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Opinions expressed in this magazine are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of The Sydney Bush Walkers.

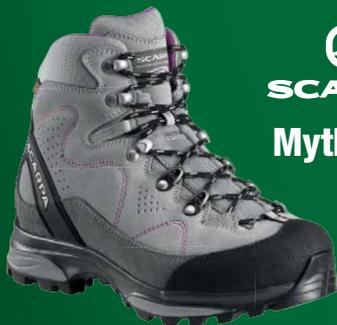
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Paddy Pallin
SINCE 1930

From the President

John Flint



At the 88th Annual General Meeting of Sydney Bush Walkers held on 11th March I was elected as President. From my count I am the 48th person to be president. There are some very well known and respected names among them. I am perhaps less well known having been a member for just three years and

on the committee for one. So it is with considerable honour that I take up the position.

Along with myself there were three new committee members elected and we retained John Kennett, Isabelle Moss and Tom Brennan. We have two committee positions vacant as no nominations were received. We expect to fill one position prior to the next committee meeting, but would welcome any other nominations.

The club is in very good shape having 546 members and 226 prospective members with the finances also healthy. The walks program is pretty full with more short notice walks filling the gaps.

I had thought whether I should outline a "Presidential" vision for the club in my first communication. On reflection over the last year most of the best ideas have come from around the campfire and in committee discussions so I'll hold back most of my own thoughts for now.

It was remarked by Leigh, the outgoing president that he thought the 2015 committee was one of the youngest for many a year. As one on the committee with a couple of grey hairs that sounded pretty good. What it does mean is that we have people with great enthusiasm, some new ideas and plenty of energy. I look forward to working with my fellow committee members, it should be a lot of fun, we should rack up some achievements, and we will drop the boring from any meetings as well!

The committee can't work in vacuum so I encourage you all to nourish us with your ideas, directions for the club and any concerns. One thing I am keen to do a little later in the year is to do a survey of members, with almost everyone connected to the internet and web surveys being easy to set up it will be a great way to find out your views. Look out and participate when it arrives.

Annual Reunion Round Up

I am probably the first president of the club since Coolana was acquired who had never been there prior to becoming president. That was a mistake. It is a wonderful place, I don't know why I never went there in the three years of being a member. There are probably many like me in the club as I feel the place is under used. I was inaugurated as president at the reunion at what at first seemed a strange ritual but was actually quite moving to be presented with the symbols of the club (carved from horn) by past presidents of the club. I can't say how many members attended, but I could have counted them all so not that many. Next year, I hope to promote it a little more as a reunion is a fine idea, and Coolana a terrific place of ours.

AGM Round Up

As noted above the AGM was held on Wednesday 11th March. This being 31,918 days or 4559 bushwalking weekends since the meeting when the club was first formed.

The minutes of the 2014 year were accepted with no matters arising.

The financial report was accepted as was the past treasurers motion to reduce the fees for electronic members to \$35 (active) and \$15 (non active)

There was no need for a vote for the committee as all nominated positions had one candidate. The meeting endorsed the nominations to serve on the committee.

The annual report was presented and accepted without change. After the discussion on the report a number of speakers spoke giving their thanks and appreciation for the work Leigh McClintock has done for the club over many years. In summary it was stated he had always acted with the best interest of the club and with the highest integrity and dedication. I checked on our website which has the club committee history. Leigh is among a very select few who have clocked up 10 years serving on the committee. A fantastic contribution. Also with long service over many years is Margaret Carey who retires with distinction. Many members would know the hard work Robert Carter has done with prospective members in gaining skills and becoming full members. He retires from the committee but will no doubt contribute behind the scenes and on the track. Roger Treagus also retires having been the engine room of the committee being a tireless worker on many issues and stepping up admirably when Leigh was absent on one of his trips. Thanks to all and see you on the track!

Your new committee

Vivien de Remy de Courcelles

On the photos from left to right is Alex Alchin (role to be decided), Kerry Atkins (Treasurer), Isabelle Moss (Secretary), Tom Brennan (Activities Secretary) and John Flint (President) and finally John Kennett (Vice-President). Thuy Ho was also elected in absentia. Nominated for the Coolana Committee were Barry Wallace, Rick Angel, Don Finch, Patrick James and Glenn Draper



New members

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

Paul McCarthy
Paul Callaghan
Susan Cartwright

Brian Tomney
Michael Browning
Rebecca Ridani

Social Program

Wed 15 Apr - Colong Wilderness Walk - Dunphy's Kowmung Adventure. In 1914 a young duo comprised of Myles Dunphy and Herbert 'Bert' Gallop set off on an adventure into the heart of the Southern Blue Mountains. Their aim was to trace the length of the Kowmung River. In the end, it turned out to be an adventure of epic proportions and soon after completing the walk, Myles founded the Mountain Trails Club, from which SBW was born, and formed the genesis of the state's bushwalking conservation movement. 100 years later in 2014, SBW member Alex Allchin planned and led a re-enactment walk of "Dunphy's Kowmung Adventure" in order to celebrate the contribution of early bushwalking clubs in producing a legacy of large national parks with wilderness areas in the Blue Mountains. Not only did they obtain permission to travel through "Grand Country" around the banks of Lake Burragorang, they did so in period clothing with swag, Japara tent and billy! Come hear Alex and co-leader Sierra Classen (SUBW) retell the story of Myles and Bert, and what it was like to walk their route a century later. Along with the presentation and the showing of a short 4 minute film of the walk, an assortment of gear used on the walk will be on display, along with a collection of classic Dunphy sketch maps which can also be purchased on the night for those who love a good map.

