

The background of the cover is a photograph of a person sitting on rocks at the base of a large, multi-tiered waterfall. The person is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, dark pants, and a light-colored wide-brimmed hat. They are facing away from the camera, looking up at the waterfall. The waterfall flows over dark, wet rocks and into a pool of water at the bottom. The surrounding area is lush with green vegetation and ferns. The title 'The Bushwalker' is overlaid at the top in a large, green, stylized font.

The Bushwalker

**Crandon Falls,
Mumbedah Creek, Wild Dog Mts**

**Volume 39
Issue 2
Autumn 2014**

Wouldn't you like to be here?



Lake Albina, Kosciusko National Park. Photo: Roger Caffin



Indiana Gorge junction above Wolgan River, Wollemi NP. Photo: Brian Fox

From the editor's desk. . .

As I said in the last Summer issue, summer is becoming less fun. It was a bit of a drought, not helped by the further depredations of the current NSW government. Roll on ICAC.

Anyhow, where are Crandon Falls? Half way up Mumbedah Creek, which flows into the Jenolan River, which flows into the Coxs River. We came over the Ironpots down to the Coxs and then up the Jenolan and Mumbedah. The falls are a bit 'out of the way'. They are not sandstone, and bits do fall down at times: they did while we were camped nearby. You can get up the falls if you want to go further upstream. Coming back we went straight up onto the Guouogang ridge and down to the Coxs.

Articles for Publication

We are always happy to receive pictures for the Inside Front Cover. If you would like to see yours published, send them in. In particular, little 640x480 photos and, little photos from cheap phones are just not good enough: they simply do not print well enough at 300 dpi. We need the full-size originals, straight from the camera and uncropped and unretouched, so we can set them up for the printing process.

Apart from that, please keep those bushwalking articles rolling in. We need them. If you are describing a walk somewhere, it would really help if you could give the reader (who may be from far away) some idea of where the walk is. We don't need GRs, just a general idea. We need suitable photos for most every article, so please include a few. Once again, note that little, cropped or shrunk photos will rarely be accepted. If you want to include a DOC file or a PDF (in addition to the mandatory plain text file and full-sized photos) to illustrate how the photos fit into the text, please do so as well. That can only help.

However, photos embedded in DOC or PDF files are not accepted by themselves, and neither are scans of standard photographic prints - with the possible exception of historical items where the print is all that exists. Finished DOC and PDF articles are not suitable by themselves either: we often have to rearrange the text to fit on the page with ads or other changes. Plain text plus original photos!

Finally, the opinions expressed by authors may not represent the official opinions of the Confederation or of any Club. The Editor's opinions are his own, are subject to change without explanation, and may be pretty biased anyhow.

Roger Caffin
Editor



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Front Cover: Crandon Falls, Mumbedah Creek.
Photo: Roger Caffin.

Back Cover: Rock Study, Main Range,
Kosciusko National Park. Photo: Barry Hanlon.



Papillaria Cloud Forest, Mt Budawang. Photo: Peter Woodard

Commercial Tracks in National Parks?

The following deserves a lot of discussion within the Confederation. For a start, the original article is in the SMH here: <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/push-for-nsw-to-develop-worldclass-walking-tracks-20140329-35q8s.html> but I have taken the liberty of reproducing it here. I will note that it may have been changed a little since it was first published, as one version I have seen is slightly different.

Anyhow, there has been a lot of talk about this on Facebook. Tom Gleeson of SUBW says that the Colong Foundation is angry about David Trinder's comments as are many members of SUBW, and his *Letter to the Editor* follows the quote. Anyhow, the quote, with some Editorial insertions in square brackets:

Virgin Australia founder Brett Godfrey has approached the NSW government with a proposal to operate the state's first 'great walk, building private lodges within the Blue Mountains National Park [hackles!!].

It was an unsolicited bid, but NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker is set to announce an ambitious five-year program to build 'great walks' in NSW National Parks to compete with New Zealand and Tasmanian multi-day tracks.

About 10,000 international travellers walk the Milford Track in New Zealand each year, and 7400 walkers complete Tasmania's Overland Track, but NSW has

no comparable walking experiences.

Six months ago Mr Godfrey and Virgin co-founder Rob Sherrard took over the Tasmanian Walking Company, which runs private trekking on the world-ranked Overland Track.

The president of Bushwalking NSW, David Trinder, said NSW had fallen behind and its tracks were 'wrecked'. [A very odd comment, considering that Confederation policy is more along the lines of "Tread softly: Use existing tracks; don't create new ones."]

Mr Trinder, whose group represents 63 clubs and 9000 members, said long-distance bushwalking in NSW was only for experienced specialists, because walks

such as the Kanangra to Katoomba route in the Blue Mountains had little signage and no path drainage. [Oh, you poor things.] "You have to know where to turn off. There's no actual track," he said.

International visitors were missing out on experiencing the NSW bush, he said. "NSW is not well developed compared to other states. There is great potential here," he said. [Develop, develop, exploit, grab money ...]

On Sunday, Ms Parker will call for the public to nominate which walks should be included in the government's 'Great Walks' program. NSW wanted to be the 'No.1, top-of-mind walking destination', she said. The government will invest in track upgrades, signage and board walks, starting with \$2.4 million to revitalise the Royal Coast Track in the Royal National Park and the Sydney Harbour Scenic Walk.

The government would also consider building huts in national parks, if required. [Over a number of dead bodies no doubt, plus any number of bankruptcies.]

