



# SUTHERLAND BUSHWALKERS

## NEWSLETTER FOR THE SUTHERLAND BUSHWALKING CLUB

[www.sutherlandbushwalkers.org.au](http://www.sutherlandbushwalkers.org.au) P.O. Box 250 Sutherland NSW 1499

### June 2015 NEWSLETTER



Tallowa Dam

#### **Kangaroo Valley Bushwalking**

**Sunday 12 April 2015**

**Activity Organisers: Irene & Barry Mann.**

**Participants: Tim Gardner, Di Turner, Filomena & Harold Mattner, Peter Delauney, Lexia Duncan, Ken Wooley, Lee Fanning, and visitors Kathy Manning & Joan Ruthven.**

The walk was known as the Three Views Trail (according to old NPWS documents), and more recently Brooks Plateau Lookdowns. It starts 19.7km along the Mt Scanzi & Tallow Dam roads from Kangaroo Valley. We met there at 10:00am and started walking around 10:20am

The walk is mostly on fire trails and fairly level. The first look down (or view) is over the Kangaroo River and Yarrunga Creek, backed up by the Tallow Dam. The second lookdown provides spectacular views of Tallowa Dam. Water was flowing right across the spillway. Views of the Shoalhaven & Kangaroo Rivers, with their respective gorges were truly spectacular. We stopped here briefly for some morning tea, at an old trig point, probably used by surveyors to measure dam movements during the construction phase of the dam.

Next, on to the third lookdown, which provided great views of the dam and downstream Shoalhaven River, with a 270 degree view. Another trig point on a large

exposed rock provided a great spot for lunch.....spoiled only by a few spots of rain..... We backtracked 1 km to a cairn alongside the track. This was marking an overgrown track out to another lookout. Seven of us decided to brave the hakea and went out to a supposed great view. After battling through about 1km, the track "dispersed" before the lookout, becoming very hard to follow. A dark cloud descended, and a sudden clap of lightning/thunder decided for us that we should return. Then came the rain.....

We finally arrived back at the starting point (in sunshine) around 2:30pm, a bit wet but very happy. It was a great walk, with good company.

*By Barry Mann*



Tin Mine Hut

#### **Return to Cowombat Flat**

**Feb 2015**

**Activity Organiser: John Holland**

**Participants: Leonie Grimshaw, Judy Turner**

Ever since we walked this leg of the Australian Alps Walking Track in 1999 (and the location of the NSW/VIC Border survey cairn had eluded us) – John has wanted to return.....Plus there was more on his agenda.

With 10 days of food and all the usual gear (as well as scrabble, quizzes, books, radio and time because it was a holiday!) we left Dead Horse Gap near Thredbo, for the quintessential cattleman's hut which is Cascade Hut. After enjoying the fire, John used the new bush saw (no, we didn't carry that!) to restock the dry woodpile in the hut for Mr E. Mergency as graven on the slab wall.

It was a rainy journey to Tin Mine hut which afforded shelter, fresh water running off the roof, room to put up our tents (never done that before) and chairs in front of the fire – wow. It was noted that one of the party regretted that his down jacket was hanging in the cupboard at home.

We chose the nearby fire trail along the ridge before dropping down to Cowombat Flat. It was here that Judy encountered a herd of brumbies with the dominant male stopping to glare before thundering up the valley.....quite memorable.

Now the quest to find this cairn on Forest Hill.....No track, thick scrub and a promise of something, when John spotted random pink tape. Lunch near the summit and still no cairn and I'm thinking that if we can't find it, I'm not doing this again.....but we did .....hooray!



NSW/VIC Border survey cairn

And the next goal was to find the Murray River, close as possible to its source.....in thicker bush; and we did.... only 200mms wide. It's quite amazing that when it joins Pilot Creek, it is by far, lesser in width and flow. We had considered exploring the Murray downstream for 30 kms before gaining the 500m up to Dead Horse Gap, but having seen and experienced the dense regrowth since the 2003 fires and too many unknowns, we decided against this plan. Even our off -

track exploration to the Cobberas was abandoned because of the undergrowth. Instead, we walked the fire trail and did a bit of scrub bashing to a spot which only afforded minimal views. Good to see though that so many young eucalypts are coming back.

On our return, the 3km of no track to the summit of the Pilot provide panoramic views of the Main Range, Cobberas and the Victorian Alps. And with time on our side, we explored Cascade Creek upstream. The brumbies and the "swimming" were magic.

