

The background image is a photograph of a forest. It features numerous tall, slender, dead trees (snags) with light-colored, peeling bark, standing against a pale sky. A hiker, seen from behind, is walking away on a narrow dirt path that winds through the forest. The hiker is wearing a purple jacket and carrying a large backpack. The ground is covered with green grass and some fallen leaves.

**T  
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e**

# **Bushwalker**

**Dead Snow Gums  
Grey Mare Range, KNP**

**Volume 32  
Issue 2  
Autumn 2007**



***The same place but separated in time***



***Where and When?***

***Answer on page 11 (no peeking!)***



# <sup>T</sup><sub>h</sub><sub>e</sub> **Bushwalker**

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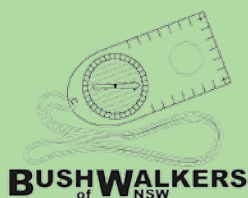
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The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc represents approximately 65 Clubs with a total membership of about 10,000 bushwalkers.

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, provides 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, or to go to the Confederation website at [www.bushwalking.org.au](http://www.bushwalking.org.au) for a list of Member Clubs.



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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.

## **From the Editor's Desk . . .**

For this issue we are continuing the tradition of having a cover photo of somewhere spectacular with a bushwalker in the picture, but the next issue may be slightly different. I will be overseas walking in France for four months when the next issue is being put together, and Barry will be looking after that issue. This is mentioned to illustrate the fact that we are still very much in need of volunteers to assist us with looking after and marketing the magazine. Yes, we still need someone with a bit of experience to help us with the advertising and marketing, both for this magazine and the nascent 'Bush Pages' on the web site. No pay, but plenty of glory! Enquiries please to [admin@bushwalking.org.au](mailto:admin@bushwalking.org.au).

For this issue I thought it might be appropriate to have a cover which reminds us of the hazard of bushfires to our National Parks. They swept across the Kosciusko National Park in 2003, and devastated the snow gums and other vegetation. We will be living with the stark reminder of the damage for many years. In fact, you can still see the dead trees from fires in the 1930s on Toolong Range for instance. However, as you can see, most of the snow gums did survive at the roots, and are starting to regrow. This was on Grey Mare Range, north of The Pinnacles.

Sadly, I have to report that fires again swept through the Park last Xmas, and in some places all that hopeful young regrowth was scorched to death. The leaves were crisped, although the dead trees remained. But our trees are tough: walking through the reburnt areas in March I saw the trees trying yet again to regrow. I hope they make it, but they are struggling. If we have too many fires over the next few years we may lose our snow gums over a huge area of Kosciusko National Park. Some parts of the farming lobby to control burn the Park every year. An idea which would be sheer, utter, wanton, even criminal, destruction.

We are still asking for good articles to print. Clubs and members are encouraged to submit relevant articles, with a very strong preference for those 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. Pictures should be sent at maximum available resolution: at least 300 dpi, preferably in their original unedited form. JPG, PDF or TIFF formats are preferred. The text should be sent if possible as a plain text file (\*.txt) rather than in a Word file (\*.doc). Please send the pictures separate from the text file; do NOT send them embedded in a Word doc file. And, of course, the Editor is always interested in receiving bushwalking books and maps for review. All enquiries should be sent to [editor@bushwalking.org.au](mailto:editor@bushwalking.org.au).

Please note that opinions expressed by authors may not represent the official opinions of the Confederation or any Club. The Editor's opinions are his own.

Roger Caffin, Editor



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# An EPIRB on the Colo

*Don Finch, SBW*



The tip of the spur where the fall happened  
The private day walk over Mt Townsend and down to the Colo River via Pass 35 on Anzac Day 2006 was progressing smoothly right up until the dead stick broke.

Pam slid down the one meter drop on to a narrow step and, pitched forward by the momentum, she tumbled through the screen of small bushes and head first down another 1.5 meters. Her scream of alarm had us looking in her direction and we watched in horror as she tumbled like a rag doll another 12 meters down a rocky slope, to fetch up and lie still against a small tree. She was lying on her back, legs slightly uphill, left arm covering her head and face which when moved showed her eyes open but vacant.

Supporting her head I became aware of two things: she was breathing and my hand was covered in blood. Her legs and arms were in their correct positions and no major blood flow was noted. When her pack was put under her head she made a small moaning sound and closed her eyes which I took as a good sign.

One of our party had gone into shock and was assisted down the slope allowing Ros and Alison access to Pam. After an eternity - which we later decided was about 5-10 minutes, Pam regained consciousness. We asked her to move her legs and arms in turn which she did with out complaint and only indicated a sore right shoulder when asked. She had a confused look on her face and asked what happened. It was decided that no movement and nil by mouth was the best policy. While first aid was being administered an operational test was carried out on our new MT310 EPIRB.

The accident was within 80 meters of a large sandy stretch of the Colo River and a clear spot near the water in wet sand was chosen to site the EPIRB. A pack and gear cache was made on one end with coloured

clothing spread out, a note was scratched into the wet sand and a large H kicked out in the middle of the sand flat. It was about 1:30 pm. We waited.

Pam was made comfortable at the accident site and at one stage was assisted to move into a more comfortable position. She had memory loss which slowly came back, nausea which came and went, and cold which was alleviated by additional clothing, a space blanket and Alison and Ros in turns sitting behind and cuddling Pam in a sitting position.

A fire was made and several aluminium bottles of water were heated directly in the fire, a sock was put over the bottles and this also helped to keep the patient warm.

About 4:30 pm we decided that a second string was required. Alison and Lauren volunteered to go 4 km down the river to a marked road and another 2 km on to the houses, where they hoped to find a phone and raise the alarm, collect two cars and meet us at the end of the road in the morning. With contact names, telephone numbers and car keys they set off at the trot: it was 4:45 pm.



Preparing to send a party out for help

About 5:30 pm the unmistakeable and very welcome sound of the Westpac helicopter was heard. Within minutes it was on the sandbank and the crew were racing toward us. They quickly explained that lack of light was a real threat and that they needed to act quickly to evacuate Pam. While going up to the accident site we explained Pam's accident, her symptoms, her slow

improvement and our circumstances. After a rapid assessment they asked Pam if she could and would stand - which she did without trouble. Pam was rapidly moved to the river and loaded into the Helicopter. It was with a feeling of utter relief that I watched that helicopter draw effortlessly into the darkening sky and away. Alison and Lauren would have also seen the Helicopter and known what that meant.

We then collected ourselves and did a stock



Polair to the rescue

take of food and gear. There was plenty of food (we had Pam's food as well) for dinner and breakfast. We were out for a day walk and did not have over night sleeping gear with us, but we did have cold weather clothing with fibre pile jackets and Gore-Tex parkas. Nevertheless a cold night was spent in rotisserie mode in front of the fire with the coldest person waking occasionally to put another log on the fire.

