



Photo by Peter Cai - Grose Valley double yoyo

In this issue...

From the President.....1	Two walks on the North Side.....5
SBW Mid-Week Walking Activities.....2	Walks and Activities Report.....7
The neglected Nattai?.....3	Social Program.....16

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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.

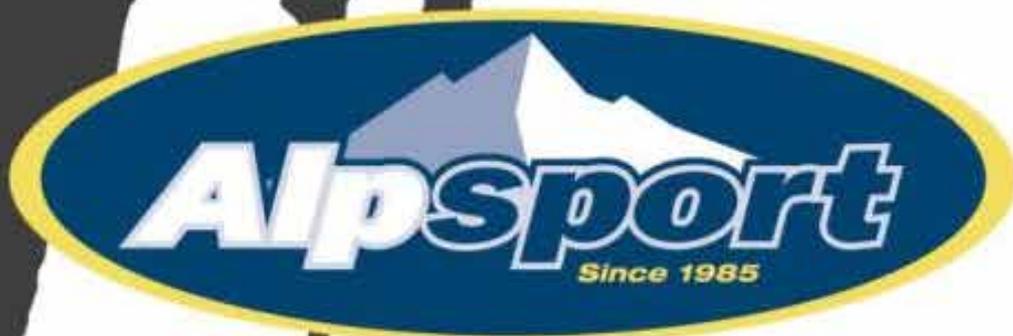


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From the President

John Flint

Next year will be SBW's 90th year, the committee would like to get some enthusiastic club members to get together to plan and coordinate some events to commemorate this milestone. The committee itself would of course be involved but we are looking for interested parties to help out.

Some ideas so far are a series of historical walks to be undertaken, and a booklet of favourite walks. Perhaps one from each year of the clubs existence taken from the clubs program and magazine which are online at Tom Brennan's magazine digitisation site <http://sbw.ozultimate.com/wiki/magazines>.

We had a terrific and well attended presentation and talk at the monthly club social night on Balls Pyramid given by Jim Smith and Keith Bell. If you missed out on the night you might be interested in their book which you can find out about at <http://www.ballspyramidbook.com>.

On committee business, we have had two new members joining the committee this month. It is great to see Don Finch and Glenn Draper making a return. Don has been appointed as Vice President and Glenn as club secretary. All the committee are very pleased to have the extra assistance and experience on board.

There have been some warm days lately so summer is just around the corner. The call has been out for walks for the summer program. I hope to see some cool river walks and lilo trips. Coastal walks are always popular as are the national parks around Sydney with their moderate climbs. If you are thinking of leading a walk, don't wait to the last moment, so submit your walk ideas at <http://sbw.org.au/Walk-Submission>.



Photo by Tom Brennan, Red Rocks sunset. ozultimate.com

New members

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

Matthew Dickerson
Allie Fenton
Liping Pei

Darren Lyons
Fionnuala Baynes
Dan Dan Shao

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.

In August we had a successful "Days in the Illawarra". Eight of us attended and we walked each morning and returned home for a quiet hour or two before happy hour. We visited local areas including Shell Cove Lakes and Farm Beach, Cathedral Rock, Bombo Head, Macquarie Rainforest, Illawarra Fly, Historic Aircraft Restoration Museum and Nan Tien Temple.

The next activity is four days (three nights) at Erowal Bay in October. We still have a couple of vacancies so please let me know ASAP if you can us – full details are shown below.

Now just a reminder about the rest of the year.

- Erowal Bay in October. We can still fit a couple of people
- Dunns Swamp in November. A good attendance is assured
- Yerranderie in December
- Myall Lakes in April (Cutlers Cottage)

Here are details of Coming events:

Erowal Bay (17th – 21st October)

This is a return visit for us. Erowal Bay is a sleepy little town situated on the banks of St Georges Basin. It is ideally situated for day trips to Booderee National Park or the pristine beaches of Jervis Bay. Popular activities include swimming, bird watching, fishing and bushwalking.

The house is on the waterfront. It is roomy and has an attached boathouse and jetty – ideal for swimming and kayaking!

Likely cost will be about \$120 per person covering three nights. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Dunns Swamp: Mon 7th – 11th November: (Note: date change!)



Dunns Swamp is near Rylstone and is very popular for camping and bushwalking. It boasts one of the cleanest waterways in NSW, making it great for a swim or paddle. Basic facilities for campfires and toilets are available in the camping reserve. There are many walking tracks and large rock formations that offer spectacular views of the river and surrounding bush.

We will camp next to our cars hopefully at Kookaburra Beach with close access to the water. Being mid-week we will avoid the weekend crowds. The weather at this time of the year should be warm and very suitable for water activities.

Yerranderie 6th – 8th December



Leigh McClintoch has organised some days at Yerranderie (6th – 8th December) and would like some of us to join him. "I have booked Slippery Norris Cottage, just so we can say we have something, should anyone be interested. I have in mind going up at a sensible time on the 6th, and doing three easy walks over the next three days".

Please let Leigh know if you are interested!



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

The neglected Nattai?

17-18 Oct: Rachel Grindlay. Photos by Rachel and Jon Bell



The Nattai National Park often seems like the poor cousin of the Blue Mountains or Kanangra-Boyd NPs. Walks in the Nattai used to appear more frequently on the SBW program in earlier years – former president Ron Watters being one of the leaders who often led walks there.

In recent years walks have appeared less often and the area has fallen somewhat out of favour. I was definitely one who was guilty of not really knowing where the Nattai was and dismissing it as being “too far away” if I saw walks on the program. But after doing a fair bit of walking in the Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd and Wollemi National Parks I was looking for new areas to explore and the Nattai came onto my radar.

