



**all nations**  
BUSHWALKERS INC



**Spring Newsletter**  
**September 2008**

PO Box Q23 Queen Victoria Building,  
NSW 1230  
[www.bushwalking.org.au/~allnations](http://www.bushwalking.org.au/~allnations)



NEWSLETTER OF ALL NATIONS BUSHWALKERS INC • FORMERLY AINC BUSHWALKERS INC & ALL NATIONS CLUB WALKABOUT GROUP • FOUNDED 1962 • INCORPORATED 1992

## 4WD CAR CAMP

### Morton National Park

24-25 May 2008

Leader: Liam Heery

See inside for  
your Christmas  
picnic invite

An early start saw six 4WDs with 15 people meet in the cold morning air at Mittagong. After greetings and introductions we set off for Nowra. However the lead car (yours truly) didn't make it through Mittagong as I was instructed to stop for coffee and cake at one of the many bakeries!

Our next scheduled meeting point, in case we got separated (which we did within 5 minutes!) was at the turnoff to Pointers Gap just south of Canjola.

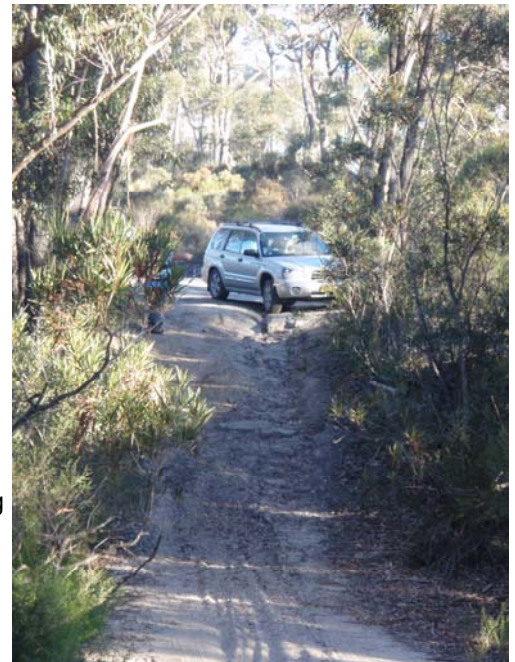
We all made it, notwithstanding that one car passed the turnoff three times! We were now onto the beginning of our tour through Morton NP and sur-

rounds. The Porters Gap lookout gave us a panoramic view over the south coast from atop magnificent cliffs. Then onto Porters Creek Dam where we inspected the dam wall before heading off onto the dirt road to the Mt Bushwalker trail head. Here we stopped for lunch before a 2



hour walk took us to another spectacular view across the depths of Morton NP and down to Pigeon House Mountain. A great area for future pack walks.

Enough exercise, it was now time to get onto the real 4wd track, the Tianjara fire trail. The track was fairly easy, but the Subaru with 5 people had difficulty at some of the more challenging spots. As it was getting late we had to cut short the intended route and head straight for our overnight camp site. Coming down a very steep hill (hoping we didn't have to go back up!) we reached and then crossed Wandean Creek, with every one of us hitting a large submerged rock on the way through. The noise announced our arrival to the campers who had already taken over the camp site. However to our good luck they were able to point us to another camp site, back the way we came. Across the creek again, bumping the boulder on the way through we made our way to a perfect camp site with loads of room and plenty of fire wood.



*Continued next page*

Continued from page 1

With darkness fast approaching, tents were put up in record time and a fire was underway as well. Varied meals were had together with a range of beverages! Great discussions followed and it was no time before bed beckoned.



The serenity of the night was only disturbed by snoring emanating from one of the tents, so loud it kept all the wildlife away!

The next morning we headed off after a leisurely breakfast. Back up that hill. We all made it. Next stop was Kangaroo Hill for more magnificent views from what was apparently a former artillery range, with old ammunition boxes rusting away on the ground. Charles and Alison were a little concerned when Peter decided to souvenir an old rocket case and the rest of us kept our distance whenever we saw Charles's car going over bumps!

At Tianjara Falls one of our avid photographers went to extreme lengths to get "that picture". Obviously winning the annual photo competition is worth the risk!

Then it was on to Hylands Lookout for lunch looking down the Yalwal Valley and from here to Yalwal Dam before heading across the Old Burrier Fire Trail, until we reached the paved roads once again and then it was not long before we were back in Nowra. Luckily yours truly made it the whole way given that my fuel light was on low for most of the last day. We just got to the petrol station on the smell of an oily rag!

