



**all nations**  
BUSHWALKERS<sup>INC</sup>



**Spring Newsletter**  
**September 2013**

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

## Thirlmere Lakes National Park

28 July 2013

Grade 2

Leader: Charles Bowden

Twenty-five walkers signed up and all 25 turned up for one of the largest gatherings I have had in some time. No doubt the fine weather and gentle grading were factors although I'd like to think that the new location in Thirlmere Lakes National Park was also a drawcard.



*Lake Couridjah*

We were certainly rewarded with some sights before the walk had even started. Firstly, the train spotters were treated to the spectacle of an old steam engine chugging past us, then back again, at the crossing next to Thirlmere Railway Museum. Then, barely inside the park and travelling on Slades Road to our starting point, we were confronted by a van that exploded into billowing smoke. This turned out to be a smoke machine for a film crew that were filming a production and had taken over the carpark at Lake Werri Berri that I had planned to use.

Undaunted, our convoy of 8 vehicles forged on past the film crew to the next carpark and we instead began our walk at Lake Couridjah.

In the morning, the walk took us past Lake Couridjah, Lake Baraba and Lake Nerrigorang before entering the former Racklyeft property and picnic grounds that had been acquired by NPWS in 2009. We inspected the huts, sheds and dwellings that had been left behind by the former residents, some of which were still in good condition. Indeed, the main house looks as if it might be available for use for weekend sojourns but this would need to be checked with National Park authorities.



*Lunchtime gathering*

We had lunch on the grassy picnic grounds before setting off up the only climb for the day, a 25-metre ascent to the top of a long narrow ridge known as Racklyeft's Finger. The track follows the ridge to the south for about 1½ kilometres before descending back to the lakeside. Winter wildflowers were in evidence as were the occasional fungus. We then paralleled the eastern shores of

Lake Couridjah, Lake Werri Berri and Lake Gandingarra before reaching Dry Lakes Road. This is a misleading name as all the lakes were full of water, evidence of the amount of rain that has fallen in the area.



*Racklyeft property buildings*



*Lake Werri Berri*



*Reed reflections*

We followed Dry Lakes Road to its junction with Slades Road and then along Slades Road to the point where the film crew were still filming. Tiptoeing past the scene (a car under an awning with, bizarrely, a Hills Hoist twirling gently in the background festooned with branches), we gazed at the western shore of Lake Werri Berri. A bit later, we followed an overgrown



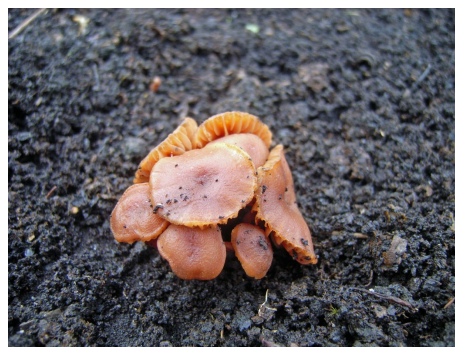
*Mountain devil - Lambertia formosa*



*Botany Bay weevil - Chrysolopus spectabilis*



*Yellow coral fungi*



*Fungi cluster*

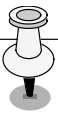
route past one of the channels that link the lakes, currently clogged with undergrowth, before emerging at the 19<sup>th</sup> century sandstone pumping station that used to supply water for the railway.

Soon after we were back at the cars and, after once again giving the railway buffs an another bonus of a steam train and carriages chugging past us back to the railway museum at Thirlmere, we stopped in Picton for afternoon tea.

Here my luck ran out. Few tea rooms were open and the one I chose was about to close and only offered takeaway service. So about half the group decided to call it a day, the remainder opting for a drink at the local pub before heading home.

Finding space for 25 people was also a problem. In hindsight, the Railway Museum café might have been a better option – I'll be better prepared next time!

Thank you to everyone who came along and made the most of the day (far too many to list here but you know who you are) and special thanks to all the drivers who patiently helped to ferry everyone to and fro.



## President's report

At the AGM in July, the outgoing Committee of 2012-13 was re-elected for 2013-14. So it is with great pleasure that I welcome back the familiar faces of last year for another year's endeavours as well as thanking them for all their hard work last year. The Club is fortunate to have such a committed group of people to look after its interests.

Attendance at the AGM was down on previous years, however, which was a little disappointing. I hope that this is not an indication of complacency. We need your participation and input in the running of the Club (and your photos in the Photo Competition afterwards!) and the AGM is a great opportunity to air your views as to well as to listen to those of other members.