Located in the Southern Highlands, its northern border is the Wollondilly arm of Lake Burragorang, and on the west it abuts the southern (Colong sector) of the Blue Mountains NP. Like the more northern parts of the Blueies, the valleys are flanked by sandstone cliffs, the tops of which tower up to 600m above the valley floor. The easiest access is through the town of Hill Top, about one and a half hours drive from Sydney down the M5 – about the same travel time as Katoomba!

Saturday’s walk was hopefully going to be relatively straightforward day - heading down Starlights Track to Emmetts Flat, returning the same way before heading out to Ahearn Lookout in the afternoon. The point of interest was trying to find a short cut from Starlights Track to the Ahearn Lookout plateau to convert the walk into a loop of sorts. Scouring information on bushwalk.com I found some notes from “Gandolph” for a pass doing exactly that. It’s always a bit nerve-wracking when you’re using notes you’ve found on the internet that say things like “There is one tricky sloping rock which some people may need a tape assist”, not knowing whether the author is a gun climber or a mere-

mortal bushwalker.

Starlights Track was in good condition and we made it down to the Nattai River in good time. The camping area at the bottom of Starlights Track was beautiful - the leader ruing not being able to camp there... but we were only two hours into the walk so not time for setting up camp!

The Nattai River had obviously seen some fairly powerful flooding with fallen trees and debris disbursed along the edges of the river bed. We visited Emmetts Flat and observed the remains of Emmett the Hermit’s hut.

Retracing our steps we headed about half way (vertically) up Starlights Track. The party had been warned a sense of adventure was required and so we found what we thought was the most likely spot for the pass and headed off track up the hill. The pass was well marked with cairns and everyone made it easily up to the plateau. One mildly exposed ledge and a short easy scramble was as adventurous as it got - but a great way to turn the walk into more of a circuit.



The forecast was for a westerly picking up in the afternoon so we elected to have lunch in the somewhat sheltered northern side just below the top of the plateau. It was strange to be seeing cliffs so similar to those in the Grose or Jamison valleys yet not the familiar landmarks that I was used to.

After lunch we enjoyed more expansive views from the cliff edges on the way to Ahearn Lookout. The blustery wind and grey clouds overhead, combined with the blackened burnt vegetation at the lookout made for a brooding atmosphere. After much photo taking we returned along the ridge eventually rejoining the fire trail we had left much earlier in the day. The rest of the party headed on their various ways while Tom & I enjoyed some afternoon tea at the Hill Top bakery (open 4am-8pm on the weekends!).

Despite there being quite a lot of National Parks in the area there aren't any official car camping spots nearby. Yerranderie – about 5 hours drive away – was suggested by the NPWS website as the closest option! We ended up just camping off the side of Wattle Ridge Road – I would've been tempted to walk back in to the bottom of Starlights Trail if I didn't have to be in Thirlmere Lakes National Park for 8:30am the next morning!

Sunday's walk was a mix of two very different styles

of walking; easy fire trail contrasted with steep, off track scrambling. The day started with us cruising past beautiful stands of blue gums down the Blue Gum Creek (W11) fire trail to Little River. We spotted a couple of red-belly black snakes, one only noticed after the leader had kicked it!

Tom had planned to only come a short way before returning to the cars and heading home. However, a bit of peer pressure kept him with us, first to

Little River, after he announced he was turning back



before then, and subsequently for the whole day, after the last section to Little River stopped being flat easy walking!

Like the Nattai River the previous day, Little River had seen plenty of flooding in recent months. The concrete causeway at the Blue Gum Creek junction was strewn in pieces all over the place. It was a peaceful spot for morning tea before the real excitement of the day - climbing 300m to Sharp Peak.

The climb to Sharp Peak was steep, scrubby scrambling most of the way - as promised in my trip description! It was great to have a party where everyone pitched in on the route-finding. Jon lost his phone (camera/GPS) part way up and was lucky to be able to retrace his steps and find it in the middle of the scrub. Some of his photos accompany this article.

The narrow rocky causeway between Sharp Peak and Buckland Walls on the main ridge was impressive and there was some exposed scrambling and route-finding to attain the ridge top. We were rewarded with a top spot for lunch with wonderful views over the Little River and Blue Gum Creek valleys. Back to some easy fire trail walking before plunging into the bush again to descend back to the W11 fire trail. The scrub and descent went pretty smoothly and it wasn't long before we were back at the cars.

An excellent weekend of exploration in an area that was new for all the participants over the weekend.



Two walks on the North Side

Roger Treagus

West Pittwater Walk – 31 July

This walk explored the southern section of the unofficially named Pittwater Track which runs from West Head to Elvina Bay which is the full length of Pittwater's western shore. Nineteen of us started at Bonnie Doon Wharf taking the ferry from Palm Beach on a lovely sunny winter's day. What a great way to start a walk, with a ferry ride across this beautiful waterway.

From Bonnie Doon the track climbs steadily through a casuarina forest and joins up with the Bairne trail on top. From here we walked along the trail to the most magnificent lookout on the entire track with views southward over all of southern Pittwater and the Bahaï temple and even the city in the distance. This was our morning tea spot, time to soak in the view on this high rock platform.



