The highlight for me was:- I was finally reunited with Ju on this walk after we were successful with Ju's Migration Visa application which took 10 months to process. "LOVE AND COMMITMENT WILL ALWAYS PREVAIL".

## 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.



**TRAVEL & TOURS IN SOUTH AMERICA**  
**WWW.VIVAEXPEDITIONS.COM**



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST YOUR FREE TOUR BROCHURE CONTACT:  
PHONE: 03 9005 7580 - EMAIL: [INFO@VIVAEXPEDITIONS.COM](mailto:INFO@VIVAEXPEDITIONS.COM) - OR VISIT US ONLINE

Also: Peru \* Bolivia \* Brazil \* Uruguay \* Colombia \* Ecuador \* the Galapagos Islands \* and more

# Toilet Training

Patrick James

The composting toilet at Coolana is one of the better ideas the Club has come up with in recent times. A warm, dry comfortable toilet with lights and hot and cold running water

in the middle of the bush is a joy to behold and a pleasure to use. The downside to this wonder is that a small amount of essential maintenance is required. This leads me to the question of toilet training. As our SBW Constitution restricts membership to natural persons sixteen years of age or over it is thus some years since most members completed their toilet training; time for a refresher program. (Artificial persons don't use a toilet per se although they can generate mountains of nightsoil which natural persons have to clean-up.)

The Coolana Composting Toilet has about 50% of the functions of a bank. Which bank? Any of the big four banks; you may make a deposit but not make a withdrawal. The toilet is designed for faeces, urine, toilet paper and sawdust; nothing else. The procedure is simple; open the toilet lid, make your

deposit, add a scoop of sawdust from the pail, close the toilet lid, wash your hands, turn off the water tap. If you use the mirror replace the curtain. (Birds see their reflection, think it's another bird and attack the image resulting in severe head trauma.) Beware the door has a gravity powered, very effective, self-closing mechanism. Feel free to sweep out the toilet, wipe down the hand basin, or do a general tide-up.

I have noticed when carrying out my Kenny duties that an inordinate amount of toilet paper is been used. To take my mind off the mundane chores of toilet maintenance I have wonder why so much toilet paper. I'm sure it's not because the paper if free. I think it's because SBW members enjoy the luxury of soft, quality paper compared to the White Pages or Sydney Morning Herald/Daily Telegraph they normally use. It's always best to bring some toilet paper with you. A supply of toilet paper is kept in a box on the shelf about the door. In case you're wondering the sawdust is not an alternative to toilet paper.

## Dead Horse Gap to Cascade Hut Return

Deb Warren-Smith

19.6 km - climb 797m

Three people joined me for the walk to Cascades Hut and back – Sandra, Rod and Tim. The walk – starting at Dead Horse Gap on the Alpine way – is well known to many, is an out and back walk of just under 20km. It follows the Thredbo River for just over 2 kms, then heads South West and upwards to Bob's ridge, then further on to the Cascade Creek Crossing. This is where Tim – pre-prepared with his speedos already on, fully immersed himself in the icy cold waters of the Cascade Creek and promptly turned blue (colour coordinated with his bathers), whilst the remainder of us either dipped our big toes in or looked into the distance trying to spot the shy Brumbies.

Lunch was taken at the Cascade Hut which was built in 1935 by stock men to assist with their grazing, and was as picturesque as always. Several other groups of walkers and cyclists also enjoyed the lunch spot and its serenity, views across the valley – and facilities. As luck would have it though, no Brumbies appears despite Tim and Sandra crossing to the far tree line to search for anything that whinnied. Only a couple of deer were spotted, well in the distance.

After the punishing walk back up to the top of Bob's Ridge on our return, Epona (protector of horses,

donkeys and mules ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epona](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epona))) must have decided that we came in good will, and Tim's eager desire to see Brumbies was answered-Rod spotted three brumbies watching us from about 40m away. This was lucky for Tim in more than one way, as we had been devising a plan to leave him out overnight along the track so he could catch a glimpse of a Brumby – the piles of fresh evidence along the track left us in little doubt that they were close by!

The warm and sunny weather all day ensured that the walk was very pleasant and was enjoyed by all. Thank you all for joining me.

*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](http://www.colongwilderness.org.au)*



## 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, Positana 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.

### *NEW! 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.

### *SPECIAL! Favourite Walks in the Dolomites Mountains (27 June – 10 July) Book and pay by the end of 2013 at 2013 prices*

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.**

**Phone: 1300307701 or Email: [tours@siitaly.com.au](mailto:tours@siitaly.com.au)**



**TUSCANY      THE DOLOMITES  
UMBRIA      LAKE GARDA  
THE SOUTH      THE CINQUE TERRE**

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

**Phone 1300 307 701    [www.siitaly.com.au](http://www.siitaly.com.au)**

# 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](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/FireClosure.aspx).

Last update: 7/1/2014 10:07AM  
3 parks currently affected by fire  
70 parks with closed areas  
59 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](#).

## Abercrombie River National Park

The park is closed until further notice due to a fire in the park.

## Barrington Tops National Park

Antarctic Beech 'long walk' temporarily closed for essential track maintenance.

## Blue Mountains

NPWS is conducting risk assessments of fire affected areas in an effort to re-open sites to the public as soon as possible.