The day before the AGM, I attended the biennial meeting of NSW Club Presidents, hosted by Bushwalking NSW (formerly known as The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW). Around 20 clubs were represented and membership sizes ranged from 800 down to just 25.

The purpose of the meeting was not to come up with solutions or plans, but rather to canvass problems and issues we might have in common and table various ideas that might help. There were some extremes, nonetheless. One club is now so large, it has engaged a salaried fulltime executive officer to manage its "business" and is outsourcing its IT functions to a commercial firm. At the other end of the scale is a club without a website.

The chief insight I gained from the meeting is that the ideal membership size for a club would appear to be around 200 to 250 members, give or take. Too much more and the club begins to struggle with managing sizeable activity programs and membership lists. Clubs with less than a 100 members tend to have a relatively small program of activities and experience problems in generating funds to cover costs.

All Nations Bushwalkers, at around 150 members, is quite well placed but we have been hovering at this level for a couple of years now. I would ask you all to encourage friends to join the Club and experience for themselves the diverse range of activities we have to offer. From what I saw at the Presidents Meeting, our program is one to be proud of. And, of course, it would be good to see more of you, our members, out in the bush too!

*Charles Bowden*

August 2013



# THE ALL NATIONS PHOTO COMPETITION 2013



***Congratulations  
to our winners  
Yuko & Charles!***

**\*There were insufficient entries in the other categories to award a prize.**



**FLORA - Charles Bowden**



**FAUNA - Yuko Imai**



**People - Charles Bowden**



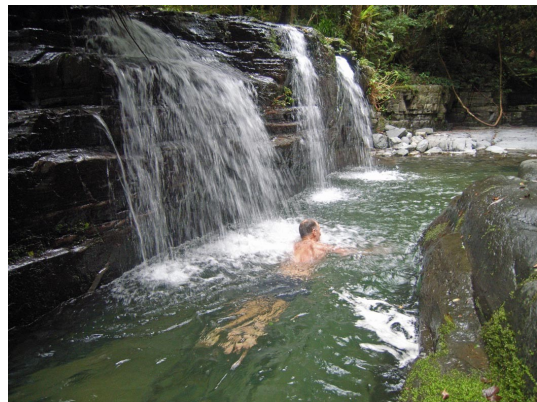
**WATER SCENES - Yuko Imai**

*Swap that special photo at a club activity to enter the 2014 photo competition...*

*Snap that special photo at a club activity to enter the 2014 photo competition...*

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**More Photo Competition entries from David C, Yuko, Richard & Charles.**



**The winning photos along with other entries are available for viewing within the Club's Website <http://anwalkers.org.au/> in the Photo gallery in - AGM 2013 Photo Competition**

# KAYAKING

## Flat Water Pancake Paddle Berowra Creek

Crosslands to Galston Gorge Rocks  
& return

Sat 16 March 2013

Grade 2

Canoe/kayak coordinator: Peter Bonner

All participants met at my house at 10am to load and allocate kayaks, paddles and buoyancy vests, have footwear checked: no bare feet allowed! New member Chris was allocated 'GNU' whilst our double kayak 'Walkabout1' was for the first time not used as everyone else was in a single kayak. All this took longer than expected so by the time we had the kayaks in the water it was morning tea time. This was taken sitting at a convenient Crosslands picnic bench where I got the Pancake mix and gas stove going so we could all indulge in Maple syrup pancakes. Chris did sterling work cooking two pancakes at the same time. Eating over, we trialled the two new blue kayaks. One was hopeless to keep on course confirming that they were both 'white water kayaks'. The other slightly bigger one was successfully paddled by Dean. This meant slow progress up to the Gorge Rocks where we could not land. A suitable place for lunch was found by Alex on the right-hand bank about halfway back to the launch spot.



*Chris the Pancaker at morning tea*



*The launch site*



*Gorge Rocks*

Unfortunately the different road laws of NSW to Victoria would have meant a two-day stayover in Templestowe to complete the requirements for NSW regulations to allow us to tow the trailer back to Sydney, so we returned to Sydney with the two kayaks lodged with Zak, and the remaining five on the roof of Dave's pickup truck. These were then stowed in my garage.



*Lunch spot landing -  
Trevor, Chris, Alex, Dave, Dean*

In the end I decided that these kayaks were not suitable for our club water activities and gave them to Dave as he had borne the brunt of the expenses in getting them to Sydney. My thanks to all those who came along and helped to make a tiresome and frustrating day on the water into one of minor achievements and all working together to enjoy a sunny day on Berowra Creek. No capsizes and no female kayakers but many different water birds to watch along with jumping fish and three large goannas stalking our lunch spot looking for food scraps.