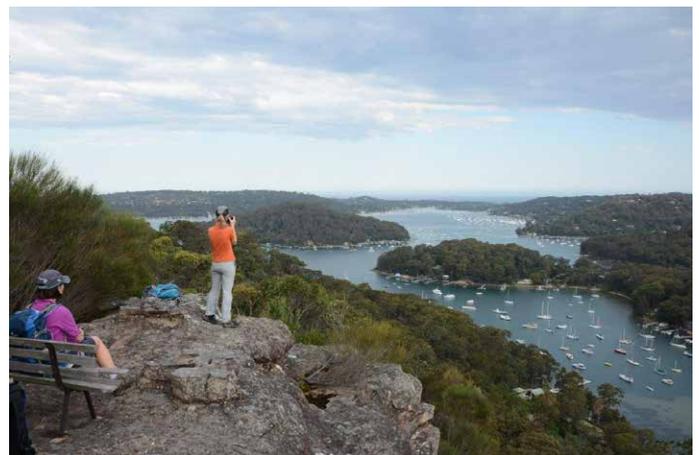
From here the track continues down the side of Long Nose Point through a lovely cave to arrive at the site of the old Youth Hostel. Low tide coincided with our walk around the rocky Towlers Bay shoreline to a point where we could wade across the bay in a bit more than knee deep water. Little blue crabs are often seen here marching in big groups but today few appeared, perhaps because we were in winter when they may not be so active.

The track here goes right past the old government resort where Macquarie Street politicians used to come for time out. The building is now a derelict shell but still government property. The Towlers track follows the shoreline east and branches to Pittwater's

current youth hostel. Michael, the hostel's manager treated us to glasses of lemon squash and did a short presentation on the hostel's history and its current attractions, which are many. The hostel is accessible by ferry only so guests need to be self reliant but what a peaceful place to come for cheap accommodation.

A foot pad off the Towlers fire trail took us to Flagstaff Lookout and a memorable view of the Western Bays and the southern shore with Salvation Creek right below us. The old 130year old graded track took us into palm jungle, the Salvation Creek crossing and on to the waterfall, like a mini Blue Mountains where fruit cake was offered. Then a final push to Elvina Bay wharf and the end of the track with ferry connections and a water taxi back to the world of cars and roads.

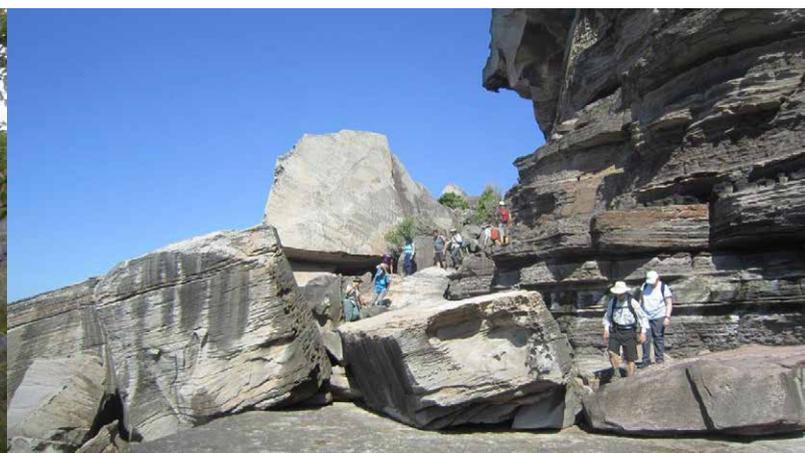
A great day in a special part of Sydney.



World Tour of Avalon – 11 September

When I moved to this suburb in 2002 I was intrigued by the way the suburb was subdivided, with many public paths between private property, big patches of native bush and two shorelines, one facing the Pacific and the other facing Pittwater. Lots of trees and views from the hills. I could see that a fairly decent bushwalk could be designed by joining up all these bits. And so the World Tour of Avalon was born.

I've run the walk many times and each time it



seems a little different. So it was on this occasion, the 6th running of this walk. I had 20 people so its popularity has not waned over the years. We had great weather and a low tide with flat seas. This latter fact was important as we had a low tide rock hop around the headland north of Avalon Beach to start with.

The first stop was St Michael's Cave, a dark place fenced off by the council many years ago. It was formed by a local volcanic basalt dyke eroding much faster than the surrounding sandstone. More rock hopping brought us to a lovely grassy knoll above the cliff line and a morning tea break. The track then led up to Bangalley Head, the highest piece of coastal headland between Sydney Harbour and Broken Bay. The SBW emblem, the flannel flower was in great display up on top. Views extended north in a great sweep from Mt Wondabyne to Cape three Points and a very rugged coastline to Barrenjoey.



We then went onto a much less used track that often occupied a ridge only a meter or so wide between a steep sloping forest and a 150m vertical cliff and heading north towards a residential area, eventually coming out on the back yard of a house. Like many houses bordering the bush the garden and lawn area extended beyond the property boundary and so sticking to the garden margins had us remaining on public land till we hit the driveway and the private road serving a cluster of ridge hugging houses with fantastic views of Whale Beach.

A right of way saw us descending to Careel Bay

and the boardwalk through the biggest stand of mangroves on Pittwater. Lunch was at the retro 1950s style marina on Careel Bay sporting a coffee shop. They say if you are more than 100 metres from a coffee machine you are not in Avalon. Perhaps this is a slight exaggeration but the satirical film "Avalon Now" has a lot of truth in it. (See it on Youtube, it explored the shocking cultural dilemmas people face in living here, like what wine to have with lunch or what country to ski in for the next snow season).

Considering Avalon's social problems over lunch it was only appropriate that we visit the bat colony. This consisted of about 200 of the furry noisy smelly critters hanging on mostly denuded trees at the end of Cannes Drive. The council tried to get rid of them by lopping off some of the trees. Some bats took the hint and left but many stayed.

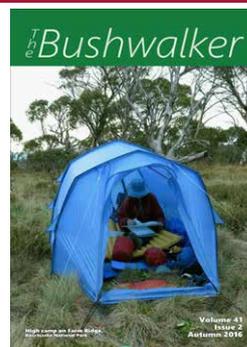
We ascended to one of Avalon's three big reserves, in this case Stapylton Reserve where the koala population had its last stand back in the late 1980s before becoming locally extinct. The reason appeared to be grossly bad planning by council in approving a development that reduced their habitat area to a size that was not sustainable. The council still live in hope as road signs still appear in the area warning motorists to slow down for koalas. A track led down from the Stapylton plateau through palm jungle to a patch of suburbia before entering the last great bush area Angophora Reserve where the world's biggest Angophora Costata grew but it is now but a gigantic stump having died many years ago. I had told the group it was still alive but had to retract when I realised that the giant living trees on the track were in fact spotted gums.

