



all nations
BUSHWALKERS INC



Autumn Newsletter
March 2018

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

Grand Canyon and Hanging Rock
Blue Mountains National Park
22 February 2018 Grade 3-5 Exploratory
Leader: Nick Collins



Blue Mountains National Park critters—photo Paul Ma

Have you ever wondered where ANB walks come from, or how they make it onto the program?

The Thursday survey group has been out exploring new walk variations that members can look out for on the program.

Here are some photos of the latest intrepid adventure.



Inside the Grand Canyon—photo Harold Thompson



Nick upon Hanging Rock—photo Fiona Bachmann



Triumphant Hanging Rock jumpers—photo Paul Ma



ANB members at the Becroft Bush Dance—photo Sharyn Mattern

President's Soapbox

Now that the Christmas and New Year (including Chinese New Year of the dog) holidays have passed it is that time when we should all get out and be active. And what better way to be active than to go for a walk in our beautiful bush with similarly minded people. ANB is a great social club and is there to be used by all members and your friends. Don't forget to keep telling people what a great resource we are!

Even if you want to expand your organisational and communication skills, you can do that through the club. Simply by deciding to lead a walk you will get great exposure to these important life skills. All our leaders and experienced members will be very happy to help and assist you in any way. The first step is to be not afraid to ask!

The Club is also able to cover the cost (if you don't already have one) of a First Aid course, for anyone who is a regular walker or leader. If you are interested give me a call or email.

We're also getting close to that time of year when we have our AGM. It's very important that you turn up as it's your opportunity to have input into what ANB does and how we operate. We are always looking for more people to help with the running of the Club and serving on the committee. The AGM this year will be on Saturday 23 June 2018 (put the date in your diary now!).

Also remember that you can submit a walk or activity anytime through the Club website.

See you in the bush...

Liam Heery
Acting President

**TRAVEL
SUMATRA
NICK COLLINS**



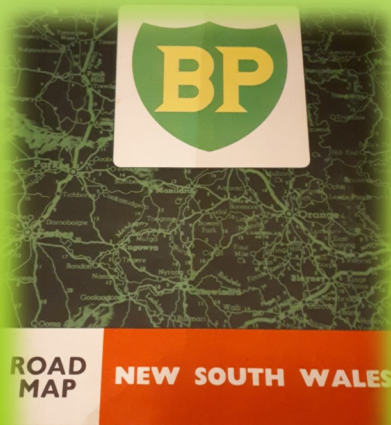
A day at the (bull) races. A highlight of Nick's recent holiday in West Sumatra was a visit to the bull racing. Villages compete to race their bullock teams across a very muddy paddock. If the driver stays on and makes it to the end of the course, it wins great honour for the village, and a better sale price for the animals when they come up for sale. It's a fabulous day out, and everyone gets very muddy.



**Welcome to one
New Member**

Sunni Clement

See you in the bush.....



**Next ANB committee meeting
Tuesday 10th April 2018 at 6:30pm**

Surry Hills

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

*To book in or ask questions please contact webmaster
Paul Monaghan
Or email club@anbwalkers.org.au*

TRAVEL

A GLIMPSE OF JAPAN

JAN STEVEN

In September last year I travelled to Japan to join a twelve-day Discovery Tour. Before departing, to prepare for the tour, I spent some time reading up about Japan and attended a lecture about Japanese customs and etiquette. This proved to be very useful. Part of our tour included staying in two traditional spa hotels in the mountains where we were expected to wear kimonos to dinner, sleep on tatami mats (on mattresses thank goodness) and observe the slipper customs as well as the Japanese bathhouse etiquette.

The Japanese food was fabulous. Each day our lovely guide Mr Kazoo took us to lunch at restaurants serving various types of Japanese cuisine. Not one Sushi bar in sight. We visited many ancient temples, forts and castles, stunning gardens with Autumn colours just emerging, museums, historic villages and houses.

Japan is a beautiful country, 80% is mountainous and heavily wooded with cedar trees, many planted after WW1 to replace the massive depletion from the mountains during the war. Travelling around Japan we encountered numerous tunnels, many more under construction, that drastically reduce travelling time. The longest tunnel we drove through was 11kms.

