



all nations
BUSHWALKERS INC



Autumn Newsletter
March 2017

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



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

WALK

Strickland Forest Trails **9 October 2016** **Grade 3** **Leader: Charles Bowden**

Lovely weather and a good turnout of thirteen people made for a very pleasant stroll through this piece of woodland, about an hour north of Sydney.

A new trail had been added since my last visit, so that there are now six trails, which can be linked to form a single walk. The trails run through a mixture of rainforest in the creeks and dry sclerophyll on the upper slopes. There is also an old arboretum full of exotic natives from elsewhere in Australia that is being restored, and a waterfall that was scarcely more than a trickle when we stopped by on this occasion.

Wildflowers were in abundance, and cabbage tree palms waved their fronds in the sunlight to create interesting striated patterns.

Thank you Diane, Tom, Marcela, Nicola, Suseela, Bryan, Françoise, Nick, Joanne, Jacqui, Liam and William for taking time out to enjoy the surroundings. Extra thanks to Liam and Nick for helping out with the car pool.



Climbing Guinea Flower—Charles Bowden

WALK

Pindar Cave & Beyond , BWNP 6 December 2016 Grade 5

Leader: Liam Heery

This walk was to be the culmination of a series of walks I have done over the past six months in this area, either from Girrakool in the north or from Wondabyne today.

The track out to Pindar cave is well used, and is now easily followed in comparison to the last time I visited here some years ago. After the initial climb from Wondabyne station we reached the wide fire trail, which we followed for half a kilometre or so, until the junction with the unmarked track to Pindar.

After an hour or so of easy undulating terrain we reached a rock clearing that looked like a good spot for morning tea. On looking around I realised we were very near to where I intended to rejoin the track after our offtrack exploration later in the afternoon. This meant we were very close to Pindar cave itself. Unfortunately I didn't realise that only another 100 meters on there was an even more impressive lookout over Mullet Creek and the Hawkesbury. Note to self: next time go a little further!

From here the track winds down off Kari-ong Ridge to Pindar pool and swamp just before reaching the Cave/Rock Overhang itself. Just as I was thinking this would be a likely spot to come across a snake, sure enough as I noticed a young brown snake as I was about to put my



Pindar Pool—photo Charles Bowden

foot down into a trench, (on the washed out track). I had to stop mid stride, while I gave it time to swish away. Being in a trench though, it had nowhere to go other than where we were going, and when it disappeared I had to tell the group to walk very quickly through the area!

At Pindar Cave we took time to refresh and change into bushbashing gear before heading off up the ridge behind Pindar in our exploration of the ridge top above, and look for a manageable route out to a potential look out over Mooney Mooney Creek.

While the sides of the ridge were hard to push through, once atop the ridge it was reasonably open and quite manageable. We were running short of time however, (aiming for the 5.29pm train at Wondabyne) so I called a halt about 500 metres short of our objective and had lunch.

Following lunch, rather than following our exact track back, I aimed for the ridge top, where the going was much easier. Along the way, Paul (from the Bush Club) pointed us in the direction of the old ochre mine, with its tailings still visible and also parts of an historic core sampling tool still lying around.

The discovery of the mine together with an easily negotiable route made up for the disappointment of not reaching our initial objective.

Following the ridge top again we bee-lined for the



Pindar Cave Wall—photo Charles Bowden

intersection with the track, coming across one last obstacle in having to negotiate down and through a heavily overgrown gully.

Exiting onto the track we stopped for a welcome break and cool down at the lookout where we should have had morning tea.

It was then a leisurely walk all on track back to the station with 15 minutes to spare.

Thanks to Charles and Nick and three from the Bush Club for joining me on another adventure.

President's Soapbox

Well, another year is over and another has begun: welcome to 2017 and the Year of the Rooster. The global political environment may be fraught but the local bushwalking environment is thriving.

So firstly let me convey a big thank you to all the activity leaders who have contributed to the club's program over the past 12 months. Your contributions and efforts are highly appreciated. I have said it before and keep saying it: without your support, the club would not be able to function. I hope that you will continue to display the same energy and enthusiasm over the next 12 months and keep submitting walks to the club's program.

Of course, there is always a need for new activity leaders and I hope that some of you will help out by contributing to the club's program over the next 12 months or more. Even just one activity each will make a big difference. It's an opportunity to introduce the rest of the club to areas or walks that interest you, and you may be pleasantly surprised how much they will be of interest to the rest of us.