Until assessments and/or required work is completed, the following areas remain closed:-

- Pierces Pass and Hungerford's Track (picnic area & road open)
- Mt Banks walking track (picnic area & road open)
- Track to Victoria Falls (picnic area & road open)
- Ridgewell Road and Hanging Rock
- Victoria Falls to Burra Korrain and Blue Gum walking track
- Du Faur Canyon

Please continue to check the website for further updates, as re-openings will be posted on a regular basis.

As a result of fire impact some canyons will remain closed until the next canyon season (Summer 2014/2015) to allow for recovery. These include:

- All canyons in burnt areas accessed via Waratah Ridge (Hole in the Wall Canyon and Bungleboori

Creek canyons)

- All burnt areas and canyons in burnt areas north of the Wollangambe River
- Dalpura, Birrabang, Yileen and other canyons south of the Bells Line of Road between Bell and Mt Banks
- Bell Creek Canyon

## Popran National Park

Popran Creek Closed within Popran National Park

Popran Creek within Popran National Park has been temporarily closed to public access until further notice.

There is no access to Popran Creek or areas adjoining the creek for a vertical distance of 15 metres above the creek line. All inquiries regarding the closure can be directed to the NPWS Gosford Office, Ph 4320 4200

## Temporary closure of Hominy Creek Walking Track

Hominy Creek Walking Track is temporarily closed to visitors due to erosion and poor condition following extreme weather. The track will remain closed until maintenance work can be completed.

## Wollemi National Park

There is a major fire in this park. See details on the Rural Fire Service website.

Coorongooba Camping Area CLOSED - Coorongooba campground

Due to a large wildfire burning in Wollemi NP north of the Capertee River, Coorongooba Camping Area is closed until further notice. All walking tracks, canyons and areas of the park between the Capertee River and Hunter Main Trail are closed, including the Capertee River Trail.

Please note, that as conditions dry out and fire danger increases, remote area closures may be considered for the rest of the park, including canyons and remote walking routes

## Road Closures Due to Wildfire

Due to wildfire on Wollemi National Park the following roads are closed until further notice: The Commission Road, California Trail, Hunter Main Trail, Mellong Trail (Bakers Road).

# Walks and Activites 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>Early July 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Glacier National Park, USA <b>GRADE:</b> M232E</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Glacier National Park, USA</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> 2 day trips: 1. – Syeh Pass, 2. – Otokomi Lake</p> <p>Glacier National Park USA - 2 day trips in the sun: have a look at: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm">www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm</a> and in particular the photos in the galleries at: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/glac/photosmultimedia/index.htm">www.nps.gov/glac/photosmultimedia/index.htm</a> <a href="http://www.glacierparkphotos.com/">www.glacierparkphotos.com/</a></p> <p>1. Syeh Pass – this was a magnificent trip with a steady climbing ascent through forests and then alpine meadows with the soaring peaks rising around us. At the Pass we were able to look down towards Many Glacier and the Prairies. The descent involved some snow walking and some extended glissading. Fortunately there were no Grizzlies lower down when we went through (although they did close the walk the week after for an extended period due to their presence). We caught the Shuttle Bus at the terminus back to our cars.</p> <p>2. Otokomi Lake – after an initial steep ascent to get out of the main valley, we had a steady climb in the forest, as the valley narrowed the trees cleared and the surrounding peaks came into view. Lunch was held at the exit of the Lake by a bubbling brook swatting mosquitoes. Thereafter we rolled down the hill in pleasant style.</p> <p>3. Whilst not a walking trip, we also spent a day at the Blackfeet Indian Pow Wow – much drumming, viewing of fantastic buckskin costumes, energetic dancing from the Braves and graceful dancing from the Squaws, bare back horse racing with collisions and massive consumption of fried food and soft drink (despite the very strong anti diabetic diet advertising...)</p>	<p><b>Ian Wolfe</b></p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Louise Verdon Judy Wolfe (my sainted Ma) Brenna McTatts</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](http://www.sbw.org.au)

Here you will find a list of all the overnight or extended walks run by the club from its inception to the present day. Look at the region you are interested in and see what walks have been done there in the past!

Use this wonderful resource to help plan your next walk!

