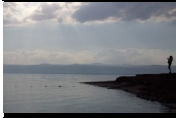




all nations
BUSHWALKERS INC



Summer Newsletter

December 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

Browns Ridge Devils Wilderness Blue Mountains National Park 21 October 2018 Grade: 5 Leader: Liam Heery

This was to be another in my series of exploratory walks looking at the possible entry and exit points to the Grose River in the Devils Wilderness area of the Blue Mountains.

To date we had found at least five passes, mostly unknown, that make it possible to reach the Grose River on a day walk and link each of them via remnants of the old Engineers track.

Another interesting entry point presented itself right at the end of Browns Ridge via a continuation from the end of that track along a narrow ridge that seemed to slope gently (in Grose Gorge terms) to the river.

This was the route we were to explore today. We followed the well formed track/fire trail to what seemed to be it's terminus. However, the track had dropped down a bit more than I expected and we were sliding off to the right down another gully, rather than staying high on the ridge line I intended to take.

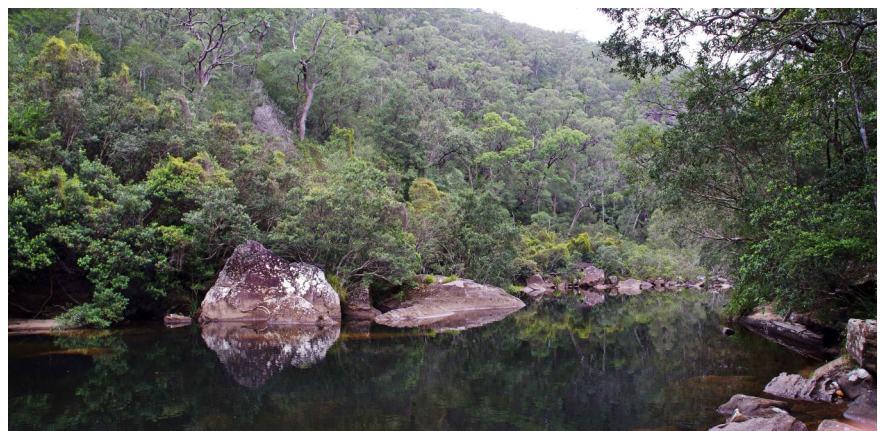
I decided that it was time for morning tea and to give us an opportunity to re-evaluate where we were and the route we needed to take.

At this time Charles decided to do a little exploration of his own and close by came across a well used cave with a natural chimney. More intriguing there seemed to be a fairly well worn track passing by it with a few visible tags and cairns in the distance.

With that intriguing discovery I decided we would explore this potential route rather than back tracking to get back up on the ridge.

This ended up being a great choice! As we followed the track steeply down the gully we kept coming across sections of rope that then became continuous as the track dropped ever closer to the river.

Why the rope was there we didn't know but, speculated that it might be



Browns Ridge shoreline on Grose River - photo Charles Bowden

a fisherman's route to be used at night with the rope as a guide to get back up the hill in the dark.

The route down was quite easy and very quick, and at the bottom we came across a half used bale of cable rope that showed how much effort was put into this intriguing enterprise.

Finding a nice spot for lunch, due to the quick descent we were able to take ample time to enjoy the serenity of this portion of the Grose.

Following lunch we tried to find an exit back up the ridge we had intended to come down. However there didn't seem to be anywhere feasible with easy access across the river, which was reasonably high after recent rains and fast flowing. (Ah well there's another exploratory walk to be done!).

We made our way back to a previous and well marked exit that would take us back up to Browns Ridge. However on crossing the river and coming to our first cliff line we headed to our left and this proved fairly challenging. Memo to self, next time head right!

While the ascent was tough it was just a matter of perseverance and it wasn't long until we were back on the Browns Ridge Fire Trail and a bit of a slog of a walk back to the car.

As usual we made our way to the Kurrajong Pub where we all had a welcome drink and meal before making our way back home.

Thanks to Charles, Sandra and Len for joining in on another Grose adventure.