NOTE : We are still looking for two more second hand single kayaks.

# CLUB NIGHT

## Woodstock community Centre

31 May 2013

Host: Liam Heery

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At our last club night besides having a limited selection of photos to view (thanks Charles) we also had a very interesting discussion about rescue procedures and ambulance costs vis-à-vis insurance cover.

The discussion came about after one of our members had to be air-lifted out while on a walk in Blue Gum Forest. It was felt that this created an ideal opportunity to inform people of what procedures to take in the event of a medical emergency and also to let everyone know what it is that actually happens in such a situation.

It is pleasing to note that the person air-lifted is fully recovered and back walking with us again.

Even more so is the fact that the actions taken by the leader and other people participating on the walk were exemplary and a model for anyone else in similar circumstances.

### Some of the points discussed were:

- That every walk should have a first aid qualified person participating.
- Every leader should have a means of identifying the location where they are ie map or GPS (or other device) that can give co-ordinates.
- There should be at least one person (preferably two) that has a mobile phone (preferably with Telstra).
- Leaders should avail themselves of the Club PLB if going on a walk out of mobile range.
- Our attendance sheet should have an emergency contact name and number for each participant.
- Leaders should ask at the start of the walk if any of the participants have a medical issue that the leader should be aware of that could impact on the walk.
- Medicare does not cover ambulance costs.
- Individuals are responsible for their own ambulance insurance cover (or not).
- An introduction letter to new members of the Club to include a statement advising the new member that ambulance costs are the responsibility of each person and are not covered by Medicare.

The cost of a helicopter ambulance / rescue is exactly the same as the cost of a normal (road) ambulance, see: <http://www.ambulance.nsw.gov.au/Media/docs/Provision%20of%20Ambulance%20Services%20FAQ%202012-93dc1473-e048-447e-bc66-92cefbf8f5e1-0.pdf>

Calling in a helicopter ambulance is not something you request. When you call 000 the ambulance service decides on the method of retrieval and equipment used.

Everyone on a walk should be prepared to stay overnight in an emergency and therefore should always carry (and not rely on others) a minimum of a torch, space blanket, first aid kit, appropriate clothing for the conditions and matches.

Thank you to the more than 20 people who participated in the meeting and especially to those directly involved in the incident who were happy to share their experience.

As a footnote, Club Nights are available to any member who has a good idea and wants to have that idea heard or shared with the rest of the Club (they are not solely for viewing photos).

### Ode to the Wollangambe campers

The rolling hills now meet the sky  
As night is almost nigh  
The sun slides down behind the hills  
The wind does gently sigh

The birds now quiet await the night  
New sights and sounds will rise  
Heaven sheds its shrouds of mist  
Our eyes go to the skies

The sun's now gone behind the hill  
The wind has gone to sleep  
Orion glides across the sky  
And Scorpio takes a peek

Jupiter's finished his daily chores  
And Saturn guards the night  
Humans sleep under Scorpio's path  
And the horseman starts his flight

The campers rest, their fire is out  
Deep sleep controls their limbs  
But their minds are travelling in the Milky Way  
'til the sun comes up to break the day

Then the campers pack up and go their way

*by Freda Moxom*

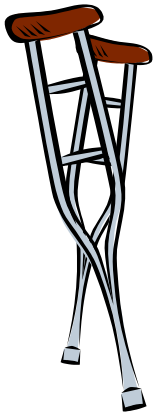
Four of us, Nick, Bob, Peter W and Freda did a full pack to the Wollangambe Crater and vicinity in May. It was a clear night and Nick explained the stars and constellations to us.

# Notices Notices Notices Notices

## Our New Committee for 2013/14

President	Charles Bowden
Secretary	Nick Collins
Treasurer	Helen Hindin
Programme Co-ordinator	Catharina Muller
Membership Enquiries Officer	Yuko Imai
Newsletter Editor	Jan Steven
Webmaster	David Cunningham

## **A message from Fiona**



Thank you for all the well wishes, visits and help I have received while suffering injuries from a traffic accident. It will be a little while before I am back walking, but I am recovering.

*Fiona*

*Best wishes for a speedy recovery from all of us to Helen*

## **Policy on mobile phones and other electronic communication and entertainment devices**

"We encourage mobile phones being brought on bush-walks, in case they are needed to summon help in emergencies or otherwise facilitate arrangements. But we ask that the use of them, as well as other electronic communication or entertainment devices, be kept to a minimum. This is largely for safety reasons (it often takes full concentration on your footsteps and surroundings to walk safely in the bush), but also because everyone's enjoyment of the bush is maximised when such distractions are absent."

