



Photo: Vivien de Remy de Courcelles - Back from the Sentinel

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# The President has writer's block

Leigh McClintock

Happy New Year!

I'm off tomorrow for my annual walk in the Snowy Mountains, but I have to admit that the last month has been a very quiet one, walk-wise. I haven't done anything. And I haven't noticed anything that I feel must urgently be drawn to your attention.

We did have one Committee meeting, in the middle of the month. The only reason we meet in January is to consider the annual financial report to the members. All good, I am happy to say. The Committee members and some of our other "doers" are now busy on their reports to you about the year

just past.

You may have noticed in the Short Notice Activities bulletin that Bill Holland has cancelled a couple of the February activities that he was going to lead. The reason is that Bill has developed a nasty golden staph infection in his reconstructed right knee. When I spoke to Bill about it a week or so ago he was in hospital, and in good spirits, but anticipating a lengthy recovery process. I'm sure he'd welcome a call from his SBW friends.

## The SBW magazine project - Update

Richard Pattison

December was another productive month with a double figure completion rate. The project's objective is to digitise all of SBW's historical magazines and preserve them for eternity. We need your help, you can read more here: <http://sbw.ozultimate.com/wiki/>.



### New members

The committee approved the following new members at the December meeting:

Lynn Dabbs  
Lyonel Tan  
Deborah Ng

# Tiggers 2014 summary

Richar Pattison

The Tiggers email group was formed to encourage "younger" members (20s & 30s) to get more involved in SBW, offering a forum to meet similar aged members. The group is not a formal section of the club, there are no leaders, anyone can arrange an event. The 2014 Tiggers year looked like this:



There are currently 259 members on the Tiggers email list, an increase of +25 from 2013. During 2014, 19 events were organised (1 every 2.5 weeks) and 74 emails were sent to the group, that's one every five days.

The 19 events were arranged by 6 members:



7 Social nights



4 Movie nights



3 Orienteering events



3 Magazine nights



2 Climbing nights

The most active Tiggers are mid-late 30s, hmm, if you're old you're out... it's about time for Tom & I to move on... so, we need a few more younger members to take a more active role in the Tiggers...

## Kakadu

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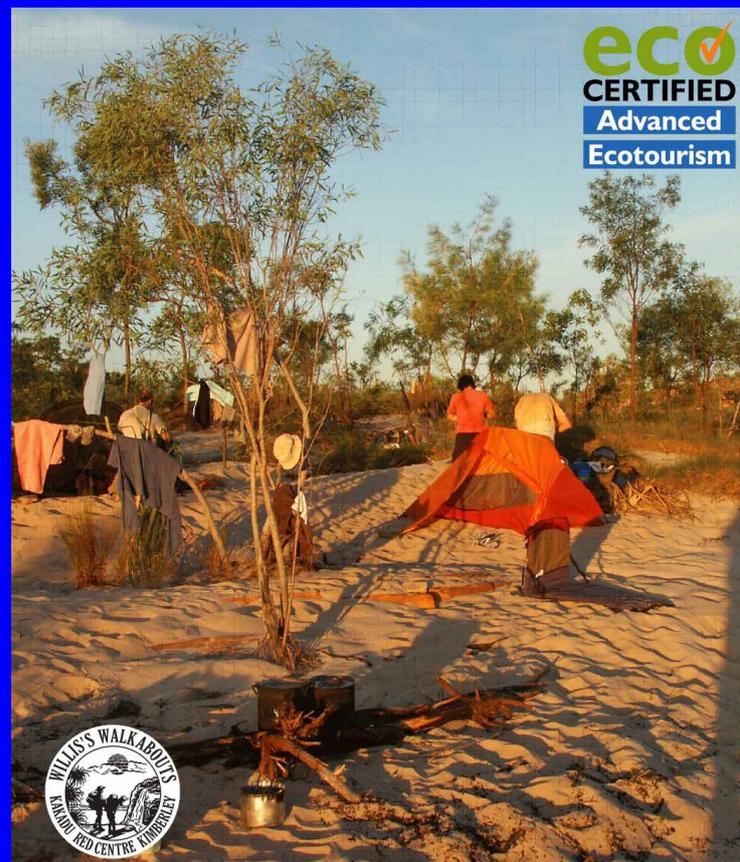
If these trips work the way I think they will, they will be on the 2016 program at a much higher price.

**Day Walker's Special.** A series of day walks, camping or accommodation at night.

**Short but Sweet.** Three two night camps. Carry a pack 3 to 5 km to a two-night camp, day walks from camps.

Details of the above trips went out in our December newsletter. For more information, contact us as soon as possible to see if places are still available.

## Willis's Walkabouts



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# Walking in warm weather

Robert Carter

The warmer months are now upon so it is timely to highlight some of risks bushwalkers may face while undertaking their activities.

It is incumbent on all of us to be aware, prepared by taking necessary precautions to mitigate likely risks and be willing and able to assist the leader in the case of an emergency situation – especially if the leader is the patient!

## Dehydration/Heat Exhaustion

Dehydration and heat exhaustion are very real and experienced regularly on walks during the warmer months. Some preventative measures are:

- Maintain fluid intake before, during and following a walk including addition of electrolytes
- Wear 'cool' lightweight clothing. Shorts and short sleeves are cooler however long pants and sleeves offer the best protection from the sun (and radiant heat in a bushfire situation).
- Wear a broad brimmed hat to protect you face, ears, head and neck from direct sun light.
- Apply sun screen and lip balm to protect exposed areas from sun burn.

- On hot days, walk more slowly, take more breaks in shaded areas and maintain a steady intake of fluids.

