

The Bushwalker



MAGAZINE OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS NSW INC.
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www.bushwalking.org.au email editor@bushwalking.org.au

PROTECTING THE WALLARAH PENINSULA

*Marian Buchanan
Secretary Weekday Walkers Club.*

It is a joy to walk up the coast in to Wallarah Peninsula Conservation Area from Fraser Park through the historic Catherine Hill Bay to Caves Beach. As bushwalkers it was with horror that we come to understand a development is scheduled in part of this area. It is imperative that this area remains a buffer zone between urban development on the Central Coast and the Newcastle/Hunter Valley region.

We cannot have future generations with a concrete jungle up the coast particularly between Sydney & Newcastle. This is not because we are bushwalkers, but being in such a club, enables us, as it would anyone who would care to walk it, to see this region for what it is, a Natural Heritage Area. The coal mining company that owned

**THE UNITED NATIONS
FORESEES
DESTRUCTION OF 70
PER CENT OF THE
NATURAL WORLD IN
30 YEARS!**

/leased this land should be sued, as it gave an undertaking that all its land would become part of open space. When Current zonings are "Conservation and Protection Area" why/how could this ever be revoked? It should not!

Colin Wood of The Bushwalker magazine asked our club – Weekday Walkers – to write to the magazine for our favourite walk to be published.

Bushwalkers have historically rallied together & have been instrumental in forming most of the National Parks around Sydney & The Blue Mountains.

The Central Coast of NSW "groundswell" must become a positive voice for NO development on areas zoned as "Conservation & Protection."

The United Nations foresees destruction of 70 per cent of the natural world in 30 years!

This was such an important issue that a World Summit on sustainable development was held last August. There is no reason why NSW Australia has to make this future come true. This "Global Environmental Outlook" by 1100 scientists is particularly concerned with coastal areas where most human settlement is concentrated. NSW has to take particular note



of this because of the Australian obsession to be by the sea. Species extinction will take place particularly in Australia because certain flora is unique to certain areas only & once destroyed cannot be regenerated elsewhere.

A report by the "TOTAL Environment Centre" in Australia in 2003 said councils along the NSW coast were allowing developers to destroy the coastline. A positive fact is that 10 per cent increase in native tree & shrub cover will increase the diversity of native birds by 7 per cent, while exotic bird numbers decrease by 21 per cent. Destroying any native vegetation wipes out native bird life and increases exotics by 100 per cent.

The quality, which makes our coastline magic, is disappearing with developer's greed. Let our voice be heard and work towards & outcome for future generations to enjoy.

If anyone would like any more information or want to help. Contact Secretary "Weekday Walkers" 22 Ascot Ave Avoca Beach NSW 2251 Tel. 4382-1225.



Cattle mustering hut at Wonnangatta - photo Roger Fryer

MURDER MYSTERY AT WONNANGATTA

By Roger Fryer

One of the best bushwalking destinations in Australia is the beautiful and mysterious Wonnangatta cattle station in the Victorian High Country.

Wonnangatta is famous not only for its spectacularly isolated location in the mountains, but for the unsolved double murder which occurred there early last century.

Set like a jewel in the middle of the Victorian Alps, Wonnangatta is the most difficult-to-get-to place in Victoria. Any access for walkers or four-wheel-drive vehicles is complicated by deep river crossings, high plain snow falls or steep tracks.

One thousand acres of flat grassland surrounded by almost-2000 metre peaks, the station is isolated by the Barry Mountains which have some of the best bushwalking country in Australia, including the incredible mountain crescent starting at The Bluff, where the Man from Snowy Mountain movie was filmed, around Mt Howitt, The Viking, Mt Magdala and the Crosscut Saw and on to Mt Stirling and Buller – all rocky snowline peaks connected by open High Country plains.

Sometime during Christmas-New Year 1918, the manager of the cattle station, James Barclay, was murdered by a shotgun blast in the back and his body buried hastily in the creek not far from the station homestead. His farmhand, John Bamford, had disappeared and was assumed to be the culprit.

No sign of Bamford was found until after the spring snow-melt later that year when, incredibly, his body was found under a log on the nearby Howitt Plains. He had been killed by a single pistol shot to the head, but there was no gun found nearby, ruling out suicide.

Despite an intensive police and coronial investigation, the perpetrators of this violent incident have never been discovered, and the mystery remains to this day.

Discovered by goldseeker

A W Howitt sometime in the 1830s, Wonnangatta was first settled by Oliver Smith who built the first slab homestead and began grazing cattle there a decade later. The station then was further developed by the Bryce family who raised many children there, some of whom are buried in the cemetery on the side of a hill overlooking the rich, cleared river flats. The Bryces employed a carpenter to develop the homestead with weatherboards cut on-site in a saw pit.

Following the Bryce family, ownership came to a non-resident partnership, Phillips and Ritchie, who employed the manager Barclay – the first victim of the double murder. The next owners were the Guy family

Continued on page 5



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THE BUSHWALKER

Contributions, letters to the editor, original cartoons and suggestions are welcome. They should be sent to the address below. Except for short notes or letters, all contributions should be accompanied with text file on three and a half inch floppy disk or CD in IBM format or E-Mail to editor@bushwalking.org.au

Advertising rates are available on request at advertising@bushwalking.org.au

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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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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.

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EVENTS FOR BUSHWALKERS IN 2004.

The Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) Calendar has been sent to Clubs and a number of outdoors shops. Our aim is to pack the Calendar with information that bushwalkers would find handy and hence carry the Calendar in their wallet / rucksack.

Some of the really useful information you should find in the Calendar includes Public Holidays, Public School Holidays and dates of Full/New Moons. You should thus be able to plan your bushwalking to make maximum use of long weekends, avoid the School Holiday rush (or alternatively, plan when you need to amuse the ankle biters) and plan when to program hard trips such as "The Three Peaks" for maximum moonlight.

The Calendar should also help you browse (wander through) the internet with the addresses for BWRS and Confederation websites. See www.bwrs.org.au OR www.bushwalking.org.au

However there is information in a box labelled "BWRS Dates for 2004" that possibly is confusing. One Club did contact BWRS for clarification. This box contains information mostly for members of BWRS but does have several items of special interest to bushwalkers. The Events for Bushwalkers are:

April 24 - 25 Splendor Rock Memorial. There were many bushwalkers who served in the Australian armed forces during World War II. Among those that died during active service was Max Gentle (of Gentle's Pass off the High Gangerangs). To remember these fallen bushwalkers there is a memorial at Splendor Rock at the end of Mt Dingo in the Wild Dog Mountains. Splendor Rock is an outstanding lookout and fitting site



To assist the frail, older walkers to get to Splendor Rock Confederation will again ask permission to drive (in escorted convoy) to Medlow Gap. More details will be sent to your Club as we approach ANZAC Day 2004.

