



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

SNORKELLING

A solitary Snorkel **5 March 2016**

Grade 2

Co-ordinator: Charles Bowden

After a disastrous season of poor timing, the first and last snorkel outing of the summer took place at a perennial favourite, Shelley Beach at Manly.

The day was sunny and the beach was crowded with the usual mix of sun-bathers, swimmers, scuba divers and, of course, snorkellers.

There were plenty of fish to see (bream, groper, whiting, wrasse, cale, leatherjacket) in relatively clear water and the sea was calm: an ideal day - and we made the most of it.

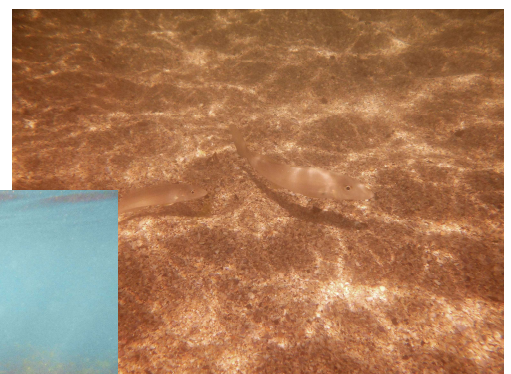
Thanks to Helen W, Helen H, Paul, Charbèle and Kathy for joining me in the water and to Peter for minding the gear while the rest of us indulged ourselves.



Blue weed whiting



Male Maori wrasse



School whiting



Bream

WALK

Glenbrook station to Blue Pool and return

21 February 2016 Grade 2

Leaders: Beth Rohrlach & Chris Webber

Story and photos by Margaret Weiss

5 people (Beth & Chris, Julie, Jacinta and Margaret) went on this walk. The weather was dubious at first after heavy rain on the coast overnight. 3 of the 5 walked about one kilometre along the road to the entrance of the national park, while 2 took it easy by car. We then all walked down the road to the start of the track, defined by constructed stairs in part, until we reached the Blue Pool, which is part of Glenbrook Creek. By this time the weather had cleared, although sultry. Beth enjoyed a swim in the cool, tannin-coloured water of the pool, followed by Chris who had a shorter swim. Other people also enjoyed a swim. The water was fresh and very inviting to swim in. We trudged back uphill in the midday sun, dripping with perspiration and foregoing a short side trip to Jellybean Pool. Julie delayed her return due to sighting the large eel that Beth and Chris had seen in the pool last week when they surveyed the walk. We all ate lunch at the Jazz Apple café in Glenbrook. Everyone enjoyed a good meal and a good chat. A nice day was had by all.

Thanks again to Beth and Chris for organising a leisurely walk. More people would have been welcome.



Beth also says:

The Blue Pool is a hidden gem part of the Glenbrook Creek, well known to locals but not so well known to visitors. It is a beautiful part of the creek and a great place to swim, relax and enjoy the picturesque surrounds of the Australian bush with lots of trees and small cliffs surrounding the pool. There were some great reflections in the pool from the rocks and trees surrounding the pool and in the pool and these are captured in Margaret's photos. The water was fresh and very inviting to swim in.

President's Soapbox

I am sad to report that after 10 years and 43 issues, our indefatigable and enthusiastic newsletter editor has decided that it's time to take a break. Jan took over at short notice to put out the Summer edition of 2005-06. Since then "Keeping Track" has gone from strength to strength during which time Jan oversaw its expansion in size and migration to its present online format.

This year's Winter edition will be her last. Although they are big shoes to fill (figuratively, not literally), it would be really good if a volunteer from amongst our members could put their hand up to take over this important role. Jan has agreed to provide mentoring for the new editor when preparing the Spring 2016 issue. So, if you are interested in becoming the newsletter editor, please let us know and be sure to contact Jan if you have any queries concerning the role.

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 26 June at the Burwood Library. We have altered the format slightly this year with an earlier start and finish. Further details appear elsewhere in the newsletter and a separate email has been sent out to members. The AGM will be bookended by breakfast and the Photographic Competition. Those who wish to can then adjourn for lunch at a nearby establishment.

As the purpose of the meeting is to elect a new Committee as well as to thank outgoing Committee members for their services, I hope that you will be able to attend and cast your vote.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Charles Bowden



WALK

Meadowbank to Parramatta 13 March 2016 Grade 2 Leader: Julie Armstrong

I knew it was going to be a good walk when I arrived at the meet place, snared the last parking space and met the early arrivals. All visitors to ANB Club.