## **FOR THE DIARY**

### **Annual Club Xmas picnic & BBQ**

Come and join us  
Saturday 7 December 2013  
3:00pm to 9:00pm  
Where: BBQ Area at  
Rhodes Memorial Park, Rhodes  
(Next to the Kokoda Café)

Covered BBQ facilities and amenities available.

Bring: Your own meat for BBQ and preferred celebratory tipples. **Salads, bread rolls and soft drinks will be provided.**

## **Membership Cards Reminder**

**This is proof of your current membership and should be carried with you on all club activities.**

**Present your ANB card at -**

**Paddy Pallin Sydney stores**

**CampHikeClimb Hornsby**

**Alpsport West Ryde**

**which entitles you to receive free store membership and/or discount.**

## **DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE**

**3 November 2013**

**SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO.....**

**Jan.steven@bigpond.com**

**Pictures submitted - 300DPI resolution preferred to achieve good reproduction quality**



## Ted Webber's Big Birthday Bash.



Cammeray Golf Club was the setting for Ted's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations on August 2. As well as Jean Bourne, present were many of Ted's 'compatriots' from the days when ANC Walkabout operated out of King's Cross. These included Peter and Catherine Bonner, Dora den Hengst, Judy Dervin, and Helen McMaugh. Ted and Jean's children were there in force, Hilary, Tony, Chris and Robin (and grandchildren).

Tony regaled us with some hair raising tales of sailing with Ted, from his childhood years. Jean Bourne spoke from the heart about her adventurous life while married to Ted, and raising their children in England, Sierra Leone and Australia. Peter Bonner, trendy in blue waistcoat and yellow tie, was MC and, with the Bonner Boys, serenaded Ted with 'My Old Man's a Dustman'.

Peter paid tribute to all former chairpersons and walks leaders present, in particular to Jean Bourne, and Ted and family for their great contribution to building ANC Walkabout from the early days.



*The Webber Family*

The lunch was delicious and sumptuous, and we helped Ted demolish his huge birthday cake. Thanks, Ted, for a memorable birthday celebration and good wishes to you and Marguerite for many more happy years in Queensland.

*by Helen McMaugh*



*Crater Cove hut*

*Len: "I can live here",*

*Peter: "I'll need to take a length off my legs"*



*Synchronised diving practice at Crater Cove.*

*Photos — Van Le.*

## **A Snippets column for Keeping Track?**

If you have some photos, a poem, or a comment about a recent walk you'd like to share with our members please send it in and we may publish it - subject to approval.

Send it to 'The Editor' Jan Steven for the Summer edition

# WALK

## A Rivulet Fit for a River

12 May 2013

Grade 5

Leader: Charles Bowden

Following the late cancellation of my scheduled walk due to hazard reduction burning being conducted that weekend in the Wild Dog Mountains, I decided to bring forward my planned exploration of Macquarie Pass NP as a replacement. Four intrepid members, undeterred by the 'unsurveyed' nature of the excursion, joined me for the day.

The Sunday started off with an unexpectedly thick fog which dissipated by the time we reached Mittagong. It was apparent from the electronic warning panels scattered along the SW Freeway that hazard reduction burning was being conducted over a wide area, and was probably the cause of the fog.

Macquarie Pass NP is tucked away between the towns of Robertson and Albion Park and it is bisected by the Illawarra Highway as it swoops down from the Southern Highlands to the coast. In some respects this is unfortunate as the sound of cars and motorbikes screeching and roaring around the hairpin bends reaches even the Park's extremities. Perhaps it was just Mother's Day mania!

Using two differing sources as guides, we set off along Macquarie Rivulet towards a feature described by one source as Diablo's Cascada (Devil's Waterfall). Why this feature has a Spanish name (and why isn't it more correctly Cascada del Diablo?) is not explained.



*Diablo Cascada & pool*

There is no mention of the waterfall on the topographic map either. But a waterfall there certainly is as we discovered after following a track full of tree roots and slippery washouts that undulates for a couple of kilometres along the hillside bordering Macquarie Rivulet.

After crossing Parachute Creek and edging around a rocky overhang, we found ourselves clambering across rocks towards a large waterhole into which rumbled Diablo's Cascada. I had expected Macquarie Rivulet to be a thin, possibly dry, stream to suit its name but instead it is anything but. The volume of water was astonishing and the "rivulet" was uncrossable on foot except where rocks formed impromptu causeways.