May 29 - 30 First Aid training for bushwalkers. BWRS encourages all trip leaders and bushwalkers in general to be First Aid qualified. This weekend course will teach St John Ambulance Senior First Aid with specific reference to bushwalking. FULL course details can be found at the BWRS website - <http://www.bwrs.org.au>

July 3 - 4 NavShield. Each year BWRS runs NavShield to provide training in bush / remote area navigation for members of the Emergency Services. Bushwalkers are welcome and encouraged to attend. Typically, around 500 participants enter either the one-day or the two-day event. NavShield is a very enjoyable event which is held in a different area each year. The difficulty of checkpoints ranges from easy to hard. Inexperienced / beginner navigators will still get useful practice in bush navigation. ALL bushwalkers should know how to navigate and not merely follow others!

Oct 30 First Aid training for bushwalkers. This is a second chance for all trip leaders and bushwalkers in general to be First Aid qualified. However, this time only, this is a ONE day reaccreditation course in St John Ambulance Senior First Aid. There will still be a specific reference to bushwalking BUT you must hold a current St John Ambulance First Aid Certificate. The bonus, of course, is that you only need to set aside one day to maintain your First Aid qualification. Again, see the BWRS website for FULL course details - <http://www.bwrs.org.au>

Remember that bushwalkers who are members of Confederation Clubs are welcome on all four of these events so be sure to pencil in the dates into your diary or Club's Walks Program. Don't leave home without your BWRS pocket Calendar as the Calendar also has emergency contact details for the Confederation's self help, self-contained search and rescue section - BWRS.



President of BWRS Keith Maxwell being a "patient" at NavShield

for a memorial.

Naturally, since Splendor Rock is a bushwalkers memorial it is difficult to attend a dawn service when ANZAC Day occurs mid week. However this year

ANZAC Day will occur on Sunday so the Confederation will again be organising a dawn service at the Splendor Rock memorial. As always the plan is to camp, Saturday night, close by on Mt Dingo.

was able to return to their car but the father was too dehydrated to continue and needed to be air lifted out. The father took shelter overnight behind a pagoda and in an ironic twist he needed a jumper whilst in the shade of the pagoda.

The second incident was a father and son attempt on Pantone's Crown in the Gardens of Stone National Park. Pantone's Crown is a large, cliff lined, flat-topped mountain that dominates this National Park. The 'Crown' is a worthy goal that however, should be avoided in summer, as some walking is required to get to the base of the cliff line. In this incident, it was the son who needed to be rescued. He ultimately was air lifted out with three Emergency Services personnel who had walked in to assist! Members of BWRS found very little water, last June, when they set the checkpoints for Nav 2003, throughout this aptly named Park.

All bushwalkers should be aware of the dangers of HYPOthermia (too little 'thermia' - body heat) when travelling in snow prone country such as the Blue Mountains or New England Tableland. In cold conditions it is vital to minimise the loss of body heat by wearing appropriate waterproof / thermal clothing (including covering the head) and eating well. Eating well will provide fuel to replace lost body heat. Hypothermia cannot be self-diagnosed so vigilance is required in observing for tell-tale signs. When left untreated hypothermia can lead to unconsciousness and even death.

The other "thermia" is HYPERthermia - excess 'thermia' (body heat). Hyperthermia (heat stroke) like hypothermia (exposure) can be fatal. Hyperthermia is what kills people in the outback deserts when their vehicles break down. In both above incidents (far closer to Sydney than any desert) the affected persons were too weak to move to safety.

It is essential in hot weather to minimise fluid loss from sweating by avoiding heavy exercise and drinking plenty of water. Since sunburn is an associated risk, you should dress in light, loose fitting clothing that will protect against UV radiation as well as covering your head. Remember the BURN in sunburn and use appropriate +15 SPF (or better) sunscreen.

Note that, hyperthermia can cause serious damage to body cells and is being used, under medical supervision, for treatment of cancer cells.

Be aware that in extreme heat the body may stop absorbing water from the stomach thus allowing the brain to over heat. A wet towel applied to the back of the neck may help by cooling the blood in major arteries to the brain. Your St John Ambulance Senior First Aid training will be helpful - see the article "EVENTS for BUSHWALKERS in 2004" for the date of the next course and visit the BWRS website www.bwrs.org.au for FULL course details. Recent summers have been very hot so only walk in the cool of the morning or late afternoon.

Your St John Ambulance First Aid textbook will have more information under 'heat exposure' or search under 'heat exposure' on their website at www.stjohnambulance.com.au

Two other websites with useful information are:

www.sportsdoctor.com/articles/hyperthermia4.html
www.wramcamed.army.mil/education/hyperthe.htm



HISTORICAL ARTICLE.

AN EARLY EXPLORER GEORGE CALEY AND HIS WORK

By R Else Mitchell from the Bushwalker 1938.

Amongst the early inhabitants of New South Wales was a botanist, George Caley, who had come out at the instance of Sir Joseph Banks in 1800. Energetic and resourceful, he was a man admirably suited for pioneering work and, through the chief duty for which he had come to the colony was the collection and classification of botanical specimens, he still found time for ornithological and exploratory pursuits. It is of his exploration that worthy merit is mentioned for many of the early pioneers his endeavours were ill rewarded and well-nigh forgotten.

In 1801, soon after his arrival in the colony, Caley undertook several short journeys beyond Prospect westward and south-westward towards the Nepean and Liverpool. Subsequently in that year he traced part of the course of the Nepean, which had been discovered in 1789, and made a journey to Mount Hunter, an eminence some miles west of Camden.

From this point it was anticipated that an expansive view of the Blue Mountains would be presented but the outlook was deceptive because only the lower slopes of the ranges were visible, and Caley, remarked casually that "they did not deserve the name of mountains" and were merely high hills. Thereupon he resolved to explore them and was destined within a few years to alter his impression.

TRACED THE NEPEAN

In the next two years all Caley's spare time seems to have been spent in the central Nepean area. Not only did he trace the course of the Nepean over parts not previously known but he also explored thoroughly and defined the boundaries of the Cowpastures, then known as Vaccary

Forest. Which was to become the birthplace of the wool industry. It was during these expeditions that he discovered the Warragamba River some miles above its junction with the Nepean and the headwaters of Blue Gum Creek, a tributary of the Nattai River at Picton Lakes.

Soon after his return from the Cowpastures in 1804 Caley organized an expedition to make a bold assault on the Blue Mountains from Richmond. After six days of difficult traveling over Kurrajong heights, across the swampy headwaters of Burrallow Creek, and along the northern brink of the chasm in which the Grose River runs, the party reached Mt Tomah (Table Hill). The rugged nature of the country had by this time dispelled the idea Caley had previously held that the mountains were merely high hills and although his men were sorely fatigued he persuaded them to continue westward.