The Great Walks of Australia website lists no NSW walks. The only NSW walks to be included on Tourism Australia's website are Kanangra and the Six Foot Track in the Blue Mountains. [That there is a web site with that name means NOTHING. Who owns it I wonder? A vested interest maybe?]

In its letter to the NSW government, the Tasmanian Walking Company said its proposal was designed to qualify for acceptance as a 'Great Walks of Australia product'. The company has an exclusive licence to operate commercially guided tours using private lodges on the Overland Track and Bay of Fires in Tasmania, offering wine and hot showers to walkers paying up to \$3150 in peak season for a five-day walk. [Oh, VERY compatible with bushwalking as we know



Official campsite on Great South West Walk, with water collector roof and flotsam & jetsam



Refuge de la Croix du Bonhomme, near Mont Blanc, midsummer

Editorial Comment

While I have absolutely ZERO trust for any of our current politicians or any of our would-be developers when it comes to National Parks, I have to say the situation is not quite as clear as it would seem.

Already there is a commercial lodge at the Coxs River swing bridge on the Six Foot Track, and I don't see it making much money - if it still functions. The probability that there might be a huge untapped market there seems a trifle fanciful. Nothing like a few bankruptcies to restore reality - provided they don't try to live on a government subsidy for ten years.

But let's look overseas for a moment, to Europe. Sue and I often spend 2 months or so walking the 'Grand Randonnees' (or great walks) over there in the European summers, and there are huge differences between Europe and Australia. In Europe you can often go from 'hut' to 'hut' (for 2 months), without a tent. Our last 2-month trip over there was done without a tent; the previous trip saw us camping only a couple of nights out of the two months.

In this context you will need to interpret 'hut' as anything from an Alpine Club hut way up in the mountains, with Guardian, to a small hotel in a village down in the valley. Many of those small hotels actually depend on walkers for more than half their income. They know about wet clothing and muddy shoes!

So at a first glance one could argue that the 'hut' concept can work. However, a few things should be remembered here before leaping to any conclusion.

First of all, the number of walkers in Europe is HUGE. For example, the Austrian Alpine Club (we are members) has over 450,000 members, and there are several times that many walkers in Austria who are not Club members. Other countries have similar statistics (as does Australia). Maybe it is good that they do



Swing bridge over Coxs River, with commercial lodge nearby

it, I am sure. I wonder what Paddy Pallin would have thought of it?]

The company targets walkers over 50 with high incomes. 'They want to engage with nature but will not venture into parks if they have to carry supplies or tents,' it said. [Sounds slightly poofy to me.]

It has proposed a three- to five-day walk along the Six Foot Track and through the Kanangra-Boyd National Park, which it says would generate revenue for NSW Parks and Wildlife with 'limited impact', if properly run and marketed. [I seem to remember that the record for the Six Foot Track marathon (by Ben Artup in 2009) is 3 hrs 15 minutes. Clearly walking it could take 5 days ..., especially if done in Edwardian clothing as featured in the previous issue]

There is debate over the increasing commercialisation of parks in NSW. The National Parks Association has criticised a recent parliamentary report that called for more tourism development in parks.

Bushwalking Australia president Chris Towers said although he wouldn't want to see commercial operators given exclusive use of tracks, the Tasmania/New Zealand experience had shown they could coexist with self-guided walks, with careful construction of private huts. "Every other state has iconic long distance walking tracks that ... generate tourism" he said. "NSW has such an incredible natural estate - why not ... get people out there?" [How this is to be done successfully is quite another matter!]

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,
Regarding the 30 March 2014 article "Push for NSW to develop world class walking tracks" published in the SMH, I was very disappointed and thoroughly in disagreement with the proposal to build private huts within national parks and develop formal walking tracks within wilderness areas in order to open them up to the international tourist market. I was shocked by the comments of David

Trinder, President of Bushwalking NSW, who seemed to suggest that such vandalism of our National Parks would be welcome. May I remind him of the opening remarks made in the Bushwalkers' Code:

"Do not disturb our bushland: If you enjoy the pleasures of bushwalking and related self-reliant outdoor activities, you have a big responsibility to protect and preserve the natural landscape for the enjoyment of future generations."

Furthermore..., our Code says "Tread softly: Use existing tracks; don't create new ones."

If he has the time, perhaps David Trinder might care to familiarise himself with the rest of the Bushwalkers' Code before making any further comments on behalf of the clubs which he is supposed to represent.

Tom Gleeson
Sydney University Bushwalkers



Dolici Refuge, under Triglav, Slovenia - no running water!

More Maps Than You Can Poke a Compass (or a GPS) At

David Springthorpe

*The Coast and Mountain Walkers of NSW
From 'Into the Blue', CMW, Nov 2012, No 248*

Budawang Sketch Map

The latest edition (Edition 9, 1998) has been available from late August as print-on-request online at the National Library of Australia (NLA) website www.nla.gov.au. Details of all purchase options available for various editions of the Budawang Map are (in the approximate words of the NLA)

<http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/6093653>

A CD we made containing the scans of the 1st Edition, and both sides of the double-sided 9th Edition

<http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/6093567>

The print-out we made of the 1st Edition (in essence a full-sized colour copy of the original map we were lent)

<http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/6093471>

The print-out we made of the 9th Edition (in essence a full-sized colour copy of the original map we were lent). Because our plan-printer cannot print double-sided, we have had to print each side of the 9th Edition separately. Thus we have a digital copy and a facsimile paper copy of each of the 1st and 9th Editions.

