



## Celebrating 50 Years 1970-2020

# NEWSLETTER

December 2020

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We've managed as a club to keep enjoying our outdoor activities throughout 2020 despite all its challenges. Starting with bushfires, smoke and road closures, then COVID-19 where we stopped club activities then recommenced with the new norm "social distancing". It's great that bushwalking, cycling and paddling are all outdoors and among the safest activities as far as the virus is concerned.

With no international and very limited interstate travel, all our program activities are well attended. It's pleasing to see some new activity organisers and extra mid-week activities.

Our new Facebook group, visible only to members, is very popular for showcasing program activities and our members' photographic skills. We certainly are an active club!

It's membership renewal time. Our club finances are in a very good state and your committee has decided to again offer a reduced membership renewal fee to existing members. Send in your renewal on time to take advantage of the offer and to continue to receive club notices and programs.

Unfortunately, we have had to suspend our monthly general meetings this year but we plan to recommence for the AGM in February 2021.

It's our club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and although we weren't able to celebrate it with a large gathering, Leonie Bell produced a 100-page history

photobook which has been well received by those who purchased it.

Our outdoor activities unfortunately sometimes result in injuries and this year we have had a few. Our activity organisers and participants have in every case responded to the situation to provide the best of care and emergency transport. In the remote situations the activation of a PLB and communication with our Emergency Services has been invaluable. We are fortunate to have such a great free service available when you need it. The insurance that comes with our membership helps with the out of pocket expenses. Recovery for the injured is usually slow and it's good to see fellow club members keeping in touch.

I wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and let's hope our lives continue to return to normal through 2021.

*Shaune Walsh*



### **Mt Kembla! What Could Go Wrong?**

Last year's walk it was all rain, wind, cold, no views, no morning tea and lunch in cars!

This year the weather was fine, so what could go wrong? The Lookout Road was closed, so couldn't even get to the start of the walk! No worries, I pull out a "plan B." Jump into our cars and head for the Clover Hill Track in Macquarie Pass, only to find out at the bottom of the pass, Clover Hill carpark is closed!

Now "plan C" is put into action. First, we did the short rainforest walk to Cascade Falls, where we had morning tea. Next over the road to the track or lack of track up Macquarie Rivulet to Jump Rock Pools. These pools are a sight worth seeing, but in September only polar bears would take a dip.

With mission accomplished and time on our hands, "let's go further upstream." When the big boulders, fallen trees and landslides blocked our path in the river bed, it was time to take to higher ground in the bush. What tracks there had been, now seemed to disappear nearly completely. The lure of the water drew us back several times -- so how many got wet feet crisscrossing the rivulet?

Lunch spot was very nice at the junction of a small side creek and rainforest trees, one of which had six tree ferns growing on it. The return journey was taken to avoid the rivulet and obviously our route going up, as we ran into ridge after ridge that had steep drop offs on the other side was challenging.

All the group handled the off track stuff well, even when they were slipping and sliding on their bums.

Mt Kembla's grade 3 walk had turned into a grade 4, which several wouldn't have ever tackled. Everyone did well and said to me they enjoyed the experience, what was said behind my back may have been different ☺

*Allan Bunt*

ps - All sixteen did Mt Kembla three weeks later in fine weather and views.



## PUB TO PUB RIDE 2020

Originally planned for April this year, then postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions, our long anticipated annual Pub to Pub ride finally hit the road in early November. Sixteen intrepid cyclists set out for Wagga Wagga and the first three days of cycling on some quiet Riverina back roads.

Day one saw us head out to the sleepy town of Ladysmith where we enjoyed lunch before a visit to the old Ladysmith station, on the abandoned Wagga Wagga to Tumbarumba rail line, which will hopefully become a rail trail at some time in the future. The loop back to town involved a moderate climb but the reward was some delightful views over the surrounding countryside.

On day two we headed out to the locality of Harefield to the north east of Wagga Wagga on mostly quiet rural roads with two moderate climbs which, once again, provided some expansive views of the delightful countryside. Lunch was taken in a well-appointed roadside rest area before completing the loop back to town.

Day three involved a 40 km drive to our start point from where we set out to ride to Berembed Weir, our morning tea destination. This is a pretty spot on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River and involved a 20 km stretch of gravel road with some sandy sections. I'm pleased to say that all attempted and completed this late variation to the ride without any (well not much) complaint. We continued on through the towns of Matong and Ganmain, where we descended on the Ganmain bakery like a plague of locusts. The legendary Ganmain pies got the thumbs up from all who tried one.

