



all nations
BUSHWALKERS INC

Winter Newsletter

July 2021

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

THE SKY IS A HAZY SHADE OF WINTER

With the newsletter running a month late, we are now in the grips of winter. It's cold. It's wet. The days are short but at least we have passed the winter solstice and the days are slowly slowly getting longer. It's a wonderful time to be out in the bush, it's lush and green, waterfalls are flowing and there's no fear of over heating. As they say, there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing! I hope you all have somewhere in your 10km radius where you can escape the confines of your home.

With the need to stay safe and stay indoors, I have been sorting through photos of a recent trip to Lake Eyre. This once in lifetime experience is just that. With a rapidly changing environment, the Lake looks different every day and at times of the day the salty earth's crust and natural springs change colour and shape. A remarkable part of the country, a quite unique display of nature and quite spiritual as you see the earth at it's raw pure untouched self. Definitely a trip of a lifetime but I somehow think I will be drawn to visit again. I write more about the experience later in the newsletter.



We have a jumpacked edition full of variety which I hope you will all enjoy. Thanks as always to our contributors.

Stay safe, get out where you can and let's hope we get through this challenging time quickly. Look after yourself and your loved ones.

**Yours in Keeping Track,
Dee McCallum,
Editor**



President's Soapbox

Dear members

Welcome to Winter! Well what started out to be a very busy and active Winter Program has once again been thrown into chaos due to COVID and the lockdown restrictions imposed on the Greater Sydney Region.

Sadly we are not able to venture out to enjoy our beautiful bushlands and national parks at this time but hopefully we will be out of lockdown soon and we can all get back to doing what we love to do....bushwalking! This is not an easy time for us outdoor enthusiasts but at least we can still walk around our local neighbourhood and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine (when it's not raining of course!).

So hang in there, stay safe, follow the health directives and look forward to seeing you all on the other side!

Regards

Leah Taylor
President

Welcome to New Members

Ria Deamer
Marcel Julliard
John Dalton







Welcome all and see you in the bush soon...

BUSHWALKING NSW

Bushwalking NSW held their quarterly meeting by zoom, on the 18th May. Guest speaker was James McCormack, Editor of Wild Magazine who talked about the issue of luxury lodges encroaching on our National Parks. [Here is a link to his article in Wild Magazine.](#)

The next meeting will in fact be the AGM. It is likely this will be held via zoom given ongoing COVID requirements. This is scheduled for Tuesday 17 August 2021, 7pm.

Bushwalking NSW

<p>Latest posts</p>  <p>Keep up to date with the latest news from Bushwalking NSW</p>	<p>Calendar of Events</p>  <p>Find out about the latest bushwalking events in NSW</p>	<p>All about clubs</p>  <p>Find a bushwalking club close to you, so you can start enjoying the great outdoors</p>
<p>Stay safe!</p>  <p>We recommend walking with a club on an activity led by an experienced leader</p>	<p>The right gear</p>  <p>You need the right gear to tackle these walks. Ensure your gear is in good</p>	<p>Bushwalking NSW</p>  <p>Subscribe to our Newsletter to stay to date with what is happening</p>

WALK REPORT

MARLEY BEACH WHALE WATCHING

DEE MCCALLUM

23 MAY 2021

With perfect weather forecast, we met at Sutherland Station before driving to the start of the walk on the main road to Bundeeena. The little carpark was already nearly full, especially as many spaces were full of pot holes which were deep and full of water.

After crossing the road, we headed into the Royal National Park and made our way down through the heathland with an abundance of banksia and other native flowers in bloom. Although there had been rain, the track was not too wet underfoot. We reached the Deer Pool a few kilometres in where we stopped for morning tea. We had to cross the creek which we mostly all managed without getting too wet! The small waterfall was flowing and made for an attractive outlook whilst we had our snacks and drink.



After a short section through the bush, we popped out onto the fire trail and followed this for a half an hour or so. Like many fire trails, this section of the walk is not that attractive but it is over quickly.