Wed 20 May - Hot to Trot - Travels of an Aussie Babyboomer. Judith Rostron will be talking about her recently published book. She will be speaking about her walking experiences in Central America, Shetland, Eastern Europe and France. She has travelled behind the tourist waterfall and investigated minority peoples in places like the Tibetan Plateau, Laos, Burma and remote parts of China.

*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.

The SBW Magazine Project – Update

Richard Pattison

Another 10 magazines were completed by volunteers in February, taking the tally to 11% (86 of the 763) magazines completed. Anyone can help, it just takes ~2 hours to edit your first magazine, you can read more here: <http://sbw.ozultimate.com/wiki/>.

Historical Magazine Sizes

The Feb 2015 magazine contained 20 pages – how does that compare to the complete SBW magazine catalogue?

Biggest Magazine

October 1997 was a bumper edition, an amazing 52 pages worth, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the club! Congratulations to Patrick James the Editor. The magazine contained an “anthology of bushwalking stories and verse”, with one active member from each of the seven decades selecting two articles to re-publish that most reflected the spirit of the club in that decade. The magazine is available to read on the SBW project website as a PDF, but still needs to be edited/converted so it can be searched.

Actually, six of the largest seven magazines were October editions, all on significant SBW anniversary dates: 70th (52 pages), 25th (46 pages), 50th (40

pages), 75th (38 pages), 21st & 80th (36 pages).

Central Tendency

The mean (18.2), median and mode magazine size for the complete history of SBW is 18 pages. Well done Vivien with your Feb 2015 edition, you’re above average ;o)

Smallest Magazine

The October 1950 edition was under the Editorship of Alex Colley, and contained just 6 pages to the relief of the production team that manually printed, stapled, enveloped and posted the magazines. The magazine had the usual formalities: monthly general meeting, walk reports, social schedule & Federation notes. Then as Alex stated “no articles, no magazine”!

Smallest



6

October 1950

Average



18

Mean, Median & Mode

Biggest



52

October 1997

Willis's Walkabouts

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Join us and see why so many of our clients come back again and again.

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We know which creeks are flowing when, which 4WD tracks are likely to be open, when the vegetation makes walking easy and when it makes it hard. We offer a huge variety of trips so that we can give you the best possible bushwalking experience at any time of year.



The Sydney Summer Series

Rachel Grindlay

A great way to get more comfortable with navigation and get some exercise during the week is participating in the Sydney Summer Series (SSS). The SSS is run by Orienteering NSW and is on every Wednesday evening during daylight savings time. The events are held in different suburbs each week so it is also a good way to visit parts of Sydney you may not have been to before (Ermington anyone?) and try some local restaurants after running. There are many different age categories as well as a walking category.

The event is timed over 45 minutes, during that time you visit a variety of local features, or checkpoints. These checkpoints are marked on specially prepared orienteering maps that are used to help navigate your way around the local parks, streets and bush tracks where the events are held. The checkpoints have different score values and the participant with the highest scores at the end of 45 minutes (in their age classes) are the winners. The best 12 scores for each participant are used to get an overall season score and determine the winners for each category.

A few SBW members have regularly attended and

so I've put together an SBW division scoresheet using the same scoring system for the overall competition. With only three weeks left (at time of writing) the top place is tightly contested between Richard Pattison and Vivien de Remy de Courcelles. If you're interested in more information see <http://www.sydneysummerseries.com.au>

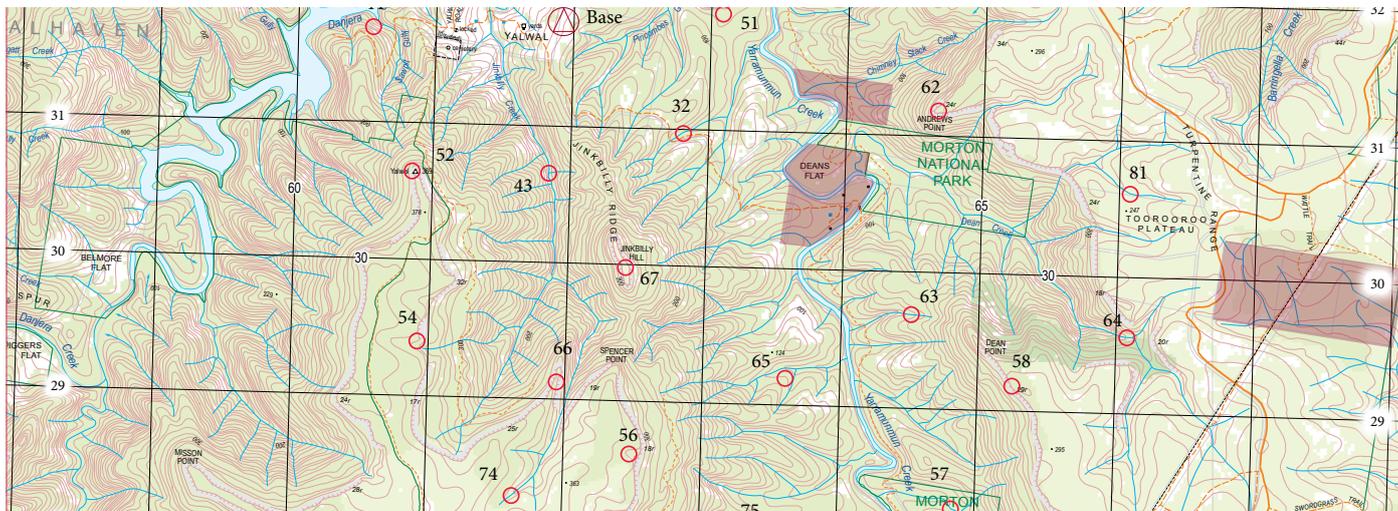
[Richard getting some help from Justine](#)



