

THE Bushwalker



MAGAZINE OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS NSW INC.

ISSN 0313 2684 SPRING EDITION - VOL 29 NO 1 AUGUST 2003

www.bushwalking.org.au email editor@bushwalking.org.au

WARRUMBUNGLE NP 50TH YEAR CELEBRATIONS



CELEBRATIONS

As if aware of the momentous occasion she was privy to, Mother Nature turned on a most glorious day for the Warrumbungle National Park's 50th year reunion celebrations. On Saturday May 10, a velvety orange glow warmed the peaks of the park in northwestern NSW, as walkers gathered to embark on

their journey down memory lane. The re-enactment 'Barefoot Bush walk' and reunion was named to acknowledge Australian Geographic 1998 Explorer of the year and frequent park visitor, Dot Butler, who walked and climbed many of the peaks in the park barefoot, in the early days. Ill health meant that Dot was not able to join in with the park celebrations; today she lives in Tasmania with her daughter.

Conspicuous by his absence was Dot's son Wade, who was lost in the Tasmanian wilderness seven years ago, but who instilled in his children as his mother did him, a passion for the bush and a love of the Warrumbungle National Park. Wade's younger sons Eric and Leo, and their mother Margie, joined other



Wade Butler's son Eric in Warrumbungle NP (barefoot)

bush walkers as they retraced the steps of the original Sydney bush walkers from Gunneemooroo on the southern side of the National Park to Camp Pincham. Joined by former and current park staff, park neighbours, astronomers and bush walking enthusiasts, their expedition took them through some of the unspoilt crags and peaks of the Warrumbungle range.

They returned with stories of hidden springs, a European lemon tree and a new peak that no one, not even the experts, could seem to name. Without a wink of weariness on their faces, the elated crew joined with other walkers who had embarked on shorter, but no less spectacular walks to celebrate 50 years of the Warrumbungles existing as a National Park. Over a campfire and good bush cooking, old acquaintances became friends again and stories of the evolution of the park flowed freely.

For people like Phil Draper, a local schoolteacher and rock-climbing enthusiast, the Warrumbungles has offered freedom from daily tasks, "I often come to the park after work and climb one of the peaks and am home before dark," he said. For others the memories of childhood coupled with time spent in the Warrumbungles. Margaret Dow reminisced of years of saying good-bye to her father on a Monday and seeing him when he returned on a Friday after he had spent all week marking trails in the park.

"If he forgot anything he just had to do without," she said. "I have many happy memories of time spent exploring the park with Dad." With the establishment of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1967, Dick Duggan was appointed as the ranger to run the Warrumbungle National Park.

Dick joined with past and current of the park to celebrate the momentous occasion and enjoyed the chance reminisce. "I have seen a lot of changes," Dick said. "The expansion of the park and the development of the field

THE DARLING RIVER RUN WALK

David Gorzalka

I love the sunburnt country, the land of black soil plains

The drought ravaged plains between Louth and Tilpa beckoned us to explore before the next rains breed life back into the surrounding landscape.

The decision to walk the Darling River Run was easy, we wanted to not only see the drought-ravaged plains but also experience the desolate existence many of our rural people commit their lives to.



We were reminded we were in river country when a large flock of red-tailed black cockatoos gave a sounding rendition of *kreee kreee kreee* that echoed through the majestic River Red Gums and the village of Louth.

This is where we begin our walk.

The lifeline of the black-soil plains surged with a new lease of life when floodwaters from outback Queensland arrived at Louth during the previous afternoon. Locals joked that we would possibly beat the headwaters to Tilpa. Looking ahead, we could see the country was dying of thirst - dry and dusty conditions, high temperatures, flies and very little wildlife to be seen or heard. Turning left at the 'T' junction, the arrow pointed 85 kilometers along the road



The Author in front of Tilpa sign

to Tilpa, a road that is now a significant 4 wheel drive destination in outback Australia. Over the next four days we passed the famous Dunlop Station, Delta, Trilby, Winbar, Minley, Idalia, Bells Grove, Tara and Killara - all properties that bring heartache in bad times and prosperity in good times.

Each night we set up camp that offered magnificent water views of the flowing Darling River and the distant sounds of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and Diamond Dove. Overhead, the brilliance of the night sky made it unforgiving to use artificial light. Sleep was restful after walking long hours through powdered bull-dust and enduring hordes of flies and the mid-day heat of a cloudless sky.

And on the fourth morning

Tilpa - 'village on the floodplain' and to us, 'an oasis in the middle of nowhere' was now only four hours walk. On our left, colorful sand hills sat on top of the Tilpa flood plain and to our right, the desolate red Thoolabool Range providing sanctuary for 'Big Red' and a resting place for some of our pioneering landholders. To us, this walk provided some relative meaning to the word hardship.

Maps used 1:100 000K

studies centre which provides children with a classroom in the bush.

"The fire fighting equipment has certainly improved from my early days and I have also seen a difference in the attitudes of the visitors that come here; over the years they have come to appreciate the park more."

Many of the memories shared by ex park aficionados, walkers, photographers and friends will be recorded for prosperity and the Warrumbungle National Park 50th year organizing committee are on track to release a book at the end of the year celebrating the history of the park they call the 'people's park'.



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THE BUSHWALKER

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Distribution is through affiliated clubs, major retail outlets, council information centres and national park offices.

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The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents approximately 70 clubs with a total membership around 11,000 bushwalkers. Formed in 1932, the Confederation provides a united voice on conservation and other issues, runs training courses for members, and provides for the public a free wilderness search and rescue service. People interested in joining a bushwalking club are invited to write to the Secretary Bushwalkers NSW at the above address for information on clubs in their area. Or web site www.bushwalking.org.au

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Quarter page \$105.00
Business card size \$60.00
insert \$290.00 +insertioncost approx \$175.00.
All Prices exclude GST

Deadlines for magazine

Summer edition, 2nd week in October-
Autumn 2nd week in January - Winter, 2nd week in April - Spring, 2nd week in July

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THE BUSHWALKER

is the magazine of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. It's published quarterly. The aim of the magazine is to provide articles and information of interest to the members of clubs affiliated with the Confederation and Bushwalkers generally. Any opinions expressed by individual authors do not always represent the official views of the Confederation.



A RECOUNT (UNTIL SOMEONE ELSE PROVES OTHERWISE) THE FIRST SOLO HILLTOP TO KATOOMBA WALK IN A WEEKEND? RECOLLECTIONS OF A WALK IN THE MID-'70s



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Upon nostalgic reflection, the Australian bushwalking years of the 1970's, as close friend Peter Harris said, really were the "Days of Wine and Roses", or the "The Golden Years", as Dave Noble once called them. Bushwalking had been becoming increasingly popular, and several clubs were flourishing. Among these were the Kameruka Bushwalking Club (KBC) and the National Parks Association (NPA), of which I was member. These were still the days of the "Tigers"; naive, idealistic, rugged individualists, full of environmental concern, strong opinions and earnest convictions - the era of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam and the Labor Party. Having freed ourselves of the pointless burden of the Vietnam War¹, there were new and exciting challenges to confront and overcome, spiritually, psychologically and physically.

Some well-known names of the time included Ted Hartley (KBC), Ted Daniels (NPA), Paddy Pallin, John Atkinson ("Acko" - KBC, SUBW), Bryden Allen (KBC) and Dave Noble (SUBW), and, at that time, I had something of a reputation myself! In 1975, I was sharing a house in Artarmon, N.S.W., with fellow active bushwalkers and cross-country skiers Ross Christopher, Dennis Rittson and Barbara Cameron-Smith. Most of my non-solo walks were initially with Kamerukans and I later teamed up with great friends and NPA'ers Peter Harris, Steve Harding, Keith Messervy and Tom Sinclair, whom I first met in Maydena, on our way to my first memorable trip to the Western and Eastern Arthur Ranges.