We reached the ridgeline above Clareville Beach but as time was running out we skipped the walk down to Clareville Beach and headed back to Avalon Village where the walk began. We had done a big anticlockwise circuit and seen the suburb from the inside. The laid back beachy lifestyle seems to fit very well amongst the spotted gums, the bandicoots and the designer dogs. A bushwalk with a difference.

Have you seen the latest Colong Foundation Bulletin?

THE COLONG BULLETIN

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



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

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

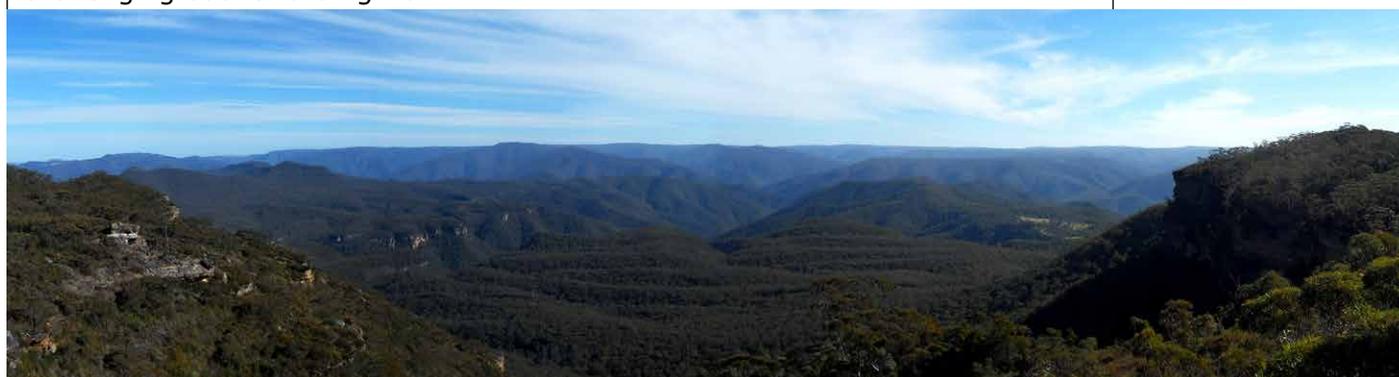
Walks and Activities Report

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

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.

<p>31 Jul 2016</p> <p>West Pittwater Walk – July 31 2016</p> <p>Joint walk with NPA</p> <p>See article above.</p>	<p>Western Pittwater</p>	<p>Ku-ring-gai Chase NP</p>	<p>Roger Treagus</p> <p>Rosemary McDougall Jenny Stephens Misako Sugiyama Nigel Wingate Susan Healey Lucy Moore Jan McLean Leigh McLintock</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Susan Winterton Derynthia Boyd Judith Brain</p> <p><i>Visitors (NPA)</i></p> <p>Eija Roti Kaye Birch Michele Smithson Marie Lorenceau Carol Henderson Denise Hooper George Hooper</p>
<p>3 Sep 2016</p> <p>Due to high river levels the k2k was postponed. This walk was meant to provide support for k2k participants but we completed the walk regardless. Strong, cold NW winds and grey skies made it a challenging day with the threat of hypothermia a reality. The party members completed the walk with admirable determination. Their efforts were rewarded with the wonderful scenery along the ledges of Dunphys and Harmil ledges. The entry gully to Dunphys Pass from above is becoming overgrown. The access onto Harmil Ledge from below Glenraphael Head is always a challenging scramble for non-climbers but Pam skilfully showed us the way. Thanks to participants for their good company on a challenging but rewarding walk.</p>	<p>Harmil Ledge and Dunphys Pass</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Paul Barton</p> <p>Angela Barton Mike Barton Pamela Campbell</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Matthew Dickerson Vignesh Manimuthu</p>



3 Sep 2016

Crane Ridge

McPherson State Forest

John Kennett

The weather, as is so often the case, was much better than the gloomy forecast that prompted a few to cancel. A nice Spring day. Many Spring flowers and two aboriginal art sites. Some remnants of 19th century logging. Pleasant walking along rolling ridges punctuated by some real huff and puff, two climbs twice traversing the Kyola creek valley. Unfortunately, approaching from below, the Kangaroo Art Gallery eluded us - it was somewhere in a maze of sandstone. We will have to come again from a different direction.

Margot Bull
Owen Kimberley
Michelle Powell
Robert Carter
Lin Kennett
Ewa Borowiec
Dave Harter
Richard Brading
Karen Brading

P Members

Renee Neely



SYDNEY BUSH WALKERS CLUB

**MID WEEK
STAIR TRAINING**

Contact Paul Barton
(see Activities Program)

5 - 9 Sep 2016

Hilltop to Katoomba

Nattai NP

Robert Carter

This walk had been planned for around 5 years and intended to follow an alternative and much harder route than the standard Mittagong to Katoomba route known as the Ensign Barralier Trail. Our intended route was from Wattle Ridge Rd at Hilltop – Vineyard Flat on the Nattai River – Beloon Pass – Wollondilly River – Jooriland River – Yerranderie – Mt Colong (Side trip) – Mt Armour – Kowmung River – Sullen Tor/Cabbage Spire – Bullhead Range – Kanangra Walls – Mt Cloudmaker – Coxs River – Yellow Pup – Medlow Gap – Katoomba.

