



**all nations**  
BUSHWALKERS INC



**Autumn Newsletter**  
**March 2014**

PO Box Q23 Queen Victoria Building,  
Sydney NSW 1230  
<http://anwalkers.org.au/>



NEWSLETTER OF ALL NATIONS BUSHWALKERS INC • FORMERLY ANC BUSHWALKERS INC & ALL NATIONS CLUB WALKABOUT GROUP • FOUNDED 1964 • INCORPORATED 1992

## Green Gully - Full pack walk Oxley Wild Rivers NP

**28 December 2013 to 2 January 2014**

**Grade 4**

**Leader: Liam Heery**

For the second time in a row, my planned walk over the New Year had to be changed due to climatic conditions, the first time due to being too wet and the second time due to fires!

This year the Green Gully track remained open and all participants were eager to experience what it had to offer. The main attraction that it is one of the very few tracks in Australia where you do not need to carry a tent, as the huts along the way are specifically maintained so that they can accommodate all walkers in style.

Our first and last nights were spent at Cedar Creek Cottage so that we would be able to start the walk refreshed after our drive from Sydney and also to have a nice relaxing "cool down" afterwards.

Arriving at the Cottage, after a 30km drive along unsealed roads, we were pleasantly surprised to see the Cottage and how well it was presented. The Cottage is the old homestead of the O'Keefe family, but has been completely renovated to accommodate today's walking fraternity.

The Cottage has three separate bedrooms, accommodates up to ten people, has a fully functional kitchen with all necessary implements and also has an outdoor open fire BBQ area...What bliss!

Once we had all arrived a sumptuous meal was prepared by Jacqui before we went outside and sat around the open fire discussing what was in store over the next four days. If the rest of the walk turned out to be as good as the start then a great experience was in store for us.

### Day 1

While day 1 is the longest day in terms of kms to cover it was supposed to be the shortest in time as the whole day is on fire trails and over the day descends about 200 metres.

So we took our time enjoying our luxurious surroundings while we could and also doing the obligatory clean up. We

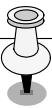
were not going to leave the cottage in any condition other than what we would like or expect it for ourselves.

It was after 9am by the time we headed off on the track; loaded up, with pack weights varying from 14 to 18.5kgs (some due to the amount of water), and were on our way.

As it turned out this was to be the hottest day of the walk with temperatures reaching the mid-thirties in the early afternoon. The track was surprisingly undulating (ie hills up and down) and was a lot tougher than we anticipated. In fact we all agreed at the end of the walk that this was the hardest day of all!



**Starting off from Cedar Creek Cottage -  
Liam, Len, Jacqui, Rahima & Alison**



## President's Soapbox

Welcome to the Year of the Horse! Your Committee has already hit the ground at the gallop and a couple of significant changes have been made to the Club's operations which will take effect from 1 March.

The first is that distribution of the Activities Programme will now be fully electronic. This means that a separately formatted paper programme will no longer be prepared and distributed. The programme now changes so regularly during the season that the online programme is the only version that is accurate and current. There will also be a saving in printing and mailing costs.

The second change, which doesn't affect members directly but may encourage your friends, is the removal of the visitor's fee. Instead a visitor can take part in a club activity on a single occasion at no charge before joining the Club. It is expected that the removal of the fee will make checking out the Club by prospective members a more attractive proposition as well as taking away an administrative burden for walk and activity leaders.

The Committee also examined the Club's membership fees and the good news is that these will not be increased. The 3-year membership option, which equates to \$30/year, represents excellent value and is on a par with other clubs. Our 1-year rate of \$45 is also good value and the fee structure continues to allow us to maintain our insurance obligations.

As usual, we have another bumper programme of activities for your enjoyment. However, we are always on the lookout for more walk and activity leaders so, if you have an idea for a great walk or fun activity, then by all means put it on the programme. Any member of All Nations Bushwalkers is entitled to lead a walk or other activity for the club. Our Programme Co-ordinator, Catharina, can help initially with any queries you may have.

I look forward to seeing additional interesting contributions to the programme as well as more members taking advantage of the fine autumn weather we usually have. So, get out there and get into it!

