

NEWSLETTER

of the

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
G.P.O. Box 2090, Sydney, 2001.

ISSN 0313-2684

WALKING IN THE COLO AREA

The Colo Gorge cuts through the centre of the largest wilderness area remaining in N.S.W. It is probably the most spectacular gorge of its type in Australia and consequently provides a superb area for bushwalking. However, difficulty of terrain, with the Colo and its tributary gorges being flanked by precipitous cliffs and the thick, prickly scrub on the ridges have discouraged many walkers from the area.

With the possibility of the Colo being dammed by the N.S.W. Electricity Commission, the next few years may be your only opportunity of seeing the Colo in its wilderness state. For bushwalkers unfamiliar with the Colo area the following list of suggested walks has been compiled. It is not meant as a complete list of walks but only to give ideas of the types of walks from various starting places. All the walks are weekend walks or daywalks if specified.

The best vantage points of the Colo are from the rim of the Gorge or mountains such as Island, Parr West and Alidade Hill. The various tributary creeks such as Angorawa Ck, Tambo Ck, Main Ck and Pinchgut Ck offer easy, fast and pleasant walking. Often the creeks are quicker than the ridges. Most of the creeks are a lot easier going downstream. Long pants and/or scrub gaiters and leather gardening gloves are useful if a fair bit of ridgewalking is contemplated. Twenty metres of No. 2 rope is useful for packhauls on the trickier passes. The notes regarding the passes are helpful on Bob Buck's Colo Sketchmap. If you are not experienced at rock-scrubbing then try the easier passes first.

Maps - Colo Sketch Map, Compiled by Bob Buck (from Paddy Pallins etc.) shows the numbered passes used on the walks list

Six Brothers
Colo Heights
Mountain Lagoon

1:25,000 C.M.A.

St. Albans
1:100,000 Dept. Nat.
Resources

St. Albans
1:63,360 Army - Be
careful using this map
as it has many errors

COLO WALKS - WEEKEND WALKS AND DAYWALKS

*From Mountain Lagoon (from Bell Road)

1. DAYWALK - WHEENY GAP
Mountain Lagoon, The Green Scrub,
Wheeny Gap and return - Medium/hard.
2. MT. DARCY
Mountain Lagoon, Mt. Conder, Pass 23,
Tootie Ck/Colo Jnc, Darcy Range, Mt. Darcy,
Tootie Ck, Mountain Lagoon - Medium/hard.
* From Mount Tootie (from Bell Road -
Itchenstoke turnoff)
3. WOOLANGAMBE RIVER
Mt. Tootie, The Big Hill, Pass 27, Bowens
Ck, Woolangambe River, Colo River, Pass 37
(Masochists Ridge), The Bill Hill. Medium.
4. WOOLANGAMBE RIVER
The Big Hill, Pass 38, Woolangambe River,
Colo River, Pass 37, Big Hill. Medium.
5. UN-NAMED CREEK
The Big Hill, Pass 38, Pass 26a (MR 727054)
Ridge towards Mt. Mistake, Un-named Ck
(MR 704074), Woolangambe/Colo Jnc, Pass 37
Big Hill. Medium/hard.