Thanks to the drivers, Charles, Colin, Roy, Remy and Zvonko and to the passengers Jacqui, Kim, Alison, Peter, Jenny, Vane, Marjan, Stefan and Todor for another great adventure into the unknown.

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## WEEKEND AWAY

### Winter Solstice Mount Wilson

20 - 22 June 2008      Leader: Peter Bonner

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Following the success of the previous event held at Mount Wilson and a declining interest in camping in the cold on the shortest day of the year, at the request of several members I booked the Old Teacher's Cottage and the Old School House with a total of 12 beds.

In the end we had 5 vacancies. Never mind, those who turned up had a very enjoyable time. It wasn't all that cold, plenty of heating, doonas on the beds and electric blankets with hot showers to energise the late risers! Some people however had an early morning walk so they could eat breakfast with hearty appetites. We walked the Chinaman's Hat - De Fairs Rocks Circuit, Wyndham Ave, Jefferson Bridge, Waterfall Road, Turkish Bath House, The Giant tree, Cathedral Reserve. It was great having all these places to visit without the long drive up from Sydney. My attempt the following day to walk the Northern Fire Trail from Mount Irvine Rd back to the Study Centre was halted when we came up against a previously unseen 'private property' notice and the ladies refused to go on despite my assertion that I had walked it on at least three other occasions. An attempt to walk round it was eventually



abandoned as it seemed to be going downhill and away from the village. I later learnt it was in fact another track down to the Wollangambe River: just as well we turned back.

Most of the time, in fact all of the time, I had to hobble around with the aid of a walking stick as somehow I had twisted my back resulting in a very very painful pinched nerve. My thanks to those who came to my assistance and put up with my ear piercing shrieks of pain, to Zak & Farida for food and cooking skills and to Sharyn, Jan and Julie who by their presence helped the weekend activities along to an interesting and social time. Apart from the wet foggy drive to Mt Wilson on Friday evening, the weather was excellent for the time of the year and we had an enjoyable BBQ in the garden with Peter's brazier stoked up to keep us warm with roasted chestnuts after dinner.

# WALK REPORT

## Rhodes to Burwood via Breakfast Point and Cabarita

Sunday 11 May 2008 Leader: Charles Bowden

In spite of the cool overcast conditions, a large group met outside Rhodes Station and, once the disconcerting discovery by the leader that he had gathered everyone on the wrong side of the tracks had been resolved, we all set off across Brays Bay Reserve. After gazing bemusedly at the rusting steel remnants commemorating the site of a former shipyard beside the Parramatta River, we marched along the Kokoda Memorial Trail, pausing to read the plaques and pointing out the venue for the clubs' annual Xmas Party for the benefit of new and aspiring members.

We then branched off along the Foreshore Trail that veers around a succession of medical institutions: Concord Hospital, Thomas Walker Hospital, Rivendell Adolescent Unit, and Dame Eadith Walker Hospital. Many of these date from colonial times and still enjoy large and spacious grounds. There is an imposing ancient portal on the shore at Dame Eadith Walker Hospital where boats evidently used to disembark their passengers onto the imposing path that leads to the buildings.

A recent development is that many of the old dilapidated weatherboard buildings, unused for years, have now been replaced with a modern complex.

The track was rather muddy where a stream debouches into Yaralla Bay. Moreover, it is still surprising to see that horses are agisted on this patch of land, so close to the city.

At Majors Bay Reserve, spirited soccer matches were in progress and we then veered in and out of patches of foreshore reserve before reaching Mortlake Point with its views across the water to Kissing Point and Putney Point. The water here looked rather polluted, covered in scum and opaque.

A boardwalk leads past expensive-looking townhouses on the eastern side of the point before reaching the Mortlake Ferry, better known as the Putney Punt. A couple of side streets later and we were strolling past the massive Breakfast Point residential development. We couldn't help noticing that someone had made a fortune out of supplying the balcony railings which were identical on every dwelling, large and small.

Rounding Cabarita Point, we stopped for lunch next to the Westport Marina before again taking to suburban streets to emerge onto the Cabarita foreshore development that surrounds Prince Edward Park. From here the track hugs the shoreline, past the Massey Golf Course. The occasional pelican could be seen floating serenely on the water while fearless lorikeets offered photo opportunities as they fed on blossoming bottlebrush bordering the path. At one point we were astonished to see a mouse suspended in mid-air, enmeshed in the web of a large golden-orb spider.