*Charles Bowden*

Notwithstanding the heat and exertion, we still managed to reach Birds Nest Hut by around 3pm, half an hour earlier than the suggested time frame.

What a welcome sight Birds Nest Hut was. It gave us the opportunity to refresh in the not very deep

creek, and also to replenish water supplies from provided fresh water tanks. Birds Nest Hut is relatively small, again with an outdoor BBQ and open fire place, and the space indoors a tight fit of six camp beds with mattresses.

After a welcome rest and then dinner, Rahima decided to sleep outside in the open which left four of us indoors together with the normal expected night creatures...whom one of us was determined to shoo off, but to no avail. Luckily however we were able to keep our food stores intact.

### Day 2

Today we thought would be one of the hardest days according to some of the reports in the visitor's book and so I was eager to get an earlier start and maybe get our initial climb out of the way before the main heat of the day.

So we did get away earlier by about 8:30am!

Today's walking was also to be mostly offtrack and therefore careful navigation was required over the initial ascent of 300 metres following a varied ridge line.

Again, hats off to the National Parks as strategically placed track signs kept appearing at just the right time so that you always knew you were going in the right direction. Because of this we made good progress and reached the top at Birds Nest Trig in no time at all, leaving plenty of time to take in the expanse of wild country while enjoying a long morning tea break.

The next section was along fire trails, slowly descending until we came to the lookouts over the Green Gully Gorge itself, 500 metres below where we would be walking tomorrow. We attempted 'cooees' to see if the previous day's walkers could hear us, but we got no response. The views from here were to die for and we could have spent all day just sitting contemplating the world, life and happiness.

After lunch we were off again and into the steepest descent of the whole track, with requests (from NPs) not to walk in the footpads of those gone before. Given that we were now offtrack again and following a knife like ridge in most places, it proved extremely difficult to keep away from what would be considered the best route to take.



**Len & Alison getting beds ready at Birds Nest Hut**



In attempting to do so, we cut corners only to find we were then falling down into the gullies and making life difficult for ourselves.

Frustrated, I decided that it was best to follow the "natural" route and we were soon back on track. The next section was extremely steep and had us almost making our way downhill on our back sides. The good side to this was we made good time and were soon down at Two Fall Creek and heading into Brumby Pass.

This pass is a very narrow gorge populated by near extinct rock wallabies, who are very nimble and not easy to see. Luckily for us one of them was out sunning him/herself and we were able to get a close up of these fine creatures.



**Endangered Rock Wallaby in Brumby Pass.**

Within another few hundred metres we came upon Green Gully Hut our next abode for the night and one with a hot shower!

Again the hut was well laid out, however, we all decided to try sleeping outside under the stars. Not long after dusk Rahima was surprised to find that the local brush tailed possum was very keen on investigating what was inside her food bag which she had hung up on a fence post. Naturally the bag had to be removed to a more secure place!

### Day 3

New Year's Eve was our "creek walking" day and again we tried to get off a bit earlier, which we did by about 8:15am!

Initially the walk is along a management trail that winds its way in and out of the creek. Luckily for us the water level was low so in most cases we were able to cross the creek without getting wet feet.

However all good things come to an end and the trail ran out, leaving us with the only option (so we thought) of changing shoes and walking in the creek itself.

While most of us entered the water and commenced walking through the creek, Len had found a way through on the side and was able to walk most of the way without having to get his feet wet. Jacqui however, always the one to keep forging ahead, stumbled into one of the only deep pools and had water lapping up to her chin, which unfortunately meant she was still able to get out a loud scream to break the solitude of the bush.

In a way, walking in the creek was liberating and thoroughly enjoyable. The water was clean, clear and refreshingly warm. It wasn't long until we reached the Green Gully Canyon, which is really just a pinch in the river where steep rock sides meet. However on the bend there

is a gorgeous pool that was irresistible for those water babies amongst us, so most of us took advantage of a cooling swim.



**Len & Jacqui in pool at Green Gully Gorge**



**Heading up Green Gully Creek  
photos - Jacqui and Liam**

It was hard to leave this wonderful spot, where we were watched by rock wallabies and unknowingly by red bellied black snakes, two of whom we encountered shortly after.