In the morning we waited until 7:00 am as requested by the Helicopter crew and then started to walk down the river. Following the girls' tracks we saw three sets of dingo prints beside their footprints all the way down the river. The Polair Helicopter picked us up about 8:30 am about 3.5 kms downstream. We were taken to Colo where the police had set up their command post.

As Lauren and Alison were still unaccounted for we set off in the police vehicles back to our cars at Bob Turners Track. Arriving there we found two of our cars missing. As expected, the girls had taken the cars back down to the river and up to the end of the road and were waiting and wondering what had happened to us.

It turned out they had run out of daylight the night before and had spent a cold night sleeping on the river bank. In the morning, not 30 meters down the river, they found the track and the sign to the Meroo picnic area. The kindly couple at the first house had allowed them free access to their phone and given them a lift to the Putty



# BWRS in Action

*Geoff Dale (for Thredbo) & Keith Maxwell (for Cloudmaker)*

## Thredbo

On 20th February 2007 Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad was put on standby. A 55 year-old, Geoff Haiden, had not returned from a day trip near Thredbo in Kosciuszko National Park. A meeting point was set at Jindabyne Police Station for 6:30 am. (Five BWRS members were able to attend including one member who was strategically holidaying in Jindabyne!!)

At the Police briefing more details emerged. After having lunch with his wife near The Chimneys south of Thredbo the pair made the mistake of separating for their return journey. Mr Haiden had not been seen since. While he had been out for two nights the overnight temperatures had not been as cold as what they can be in this area.

Several rescue organisations were present: BWRS, Police Rescue, SES, VRA, NPWS,

and 'Alpine Police'. The search was assisted by helicopter (PolAir), horse and three six-wheel 'All-Terrain Vehicles'.

The BWRS team was tasked to search the area around Smiths Gap and Mount Terrible (not as bad as it sounds!). Access was via the Cascade Trail and Boggy Plain. Conditions and views were pleasant – a bit more rewarding as a day out than the slopes of Mt Solitary in December. After covering our assigned area with some 'contour' searching, we moved back to the northern slopes of Chimneys Ridge with the aim of joining forces with another search team. The BWRS team had just started moving again when the good news came over the police radio that Geoff Haiden had been found in good health - by South Coast VRA – a squad that BWRS has worked with before.

Road where my daughter Kylie picked them up and drove them to our cars.

Finally, all together again, we gave lots of thanks to the police for worrying about us and then we set off to ring up to find out how Pam was getting on. A stitch in the head wound, two cracked but not displaced

ribs, a bruised shoulder, a bruised back muscle, lots of small abrasions and bruises, but nothing serious. Pam was carefully processed at RNSH and released into her daughters' care where she stayed for four days until the stitch came out.

Our heart-felt thanks and gratitude go to

BWRS played an important role in the April search for a missing man who had been attempting to walk from Kanangra to Katoomba in the Kanangra Boyd National Park. Multiple emergency services over several days covered an area from Gingra Creek, High Gangerangs to the Cox's River searching for this walker last seen on Good Friday near Mt Cloudmaker.

Using local bushwalking knowledge BWRS decided to search up Dex Creek from Ti Willa Ck and were able to locate lost gear (presumably from the missing walker) on Sunday 16th April. Using this information PolAir were able to locate the deceased person. Other emergency services were impressed by the hard country BWRS teams were able to search. BWRS received great praise from the NSW police for their efforts.

everybody involved, the people in Canberra at the RCC, the staff and crew of the Westpac Helicopter, the NSW Police Windsor, the Polair crew and the medical staff at RNSH. It is very reassuring to know that when you really need help there are people out there listening.

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# Jervis Bay Coastal Challenge

*Paul Ellis*

On the weekend of February 17th & 18th 2007 I joined 10 other members of the Shoalhaven Bushwalkers, led by Karen. This was a 2 day walk for 45 km along the coastline of Jervis Bay, south of Nowra on NSW South Coast.

Ideally the walk should have commenced at Point Perpendicular, but due to the choice of a long section of either boring dirt roads or inaccessible rugged coastline this was impractical. Instead we commenced at Honeymoon Bay on the Beecroft Peninsula. We used a series of car shuffles, gear relocations and kindness of friends and relatives so we could carry day packs over the 2 days.

It was hot and sunny and the tide was quite

high, but this did not restrict our progress as we left tiny Honeymoon Bay and followed the rocky coastline northwards, crossing Bindijine Beach and negotiating rock platforms to Figtree Inlet. Then we detoured through the scrub around the rocky point

call it: more like mud flats which of course were dominated by mangroves.

We arrived at our first major obstacle on the walk: Carama Inlet. A fellow club member, Colin, had paddled his tiny kayak across the bay from his home at Callala Bay to say hello and he was to become most helpful with the crossing. The tide had gone out significantly by the time we reached this 300 metre stretch of seagrass and soft sand. Colin used his kayak to ferry several rucksacks across the stretch of water while we braved the knee deep water. The trouble was that as soon as we reached the seagrass we sank to our knees in the soft mud and sand and each energy sapping step became an ordeal. It was a very tired bunch that gathered on the far bank to clean up, adjust footwear and packs and continue on.

From here we followed the beaches of Hare Bay to the shaded platform below the cliff at Red Point, where we stopped for a well earned lunch break and possibly even a swim. Our arrival was greeted with a show of breaching dolphins just off the edge of the rock platform and this was only exceeded by the sight of a lone Fairy Penguin at the water's edge as we moved off down the beach some 30 minutes later. Then we crossed the beach westwards towards Callala Bay, made our way around Callala Point and followed the 6km of sandy beach to Currumbene Creek at Huskisson.

Thankfully the tide was now very low and the creek was divided by a long sandbar in the middle, we only had a short 25 metre swim and wade across the creek. Our overnight stay in Huskisson was at the home of Alan (another club member), who kindly offered us the use of the ground floor of his



Rock Platform south of Long Beach

to Long Beach where we had a break at the southern end, allowing some of our group to take a quick swim. We made our way around Montague Point and across the small Cabbage Tree Beach and Point and then made our way across the rocky coast towards Green Point and Green Island. This small island is used as a rookery for many sea birds, and today many could still be seen roosting on the island's northern side out of the wind. We followed Chinamans Beach northwards to Carama Inlet. A beach is not what I would



The final stretch of the crossing at Carama Inlet

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**Air Niugini**





Heading along Long Beach towards Montague Point home on the banks of Currumbene Creek for our overnight accommodation. This was an excellent alternative to camping in the local caravan park's camping area or booking a night in one of the many local Motels. We were able to shower, change into clean clothes and gather on Alan's verandah overlooking the sights of Jervis Bay with post-walk drinks and nibbles.

The next morning, suitably refreshed and recovered, we set off from Alan's place, walked through Huskisson and followed a pathway above and along the coast. We

crossed Moona Moona Creek via the road bridge then followed the bike path behind Collingwood Beach to Vincentia. Some of us diverted to the nearby bakery for refreshments, but we all met up again at Plantation Point for morning tea after following the coastal rock platforms and small beaches. We also passed the very colourful fleet from the Hobie Regatta who were waiting for the

wind to pick up before taking to the water.