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>Late July 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Mt Rainer National Park, USA <b>GRADE:</b> M232E</p> <p><b>START AND PLACE:</b> Mt Rainer National Park, USA</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> 6 day trips: 1. Sunrise, Sourdough Ridge, 2. Sunrise Lake, Clover Lake, Upper Palisade Lake 3. Frozen Lake, Mt Fremont Lookout, Shadow Lake 4. First and Second Burroughs Mts, Glacier Overlook, White River 5. Trail of the Shadows, Rampart Ridge and descent on the Wonderland Trail 6. Chinook Saddle trail 7. Panorama</p> <p>Mt Rainer National Park USA - 7 day trips in the sun: have a look at: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/wilderness-camping-and-hiking.htm">www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/wilderness-camping-and-hiking.htm</a></p> <p>1. Sunrise, Sourdough Ridge - was a nice warm up and orientation to the area - great views to the Cascade Range to the N and Mt Rainer behind us.</p> <p>2. Sunrise Lake, Clover Lake, Upper Palisade Lake - mainly in forest undulating over small ridges into open grassy glades with lakes in them.</p> <p>3. Started the day with a large Cinamon Bear walking down the creek besides the campground and then across the bridge and up the opposite trail - this led us to change our plan from that route to another. Frozen Lake, Mt Fremont Lookout, Shadow Lake - a ridge walk with lots of lovely views on all sides.</p> <p>4. First and Second Burroughs Mts, Glacier Overlook, White River - an alpine ridge walk with a fair amount on snow with some gislading required, then a long descent.</p> <p>5. Trail of the Shadows, Rampart Ridge and descent on the Wonderland Trail - was a walk in the deep woods with a long looping ascent, ridge traverse with scattered views and then a long looping descent.</p> <p>6. Chinook Pass trail - a circle walk with good views of Rainer and Lakes below - very pleasant.</p> <p>7. Panorama, Alta Vista, Mazama Ridge - mostly on snow all day - a long climb, then a traverse under the lip of Rainer and then a slip and slither down the hill for lunch - saw a Black Bear as we were driving away.</p> <p>One day I am going back to the North Cascades: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/noca/index.htm">www.nps.gov/noca/index.htm</a></p> <p>On the way to the Columbia River we went via Mt Helen - even though its coming up for 24 years since the eruption, this is a pretty spooky place (like an H Bomb went off) - for 5km around in a semi circle, all the facing ridges were scoured clean down to bedrock, the tops still have nothing regrowing, for the 5-10km band all the trees were knocked over and only limited regrowth has occurred, for the 10-15km band the trees were all stripped and stand as silent sentinels today - this makes sombre day walking:</p> <p><a href="http://www.discovernw.org/store_dynw-trail-guide-to-mount-st-helens-national-volcanic-monument_05382.html">www.discovernw.org/store_dynw-trail-guide-to-mount-st-helens-national-volcanic-monument_05382.html</a>; <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/mountsthelens">www.fs.usda.gov/mountsthelens</a>; <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volcanocams/msh/">www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volcanocams/msh/</a>; <a href="http://gonw.about.com/od/photoswa/ig/Mount-St--Helens/">gonw.about.com/od/photoswa/ig/Mount-St--Helens/</a></p>	<p><b>Ian Wolfe</b></p> <p><i>Visitor</i> Louise Verdon</p>
<p>27 Oct 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Lake Parramatta, Parramatta <b>GRADE:</b> S111</p> <p><b>START AND PLACE:</b> Lake Parramatta</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Circuit around Lake Parramatta</p> <p>All the national park closed due to the bushfire in Mt Victoria, Blue Mountains area. This 4.2km around Lake Parramatta is a not bad option, only one prospective member join with me. Finished before 11am. Enjoyed the Yam Cha at Parramatta after walk.</p>	<p><b>Rosetta Lee</b></p> <p><i>P Member</i> Girija Page</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>2-3 Nov 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Milton – Mt Bushwalker and Mt Talaterang <b>GRADE:</b> M 222 Q WALK</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Mt Bushwalker car park</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Mount Bushwalker car park, foottrack around Mt Bushwalker, Gadara Point, Pallin Pass, Mt Talaterang, Talaterang Creek, camping overhang, return</p> <p>See full report in Dec Newsletter</p>	<b>Stephen Brading</b> Alan Osland Robert Schroettner Rick Martin
<p>2 Nov 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Jamison Valley <b>GRADE:</b> M233 Q WALK</p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Golden Stairs, Narrowneck <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Echo Point, Katoomba</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Down Golden Stairs to Federal Pass and east to Cedar Gap. Then bush bash northeast down into the Jamison Valley to Kedumba River for lunch. Then upstream to the junction of Leura Falls Creek and climb the ridge line up to below The Three Sisters to come out on the Dardanelles Track. Then ascend the Giant Stairway to Echo Point.</p> <p>With many of the other National Parks closed in the Blue Mountains due to the recent fires, a total of nine hardy souls set off from the top of Golden Stairs at 8.45am with temperatures expected to reach 26 degrees C for the day. After disturbing only one black snake along the track east towards Cedar Gap at the foot of Mt Solitary, we headed north east into the bush and down a series of intersecting ridge lines towards the Kedumba River. Quite a bit of lawyer vine at the start but relatively easy going along the ridge lines. Beautiful lunch spot down on the Kedumba River and a chance to cool down. By now the temperature had already hit 30 degrees C and still rising, and we still had another 740m ascent up under The Three Sisters and to Echo Point to go.</p> <p>Apart from the initial scramble up from the river, the ridge line was relatively open and accessible, and after a number of well-earned rest stops , we hit a particularly steep, narrow and very prickly – but fortunately short section - just short of the last scramble up to the Dardanelles Track. From the track intersection, we headed up the Giant Stairway and got back to the cars just after 4pm. We reckon the temperature was well into the mid 30s for the best part of the climb – far hotter than anyone had predicted – so a late afternoon tea in Katoomba was in order. Total distance was just over 15km with a total elevation gain for the day of 1150m. Well done to everyone. We had some great laughs along the way.</p>	<b>Jim Close</b> Huw ap Rees Jason Lorch Rebecca Lorch Frances Bottrell Robert Carter Nicola Piper Alan Carpenter  <i>Visitor</i> Val Close