The online entry for 6093653 (the CD) is headed as 'Northern Budawang Ranges [electronic resource]', while 6093567 and 6093471 are headed as 'The Northern Budawang Range and the upper Clyde River Valley [cartographic material] / compiled and drawn by G.L. Elliott'.

The maps were lent to the NLA by cartographer and copyright holder George Elliott (who was a member of the erstwhile Budawang Committee, and as well is a long-time Honorary Life Member of the CMW) for permission to copy and offer for sale.

For each item, you can 'Order a copy' (refer to the button at the bottom of each entry) and then 'Add to cart' using Copies Direct and then proceed accordingly. You seem to have to use

the 'Add to cart' button again later in the ordering process. Remember (particularly for 6093471, the printout of the 9th Edition) to include clear instructions according to the notes following. The 9th Edition map (each side) costs \$16.50 plus postage (2012), which means that if you wish to purchase the notes printed on the reverse side of the original map as well you will need to pay an extra \$16.50 and specify your requirements as a note in the ordering procedure so that you can be invoiced appropriately.

The historic 1st Edition (1960) is also available to be printed at the same cost (refer to 6093567 above). This edition does not, of course, have any notes printed on the reverse side.

The 1st Edition, 9th Edition and notes from the 9th Edition are also available together as three (3) separate digital images (JPEG or TIFF) on a CD (refer to 6093653 above). Note that even though the NLA's pricing schedule states that images can be purchased at '\$45 per image', the Editor's contact at the NLA (librarian Dr Brendan Whyte) stated that "I think we can do all 3 for \$45 given they're on a CD and we can just copy them together quite easily. When ordering, put in a note to the effect that 'Brendan Whyte said \$45', in case the system decides to outguess us . . ."

Please remember that copyright applies to these maps.

CMW member Craig Allen reported in October that he had lent his pristine 8th Edition to the NLA as a result of a general request for contributions of other editions of the map, and it was also now available similarly as above. The link for this for those interested is <http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/6102291>. He stated that he intended to set up the registration files so he can use it on his computer using OziExplorer GPS mapping software and then transfer data and locations to his GPS with grids. ♦

Monolith Valley. Photo: Martin Conway



not all camp out? And of course with memberships of that size, the Alpine Clubs are a significant and effective political force for the protection of the mountains and the Parks.

Second, the weather in the mountains of Europe can be as bad as anything you will meet on the Main Range at Kosci, and the huts do really limit the amount of S&R needed. Europeans know about mountain weather, but not that many are

capable of handling it when things go bad.

Third, the National Park situation in Australia is close to being unique in the world: most other National Parks around the world still have grazing on the high pastures. There is NO public land in the UK for instance; ALL the Parks there are over private property. That's very different from here.

So what's the bottom line then? I don't

know. Certainly I would be totally opposed to any exclusivity over an area. Equally, I would be totally opposed to the idea of someone bulldozing a new road through one of our National Parks to a new commercial Lodge. Without car access for the tourists (and that is where I really dig my heels in), most any commercial operation in mainland Australia seems doubtful.

Roger Caffin



The Monolith

Camp in the saddle below the north ridge in the morning



A Wombat Wanders - Again

Story and Photos: Roger Caffin

Readers may remember that Wombats like the snow - that was some years ago of course (Vol 30 Issue 5, Spring 2005). Well, Wombats also like the mountains without the snow. And so it was that the Wombat set out to explore some relatively unfrequented back corners of the Jagungal region of the Snowy Mountains.

Cesjacks Hut, near Mt Jagungal, is always a good starting point - well, for lunch, anyhow. Down from Cesjacks on the Doubtfull Creek there's a fine ceremonial monolith, obviously erected by some visiting aliens to commemorate ... well, something. There's a dry-foot crossing there too.

[Cesjacks Hut is not shown on the old topo maps for some reason. It is roughly at GR 035986. Why does 'Doubtfull' have two Ls? No idea.]

From there it was cross-country, up over Farm Ridge and down just north of Jagungal Saddle into Bogong Creek. Should you look at the older topo maps of the area you might note that 'they' seem to have put Jagungal Saddle slightly out of position. Tut. The headwaters are surprisingly rocky, and perhaps more often skied over than walked down. From

Bogong Creek it was upwards again: the plan was to walk south along the north ridge of Jagungal. (Actually, the ridge goes north from the Toolong Range a little distance east of the summit.) The last time the Wombat had been here visibility had been ... a shade limited, and it had been a little wet. Photography had been out of the question. Better conditions were hoped for this time. [The Wombat was not happy about the clear horseshoe print on Farm Ridge, near fresh horse dung. Maverick locals.]

There's a tiny saddle high up, just off the east side of the north ridge. The scrub going up was a bit thick with post-fire regrowth, but the saddle was fine for camping. There were even tiny tarns of water there. The views in the morning were excellent, in all directions. Why camp up here rather than on Bogong Creek, you might ask. Bogong Creek is very 'snow grass', which means a lot of cold air flows down the valley at night. Sometimes, very cold air. But up higher it can be a shade warmer.

The view east from the tent, back the way the Wombat had come, featured a large lump of granite - very large in fact. Last time here a Bogong Moth had been found sheltering from the storm at the foot of the boulder. The boulder was duly climbed again in the morning: the wind up top was cool. Then the Wombat pressed on, up onto the seriously rocky north ridge. There was a bit of scrub between the rocks, but lots of good traction on the rocks.