REACHED MOUNT BANKS

Six days later, after crossing the heads of deeply entrenched creeks and scaling broken sandstone



A group of Walkers from YMCA on Mt Banks

extinguished - himself fatigued and almost exhausted - that further progress was not possible, and with disappointment he returned to Sydney. The journey had been accompanied by such hardships that Caley suffered from its ill effects for some time afterwards for, as Governor King said, it was so hazardous "that it could only have been undertaken by a man possessing the bodily strength and enthusiastic mind of Caley."

LATER EXPLORATIONS

Caley visited Burragorang Valley in 1806 near where Barrallier had made a depot a few years earlier, and he confirmed the account which that explorer had given of good forest land and fertile soil which could be developed for agriculture. It has also been suggested that he made a final attempt to cross the mountains from Emu Plains but there is little to support this conclusion other than the existence of a cairn of stones near Linden which Governor Macquarie named Caley's Repulse.

How unfortunate it is that a man of such outstanding ability and courage - a pioneer in the true sense of the word - was not able to achieve the success he deserved. Indirectly however his knowledge and ability were instrumental in gaining the coveted objective of a route over the mountains in 1813, for it was he who suggested to Lawson, one of the members of the successful party, the plan of climbing the main ridge between the watersheds of the Grose and Warragamba Rivers and following it to the western plains.

Without derogation from the performance of Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson, let it be remembered that it was Caley and men of his caliber undaunted and enthusiastic, who made the crossing of the mountains possible.

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 2004

Submissions to be sent to Colin Wood at editor@bushwalking.org.au as gif or jpg file.

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 several entries on the current website www.bushwalking.org.au/bushwalkingaustralia

prize is yet to be determined.

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

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VALE PRUDENCE TUCKER

Once again, the Confederation has lost one its valued members. Prudence Tucker died at 4.30pm on 23 January 2004. She had not been well and recently had suffered a severe stroke.

Prudence was part of a terrific double act. She became the much-loved Secretary to Confederation in 1998. The Secretary's role was not filled at the 1998 AGM and Prudence reluctantly took on the job with Alex (her husband - the other half of the double act) as Confederation Vice President. As an active retired couple, they were a great asset to Confederation. Alex and Prudence were involved in so many areas of Confederation as willing and hard workers. They just always seemed to be there. On advisory bodies they served the interests of bushwalkers and Confederation in a very capable manner.

During their working lives, Alex had been an electrical engineer on the Snowy Mountains scheme at the peak time of construction. Alex and Prudence bushwalked extensively in the Snowies, Victoria, Tasmania and other places.

Confederation is the peak, representative body that gives bushwalkers a united voice in liaising with the many private groups and government departments involved in land management throughout NSW. Confederation initiated the Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance for bushwalkers that we now all take for granted. Confederation is also actively involved in the current issues of training, risk management and the consequences of the NSW legislation regarding public liability and personal liability for risky activities. Thus, like a duck quietly paddling on a pond, under the water, the legs of the Confederation are always on the move. The Secretary is the lynchpin to keep Confederation functioning. Prudence, as Confederation Secretary, patiently handled the huge volume of e-mails, letters and faxes received and sent out by Confederation. She was a good listener but occasionally got frustrated when other bushwalkers were not prepared to give an equal commitment. For around a year she also held the financial reins until Maurice Smith stepped forward, as Treasurer, to lead Confederation through the GST minefield.

Prudence was probably reluctant to become Confederation Secretary as, for several years, she had been working hard for the National Parks Association of NSW (NPA). The involvement, by Prudence, with NPA gave cohesion and strength to the Confederation voice when dealing with government departments.

Whenever you met Prudence, you always had to wonder where the energy came from. She was tiny and only slightly built. I always worried that a strong breeze would blow her over. In 2002, the family of Alex and Prudence convinced them to move to Brisbane so the family could better monitor their health. On 29 January 2003, there was a farewell function at North Sydney Council Community Centre. Many NPA and Confederation members wished them well in their 'retirement'.

The funeral for Prudence was held on Friday 30 January. All bushwalkers should be saddened by the death of a great friend of bushwalking and Confederation - Prudence Tucker.

Keith Maxwell - President Bushwalker Wilderness Rescue

Continued from page 1

who held the property until the 1950s, but also managed it on a part-time basis, living further downstream on the Wonnangatta River near Dargo. About this time, the homestead was accidentally burnt down.

Wonnangatta is now managed by the Victorian Government as a national park, and it claims some of the best four-wheel-drive camping you will ever find. The Alpine Walking Track and the Bicentennial National Trail both pass through the valley, bringing bushwalkers and horse-riders from around the world.

Access into the valley is extraordinarily difficult. There were two traditional ways to get into Wonnangatta: The first was on horseback up the Wonnangatta River from Dargo and was the most-used route. The trouble was this involved numerous river crossings which are impassable between the spring snow-melt and summer, and also Dargo itself is a long way from anywhere significant. The second involved a long and arduous pack-horse trip from Mansfield, up the beautiful Howqua River and over Mt Howitt. In winter this route is blocked by deep snow.

Four-wheel-drive tracks were built during the 1950s and subsequently, but were incredibly difficult to negotiate over the precipitous terrain. Access information is still hard to obtain. A summer route for four-wheel-drives goes over Mt Howitt and down the steep Zeka Track. This is very stony and there is a better road to the north three hours to Myrtleford, not far from Albury. But this route is blocked in spring and early summer when the Wonnangatta River peaks with snow melt.

The best walking access is down Conglomerate Track from Howitt Hut, and out down-river to Dargo, if you can handle the river crossings.

The valley is well-kept now thanks to a Friends of Wonnangatta group who research the station artefacts and maintain the grounds which have well-established English and orchard trees. The amazing, peaceful wilderness ambience of Wonnangatta can be attributed not only to the isolation, but also to the total lack of noise and light pollution.

Go there if you can - Wonnangatta is a must for any serious bushwalking or camping buffs. The Licola General Store will help with directions and local weather conditions, phone (03) 5148 8786. Map sheet: Howitt 1:63,360. A CD of 61, 1:25,000 and 1:50,000 High Country topographic maps is available from MapTrax for \$175.00 - a great option, you can print out a disposable version of exactly where you want to

BOOK REVIEW RAILS TO TRAILS TASMANIA

This is another of those great "Rails To Trails" books from 'Railtrails' Australia.

The books in this series describe trails in Tasmania. There are walks near wineries. National parks, through landscapes of rolling hills, farmland, bushland, rain forest and even by the sea.