Tall Guinea Flower—photo Charles

President's Soapbox

I know this is a bit early but, as it will be my last Soapbox of 2018 I wanted to take this opportunity to wish all members and their families happiness and health in the year ahead. In that vein I hope you will be joining the festivities at the All Nations Christmas Party on December 1st at Rhodes - further details found within this newsletter as well as on the website and in emails already sent to members. Feel free to bring family members, just remember to RSVP to club@anbwalkers.org.au to ensure sufficient catering. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow club members that you don't normally see on the grade of walk you attend or that maybe don't walk as often as they would like (such as me!).

This year, four members have kindly volunteered to organise the Christmas party, which I find very heartening in the spirit of sharing the work of running the club. Other volunteering opportunities include e.g. leading walks or other activities, representing the club at Bushwalking NSW meetings and serving on the committee. Our Newsletter Editor has moved to Melbourne, so this will sadly be her last year in the role. She is presently doing a great job remotely but it isn't fair to impose on her in this way for much longer. See Newsletter Editor expressions of interest on page nine of this Keeping Track edition.

Looking forward to seeing you on **December 1st** at the Christmas party, or if you can't make it 'Happy 2019'.

Helen Hindin
President

Welcome to New Members

David	Whyte
Chanthakorn	Ketwong
Hee Kin Liet	Yue Lap Wan
Lina	Lee
Trevor	Gathercole
Sue	Wardrope
Lisa	Noonan

See you in the bush.....



Beware of possible boot overuse!!

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 8 February 2019
SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO
editor@anbwalkers.org.au

Pictures submitted: high resolution preferred to achieve good reproduction quality. Photos should be separate files from the story text and clearly labelled as to where they are and how they relate to your story.

TRAVEL SAILING GALICIA LIAM HEERY

In late August I was lucky to have the opportunity of sailing on the Atlantic seaboard in the North West of Spain. I was joining my brother Kevin and we also had Charles along to add that Aussie 'je ne se quoi!' (in Spain!).

This area of Spain is part of the Galicia province and is very popular with Spanish tourists. In fact, tourism is almost entirely Spanish and hardly a word of English or any other foreign language is heard.

We met Kevin at the airport in Vigo, thirty two hours after leaving Sydney airport! So, a short car ride of another hour to Sabrina (our nautical home for the next two weeks) was no problem. Sabrina is a 41ft Beneteau ocean going yacht and is moored in the small village of Combarro at the head of Ria de Pontevedra.

We spent the afternoon shopping and provisioning for the next few days as it was our intention to try and sail north to A Coruna on the edge of the Bay of Biscay. This would take two to three days and necessitate sailing overnight taking turns on watch as we sailed along what is called the Costa de Morte (death coast!!).



Breakfast aboard Sabrina

Sailing is a little like off track bushwalking in that the best laid plans may change at a moment's notice and you need to be prepared to make alternative decisions to what was originally planned!

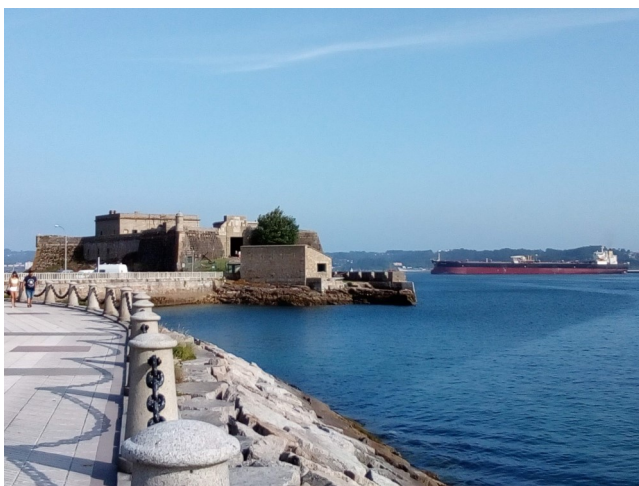
And so it was with us that after a great start with favourable winds, we got hit with stronger and stronger northerly head winds that meant we were not able to get around Cape Fisterra (known to many as the end point of the Camino de Santiago) and decided to seek shelter off the town of Sardinero just inside the Cape.