The next day was a rest day where we transferred to Canberra.

The weather Gods smiled on us for the Wagga Wagga section but were definitely frowning for our first riding day in Canberra. Perhaps they have different Gods in the ACT. Rain and cold made it an easy decision to cancel the day's ride. Fortunately, there were many alternative activities to pursue.

The following day dawned fine so it was back on the bikes for another day of cycling on the excellent facilities the city has to offer. A partial circuit of Lake Burley Griffin was followed by a challenging climb to the Eagles nest in the Arboretum for some spectacular views. Some riders used the descent to try for a new personal best maximum speed. There were rumours of 75 kph (unsubstantiated) being attained!

The final day brought another enjoyable day of cycling through the southern suburbs on the extensive cycling infrastructure of our nation's capital.

All too soon, the holiday was over, but we were left with smiles and lasting memories of some great cycling and socialising away from the big city.



Ladysmith station



Day three start



The eagles nest overlooking the National Arboretum



All smiles after a 70km day

*Peter Hannett*

**Bushwalk: 3 Creeks and a Lookout - a loop walk in the Woronora and Engadine area**

Wednesday 28th October 2020

Organiser: Margaret Dooley

Participants: Alayne, Julia, Tracey, Lisa, Catherine, Ray, Ray, Gordon, Nancy, Vicky, John

Great walking weather and no rain, despite the weather forecast being for showers! We climbed

both the Engadine ridge and up to the Woronora



Heights Lookout so we had plenty of exercise, including some rough track and creeks to negotiate. Great company, much talking and an enjoyable day was had by all!

*Margaret Dooley*

**Emergency Plus app**

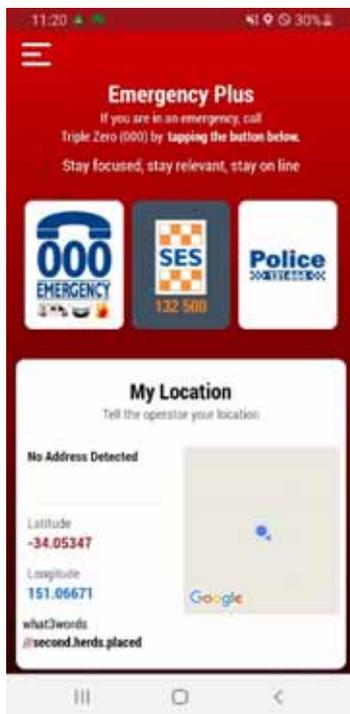


As Shaune mentioned in his presidents report, we have had a few incidents over the years that have required injured members to be transported from remote areas. Recently on a walk in the Blue Mountains, we had reason to set off the PLB. In the spot where the accident occurred, the mobile reception was non-existent, however in many cases you may have reception, and it is here where the Emergency Plus app is an excellent addition to your safety equipment.

While it will never replace a PLB, the app works without internet connectivity, and allows you to call emergency services with precise latitude and longitude, and also the newer location method “what three words”. You can call Police emergency, SES or Police hotline.

In the incident referred to earlier, mobile reception was established after a short steep climb, and the app used to talk with Police and relay vital information re the patient’s condition. This allowed a measured response from the responders.

The app is available at all app stores for Android and Apple devices, or from a link from our website.



## Budawang National Park 3 Day Full Pack Walk

Friday 6 November - Sunday 8 November 2020

Organiser: Alan Webb

Participants: Shaune Walsh, Beatrice Walsh, Rebecca Rae, Kerrie McLean, Kerry Clarke, Annette Robinson, Tim Gardner, Phil Escott and Peter Delauney



This walk was originally scheduled for 15-17 May 2020 but was cancelled due to suspension of club activities following the COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, when the rescheduled time finally rolled around we were all excited and rearing to go.

The walk was organised to commence at the Wog Wog campground, which is near Nerriga, about one hour drive from Nowra via the Braidwood Road.

The day prior to commencement (Thursday 5 Nov.) saw heavy rain along the NSW east coast and somewhat disrupted the plans of the five participants who planned to camp overnight at the commencement point. A fast flowing causeway

prevented access to the campground so Shaune, Beatrice, Becky, Kerrie and Annette spent the night at the Nerriga Pub. Not in the pub but in cabins next door. The other five participants drove down on Friday morning arriving about 9.30 AM.