Soon enough, we reached the intersection of the Coast Track. Many sections of this popular track have been upgraded with raised boardwalk. It's somewhat controversial, the purists don't like it but as the track has become so popular, it certainly was becoming quite degraded with deep and wide ruts.

It does make for easy and safe walking and we would have sped along this section quickly if we hadn't been distracted by all the grass trees. It appears that parts of the bush had been subject to a controlled burn and what was obvious was the resilience of these unique plants that are stimulated by fire.

The sandstone path along the next section of the track is spectacular, the colours and shapes of the rocks blend beautifully with the green of the bush and blue of the sea. Sadly there were no whales to be seen, perhaps we were a little early for them.



We found a shady spot at Little Marley Beach for lunch, looking out to sea with the small lagoon behind us, having reshaped the beach after heavy recent rain-falls. This section of the track was certainly busy but we were the only ones that headed over to the lagoon and sand dunes at Big Marley.

This is a magical part of the coast and we happily spent time guessing the footprints of the many animals that clearly use this area. After scrambling up

and over the dunes, we made our way back to the fire trail, then into the bush for the gradual ascent up through the heathland back to the cars.

A great day out and thanks to all those members who joined me for a very pleasant day out.

Thanks also to Richard for sharing your photos.



CLUB MEMBER PETER BONNER

Legendary All Nations bushwalker and life member Peter Bonner is still taking an interest in the club and its activities. Nick Collins reports that Peter is alive and well and living these days in a Hornsby care home. He turns/turned 91 in July, and doesn't do much walking now but he enjoys visits from old friends, and keeping up with Keeping Track!



THE GREAT NORTH WALK NICK COLLINS



THE GREAT NORTH WALK NICK COLLINS

The Club has been making its way slowly but determinedly towards Newcastle along the Great North. We started in March at Circular Quay, and as of late June we'd made it to Cowan, about a third of the way. We've attempted it twice before, once even getting right to the end.

The big challenge to this one-day-at-a-time technique is the complexity of the car shuffles needed to make the middle sections happen, once we drift away from the public transport connections. But we'll give it a go!

Great North Walk Facts

- Created in 1988 to celebrate Australia's bicentenary
- 260km from Newcastle to Sydney
- Complete in 12-18 days as a thru-walk or 30 easily completed small walks
- 40,000 walkers cover parts of the track each year

THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR WALKIN'

JAN BROWNLIE

I've spent a large part of my adult life travelling which will be no surprise to any of you who know me. Much of that has been in developing countries ranging from Nepal to Tibet to Laos and Cambodia, too many to list here. And, a lot of that time has been hiking and trekking.

I've always believed that education is the key to ending global poverty which is why I'm writing this article today to let you know about an amazing charity called [Room to Read](#) and a fabulous walking opportunity which has come as a result of a new partnership between the Sydney Chapter of Room to Read and World Expeditions. First, a bit more about Room to Read. Founded in 2000 on the belief that World Change Starts with Educated Children®, Room to Read is creating a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. They are doing that by helping children in low-income communities develop literacy skills and a habit of reading, and by supporting girls to build skills to succeed in secondary school and negotiate key life decisions.

For less than the price of a cup of coffee you can put a book in the hands of a child. \$245 supports one girl through phone-based or online mentoring and life skills lessons for emotional support, encouragement to continue her studies at home during COVID-19. Every dollar we fundraise counts.

COVID has been particularly challenging in the developing world as we all know. Now, more than ever, making sure children are not left behind is really important. You can make a difference – will you accept the challenge? The Room to Read Sydney Chapter Kozi Challenge is a 22km hike to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko, the highest mountain in Australia. The trip starts with a BBQ in the evening of 19 November and ends with breakfast on Sunday 21 November. Included in the cost is 2 night's accommodation, all your food for the weekend, transport to the start of the walk and back to your accommodation at the end and expert guides to show you one of Australia's unique landscapes. You can find out more details [here](#).

What's in it for Room to Read you ask? Well, once the trip is guaranteed to depart (we need a minimum of 25 people), then you have some work to do to raise money for Room to Read. The minimum fundraising target is \$500 per person. That's a \$50 dollar donation from 10 people – I'm sure you can do it! You'll be given some ideas on how to fundraise when you book the trip – or you can ask me janbrownlie@iinet.net.au.