With the weather blowing mainly from the north we decided to take the next legs day by day and so headed off for Camarinas our next overnight stop. This proved to be an excellent decision as Camarinas turned out to be a really nice spot. While here we took the opportunity of taking the dinghy up river to A Ponte do Porto, where there was a nice river walk that took a couple of hours and allowed us to stretch our legs.

While we walked the tide went out! Leaving the dinghy high and dry, meaning we had to manhandle it about a kilometre downstream, before being able to get in and use the engine. We also hadn't catered for such a long dingy trip and were bemused when the engine cut out (due to lack of fuel) and then had to paddle the last few hundred metres back to Sabrina!

Our next major port and our trip objective was the famous port of A Coruna. It was from here that the Spanish Armada set off and the port has a long heritage right back to Celtic times. On the way into A Coruna the imposing sight of the Hercules light house looms from far out at sea. It was built by the Romans and is the oldest know light house still in operation.

We spent a few days exploring A Coruna, the old town, Hercules light house itself and the old fort of A Coruna. This is a great little town and I would highly recommend it.



A Coruna Fort

We were now ready for our return leg and headed out early to make our next port of call, O Porto de Corme. Again, this is a fabulous little coastal village and is famous for its local delicacy known as Percebes (or goose barnacles), which are harvested by hand along the roughest cliffs on the Atlantic coast. While looking grotesque, there is a method of breaking through the claw like outer skin, to reveal inside is the most delicate of molluscs—very very tasty.

After all these fabulous meals another walk was



percebes

called for and we headed out to Faro Roncudo, another of the Atlantic lighthouses. From here we chanced our luck and climbed the local hills to follow tracks through a large wind farm. A great decision that led us back another route to Corme.

Next day saw us on our way again with a stopover at Muros, before heading further south to stop over at the idyllic Ilas Cies, a world heritage national park that has a limit on the number of daily visitors. Even to anchor off the beach we had to apply for a permit before getting there, otherwise there is a high possibility of receiving hefty fines (up to €5,000).

When we anchored Kevin elected to stay on board while Charles and I went ashore and walked up to the Faro da Porta (lighthouse), with spectacular views all the way to Portugal. Luckily for us Kevin stayed behind as when we got to the beach, we saw that he was dragging anchor and in danger of colliding with another boat anchored close by. The afternoon wind had picked up again and was creating havoc. While we watched he tried anchoring two or three times unsuccessfully (very difficult to do when you're on your own in those conditions), until he got a break, anchored and came in to pick us up in the dingy. On the way back out we had to chase Sabrina as she moved off again!!

Taking note of the wind we decided to head for the mainland port of Aldan, protected from the wind and with good anchoring. Here, for our second last night aboard Sabrina we again enjoyed the fabulous seafood on offer in this region of Spain.

Our last sailing day took us back into Ria de Pontevedra and our home port of Cambarro, where we cleaned up, not just the boat, but ourselves as well. We headed off the next day for our trekking trip in the Picos de Europa.

TRAVEL MADRID FIONA BACHMANN

On the way to meet up with Charles, Jacqui and Liam in northern Spain, I visited Madrid. Although I had been to Spain before, I hadn't seen Madrid. So, I was very happy that it was the logical choice to fly into and spend a couple of days exploring before walking the Picos de Europa. ([Peaks of Europe: see later Keeping Track editions!](#))

I arrived about eight o'clock in the morning to terminal 1 (T1), just one of the four terminals, plus a satellite terminal 'city' that is Madrid airport. By midday I had made it into the city, found my hotel, offloaded my large backpack and met up with a friend from Sweden. We (including travel mascot Charlie Brown) perused the local cafes in lovely warm weather of about thirty degrees. Quite enjoyable to me as an Australian but, a bit too toasty for my Swedish friend.

The cafes and restaurants were very quiet, as I realised later that 12-1pm is very early in any region of Spain to eat lunch. Sitting by ourselves at an alfresco table we were served cava, bread, breadsticks and an unusual cream cheese type dip with toast squares. I started to worry about how much the bill would be for this selection I hadn't even ordered. As it was already served, I figured we may as well enjoy it and deal with the bill at the end. The cava in Madrid was a sparkling rosé wine similar to champagne. To my thinking an improvement on champagne and rosé wine, neither of which I like, but no substitute for a proper red wine. Just as well it turned out to be included with the meal price.