From Plantation Point our group split into two, some taking the beach and rock platforms, others taking a bush track on the clifftops above. We all met up again at Greenfields Beach and followed the White Sands Walking Track to Hyams Beach where we found

a shady spot for lunch. Our next 3km of beach walking took us to the local Naval Academy - HMAS Creswell, where our leader had organised approval from the commanding officer to walk through the grounds. We still had to phone through on our approach, but were able to pass through the base without challenge.

Some of our group were now suffering from the walk with the water crossings contributing to soft feet and wet clothes. As such blisters and chafing became items for concern, but everyone was determined to fin-



Bushwalkers making their way through 'Hole In The Wall' during a very low tide

all in a day's walk

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# Caleys Range & Camarthen Brook

*Michael Keats, The Bush Club*

[Just to show that not all bushwalks are done in fine sunny weather - Ed]

Our initial group rendezvous was at MacDonald's Richmond at 07:00 for coffee before setting out. By 07:50 we were parked at Berambing at GR 622 863. There was a bit of rain in the air as packs were loaded and grudgingly wet weather gear was donned. There really is little point in wet weather gear when you do exploratory walking. There is always a spot for water to get in and once you are on the move your own perspiration has all your clothes soaking in no time. Better to relax, get wet, but be ready to put on gear when you stop, and to have some warm dry gear for the end of the day.

and down the Caleys Range for some kilometres. Progress was easy. At 08:48 and again at 09:00 GPS readings were taken to verify our position. We overshot the short southbound fire trail offshoot shown on the map – it is now almost indistinguishable from the forest. A bit of back tracking to GR 647 845 and then it was headlong SW into the wet, wet scrub and undergrowth.

Remnants of the track could be found here and there for about 800 m, then it was obvious from the small rock cliffs that it went no further. We set the compass on due south, and following the crest of the ridge we made excellent progress. Some great rock platforms and stunning colours in multi-stemmed eucalypts (*Eucalyptus burgessiana*) made for unforgettable photos. Prospective member Lysia was a delightful and willing model. All prospectives please note!

As we pushed south there were occasional views of the Explorers Range through the shifting mist, and closer at hand the plummeting depths of Tallara Brook were emphasised by vertical cliff faces. There was hardly time to take it all in before the curtain of white was again drawn. At approx 10:00 and GR 644 825 we broke through the first cliff line of the descent and found a dry overhang. Please can we have morning tea? Yes, a good idea.

The dry floor had a series of very interesting footprints. Steve speculated about what birds/animals might be using the area. Some of the footprints appeared to be from large birds. The usual conical pits of ant lions and the trails of surface worms were common.

Time to move on. In the next 500 m we descended 300 m. At times it appeared that there was no way, but we always found a ramp or chute or convenient tree and the descent was easily accomplished. Finally

we stood in the pouring rain on the bank of Camarthen Brook at 11:15, GR 647 820. It was so hot and I was so wet that I took off my wet weather jacket. As I was wet anyway the increased freedom of movement was a great improvement.



A little light rain in the valley?

At this point the Brook is a confused mess of slippery boulders, shallow pools, small sandy patches and heavy vegetation. The banks are very variable in width and continuity. The prospect of pushing through this for a kilometre plus to the Grose River in the rain was not appealing, particularly as the mist and rain prevented good lines of sight. There was quick acceptance to the idea of abandoning that extension and immediately continuing upstream to Tallara Bluff.

Leading the charge was no different to being at the tail. It was all wet and all thick and slow going. Our way of route varied from creek walking and boulder hopping to bush bashing, some wading and a lot of under and over work with fallen trees. Good stuff. On the talus slope of Mount Barranbali there is a micro-environment where Birds Nest Ferns (*Asplenium australasicum*) and the epiphytic orchids, (*Bulbophyllum shepherdii*) and *Dendrobium striolatum* abound. All the usual array of mosses and ferns including *Pyrrosia rupestris* are also present in large quantities making the area a special place; in the rain and mist it was even more so.

Most thoughts were concentrating on finding a dry overhang for lunch. Several op-



Fun time in the (wet) scrub

By 08:00 it was raining seriously. The threat of the recent fires further up the Grose Valley had had the locals grade the fire trail across the south side of all the properties

## Jervis Bay, continued

ish the walk. Although the group was well spread out, with the least injured setting a great pace, everyone eventually finished.

We made our way along the beaches at Iluka, Greenpatch and Bristol Point, our finishing point at Governor Head now well within our sights. We passed Scottish Rocks and scrambled through 'Hole In The Wall', then rock hopped the low tide to Murrays Boat Ramp and Murrays Beach. The last section saw a north-easterly wind in our faces, but the cool breeze was most

refreshing. A short scramble took us up to the cliff top on Governor Head where we all gathered to celebrate 2 days of great walking. We only had the one kilometre walk back through coastal forest to where several cars had been parked at Murrays Beach Car Park, followed by a drive back to Alan's at Huskisson to retrieve our overnight sleeping gear.

[All pictures by Brett Davis, Shoalhaven Bushwalkers]





If there's no riverbank to walk on ...

tions on the lower cliffs of Mount Barranbali were considered and then abandoned - too high up and possibly with sloping floors.

As Carmarthen Brook swung from NW to W the going became easier and our rate of progress increased. Then we were on a kind of tumbled rock apron where Tallara Creek joins Carmarthen Brook. A quick look up the Tallara Creek showed a small pleasant waterfall in a very steep ravine.

After crossing Tallara Creek the eastern nose of Tallara Bluff immediately presented and climbing began. About 50 m up right on the bluff a cave appeared. It was ideal for lunch - dry! Unlike most caves or

overhangs it consisted of a wide cleft parallel to the nose of the bluff and topped with an oversize chock stone. The floor was dubious. Kicking some leaves aside as I sat down showed a continuation of the same cleft that formed the cave space with little or nothing underneath but loose fill. I sat very still during lunch.

We set the GPS up on a nearby rock and gained a reading: GR 639 823. Outside the rain eased up. However the mist continued to swirl around giving transient views of the cliff lines on the eastern side of Tallara Creek (70m) and the northern side of Mount Barranbali.

At 12:45 with packs a bit lighter we continued the upward climb, staying close to the nose. The rocks have weathered to make a long gentle slope with occasional rock screes. It is a very easy climb. Where the rocks are well positioned to capture moisture they are crowned with rock lilies (*Dendrobium speciosum*). Interspersed with them is the Hare's Foot Fern, *Davallia solida* var. *pyxidata*. Matched with a particularly brilliant lime green moss and the ubiquitous grey lichen, it was like walking in a garden.