The book features:

- More than 170 kms of rail Trails
- Photos of all trails.
- Easy to follow en-route directions
- Great maps to find your way and plan your trip.



Rail Trails are easy to cycle, walk and sometimes on horseback. Trains weren't good at climbing hills so they usually tunneled through them or

went around them, which makes these trails easy going now, but there are challenging trails too. For those that like variety, there is a range of surfaces from very smooth to very rough.

Rail trails are rich in history and often have high conservation values.

This book is extremely well written and illustrated with lots of photos and descriptions of what you will see.

Each trail is designated either for walkers, cycling for touring bikes or mountain bikes, horses, wheel vehicles, (prams, wheel-chairs).

There are 17 trails to choose from from 2 kms (Lune River area) to 51 kms (Zeehan-Strahan).

There is plenty of advice on conservation and what to carry and hints on Minimal Impact Bushwalking. Good advice on how to get there and stuff about bikes and transport.



Rails Trails of Tasmania is available direct from Railtrails Australia Inc by sending \$28.45 (inc GST & postage) to PO Box 302 East Melbourne 8002. Or fax us with credit

card details and mailing details on 03 9306 3848. It is also available from some bookshops, larger bicycle shops, bushwalking and map outlets. For details and order form visit www.railtrails.org.au

Railtrails is a not-for-profit organization, based in Melbourne and run by volunteers who work for the development and promotion of the rail trail network Australia-wide.

We will forgive the authors of these books for calling them trails instead of tracks for obvious reasons.



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Walk Safely - Walk With a Club

IAN BROWN BIOGRAPHY, JANUARY 2004

Ian Brown has been bushwalking for 35 years and is also a rockclimber, mountaineer, sea-kayaker, ski-tourer, rogainer and mountain runner. He has a preference for long sojourns in remote places and has undertaken numerous journeys in South West Tasmania, Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland, New Zealand, Borneo, New Caledonia, the United States and Antarctica. In 1997 Peter Treseder, Keith Williams and Ian walked 1300 km to the

South Pole. He has a particular love for the landscapes of the Blue Mountains, Cape York and Fiordland.

As a conservationist, Ian has been active in promoting the protection of South West Tasmania, Cape York Peninsula and the Blue Mountains. He worked for 20 years for the NSW NPWS as a ranger, senior ranger and operations

Ian Brown & Keith Williams walking to the South pole

manager, mainly in the Blue Mountains. He left in 2000 to pursue a freelance career in photography, writing, heritage communication and protected area planning.

Ian is a regular competitor at Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue's NavShield, winning the 2-day at Dunns Swamp a couple of years ago, and the one-day several times before that.

Ian's nature photography and environmental/adventure writing has appeared in numerous magazines, books and other publications. He is a regular contributor to *Wild, Outdoor Australia, Australian Geographic*, the TWS WildCountry Calendar and ACF diaries. He has written three books: *Paddy Pallin's Bushwalking and Camping* (current edition), *Extreme South* (his account of the South pole expedition, published by *Australian Geographic*) and now *Wild Blue*.

Ian lives in the Blue Mountains with his wife Marianne and their two teenagers.

VALE TERRY LAVENDER

Terry Lavender, architect of the Heysen Trail died in Adelaide on Friday 9th January 2004, at age 62 after a brave fight with cancer. His genial manner, dogged persistence, and his willingness to talk with and listen to farmers and rural communities all over South Australia made him a legend. The Heysen was the first marked long distance trail in Australia. Terry was among the first to use the term "trail" as a track specifically for non-motorised recreation. He also recognised that the general public can enjoy walking, but lack the skills and confidence to do it without the guidance of marked trails. He was also among the first to appreciate the value of undeveloped road reserves as ideal routes for walking trails and conservation, particularly in areas that had few national parks of significant size.

Terry was a doer, and a trail blazer in more ways than one. Although he was a public servant, he was often at odds with the bureaucracy. He fought many a battle to realise his vision for walking trails, one that he shared with greats like Warren Bonython. Terry had many admirers and not a few critics. But even his critics accept that without his often unorthodox approach, the Heysen would never have been completed.

As well as the Heysen, Terry was the driving force behind many other trails, including the Mount Lofty walking trails, and the Reisling, Tom Roberts and Mawson trails. After being awarded an OAM, Terry took early retirement to work on his passion. Soon he and a group of friends had plans for the Federation Trail, another long distance walking trail, this time starting at Murray Bridge, threading its way towards the Clare valley and eventually joining with both the Heysen and Reisling trails. The sympathies of those who love the bush and the landscape of the Mount Lofty and Flinders Ranges, go to Terry's family in their and our loss.

Bill Gehling, President, Bushwalking Australia Inc

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 2004

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. Colin has the first entry on the current website www.bushwalking.org.au/bushwalkingaustralia

Book Review "Wild Blue"

By Ian Brown

This book is another of Ian's excellent publications. His previous books: *Paddy Pallin's Bushwalking & Camping* and *Extreme South*, his account of the first expedition to walk to the South Pole were first class books.

His photographs also feature in Mark O'Conor's *Poetry of The Mountains* the *Australian Geographic Book of Cape York* and the Official World Heritage nomination for The Greater Blue Mountains.

Ian Brown has captured the complex landscape, life and the mood of the mountains, many and varied types of photographs from dawn's glow to summer heat, bushfire and autumn fog, the snows of winter from remote wilderness regions to familiar tourists landmarks.

This collection of photographs is complemented with descriptions of the Blue Mountains through time, from aboriginal settlement to the establishment of World heritage status.

Ian pays homage to many of the pioneers of the early conservation time – those visionaries who loved the mountains and bush for its own sake.

It would be excellent as a "Coffee Table" book or just for your bookshelf either way it makes for great reading and viewing.

My only criticism is that he could have dispersed more of his excellent photographs in the front part of the book to break up the narrative and the use of long exposures for running water makes for an unnatural effect, a 10th of a second is, in my opinion, sufficient to give a great photograph.

THE MOONAN BROOK FORESTRY COTTAGE



The Moonan Brook

Forestry Cottage is located in the north western foothills of the Barrington Tops. Originally the Moonan Brook Public School & residence, the cottage was built in the late 1800's to service the educational needs of a thriving gold mining community known as the Denison Diggings. An ideal base-camp for fishing,

bushwalking, fossicking, scouting & nature study groups. The cottage is equipped with BBQ's, electric & fuel stoves, hot showers, open fireplaces and sleeps up to 25 people. The Barrington offers the visitor spectacular scenery and unique flora and fauna with the occasional snow-fall in winter.

