



NEWSLETTER

March 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TO THE AGM FEB 2022

As we progressed through 2021, Covid restrictions and lockdowns were to impact our Club activities again for another year. We started out thinking Covid was behind us and even managed an interstate trip before the June to October, 107 day lockdown kept us in our local areas and once again prevented us from getting out enjoying our Club activity program and volunteer work. Despite this, it was good to see many of our members still arranging to get out and about with their Club friends within the limits of the restrictions. What a relief when October came and the outdoor restrictions were lifted.

With interstate and overseas travel disrupted we had an increase in membership during the year. We also have activities now occurring on multiple days of the week with very positive feedback, and an increase in the number of activity organisers.

Injuries have been down this year and we remain grateful that our State rescue services were on hand for the occasion when they were needed. I encourage all our members to consider completing a First Aid Course, especially our activity organisers. The Club subsidises part of the cost of the courses.

Our Club finances are in a very good state. Our plan over the last two years to reduce our excess funds by reducing the membership fee for existing members has been achieved. The audited Financial report for the year is available in the members area of our website.

I would like to thank our volunteer Activity Organisers who take our members to fantastic places outdoors and fill our quarterly programs with an incredible choice across multiple days every week.

We look forward to recommencing our volunteer track work in the Royal after summer and hope to put our Club name on another cleared track in the coming year.

I would also like to thank our Committee and Office Bearers for the work they do behind the scenes in their own time to keep the Club functioning efficiently for the enjoyment of all the membership.

Finally, a big thanks goes to all our members for the enjoyment and friendships that you bring to our very successful Club.

Shaune Walsh

President



Rusden Head, Budawangs;

Sunday 12 December 2021

Walkers: Ten in total, Becky and Pete Guest, Lexia Duncan, Hanna Yudhistira, Kerry Clarke, Kay Manning, Deidre Bowie and Sheree Brinsley, with Irene & Barry Mann.



With Pigeon House (Didthul) in the background

Most of us made a weekend of this Sunday walk: Four of the ladies went kayaking on Lake Conjola, three others also camped at the caravan park in tents, whilst the leaders checked out the road up to Little Forest Plateau to ensure it was still passable after the extremely heavy rain experienced during the week (and subsequently had a great meal at the Milton-Ulladulla Ex Servo Club!). The road was generally clear, with many pot holes and rain grooves, but no fallen trees.

Next day we met at 10:00 just off the Princes Hwy on Porters Creek Rd. Leaving 2 cars there, the 10 km drive to the track head saw us start the walk around 10:40.

Well, the notes say there are a couple of “boggy sections” - this proved to be an understatement. When the track was explored in July, there were 2 sections each about 150m long, where duckboards were to be replaced with raised mesh walkways. Thank goodness this work was complete, giving us some “dry” reprieve from the rest of what was now an extremely soggy track. The 2 groves from work truck wheels were generally flowing streams, and the raised centre between these ruts provided some solid ground....and there were multiple “lakes” to edge around or walk through.

Many flowers brightened up the previously burnt scrub. For the last 2 km we were walking in a bright yellow wonderland, contrasted with the blackened

scrub branches - truly amazing. Not sure of the species - phyllita, hibbertia, or goodenia, or combinations thereof, with white dogwood, callistemon, mountain devils, buttons, and some spectacular Christmas bells evident.

A further educational moment was observing tadpoles and frogs, and those in between, living in various pools along the track....and a not too distant owl hooted, but was not seen.

The track ends abruptly at a rocky shelf providing panoramic views of Pigeon House Mountain and Pigeon House Creek gorge, with Mount Talaterang to the west. A great spot for a 20 minute break and lunch. We did have a very short sprinkle on the way, causing wet weather gear to be donned, but the lunch break was dry, with blue patches appearing.

The return trek seemed shorter! No one complained of the conditions or the wet shoes - those with ankle top boots were the happiest!



In between the wheel ruts

On the way back, before the descent, we went to Pointer Gap Lookout for stunning views over the Conjola/Milton/Ulladulla area - 493m above sea level (thank you Deidre for pointing this out on the direction/sun dial). The 10km walk there and back

took 3:40min, including our lunch stop, enabling an early start for the return drive to Sydney. Note the Albion Pak bypass is now open - no traffic lights from Heathcote to Nowra! Bright sunshine developed on the drive home....a great weekend.