## Bushfires

Bushfires risks are real resulting in loss of life and destruction of property every year in Australia. Some basic guidelines are:

- Do not walk on days in areas when a Total Fire Ban or Hazard Reduction Burning exists. Check the NSW Rural Fire Service website prior to a walk (<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information>).
- Check NPWS information of national park closures and hazards (<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alert/state-alerts>).
- Do not light open fires or leave cooking equipment unattended.
- Wear appropriate clothing.
- In the case of a bushfire threat – don't panic, listen to the leader and follow instructions.

Above all – take the necessary precautions, support the walk leader and enjoy yourself!

## Social Program

**18 Feb - Social Event - Kimberley Kapers.** Rosemary MacDonald and Richard Darke will present another of Rosemary's Kimberley adventures, with a particular difference. "This time we cruised up the coast from Broome in a 65ft yacht, did overnight and day walks into the back country, came up close to crocs and sharks - and had to run from a bushfire in the middle of the night. Come and hear about our experiences! Maybe consider arranging something similar yourself (minus the fire)". *If you have any ideas for social events, contact Tracey Avolio and Jan Spencer: [social@sbw.org.au](mailto:social@sbw.org.au)*

*All meetings are held at the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre, Fitzroy St Kirribilli and start at 7.35 pm.  
The KNC is within easy walking distance of Milson's Point station.*

*Social Evenings are preceded by a pre meeting dinner at the Mad Italian, a cheap and cheerful Italian restaurant just around the corner at 5A Broughton St, where club members congregate from 6.30pm on.*

# Snowy Mountains meandering

Vivien de Remy de Courcelles



David Trinder organised another successful week in the Snowy Mountains between Boxing day and 2 January. With more than 30 members and guests coming this is a great way to discover the mountain bush and sceneries. There is a selection of day walks offered by several leaders on the daily 8pm meeting with interested members joining the walks the following day. During the week anyone can walk most of the main range as a series of day walks usually led by David. Other walks are always on offer that give a choice of three walks or more to join every day. These were led by Jon Posniak, Caro Ryan, Bruno de Villenoisy, Andrew Vilder, Christine McColl and myself at some points during the week. Caro Ryan also led an overnight walk in very windy and cold conditions.

We have joined the group of happy lodgers for the third time this year, bringing my parents as overseas visitor to introduce them to this part of the country much sung about in the Australian folklore but little known outside: "what there is snow in Australia?" is a common remark.



Walks to the Porcupine rocks, rainbow lake, Illawong lodge and Mt Stillwell are must do for those wanting easy walks with amazing scenery and a bit of history thrown in. In fact on the walk to Porcupine rocks we were only three club members and seven non-members including three kids. Kangaroo ridge and the area beyond Mt Stillwell are beautiful yet surprisingly hardly any walker wanders further than the track to Mt Stillwell... except on the day we were there! Each year, all of these places are visited several time by various parties during the week the club spends in Smiggin Holes.



Another great walk was born from reading the map and willing to limit the driving to or from walks. There are features named on the ridge that stretches from Rainbow Lake back to Smiggin Holes and further afield to the upper Snowy River: "if it is worth naming, it must be worth visiting" thought I. Rosemary, Christine, Jan and Emmanuelle agreed and we were dropped by Graham at the start of the Rainbow lake track. After a quick visit to the lake we made our way up the spur to reach our first goal: Moon Rock. Great views were had on the rocks but the wind had us quickly on the move along Thompson Plain toward Pretty Point... Quite an understatement in the naming! What a great spot it is: the views stretching from Lake Jindabyne to the Pilot wilderness only enhanced by the presence of rocks that allowed us to enjoy a wonderful morning tea in their shelter. The next hour until lunch was a succession of snow gum woodlands (unburnt!) and grassy plains. We spotted a dozen deers in the distance, found a trig and a lunch spot amongst

snow gums offering a very thick and comfortable layer of grass to rest on.



In the early afternoon we conquered Prussian Plain before making our way over the ridge overlooking Smiggin Holes. We made short work of the dreaded descent which proved much easier to negotiate than originally thought. A great walk ended by walking through the front door of our lodge, straight to the kitchen and pouring ourselves a cup of tea to be drunk in front of the fire on comfortable couches.



Mt Kosciusko always draws the crowd. David led his usual loop to the lakes and Main Range track on the first day. It was a bit long for our visitors but they were keen to stand on the top of Australia and we considered a bash on the Kosciusko road from Charlotte Pass only to cancel this trip due to bad weather. Instead we later drove to Thredbo to take the chairlift (an experience in itself, a sort of Luna Park in the mountains), let the Frenchies storm the glorious mountain whilst the rest of the family wandered back down to Thredbo along the Rams Head range and the Thredbo River.



What an experience to leave hundreds of people on their way to Kosi and for the next three hours see more brumbies and does than we saw humans. One brumby even felt the need to escort us for the last kilometre to Dead Horse Gap only leaving us once we were 'safely' on the road.



A few of us were brave enough to attempt the Sentinel walk on New Year's Day. Christine, Bruno, Margaret, Sandra, Frances, Emmanuelle and I left from Charlotte Pass a bit later than usual under a glorious sun. Everyone had fun at the tricky scrambling section on what is a very spectacular ridgeline.



After scaling the Sentinel, we made our way back to the nice campsite by the stream near the top of the ridge. We parted company with two of the members and the rest went on to add Twinam to the list of mountains climbed in Australia, followed by little Thwinam. We continued down Crummer spur and veered off below Hedley tarn. Some great views of the tarn and Blue Lake were had. One more stream to cross and ridge to go over and we were back at the track near the sign that says to keep to the track to help with soil recovery... At the very moment that two others walkers were reading the sign. Luckily we had a doctor in soil science with us in case they'd confront us! A very scenic walk to cap off a great week.