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>3 Nov 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Blue Mountains National Park <b>GRADE:</b> M111</p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Leura Station <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Wentworth Falls Station</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Leura, Tarpeian Rock, Inspiration Point, National Pass, Wentworth Falls</p> <p>We had a fine and sunny day for this very scenic walk, but it became very windy from about midday onwards. It was amazing to see (and feel) the water from Wentworth Falls blowing upwards and backwards in the high winds! During most of the walk we had fabulous views of the Jamison Valley, Mt Solitary and beyond, including Mt Cludmaker and Mt Colong in the far distance.</p> <p>There were lots of ups and downs on this walk, but this situation was offset by the wonderful scenery along the way. We finished off the walk with coffee and cake at a pleasant outdoor café in Wentworth Falls.</p>	Nigel Weaver Margaret Weaver Sally Reynolds Misako Sugiyama Paul Irwin Peter Kaye Gillian Kaye Margaret Carey Skye O'Donnell Rosemary MacDougal Jan Spencer Graham Byrne Angela Barton Lyn Terrey Chris Dowling Julian Martin Tony Holgate  <i>P Members</i> Bill Wood Gisela Schumaker Jennie Johnson Melinda Long Mike Cave
<p>3 Nov 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Garigal National Park <b>GRADE:</b> M212</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Ormonde Road Roseville</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Circumnavigation of Upper Middle Harbour</p> <p>The upper reaches of the "Middle Harbour Circuit" are located within the Garigal N.P. with the starting point for our walk approximately 10 kms from Sydney's C.B.D. The temperature peaked at 34 degrees C. with smoke pollution still present from recent fire activity in the Hawkesbury region.</p> <p>Our two primary goals were to enjoy the tranquillity of a near pristine bushland so close to the city and secondly to give eight participating Prospective Members the opportunity to learn more about "NAVIGATION" in a bushland setting.</p> <p>Without exception, all the Prospective Members embraced this opportunity. Throughout the entire day they bonded and worked together as a group. They all took turns at leading the walk and through their teamwork they successfully navigated the full circuit of Middle Harbour. After lunch we spent further time demystifying the compass, understanding Magnetic variation, when to add and when to subtract, plotting courses from the map and determining a direction of travel course and using features of the terrain to navigate.</p> <p>Along the way we came across a healthy Lace Monitor, several Water Dragons and there were the usual ticks and leeches to add excitement to our very enjoyable day.</p>	<b>John O'Riordan</b> Geoff Coleman Dave McRae Greg Bray Neil Cartwright Karen Kool Xiao Luo Genevieve Savill Anne Lind Svetlana Orrock  <i>P Members</i> Qi Wen Diane Zhang Cathy Hoare Monica Fahey Xiao Luo Genevieve Savill Anne Lind Svetlana Orrock



Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>5 Nov 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Olney State Forest <b>GRADE:</b> S122</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> The Pines Picnic Area</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> A circuit walk east to Abbots Falls on Dora Creek, thence clockwise north-west back to Watagan Forest Road via German Point Road, and back to the start point through various picnic and camping grounds.</p> <p>It was a little bit cloudy and cool; drizzle threatened early, but it held off. The way from the start point to the falls was on a foot pad, dipping down from open, dry forest into rain forest along the banks of Dora Creek. Despite the recent lack of rain, there was still enough water flowing to make the falls (only about 15 m) quite pretty. To get below the falls you cross the creek at the top of the falls, follow the track for about 200 m, and then drop down to the creek through a slot. Some nicely constructed steps at the bottom of the slot, and some little weirs on a side creek near the Pines picnic area, are signs that the locale was once a more popular tourist destination than it is today.</p> <p>On the way back we made a detour to German Point. This, and some backtracking when we became directionally confused through the (totally deserted) camping areas, totted the distance up to a respectable figure.</p>	<p><b>Leigh McClintock</b></p> <p><i>P Members</i> Bill Wood Margaret Baz</p>
<p>6 Nov 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Sydney Harbour National Park <b>GRADE:</b> L122</p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Cremorne Point Ferry Wharf <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Manly Ferry Wharf</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Cremorne Point ferry wharf, Mosman Bay, Taronga Zoo, Bradleys Head, Clifton Gardens, Chowder Bay, Balmoral Beach, Chinamans Beach, Spit Bridge, Clontarf, Manly ferry wharf</p> <p>With a thunderstorm earlier that morning, it was amazing anyone showed up. And although threatening to rain throughout we got by with only a few sprinkles. We set a good pace the whole way, stopping for a quick coffee at Chowder Bay, and for lunch just past Spit Bridge. The views were stunning as they always promise to be. At the end a few of us went to the pub by Manly beach to undo all of our good work</p>	<p><b>Jane Fielding</b></p> <p>Joanne McLachlan Linda Mallett David Angell Angela Barton</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Marianne Davies</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Samantha Tobin</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>9-10 Nov 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Coolana <b>GRADE:</b> Skills Workshop- Day Walk Leaders</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Coolana</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Orienteering course – western half on Saturday, and eastern half on Sunday. The rain set in on Sunday, so we shortened the course to take account of the fact that the temp had dropped from the mid thirties to low teens, and everyone was cold.</p> <p><i>"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand".</i></p> <p>This old Chinese proverb which Ian Thorpe reminded us of was put into effect in a most enjoyable leader workshop at Coolana over a weekend that began hot and sunny, in the mid thirties, and ended rainy and in the low teens.</p> <p>Seven facilitators put seven eager participants through their paces over the orienteering course. Each participant had to lead a section of the walk, delegating tasks to other group members, and coping with various navigational challenges, medical emergencies, and other incidents along the way. All participants acquitted themselves well and clearly enjoyed themselves. This is a great way to learn. You can read the Leaders Manual on the club website, you can be shown how to take bearings and walk to a compass, but the real way for the lessons to stick is to be put to the test in a bush setting.</p> <p>We had a fantastic time, the mellow evening around the camp fire with an extra-long happy hour was very convivial, and we were able to finish just in time to avoid the worst of the rain on Sunday. Congratulations to all participants, notably Kerri Atkins, a Prospective, and thanks to the tireless efforts of a wonderful team of volunteer facilitators.</p> <p>Two of us saw a quoll in the car headlights on Friday evening just before turning in to Coolana.</p> <p>And of course Don Finch was busy installing the new rain tank – just in time to catch the first proper rainfall in weeks. Good on you, Don!</p>	<p><b>Richard Darke</b></p> <p><b>Facilitators</b> Ian Thorpe Lisa Sheldon Aaron Walker Rob Carter John O'Riordan Jim Close</p> <p><i>Participants</i> Dan Laver Rosetta Lee Simon Hagar Alan Carpenter Wayne Gardner Medi Junor</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Kerry Atkins</p>