Again it wasn't long before we reached the other end of the management trail and we were back on a track, with only 4kms to go according to the sign. I reckon it took us another 2 hours to cover that 4 kilometres which seemed the longest that any of us had ever done!

One last climb out of the creek and we were at Colwells Hut, the smallest hut on the track, but with a covered area outdoors allowing us all to sleep outside on this New Year's Eve.

Once settled, and after a cooling dip in one of the many pools close by, we all prepared for dinner and an early night around the camp fire to sing in the New Year at 9pm (our official celebration time). Len had kindly brought along some party blowouts and Alison had celebration port, so we all had a great time wishing each other a happy New Year.



**Preparing for New Years Eve at Cowells Hut**

**Day 4**

Another year gone by and a climb of 600 metres lay ahead of us. Breaking camp early, Jacqui and Rahima headed off to tackle the climb before the heat of the day, while Alison, Len and I took our time having a relaxed breakfast and then cleaning up the hut and putting everything away. We still got away at 7:45am, loaded up with water and followed the fire trail which commenced its meandering climb within a couple of hundred metres.

We took the hill at a slow and measured pace and in no time at all had reached the intersection of Colwells and Birds Nest Link Trails having put the most of the climb behind us. Jacqui and Rahima were there waiting for us and after a short break we all headed off together.

Today the weather was much kinder, very mild and even cool. We crossed Birds Nest Creek and closed the loop from where we started by 10am. Now we just had the tail end of Kunderang Trail to take us back to Cedar Creek Cottage.

Not wanting to get back too early we took plenty of breaks and while stopped for lunch were surprised by the appearance of Piers, the National Parks Ranger responsible for setting up and maintaining the Green Gully Track. Piers was a fount of information and happy to share his thoughts with us. However he drew the line at smelling Jacqui, who wanted to know if we smelt after 4 days in the bush!

After lunch it was a pleasant stroll of about an hour and a half back to Cedar Creek Cottage for most of us. However Alison was determined to get back first and, with only 100 metres to spare, overtook Jacqui on the final stretch, notwithstanding the attempted trip-up with a walking pole!

At the cottage we set about relaxing, having hot showers and generally chilling out before dinner and a few celebratory drinks, kept cold in the Cottage fridge...What luxury!

Next morning we went our separate ways and can thoroughly recommend the Green Gully Track to anyone wanting a mixed adventure with some of the comforts of home thrown in.

Thanks to Jacqui, Alison, Len and Rahima for joining with me to share this experience and especially Len for sharing the driving duties.

# **SOCIALGAIN 2013**

## **aka Woronorogaine**

**17 November 2013**

**Grade 3-5**

**Coordinator: Charles Bowden**

Stretching from Sutherland to Engadine between the railway line and the Woronora River, this year's Social-gaine rogaine included some wonderful tracts of bushland. There were many and varied tracks and paths to follow and the controls were for the most part not set too deeply into the bush. This proved a blessing as the weather was not kind to us, with light rain falling for most of the day making tracks slippery and muddy, some becoming minor creeks in their own right.

ANB fielded two teams, each containing 4 members. Team 60 consisted of Suseela, Helen, Richard and Nick. Team 61 had Susan, Gill, David and Charles. For Richard, Susan and Gill, it was their first rogaine.

Between them both teams racked up more than 1500 points which is about what it would have taken to get a category placing. As it was, each team performed well in its respective category. Team 60 garnered 640 points, coming 15<sup>th</sup> out of 22 teams in the Mixed Veteran category and 82<sup>nd</sup> overall (out of 126 teams). Team 61 managed to gather 900 points, coming 25<sup>th</sup> out of 69 teams in the Mixed Open category and 47<sup>th</sup> overall.

Thank you to the members of both teams for coming along and making the most of the day and the conditions.

### **DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS**

Sunday, 6 April at 3am when clocks go back one hour.

### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

The Paddy Pallin Rogaine

will be on the weekend of 15 June, 2014

Co-ordinator: Charles Bowden

### **Good news! No \$10 visitor fee**

A new visitor policy takes effect from March 2014.... We are waiving the \$10 fee to visitors joining us on a walk or other club activity (**one only** so they must choose well) before joining the club.