Photos (top to bottom, left to right): Thompson plain, Late snow on Kangaroo ridge, Rainbow lake, resting after lunch, crossing one of the many plains, North Rams Head, Brumby above Dead Horse Gap, Scrambling on way back from Sentinel.

# Mt Kelly, Scabby Tarn - ACT & NSW

John Flint



Last minute entry to the short notice program. Perhaps my description was not enticing enough, or the lack of notice for the long drive or some other reason I had no takers for this walk. Decided to go alone in any case. Writing the trip up as it is a wonderful area with a sub alpine environment reasonably close to Sydney.

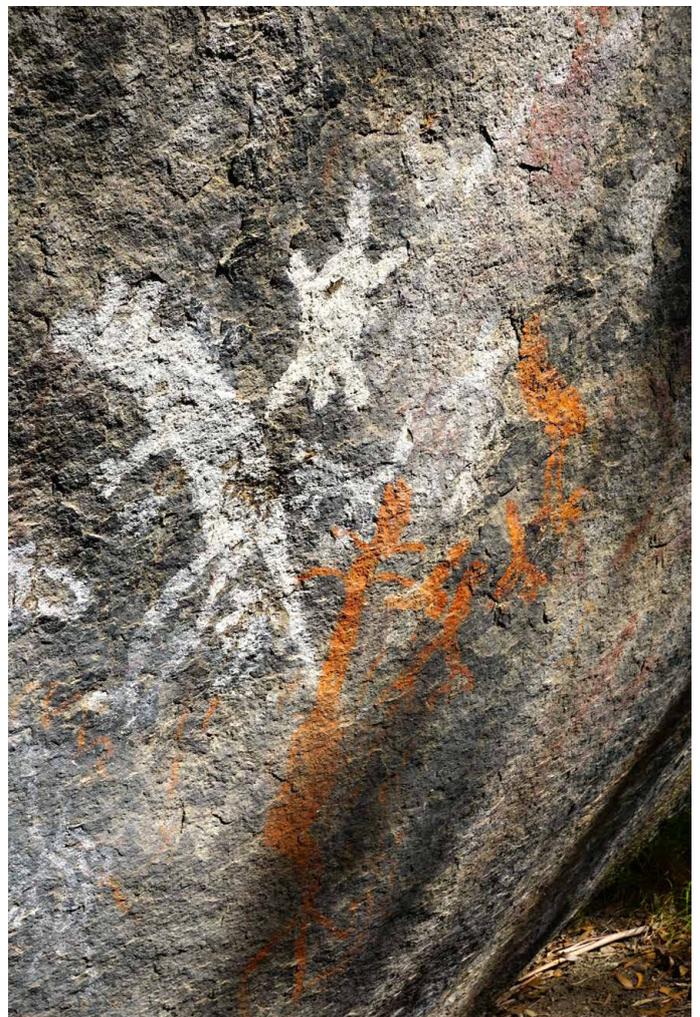
The walk plan was to visit Yankee Hat art site, then Middle Ck, Burbidge Spur, Bogong Gap, Mt Kelly and down to Scabby Tarn which occasionally is filled with water to camp. The next day plan was up to Mt Scabby looking for Aboriginal rock arrangements mentioned in an academic paper, before heading down to Sams Ck, Nass Ck Gudgenby Saddle, Bogong Ck and back to the car. I was eagerly anticipating the tarn to be full with the large snow melt and recent rain.

I drove down on Friday night and arrived at the Yankee Hat carpark on Old Boboyan Rd at 11pm. Decided to camp at the creek around 1km down the track. It is all grassland and the track while fading with some longer grass, is clear enough with marker poles to make out. Set up in the dark at what turned out to be a wonderful clearing in the trees above the creek. On the way down I was closely watched by hundreds of pair of eyes, the rabbits down low and the kangaroos standing clear. Not quite the same numbers in the morning but many still about.

It is an easy 3km or so walk up to the Yankee Hat Aboriginal site. The art works on the granite outcrop were quite interesting so I spent some time there. The artworks are estimated to be from 800 years ago with other permanent habitation sites in the area up to 3700 years old with evidence of some much older seasonal habitation. I met another bushwalker at the site. He had a pushbike which he planned to ride as far as he could up the Middle Creek valley then proceed on foot to Mt Namadgi or at least as far as he could before returning the same day. I wondered later how far he managed to get and the condition of the track as it is a walk I would like to do someday. We walked together to the track going down the valley where he took off on the bike.

My route veered off to the west of Middle Creek up Burbidge Spur. Soon after hitting the spur the footpad came and went and then the scrub started,

it was not thick at first but then just got thicker and I had to really push my way through. At some point around MGA 728 449 I veered off the spur barely north of due west towards a western branch of Middle Creek. On the satellite photos and NSW Lands Spot 5 vegetation coverage this is seen as lightly forested. In truth, it has been almost completely burnt out and the regrowth coming back with a vengeance. At about 1470m this was all mountain ash saplings of 3-4m height, they were so evenly spread it looked like someone had planted them, but all these sapling were only about 30cm apart and it would be impossible to penetrate. There was a clear delineation where the regrowth stopped so I followed that down to the creek. Even so the





