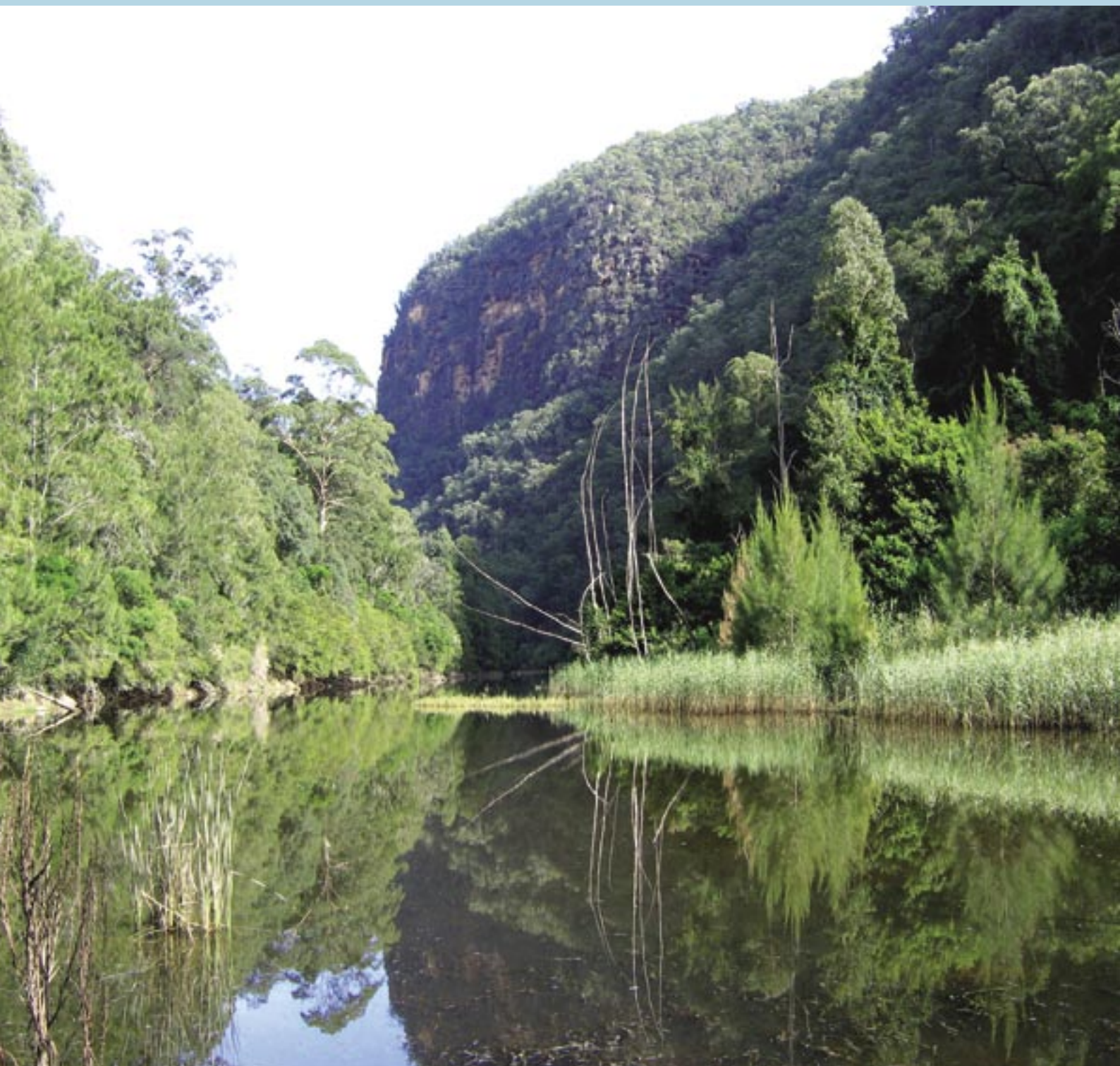


The Bushwalker

The official publication of the
Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW
Volume 30 Issue 3 : Autumn 2005



The Colo River, Wollemi National Park

Index

Photo Competition	2
Letter from Queensland	3
Fickle Weather	5
Engineers Track Infrastructure Committee (ETHIC)	6
NPWS Budawangs Walking and Camping Strategy	8

The Serpentine River	9
Warrambungle National Park	10
Notes from the Confederation	10
Review - Day Walks Melbourne	11
Wild Dog Mountains	12
The Final Stride	13
Gear for Sale	14

The Bushwalker 'Where Am I' Competition



Picture 5



Picture 6



Picture 7



Picture 8

The 'Where Am I' Photo Competition

- Each Issue has four photos taken somewhere in NSW in places where bushwalkers go. These will NOT be obscure places.
- You have to identify the place **and** roughly where the photographer was standing for any ONE of the pictures.
- Send your answers (up to four) to the editor@bushwalking.org.au as quickly as possible.
- Usually, only one prize per person will be awarded in each issue of The Bushwalker.

Deadline for entries

The Editor will start allocating prizes about four weeks after the issue date for the magazine, but this will be extended if there are no correct entries for a photo. If there are multiple really correct entries for a photo, one will be picked out of a hat.

Entry requirements

Just saying something like 'Blue Gum Forest' would not be enough. However, something like 'Blue Gum Forest from the start of the descent down DuFaurs Buttress' would qualify. In short, provide enough information that someone else could navigate to that spot and take a close approximation to the photo. Of course, if you want to give a map name and grid reference, that would be fine too.

The prizes?

Three companies well-known to us all have donated cash vouchers

redeemable in their stores. The **Paddy Pallin** group has donated two \$50 vouchers, **Mountain Equipment** has donated one \$100 voucher and their allied store **Trek & Travel** has donated one \$100 voucher.

Any **financial** member of an affiliated Bushwalking Club, can enter. So you must also include the name of the Club to which you belong as well. We may check with your Club membership secretary, so make sure you are financial!

The Editor's decision is final. After all, he took the photos. This does mean that some areas of NSW may not appear in the competition for a while. My apologies to Clubs in those areas.

Results from last issue

Photo 1: Boorong Crag from the edge of Mt Hay
Identified by Brian Corlis, NPA, CMW & Bush Club

Photo 2: still unidentified!

(Several attempts have been made, but none were close enough.)