Barry Mann

Kosciuszko Week

Pygmy Possum Lodge – Charlottes Pass

30 Jan – 6 Feb 2022

The Kosciuszko week is a popular way to start our year of activities and this year we had thirty nine members fill the lodge and participate in six days of day walks. It was great to have a number of members who hadn't been before join in with the regulars.

With a number of new tracks under construction, we were all keen to try the recently opened Charlottes to Illawong Lodge track along the scenic Snowy River with its impressive bridge over Spencer's Creek. It didn't disappoint! We look forward to the completion and opening of the Charlottes to Porcupine Rocks track in time for next year. It's great to see more opportunities to do walks directly from our accommodation.

This year there was some off track exploring of the magnificent Rams Head Range area with back country walking to return to the lodge. This is an area on the list to explore more next year.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
CHARLOTTE'S to Illawong Lodge via Spencer's Creek 8:45 AM Shaune	Quiz Grand Pass 7-30	TOP OF KOSCIUSZKO RECURRING SERVANTS BY RIT Tilly Pere	On night 300 Diana BRYAN	MT Kosciuszko from Charlottes Pass	Col's Lodge to Mt Pygmy 8:45
Track to Illawong at 8:00 AM	Burn Lane Heavy rain OUT - BACK IDR Pen	CP car park to Guthega one way or optical return	Watsons Group Approx 19 AM Gr 4 Carl	Illawong to Burn Lane via Mt Kosciuszko Illawong Pass High 8:00 AM	Guthega Pond Lillian Hut 1:00 PM
	PANCAKING at 10:00 AM 4 hrs to depart	Waterfall Walk 6km + Rainbow Lake 3km	MT Skibowl Gr 2-3 Rancho	Back to Burn Lane via Charlottes Pass Short 6:2	Triebdo Chair Lift, walk to Mt Kosciuszko GS 8 AM
	with early lunch at 10:00 AM 8:45 AM	Carroll's Hut to 20km	KOSCIUSZKO Summit walk - leads to Spine bring water dips	THE SKIBOWL Gr 4 - 5 AM BRUCE	Triebdo chair + 20:00 CPT Shaune
	8:45 AM 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM		Carroll's Hut to 20km	GR 4 NIGHT 7:00 CART 2 EAST WIND	

We had typical mixed mountain weather, with some days under a beautiful blue sky and others in the clouds and ten degrees. The walks white board and the participant lists were full each day as we made the most of it.

The evenings are always very social, highlighted this year by two fun quiz nights prepared by Becky then Ken.

Thanks to the walk organisers that made the week such a success and to everyone for being such a social group.

By Shaune Walsh

A Happy Reunion!

Let me take you back 12 months, when Hana required a helicopter ride after an innocuous fall on a club walk in the Blueys. A couple of broken bones will certainly make walking difficult...

Fast forward to January, and on a club walk at Mt York we came across a group of paramedics completing field day training exercises and were very pleased to see one of the paramedics that attended Hana that fateful day!

As the photo shows, Hana and her paramedic were very happy to see each other again under a lot better circumstances.



No worried faces today! - Allan Bunt



A warm welcome to our new members

How to Locate the Club Activity Program

The club sends out an email alert containing the direct link to the activity program and newsletter. The program can then be downloaded.

If you 'pin' or flag this emailed program alert in your email program you will also be able to access the program quickly this way.

Likewise if you 'pin' or flag the new password alert it will be easy to find when you need to access the Members Area of our club website.

The activity program can also be accessed through the Members Area of the club website:

Go to the club website: <http://www.sutherlandbushwalkers.org.au/>
Click on Members Area (up the top)
Type in the password.

Under 'Members Club Activity Program' you will see the recent Programs listed.
Click on the program that you wish to view or download.

The activity programs in the Members Area have all the organiser and committee contact details (whereas the public web version does not).



One of the many walks during Pygmy Possum week

Neale Zietsch

Paddy Wesley-James

Wayne Renshaw

Caron Nakkan

Wendy Morvan

Philip Travis

Ross Gordon

Glenn Small

Robert Purdon

Simon Flack

Brian Burgess

Kyle Witty

Marcia Richards

Anna Farnham

Gaynor Berthon

Greg Dumbrell

We look forward to seeing you out on the track, on the water or on the road soon!