Deep and wet leaf litter slowed us down a bit as there was often need to secure one foot before shifting the other. Rapid progress was still made. We knew that an old timber trail was not far away when the cut stumps of former forest giants appeared. We pushed on and soon were high enough to be walking in cloud all the time. Eerie quiet and wet. We joined the old fire trail at 13:30.

After a quick drink we shouldered our packs and set off. At GR 632 832 the old road is very close to a 90 m cliff edge above Tomah Creek and facing west. On a clear day the view includes all the main features of the Explorers Range and Mount Hay. Today it was a wall of wet whiteness. Took some great photos here of misty bush walkers by a rock pool. Very special.



A rock pool in the mist

By 14:45 we had reached the cars, where the rain eased enough to changed into dry gear. After that we adjourned to The Pines for refreshments.

[Grid reference given are from the NEW series of topo maps.]

## Why Katoomba

*Brian Fox*

In 1827 Thomas Livingstone Mitchell arrived in Sydney and was appointed to the position of Deputy Surveyor General. The following year, 1828, he became the Surveyor General of New South Wales owing to the death of John Oxley. Mitchell held this position until his death in 1855. He was a prominent public figure and during his term of office served under five Governors, (Darling, Bourke, Gipps, FitzRoy and Denison). He was amongst other things an explorer, surveyor and road builder(1).

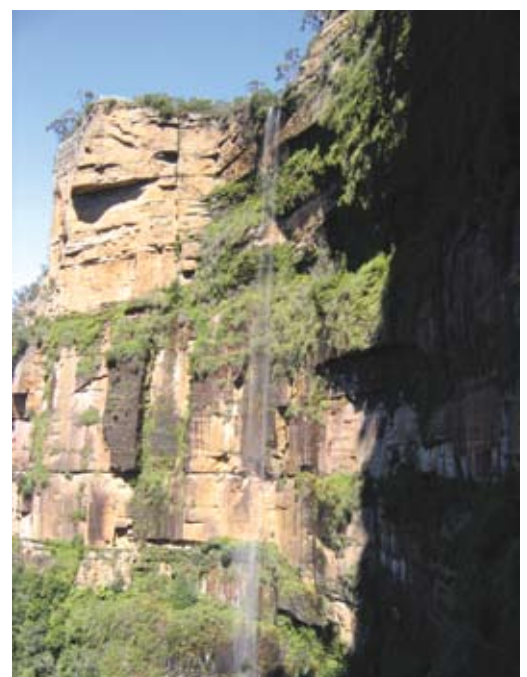
Mitchell had a team of over twenty Senior Assistant Surveyors, Assistant Surveyors and draftsmen working for him(2). A number of surveyors had carried out surveying work on the mountains initially under Surveyor General John Oxley - George

Evans, James McBrien and Robert Hoddle, and during Mitchell's term Frederick D'Arcy, William Stapylton, Francis Rusden, Robert Dixon and William Romaine Govett were included.

One ruling in which Mitchell was adamant about was the use of Aboriginal names where possible and in a letter to one of his surveyors (Elliot) in June 1828 he wrote "that you will be particular in noting the native names of as many places as you can in your map of that part"(3).

In fact on the bottom of all standard monthly report sheets was the wording "Native Names of places to be in all cases inserted when they can be ascertained."

Mitchell not only reiterated this theme of



Govett's Cascade





Looking across the Kedumba River to Mt Solitary

native names but also took to task those who disobeyed his directions. On the 5th September 1828 Mitchell issued a memo to all his surveyors to establish uniformity in spelling and pronunciation(3).

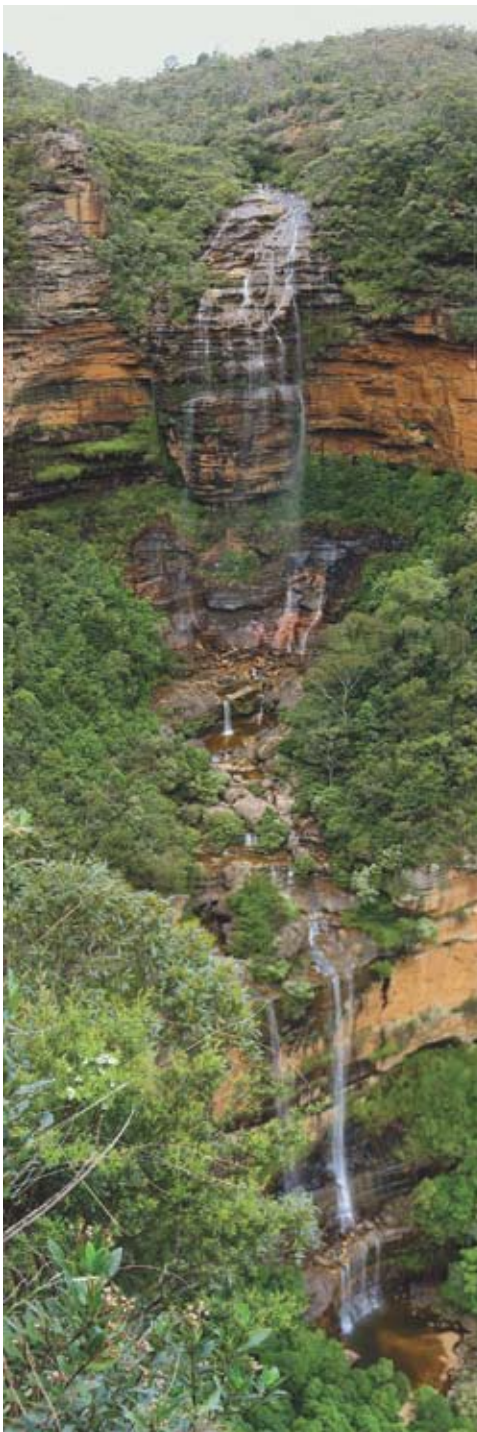
William Govett in his surveying of the area around Blackheath In June 1831 recorded the sight of several waterfalls as Cascades. Govett had first cited the waterfall to bear his name either on the 1st or 2nd June (4) and his monthly report for 6 & 7 June 1831 records 'heavy rain' and on the 10th June he 'surveying the range near Cascade'(5), so Govetts Leap must have been spectacular sight to witness. Mitchell conferred the honour of naming one of these waterfalls, Govetts Leap. As to the paragraphs above on the use of native names, we can only assume that it was not possible to record any Aboriginal name for this waterfall. Just as Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson had little Aboriginal contact on the mountain ridges, so it was for the Mitchell's surveyors.

Evidence shows that this area was frequented by the Gundungurra people by the numerous axe groove sites, occupational sites and rock art sites which have been cited and recorded by many people including my brother and myself on our exploratory bushwalks in the Linden Ridge area.

It was the well-watered fertile soils of the Burragorang Valley(13) where food and game would have been plentiful that Govett made contact with the local Aboriginal people. Here that Govett not only learnt the name of the local area but also some of the names of the surrounding hills(6). Govett had originally recorded the name of Kedumba River as Cascade Creek since one of its tributaries flowed from the 'cascades', the waterfall we now know as Wentworth Falls. The surrounding hills were Mount Solitary, 'Munmie', Mount Victoria, 'Gundingbla' and the hills at the southern end of Narrow Neck Plateau which form the major watershed between Jamison and Megalong Valleys, and 'Mouin'.