Photo 3: Junction between Colo and Wollemi Rivers from
Crawfords Lookout

First identified by James Bevan, SUBW President

Photo 4: still unidentified!

Remarkable, considering how distinctive it is.)

So you can still lodge entries for these pictures too.

The Bushwalker

Welcome to the second issue of the new colour version of The Bushwalker, the magazine of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW. The first issue was well received, although I have to admit the learning curve was still in evidence. The colours were too dark: the difference between screen and print. Hopefully, this edition will be better.

The Bushwalker is published quarterly to provide information to member Clubs and Club members. This will include Confederation activities, Club activities, and member activities. Relevant advertising will be accepted.

Clubs and members are encouraged to submit articles. There is a strong preference for articles with good pictures. We will also accept articles from outside bodies where the articles seem relevant to members. Articles may be edited for length and content to help fit into our page limit. Really long ones may not fit - sorry about that. Contributions should be sent to editor@bushwalking.org.au

Please note that opinions expressed by authors do not always represent the official opinions of the Confederation or any of the Clubs. The Editor's opinions don't represent anyone at all.

The Confederation

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents approximately 65 Clubs with a total membership of about 10,000 bushwalkers. Formed in 1932, the Confederation provides a united voice on behalf of all bushwalkers on conservation, access and other issues. It runs training courses for members, helps to provide a free wilderness search and rescue organisation, and helps runs bush navigation competitions.

People interested in joining a bushwalking club may write to the Confederation Administration (below) for a list of Clubs, but a more up-to-date version can be found on the Confederation website at www.bushwalking.org.au, broken up into areas.

Correspondence, advertising, etc

Correspondence may be sent to the editor (email above) or to the Confederation Administration Officer at admin@bushwalking.org.au or to PO Box 2090, GPO, Sydney 2001.

Confederation Officers

Margaret Covi, president@bushwalking.org.au

Other officers may be found on the Confederation web site at www.bushwalking.org.au



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Send your name and address and cheque or money order to Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW, PO Box 2090, GPO Sydney 2001. Make the cheque or money order payable to the Confederation as well.

Also please indicate if you are a member of a bushwalking club, and if not whether you would like a copy of the list of our clubs. You do have to be a member of one of our clubs to enter the Where Am I Competition.

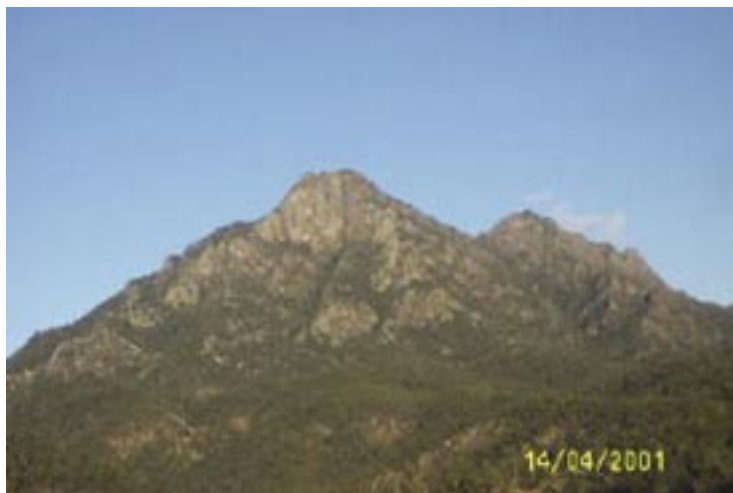
A LETTER FROM BRISBANE

BARNEY REVISITED

Alex Tucker NPAQ

Mount Barney is an isolated mighty mountain, the third highest in Queensland at 1354 metres, and probably as close to wilderness as anywhere in that state. There are five other named high points on the massif. Ref 1 gives brief descriptions of 16 walks with the possibility that more will be discovered. There are 5 other peaks in the Mt Barney NP and Mt Lindesay is just across the Border.

The core of Mt Barney is a volcanic intrusion of a medium grained rock called granophyre which was originally created as the Australian crustal plate drifted over a hot spot in the earth's mantle, about 24 million years ago. The most likely volcanic centre is Focal Peak about 7 km west of Barney, which finally blew its top. The summit is now only about 1000 metres. The subsequent eruption of the Tweed volcano centred on Mt Warning may have resulted in Mt Barney's core being forced up to 2000 metres, dragging up the surrounding rocks. (References 1 & 2)



Barney - east face

Aborigines may have once climbed Barney, but later on it was taboo because of a legendary story of an aging chief attempting to murder his nephew and being himself murdered.

The first recorded ascent by a European was in 1828 by Captain Patrick Logan, Commandant of the Brisbane River Penal Settlement on the route now called Logans Ridge. He was accompanied by Allan Cunningham and the Colonial Botanist Charles Fraser, but they turned back. The previous year Cunningham had led a party from Scone to the Darling Downs, a journey of 1 200 Km in 13 weeks. He had climbed to Spicers Gap and identified it as a possible route to Brisbane before returning to Scone by a different route. Allan Cunningham found Logans Ridge was too hard and I have been told that Fraser's diary confirms this. However, after revictualing at Limestone (now Ipswich) Allan Cunningham went on to discover the gap now named for him.

Reference 3 refers to explorations in the 1920s to find easier routes to the Barney summit. About 1970 these resulted in the discovery of the south ridge which was nicknamed Peasants Ridge. "Easy" is a relative term on Barney!

Reference 4 mentions explorations by three NPAQ parties in 1937 at the request of the Queensland Government. The party that made the Courier Mail headlines comprised 14 men and 'three girls', and they 'scaled over ice encrusted ridges' to reach the summit. NPAQ was established in 1930. The Mt Barney National Park was not proclaimed until 1947!

Some time in the 70s an NPA NSW party of three did Lamington and Barney before slumming it in a caravan on Bribie Island. Margery and I climbed the Peasants Ridge while Peter, our fearless Leader, did Logans. I can't recall any of the details of our climb which suggests that we may not have had any and that the weather was kind. Of course we did not carry full survival gear in our day packs. We were back in camp (I guess at Yellow Pinch) by mid afternoon and Peter returned a couple of hours later. I do remember that Mt Maroon was a perfect pyramid when viewed from the East Summit. That peak is some 4 metres lower than the West but has more extensive views. I now know that Maroon looks quite different from other directions.