6. MT. TOOTIE TO PUTTY ROAD
Mt. Tootie, The Big Hill, Pass 37, Island
(via Pass 28), Drip Rock, fire trail,
Putty Road. Medium.
* From Bob Turners Track (from Putty Road).
7. DAYWALK - BOB TURNERS TRACK
Putty Rd, Bob Turners Track, Colo River
and return. Easy.
8. DAYWALK - MT. TOWNSEND
Bob Turners Track, Colo River, Pass 35,
Mt. Townsend, Putty Rd. Medium.
9. PARR SOUTH
Bob Turners Track, Colo River, Pass 31,
Parr South, Drip Rock fire trail, Putty
Road. Medium.
* From Drip Rock Fire Trail (Putty Road-
Locked gate and farm at start)
10. PARR SOUTH
Drip Rock fire trail, Parr South, Pass 31,
Colo River, Hungryway Ck, Parr Spur, Drip
Rock trail. Medium.
11. ISLAND AND PARR SOUTH
Drip Rock fire trail, Island, Pass 28, Colo
River, Parr South (via Pass 30) Drip Rock
fire trail. Medium.
12. PARR WEST AND ISLAND
Drip Rock fire trail, Ridge to Parr West,
Pass 22, Colo River, Pass 24, Island, Drip
Rock trail. Medium/hard.
13. ANGORAWA CK.
Angorawa Ck fire trail (MR 860107),
Angorawa Ck, Pass 22a (MR 757104), Parr
West, Drip Rock fire trail. Medium/hard.
14. ANGORAWA CK
Drip Rock fire trail, Pass 23, Angorawa
Ck, Colo River, Pass 22, Parr West,
Drip Rock trail. Medium/hard.
* From Grassy Hill Fire Trail (Putty Road)
15. PARR WEST AND ISLAND
Grassy Hill firetrail to MR 757146, Pass 21,
Angorawa Ck/Colo Jnc, Pass 22, Parr West,
Island, Drip Rock fire trail. Medium/Hard.
16. ISLAND
Grassy Hill, firetrail to MR 757146, Pass 21
Colo River, Pass 24, Island, Drip Rock trail.
Medium/hard.
17. COLO RIVER
Grassy Hill, Canoe Ck (via pass 13), Colo
River, Angorawa Ck/Colo Jnc. Out via Pass
21, Pass 22 and Parr West or Angorawa Ck.
Medium/hard.
18. COLO RIVER
Grassy Hill, Canoe Ck (via pass 13), Colo
River, Pass 24, Island, Drip Rock fire
trail.
19. DAYWALK - ALIDADE HILL
Grassy Hill fire trail, Alidade Hill, Pass
11 or 12, Colo River, Canoe Ck, Pass 13,
fire trail. Medium/hard.
20. DAYWALK - COLO RIVER
Grassy Hill fire trail, Pass 13, Canoe Ck,
Pass 15, ridge to firetrail. Medium.
21. COLO RIVER - ALIDADE HILL
Grassy Hill fire trail, Ridge to Pass 9 or
10, Colo River, Pass 11, Alidade Hill, fire
trail. Medium/hard.
22. MT. SAVAGE, TAMBO CK
Grassy Hill trail, Pass 13, Canoe Ck,
Colo Rv. Pass 17, Savage Trig, Tambo Ck,
Colo River, Tambo Crown, Pass 19, Grassy
Hill firetrail. - Medium/hard.
23. THREE PEAKS - SAVAGE, MISTAKE, ISLAND
Grassy Hill, Pass 13, Canoe Ck, Colo Rv,
Pass 17, Mt. Savage, Tambo Ck, Main Ck,
(3 branches), Mt. Mistake, Clews Range,
Un-named Ck (MR 696063), Woolangambe/
Colo Jnc. Straws Gully (MR 752068),
Island, Drip Rock fire trail. Hard.

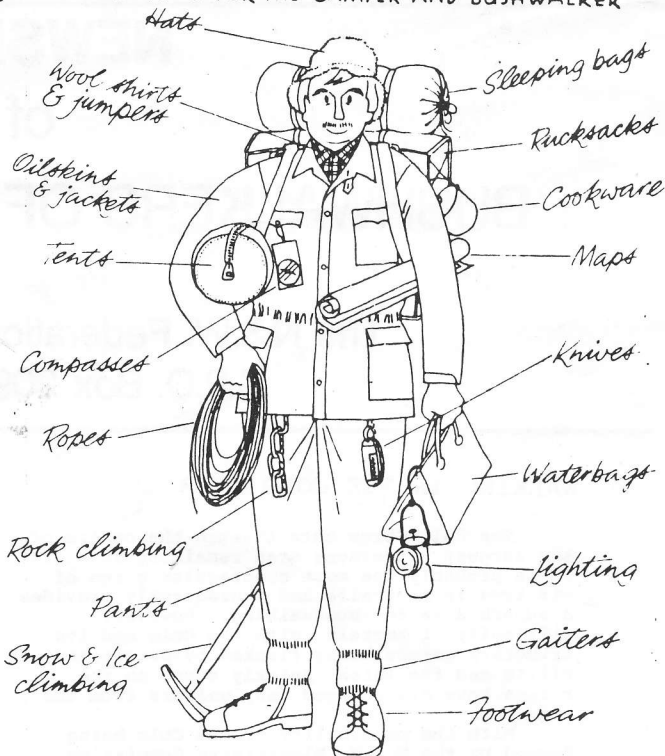
Compiled By DAVID NOBLE

(Map references refer to the metric grid on Wollangambe, Rock Hill and Mt. Wilson).