In the afternoon, we viewed the portico lined Plaza Mayor, and Puerta del Sol. Most of the many plazas and open spaces contain historical statues mixed with modern stores and Wi-Fi access. Puerta de Sol contains Madrid's official symbol: El Oso y El Madrono (The Bear and the Strawberry Tree). The statue, which is four metres tall, the work of sculptor Antonio Navarro Santafé was inaugurated in 1967, but apparently the bear and strawberry tree has been Madrid's coat of arms since the 13th century. I found this quite amusing and sent two postcards with this picture home to Australia. One card arrived around five weeks later, a week after my return to Australia. The other's arrival is yet to be reported!

Later at the Catedral de la Almudena, I initially appreciated the architectural grandness, internal de-



Catedral de la Almudena

tail and many photo opportunities. After some time inside, I found the graphicness of the symbols too overwhelming and felt the need to exit.

On the second day I again walked with my friends (Swedish and soft toy) through the Real Jardin Botánico, bought jewellery at a market and went on a beautiful merry-go-round. Yes, I was the only adult riding a horse.

I flew out of Madrid to Santander via Terminal four (T4) and back again after walking the Picos then, onto Jordan via T4s i.e. the satellite terminal. After Jordan (see other travel article this edition) I came back into T4s and had seven and a half hours before flying out of T4. So I investigated and found five euros gets one into the city via bus in about thirty minutes. I encountered what my limited Spanish interpreted as an anti-bull fighting protest. Then I went to the Museo del Prado/Prado Museum, which offers free entry tickets on Saturday evening until closing at 8pm. I took advantage of the access and saw many masterpieces, the most memorable being Hieronymus Bosch's *The Garden of Earthly Delights* triptych. This is a complex oil painting over three oak panels depicting the third day of the creation of the world, paradise given over to sin, and finally hell. A whole other article could be written analysing and explaining this artwork in more detail.

Back to the airport T4 and onto Alicante. On the way home to Australia I flew back to T4 and needed to move myself and bags to T1 in a three hour gap. With a slight delay getting in to Madrid and the Spanish baggage carousel tardiness, I had just enough time to bus between terminals and check myself and luggage into the flight home to Australia, via Abu Dhabi.

Visiting Madrid was thoroughly worth the effort, maybe not the airport so much!

TRAVEL

MADAGASCAR WALKING TOUR

JAN STEVEN

A few fast facts:

Madagascar is the fourth largest island, Greenland being the largest, in the world. The west coast was formed when Africa broke off from Gondwana around 165 million years ago. Madagascar eventually separated from India about 65 million years ago and was settled by humans about 2,000 years ago. It wasn't until the late 1600's when pirates ruled the east coast of the island that Europeans settled there. Earlier attempts had failed due to hostility and fierce fighting by local tribes.

In 1896 Madagascar became a French colony, but after two major uprisings against the French, the people gained independence in 1960. The island became a dictatorship until 2001, when it then became a democracy. Today there are still many ongoing problems within the country. There are many different tribal groups who still adhere to their tribal customs and live in very poor conditions especially in the south of the country. Today the population is over 25 million.

Some major exports are spices, vanilla and cloves, coffee, cotton and sapphires. We saw huge areas of mountain rice cultivation on our journey as well as rice paddies around the capital Antananarivo (Tanna as the locals call it) and elsewhere. Antananarivo, the capital, was founded circa 1625 by King Andrianjaka and is built on twelve hills with many steep steps and cobbled streets with a mixture of old wooden houses and French colonial style buildings.



Tsarap Camp accommodation



A rather showy chameleon

We walked in five National Parks, all very different; identifying fifteen species of the amazing lemurs, seeing bird life, flora, and visiting private nature reserves. Probably most fascinating of all were the chameleons. The scenery in the mountains is beautiful as well as spectacular. Here is a sample of two parks we visited.

Andringitra National Park

Forgoing the comfort of our twenty seater bus we were transported in an ancient truck to the Tsaranoro Valley Camp, our base for two nights stay in quaint camp/bungalows with bathrooms offering a magnificent view of the night sky. The power goes off at 9pm and is only turned on for brief intervals during the day.