Mt Maroon

Things have changed over the years, but even in 1991 the authors of Ref 3 were complaining of the damage done by inexperienced or careless bushwalkers, and described the discovery of the Peasants Ridge as a major disaster. There were the usual stories of parties descending in mid afternoon meeting ill equipped people only one third up, and of great damage to undergrowth cut down to make shelters for the night or burnt to keep warm. Today the greatest management problems are the walkers who become lost, benighted or injured, and the lack of funding for track maintenance. Although the Peasants Ridge route is shown approximately on the 1:25 000 Mt Lindesay map, it has been found necessary to define it by red triangles in the interest of controlling erosion resulting from proliferation of foot pads (Photo 2). No other routes either to the two main peaks or the subsidiary peaks are mapped.

Camping at the Yellow Pinch car park is no longer permitted, although this seems to have occurred after the map was revised. There are 3 walk-in campsites, each with a maximum capacity of 12 walkers, about 2-3 km along the Cronan Creek fire trail (Nos 9 & 10 on the Mt Barney NP Guide and a relocated No 8) and two on the saddle (Nos 6 & 7)

between the East and West Peaks, with a total capacity of 18. However these latter sites are closed for all of December and January to allow some regeneration. Booking and contact information is given at the end of this letter.

The Ranger's Office is in a disused school in the village of Coulston about 7 km from Boonah on the Ipswich Road. I failed to see the NPWS sign but the office was not staffed that day - not an unusual happening. Thanks to the Information Centre in Boonah I got all the available bushwalking pamphlets. Their stock also includes information for other NPs in Southern Queensland and Northern NSW but not, I think, the 1:25 000 maps. Similar information is available in Rathdowney but that centre does not open every day.

As befits a lone (but not lonely) walker I did only a part of two "Easy" walks (Class 4 AS 2156-1). One was the Cronan Creek fire trail. Immediately you leave the Yellow Pinch car park you climb 500 metres on a steep badly eroded trail. As usual the return descent has a high risk of ankle damage from loose stones. After that everything is easy until at about 3 km you reach the start of the Peasants Ridge route. The published times for easy walks equates to about 2 kph. I only did about half that rate. Total time for the Peasants Ridge and to most other peaks is 8 to 10 hours. Logans Ridge may require 10 to 12 hours (6 hours up). There is no convenient camp site other than at the Mt Barney Lodge about 1 km from Yellow Pinch. Camping fees there are higher than for the walk-in sites in the NP, but the Lodge has toilets and showers. The Lodge also has two huts which are similar to high-class small Youth Hostels of the traditional type. No catering or provisions are available for campers but catering can be arranged for renters of the huts and the two larger buildings if ordered when booking.



Mt Lindsay

It is possible to do Mt Barney as a day trip but this probably means leaving Brisbane by 4 am to reach Yellow Pinch about Piccaninny Daylight. As there is no daylight saving in Qld doing Logans Ridge could mean a torch-light return to the cars. For all routes other than Peasants Ridge you should contact the Ranger by phone or email (preferable) for precise directions. Reference 1 dates from 1991 and route details may not now be accurate. Reference 4 gives a route up the South East Ridge and return down the Peasants presumably to avoid the effects of the "crowd" on the latter

but the authors last reviewed this route in 1997. Details like that confirm to me their bushwalking credentials

My second Class 4 walk was on the Lower Portals Track. It seems that the Mt Lindesay map shows the original route which traversed private property. The route within the NP is obvious as far as I went, but as it crosses the grain of the base of the mountain and the lack of maintenance funding is obvious. I was about half way to the Portals when I decided the descent across a badly eroded gully (the worst as yet) was not worth the risk for me.

Mt Maroon is on the adjoining 1:25 000 map of that name. The Mt Barney Park Guide says "The Cotswold track (class 5) has been cut by a large rock fall on the north east ridge and this section is now identified as unsafe. Penalties apply if walkers enter the closed area. A short detour takes you around the fall. Contact the Ranger for details

It is possible to do a circular drive of about 300 km from and to Rathdowney in about 4 hours and that includes quite a bit of dirt roads. However, all the views are either in Qld or, for Mt Lindesay, from it. In NSW you can't clearly see the mountains for the forests. The peaks of the Main Range NP can be more easily seen by short side trips from the Cunningham Highway to Maroon or Moogerah dams.

The web site of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness gives details on their 1991 nomination of Mt Lindsay and Mt Barney under the NSW Wilderness Act. I guess that the NPWS NSW have not proceeded with an Assessment because there is no comparable legislation in Queensland

For interstate bushwalkers Mt Barney deserves very much more than a day trip or a circular drive.

REFERENCES

- 1) Rocks and Landscapes of the Gold Coast Hinterland. Expanded 2nd Edition, 1992, Warwick Willmont, Geological Society of Australia, Queensland Division. \$9 inc postage.
The Author often leads Geological Walks in the Brisbane Forest Park. Contact details below.
- 2) Rocks and Landscape Notes Mount Barney – Mt Ballow.
One of a series of groups of A4 sheets published by the above Society.
- 3) Bush Peoples Guide To Bushwalking In SE Queensland.
2nd Edition, 1991, Chapter 13.
- 4) Take A Walk In Queensland National Parks Southern Zone.
John and Lyn Daly, 1998, Published by NPAQ.
- 5) Mt Barney NP Guide. Coloured pocket size brochure issued by Environmental Protection Agency, July 2004.
- 6) Sunmap Topographic Maps: MT LINDESAY 1:25k 2003, MAROON 1:25k
- 7) WOODENBONG 1:50k Royal Australian Survey Corps 1990, MT LINDESAY 1:100k, NATMAP 1967.

I will seek to have these documents and this letter lodged in NPA Library Level 9, 91 York St, SYDNEY.

OTHER BOOKS

- a) Rocks and Landscapes of the National Parks of Southern Queensland, Geological Society of Australia Inc, Queensland Division, 2004.
- b) Rocks and Landscapes ---- series for other Regional areas in Northern NSW and Queensland.

CONTACTS

* The Ranger, Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service, 3522 Ipswich - Boonah Road,
Coulson QLD 4310, ph (07) 5463 5041, fx (07) 5463 5042, email >>>

Fickle Weather!