Event	Richard Pattison	Vivien de Remy de Courcelles	Laurent Billot	Serje Robidoux	Alex Allchin	Rachel Grindlay	Emmanuelle Convert	Nicole Mealing	Helen MacDonald	Angela Beveridge
1	95	90		100			74	74		69
2		100	100				83			81
3		100	73				87			
4			87	100		80		67		71
5	98	87	100			83		74		74
6	100	98				95	76	88		49
7	100					96		64		
8	87	100					82		72	
9	100	98					72			68
10	100	100				69	69			
11	100	93				84	82			
12	100	98				82	68			
13	100	98		75			85			
14				100						
15	100			83		100				
16	100	91	80	87			82			
17	94	94	88	81	100	83	79			
18		88	98	100	78	85	85	95		
19		96	100			92	80	53		
20	100	91	100			91	73			
21	100	98	96			91	74	81		
22	100	96	94			80	82			
23	100	93	98				87			73
Average Top 12	100	98	93	91	89	88	82	74	72	69

Have you ever try to run for six hours carrying a 13kg toddler on your back?

Vivien de Remy de Courcelles



This is my reply to anyone telling me "I can't, I don't run..." when I suggest they should try doing a rogaine. Yet this lack of running potential does not impede our enjoyment of rogaing... not that we ever willingly ran on a rogaine before becoming parents; perhaps a couple of times to make sure we would not be too late. Although we always hope to do well, we are not entering rogaings to win them. There is much satisfaction to have from planning a course and complete it in the allocated time or discovering some fantastic vistas in a new area or even just enjoying the food and camaraderie at the hash house at the end of a long day.

Our recent experience of the Metrogaime that several SBW members entered encompasses many of the above:

We entered the 12-hour event rather than the 6-hour planning to stay out for about 8. There was therefore no stress in finishing by the deadline. We followed exactly our plan even stopping to get cold drinks a couple of time (the beauty of having an orienteering event in urban environment) and were back after 8.5 hours. We walked on tracks that we did not know yet, enjoyed some great views and even spotted a turtle in Devlins creek directly below checkpoint 91. Since our maiden 12-hour rogaine we have always enjoyed night navigation and walking, something that we have not done much since Justine was born: she needs her baby sleep! This time we walked the last hour or so in the dark although mostly in streets. This brought a funny moment when Justine asked us to be less loud when we talked because she wanted to sleep in her child carrier... whilst we were walking along Pennant Hill road and a truck passed by followed by an ambulance with siren blaring! At the end we enjoyed the great food of the 1st Waitara scouts whilst discussing our respective course with another team. Another of our plans was perfectly executed:

we figured we would be the only family entering the 12-hour event and indeed we were, making us the winner of the family category!

Why not grab a friend or a fellow SBW member on a walk and try it out for yourself? The next events are:

- Saturday 2 May - Autumn rogaine near Wisemans Ferry offering both a 6-hour and 12-hour event.
- Sunday 14 June - Paddy Pallin rogaine: if you only do one, this is the one to choose. It is set to be accessible to most people regardless of experience.
- Saturday 1 August - Lake Macquarie rogaine. 6-hour or 12-hour event.
- 10-11 October - Spring rogaine near Capertee.

Check out <http://nswrogaining.org> for more info.

The first weekend of July will be the BWRS NavShield that myself and fellow SBW members Emmanuelle, Chris and Simon will set. The location for this one is kept secret until a week before the event but I can tell you that I would not set anything further from Sydney than last year's event! More info there <http://www.bwrs.org.au/?q=NavShield>.

And if you need a reason for improving your map and compass navigation and not rely too much on GPS, here is a photo of a GPS at the end of a loop walk last Sunday. The GPS tells us that we finished the walk 61 metres above the car! A volcano must have appeared whilst we were walking.



A weekend in Coolana

Robyn Christie



Wonderful week-end at Coolana. Why don't more people use this facility?

All bar Melinda meet at the VC Partridge rest area just passed Campbelltown and after a quick cup of coffee we all head off together and arrive at Coolana just after 1pm. It has been raining but has now stopped so we get all our gear down to the camping flats, set up our tents, find firewood, have some lunch and set off for the 'Three Views Walk' – the start of this about 15 kms down Tallowa Dam Road.

A short 1.5 hour walk and back to camp for 'Happy Hour'. The rain has stayed away and it's an amazing night full of stars – the Milky Way and Southern Cross are clearly visible. Glenn comments that he's never seen the sky so clear at Coolana. Melinda arrives about 8pm and after some wombat hunting for photographs and a chat and a laugh we all retire to bed about 10pm.

Saturday we arrive at the start of McPhails Trail at 9am and head off. The start of this track is approximately 250 metres straight up – a good heart starter. Then another climb to Mt Carrialoo for morning tea at 10.15am with beautiful views across Morton National Park. This includes a small rope climb up through two large rock formations/chimney – and as well as the rope, there are luckily lots of convenient tree roots to also hang onto. Note



– my new Bundanoon Topo map is missing a lot of detail compared to Melinda's older map. It seems they are printing the new maps with a lot of detail missing – this included only showing half of McPhails Trail on my map.