Having spent morning tea admiring the water flows, we left the shore to clamber back up the hillside. After taking us to some views overlooking Diablo's Cascada, the track vanished

and we made our way slowly along a "negotiable route" paralleling the stream.

We made some unusual discoveries: a tree cavity with a growth looking for all the world like the face of a crone peering out of the top and an old campsite where someone had lashed sticks together to make a raised bed frame. It was still strong enough to hold your weight as Bob can attest.

We eventually found ourselves back at Macquarie Rivulet at a junction with a side creek coming from the south. One source suggested that we cross over and climb up to an old farm track which would lead us to Rainbow Falls, the first of 5 waterfalls at the western extremity of the park. We failed to find



*The crone in the cranny*

the farm track and, after much strenuous bushbashing, descended back to the Rivulet only to find ourselves at the base of Rainbow Falls, just in time for lunch. A short exploratory trip upstream soon found the elusive farm track too. We hadn't gone high enough but, as it turned out, we needn't have bothered as we could have walked straight up the Rivulet instead: I'll remember next time.

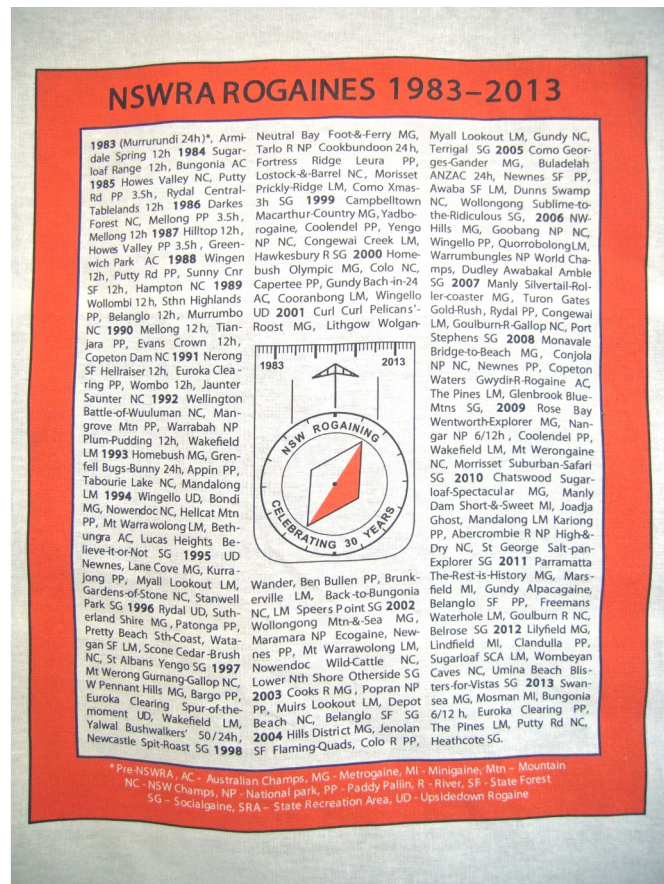
After lunch, we climbed out of the Rivulet and headed along Clover Hill Road, initially through old farmland then rainforest before reaching Illawarra Highway. Here I decided to follow what had once been (according to one source) an old bullock track which would take us parallel to the Highway until we reached a point where we could cross over onto Glenview Trail, an old farm road. I suspect we didn't go far enough as we emerged onto the Highway with no road in sight. Instead we found a trail of pink and orange ribbons which led us along another old bullock track, following a long spur that ultimately took us to the start of the Cascades Track, down which I had originally planned to come.

As we still had an hour of daylight left, we hastened up the track along Cascades Creek and arrived in time to climb up to the top of the first cascade with views of a second (there are four in all) higher up, before returning back to the car as dusk fell.

After changing into clean dry clothes, we stopped off at the pub in Robertson for an excellent dinner before heading back to Sydney. Thank you to Nick, Shawn, Victoria and Bob for your sense of adventure and good spirits in spite of water, mud, leeches, slides, falls, scratches, bruises, all while following a leader unsure of where he was taking you next!

# 50<sup>th</sup> Paddy Pallin Rogaine

16 June 2013      Grade 3-5  
Co-ordinator: Charles Bowden



NSWRA - 30 years

This was a memorable event with 638 participants spread across 242 teams to celebrate not only 50 Paddy Pallin rogaing since 1963 but also the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NSW Rogaining Association. The location was in Blue Mountains National Park with the staging area being at Euroka Clearing near Glenbrook. This proved to be a masterstroke for the organisers. Not only was the proximity to Sydney attractive to participants but the area is very familiar to bushwalkers which no doubt encouraged many to come along for this event.

