



CELEBRATING OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Behind the Green Door in Bayswater Road

By Helen McMaugh



The green door 2012

The All Nations Club in Kings Cross was founded in 1952 as a result of the efforts of Sir Robert McGarran, first Solicitor General of the Commonwealth. With generous support from some of Sydney's leading citizens and business organizations, the club was officially opened in 1953.

The club's main purpose was to integrate into Australian society the wide diversity of migrants already settled here and those yet to arrive. In the 1950s, post-war migration was at an all time high. Over 50 countries were represented in All Nations Club membership. It had free and equal voting rights for both sexes, a radical move pre-dating the Women's Liberation movement.

Three old terrace houses in Bayswater Road, Kings Cross, were converted for the club premises, with 4 floors, and a club restaurant in the basement. It was rumoured that a brothel had flourished on the premises in World War II.

The building retained 2 separate staircases on either side of an adjoining wall, and a third at the back of the building, leading to the upper regions. There was a fascinating maze of poky rooms in the upper levels of the club. Some led to hideaways through curtained doorways. These rooms were busy little beehives for the various committees and groups, or for lovers' trysts.

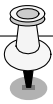
The club had a quota for different nationalities, and tried to maintain an equal balance between male and female members. Over half the members were from the British Isles. There was always a very high proportion of applications from Australian-born women. The selection committee (composed of members), faced with a disproportionate number of female applicants, tried to choose women who could offer some constructive input to the club. The very obvious 'social butterflies' received a disappointing rejection letter. The club was an amazing mix of occupations. At the dining room club table, one could meet a carpenter, an airline pilot, a nurse, a scaffolder, a dressmaker, a solicitor, an office worker, a fashion designer, a bricklayer, a teacher, or a shopkeeper.



50 Bayswater Road 2012

photo Jan Steven

Members could join a veritable smorgasbord of groups, such as ANC Players and theatre workshop, Bacchanalians, billiards, bridge, bushwalking, chess, debating, fencing, film, golf, languages, music appreciation, painting, photography, scrabble, snooker, squash, tennis, table tennis, waterskiing, and yoga. Chairpersons of the groups (mainly women) represented many nationalities.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This quarter we have several special events planned to mark ANB's 50th anniversary. Don't miss the 50th Anniversary walk from Engadine to Audley on 3 June 2012. On 22 July 2012 we have a 50th Anniversary commemorative lunch to be held immediately after the Annual General Meeting. All members are welcome and a catered lunch will be provided by the Club. Highlights will include the annual photo competition, a presentation on the Club's history and some surprise guests. Look out for your AGM and lunch invitation in the next mail out.

From 1 July 2012 you will notice a small increase in your membership fees. A one year membership renewal is now \$40, the new member fee is \$45 and the visitor fee is \$10. There is still a discount for 2 year renewals (\$70) and 3 year renewals (\$90). Additional family memberships are unchanged at \$15. The small increase is essential so we can continue to meet our rising costs, particularly insurance costs, and provide benefits for members. The last fee increase was 10 years ago. Despite the increase, we remain competitive with other bushwalking clubs. Further information about the fee increase is provided in this newsletter.

As this is my last President's report for this financial year, I would like to thank the Committee members and activity leaders for volunteering their time and effort for the Club. It has been an honour to serve as President and I wish the new Committee all the best in its future work.

Suseela Durvasula

President

I joined early in 1964, having been intrigued by the club's green front door, which I saw on my daily bus ride home from work. A popular song was called 'Green Door' and I was curious to find out what went on behind the club's door.

In my selection interview I was helped by the fact that I had been an active member of Coast and Mountain Walkers and Sydney Bushwalkers' Club for several years. There was a newly formed Bushwalking group in the ANC and this gave me an entrée through that green door.

A Polish member, Dr. Nate Burnett, started the All Nations Club Walkabout Group in 1964. Their first outing was on March 1 to Woronora River in Royal National Park. I am glad I missed this event as apparently half the group ended up at Woronora Weir and half at Woronora Dam. A car shuttle finally united the two groups for swimming in the weir. (The weir no longer exists). Not being present, I cannot verify if Nate instructed everyone, on exiting the cars, to move laterally through the undergrowth to scare the snakes. However, nobody knew how to move laterally.

My first outing was on the second Walkabout in April 1964, with

33 members, from Wattamolla to Curracurrang. We travelled to our starting point in cars from the club and gave the drivers a contribution for petrol. I recall from this walk the weird clothing worn by many, obviously unused to bushwalking. Women came adorned with beach hats, umbrellas, and beach bags stuffed with lots of spare clothing, and wearing flimsy sandals. After a few kilometres on a rough bush track the pace had to slow down for these Sunday strollers, who also loved to pick the native flowers. One of the women wore pantyhose, which were ripped to shreds by prickly bushes.

Those early days saw some eccentric outfits. A bus driver came dressed as a cowboy, complete with high boots and a Stetson. Another always wore commando-style jungle greens. Kiwi Patrick, one of the more macho walkers, christened the fashionable women walkers 'the Gold Lamé brigade'. Patrick had a dog called Kuli, who he brought walking when dogs were permitted.

Nate's bush outings were always a bit chaotic, but memorable. A few of us dedicated walkers banded together and formed a survey team. At weekends when there were no official club walks, we went out into the bush and thoroughly surveyed the tracks for any upcoming official walks. I am forever grateful to the initial band of dedicated 'surveyors', which included Tom Foley, Margaret and Patrick Chaldecot, Ross Siemon, Dora den Hengst, and the late Leon Latham. Later we were joined by Wal Bray, the now deceased Bevan Day and Harry van der Jagt, with Maria.