Kelvin Russell
Glenn Draper
Angela Beveridge
Genevieve Savill
Mark Wigley
Geoff Bishop
Grace Love

Our first day saw the group travel to Mittagong Station where we transferred to Wattle Ridge for the commencement of our walk initially on fire trail to the Nattai River at Vineyard Flat for our first camp. Upon arrival at the Nattai the degree of devastation due to recent flooding was significant and vindicated the option to avoid the river track from Emmetts Flat – hundreds of trees down and debris hanging in trees some 4-5m above the now very eroded bank.

Day 2 commenced early with a very steep and scrubby ascent of Travis Gully to Beloon Pass where the group became split however were successful in finding two new routes up side creeks and along the escarpment to the pass! Initial views of the Wollondilly were not encouraging and following a very steep and sometimes exposed descent down through the bushwalkers corridor. River levels were on the decline during the week prior to leaving however upon arriving at the Wollondilly River the water levels were too high and flow too strong for the group to cross with any degree of safety and unfortunately we had to turn back!

Day 3 saw us retrace our steps back up to Beloon Pass – steep but relatively open ascent from the western side – and down to Vineyard Flat before continuing to an alternative campsite that we named 'Dead Wombat Flat' for obvious reasons. During our lunch break at Vineyard Flat we were joined by a large Goanna and saw a Red Bellied Back Snake a bit further along.

Day 4 we modified the walk and headed back up to Wattle Ridge and down the now disused Troys Creek trail to Emmetts Flat on the Nattai. This is a fantastic campsite however the river had again been devastated by flood waters and most of the track heading upstream had been washed away. Our camp was shared with a resident Wombat who chomped away merrily as we settled in for the evening.

Day 5 we headed back to Wattle Ridge via Starlights Track and called a Maxi-taxi to transfer back to Mittagong for a pub lunch before heading home.

Unfortunately we did not meet our objective of walking through to Katoomba however still managed to have a really good time salvaging what we could out of the walk and providing the guys with a brief introduction to the Nattai area. I still intend to complete this walk and will place back on the program in 2017!



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>9 - 11 Sep 2016</p> <p>The trip was slightly modified due to concerns over the weather, including staying in a camping cave on Saturday night. Fantastic views of the Budawangs rewarded the party at numerous locations and was enjoyed by all.</p>	<p>Budawangs</p>	<p>Morton NP</p>	<p>David Carmichael</p> <p>Daryl Watson Mel Ardern Rasmus Altenkamp Srin Rangoswanadh</p> <p><i>Visitors</i></p> <p>David Sweeting Amie Sweeting</p>																				
																							
<p>10 Sep 2016</p>	<p>Around Minotaur Lair</p>	<p>Wollemi NP</p>	<p>Yuri Bolotin</p> <p>Joan Chan</p> <p><i>Visitor</i></p> <p>Mark Bolotin</p>																				
<p>10 Sep 2016</p> <p>Lovely day with clear blue sky for this circuit walk. Completed happily with no issues to report. GPS readings challenged leader's published length and climbing figures. Frances' final GPS showed 20.5 km v 19.0 km published, and 1120 m up/down v 700 published, the latter being over and above the effect of 'undulations' on the cliff top and valley floor sections.</p>	<p>Govetts Creek Circuit</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Huw ap Rees</p> <p>Paul Notholt Barbara Laborczfalvi Patricia Huang Frances Bottrell</p>																				
<p>10 Sep 2016</p> <p>Centennial Park - Basic Skills Workshop</p> <p>Basic navigation, bush craft and first aid skills required for Prospective Members seeking to advance to Full Member status.</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Fionnuala Baynes</td> <td>Nigel Butler</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sebastian Brunsdon</td> <td>Antony Campbell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brendon Bussey</td> <td>Daniel Cater</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rita Bussey</td> <td>Joyce Choucair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michael Dunne</td> <td>Emma Doherty</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allie Fenton</td> <td>Bruce Donnelley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Fitzgerald</td> <td>Andrew Duncanson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Catherine Fu</td> <td>Erin Harris</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Sarah Homewood</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>David</td> </tr> </table>			Fionnuala Baynes	Nigel Butler	Sebastian Brunsdon	Antony Campbell	Brendon Bussey	Daniel Cater	Rita Bussey	Joyce Choucair	Michael Dunne	Emma Doherty	Allie Fenton	Bruce Donnelley	John Fitzgerald	Andrew Duncanson	Catherine Fu	Erin Harris		Sarah Homewood		David	<p>Ian Thorpe</p> <p>Alex Allchin Sierra Classen</p> <p>Jim Close Glenn Draper Minfeng Gu Thuy Ho John Kennett Lin Kennett Nicole Mealing Lisa Sheldon Ian Thorpe David Trinder</p>
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<p>10 Sep 2016</p> <p>See article above.</p>	<p>Starlights Circuit</p>	<p>Nattai NP</p>	<p>Rachel Grindlay</p> <p>Michelle Rose Petros Nikoloudis Wayne Gardner Tom Brennan</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Emily Deck Clare Williams</p>																				