- 1. SHORT CK:** A two day canyon. Starting from Mt. Irvin, follow the ridge passed Tesselate Hill and drop to the Wollangambe (via the north-south running spur) at 649971. (Break the final cliffs on the eastern side 100m back from the nose). Climb out of the Wollangambe, going south-west, from 647968. Cross the plateau and drop into Short CK at 608973. Short CK is an exceptionally good gorge, with good abseils (60m rope needed) though probably not a high quality canyon. Exit to the south from the creek junction (614992) just before Bungleboori CK. Return by the same passes as before.
- 2. YARRAMUM CK:** A long two day trip. Enter at either 513943 (south branch) or 515958 (north branch). Twenty metres of rope is needed in the south branch. The best canyon does not start until after the junction of the two branches. For those doing the south branch, a short distance up from the branch junction (529953). Passes from both the east and west side exist at the tunnel. Though Yarramun passes through several non-canyon sections, the last of the canyon has stopped by 576970, where there is a pass to the north. The last kilometre or so to this pass is an excellent gorge.
- 3. UPPER DUMBANO CK:** Enter at 492979 (from south). Lilo handy. No rope needed. Exit at 521983 (to the south) or via Cespit Canyon (see below). A good day trip.
- 4. LOWER DUMBANO CK:** Enter at 521983 (from south). The exit (at 540000 to the south west requires some route finding. Lilos handy. 35m rope needed. An excellent canyon.
- 5. CESPIT CK (South Dumbano CK):** Enter at 499973 from the south west. Exit to the south at 521983. Short rope handy. There are also a few passes to the west 517979 (about 100m up from the junction with Dumbano). It is possible (though mildly tricky) to reverse the canyon from the Dumbano junction to this pass. (A combination of Upper Dumbano Ck or Cespit Ck with Lower Dumbano would make a good weekend trip.
- 6. WOLLANGAMBE RIVER:** An easy lilo canyon. Though some parts are very frequently done, other parts, which some people consider the better parts, are not as frequently done. Good canyon exists in Wollangambe upstream of the normal entry point (545912) and downstream of the 'EXIT' sign (559914). Other entry and exit points include 518910, 570923 and 582912. Rope may be handy in the lower sections.
- 7. BELL CK:** Enter by the small spectacular creek at 525898 (10m rope handy) or by 519901. An excellent day canyon. Lilos needed. Exit by the track on the Wollangambe at 542913. To get to the entry point, either follow the ridge from Watertrough Hill (493877) (for train trips) or by crossing Du Faurs Ck (from Mt. Wilson) at 890536 (interesting passes).
- 8. DU FAURS CK (Clatterteeth Canyon):** Enter at 532881, and exit by the track on the Wollangambe. An easy lilo canyon.
(Note that a combination of Bell or Du Faurs Ck with the Wollangambe would make an idealic weekend trip.)
There are several other creeks having an interesting canyon nature. However their shortness and inaccessibility prevents them from being done as canyons in their own right. Luckily they are mainly dry and can be done as part of winter extended trips. Some of these are:
ARTHURS CK: Enter at 497998. 20m rope handy. A good canyon and a good way of starting a trip in Bungleboori CK.
TUNNEL CK: Enter at 566003. 40m rope needed. This has a 30m long dead-end tunnel.
INTERESTING CK: Enter at 574950. Rope handy. A few waist deep wades. Rather tedious to avoid the swims (by high-level ledges). Probably better to do in summer.
FOUR MAN CK: (Outlet creek of the Valley of the Swamps). Enter at 563041. Many small waterfalls and unexpected happenings. 20m rope handy. Scrambling skill needed to avoid some swims. It is possible, though difficult and slow, to reverse.

WHATS NEW

- Canoeing Guide of N.S.W. Rivers. \$8.00
Bushwalkers Guide to S.E. Qld. \$3.00
(includes Wiangarie State Forest)
Lower Hawkesbury Rock Climbing Guide. \$3.00
Climbing in the Snowy Mountains. \$2.00.
100 Walks in Tasmania - T. Thomas. \$5.00
Wilderness Calednar (Tasmania). \$4.50.



WE'LL EVEN SHOW YOU HOW TO PACK IT ALL!

Paddy Pallin

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ROGAINING???

24 hour orienteering is apparently a fairly popular sport among bushwalkers and others in Victoria (where it is known as "rogaining"), but has yet made almost zero impact in N.S.W. The only pockets of interest appear to be those university clubs (Particularly UNSW, New England, Newcastle and Macquarie) who participate in the annual Intersvarsity Orienteering, which is a 24 hour event.

Now the Victorians may be considered by some to be a weird mob, but there is no particular reason why rogaining can't be a success in N.S.W. if it is a success south of the Murray. Its absence from N.S.W. can be attributed only to the fact that no-one knows what it is like because no events have ever been organised apart from the Intersvarsity which is restricted to very few teams. So, the University of N.S.W. Bushwalking & Mountaineering Club, which thoroughly enjoyed itself organising the 1978 Intersvarsity in August, is now going to stick its neck out and organise a similar event for all walkers in May 1979.

Rogaining is basically the same as conventional orienteering - there is a map, a number of checkpoints to be visited, and a time element. The difference is in the scale of things. The map is an entire 1:25,000 sheet, there are 30 or more checkpoints, and you have 24 hours from noon Saturday to noon Sunday in which to reach as many of them as possible. The combination of checkpoints and the route to be taken is up to each team and selecting the optimum strategy is part of the game.

This is a sport which is a real test of bushwalking ability - route selection, navigation, fitness and stamina. It is quite different from a suburban Saturday afternoon 5 Km orienteering event which is over in less than an hour, and forgotten in a couple of days. The strain of 24 hours continuous walking, paying constant attention to detailed navigation, is not forgotten for weeks. Nor is the satisfaction.

Rogaining is a sport for only a hardy few - not many are able, let alone willing to participate. But for those who like to take on the bush on its own terms it is a superb challenge. More details of the May event next Newsletter.

PETER TUFT