In this article, I wish to recount what I believe was the first solo Hilltop² to Katoomba³ Walk in a Weekend, in 1975. While the distance, as the crow flies (Great Circle Distance), is only about 72 kilometers, the walking distance is about 130 kilometers.

Why do it? Only those who have tested themselves to the utmost will know the true answer to that question.

Friday

From Sydney, on Friday afternoon, the Railmotor⁴ lurched, rattled, rocked and rolled its way down the Picton-Mittagong Loop line⁵ towards Mittagong. By Hilltop⁶, it was cold and getting dark already, and I was the only person on the train besides the driver and the guard. The aging weatherboard Hilltop Railway Station was deserted and silent as I stepped, with some trepidation, off the train. A sprinkling of lights was visible in the tiny

Paul Adams, formerly of Kameruka and NPA Bushwalking Clubs

Hilltop fibro-weatherboard houses, and all was eerily silent, still and cold. A dog barks briefly in the distance, then all is quiet again.

Well, can't pike out now! Hoisting my pack onto my shoulders and donning my weather-beaten Akubra felt hat, I left, heading at top speed along the road to Starlight's Trail⁷. Passing the last house, at a small intersection on the right, a couple of dogs yapped excitedly as I hurried by. I hoped that they would not come racing out with evil intent and cut my trip abruptly short. Soon someone turned the porch light on and called the dogs brusquely in. Peace.

Now only the sound of the crunch, crunch, crunch, left-right-left of the road-gravel under the Dunlop Volleys (*de rigueur* Australian bush-walking footwear back then). Starlight's Track soon branched off to the left (do not descend, go straight ahead); then through a metal gate across the road. After some stony walking on the washed-out road, the gentle descent towards the river began. On and on - seems further than last time. Not sure of the time and feeling pretty weary, I pitched my one-man japaara tent in a grassy glade amid a lovely grove of river oaks that lined the banks of the Nattai River. This lightweight, floor-less tent required 4 pegs or sticks, 3 for the 3 apices of the triangular base, plus one for the 2 door-flaps. It could be hitched with sash-cord to a couple of trees or tree branches, and be ready for occupation in a flash. I loved it. The floor was a simple green plastic 6 foot by 3 foot groundsheet (the makers had not yet converted to metric). My frameless backpack was an imported, mountain-safety orange Joe Brown climbing pack, of simple and rugged design. It was heaven after the agonizing frameless, A- and H-frame designs I had previously used, having padded shoulder straps (!), a waist-belt (!), and a fold-over poly-urethane foam insert in back (!), which could be removed and used as a 2/3 mattress. The throat of the pack could be extended and used as a half bivvy-bag. This pack was a real status symbol back then, but when full of food and camping gear, it did tend to sit a bit too high on the back, causing the wearer to become quite unstable. Sometimes, in the midst of a tricky scramble, it would administer disconcerting blows to the back of the head, not the best thing mid-cliff. Nevertheless, it was fine on a subsequent 4-day Grand Traverse (GT) of Mount Cook, New Zealand. It is still stowed away now, and is still in usable condition, too, after 28 years. Not bad!

Anyway, progress had been satisfactory and it was enough for Friday night - to sleep, blissful sleep, as the light breeze soughed gently and soothingly through the river oaks.

Saturday

Arising in the misty light of dawn, I hurried down to the river, a very welcome billy of tea, then across the Nattai, along to Vineyard Flat, Travis Gully and Beloon Pass⁸. The route was marked by a small erosion gully and a sparsely treed, rocky-clayey spur. Beloon Pass cuts through the Wanganderry Plateau, which separates the Nattai and Wollondilly River valleys. Despite the cool of

the morning, the climb to the pass was hot and strenuous, but worth it for the great views of the Wollondilly and the forward route from the rocky sandstone slot, which was the pass.

After a brief rest, and having sampled the water from the small creek below the pass, descended steeply down the other side and walked along to the ford of the Wollondilly River, which was at that time in flood. What luck! Two Water Board rangers and their 4WD parked beside the river! "Is this part of the prohibited Catchment Area for Warragamba Dam?" I wondered innocently. They were near the water's edge and were discussing the wisdom of making a crossing, which fortunately for them, was optional. Caution proved to be the better part of valor and they decided against risking the swiftly flowing current, and we briefly discussed the wisdom of my wading across. After wading in a few meters, it was clear that the water was deep and extra support was needed for the crossing. A casuarina branch was found for use as an upstream support, to lean on and to anchor in the rocks of the riverbed. Well, it was definitely an adrenaline-pumper, as the river was up to my chest. Half-way across it occurred to me that it was more like crossing the Rubicon than the Wollondilly, since retreat became impossible in the force of that current. So, no choice but to forge ahead, fighting to stay upright and trying hard not to imagine what would happen if I were swept away, given that I was then a poor swimmer, and swimming with a backpack is no mean feat for anyone. Hey, that was a deep hole! A mouthful of yellow Wollondilly water. A large rock ahead, better to step into the eddy behind it. A few more feet...It's getting shallower...Phew! Made it! The rangers stood watching and figuratively wringing their hands, until I emerged on the other side, at which they cheered and waved, and almost smiled their faces off. Waving farewell, I made my way about three quarters of the way up Sheepwalk Hill and sat down in the sunshine to dry off, gulp down some water, Camembert cheese, bread and banana, while admiring the sun shining on the golden glowing parallel sandstone cliffs of the Nattai and Wollondilly Walls.

Time to move on towards Yerranderie⁹ and past the intersection with the old Oberon/Colong-Camden Stock Route at Twin Peaks Property. The approach to the deserted silver-mining town passes under the impressive pyramid of Yerranderie Peak¹⁰, towering overhead, adding to one's feelings of insignificance and isolation. The rabbits and kangaroos grazing in the paddocks below the Peak provided the only company. At Yerranderie, there was no time to play the tourist, so headed straight down to the Tonalli River¹¹, for a quick cocktail of water and the arsenates that had leached out of the mines.

On a previous visit, I had spent time poring over the old cemetery outside town. On this trip, there was no time to visit "Phyllis Willis" or ponder upon the demise of the "Little Bud in Heaven", but had to hurry up through Tonalli Gap and onto the extremely long and even more tedious fire-road



along Scott's Main Range. Passing through Byrne's Gap¹², there was a sign on a gate warning of dingo traps in the area. A glance at my sketch map confirmed this with similar general warnings. "Well, I hope the traps are bloody visible and not in the middle of the road!" After a while, the I-o-n-g slog along Scott's Main Range became quite surreal, seeming to consist of a long series of undulations, like riding across ocean swell in a small sailboat. Surge up the face of the wave and coast down the other side into the trough, then up and over, again and again and again.

Saturday night's camp was set in the dark high above the Kowmung River, on the roadside at Bran Jan Homestead intersection¹³. Having filled the Sigg water bottle at a roadside dam earlier, there had been no further signs of water as the sun set, so half a liter would have to do until morning. The idea of going down to the Kowmung River for the night was briefly entertained, but the climb back up to the road in the morning was a dreadful prospect. S-o-o-o thirsty! Clouds were building up and obscuring what moonlight there had been, and, to minimize weight I had no torch, only matches and a small candle-end. The croaking of frogs in a dam some distance away was tantalizing. But it may as well have been on the moon. And then there were those supposed, but as yet unseen, dingo traps! Better wait until daylight...