The club entered three teams: Team 165 was Fiona, Julian & Charles; Team 166 was Andrew & Len; Team 168 was Liam, Alison & Chris. Teams 165 and 166 elected to camp overnight before the event. We had thought this would be a popular option but, as it turned out, less than 100 people decided to camp out so we had plenty of space on a grassy site at Appletree Flat complete with fireplace.

After a chilly but cloudless night with the stars sparkling brightly, the day of the rogaing turned out to be a fine one, with bright and sunny weather conditions and almost windless.

Team 168 opted for a scenic route which I believe may result in a pleasant walk being included in a future Activities Program. So enjoyable were their meanderings in fact, that they lost track of time and ended up losing nearly half their score. The penalties for being even 15 minutes late are severe!

Their final total was 170 points which placed them 224<sup>th</sup> overall and 35<sup>th</sup> in the Veteran Mixed category.

We expected big things of Team 166. They opted for the longest route of our three teams and certainly stretched themselves to the limit, finishing the course at a sprint with seconds to spare before the deadline. Their final tally of 520 points saw them place 129<sup>th</sup> overall and 25<sup>th</sup> in the Veteran Men category.

Team 165 proved to be the surprise package. Members bore stoically with their leader's propensity for heading into dense scrub and steep gullies to emerge scratched and tired but jubilant with 730 points, placing them 52<sup>nd</sup> overall and 7<sup>th</sup> in the Veteran Mixed category.

The course was surprisingly tough and spread out, notwithstanding the familiar location. This was exemplified by the overall winning team scoring just 1320 out of the 2240 points available.

The event concluded with an address by Robert Pallin, Paddy's son, while Tim Pallin, Paddy's grandson, was also on hand to help distribute the prizes.

All praise goes to the organisers for their efforts in arranging and co-ordinating what proved to be a very successful rogaing. And thank you to my fellow ANB rogaing for taking part and making it such an enjoyable occasion.



Campfire chat



Appletree Flat campsite

# WALK

## Narrowneck Peninsula: A walk at the Edge

30 June 2013

Grade 4

Walk Leader: Bob Seibright

By Freda Moxom

On Sunday, five intrepid ANBers explored some of the Narrowneck Passes. It was a short notice walk which had ten expressions of interest. Bad weather in Sydney resulted in five cancellations.

Nick, Katharine, Victoria and Freda joined Bob, the leader, at Wentworth Falls station. We drove to the locked gate on Glen Raphael Drive where the walk started. As we proceeded the sky cleared and we enjoyed spectacular views to the Megalong and Jamison Valleys, Lake Burragorang and the Wild Dog Mountains. By the time we reached the top of Tarro's Ladders the sun was shining and we had stripped down to one layer of clothing.



We descended via a rather muddy and slippery Duncan's Pass (where we almost lost Katharine who narrowly escaped rolling over the edge) and ascended the well-known and easily negotiated Tarro's Ladders. These are actually spikes and rungs as the original ladders have long been removed. The 'ladders' were far easier to negotiate than the pass.

On the return trip, Bob pointed out the track to Carlon's Chains but,



unfortunately, time did not permit us to investigate further. A brilliant red sunset added a magical air to our afternoon as the clouds played with the red and orange rays of the setting sun.

With the light beginning to fail we checked for torches and, urged on by the party, Bob

agreed to take us out to the start of the drop to Redledge Pass. We just made it back to the fire trail before dark.

We were surprised and pleased to discover that we had walked twenty-six kilometres.

Thanks Bob, for a great day.



*Photos by Victoria Batulan & Nick Collins*

# WALK

## Fagans Ridge to Marramarra & Colah Creeks

Marramarra National Park

14 July 2013

Grade 5

Leader: Liam Heery

On my many trips to Marramarra Creek I have entered the creek system at the bottom of a long ridge, Fagans Ridge, and often wondered what was upstream. Today's walk was to make that excursion.

Still taking the Fagans Ridge, fire trail and the initial climb from the fire trail to the top of the ridge, the plan was then to take a much shorter spur almost due north and intersect the creek just below where it meets Colah Creek.