Monica Chapman

Having been bushwalking for some years now, you might think there are no surprises left in our wanderings. However, despite the planning and preparations that go into each extended trip, the unpredictability of the weather creates its own challenges.

A few years ago John and I headed down to south-west Tasmania to walk the Western Arthur Range. We were there in early December. Typically, the best weather is during late summer, and spring to early summer is more likely to be windy with occasional storms. However, sometimes work is such that you can't have time off when the weather is (supposedly) at its best, so you make do.



South West Tasmania

We flew over and hopped on the bus to Scotts Peak. I'd packed an extra thermal and two additional day's rations in case things got a bit blowy and we needed to stay put for an extra day or so. We walked Junction Creek in sunshine, then up onto the range to camp at Lake Cygnus, still under clear skies. The next day was overcast and just as we were approaching the descent gully into Lake Oberon it started to drizzle. As we down climbed the top of the gully it rained heavily. On a previous trip a few years earlier, I'd remembered this to be fairly easy and I blamed the rain for my anxiousness at the time. It rained for only two hours before the skies started to clear. That evening I remembered why the small cliff was easier on the previous visit. It was not the rain, or the fact of being a few years older, or that I was

boonah@epa.qld.gov.au

Bush Campers in Mt Barney NP other than at Lower Portals are required to contact the Ranger 3 to 6 weeks in advance and complete an Application to Camp which will be posted, faxed or emailed to you. There is a camping fee. Unauthorised camping anywhere in the NP attracts a heavy penalty.

Camp Sites at the Lower Portals of Mt Barney Creek and in other NPs can be pre-booked through the Smart Service Queensland Integrated Contact Centre, phone 13 13 04, or www.qld.gov.au/camping but six to eight weeks notice is needed for public holidays and long weekends.

* Mt Barney Lodge Country Retreat, ms 768, Rathdowney QLD 4287. Managers Innes and Tracey Larkin, ph/fx (07) 5544 3233, email mtbarneylodge@bigpond.com, www.mtbarneylodge.com.au

* Warwick Willmont, Divisional Booksales, Geological Society of Australia, Queensland Division, c/o 179 Victoria Ave, Chelmer, QLD 4068 ph (07) 3379 6485, email willmont@powerup.com.au

still carrying eleven day's food and was lacking fitness. It was simply that last time John had carried down my pack!

During the remainder of the trip we had glorious weather. Blue skies and sunshine greeted us each day. We had to take care not to get sunburnt or heat stressed. John and I managed to walk every side trip, climbing all accessible peaks (and a couple of more difficult ones). It was a great 12-day trip with unseasonably good weather. Not really what I had expected, but I carried sufficient (just) sunscreen to last the trip.



Larapinta Trail

On the flip side John and I had a totally reversed experience on a trip to Alice Springs last June. We intended to walk the Larapinta Track starting from Red Bank Gorge with a friend from Victoria and one from New York. We had been in touch with one of the rangers prior to our 18-day trip and he had suggested that we could leave some of our "heavy-duty" southern walking gear at home. We were told that tents and rain jackets were not needed in central Australia.

It was cloudy the day we met at the airport. Drizzle started as we approached Red Bank Gorge and rain came down heavily before nightfall. All this dampness prompted ground-dwelling frogs to emerge during dinner. They hopped happily about the soggy ground in the tent vestibule and one managed to find a cosy, dry spot atop a sleeping bag! Next day it drizzled some more as we climbed Mt Sonder. The views from its summit were spectacular (or so we were led to believe by many entries in the log book!). All that greeted us was the breezy inside of a cloud.

Again it rained heavily again at night and the humidity was high the next day when the sun did eventually break through in the morning. There were sensational views looking back to Mt Sonder as the cloud and mist evaporated. We suspected we were the last group to be dropped at the start as we'd been told that heavy rainfall closes the road, which then remains closed for three days after the rain stops.

Again rain greeted us in the morning and the wind had sprung up. It was more the sort of weather we'd expect in Tasmania than the dry, dusty heart of central Australia. However, the waterfalls cascading down the side of the ridges were wonderful. We experienced a vastly different aspect of this arid landscape.

>>>>>

Engineers Track Heritage Infrastructure Committee Inc (ETHIC)

The Engineers Track was constructed by the Royal Engineers in 1858 - 59 and stretches from Yarramundi near the Nepean River, up the length of the Grose Valley to the Darling Causeway. The total length is 61 kilometres. The Track was constructed as an access track for a proposed western rail line across the Blue Mountains

The objects of ETHIC are to:

* carry out a survey of relevant sections of the Engineers Track to document its condition.



ETHIC Committee, surveying the Track (they say!)

* adopt a strategy to ensure that the fabric of constructed works, and significant identifiable items of the Engineers Track are preserved and maintained

* in consultation with NPWS, undertake or commission repair work to damaged stone walls and remove dead plant material, common plant species and fallen rock. >>>>

=====

The rest of the trip to Stanley Chasm was overcast with frequent light showers. There were fresh waterholes to circumnavigate, flooded streams to cross and rivers to negotiate. The morning after we arrived at Stanley Chasm it poured.

The Alice Springs papers were filled with stories about the weather. One headline that stayed in my mind was "The day the rains came..... and stayed". During the days we were out walking, Alice Springs had recorded its lowest daytime temperature, a cool 12°C and its longest period of consecutive days of rainfall. We'd been out for 13 days expecting to endure the heat, but this could not have been further from reality.

We were certainly glad to have ignored the ranger's advice taking tent, rain jacket and fleece as otherwise we would have had to abandon the trip much earlier.

So, no matter where you walk or when, or how experienced you might be, the weather is an unpredictable force. Always go well prepared for expected conditions, but make sure your gear will cope with the unexpected conditions that can and do occur.

[No, I have NOT got the pictures reversed! You can see Feder in the first pic. Ed.]

* use subtle marking to identify places where the Track has collapsed or removed altogether by flood

* develop a web site with comprehensive information about the Track, how to access the Track and how to appreciate the feat of engineering involved

ETHIC will be working closely with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the implementation of its objectives.

Membership of the Association is available to interested supporters, bushwalkers, historians, and members of the public. The cost is \$2.00. Information is available from the Secretary, Michael Keats on line at mjmkeats@easy.com.au, or by writing to the Secretary c/- 33 Livingstone Avenue, Pymble, NSW 2073.