*Group relaxing over lunch*

After passing by the aromatic Bushells factory, prompting ill-concealed desires for cappuccinos, we reached Bayview Park that juts out into Hen & Chicken Bay. The trail then continues along Canada Bay where it reaches the large water channel emanating from Burwood.

We left the river shoreline at this point and headed inland at a brisk pace, the allure of afternoon tea proving a potent incentive, and soon reached the Burwood shopping precinct. After initially being led astray by the leader, an enjoyable recovery was held at an accommodating café before we dispersed.

Thank you to members Alison Lyon, Catharina Muller, Jasmin Tan, Fiona Bachmann, Mark Leslie, Katherine McNevin, Brian Goodwin, Dianne Goodwin, Richard Milnes, David Cunningham, William Meats, Margaret Weiss and to visitors Candice Lan and Sue McCormack for their pleasant company.

### **Congratulations to....**

Alison Lyon and Nick Collins who ran in the  
**'City2Surf'**

Sunday 10 August

Alison completed the course in 90 minutes.

Not bad for a first time effort.

Nick finished in 85 minutes

Maybe we can have  
an ANB team running next year



### **ANB Christmas Picnic BBQ**

**22 November 2008**

**Brays Bay Reserve, Rhodes Park**

**Undercover BBQ area available 10am - 4pm**

**Plenty of fun, food, games and walks.**

**Your invitation is enclosed with this newsletter**

# President's Report

## August 2008

Thank you to all who attended the recent AGM. It was a magnificent turnout. We also had a presentation from the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (Thank you BWRS) which was both informative and inspiring. I would take this opportunity to encourage anyone to join the BWRS if they are so inclined.

Also thank you to our new committee member Catharina, who is already doing a fabulous job as program co-ordinator and to Suseela who I'm sure after enjoying a well deserved break will be back in some capacity or other.

Thank you too, to Charles who has stood down from the committee while he pursues his adventure of a lifetime sailing the blue and warm seas of the Pacific Islands. I'm sure that Charles will return refreshed and eager to pick up from where he left off and will be welcomed back to the committee for his generous and valued advice.

A number of interesting suggestions came from the floor at the AGM, and these will be followed up by the new committee. Look to the next spring program for some of these.

We also had our first "Club Night", which was attended by 17 people! What a great turnout and some magnificent and varied photos (see report in this issue).

If you want to be inspired to get out in the open air both here and overseas, then come along to the next Club Night and be entertained.

If you have any "new" ideas for events to be added to the program, get in contact with one of the committee members - it would be great to further develop our range of activities to grow the club by attracting new members with new and varied interests.

*Liam Heery*



### Our Committee

<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Tom Whitehead</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Liam Heery</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Jan Steven</b>
<b>Programme Co-ordinator</b>	<b>Catharina Muller</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Alison Lyon</b>
<b>Membership enquiries</b>	<b>Peter Bonner</b>
<b>Web Administration</b>	<b>Richard Barnett</b>

*Results from the photo competition pages 6/7*

# Notice board

## SYDNEY'S GREAT COASTAL WALK Barrenjoey to Cronulla

This new walk was opened 22 July 2008  
by Verity Firth, NSW Environment Minister.



The driving force behind this walk of 100 km was a handful of Walking Volunteers who, between them clocked up over 50,000 km to produce this single coastal walking track.

Free copies of the brochures for walks up to 2 hours duration are available from Sydney Coastal Councils Group, local councils, National Parks, Harbour Trust and tourism offices.

For more information .....  
[www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au](http://www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au)

**Birthdays :** Tony Webber, former Chairman, walk leader & Young Group Leader, now living at Gundaroo celebrates his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Saturday 20 September 2008.

Paul Goessling celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday 21 September. Paul has led many walks, sailing and kayaking activities and has a large video collection of his 4WD drive trips around Australia.

**Free :** Yellow waterproof map case, clear plastic one side, 325mm x 230mm, available from the Maritime Services or the ANZ Safe Boating Education Boating Group.

**Bushwalking topographic maps** are no longer stocked by some major outdoor / camping stores. It seems outdoor fashion clothing is more profitable, so you will need to hunt around for them. More about maps availability next issue.