A great source of help with bushwalks was Paddy Pallin's book, *Bushwalking Around Sydney*.

ANC Walkabout soon branched into varied activities besides simple bush bashing and camping. We staged a cocktail party in the bush, with the ladies decked in fancy hats and jewellery; we had musical entertainments in the bush, boating expeditions, house parties at beaches and waterways and lazy summer swimming days. We combined with other groups for outings, such as the photographic, golf and art groups. As well as car pool days we patronised Sydney's rail system, especially for trips to Royal National Park and the Blue Mountains.

We were fortunate in having the All Nations Club as a permanent meeting place, to post notices about our outings and to dine as a group. We participated in several concerts, singing mainly bush ballads, and wore our finery to the ANC Ball and Bushwalkers' Ball. With the Pacesetters group, we staged a successful disco party in the club.

Some memorable times were had at the rotating dinner parties we held around the Kings Cross area, at various members' apartments. We'd start with entrées at one address, move onto another for the main course, and a third for dessert. Sometimes the wine flowed so freely we did not make it to the dessert-giving hostess.

There were also some great barbecues and parties at members' houses, including those of Doris Walman, Dawn Daniel, Wal Bray and Harry van der Jagt.

The 1960s and 1970s are fondly remembered by the older walkabouts as outstanding times. I succeeded Nate Burnett as Chairperson in 1966, and was succeeded by Rodney Marks in 1969. Subsequent chairpersons included Wal Bray, Bevan Day and Peter Bonner. We joined the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs to legalise our group.

Sadly, the All Nations Club began to decline in popularity as a social club in the late 1970s and by early 1980s was no more. I ceased to be an active member of the ANC Walkabout group in the early 1980s but I have wonderful memories of my social life behind the ANC green door and with the Walkabouts in Sydney's diverse and beautiful bushland.

Helen McMaugh ©April 2012

Early chairpersons for the All Nations Club Walkabout Group from 1964 to 1990



1. Dr Nate Burnett 1964-66



2. Helen McMaugh 1966-69

3. Rodney Marks
1969-70

4. David Pezaro
1970-71



5. Wal Bray 1970s



6. Ted Webber 1973-74



7. Peter Bonner 1975-76



8. Bevan Day 1976

David Pezaro 1981-83

Norma Taylor 1983-85

Peter Bonner 1985-96

Young Group Leaders

Tony Webber 1984-85

David Cunningham 1985-86

Denise Kruse 1986-87

Peter Edwards 1988



Jean Bourne nee Oldroyd/Webber 1987-9



Tony Webber 1989-90

Some of the dates above are an estimate only and may not be correct.

Anyone who has further information please contact the Club via our website: club@anwalkers.org.au

WELCOME

March, 1964.

Walkabout Group

Nate Burnett has thought of a name for it! The Bushwalkers are going to call themselves the WALKABOUT GROUP. The publicity in last month's "Welcome" brought good results and well over 30 members have signed up. The first outing will be on Sunday, March 1 and a good roll up is expected.

We'll tell you all about in the April "Welcome". Meanwhile, if you are interested and have not yet done anything about it put your name and phone number in the Bookings book at the office and Nate will contact you. Or ask for him at the Club - he comes in quite often.

Remember there's a prize for the best account of a Club event and these excursions should make good "copy". We hope to hear from you.

New Members Welcoming Committee

You will know that, as new members, you are issued with a small golden kangaroo pin, either at the New Members' Cocktail Party or earlier if you wish. As an added help to you we have decided that this Committee will also wear kangaroo brooches, so that, as your gold one helps us and other members to find you, so our brooch will help you to find us. Ours will be a different shape from yours, and silver. We propose to try this as an experiment for the next few months, and will be interested to hear your opinion.

March will be an exceptionally busy month for club functions. The Annual General Meeting is on the 23rd, and we hope you will attend it. Because of this and the Easter holidays, other functions have had to be put forward.

We will have our new members' dinner downstairs on the first Friday, the 6th, instead of the normal second Friday, and postpone our discussion evening until after the April dinner.

We again draw your attention to the table tennis evenings as an excellent way of meeting people. If you don't want to play, come in and watch. Gus Menkes is a member of both the New Members' Welcoming Committee and the Table Tennis Committee, so you will find you already know someone there.

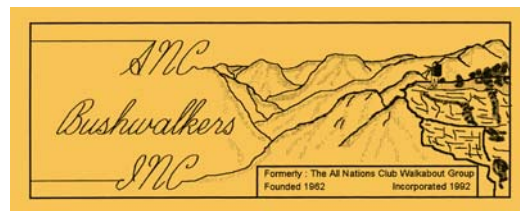
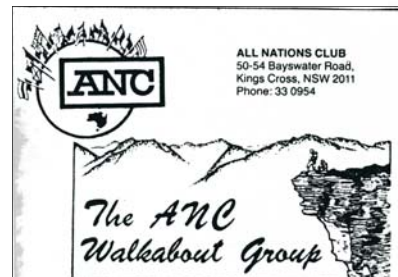
Don't forget our usual Friday evening rendezvous in the foyer, and do come to us if you wish to meet people, need information about joining groups, or have any queries. If you don't remember us, look for the silver kangaroos.

JOAN KRONE, Chairman.