The view from the spur across to the North Face of Jagungal is one not seen all that often. To be sure, the track under the



The North Face of Jagungal

A line of quartz intrusion



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Bluff Tarn

Bad weather at Bluff Tarn



south side of the cairn gives a nice view, but there's a lot more rock around. Long ago, when younger and more enthusiastic, the Wombat climbed a grass gully on that north face with a full pack. A desire was expressed at the time for either a top rope or an ice axe. However, the tussocks of snow grass held. The summit cairn was inspected this time - it was windy of course. It always is. Then the Wombat headed South - down the side, to have morning tea in a tiny sheltered dell tucked into the side of the peak.

Now fed, the Wombat headed south again. The target of interest was clearly visible: a line of huge quartz boulders running south down the side of Jagungal to the swampy valley below. Now,

hydrothermal quartz intrusions happen in many places, but this one is a whopper. The Wombat determined to follow it all the way. Indeed, it went to the bottom, to the brown swampy region visible, and then on a bit more. And such lovely pure white quartz too. One of the boulders would look lovely in the garden at home, but carrying it there could be difficult. Photos sufficed.

The Wombat continued on straight south, across the very pleasant rolling Strawberry Hills and down to the Geehi. The wind was still cool. Crossing the Geehi bare-footed meant the Wombat's socks and shoes stayed dry, which was convenient. The water was not too cold, and the stones were fairly rounded. On

again, south over the next ridge via a very gentle saddle, to hit The Big Bend on the Valentine, where there is an excellent crossing on boulders. It works in the snow too. Then south a bit more to the somewhat restored Mawsons Hut, which always seems a bit further than expected. The restoration is a definite improvement - but don't expect it means you have any chance of dodging the resident Broad-Toothed (native) rats in the night. There are still gaps under the door! But it was too early to stop, so a decision had to be made. Over a short bit of the Kerries, or bypass? The weather omens had been becoming 'less favourable'.

So the Valentine was crossed again, east of Mawsons and course was set for the saddle between Mailbox Hill and Cup&Saucer. Many times has the Wombat skied over that saddle - often navigating there in the fog by using the old line of fence posts to the South. The posts aren't shown on the topo map of course, but the fenceline was shown on the very old sketch map of the region. It was getting late, and the way to the saddle was long, so the Wombat was persuaded to (try to) cut around the west side of Mailbox Hill. This proved easy enough, provided one started high up enough. The high plateau was soon reached, old summer and winter campsites identified, and then down to camp just below treasured Buff Tarn. The tent was pegged down well in view of the portents.

And indeed, the weather broke in the night. The hill behind offered some gentle protection from the worst, so the Wombat slept well. A relaxed breakfast was had to some noise on the tent. But all good things come to an end, and after breakfast moves were made to head back to the burrow (or Maccas at Cooma). The packs were packed inside the tent, wet weather gear was donned, the tent pulled down, shaken and rolled up, and the Wombat set forth for Smiths Perisher. (That's the hill on the Great Divide a bit North of the Bulls Peaks, not named on the topo maps).

There used to be the remains of an old cattleman's 4WD track over it down onto the ridge beyond, but the fires of 2003 (or the recovery after the fires) are doing a good job of removing some of the traces. No matter: the Wombat was on very familiar territory and blitzed on to Rock Cairn, where the remains of the 4WD track could be picked up again. And that was very close to 'home'. At least, the rain had stopped. ♦

Boots, Hobnails, and Ghosts of the Past

Michael Keats and Roger Caffin

MK: Some years ago when bushwalking veteran Neil Schaefer was cleaning out his old bushwalking gear he gave me a bag of small, strange, and rather lethal objects that looked like something previously used in the Tower of London when the rack and similar charming devices were in use. These multi pronged devices were hobnails. They were used to make ordinary boots into 'Hobnail Boots'. Never having worn such boots, I explored further. (MK wears Volleys.)



Heavy hobnailed boots

As I have discovered from innumerable, and often heated on track debates, 'Boots' is a subject on which every bushwalker of any experience has an opinion. I venture to suggest that not many bushwalkers today would boast that they actual wear Hobnail Boots any more. Stories I have been regaled with are to the effect that Hobnail Boots were not only heavy, but also inevitably a one way trip to an accident.

In further researching this I drew heavily on the 'FAQ – Equipment Footwear (and Flame Wars)' by the editor of the "Bushwalker" magazine, Roger Caffin.

RNC: Michael has a stack of stories from other Club Members about boots, nails and ancient beliefs - unfortunately we don't have room for them all here. Instead we will simply illustrate a bit of history. Maybe one day we will publish some of those stories.



A 'typical' nailing pattern - a passionate subject for the era

The hobnails in the middle were simply soft iron nails with very large heads, hammered into the thick leather sole. The bits around the edges were often Tricounis: hard spiky things. The Swiss and Italian Armies bought them by the truckload. You can imagine what tricounis did to small holds on a rockface!



Tricouni from Switzerland

It may be worth noting that Harrer led the first ascent of the North Face of the Eiger wearing leather boots with tricounis rather than crampons. He theorised that he would need to take the crampons off every time they moved onto rock, which could be painful. Subsequent climbers used crampons.