<p>10 - 11 Sep 2016 Rocky Creek Passes & Wolgan Cliffs Wollemi NP</p> <p>An excellent weekend of bushwalking, the highlight being our high camp on a narrow rocky promontory above 200m cliffs, overlooking the Rocky Creek-Wolgan River junction. Four different passes provided excitement into/out-of Rocky Creek, 3 are spectacular, but probably recommended in the opposite direction. The Surefire Heart Attack pass is as it sounds! Simon led a grade ~14 corner/off-width, then Rich led an R-rated feet-to-back chimney stem, 2 x 20m rope required to abseil/hand-over-hand. The only disappointment of the trip was not finding any indigenous art. The Wolgan is a place of big cliffs and big weekends!</p>	<p>Richard Pattison</p> <p>Melissa Thomas Simon Hager</p>
<p>10 - 11 Sep 2016 Around Jamison Valley via Mt Solitary Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>Only one inquiry for this walk. Despite forecast rain on Saturday morning had a dry day. Had the Leura sewerage works road (Sublime Point Trail) to myself with the exception of a black hooded snake in strike mode (probably a brown or tiger coloured to match the black fire burnt ground) which gave way still in strike position. Reached Kedumba farm (campground) with the grass cropped to the ground by roos wallabies and wombat around 2pm. Continued and picked up water on the east side of Mt Solitary and camped in the campsite just below the steep climb to the Col. Visited by 3 black red tailed cockatoos before leaving camp. Across Mt Populated (Solitary) by 10.30am and caught the 2.30pm train at Katoomba.</p>	<p>Stephen Brading</p>
<p>10 - 11 Sep 2016 Wild Dogs o/n Blue Mountains NP</p> <p>Good spring camping weather, and plenty of water in all creeks. No dramas</p>	<p>Tim Sutherland</p> <p>Jo Daly Owen Kimberley Michele Powell Kerry Atkins Skye O'donnell Stephen Dolphin</p> <p><i>P Member</i></p> <p>Greg Cave</p>
<p>11 Sep 2016 World Tour of Avalon Avalon</p> <p>World Tour of Avalon – Sunday 11 September See article above.</p>	<p>Roger Treagus</p> <p>Barbara Gray Rosemany MacDougal Nigel Wingate Linda Mallett John Pozniak Susan Winterton Pamela Irving Jan McLean Viviana Sepulvepa Rachele Rugiero</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>John Fitzgerald Chris Kavanagh Dan Dan Shao Monika Boehm Robert Betos</p> <p><i>Visitors</i></p> <p>Kohar Sakaian Sonja Pris Ronald Gurnall Sarah Rish Helen Z</p>



<p>11 Sep 2016</p> <p>See article above. Photos by Jon Bell.</p>	<p>Couridjah Corridor & Sharp Peak</p>	<p>Nattai NP</p>	<p>Rachel Grindlay</p> <p>Jon Bell Peter Marshall Bill Raffle Tom Brennan</p>
			<p>Paul Barton</p> <p>Andrew Quartermaine Gilda Floyd Scott Lee Geoff Goodyer</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Jenny Lian Winnie Chui George Cagel</p> <p><i>Visitor</i></p> <p>Carol Writer</p>
<p>11 Sep 2016</p>	<p>Deans Creek</p>	<p>Wollemi NP</p>	<p>Recent rain made the fire trails into Deans Ck wet and slippery. As I didn't organise enough 4WD vehicles to provide transport, I decided to alter the route.</p> <p>We were treated to a beautiful, still and sunny spring day. The party accepted my poor organisation with good spirits and everyone enjoyed the magnificent scenery from Rigby Hill and Mt Banks. The off track walking over Mt Banks was testing for the prospectives who trusted in the leader's navigation skills even though I didn't have a map (another rookie error). We safely negotiated our way along the Mt Banks Ridge and past a significant cliff line on southern slopes of Mt Banks. The scrub in this area was very thick. Overall a very enjoyable day out.</p>
<p>12 - 15 Sep 2016</p>	<p>Mt Yengo NP</p>	<p>Mt Yengo NP</p>	<p>Lisa McCarthy & Mark Dabbs</p> <p>Kevin Williams Lynn Dabbs</p>
			<p>A scenic drive through St Albans had us at Burrigurra, an Aboriginal site where we spent time viewing the many engravings in this interesting area. The next day we visited Finchley Lookout, and also viewed the numerous Aboriginal engravings in that area. We proceeded into the Old Yango homestead, where we set up camp and climbed Mt Yengo in the afternoon. As there is mobile service from the summit, a phone call rec'd had us cutting our stay short and returning to Sydney the following day, still along the planned route of Howes Trail and the Putty Road.</p>
<p>14 Sep 2016</p>	<p>Granny Lewis Farm</p>	<p>Marra Marra NP</p>	<p>John Kennett</p> <p>Robert Carter Owen Kimberley Michelle Powell Dave Hartner</p> <p><i>P Member</i></p> <p>Irine Kay</p>
<p>Once again the weather bureau was wrong - sunny and dry, not the predicted rain and thunder storms. Honestly, how can they get it so wrong so often? Nice walk along Smugglers ridge with a pretty descent to Marra Marra creek. Opinion was divided over whether the hour spent hacking upstream through the bush to the Heron Cave was worth it - I thought it was good but everyone else thought otherwise. Strolled past the tiny farms that convict era people occupied, before a solid work out with a brisk walk and a good climb back to the cars.</p>			

<p>17 Sep 2016</p> <p>The Grand Canyon and the Grose Valley are always very popular areas to walk in and this walk proved to be the case again. A large group made of old and new members turned up on a great winter day. In the morning the sun streaming in to the Grand Canyon provided a wonderful backdrop to the waterfalls. The rest of the walk proceeded as planned, albeit under grey skies, and everyone returned safe and happy to our original starting point around 4:30pm.</p>	<p>Grose Valley Circuit</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Bruno De Villenoisy</p> <p>Frances Botrell Alexa Bullen Jose Correa Chris Dowling Glenn Draper Melanie Freer Wayne Gardner Sue Hailstone Kathy Hui Purusartha Karki Karen Kool Skye O'Donnell Petros Nikoloudis Huw App Rees John Robb Michelle Rose</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Liam Collins Sarah Homewood Vignesh Manimuthu Denise Woodcock</p>
<p>17 - 18 Sep 2016</p> <p>A fantastic weekend of bushwalking along a spectacular ridge system and an exhilarating ascent of the sacred Mother Woila, climbing the east face route, and descending the north face chimney. Water was an issue, only 2 small murky pools in the usually reliable creek. We made good progress both days with an hour of daylight spare.</p>	<p>Woila Circuit</p>	<p>Deua NP</p>	<p>Richard Pattison</p> <p>Melissa Thomas Andrew Smith Toni Bachvarova</p>



Blue Dot Travel

Exotic Silk Road – Four ‘Stans

Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara; Oxus River; Tien Shan and Pamir Mountains. For most of my life these Silk Road way-stops and landmarks were the very essence of unattainable exotica. They sounded wonderful, but I never dreamed that I might one day be able to see for myself.