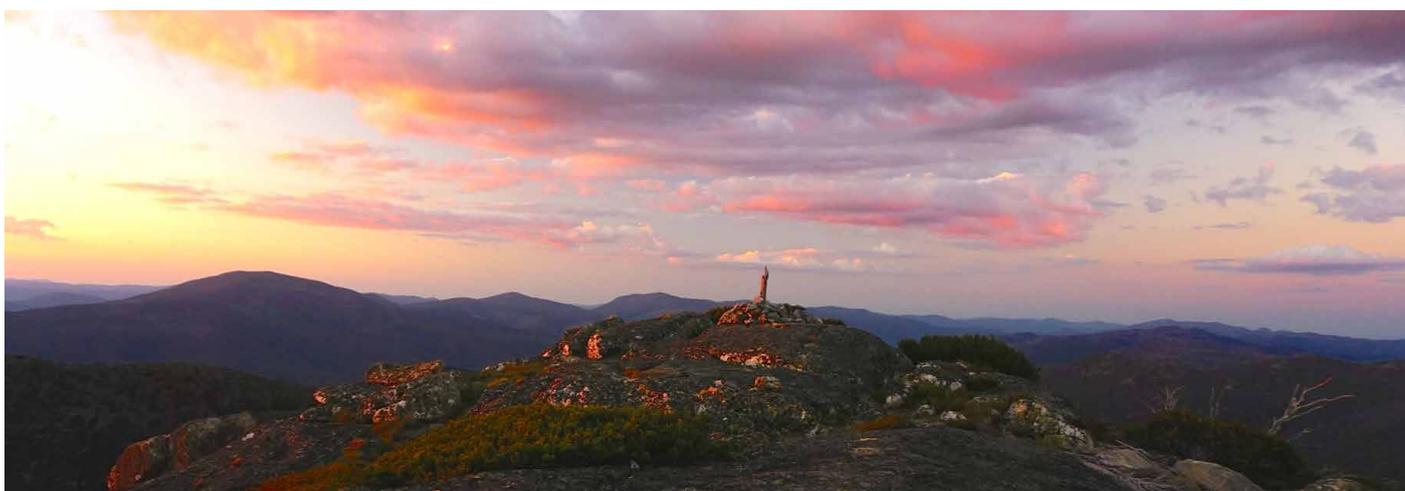
other scrub did not really let up until I was within 50m of the summit at 1829m. All different types too, snow gum regrowth, mountain ash regrowth, some wattle types, another gum and just all sorts. I did not reach the summit till 4:30pm. This was only 7 km since the track had started to get rough at the first crossing of the creek @755 436. Originally I was thinking I would get there before 3pm. I was really puffed. There was still just under 4km to the planned camp. My plan would have this in two hours or less, allowing for scrambling around. With all the scrub I thought it could be up to 3 hours, so still ok to get there before dark. Then I was thinking the next day would be another scrubfest which I was not looking forward to. I still had a reasonable amount of water so decided to change plan and camp on the summit to watch the sunset and sunrise and not to do the full plan up Mt Scabby but to return to the car via the Sams creek still making the route to Scabby Tarn. The sunset was amazing and the views from the top tremendous. All the major ACT peaks can be seen. Straight after sunset thousands of Bogong moths came out and filled the air, I retreated to the tent and turned off my head torch so they did not swarm me. Dead tired I fell asleep and did not wake up till after sunrise so I missed that.

The walk to the tarn was much nicer and only a few patches of heavy scrub. There was quite a bit of water and bogs of sphagnum moss about. It was looking good for my prediction of a tarn full of water.

With the going not too hard with some fun scrambling around the granite and my sprits lifted it took just over two hours to get to Scabby Tarn @689 431. So I was back on track to my original timing. Alas the tarn was empty with just some soft mud in the middle. After morning tea I followed close to the tarn creek down to near Sams creek just heading a little more south to reach Sams Creek near the old yards site @700 424. There was at some stage a firetrail along Sams Creek. It has mostly disappeared but there is some footpad though overgrown. The rest of to the way back was not too hard but still what foot pad there was regularly disappeared. Because of the difficult navigation I was checking my GPS often and making sure I was right on the route. However on the last 3km it was an easy firetrail, I did not bother checking the GPS or map and ended up taking a wrong turn adding a couple of extra kms before reaching the car. At least I ended up seeing an extra feature in Frank and Jacks hut.

There is some really lovely country in Namadgi NP and surrounds especially up high, but you really have to pick your route! When I came home my legs were all scratched and bruised. Next time I think I will try for something easier and not so much scrub. Really! I promise, so be sure to join me on that trip.

*Photos - previous page: Scabby Tarn and Aboriginal rock art. This page: View south from Mt Kelly and Sunset on Mt Kelly.*



# Walks and Activities Report

## Emmanuelle Convert

Leaders: After the activity, please email completed Walks Attendance Form and Activity Report to: [walksreporting@sbw.org.au](mailto:walksreporting@sbw.org.au) Please keep the signature sheet as this is a legal document. If you want your report to be published as an article email the report and any photos (jpeg or tiff format) to [editor@sbw.org.au](mailto:editor@sbw.org.au).

It would be nice to have photos in this section: send one or two photos to the editor for inclusion.

8 Nov 2014	Victoria Falls - Pierces Pass Return	Blue Mountains NP	<b>Frances Bottrell</b> Alan Carpenter Lyonel Tan Jane Fielding
15 Nov 2014	Fortitude Canyon	Wollemi NP	<b>Rod Wales</b> Neil Soutar Lucy Keatinge Melinda Turner Catherine McLachlan (nee Omal)
16 Nov 2014	Closet Canyon	Wollemi NP	<b>Rod Wales</b> Neil Soutar Lucy Keatinge Marcia Kaye Daryl Sullings
22 Nov 2014	Falconbridge to Glenbrook	Blue Mountains NP	<b>Frances Bottrell</b> Alan Carpenter Rosemary MacDougal Sandra See Paul Notholt Roger Browne Geoff Colman