Mallory's boots, recovered from Everest in 1999

Of course, if you were looking at lots of hard snow, other types of nails might be better at getting a good grip - as Mallory's boots show. But all this was eclipsed by the rubber sole and the modern joggers - thank heavens! ♦

26th Annual NavShield 5th & 6th July 2014

The NSW Emergency Services Wilderness Navigation Shield (NavShield), is an overnight event where teams attempt to gain as many points as possible by finding their way on foot, through unfamiliar wilderness terrain to pre-marked checkpoints. The course covers an area of 80 to 100 square kilometres and only traditional map and compass techniques are permitted.

The course is set by a team of skilled navigators from the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (the oldest land search and rescue unit in Australia) - the official Search & Rescue arm of Bushwalking NSW.

The course will be set in a secret location (within 2 hours of Sydney) and will take place on the first weekend of July 2013. Encompassing the finest traditions and character of bushwalking, NavShield is an opportunity to get back to basics and work on important navigation skills, without the use of GPS.

It's an ideal training opportunity for your club members to learn and practice in a fun and enjoyable weekend. You can choose to make it as competitive or as amateur/fun as you like!

NavShield is the primary fundraising activity for BWRS, so come and support your Search and Rescue Squad, whilst promoting a great, fun event to your Clubs. It is proudly supported by the NSW State Rescue Board, and the event is open to rescue teams from around the world. Past events have seen entries from a variety of Bushwalking and Rogain Clubs, Police, Ambulance, Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, Volunteer Rescue Association and the Armed Forces.

Now is the time, 3 months out from the event, to organise your teams and add this to the schedule of events. Registrations for this year's event are now open and all information is available on the Squad's website, www.bwrs.org.au. Contact: Caro Ryan, 0412 304 071, email: publicity@bwrs.org.au



Joseph Nimmo's Steam Sawmill

This story came to be written following a recent discovery at the end of another walk by Brian Fox and Yuri Bolotin. The site around GR 404 027 was revealed as a result of the State Mine Gully October 2013 fire which enabled lines of sight into areas previously hidden by dense undergrowth.

Michael Keats and Brian Fox
Photos by Brian Fox.

Sawmill

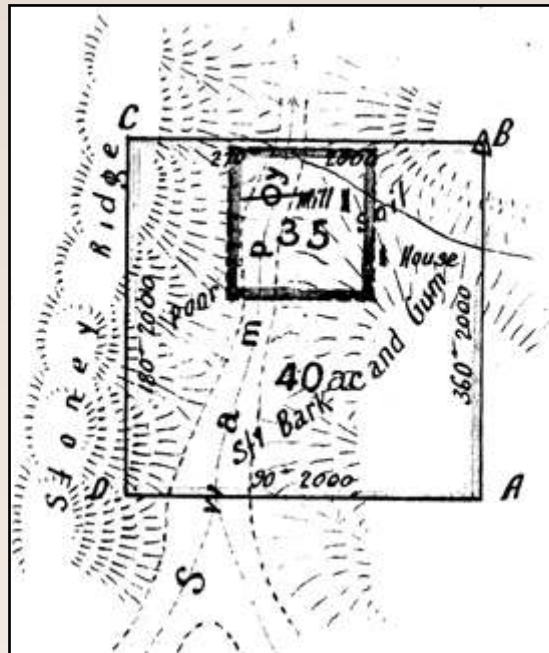


Pony to draught horse, 19 horseshoes collected here indicate the size of the operation in its heyday.

At the walk briefing Brian reported that when he and Yuri found the site he had picked up a very large horseshoe. It was hand forged and had features that made it quite distinct. On showing it to a farrier, it was identified as a hind shoe from a draught horse of about 16 hands, very likely a Clydesdale. The horseshoe was handmade and had a cog, or raised steel cap, which gave extra traction when the horse was pulling heavy loads. The style of the horse shoe identifies its age as being prior to 1900.

Several hours were spent searching and photographing the area. The October 2013 fire revealed that we were looking at a cluster of buildings and facilities that included a substantial chimney, a blacksmiths forge, a kitchen complex and various ancillary structures such as horse yards. This site also coincides with surveyed portion number 35. The number of separate sets of foundations observed indicates it could have been quite an activity hub. The site is located on the eastern side of Gang Gang Swamp (generally around 400 025) with flowing water and about 20 m from it and covers several hundred square metres.

Post-walk research by Brian Fox has enabled a reconstruction of the complete story of Portion 35, County of Cook, Parish of Cook, Survey Plan C1252-1507. (Isn't it wonderful what you can find in government archives?)



Survey Plan

On 17th August 1882, one Joseph Nimmo took a Conditional Purchase 40 acres. His Conditional Purchase lapsed 27th February 1886. His intended purpose was to operate a sawmill. Later, when this 40 acres was surveyed on 22nd July 1884, there was noted on the Survey Plan: Value of Improvements, Mill 400 pounds; House 30 pounds. Two years later a Special Lease, 7 acres for a sawmill, was granted to S. F. Tomlinson from 1st January 1888 to 31st December 1890. The fee payable was 10 pounds per annum.



David Dash standing next to the remains of the chimney for a blacksmiths forge.

The principle remaining structure is part of the original steam sawmill. The most striking feature is a tradesman-like circular ironstone chimney of local stone and bonded together with mud. The cylindrical interior is 600 mm in diameter and the walls are 500 mm thick. It has a current height of 1.9 m above ground level. Next to it and possibly connected to it is a rectangular structure, possibly a pit 8.1 m long by 4.4 m wide. This probably supported a horizontal steam boiler. The highest remaining wall is 3.3 m high.