Even though we had a pack to carry for 10 days, we found this wilderness experience away from everything both energising and relaxing. Pristine water and abundant firewood was a big plus. We loved it – and John (well Leonie really!) found the cairn.

*By Leonie Grimshaw*



Bouddi NP

### **Bouddi National Park Car Camp & Bushwalks March 6th-8th**

**Activity Organiser: Judy Turner**

**Participants: Margaret Dooley, Leanne Baird,  
Shaune & Beatrice Walsh, Pam Stevenson, Sheree  
Brinsley.**

We arrived at the lovely little camp site at Putty Beach at 12pm Friday. Sheree was driving up after work. Leonie Grimshaw was also joining us for our 10k walk to Box head that afternoon leaving at 1pm.

HOWEVER, if Leonie had not had to go out to buy eggs for the muffins she was making for us & if the Vinnies shop had not been next to the egg shop with new stock she just had to look at (I quite understand Leonie) she was running a little late. By 2pm we set off

along the beach. I left her a note with the route hoping she would catch up.

The ridge top walk over sandstone boulders & through lovely red gum forest continuously opened up to panoramic views over Wagstaff to St. Hubert's Is. Tallow Beach, Broken Bay, Lion Island & Sydney's northern beaches. We arrived back at 5pm, Leonie had not found the note but had had a swim & waited to join us for a Barbeque. Sheree arrived later after a very slow trip, she had read the club programme from cover to cover during traffic stand stills on the road. The muffins were delicious & we had a great night.

#### SATURDAY.

After a leisurely breakfast we did a car shuffle to Macmasters beach to walk the coastal track. Once again we enjoyed fantastic views. We stopped at Maitland Bay beach for lunch. It was full tide & half way along as we made a dash between waves under the cliffs a rogue wave came in & drenched most of us. Margaret was washed off her feet into the water. Leanne & I were the only ones silly enough to have a swim. The seas were huge & it was like being in a washing machine full of sand! Back to camp for nibbles & drinks, another Barbeque, chatter chatter & bed.

#### SUNDAY.

We did a lovely 3k return walk on the Bulliman Spur track through beautiful angophora forest with an understory of cycads. Great views again. As we looked down on Putty beach we saw written on the sand in big letters with seaweed "WILL YOU MARRY ME" ...We will never know if she said yes. Back to camp to put down the tents. The sea had calmed & we were able to have a good swim before taking off for home.

*By Judy Turner*



### **Pub to Pub Bike Ride 2015 – 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 25<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Activity Organisers: Brian and Gay Wickens**

**Participants: Greg and Wendy Johnson**

**Lyn and Ron McMillan**

**Peter Smith, Peter Hannett, Terry Hatton, John**

**Stevenson, Ramon Alvarez, Steve Jenner**

**Tracey Nunziato, Tracey Cleary, Julia Safonova**

Fourteen riders have completed another successful Pub to Pub superbly organised by Gay and Brian Wickens. We had beautiful weather for the whole week with temperatures varying from about 9 to 11 in the mornings to max 25 in the daytime.

We had wind every day except the last, making the going a bit tough at times. A bit of drafting by a few of us attempted to make the going a bit easier. Overall we travelled a total of 450km between Parkes, Trundle, Condoblin and Forbes.

We spent the week listening to the birds chattering and calling each other; watching sheep grazing and being so timid as to run in herds away from the fence line skittishly; kangaroos bounding backwards and forwards across the road in front of us; cows feeding on the long paddock who would impulsively walk across our pathway. We admired the rich green crops, cultivated in perfectly straight rows and see the cotton balls blown from crops or trucks as it was being trucked to processing littering the edges of the dirt. There were also the many comfortable sprawling homesteads that house the farmers who are the backbone of our country industries.

Unfortunately one of our riders had to return home due to the death of his mother, and all our thoughts and condolences go to him and his family. Our accommodation over the week was varied...from swish motel rooms with all mod cons to the very old pub at Trundle where we all shared about 3 toilets and 4 showers. However one of the highlights of the week was sitting on that hotel's verandah after breakfast waiting to leave, enjoying the morning sun !!!

A couple of awards need to be announced....  
 The most balanced rider under duress has to be awarded to Lyn McMillan, who ran over a large dead kangaroo on the side of the road and managed to stay upright, preventing the downfall of the riders following her.....