Due to illness two visitors were unable to walk on the day and one of our members who was waiting in the wrong place decided to meet us for a catch up at lunch at the Albion Hotel in Parramatta. That left 17 keen, sociable walkers with a fairly even split of eight visitors to nine members to attempt the walk and we set off through Meadowbank Park.

Walking over a tidal bridge parallel to the river just before Silverwater Bridge we spotted a grey Egret. A few of our visitors had never seen one before.

At Ermington we walked on the boardwalk over the mangroves and out to the river between the mangroves.

We stopped for morning tea at Eric Primrose Reserve and sat under a large shady tree to escape the unrelenting heat.

When we reached the Rydalmere Ferry Station I gave the walkers an opportunity to drop out but all were coping and we continued on.

We then walked the short section that goes away from the river and through part of Rydalmere Industrial Estate. We passed the Parramatta Campus of the University of Western Sydney and walked the newly completed boardwalk over Baludarra Wetland near where many new apartments are being constructed. To me it looked like part of the wetland has been taken for these apartments.

With our lunch spot (the Albion Hotel) now in sight, just the other side of the river, we crossed Macarthur Street which is now safer with the new pedestrian crossing. We crossed the 'Gasworks Bridge' and had now completed the walk. Most walkers had a refreshing drink and lunch at the hotel.

Many thanks to all who joined this walk.

Parramatta Advertiser 26 February 2014

Baludarra Pathway is a stretch of boardwalk over the Wetlands. This pathway will become part of the 12 kms pathway to link Westmead to Meadowbank.

Parramatta Council Website – Media Release

The aboriginal name Baludarra means leatherjacket fish. Baludarra was the eldest son of Burramattagal Elder, Maugoran from the Darug tribe. Baludarra is remembered in European history for assisting Governor Phillip's expedition up the Hawkesbury River by acting as interpreter with the other tribes.



16 walkers ready to go



Mangrove regeneration



View up towards Silverwater



NOTICES NOTICES NOTICES



Annual General Meeting
The Carpenter Room
Burwood Public Library

**All Members are invited to attend
Sunday 26 June 2016**

Your invitation/nomination/proxy form
will be emailed to you.

8:30am : Join us for a buffet breakfast

**9:00am : The AGM - followed by
The Photo competition**

**Afterwards : It is proposed to adjourn
for lunch at "Fillippos" in The Bath
Arms Hotel**

Change of Details

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

- change in address
- email address
- phone numbers

email us at: club@anwalkers.org.au

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

The next issue of 'Keeping Track'

The closing date for contributions will be
announced at a later date



PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION to be held at the AGM

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

Categories are:

Nature (taken on a club activity)

People (taken on a club activity)

Open (any subject, taken anywhere
in the World)

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

How to Enter

Open to all club members who attend the AGM

To be entered on the back of photo:

Category, your name, when and where taken.

On arrival at the AGM, hand your entry to
the co-ordinator Jan Steven

Prizes:

A first and second prize in each category;

First prize \$25 with a certificate

Second prize \$15 with a certificate

.....

**If you don't have a (good) colour printer,
Charles Bowden can arrange printing of
photos for the competition at no cost on
A4 photo paper. For best reproduction,
photos need to be supplied to Charles
electronically in original size format. In
addition, you need to indicate where each
photo was taken, the date it was taken
and the category it is being entered
into. Don't leave it to the last minute to
contact Charles as it takes time to prepare
and print photos.**

Tahmoor and More

10 April 2016

Grade 3

Leader: Charles Bowden

This walk is located in a relatively out-of-the-way nature reserve a few kilometres from the mining town of Tahmoor, near Bargo. It is only accessible by car as there is no nearby public transport so it requires a car pool and short shuffle.

The walking track was created just over 10 years ago and consists of a 10km circuit (with side trips) into and out of Tahmoor Canyon followed by a 4.5km hike along a track that follows the Bargo River back into Tahmoor.

We had a beautiful warm and sunny day for our excursion and 4 carloads of walkers turned up. We initially followed the track along the top of the canyon escarpment, periodically peering over the edge from various lookouts, before descending the canyon floor by way of a pass down Sugarloaf Creek.