*Peter Bonner*

# ROGAINE

## NSW Paddy Pallin 6-hour Newnes Plateau

Sunday 15 June 2008 Leader: Charles Bowden

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The club entered a team of 4 in this year's event, competing in the Open Mixed category as team number 202. After meeting at North Richmond on the Saturday afternoon, we set off in 2 cars for the pleasant drive along Bells Line of Road before turning off at the Zigzag Railway, just before Lithgow. We then followed a succession of dirt roads full of potholes for about 18 km before reaching the campsite, located at an afforestation camp among the pine plantations. We found a good sheltered site for our tents on ground cushioned by pine needles with a large fireplace nearby.

After pitching our tents and hauling in a small forest of wood for the night, we soon had the fire blazing. We then practised map-reading and compass-orienting skills for an hour, before adjourning for the evening meal. While Remy and Yuni set about preparing a fragrant home-cooked meal, Alison and I collected our selections from the extensive menu offered by the event's caterers. In case you're wondering, mine was vegetable soup, beef in red wine with rice, some pasta & sauce and, to finish with, apple pie with both cream and icecream. A lamb korma curry and vegetarian dishes were also among the dishes on offer.

We were joined around the campfire by a couple of young fit-looking triathletes as well as intermittent visitors, roaming from fire to fire in search of warmth. It was a still, clear night, belying the Sydney weather forecast, and the temperature quickly plummeted to close to zero. Parkas, beanies, gloves and thermals were de rigueur. Eventually we retired to our sleeping bags with the pine trees shrouded in smoke from the dozens of campfires that had sprouted during the evening.

Most of the camp was awoken at 3:30am by a noisy souped-up 4WD, seemingly with the muffler removed, that roared up the access track and into the campground. After idling several minutes, presumably disconcerted by the hundreds of interlopers in an area he had assumed would be deserted, especially at that hour, he revved through a couple of 360 wheelies before roaring off in disgust. Unfortunately sleep was a fitful affair for the remainder of the night as a strong wind had risen, gusting noisily through the trees, although it did clear away the pall of smoke from the fires and ensured the tents stayed free of moisture condensation.

After reluctantly emerging from our tents into the chilly air, we set about planning our route amid breakfast preparations and donning suitable clothing for the event. At 9:00am a siren announced the start of the event and 600 or so competitors scattered to all points of the compass.

Our early route took in some of the more distant and scenic parts of the course where we were treated to fine views of steep gorges with sheer cliffs topped by 'pagoda' rock formations typical of the region. The ground was quite damp for the most part due to seepage from the previous week's heavy rain and I had the dubious honour of the first spectacular tumble off the track. Fortunately the dense scrub cushioned the fall and I emerged unscathed, if a little more wary. We made good time over the early section, putting our map-reading skills to practical effect and finding the controls.

Our route then took us into the pine plantations where we were able to practise setting and following a compass bearing, each of us taking turns to lead the group. Confidence rose to new heights as we found the right controls while criss-crossing the featureless plantations. Large dark grey kangaroos were spotted on several occasions amongst the pines but the only other evidence of wildlife was the occasional wombat burrow and the echoing sounds of trailbikes.

A couple of creek crossings over boggy ground left us with damp socks and we successfully negotiated a very steep eroded bank on one 'shortcut'. Otherwise most of the course was over relatively open ground or on service tracks, which made for fast going. We completed the course we had plotted with over 10 minutes to spare of the allotted 6 hours.

Ironically, the last two 'easy' controls (worth only 20 points each) caused us, or rather yours truly, the most problems due to lapses in concentration with the end literally in sight. Fortunately the errors were soon corrected and we finished 172 overall out of 221 teams and 91 out of 126 in the Open Mixed category.

After a light snack, we packed up the tents and listened to the awards announcements. The top team scored 2590 points out of 3910 points available, which seemed to me a relatively low score given the ideal combination of dry, cool weather and fast-travelling conditions. But we did not penetrate the outer reaches of the course where the terrain was probably much rougher. The event had been excellently managed and we joined in the applause for the hard-working organisers.

Thank you to Alison Lyon, Remy Lanz and Yunita Upa Boroh for a solid team effort and an enjoyably convivial weekend.



*The intrepid quartet*



*Pagoda country*

*Photos by Alison Lyon*

# THE ALL NATIONS PHOTO COMPETITION

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Held at the AGM June 29, 2008

And the winners  
were...

Charles Bowden

Fei Xu (2)

Mark Leslie (2)

Insufficient entries for **CAMPING**

Winners each received prize certificates  
with vouchers for \$20.