Update

Application has been made to have the Engineers Track designated as an item of Heritage Significance under the NPWS Conservation Management Plan for the Blue Mountains Walking Tracks of Heritage Significance. A decision on the granting of Heritage Status would be known soon. It is believed that it will be approved.



The Engineers Track, Devils Wilderness

More than 7 years work relevant to the ETHIC project has been carried out by Jim Smith and others. Factors that were relevant to ETHIC include the meeting with NPWS following a submission to the Premier; the development of a series of walks in the Lower Grose by Michael Keats; the advice and encouragement by NPWS to form a body to receive Commonwealth Grants and the development of a web page to promote and advise activity of ETHIC in regard to the Engineers Track.

The original field note books of the whole survey are still available. They are very detailed and include cross sections and offsets. It is intended to have sections of the field books digitised and included as part of the ETHIC Web Site.

Activity Program:

* advice to the NPWS as to which section of the Track should have priority for survey assessment (Devils Wilderness to Wentworth Cave)

* the second priority should be the section from the Darling Causeway for about 3 kilometres east (there is a legal access issue involved here)

* approval to remove dead vegetation generally from the Track

* approval for removal of talus material impeding Track drainage

Any works carried out by ETHIC will be consistent with the requirements of the relevant Acts - NPWS, Heritage and Wilderness. Any conflict between the Acts would be resolved by NPWS.

Members: D. Dash (Chairman), W. Dash, M. Pickles, M. Keats, B. Hanlon, J. Morris, J. Barrett, P. Prentice, W. Hilder, J. Smith and A. Macqueen

Public Officer: T. Woodhouse, NPWS Ranger

[Summarised from ETHIC Minutes of 7-Jan-2005 and a publicity release by ETHIC - Ed.]

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NPWS - Budawangs

Walking and Camping Strategy

The Budawangs is one of the most popular bushwalking destinations in the country. Each year an estimated 16,000 walkers visit the central sections of the Budawangs and a further 20,000 walk to Pigeon House Mountain.

“The number of walkers present at any one time during peak periods is currently around 450 within the wilderness area. A further 400 people climb Pigeon House Mountain on a peak day and 200 visit the Little Forest Plateau area” said NPWS South Coast Regional Manager, Diane Garrood. “As a result there are a growing number of issues such as erosion, the progressive expansion of campsites, the creation of new tracks and clearings, damage to threatened plant populations and Aboriginal heritage and the gradual loss of the wilderness experience because of the rapid growth in visitor numbers.”



Descent into Monolith Valley in the 1970s.

Note the lack of head-high scrub compared to today.

“But unfortunately the sheer weight of numbers and the likelihood this will increase means we now have to carefully consider what needs to be done to protect those values which people come to enjoy. This was forecast in the Morton National Park Plan of Management and we began lengthy discussions with individuals, groups and the local NPWS Advisory Committee to help develop the draft Bushwalking and Camping Strategy.”

“This draft strategy takes a sensible approach to managing wilderness and acknowledges that because of increased demand this wilderness area may need to be more intensively managed. It identifies the main walking routes and classifies tracks in accordance with Australian standards. It considers how tracks should be managed in the future and sets out guidelines to address erosion and track proliferation problems. It seeks to manage bushwalking and camping in a way that will continue to maximise the wilderness experience for bushwalkers while minimising environmental damage. I urge anyone with an interest in the future of the Budawangs to take time to view the plan and send us comments before 29 July 2005,” Ms Garrood said.

So, after consultation with key interest groups the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has completed a draft bushwalking and camping strategy for the northern Budawang Range in Morton National Park and is now seeking comments from the broader community. Highlights from the draft include the following proposals.

- It continues the existing ban on camping and wood fires in Monolith Valley, Hidden Valley, the Castle Saddle, the Vines and along the Two Rivers track within wilderness.

- It prohibits camping in rock overhangs except for a number of listed sites.
- It bans wood fires in all caves and overhangs.
- Maximum tent numbers and a fuel stove only requirement are imposed in five popular camp sites that are suffering significant damage.
- Toilets of minimal construction are proposed to address pollution.
- Walkers will be required to keep to designated tracks and camping areas in the former artillery impact area.
- Walkers will be encouraged to keep group sizes small, to a recommended maximum of 8 and an absolute maximum of 12.
- A permit system is proposed for popular routes at peak times.
- Minor track works such as relocation, water diversion or hardening will continue to be undertaken where necessary to prevent erosion and track braiding.

Appropriate information will be provided to walkers about values, track conditions, restrictions and minimal impact practices and private publications will be encouraged to provide similar information. A monitoring program will be introduced to test the success of the Strategy. The full Strategy document is available on the NPWS website at www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au, and has been placed on public exhibition for a period of four months. Comments are being sought from the bushwalking community.

If you would like to have an NPWS staff member address a meeting of your club regarding the draft Strategy, please contact Senior Ranger Allan Norman on (02) 4454 9500 or allan.norman@environment.nsw.gov.

(extracted from NPWS media releases - Ed.)

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The Serpentine River

Colin Wood

Prologue. I have tried on two other occasions to get to the junction of Barwick and Serpentine; this was the third.



This walk was not for the faint hearted, it was both very strenuous and challenging for the body and map reading skills. It started at the lower car park at Yaraandoo and straight away we plunged into the scrub and walked down to the “wetlands” area near the pumping station on Bullock creek. Then downstream on Bullock creek to the junction of Bullock and Serpentine rivers.

Someone commented on the fact that river walking has a very sad truism that “the other side of the river always looks the easiest”. Well, we were to find out that neither side is easy. This short “walk” to the junction was about 1km but took about 1 hour.

We continued along the Serpentine, crossing the river a couple of times thinking that “the other side of the river always looks the easiest”. Sometimes the going was almost easy crossing flat basalt and granite rock. We continued for about 2 - 3 hours occasionally having to go up over ridges but keeping as close to the river as possible.

The scenery was awe-inspiring with many rapids, small gorges and waterfalls. We stopped for lunch at a spot that was truly beautiful, near huge granite rocks with a waterfall going into a small gorge.

As it was about 12.15 we decided that instead of trying to get to our destination of the junction of Serpentine and Barwick (on the map this is called Back creek) we would get

away from the river and go north west and try to cut an old logging track. After checking our map and getting a good bearing we headed off up a very steep climb through scrub and rocks until we got to a high point. Then we then took another compass bearing and after about ½ an hour we cut the logging track and followed this for about 3 km. We were at this point about 1km downstream from the Trout hatchery on the Serpentine river.