Sunday

The lack of water after the previous day's walk drove me to the end of Scott's Main at Cookem Pass¹⁴ at the greatest speed I was able to muster. Near the Pass, there were great views over the Cox's River valley, the Burratorang and Warragamba Dam, and the grassy areas of Apple Tree Flat¹⁵, far below. There was a sense of history about the prospect below, and I could imagine the sounds and smells of cattle and sheep being driven from Oberon through Bindook to Camden in earlier days, before the dam. It occurred to me then that bicycling would have made the trip far more enjoyable, especially along Scott's Main, as feet and legs were becoming quite painful and some cramping was setting in – maybe next time.

Anyway, plunged down the steep, stony, 450-meter pass to the junction of the Kowmung and Cox's rivers, and all the sweet crystal-clear Kowmung water one could wish for. Topped up like a camel after a week in an Arabian desert devoid of oases. The Kowmung was still in flood, but it had to be forded – stumbling on the riverbed and floundering in the current – made it! Not looking forward to fording the Cox's River, though, since it is much wider. After a while, a broad sandy part of the river was found with no rapids. The crossing was not nearly as desperate as anticipated, with the water being only waist-deep, although flowing quite quickly. Another short breather and the punishing slog up the White Dog Ridge fire trail, at times on the road, and at times taking the *direttissima* up the rocky ridge to save distance and time. The road coiled up and up the 600-meter ridge to Kelpie Hill, and then it was an almost flat jaunt along to Medlow

Gap¹⁶ and the Helicopter Landing Ground.

Now late afternoon. Oh well, last major grunt, up the ridge to Mt. Debert¹⁷ ("Debert's Knob"), Tarro's Spikes¹⁸ and onto Narrow Neck Plateau¹⁹. At the base of the spikes, in the lee of the cliffs, it was calm, but big black rain-clouds were building up, along with the wind. Up the spikes to the small exposed camping cave, then up again through the slot in the rocks and out onto Narrow Neck fire road. Forget any of the normally inspiring views from Clear Hill. Clear it definitely was not!

As if to say, "you're not getting off that easily!", the rain promptly came down in a deluge. Another 9 miles to Katoomba Railway Station. Time to don my nylon cagoule²⁰, gaiters and mittens. Tied the hood up so tightly that only nose and eyes were open to the elements, and plodded doggedly onward, sleety rain stinging the face.

Time to fine-tune and focus the mental discipline even further, since the body was starting



Third Sister of The Three Sisters Mt Solitary in background- photo Watts

to complain that enough was enough, and protesting its willingness to continue. So: block and eradicate all unnecessary thoughts, feelings and sensations. Find that warm sustaining refuge deep inside, in those places secure and untouchable in the pit of the stomach and deep inside the brain; focus only on staying upright and making forward progress, left-right, left-right, one, two, three, four, counting the steps to 100 and starting again; closing out the rain, the wind, the cold and the ever-increasing pain. Past the old water pipe on the right, up the hill and round past the dark sentry fire tower looming in the clearing on the left near Carlon Head²¹. Rain blowing horizontally across the road from right to left; visibility almost zero; clouds like smoke from a bushfire blowing thickly across the road. Very exposed, as the road mostly runs along the wind-blown scrub-covered tops. Short respites among small groves of eucalypts enclosing the road. Can't see much because of the dark and the atrocious weather. Oh-oh, walked right off the road, falling into the low, prickly Narrow Neck scrub. Good that the road does not go too close to the cliff-line! From time to time, the lights of the Carrington Hotel can be seen, momentarily. Up to Glenraphael Road – up and up the snaking dirt road, with a sometimes cloudy-rainy glimpse of Dog Face, glowering faintly off to the right. After the Caravan Park and Katoomba Falls, it was a tedious drag up to roller-coaster Katoomba Street, past the Paragon

Café (1916) and the Carrington Hotel (1886).

Across the road, Aroney's Café, a favorite among bushwalkers for rich, creamy hot chocolates and huge plates of stodgy post-bushwalk food.

And then, topping out, there it was - Katoomba Railway Station at last! Made it! Roughly 130 kilometers covered in a weekend, with still uncalculated meters of ascent and descent. A real endurance test, both mentally and physically, and as far as I know, the first solo Hilltop to Katoomba Walk in a Weekend.

¹ On 30th April 1975, the last Americans left Saigon, ending the US presence in Vietnam.

² Lat. -34.348°; Long. 150.485°. Altitude 489m.

³ Lat. -33.715°; Long. 150.318°. Altitude 720m.

⁴ The C.P.H. Railmotor, nicknamed the "Tin Hare", was a quaint diesel-powered cross between a train and a tram, comprised of 2 carriages with a cow-catcher up front. It was capable of quite high speeds, but the seating left something to be desired. In fact, standing was often more comfortable than sitting.

⁵ The Picton-Mittagong Loop Line closed in Sept. 1987.

⁶ Sadly, only remnants of the Hilltop Railway Station platform are still to be found (2003).

⁷ Named after bushranger Captain Starlight, made famous in the 1888 Australian novel "Robbery Under Arms" by "Rolf Boldrewood"

⁸ Lat. -34.182°; Long. 150.351°

⁹ Lat. -34.115°; Long. 150.218°. Alt. 545m. Silver was discovered in 1871 and mines opened in 1898. By 1911, there were over 2,000 miners.

The mines ceased working commercially by 1925 and closed down in 1950. In 1960, Warragamba Dam was completed and the Burratorang Valley was flooded, cutting the stock route to Camden

and isolating Yerranderie from the coast.

¹⁰ Lat. -34.132°; Long. 150.201°

¹¹ Lat. -34.098°; Long. 150.251°

¹² Lat. -34.082°; Long. 150.201°

¹³ Lat. -33.965°; Long. 150.268°

¹⁴ Lat. -33.865°; Long. 150.285°

¹⁵ Lat. -33.848°; Long. 150.301°

¹⁶ Lat. -33.832°; Long. 150.251°

¹⁷ Lat. -33.815°; Long. 150.268°

¹⁸ Or "Tarro's Ladders"; named after 1950's bushwalker Walter Tarr.

¹⁹ Lat. -33.782°; Long. 150.268°. In those days, the incredibly ugly, sacrilegious power lines and steel towers draped across the Blue Mountains National Park did not exist.

²⁰ A very simple lightweight, knee-length, water- and wind-proof jacket with no opening at the front, worn like a long pull-over. While wind- and water-proof, the cagoule had little air circulation, so it was both warm and wet inside due to body heat and condensation.

²¹ Lat. -33.782°; Long. 150.251°

WALKING IN KAKADU WITH WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

(Confederation photo competition prize) by David Rowe



I have been a member of Span Outdoors Club for 20 years. Last year I entered several photos in the Confederation's 75th Anniversary Photo Competition and was lucky enough (with a photo taken in Claustral Canyon)

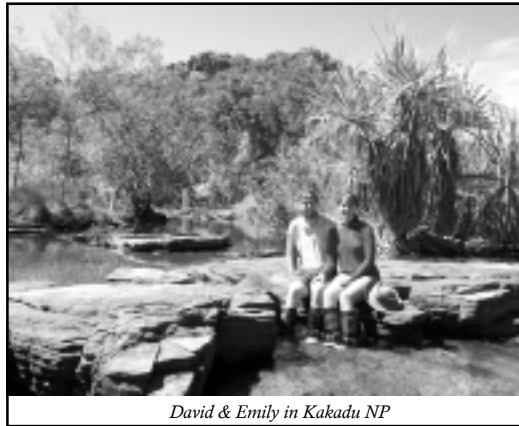
to win first prize - a bushwalking holiday for 2 people with Willis's Walkabouts (Darwin).