## SBW Social Media

To advise members of time urgent items, send an email to  
[sbw27@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](https://www.facebook.com/#!/SydneyBushWalkers)

If you are not a member of facebook, sign up by going to  
[www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) then add our page

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>9 Nov 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Blue Mountains National Park (Blackheath) <b>GRADE:</b> S222E Canyoning</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Near Katoomba Airfield</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Pilcher Track, Jugglers Canyon, Beauchamp Falls, Grand Canyon Track, Grand Canyon, Pilcher Track</p> <p>After a miserable forecast for the day, by Friday night it was passable, so we went ahead with the trip. As it turned out, it was a gorgeous day in the mountains, so it was fortunate we did! Jugglers, Grand and Empress were the only canyons open in the Blue Mountains, and as we were sorting out car pooling to the start, we were passed by a convoy of 6 cars also heading to Jugglers. Despite losing the best parking spots, we were ready before them and beat them to the first abseil.</p> <p>The abseils in Jugglers were negotiated more or less successfully, and fairly quickly, and we were at Greaves Creek not long after 11am. I called an early lunch and we scrambled down the old Rodriguez Pass track to the top of Beauchamp Falls, which is a great little spot and not well known.</p> <p>After lunch we headed up the tourist track to the start of the abseil into the Grand Canyon. An unfortunate goanna had fallen in to the canyon, and was looking pretty cold at the bottom of the abseil. Not that we were going to carry it the 700m through the canyon to freedom!</p> <p>Despite my "no swims until the end" comment on Grand Canyon, there are a few challenges in avoiding them. Half the party managed to go swimming prior to the final swim, and the water temperature was as cold as I've felt it in Grand. There was a fair bit of huddling in the sun after the 30m swim!</p> <p>The Pilcher Track had been recently cleared so the walk out was pleasant and easy, and we were back at the cars by about 3:30pm. With such an early finish, we had time to reconvene in Leura for afternoon tea.</p>	<b>Tom Brennan</b> Rachel Grindlay Vivien de Remy de Courcelles Darryl Sullings Catherine Omal  <i>P Members</i> Daryl Watson Siddhartha Majumdar Grant Carter
<p>24 Nov 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Mount Hay Range <b>GRADE:</b> L122</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Mount Hay car park</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Mt Hay, Boorong Crags, Mt Hay Range, spot height.659, spot height.655, Moogan Gully, Mount Hay Creek, Spot height.707, Hurley Heights</p> <p>See full report page xx</p>	<b>Brendon Anderson</b> Yuri Bolotin Jim Close Steven Brading Peter Cai Bill Gibson  <i>P Members</i> Kerry Atkins Paul Young
<p>25-29 Nov 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Rylstone <b>GRADE:</b> Week long camping and bushwalking</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Dunns Swamp</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Various walks and kayaking activities centred on the camping ground.</p> <p>Our visit to Dunns Swamp was very pleasant indeed although a couple of days and nights were cooler than usual! Eleven attended for part or all of the week. We spent the mornings walking, the afternoons kayaking and relaxing and the evenings socialising around the camp fire.</p>	<b>Bill Holland</b> Fran Holland Oliver Crawford Rick Angel Carol Lubbers Phil Hayes Neville Peck Jan Roberts Brian Ogilvy Pamela Irving Donna Barrirere