Scattered around the site area we identified about 14 heavy cast iron pieces, pottery, glass, handmade chains, miscellaneous handmade iron objects, nails, spikes and 19 horseshoes. Also observed were handmade bricks, shards of hand blown bottles, an adze,

chain links of various sizes, old harness fittings, a rasp for shaping horse hooves, a file for finishing horseshoe nails and hand forged pieces of iron.



Boiler fire grates from a steam or traction engine

Our pictures of the many heavy iron pieces were identified by Philip Hammon from Scenic World thus:

"Grate irons from a boiler. When installed these were stacked side by side; burning coal (or charcoal) on top, air come up, through the gaps, and ashes falling down."

"If there was an installed boiler it would be for steam generation, possibly

from a traction engine, although it could be a bit big. If it was a stationary engine there would be chimney, foundations, water tanks etc and importantly ashes, usually with moss growing on top, making them easy to spot."

In turn Phil contacted a steam traction engine specialist, Robert Mills who advised as follows:

"These are boiler fire grates, but they appear to be broken in half. My traction engine grates are 36 inches long, but these in full length would be shorter. They may be out of a portable steam engine or a stationary boiler."

Phil added, "Eucalyptus oil manufacture is a possible activity, also sawmilling. With the lack of substantial foundations to support a steam engine, a traction engine seems likely. These often burnt wood which doesn't leave a long-lasting ash pile like coal does."

Two of the best finds of the day were a ceramic ointment pot jar and an antique glass bottle stopper.

The ointment pot/jar is 33 mm high and 44 mm in diameter. It is decorated with an image of a woman seated with a snake on the left hand side and the words "never despair" on the right hand side. The pot also has text as follows: 'HOLLOWAYS OINTMENT. For the cure of GOUT and RHEUMATISM, Manufactured only by the Proprietor. Inveterate Ulcers. Sore Breasts. Sore



Holloways ointment

Heads. Bad Legs &c, Prices are 1/1 ½, 2/9, 4/6, 11/-, 22/- and 33/- per pot, 533 Oxford St London'. It is believed to be from 1840 - 1870.

Detailed research by Brian Fox has revealed the following additional information. Thomas Holloway was born in Devonport, Devon, England on the 22nd of September 1800. He set up business for himself in 1837. He began by using his mother's pots and pans to manufacture his ointment in the family kitchen. Seeing the potential in patent medicines, Holloway soon added pills to his range of products. Holloway's business

was extremely successful. A key factor in his enormous success in business was advertising, in which Holloway had great faith. Holloway's first newspaper announcements appeared in 1837, and by 1842 his yearly expenses for publicity had reached over £5,000. He died 1883. An advertisement in The Courier (Hobart) 11th February 1859, p 4, records 'An Astonishing Remedy HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT'.

The Antique Glass Bottle stopper was made in Thuringia, Germany between the years 1850-1860. The stopper is made from cast glass and contains manganese impurities which, with prolonged exposure to the sun, have caused it to effloresce and turn a delightful shade of mauve.

The site also contains various other items which were from a more present time. These later items may have been left by bottle fossickers as there were no complete bottles located.

By interpreting all this evidence we now know this site operated as a steam sawmill from the 1884-1886 and then again from 1888-1890. The farrier operation would have been essential for maintaining the horses that hauled timber via drays to the sawmill, and then hauled the milled timber either to the Main Western Line or even as far as Lithgow. It is noted that this settlement predates the Wolgan Valley Railway by several decades and is also remote from the alignment of it. ♦

The wet season is SPECTACULAR!!

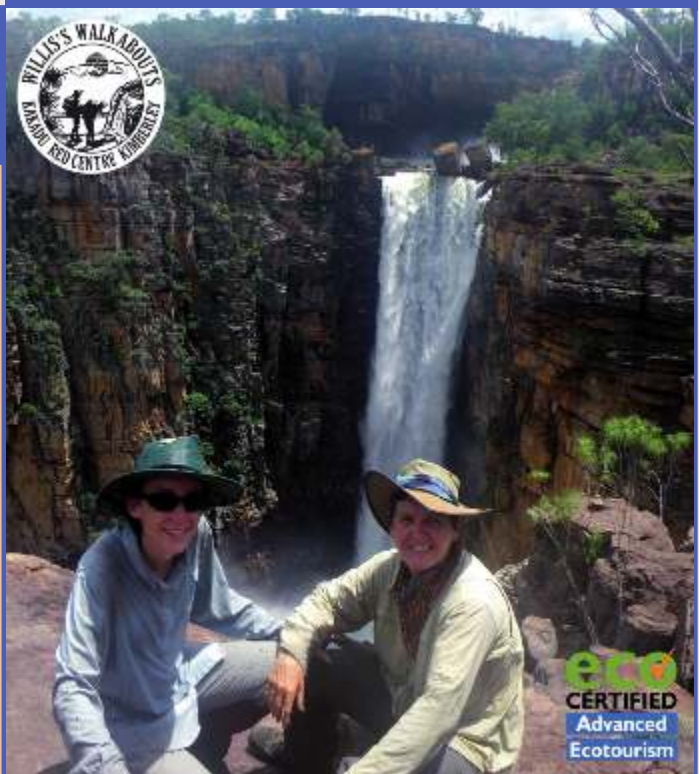
Don't believe what you see on TV weather reports. Weather symbols designed for temperate climates don't work for the tropics.

January, our wettest month, is far from the hottest. Most rain comes in short, sharp bursts. Sydney gets more 35° days than Darwin. We average sunny skies 45% of the time, almost as much as Sydney's 50%.