### Day 1

The weather had cleared overnight and it was a perfect day for walking. However, about 500 - 600 metres into the walk we came to a pretty fast flowing creek just above knee height at the crossing point. Boots off and one by one gingerly approached the torrent. The first six crossed OK but about halfway across Kerry took a tumble. She lost a sandal and one of her walking poles but fortunately found the pole on our way back three days later caught up in the foliage downstream.

We proceeded on our 15 km trek to our campsite at the rock overhang near Burrembeet Brook. Along the way we began to experience the stunning beauty of the Budawang wilderness. Much of the countryside was burnt out during the January 2020 bushfires but it was good to see the new growth returning, including plenty of wildflowers, providing a fine example of the regeneration process of the Australian bush. Much of the track was wet and muddy following the previous day's rain. Special highlights of the first day were our first sighting of distant Pigeon House Mountain and the imposing Castle and the spectacular Corang Arch which Shaune, Becky, Kerry and Tim climbed for a photo opportunity. (See our program cover! Ed)

We reached our rock overhang campsite about 4 o'clock, collected water from the creek, set up bedding, cooked dinner and finished off a wonderful day with one of Tim's excellent camp fires.



### Day 2

We set off at about 8.30 AM in fine weather on our 20 km return day walk to Monolith Valley, carrying day packs and appreciating the lighter load. The

first few kilometres traversed similar countryside to Day 1 as we passed by Mt Tarn and Mt Bibbenluke. Eventually we approached Mt Cole and headed towards a gap in the range which was the route into Monolith Valley. We skirted around Mt Cole passing through a number of camping caves before arriving at the entrance to the Monolith Valley Protected Area. The sign marking the entrance describes Monolith Valley as “an upland watershed with a series of valleys radiating from a central area of heath and woodland. Cool temperate rainforest flourishes in these moist valleys .....”.

Our trek from there took us through a shallow canyon type watercourse before climbing out onto an elevated area with large rock formations known as the Seven Gods Pinnacles. We rested on the “Gods” for a while capturing some memorable shots before passing down into the Green Room. What an amazing place. Lush, green and moist rocks and vegetation enclosing a steep passageway which is quite narrow in places. We had lunch near the large Stone Arch before returning to camp the way we came.

We reached camp about 4.30 - 4.45 PM after a full day walking through countryside as good as it gets. Again we finished off the day with a campfire provided by Tim.

### Day 3

After packing everything up we were on the track with our full packs by about 8 AM in another perfect day for walking. The walk out provided another opportunity to take in the vast rugged beauty of the Budawang wilderness as we kept up a good pace thinking about a clean-up and lunch back at the cars. We finally reached the creek which had subsided somewhat and as we were close to the finish most of us walked across in our boots.

Plenty more can be said about what we did and saw in the three days but hopefully readers will gather that we had a great time. I’m pretty sure that we would all do it again and take any opportunity to return to the Budawangs.

The Budawangs has been a regular destination for walks organised by Sutherland Bushwalkers. Apparently, the first walk organised by the club’s founding group was in 1969 from Yadboro up the Kalianna Ridge to Monolith Valley. Also, the Club’s 50th Anniversary Book includes many references and photos of trips to the Budawangs as far back

as the late 1960’s and 1970’s. Following our short three days in the area it’s easy to see why the Budawangs holds such a fascination for bushwalkers and entices them back time after time.

Camping in the rock overhang was a bit different and it provided a number of unique experiences. To fall asleep looking out at the night sky or gazing at the dying glow of the campfire was a great way to round off each day; as was looking out at the approaching dawn each morning trying to hold off getting up as long as possible. The only disadvantage was a slight fall away from the rock wall. It was fine sleeping facing the rock wall with ones rear end providing a bit of a brace but when facing outwards one tended to slide off your mat.

We all owe a big thank you to Alan for organizing this trip and providing us with the opportunity to visit what is widely acknowledged as a pretty special place. It was the first time in the Budawangs for many of us and we were most fortunate to have an experienced guide with a vast knowledge of the area. Alan was supported by Becky who had visited the area before and was also able to provide us with some interesting stories. In addition the navigating skills of Tim, Shaune and Phil kept us safe and on the right track throughout our trek. Everyone contributed to make this a successful and enjoyable trip.



*Peter Delauney*

### Central West Cycling Trail

The new Central West cycling trail opened in May, 2020. It was planned and implemented by the Mudgee Bushwalking Club. It’s a 400 km circuit starting in Mudgee and visits Gulgong, Dunedoo, Mendooran, Ballimore, Dubbo, Wellington. My husband Rob and I enjoyed the trip as it was off main roads and we could camp and still enjoy local food and drinks. The locals appreciated seeing lots

of cyclists with some hotels booked out. The signage was great and no maps or GPS really needed.

