



Photo by David Bell - Mark Dabbs on the AAWT. See article p8

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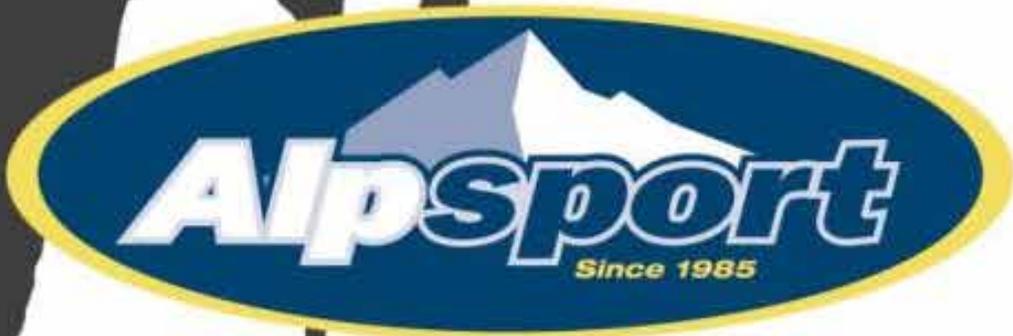


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# From the President

John Flint

## New Members Night

Every month we have a New Members information night at Kirribilli. Many of you would have been to one when you first joined SBW. Some miss out as they just sign up on the web. If you are new and still wondering what is going on then I'd recommend you go along. It is normally on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, variations are on our home page and on Facebook. The evening is run by our most capable New Members Secretary, Genevieve. I also turn up most months to assist with answering queries and it is a good chance to find out what new members are looking for.

The audience is usually varied, but at the younger end of the spectrum. It would be good to have a younger member or two turn up to assist on occasion so if you are feeling like meeting some new recruits, just show up on the night.

Over the last couple of years, we typically had between 6 and 20 people turn up, the last three months have been around 30 people each month. Genevieve has been promoting on Facebook so that might be a reason.

## Member Statistics

One question that comes up regularly is how many members do we have under 30 or under 40? I had always given some approximate figures, but thought last time I better find out for sure. At the risk of changing this newsletter into a statistics journal with some other articles within this edition my analysis came up with the following:

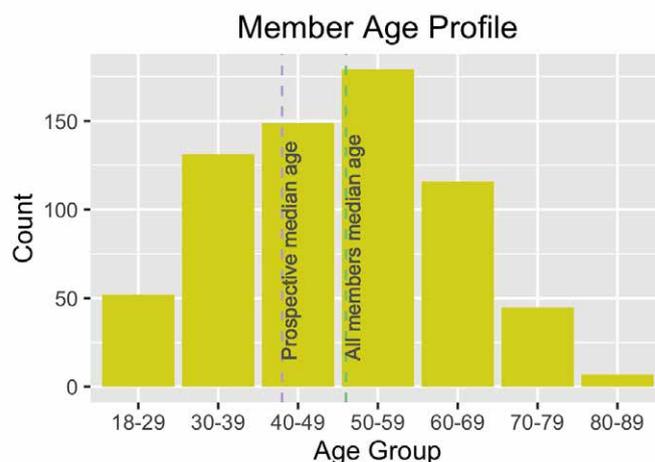
- Currently 814 members 264 of which are prospective members
- Females total 385 and males 429
- For prospectives the ratio is reversed 142 females and 122 males.
- The median age for all members is 51 and for prospective members it is 43. Average age is similar.

The following graph shows this visually with a breakdown of the age groups.

I believe we may have a few members over 90 years old but they are not captured in the database.

From the graph it is easy to see we are a bit light in numbers in their 20's but still with 50 members I hope they can find common friends and interests.

With the median age of prospectives being much younger I would have thought our membership average age would be getting younger every year.



However I then checked the average age of new full members who have joined within the last 4 years and passed all the qualifying hurdles. It seems the average (and median) age of this cohort is about 49. So a closer match to the current profile. Either the style of SBW does not suit our younger recruits or they are just not getting through the qualifying. Something to look at and I welcome feedback.

## New Member Recruitment

With the good numbers at the new members night and a steady stream on the web, the last few months have seen a good number of joinups. April will be another >30 as we are 24 already.

I went back over the old records and came up with the following graph:



Membership numbers look to be on the up, which is very healthy for the club. It does raise the question are there enough walks to go around. Well the call has just gone out for the winter program so you all know what to do. Put a walk on! If you know of a walk you want to do and are prepared to do all the organising, but don't want to be the leader, with the navigation and walk day responsibilities, ask around and suggest to someone you would like to do a walk. If you don't know of a suitable leader ask

myself or the Activities Secretary and we will see if we can facilitate.

Feedback I have had is that some prospectives are looking for overnight walks to complete their qualifying. There should be plenty of takers, but do make sure there is a sensible experience to beginner ratio on all walks.

### Award

With the content being all about new members this month. My monthly award goes to Genevieve for all the work in bringing on board new members.

### Annual Membership Renewal

It is the time of year for full member to renew their membership.

A notice will be sent shortly but those willing can complete their membership renewal ahead of the reminder. Go to <http://sbw.org.au/Membership-Renewal> and update your details if need be. The membership fee was voted at the AGM and is maintained at \$35.

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## Would you Like to Improve your Navigation Skills?

Vivien de Remy de Courcelles

Like most other things the best way to improve navigation skills is through practice, trial and error. It is not always convenient to spend too much time on a walk talking or practicing navigation. Rogaining provides the platform that anyone needs in order to work on their navigation. It is a bit like Make Your Own Walk usually through open country with limited scrub and with friends as rogaines are team events. You are given a map with checkpoints and the goal is to link this checkpoints in the most efficient way to score points or just as an excuse to visit a new area. The coming Autumn rogaine for instance is in the northern part of Tarlo River NP. Have you heard of Tarlo River NP? Do you know where it is? Here is the first navigational challenge!

The following is a list of events organised by the [NSW Rogaining Association](#):

- 21 May: Autumnrogaine - Tarlo River NP - 6 or 12 hour event.

- 19 June: Paddy Pallin rogaine - Catherine Hill Bay - 6 hour event.
- 20 August: Lake Macquarie rogaine - 6 or 12 hour event.
- 15-16 October: Spring rogaine - Kanangra NP - 8 or 24 hour event.

On 2-3 July, the 28th [NavShield](#) will be held in a secret location about 3 hour drive from Sydney. It offers a day event on Saturday and an overnight event finishing on Sunday. This year's course is more open than on previous years and the course setter has gone a bit soft in setting some very easy checkpoints. NavShield is organised by the BWRS as a fundraiser for its activities centred around search and rescue in the bush.

Talk to friends and fellow members on walk and give a try to bush navigation, it can only increase your enjoyment of being in the bush.

## New members

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

Peter Beveridge  
Suzanne Gapps  
Alexa Bullen  
Mark Wigley

Murray Henwood  
Sierra Classen  
Weiyun Yu

# SBW Mid-Week Walking Activities

Bill Holland



There is an informal gathering of people in SBW who find the time to enjoy walking, cycling, kayaking during the quiet times of the week. You are welcome to join us at any time and if you would like to be added to our Midweek Activities mailing list please let me know by contacting Bill Holland 4296 3084 or by email to [billholland@bigpond.com](mailto:billholland@bigpond.com).

Unfortunately, I had to cancel the arrangements for Yarrangobilly Caves House as the East Wing was not available by the time I enquired for a firm booking after receiving sufficient expressions of interest. As an alternative I have now made a booking for cottages in Bundanoon but you need to get in early—see below!

## Report on Jenolan Caves Cottages



Fifteen of us had a most enjoyable five days at Jenolan Caves Cottages in March. The weather was fine with rain limited to the nights and the sun shining during the day. We enjoyed visiting the caves and walking the many tracks including a visit to Kanangra Tops on Thursday..