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Moss Vale To Bermagui in 1921

Nov 22 1921

Arrived at Moss Vale at 11.54p.m. after uninteresting train journey. Repaired immediately to Grand Hotel, and accommodated by Yankee Boniface.

by James R. Turner (transcribed by his grand Daughter Thais Turner, well known member of Bankstown BC and BWRS)



Nov 23

Breakfast at Hotel and left at 9a.m. by car to Yarunga. 10 mile. Conversed with lady in Car about weather, Newcastle and the surrounding district, (mostly Newcastle). Arrived at Fitzroy Falls at 9.30a.m. Viewed the falls and panoramic view. Handed a few Biblical tracts by the Car passenger, and bid adieu to the conveyance.

Started out per boot for Kangaroo Valley, 11½ miles distant. Road about three miles along crest of range, fairly level, then descended into the Valley, fine views of the district when descending. Nearing Kangaroo Valley farmhouses become more frequent, pursuits mostly of dairying character. Past Barrengarry we arrived at outskirts of Kangaroo Valley township, which is marked by the Hampden Bridge, spanning the Kangaroo River. Had dinner at Commercial Hotel (Rankin's).

Debated as to wisdom or otherwise of completing the journey to Nowra, and finally decided (after buying some oranges) to proceed.

Left at 2.15p.m. and started the ascent. Some Hill for quite a while. When nearing the summit very fine views are available, which were duly photographed. About 5p.m. we were at the top of the mountain and decided to visit Cambewarra Lookout 1½ mile from road. The Lookout is quite a marvelous place and not to be missed by any real enthusiastic tourist. Unfortunately the day was a hazy one and the view was not all that could be desired but still the farms in the fore ground, the Shoalhaven River winding amongst the township to the left and the coastline quite a finish to this picture, made the trip worth while.

Made tea at Lookout and at 6.15p.m. started for Nowra. The distance proved to be longer than anticipated and walking in the dark was an experience to remember. After much foot-slogging we arrived at Nowra at 9.30p.m., proceeded to the (Footnote: 13 mile from Kangaroo Valley; 3 mile Lookout and back) eating house where bacon and eggs were very acceptable. Upon completion of our al fresco we looked around for the Midnight Mail and found the said Mail completely covered with bags, people luggage and a dog to boot. Despite these handicaps the driver decided to take us and at 10p.m. we left for Milton. The night was dark and the motor plied its way very warily. At various "one horse town" post offices were unloaded the mail, and at Wandandian we took three more passengers making our total complement 9 and a dog, nearly a record for the trip.

The gent with the dog was put out and the sudden influx of passengers and behaved very testily when asked to shift, to make matters worse the baby started to cry.

Nov 24

Arrived at Milton at 1a.m. Ushered into a hotel by the driver of the car, and after some local enquiries, we

retired after a extra long day's travel.

Slept in till 10a.m., of necessity, rose and after a short walk through Milton, dinner was served. After dinner the hotel keeper rang through to Ulladulla and arranged accomadation. Left for Ulladulla at 3p.m., after a pleasant walk of 4½ miles arrived at that very prettily situated spot at 4pm.

Left our parcels at Mrs. Mitchell's boarding house and had a pleasant ½ hour bathe in the Pacific.

Returned for tea, afterwards went for a stroll through Ulladulla and retired at 9p.m.

Ulladulla is to be remarked upon for its beauty of position.

Nov 25

Awakened at 7a.m. and breakfasted with the "Silica" workers.

Waited for the grocers and bakers carts coming through but was refused a lift by the grocer and decided to set out per foot.

After about 2 miles the baker's cart caught us up but he had already arranged to take a timber-getter. Sent our haversacks along on cart.

Passed Burri Inlet about 9.15a.m. fish plentiful here. Proceeded and crossed Tebourie Lake about 2 mile further on.

Called at wayside house for water. Had dinner off main road near Lake Meroo. Arrived at Termeil about 3.30p.m. Made arrangements to stay but afterwards cancelled them and booked by car to Batemans Bay 22 mile further on. Car arrived about 5.15p.m. Set out at breakneck speed and after a record breaking trip arrived at Blandford House Batemans Bay about 6.10p.m. Had tea, thence strolled down and saw Latta family. After conversing for some time returned to the House. Batemans Bay at mouth of Clyde River akin to Tuggerah Lake scenery. Toll Gate Islands 4 mile off mouth of Bay.

Nov 26

Left Batemans Bay early. 7.30a.m. passed out of the Bay district along the road about 3 mile when a Ford Motor Lorry hove in sight. We quickly availed ourselves of kind offer to take us to Mogo, which place we reached after a hair-raising ride through very picturesque scenery.

Left Mogo at 9a.m. and started out past the saw-mills on the up grade for about 6½ miles. Rested for a slight refreshment when the Mogo Cricket Team in 3 sulkies appeared. These conveyances drove us into Moruya in quick time and we straight away made for Pat Mylott's Store. Met Mrs Ryan proprietress of the "Blandford House" at the Bay. Adjourned to Carders Royal Hotel for dinner. Had a swim after viewing a very impressive, lengthy funeral procession of a local farmer. Saw some clothes on the bank unattended. Returned to Hotel, had tea conversed with Mrs Carder, helped to water her garden and then decided at 8p.m. to walk to Bodalla forthwith. Left Moruya at 8.15p.m.

Walked towards Bodalla for 6½ miles when the Bodalla Cricket Club returning from Batemans Bay. We jumped aboard and after a boisterous ½ hour we arrived at a large hostelry, the Bodalla Arms Hotel.

Nov 27

Woke early, inspected the town, very prettily situated amongst circle of hills, very large Tudor style Church - 'All Saints'. Had breakfast 9.15 and started out for Narooma 13 mile distant at 9.30. Road was very picturesue and enjoyable walk. Gave our packs to Mrs Ryan of Batemans Bay who was travelling to Narooma. Walked on past Lake Mumma over the hill, and across Costin's Dairy through somebody's farm and down to Narooma punt. Crossed in boat and arrived at Narooma Hotel at 1.35p.m. Had a swim after lunch in surf.

Narooma needs special mention for its pretty situation. On one side the Wagonga River winding towards the bar. And on the other side a very extensive surf beach is close at hand.

Montague Island is about 5 mile off the mainland and the lighthouse plainly visible.

Nov 28

Had Breakfast at 7.15a.m. Started out immediately for Tilba Tilba. Viewed Wagonga River from back of town. Rode about ½ mile with Creamery Carter, walked on to Corunna. Saw through the local Co-op Cheese factory. Arrived at Tilba, collected our packs which had been brought on ahead to the "Palace" Hotel Central Tilba. Crossed over into Tilba Tilba (13 mile). Had dinner at Hotel and left about 2 p.m. for Bermagui. Got a lift for 1½ miles. Took a short cut through Wallago Lake Aborigine Settlement, very well situated in Wallago Lake with Mt Dromedary in the background. Walked on to Bermagui along the coast, stopped at farm and treated very hospitably by farmer's wife. Arrived at Bermagui at 5.30. Went for swim and after tea conversed with Fathers O'Connor (Moruya) and Dean Gunning (Bega).