What will almost certainly be of interest to every member is a website created by the National Parks Association of NSW (NPA) in conjunction with Wildwalks called www.bushwalking101.org. Here you will find information on what gear to bring on day walks, what sort of footwear to consider, how to look after your feet and skin, and much more. The site will gradually expand with further categories and it is well worth bookmarking it for future reference - as well as having a look now at what it contains.

I hope this inspires you to get out there and enjoy the splendid bushland surroundings we are blessed with. Looking forward to seeing you on a walk soon!

Charles Bowden

Welcome to 8 New Members

Ian Turner
Tricia Machon
Trang Nguyen
Julie Elsworth
Ulrike Kachel
Katherine Costigan
Harold Thompson
Alison Lonnon

See you in the bush



**Next ANB committee meeting
Tuesday 11th April 2017 at 6:30pm**

Woodstock Community Centre

Burwood

22 Church Street Burwood

*All members are welcome ...
Come along and have your say*

SOCIALGAINE

27 November 2016

Grade 3-5

Co-ordinator: Charles Bowden

This year's Socialgaine Rogaine was held in the Wahroonga area, and former resident Nick was quick to sign up to make the most of a home turf advantage. Other applications soon followed, and ANB enrolled three teams in the event. All teams performed very well, exceeding the 1,000-point threshold.



ANB team 1—Nick, Suseela, Julian

ANB1 (consisting of Nick, Suseela & Julian) won intra-club bragging rights with 1,440 points, coming 10th in the Mixed Veteran category, and 58th (out of 123 teams) overall. Second were ANB3 (John, Susan & Jane) with 1230 points, coming 12th in Mixed Veteran, and 70th overall. ANB3 with novice rogainers Deidre & Susan (plus yours truly) came 18th in Mixed Veteran and 79th overall with 1,100 points, a great result.

The course was varied and interesting, and we had fine weather to help us make the most of it. Thank you to everyone who took part.



ANB team 2 John, Susan, Jane



ANB team 3 Charles, Susan, Deidre

SNORKELLING

Summer Outings so far

Leader: Charles Bowden

It's been a better start to the snorkelling season this summer with warm sunny weather, for the most part coinciding with snorkel outings. Only one snorkel (Jibbon Beach) had to be cancelled, and that was due to lack of numbers. The Fairlight Beach outing had to be moved to 40 Baskets Beach due to the surprising amount of swell crashing in. Visibility was still very poor, however, and aside from a couple of enticing glimpses of an octopus and a ray, not much was seen.



School of Eastern Pomfret

Shelly Beach was engulfed by holiday crowds. As occasionally happens, it was the activity on and near the beach that provided

more visual stimulation than what was seen underwater. A group of intrepid brush turkeys meandered amongst bags and towels looking for food scraps, while tour groups of divers and snorkelers struggled to and from the shore. By mid-afternoon the sandy part of the beach was packed with sunbaking forms and colourful portable shelters.

Amidst all this chaos, a wedding party somehow minced a zigzag route across the beach to a hastily erected platform where vows were exchanged, loudly applauded by the onlookers on the sand.

Plenty of fish were seen, with various uncorroborated sightings of more interesting specimens, such as a small wobbegong shark and a rock ling.

Parsley Bay was calm and clear as usual... and shallow with the tide on its way out when we arrived. Plenty of interesting marine life could be found, the most interesting being a red octopus, juvenile squid, pygmy leatherjacket and toadfish. By lunchtime numbers had swelled and the bay became quite crowded with picnickers and swimmers. A holiday atmosphere prevailed.

Thank you to all ANB snorkelers who have attended so far. It's been relaxing and enjoyable both in and out of the water.

WALK

Milsons Point to Balmoral 20 November 2016 Grade 3 Leader: Denise Kruse

Ah, the joys of the encroaching summer, forcing a last minute change to the location of the walk.

Although the walk was originally Wondabyne to Woy Woy, fires and projected hot weather resulted in me changing the walk to Milsons Point to Balmoral. The change didn't seem to stop the eager ones, and I



Towards Sydney Harbour—photo Denise

reached the limit of 12 fairly quickly.

Unfortunately, a few dropped out and by the morning of the walk. I

had nine in total attending the walk (including me). Ed was my trusty co-leader, and I brought up the rear. We walked through the streets to Cremorne Point for coffee and morning tea, and then followed the coastal walk around to Little Sirius Cove and Taronga Zoo, via a very unexpected path closure. We had lunch at Bradleys Head, illegally feeding the brush turkey, and then continued onto Clifton Gardens, where we had ice-creams and a break. Ian elected to stay and swim, but the rest of us pushed onto Georges Heights dropping down into Balmoral Beach.