Although I have done a couple of guided trips overseas (ski touring on the New Zealand glaciers for example), Emily, and I decided upon a 12 day walk in Kakadu called "Baroalba - Hill 420 Circle". We had been to the Kimberly (and I to Kakadu) in the dry before, so we were keen to visit this area in the wet season when all the creeks and waterfalls are flowing.

And we weren't disappointed!. For the first 5 days of the trip we were in Baroalba Creek, the main drainage for the Mt Brockman massif. Immediately to the south-west lies Nourlangie Rock and a few kilometres across the plains to the east is the edge of the Arnhem Land Plateau. There was an abundance of aboriginal rock art. Virtually every overhang or sheltered rock face contained at least some paintings and some of the major sites were really fantastic. The quality and layers of different styles of paintings that gave us an idea of the antiquity of the Aboriginal art and culture as well as an insight into the Australian

fauna over the ages. For example, we saw paintings of Thylacines (Tasmanian Tigers), which have been extinct on the mainland for thousands of years, as well as wallaroos/wallabies, crocodiles, fruit bats, echidnas and goannas (to mention a few). After spending a while in the heat exploring the cliffs and pagodas a swim is a must and the nearest swimming hole usually wasn't far away - one big advantage of walking here during the wet season - there were often more beautiful swimming holes and waterfalls than we had time to stop and swim in.

Dinner each night was a three course affair - soup, dinner and dessert. The cooking was done for us each night by Russell, a luxury I've never experienced before on our club bushwalks! Every meal was excellent and there were some very



David & Emily in Kakadu NP

yummy desserts. Each person on the trip carried a share of the dinners - a parcel that was given to us at the start of the trip. We all brought our own breakfasts and lunches. Not having to cook in the

evenings meant we had plenty of time to lounge around in the water or lie in the shade and read a book.

On day 5 we left the Baroalba area via a pass down through the cliffs and headed across the plains to the edge of the Arnhem Land Plateau. We camped at the point where a large creek flows out of the escarpment and meets the plains. Here there were several large pools connected by cascades that made very pleasant spa baths and we camped on some flat rock shelves next to one of the pools. In the morning we continued up the creek and the next 4 days were spent exploring the creeks and rocky landscape in this area of the Arnhem Plateau and getting some great views from the edge of the escarpment.

Eventually the time came to start heading back towards the car, but Russell couldn't resist searching out more rock art at the base of the cliffs on the way. In the process, we found a 'new' pass up the western side of the escarpment that promised to take us to the top of Hill 420, the high point that would give us a 360° view. So in order to have a full day to try for the top, we camped an extra night on the plains below. However time was no longer on our side and the extremely rugged nature of the terrain - multiple cliff lines and mazes of rocky pagodas dissected by countless deep canyons - finally defeated us. The final day was a spectacular walk along a broad, grassy plain, with the Arnhem Land Plateau on our left and the Baroalba cliffs on our right.

Thank you to Russell Willis for his generous donation of this prize for the photo competition. For information on his trips visit www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au or phone: 08 8985 2134.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

Swimming in paradise!



On a high country walk in Kakadu or the Kimberley, every break brings yet another clear, cool pool, perfect for swimming and pure enough to drink. This is the most comfortable wilderness in the world.

Crocs! What crocs? The big, dangerous estuarine (saltwater) crocs don't climb waterfalls! If, as we do, you restrict your swimming to the escarpment country, there is no chance you'll meet one. Better still, the vast majority of the mosquitos stay down in the lowlands with the big crocs.

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JOIN THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BUSHWALK

25 OCTOBER 2003
WALK ACROSS NSW IN A DAY WITH NPA!

Wherever you are in NSW on the 25th October, you can join in the first annual Great Australian Bushwalk.

Mark that date in your diaries for an event not to be missed. You will be supporting NPA, nature conservation, regional NSW, and of course promoting our favourite sport – bushwalking!

NPA Members – tell your friends and colleagues. This is a great opportunity to tell the rest of the state of our big secret – NPA has the best walks program in NSW!! And all our money raised goes straight back into preserving the environment.

Every NPA branch will be hosting walks on the day. Whether you are at home or on holidays you can take part!

You will help NPA Walk across NSW in a Day by participating in your selected walk. We will be having walks from the Far North Coast to the Far South Coast, and from the East Coast to the Central West. There will be lunches, bbq's and lots of fun events taking place after the walks. Plus heaps of great prizes including weekends away to give away!!

The full program of walks will appear in the October issue of the National Parks Journal, and on the NPA website www.npansw.org.au from 1 September.

For further information phone the NPA head office on (02) 9299 0000.

NPA Members – if you are available to help out on the day, we would love to hear from you! Please call Tara Cameron or Michelle Johnston on (02) 9299 0000 or email membership@npansw.org.au

NPA – working together to protect and enjoy natural areas

THE WATERFALL WAY WALKING TRACKS, NEW ENGLAND

The possibility of a long distance walking track in the New England area is being investigated by members of the New England Ecotourism Society (NEES) based in Armidale. The walk may eventually start from Walcha and reach the coast, passing through or near to such places as Armidale, Ebor, Dorrigo, Bellingen and Coffs Harbour. These communities and others along the way would benefit from the tourism potential of the track.

The track will pass through spectacular gorge country with many great views, some splendid waterfalls and other special features of the Tablelands and escarpment rim. As it nears its destination on the coast, the scenery will change to include rich rainforest and beautiful beaches.

The track is being investigated in six zones. These are:

1. Walcha to Dangars Falls near Armidale,
2. Dangars Falls to Wollomombi Falls,
3. Wollomombi Falls to Point Lookout,
4. Point Lookout to Dorrigo,
5. Dorrigo to Coffs Harbour.

At present, planning is in the very early stages but, thanks to some generous sponsors and grants, some pilot field investigations have started as part of an independent feasibility study. Work establishing some sections should start within a few months, with other sections to be developed later. However, because of many difficulties to be overcome, it is expected to be a long time before all sections are joined to form a continuous track.

Members of NEES are keenly aware of the need to develop a concept for the track that is acceptable to the local communities, will be sustainable and economically viable. These are no mean challenges, but enthusiasm for the project is high. Anyone interested in learning more about this exciting project can contact NEES at PO Box 929, Armidale, NSW 2350 or visit the website at www.ecotourism.com.au.

BUSHWALKING AUSTRALIA - A NATIONAL BODY

By Maurice Smith
(Confederation Treasurer)

Slowly but surely the various state bushwalking federations are inching closer to the formation of a national bushwalking body.

While it is generally agreed that it is not wise to rush into a new relationship, this national body has been a very long time in gestation. I have it on good authority that Paddy Pallin, the man himself, not his retail outlets, first proposed and tried to form a national bushwalking body about 4 decades ago.

More recently (that is, within the past 10 years), the introduction of a common insurance scheme for bushwalkers has been the catalyst for the formation of Bushwalking Australia, the name proposed for the national bushwalking body.

The aims of the founders of Bushwalking Australia is simple, it is to work on bushwalking related issues that cross state borders. Simple isn't it? Making it happen will have many challenges indeed and probably test out patience to the limit and then some.

As of writing this we are almost to the point of going through the legal formalities associated with forming the new organisation. Like many things, starting up a new organisation takes quite a considerable amount of time, a lot more complicated that many people would expect, especially as the about-to-be-appointed office bearers are scattered around Australia.

The first task for Bushwalking Australia after the formalities of incorporation is to take over the management of the bushwalkers national insurance scheme. Then we will consider what else needs to be tackled at a national level. One possible issue that has been tossed around is the vexed matter of leadership accreditation. This matter impacts on insurance and related risk management issues as well. I suspect that there will be more topics to be tackled that people available to tackle them. I have a feeling of deja-vu about that.