Nov 29

Had breakfast at hotel, walked round rocks and back to dinner. Rain commenced to fall in afternoon and prevented any walking excursions. Had tea at 6pm and Merimbula arrived shortly after. Went straight down to boat, watched the loading and after a conversation with Captain O'Connor retired for night.

Woke early and viewed the coastline from Port Kembla northwards. After a trip of 15 hours arrived at Sussex St. Wharf at 12 noon.

DATE NOV 22-30TH 1921.

COST £6.16.7. DISTANCE APPROX 290M.

To the uninitiated a journey of the above dimensions, would appear to be only possible if the would-be tourist was in possession of a luxurious conveyance, or prepared to spend considerable sums of money in ambling from place to place en route and paying divers amounts in the shape of accomadation fees.

Neither of the above are necessary, on the contrary a stout pair of boots, just a little reserve of ready cash, and an unlimited supply of enthusiasm are the essentials of a tour embracing all that piece and parcel of territory known in its broadest sense as the "South Coast District" of New South Wales.

Leaving per train on Nov 22nd last "Douglas" and the writer were soon speeding for the down town respectable district of Moss Vale. Arrived at that station at 11.45p.m., we hastily repaired to the local

Continued on page 13



THE POMMY TENDERFOOT

He was born in dear old England, - not so very long ago -
 And was what we called a "Pommy" - Bally doodah, dontcha know!
 Said that he'd been educated in a Military School
 Which had made him tough and hardy, - intellectually cool.
 When he heard us speak of tramping from the "western" to the "south",
 He affixed his rimless glasses and then puckered up his mouth; -
 "May I go with you young chappies; I would love to see the blue
 Of those distant mountain ridges, and camp out as you folks do.
 I would love to hear the dingoes' mournful wailing in the night
 While we sit a-telling stories by the camp-fire's cheery light;
 Or follow winding bridle tracks where "overlanders" go

Guided by a map and compass through a land that one does not know,

 Oh, the scented bushland flowers, oh the songs of
 bush-birds too,
 How I'd love to go out camping, may I go along with
 you?"
 So we fitted him with "bloochers", put a bluey on his
 back,
 And then started on a ramble down Kanangra
 Plateau track.

Now, a "pommy" is a pommy! just a creeping, crawling thing,
 From the slave who cuts the wages to their parasitic king!
 They are pretty good at boasting of their pedigree, I know.
 But at camping or at bushcraft, well they haven't got a show!
 Over mountain, range and ridges; over plateau, swamp and swale;
 Over roadways hot and dusty; over hillside and o'er dale;
 Down by pleasant watercourses where the river sings a song,
 With this educated "Pommy" tramped we all day long.
 But he failed to see the colour that is present everywhere, -
 For exquisite colourations doth my mountain lady wear!
 And he didn't hear the music of the river on its bars,
 Or notice mountain daisies sprinkled o'er the grass, like stars.
 And he didn't like the soughing of the pine trees in the wind,
 And the lizards and gohannas played upon his fearless mind.
 Oh, he sweated and perspired, and by all the gods he swore
 That he'd never leave his mammie and his daddy anymore.
 He would rather play at croquet, or at tennis, or at bowls, -
 Oh! I'm sorry for these "pommies" and their little shrivelled souls.

Roy Davies
 December 1918
 from a selected works of poets (*Sing with the Wild*) by Colin Paul Gibson
 Sketch by Lloyd Jones.

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THE KOSCIUSZKO DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FORUM REPORT - 2004

report by Wilf Hilder Tracks & Access officer

In the eyes of most Australians the Australian Alps (Kosciuszko National Park, Namadgi National Park and the Victorian Alps), although only a tiny fraction of Australia's landmass is an icon – a white persons sacred site. The current Plan of Management (POM) dates back to 1982 and the NSW State Government having resolved that a new POM was needed, decided to follow the new public consultation process of regional public meetings for stakeholders used for the Myall Lakes National Park POM.

In addition the National Parks & Wildlife Service set up a Community Forum of 21 members – in effect an Advisory Committee – representing various stakeholders, - all adjacent Local Government Areas, the NPWS Regional Manager, the Traditional Owners (Aboriginal groups), Snowy Hydro Ltd. (the privatised Snowy Mountains Authority), the Ski Resort operators, the Mountain Bike Riders, the Horse Riders, the Downhill and Cross Country Skiers, Farmers & Graziers, the Tour Operators, both KNP Advisory Committees, the Kosciuszko Huts Association, the National Parks Association, The Nature Conservation Council, the Speleologists, and myself, representing the NSW Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs, the Victorian Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, the South Australian Federation of Bushwalking Clubs, The Nordic Ski Club and Bicycle NSW (who are opposed to cycling on tracks and off road). The chair of the Community Forum (CF) is Rick Farley, the well known former President of the NSW Farmers Federation.

The CF have been working on Sections of the draft POM – prepared by the NPWS team – for over 18 months and it is expected that in a very tight time frame the draft POM will be published on the NPWS KNP website on 1st March, 2004. At this stage it appears that printed copies of the draft POM will be very scarce, and it is unlikely that individuals will be able to get copies before mid to late March.

The Draft POM is open for public comment for 3 months, that is until the 30th May, 2004. The special funding for the project cuts out on 30th June, 2004

The Community Forum Members were appointed by the NPWS and had to sign an undertaking that they respected the views of the members of the CF, while not necessarily agreeing with them. It was clear to most CF members that to reach consensus on the more controversial issues some compromises would have to be made and that some of their "constituents" as the Chair called them, would be unhappy at some of the outcomes. It was also the duty of the CF members to keep their constituents informed and get feedback. At an early meeting of the Forum it was unanimously agreed

that the KNP greatest value was its unique naturalness and that activities within the park should have only sustainable impacts to protect the park's iconic values for future generations. My own view was published in "News from the Community Forum published by the NPWS in January, 2003.

"My vision for Kosciuszko National Park is that it be restored as far as possible to its unique naturalness and that the new Plan of Management be a benchmark for sustainable usage and park management."

The environmental lobby on the Forum complained to the NPWS that they were not adequately represented and as a result were given regular briefings in Sydney on the Forum activities. On hearing that the environment movement had a special website "Kositalk" I asked the webmaster for the password to the site, he agreed but subsequently withdrew his agreement before I could

access the site, which was only available to trusted environmental campaigners - I later learnt.