The aboriginal word for the location of the junction of the Coks River and Kedumba River was 'Godoomba', as Govett

recorded it in his letter to the Surveyor General 25th November 1833. This was a derivative of what is now Katoomba. Not only was the word Godoomba recorded by Govett, but he also used phonetic symbols above the letters to help in future pronun-



Queens Cascades

ciation. Neither Govett's letters to the Surveyor General nor his articles to The Saturday Magazine in London between the years 1836-37 (7) explain what these symbols mean. However a request to Indigenous Services, State Library, Sydney informed me that Govett's used Standard English phonetics. The cup shaped symbol above the first o and a called 'breve' indicate a short sound while the dash above the double o called 'macron' emphasise a long

sound. When I asked about the use of the letter G and K as in Godoomba and Katoomba I was informed that the letters are interchangeable depending on who translated the word.

So it is with thanks to our early surveyors that in November 1833 our first spelling and name of Katoomba was recorded. However numerous other spellings of Katoomba have been seen, including, Codumba which appears on the Map of the County of Cook, 1843, which was compiled expressly for the printers and publishers of the Australian Atlas by William Baker Hibernian printing Office, Sydney(8). Other spelling such as Go Doom Ba and Goodomabah appear to be corruptions of Govett's recorded name as opposed to first hand interpretation(9).

It was another Surveyor John Deering who in a letter to Surveyor General Adams in 1876 recorded the first use and spelling of the name Katoomba as we know it today(10). As well as different spellings we also have different interpretations of the name Katoomba. One was Harry Peckman recalling "the late Hon. James Henry Neale who is said to have brought an ancient gin called Black Betty, of the Kanimbla tribe of blacks to identify and give the native name to the locality"(11). Another is from Jim Smith's talk at the 2006 Blue Mountains History conference in which Jim highlighted the misinterpretation of the Aboriginal and European cultures in identifying the Aboriginal name of Katoomba Falls.

The locality of Katoomba has changed over the years from Town status to the present status of Suburb within the Local Government Area of the Blue Mountains City Council(12). The name itself has been transferred from its location down in the Kedumba Valley, has under gone various spellings, pronunciations and origins but still remains as a proud name in honouring our Aboriginal heritage.

Fortunately Govett's maps have survived and can be found in the State Archives and the Mitchell Library in Sydney. What



# Lyre Bird & Cascades Walk, New England NP

*David Lawrence, Armidale Bushwalkers*

A motley crew of walkers gathered at 7:00 am at Armidale Visitor's Centre, a little surprised at the cool morning after an early start to avoid the heat. We caught up with the Christmas gossip, filled in waiver forms, and sorted out cars to leave at 7:15 am. (If someone hasn't turned up by then, bad luck). Our convoy arrived at the agreed meeting place- the information board at New England National Park entrance.

While Frank, Sharareh, Ryan and Colin

walked in from the Robinson's Knob/Wrights Lookout carpark, the rest left from Banksia Point down the top section of Lyrebird to its junction with the Treefern Valley track, then down it to lower Lyrebird. The mist and fog that swirled around us encourages the growth of the very attractive Soft Tree Fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*) and King Fern (*Todea barbara*). The only tree here is the Antarctic Beech (*Nothofagus moorei*), clothed with moss and small ferns.

The track was a bit slippery and uneven, but we soon come to the first of three gullies with small waterfalls. The second



Cascades Walk

of these was the largest creek and care was needed to negotiate the slippery rocks and some rotted steps. Rainforest trees in these gullies include Sassafras (*Doryphora sassafras*), which has grey bark, and Possumwood (*Quintinia sieberi*), which has wrinkled brown bark. We brushed aside curtains of the Hanging Moss (*Papillaria*), and sloshed through Rainforest Spinach (*Elastostema reticulatum*) in the wettest spots.

After passing through an area of more open forest, the track emerged onto the Robinsons Knob Fire Trail, near where several tracks branch off. We turned left, and about 50 metres down, met the other crew making themselves comfortable (after negotiating Wright's Lookout) on the new seat build at the entrance to the Cascades track in honour of a botanist and environmentalist J B Williams.

The Cascades loop track descended steeply down to Five Day Creek. As we reached the bottom, about an hour from the Williams seat, the growth of ferns and mosses increased. The creek itself was very beautiful, chuckling busily over moss-green boulders, smooth and slippery as polished glass. We teetered downstream about 200 metres to the bay window where it surges over vertical drop into the rainforest valley below. Carefully returning, we did a hur-

## When and Where

Blue Gum Forest of course.

The first was taken in the hippy era around 1972. The young girl had been helped down DuFaur Buttress, and was carried up the Gordon Smith Chimney.

The second was taken in 2006.

## Why Katoomba

is unfortunate is that only two of William Govett's survey field books have been located. Col King Manager of the Survey Plan Room, Department of Lands, Sydney informed me that it was not a requirement for surveyors to hand back their field books. A subsequent search of the Department of Lands in Sydney and Bathurst, State Records in Kingswood and The Rocks, Victorian State Library and archives and an email request to the British Library Maps Division and United Kingdom National Archives have failed to turn up any other of Govett's survey field books.

### References:-

- (1) Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell and his World, 1792-1855, by William Foster, 1985, pp i-ii.
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- (3) Major Mitchell's Map 1834, The saga of the Nineteen Counties, by Alan Andrews, 1992, pp 72-73.
- (4) Blackheath Today from Yesterday, edited by Peter Rickwood and David West, 2005, pp 56-70.

(5) Surveyor General letters received from Surveyors. Reel No 3069, Monthly Report June 1831, Land and Property Information Library, Bathurst.

(6) Surveyor General letters received from Surveyors. Reel No 3069, Camp Mount Clarence 25th November 1833, Land and Property Information Library, Bathurst.

(7) Sketches of New South Wales Written and Illustrated for The Saturday Magazine in 1836-37 by William Romaine Govett, Gaston Renard publisher, 1977.

(8) State Library, ML: ZM2 812.17/1843/1.

(9) Old Leura and Katoomba, presented by The Rotary Club of Katoomba, 1986, p9.

(10) State Records, Notes on Parks, CGS8287 item 11/22039.

(11) The Blue Mountain Echo 30th May 1913, p5, col 5.

(12) Geographical Names Board, Register extract for Katoomba.

(13) Survey Plan C1511.1507, dated 13th December 1890, junction of Coxs and Kedumba Rivers





Five Day Creek

ried leech check (lots!) before following the creek upstream. There was only the ghost of a track, and it required thought and careful foot placement to avoid a sudden sit down - or worse, a slide down into the creek.