The initial budget for Bushwalking Australia will be small, as there will be no separate national office, nor paid office staff. For the first year we expect to use electronic mail for lots of our contacts, with the occasional telephone conference call for important "meetings". It is not planned to have any face-to-face meetings in the foreseeable future. The various state bushwalking bodies that will become members of Bushwalking Australia will wear most of the costs, so the direct impact on you, the individual club member will be minimal.

As we achieve the formation of Bushwalking Australia I will update you on the details of the office bearers and the tasks that we have agreed that we need to tackle.

If you can assist us in any way don't be shy, don't hesitate, pick up the telephone and contact me via Confederation's Administration Officer (praise be to Merrilyn) on (02) 9290 2060 or via electronic mail treasurer@bushwalking.org.au.

COMPETITION - LOGO FOR BUSHWALKING AUSTRALIA

Calling all creative logo designers within our bushwalking communities.

Bushwalking Australia is now up and "walking" and a suitable logo is sought.

Closing Date for entries: 30 September 2003

Submissions to be sent to Colin Wood at editor@bushwalking.org.au

The prize (apart from the honour of winning) is yet to be determined.

Colin will put them on the BWA Website together with a voting form.

Colin has the first entry on the current website www.bushwalking.org.au/bushwalkingaustralia of winning) is yet to be determined.

Winner (& prize) will be announced in November magazine.



A ENTRANT IN LOGO COMPETITION.



COONABARABRAN BUSHWALKING CLUB

THE BEGINNING

Coonabarabran Bushwalking Club was founded in 1987 by Jane and Milton Judd, Richard Savage and Dave Welch, who were all members of the local Volunteer Rescue Association in Coonabarabran.

During training for the VRA, they realized that they would prefer to be in the Warrumbungle Mountains doing search and rescue, and rock rescue rather than dragging bodies from wrecked cars. From this day the concept of forming a bushwalking club evolved. In early May 1987 a meeting was held of persons interested in forming a club and from this meeting a committee was formed and a program planned, initially for May to August. The first walk – a day walk to Mt Namen – occurred



Blackman's Camp from Split Rock Warrumbungles the 70's photo Colin wood, note old tram centre left

on 27th May 1987 with over 30 adults and children attending.

The club maintains a membership of 60 – 70 people per year, although it is a small core that participate in activities on a regular basis.

EXPANDING FIELD OF INTERESTS

While bushwalking and the Warrumbungles have long been part of the Coonabarabran Bushwalking club, a diversity of interests and activities quickly surfaced. On the very first program in 1987 the range of activities included day walks, overnight walks (tracked and untracked), introductory climbing, introductory map reading, orienteering, rockclimbing and car camping. As the club has evolved our fields of interests have been expanded. Ski trips appear regularly on the winter calendar – both downhill/resort style and cross country/snow camping. Canoeing on the inland rivers (eg Macquarie) and dams (eg Split Rock) by both traditional means and motorized canoes occur, rockclimbing, abseiling and diving/snorkeling to various Barrier Reef islands have occurred regularly over the years. In recent times canyoning in the Blue Mountains and bike riding have been introduced. Trips to interesting outback locations by 4WD also take place.

The activities reflect the interest of some of the club's members and their desire to pursue the interest. Within the club a small core of people organize events on a regular basis. These include Richard Savage (snowtrips, downhill skiing, canoeing and reef trips), Milton and Jane Judd (cycling and canoeing), Gavin Ginn (outback tours), Phil Draper (climbing, canyoning, Xcountry skiing), Margaret Mack (day walks) and Lynda Row (cycling). Regular attenders to events include Max

Estens, Roger Row, Sue Graham and Jim and Helen Stevens.

The Warrumbungles/Pilliga area remains a focus for many of the programmed events, but the diversity of activities take members to areas of considerable distance from our local area.

Conservation

In August 1989 the club carried out its first maintenance work on Balor Hut, the last remaining hut in the Warrumbungle National Park. In an agreement with the local National Parks office the club undertook to maintain the hut, while the NPWS would provide the materials. Since then regular visits are made, and over the years the club has undertaken to paint the interior and exterior, repair the bunks, build a shelter at the rear of the hut for people caught in bad weather, install and clear out the pit toilet (now replaced with a composting toilet), repair the roof and walls, and this year replace the water tank. The hut was built by Carl Dow, who was in charge of track building in 1967. His daughter, Margaret Mack is a long-standing member, and currently a vice-president of the club.

The club has also placed canisters on seven major peaks in the Warrumbungle Range (four in the National Park on Timor Rock, Beloungery Spire, Crater Bluff and Tonduron Spire, and three on nearby privately owned land). The club checks their condition regularly and replaces the books in



Beloungery Spire Warrumbungles - photo Colin Wood

them. Gavin Ginn has a record of all recorded climbs on these peaks since the late 1980's, providing us with a historical record of people who have made climbs.

The club also checks the condition of black-

berry, which has threatened to take over a significant section of the Green Glacier on Crater Bluff. Since 1990, regular checks have been carried out, the most recent in 2002 by Roger Row and Phil Draper, with preventive measures undertaken.

Regular involvement has also occurred on 'Clean Up Australia' days by club members.

FAVOURITE WALKS

As the Warrumbungles area is the home of most of our club members, several favourite local walks include:

1. Gunneemooroo to Pincham car park – (day walk or overnight)

This walk is off track for half the route then onto the track from the Grand High Tops trail to Pincham. The walk starts at the campsite at Gunneemooroo, follows Tonderburine Creek for about four kms, before turning off the creek to the northeast and climbing up the scree slope on the eastern side of Crater Bluff. This slope will bring you to the ridge on the northeast face of Crater Bluff overlooking the Grand High Tops trail. It also gives a good view of the north side of the park with Beloungery Spire in the foreground. Walk across the ridge to the Grand High Tops and follow the trail back to Pincham via the waling rack past the Breadknife and down Spirey Creek. For those who like more off track walking, alternatives include:

- i) dropping over the ridge and descending via the screen slope on the east side of Beloungery Spire to Hurley's Camp, before joining the main trail a kilometer past Hurley's Camp, or
- ii) continue up Tonderburine Creek to the western side of Crater Bluff, then over Dagda Gap, before walking to the western side of Balor Peak (you can also follow the trail to Balor Hut, before walking around Balor Peak), and descending down Middle Spirey Creek. This will join the main trail approximately two km before Pincham Camp.

2. Dunphy Lake (day walk – off track)

A day walk to a rarely visited and mainly dry small lake on the northern side of the Warrumbungle National Park. This walk is best done after lots of heavy rain. It is a small lake of approximately 0.5 to 1 ha in size when full. To find the lake follow the fire trail north from Camp Blackman, north and north east along Buckleys Creek. Continue to follow the creek after the fire trail leaves it and navigate to Dunphy Lake, a small clearing among the dry sclerophyll forest. To put the lake in perspective and obtain spectacular views across the park and surrounds, a short but steep walk to the top of Junction Mountain is well worthwhile. Return via a cross country walk and Greenslopes Creek.

3. Mount Namen (1/2 - 1 day walk – off track)

Mount Namen is a relatively flat topped, cliff lined mountain formed by a lava flow, located at the southern end of the Warrumbungle National Park. From Gunneemooroo Camp it can be approached in three ways: i) up the north east gully, ii) via Gibbs Gap, picking up the fire trail, then up the south east corner, or, iii) up to Gibbs Gap then up the ridge from the saddle to the highest peak on the eastern face.