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>30 Nov 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Mt Wilson <b>GRADE:</b> S223E Canyon Grade 1-2</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Bells Line of Road</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Corkscrew canyon and South Bowens Upper Creek</p> <p>Corkscrew and South Bowens Upper are two beautiful canyons that do not require the use of abseiling gear but still present their share of technical moves, mostly in order to stay dry on this particular cool end of spring. Three of us took some time to go through the last 500m or so accompanied by three canyoners from Canberra, whereas the rest of the party flew ahead.</p> <p>Skills that you'd rather not use were put to the test with a successful outcome and it was great to see wonderful teamwork on trying circumstances: see separate magazine article for details.</p>	<p><b>Vivien de Rémy de Courcelles</b></p> <p>Shahram Landarani Andrew Smith Antonia Bachvarova <i>P Member</i> Jason Miller</p>
<p>1 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Blue Mountains National Park <b>GRADE:</b> S122E Canyon Grade 1-2</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Corner of Bells Line of Road and Range Hill Trail</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Range Hill Trail locked gate, Range Creek (Hobnail Canyon), Bowens Creek, Range Hill Trail, Range Hill Trail locked gate.</p> <p>After a pretty thick and scrubby descent from the road on a faint foot pad, the entry into the creek was a highlight down a steep 8m slide that we did with the help of a hand line. From then on it was a creek bash! There were a couple of canyony bits once or twice to trick us into thinking something good was coming up.</p> <p>But it wasn't until 50m before the junction that any real canyon (in the Tom Brennan sense) turned up. It had a high fun factor with climb downs through small holes with water coming down on top and some deep pools. At the Bowens Creek junction we dropped packs and explored upstream until the first swim. Then we turned around, picked up our packs and proceeded downstream to the exit. The exit track up to the fire trail provided nice views of Range Creek and Bowens Creek.</p>	<p><b>Andrew Smith</b></p> <p>Toni Bachvarova Richard Brading Natalia Veinberg <i>P Member</i> Jason Miller</p>
<p>3-4 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Kosciuszko National Park <b>GRADE:</b> M</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Thredbo Village</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Day 1 Thredbo Village to Mt Kosciuszko, Day 2 .Thredbo Village to Charlottes Pass and Blue Lake</p> <p>Wonderful day on 3 December, just a bit windy. There was frost on the 4 December, so our plan to reach Blue Lake was postponed. We enjoyed coffee after the walks as usual.</p>	<p><b>Rosetta Lee</b></p> <p>Gillian Kaye Peter Kaye</p>
<p>7-8 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Coolana <b>GRADE:</b> New Members &amp; Maintenance</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Coolana</p> <p>The weekend proved a great introduction to Coolana for three SBW and two NPA members. Six other SBW members attended and despite the heat we were able to carry out a lot of maintenance.</p> <p>Ian Wolfe and Melinda led the new members over the western end of Coolana on Saturday while the other SBW crew weeded and mowed, mainly on the Eastern Flat as the Camping Flat was well grassed and nearly weed free. We all finished in ample time for a swim before happy hours and dinner around the camp-fire.</p> <p>On Sunday we all spent the first hour (cooler conditions) on mowing and weeding the Eastern Flat before Ian led the new members on an extensive walk over the eastern side of Coolana. However one new member decided that mowing was more essential and he continued with this for the rest of the morning.</p> <p>All in all it was the best combination of introducing new members to Coolana and emphasising the need to maintain the property.</p>	<p><b>Bill Holland</b></p> <p>Ian Wolfe Brian Holden Patrick James Frances Bertrand Melinda Turner George Bertrand Kerry Atkins Cathie Goss David Trinder <i>P Members</i> Damon Nomad <i>Visitors</i> Lisa Dowdell Owen Dowdell</p>

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>7 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Bowens Creek <b>GRADE:</b> M323E Canyon grade 3</p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Bells Line of Road <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Mt Wilson</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Bells Line, Marihuana Canyon, Middle &amp; Lower South Bowens, exit at junction with North Bowens</p> <p>Trip went as planned: we inspected the extensive works at the abandoned plantation in Marihuana canyon, including Inca like terraces and a dam. Marihuana canyon had a 10m abseil and a chest deep wade, Middle &amp; Lower South Bowens had some nice intermittent canyon sections requiring a number of swims and down-climbs plus several optional water jumps. Our competent and efficient group completed the trip in nine hours.</p>	<p><b>Richard Pattison</b> Alan Osland Brendon Anderson Sue Bucknell Simon Hager</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Melissa Thomas</p>
<p>8 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Royal National Park <b>GRADE:</b> L222 Q WALK</p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Otford Station <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Bundeena</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Otford to Bundeena via the cliff track, Squeezeway pass &amp; coast track.</p> <p>A 9.30am start saw 2 groups of SBW members alight at Otford station for the walk to Bundeena. Christine &amp; Shelia took the Coast Track with multiple swims while our group Yvonne, Pam, Bruno, Mark &amp; myself took the Cliff Track to the top of the Squeezeway pass for morning tea and one of the best views all day.</p> <p>The off track descent was straightforward and we picked up the Coast Track below and continued on to Garie Beach for lunch but no swim as the beach was closed. Fortunately a stiff sea breeze kept things cool enough for enjoyable walking. Pam took a dip in the inlet before Wattamolla and we apparently passed Christine and Shelia at Wattamolla as they cooled off in the lagoon with many others. The two groups met at above the north end of Marley Beach and again at the 6pm ferry at the end of the day. Another nice day in the bush in good company.</p>	<p><b>Stephen Brading</b> Yvonne Brading Pam Campbell Bruno De Villenoisy</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Mark Berry</p>
<p>8 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Kuring gai National Park <b>GRADE:</b> L222 Q WALK</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Berowra Station</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Loop starting and finishing at Berowra station.</p> <p>We met at 8.30am at Berowra Station and started without much delay along the Berowra walking track. Although it was a reasonably warm day, there were no takers for a swim. Consequently, we managed to cross the halfway point, Mt. Kuring-gai station and a reasonable portion of the second leg along the Benowie walking track before lunch. Fortunately, a large part of this track is sheltered from the sun.</p> <p>Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such an enjoyable day.</p>	<p><b>Calogero Panvino</b> Misako Sugiyama Julian Martin Rosemary MacDougal</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Derek Austin Marianne Davies Kate Griffiths</p>
<p>13 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Sydney Harbour National Park <b>GRADE:</b> S111</p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Spit Bridge <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Manly</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> The usual route via Clontarf, Dobroyd Head, with 30-second detours to some of the beaches.</p> <p>No dramas! Started at sunset (8:01pm), finished about 10:50. Good bright moon shining through occasional thin cloud, bats, city lights, goannas, beaches, possums. Unanimously agreed to be a good start to the weekend.</p>	<p><b>David Angell</b> Joanne McLachlan Virginia Waller Helen Lalas</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Jenny Stephens</p> <p><i>Visitors</i> Kavitha</p>