If you can't do the walk then consider being a sponsor for someone who is doing the walk. Remember, every dollar counts. You'll hear more from me once we reach those minimum numbers and the trip is guaranteed to run. In the meantime, please get the word out, tell your friends and family about the [Kozi Challenge](#) – this is something positive you can do in these uncertain times to make a real difference.



TRIP REPORT

LAKE EYRE AND ANNA CREEK PAINTED HILLS

28-30TH MAY 2021

DEE MCCALLUM

There are places in the world that you have always wanted to visit. Lake Eyre has always been on my list, from the first time I found about this amazing and puzzling display of nature. A lake that doesn't often actually have water, in the driest continent in the world. How does it happen? What does it look like? Can you drive to the edge? Can you swim there? I had so many questions and actually still do!

When a friend found out about an aerial photography trip over Lake Eyre, I couldn't sign up quick enough! Doors off for perfect visibility! The trip filled up with keen photographers and then we waited. Our fingers crossed that the borders would stay open and we would be able to fly interstate. The days in May went by slowly, each day a day closer. Then before I knew it, my luck held and I was able to fly to Adelaide to make the trip north. Sadly, four of our group were Melbourne based and literally 2 days before departure the border between VIC and SA closed. It was heartbreaking for them, including my good friend I had travelled with before. We were so looking forward to seeing each other. Life can be cruel sometimes.

How do you get to Lake Eyre? We spent a night in Adelaide to make sure we were there for an early morning departure to Olympic Dam, near Roxby Downs, approximately 550km north of Adelaide. The airport at Olympic Dam is owned by BHP who own the mine close by. This mine is the largest uranium mine in the world and also has significant deposits of copper and lesser amounts of gold and silver. From Olympic Dam, we took our charter flight with [Wrightsair](#), for the 45 minute flight to William Creek which is the closest town to Lake Eyre.

William Creek is also on the Oodnadatta Track, famous for the [William Creek pub](#) and the fact that it is one of the smallest populated towns in Australia with 10 residents. Those residents are the pilots and pub workers and 1 or 2 staff from William Creek Cattle Company.

It's red dusty remoteness is it's charm and authentic Aussie country hospitality make for a short but special stay.



After dumping our gear into the simple but adequate cabins at the campground across the road, we settled in for a quick lunch and debrief for the next few days. In no time, we were off again for the first treat, flying in our 2 GA8 Airvans. These rugged small single-engined utility aircraft are designed for the Outback and come with the added advantage of easily flying "doors-off", absolutely necessary for the avid photographer!

The scenery along the way was already stunning and we hadn't even got to the Painted Hills!



TRIP REPORT

LAKE EYRE AND ANNA CREEK PAINTED HILLS

28-30TH MAY 2021

DEE MCCALLUM

We headed west, out to the spectacular Anna Creek Painted Hills for our first doors-off shoot. We were to have an hour flight each with 2 photographers and our professional guide in each plane. One of us would be required to hold the sliding door—propped open with our foot. Yes, it is a bit scary! There is literally nothing stopping you falling out but a seatbelt, common sense and a strong desire to live!

It is hard to find out facts about the Painted Hills. They are on privately owned land and access is only possible by private plane. [In 2016, the Kidman empire sold Anna Creek Station](#) to the current owners, Williams Cattle Company who now permit access—under the strict control of Trevor Wright of Wrights air. The Painted Hills are part of the Breakaways country in the far north of South Australia which includes the country around Coober Pedy, approximately 160km away. The rocky landscape was once under water,



tens of millions of years ago. Shades of red, ochre, yellow and white splash across the land, stacks crumbling and eroding slowly over time. Obvious signs of creek beds are highlighted by small trees and bushes that struggle to survive in this arid land. And land we did, before separating into our planes for a closer look from above.

Whilst the first planes were up, 4 of us had time to wander and get our first up close look at this amazing landscape.