We arrived with 20 minutes to spare before the city bus, so enough time to end the day with socialising and jokes, but no swimming.



Water dragon—photo Françoise Munoz

Many thanks to Charbèle, Gordana, Len, Bryan, visitor Tricia, Françoise, Ed, and new member Ian for a great day. See you on another walk.

WANTED: WALK LEADERS

Your Club needs more walk leaders

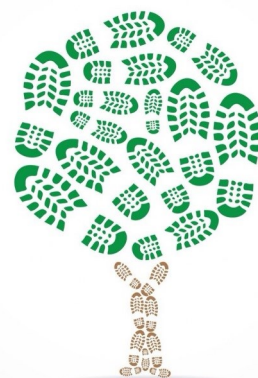
For a variety of reasons such as injury, retirement, work commitments or relocation, the Club's pool of walk leaders has diminished significantly over the past 12 months. This has placed increasing pressure on remaining walk leaders to put on more activities. Unfortunately, this is not a sustainable situation and the Activities Program will begin to suffer with gaps appearing unless additional walk leaders join in.

Leading a walk is a great way to get to meet and know your fellow members as well as encouraging visitors to join the Club. You also get the pleasure and satisfaction of introducing people to favourite haunts and locations in and around the parks and reserves that surround Sydney.

If you are interested in leading walks but are uncertain how to go about it, please contact our Program Co-ordinator, Liam, or Club President, Charles, for advice and guidance. Otherwise, if you have the knowledge and confidence, please contribute to the Club's Activities Program. You don't need to wait for the next quarter; short notice walks can be placed on the Program at any time!

You can add an activity by logging into the ANB website. Go to the 'For members' section and select 'Create Content', then 'Activity' and input all the activity details.

Or once logged on try:
<http://www.anbwalkers.org.au/node/add/activity>



TRAVEL

Saint Petersburg May 2016 Julie Armstrong

After spending a week in New York with my adult children Petar and Karina, and two weeks in Europe, namely Amsterdam, Bruges and Berlin with Jan, I didn't think anywhere could be better. They were all fantastic, with many places and things to see and do. Of course that was before we arrived in St Petersburg.

Hotel M where we stayed was clean and tidy, if not the most luxurious. The hotel was well-located, within walking distance of many great attractions. "Nevsky Prospekt", the main thoroughfare in St Petersburg, was just around the corner, and houses many churches, cathedrals, banks and shops. Friendly, helpful staff at the reception desk pointed us in the right direction for bus and taxi travel to manoeuvre around this great city.

Our first night we dined at The Metropole restaurant just around the corner, and discounts on the meal and free drinks were provided. Afterwards we retired early to recover from after a long day in transit from Berlin via an unavoidable six-hour stopover at Helsinki Airport.

Day two: After breakfast we made our way to the buses with a friendly English couple that gave us advice to make sure we visited the "Russian Museum" (we were planning on doing this so good to know it came recommended).

A short bus ride took us past "The Hermitage" and we then walked over the bridge across the Neva River to "The Ensemble on the Spit of Vasilevskiy Island" where two large Rostral Columns with accompanying statues overlook the Peter and Paul Fortress. It was a Celebration Day for St Petersburg, and people were out in force to celebrate. We made a few purchases at the market stalls set up here, babushka dolls and t-shirts. I managed to learn how to say "thank you" in Russian. That is "spasibo" and continued to say this and "dobra" (good) for the rest of the trip, which always got a smile.

We heard the noon cannon fired, and discovered it is fired daily from the "Peter and Paul Fortress". We walked over another bridge that took us to the Island where the Fortress is situated, walked along the beach and Commandant's Landing Stage, through the Neva Gate and into the Fortress. We

saw the awesome "Peter and Paul Cathedral", the Burial Place of past Russian rulers. These include the founder of St Petersburg "Peter the Great" and the last Tsar, Emperor Nicholas II, finally buried here with his wife and children in 1998, after being shot in 1918. We also walked through the haunting prison for crimes against the state, the "Trubetskoy Bastion Prison", where Dostoyevsky, Gorky and Trotsky, among others, were interned.

Our third day took us by hydrofoil to "The Peterhof Palace", a series of palaces, gardens and fountains, a world heritage site sometimes referred to as the "Russian Versailles". Founded by Peter the Great, construction began in 1714. Magnificent!