We retrace our steps – the rope is trickier to get down then up! And pick up back on McPhails. The track meanders through tall turpentine forest and rain forest and palms for another 4 kms before hitting the main fire trail. A 2 km walk down this before we hit the hidden track to take us to 'unnamed' lookout for lunch. A little bit of scrub bashing but once the trail is found you can follow it fairly easily. Lunch at 1pm with views back to Mt Carrialoo and Moollatoo and an old trig on the adjoining ridge. Return the same way and back to Coolana by 4pm.



Myself, Angelika, Margie and Jill decide we need to freshen up and have a wonderful refreshing swim in the Kangaroo River ready for Happy Hour.

Unfortunately the rain has started to fall and despite trying to stay positive (and keep the fire going) we finally have to give in and head up to the shed for Happy Hour and dinner. Glenn gets the fire going in no time and we have a lovely spread – Glenn is very impressed and claims it's the best variety of food he's ever seen camping – the joys of having the car!

The rain has stopped when we head back down to the tents to bed but continues on and off through the night – no wombat spotting that night.

On Sunday we did the Bargo Gorge walk. Everyone is happy with this – especially as there are some in the group who have never been there and it is on the way home.

By the time we clean and pack up and drop the rubbish off and drive back to Bargo and the Rockford Bridge we don't get started on the walk until 10.45am. It's a beautiful day with a bit of cloud but pleasant walking conditions. We take the low river track until we hit Diesel Pass. A short climb up, passing the remains of a large diesel water pump engine, and we head onto Mermaids Pool for morning tea. There are some young lads braving the jump into the pool and also some abseiler's on the opposite cliffs.

We then follow the Matilda track stopping for

views from Troopers and Ghost lookdowns of the Gorge below. The track runs along the cliff edge until Squatters Lookout and then gently descends crossing a small dry creek before turning sharply to the left descending into the gorge via Sugarloaf Creek. This turn is often missed so I put some fresh markers on the surrounding trees to highlight the turn.

The bottom 2/3rds of this track is quite steep with loose soil and rock before we hit the bottom of the 60 metre high cliffs where the track then hugs the base as we continue on through a beautiful forest on the canyon floor. The track continues sometimes through the forest, sometimes along the creek and along the way where the track markers have disappeared I attach some more to make the track more visible for future. There is a lot of rubbish – both forest and human – washed down from the last big rains – this is also why a lot of the track markers have disappeared. The track crosses the river twice – and again the markers are hard to spot and sometimes the crossings are at the wrong spot. I back track at one crossing where we go too far and no markers are visible to find the true crossing and also attach some more markers.

We find a spot beside a pool and waterfall for lunch at 1.15pm and although the river is running there

is a lot of slime and algae in the water - but Glenn braves this and heads in for a swim while the rest of us look on and have lunch.

We head off at 1.45pm and an hour later find a much cleaner pool with small waterfalls where Angelika, Margie, Jill and I go for a swim.

The exit is up through Jacks Pass and although not that high consists of about 170 rock steps ascending through a natural break in the canyon wall and then rejoins the Matilda track close to Mermaids Pool. We arrive back to the cars by 4.45pm – all looking forward to getting home and having a hot shower after a wonderful and fun week-end.



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Walks and Activities Report

Emmanuelle Convert

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. 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.

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

3 Jan 2015	Otford to Bundeena	Royal NP	Melanie Freer Margaret Rosea Damon de Costa Neena Wang Tim Yewdall <i>P Members</i> Paul McCarthy Greg McKay
10 - 19 Jan 2015	Denison Range	Gordon Wild Rivers NP	Neil Hickson Lisa McCarthy Mark Dabbs
17 Jan 2015	Upper Bowens Creek South Canyon	Blue Mountains NP	Rod Wales Neil Soutar Lucy Keatinge Marcia Kaye Helen MacDonald Rosemary McDonald Mike Arnott Ed Squires Jo Squires Peter Marshall Deborah Ng Garry O'Toole
24 Jan 2015	Engadine to Bundeena	Royal NP	Melanie Freer Margaret Rosea Barbara Gray <i>P Members</i> Kevin Reeves
24 - 26 Jan 2015	Bungleboori Canyons	Wollemi NP	Rod Wales Neil Soutar Lucy Keatinge Kevin Songberg Terry Moss Isabelle Moss Alan Osland Simon Hager Meredith Junor