The winners were decided  
by member's votes.

Mark Leslie  
**PEOPLE**



Fei Xu  
**WATER SCENES**



Mark Leslie  
**FAUNA**

*Snap that special photo at a club activity to enter the 2009 photo competition...*

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*Snap that special photo at a club activity to enter the 2009 photo competition...*

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**Charles Bowden**  
**FLORA**



**Bob Seibrigt**  
**NATURE'S WONDERS**



**Fei Xu**  
**NATURE'S WONDERS**

The winning photos along with other entries are available for viewing in colour within the Club's Website and the Yahoo Groups page.

You will find them grouped in an album called "**Photo Competition 2008**" within the 'Photos' folder.

# FEATURE

## Picnic Point, Toowoomba

June 2008

by Ted Webber

My wife, Marguerite, and I decided to take a three day break in Toowoomba, which sits on top of the scarp of the Great Dividing Range 100 km west of Brisbane. Marguerite likes walking but cannot manage hills, whereas the hills were the main attraction for me! A little negotiation resulted in her plan to visit some heritage sites and do some shopping while I investigated the bushwalks on the escarpment.

Picnic Point is the premier viewpoint eastwards down the Lockyer Valley and so seemed like a good place to start. On the way up there are signs to "Walking Trails" and the "Pardalote Track". That looked like a good start, so I searched the area for a map. The only one in evidence was a small leaflet entitled "Toowoomba Pathways" behind a glass screen, so I asked at the café where after some rummaging the waitress produced a laminated map but no spare copy. However, it did indicate a possible circuit of just over 5 km that looked interesting.

Next I tried the main Visitors' Information Centre in James St, where they gave me a leaflet entitled "Toowoomba's Environmental Bushwalks". Now I was getting somewhere! Even so, stamped across the front was the message "This brochure was printed in March 2004. Some details have changed – use as a guide only. New brochure due early 2007". Not very encouraging! But I decided to chance my arm on the 5 km circuit, and told Marguerite that I would be away for about 2 hours.

This circuit consists of several named sections joined together: Pardalote (0.8 km), Firetail (2.1 km), Bridle Trail (1.5 km), Fantail (0.9 km) and an unnamed section (1 km) just below the Picnic Point lookout, making a total of 6.3 km actually. There is a sign to the Pardalote Walk close to the Picnic Point car park and lookout, but none to the other sections. A short way along the path, a sign indicates sharp left to continue on Pardalote (some sort of bird?) or continue (right) for the Fantail Walk, a distance of 1 km. As I discovered on my return, this is not the length of Fantail but the distance to its commencement near Tobruk Drive.

I took the left turn into Pardalote, described correctly in the brochure as offering "spectacular views of the Lockyer Valley and Tabletop Mountain". The latter looks like an Iron Age fort such as Maiden Castle in southern England, but without the earthwork ramparts, and we are told that aborigines used to gather there. The track leads to a dry waterfall, perhaps pump-activated at some time but now with level 5 water restrictions it is not surprising that there is none running. Then the path petered out! So, I continued along the escarpment rim to the Lions Park where (well hidden from the road nearby) I found a sign for the start of Firetail Walk. Yes, it IS "Firetail", not "Firetrail", so presumably another bird name, but there is no help for the tourist in this regard. Firetail descends in what seemed like hundreds of gently graded zig-zags, probably about 200 metres over its 2.1 km length. "Keep an eye open for echidnas, legless lizards and small birds of prey" says the brochure, but at 10 a.m. on a warm sunny winter morning there was no sign of life, perhaps because of the roar of traffic on the Warrego Highway down below.

The vegetation is open (sclerophyll) forest which is good for the views but suggests wearing a wide brimmed hat and sunscreen, which I was not! Looking slightly out of place were some large cacti. At the bottom, Firetail joins Bridle Trail at a place called Firebreak, just above Stevenson Road where the less energetic might use a mobile phone to call a taxi for the return trip up the escarpment! A stroll along Bridle Trail brought me to the foot of the Fantail (yes, definitely a bird) zig-zag and a sign indicating 900 metres to Tobruk Drive. Alternatively, according to the brochure one can continue along Bridle Trail to South Street and back up to Picnic Point that way.

I opted for the zig-zag, which is quite a bit steeper than the Firetail one. At the top you are not at the top, if you get my meaning; it just joins another track that follows the edge of the mown grass of the park as it climbs back up to Picnic Point.