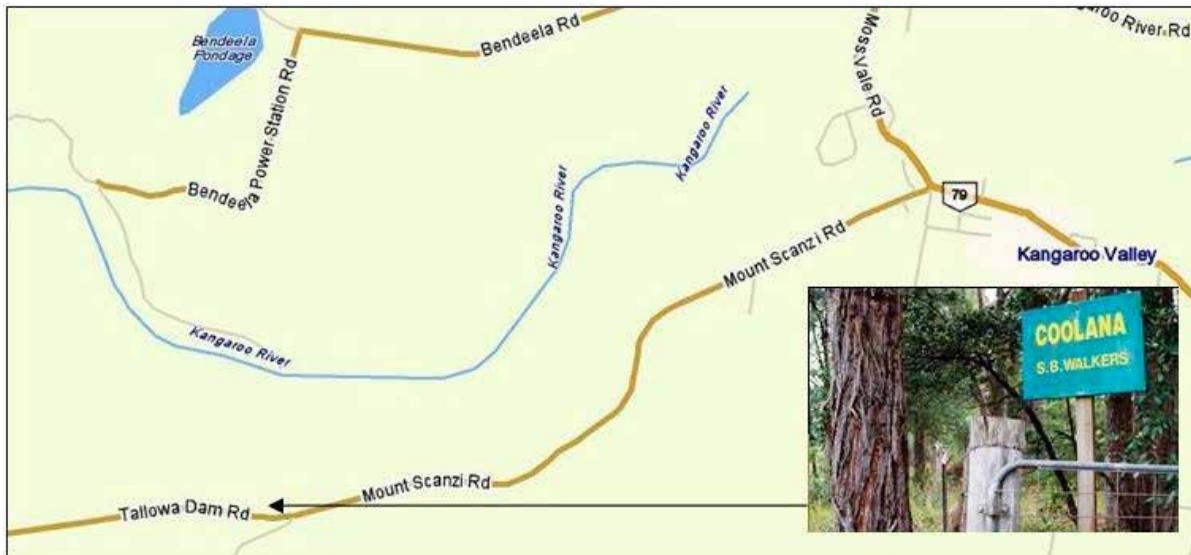
Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>14 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Kuring-gai National Park <b>GRADE:</b> L222 Q WALK</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Cowan Station</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Cowan Station, Jerusalem Bay, Taffys Track, Taffys Rock, Cliff Trig, Fishermans Beach, Cent Spur, Taffys Track, Jerusalem Bay, Cowan Station.</p> <p>An enthusiastic and experienced group of walkers undertook this walk which was described as 'the best of three' walks undertaken over the past 12 months. Showers were predicted however the weather was pretty warm with sunny periods and no rain.</p> <p>An early start from Cowan Station saw us at Mackerel Rock for morning tea however a slight delay was experienced when our point man – John O'Riordan – was stopped in his tracks by a 2m Brown Snake coming down the track towards him. Care was taken to give our unexpected guest a wide birth before proceeding.</p> <p>Following a quick stop at a number of rock platforms and Taffys Rock, it was off-track along a very faint pad (at times) to Cliff Trig where an early lunch was taken as the breeze picked up and cooled everyone down.</p> <p>Our decent to Fishermans Beach was via the northern spur and down to the creek where good drinking water was located in a deep depression just above the beach itself. A number of our group decided on a refreshing swim whilst the remainder took a well deserved rest in the shade, took photos of a large Lace Monitor or simply had a quick look around. Our ascent from Fishermans Beach was steep and fairly hard going through thick scrub up the south-western spur to intersect Taffys Track.</p> <p>The group split at the start of Cent Spur with one group opting to return to Cowan under the leadership of John Kennett and ten intrepid explorers opting for one last bush bash out to the end of Cent Spur – why, because we hadn't been there before ! Again we were faced with fairly thick scrub however the views were impeded by trees and therefore a little disappointing in the end – but we have now been there.</p> <p>As one of our number commented departing Jerusalem Bay – "this is my last ascent before Christmas !" – and what a great way to close out the year. It was a relatively sore and weary bunch who finally arrived back at Cowan Station at around 6.30 pm to travel back home. Overall, approx. 21.5km and 1100m total ascents.</p>	<b>Robert Carter</b> John O'Riordan Nicola Piper Lisa Sheldon Tim Yewdall Julian Martin David Angell John Kennett Tracey Avolio Margaret Rozea Bruno De Villenoisy Alan Osland Natalia Veinberg Ken Smith Sarah Gough Peter Cai Alan Carpenter Ed Squires <i>P Members</i> Melinda Long
<p>16 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Blue Mountains National Park <b>GRADE:</b> S323E Canyon Grade 2</p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Wentworth Falls <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Wentworth Falls</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Wentworth Falls, Ashcroft Ravine, Wentworth Creek, Wentworth Falls.</p> <p>Trip went as planned, taking just under 4 hours (1 hour in the dark) – thank you Brendon &amp; Vivien for your help with night-time navigation. I failed to find my walk-in pass from last season, so we wasted 20 mins with an abseil, but that added to the excitement with Stanley's first ever abseil, well done Stanley!</p> <p>The highlight of the trip was probably 100m of excellent gorge (canyon?) in Wentworth Creek. All in all, a good "burn" after work.</p>	<b>Richard Pattison</b> Brendon Anderson Vivien De Remy De Courcelles Alan Osland Stanley Wong Andrew Vilder
<p>19-22 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Coolana <b>GRADE:</b> Bush Care</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Coolana</p> <p>See report page xx</p>	<b>Don Finch</b> Ros Kerrigan Phil Butt Rick Angel Barry Wallace  <i>Visitors</i> Paul Kerrigan Jamison Prescott Ellery Prescott