## Next Activity and Coming Months

There has been a good response for Newnes in June and the large cabin and two others have been booked. Please let me know if you would like to add to our numbers. Also let me know of your interest in other events listed below:

- Cutlers Cottage at Myall Lakes has been booked 23rd - 30th April
- Morvern Valley Country Cottages in Bundanoon 16th - 20th May
- Cabins in Newnes 20th - 24th June
- Illoura at Woy Woy 18th - 22nd July.
- Arrawarra headland near Woolgoolga 8th - 12th August
- Erowal Bay in October
- Dunns Swamp in November

## Jim's Bike Ride:

Jim Percy organized a bike ride in my area last month and at last I was able to join in. Here is an edited report from Jim:

"The tour de Shell Cove turned out to be just that! The day was hot and humid with a sometimes cooling sea breeze, always a headwind of course. We toured the new developments of home sites of which there appears to be hundreds (are all Sydney siders moving out?). The marina works are progressing at a pace but there is still a lot of work required. We inspected the marina progress from two sides and the huge size of the project is impressive. The tour ended at Bills where a most welcome swim was enjoyed. Ride No 14 is scheduled for 14 April - Watch this space"

Here Are Details Of Coming Events:

## Cutlers Cottage - Myall Lakes Sat 23rd - Sat 30th April

This is a mid-week activity but we have extended the stay to a week (Saturday to Saturday) for a slightly extra cost. There is no obligation to use the full seven days. Cutlers Cottage is a three bedroom fully restored residence and has a fully equipped kitchen & relaxing verandah with peaceful - views overlooking Myall Lakes.

The location is ideal for kayaking, swimming and bushwalking. The cottage has comfortable

accommodation but is limited to a maximum of 6 people. However, excess numbers can use the camping site nearby.



### Morvern Valley Guest Houses in Bundanoon

There are three private cottages – upon 25 idyllic acres half cleared farm land with paddocks, and half natural bush land traversed by a small creek. All three cottages have three bedrooms and are fully self-contained. Each cottage is unique, and is spread apart from the other. We have booked one cottage (six people) to start and will add a second or third cottage if numbers warrant and the cottages are still available– so get in early!

Morvern Valley Guest Houses, are located five minutes easy walk from Bundanoon village and five minutes to the natural attractions of Morton National Park, with its fabulous bushwalks, lookouts and waterfalls.

Please let me know if you would like to join us so an additional cottage can be booked if necessary. A \$50 deposit per person is required and the balance paid by mid-April. Likely cost about \$110 per person (five days)

### Cabins at Newnes: 20th -24th June

We have stayed in these cabins a couple of times before and enjoyed the walks and spectacular mountain scenery. Our host, Thomas assists in making our stay very comfortable. Interesting optional walks each day including a visit to the old township ruins, Pipeline Pass and the Glow Worm Tunnel. Or perhaps you just want to relax and enjoy the views.

I have indicated to Thomas that we will need the new large cabin and another as well. Please let me know if you are interested and I will finalise the booking.

# Moonlight Madness Orienteering 2016

Richard Pattison

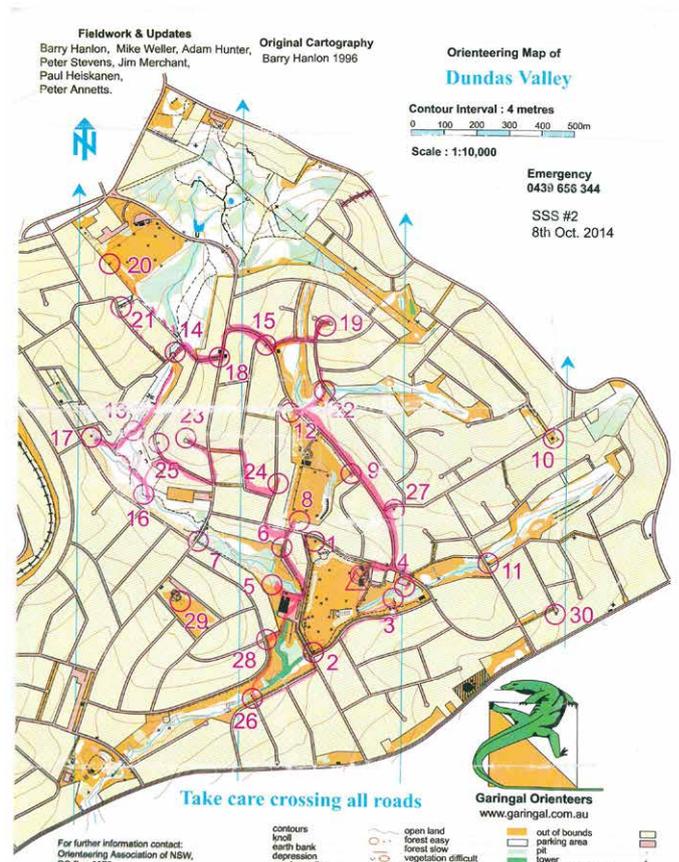
Orienteering is fun and it's a good excuse to do some mid-week exercise, whether running or walking. It's also a good opportunity to test out your navigation skills, mostly on roads but also along some bush tracks.

The winter orienteering series begins this month, there are 6 events close to the full moon:

- Wed 20 April – Pymble
- Wed 11 May – Milsons Point
- Wed 15 June – Waverton
- Wed 13 July – Epping
- Wed 17 Aug – Waitara
- Wed 14 Sep – Freshwater

SBW member Vivien de Remy de Courcelles is setting the course at Milsons Point on Wed 11 May, please come along and support Vivien.

The only equipment you need is a head torch and wear exercise clothes. The map, pencil and score card will be provided, the cost is \$10 for members of ONSW or \$13 for non-members.



# What were members up to in 2015?

Richard Pattison

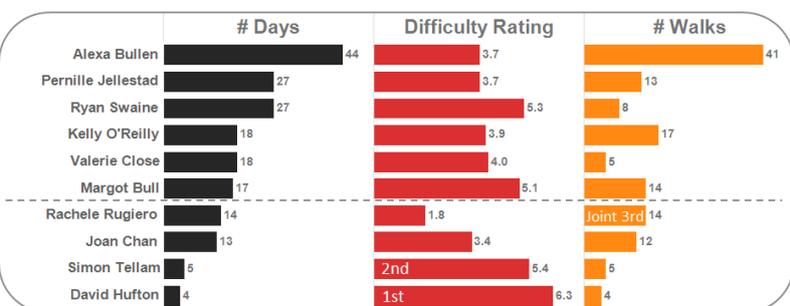
The Activities Secretaries will be publishing sensible and official 2015 statistics soon, in the meantime, I'd like to continue sharing some quirky fun stats.

It must be noted... the following are not official awards endorsed by the committee. However, I thought it worth recognising and acknowledging: new members that have most embraced the club; increased participation of existing members; existing members that have increased their walking ambitions.

Through this engagement, participation and ambitions, members are stronger, fitter and the club community spirit better for it. This does relate somewhat to the SBW constitution of "mutual aid for appreciating the outdoors" and "Appreciating nature's gift", plus, it adds a sporting dynamic to membership ;o)

## The SBW "Best New Member" of 2015 is... Alexa Bullen!

Welcome to all new SBW members of 2015, especially Alexa Bullen, our champion of new members. It's fantastic to see new members getting so involved in the club during their first year, and Alexa managed 41 activities, with overnight walks to 100 Man cave and a Navigation weekend.



In 2nd place, Pernille's first year culminated in an extended 12 day trip on the Great North Walk, while Ryan finished with a 17 day trip to Japan.

Maybe more impressive? Joan Chan led an activity during her first year: the Resolute Track loop at West Head. Well done, if we don't have leaders we don't have a club. Also, new member Diana Porta led a day walk during "Christmas in the Snowies".

The committee will be interested purely in participation, however, I'm interested in difficulty, who are our toughest new members? David Hufton is my personal favourite new member of 2015, posting an impressive 6.3/10 difficulty rating for his four walks, most notable was Yuri's challenging "Hecates Cauldron" walk in September, ranking David as the 8th toughest SBW member of 2015.

Simon Tellam has also offered a promising introduction of his capabilities: Coast Track in a day,

Six Foot Track in a day. Surely the 2016 K2K in a day will be on Simon's hit-list? It was the off-track component of David's walk selection that gained him higher rating points than Simon's achievements.

Welcome to all new members, may you mark-up more SBW walks in 2016...

Note - Based on walk reports submitted up to 26 Jan 2016. Difficulty rating: S111=0, X333E=10.

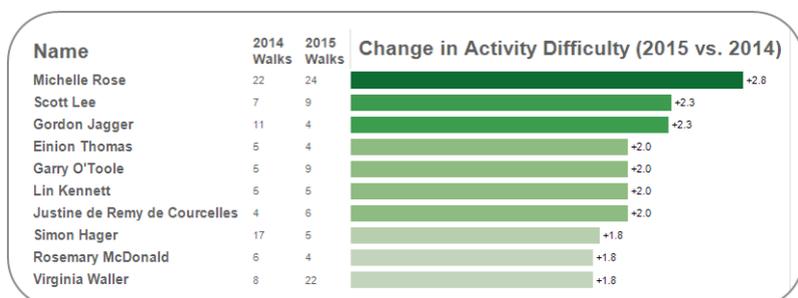
## The 2015 SBW "Most Improved Walker" is... Michelle Rose!