Don't believe it? The met bureau links on our wet season information page will let you judge for yourself. www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/wet.shtml

Our **What to Expect** page tells you even more. www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/wet2.shtml

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Wollemi Traverses, and all that

Andy Macqueen

I've been reading with interest Yuri Bolotin's excerpts from his 2012 eighteen-day north-south traverse of the Wollemi, in Issues 1-3 of Volume 38 of *The Bushwalker*. I would certainly agree with the editorial in the latter issue, that it 'would be one of the hardest walks on the East Coast of Australia'. However, I think the casual reader might get the impression from the same editorial that Yuri and his companions have been the first and perhaps only people to have walked N-S 'right through the middle of the Park'. [Ed: this was not my intention!]

I'd like to stress that I'm not keen on making claims about 'who did what first', as if it's some sort of competition, especially when it comes to the Wollemi. It should be a place for discovery, wonder and adventure, even though thousands of others have preceded you and already made those discoveries and felt the wonder. There have been countless forgotten wanderings by surveyors, cattlemen, hermits, outlaws, geologists, soldiers, foresters and others - many of whom had no maps, let alone GPSs, PLBs or phones. [For examples, see for example the books by Andy: 'Frederick Robert Darcy' and 'Somewhat Perilous', not to mention numerous cattle duffers...]

More importantly, the place has been frequented by its original owners for millennia. When you take the time to thoroughly explore, you find their evidence throughout the Park. In that context, it's a bit silly to get carried away with recent white fella feats. But if we are going down that path at all we might as well try to get the record straight.

In July-August 2010 Rik Deveridge, Michael Hensen and Carol Isaacs completed a similar bushwalk to Yuri, taking 23 days over it. I understand the guiding principle of Rik's route was to



Rik, Carol and Michael finishing their traverse at the Tessellate Pavements

avoid modern disturbance by avoiding tracks as much as possible. This was achieved, except for a short section of the Hunter Main Trail, some bits of old overgrown tracks, and a short track at the finish. Apart from a section of lower Girribung Creek they refrained from following creeks, though inevitably some of the passes involved in crossing numerous gorges proved to be 'interesting', requiring a good dose of luck.

Having previously spent much time in the Wollemi surveying for Aboriginal sites, and being a plant and animal enthusiast, Carol found herself enticed by much of the country they passed. She says

that 'if others were to do a similar trip, she would advise they take longer so as to enjoy the remote conditions and allow more time for exploring'.

The trio started at the same point as Yuri and friends, proceeding along the ridge on the east side of the Widden. They had three food dumps: on the Hunter Main; near Mount Wirraba; and near Mount Barakee. These were put in beforehand, thereby ensuring that they met no-one else during the trip, which was part of the idea. They finished at Mount Irvine: that means they didn't reach the most southern point of the Wollemi National Park at Kurrajong Heights (which Yuri did), but I suspect their route was every bit as tough. If one wished to set up the challenge as a N-S traverse of the Wollemi Wilderness - as opposed to the Park, then Rik's party travelled further south within the Wilderness.

What's in a name? There were recent discussions within NPWS agencies about possible rationalisation of park boundaries, which would probably have seen all those parts of the Blue Mountain National Park currently north of Bells Line of Road transferred to the Wollemi. The matter has been dropped for the time being, but that such a discussion even occurred serves to highlight the difference between the artificial world of naming and the actual real world out there. If the change comes to pass one day, the most southern spot in the Park will be beside the Bells Line roughly opposite the Mount Banks turnoff.

In September 2011, Carl Johnston, Tim Leane and Rodney Angelo passed pretty close to the last-mentioned point when they completed their N-S traverse by coming out at Mount Wilson (from



Wyn Jones (right) setting off from Sandy Hollow on the first leg of his 1992 monster traverse, accompanied by Rick Jamieson (left) and the local NPWS ranger.

They were seen off by locals including the lady from the Post Office (in blue).

Photo by Aine Gliddon.

Walk Safely—Walk with a Club

Lost Flat Mountain) and then descending Pierces Pass to cross the Grose Valley via Blue Gum. They took 21 days, and they only had one re-supply point. This was at Giribung Creek. I understand they got a head start by going up the Widden to Blackwater Creek, and thereby missed the most northern part of the Park, but like all the other efforts it was impressive. In the

central parts their route was a little to the west of Rik's route and involved a visit to Gaspers Mountain, but it was every bit as trackless.

Eric Butler did the trip solo, in August 2013. He set out from the same spot as Rik and Yuri's parties, not specifically to do a N-S traverse (though that's what it was), but to spend lots of time in remote

wilderness. As he says, 'It just looked like a great route to do and I've been wanting to spend a few weeks in a remote and beautiful place by myself for a while to really appreciate and gain a connection with the area'.

Eric took 19 days and he too had just one food drop, near the Wollemi-Colo confluence. Aside from the need pick that up, he wasn't committed to a precise route. In the best tradition of exploratory bushwalking he modified his plan as he went. He 'found the ridge tops rather tedious and the gorges beautiful and nicer travelling', so, for instance, he ended up walking much of Wollemi Creek.

Having passed close to the most southern point of the Wollemi Wilderness Eric emerged at Bell, then descended Jungaburra Brook, crossed the Grose Valley via Blue Gum and walked right on through his front door in Katoomba. Now that's impressive. Mind you, solo trips in the Wollemi are not new. There are accounts of people undertaking quite extraordinary solo efforts long before there were any useful maps of the place.