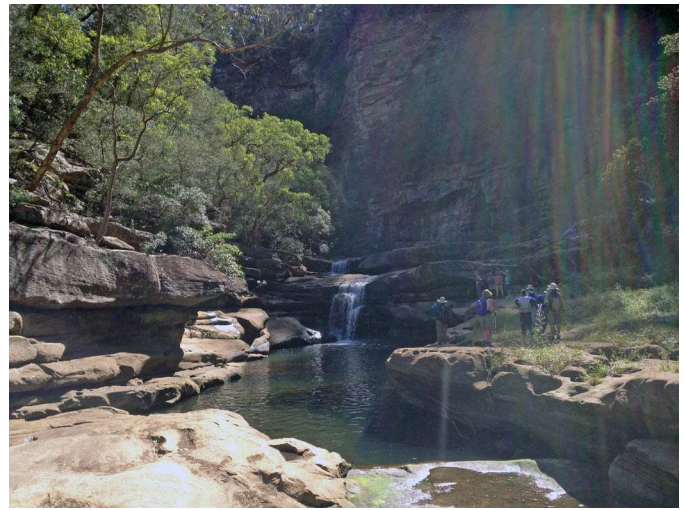


Peering over the edge - photo Meiha Cheung

Once in the canyon we were treated to a series of delightful pools and cascades interspersed with potholes, boulders and cliffs before climbing back up to the top of the escarpment. We then made our way down to Mermaids Pool for lunch, a giant basin of water which requires a giant leap of faith to enter and singular athletic ability to exit. In other words, there is no easy way to get into the water except by jumping in from a height of some 10 metres; and to get out, there is a makeshift rope up a slippery water chute.



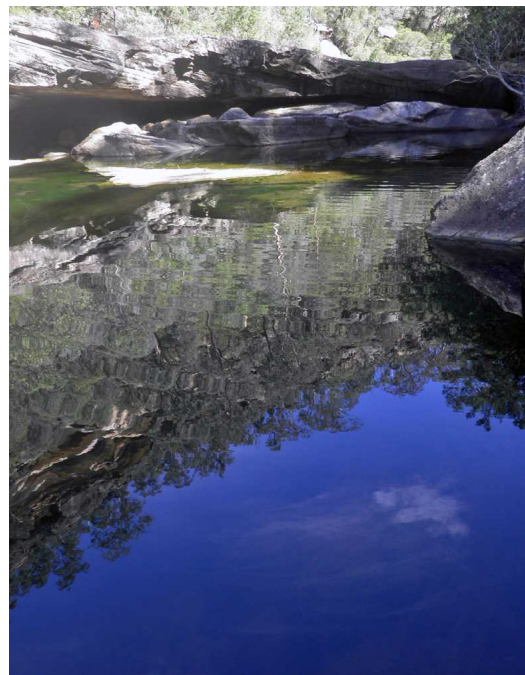
Descending Rosie's Pass - photo Meiha Cheung



Tumbling waters cascade & pool - photo Andrea McDonnell

Needless to say, none of us made the attempt but instead we watched a group of overseas backpackers risk life and limb, wondering if we would need to call 000 at some point.

Some of us later swam in shallower accessible pools further upstream before continuing on our way. In hindsight, the pool at Tumbling Water cascades or See Thru Pool are much safer and pleasant alternatives for a swim which I shall bear in mind for next time.



Pool reflection - photo Charles Bowden

After completing the canyon circuit, one carload decided to call it a day while the rest of us continued along the Bridging Track. Initially this is quite unsightly as (presumably) local slobbers have been using the access roads and carpark as a dumping ground. However once away

from this mess, the track wends its way through attractive bushland which includes some magnificent scribbly gums before eventually reaching a railway service road. A short walk along this dirt road then led us to the grassy reserve in Tahmoor, in the shadow of the road and rail bridges crossing the river, where we had parked a car.

Thank you to Sandra, Diane, Andrea, Michele, Luci, Meiha, Suseela, Liam, Catharina, Lislaine, Bob and William for joining me on a very enjoyable outing and extra thanks to Liam and Meiha for the logistical use of their cars.

WALK

Another epic Colo adventure Wollemi National Park

3 April 2016

Grade 5

Leader: Liam Heery

In planning this walk I thought I would do it on the last weekend of daylight saving. Well I got the weekend right, however I forgot to take into account the fact that the clock changes on Sunday morning!

By reversing the intended direction so that we would now climb up Pass 18 out of the Colo rather than drop down, in hindsight dropping down would have been a better option.

Meeting all but one person at Pennant Hills, we got off to an early start departing at 7:00am. There were eight willing participants all looking forward to exploring an area none of us had visited before.

We left the cars at the end of Grassy Hill firetrail and headed off at 9:00am down the Canoe Creek track. This is a steep route however it is straightforward and well used.