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

<http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/bushwalker-archives/>

<p>6 Dec 2014</p> <p>Govetts Creek Exploration</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>It was forecast to be a rainy weekend in the Grose Valley and the weather didn't disappoint. Stuart and I set off around 9:30am from Evans Look out and we arrived at Blackwall Glen a few minutes before the rain started. We quickly pitched our tents and sought shelter inside them for a couple of hours. A break in the cloud allowed us to explore Govetts Creek up to Hilary Falls but no further. The rain started again and lasted until the middle of the night. In the morning we hang around in the campsite for a couple of hours before making our way back to Evans Look out. We didn't achieve as much as we had planned but we still managed to have a good time camping out in the Grose Valley, and with all the rain the bush looks spectacular at the moment.</p>		<p><b>Bruno De Villenoisy</b></p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Stuart Miller</p>
<p>6 Dec 2014</p> <p>Wentworth Falls to Katoomba</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>We set out under overcast skies and were rewarded with wonderful views from Wentworth Falls. Rain began to fall, accompanied by thunder as we approached Gordon Falls. We took an early "first" lunch in the "fake" caves at Gordon Falls Reserve. It was fairly dry until we were coming into Leura Forest where it began to rain heavily. Luckily the shelter in the forest was unoccupied and we had second lunch. Katoomba Falls was pounding by the time we arrived and was a spectacular sight. With the storms and rain of the the past week the bush was looking fresh and very colourful. A very good day was had by all.</p>		<p><b>Angela Barton</b></p> <p>Wendy Drapac Margaret Rozea Chris Dowling Jenny Stephens Sheila Zaman</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Edie Zhang Ales Lichner Theodore Raisis</p>

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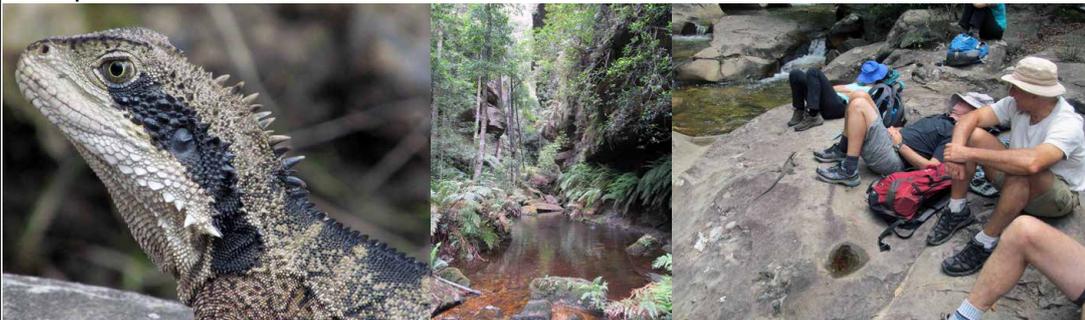
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<p>6 Dec 2014</p> <p>Wollongambe Two Lilo Trip</p> <p>Fun filled day floating thru this beautiful section of the Wollongambe. T'was a motley crew on a diverse range of vessels. We only lost two lilos to punctures, the body boards held up well! Rain held off till we start walking up the exit ridge; make for atmospheric exit thru burnt pagodas and regrowth. Absolute pleasure to have Kelly and Alicia along as visitors!</p>	<p>Wollongambe</p> 	<p><b>Melinda Turner and Stephen Dolphin</b></p> <p>Grace Love Peter Love Jo Squires Edward Squires Andrew Vilder Alan Osland</p> <p><i>Visitors</i></p> <p>Kelly Osland Alicia Osland</p>
<p>6 Dec 2014</p> <p>Shark Rock Ridge Frolic #2</p> <p>A tough walk on a hot and humid day with plenty of thick scrub that challenged the entire party throughout.</p> <p>Our original plan was to head out along Shark Rock Ridge then divert along Looking Glass Spur and returning to Shark Rock Ridge before heading along Folly Spur and crossing Yatala Creek to Ethel Trig before making our way down Ethel Spur to the GNW track and then into Cowan.</p> <p>On our return from Looking Glass Spur it was obvious that a couple of the party were struggling in the heat so they split off and returned (safely) to Berowra whilst the remainder of the group took a modified route crossing to Govett Range which was followed to Ethel Spur and then Cowan – basically tracking the Freeway.</p> <p>Highlights of the walk were three rock platforms containing Aboriginal engravings including the elusive 'shark' that gives its name to Shark Rock Ridge, a great lookout (albeit through very thick scrub to access) at GR33790, an even better lookout at our lunch spot on Looking Glass Spur (GR322789) overlooking both Smiths and Cowan Creeks that also contained many rock orchids and fantastic rock formations, locating Ethel Trig and actually getting back to Cowan in one piece !</p> <p>We encountered thick scrub on all off track sections however heaviest was on the leg from Shark Rock Ridge to Cowan (actually the thickest that I have encountered in the area). We were forced to search for a clean water source in the upper reaches of Yatala Creek as our consumption was high and everyone was low on supply.</p> <p>We were rewarded with a brief stop at Berowra RSL to replenish our fluids before making our way home for a well deserved shower, patch up and good night's sleep.</p> <p>Thanks to the group for their perseverance and taking turns out front as the going got tough.</p> <p>There will be a Shark Rock Ridge Frolic #3 once the weather cools down for those foolhardy souls who wish to experience this area.</p>	<p>Ku-ring-gai Chase NP</p>	<p><b>Robert Carter</b></p> <p>Angela Beveridge Genevieve Savill Petros Nikoloudis Jim Collier Carley Finn Jim Close Michelle Rose Tracey Avolio Misako Sugiyama</p> <p><i>Prospective</i></p> <p>Lynn Dabbs</p>

### Walk updates

Don't forget to check the Short Notice Activities bulletin for any amendments to the quarterly program such as changes in walk dates.

Many walks that go into the walks program are planned weeks or months ahead and unforeseen circumstances can arise in the meantime affecting walk details and dates.