Club Logos through the years

We've had the flags of the world, the Blue Mountains cliffs, aborigines holding spears and throwing boomerangs..... These days we've a crisp, modern logo inspired in the year 2000 by the Olympic rings (and their connotations of five continents and the people therefrom), and given us by professional graphic artist Sally Arnold.

Nick Collins



CLUB TRIP

Eight days in February (Tasmanian Daze)

11-19 February 2012 Leader: Nick Collins

And eight days of 'Designer Day Walks' in North West Tasmania. It's been nine years since I put on the last one in this series - that one was the Southern Tasmanian version of 2003, and eventually all the talk and all the planning came together again. So there I was with some of my fellow Club members, this time helping me relive some of the fine bushwalking experiences I first discovered about 30 years ago during my time in the Burnie / Ulverstone / Devonport area.

We stayed in comfortable cabin style accommodation in Ulverstone, and spent several days doing fairly serious bushwalking in the Dial Range, Walls of Jerusalem, Cradle Mountain, and Tullah / Mt Farrell areas. On other days we did gentler sightseeings and socialisings. There were lots of adventures, lots of experiences, a broken leg, a minor car crash; waitresses poured wine over us, cooks ran away at the sight of us, and the biggest disaster of all: we discovered that the Launceston Roman Baths were no longer functioning!

The bushwalks were brilliant though and the company excellent. Somehow I detect that by and large a good time was had by all. Old Tasmaniaphiles like me will be back there again soon, and maybe some of the new converts too.

(More pictures on Club's website photo gallery)



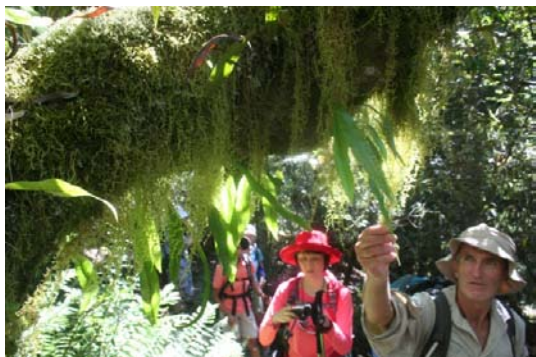
Sue leaving emergency



Len's penguin at Penguin



**Walls of Jerusalem area
Tasmanian Central Plateau**



Dial Range



Group above Crater Lake, on the way up towards Cradle Mountain



View of Mt Murchison taken on our ascent of Mt Farrell, near Tasmania's west coast



The ascent to the summit of Cradle Mountain



Suseela on the summit of Cradle Mountain looking with Barn Bluff and the Overland Track in the background

WALKS

Bondi to Coogee Coastal Walk

12 February 2012

Grade 2

Leader: Julie Armstrong

We had a beautiful day for a walk around the coast after so many rainy days and what a spectacular place to meet for a walk, overlooking Bondi Beach. Unfortunately four people who had booked on the walk were unable to attend and missed a great day.

So finally there were six who set off from outside The Bondi Icebergs Club. For those who are unaware, The Icebergs is a club for swimmers founded in 1929 who swim in the pool at South Bondi during Winter. The season starts in May when large blocks of ice are thrown into the pool (as if the water isn't cold enough). Women were allowed to join the club in 1994 and for those less hardy the pool is also open in Summer. The club has a Bistro and Dining Room that overlook the pool and beach to North Bondi.

The first part of the walk from Bondi to Tamarama is home to 'Sculptures by the Sea' every November and is usually well worth a visit. The walk hugs the coastal cliffs as far as Tamarama where the walk then drops down to the beach. After a convenience stop we continued on to Bronte where we stopped for morning tea. Continuing on we walked up the cutting through the cliffs that was originally made for tram travel.

Then we walked past Waverley Cemetery where aviator Lawrence Hargaves, cricketer Victor Trumper, writers Henry Lawson, Henry Kendall and Dorothea Mackellar and crime figure George Freeman are all buried. Helen recommended that we walk around the small bushland headland at Clovelly that has

been fenced off to keep rabbits out. Gordons Bay was next where the steps are challenging. In the water around Clovelly and Gordons Bay we saw many skindivers and snorkellers taking advantage of the very pleasant conditions.

Overlooking Coogee and Wedding Cake Island we stopped at the Bali Bombing Memorial near where we had a group photo kindly taken by an onlooker. Jan and I supplied her and her friend with 'Walk with Us' and the current programme and invited them to join ANB. They seemed interested.

By now it was getting quite hot, Steve suggested we have lunch at the Pub right where the walk ends and we gratefully recovered with a cool drink and lunch in the air conditioning. Thanks for attending Steve, Jan, Margaret, Christine and Helen.

I am planning to lead other coastal walks, Coogee to Maroubra and Maroubra to La Perouse, in the Winter and Spring programmes this year.



Wolli Creek Valley

19 February 2012

Grade 2

Leader: Jan Steven

Sixteen walkers set out from Bexley North Station in pleasant sunshine. Something of a change from the last walk I led in this area which started off in torrential rain.

On this walk we welcomed our first visitors from "Meet up" and Christer from Sweden who also joined the Engadine-Bundeena walk with Bob Seibrigh the following week while visiting Sydney.

We followed Wolli Creek to the junction of the Cooks River pausing at Girrahween Park for morning tea and other various points of interest.



The group - photo Virginia Darley

After a leisurely lunch

at Whitlam Park we took time to visit The Gardens of the World. Built on a small rise in the park, the concept is to botanically represent the major cultural makeup of the Canterbury community. Five themed gardens are in the park, four of which form a representation of a flower. It includes Australian, Europe-Mediterranean, South East Asian, South Pacific and Middle East themes.