The mountain is a saucer shaped, rocky basin, rimmed by peaks. Spectacular views of spires, hills and plains, heathland vegetation and waterholes make Mt Namen a nearby place to visit.



TOUGH LITTLE CRITTERS UNFAZED WHEN VISITORS DROP IN

Date: March 29 2003

By James Woodford

For tens of thousands of years humans have marvelled at Claustral Canyon in the Blue Mountains, today one of the toughest day walks on the continent.

Every year at least 2000 canyoneers struggle for eight hours, swimming, abseiling down waterfalls, jumping into freezing deep pools and genuinely risking their lives.

Visitors are guaranteed to go beyond the limits of fear and to be nursing at least a minor injury on the heart-breaking hike back to the car park. In the past two decades three people have perished and countless others have had narrow escapes because of roiling flash floods, hypothermia or climbing accidents.

But what, asks Jack Wolfenden, lecturer in conservation management at the University of Western Sydney, is the impact of people on the canyon?

Over the past two years Mr Wolfenden has made more than 50 visits into Claustral's dim sandstone bottoms, sampling water quality and life in the 7.5-kilometre-long system.

He has studied the areas most heavily used by canyoneers, as well as its rarely visited offshoots. Since the known first European descent in 1962, he estimates that at least 20,000 pairs of feet have made the journey through Claustral.

Ancient tool-making grooves are present in sandstone above the canyon, as are charcoal art sites indicating that humans have felt its power for

millennia.

"People have probably been walking here for 50,000 years."

Organisms representing more than 70 genera were found in the canyon and, despite the obvious signs of disturbance by people along the main route, there appears to be no immediate impact on biodiversity from canyoning, Mr Wolfenden says.

His work took him and his students into Claustral even in the frigid winter, when visitors are required to swim long distances in water as cold as 5 degrees.

An achingly steep track leads in and out of the canyon, and it is desperately in need of erosion control: in places the topsoil has swept away down to bedrock.

While this may be ugly and off-putting to purists wanting a wilderness experience, it has little impact on the canyon's ecology, Mr Wolfenden says. Even down in the depths, any physical damage wrought by the canyoneers is not ecologically serious.

This is because anything that lives in Claustral must be among the toughest and most resilient of creatures - able to cope with thunderous surges of water, freezing cold, low light and very little food.

Water pollution is one thing Claustral's creatures would be sensitive to. But, luckily, filth is not a significant part of canyoning. "A canyon is basically a big, wild, unpolluted sandstone stormwater drain," Mr Wolfenden says. "The animals that live there have to have their act together. ... You have got to be incredibly robust to live here. They're tough little suckers.

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HERB LIPPMANN & YU HUA LIU: - DIED 23RD APRIL 2003

Oh how zestful a character, words und witz!
 Wie geht es mit dich?
 Keine worte kennen ich schrieben or ones that I speak,
 to explain Herb – my fathers incredible life,
 Konrad Lippmann
 You know Herb: joking and laughing,
 bushwalking, trekking, wandering,
 bushwalking.
 Look upon his life as an adventure - Born Graz
 Osterreich (Austria) Wetzlesdorf.
 6 resourceful children, a dedicated sister
 Sieglinde Lippmann.
 Daughters - Veronika Malovic (Grandchildren
 Alyssa, Luke & Kyle), Eva Lucas. Natalie &
 Tanya
 Son - Konrad Lippmann (Grandchildren Kirrily
 & Franz). Another son, Franz died in 1988
 aged 23 years at Clybucca, NSW.
 Married Yu Hua Liu of Guangdong, China
 in Sydney on 6th April 2002 (d 23rd April 2003)
 From my view Herb lived an incredible life
 - Leaving home at the age of 13 travelling and
 working on boats. Relieved from the Austrian
 the army for being too much of a joker. Many
 years of being a Baker, Father, University
 student, Bushwalking leader and much more.
 In Australia he settled in Mt Druitt and

by Konrad Lippmann and Keith Maxwell.

joined the Mt Druitt Bushwalking Club. He combined a passion for the outdoors with bush dancing. Herb was keen to involve others in these passions and went on to run bushwalking courses that lead to the establishment of the Up and Downers Bushwalking Club. In between Herb was a member of several other Confederation Clubs including the Coast and Mountain Walkers (CMW) and Sydney Bush Walkers (SBW). Herb was active in the Confederation. From 1984 – 86 Herb was the Bushsports Director for a bush education program while in 1987/8 he was Federation Secretary and Conservation Officer in 1988/9. He attended NavShield and many search & rescue training weekends; usually dragging many others along with him. At the time of his death he was the Confederation Tracks and Access Officer.

Forever restless, Herb poured energy into bush dances that he arranged at Mt. Druitt and Mitchell (Blacktown area) High School during the 1980's. These were great family affairs with a bright happy atmosphere where the young children were welcomed and encouraged to join in. A highlight was the supper provided by families "bringing a plate".

Recently Herb was involved with bush dances in the Sutherland area. The annual Confederation bush dance thrived with Herb's input. A feature being tables decorated with animal shaped bread.

On the 23rd April 2003 at 12am – The Bus Herb and Yu Hua were travelling in crashed and rolled over in Tibet near Lhasa whilst on tour, fatally injuring 5 including Yu Hua Liu (Cheeky) and Herb with a further 4 injured.

Yu Hua and Herb were cremated in Tibet. Their ashes were returned to Australia where they were blessed in a memorial service at Herb's home in Dundas on 25th May. Friends and acquaintances battled inclement weather to share memories. Many were astonished to see Federal MP Laurie Ferguson pay tribute Herb's efforts as a member of the Australian Labor Party. The ashes of Yu Hua and Herb were scattered at Kanangra Walls on the June Long Weekend. With luck you may soon drink Sydney Water that contains some of their zest.

We will remember Herb; he touched our spirits and guided people in his passion - Bushwalking. We will remember Yu Hua for her wonderful natural grace and gregarious nature.

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JULY 9, 2003

IMPORTANT NOTICE

For all people planning backcountry activities in Kosciuszko National Park this winter

- Please make sure you are aware of which historic huts have been destroyed in the recent bushfires
- 19 huts can no longer be relied upon for emergency shelter (see list below)
- People undertaking backcountry activities should be prepared for emergencies and be able to seek shelter by always having a tent, sleeping bag and warm, waterproof clothing.
- Backcountry trips require proper planning, preparation, equipment and experience
 - Please consider the following precautionary steps before leaving:
 - hire an EPIRB from the Jindabyne or Tumut NPWS visitors centres
 - ensure friends and relatives know exactly when and where you plan to end your journey and the route you propose to take so they can alert authorities in the event you get into difficulty and require assistance.
 - More detailed information can be obtained by contacting the NPWS office at Jindabyne 02 64505600 or Tumut 02 69477000 or Khancoban on 02 6076 9373



DESTROYED OR DAMAGED HUTS IN KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK:

Boltons	Brooks	Stockwhip.	Grey Hill Café	O'Keefe's
Boltons Hill	Burrungubuggee Shelter	Dr Forbes	Happy Jack 3	
and 4	Old Geehi (YHA)			
Boobee	Delaneys	Geehi	Linesmans 2	Opera House
Orange (Diane)	Patons	Pretty Plain		



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NAVSHIELD 2003 - GARDENS OF STONE NAVSHIELD 2003 - BEST SITE EVER

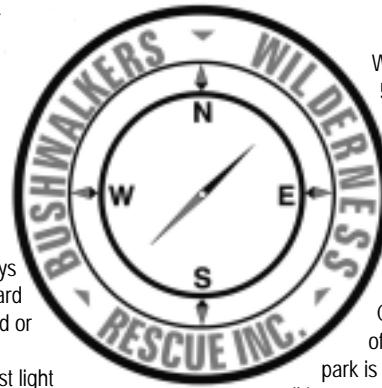
ACCOUNT OF THE NAVSHIELD WINNING NEWCASTLE BUSHWALKING CLUB TEAM.

by Keith Maxwell President BWRS

Team Members: Robert Vincent, Bert van Netten, Ian Dempsey, Shane Trotter, Mike Hotchkis and Wil de Sain.