*Diana Stricker*



### Dubbo Gully and Ten Mile Hollow Circuit

19 -20 September 2020

Leonie Grimshaw, John Holland, Phil Meade, Beck Rae

It was a perfect day for descending Dubbo Gully (nowhere near Dubbo! close to Central Mangrove, Central Coast) with tall rock overhangs. We passed an historic cemetery and the now abandoned Fairview homestead, 1922 - both worthy of a look see, as was the Convict Trail plaque in the valley.

Simpsons Track took us up through bush, regenerating after the fires, to the grassy Ten Mile Hollow campsite - bulging, blaring and spot lit with contractors replacing a burnt bridge. Actually, peace was made and we enjoyed a campfire and quiz. So interesting to see Clare's Bridge, the second oldest bridge on the mainland and convict retaining walls along the Old Great North Road.



John, Beck and Leonie

*Leonie Grimshaw*

### Bushwalk - Pindar Cave

16 October 2020

A group of 15 spilled from the train onto the tiny Wondabyne platform and it was up, up and more up with views of Brisbane Waters giving way to pristine bush, sandstone and splashes of pink boronia.

Imposing Pindar cave was a perfect lunch spot with a short there and back to the trickling waterfall.

During our walk a snake on the track raised up in fright but the abundance of ticks kept us on alert.....6 in all with 1 "frozen" and removed en route and 1 removed post walk by a doctor.....and the other 4 ticks just people roaming.

The latest advice is to kill the tick where it is; freeze not squeeze. FYI go to this web site,

[www.tiara.org.au](http://www.tiara.org.au)

In all, a lovely faraway feel walk just a train ride away.

*Leonie Grimshaw*



John and Judy

### Currockbilly Mountain - Logbook 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

Fifty years ago, on 14 November 1970, nine members of Sydney Bush Ramblers (renamed Sutherland Bushwalking Club in 1977) placed a visitors' logbook on the top of the 1132m Currockbilly Mountain, in the south west Budawang Ranges (east of Braidwood). The logbook, still remarkably intact in its metal container, had been rediscovered earlier in 2020 after the devastating bushfires, by David Poland from the Canberra Bushwalking Club.

David, having seen the name Sydney Bush Ramblers in the first logbook entry, contacted Shaune Walsh, our president and invited the club to join a small COVID-safe group to celebrate this 50-

year anniversary. The plan was for four from SBC (Shaune, Ken Newman, Tony Larkin and Phil Meade) to meet on Saturday morning 14 November 2020 with a group from the Canberra Bushwalking Club for addresses later that day by David and Shaune to commemorate the anniversary at the top of Currockbilly Mountain.

David Poland also circulated to Shaune, the notes sent to Canberra Bushwalking Club members, providing details of the proposed walk. These notes included the following:

**“What to expect.**

This is an “R” or ROUGH walk. Whilst not long in distance (8 km return) please don’t be fooled. This walk does involve a 400 m elevation climb and descent. In parts it is very steep. Most of it is off track, ie there is no path or animal track to follow at all. It takes me 2.5 hrs to walk the 4 km up and another 2 hrs to walk down plus an hour to explore on the summit. So for some people this will be a long day. Whilst the scrub is light, as most of it was burnt in the 2019/2020 fires, there is a lot of loose rock underfoot. You will need to be sure footed. You will need to expect to get sooty and black from the burnt sharp sticks and legs so wear old tough clothes. There is no water.”

After an overnight stay in Braidwood, with the above in mind we set off from the cars past Mongarlowe at 9.00am, with a short rest mid-way, reaching a point very close to the top in 2.5 hours after the 400m ascent. We then diverged a short distance south to an overgrown stone mound trig. Here David carefully opened a small metal container left at the trig, inside of which were details of people having visited there dating from the 1960s including the famous Colin Watson OAM. The records were very fragile and a decision was made that David should deliver the container, including contents, to the National Museum in Canberra. Something suitable will be put there in its place.

At midday David made a short address providing some background to the walk. An invited botanist also explained some of the key features of the area, including a nearby temperate forest, which he said was unique to the area.