In order to determine the "most improved" walker, I have employed the "Universal Difficulty Rating", formerly known as "Grindlay Rating", where each activity is rated out of 10, S111=0; L333E=10.

Michelle Rose is top of the list, improving her walking performance by +2.8 rating points (2015 average of 5.3/10, vs. 2.5 in 2014). In 2015 Michelle completed some impressive routes, ticking-off 3 x 7/10 ratings: L332 Jamison Valley circuit; M333 Arethusa Falls & M332E Larapinta Trail. This is a level above Michelle's toughest 2014 walks of 5/10: Coast Track and Wild Dogs. Congratulations Michelle, you're walking well! Is the "North Face 100km" a suitable 2016 objective?

A minimum activity threshold was applied, with members requiring at least four walks per year (quarterly participation). There were 138 SBW members eligible i.e. 134 of ~800 members walked at least once per quarter in 2014 and 2015. Of those, 19% improved performance by 1 point, while 16% selected less difficult walks and 66% performing at a similar level.

A special mention for Justine dRdC, posting a 2015 difficulty rating greater than her age!

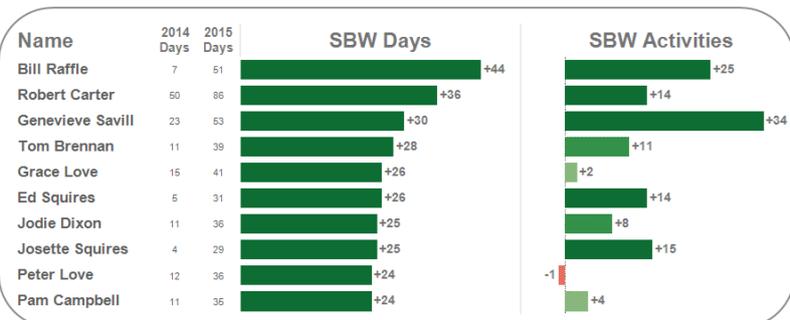


I contemplated for some time whether to show the red bars (i.e. decreased performance), I will touch briefly on that. Kevin Reeves reduced his walk difficulties in 2015, but not surprising given last years' high performance - Kevin was ranked the 5th toughest SBW walker in 2014. It seems Kevin was training for the "North Face 100km", and took part in 8 "X33" activities, it's probably a good thing that Kevin has slowed down in 2015 and can actually

enjoy nature with all that endurance torture ;o)

## The 2015 SBW "Most Increased Participation Walker" is... Bill Raffle!

Congratulations to Bill Raffle who participated in an additional 44 days of SBW activities in 2015 vs. 2014. Bill should be well known, having walked with 138 SBW members during his 32 activities in 2015.



Other notable increase participation:

Greatest increase in Days: Bill Raffle +44 (2014=7 vs. 2015=51)

Greatest % increase in Days: Bill Raffle +629% (2014=7 vs. 2015=51)

Greatest increase in Activities: Genevieve Savill +34 (2014=18 vs. 2015=52)

Greatest % increase in Activities: Josette Squires +375% (2014=4 vs. 2015=19)

The top three all increased their number of days through increased activities: Bill's increased days was driven through more activities but with a greater proportion of overnight trips, giving him the edge over Genevieve who focused on day walks.

The Love's increased their days through extended trips, rather than individual activities.

Robert, Tom & Jodie increased their participation through a mix of increased activities and selecting some extended duration trips. Robert spent one quarter of 2015 on SBW trips.

### Award Considerations

Days or Activities? Which is the key participation metric? The Activities Secretaries have discussed this at length in recent magazine articles. I decided to use days, and yes, that gives far more weighting to extended trips, but that is certainly increased participation and arguably far more involvement and commitment within the club.

% or actuals? Worthy of another essay! I have chosen actuals, otherwise members off a small base have an unfair advantage i.e. easier for a % increase off one walk than ten walks.

Members had to have walked in 2014 to be considered for this award.

Based on walk reports submitted up to 26 Jan 2016.

## Social Program

**Wed 20 Apr - Morocco and a traverse of the High Atlas Mountains.** Kenn Clacher will talk about Morocco and a traverse of the High Atlas Mountains in May and June 2015 with a group of SBW members. Their trek included deep gorges, high rocky plains, fertile valleys watered by an ancient network of aqueducts, picturesque remote Berber villages, Kasbahs and Mts M'Goun and Toubkal, at 4067m and 4167m the highest mountains in North Africa.

**Wed 18 May - The Dales Way in Yorkshire England and The Three Capes Walk in Tasmania,** Both are walks which Richard has completed within the past few months.

*If you have any ideas for social events, contact Tracey Avolio and Jan Spencer: 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.*

# SBW Magazine Project Update

John Kennett

I have enjoyed working on the magazines. Here are a few of the gems I have discovered, and two tragedies.

December 1941 Club Meeting : In the face of Pearl Harbour, President Colley, echoing Churchill's "We will fight them on the beaches" and Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" speeches, declares, "Whatever trials and changes, the Club must go on, and WE must see that it does".

February 1944: A leader on a Blue Mountains walk suddenly remembered at work on Monday that he had forgotten all about a slow Prospective on his weekend walk. The leader had directed the Prospective to return to Blaxland the previous day. A hastily formed SBW party fortunately located the forlorn person in the bush on the Tuesday.

June 1949: The Editor deplores the habit of some members of turning up on overnight walks without a tent, hoping for an invitation from a tent owner to join them.

July 1949: The Editor denounces the "increasing unpopularity of hikers". "After each thrilling episode the general public, gathering the impression that hikers are always wandering round befogged, starving, and threatened by ravenous dingos, send their quota of indignant letters to the papers." No different to today, except that now the indignant demand to know "Were they carrying a PLB?".

July 1949: The General Meeting was held by the light of three hurricane lamps. The national coal strike lead to blackouts over many months. At another meeting that year, a member pushed his motorbike into the club rooms and used the headlight to illuminate the gathering.

July 1951 Club Meeting : Arguments about the merits of individual Prospectives graduating to full membership are not new. The committee had revoked the membership of John Cotter on the grounds that he had failed to attend an Instructional Walk after promising to do so. But Mr Cotter had come to the meeting with his mates to argue the point. The minutes noted : "The following forty minutes were so charged with invective, abuse, points of order and counter charges that it was impossible to take complete notes." The committee's decision was overthrown and Cotter was re-instated.

April 1952: 120 people attend the AGM. A major item of debate was whether the Club should have a Christmas party.

January 1957: Following severe blizzards, snowed in a hut on the west coast of NZ, desperately short of food, Dot Butler and her party find a "a bag of flour" in the tool cupboard which they mix with other

dubious ingredients for a meal. Hours later they are all ill. No one knows what it was, but it wasn't flour.

July 1958: The Puttmobile arrives on the scene. Colin Putt, a huge contributor to the club, died in March this year. Amongst other things, at a time when car ownership was the exception, Colin provided transport to walks in his "Puttmobile". We are not sure what the Puttmobile was, perhaps a small bus, but 12 walkers slept in the Puttmobile on the night before a walk that included Dot Butler to Mt Renwick.

February 1960: Mike Peryman, aged only 29, is killed in a car accident driving home from a walk. A prolific walker with the club, Mike had the Three Peaks and exploratory trips into Ettrema to his credit, amongst others. The police officer attending the fatal accident was later charged with stealing Mike's watch and camera.

August 1964: A young lad named Don Finch becomes a member.

November 1978: SBW Social Secretary please note, 108 people attended a Hootenany Dance at Coolana to celebrate the completion of the hut.

December 1978: From the late 1950s "It was all Snow Brown's fault" was a frequent cry in magazine articles on various long distance walks when something went wrong. Snow (David) Brown was a very popular, amiable, relaxed character who attracted a lot of good natured ribbing. According to Dot Butler, Snow "out did himself for mis-judgement on a trip near Glen Davis when he announced that the party would take only 10 minutes to descend a particular cliff. It took 3 hours".

April 1979: New member John Curedale, aged only 26, slipped and fell to his death on a club walk in the Grand Canyon, while observing some abseilers.