<p>7 Dec 2014</p> <p>Mt Kuringai to Pearl Beach Brisbane Waters NP etc.</p> <p>We departed Mt Kuringai and made our way to Cowan Creek, Appletree Bay, and Bobbin Head. We then did the long and attractive ferry trip to Patonga. Along the way we enjoyed wonderful water-level views of Waratah Bay, Peach Trees, Cottage Point, Jerusalem Bay, America Bay, Challenger Head, Gonyah Beach, and West Head. It was a great trip! We then followed the tracks from Patonga up and over the nearby headland to Pearl Beach via Warrah Lookout which gave us magnificent views of the lower Hawksbury River and Broken Bay. We were encouraged to keep moving by gathering storm clouds and rolling thunder at our backs, but thankfully we avoided rain all together. We arrived at Pearl Beach a few minutes before the bus that took us to Woy Woy station to round off a very scenic day.</p>		<p><b>Nigel Weaver</b></p> <p>Margaret Weaver John van der Merwe Ina van der Merwe Leigh McClintock John Kennett Lin Kennett</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>John Beales Kate Fewell Jac Wolf Juergen Wolf</p>
<p>13 Dec 2014</p> <p>Blackheath Loop</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>The picturesque Grand Canyon never ceases to amaze – this is one on my favourite places to visit and just take in the beauty of the area.</p> <p>A fit and very engaged group who had no trouble completing the walk including the 600m ascent from Junction Rock to Govetts Leap Car Park. Walking was easy in the cooler weather and the track in good shape. Our lunch stop was had just up creek from Junction Rock where we were joined from across the creek by one of the local Water Dragons who was obviously used to visitors offering up lunch scraps – she/he was quite friendly and would come within 0.5m for a small piece of crust or sultana.</p> <p>Our post walk debrief was held in the Ivanhoe Hotel and Blackheath.</p>		<p><b>Robert Carter</b></p> <p>Joe Laborczfalvi Michelle Rose Petros Nikoloudis Paul Notholt Sarah Gough Kerry Aitken Pam Campbell</p>
<p>13 Dec 2014</p> <p>Tahmoor, Bargo River Gorge</p> <p>Bargo River</p> <p>When we headed down the gully to Bargo River, as a result of the previous days rainfall, the water level was very high and the current was very strong. I assessed it to be too risky to head to Nepean river, so thanks to Glenn, he suggested another route to get back to Rockford Bridge which we did. Couple of challenging sections with some wet knees were managed and a nice swim for lunch.</p>		<p><b>Shahram Landarani</b></p> <p>David Angell Tracey Avolio Glenn Draper</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Asiyeh Ansari Stephanie Hickson Jac Wolf Juergen Wolf Brian Tomney Svetlana Orrock</p>



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13 Dec 2014	Govetts Valley Bushwalk	Blue Mountains NP	<b>Alan Carpenter</b> Lyonel Tan John Flint Jim Vaughan <i>P Members</i> Kevin Reeves
<p>The cooler weather on Saturday provided a good opportunity to complete a harder walk.</p> <p>Started 7.20am an enthusiastic group set a fast pace &amp; arrived at Junction Rock for a morning snack at 9.15am. Recent rains gave the bush a fresh feeling with plenty of water flowing over waterfalls.</p> <p>On the ascent from Blue Gum to Lockleys Pylon one walker turned around at Du Fours Head &amp; the rest went on to enjoy majestic views from Lockleys Pylon. Made good time regrouped for Lunch near log bridge on Govetts Creek. After climbing Perry's two walkers decided to take the cliff top track back to Govetts. Walked back through Blue Gum to Junction Rock for the final climb of the day back to Cars at Govetts Leap 5pm. A weary bunch of walkers enjoyed another Blue Mountains adventure.</p>			
13 Dec 2014	Introductory Abseiling Workshop	Wahroonga	<b>Tom Brennan</b> Simon Hager Alan Osland Terry Moss Isabelle Moss Natalia Veinberg Garry O'Toole Helen MacDonald Gloria Roberts Ed Squires Josette Squires Jim Collier Carley Finn Damon de Costa <i>P Members</i> Deborah Ng
<p>A bunch of enthusiastic new abseilers had a good day out on the crags, learning the ropes (so to speak!). Once everyone got the basics down pat, there were some challenges set with a number of tricky abseils. A few hearts were set pumping! Thanks to Simon Hager, Terry Moss and Alan Osland who volunteered their time to assist with running the day, belaying, setting up and coaching everyone.</p>			
13 Dec 2014	Dead Tree Canyon	Newnes Plateau	<b>Neil Soutar</b> Neil Hickson Rod Wales Lucy Keatinge
<p>With heavy rains on the Thursday, and not knowing how high the water level in the Bungleboori would be, and not having been in this area before, we decided to alter the plans a little. Instead of Dead Tree canyon which would require a walk down a possibly swollen Bungleboori Creek, we would do the relatively dry Scatters canyon instead. This would give us the opportunity to bail out at the end of Scatters if necessary. If conditions were ok we could cross the creek and try Luna Park canyon. Scatters turned out to be not so dry, but the Boori was easily crossed, so Luna Park was on. After some navigational problems we finally entered the creek at 13:45. This was a spectacular canyon, with plenty of arches and interesting abseils. One tricky abseil required a bit of a leap of faith over an overhang and into a waterfall making sure to catch no appendages between the rope and the lip. Back at the Bungleboori, there was a nice little scrambles up the other side and up a horrifically scrubby ridge back to the path, reaching the cars after 11.5 hours.</p>			
14 Dec 2014	Hole in the Wall Canyon	Newnes Plateau	<b>Neil Soutar</b> Neil Hickson Lucy Keatinge Terry Moss Isabelle Moss Rod Wales Darryl Sullings
<p>A flat tyre delayed the start a bit, so we left a little late at 9:10am, reaching the start of the canyon at 11am. Water levels were still a little higher than normal, but the canyon didn't fail to entertain. Everybody made it through the squeazy bits, and the swim through the tunnel with masses of the glow worms. There was also plenty of thick revolting mud to belly crawl through and some entertaining abseils. After a leisurely lunch at the Dingo Creek exit, we started up the hill at 2:45 pm and were back at the cars at 5:20pm.</p>			