When we paused for a break we admired the deep gloom of ferns pierced by the occasional shaft of sunlight onto a little cascade here and a mossy tree trunk there. The prize for me was the luxuriant growth of the Cascades Silver Lily *Neoastelia spectabilis*. This is the new genus that John Williams had discovered at this site. It has big arching leaves about 120 cm long and 6 cm wide, with a brightly green upper surface green and a silvery-white lower one. We'd missed the spray of white flowers it bears in December, but the bright green 15 mm berries were also a feature.

A few more slips – we've written to the National Parks asking that this be section

be designated a 'route' not as presently a 'track' - and we were back into the solid going. Soon we were back at John's seat, where we ate a leisurely lunch. The 3 headed back up Robinsons and home while the remainder took the top loop of Lyrebird. We were especially keen to show Lee, a Canadian zoologist visiting with husband James, one of the Lyrebirds whose scratchings covered the path in places. No sitings, but

we were lucky enough to hear one imitating 5 different birds on the climb up to the plateau. Attenborough's "Life of Birds" featured the Lyrebird as the greatest mimic in the bird kingdom, and some of the footage to support this claim was shot just a bit further up the track.

On reaching the plateau, we remarked on the lichen-covered sign put up in the early 1930s by the first ranger, Mr C C Moseley. The rock shows through here, and the thin soil supports a low open forest of Snow Gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) as well as more Messmate Stringybarks (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) in places. Shrubs included

Hill Banksia (*Banksia collina*), Mountain Baeckea (*Baeckea utilis*) and a pea, Eggs and Bacon (*Dillwynia retorta*).

Many of us were disappointed that the good viewpoint over the Upper Macleay River valley was blanked out by the persistent fog. (I've included a photo taken in clearer times, so the newcomers will know what they missed).

Shortly, the track dropped back down into temperate rainforest containing Antarctic Beech, Tree Heath (*Trochocarpa montana*), Pepperbush (*Tasmanian stipitata*) and Tree Ferns. After Treefern Valley junction we backtracked to Banksia Point.

We drove up to the shelter shed at Point Lookout (1562 m - visibility zilch) and a merry celebration of Paul's birthday, with cake, candles, chocolate slice, and chat with an American who had walked from Brisbane (?) to here in a little over a month,



The View from Point lookout



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and was seeking information on routes on to his destination (Melbourne!). Peter and Paul gave such good advice that they were elected Secretary and Walks Coordinator respectively during our brief official AGM. No other positions were changed, so Treasurer Kathy hastily wrote membership receipts while the rest of us scoffed chocolate cake and her excellent slice. A pity about the lack of the view that gives Point Lookout its name, but the mist brought out all the rainforest greens, and makes a good viewing day a special event. Maybe next time?





# Understanding the Scenery Royal National Park and Heathcote National Park

## Bob and Ann Young

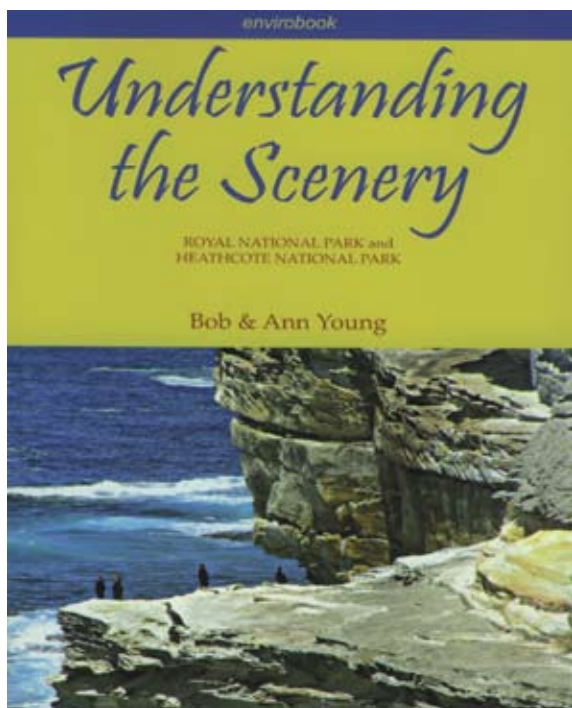
are exceedingly modest and general in listing their accomplishments on half of one of the back pages.

The book explains rock shapes, landslides, potholes and sand dunes. There are many other features which occur in the Parks which may be unexpected and surprise some people. They include stalactites, strange weathering patterns, cave formation and the shaping of pools in creeks. Some of these are partially explained. Rob and Ann point that there are many limits to our current collective knowledge, such as the formation of tessellated pavements and the location of sand dunes on hill tops. They clearly separate what is theoretical and what is known. They invite readers to consider the pros and cons of alternative explanations.

who might lose the plot, but because the material is explained so clearly I expect it might only be used by those who dip into the book to look up particular features.

The book abounds with photos that provide clear examples of what is being discussed. The captions are short and pithy. Often the photos show several landscape features which benefit from pointers and arrows. Other photos completely lack captions which is a shame because many of the features are of interest and are discussed in the book. Perhaps the authors want to challenge readers to think through what they are seeing for themselves. After all, isn't that one of the reasons for reading the book - to identify and further appreciate the natural scenery of one of the world's first National Parks?

Bob and Ann obviously know the area extremely well and they explain sometimes complex and perplexing features in a manner which is readily understood. Their love of both Parks shines through. I found myself thinking in many ways the book is a packaged gift of natural history from the



Environ book, Annandale \$29.95

Reviewed by Greg Chapman, soil scientist and keen bushwalker who lives in the Blue Mountains.

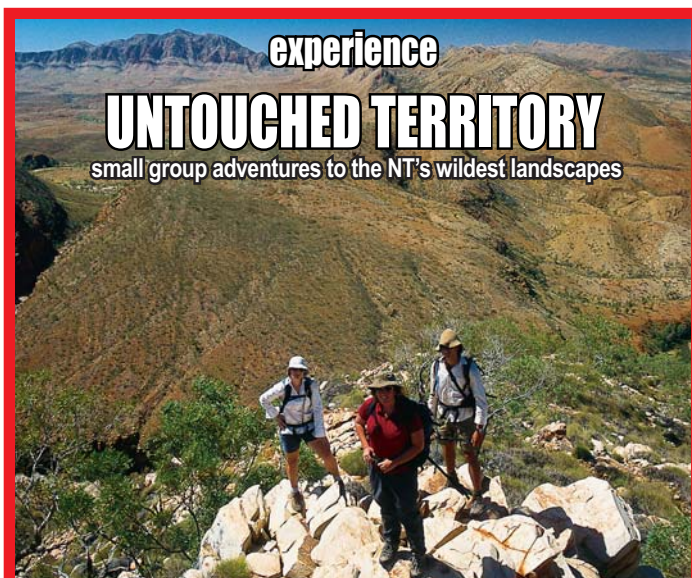
This book sets out to enlighten people who enjoy walking in Royal and Heathcote National Parks. It offers knowledge about features of the landscape that walkers cannot fail to notice but are often at a loss to explain. The book is around 130 pages and can be read from cover to cover. It can fit easily in a day pack and be used as a portable reference to learn more about the outstanding geo-diversity of Royal and Heathcote National Parks.