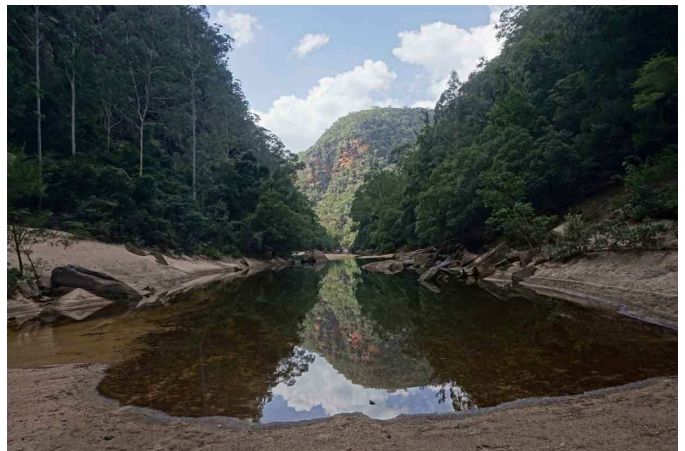
Park sign - photo Philipp Kölsch



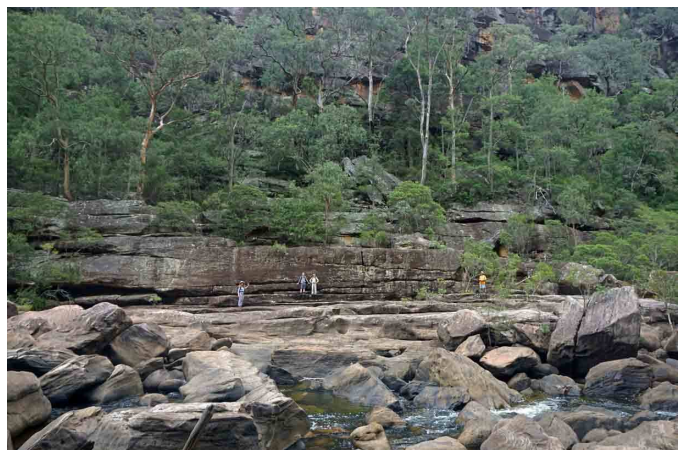
Morning tea by Colo River - photo Charles Bowden

By the time we reached the Colo it was 11:00am and so we stopped for a leisurely morning tea.

The next section along the Colo was new to us all, so we split into two groups, with one group walking in and out of the river on the long sand banks and the other group taking the left bank in the hope of keeping their feet dry.

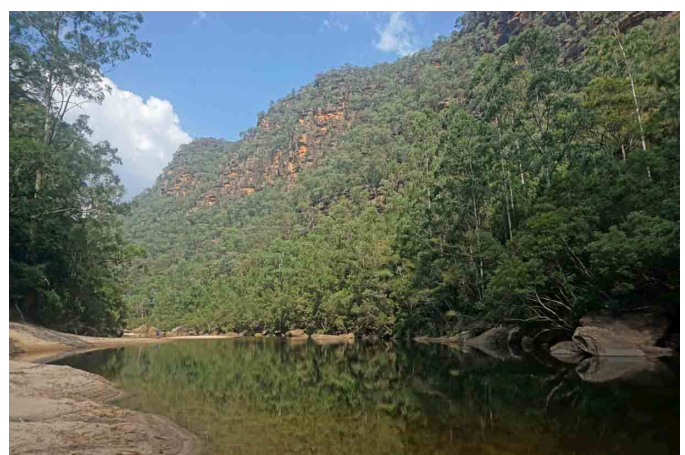


Pool reflections - photo Philipp Kölsch



On the far side - photo Philipp Kölsch

Both groups proceeded well, the high group needing to do a bit more bush bashing and scrambling over rock falls, while the water babes enjoyed the open freedom and cooling effect of the Colo (which was very low).

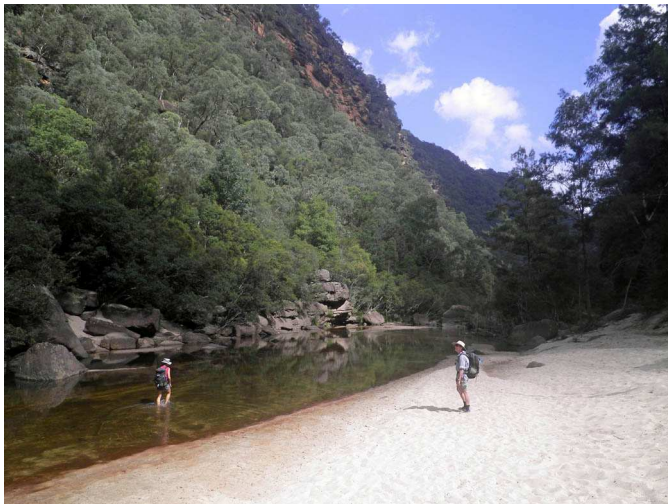


Colo River valley - photo Philipp Kölsch

About half way along this stretch we encountered some quick sand and even though we could see the person in front sinking to their waist, when we tried to by pass them, the sand still opened up. On a hot day this can be a welcome experience rather than a frightening one, so we all enjoyed the "dip". Jacqui however, no matter how hard she tried was unable to retrieve one of her Crocs, which was swallowed up, and had to walk the remainder of the river section in bare feet!