At a subsequent meeting of the Forum the renewal of the Charlottes Pass Resort lease in 2015 was voted on – for safety reasons I thought it should be renewed – being

"MY VISION FOR KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK IS THAT IT BE RESTORED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO ITS UNIQUE NATURALNESS AND THAT THE NEW PLAN OF MANAGEMENT BE A BENCHMARK FOR SUSTAINABLE USAGE AND PARK MANAGEMENT:."

Charlottes Pass Resort lease in 2015 was voted on – for safety reasons I thought it should be renewed – being

put forward the Victorian Bushwalking Federation's proposal for additional toilets on the Lakes Walk from Charlottes Pass, the Kosciuszko Road from Charlottes Pass to Rawson Pass and the Thredbo Top Station to Rawson Pass track. In addition I put the interstate concern that the Australian Alps Walking Track should run along the Main Range to Schlink Pass via Mt. Twynam and Mt. Tate and not via Perisher Valley and Guthega Power Station. More opposition from the environment lobby who claimed I was in breach of Confederation Policy. Subsequently a Committee of Enquiry was set up in November, 2002 to investigate these allegations. It was chaired by Alec Tucker, a well known conservationist, who summed up the nights proceedings by exonerating me stating that I had operated within Confederation's guidelines. He wrote to NCC suggesting that he or some independent chair organise a meeting between the NCC representatives and me. The letter was never acknowledged or answered to the best of my knowledge, and efforts to find out why have been brushed aside as not important.

I also incurred the wrath of the environmental lobby by proposing to the horse riding enthusiasts on the Forum – outside the meeting – that I would like to see no horse riders in the park between the Alpine Way (Thredbo) and the Snowy Mountain Highway (Kiandra). The Bicentennial Trail which runs through the area was to remain open. I knew that most horse riding and 4WD driving takes place north of the Snowy Mountains Highway where there are several horse camps.

I have put up quite a few other proposals such as the pumping of sewerage from all the mountain resorts, down the Ski Tube tunnel for quaternary treatment on the Thredbo River. No support from the environmental lobby on this proposal to keep all sewerage treated or overflow out of the iconic Snowy River to Lake Eucumbene. My strong opposition to the 6+ storeys of the steel, concrete and glass towers in Perisher Valley and the major reduction in the size of the public car park, has also had little support from anyone on the Forum – most think it is inevitable.

The report of the Independent Scientific Committee on KNP stated that in the Limestone (karst) area of Blue Waterholes in the northern end of KNP, walking tracks erosion was a matter of serious concern. Having walked in the area I challenged this and the Forum wrote to the geologist concerned. His lengthy reply reiterated the assertions but in the photographic evidence he supplied no one on the Forum could see any significant erosion on foot tracks but there was plenty of evidence of illegal 4 WD tracks. I believe an apology is in order for such an unscientific statement.

The tight time for the draft POM has meant that we have received sections of the plan – over the recent months – only a few days before the Forum Meeting, which means that none of us can discuss it with most of our constituents. I am concerned and others on the Forum share that concern that the rush to get out the draft POM for KNP is affecting the quality of the decision making in the numerous workshops we have had in recent months. Our recommendations go to the NPWS for incorporation in the draft POM but they don't always agree with us as the revised drafts show.

Bushwalker near Mt Kosciuszko - photo Alister Paton

8 km from Perisher and Mt. Kosciuszko, I thought that if Charlottes Pass Resort was closed then none of the other resorts should have their leases renewed in future years. The environment lobby disagreed. The matter of New Resorts in KNP was voted on, I voted for this because we had been told by the NPWS and the media that Cabramurra had been told by the Government that they would be granted resort status. We had also learnt that Snowy Hydro had a very long lease of Cabramurra. (I have long maintained that all future snowfield accommodation be provided in adjacent towns such as Jindabyne, Adaminaby, Tumberumba, Tumut, Corryong etc). The environment lobby strongly disagreed and felt that I had betrayed them by not voting with them, but they had not discussed the issues with me and had taken my vote for granted.

On major environmental issues we also disagreed. I

Continued on page 11



The lack of a comprehensive Bush Fire Plan for the KNP is a major item of concern to a number of Forum members and we believe it should be written into the draft POM. The rebuilding of huts in the KNP after last years disastrous bushfires is another contentious issue. Due to time constraints the Huts Policy will be a separate document. It is a refreshing to see the NPWS finally recognising the heritage value of huts – from 1st January, 2003 that is – and making serious efforts to save huts in the great bushfire of January, 2003. At a recent NPWS Huts Policy meeting in Queanbeyan in January, 2004 Kosciuszko Huts Association representatives, an environmental representative and I were able to brief the consultants who are preparing the new Huts Policy.

It is encouraging to see the environmental representatives on the Forum finally making some compromises, but discouraging to see the Resort Operators and Mountain Bike representative and the Downhill Skiers representative resign from the Forum before we have finished. This of course makes the stakeholders on the Forum incomplete. A detailed survey conducted in KNP clearly showed most visitors to KNP went to the park to walk. This survey has been challenged but not disproved – now we know that walking is the major visitor activity in KNP.

TRACKS & ACCESS



by Wilf Hilder

Wollemi National Park: The Newcastle Ramblers have reported that a locked gate has prevented vehicle access to the popular Colo Meroo camping area, with its cooking shelter and pit toilets situated on the banks of the Colo River (South side) at the foot of Mailes Ridge. Vehicular access is from Upper Colo "T" road junction (8kms) and is now prevented by a locked gate some 6 kms from Upper Colo. The camping area is also accessed by walking track from Mountain Lagoon via Mailes Ridge – see Wollemi N.P. Visitors Guide (leaflet) or the NPA "Bushwalking in the Sydney Region" Vol. One, for a detailed description and map of the foot track. Following investigation I find that this locked gate is on Portion 36, Parish Colo, County Cook on a property named Meroo Plantation – see the 1:25,000 map of Mountain Lagoon. The Crown Road Reserve (easement) in Portions 36, 37, 38 runs through poplar plantations, while the road to Colo Meroo Camping ground runs through the private land outside the Crown Road reserve. This is a very old ploy used by farmers to control the roads on their property. The NPWS informed me that the access road gate has been locked for over 12 months and that they are still negotiating with the landholder to unlock the gate. Planting crops etc. on a Crown Road easement is a serious breach of the Crown Lands Act.