Before leaving Tokyo, where the tour commenced, we visited the Tokyo Sky Tower, a general city, temple and garden tour concluding with a dinner cruise on Tokyo Bay. Next day we were on a Bullet train to visit The Five Lakes region and Mt Fuji which was in complete white-out. Further into our journey we also learnt how to make washi paper, origami jumping frogs, attended a tea ceremony and kimono parade and even spent a couple of hours in a modern art gallery. Other places we visited were Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Nara, Wakayama with the tour concluding in Osaka. Here is an account of Day 11 on the tour....



A pair of dragons emerging from a sea of clouds

A Day Trip to Mt Koya (about 900 metres above sea level)

Leaving Kyoto, it was a pleasant 3½ hour picturesque drive through fruit and rice growing regions which took us to Koyasan. Known primarily as the centre of the Shingon Buddhism, Koyasan sits in the mountains and is the ideal place to take a glimpse of Japan's traditional religious life.



Chanting Tibetan Monks

First, we visited Okunoin Cemetery, home to Kobo Daishi's mausoleum (founder of Shingon Buddhism). This is the largest cemetery in Japan, with over 200,000 tombstones, as many wish to be buried near Kobo Daishi. Some large companies have established areas for their employees who wish to be buried near the Kobo Dashi mausoleum. There is also a memorial to the 1911 earthquake tsunami victims. The cemetery is set amid a great forest of ancient Japanese cedar trees, some 200-600 years old, which line the steep 2km walkway up to the mausoleum.

Following a 'box lunch' in a restaurant we moved on to the Kongobu-ji Temple and Garan Temple complex established since 835AD.

The main building Kongobu-ji Temple dating back to 16th century, is the head temple of the Shingon Buddhist Sect. The interior of the building is adorned with fabulous paintings of cranes and there are sliding doors throughout. No photos allowed. Here the rock garden is the largest in Japan and a highlight for me on the tour. Downstairs under this building thousands of miniature buddhas line shelves with names attached. These are donated by pilgrims who make the journey here. The monks here wear black and white robes. The centre still operates as a school for the Koyasan Shingon Sect where we saw trainee monks taking instruction.

TRAVEL PHOTOS

New Zealand South Island November 2017

Nick Collins

Garan Temple is a compound of seven halls, the ideal number of halls in Buddhism. The main site of worship is in front of the Cosmic Buddha. After the guided tour we had plenty of time to wander around taking photos and enjoying the serenity of this lovely place before driving to Wakayama.

As a popular pilgrimage destination for centuries, Koyasan has been connected to the outside world by a network of pilgrimage trails. While most visitors enter the mountain by cable-car these days, many of the pilgrimage trails still exist and remain in use by hikers who prefer the traditional approach.

For the more energetic visiting Japan there are many guided or self guided walking routes available. The 88-temple pilgrimage walk is Japan's most famous pilgrimage route, a 1,200km loop around the island of Shikoku.



Giant Cedars



Lake Wanaka



Passing Diamond Lake



Atop Rocky Mountain

FUNNY PHOTOS

Can you guess where these photos are?

These are real photos taken without editing or alteration.

In contrast to last edition's photos, these are both from metropolitan Australia. The first is a national retailer. Can you guess which one and which store?



Which street and suburb is the second offering?



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

All will be revealed next edition!

Last edition's photos were taken on John Rezenbrink's walking tour of Devon and Cornwall.



Editor's Note

If you have any Funny Photos to submit 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...