<p>14 Dec 2014</p> <p>Blackheath - Porter's Pass</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>This walk is on the less-visited western side of Blackheath. From many places on this walk there were magnificent views of the green and lush Kanimbla Valley far below. It was great to walk on the narrow path along Wall's Ledge, which had sheer cliffs above and sheer cliffs below. There were plenty of rock climbers in action here, as was also the case later in the walk along Collier's Causeway. A lovely highlight of the walk was the section in Centennial Glen, which is really a narrow canyon where the water spashed downhill over sloping rocks and raced down narrow channels. It was all very impressive in this pleasant secluded spot. At the end of Collier's Causeway we worked our way up Porter's Pass, got back to the station, and finished off a very scenic day with refreshing drinks at the Ivanhoe Hotel.</p>		<p><b>Nigel Weaver</b></p> <p>Margaret Weaver Wendy Drapac Virginia Waller Paul Irwin Gisela Schumacher Amanda Mallon Geoff Colman</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Patricia Huang</p>
<p>14 Dec 2014</p> <p>Bellbird Point and Tinpot Mountain</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>The idea was to enjoy the Wild Dogs scenery without having to do too much climbing, by visiting a couple of spots that require a detour from the usual Wild Dogs through walks, and which as a result are often bypassed.</p> <p>It was a perfect day for walking. There were just a few vehicles in the car park when we arrived after 10 o'clock, hinting that, for many, pre-Christmas preoccupations had pushed aside interest in bushwalking. The only other people we saw were fellow SBW members, just finishing off a private overnight trip down to the Coxs.</p> <p>We finished the walk at about 5 o'clock, and the day at Gardiners Inn for a cooling drink.</p>		<p><b>Leigh McClintock</b></p> <p>Angela Barton</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Mike Barton</p>
<p>20 Dec 2014</p> <p>Heathcote to Bundeena</p> <p>Royal NP</p> <p>A pretty straight forward 25km south-west to north-east traverse of the Royal National Park. The weather was perfect for walking and a sometime light cloud cover provided some protection from the sun whilst on the exposed sections of this walk. Given the amount of rain we have had over the past few weeks the creeks were barely flowing and the large swimming pool at the base of Winnifred Falls was about half full.</p> <p>The group was fit, very chatty (except on the hills) and we maintained a steady pace throughout to ensure that we arrived at our final destination for the 4.00 pm ferry however a few decided to adjourn to the Bundeena RSL for a post-walk debrief and Christmas cheer !</p>		<p><b>Robert Carter</b></p> <p>Barbara Laborczflavi Joe Laborczflavi Damon De Costa Glenn Draper Jim Close Yvonne Everett</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Scott Lee Di Bradbury</p>
<p>20 Dec 2014</p> <p>Grand Canyon &amp; Edenderry Falls</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>An enjoyable day with no dramas. Good amicable group. Weather was good for a summer walk: cool &amp; cloudy initially then a mostly sunny day that was not too hot. We had morning tea in the Grand Canyon and lunch at Edenderry Falls where some participants went swimming. Later we observed a large eel that John noticed in Govetts Creek close to Junction Rock; the eel seems to live in the shadows directly below the track.</p>		<p><b>Chris Dowling</b></p> <p>Tim Sutherland Dirk Goes David Angell Bruno De Villenoisy Alan Carpenter Frances Bottrell Margaret Rozea Tracey Avelio Nicola Piper Lionel Tan Jane Fielding</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>John Beales Kate Fewell Joel Landon-Lane</p>