The book starts by setting the geological scene. It discusses the major landforms, their rocks and how they got to be the way they are. OK so far so good.

Then it gets better and better. The landscape is dynamic. Rocks are moving; gliding down hill, washed by storms and giant tidal waves and being sculptured by running water. It sounds amazing but dynamic landscape features such as these are not just idle speculation. The authors are both highly respected academics of long standing. The Youngs have completed many scientific studies in the area and its surrounds. They are familiar with the latest literature on landscape evolution. As a person in the same profession I can tell you that they are recognized as world experts on sandstone environments and many other aspects of landscape formation processes, but they

The book rounds up with a series of observations on the recurring patterns that we notice in the landscape and it discusses agents of landscape change. They discuss prevailing conditions such as fire, animal diggings and erosion which link a surprisingly diverse number of environments. Each environment has a plant community, landform pattern and specific soil features and processes.

Best of all throughout the book place names are highlighted. Interested readers can visit the sites and see for themselves. I would have liked a place names index, a place names and features table, or perhaps a table which lists the phenomena on a walk by walk basis would make the book more useful. Future readers in a more electronic era could perhaps access the information on a portable illustrated data base. There is a glossary for those



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## Wombat Waddles

The winter snow around Kosciusko NP just ain't what it used to be. The Wombat thought it was time to try a different approach: instead of gracefully gliding across the snow on skis, waddling around on snow shoes would be tried.



Yowies, and joggers

Of course, when you see what the snow has degenerated to these days, you wouldn't want to risk your skis anyhow. Some have referred to it as 'good conditions for hire skis', which is a bit rough on the hire companies. Besides, travelling on snow shoes is more like ... well, bushwalking. And you don't risk those smash-ups when the skis develop a mind of their own on (or under) icy crust either. Well, anyhow, some Yowie snow shoes had been acquired and it was time to try them out.

to walk with them while wearing a pack, rather than the five years it seems to take to learn how to handle XC skis with a pack. They just seem so easy. In addition, the Wombat found that ordinary comfortable joggers were just fine on the Yowies.

The next thing learnt was that snow shoes are much lighter than skis: either on your feet or on your pack. Add to that the fact that a pair of these snow shoes costs only a fraction of what a full ski outfit costs - boots, skis, binding, poles and medical insurance. They do have advantages. The next advantage the Wombat found was that snow shoes go over all sorts of terrain, even mud and rocks, without any damage.



Valentines Fire Trail - not for skis

So the Wombat set off to Bulls Peaks and then the Geehi River with great hopes, and some speed too. The first night's camp was at the head of Doubtful Creek, and the second night was near Tin Hut. The next morning was not what the Wombat would have called 'sunny weather', and a traverse over the Kerries was abandoned. After all, if you can't see more than ten metres ahead and the wind is knocking you over, there doesn't seem a lot of point in it, does there?

So the Wombat did a quick hop over to the Schlink Hilton and then around to Valentines Hut, and then to the region near the Big Bend. It has to be said that progress on snow shoes under these sorts of condi-

tions was noticeably faster than it would have been on skis. Camping in the forest near Mawsons was nicely sheltered, and the next day was fine again.



Bluff Tarn, not fully covered

The rocks at Big Bend were exposed and crossing was with dry feet. Bluff Tarn had a little bit of water showing - in previous years you couldn't tell where it was under the snow. It's a very pretty spot, and the Wombat enjoyed having morning tea looking down on the tarn. But the water was too cold for a swim.

Progress was good all that day, so packs were dropped low down on Toolong Range and the Wombat galloped up Mt Jagungal again. The view from the top showed a lot



View West from North Bulls Peak

The fun thing about snow shoes is that it takes only about five minutes to learn how

Youngs for both walkers and also the Park.

I recommend this book as an interesting read and as an indispensable companion for your day pack when planning walks and walking in Royal and Heathcote National Parks. I hope that it encourages production of similar works for other National Parks.



West Summit of Jagungal

of exposed rock on the summit and grass out on the plains. There used to be snow there, long ago. The ice on the sides of the summit would have been horrible going up

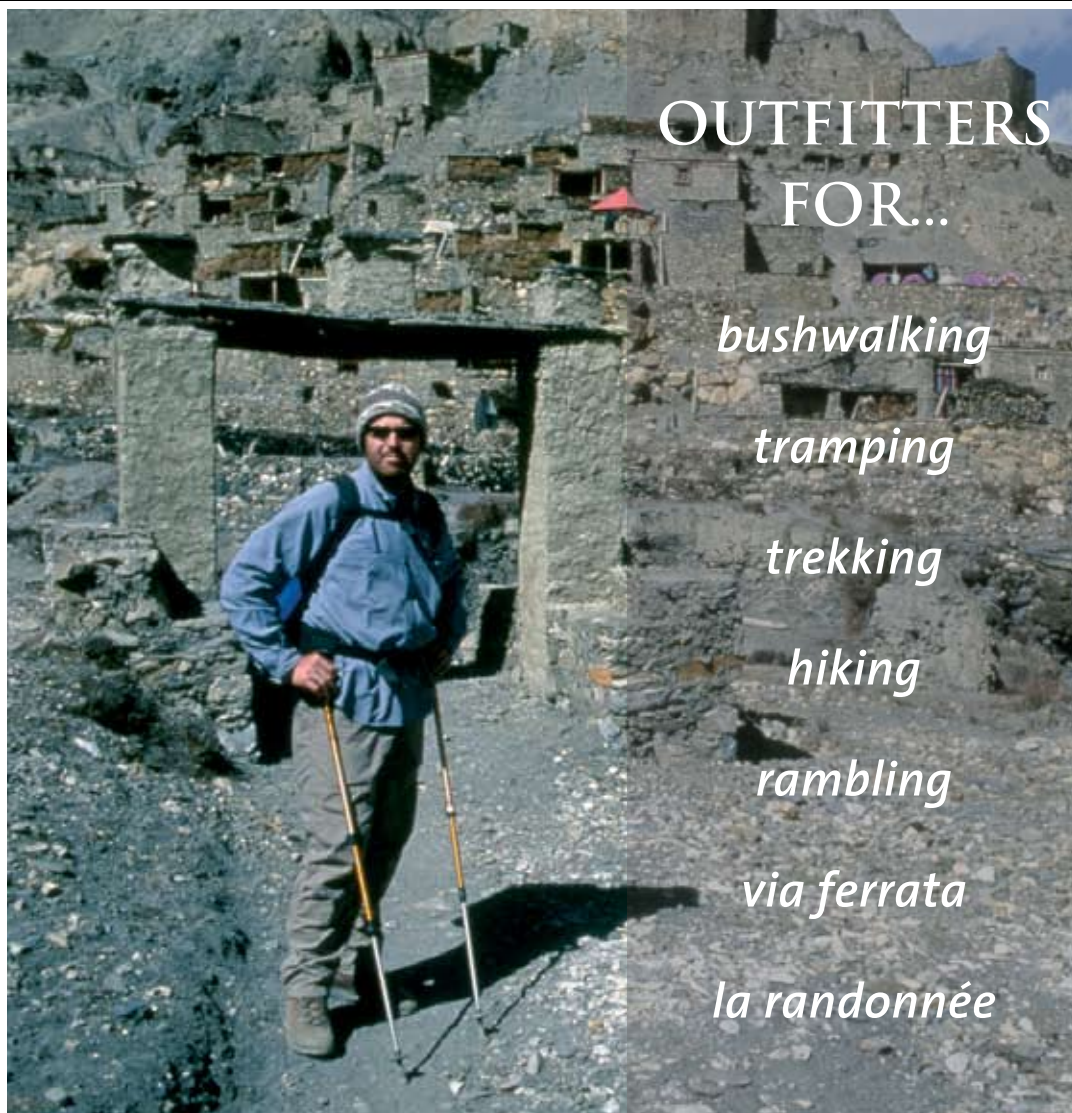
on skis, and even worse coming down, but the crampons on the undersides of the snow shoes crunched happily up and down.