*Tell your friends about it.*



# WALK

## Cowan to Brooklyn via Pound Spur and Porto Ridge, Kuring-Gai Chase NP

24 November 2013  
Leader: Liam Heery

Grade 5+

From Cowan to Brooklyn the normal route is via the Great North Walk. However there are other ways to get there if you are willing to go off-track and test your navigation skills. Today's walk was to be one of those occasions.

Previously I have taken Vize Spur and Ten Bob Ridge, so today's adventure was to complete the trifecta of possible ridges. Having followed the normal route to the top of Jerusalem Bay we then veered off on to Govett Ridge on the track that leads out to Taffys Rock. Not far from the turnoff we stopped at a favorite lookout over Jerusalem Bay for morning tea. Further along this track passes a formidable rock out crop that is the beginning of Pound Spur.

Atop this rock there are magnificent 360 degree views from Brooklyn down the Hawkesbury to Broken Bay and then around to the Bahai Temple and even the city skyline in the distance. We took a break here to enjoy the view and also to scout out the route that I wanted to take that would lead us along Pound Spur and then down into Porto Bay.



**View from Govett Ridge to Cowan Point**

Our first objective was a knoll surrounded by steep cliffs where we were able to find a crack through which we managed to scramble our way to the top. The top turned out to be covered in vegetation and afforded little views, so we pushed on to the next objective being a point above Porto Bay. The going was reasonably easy here, but finding a route down through the cliff lines proved a little more complicated. However as always after a bit of hit and miss we found a perfect slot that led us steeply down into the bay.

It was time to take a break and have lunch on the rocks where the creek met the sea. To our surprise a disused boat was tethered to an old oyster lease pole, giving rise



**View from Porto Ridge to Hawkesbury Railway Bridge**

*Photos - Charles Bowden*



**Pausing among Mud Creek mangroves**

to a suggestion that we should commandeer it to get around the next headland. Sunyue our visitor then proceeded to show us all up by taking out his lunch, eaten with chop sticks and accompanied by a cool beer!

After lunch we made our way slowly around the headland and into the mud flats of Porto Bay. The going was slow, tiring and time consuming as the tide was in which ruled out walking on the shore line. An Osprey sea eagle totally ignored us to swoop down and grab a large fish straight out of the water.

Another couple of creeks had to be crossed before we eventually reached Porto creek, still only halfway around Porto Bay. We decided that due to the tide situation it was going to be easier to try and go straight up to Porto Ridge from here rather than following the normal route further around the Bay. Initially the going was very steep, but then gradually flattened out and it wasn't long before we had reached the old trig point on top of Porto Ridge.

From here it was an easy scramble to find and join up with the Porto Ridge track which seems to be getting more and more use. Following this track we came to our last viewing point overlooking Peak Hill and the Hawkesbury where we had stopped for morning tea.

In keeping with the off-track nature of the walk, rather than following the GNW again and the steep concrete exit road, we elected to find and get out onto the old foot track finishing in between the railway bridge and the pub.

Naturally with a pub in sight we headed there for a few cooling ales and to quench our thirst.

Thanks to Bob, Fernando, Charles, Nick and Sunyue for completing the final frontier of Brooklyn.