Black and white ruffed lemur



Tsarap Mountains—Mt Chameleon on left

Next morning, we set off walking at 7:30am through the valley in this amazing area while two of our group decided on the harder hike to the top of Mt Chameleon, a six hour hike climbing 600m with a local guide. We saw Ring-tailed lemurs at the start of our entry into the rainforest then walked through mainly open grassland scattered with large granite outcrops and sacred burial sites on the lower slopes above the valley. Due to the extreme heat Didier, our wonderful tour leader, summoned the hotel truck to collect us at the end, rather than walk the extra kilometres back to Tsara camp. There was time for a rest after lunch, then a walk around the local environs taking photos. Andringitra landscape is dominated by impressive granite inselbergs, rolling prairies, waterfalls and open grassland at sub-alpine to



Jan and friend

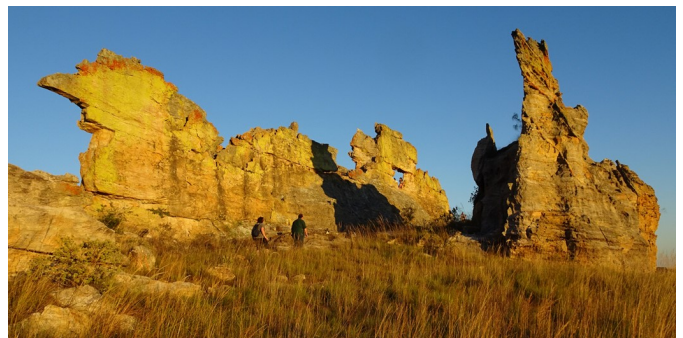
alpine heights. It is a popular destination for mountain climbers and hikers.

Isalo National Park is one of the most popular parks in Madagascar. Covering 81,540 hectares, the park is made up of sandstone 'massif' eroded by wind and rain creating impressive canyons. Some of the canyons have permanent rivers flowing through them, making Isalo an important source of water for the region. The first day's walk is the 'Crest Circuit and Panoramic Viewpoint' which offers spectacular views of the geological formations and interesting flora growing there. Quite hard going climbing the track up in full sun and very dry heat with no shade when we got there. At the top, amazing ancient rock formations surround wide open grassland within. We then walked around the rim above the canyon we were to walk in the following day. This was about a five hour walk and the swimming pool was a welcome treat back at our hotel, which was also set amid the rocky landscape.

The next day we walked through the Riparian forests which run alongside the watercourses in the canyon and provide shelter for ring-tailed lemurs. The walk to the Black and Blue swimming pools was less than moderate as we descended the river to the pools. Returning up the gorge, a small pocket of dry forest supports a group of lemurs who sleep on the cliffs in caves above the canyon at night and during the day time come to drink, eat and rest, at around the middle of the day. A delight for all of us when we returned to the forest area to find they had appeared.

Just before sunset we set out in the bus to the 'Sunset Window' rock formation.

Next day we headed south-west to the really dry coastal region of Madagascar and two locations by the sea, one of which we could only be reached by boat. We visited our final two National Parks before flying back to Antananarivo the capital for the last two nights of the tour.



Sunset Window

TRAVEL

SELECTIVE TOUR OF JORDAN - PART I

CHARLES BOWDEN

Preamble

It was Liam who came up with the idea of going to Jordan after an earlier plan to cruise Croatian islands came unstuck. Charles signed up as did Jacqui and Fiona so there were four of us ready to go. Liam chose Intrepid Travel's **Trek Jordan** tour, as it promised a lot of walking/hiking ('exhilarating trekking adventure' said the blurb) and group numbers are kept small, a maximum of twelve people, plus guide and driver.

Our group consisted not only of solely native English speakers, but we were all from Commonwealth countries (five Australians, four English, two Canadians and a New Zealander). Charles wondered if this was a reflection of Intrepid's marketing strategy or just coincidence.

The itinerary for the trip comprised five principal locations: Amman (the capital), the Dead Sea (including Herod's citadel), Petra (the Nabataean lost city), Wadi Rum (desert landscapes) and Madaba (mosaic centre).