No doubt there have been other N-S traverses. But most worthy of mention in all this is the epic N-S traverse of September-November 1992. The 'Great Blue Mountains Heritage Walk' was undertaken by Wyn Jones - then Senior Naturalist of Central Region NPWS and some 110 other people who either accompanied him for various parts, or participated in events along the way. Sometimes he was alone, other times he



Drying clothing after a very wet day (kinda hopeful?)

An advertisement for SV Maps. The background is a scenic view of the Blue Mountains, featuring the Three Sisters rock formation. The text is overlaid on the image. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'SV maps' with the tagline 'Know your way'. The main text reads: 'Whether you are visiting the famous **Three Sisters**, prefer to tackle **Mount Solitary** or visit the stunning alpine meadows of **Kosciuszko**; **SV Maps** can help you find your way. Please call us on **1300 366 796** to order your map or visit our website **www.svmaps.com.au** to place an order online.' At the bottom right, the website address **www.svmaps.com.au** is repeated. The bottom of the advertisement features a horizontal bar with five colored segments: blue, dark blue, green, orange, and red.

Book Review . . .

Booderee National park

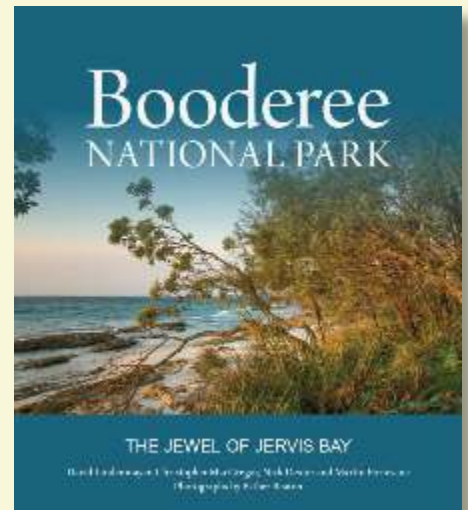
David Lindenmayer, Christopher MacGregor, Nick Dexter, Martin Fortescue, Esther Beaton
CSIRO Publishing, March 2014
Hardback, 152 pages
ISBN 9781486300426
\$29.95

Let me start by saying this is a really wonderful book. The authors are academics, but their expertise and their passion for the Park shines through at every opportunity, in both text and photos. I will quote a little from the CSIRO press release, as they summarise it very nicely.

“Booderee National Park at Jervis Bay, 200 km south of Sydney, attracts over 450,000 visitors each year. The park has many special features, including dramatic wave-cut platforms and sea caves, some of the whitest beach sands in Australia, and very high densities of native predators such as the Powerful Owl and the Diamond Python. Booderee packs an extraordinary level of biodiversity into a small area (roughly 6,500 hectares), with more than 260 species of terrestrial vertebrates and over 625 species of plants. It is home to species of significant conservation concern. The diversity of vegetation is also astounding. This book outlines the biology and ecology of Booderee National Park.”

Many books tend to focus on places or features, but this book takes a very different (and very effective) approach, as they explain:

“Chapters are arranged around key ecological processes – predators and predation, herbivores and herbivory,



invasive plants and fire – emphasising the interactions between species, between vegetation and animals, and between disturbances and animal and plant responses. The book highlights how Booderee National Park is a functional natural ecosystem and, in turn, how management practices aim to improve environmental conditions and promote biodiversity conservation.”

I can't help feeling that we need a LOT more of this approach. It blows many ignorant vested interests out of the water with detailed hard science. It leaves no room for claims that yearly control burns are needed, or that “chopping down gum trees is good for koalas”, or other destructive claims by vested interests. And yet, the authors manage to do this while leaving the reader enthralled. Buy the book!

Roger Caffin

had companions who variously included Rick Jamieson, Sue Morrison, Lyndall Sullivan, Marianne Bate, Aine Gliddon, Greg Chapman, Cath Ireland, Ian Brown and others. The unbroken route started at Sandy Hollow and swung over Mount Dangar in Goulburn River National Park before heading southward through the Wollemi, Blue Mountains, Kanangra-Boyd and Nattai National Parks.

Wyn's journey took 52 days. The route in the Wollemi was not generally ‘through the middle’, but on the other hand time was spent exploring, observing and making valuable side trips. Numerous endangered and rare species were recorded in a region which was then generally thought of as a rugged scrubby wasteland - indeed the army had been indiscriminately bulldozing, bombing and shooting the place up.

This was pre-Wollemi Pine days: today Wyn reckons the Pines have become a distraction from the many other unique natural values of the Park. Indeed, Wyn's walk was designed to celebrate those values. In places he deliberately departed from the parks to visit neighbouring landholders. He wanted to promote the concept of World Heritage for the Blue Mountains at a time when the idea was hardly on the agenda. He was successful: the idea gathered steam, and several other excellent campaigners came on board. As a result, in November 2000 the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area came into being. It encompassed seven national parks including the Wollemi.

As bushwalkers concerned for natural area conservation, we are indebted to campaigners such as Wyn for the increased level of protection that those parks now have, just as we are indebted to all those people, ever since the Blue Gum Forest campaigners of the 1930s, who have been responsible for the Blue Mountains parks in the first place. ♦

[Having spent over 20 years exploring Wollemi with my wife, I can only agree. Ed]



Wyn at Blue Gum Forest. [With a very full Cascade pack!]



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