## SEE (An exposé of happenings 8<sup>th</sup> December two zero one three)

At Berowra Station I see, a bushwalker, approaching me,  
it is Lily who has booked on the walk you see.  
Then another bushwalker calls to me, it is Rosemary,  
But alas, the Sydney Bushees have claimed her from me.  
Eventually the train arrives for Lily and me.  
We are off to Mt. Kuring-gai Station to meet the others booked with me.  
Catharina and Linda arrive and then Amanda to walk with me  
Spiro arrives and that makes six; would you agree?  
But wasn't there another who booked with me?  
The Attendance Form has been left at home; oh gee!  
Were we waiting for a her or a he?  
We six left after waiting ten minutes; not three,  
for there was a lot to see before tea.  
Some of us also needed a wee,  
so off to find a tree!  
Down the hill in the suburban street went we,  
to reach the start of the Mt. Kuring-gai Track, after passing number three.  
Here there was tree after tree.  
Now in addition to a tree there may be a birdie to see,  
and a flower, and a bee.  
What a nice day and so sunny.  
We came to the bush track at the fire trail finale.  
A little lookout provided our first glimpse of the sea.  
And now there were boats to see.  
At last our track met the Berowra Track to make three;  
One way to the left; one way to the right; and the third up the hill  
again, behind me.  
To the right was the way to go for our party,  
for another tree was ahead, given to the name of the bay; Appletree.  
We hastened along the track beside the sea.  
You guessed it, nearly time for morning tea.  
The little bridge was crossed, three by two or was it two by three?  
Past the launching ramp and jetty;  
what a melee!  
Then across to the kiosk for coffee or tea,  
or for some, that little building nearby for privacy.  
The five minute warning eventually elapsed for there was more to see.  
So up the hill on the stone steps trooped we.  
Now some claimed that the bird we heard was there to see.  
Blow me they were lucky,  
the bell-bird is normally hard to see.  
At the hill top we turned left to the lookout for the view to see.  
Some may also query if in the view below us we are looking at the sea.  
Well before ten thousand years ago it was a valley,  
then it was invaded by the sea.  
And if you taste the water it is salty.  
Back to work taking the track down to the Bobbin Head valley.  
At the base of the hill was a little rill and a rainforest tree;  
one of many.  
Spiro wanted to know where were we.  
The others waited on the grass under a tree,  
while we obtained a map for him to see.  
Bobbin Head had bicycles, cars and picnicking people; so many.  
We walked along the waters edge to where it became swampy,  
and across the bridge into the home of the mangrove tree.  
The tide was in and not a crab to see.  
However there was a bonus for us; a brush-turkey.  
He was unafraid and scratched up the ground for us to see.  
The bird then sat beside its round mound under a tree.  
We continued on high ground to find the carvings made by an aborigine.  
Do you think this could have been the place for a corroboree?  
Next was a side trip to see where another rainforest be.  
A shady creek flowed past for us to see.  
Back, back to the Gibberagong Track walked the party,  
then down to another place of many a mangrove tree.

They prefer to live where the water is salty, apparently.  
Thanks to the mangroves and gum trees it was mostly shady.  
We walked under an overhang along here, sometimes having to raise a knee,  
because we climbed a small rise you see,  
making our way to find a lunch spot and perhaps a cup of tea.  
The spot chosen beside Cockle Creek was shady,  
and there were ducks, jumping fish and canoeists for us to see.  
Photographs were taken of bushwalkers such as we.  
Prize winners we hope to beat the members of the committee.



We were rested, lunch was ended, and packs not as heavy.  
We walked along with renewed energy,  
to reach the cliff above the Gibberagong Waterholes, under the canopy.



A large tortoise in the water was spotted by Lily, who has eyesight better than many.  
Onward, ever onward;  
we must not tarry,  
to the intersection with the new signposts, to assist us on the journey.

I missed the Lovers Jump Creek crossing and worried our party.  
After realising my error the steps on the opposite bank were found you see.  
Navigating is not a science but can depend on being lucky.  
Then up the hill, the last for the day; trust me; really?  
We stopped on a stair to allow the intake of more air for some of the party.  
One of the members needed water from others; how tardy.  
The excuse being that carrying enough water made the pack heavy.  
Apparently our president carries extra for those who run empty.  
We were on the Grosvenor Track now, but it was not empty.  
People passed us going in the opposite direction with energy aplenty.  
An echidna was spied here on my recce,  
but today not one; maybe we were too early.  
However our tortoise made up for it; we were lucky.  
We reached the end of the fire trail at the gate blocking the park entry.  
Now there was suburbia with gardens and houses to see.  
Next Wahroonga Station cost our party three;  
there were trains to catch you see.  
The remaining three; Catharina, Linda and me,  
went off to a café for coffee and tea.  
A message on the home phone was from Kerry.  
A freight train had delayed her train and so she missed the party;  
the answer to the mystery,  
and the end of the story.

*By Len Sharp.*



## The ANB Christmas BBQ/picnic - Brays Bay Reserve, 7 December 2013

What a great turn-up we had for the Christmas get together! The later start time seems to be more suitable for members and so we are going to do the same again this year.