Well, things have changed, and I will get there after all, courtesy of Blue Dot Travel. The company has scheduled two trips to “The Stans” (Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan) in 2017, and I will be the host on the second of them, in May. I would be delighted if any SBW members joined me.

You can read all about the tour on <http://www.bluedottravel.com.au/destinations>. If you'd like to come, mention my name and receive a small reward.

Leigh McClintock

<p>17 - 18 Sep 2016</p> <p>A most enjoyable walk. Beautiful Spring weather on Saturday. Atmospheric grey skies on Sunday morning turning to rain after we had returned to the cars.</p>	<p>Kedumba Valley</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Owen Kimberley</p> <p>Michele Powell Carol Desain Wil Desain Brad Russ Margot Bull</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Greg Cave Helen Zimmerman</p>
<p>18 Sep 2016</p> <p>This is another one of my favourite routes (also called Grose Valley Double Yoyo) I walk about 5 times each year for exercise, with 2 climbs (640 meters from Grose River to Perrys Lookdown campground and 570 meters from Grose River to Du Faur Head) and one river crossing. Grose Valley always looks very different in different seasons and climates. After posting short notice activity, I received seventeen responses including four prospective members, eight full members and five visitors from another club, which exceeded the limit of sixteen I expected. All visitors dropped one day or last minutes due to family or personal health reasons. Twelve of us made a good party. One member did not join us at the beginning due to unexpected on call from BWRS, but came part of course later on. It was showers in the morning and fogs over Grose Valley. We started walk at 9:00 AM (at Lockley Pylon Trackhead off Mt Hay Road), along Lockley track, Mt Stead, Du Faur Head, Du Faur Buttress, arrived Grose river at 10:40AM, crossed river over tree, and had 10 minutes morning tea in Blue Gum Tree, and then climbed to Perrys Lookdown campground. It was so lucky we had great chance of taking photos before morning tea. We arrived at Perry Lookdown between 12:45 and 13:10 PM. We had 30 minutes for lunch before heavy rain started. It was cooler and raining in the afternoon. Some of us got wet although wearing waterproof (Gore-Tex) jacket, so all of us just tried to walk as quickly as possible and have less stops. We did not stop over Pylon and walk straight to car park at Mt Hay Road by 16:20 PM (We only completed over 18.9 KM rather than 20 KM proposed due to some shortcuts). We rewarded ourselves with beers and wood fire at the Alex Hotel in Leura. Four prospective members completed "Q" walk very well. Thanks all of you for great accompany.</p>	<p>Grose Valley Double Yoyo</p>	<p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Peter Cai</p> <p>Mark Willey Viriginia Waller Bruno De Villenoisy Caro Ryan John Currie Andrew Vilder Glenn Draper</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Darren Lyons Fionnuala Baynes Sophie Petersen Alex Alperovich</p>
			<p>Pam Campbell</p> <p>Vincent Murray Tim Yewdall Diana Porta Jaimey Foti Rob McIlwaine</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Baz Szomi Ashleigh Prest</p>
<p>18 Sep 2016</p> <p>Very pleasant walk. Prospective members and members walked the same pace and handled ridge climbing and river rock hopping and river crossing well. I would like to make it a Q walk due to the distance and obstacles (rocks, off track section, and length - 22kms). We saw waratahs and gynea lilies, 2 yellow blacktailed cockatoos and a very friendly kangaroo. It rained later in the day as we were on The Cliff Track. The two prospectives had no trouble finishing the uphill bits towards the end and had good stamina throughout the whole walk.</p>	<p>Waterfall to Otford in RNP</p>	<p>Royal National Park</p>	

<p>20 Sep 2016</p> <p>A spectacular day for this well attended mid-week walk with some new faces! Unfortunately the start of the walk was delayed with some challenging logistics following the overhead cables being brought down by an errant train at Mt Kuring-gai and the utter confusion at Hornsby Station as rail buses were rallied.</p> <p>The wild flowers were a picture throughout with John Kennett providing his growing expertise in providing names for most. A visit to a normally prolific rock orchid site was met with disappointment as the Wallabies had got there first and eaten the blooming pods. Despite this the waratah display between Berowra Waters and Berowra was fantastic as usual with the flaming red flowers providing plenty of ooh's and aagh's.</p> <p>A small Yellow Faced Whip Snake beside the track created a little excitement however scurried away pretty quickly.</p> <p>Congratulations to Miriam Scarr and Sara Jacenuik on completing their first walk with SBW!</p>	<p>Cowan to Berowra</p>	<p>Ku-ring-gai Chase NP</p>	<p>Robert Carter</p> <p>John Kennett Gordon Jagger</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Robert Betos Viviana Seulveda Flores Miriam Scarr Sam Palfreyman Sara Jacenuik</p> <p><i>Visitor</i></p> <p>Warren Southey</p>
			