Our first meeting as a group was held in the evening at the hotel we had been booked into, the Art Hotel, a 3-star establishment in the heart of bustling downtown Amman. It started awkwardly for Charles who, having spotted an Intrepid sign, had already settled in to chat with other travellers when Fiona came over to let him know he was in the wrong group. It transpired that there were two Intrepid tours convening on the same day in the same place, but with different itineraries.

The group briefing consisted of introductions by each member of the group, a lengthy speech by the alarmingly-named tour guide, Osama (a common Arabic name apparently), reading material and maps handed out, and forms to be filled out. We then headed off to a nearby restaurant chosen by Osama for the first of many Jordanian meals to-

gether: lots of dips, grilled meat, salads washed down with... water and soft drink. It appeared that this was going to be an alcohol-free trip for the most part.

Amman

The Jordanian capital is an unprepossessing city with buildings the same dun colour as the surrounding desert landscape. The old city centre is densely packed with houses and apartments, shops and markets, overlooked by the Amman Citadel, built in the 8th century AD, but incorporating earlier Roman structures dating from the 2nd century, such as a Temple of Hercules. Curiously, Amman's original name of Philadelphia (one for the trivia buffs) was conferred on it by a Greek overlord in the 3rd century BC. It was renamed Amman by Muslim conquerors in the 7th century AD.

We had earlier wandered up to the citadel on foot, through a maze of streets, and admired the 360 degree views. From here we could see the most prominent Roman-era ruin, the impressive amphitheatre squatting in the heart of the city. At close quarters, the amphitheatre is imposing, with colonnaded entrance and banks of seats for 6,000 spectators reaching an intimidating height. Two small museums on either side of the entrance feature interesting displays of folkloric and traditional culture. Nearby there are the remains of a Nymphaeum, a Roman public fountain, as well as the newly built Jordan Museum which covers the history of the region, going back as far as 7500 BC.

Much of the downtown area of the old city is devoted to small shops and markets, full of enticing goods and foods. Jacqui developed a passion for freshly squeezed pomegranate juice, Charles sampled anything sugary, Fiona hunted for souvenirs while Liam in vain searched for a pub. The Arabic-style coffee was excellent if on the strong side for some, but the coffee shops often had upstairs balconies that afforded an excellent view of city life. It was from one of these that we observed Amman's unique water delivery system.

Jordan is the third driest country in the world (behind Saudi Arabia and Mauritania) in terms of annual rainfall. Water consumption is rationed and much of the city has no reticulated supply for potable water. Instead small water tanks are installed on the flat roof tops and water is delivered once a week by diminutive water tankers. The delivery method looks both primitive and exhausting: reaching the premises, an assistant hops out of the tanker and runs up a narrow inter-



Amman view from Citadel



Temple of Hercules

nal staircase to the roof. The tanker driver tosses him a rope which is attached to a large hose emanating from the tanker. The assistant hauls up the hose, inserts it into the water tank which he then fills before lowering the hose back down to the driver, tossing the rope after it. He then hurries down the stairs to repeat the process at the next halt.

We were to be constantly reminded of the need to conserve water during our time in Jordan. In some places, it was forbidden to flush loo paper which instead had to be deposited in a waste basket. In addition, all drinking water must be purchased in ubiquitous plastic bottles. For the trip we each bought large 10-litre plastic containers of water to ensure we had adequate supplies...

Next Keeping Track edition Part II: Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, & Madaba!



Amman Roman Amphitheatre view from top

NOTICES

Bushwalking NSW

Members are encouraged to volunteer to be a delegate for All Nations Bushwalkers at general meetings of Bushwalking NSW.