<p>1 Feb 2015</p>	<p>Geronimo and Horseshoe Canyons Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>See article in February magazine</p>		<p>Tom Brennan</p> <p>Ed Squires Josette Squires Nicole Mealing Paddy Aicken Darryl Sullings Jenny Stephens</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Grant Carter</p>
<p>1 Feb 2015</p>	<p>Bobbin Head Circuit Ku-ring-gai Chase NP</p> <p>We set off from the Sphinx Memorial just after 7:30am and managed to complete this 13km (approx) circuit in under 4 hours, including a morning tea break at the Marina. Thanks to John Kennett and his local knowledge, we even incorporated a bit of 'off-track' and 'scrambling' into the walk when he took us to see some aboriginal hand stencils.</p> <p>It was perfect walking weather and I think everyone in the group had an enjoyable morning.</p>		<p>Genevieve Savill</p> <p>Angela Beveridge John Kennett Lin Kennett Neil Cartwright Melinda Long Philip Worledge Karen Carkner Cathy Hui</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Pete Beveridge Susan Cartwright</p>
<p>5 Feb 2015</p>	<p>Middle Harbour Meander Garigal NP</p> <p>Another lovely Thursday night walk. This week we completed a circuit around Forestville following Banty Bay and Middle Harbour Creeks. Half the group spotted a snake on the track, the other half had already walked straight past it!</p>		<p>Genevieve Savill</p> <p>Tracy Edwards Philip Worledge Jennifer Stephens Susan Healey Barbara Laborczfalvi</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Nerys Olver Kelly O'Reilly</p>
<p>7 Feb 2015</p>	<p>Basic Skills Workshop Centennial Park</p> <p>Finally the weather was kind to us! 29 enthusiastic Prospective Members participated in and successfully completed the Basic Skills Workshop receiving basic instruction in navigation, first aid/incident management and bushcraft required for their pathway to full membership.</p> <p>I would like to thank the walk leaders who gave up their time to support our Prospective Members - Jim Close, Richard Darke, David Trinder and Brian McGrath. Without this enthusiastic bunch and all of the others who have support the program throughout the year we could not conduct the workshops.</p> <p>Once again we asked all participants to complete a feedback survey from which we review and enhance/adjust the program as required.</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p>	<p>Robert Carter</p> <p>Richard Darke David Trinder Brian McGrath Jim Close</p>	<p>Sue Tiller Michael Johnstone Anne Johnstone Diane Bradbury Ryan Swaine Jaimey Foti</p> <p>Diana Porter Jennifer Landon Sally Blackwood Rebecca Ridani Syann Williams Cerine Kahajaroen</p> <p>Dave Sann Paul McCarthy Kris Collister Anne Rudd Jose Correa Moya Jackson</p> <p>Tony Gardner Jennifer Knobbs Greg McKay Greg Stankiewicz Donald McMurray Serje Robidoux</p>

7 Feb 2015

A Jamison Valley Walk

Blue Mountains NP

Peter Cai

This is one of my favourite routes I have walked in the Blue Mountains National Park, with several waterfalls such as Wentworth Falls, Hippocrene Falls, Vera Falls and other unnamed falls, creeks such as Jamison Creek, Den Fenella Creek, Valley of the Water Creek, and historic routes like Roberts Pass, Lindeman Pass and Gladstone Pass nearby.

After posting a short notice activity, I received 24 responses including several prospective members, which was much more than initial 8 I expected. As the planned route is almost on track, I finally took 20 (the limit for non-wilderness areas by NPWS) for this walk, but one prospective member dropped out in very early morning due to sickness. It was unfortunately too late to inform others on the waiting list.

19 of us including many experienced walkers and 2 prospective members made a large party. After learning only three of us have walked Hippocrene Falls and Roberts Pass, I decided not to go exploring part of Lindeman Pass, and instead spend more time finding the beauty of Hippocrene Falls and Roberts Pass.

We started the walk at 8:15am along Darwins Track, had early morning tea at lower Wentworth Falls at 9:30am for 15 minutes, 10:20am at Hippocrene Falls for the second morning tea of 5 minutes, 10:40am at Vera Falls for third morning tea of 10 minutes, and 11:10am upper Vera Falls for fourth morning tea plus catching leeches game of 25 minutes. We then crossed Den Fenella Creek and Valley of the Waters and walked the overgrown and leech-rich Roberts Pass, climbed about 400 meters to Moya Point, and had lunch break for 30 minutes before heading to Gladstone Lookout nearby.

We passed Lilians Bridge to Edinburgh Castle Rock and arrived at Wentworth Conservation Hut at 3:30pm and had afternoon tea (actually ice cream, cakes, cold soft drinks, and not hot coffee/tea) for about 30 minutes. After refreshing we walked along the Short Cut Track, Breakfast Point Lookout, and Undercliff Track to upper Wentworth Falls. We walked along Darwins Track instead of the shady path along the Falls Road to Wilson Park. All of us arrived at car park by 17:30pm with smiling faces. After the walk 15 of us walked to Pink House for the beers.

All of us were Hobbits having seven daily hobbit meals (four morning teas, lunch, afternoon tea and beers in bar)

<http://askmiddleearth.tumblr.com/post/41765286488/the-seven-daily-hobbit-meals>

Two prospective members completed the walk well.

Thanks all of you for your company.

John Flint
Frances Bottrell
Bruno De Villenoisy
Monica Matisan
Michele Powell
Nicola Piper
Tracey Avolio
Paul Notholt
Barbara Laborczfalvi
Joe Laborczfalvi
Stephen Dolphin
Jim Collier
Carley Finn
Cathy Hui
Huw ap Rees
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Sharit Dass
Margot Bull