November 1989: 60 people were enthralled by adventurer Peter Treseder's talk about his epic 5000 km run through 58 National Parks on the eastern seaboard, averaging 150 kms a day. The reporter said it was a shame that Peter did not have any slides to illustrate his run. He did not suspect that there were no slides because Treseder, a modern day Walter Mitty, had made the whole thing up.

April 1994: The Walks Secretary begged leaders to submit more easy walks on the program. Twenty two years later, we are still waiting for the leaders' response.

May 1994: Maurice Smith felt compelled to correct a story that appeared in the Daily Telegraph. The helicopter rescue, he explained, of a club member with a broken ankle occurred not at the base of a

cliff but on top of Sturgiss Mountain, they were not winched up to the helicopter but boarded the craft where it had landed, and a club member had been with the victim throughout the whole ordeal, not abandoned as the Telegraph stated.

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## A Poem by Anon

Don Finch found this poem at Coolana.

### If Dr Seuss wrote computer manuals ...

Here's an easy game to play  
Here's an easy thing to say

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port  
And the bus is interrupted as a very last resort  
And the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort  
Then the socket packet pocket has an error to report!

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash  
And the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash  
And your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash  
Then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

You can't say this?  
What a shame sir!  
We'll find you  
Another game sir.

If the label on the cable on the table at your house  
Says the network is connected to the button on your mouse  
But your packets want to tunnel on another protocol  
That's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss  
So your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse  
Then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang  
'Cause as sure as I'm a poet the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk  
And the microcode instructions cause unnecessary risk  
Then you have to flash your memory and you'll want to  
RAM your ROM  
Quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your mum!



# Walking the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) from Thredbo to Tharwa

David Bell



On February 23rd 2016 David Bell, Marks Dabbs and Lisa McCarthy left Thredbo to begin a walk along the AAWT. 12 days later we arrived at the Tharwa Visitor Centre, 30km south of Canberra. Including side trips we walked about 230km.

We mostly followed the official route, except for taking a short cut via The Rolling Ground from Consett Stephen Pass to Schlink Pass.

Weather was mostly dry and except for one stormy night we largely avoided the wet weather which others had earlier reported while crossing the Brindabellas on the NSW-ACT border. Temperatures were mostly mild though it did start to heat up as we crossed into the ACT.



We stayed at a number of the old huts along the way and it was interesting to read the entries in the hut visitor books at the end of a day's walking. We particularly enjoyed reading the entries of SBW members or people who we had met heading in the opposite direction. For some people walking the AAWT is a personal odyssey. Some to raise awareness about a particular cause, others to change their life and for others to simply enjoy time in a remote place. We actually encountered

relatively few people along the track, a few walkers and some national parks staff. Indeed some days we saw no one.

Although the walk was a great experience there were a couple of negatives. While the issue of horses in national parks is contentious, it has to be said that the amount of horse dung along the track meant that dodging the dung piles was a constant chore. This was particularly the case between Kiandra and the ACT border. It also meant the flies got pretty severe. Unfortunately, horse dung around a number of huts also meant that camping on the grassy areas around the huts was restricted. It's hard to say how much of this was due to brumbies or domestic horses. However, judging from the hut visitor books people do visit the huts on horseback so perhaps riders could prevent their horses from dropping dung all over the grassy camping sites.



Prospective walkers should also know that between Kiandra and Oldfields Hut, NSW NPWS are dumping a lot of blue metal on the fire trails. Presumably this is to make it easier for vehicles but it did make it hard to walk on and like the horses we tended to walk next to the trail rather than on it.

Walkers should also be aware that Hawkweed is present in parts of Kosciusko and if you see any then let NPWS know about it (there are information signs along the way).

The AAWT is thoroughly recommended. It offers terrific scenery, much historical evidence of past ways of life and plenty of wildlife.

We only did one third of the AAWT. The rest (440 km from Thredbo to Walhalla east of Melbourne) is a future project.

Finally thanks to Mark and Lisa for making it such an enjoyable walk.

# A Visit to Mt Colong

Caro Ryan



Day 1 - Good Friday: After three of us stayed at Jenolan Caves House (Gatehouse) on Thursday night, all eight of us appeared on time at the start of the Unirover Trail where we did a simple car shuffle to leave cars at the end, being Kanangra Walls car park. Then, back to the start at the Unirover Trail we headed off along the good firetrail, before it quickly develops into single footpad after a couple of kms. This being the leaders first trip down the Unirover, I wasn't prepared for how vague the track was at this early stage. (I'd been warned about the lower reaches around Mt Lannigan). There isn't really much of a track

for the first 2-3kms until Lost Rock. We discovered a 'new' Lost Rock and named it 'Really Lost Rock', to the north east of the true feature. Picking up the track about 500m before Lost Rock, we were then able to continue following it to the Kowmung by way of the 1inch square markers nailed to trees. Extra Easter chocolate for those who spotted them! Glad to arrive at the Kowmung around 4pm, we managed to squeeze into the relatively small (and somewhat 2 star) campsite just downstream from the base of Lannigans Spur. We met two other parties at that spot (One from BWOC and the other party of three Cavers with a Cave Rescue Member known to BWRS Members, Sue Bucknell and Caro) all out to enjoy Easter in the Kanangra region.

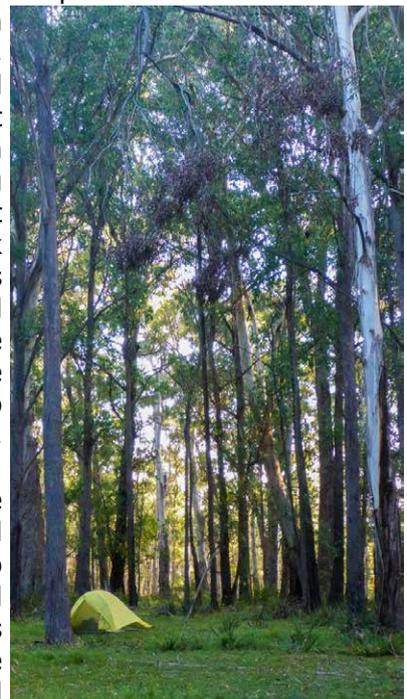
Day 2 - Easter Saturday: With a lovely night (surrounded by near neighbours), we left at 7.30am for an ascent up Billy's Point (aka "Poo Hill"), before continuing our up up up to Mt Billy and the east ridge of Mt Colong. The route proving to be one that benefits from a map and compass (not just GPS) as the various ridges and spurs took us in a semi-circle to arrive at the base of the climb to Colong's tabletop summit. With it's impressive basalt scree slope (2 steps up, 1 slide back) after making the



key southerly turn when first faced with a cliff face, we ascended, slid, scrambled and hauled our way to the top. It had to be one of the most impressive views in the area as we rose. Reaching the top and resting to catch our breath, onwards we pushed to the beautiful grassy campsite, where we dropped our packs and then headed to the impressive (is it the biggest in NSW?) and beautifully crafted, dry stone wall, cairn and survey marker. Here, we read the log book (noting several other SBW parties since 2010 when the book was placed) and placed our own mark. It was interesting to note that with very few exceptions, the only parties visiting Colong are from Clubs (SUBW, CMW, BC, CBC, UBMBWC). It's a rarely visited place, with entries being focussed around Easter, June and October Long Weekends. However, the regular visitors of pigs and leeches, made their presence well known to us during our stay.