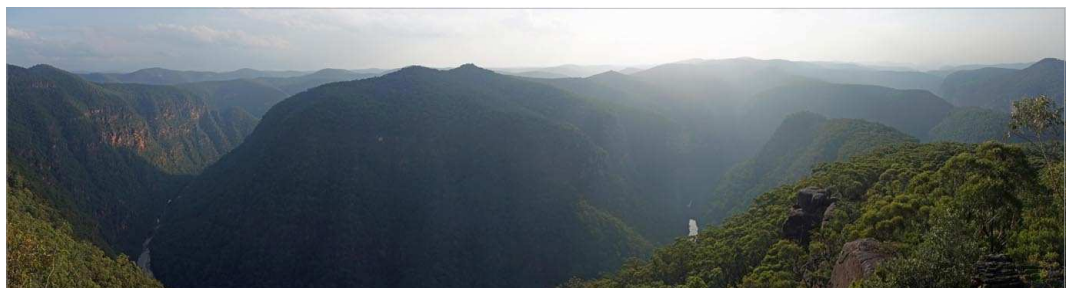
Another quicksand victim - photo Nick Collins



Colo River heading west - photo Charles Bowden

Both groups came together as the river turned south-west and we made for a nice sandbank to have lunch, and a swim before heading up Little Pass (Pass 18).

Again we took our time so it wasn't until 2pm that we actually started our climb out. The route called for us to take a diagonal line up and around the cliff lines above, however as we ascended we found that it was easier to keep climbing. In doing so, we climbed vertically up 300 metres through very loose, reasonably thick scrub and some cliff lines. It was very hot and took its toll so that it wasn't until close to 3:30pm that we reached the top.



Late afternoon on Colo River gorge - photo Philipp Kölsch

As we had climbed to a higher point than intended it took a few minutes to determine where we were and in what direction we should now go. This meant we had to drop into a saddle before another climb of 150 metres or so. We then reached one of the best views of the Colo gorge system that I have ever seen, so it was all well worth it.

From here we now just had to negotiate a mainly ridge top walk which had numerous twists and turns including the usual ups and downs before trying to find an old firetrail that would then hopefully lead us the rest of the way out.

This section took us a bit longer than expected and needed close attention to getting our navigation right. In fading light we started having thoughts of bush bashing for hours in the dark, however I was fairly confident that if we could find the old firetrail all would be well.



Nightfall and torches - photo Nick Collins

Just on dark (about 6pm) we eventually came upon the old firetrail, where I had envisaged it would be and to our delight it was still easily identifiable and passable. This meant that we didn't initially need torches as we could easily see our way in the twilight, and it was easy walking from here.

About 7:15pm we came to the end of the firetrail and joined up with the Grassy Hill track, so that we got back to the cars by 7:30pm. Unfortunately however this meant we were too late for the Wilberforce pub and had to do with a McDonalds recovery!

From all reports everyone enjoyed their day out and it has also provided me with another walk (along the old firetrail) that I can share with more people in the future.

Thanks to Jacqui, Charles, Len, Fiona, Nick, visitor Philipp and bush club member Anna for sharing in another epic Colo adventure.

ANB Explorers surveyed some very exciting walks again last season and found more new walks to put on the programme. Many of these walks are known to others, and especially to mountain dwellers, but are new to ANB. Please watch out for them in future ANB programmes.

The group this season consisted of combinations of Nick, Ruoran, Paul Ma and Freda and sometimes all four of us.

Lyon Head, Wentworth Falls

We surveyed a walk from Lyon Head (off Tableland Rd, Wentworth Falls), down to the Kedumba Valley and back to the locked gate via some very interesting old bush tracks. This is much easier walking than the old Goat Track. Unfortunately, we have no photos to show you but it will be on a future programme so be sure to look out for it. You will learn about the early history of the valley, about the Maxwell and Cleary family who settled there, about the hardships they endured in flood and drought, the tragic events that occurred during the building of the firetrail, how the parents walked the Goat Track to Wentworth Falls village each week to exchange the children's school books, and more. You will see the remnants of the farm buildings some of which are rather well preserved, and can have a look at the Goat Track if you are so inclined. There is a pit toilet in the valley and a lovely river to bathe in if the weather is good.