Continuing back up the Cook's River to Steel Park we crossed the river to walk down the opposite side which is the main cycleway to Tempe. Following the river all the way to the Princes Highway we visited historic Tempe House built in 1836. Named after a place in an ancient Greek legend, it was the house itself that gave the suburb of Tempe its name.

Our walk concluded with ice creams at Wolli Station where we all went our different ways. For those with cars it was a short train journey back to Bexley North.



This sculpture "Awakening Flower of the Peace" by the artist Terrance Plowright is also in the garden

MARATHON

Line up for Manly Marathon walk with loony interludes

18 March 2012

Grade 5+

Leader: Nick Collins

I led my third annual 42.2km marathon walk in March. This time there were ten of us, double the usual number of intrepid starters. I think I'm well and truly vindicated in putting these events on, originally in response to a comment by a new member of the bushwalking club, about not needing our walk grading system to cover anything over 25km, as we never walked those sorts of distances.

The good turnout was largely due to the location and terrain I'd chosen this time: all harbour-side, often spectacular scenery, and no big hills or difficult bush tracks.



We started at Manly (with most of us enjoying the ferry ride from Circular Quay first), polished off the Manly to the Spit walk in the first two hours, then proceeded generally westward along the harbour foreshore, following bush tracks, streets and beaches, round all the headlands and bays. We lunched on the beach at Bradleys Head, then continued our circuitous perambulations, eventually passing under the Harbour Bridge at Milsons Point, then on like this to Balls Head, and north to our destination, which turned out to be St Leonards station (and pub!)



Sights and experiences included:

- * hundreds of runners and kayakers doing a 20/20 race event.
- * a huge cruise liner cruising perilously close to our lunchtime beach.



- * historic fortifications still keeping Sydney safe after centuries on duty against French, Russian and Japanese invaders.
- * the modest but tasteful Sydney residences of our Prime Minister and Governor General. (Neither lady invited us in for afternoon tea though).

- * Luna Park, doing a roaring (and screaming) trade, and welcoming even us smelly bushwalkers.



- * the recently restored historic coal loader at Balls Head, from where coal from Hunter Valley coal mines used to be exported, and where you can walk through an eerie 200m tunnel.

- * the dismantling of the stage for the Harbour Bridge's 80th birthday celebrations held during the day.

- * the somewhat painful looking gait of one or two walkers towards the end, due to blisters, cuts, and newly discovered mortality.

Thanks to Steve, Jacqui, Bob, Alex, Rajiv, Fiona, Pan, Helen, and Rosa for fine company and an excellent day.

Notices Notices Notices Notices

Change in Membership fees

Existing members 1 year renewal \$40

Existing members 2 year renewal \$70

Existing members 3 year renewal \$90

New member fee - \$45

Visitor fee - \$10

Additional family member - \$15 (unchanged)

New members can also join us for 2 or 3 years and take advantage of the multi-year discount. The increase will take effect from 1 July 2012. If your membership expires in July or August 2012, you can renew before 1 July 2012 and take advantage of the old rate.

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."

BUSH SAFETY

by Peter Bonner

Bush Ticks and Lyme Disease

Walkers are reminded that all tick bites should be regarded as potentially serious. Remove the tick, using a "tick remover" that doesn't squeeze the body, or else kill it with methylated spirits. Do not encourage it to dig further into the skin.

Symptoms include a red, blistery, circular rash, fatigue, fever, chills etc between two and 30 days after the bite. The usual treatment is a broad spectrum antibiotic. If you get a tick bite and are worried, see your doctor without delay.



Photographic Competition

to be held at the next AGM
Sunday July 22nd 2012

Prizes as well as a certificate will be your reward. The winning photos will be published in the Spring issue of Keeping Track and on our website. There's still over 4 weeks left to snap that special photo at one of the ANB Club activities. Photos must have been taken since the previous AGM.

Categories are:

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

We need 4 entries per category to run a viable competition, so encourage your fellow members to enter with you.

(Sorry, only one entry per person per category)

How to Enter

Each photograph should be displayed on a sheet of A4 size paper.

If you don't have a (decent) colour printer, provide the photos (the larger the size the better) to Charles Bowden, who will arrange printing for you at no cost.

The person's name, the activity where the photo was taken and the category in which it is entered MUST BE ON THE BACK OF THE PHOTO, otherwise it is not eligible.

Entrants must be at the presentation, no substitutes either, for them to be eligible for a prize.

On arrival at the AGM, hand your entry to **the organiser Len Sharp.**

The organiser's decision is final as to eligibility in accordance with the rules.

Don't Jump!

.....unless you really have to, especially if you are carrying a heavy pack. It can easily result in a broken leg, ankle, or strap on your pack. Look around you - there is usually a safe way down. If you need help, ask for it. This is why we walk as a Club group.

FEATURE

'Aso' Volcano Walk in Japan

7 April 2012

By Yuko Imai

Our original plan was to include hiking while relaxing in a popular hot-spa area called Aso, in the south of Japan. This walk was supposed to be a casual, scenic walk without the need for serious hiking gear. However, it turned out to be one of the unforgettable adventures in the end.

Mount Aso is the largest active volcano in Japan with five peaks, among which the highest one is 1592m, not so high by Japanese standards. It is popular for hiking. The volcano constantly spreads steam, often obscuring the view of the peaks from the surrounding caldera. However, we were lucky enough to see all rugged ridgelines clearly on a beautifully sunny day.