Toowoomba calls itself the Garden City, and certainly it deserves that appellation with so many beautiful parks. All the more pity that it has neglected to attract walkers with good signage and up-to-date leaflets/brochures.

On our return home, I looked up pardalote in Simpson & Day's "Birds of Australia" and found a whole page of them, with the Spotted Pardalote (682) and the Striated Pardalote (686) shown as native to the area.

Ted was a member of ANC Bushwalkers 1972-1979.

### More pics from the photo competition



Richard Barnett FLORA



Catharina Muller WATER SCENES



# WALK REPORT

## Nepean Gorge, Mulgoa, Blue Mountains NP

Sunday 22 June 2008    Leader: Charles Bowden

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A delayed start from Strathfield followed by a rendezvous in Mulgoa saw a convoy of 6 cars wend its way down Fairlight Road to the start of the walk. It was a glorious sunny day and 14 walkers set off for the Rock Lookout, perched atop a large boulder and affording the first of several views of the Nepean gorge, this one overlooking Breakfast Creek. Morning tea was taken at the next lookout on a wide ledge adjacent to a deep gully plunging to the river below. The remains of a car could be seen, about 50 metres under the ledge, lingering evidence of earlier days before this southern fragment of BMNP was fenced off.

The track then veers off the cliff top and moves inland to meet up with defined fire trails, on this day showing fresh evidence of horse riding. After about 1 km, we turned off the fire trail onto a track leading to a third lookout (Rileys), close to Mulgoa trig. Here the view stretches out over Euroka clearing on the far side of the river with the distant peaks around Katoomba on the horizon. To the north, the view extends down the gorge to the outskirts of Penrith, suburban roofs glinting dimly in the haze.



*Group at Riley's Lookout*

After pausing at the trig to allow the gadget guys to check instruments for position and altitude, we continued along the fire trail which then descends towards farmlands. A sidetrack then led us back up to the cliff line, through open forest with flowering wattle in abundance, until we reached the last lookout, Nepean Narrows. Here the silting of the Nepean at the junction with Glenbrook Creek is very evident with a large sandbank, almost an island, jutting out into the stream, a legacy of the railway cutting above the creek.

At this point the walk offered its only real challenge, a short but steep descent from the ridge to an overgrown 4WD track 70 metres below. The seats and knees of most trousers received a thorough workout as we slid and scrambled our way across the rocky and uneven surface, slippery with accumulated leaves and twigs. We all made it safely, if grubbier for our exertions, to be greeted by a chorus of currawongs.

Lunch atop a sunny outcrop proved a welcome respite and we all relaxed watching the river traffic including the gaudy paddle steamer, the Nepean Belle. Occasionally passing boats would wave or shout a greeting to which we would respond appropriately.

After lunch we set off along the discernible if overgrown 4WD track that appears to have fallen into disuse, even by horse riders. This track leads inland to the fence line of the farm properties that we had passed in the morning as we drove along Mulgoa Road. A broad fire trail then led us steadily back up the slope to the cliff line, providing peeks into backyards as well as views east towards the city.

After retracing some of our steps, past the Mulgoa trig, we came across in quick succession the only walkers we saw all day: firstly a young couple with a baby in a backpack, then later on a buff jogger belatedly followed by his brindled and bow-legged bitch, Sally. The tired dog became confused on finding 14 pairs of legs and remained with us for a time before resignedly trailing us until her owner clambered back up the trail to rescue her.

In the meantime we made short work of the fire trail to reach the cars by 4:00pm. While some dispersed to homes, others repaired to the pub in Wallacia which itself was in a state of renovation. After a quick drink, we headed back to Strathfield and a longer recovery at a Korean BBQ restaurant: delicious!

Thank you for taking part to Chris Othen, Jacqui Joseph, Liam Heery, Colin Herbert, Jenny Thompson, Brian & Dianne Goodwin, Daisy Wu, Alison Lyon, Gabriella Manea and Chris Webber, to visitors, Geol Soo Kim and John Stankovski, and as well to Jenny for the homemade biscuits and Chris for the ginger kisses.



**Len Sharp PEOPLE**

# NIGHT WALK

## Marramarra Creek via Smugglers Trail Marramarra National Park

**Saturday 19 July 2008      Leader: Liam Heery**

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A great turnout for another moonlit night walk, with 11 eager walkers all willing to take the harder route down to Marramarra Creek via Smugglers Track rather than on the easy fire trail.