This is to represent the club's interests and feed back to the committee what is going on in bushwalking around the state. The meetings are scheduled as follows;

Tuesday 19th February

Tuesday 21st May

Generally in the evening at Redfern Town Hall. It is fine to volunteer to attend on just one date. Please express your interest stating your preferred date to: club@anbwalkers.org.au

Newsletter Editor

- Collect, review and collate ANB stories and photos.
- Compile the quarterly Keeping Track newsletter
- Club printing
- Participate in the ANB committee

Get involved as a sub-editor now or as Editor at the 2019 AGM
Information on the role is available at

[Newsletter Editor Duty Statement](#)

Or

email the current editor:
editor@anbwalkers.org.au

PHOTOS

**Tasmania
October 2018
Nick Collins**

Nick says "I lived in Tasmania for 20 years, and only did half the bushwalks I should have. I was back there for a visit recently, to catch up with old friends, and to explore a few old and new sights"



Penguin's big penguin was all pretty in pink, courtesy of the McGrath Foundation.



Hobart's Museum of Old and New Art (MONA). New exhibits and indeed whole new wings seem to pop up frequently, so it's always worth another visit.

The southern end of the Overland Track, at Lake St Clair. I did the full trip a few years ago, but only made a brief pilgrimage this time.



Montezuma Falls. It's at the end of a very pleasant 90-minute walk along an old tramway route through temperate rainforest. I'd had the mistaken idea it was muddy and steeply uphill. Not at all.



Fern Glade in Burnie. Home of platypuses. Didn't see any this trip.

FUNNY PHOTOS

Can you guess where these photos are?

These are real photos taken without editing or alteration.

One is in New South Wales.

The second is on another continent.



Last edition's photos were;.....

- Sydney pigeon travelling from Redfern to Lidcome on cheap Sunday travel
- Snake warning sign at Iguazu National Park, Argentina



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...





**all nations
BUSHWALKERS INC**

Your invitation to our Christmas Party & BBQ

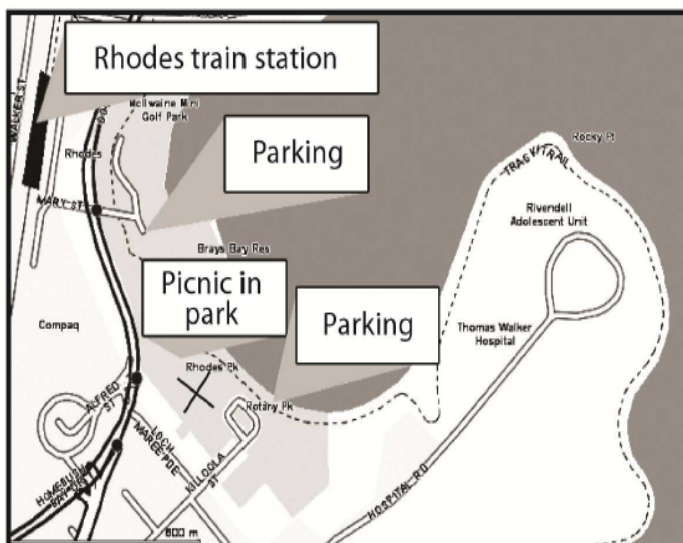
When:	What to bring:
Saturday, 1st December 2018	Please bring your own meat/fish/veg for BBQ and whatever you like to drink. You are encouraged to bring your own non-disposable plate, cutlery and cup/glass, however there will be some disposable ones available.
Time: From 4:00pm to 8:00pm	
Where:	
Rhodes Memorial Park BBQ area Brays Bay Reserve (see map)	The Club will provide a selection of delicious salads, bread rolls, tea and coffee.

Activities/facilities:

Under cover area with electric BBQ, tables with bench seating and amenities block. There is plenty of open space for any festive activities and pastimes. There will be two lucky door prizes with the winners drawn at 6:00pm.

How to get there:

Train: Get off at Rhodes Station and exit on the east side. Cross Homebush Bay Drive and walk towards the water, through McIlwaine Park and Brays Bay Reserve. Take the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway to Rhodes Park. **Car:** The closest parking available is on the eastern side of Brays Bay Reserve off Killoola Street. From Concord Road, turn into Hospital Road, then turn left at Fremont Street, right at Killoola Street



**RSVP: By 27 November to
club@anwalkers.org.au**

**For any queries please email as
above or contact:
Helen - 0449 622 679**

A quote "Success must include two things: the development of an individual to his utmost potentiality and a contribution of some kind to one's world."— Eleanor Roosevelt