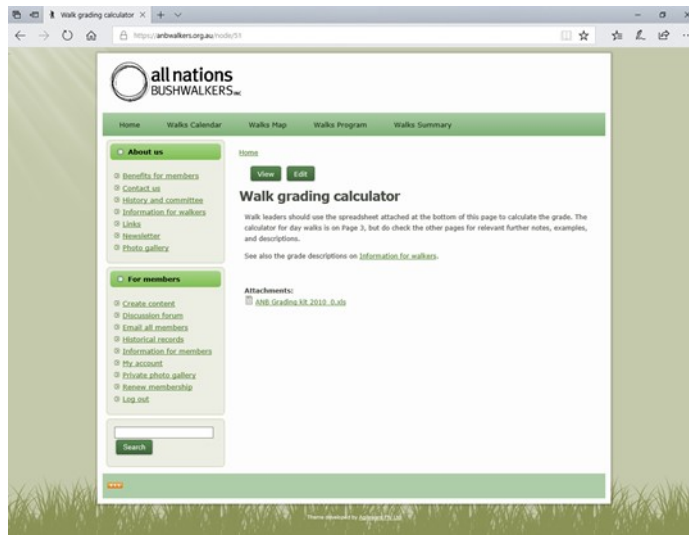


Without wishing to come over as a crotchety old bugger, I'm feeling the need to say something about recent trends in walk grading practices!

We used to grade walks using terms like 'easy', 'medium', 'hard' etc., with a bit of a reference to total kilometres. It wasn't very good, it was lacking objectivity, and it was a safety issue.

So about ten years ago we started a protracted debate about having walk leaders doing it much more objectively. After a few false starts we instituted an objective numerical system, which calculated the grade based on distance, ascent & descent, and types of terrain. It was decided we'd stick to it as precisely as possible. It's on a spreadsheet, available on the Club's website. It worked rather well for a while.

You **log in**, then **Info for members**, then **Walk grading calculators**, **ANB grading kit 2010**, and you open it with Excel. If you haven't got Excel, or don't have the relevant walk stats, or there's any other impediment, contact me on nick_collins_2000@yahoo.com and I'm very happy to assist and/or do the grading for you.

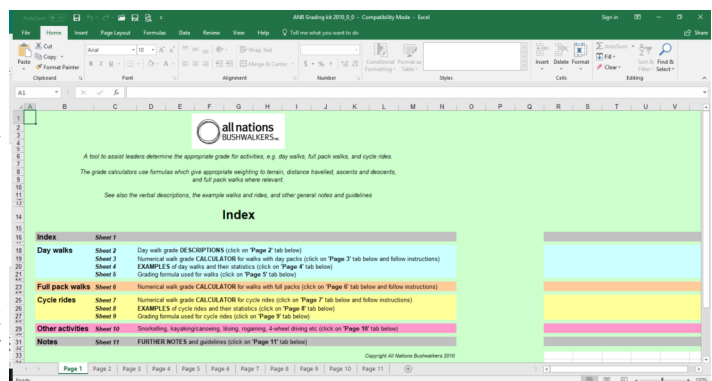


All leaders, and all members too, should maybe study all the information on the calculator. For instance, if you click on the 'page 2' tab at the bottom, you'll see the verbal description approximations for day walks. The 'page 3' tab gives you the calculator, and 'page 11' some important further notes and guidelines.

I've noticed some walk leaders have been over-graded. This creates misperceptions about true grading boundaries, a safety issue for some participants who then go on correctly graded walks, and a generally more confused situation than we had before the 'objective' system was introduced! Let's get it back on track!

All the best from your ever vigilant and progressively more crotchety grading system creator,

Nick Collins.



Advanced notice

FOR THE DIARY

Annual General Meeting

Come and join us

Saturday 23rd June 2018

9:30am

Woodstock Community Centre

Burwood

Bring: A plate of morning tea to share

Tea ands Coffee will be provided

Come and have a say in your club

You could even join the committee

&

**There will be a photo competition
with prizes**

We need you!

Calling all members who have wondered how they could help the club but don't want to lead a walk or organize a social event. The committee of the All Nations Bushwalkers must 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. There is a current vacancy for the club President position.

There will be a committee meeting before the AGM which is an opportunity for interested members to come along and see how the committee operates.

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



Your editor hunts high and low to bring you stories and pictures but, needs your contributions. (photo Nick Collins)

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE -

11th May 2018

SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO
editor@anbwalkers.org.au

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

A quote "Well begun is half done" Aristotle (384 BC-322 BC)