Date, Walk Location & Route	Participants
<p>21 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Blue Mountains National Park <b>GRADE:</b> M232</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Govetts Leap</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Govetts Leap, Braeside Walk, Neates Glen, Grand Canyon, Beauchamp Falls, sidetrip to Edenderry Falls, Junction Rock, Govetts Leap.</p> <p>An enjoyable walk with no dramas on a hot sunny day. We had morning tea in the Grand Canyon and lunch plus swimming at Edenderry Falls. There was another swim stop at Junction Rock and a stop to cool down beside the creek during the ascent up to Govetts Leap.</p>	<p><b>Chris Dowling</b></p> <p>Tim Sutherland Tracey Avolio Lisa Ochs</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Tara Cameron</p>
<p>21 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Blue Mountains National Park <b>GRADE:</b> M222 Q WALK</p> <p><b>START PLACE:</b> Hazelbrook Station <b>FINISH PLACE:</b> Lawson Station</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Hazelbrook train station, Terrace Falls Road, Pyramid falls, Bedford Pool, Lester Pool, creek walking, Willawong Pool, Little Terrace Falls, Salotore pool, Terrace Falls, off track, Federal Falls, Junction Falls, Cataract Falls, Adelina Falls, Lawson Train station</p> <p>Finally completed this walk with the club where weather went as planned! Cloudy and hot (particularly on linking firetrail) but creek levels were good to meander in and out of various side creeks and pools. A cave below Federal Falls was a welcome relief for lunch to cool down. Total of 12 waterfalls and pools visited and photographers delight with numerous water dragons and lizards coming out to play.</p>	<p><b>Lisa Sheldon</b></p> <p>Robert Carter Petros Nikoloudis Jim Close Margaret Rosea Damon Nomad</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Tiger Tang</p>
<p>22 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Garigal National Park <b>GRADE:</b> M212</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Ormonde Road Roseville</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Circumnavigation of Upper Middle Harbour</p>	<p><b>John O'Riordan</b></p> <p>Ju Suntiruxpong Lisa Sheldon Margaret Rosea</p>
<p>28 Dec 2013 <b>AREA:</b> Blue Mountains National Park <b>GRADE:</b> M232</p> <p><b>START AND FINISH PLACE:</b> Wentworth Falls</p> <p><b>ROUTE DESCRIPTION:</b> Wentworth Falls, Darwins Walk, Slacks Stairs, Hippocrene Falls, Prince Regents Glen, Vera Falls, Valley of the Waters, Lilians Glen, Edinburgh Castle Rock, Wentworth Falls</p> <p>An enjoyable day with no dramas. Good amicable group. It was a sunny and warm to hot day. Between lower Wentworth Falls and Prince Regents Glen the cicadas were so numerous &amp; loud they were almost deafening at times. On the ascent from Vera Falls up through Valley of the Waters there were no cicadas. Walk concluded with refreshments at Schwarz's Patisserie.</p>	<p><b>Chris Dowling</b></p> <p>Tim Sutherland Angela Barton Virginia Waller Lisa Ochs</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Damon DeCosta</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).



◆ Black Diamond



ONE PLANET

MONT

SCARPA



icebreaker.com  
PURE MERINO



1045 Victoria Rd West Ryde NSW

[www.alpsport.com.au](http://www.alpsport.com.au)

[contact@alpsport.com.au](mailto:contact@alpsport.com.au)

9858 5844