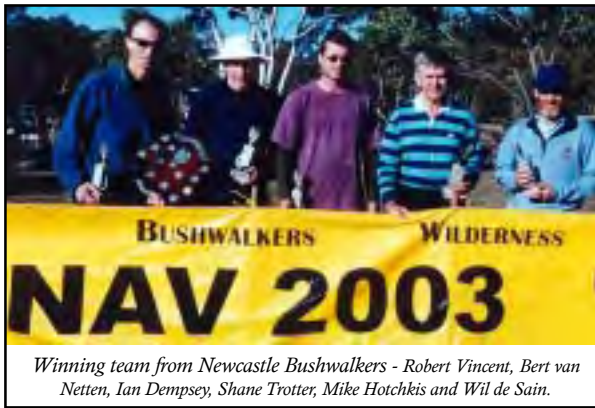
Traveling North from Lithgow I had often looked out over the Gardens of Stone National Park towards Pantoneys Crown and thought what a marvelous area to walk. Little did I realise that the 2003 Navshield would take us right across the whole area. We did our route planning on Friday evening and considered that the walk out to #90 and Baal Bone Point was a must if only to see the views. Just the same, however, we did not want to be in those Pagodas at night and thought it was best to do this

especially #64 to #80 and after #57. We decided then that we would follow Airly Creek to #73 and #74 and then come back across to the east. This worked well, despite that some of the controls were a challenge to find in the night. The team did a great job with the navigating, there was always someone that would step forward to take the lead as another tired or sought to have a rest.



This years Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue NavShield over 5th / 6th July was again a memorable event. As always the site and hence terrain is always different each year with the location only being announced in the final week before the event. The large headquarters site, at the rear of Baal Bone Colliery, was adjacent to Gardens of Stone National Park. This rocky

park is dominated in the south with striking escarpments as classically shown in Patoney's Crown. Patoney's Crown dominates the park as an example of an elongate flat-topped mesa surrounded by high cliffs that is visible from many places. Thus a number of checkpoints were located on spectacular rocky points that you could say were "on the view with the view". Further north, outside the park, these escarpments continued on to produce other outstanding rocky outcrops and pinacles. Once participants moved through the southern rocky barrier the relief in the north was only a few hundred metres from (dry) creek bed to ridge top. However the contour interval shown on the Cullen Bullen map was only 20 metres! Thus a large amount of what is "on the ground" is not shown "on the map". Checkpoints set in gullies appear as just dips in the contours only. BWRS carefully set all checkpoints and the good bush navigators revelled in this challenge. Clear and cold frosty nights were followed by bright sunny days.



Winning team from Newcastle Bushwalkers - Robert Vincent, Bert van Netten, Ian Dempsey, Shane Trotter, Mike Hotchkis and Wil de Sain.

as a loop first up. We also considered that a high completion was possible and that we should plan a route that would cover the whole of the course. With this in mind, we thought that after the Pagodas we should travel north through Rowans Hole and return along the road through Baal Bone Gap to finish. This only left us to decide how we covered the area west of Pantoneys Crown. The route choice we came up with was one based on minimising the climbs and the descents more than reducing distance over the ground. This was based on the somewhat false premise that the vegetation would not be a problem. This did not exactly eventuate and needless to say we did not cover the whole course.

As we expected the views from the higher ground were magnificent and unlike the weather in the more recent past events, the weekend for the 2003 Navshield was great although very cold in the early mornings. We moved along nicely from the start and very much enjoyed the walking. The pagodas did not pose a problem until just above #42. We had trouble there exiting the ridge and took several false leads that all ended in a short drop that we could not scale down. We eventually got through but for a moment I wished that I had brought a hand line.

At Bravo Ian decided he could go no further and would have to retire. He had sprained his ankle just an hour into the event. This was a blow to the team but we were thankful that he was able to struggle through to a radio checkpoint. From Bravo we traveled north and dusk overtook us somewhere just after #55. We had planned to have a hot drink break just after nightfall but thought now it was best to take this stop at Charlie. We could then sit around the fire as well and plan what we would do further.

It was clear at this point that we would have to cut the course shorter. Some of the long traverses west of Charlie looked very menacing to do at night,

We saw first light coming onto #65. This was helpful because we could pick the low saddle on the ridge against the light glow of dawn. Everyone seemed to pick up a little now. We were heading into another beautiful day and the bush came alive with birdcalls. When we came across a group of red-tailed black cockatoos it was impossible not to stop and admire their beauty. We crossed under the north of Pantoneys Crown and worked through the controls down to radio checkpoint Alpha. We could see that it was still a long way back and it was now after 10. We debated about boiling a billy but fortunately some of the attendants at the checkpoint offered us hot water. This had to be the best cup of tea any of us had had in a long time.

We decided to forego #67 and move straight onto #91 and back across to #75. The pace was markedly slower but then came the hill up to Baal Bone Gap. This was very cruel after nearly 27 hours on the march and we were near exhaustion at the top. Whilst we had plenty of time to finish it would have required a bit of a jog to get #58 and get back on time. At that thought we were all unanimous. Control #58 could stay, we were heading back now!

We were pleased with our effort and felt we had done well, but it is always a nervous wait as the teams rush back in and the results go up. This is certainly the toughest event of its kind but a great challenge and an opportunity to test those navigation skills under the most difficult conditions. Well done to Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue in staging the event. The course setting had been excellent and the site was superb. Those towering cliffs and pagodas will have us all eager to return. See map page 15 to see how they did it.

Wil de Sain

NEWLY-WEDS AT NAVSHIELD

Vanessa and Peter Lock (aka Picnic Pete) are regular Navshield entrants with the NSW Nordic Ski Club. They chose their wedding day carefully, to ensure they would be back from their honeymoon in time for Navshield 2003. This was Peter's 10th year and Vanessa's 4th.





up with 'logging in' and checking team Control Cards prior to entering results into the NavShield laptop database. A similar controlled panic is repeated as the 2-00pm Sunday deadline for the two-day event approaches.

The first NavShield in 1989 at Nerriga was barely bigger than a bushwalking club reunion. It seems hard to believe how proud BWR was when Nav 93 on Newnes Plateau had over 250 participants! By providing a quality bush navigation event BWRS now regularly has teams from Ambulance, NP&WS, SES, VRA, Rural Fire Service, Armed Services and Police Rescue Squads.

Socialising and interaction between the Emergency Services was always an unstated aim. Catering has always been provided so participants can unwind while they wait for the presentation of awards. One part of the event headquarters was set aside for the VRA catering truck and their facilities.

In the early days of NavShield the radio network of 'Radio Checkpoints' was staffed solely by the BWR Committee and bushwalkers. Another VRA (Volunteer Rescue Association of NSW Inc.) squad of radio amateurs, WICEN, now make the NavShield a major training exercise to set up a radio network in a new area each year and co-ordinate with BWRS and other Emergency Services. They are part of our overall "Safety Plan" and under the control of the "BWRS Safety Controller". This role is just one of the many roles required for NavShield that includes Site Controller, Course Setter, Event Controller, Transport Officer etc. The Safety Plan overviews 'risk management' and outlines responses. The unsung heroes of each NavShield are our "bushrangers". Their dual function is to walk throughout the course among the participants to ensure that the Rules are being followed and enhance safety by having First Aid kits and HF radios for instant communication through the radio network. The Safety Controller can then promptly adjust the response from sending the paramedics to evacuation back to our First Aid Tent.