<p>20 Dec 2014</p> <p>Being the last weekend before Christmas the Wollangambe car park was much quieter than usual, but I think a weekend of canyoning is always going to be better than last minute Christmas shopping!</p>	<p>Wollangambe Canyons</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p><b>Simon Hager</b></p> <p>Alan Osland Neil Hickson Stephanie Hickson Luck Keatinge Dirk Goes Elizabeth Sharaq Tim Hager</p>
<p>21 Dec 2014</p> <p>Track was very clear for the first 5KM. I expected this was a very easy walk, all on track. However, accident happened. I could not find the track after lunch. Took the wrong direction for about 1.5km. Went back to the lunch place to check the track again. Made decision to continue to Blaxland. Then track started not clear. Almost need to walk off track which was not my original plan. John's GPS shown the direction but it was not a formal track. My original plan for this walk was 12KM. We walked 16KM finally. The track seems no one walked for long time. It actually is a very nice walk. I enjoyed very much but the whole walk was totally out of my expectation &amp; made the members exhausted. My information of this walk is 9.5km only. I already put 3km longer on the programme in case lost in somewhere. What mistake made?</p> <p>Mistake 1. I was too confident of myself. I was confident I would not be lost but not the others thought.</p> <p>Mistake 2. I did not have a map. This was a big mistake. I should cancel the walk if I did not have a map. I was too reliable to follow the Glenbrook river. This is not a good leader to do.</p> <p>Mistake 3. I did not do the navigation of the walk which I used to do every time except this walk. I should not bring anyone to there if I have never been.</p> <p>Mistake 4. I did not tell the members that I have never been there on the email. It was not fair for them to take the risk to walk with me. They should be advised earlier that they could decide whether to go to the walk or not. God bless me. There was no accident happened. No wonder there are a lot of experience members do not want to lead the walk. Do not make the above mistake again &amp; hope God continue to bless me.</p>	<p>Glenbrook</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p><b>Rosetta Lee</b></p> <p>Amanda Mallon Jenny Stephens John Flint</p>
<p>22 Dec 2014</p> <p>8.30pm start. Poor windy conditions discouraged participants and the dino-flagelletes who dived into the safety of the depths beyond the reach of our paddles, and failed to put their brilliant show. Try again another time.</p>	<p>Kayak - Blue Bioluminescence</p>	<p>Ku-ring-gai Chase NP</p>	<p><b>John Kennett</b></p> <p>Jenny Stephens</p>
<p>27 Dec 2014</p> <p>An enjoyable day with no dramas. Walk went in the opposite direction to that shown in the program. Weather was cool to mild, cloudy but dry; good for walking. We had morning tea at Moya Point before descending to Roberts Pass. Lunch was at the top of Vera Falls. We had stops at Hippocrene Falls and Wentworth Falls. Walk concluded with refreshments at a patisserie in Station Street.</p>	<p>Wentworth Falls circuit</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p><b>Chris Dowling</b></p> <p>Tim Sutherland Virginia Waller Damon DeCosta Penny Pang Kin Lee</p>
<p>28 Dec 2014</p> <p>The party successfully boulder hopped down Dharowal Ck, past cascades and waterfalls (which were all flowing well after the recent rain) to the upper Kangaroo River before it descended through rain forest to a lower set of falls on the river. One party member accidentally brushed against stinging tree which caused a very painful infection to her upper legs. The group reached the exit to a hidden pass and successfully made its way through the large cliff line to the tourist lookout near the main falls.</p>	<p>Carrington Falls</p>	<p>Budderoo NP</p>	<p><b>David Carmichael</b></p> <p>Angela Barton Rory Fagan</p> <p><i>Visitors</i></p> <p>David Sweeting Catherine Fletcher</p>

<p>28 Dec 2014</p> <p>An absolutely stunning day in the Snowies with a quick ascent up to Mt Stilwell to admire the 360 views. Onwards (offtrack) along Kangaroo Ridge towards Thredbo for morning tea, before turning back towards the old Charlotte Pass Top Station Ruin. We spent quite a bit of time wandering and wondering around here. Lunch was spent up above Trapyard Creek where we indulged once again and became drunk on the beauty of the wildflowers. We descended a great ridge through the tree line to cross Trapyard Ck, before accidentally taking the wrong ridge and battled the knee lifting scrub (which we'd had most of the day!) before joining up with the popular XCSki route pole line. By the time we got to Porcupine Rocks we were all pretty tired, so we didn't even go and have a look! Instead, we made a bee-line for the cafe at the base of the Eyre T-bar for beers and ciders! Great day out - would definitely do it again.</p>	<p>Mt Stilwell to Porcupine Rocks</p>	<p>Kosciuszko NP</p>	<p><b>Caro Ryan</b></p> <p>Jan Spencer Rosemary MacDougal Frances Bottrell Graham Byrne Petros Nikoloudis Jane Fielding Michelle Res</p>
<p>29 Dec 2014</p> <p>Beautiful sunny day for a spectacular walk, keeping the harbour on our right all the way.</p>	<p>Taronga to Manly</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p><b>John Kennett</b></p> <p>John Robb Tim Yewdall Lisa Ochs</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Donald McMurray</p>

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<p>30-31 Dec 2014</p>	<p>Guthega to Charlotte Pass</p>	<p>Kosciuszko NP</p>	<p><b>Caro Ryan</b>  Frances Bottrell  John Flint  <i>P Members</i>  Scott Lee</p>
<p>29 Dec - 04 Jan 2015</p>	<p>Kiandra to Thredbo</p>	<p>Kosciuszko NP</p>	<p><b>Robert Carter</b>  Stephen Dolphin  David Angell  Rick Martin  Rob Schroettner  Lisa Sheldon  Joanna Penney  Jim Close  Glenn Draper  Jim Collier  Carley Finn</p>

<p>31 Dec 2014</p> <p>Seven happy walkers set out from Thornleigh Station for the last walk of 2014. We wandered along the Great North Walk and the Blue Gum walk on our way to Hornsby. We finished early enough for party goers to welcome the New Year.</p>	<p>Thornleigh to Hornsby</p>	<p>Great North Walk</p>	<p><b>Angela Barton</b></p> <p>Melinda Long          Lisa Ochs          Susi Prescott          Neena Wang          Margaret Carey</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Donald McMurray</p>
<p>31 Dec 2014 to 1 Jan 2015</p> <p>Guthega – Gills Knob – Mount Tate – The Rolling Ground – Schlink Pass – The Kerries – Mawson Hut – Strumbo Range – Mount Jagungal – Tarn Bluff Tarn – Valentine Creek – Tin Hut – Gungartan Peak – Disappointment Ridge(top) – Disappointment Spur Trail – Munyang.</p> <p>A classic walk. Cold nights and reasonably cool days made for pleasant walking and generally kept the march flies at bay. Alpine flowers were on display, being the best that the leader has ever seen. Saw two brumbies near Tarn Bluff, a pack of maybe 15 to 20 pigs on Valentine Creek and a large deer on Disappointment Spur Trail. Convivial company and comfortable camping among snowgums every night.</p> <p>Early start on New Years Day to beat the traffic home.</p>	<p>Snowy Mountains</p>	<p>Kosciuszko National Park</p>	<p><b>Owen Kimberley</b></p> <p>Michele Powell          Marella Hogan          Vic Gosbell</p>





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