<p>7 Feb 2015</p> <p>Dumbano. A nemesis canyon for me!</p> <p>It had taken me and Rachel over 5 years and several attempted or aborted trips to finally get through the upper section of Dumbano Canyon back in 2009. Another 5 years later we eventually visited the lower constriction of Dumbano in a tough 4-day trip that included the lower Bungleboori.</p> <p>However, there was still a short section of Dumbano below the junction with Cesspit that was missing from our travels, as well as potentially much of Cesspit itself. With likely benign scrub post the fires, it seemed like a good opportunity to knock off the unvisited sections, so I put it on as a day trip on the club's short notice program, and got three other experienced takers in Alan, Vivien and Brendon.</p> <p>Passing the sign at Zig Zag that the fire trail would shortly be closed, we turned off at the sharp left hand bend on to what I call the Upper Wollangambe or Dumbano Fire Trail, and with the help of Brendon's map, managed to navigate it to the locked gate at the end without too much difficulty. The fire trail was in fairly good nick, and didn't tax the Forester too much.</p> <p>We headed down across the saddle and up on to the three-pronged hill opposite, only for me to veer off too early and end up above the upper reaches of Yarramun. We quickly skirted around the headwaters, and soon made our way down into Cesspit via a small side creek.</p> <p>Walking along the banks was easy, as they were fairly clear of vegetation after the fire. There were two short sections of canyon that we passed, both of which we could walk along the top and look into. I'd spotted these on the aerial photos, which was why we'd dropped in as high up as we did.</p> <p>After morning tea, we headed down towards the main canyon section. I managed to slip trying to climb up on a ledge, landing heavily on my rear and stunning myself for several minutes. Luckily I was able to continue, though every step up with my left leg would send shooting pains through my bum.</p> <p>The entry into the canyon was via either a long long slide, or a couple of tricky climbs down slippery boulders. The swims started fairly quickly and there were plenty of them. The canyon was slow going with lots of slippery boulders, and short drops to negotiate. We had lunch in a pile of boulders in the sun, but unfortunately Alan had gone ahead, and was already down a short water jump! He found his own sunny sand bank.</p> <p>We came across quite a lot of snakes, perhaps 6 all up, including a beautiful little Mustard-Bellied Snake sitting on a log below the junction with Dumbano.</p> <p>I offered some "free time" for people to go exploring upstream in Dumbano when we reached the junction, but everyone was looking a bit cold and there were no takers. Instead we headed downstream through some nice sections of Dumbano Canyon to the exit point, where a cold breeze blew out of a dark slot. We explored downstream without packs to the end of this section of canyon, including a long swim, and then returned to explore up the interesting side canyon. This had a dark tunnel, reminiscent of Starlight Canyon, almost pitch black with glowworms overhead.</p> <p>It was then time to leave the creek, and head for the cars, a fairly cruisy 2 1/2 hour ridge bash across fairly open tops. After the first hour or so, I clocked off and left Rachel in charge of navigation, ably assisted by Vivien and Brendon. An excellent day in this rarely visited country.</p>	<p>Cesspit and Dumbano Canyons</p> <p>Wollemi NP</p>	<p>Tom Brennan</p> <p>Rachel Grindlay Vivien de Remy de Courcelles Alan Osland Brendon Anderson</p>
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7 Feb 2015	TNF 100 Trainer #2	Blue Mountains NP	Helen MacDonald Lyonel Tan Alan Carpenter <i>P Members</i> Charitha Mohottige
7 Feb 2015	Springwood	Blue Mountains NP	Angela Barton Virginia Waller Melinda Long Damon de Costa Lisa Ochs <i>P Members</i> Isabel Yersin Antoine Yersin Kelly O'Reilly Alexa Bullin Nicole Coote Pernille Jellestad Arun Muthiah Rachele Rugiero Mike Barton
8 Feb 2015	Little Wobby to Patonga	Brisbane Waters NP	John Kennett Stanley Wong Neil Cartwright <i>P Members</i> Pernille Jellestad Brian Tomney Nick Samios Geoff Goodyer Susan Cartwright
8 Feb 2015	Mt Kembla	Wollongong	Rosetta Lee John Van Der Merwe Ina Van Der Merwe Thuy Ho Leigh McClintock Tim Yewdall <i>P Members</i> Svetlana Orrock Tony Gardner
12 Feb 2015	Barra Brui and Bungaroo	Garigal NP	Genevieve Savill Tracy Edwards Barbara Laborczfalvi Philip Worledge Melinda Long

<p>13 - 15 Feb 2015</p>	<p>Coolana Base Camp</p> <p>See article above</p>	<p>Morton NP</p>	<p>Robyn Christie</p> <p>Angelika Langley Glenn Draper Melinda Turner Misako Sugiyama</p> <p><i>Visitor</i></p> <p>Jill Pallais Margaret Polli</p>
<p>14 Feb 2015</p>	<p>Alternate Triple Yo-Yo</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Alan Carpenter</p> <p>Lyonel Tan Jane Fielding Gavin Marshall Kevin Reeves</p>
<p>14 Feb 2015</p>	<p>Mooney Mooney Creek</p>	<p>Brisbane Waters NP</p>	<p>Angela Beveridge Genevieve Savill</p> <p>Robert Carter Bill Raffle Jim Close John Kennett</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Goeff Goodyer</p>
<p>14 - 15 Feb 2015</p>	<p>Deep Pass fun weekend</p>	<p>Wollemi NP</p>	<p>Vivien de Remy de Courcelles</p> <p>Emmanuelle Convert Claire Barnsley Phil Barnsley Jan Spencer Roslyn Thorpe Ian Thorpe Alice Yang Sheila Zaman</p> <p><i>Visitor</i></p> <p>Justine de Remy de Courcelles Sarah Barnsley Emma Stowers Michael Allen Claire Allen</p>

Descended Perrys Lookdown to Blue Gum. Crossed the log bridge over a hard flowing Govetts Creek and ascended Du Faur Head, admiring the scenery of canyons half covered in morning cloud. Due to recent rain a lot of spectacular waterfalls could be seen from Lockley Pylon.

The weather was humid requiring plenty of rehydration. Walking back around a flooded section of Blue Gum Forest we spotted a Red-Bellied Black Snake hunting for some of the frogs that could be heard all around the forest.

Continued towards Pierces Pass walking through more flooded forest halfway up our shins. The track between Blue Gum and Pierces Pass is very overgrown and scratchy in sections. One walker decided two Yo Yos was enough and made their way back to Perrys. Crossed a flooded Grose River having a scenic lunch on Rigby Hill overlooking the upper Grose Valley. A thunderstorm rolled in as we walked back through Blue Gum and back up Perrys.