Day 3 - Easter Sunday: Given our task for the day was relatively straight forward (if we found our way off Colong that is!) we slept in until 7.30am with a 9am departure on the cards. After our lovely, lazy morning, we headed off to the east side of Mt Colong, passing the cairn once again and marvelling at the craftsmanship that created it. Having read track notes from Jonno Downes (of SUBW) which suggested descending the spur to the north east which met the T-intersection of Tonalli Gap and Mt Armour Firetrails, we headed in this direction. Great views to behold on the way to Yerranderie Peak and then through Tonalli Gap and Squatting Rock (!), led us to a series of manoeuvres leading us steadily to the east (right) where we found a slot that (with the help of a 10m handline....Sue B: "20m would've been better!"), led us down into a scrubby ridge to the road only 200m short of the T-intersection. Then it was a simple matter of





Cambage Spire, we combined knowledge to push through the scrub (with thorns) to the start of the track and began the relentless push to the summit. A constant and steady pace, with all of us dripping in sweat with soaking wet clothes brought us up the scramble to Sullen Tor, to then steady ourselves for Cambage Spire. Whether by design or serendipity, we didn't find the 'true' centre ascent of the Spire, but rather (blessedly) directed by Frances, we headed up the western ramps and scrambles to the top, for views that wowed us all and brought out the cameras. After a moments pause and slightly drying off, we continued towards Bullhead Mountain and then our lunch spot at the Coal Seam cave. It was here that we met up (once again) with the party of three Cavers, enjoying meeting like minded people in our wilderness homes. With our minds on the Easter Weekend holiday traffic, we pushed on for Kanangra Walls and paused to take in the wonder and jaw-dropping vista that greeted us opposite Thurat Spires. Cloud and mist free - Kanangra Walls at it's best.

trudging along the Mt Armour Firetrail, where we enjoyed lunch on top of Mt Armour. Rather than taking the usual NE route to Church Creek, we instead headed WNW down an unnamed open spur that took us to the junction of Church Creek and the Kowmung River. A 10 minute deliberation ensued, as we were at a beautiful, grassy campsite (4 star) but it was only 2.30pm. Wisely (such a democracy!), we moved downstream along the footpads with small patches of scrub, until we came to the delightfully cosy campsite at the junction of Christys Creek and the Kowmung. It's sites like this that are a good reason to keep Wilderness areas group size to 8. It was perfect for us! After a great night around the fire, we settled down with the sound of the babbling Kowmung and whistling casuarinas around us.

Thanks to everyone for a great and memorable weekend, visiting one of the hallowed places whispered to me when I was a new member, something like 15 years ago.

Day 4 - Easter Monday: After the pitter patter of gentle rain around midnight, we awoke to what was to be a very humid overcast day. With only two of our party having been up or down Sullen Tor/

Also, thanks to notes from Jonno Downes (SUBW), David Trinder, Robert Carter, Owen Kimberly and Jim Close.



## March 2016 Crossword answers

Richard Pattison

- 1) N O R T H E R A T R U S T
- 2) S T R E N G T H
- 3) T H E B U S H C L U B
- 4) J O H N F L I N T
- 5) G E N E V I E V E S A V I L L
- 6) S I X F O O T T R A C K
- 7) H O L L A N D

# Walks and Activities Report

## Emmanuelle Convert

Leaders: After the activity, please fill in the google form on the SBW website [here](#). Email your photos to [editor@sbw.org.au](mailto:editor@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).

6 Feb 2016	Northern Beaches	Sydney	<p><b>Pamela Irving</b></p> <p>Philip Hayes Michael Bickley</p> <p><i>Visitors</i></p> <p>Susan Alexander Margaret Bougie Joe Bougie</p>
22 - 26 Feb 2016	Three Capes Track, Tas	Tasmania	<p><b>Richard Darke</b></p> <p>Col Atkinson Mike Arnott Ro McDonald Bryn Lynar Karen Kool Rosemary MacDougal Sheila Zeman Christine McColl Marcia Kaye Jodie Dixon Jenny Stephens</p> <p><i>Visitors</i></p> <p>Mike Lodge Kathy Lynar Antony Milch</p>
27-Feb 4-Mar 2016	Walls of Jerusalem	Tasmania	<p><b>Richard Darke</b></p> <p>Col Atkinson Rosemary MacDougal Sheila Zeman Christine McColl Jodie Dixon Jenny Stephens</p> <p><i>Visitor</i></p> <p>Mike Lodge</p>
1 Mar 2016	Mt Kuring-gai to Berowra	Berowra Valley RP	<p><b>Robert Carter</b></p> <p>Don Andrews</p> <p><i>P Member</i></p> <p>Isabel Yersin</p>

3 Mar 2016	Lane Cove River Circuit	Lane Cove NP	<b>Genevieve Savill</b> Angela Beveridge Susan Healey Jenny Stephens  <i>P Members</i> Peter Beveridge Peter Kunda Winnie Chui Tapaleena Bhattacharjee
4 Mar 2016	Point Nicholson and Gindatherine Pinnacle	Wollemi NP	<b>Yuri Bolotin</b> Daryl Watson Linda Eggington  <i>P Members</i>  <i>Visitor</i>
5 Mar 2016	Edenderry Falls Swim	Blue Mountains NP	<b>Tim Sutherland</b> Chris Dowling Sue Tiller Michelle Powell Virginia Waller Mark Wiley  <i>P Members</i> Fausto Pastro Gayle Li
5 Mar 2016	Basic Skills Workshop	Centennial Park	<b>Ian Thorpe</b>  <i>Facilitators</i>  Jim Close James Collier Glenn Draper Carley Finn Thuy Ho John Kennett Owen Kimberley Isabelle Moss Lisa Sheldon David Trinder
			Basic navigation, bush craft and first aid skills required for Prospective Members seeking to advance to full Member status.  Jennifer Adams Peter Beveridge Alexa Bullen David Campling Natalie Candarakis Trevor Carr Peter Christensen Joanne Daly Stephen Dolman Suzanne Gapps Murray Henwood  Ann Hobson Margaret Jaco Tony Jaco Gareth McMahon Michael McNelis Ralph Meyers David Pender Monique Persohn Elizabeth Ryan Vasugi Velmurugu

## 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!

5 Mar 2016

Bleichert Ropeway

Blue Mountains NP

**Robert Carter**

The weather prediction was for a warm day however we were deep in the Jamison Valley where it was a bit cooler and sheltered.

The intent of this walk was to locate the start of the Bleichert Ropeway cable approx. 500m west of the Scenic Railway platform and then follow the cable on a bearing of approx. 187o across the valley to emerge near the base of the Ruined Castle. We would also be attempting to locate abandoned equipment that formed part of the shale hauling ropeway dating back to the late 1880's.

We quickly located the cable end (there are actually two cables) and it was surprisingly easy to follow throughout the walk given that it has been laying there for over 100 years. We did lose it for a short period in a deep Bracken Fern forest and again when diverting around very steep terrain to cross Causeway Creek. Interestingly there is a fairly well defined pad marked with orange tape along most of the route ! We were most surprised by the large amount of haulage equipment remaining along the route with many well preserved buckets, pullies, brackets and some wooden towers still remaining.

The terrain throughout was steep and slippery however walking was quite easy through the open forested area without very much thick scrub except for the odd Lawyer Vine. A few leeches but not as many as would be encountered if there had been recent rains.

Caro provided a display of her acrobatic nimbleness crossing a small side creek via the cable whilst some took a log bridge and others just simply scrambled across. There was some debate as to whether the photos taken captured her best side !

Overall a very interesting walk with a fantastic group exploring the upper reaches of the Jamison Valley along this historical route followed by a few cold ales in Leura before heading home. Definitely a walk to be repeated. Congratulations to Kelvin on completing a qualifying walk !

John Currie  
Neil Cartwright  
Angela Beveridge  
Caro Ryan  
Ross Jamieson  
Petros Nikoloudis  
Michelle Rose  
Angela Barton

*P Members*

Kelvin Russell



SBW members are eligible for Free Paddy Pallin Club membership.  
Mention the Paddy Pallin ad in this newsletter and they will honor this offer!

<p>5 - 6 Mar 2016 Splendour Rock Satellite Spotting</p> <p>It was always going to be a slightly tough first day with everyone carrying enough water to last 2 days but the group made really light work of it and after stashing a litre or two at Medlow Gap we made it to Splendour Rock in plenty of time for setting up camp, making cups of tea and even an afternoon nap. We were lucky enough to have perfectly clear skies and as the sun fell, we all took our positions to watch the stars and the planets appear. Jupiter being especially bright in the East. With the help of the Heavens Above App (and Lyn's sharp vision) we spotted 8 satellites. The evening sky from Splendour Rock did not disappoint. The morning had us up early for the sunrise and the planets aligned over head. After a lazy breakfast and a comfortable stroll over the mountains of the Wild Dogs and were were soon back at the cars heading to the Megalong Tea Rooms for coffee and cake. Congratulations to Steve and Catherine for completing their first overnight walk with the club. A memorable weekend.</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p><b>Frances Bottrell</b> Margot Bull Nicola Piper Lyn Hungerford</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Steven Lang Catherine Myson</p>
		