The feeling of privilege was present, I knew I was walking in places no one had walked before. No walking tracks, no paths to follow, just your nose in front of you, a very special place. Soon enough I was up and



got the job pulling the door open and holding it open with my foot! Frightening it was but once I got shooting I was soon lost in my viewfinder, merrily snapping away. Wonderful experience! After a short flight back to William Creek, we headed to the pub for a hearty meal and well deserved drink.



TRIP REPORT

LAKE EYRE AND ANNA CREEK PAINTED HILLS

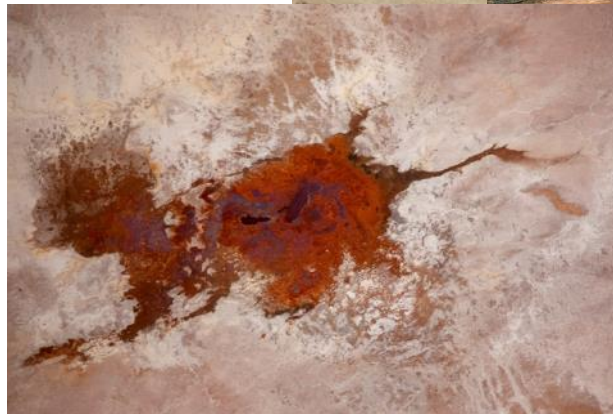
28-30TH MAY 2021

DEE MCCALLUM

The following morning we split again into 2 groups for a 2 hour flight over Lake Eyre. I took the later start and when our first team returned, speechless of the views and what they had seen, we couldn't wait to get up! This time I had the middle seat which required a more obvious lean over to look out the door. With all the banking as we circled some amazing natural springs seeping into the salty crust, the motion was a bit much, nausea crept in but I came good quickly, again losing myself in the viewfinder and rattling off shot after shot. Our guides were there to help which was wonderful—a few tips here and there to help us get the perfect shot.



We repeated the experience again in the afternoon, across the upper parts of the Lake and the Warburton River which is one of the main rivers flowing into the Lake. It's hard to describe what you see. With the Lake relatively empty, the salty crust is the main feature dispersed with natural springs, blooming in shades of red and burnt orange. This dry salt pan contains Australia's lowest point at -15.2m below sea level. But we were all on a high, having experienced views of a lifetime of an amazing feat of nature. A lake that only fills 4-5 times a century.



TRIP REPORT

LAKE EYRE AND ANNA CREEK PAINTED HILLS

28-30TH MAY 2021

DEE MCCALLUM

The last day was truly special. Trevor was going to take us for a walk around the Painted Hills, we were going to see what we saw from above, this time on the ground. We threw our gear into our camera bags, tried to limit our baggage as Trevor had warned us we were going to for a long walk. I was so excited! Probably not decked up with my usual hiking gear which was replaced with a heavy camera and several lenses. Definitely no chance of rain but it was cool in the morning as we set out. We followed no route, there were no paths and even Trevor hadn't walked some of the places we went. He did however know plenty of special spots to highlight amazing rock formations, stones, roots and trees. The variety of geology is quite remarkable. We managed 8-9kms with plenty of stops for photos.

This is very special country, unlike anything I have seen before. I hope I can get to visit again. Even if you are not a photographer, it is still possible to get out there and book a flight over Lake Eyre. Fear not, you won't be asked to prop the door open!



WALK REPORT

WEST HEAD

LEAH TAYLOR

I recently had the pleasure of discovering the beautiful West Head Lookout and it's many walking tracks. As a Sydney sider I couldn't believe that I had never taken the time to explore this beautiful area and what it has to offer! So I engaged my faithful walking buddy Len to take me on this incredible adventure. There is so much history associated with West Head particularly the Army Track that I wasn't aware of but I am now! West Head Lookout is a must see for everyone



where you can enjoy the magnificent views over the ocean up the Hawkesbury and Pittwater Rivers, across to Brisbane Water and Bouddi National Parks on the Central Coast and Barrenjoey.