The decision was rewarded when we got to our first stop, a great look out over the Marramarra NP during the day, but not so spectacular at night! The reward though, was the way that the aboriginal carving of a large kangaroo stood out in the moonlight. It brought thoughts of night time corroborees around camp fires and song.

As it was a coolish night, it didn't take long for the cold rocks to give us a nudge and move on. The track now became more difficult as we descended down a rocky ridge and steep sides as we neared Marramarra Creek.

There was the hint of a few sounds and a slight smell of fire, so we were not totally surprised, when we got to the Marramarra Creek camp site, to find that there were other people there.

In fact it was a group doing a Duke of Edinburgh overnight walk. When we arrived at 9pm there was no one around as they had all gone to bed, however a large camp fire was still burning.

Given the fire was still alight, we decided to stoke it up and in no time had the fire raging again. Out came all of the goodies and hot suppers that people had brought with them, including melted chocolate over hot marshmallows, followed by a sip of red wine, port or Drambuie!!

The good food must have awakened the campers as we were visited by a couple of the boys, who were happy to talk to us. The same could not be said for their grumpy teacher, who obviously didn't want to enjoy a moonlight camp fire as he berated us for invading "his" campsite!

After having our fill and getting warm, we packed up and headed for the return fire trail, only to find that a side creek had come up with the neap high tide that necessitated us removing shoes and pants to wade across in the cold water.

What would a night walk be without a bit of adventure!!

Thanks to Jacqui, Sue, Karen, Kim, Fiona, Lyn, Mark and Moon for joining me on another delightful moonlight walk.

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# CLUB NIGHT

## Woodstock Community Centre, Burwood Friday 25 July 2008      by Liam Heery

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Our inaugural club night was a huge success. We had 17 people turn up, so may have to book a bigger room next time. Keep an eye out in the program for the next one.

We had a projector and large screen to show the numerous and fabulous photos people had brought to share. The difference between looking at photos on a computer screen as against a large screen is unbelievable and needs to be seen.

After a small technical hitch, the more computer savvy were able to crank up the computer and projector and we got the show on the road.

First up Liam and Jacqui showed photos from their trip last year, with Jacqui sunning herself in Egypt and Barbados, while Liam was sailing across the storm ravaged Atlantic! The interwoven pictures told many a story. It was then onto St Lucia in the Caribbean, including a climb up the famous Pitons. From there the photos took us to Miami and Jamaica before landing in Cuba. And what a different place Cuba was, with run-down buildings and lots of old cars. Some walks in the interior of the country showed off the hills and included visits to some fine beaches. From Cuba we were taken to Mexico and the pyramids.

Remy then showed off his wonderful shots of Lord Howe Island and the amazing climb up Mt Gower, where, he was able to hand feed the local sea birds. Magnificent views prompted lots of questions on how to get there and when to go.

Suseela and Richard then took us over to New Zealand where they had walked the Queen Charlotte Track. Lots of interesting photos with views over sea, land and mountains. Very entertaining and even some yoga lessons to boot.

We were then taken to another of the NZ Great Walks by Len with his adventurous Heaphy Track walk last year. Although the weather was not the best, it was amazing to see how much the rivers rose and fell over the space of a few hours and how close the huts came to being their own little islands.

Andrew then showed us some magnificent panoramic shots of the Tongariro Track taken in March, with spectacular views of Mt Ngaurahoe and Mt Ruapehu craters - you could almost smell the sulphur. Finally Andrew took us back down memory lane with photos from the Penguin to Cradle Mountain trail in Tasmania, from a few years ago.

A fabulous night - thanks to everyone who turned up and to those who shared their wonderful experiences.

## Change of Details

**Don't forget to notify Membership Enquiries Officer Peter Bonner of any change in address, email address or phone numbers. Phone: 9489 5027 or email us at [anbcomm@hotmail.com](mailto:anbcomm@hotmail.com)**

# WALK REPORT

## Kedumba to Leura via Jamison Valley,

Blue Mountains National Park

Sunday 6 July 2008

Leader: Charles Bowden

In all, 17 walkers turned up for this interesting walk which starts just south of Queen Victoria Hospital on Kings Tableland and finishes on Cliff Drive midway between Leura and Katoomba.

After completing the car shuffle to ensure we had transport at both ends, we set off mid-morning on a sunny if cool day, past the Water Board gate and along the broad and well maintained fire trail that leads down the Kedumba Walls escarpment.