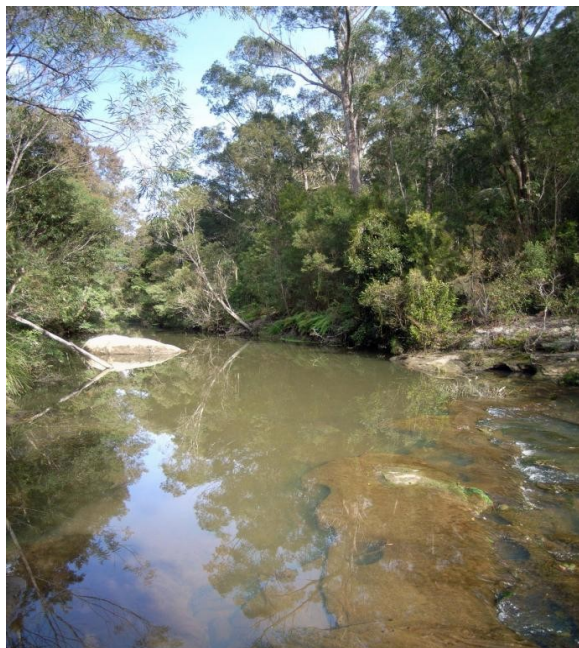
We all met at Pennant Hills for a car shuffle, however as this was a joint walk with the Bush Club it took a little longer than anticipated to get away and with a car shuffle at the start, it meant that we were 30 - 45 minutes behind schedule before we started.

We covered the fire trail at a reasonable pace and stopped for morning tea at its terminus. We had all loosened and heated up at this stage and were now ready to don bush-bashing gear.

As I expected the bush in this location was quite dense and took a lot of work to push through. We had one rock scramble to get over and then it was a reasonably gentle slope down the ridge to the creek about an hour and a half later.

The drop into the creek necessitated a bit of route finding before we reached the water and we ended up in a fairy tale-like glade. I was impressed with the amount of water flowing through the creek and, also apprehensive for what that might mean for the rest of the days progress!

Dropping back packs we explored upstream to find Colah Creek was actually the major creek and Marramarra was only a dribble in comparison, leaving us to wonder why Marramarra Creek was not instead called Colah Creek.



*Colah Creek - photos by Charles Bowden*

Here we found huge and lengthy pools and another area that needs further future exploration. In one of the pools we found a deceased eel that was over 1 metre in length and a circumference bigger than most peoples thighs!

Unfortunately time was creeping away and we had to leave this pristine spot. We now made our way down Marramarra Creek which was surprisingly open (in a bush-bashing sort of way), however our progress remained slow and we didn't reach our planned lunch spot, instead stopping at a small overhang that was open to the sun.



*Sheltered lunch spot*

After lunch it was only another 15 minutes when we broke out onto the extensive rock platform and cascading waterfalls that I was familiar with. This location is too good to pass up, so we stopped again for people to get an appreciation of this remote spot.

Given the time we consulted on whether or not to exit here and climb back up Fagans Ridge thus guaranteeing a daylight finish, however most people were keen to push on and as we had 2 -3 hours of daylight left I knew we could at least get to the camp ground in daylight and making our way back on the fire trail, even if dark, would not be a problem.

Because of the rains we've had over the last couple of months, as I had hoped, the creek was relatively cleaned out and progress was steady and timely. As we got closer to the tidal zone I knew we had to cross the creek to the north to bypass some cliffs and then back again at the tidal zone or we would be left stranded on the wrong side.

A hidden camp site at the upper reaches of the tidal zone was my signal to cross back over, which we did. However as the tide was in we had to climb high to avoid some impenetrable scrub. This slowed us down again but it wasn't long until we came upon the indistinct track that leads to Marramarra camp site.

Emerging from the bush right in front of the fire place and picnic bench, we reached our objective with plenty of light to spare.

The choice of exits from here, Smugglers Ridge or the fire trail was easy, as with fading light the fire trail would be a breeze. Notwithstanding that the fire trail added a couple of kilometers, everyone was happy with this option and walking in the dark was actually pleasant. We reached the cars at 6.30pm satisfied that we completed the walk as planned, had a great workout and visited some wonderful places.

Thanks to Bob, Jacqui, Freda, Charles, Nick, Alex and Evan from ANB and 5 able walkers from the Bush Club for helping to make this another memorable day out in the bush.

# WALK

## Walking through tall forests

Lane Cove NP

17 August 2013

Grade 4

Walk leader: Yuko Imai

Photos: Peter Dlutowski (photos taken with an infra-red filter)

My fifth Lane Cove National Park walk was blessed with glorious sunshine and no cloud (you cannot ask for anything more!). This loop walk started at Gordon railway station, to walk through two forests featuring a precious remnant of the tallest Blackbutts in Blackbutt Creek, Gordon, and the endangered Blue Gum High Forest in Sheldon Forest between Turramurra and Pymble.