Shaune’s address followed and included:

- SBC’s history - originally “Sydney Bush Ramblers” but following confusion with the name, it was changed to Sutherland Bushwalking Club;

- 1970 was the Bicentennial year (of Captain Cook’s voyage along the east coast of now Australia) and the year we became a formal club. Don Rice our founding club president organised the commemorative placement of containers and visitor log books on Pigeon House, Talaterang and Currockbilly;
- The containers were made in the workshop at the Atomic Energy Commission - unofficially of course! - club members included employees of AEC (now ANSTO) at Lucas Heights
- On 14<sup>th</sup> November 1970 they made a 2-day hike and they arrived at the trig first (this was also the point visited by us and referred to above), then placed the metal container and logbook in a clearing nearby and stayed for an hour.
- Our club did multi-day hikes through this spot again in 1973, 1991 and 1993 and the names of a few current members are in the logbook.

Shaune, in closing, thanked David Poland and his club for organising the celebration.

After the ceremonies, we looked through the logbook and noted the following names (in the order in the log), from 14 November 1970: J Stevens “I carried the cement!!!”, L Watters, R Stewart, Don Rice, Don Mercer, Ewan M Lawson, Neil W Barclay, Laurie Braithwaite and Ross McKenney. The logbook entry records their intended route: “Sawmill - Currockbilly - The Sugarloaf - Yadboro Creek -Wog Wog - Cockpit Swamp”.

Some 300m north of the area, where the logbook has been placed, there’s a lookout. It’s well worth visiting as it provides spectacular views to the north and east, including views to Bibbenluke Mountain, Mt Owen, The Castle and Pigeon House.

We left Currockbilly Mountain retracing our route taken earlier that day (yes - it was rough and steep) and returned to Sydney that night.

I very much appreciate and I know I also echo the sentiments of Ken and Tony, the time and effort Shaune put into organising the club’s participation in the day and we appreciate the opportunity to take part in this historic event.

*Phil Meade*



Tony, Ken, Shaune, Phil and David (Canberra Bushwalkers) with the log book and holder placed by our club in 1970



A warm welcome to our new members

- Joseph Ryan
- George Menzies
- Ella Malki
- Marianne Randall
- Rosalind Anne
- Suzi Rowe
- Lydia Lee
- Ria Peterson
- Elizabeth Woodhart

We look forward to seeing you out on the track soon!

### Donating Surplus Hiking Gear

Do you have any bushwalking gear that you no longer use? Maybe you have just updated your backpack or tent to a newer model?

Your surplus gear (provided it's in good usable condition) might be welcomed elsewhere.

In particular, scout groups on the NSW south coast. They lost a lot of gear in the bushfires early this year and would be very appreciative of any gear donations.

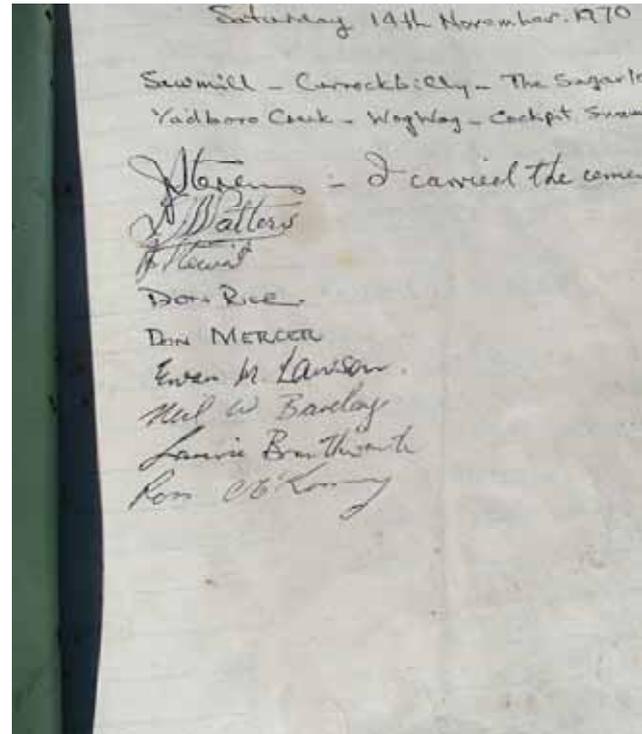
If you are planning a trip to Batemans Bay and beyond, and have any surplus gear, you could contact the following:

Paul Hamer - District Commissioner South Coast Scouts (Batemans Bay to Victorian border).

Ph - 0419 281 805. (Paul lives in Batemans Bay)

Alternatively, if you are not planning to go south anytime soon, maybe a local scout group would appreciate offers of surplus gear.

*Bruce Franklin*



First signings



Pub to Pub participants