We decided we would follow the river downstream back to Yaraandoo. After some heavy going through tea-tree scrub we heard a waterfall, and came out at the top of a waterfall of at least 30-40 metres. This waterfall is not named on the map and most likely very few people have ever seen it.



After crossing the river again we followed the river for a time, went cross country approx north-west till we cut the power lines that run past Yaraandoo, and followed these back to Yaraandoo for a very welcome coffee and smoothies and to lick our many cuts, bruises and scratches. I suppose we covered no more than 10k on our 6.5 hour walk

Epilogue. Well I still haven't made it to the junction of Serpentine and Barwick. Maybe next time I won't try following the river, just go cross country straight to the junction, but this might be too easy!

Photos and article by Colin Wood. This article was erroneously ascribed to another author in the print edition: our sincere apologies - Ed.



**Winter is coming! Trip reports and pictures wanted.
Camped near Kosciusko: the brewing storm hit that night.**

Warrumbungle National Park

12-13 March 2005

We met up at Westdale at 6.30 am on Saturday and drove in a convoy to Coonabarabran and then into the national park. After setting up our accommodation at Camp Blackman and doing the tourist thing at the information centre we set out to conquer the Breadknife and Grand High Tops Walk.

The brochures warn that this is a long, steep walk and one should expect to take 5 – 7 hours. We found the brochure to be correct on all points! The camp custodians have taken sensible action to preserve the area and we followed recently-laid brick paths for considerable lengths. When the going got steep we climbed the steel steps which have been installed for the convenience of the 20,000 visitors each year and for the well-being of the environment. The scenery was spectacular and well worth the effort. The most common trees were the black cypress pine and the narrow-leaved ironbarks. The stark volcanic rock formations are a wonder to see. After pausing at the top we walked past Bluff Mountain and returned to the starting point via the West Spirey Creek. We spotted the odd koala and inspected the varied plant life. The total length of the walk was 14.5 km.

We (re)learned one lesson in bushwalking: take plenty water, especially on a hot day. Most of us had about 1.5 litres and all of us ran dry and finished the walk with parched mouths.

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Departure Date: ex Sydney Oct/Nov 2005
Grade: Moderate/Strenuous
Group Size: Small Personalised Group
Cost: Ex Kathmandu: \$3500

This Tibetan journey is staggering for its scenery and wilderness as these trails are not frequently visited by Westerners. Some companies drive or fly straight onto the Tibetan Plateau, but trekking in gives plenty of time to acclimatize before we move on up to Everest Base Camp North. This vast plateau, endless mountains and beautiful turquoise lakes will take your breath away. The journey is punctuated by visits to major towns and monasteries and the two highlights - **Everest Base Camp North and Lhasa**. We take a last look at Tibet before flying to Kathmandu. This is an experience to behold, a mystical destination that will remain in your mind forever.

lyntaylor51@aol.com, www.tayloradventure.com
0418 917 342, 02 9997 7442

Lyn Taylor is a 12 year veteran of trekking in Nepal and Tibet. Lyn is the Australian representative of the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG) and is involved with a number of other organizations in Nepal in a voluntary capacity.

We shared an enjoyable meal on Saturday night after enjoying a long hot shower in the very adequate facilities at the camp. The kangaroos also enjoyed our visits and they tried to prise open the saucepans outside the tents in the middle of the night as their natural water courses are currently very dry.

Sunday saw us circumnavigate and conquer Beloungery Split Rock (771m). Once again the grade was steep and the final ascent to the top of rock was made with the aid of a chain guide. From the top we had an eagle's eye view of the cleared central area of the park and distant views up to the Grand High Tops.

Members present were Cheryl, Andrew, Neta, Alison and Laurie. Michael was our intrepid leader.

Notes from the Confederation

St John's Ambulance Senior First Aid Course

28th/29th May 2005

BWRS will be running another discounted first aid course over the weekend of 28th - 29th May - only \$100. Venue is close to Dulwich Hill railway station. To register forward your cheque for the full amount of \$100 to BWRS Secretary, P.O. Box 22, Canterbury 2193. Cheques made out to St John's Ambulance.

Full details and Online Registration available on the BWRS website: www.bwrs.org.au.

BWRS: Map Sale - Still On !

Don't miss the map sale of 1:25,000 maps. See the BWRS website <http://www.bwrs.org.au/mapsale/index.html> for sales details

EPIRBs - Important changes to Cospas-Sarsat Satellites - February 2009

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (www.amsa.gov.au/beacons) states that from February 2009 the Analogue 121.5 MHz distress beacons will no longer be detected by the Cospas-Sarsat satellite system. Only the Digital 406 MHz distress beacon will be detected - these are more accurate, are detected more quickly and identify their owner.

Access via Locked Gates to Yarramunmun and Money Gum Fire Trails, Morton National Park

From Shoalhaven Bushwalkers:

At a recent Club Committee Meeting, we developed an approach which will allow other bushwalking clubs (provided they are affiliated with the Confederation) to have access via the locked gates to the Yarramunmun and Monkey Gum fire trails, while still satisfying Shoalhaven City Council's strict rules for access.

A Sydney-based club can schedule a walk by asking us to add it to our program. We would do so, promulgate it and have at least one of our club members participate. He/she would have the key to the padlocks on the access gates and would complete the mandatory Council report following the activity. We would always need at least three months prior notice to ensure the walk was listed in our quarterly