The Blackbutt Creek track is a fairly wide fire trail that enjoys plenty of space and natural light. We made our way between the gentle hillside and the creek with Blackbutts on the creek side only. After 20 minutes or so, past a concreted water crossing, we emerged in busy Lady Game Road.

Crossing this road was one of two challenges for the day; it is winding and car drivers cannot see walkers until they pass the bend. It is actually very odd to have a gate to a walking track just next to such a busy road.

We re-entered Lane Cove NP through Allen Park, and reached 'De Burghs Bridge Art Gallery' under Lane Cove Road. The bottom of the tall bridge columns display heavily outlined graffiti in loud colours as if they were expressing the traffic noise above.

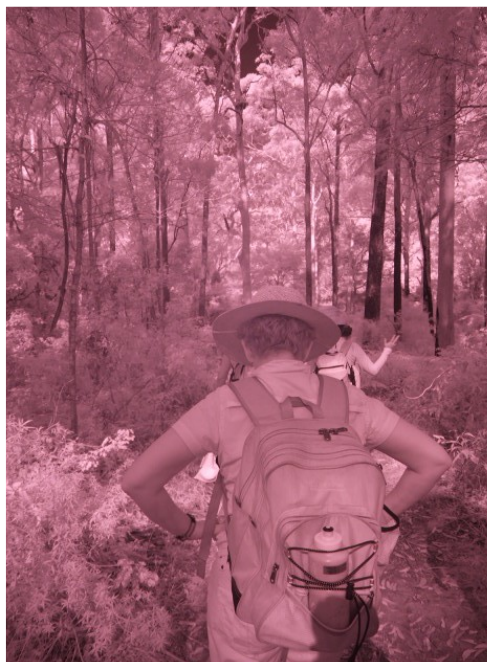


*De Burghs Bridge Art Gallery*

We were now in a section of the Great North Walk, and often saw locals' backyards just next to the track. At one point, there was a subtle, but real sound of bagpipes. We thought it was unusual but did not pursue further.

Diverting from GNW and conquering some steep uphill and downhill, we encountered the second challenge: crossing busy Yanko Road winding in 3D (horizontally and vertically simultaneously).

Everyone swiftly handled this road crossing challenge, and then we stopped for lunch at Mimosa Oval adjacent to Rolf Park while viewing a local soccer game.



*Sheldon Forest*

Once you have entered Sheldon Forest from Rolf Park, you can tell something is different straightaway. The trees around you are not really wiggling like those in Lane Cove NP, but are straight and slender, shooting into the sky. They are Sydney Blue Gum with that pale white look.

According to one of the walkers who



*Our walking group*

grew up in Gordon, this shady, well-maintained Sheldon Forest track was created when sewerage pipes were installed. You can see concrete sewerage inspection holes spread out every a few hundred metres along the track.

Immediately after leaving the forest, we walked into a street of Pymble lined with gorgeous houses. Then we spotted a big sign for a property for sale. Interestingly, this sign had a check patterned frame and a man with bagpipes at the bottom, and said "Inspection at 11:30am". Someone said "Isn't it the time when we heard those bagpipes this morning?" Well, maybe. The bagpipes guy must have huge lungs because at that time we were several kilometres away.

The last leg of our walk was walking along Pacific Highway to Gordon. We finished at 2:30pm, much earlier than originally planned because we were quite comfortable to keep walking together without stretching out.

Thank you for your company: Mary, Adele, Violeta, Katharine, Brigitte, Vivien, Dave, Janice, Scott and Peter.

## Welcome to 4 New Members

**Giuseppe Mangogna**  
**Rahima Sarmed**  
**Robert Hanson**  
**David James**  
*and welcome back to*  
**Jane Lewis**  
**Helen Wang**  
**Janice Besch**  
**Ross Engall**

**See you  
in the bush**



# WALK

## Post AGM Stroll: Burwood Heritage Trail

**21 July 2012**

**Grade 1**

Leader: Charles Bowden

Following this year's AGM, five members joined me for a pleasant stroll on a fine sunny afternoon through Burwood. We followed the local council's Heritage Trail which led us past a range of historically significant dwellings and buildings. Most of these were architecturally attractive and often had pleasant spacious grounds. Woodstock itself is one of the buildings featured on the council's pamphlet.

After a couple of hours, we concluded the walk with mugs of hot chocolate and other warming beverages at a nearby establishment specialising in... chocolate! There were no complaints from Richard, Sharyn, Charbèle, Steve and Jan.



*The Priory residence*



*The walkers*



*The Primary School*

Photos by Sharyn Mattern

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