Donkey Mountain near Newnes

We also visited Donkey Mountain. The photos will speak for themselves. We were like wildly excited children exploring the maze of canyons, slots, ramps, chutes, pagodas, caves, overhangs, etc. Everywhere you look inspires wonder and awe. What fun!

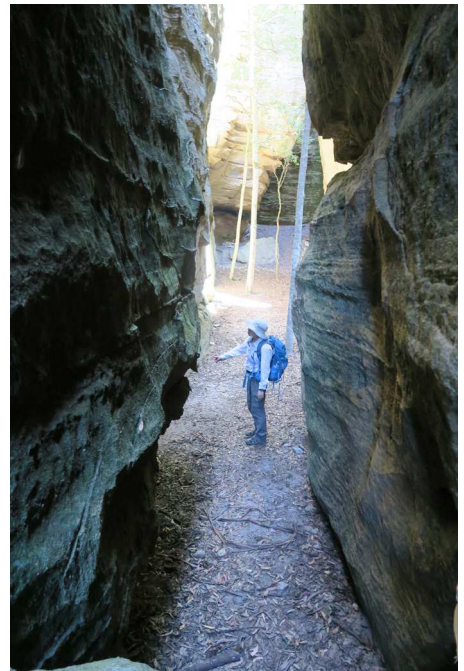
Look out for this walk in the near future. It is a magical place. There will be a limit of eight on the walk to help protect the delicate nature of the environment so be quick to book in.



Donkey Mountain and Wolgan Valley



Titanic



The Grand Hall



The Green Room



Tricky climb



Atop Dargan's Arch

Friday Canyon photos



Dargan's Arch and Friday Canyon near Bell

Another fun day was a walk from Dargan's Arch to Gooch's crater. Well, that was the plan, but as often happens with our walks we got distracted.

It was a very hot day with a huge electric storm forecast for 3pm so we needed to be back at the cars before the storm hit. A foot pad took us to Dargan's Arch and from there we went bush. We could have taken the Gooch's Crater track, but why take the easy route when you can take the hard one!

It looked like we would be able to follow a dry creek bed to the Wollangambe river and then cross to join the Gooch's Track. But things are never as they first seem. The dense scrub forced us uphill ... and that was 'no walk in the park' either. We slowly pushed through dense and tangled bush and unstable ledges until we reached the top of the ridge where the going was a bit better. But it didn't take long before we were forced downhill again. Both the heat and the scrub sent us back into the creek which no longer looked so uninviting. We decided to try walking close to the undercliff, where the going might be easier.

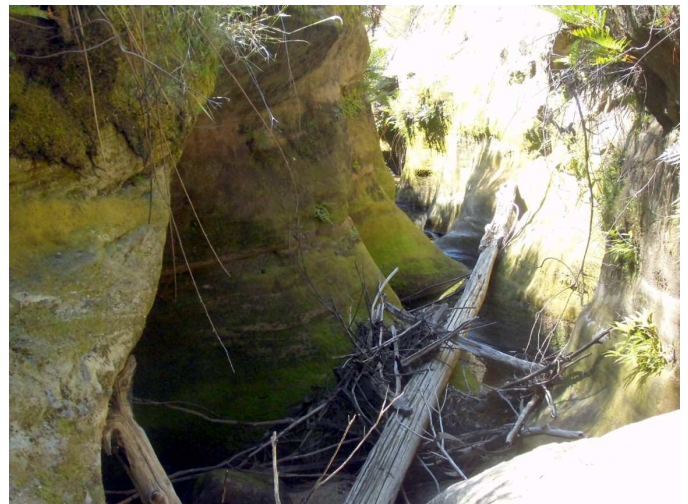
It was. We found a little stream running along the cliff wall. It was shallow and scrub free so we chose to walk in it. It was so cool and refreshing.

As we walked, our surroundings began to change quite dramatically. The water deepened and flowed more freely and the walls started twisting and turning and drawing in closer.

For a considerable distance, the walls were only a metre apart and the water, generally a bit over knee high, was rather deep in places. A few times we had to climb over vegetation and large boulders which had fallen or been swept downstream in heavy floods. We had discovered a beautiful canyon. It was so very exciting.

We have since learned that 'our' canyon was unknown to all the local walkers, so we have called it Friday Canyon as we visited it on a Friday. It is about 200m long and quite spectacular. It flows into the Wollangambe River.