Thank you to all who came along, and special thanks to the many helping hands - supply of the salads, organising the drinks, table decorations, setting/cleaning up, Yuko and Peter for the photos.

**You all helped to make this a great social occasion.**





# FEATURE

## Griffins Fire Trail, Morton National Park

By Yuko Imai

### Walk overview

This return walk was one of the highlights of our three day Kangaroo Valley trip in December. The walk began from the gate with the Morton NP sign board indicating the name of the fire trail and Griffins Farm remains.

It was perfectly sunny and quite warm. Literally thousands of cicadas were singing deafeningly as if they were gaining an abundance of energy from the harsh sun. Due to the heat, the return trip was quite exhausting - first one third ascended steeply and the rest was continuously uphill until the end.

We did not notice the presence of wild life except a few bird calls and wombat poos.

### Features

'Rock gardens' with huge rocks, Yarrunga Creek crossing, Griffins Farm remains and its stone walls.

### Track details



The trail was wide and reasonably maintained, lightly shaded thanks to tall trees on both sides. This was bliss on such a hot day. We saw lots of medium height cycad with thin, hard leaves undergrowth.

The first couple of kilometres were either flat or gently undulating. After that, the landscape suddenly changed into a 'rock garden' with huge rocks scattered along the trail. This rock garden ended with a 'rock gate' with a locked gate - magnificent rock cutting work that cut through a huge oval rock to create a path and a metal gate in the middle.



From the rock gate, the trail started to descend steeply. So, the use of walking poles provided good support on the loose slope surface until a very small creek appeared. We

thought this was Yarrunga Creek, but it was not. Yarrunga Creek was less than 1km away from this point.

Yarrunga Creek did not have much water, probably 10 to 15 cm deep, but it was several metres wide. One fallen tree served as a bridge, but it was shaky. We crossed this tree bridge - I using my walking poles to balance myself while walking on the tree but my partner carefully crossed it without walking poles. On the way back, we simply hopped from rock to rock in the water. On the other side of the creek, there was a suitable spot where we had lunch.



From the creek, the trail went gently uphill. Soon we noticed sections of ruined stone walls on both sides of the trail. The stone walls were heavily covered with weeds, and therefore it was often hard to spot them. These walls were actually more visible from the other side of the walls. We also spotted a one-metre high, H-shaped stone object inside a patchy bush.

According to the walk guide we were using, the remains of the Griffins Farm homestead should appear after 'a grassy path off to the left', followed by 'a large clear grassed area'. When a grassy path finally appeared, it led straight to a large grassed camp site, but not to the homestead remains. The stone walls suggested that the homestead should be nearby. We searched the campsite thoroughly, but there was nothing that looked like the remains.



At the end of the campsite, we saw some objects on the hillside in the direction of the trail. We climbed the hill and finally found the remains: stone

foundation and blocks. The footprint of the foundation was much smaller than that of a current ordinary homestead - it was more relevant to a shed.

The walk guide appeared to be incorrect in terms of describing which appeared first on the grassy path, the homestead or the campsite. However, the mystery was solved after we found the H-shaped stone object again as we made our way from the remains back to the trail. The grassy path described in the guide was obscured by overgrown shrubs and the H-shaped object was stated in the guide as "a rotten gate post". The guide just did not refer to the second grassy path, which we went into.

At this point, we turned around to return on the long uphill trail.





# Notices Notices Notices



## Pencil in this date for the AGM

**Sunday 20th July 2014,**  
**Woodstock Community Centre**  
*in the Ballroom*

**Church Street, Burwood**

*More details in the next issue*

### The Mother's Day Classic Breast cancer fund raising walk

Date: Sunday 11 May 2014      Grade: 1  
Leader: Beth Rohrlach

Come and join Team All Nations and lots of other people on Mother's Day morning for a walk to help remember those affected by or living with breast cancer and to raise funds for the National Breast Cancer Research Foundations Research Program. Course starts near the Queens Rd Gatehouse in Parramatta Park and meanders through the park past key landmarks and along the Parramatta River.