<p>6 Mar 2016</p> <p>First Sunday of Autumn - a warm day with a bit of a breeze, perfect for both walking and swimming.</p> <p>We took advantage of the low tide and walked along the coast all the way from Balmoral beach to the Spit bridge, which was a lot of fun as it involves a bit of rock hopping.</p> <p>We spotted star fish on the beaches and enjoyed a couple of swims as well.</p> <p>Dave suggested to swim across the Middle Harbour instead of crossing the Spit bridge by foot - maybe next time!</p>	<p>Taroonga Zoo to Manly</p> <p>Sydney Harbour NP</p>	<p><b>Diana Porta</b> Jaimey Foti Tim Yewdall</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Dave Sann Cerine Kahajaroen</p> <p><i>Visitor</i> Ibbie He</p>
<p>6 Mar 2016</p> <p>Very overgrown Jims track slowed us down on a hot day. We made Hundry beach at low tide for morning tea and swim number 1. Then off track with some serious grass trees to squeeze through until Whitehorse Beach for lunch and swim number 2. Then a real track took us to the saddle between Whitehorse and Flint and Steel then down on an even better track tio that beach and swim number 3 with a final ascent to the cars on the West Head road by 4pm. Altogether a relaxing swim type day</p>	<p>Broken Bay Shoreline</p> <p>Ku-ring-gai Chase NP</p>	<p><b>Roger Treagus</b> Pam Campbell Jose Correa Kin Lee Miu Pang Jan McLean Roger Treagus</p> <p><i>P Members</i> Sue Hailstone Denise Woodcock Jac Wolf Diana Correa</p>

11 - 17 Mar 2016 Patagonia, Chile - Torres del Paine

Torres del Paine

**Anna Thorwart**

Leigh McClintock

Most important info for future leader: don't trust any map, guide book or sign etc., not even the official location markers. If you like to know exactly where you are, bring a GPS. However, as there is only one clearly visible track and enough impressive landmarks to tell you the direction, there is no real need to know exactly where you are.

Leigh and I started our walk at the NP entrance at Laguna Amarga. My plan was to start with the Valle Ascencio and the Mirador Torres as we would probably not be able to do the whole circuit in seven days. However, we were told that three campsites nearby were either closed or full (on the daily report of the NP all were open and available). Thus, we changed our plans and started the Torres del Paine circuit (or the "O") the traditional way by walking along Rio Paine to Campamento Seron. On our way, we made first experiences with the Patagonian winds as they blew in our face and reducing our speed sometimes to 2-3 km/hour. At the camp site, we paid our first camping fee (~Chile\$8000), set up our tents and got to know our 30-40 fellow walkers on the circuit. (Most camp sites in the park are run by one of two private companies, Vertice or Fantastico Sur, and all have water, a shelter, tables & benches, and toilettes, some haven even hot showers (at Dickson: only the right one).) The next day we walked via Lago Paine to Lake Dickson. For most of the second half of the day, we had the first large glacier of the circuit, Glacier Dickson in our sight. After 19 km with some up and a finally steep down to the shore of the lake, we arrived at Refugio Dickson where Leigh booked his dinner in the Refugio (the Chilean custom officer did not like a couple of his dehydrated food from Tasmania.) and we became dinner for millions of mosquitos. The next day was a short day as we split the 1200m ascent to Paso John Garner in two 600m days. Walking through the woods and some muddy sections reminded me of the South Coast Track, with glaciers (today Glacier los Perros) instead of the sea as the constant companion. After managing the last two kilometres in open field against strong wind, Campamento Los Perros itself was very sheltered and nearly windless on the ground in the woods again. The next morning, we left together with everybody else at 8AM for the hardest part of the circuit, the crossing of Paso John Garner. However, we were really lucky with the weather. We had to stop only several times and wait only a few seconds when a gust of wind made moving forward impossible, and we had most of the time amazing views of the different glaciers and mountain peaks around us. The track itself is rather easy. Once across the pass, Glacier Grey was lying in front of us as we walked down on steps to Campamento Paso, a beautiful situated campsite in the forest next to a stream with several perfect viewpoints for sunset and sunrise over the glacier. The glacier always on our right and steep hills on the left side, the track on the next day descended further to Refugio Grey where Glacier Grey meets Lake Grey. After two impressive suspension bridges (Leigh thinks that the Los Guardas bridge might be the highest he has ever done - I didn't look down to check.) and one final steep climb, we arrived at Refugio Grey and therefore the much more popular W track through the park. Our last day was some rather relaxed walking with the wind in the back to Refugio Paine Grande at Lago Pehoe, now Lago Grande to our left. The next morning, we cut the circuit short at this point and took the ferry from Paine Grande to the bus stop at Lago Pehoe the next morning. A wise decision as it started raining properly for the first time exactly this morning.

### **Walk updates**

Don't forget to check the Short Notice Activities bulletin for any amendments to the quaterly 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>12 Mar 2016</p> <p>Another very warm day in the Blue Mountains.....perspiration plus!! Great day in good company.</p>	<p>East Col Mt Solitary</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p><b>Frances Bottrell</b></p> <p>Tim Sutherland Wayne Gardner Margot Bull</p>
<p>12 Mar 2016</p> <p>A very warm day for a fairly challenging walk such as this however although we all experienced various levels of dehydration there were no major issues except for some very tired bodies at the end of the walk – with everyone looking forward to that wonderful reward of a cold beer !</p> <p>As coincidence would have it we arrived at the locked gate on Kedumba Valley Road just as Frances’ group was preparing to walk and we joined up for the initial section to Kedumba Creek and then met up again at the fantastic lookout that greets you at the top of The Col.</p> <p>Some of us were buggered after ascending The Col so we took it easy crossing Mt Solitary – a wonderful walk – stopping for an extended lunch at the top of Chinamans Gully before descending Korrowall Knife Edge during the hottest part of the day. The newly installed shelters and water tanks at the based on the Ruined Castle were a welcome site to top up our fluids.</p> <p>The walk to the base of Furber Steps was quite nice in the shade with a very welcome light cooling breeze at times. Everyone did very well to complete the walk ascending via Furber Steps with times between 17 – 28 minutes (not that we were a competitive bunch ! ) – a good effort all things considering.</p> <p>The day was topped off with a few well earned beers at the Alexandra Hotel (thanks Caro for introducing me to this jewel) and an early dinner for some.</p>	<p>Jamison Valley Traverse (via Mt Solitary)</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p><b>Robert Carter</b></p> <p>John Currie Michelle Rose Petros Nikoloudis</p> <p><i>P Member</i></p> <p>Mark Wigley</p>



<p>12 Mar 2016</p> <p>A lovely day with warm weather. Great views and company.</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP - Leura</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p><b>Angela Barton</b></p> <p>Chris Dowling Michelle Powell Karen Kool Mike Barton Wendy Drapac Jose Correa Angela Beveridge Nicola Piper Tracey Avolio Owen Kimberley</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Steve Lang Diana Correa Gayle Li Verica Sekulic Gouri Venigalla</p> <p><i>Visitor</i></p> <p>Antony Milch</p>
<p>13 Mar 2016</p> <p>An interesting Q walk with some unexpected adventure thrown in along the way. Initially the leader couldn't find any of the other walkers at the notified meeting spot (gate at end of Bunkers Hill Road) but this turned out to be because the gate had been open when the others arrived and they had driven through without noticing!</p> <p>Route up to Blakemans Lookout is marked and straight forward, views of the valley and Coolana were had at the top. Next field were passed with onlooking cows, and then an off track descent down a small side creek with a short drop to negotiate. Tape rope came in handy here and all made it down any troubles. Lunch was had on rocks in a light drizzle.</p> <p>Giant Sting Trees were spotted and avoided (after a short lesson from Sierra) before a few hundred metres of rocking hopping along Burrawang Creek. A steep scramble up the last spur before Belmore Falls brought us up to an unmarked knoll, and the leader started to have second thoughts about how he had ascended through the towering cliffs before us on his previous trip. Thankfully an old track leading up and through was soon found and we were on Belmore Falls Road in no time.</p> <p>Due to a slower than planned for pace throughout the day, it was now past 4pm and we were only half way through the route! The decision was made to hitch back to our cars, which was a new experience on an SBW trip for most. 3 cars later we were all back at the start of the walk, and right on time for a 5pm finish as advertised.</p>	<p>Belmore Falls</p>	<p>Morton NP</p>	<p><b>Alex Allchin</b></p> <p>Stanley Wong</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Sierra Classen Liliana Harjanto Gareth McMahon</p>
<p>15 Mar 2016</p> <p>Given the extended hot and dry conditions recently it was nice to get out and walk in a bit of rain – yes some of us are sick puppies !</p> <p>Our walk led us through the mid-western section of the Royal mainly along ridge lines however dropping down at times to pools, waterfalls and major creeks. The fresh smell of the bushland was just magic and hopefully the creeks will received enough water for a good flush.</p> <p>A very enjoyable day with a very engaged and chatty group including a few welcome new faces to our mid-week walks. An early start and early finish achieved.</p>	<p>Heathcote Loop</p>	<p>Royal NP</p>	<p><b>Robert Carter</b></p> <p>Anthea Michaelis Jade Chang Tim Yewdall Michelle Powell Owen Kimberley</p>