After leaving the hydrofoil we commenced the walk back to our hotel and managed to come across "The Church of the Saviour on the Spilt Blood" (Church of the Resurrection). It was built on the bank of the Catherine Canal between 1883 and 1907, around a part of the granite embankment on which the blood of mortally wounded Tsar Alexander II was shed on 1 March 1881. The church is decorated with valuable mosaics and icons, and fortunately was not destroyed during the Soviet period.

Day four took us to the "Russian Museum", which was supported by the Imperial family and opened in 1898. The museum's stocks are said to number at least 400,000 items of national art, including paintings, sculpture, graphic art and decorative and applied art. We then walked on to "The Field of Mars" which in the early 20th century was called "the St Petersburg Sahara". In summer there were clouds of dust, and in winter it became a snowy wasteland. Originally called Tsarina's Meadow, it is where Peter I held parades of the guards and treated the elite of his army to a traditional cup of vodka. It later became a place for famous parades of infantry regiments and cavalymen, a burial place during the siege of "Petrograd", and also a place for memorials. The Eternal Flame was lit here in 1957, the first in Russia, and is in the centre of the field.

Day Five we chose to visit "The Hermitage" including the "Winter Palace", that served as the imperial residence and buildings to house the monarch's art collections. Daunted by the enormous size of the buildings, we were delighted when an official guide, Anna, offered her services to us for two hours. Two and a half hours later we were overcome by what we had seen and the knowledge of our guide. We had seen paintings by Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Velazquez, El Greco, Rembrandt, Rubens, Titian, Van Dyck, and Poussin, plus sculptures by Michelangelo and Canova. No doubt we would have gotten lost and taken more than one day to see all this without Anna. We also appreciated a quartet singing in one of the rooms. Well worth paying for a guide.

We had time to walk on to "St Isaacs Cathedral" to appreciate the icons and wealth and stained glass win-

dow of The Resurrection behind the altar. Having mastered the buses by now, we caught a bus back to the hotel to rest before going out for dinner.

Day six took us back to the "Hermitage", this time to the building across the huge open "Palace Square" to the "General Staff Building". This building, recently renovated and previously used for the military, now displays paintings by the Impressionists Renoir, Monet, Cezanne, Van Gogh, Matisse and Picasso. Unimaginable!

That night we had tickets for box seats to the ballet "Swan Lake" performed at the "Mariinsky Opera and Ballet Theatre" by the Mariinsky Ballet. Awesome! The Theatre was opened in 1860, and soon became the centre of Russian opera and ballet. Under Soviet rule the theatre was named "Kirov" but reverted back to Mariinsky. Among others Pavlova and Baryshnikov danced here.



View of box seats watching Mariinsky Ballet

Day seven was our last sight-seeing day and we certainly made the most of it. First we walked to look at the "Armenian Church", and then "St Catherine's Cathedral". Then we hopped on a bus to the "Ethnography Museum". On display are mock-ups of lifestyles of Eskimos and American Indians. The museum also contained a huge display of monsters preserved in jars. Next was

the "Zoological Museum" that contains the largest display of Mammoths in the world. Awesome!

In the afternoon we found the "Faberge Museum" which is housed in a former palace. Beautiful! That night we went for dinner to a Georgian restaurant and I had a typical Georgian meal called Chebureki, similar to a Greek cheese and spinach pie with filo pastry. This was accompanied by a tomato sauce for dipping.

On our last day we had a leisurely breakfast, finished packing and caught a taxi to the International Airport. We thought we had our own friendly chauffeur as the same taxi driver (supplied by the hotel) took us to and from the ballet and the airport. Jan was due to depart before me and I departed for Hong Kong for three days on Emirates. Comparing notes on arrival back home, Jan departed after me, on Air France for Sydney, due to a delay.

Thanks to Wikipedia; Saint Petersburg and its Environs, English Translation: Paul Williams, and Jan.

We Need You!!



Calling all members who have always wondered how they could help the club, but don't fancy leading a walk, or organising a social event. The Committee of the All Nations Bushwalkers has to be elected every year. It would be great to have some new people join the committee who may be able to inject fresh ideas, and are enthusiastic in wanting to help the club continue and grow for another fifty years.

There are seven positions on the committee that are all up for grabs each year at the AGM. Three of the present committee have already indicated that they won't be seeking re-election so at least two new committee members will be needed to ensure that we can continue to operate in the current efficient manner.

This year the AGM will be held on the morning of Saturday June 24th in Woodstock, Burwood. However, there will be a Committee Meeting before then on the evening of Tuesday 11th April, which is a golden opportunity for any interested member to come along and see how the current committee operates.