The most unprepared rider for the trip has to go to Peter Smith who was quoted as saying he hadn't checked the air in his tyres for 18 months.

The rider at the most disadvantage had to be Tracy Cleary who was riding the heaviest bike with wide mountain bike tyres, which made her ride so much harder than anybody else's

There was a rumour going around about a certain South American cyclist, within our group, who was pushing his bike up a very small hill in Parkes.... Is it true????



Finally our thanks go to Ron McMillan, who every year drives our support vehicle and carries our morning tea and baggage. At our morning tea stop every morning, we are met by Ron with the billy boiling, cakes and slices all cut in a layby where we can get off the road, have a toilet stop if needed and enjoy the break. He does a fabulous job, is a great support to us all, without whom many of us would not be doing the ride. We were grateful this year that one of our riders was injured and unable to ride but came as a second support vehicle driver. He was a real gem carrying all our panniers for us on our 100 km day. Thank you Steve.

*The riders made the local Trundle news*



*By Gay Wickens*

**Our Club has 2 Emergency PLB's available**

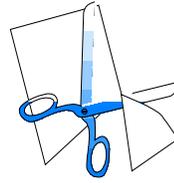


Our club has two GPS equipped satellite Personal Location Beacons that can be borrowed. Members are encouraged to take a PLB when going on activities in wilderness areas where there is no mobile phone coverage. The PLB's are registered, and if activated, emergency services have 3 committee members that can be

contacted to verify the club activity details and planned route.

Also, if an activity is overdue and it is known that they have a PLB and it has not been activated, then it is assumed they are ok and will walk out the next day. This is useful when in contact with emergency services for overdue groups.

A PLB can be borrowed by contacting our Equipment Officer, whose details are in the back of the program.



## COMMITTEE ROOM SNIPPETS

### Some Useful Smart Phone APPs



Red Cross  
First Aid App



Handy GPS

A GPS App for  
bushwalkers



Gaia GPS

A GPS App for  
bushwalkers using  
OpenStreet Maps



Where Am I??

A simple GPS  
coordinates App

### President's Report

Last newsletter was the BIG event calling everyone to the AGM in February. The result was most of the current committee were re-elected back into the same positions except for the vacancy of two positions.

I would like to thank Wendy Rayner and Celia Hacker for the tremendous amount of work they have done over the past years and the excellent programs put to print as a result of their team work.

The Program team now includes Leonie Bell as collator and "volunteers" Rebecca Rae, Lesley Salzmann, Kerry Clarke and I. It is a challenge but one I am sure we will rise to in an attempt to achieve an interesting activity program for all.

There are some Website challenges currently which the committee is working on. The website "member's area" is not up to date in some sections, so for now I ask for your patience.

We are in discussion with another website company to resolve our sudden crisis.

See you along the way, Vanessa

*Vanessa Hicks*

### Website Update

Recently, our Website has had a few problems. It has been functioning but recent updates have not been made. Unexpectedly, our Website Host became seriously ill, and he passed away at the end of April 2015. Your Committee have sent their condolences to his wife and expressed our thanks for his support over the past few years.

There was a delay updating the password and some

files are still the 2014 versions, as they have not been updated with the latest versions (Financial Accounts and Procedures relating to Overseas Activities). Your Committee hopes to have these problems resolved over the next few months. In the interim your patience and understanding is appreciated.

Lyn McMillan

**6 Months Oct 2014 – Mar 2015**

	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Visitors</b>
<b>Walks</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Cycling</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Kayaking</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>5</b>

**Bookings for Activities**

Members are reminded that bookings to participate in activities should be made directly with the Activity Organiser, preferably giving at least 4 days notice for one-day activities and 10 days for overnight activities.

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**Activity Organisers:**

Activity email alerts for alterations /cancellations please notify

**Items for the next Newsletter:**

Write an article about a bushwalk, bike ride, paddle or trip you have enjoyed for the next newsletter. Please email newsletter items and a couple of photos to your editor,

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*Changing your Details.....*

Remember to notify the Membership Officer or contact the Club on

[info@sutherlandbushwalkers.org.au](mailto:info@sutherlandbushwalkers.org.au)

to update your membership information

- \*change of address
- \*change of email or contact details

*We don't want to forget you*