Dunes of volcanic black sand

The walk my sister picked was to walk along a well-marked path to the highest peak (ascent approx. 700 m), and then descend along gentle downhills under cable car wires. Japanese guidebooks grade the ascent as Medium and the descent as Easy. We were wearing ordinary spring clothes with jackets and sneakers, like other tourists heading for the same destination.

The start point was a cable car station which we found shut down for "an indefinite period of time" due to the volcanic gases, according to a shop attendant at the station. She mentioned the descent route under cable car wires was closed but people still chose the route at their own risk. We thought it would be OK because there was nothing hazy in the direction of the descent route (we foolishly assumed the gases were somehow visible).

It was only for the first 30 minutes that walking was easy and pleasant up gentle hills. Once we started to walk along the ridgelines, the temperature started to drop rapidly as the altitude increased, the wind becoming atrociously violent. The rugged terrain had nothing to protect us from the cold, vicious wind, except huge volcanic rocks along the ridges. Each time the shield of rocks ended, we were nearly knocked down by the wind.

Climbing to the peak was a nightmare. We had to scramble up a steep mountainside in windy conditions, and also grab icy cold rocks with literally frozen hands. We did not have gloves.



Vista of volcanoes

To guide climbers, bright yellow marks were painted on the rocks. We looked for the next mark every few minutes to figure out the way to climb. The marks were arrows, circles, crosses, or Japanese characters saying "Stop" or "Do not go beyond this point". For your survival, take a Japanese lesson first!

Even icicles emerged on the cliff face as we approached the summit. We started to smell volcanic gases. The summit was the highest point of the narrow rugged ridge. Another 30 minutes walk from there offered us an excellent opportunity to look down at the magnificent craters, which were a few kilometres away. This vista reminded me of prehistoric earth.

Depending on the direction of the wind, the volcanic gases made us cough, nearly choke sometimes. It was time to descend. We looked for the track toward cable car wires only to find the huge sign "Track Closed". What the shop attendant said occurred to me, but with these throat-burning fumes, we realised that we needed an alternative route.

The alternative route also went gradually downhill, but it led to another cable car station on the other side of the volcano. We were not sure how to get back to our car after getting there, but it was not important in this situation.

During the descent, stunning views of the craters and huge dunes of volcanic black sand appeared one after another. The cable car station at the end point was positioned at the rim of the craters releasing massive amounts of steam. The crater we looked into was not spewing lava, but looked like a deep pot containing boiling milky green water.



Yuko and her sister

This was a real adventure we were not ready for but managed. We realised how lucky we were to be able to get back without being sick or injured, despite such wild, potentially dangerous circumstances. It was a great experience to appreciate the dynamic earth, so we are planning to do it again, but with thick gloves and jumpers.

SNORKELLING

Bare Island

14 April 2012

Leader: Charles Bowden

Grade 3

It was a miserable summer for snorkelling and the drenching we continued to receive in autumn resulted in further cancellations or too little interest due to the cooler temperatures. This was the last snorkel of the season and only one member booked in, in spite of the fine weather forecast and calm conditions for a change.

We made our way out to La Perouse and were struck by the extensive changes that have taken place on the Anzac Parade loop. New concrete footpaths and bollards have been put in place, parking bays redefined and expanded and remedial work undertaken on the toilet block and the bus terminus. Anzac Parade itself is being remodelled with new traffic islands, intersections and wider lanes. It's a reflection of the increasing popularity of this venue with weekend daytrippers but it's little too manicured now for my taste.

The scramble down to the rocks remains challenging, however, and we entered the water before midday. Water temperature was around 19°C-20°C so our wetsuits came in handy. We decided to swim along the rocky shoreline out to the western tip of the promontory. Visibility was not great and surprisingly became murkier the further we swam away from Bare Island in spite of the small incoming swell.

Fish life was not as abundant as on previous visits, mainly consisting of smaller fry. We did however discover some nudibranchs on a large patch of relatively bare ground. Large crabs were also evident and less inclined to scuttle away.

After about an hour in the water we were feeling quite chilled and decided it was time to leave and adjourn for a light meal at a nearby café. Let's hope that next summer the weather improves and temperatures are warmer. Thank you to Liam for joining me.



Red bait crab - Plagusia chabrus



Nudibranch - Glossodoris atromarginata

THEATRE NIGHT



Crown Matrimonial by Royce Ryan Genesian Theatre 4 June 2012

The story of an impossible choice between love and duty

Upon the death of King George V, David, the Prince of Wales, assumes his role as Edward VIII. However his affair with divorcee Wallis Simpson soon brings his family and the empire into crisis.

The excellent cast captured the characters of the royal personalities they were playing beautifully transporting us back to this amazing time in British history.

What a good turn out of 15 people for the first play of the Genesian season. Most of us met early for a very enjoyable dinner at the QVB beforehand and our thanks must go to Len Sharp for organising these enjoyable outings.

Editor

WALK

Box Vale Track & Mt Alexandra Reserve

29 April 2012

Grade 3

Leader: Charles Bowden

Due to the extensive rain that we had been receiving over the past month, I resurveyed this walk earlier in the week. Much of the original route I had intended to traverse was overgrown and full of obstacles caused by falling trees and rocks. In addition river levels were high and a couple of crossings were quite deep and tricky.