To see what each committee member is responsible for please visit this link <http://www.ambwalkers.org.au/node/256>, or alternatively just contact the current position holder via this link <http://www.ambwalkers.org.au/node/52> and ask them about their role.

Ask not what All Nations can do for you, but what you can do for All Nations!

WALK

Grassy Hill to Colo Overlook 18 December 2016 Grade 4 Leader: Liam Heery

In the lead up to Christmas, before it got too hot, I wanted to do a walk to a lookout over the Colo River that I came across on my last expedition to the river. However, this time was going to be much easier (graded 4) as it would be mostly on track, and mostly along a long ridge.

Given the grading this was going to be a great opportunity for people to get out to see what I believe is one of the best gorge views in Australia.

We started off a little late for various reasons. A slight miscalculation on my behalf of the distance from the car park to the old fire trail we wanted, meant that we were about an hour late getting underway, and walked an extra 4 kilometres more than intended!

The walk out the via old fire trail though was easy going, and provided great views to the Colo river at various points. Once we got off track we were slowed down a little due to the undulating terrain.

By lunch time we still hadn't found my lookout, and as we were walking in the opposite direction to the previous walk nothing looked familiar! I decided to stop for lunch, where we had a partial lookout over the gorge, however not as good as the views I remembered.

We decided to cut lunch short and spend half an hour exploring to see if we could find the lookout, until I noticed that we were actually heading back to where we came from rather than going further out! That finalised it and I decided to cut our losses and head home.

Travelling back the way we came was a little easier, as we were able to pick better options while off track. It was still a relief to most people when we reached the old fire trail. The extra couple of k's along Grassy Hill track was another matter, and firmly planted into my mind not to repeat.

Thanks to Diane, Françoise, Fiona, Julian and Serena for persevering and maybe joining me again to find the elusive look out!

PHOTOS

By Nick Collins
Of Thursday Surveys.....



Gooches Crater



Temple of Doom



'bathtub' formation

PHOTOS

By Bob Seibright
Towards Wollongong



WALK

Rockdale Wetlands & Cook Park Trail

8 January 2017 Grade 2

Leader: Charles Bowden

Thirteen members gathered at Scott Park on a fine sunny day for this pleasant stroll from Sans Souci to Kyeemagh and return. We began with the inland trail, which takes in various wetlands and reserves including Scarborough Ponds, before emerging at Kyeemagh opposite the airport.

From here we followed the coastal trail that parallels Lady Robinson Beach all the way back to Sans Souci. Lunch was held in the shade at Cook Park, followed by an ice-cream stop or two and an afternoon swim at Monterey.

The creeks were full and waterbirds could be seen in the ponds, including one that was heavily choked with algae. There was plenty of activity to keep us bemused and entertained along the way, including a group of radio-controlled boat enthusiasts manoeuvring their vessels around one large pool. The beaches were crowded, the parks thronged with picnickers, kite boarder sails filled the skies, and jet skis bashed the waves.

Having started just after 9:00am, the walk finished in good time at 3:30pm, following which some retreated to a local sailing club for refreshments.

Thank you to Linda P, Steve, Nelum, Bryan, Denise, Ed, Linda K, Michele, Julie, Catharina, Trang and Len for taking part, and cheerful company along the way.



Green algae infestation—photo Charles Bowden

FUNNY PHOTOS

Can you guess where these photos are?

These are real photos taken without editing or alteration.



One is locally in Sydney. Starring who?

One is a little further away.

Can you guess where they are?



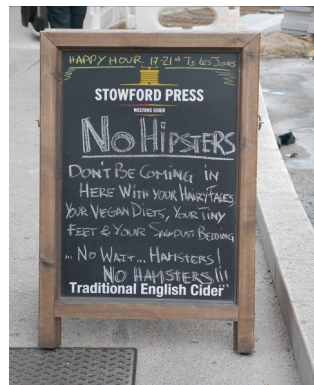
Send your answers to editor@anwalkers.org.au by the next newsletter deadline.

All will be revealed next edition!

Last edition's local photo was of a scooter spotted in Park Street, Hyde Park, Sydney city, spotted not long after the USA Presidential elections.



The second photo was taken in Montpellier France.