By the time we reached the Wollangambe it was already 1400hrs. Gooch's Crater was still about an hour away at



least. We realised that if we decided to continue with our original plan we wouldn't get back to the cars until 1900hrs if we wanted to allow time to explore Gooch's. Furthermore, a big storm was forecast for 3pm and dark clouds were already gathering.

We reluctantly decided to return to the cars via a very easy walk along the ridge, arriving at our car just as the storm broke. Gooch's would have to wait until another day.

Tyldesley Hill, Cullen Bullen

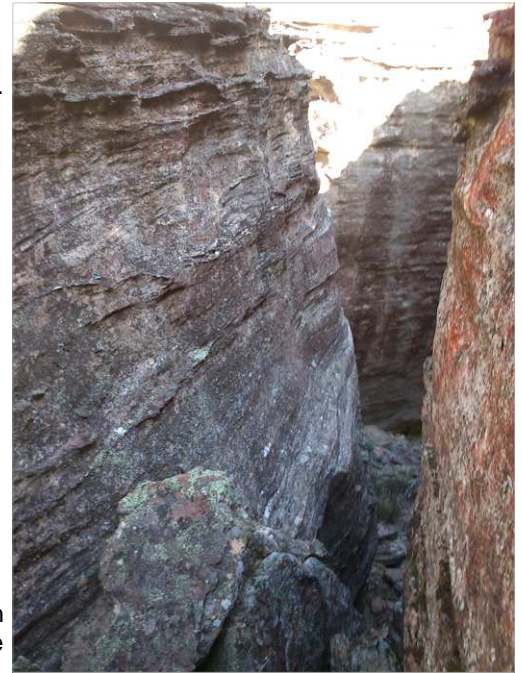
A second April survey was a trip to the grikes of Tyldesley Hill, Cullen Bullen. A grike is defined as a "fissure separating blocks or clints in a limestone/sandstone feature". It was good fun exploring the nooks and crannies in this area though considerable care is needed when climbing as the ground is unstable due to local mining weakening the pagoda structures and causing the delicate formations to collapse.

It was surprisingly woody and pretty on the top.



The top of Tyldesley Hill

You can have a great three hour walk in this area or expand it to a full day walk if you so choose to explore all the five arms of Tyldesley Hill. There is an easy way to the top but if you like a challenge, as we do, there are also pretty tricky scrambles up. Well worth a trip if you're down that way.



Tyldesley Hill gullies exploring

Photos: Nick & Paul

IN THE DARK NO LONGER

Mushroom Farming ceases in the Glenbrook railway tunnel

Many members will be familiar with the location of the Mushroom Farm which has been operating on and off since 1913 in the old disused rail tunnel at Glenbrook. The farm was shut down in early February for a number of reasons and the current owners received an eviction notice by the Department of Primary Industries in March this year.

The site and surrounding area had become a dumping ground for rubbish, organic waste as well as abandoned cars in the bush nearby. This is now being cleared and a safety fence erected around the site allowing walkers and cyclists to pass through safely.

There is a possibility in the future that the railway tunnel may be opened to the public as a tourist attraction to celebrate its fascinating history over the past 130 years.

During WWII it was used by the RAAF for storing 500 pound bombs & chemical weapons including mustard gas.



Glenbrook Old Railway Tunnel: Western Portal

Pageantry & Python & Panoramas

15 May 2016

Grade 3

Leader: Len Sharp

Story and photos by Charles Bowden

Sometimes it just pays to get out there, no matter how often you have been before, as you just don't know what you might encounter this time. And so it was that Len's expertly-led walk along the familiar convict trails near Wiseman's Ferry turned into a day of wonder and amazement.

It all began when, having assembled at the township of Wiseman's Ferry, Len decided the first order of business for the day was to adjourn for morning tea... in the local cafe... before the walk had even begun!! This mellow start to the day was welcomed by all participants and later enhanced by the ferry crossing, made in bright sunshine, to the far bank of the Hawkesbury River.

After a short pause for a car shuffle, the group had scarcely started up the convict-built road when we were confronted by gentlemen in 19th century garb, to wit a magistrate, a surveyor and a soldier, who spake in archaic sentences. Further on, other men appeared in chains and wearing sackcloth clothing featuring broad arrow prints and, later still, a charming lady dressed in long skirt, gloves and a fetching hat who informed us she was the surveyor's wife. There was even a convict overseer positioned next to Hangman's Rock to relate the gory details of what took place there. Who were these people?

It transpired that a group of thespians belonging to the Convict Footprints theatre company were engaged in recreating scenes from history for the entertainment of paying tourists. We just happened to get there early as they were preparing for their audience and benefited from the "free samples". They had even set up a stockade at the top of the hill complete with tents, campfire and boiling billy.