*Kedumba walls*

After a few minutes, Chris pointed out a short detour to the right which led us to an unusual memorial to one of the road's construction workers, consisting of a plaque and half a dozer track erected on a rocky knoll. The views that it must have commanded originally are now mostly obscured by trees so we proceeded to the main lookout a little further down the road which affords sweeping views of Jamison Valley. Here we paused for morning tea before proceeding down the road, through stands of tall eucalyptus interspersed with wattle in flower, to the first creek crossing. The water over the Jamison Creek ford was not too deep but several walkers preferred to negotiate it barefoot.

The first climb over a low ridge between creeks proved longer and more challenging than expected or remembered but, once on the downhill section, we got our first views of the Three Sisters as well as Rocket and Sublime points.

A late lunch was held at a clearing next to Leura Creek, a fine misty rain having begun to fall. Fortunately this proved to be an isolated occurrence but parkas and jackets were donned both for protection and warmth.

Most were able to negotiate successfully the stepping stones across the Leura Creek ford, the exception holding the walk leader to account for his inept attempt at assistance (sigh).

From here, the first major climb up the slope past the Three Sisters began. It proved an arduous assignment for many as the group quickly spread out over the fire trail. The ringing tones of bellbirds and the more raucous medley of lyrebird



*Drying off*

calls provided a welcome counterpoint as we tramped through the trees. Fortunately, memories of a much steeper and rougher track turned out to be erroneous and gradually the group reassembled at the large clearing below Leura Falls where a sewage treatment plant once existed, the land now being remediated.

From here, the track becomes overgrown as it wends its way towards the base of Leura Falls. In the late afternoon, it was quite dark and gloomy in the heavily timbered gully and most walkers elected to pass on the view of Leura Falls, instead setting off along the link path to Federal Pass track and the start of the reputed 999 steps up to Jamieson Lookout which none of us remembered to count.

The steps, although well made, a mixture of wooden risers and metal ladders, were the toughest part of the walk as they rise sharply up a steep gully, interspersed with small waterfalls and cascades. These were very attractive thanks to the recent rains which meant that there was plenty of water gushing through.

We eventually arrived at the lookout to catch the last rays of the setting sun painting a roseate glow on the distant cliffs to the south. With some walkers clearly exhausted by the final climb, drivers hurried off to collect cars and return by which time the cold had well and truly started to seep through tired bodies. In hindsight, the walk should probably have begun an hour or so earlier to offset the effects of wintry darkness in the Blue Mountains

After initial discussions on an appropriate recovery venue, it was decided to return to Strathfield to allow people to head home and enjoy the restorative effects of hot water and a stiff drink. A few hardy souls lingered to dine at a nearby Korean BBQ eatery, relishing the heat from the fiery brazier as much as the food cooked on it!

Well done to Jacqui Joseph, Liam Heery, Suseela Durvasula, Richard Barnett, Terry & Hugh Redmond, Alison Lyon, Anthony Milanoli, Chris Webber, Karen Askew, Gabriella Manea, Clinton Campbell, Daisy Wu, Faye Xu, William Meats and Jasmin Tan, for persevering to the end - not grumbling too much!

## Welcome to New Members

Elisabeth Bowman  
Lyn Moffat  
Bruce Moffat  
Clynton Campbell  
Roy Himes  
Gabriella Manea  
Fernando Santisteban  
Catherin Sophocleous  
Tina Sourlas  
Daisy Wu  
Merri Russell  
Shigeko Ono  
Sue McCormack

And welcome back to  
Chris Othen



See you in the bush

### **DEADLINE**

### **FOR NEXT ISSUE**

**3 November 2008**

**SEND YOUR  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO.....**  
jsteven@unwired.com.au  
Pictures submitted—  
300DPI resolution preferred  
to achieve good  
reproduction quality



*Taking a morning tea break in the  
Cumberland State Forest*



*Visitor Tracey leading the  
field on a crossing of  
Darling Mills Creek*



*Through the tunnel in the retarding  
basin dam on Darling Mills Creek.  
The scheme is designed to prevent  
the creek from flooding Parramatta  
in the event of exceptionally  
rainy times.*



*Mark and Moon*



*Faye and her dam, Lake Parramatta*



*Charles at Lake Parramatta*

A big 'Thank you' to all who contributed to this newsletter - Editor