Bogus Aboriginal Paintings: Some 15 years ago some talented but misguided bushwalker started painting "Aboriginal" paintings in number of overhangs. These

paintings are done with "white feller" paints and represent Aboriginal paintings from different parts of Australia. The traditional landowners (the Aboriginals) feel insulted by what they rightfully regard as graffiti. I recently found another group of them in Katoomba Creek about 1 km upstream from the present Arethusa Falls. I have found other fake Aboriginal paintings in Chinamans Gully, Mt. Solitary, in small hollows in boulders on the Red Hand Caves track, Glenbrook area and at Bushwalkers Basin at the junction of the Punchbowl Creek and the Georges River. Please let me know if you find more of these bogus paintings in the bush.

Harbour to Hawkesbury Walking Track: In the mid 1990's the Lands Department issued a bushwalking questionnaire on whether walkers would like a link track from Manly to the Great North Walk. This idea was – not surprisingly – promoted by Manly Council, who was very pleased at the number of walkers on the Spit to Manly Walk through Sydney Harbour National Park. They were not pleased by the few walkers using the Bicentennial Walk from Barrenjoey to Manly along the coast. With the offer of a new link to the Great North Walk, bushwalkers enthusiastically supported the free offer. Since then much water has flowed down the Harbour and the Hawkesbury and no more was heard of the track. Some twelve months ago Mike Pickles (The Bush Club) and I found out that construction had started at Seaforth Oval and the Harbour to Hawkesbury Walking Track was back on track, as it were. However information on the track, apart from one small press release, was so elusive that it was scarcer than rocking horse shoes. Manly Information Centre (at the wharf) and the NPWS Information Centre at Bobbin Head had until recently never heard of it. Mike Pickles and I, on separate club trips recently, walked the full length of the mystery track – now marked in parts. It runs from Manly, along the Spit to Manly track, through back streets to Seaforth Oval, then through Garigal National Park

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and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to Berowra Station, along the Benowie Track to the Great North Walk following it to Berowra Waters where it joins the unmarked Great River Walk (Nepean Loop); another unopened track.

Kiama – Gerringong – Gerroa – Coastal Access: Walkers following the spectacular coastline from Kiama south will find tracks, stairs, a stile etc. from Kiama along to Easts Beach and on to Kiama Heights to the next bay then you have to contend with barbed wire and electric fences etc. Recent complaints from walkers to Kiama Municipal Council have been sent the following information: - Council and the State Government are negotiating with the numerous landholders on the cliff top to resume part of their land for a walking track to run along the coast to Gerroa at the northern end of Seven Mile Beach NP. The golf course north of Red Cliff runs right to the cliff edge and is a major obstacle/hazard to coast walkers (not shown on Gerroa 1:25,000 map). South of Gerringong Harbour there is public access to Walkers Beach. Council is seeking our support for their walking track proposal, which I endorse.

Horseshoe Falls: Following the discovery of a short overgrown track above Victoria Falls some years ago by the Sutherland Bushwalkers, Jim Smith and I recently found the track had been cleared some time ago and after a very careful search identified the missing Horseshoe Falls above Silver Falls, which is above Victoria Falls. Jim issued a press release in November, 2003, but local historians were not convinced but have yet to disprove Jim's and my identification of the Horseshoe Falls. Stand by for another Jim Smith press release this time on Arethusa Falls – this will really stir the possums.



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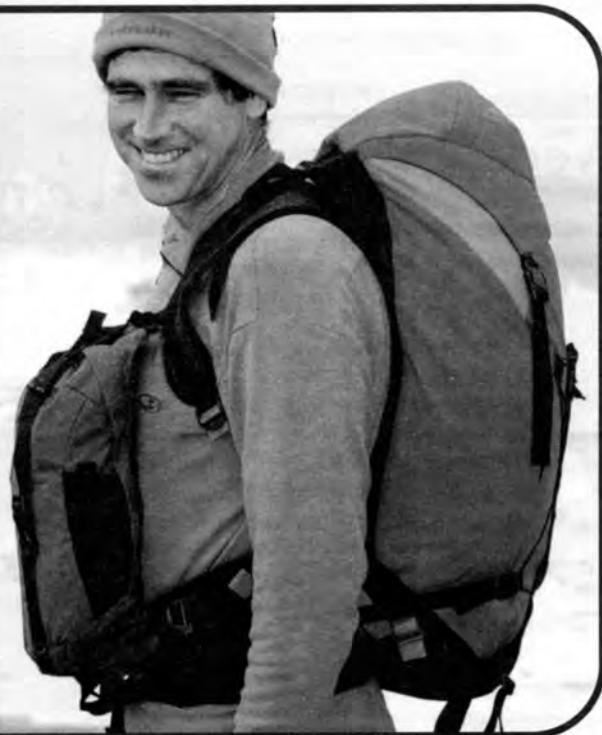
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Continued from page 8

hotel and were accommodated in very decent quarters by a boniface, who left no doubts as to his "E. Pluribus Unum" country of origin. Rising early before the appointed hour for breakfast, a hasty survey of the principal streets were made and apart from a certain air of respectability, Moss Vale might be Mittagong, Tenterfield or some such country town. After breakfast the car for Nowra left promptly at 9a.m., and after passing through some very picturesque farming scenes we reached our starting point, from a walking view point 10 miles out vis Yarunga (Fitzroy Falls) at 9.30 a.m. our friends in the Mail Car, one elderly gentlemen felt constrained to put us on the spiritual "straight and narrow" path by forcing into my hand a tract. With a few short "adieu's" the Car speed off and our party of two were left - alone. The view of the Kangaroo Valley from the Fitzroy Falls need not be elaborated upon here. The Challis House authorities have already made that beauty spot deservedly famous. A brisk walk of some few miles and from a turn off on the road an excellent view of the Kangaroo Valley, - studded with farms at the foot of the hills which rise very abruptly, - is possible. The winding road takes us several miles before our destination, for the time-being, was reached. The 'Commercial' Hotel at Kangaroo Valley is 11½ miles distant from the township of Yarunga.

Kangaroo Valley is a cluster of shops and cottages having no outward visible signs of life save a few vehicles and horses straying through the main, and only thoroughfare. The nearby district, however, looks very prosperous and no doubt the town is a thriving one. The Hampden Bridge spanning the Kangaroo River just at the entrance to the town is a feature of the district and certainly a well designed structure.

DAY WALKS TASMANIA -

41 walks, 192 pages, full colour with colour topographic maps as before. 118 colour photographs so its well illustrated. They are day walks all over the state. More details are on my web site about the book - price is RRP \$34.95. While most walks are naturally known we have managed to make circuits out of some walks with interesting returns instead of the one way walk that the track is. There are still a number of return walks though as in Tasmania there are many tracks that are simply that - one way tracks - they are not very good at designing circuits for day walks down there. There are some small design improvements over Bushwalking In Australia RRP \$34.95 self published. To order go to www.john.chapman.name

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Walking near Mt Howitt, Vic. Photo: Darren Davis



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