The convict road itself is now lined with new statues, sculptures and plaques depicting or relating various aspects of the history of the road, how it was built and the people involved. It makes for a fascinating stroll.

After lingering rather longer than intended on this short section of road due to these distractions, we eventually made our way along the Lower Macdonald Ridge to a spot looking out over the Macdonald River, a tributary of the Hawkesbury, where we had lunch. The ridge was once part of a farming property and the remains of a couple of 'soaks' or wells for livestock can still be seen.

On our way back along the ridge track, we encountered a beautiful (and alert) Diamond Python who obligingly posed for the photographers before languidly disappearing into the bush. A timely reminder that we were actually on a bushwalk.

Reaching the convict road again, we proceeded to the Finch's Line track junction. This narrow trail, originally constructed for horses and carts but not completed as it was deemed too steep and twisting, has also been cleared and ornamented with explanatory sculptures and plaques for the edification of visitors.

Before the final descent back to the river, we paused at the lookout next to the track which gives lovely views of the Hawkesbury and Wiseman's Ferry. Some of us then repaired to the local pub for a refreshing beverage and a recounting of tales of an extraordinary day.



Surveyor, soldiers and magistrate



Checking the photographer's scent



Sunset over Wiseman's Ferry

Welcome to 10 New Members

Susan Halliday
Diane Celnikier
Audrey Bouvier
Lislaine Andrade Wensing
Paulina Bezzina
Maurice van Creij
Kerri Ainsworth
Jane Rothschild
Neil Robbins
Linda Park

See you
in the bush



Marramarra NP 29 May 2016 Leader: Liam Heery

Grade 5

On a very nice winter's day we parked cars and headed off on the Waddy firetrail. Our intention was to follow Waddy Ridge into Coba Creek and then cross over possibly a new route to the Coba Track and return via Collingridge Point look out.

After about a kilometre, the old Waddy firetrail turns to the north, however at this point it is no longer in use and has now become heavily overgrown. This meant that our progress was very slow and particularly hard for the leader.

Towards the end of the ridge we stopped for morning tea and enjoyed the views into the unspoilt Marramarra.

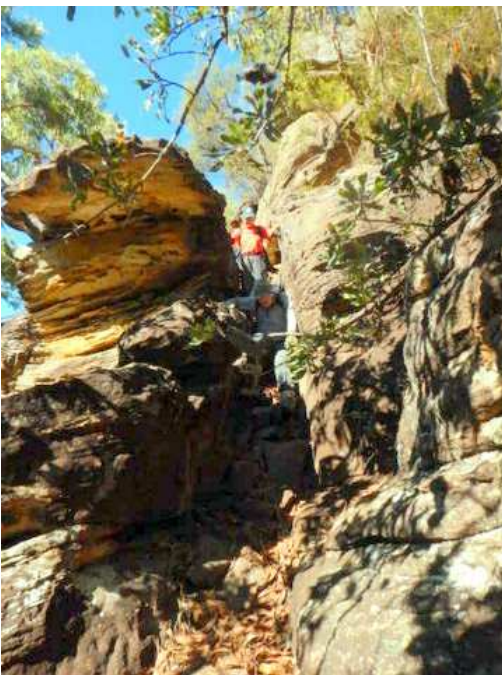
Following this we headed downhill again through extremely overgrown bush until we reached another lookout point on the cliff lines just above Coba Creek.

At this point I was very happy to re-discover Liam's Slot which is a ramp traversing while at the same time sidling down the cliffs, the whole way to Coba Creek.

The Creek was a welcome sight as it had become very hot and the creek was shaded. Rock hopping and walking along Coba Creek is really nice, with lots of lovely pools and moss covered trees. Towards the end of this section the creek runs into a very swampy area with reeds taller than a person.

At the junction of Kulpers Track we stopped for a long lunch and to recover from our earlier exertions.

After lunch it was time to find our way across the "swamp" before we could climb up the opposite side and make our way across the ridge to the Coba Track. However the tough terrain was taking it's toll on the leader who was beginning to experience some bad cramping and a deci-



sion was made to cut our losses and return instead via the Kulper's Track which would be a much easier exit.

While the return was now going to be all on firetrail, it was still a pleasant walk, with some new (to the group) aboriginal carvings found along the way. After reaching the cars just after 5pm, some of us enjoyed a convivial dinner in the Hornsby pub.

Thanks to Jacqui, Bob, Nick, Maurice and 2 members of The Bush Club for an enjoyable and somewhat eventful day out.



Photos - Bob Seibright

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