The major Presentation Ceremony around 3pm on Sunday afternoon is generally a great relief to me. Another Nav is nearly in the bag with most teams home. The NSW State Rescue Board considers NavShield a valuable training exercise in bush navigation and sponsors a number of the trophies. Thus, Heinz Mueller, on behalf of the Chair of the Board and Mr Ray Gill, President of the VRA (and also a Board member) gave out the principal awards. The last and still pleasing award is the Attendance Cups. If you can attend five or ten NavShields (either one day or two day event; minimum time is not required) then I will, on behalf of BWRS, make a special presentation. A quick check of this years group photo, on the NavShield website, will show just how many participants keep coming back.

The results of Nav 2003 and all other NavShields can be found at the NavShield website:

<http://www.bwrs.org.au/navshield/>

Despite the obviously high workload the members of BWRS still enjoy planning and running their annual NavShield. They look forward to showing off their Rescue Squad as well as practising valuable organisation skills / liaising with other Emergency Services and seeing some of the regular participants. There can be no better way to polish up your navigation and map reading skills than participation in Nav 2004!

BOOK REVIEW

BUSHWALKING IN AUSTRALIA BY JOHN & MONICA CHAPMAN

Colin Wood

Explore some of Australia's finest bushwalking locations with the 4th edition of Bushwalking in Australia. Covering all states, the walks range from easy 2-day trips to an extended 14-day walk. There are easy walks for novices and challenging ones for experienced walkers.

This book is a must for budding overnight walkers. I have relived many of the walks done myself described by John & Monica. The maps and sidetracks are easy to follow, with great photos of each walk, but as John says "Topographical maps should always be used". Walks are described in detail and Temperature and rainfall for each month will give the walker the best time to do these walks. Monica & John are very conservation conscious, recommending many conservation hints & tips. Other books by these two enthusiastic bushwalkers are: 'Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair' which takes in Walls of Jerusalem. 'South West Tasmania'. & 'Day walks in Victoria'.

RRP \$39.95 ISBN 0 9596129 7 1 self published. To order go to www.ozemail.com.au/~johnchapman see page 14

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Walk Safely - Walk With a Club.....

SHOALHAVEN BUSHWALKERS LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Sandra Kelley

The Shoalhaven Bushwalkers club was formed in the early 1970's by a small group of people who shared a love for the bush. They walked on weekends, mainly in the Budawangs. The club has since grown to approximately 150 members, and provides walks on weekends and Wednesdays. The



(from left) Dawn Evan, Russ Evans and Margaret Brown cutting the celebratory cake

Wednesday programs have four different categories of walks from Andante (leisurely) to off-track. Weekend walks often

include car camps and overnight full-pack walks. Further information can be obtained at the Shoalhaven Bushwalkers website at www.shoal.net.au/~bushwalkers

Three of our members recently received Life Memberships for meritorious service. Dawn and Russ Evans, and Margaret Brown have been clubmembers for over fifteen years. All have served on committee and have regularly led walks. All members of the Shoalhaven Bushwalkers Club would like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of Margaret, Dawn and Russ and congratulate them on their Life Membership.

Found - Camera, June Long weekend Morton NP Yadboro Flat carpark owner contact Tim on 98219120

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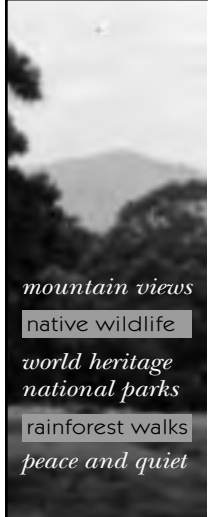
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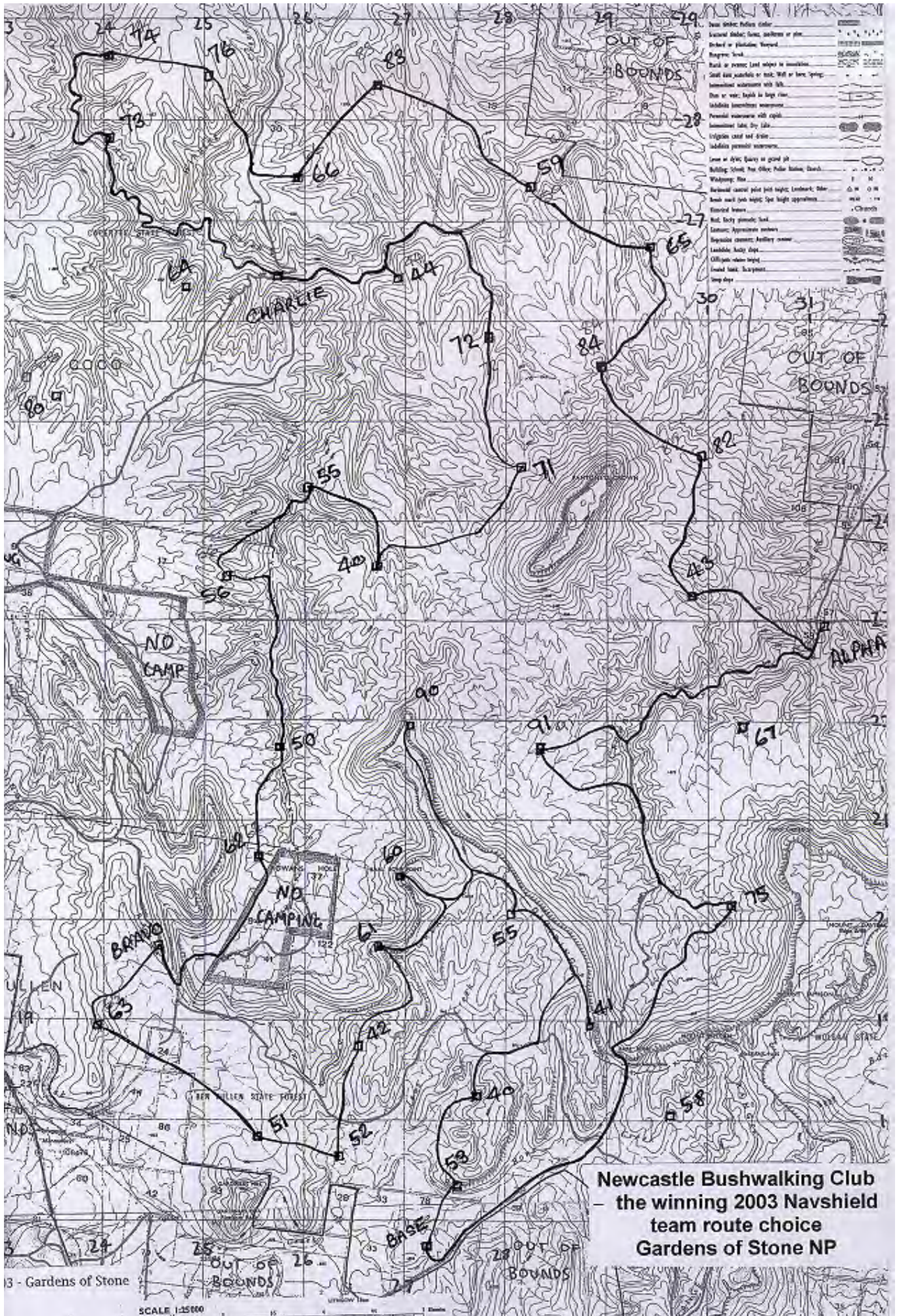


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