

NEWSLETTER

of the

BUSHWALKERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The N.S.W. Federation of Bushwalking Clubs
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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 vantagepoints 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-scrambling 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 1:25,000 C.M.A.
Mountain Lagoon

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. WOLLANGAMBE 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), Wollangambe/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), Wollangambe/
Colo Jnc. Straws Gully (MR 752068),
Island, Drip Rock fire trail. Hard.

AN INITIAL STUDY OF RECREATIONAL USAGE IN ETTREMA/BUNDUNDAAH

DEFINITION: The area referred to as 'Ettrema/Bundundah' comprises those lands embraced by the Great Bend of the Shoalhaven River, and extending south to the Nowra-Braidwood Road, and east to the Colymea State Forest, about 8 kilometres west from Nowra, N.S.W. (See accompanying diagram).

THE BASIS FOR THE STUDY: The published Walking Programmes for:
National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch)
Jan 1974 - Jan 1978
The Sydney Bush Walkers - Jan 1975 - Jan 1978
The Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club - Jan 1976 - Jan 1978

These walking clubs represent three/forty-thirds of the number of organisations affiliated to the NSW Federation of Bushwalkers. The statistical data extracted from their Walking programmes for the above period was mathematically corrected to obtain a total usage by these 3 clubs over a total four year period.

In order to obtain the total 'Visitation Number' (mentioned below, the Ettrema Bundundah was divided, aesthetically and by natural boundaries, into different sections (12 in all). Each time a club walking trip passed into a different section, a score of ONE was recorded. If the same trip passed through the same area twice, no second count was made.

THE STUDY:

FREQUENCY OF VISITATION TO ETTREMA/BUNDUNDAAH:
National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch) - Once per month

Sydney Bush Walkers - Once per four months

Mt. Druitt Bushwalking Club - One per two months

PERCENTAGE OF THOSE PROGRAMMED TRIPS WHICH WERE WEEKEND TRIPS, AND PERCENTAGE OF THOSE TRIPS WHICH WERE IN EXCESS OF TWO DAYS DURATION.

National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch)

73% (weekend) 27% (over)

Sydney Bush Walkers - 90% (weekend),

10% (over 2 days)

Mt. Druitt Bushwalking Club - 60% (weekend),

40% (over 2 days)

AVERAGE NO. OF PERSONS PER TRIP OVER 4 YEARS DURATION

National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch)

15 persons

Sydney Bush Walkers - 5 persons

Mt. Druitt Bushwalking Club - 8 persons

PERCENTAGE OF PROGRAMMED WALKS GRADED MEDIUM, AND PERCENTAGE ABOVE MEDIUM GRADE

National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch)

50%, 50%

Sydney Bush Walkers - 33%, 67%

Mt. Druitt Bushwalking Club - 33%, 67%

MOST FREQUENTED AREAS:

National Parks Assn of NSW (Sydney Branch)

1. Jones/Ettrema Area

2. Lower Yalwal/Shoalhaven Area

3. Bundundah Creek

4. Upper Ettrema Gorge

5. Lower Ettrema Creek

Sydney Bush Walkers

1. Jones/Ettrema Area

2. Ettrema Plateau

3. Middle Ettrema Gorge

4. Bungonia/Shoalhaven

5. Bundundah Creek

Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club

1. Jones/Ettrema Area

2. Ettrema Plateau

3. Bundundah Creek

4. Lower Ettrema Creek

5. Quiera Labyrinth

MOST FREQUENTED AREAS (OVERALL)

1. Jones/Ettrema Area

2. Ettrema Plateau

3. Bundundah Creek

VISITATION NUMBER (See under Basis for Study above)

National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch) 76

Sydney Bush Walkers 35

Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club 96

Total 207

ENTRY POINTS:

The most used entry points into the Ettrema/Bundundah are:

1. Via the property 'Ennis Clare' (not in National Park.)

2. Via Danjera Dam (not in National Park)

3. Via Grassy Gully Road (in Yalwal State Forest)

4. Via Tullyangela Clearing (not in National Park)

5. Via Quiera Clearing (not in National Park)
6. Via The Jumps (within Morton National Park)
7. Via Tianjara Falls (not in National Park).

SOME CONCLUSIONS:

OF THE THREE CLUBS STUDIED:

The National Parks Asscn of NSW (Sydney Branch) has the highest frequency of visitation, and the largest party numbers on any trip. Its activities are spread throughout the whole area, and its exploratory trips tend to be copied by the other two walking clubs of this study. Whilst its frequency of visitation is high, its usage of the area per walk is low, as only two different sections of the Ettrema/Bundundah are visited per walk, the most popular areas being the Jones Creek/Ettrema Creek area, and the lower Yalwal Creek/Shoalhaven River Area.

The Sydney Bushwalkers have the lowest frequency of visitation, and the lowest numbers in the party per walk, probably due to the fact that 67% of their activities in the area are graded harder than Medium Grade. Their overall usage of the area is generally confined to Jones Creek/Ettrema Creek area, and to the Bungonia Area. The great majority of trips are of weekend duration.

The Mount Druitt Bush Walking Club have the greatest overall usage of Ettrema/Bundundah and their visits tend to incorporate at least 4 different areas per walk, due primarily to the fact that walks are generally programmed in excess of 2 days duration, and are one-way rather than circuitous. Whilst the membership figures for this club are considerably lower than those of the Sydney Bush Walkers, and the percentage of walks graded above Medium Grade is equal in both cases, the Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club has greater member participation on walks in Ettrema/Bundundah. The most popular areas are the Jones Creek/Ettrema Creek Area and the Ettrema Plateau.

DESTINATIONS:

Programmed walks which have a specific visitation point produce the following figures of the most popular viewpoints and locations in Ettrema/Bundundah.

1. Possibility Point (overlooking Ettrema Gorge)
2. Shoalhaven Blockup Gorge (on Shoalhaven River).
3. Thomsons Cliff (on confluence of Ettrema/Jones Cks.)
4. 'Five Ways' (confluence of Tullyangela Ck and Ettrema Creek).

YEARLY VISITATION STATISTICS

Producing a yearly visitation figure is extremely difficult, but some idea can be gained by multiplying the above statistics by the number of walking clubs affiliated to Federation (taking into account those clubs in the New England Area who would not visit the area very much), and allowing for 'unprogrammed' club walks, and 'private' trips between club members, and including an allowance for walks by persons of non-club membership.

Overall participation per year by the three clubs studied = 233 persons
Plus allowance for unprogrammed club walk = 80 persons
Plus allowance for private trips amongst club members = 150 persons

Yearly total of three clubs studied = 463 persons

Of the 43 affiliated clubs, the visitation of those clubs in the New England Area would be virtually NIL (10 clubs), any visitation is offset by including the Newcastle clubs in the study. If we multiply by 11, the figure would be virtually accurate, as increased visitation by large clubs and by clubs in the South Coast/Canberra Area would again offset low visitation by clubs in the Orange/Bathurst Area. However as this study is intended as a guideline to bather an idea of the lowest recreational usage of the area, we concede, AND MULTIPLY THE ABOVE FIGURE BY 10 x 10

4,630 persons

SAY, TOTAL VISITATION OF THE ETTREMA/BUNDUNDAAH PER YEAR BY BUSHWALKERS IS: 4,500 PERSONS.

PETER HARRIS