Continued on page 14

Book Review

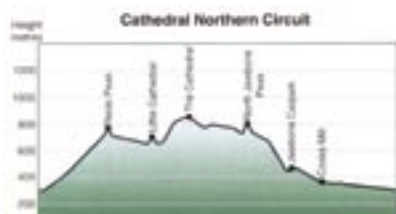
Day Walks Melbourne

John Chapman, Monica Chapman & John Siseman

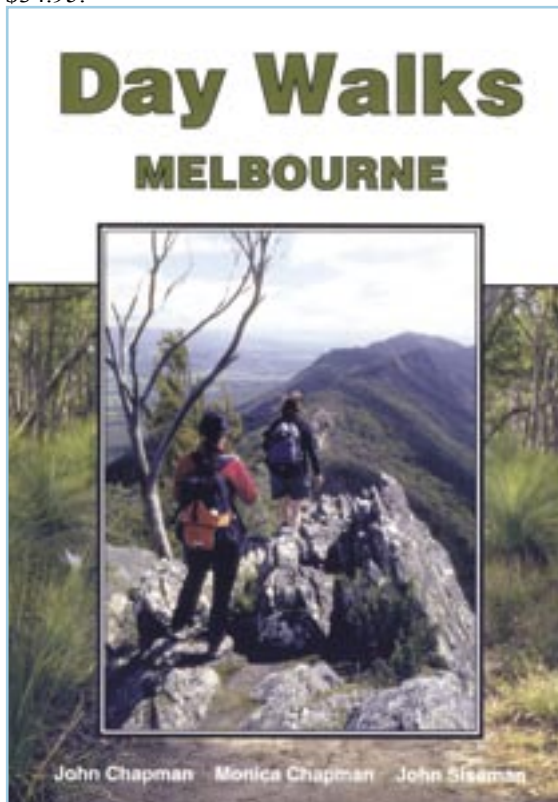
192 pages, colour, A5 size, paperback, ISBN 0 9596129 9 8

Published by John Chapman 2005, available from him at PO Box 36, Kew East, Vic 3102, with an RRP of \$34.95.

This is a nicely laid-out little guide book for easy to medium day walks. It covers quite a range of places around Melbourne: the Surf Coast, Geelong, the Goldfields, Melbourne itself, the Dandenongs, Kinglake, Yarra Ranges, Lake Eildon, Gembrook/Powelltown and Mornington/Westernport. All up there are 41 walks, although if you count all the variations John reckons this gets up to 94. Clearly, this book could keep you going for some time.



For each walk you get detailed track notes by the km, a small topo map of the walk with 25 m or 50 m contours, and a profile chart of height lost and gained. Some of the beach walks look very flat!



There is a section on access: how to get there, for each walk, often using the Melways street directory as a reference. Oh, of course, there are excellent pictures accompanying each walk as well.

Most of the walks are fairly easy. I noticed a couple where the total height gain for the trip is about 10 metres! Yes, these were the beach walks I mentioned. Mind you, I was a bit surprised at how many bits of bushland they had found for all these walks hidden

away among 'suburbia'. On the other hand, there are few walks which are definitely a bit more rough underfoot: through Lerderderg Gorge and over the Jawbones at Cathedral Range. Hey: I used to go rock climbing around there, and some of that is steep country! Fine views too, and well illustrated.

The book itself is a paperback with a slightly glossy cover, of about A5 (half A4) size. Definitely day pack size.

The target market for this book would have to be the novice end of the market, and it caters for them very well. But even experienced walkers looking for a collection of day walks to do 'in between longer walks' would find much in here of interest. You can't look at all the photos of fine forest without wanting to visit a few of them. And there is even a good photo of a lyrebird in the wild: I've never managed to get that close with a camera in my hand.

RNC



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PHOTO: DUNCAN HENDERSON

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The Wild Dog Mountains

Michael Keats, The Bush Club

Nine walkers, happy to be wilderness exploring, set out at 0815 from the Dunphy car park (434577). After a briefing over the essentials elements of the walk and safety issues, it was down into Carlons Ck. The bellbirds tolled away knowingly and incessantly as ankles and legs were assaulted by the infamous stinging nettles. The experience of tingling pain was all the more exquisite as the heavy dew seemed to wash the business end of each sting deeper into the flesh. It was also one of the last humid days of summer 2004-5, and dehydration was going to be an issue.

Breakfast Ck was heard before it was seen. It has been a very long time since the welcome sound of running water has been heard in Breakfast Ck. The 'gate without a purpose' was passed at 0930 (418556). At 0933 the first big ascent of the day was started, up Cattle Dog Ridge. The sun's rays were well into vaporising ground moisture as each member started their own 'cooling plant', with drops of water falling from eyebrows, noses and other extremities.



Conglomerate cliffs under Cattle Dog

150m up the ridge it was time for refreshments - morning tea stop #1. At the top of the ridge there is a spectacular cliff line of weathered Triassic conglomerate. Previously I have negotiated this from the eastern side; today we did it from the western side and what a great variation there is. The rocks have taken on wonderful ochre colours and the cliff profile gives impossible shapes. There are caves, overhangs and orphan rocks amongst the many quixotic and bizarre formations. A line between 418544 and 411541 [?

Ed] generally identifies this area. There is a pad along the base of the cliff line for about 200 m.

For the serious student of geology this is a textbook example of a geological time discontinuity. The Triassic conglomerates lie unconformably on the Ordovician granite. The pebbles in the conglomerate have been identified as Devonian by fossil evidence. But no matter what the precise geological and geomorphological details, it is a wonderful place to be.



The view from Knights Deck towards Iron Pot

At 1115 we intersected with the Blue Dog Track (415537), emerging just 3m from the identifying cairn. It is a shame leaders can't be more precise. The climb, high humidity and very warm temperature were beginning to take their toll on one member. On the way to the Knights Deck turnoff (402541) I spent time pondering the options for the safe passage of all, as well as keeping the program intact.

At 1200 there was an inspection of the possible routes down each of the 3 Knights Pups. All looked rather easy for the immediate visible sections. [It gets steeper down below! - RNC] The idea of a second morning tea was changed to an early lunch on the Deck, both to boost energy levels and to rest. Given the circumstances and various helpful suggestions, the planned exploratory route down one of the Pups was abandoned in favour of the known route down Blue Dog Spur.

1230 and it was track time again. Nature turned up the heat and humidity, making the descent an energy-sapping exercise. By 1325 we were at the junction of Breakfast Ck and the Cox, rock-hopping across the now increased expanse of rocks which form a solid 1/2 m high barrier from the end of Breakfast Ck to within 3 m of the west bank of the Cox.

Swimming - well, soaking in the cool water up to the neck anyhow, was the order of the day for all. Some went native, others went as far as they were comfortable. After 50 minutes of this cooling bliss it was gear on, packs on, and into the marathon climb up the infamous Ironmonger Spur.

Our departure was signalled by a family of six Gang-Gangs. They squawked and carried on for some time until we were past their territorial boundaries. Having determined to keep the party together, numerous stops were taken during the

ascent. These were great opportunities to talk, get to know each other, indulge in philosophical discourse and appreciate the scenery.