The weather that night was a trifle 'off' again, but the Wombat was sheltered behind some trees. The next day was wet, and the snow was very thin. Rain in the snow fields is very boring, so it was no trouble and little extra weight to put the snow shoes on the packs and head back to the car across the snow grass.



Setting up camp near Big Bend, in shelter





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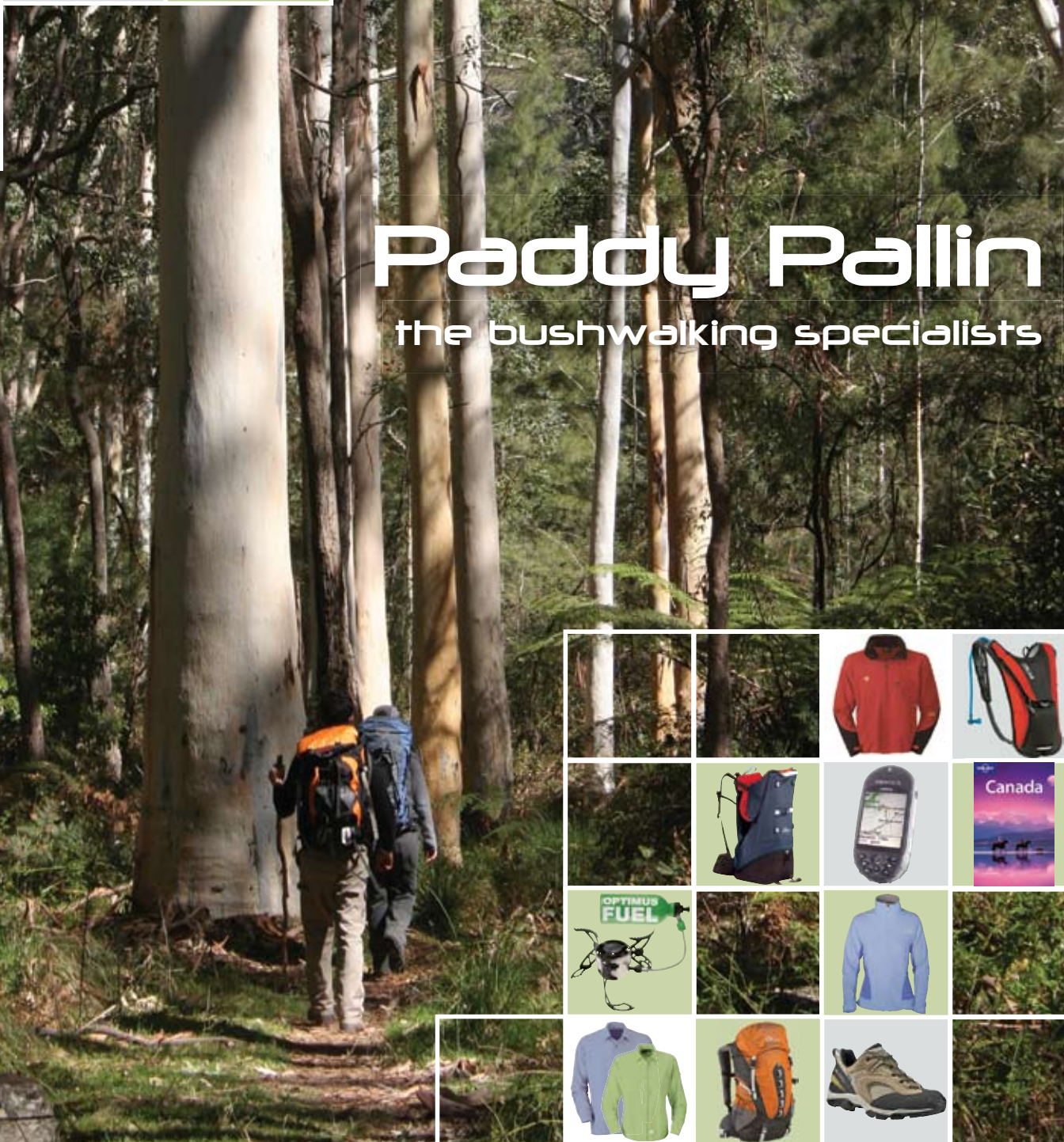
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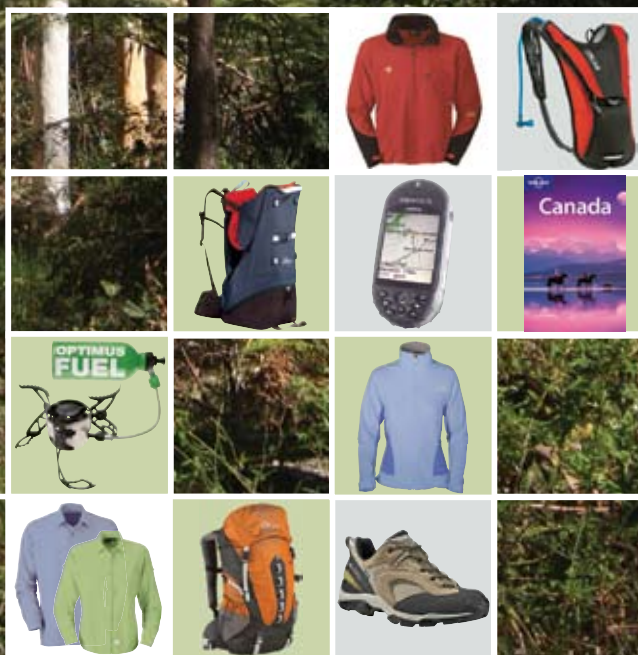
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