There are many interesting walks that start around West Head and are easy to navigate. We experienced scenic landforms, waterways, plants and animals, as well as local cultural heritage, including the army battery remains which used to house naval guns, an observation post, ammunition storage and searchlights.



I look forward to returning to West Head to do more exploring and encourage all members if you haven't been to West Head then it's a must for your bucket list.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26TH JUNE 2021

DEE MCCALLUM

Sadly our plans to meet at the Woodstock Community Centre in Burwood were stifled by COVID. The cups of tea and cake had to be put aside this time as we reverted to an online Zoom meeting to complete the formalities. Leah did a wonderful job putting together the agenda and summarising the various committee members reports.

Aside from the legal requirements of meeting and submitting end of year financials, the committee is re-elected, as all positions become vacant. The following positions were filled:

President: Leah Taylor – Chairs meetings and is the front person of the club

Treasurer: Liam – prepares financials and manages bank account

Secretary: Sarah – records details of meetings

Membership Secretary: Michelle – handles all new enquiries and renews current memberships

Program Co-Ordinator: Richard – prepares quarterly program and posts activities on the website

Newsletter Editor: Dee – produces the quarterly newsletter

Webmaster—vacant— monitors software updates and enhancements as required

Sadly Paul our Webmaster stood down and there were no nominees for this position. At our next meeting scheduled for 27th July 2021, the committee will discuss how this position will be filled or how the tasks will be allocated. A bit thanks goes to Paul for all his work over the years in managing the website.

The club currently has 135 active members with 20 of those members leading walks and other activities. Stand-out contributors have been Leah Taylor (18) Jacqui Joseph (16) and Nick Collins (16) but Denise Kruse (14) and Liam Heery (14) were hot on their heels. A big thanks to all members who have led an activity this year - particularly new leaders Elaine Wen and Mel Razmjoo.

Richard provided a great summary of the club's activities displayed below. For a small club we continue to provide a good range of easy and harder walks across many National Parks and around the harbour.

Program Coordinator statistics 2020-21									
	GRADE							Total	Weekends
	0	1	2	3	4	5	5+		
Winter - Jun-Aug 2020	2	5	9	13	4	1	0	34	13/13
Spring - Sep-Nov 2020	3	1	6	12	5	2	0	29	13/13
Summer - Dec 2020-Feb 2021	1	2	9	7	6	1	0	26	13/13
Spring - Mar-May 2021	1	0	7	9	3	2	0	22	12/13
Total	7	8	31	41	18	6	0	111	51/52
	6%	7%	28%	37%	16%	5%	0%		

Note: totals include cancelled activities, bike rides and rogaines. grade 0 includes socials & snorkels.

NOTICES AND BITS AND BOBS

Fun Photos

If you find any funny or interesting pictures in your travels, send them in!



Laurent Perrier
@itslaurentbtw

My favorite outdoors activity is getting my packages at the door and bringing them in

People walking around with DIY masks like



The official flag of 2020



Club Matters

- ☺ Next club meeting is 27th July 2021 and will likely be via Zoom. If you have any issues you would like raised or discussed, please contact the club President Leah.
- ☺ Any newsletter contributions are always welcome. When sending photos, please try and send as high a resolution as possible. If you are not sure what that means, when you go to send your photos by email —once you click to send, you are usually prompted to send a certain size—Small, Medium Large or Actual size. The bigger the better!
- ☺ Interested in leading a walk? Or have an idea of a walk you would like to do but not confident to lead? Check out our website where we have a number of walk leaders happy to mentor. You will have to login and look under “Activity mentors” to find them.
- ☺ Remember, many walks are posted at short notice. Make sure you are on the mailing list and getting regular emails with upcoming activities.
- ☺ Several members are actively saving photos of their walks on the website. Some of those reports are replicated here. Always check, there are [some goodies!](#).

Thank you!

As always, a big thank you to all our contributors.

We are lucky to have a number of members that happily write a few words about club walks they have done. Personally I always enjoy seeing the photos and stories of our club outings.

Always happy to have more! So please, if you have been on a wonderful walk and want to share your tales, we would love to hear from you!