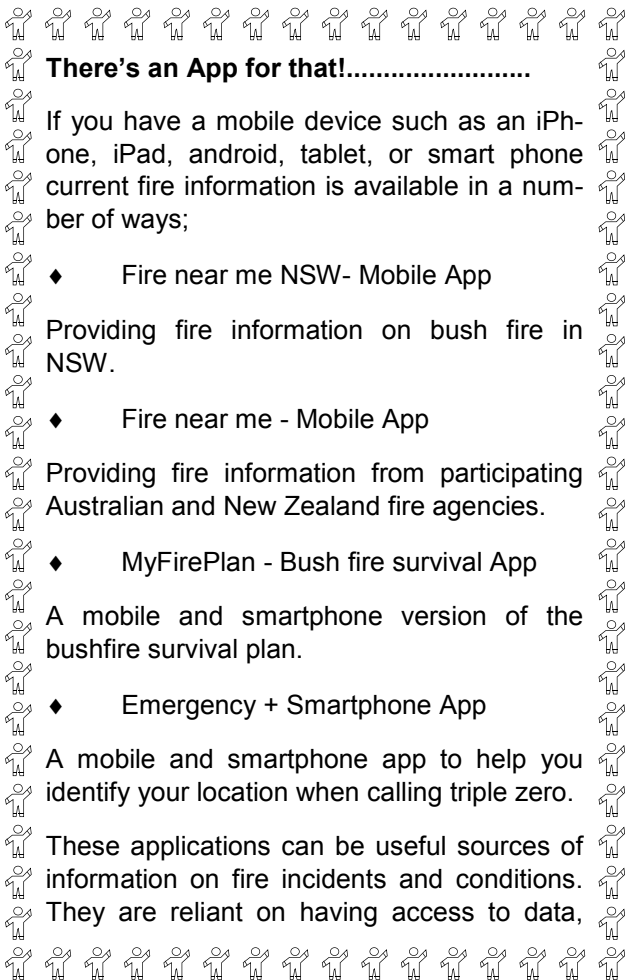
Editor's Note

If you have any submissions of Funny Photos for the next edition send them to; editor@anwalkers.org.au



They should be unedited real sightings, preferably on a walk or travelling, but anywhere, and in good taste that everyone can enjoy! Such as this busker spotted in Hyde Park Sydney.

NOTICES



There's an App for that!.....

If you have a mobile device such as an iPhone, iPad, android, tablet, or smart phone current fire information is available in a number of ways;

- ◆ Fire near me NSW- Mobile App
Providing fire information on bush fire in NSW.
- ◆ Fire near me - Mobile App
Providing fire information from participating Australian and New Zealand fire agencies.
- ◆ MyFirePlan - Bush fire survival App
A mobile and smartphone version of the bushfire survival plan.
- ◆ Emergency + Smartphone App
A mobile and smartphone app to help you identify your location when calling triple zero.

These applications can be useful sources of information on fire incidents and conditions. They are reliant on having access to data,

Did you know ANB has Kayaks available for members use?

1 two seater kayak

3 one seater kayaks

Life jackets and paddles for each

A soft roof rack for transport of 1-2 kayaks

These are stored in the Mt Colah area.
If you would like to utilise these please contact Peter Bonner on (02) 9482 1928/0408 221 488

Thinking about leading a walk?

It is a good idea to have a first aid certificate.

ANB will reimburse members for successfully completed first aid courses up to the value of \$200.



The ANB Committee recommends the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad website

<http://www.bwrs.org.au>

Keen to learn more about bushwalking?

<http://www.bushwalking101.org/>

By the National Parks Association of NSW

- Gear
- Footwear
- Sun protection
- Water collection and treatment
- Map reading
- On track navigation

All Nations Bushwalkers AGM

Saturday 24th June 2017
9am meeting followed by
11am brunch and
photo competition

Renwick Room
Woodstock Community Centre
Church Street Burwood

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION to be held at the AGM

Photos: Any size, in colour or black & white, and taken by you since the last AGM.

Categories are:

Nature taken on a club activity

People taken on a club activity

Open any subject, taken anywhere in the world

4 entries per category for a viable competition. If insufficient entries in a category then the entries will be included in the "Open" section (Sorry, only one entry per person per category).

How to Enter

Open to all club members who attend the AGM

To be entered on the back of photo:

Category, your name, when and where taken.

On arrival at the AGM, hand your entry to **the co-coordinator.**

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@anwalkers.org.au

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE -

1st May 2017

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO
editor@anwalkers.org.au

Pictures submitted: 300DPI resolution preferred to achieve good reproduction quality and photos should be separate files from the story text.

A quote "Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow." Helen Keller (1880-1968)