Consequently I advised a small change to the walk, making it a point-to-point walk involving a small car shuffle rather than the circuit walk I had originally intended. I also mentioned there would be leeches. I'm not sure which of these announcements was the greater deterrent but a 50% cancellation exodus in the 24 hours beforehand meant that only 10 stalwarts gathered at Mt Alexandra carpark on a cool Sunday morning.



Tunnel mouth

We followed a track north-east of the carpark, initially pausing to look at the remnants of a storeroom or building which had been built up against a large boulder at the top of the hill. Stone steps and pick marks could still be seen. At the foot of the hill, next to the Nattai River, an open-cut coal mine had been worked in the late 19th century and the track down followed the former incline up which the coal had been hauled. A small tunnel carved out of the hillside provides testimony to this.

We continued across a jumble of firetrails, crossing the Nattai River and reached the 60' Falls in time for morning tea. The recent rain meant the falls were in full spate and a magnificent sight.

We negotiated two further crossings of the Nattai River without much difficulty as we then followed the river's edge to Nattai Creek and the 40' Falls. These falls were even more spectacular, water cascading over a wider lip forming a broad veil. We crept down into a shallow cave behind the falls for an unusual perspective before taking on the steep climb to the top of the ridge and a welcome lunch break.



60 foot Falls

After lunch we followed the firetrail to where it bisected the Box Vale track. This track was the site of a former narrow-gauge railway used to transport coal from a seam in the Nattai Gorge in the late 1800s. The track follows the elevated and flattened ramp created to provide a level surface for the train and its box-carts. Closer to the Nattai River gorge, the track changes character as it forges through cuttings made in the ridge slopes until it eventually reaches a striking tunnel bored through the hillside.

Next to the end of the track are the remains of the coal loading area and the very steep incline leading directly down to the river gorge up which coal was hauled from the mine. A steel cable now runs from top to bottom of the incline to assist walkers. Below the trackhead, a lookout has been established with great views along the Nattai River valley across the Nattai National Park to the peaks of the Blue Mountains in the distance. It was an ideal spot for afternoon tea.



40 foot Falls

We then retraced our steps along the Box Vale track, continuing along its full length until we reached the Mittagong reservoir which was full to overflowing. Here the former rail track ends and a short trail wends its way down to a rickety flood-damaged footbridge across Nattai Creek before reaching the carpark where we had left a vehicle in the car shuffle.

We finished in time to enjoy warm drinks and refreshments at the popular Mittagong bakery, thankful that the rain had stayed away... as had the leeches!

We finished in time to enjoy warm drinks and refreshments at the popular Mittagong bakery, thankful that the rain had stayed away... as had the leeches!

Thank you to Sarah, Suseela, Liam, Rosa, Xian, Shawn, Bob, Linda and Helen for taking part and making it an enjoyable outing.

WALK

Upper Colo

Wollemi National Park

6 May 2012

Leader: Liam Heery

Grade: 4

According to the program I was to lead a Grade 5 walk down the Colo River today. However after a few cancellations I decided to change the walk to a much easier (drier and warmer) walk still within sight of the Colo, taking in a circuit from Upper Colo to the Meroo camp ground, then up Mailes Ridge and descending via Gaspers Ridge.

Leaving Pennant Hills at a much more leisurely time of 8:30am we headed off in one car with everyone eager to do the longer walk without a car shuffle making it 15kms rather than 12km.

The weather was as perfect a walking day as you could ever hope to imagine. While it was initially nippy, the clear blue skies led to the day heating up to a mild 23 degrees. Walking through the "private" property initially in wet grass we passed a flock of sheep being guarded by a lone llama. If you didn't know that there is a right of way for walkers to pass through, the less informed might be put off from going through this area.

The walk into the Meroo camp ground is straight forward, but takes a little longer than expected. However once the campsite is reached (which we did just after 11:00am) the well maintained picnic shed and clean toilets are a welcome sight.

After our morning tea break, we headed down to take a look at the nearby Colo River. The track down, which has been completely overgrown in the past, has been cleaned up and huge inroads have been made to get rid of the lantana which had taken over the area.



Jacqui's perch - Photos Charles Bowden

At the "beach" the Colo River was flowing fast and still quite high from all of the recent rains. I think it will be some time before the Colo retreats to its more traditional levels. On sighting the Colo I was pleased that my intended walk had been cancelled and will be slotted in later in the year when it gets a bit warmer and hopefully the water level drops to a more manageable height. However the Colo would be great to lilo down at the moment!

Leaving Meroo, we headed up the hardest and steepest part of today's walk to the top of Mailes Ridge. The climb was handled with ease by all and it wasn't too long before we headed out to the lone pinnacle for the most amazing views to the horizon in almost all directions. The eager ones amongst us (read the boys) decided to test our climbing skills and summited the Pinnacle!



Mailes Ridge Track

As it was now getting towards 1pm, I was under pressure to find a suitable lunch spot and knew that my preferred look-out was going to take too long to reach before stomach mutinies threatened. So, after consulting the map I decided a cliff line not too far away would hopefully provide an alternative. Leaving the track on several occasions I eventually came across a suitable spot overlooking the Colo below with Mount Townsend on the other side.

Our lunch spot proved to be a place that was hard to leave. The views were again magnificent and the hot sun had such a relaxing effect that one of our party fell asleep!

Back on track we continued along Mailes Ridge and stopped a couple of times to take advantage of the views as we proceeded above the Colo River. It was obvious even from this height that the Colo was still overflowing and reaching from bank to bank.