Entry fees apply. Please contact Beth Rohrlach by Saturday 5 April if you wish to come along so that the early bird entry fee of \$40 per person can be met. Concessions and family rates are also available. See website for further details [www.mothersdayclassic.com.au/events](http://www.mothersdayclassic.com.au/events) Open to all members and their guests including mothers. Distance is 4km or 8km. You can also run the course if you don't wish to walk it.

Contact email: [bethisbushwalking@yahoo.com](mailto:bethisbushwalking@yahoo.com)  
Contact telephone: 042 47 322 87

## **Enter the ANB Photographic Competition at the next AGM**

Categories are:

- **PEOPLE** • **WATER SCENES**
- **FLORA** • **FAUNA** • **CAMPING**
- **NATURE'S WONDERS**

**We need 4 entries per category to run a viable competition.**

Last year's contest was very short on entries and although there can only be one winner in each category we need more entries. Encourage your fellow members to enter with you so this club tradition can continue.

(Sorry, only one entry per person per category)

How to Enter details will be in the next issue.

*Over 4 months still to capture that winning picture  
And a chance to win a shopping voucher.*

Photos must have been taken since the previous AGM.

**Organiser Len Sharp.**



## **Change of Details**

**Don't forget to notify our  
Treasurer Helen Hindin  
of any of the following -**

- **change in address**
- **email address**
- **phone numbers**

**email us at-**[club@anbwalkers.org.au](mailto:club@anbwalkers.org.au)

**To change your details on the website you need to make the alterations yourself.**

# SNORKELLING

## Three Outings

11 & 18 January & 1 February 2014  
Leader: Charles Bowden

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After an abortive start to summer snorkelling late last year, the weather finally turned in our favour and the first three snorkelling outings of 2014 took place in ideal sunny conditions.



*Donning gear*

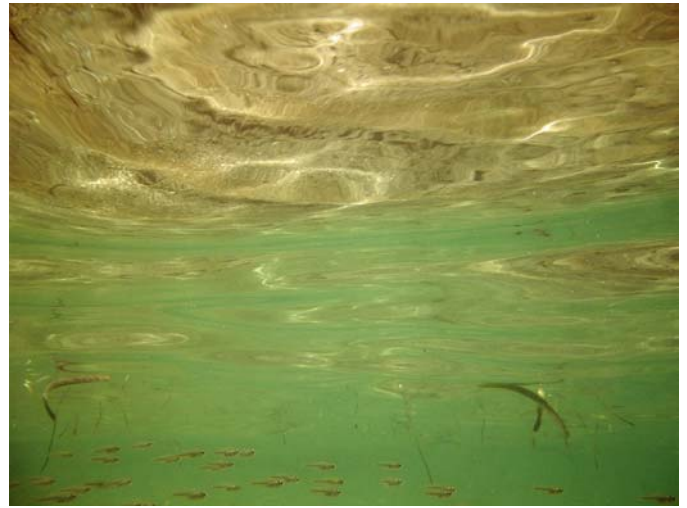
**40 Baskets Beach** proved to be the most rewarding with sightings of octopi, stingrays, squid, flathead and sand whiting among many others.

**Jibbon Beach** was crowded with boats on the day but fortunately the eastern end near the rocks was relatively clear of craft. However the fish were skittish and timid due to the disturbance and interesting sightings were relatively few, a stingray being the most notable.

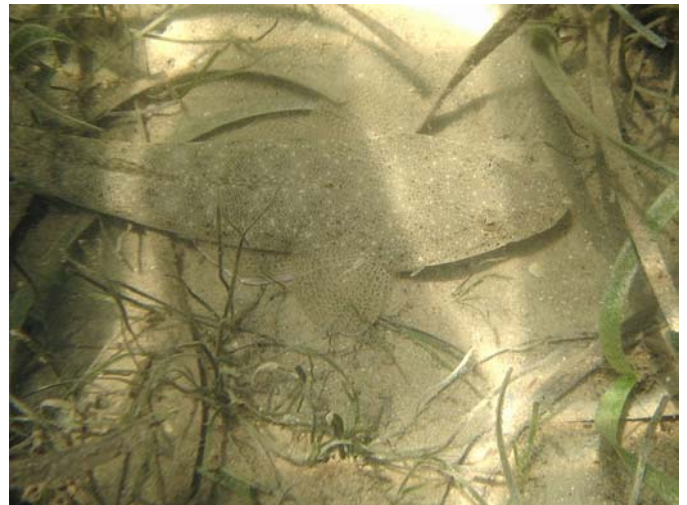
**Gordon's Bay** proved to be a disappointment both in terms of water quality and marine life. Some eastern blue groppers were spotted near the underwater trail on the northern shore, but this was quite some distance from the beach. On the southern shore, large rock cale was the species most in evidence.