<p>16 Mar 2016</p> <p>Meet at Bargo train station at 8.30am with the showers clearing. Got to start of walk by 9.00am. A quick visit to the See-through pools - but no one up for a swim. Morning Tea at Troopers look-out.</p> <p>We head off track at 10.30am and once in the gorge with the enormous boulders Nicola comments that she "feels like an ant" with the towering boulders surrounding us.</p> <p>The water is much lower than when I did a reccie 2 months previously which helps with the off-track section and we get to the junction of Bargo and Nepean Rivers for lunch at midday. This junction is like a huge inland sea.</p> <p>I am the only one to go for a quick cooling swim but by the afternoon tea stop 4 of us cool off by one of the many waterfalls.</p> <p>A beautiful day - the sun managed to stay out for most of the day. Back to the cars by 4.00pm then a quick coffee in Bargo before we all depart.</p>	<p>Bargo Gorge</p> <p>Wollondilly Shire</p>	<p><b>Robyn Christie</b></p> <p>Margaret Rozea Sally Reynolds</p> <p><i>P Member</i></p> <p>David Brignal</p> <p><i>Visitors</i></p> <p>Jane Millgate (Bush Club) Nicola Le Couteur (Bush Club)</p>
<p>17 Mar 2016</p>	<p>The Cliffs and Ravines of Western Koopartoo</p> <p>Wollemi NP</p>	<p><b>Yuri Bolotin</b></p> <p>Daryl Watson Sheila Zaman</p>
<p>18 - 20 Mar 2016</p> <p>Two cars and the train with two passengers arrived at Blackheath on Friday within a few minutes of each other with Glenn arriving a short time later. After dinner at Gardiners Inn the party went to Boyd Crossing where it was very cold with a low temperature a bit of moisture and a wind. Saturday dawned bright and fine to a beautiful day with the bush and forest at there best. After a bit of preliminaries at the shelter shed the party moved off about nine swapping leaders as we progressed through the country. It was a lovely day and Queen Pin Gully look fabulous with bright green grass and tall timber all the way down to the camp site which we reached a bit after two in the afternoon. I will not mention the leeches but the fire at camp were great fun. A little rain fell in the early hours it was no bother. Sunday was fine and sunny and again a delight to walk through some beautiful forest back to Boyd Crossing. A very convivial group who had a good time sorting out the navigation.</p>	<p>NAV101 Kanangra</p> <p>Kanangra-Boyd NP</p>	<p><b>Don Finch</b></p> <p>Rosie Kerrigan Jose Correa Brian Tomney Glenn Draper</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Mark Wrigley Steve Dolman David Pender Srinivas Gowda</p>
<p>18 - 20 Mar 2016</p>	<p>Wollemi NP canyoning</p> <p>Wollemi NP</p>	<p><b>David Carmichael</b></p> <p>Alan Osland Lisa McCarthy Mark Dabbs</p>
<p>19 Mar 2016</p> <p>Nice weather for walking throughout the weekend with cooler temperatures and none of the forecast rain early on Sunday.</p> <p>The original route of this walk was varied due to lack of water at Mobbs Soak however with some guidance from a local ranger a large still pool of water – required treatment - was located downstream from the Mobbs Soak camp cave. Incidentally the camp cave was being guarded by a very large basking Tiger Snake (estimated 1.8m) which displayed spectacular colours in the afternoon sun however wasn't overly impressed at being disturbed!</p> <p>A very interactive evening with plenty of stories and the usual lies around the fire at Splendour Rock and a coolish dry night with cloud cover. Sunday saw us take the 'high' route across Mt Dingo, Mt Merrimerrigal, Mt Warrigal, Wombat parade and descending from Blackhorse Gap to walk back to the cars at Dunphys.</p> <p>Overall a great weekend in the Wild Dogs with all walkers being introduced to Splendour Rock for the first time. Congratulations on Weiyun on completing the walk despite being downgraded from a Q-walk.</p>	<p>Wild Dogs #5 - Splendour Rock (Overnight)</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p><b>Robert Carter</b></p> <p>Don Andrews Jade Chang</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Alexa Bullen Weiyun Yu</p>

19 Mar 2016	Fortress Creek	Blue Mountains NP	<b>Bruno De Villenoisy</b> Angela Barton Mike Barton John Currie Sue Tiller Tim Yewdall  <i>P Members</i> Linda Eggington Jay Kris
19 Mar 2016	Mt Kuring-gai - Berowra Loop	Ku-ring-gai Chase NP	<b>Frances Bottrell</b> Tim Sutherland Margot Bull Wayne Gardner Scott Lee Paul Notholt  <i>P Members</i> Jonathan Griswold
20 Mar 2016	Burning Palms	Royal NP	<b>Nigel Weaver</b> Misako Sugiyama  <i>P Members</i> Denise Woodcock Dave Harter Jo Daly Rachele Rugiero
24 Mar 2016	Cliffs, Slots and Pagodas around Barton Slot	Wollemi NP	<b>Yuri Bolotin</b>  <i>P Member</i> Allie Fenton
25 - 27 Mar 2016	Washpool Wilderness	Washpool National Park	<b>Paul McCann</b> Alexa Bullen  <i>Visitor</i> Peter Laffan Trudie Laffan Kate Carter Arun Dujui (all are members of the Armidale Bushwalking Club)

25 - 28 Mar 2016	Colo River Lilo Trip	Wollemi NP	<b>Paul Barton</b>
<p>Overcast with a few spots of rain on Friday but otherwise nice sunny weather for rest of the trip. As usual, the access and exit from the Colo River were challenging with off track creek and ridge walking through considerable scrub for extended periods. The liloing in perfect water temperatures at this time of year made up for the effort in getting to the river. Very enjoyable camp sites by the Colo River in clean warm sand where it is a joy to walk around bare-foot. The clear night skies with low light pollution and many stars visible was another memorable highlight.</p> <p>Overall, the trip was challenging but experiencing the the Colo Wilderness is worth it.</p>			<p>Jenny Stephens Ross Jamieson Damon DeCosta</p>
25 - 28 Mar 2016	Mt Colong	Kanangra-Boyd NP	<b>Caro Ryan</b>
See article above.			<p>Jane Fielding Lyonel Tan Frances Bottrell Sue Bucknell Margot Bull Joanne Armstrong John Currie</p>
25 - 28 Mar 2016	Ettrema Creek Exploratory	Morton NP	<b>Stephen Dolphin</b>
<p>A magnificent 4-day walk in and around Ettrema Creek exploring a new route to the top of Thompsons Cliff and then the escarpment beyond and a day along Jones Creek to 'the big waterfall' below its headwaters.</p> <p>Unfortunately we did not successfully reach the top of the escarpment above Thompsons Cliff - stopped 2m short with a difficult climb required - however could be achieved by a more 'desperate group'.</p> <p>To say that Jones Creek was spectacular is an under statement. Magnificent waterfalls, steep sides and rock pools throughout its length. A rather dodgy ascent up 'the big waterfall' however our descent was much easier but not obvious - walk to the top of falls and turn right at the tree !</p> <p>Our entry to Ettrema Creek was varied to a descent via Jingles Pass due to an early light shower that would make Myall Creek very slippery. During the walk along Ettrema Creek we were greet by a 3m Diamond Python lazing in the sun. Also Dingoes were calling on Saturday evening.</p> <p>Our base camp would be the Jones Creek campsite where there was much fun and frivolity as well as many chocolates and assorted beverages shared - including an unexpected visit from the Easter Bunny (Alan Osland) who left some eggs whilst we were out exploring.</p> <p>Photos by Robert Carter.</p>			<p>Grace Love Peter Love Terry Moss Robert Carter</p>