After our last view point as we headed off I upped the pace a little as I wanted to ensure we were off the track and back on the road before the sun went below the ridge line and reduced our visibility. This was not as hard as it would seem as we were now on Gaspers Ridge and travelling on the gradually descending track. Notable along the way was that this track is now used by horses with numerous markings on trees above our head height, done so as to be visible to a rider on a horse. There was also a number of markers pointing to areas for caution to be taken by riders on steep downhill sections.

Just before we reached the final descent we had a late afternoon tea break, now with plenty of time up our sleeves, after spotting our car in the distance.

We reached the road not long after 4:30pm and were back at the car just after 5pm. Another great walk on a beautiful day in one of the finest areas around Sydney.

Thanks to Charles, Samuel, Helen and Jacqui for sharing a great day, and for some of us a drink and well earned meal at Pennant Hills pub.

FEATURE

Antarctic Peninsula via Argentina

23 March - 3 April 2012 By Fiona Bachmann

I'd dreamt about going to Antarctica for some time. I'll travel a long way to see cute silly animals. While recovering from a broken arm I was forced to stop still long enough to actually read the details in brochures and information I'd been accumulating, rather than just look at the pretty pictures. So with enough leave accumulated, the high AUD/USD exchange rate, and managing to entice my cousin Kathryn to come along, it was time to take one's own pretty pictures.

We flew to Argentina's capital Buenos Aires. It is much like Sydney, in that the majority of the population is centred there, with more chaotic traffic (going the wrong way!). There was an obvious remaining legacy of Eva Peron, and we encountered protests over soldiers' rights 30 years after the Malvinas/Falklands war. It probably wasn't diplomatic of me to be wearing an English Burberry pattern top – oops. Despite all this I found Argentinians to be friendly and helpful.

From Buenos Aires we took our first Aerolineas flight to Ushuaia, with about an hour delay, and the bounciest landing I have experienced. The next day we walked in Tierra del Fuego National Park, and got our passports stamped at 'The end of the World' post office. As with much of Argentina it was beautiful, displaying autumn fagus leaves, water and mountain views beneath soaring birdlife.

Finally we boarded the M.V. Ushuaia and commenced the 950km journey across the Drake Passage to the Antarctic Peninsula, for the last trip of the season. Antarctic expedition cruises only operate in the summer months from November to March.

After two days of the vessel 'pitching and rolling' it was announced that "The Drake Passage had received us well". I don't think most passengers could imagine how rough it would have been had it not received us well. Over these two days we received lectures on bird life, environment, and how to dress for an Antarctic landing.

Following this advice, and with fear of freezing to death, I wore thermal leggings, thermal top, fleece pants, polartec jumper, hired waterproof insulated pants, and down jacket with hood and fur trim. I also had a scarf, woolly hat, two pairs of merino socks, liner gloves under waterproof gloves, sun block, sunnies, a digital and an SLR film camera. Everyone was issued with rubber boots and life jackets and we boarded zodiac boats to explore the surroundings. I couldn't help wonder if I fell overboard whether all this gear would aid buoyancy, or act as an anchor.

The first stop was Aitcho Island in the South Shetland Islands, after passing through the English Strait. We were instructed not to interfere with any wildlife and to give penguins right of way as they travelled on their regular routes. It was muddy with ridiculous numbers of smelly Chinstrap penguins. The breeding season was over, but some younger penguins were still trying to build pebble nests. The male brings offerings of shiny rocks and the female determines whether they are acceptable, and if so they go on to build a nest home together. (Story sound familiar?)

Penguins are unbelievably cute; especially as one offered a 'happy feet' moment running over a rise towards me, and letting me take its picture mid stride. They are not quite as clean and pure as in cartoons. They eat reddish coloured krill and spill it down their white fronts. Then indiscriminately poo for up to 50cm straight out behind themselves. Another reason for not getting too close.



Aitcho Island Penguins



Cuverville Island Penguins

We dropped anchor again and visited Cuverville Island. Here we saw Gentoo penguins and seals, as well as carnivorous birds cleaning up any less than fortunate penguins. The afternoon included a landing at Argentina's Brown Research Base, where at [64°53'42.4"S 62°52'16.8"W](#) we had actually landed on the continent of Antarctica, and certificates were issued to prove it. We hiked up a snow covered hill viewing the sun going down behind hills and icebergs in Paradise Bay. Some intrepid travellers, such as Kathryn, even swam in the Antarctic waters. I remained in my insulation.

The next day we landed at Port Charcot, this time seeing a few Adele penguins among the many Gentoo. Then a zodiac cruise around Iceberg Alley and up close views of an injured seal resting on its own iceberg. Birds skimmed across the top of the water searching for prey, and krill fish were visible through the clear unpolluted water. We could also see up close the intense iceberg blue, and their volume extending deep under the water.

I began to feel at home in the zodiac boats, and even thought it was great sport when our zodiac drivers raced each other to return to the ship. I was also comforted to learn a zodiac boat is comprised of an inflatable hull of multiple air-filled compartments, and virtually unsinkable. One guide related a story of having the bow bitten by a seal. Although hard to steer, all made it home safe and dry.

Another day began with a beautiful sunrise and ended with a beautiful pink to red sunset, and an avalanche that showered snow and ice particles over the bow of the boat, blocking the view from the

Welcome to 15 New Members

Diane Merrilees

Sam Huet

Brigitte Dawson

Anuj Katkar

Keren Kiel

Myles Sevil

Anthony Joseph

Sally McCarthy

Wim Brinkhof

Debra Wilkinson

Mandy Taylor

Jacky Sweeney

Terry Sweeney

Paul Thomas

Nadia Polak



See you in the bush

bridge. A testament to the unpredictable variability of Antarctica. I spent much of the trip watching the way ahead and intrigued by the navigation devices, taking advantage of the open bridge policy.