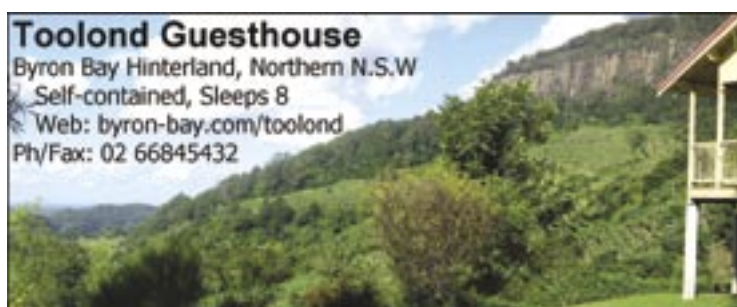


Breakfast Ck - running water!

Just below Ironmonger Hill a small red-bellied black snake lay across the track. Unlike most of his kind he did not willingly move away. We were between him and his bolthole: a hollow log. Venting his displeasure, he raised the scales on his back, elevated his head and showed an active fang. As we gave him space he retreated to his log where he continued eyeing us.

By 1610 we were at the cairn on Ironmonger Hill at 405563. The hard part of the climb was over and the junction with Iron Pot ridge was reached in 25 min at 407568. 1740 saw us back at the cars, watching the mist roll off the western side of Narrowneck to fill the valley below. Driving up the Megalong Valley road near the Shipley turnoff, we saw that the Megalong had disappeared in the mist.

1830 saw most of us in the Victory Cafe enjoying food and beverage, and most particularly enjoying the endorphins that follow a great day in the Wild Dogs.



The Final Stride

Colin Paul Gibson

At last I reached the summit cairn, but in that final stride.
I realised that tragically two faithful friends had died.
Reminded then that life is short, and death one cannot cheat,
I sorrowed for my Volley's lying shredded at my feet.
They'd crossed their final frontier; they'd made their final push
Those warriors of the wilderness, foot sloggers of the bush.
The sadness welled within me, beside that survey mast.
Wandering the memories, remembering the past:
Of hunting canyon monsters in chasms dark and deep,
They'd bashed and bruised and crashed and cruised their way down Crikey Creek,
They'd gullied Guts-a-humble, and darkest Booneroo,
They'd bowled along the Moko, and Bunggal-odoo too;
They'd suffered horrors on Bolwarra's scrub-infested spines,
And lingered longer in Kolonga's narrow intestines;
They'd crossed The Devil's Wilderness (George Caley's old domain)
And battled Barranbali – bombarded by the rain;
Had conquered high Guouogang by way of Nooroo Rocks,
And bungled Krungle Bungle on the way down to the Cox;
They's rumbled on through Mumbedah, and stumbled down the steeps
And peekabooed inside the pit wherein The Pookan sleeps;
They's crunched the broken country, expecting no rewards,
Where Wolobrai and Wollemi and Wirraba are lords;
On Mirra Ridge they'd scrambled traversed the Talabon.
They'd skirmished with The Geryon; the list goes on and on.
No matter what conditions, barren drought or damp,
Those Dunlop Volleys always took me safely to each camp.
But here I had to leave them, upon the old trig post,
Their uppers having ultimately given up the ghost;
And on that cross their soles were free, the wild horizon scanned
To Pisgah and Elysium, the long lost Promised land.
I know there gone forever now, I know that they are dead,
But always in my mind will be the memory of their tread;
For is it my imagination, or the wind that so deceives,
Whenever I hear their ghostly steps a-rustling through the leaves?

Many other poems of Colin Paul Gibson can be seen at www.greenaissance.com His work "A Wild Blue Wander" can be purchased from the publisher at turton@austarnet.com.au "

[Shades of the DV wars on aus.bushwalking! - Ed



Gear For Private Sale

If you have more gear than you need but don't want to throw it out, try selling it through The Bushwalker. For club members selling excess gear the cost of the advertisement is zero.

Descriptions should be short but complete, and the advertisers location and contact details should be given. No guarantees are offered by The Bushwalker for any of the gear: that's between the buyer and seller.

Macpac Cascade #3 pack \$100 ad1

2-compartment internal frame, 90 litre, well used, one small patch, but still going strong. Shoulder straps replaced by Macpac recently. Suit all big trips, summer and winter.

Tatonka Bushwalker pack \$100 ad1

2-compartment internal frame pack, about 70-80 litre, waterproof Cordura body, used a few times, in very good condition. Suit fairly big trips.

Trangia cooking pot 602515 \$15 ad1

1.75 litre non-stick cooking pot, in original packing, never used. RRP about \$29.50.

Fairydown sleeping bag \$200 ad1

Suit winter trips down to -20 C, good condition, high loft, centre 3/4 zip, hood, medium length.

Synthetic sleeping bag \$50 ad1

Zip right around, opens into quilt. Suit car camping or novice walker for warm conditions.

MSR Simmerlite stove \$150 ad1

Complete with MSR bag etc. Weighs about 325 g empty. Left over

from stove review, only used for review tests. Goes well.

SCARPA "Lady Trek" Leather Boots \$150 ad2

Size 37, tread as new, stitching perfect, only worn on approx. a dozen day walks - leather slightly sandstone scuffed.

For items under 'ad1' contact editor@bushwalking.org.au.

For items under 'ad2' contact admin@bushwalking.org.au

The Bushwalker reserves the right to edit or refuse any advertisements. Commercial advertisements are not accepted.

Send ads to editor@bushwalking.org.au

Notes from Confederation

Continued from page 12

program. It is a Shoalhaven City Council requirement that walks requiring key access be publicly promulgated.

Please contact Peter Dalton on:

Phone: 02 4441 8256 (all hours)

Email: info@shoalhavenbushwalkers.org.au

Website: www.shoalhavenbushwalkers.org.au

Looking for Paul Driver

If there is a reader who knows the whereabouts of Paul Driver, formally member of "Rover Ramblers" club and one time president of Federation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW, please contact Peter Rodger 103 The Avenue Armidale 2350 or email Colin Wood at turton@austarnet.com.au

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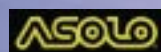
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Cameron Barrie crossing the Snowy River en route to Blue Lake.
Photo: MVP / Taryn Miller



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