<p>26 Mar 2016 Pulpit Rock-Evans Lookout-Perrys Lookdown Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>Enjoyable walk; good group; no dramas.</p> <p>The Perrys Lookdown carpark area was full and cars were parked nearby along the side of the road; more than a few people were camped there. Many people were bushwalking on this warm sunny Easter Saturday.</p>	<p><b>Chris Dowling</b></p> <p>Pamela Campbell Karen Kool Geoff Goodyer Anthea Michaelis Jodie Dixon Neil Souter Sun Mi Clement Angela Barton Michael Barton</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Antony Milch Vincent Murray</p>
<p>26 - 27 Mar 2016 Wild Dogs o/n Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>A good walk with no dramas. Merrigal Creek was dry.</p> <p>Two big climbs on the second day with overnight packs - got quite warm.</p> <p>Congratulations to Gareth and Liliana for their first overnight walk - especially to Lil for persevering under pressure with such good cheer!</p>	<p><b>Tim Sutherland</b></p> <p>Sue Tiller Bruno DeVillnoisey Diana Porta Jaimiy Foti</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Mark Wigley Gareth McMahon Liliana</p>
<p>28 Mar 2016 Convict Trail MTB Yengo</p> <p>A great experience. A really solid day's riding. No matter how hard we tried, the old convict built road did not allow us to progress more than 7kms an hour. From Blue Door Fire Trail to Simpsons Track is classic mountain biking, nice surface, narrow trail. But many other sections are badly eroded rocky platforms that were fun to bounce down the first 100 times but steadily lost their appeal after that. All of us had a few tumbles, none serious. Finished with a brilliant whoop down Devines Hill.</p>	<p><b>John Kennett</b></p> <p>Angela Beveridge Glenn Draper</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Murray Henwood Peter Beveridge</p>

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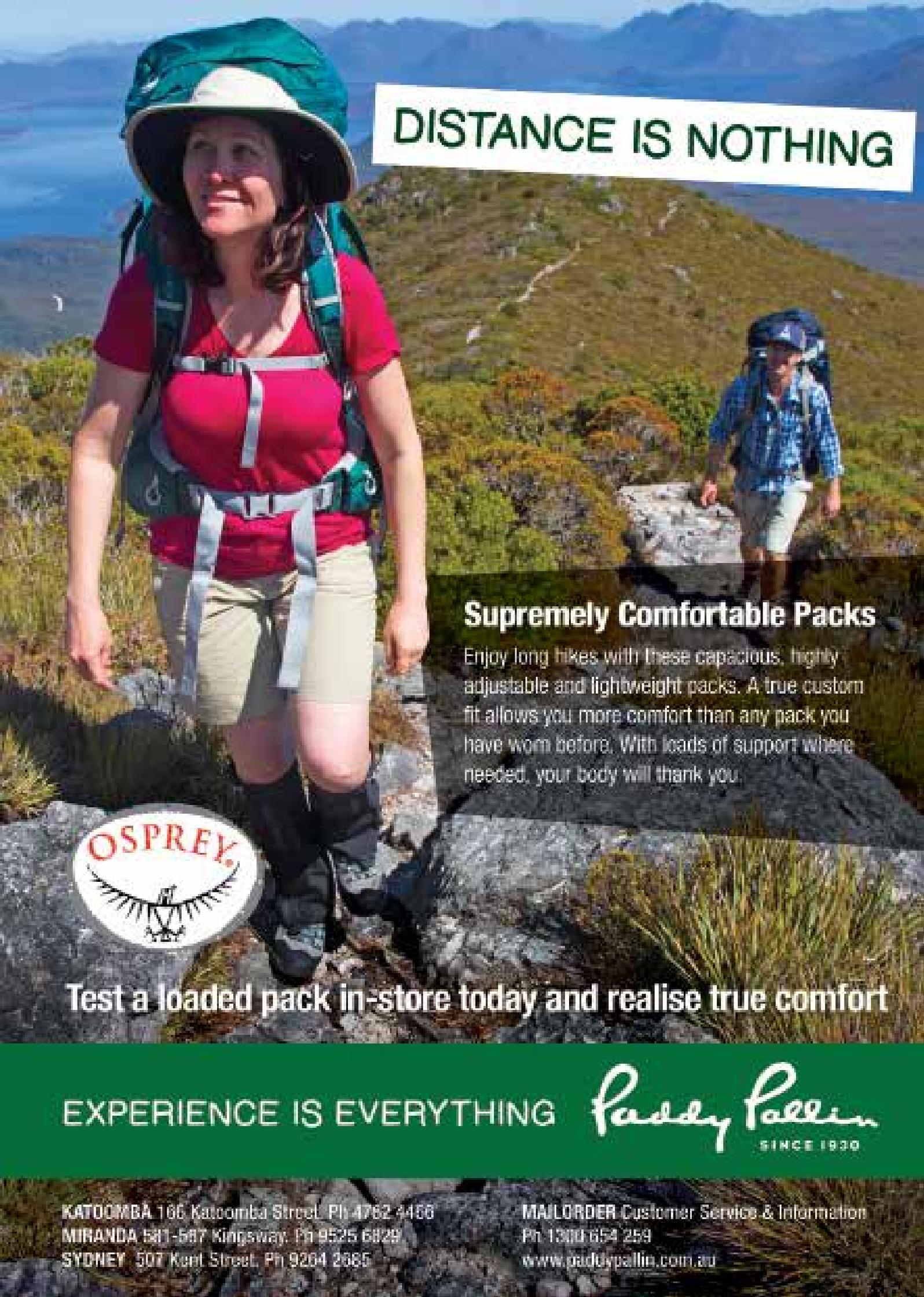
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<p>28 Mar 2016</p> <p>Old Convict Tracks</p> <p>Dharug National Park</p> <p>The very high attendance on this Easter Monday walk re-affirms that there is great demand for day-walks on long weekends. We had good conditions on this mild day, which was cloudy from time to time. We parked our cars on the south side of Hawkesbury River which we then crossed on the punt, which was a bit of fun. We then made our way along the riverside to the start of Finch's Line Track, an old convict road that was deemed too steep and narrow before it was even finished. However, it is great for bushwalkers! Up the top of the track we enjoyed panoramic views of the Hawkesbury Valley from high on the clifftops, and then made our way to the foot track that leads westwards along the top of Lower Portland Ridge. The track was clear for the first kilometer, and we enjoyed lovely views down to MacDonald River and the St Albans valley. The track then became quite indistinct at times, but we kept on finding it with the help of many well-built cairns, and we successfully made our way to our lunch spot, from where we had more good views of MacDonald River. After lunch we went back along the ridge, and then took the old convict road down Devine's Hill, visiting Hangman's Cave on the way and enjoying the sound of bellbirds. We finished the walk by re-crossing the river on the punt, and enjoying well-earned drinks and pastries at Wisemans Ferry.</p> <p>Photos by David Angell</p> 	<p><b>Nigel Weaver</b></p> <p>David Angell Margaret Carey Susan Healey David Bell Lucy Moore Antoine Yersin Jeffrey Bridger Pamela Irving Meg Kwon Jan Dormor Valerie Holben-Rice Michael Bickley Jason Kennedy Tim Yewdall Peter Cunningham</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Suzanne Gapps Isabel Yersin Dandan Shao Janet Hanson Elizabeth Powell Phillip Powell Camilla Gunn Rachele Rugiero Gemma Kovaloff Elizabeth Ryan Vincent Murray</p>
<p>28 Mar 2016</p> <p>Jamison Valley</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>A great day following the ropeway across the valley.</p>	<p><b>Angela Barton</b></p> <p>Mike Barton Anthea Michaelis Thuy Ho</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Winnie Chui</p> <p><i>Visitor</i></p> <p>Peter Blayney Mick Hord</p>
<p>31 Mar 2016</p> <p>Cowan to Brooklyn</p> <p>Ku-ring-gai Chase NP</p> <p>A good turnout for this mid-week walk was rewarded with a spectacular early autumn sunny day. A steady pace was maintained throughout allowing for an earlier than expected finish topped off with a few beverages at the Anglers Rest Hotel.</p>	<p><b>Robert Carter</b></p> <p>Don Andrews Anthea Michaelis Jade Chang John Kennett Roger Browne John Michaelis</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Erin Harris Bruce Worthington</p>
<p>31 Mar 2016</p> <p>Belrose &amp; Garigal NP</p> <p>Garigal NP</p> <p>Only 3 of us for tonight's walk despite the perfect weather. This walk was a combination of firetrail and single track with a quick visit to an aboriginal cultural site thrown in. Much was exploratory for the leader. A very pleasant evening.</p>	<p><b>Genevieve Savill</b></p> <p>Jose Correa</p> <p><i>P Member</i></p> <p>Peter Kunda</p>



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