<p>21 Sep 2016</p> <p>Splendid day, challenging climbs and descents weaving our way through cliff lines, views of Mt Yengo, wonderful cave with a rich history, a hundred waratahs, prolific wildflowers, good company. Beer at St Albans pub was welcome.</p> <p>Just where is that overgrown bridle trail leading up to Womerah Ridge? Will have to go again.</p>	<p>Jurds Cave</p>	<p>Yengo NP</p>	<p>John Kennett</p> <p>Robert Carter Mark Wigley</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>John Millard Alex Alperovich</p>
<p>22 Sep 2016</p> <p>The walk advertised on the program was the classic circuit around Lane Cove River following the GNW to De Burghs bridge and back on the other side of the river. As the section of the GNW track between Fiddens Wharf Oval and Terrace Ave is still closed following the floods a few months ago, I decided to do something different. The new route included Ferndale Park, Swaines Creek and Stringbark Reserve. There were a few wrong turns taken along the way (I hadn't walked these tracks in years) but the group was very patient as we either back-tracked or circuted around roads to get back on track. Nice to see a good turnout of new(ish) prospectives and congratulations to Maria for completing her first walk with the Club.</p>	<p>Lane Cove River</p>	<p>Lane Cove NP</p>	<p>Genevieve Savill</p> <p>Angela Beveridge Philip Worledge Susan Healey Jose Correa</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Viviana Sepulveda Flores Sue Baar Brendan Fletcher Keith Lamb Maria Viveiros</p>
<p>23 Sep 2016</p>	<p>Capertee Creek to Mt Dawson</p>	<p>Wollemi NP</p>	<p>Yuri bolotin</p> <p>David Harter</p>

24 Sep 2016	The Northern Valleys	Ben Bullen SF	<p>Yuri Bolotin</p> <p>Ian Thorpe Roslyn Thorpe Damon de Costa</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Emily Deck Samuel Huet Nathan Williams</p> <p><i>Visitors</i></p> <p>Jenny Pollak Hanjin Rhee</p>
24 Sep 2016	Narrowneck amd Wild Dogs	Blue Mountains NP	<p>Huw ap Rees</p> <p>Neil Soutar France Bottrell Mark Wigley Angela Beveridge Mary Liu Sandra See</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Gavin Judd Greg Cave</p>

Social Program

Wed 16 November - Bibbulmun Track - WA. Robert Carter will talk about a recent Bibbulmun Track adventure walking 1000km in 52 days through south-west Western Australia.

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

Why not join other club members for dinner at "The Pizzeria Rio", a cheap pizza place that is next door to the Kirribilli Neighbourhood centre in Fitzroy Street. Club members assemble there from 6.00pm on.

24 - 25 Sep 2016
Valley Regional Park

Thornleigh to Cowan Ku-ring-gai Chase NP, Berowra

Robert Carter

This was an experimental walk to provide a Q-walk option for Prospective Members which was close to Sydney and accessible at both ends by train however the attendance was a little disappointing with a number of drop-outs in the days leading up to our walk. Despite this we did have good fun with both Dan Dan and Robert gaining some new experiences in overnight walking, gear and food options.

Our first day walking was fairly warm however rich in wildlife for this part of the world with two Swamp Wallabies, an Echidna and small Whip Snake sighted. A bit of rain overnight brought out a few leeches on Sunday however didn't really dampen our spirits as it abated as we commenced our second day's walk.

Congratulations to Dan Dan and Robert Betos on completing their overnight Q-walk.

P Members

Robert Betos
Dan Dan Shao



24 - 25 Sep 2016

Red Rocks

Wollemi NP

Tom Brennan

With a good weather forecast on Saturday, deteriorating overnight, I changed the walk to take in the most spectacular views on the first day. To ascend the tops, we took a route that I've walked a number of times, via Little Capertee Creek out towards The Room at Point Nicholson for morning tea. Then it was the classic traverse to the camp caves below Mt Dawson, via the Pagoda of Death, the Lost Sister (Ross' Knob), the Balancing Boulder and plenty of other iconic rock formations. A superb happy hour with lots of variety at a superb happy hour spot overlooking Pantoneys Crown.

For the fourth time in a row it rained overnight while staying in the camp caves. We took a shortish route out the next morning down Little Capertee Creek, and were back at the cars by early afternoon. An excellent weekend.

Rachel Grindlay
Jo Squires
Ed Squires
Joan Chan
Patsy Quealy
Srinivas Gowda



<p>25 Sep 2016</p> <p>A great day out exploring in the lower Blue Mountains in fine weather with a great bunch of keen walkers, a lot of wildflowers and a couple of death adders which the leader walked next to... followed by three others in the party on the second encounter. Now I know that we can walk up a couple of spurs from the Grose River to Grose Mountain South. It is very steep though!</p> 	<p>Grose Mountain</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Vivien de Remy de Courcelles</p> <p>Geoff Goodyer Alexa Bullen Michelle Rose Petros Nicoloudis</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Vignesh Manimuthu Alex Alperovitch</p>
<p>25 Sep 2016</p> <p>A lovely, cool day for walking. Everyone made it up the Head in one piece and only one leech bite!!</p>	<p>Megalong Valley</p> <p>Blue Mountains NP</p>	<p>Angela Barton</p> <p>Michael Barton Margaret Rozea Vincent Murray Stephen Dolphin</p>
<p>29 Sep 2016</p> <p>This is always an enjoyable walk with a surprising number of undulations. Nice group, good pace.</p>	<p>Sugarloaf Crescent</p> <p>Willoughby Council</p>	<p>Genevieve Savill</p> <p>Philip Worledge Tracey Edwards Susan Healey Sue Hailstone</p> <p><i>P Members</i></p> <p>Viviana Sepulveda Flores Maria Viveiros</p>



Can't think of a walk to lead?

There are well over 1,000 overnight and extended trips outlined in the Historical Walks Database, found by logging in to the Members Area on our website and following the link to Historical Walks Record

www.sbw.org.au

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!

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