*Rock cale*



*Surface reflections*



*Dusky flathead*



*Stingaree*

Thank you to Monique, Kathy, Janice, Stan and Charbèle for splashing around with me!

**More great photos next page**



# WALK

## Windang Island to Bass Point

19 January 2014

Grade 3

Leader: Charles Bowden

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A fine if blustery day greeted the six of us willing to take on this stage of the Grand Pacific Walk. After visiting Windang Island to get a sense of where we were heading (Shellharbour being visible in the distance), we set off along Warrilla Beach. A new foot bridge at the end of the beach allowed us to cross over the Elliott Lake inlet to reach Barrack Point.



***Black & white sand beaches - Shellharbour***

Tide, wind and waves deterred us from taking the low route along the rock platforms so we took the scenic high route around Barrack Point before pausing for a late morning tea at the top of the steps leading down to North Shellharbour Beach.

We made it to Shellharbour in plenty of time to stop for a leisurely lunch and swim in the small sheltered harbour before setting off again.



***Quarry Pier & Bass Point***

The white sand of South Shellharbour beach finishes just before a large quarrying operation. In stark contrast, a black sand beach then continues the rest of the way to Bass Point and the quarry's large pipeline pier for discharging onto freighters.

The track around Bass Point initially wends its way through grassy meadows until Middy Beach where a broad trail leads through pleasant littoral rainforest to Boston Point. After pausing to read the memorial to the army soldiers who died while trying to rescue sailors from the SS Boston which hit the rocks during WWII, we made our way along the rocky shelf to Bass Point. From here a narrow track led us into Bushrangers Bay where we found plenty of swimmers and snorkellers.

We then continued around the bay and up to Fisherman's Point where the walk concluded with views further south to the Bombo Headland. We had made very good time without seeming to exert ourselves too much so our reward was a refreshing swim and snorkel in Bushrangers Bay before adjourning for afternoon tea in Shellharbour on our way back to Sydney.

Thank you to Helen, David, Suseela, Richard and Charbèle who made it such a pleasant day and additional thanks to David for helping out with the car shuffle.



***Smooth toadfish***



***Pigmy squid***

**Welcome to 3  
New Members**

**Marg Catley**

**Monique Benier**

**Anupam Ranku**



**See you in the bush**

# WALK

## Patonga to Pearl Beach Central Coast

19 January 2014

Leader: Linda Kelen

Grade 2

Only four of us ventured on this walk to Pearl Beach as some would-be participants complained of it being too hot and another just didn't turn up! It was a very enjoyable day, as we took the ferry from Palm Beach to Patonga and then while climbing the peninsular looked at the various vistas of Brisbane Waters.

On getting to Pearl Beach no one had to be asked twice to go for a swim!

After lunch we then summoned up the energy to return to Patonga for a well-deserved beer at the hotel.



*View across to Barrenjoey Lighthouse*



*looking towards Brooklyn on the  
Hawkesbury River*

*photos - Jan Steven*



*On the fire trail*



**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE**

**3 May 2014**

**SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
jan.steven@bigpond.com**

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



# PHOTO ALBUM

## Green Gully Track

24 December - 2 January 2014

Photos - Jacqui and Liam



*Len after a hard day out  
at Cowells Hut*



*One of the occupants of Green Gully Creek*



*Jacqui & Rahima having a spray break on track*



*Liam cooking at Cowells Hut*



*Sleeping out at Green Gully Hut*



## Snorkelling Outings

Photos - Charles Bowden



*Fingerlings*



*Iridescent mollusc*



*School whiting*

## Patonga to Pearl Beach

19 January 2014

photos Jan Steven



*Burnt out headland surrounding Barrenjoey Lighthouse*



*Len, Helen and Linda*