A day of mixed terrain with good paths followed with thick bush and finishing with a rocky scramble up Floods Creek. Great day out in a great not often visited area. Rather humid. Good group and good company!

It was a weekend of nice canyons, plenty of food and a bit of rain.

Several groups made their separate way to Deep Pass campground for lunch on Saturday. Afterward we walked up Deep Pass canyon. Some stayed at the main pool for a swim whilst most of the party completed the canyon with the majority making a loop by walking back via the car park, whilst Sheila and I reversed the canyon. It seems that in the half hour between happy hour and dinner we received about three times the amount of rain forecast for the evening. Nevertheless we managed to keep it social by crowding under a fly.

Sunday dawned fine allowing us to walk to River Caves Canyon, a very impressive, easy, but short canyon. Back at camp, everyone packed quickly before a heavy shower fell whilst we were finishing lunch. Thankfully the short walk back to the cars could be completed between showers. A great weekend.



<p>15 Feb 2015</p> <p>Our fairly large group set off at 8:30am from Fortress Ridge car park and comfortably reached Fortress Hill around 10am. We enjoyed our morning break whilst taking on the expansive views over the Grose Valley. We then descended into the spectacular Fortress Creek ending in a waterfall over the Grose Valley. Initially we thought we could cross to the creek from this point and connect to the Lockley Pylon track, but the cliff walls proved to be too steep and inaccessible. We retraced our steps half way back along Fortress Ridge and turned north into a track that led further upstream into Fortress Creek. We crossed the creek quite easily and made our way through an off track section to the Lockley Pylon track. We had afternoon on Lockley Pylon around 3pm and returned to the starting point just before 5pm. Altogether, we enjoyed an adventurous and diverse walk in great weather. 18.1 km and 810 m ascent.</p>	<p>Fortress Ridge Circuit</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Bruno De Villenoisy</p> <p>Brendon Anderson Joe Laborczfalvi Barbara Laborczfalvi Sally Reynolds Chris Dowling Virginia Waller Damon de Costa Angela Barton Calogero Panvino Peter Cai Christine McColl Pam Campbell</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Mike Barton Kelly O'Reilly Pernille Jellestad Moya Jackson</p>
			
<p>19 Feb 2015</p> <p>This week I handed over the navigational duties to Angela and Pete Beveridge as they have 'local knowledge' of the tracks in this area. For 2.5 hours and approx 12.5kms the group kept up a cracking pace as we explored parts of the GNW as well as some other hidden tracks.</p>	<p>South Turramurra Explorer</p>	<p>Lane Cove NP</p>	<p>Genevieve Savill and Angela Beveridge</p> <p>Barbara Laborczfalvi Philip Worledge Jim Close</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Pete Beveridge Pernille Jellestad</p>
<p>21 Feb 2015</p> <p>The party met at Loftus Station under the shadow of a deteriorating weather report. An adventurous crossing of the Princes Hwy was followed by a trek alongside the old railway and a descent to Audley via the Honeymoon Track. (None of the party admitted to being on their honeymoon.) Coffee at Audley led to morning tea at Jersey Clearing. A bit of exploration disclosed the carefully concealed picnic tables at Palona Creek - lunch. Lady Carrington Drive was left at the turnoff to the Forest Island circuit, which then gave access to the short cut across the Hacking River to Couranga track and the climb out to Waterfall. Warm and humid conditions with rain on and off throughout the day. Oh yes and leeches... an abundance of leeches...</p>	<p>Lady Carrington Drive</p>	<p>Royal NP</p>	<p>David Angell</p> <p>Margaret Carey Paul Notholt Kate Griffiths Jim Close</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Nerys Olver Meg Kwon Andrea Bozic Lynette Gill Sharit Dass</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>21 Feb 2015</p> <p>A few showers overnight and a threatening sky turned into near perfect walking conditions although it was very humid throughout the day.</p> <p>The walking group was strong and fit with a high level of enthusiasm especially taking turns for the sometimes challenging off-track sections. Each of the Prospective Members embraced the opportunity to be out in front and also practiced navigation during the descent to Fishermans Beach and route finding throughout.</p> <p>An initial fast pace saw us reach Taffys Rock for morning tea and then a relaxing lunch and cooling swim at Fishermans Beach before tackling the scrubby ascent back up to Taffys Track. A number of short stops were required throughout to de-leech as the blood suckers were out in numbers.</p> <p>Congratulations and well done to our Prospective colleagues – Jennifer Nobbs, Paul O’Callaghan, Steven Watson and Tony Gardner – on completing their qualifying walk.</p>	<p>Taffys Rock and Beyond</p> <p>Ku-ring-gai Chase NP</p>	<p>Robert Carter</p> <p>Michelle Rose Angela Beveridge Petros Nikoloudis Carley Finn Jim Collier</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Tony Gardner Steven Watson Paul O’Callaghan Jennifer Nobbs</p> 
<p>21 Feb 2015</p> <p>The cool misty day was very welcome for our 54km walk/jog on the first part of the North Face course. The Leader had left water drops at race day checkpoints so that the group could travel as light as possible. A very enjoyable day (except a little huffing and puffing up Nellies!) that surprisingly had us finished in just over 10hrs and nicely settled in at the Pink Palace by 6pm.</p>	<p>TNF Trainer #3</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Helen MacDonald</p> <p>Jane Fielding Lyonel Tan Alan Carpenter Lorraine Mathot Uwe James Seil Jim Vaughan</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Charitha Mohottige</p>
<p>21 Feb 2015</p> <p>It had rained the night before the walk so the waterfalls were guaranteed to be flowing and they looked lovely. The overcast sky added mood to the walk. Antoine became the official yabby spotter and he managed to find some in every pool we came across. We lunched in a small overhang as the rain poured down. A very enjoyable walk.</p>	<p>Waterfalls of Lawson</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Angela Barton</p> <p>Wendy Drapac Linda Mallett Melinda Long</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Rachele Rugiero Mike Barton Isabel Yersin Antoine Yersin Sara Ladd</p>
<p>21 - 22 Feb 2015</p> <p>Cyclone Marcia had just smashed into Queensland, and was forecast to head our way. In the event, worries about rising river levels were unwarranted. The sun hardly showed itself all weekend, but the rain mostly held off. Leeches were omnipresent and voracious, and the Carlon Ck nettles seemed to have become even more overwhelming since my previous visit. Even so, the mood of the group was upbeat throughout, and everyone performed well. Special congratulations to the four Prospective Members who completed their final requirement for progressing to Active Membership.</p>	<p>Wild Dogs Favourite, Slowly</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Leigh McClintock</p> <p>Neil Cartwright John Currie</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Sue Cartwright Michael Browning Ryan Swaine Brian Tomney Rebecca Ridani</p>