Other highlights included visiting the Ukrainian Vernadsky Research Base, breaking through pack ice, watching whales surface alongside the ship, penguins porpoising, and birds doing figure eights around the ship.

We also travelled the Lemaire Channel, Gerlache Strait, and landed at Neko Harbour. We did a zodiac tour of Foyen Harbour and saw the wrecks of early 20th century whaling boats that had come to grief.

Each time we embarked or disembarked a zodiac we were counted and walked through decontamination trays to clean our boots ready for the next landing. On the ship there were often treats from the kitchen when we returned. One day mulled wine, another hot chocolate. Each birthday was celebrated with a cake.

On the last day of planned activities the weather turned. As we headed for Deception Island to sail over an active volcano (although not for 300 years), and make another landing we made no progress. The captain skilfully guided the boat through the entrance then turned around to try and find us somewhere with calmer waters and visibility. Alas



Iceberg Alley Seal

by 1pm we still had made little progress, moving barely forward. So we commenced our long return across the Drake Passage.

Antarctica is a continuous photo opportunity. Whether you are a quick happy digital snapper, or the only one on the ship still using transparency film, you will go home with many pretty pictures and beautiful memories.

Antarctica is the last bastion of unspoilt land and wildlife. Maybe because it is the only continent without a native human population.

It has been protected by the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS) since June 1961, which defines it as all the land and ice shelves south of sixty degrees latitude. Articles only allow peaceful and scientific research activities, and guard against international discord. I certainly hope it remains that way.



Change of Details

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

- change in address,
- email address,
- phone numbers.

Phone: 02 9331 1921 or
email us at -

club@anbwalkers.org.au



All Nations Bushwalkers Inc Annual General Meeting

**All Members are invited to attend
Sunday 22 July 2012**

**Your invitation/nomination/proxy form was mailed
with your Winter Programme.**

Come at 9:30am for morning tea before the AGM

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

PHOTO ALBUM

Eight days in February (Tasmanian Daze)

11-19 February 2012 Photos Suseela



Our super leader



Stanley - The Nut



Kitchen Hut



Murals at Sheffield



View from Mt Farrell

Box Vale Track & Mt Alexandra Reserve

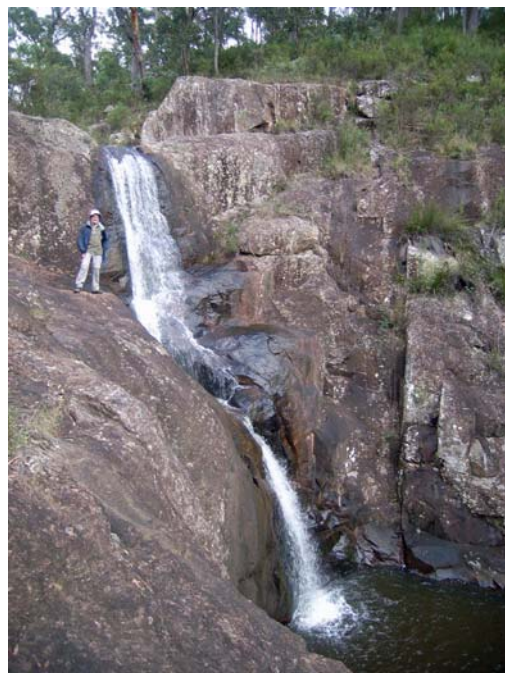
29 April 2012 - photos Charles Bowden



Guinea Flower - *Hibbertia bracteata*



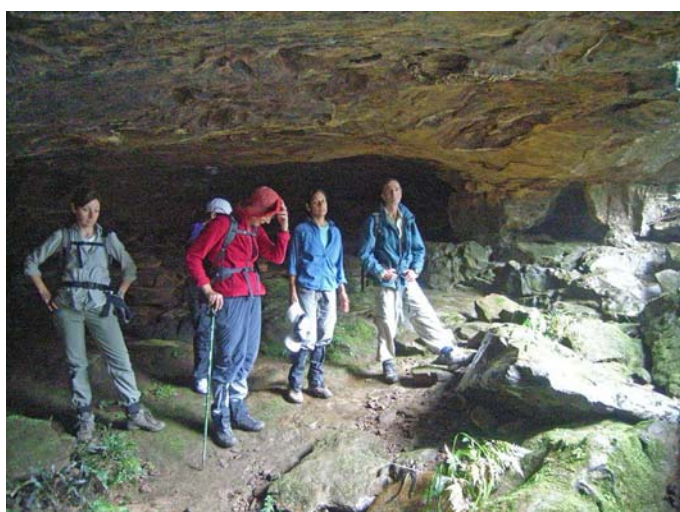
**Black & white bracket fungus cluster -
*Trametes sp***



60-foot Falls



40-foot Falls



40-foot Falls grotto

Upper Colo Wollemi National Park

7 May 2012 - photos Charles Bowden



Meroo Trig cairn



View from Mailes Ridge – Colo River & Wollemi wilderness panorama



Meroo camp ground - Colo River



Leech or caterpillar?

Antarctic Peninsula via Argentina

23 March - 3 April 2012 Photos - Fiona Bachmann