<p>26 Feb 2015</p> <p>Another very enjoyable evening hike. The walk took us past the Natural Bridge, The Bluff, around Bantry Bay and we all got a good workout climbing the Timbergetter stairs near Seaforth Oval. Surprisingly we were not the only ones out and about after dark, it seems some mountain bikers like to explore the trails at night too.</p>	<p>Forestville and Seaforth</p>	<p>Garigal NP</p>	<p>Genevieve Savill</p> <p>Barbara Laborczfalvi Philip Worledge Jim Close Susan Healey Martyne Preston</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Nerys Olver</p>
<p>28 Feb 2015</p> <p>Short notice walk. An enjoyable day. No dramas. Good group.</p>	<p>Berowra-Bobbin Head-Mt.Kuringai</p>	<p>Ku-ring-gai Chase NP</p>	<p>Chris Dowling</p> <p>Glenn Draper Karen Kool Michael Bickley</p>
<p>28 Feb 2015</p> <p>Warm day, a little too warm for comfortable walking.</p> <p>Great day for observing nature. Many species of spiders had built their webs, some masterpieces of construction, across the rarely used fire trail. But the highlight was observing two wedge tails hunting a flock of glossy black cockatoos in Ladbury's creek. One appeared to be circling the flock while another flying higher up, waited for a cockatoo to make a mistake.</p> <p>As is often the case with many parts of Marra Marra, we got the sense we were walking in places that see very, very few walkers.</p> <p>Grand day for aboriginal heritage with the axe "factory" (hundreds of grinding grooves) in Ladbury's and the fabulous Mondels' cave of rock art.</p> <p>Good group to walk with.</p>	<p>Secret Marra Marra</p>	<p>Marra Marra NP</p>	<p>John Kennett</p> <p>Robert Carter Tracey Avolio Melinda Turner Carley Finn Wendy Drapac</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>John Beales Arun Muthiati Geoff Goodyr Kate Fewell</p>
<p>28 Feb 2015</p> <p>Nice dry day with temperature max forecast at 25 making the climbs a bit tough. Great views enjoyed from Faithfull Hound Deck, Mt Mouin and then Cattle Dog Deck in the afternoon.</p> <p>We saw a brown snake and a red belly black snake both up pretty close. All went to plan until the leader missed the right hand turn at the top of Hobble Spur onto the overgrown fire trail round the contour to Galons - and an hour was wasted going up onto Ironpot Ridge, realising the error and finding the path down - making it a long but enjoyable day.</p>	<p>Wild Dogs Circuit</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Huw ap Rees</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Paul Ma Kelly O'Reilly Pernille Jellestad</p>

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



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

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

28 Feb 2015 Breakfast Creek Canyon Wollemi NP

Tom Brennan

There was no-one else at the track head of the old Galah Mountain Fire Trail, which is now more of a foot track as it slowly revegetates. After a short walk, we turned off it on to the Rocky Creek exit track and then veered off again on to a minor track that came and went, but generally headed into Breakfast Creek Canyon. A scrubby push through wombat tracks in the hanging swamp brought us to the top of the first abseil into the creek. With me going last on the abseils, Jo and Ed had to step up and lead off the abseils, which they handled well.

Some easy walking brought us to the start of the canyon. At the main abseil we were greeted by a rope already in place. A party ahead of us? No, just a single line that hadn't been correctly set to be pulled down. Presumably the party still had enough rope to get through the rest of the canyon. We derigged the abseil and lugged the heavy rope out with us for a bit more exercise!

The main abseil is a beauty, down a curving water chute. The canyon itself is spectacular but short, and all too soon we were out at Rocky Creek for lunch. I pointed out a side canyon on the way up Rocky Creek, and we left packs to explore. The narrow slot was one of the highlights of the day. There were a number of short drops requiring some ingenuity to scramble up, and we got to the last of these before being blocked by a waterfall.

Some more pleasant creek walking took us to the exit, up a long gully, then some easy but exposed climbing up a slab. The group ahead of us took a wrong turn at this point, and we were back at the cars and almost ready to head off by the time they returned. The others headed back to Sydney, while I headed to a nice spot near the cliff edge for some sunset photography and another canyon the next day. A good day in the bush.

Scott Kirby
Ed Squires
Josette Squires



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