



## NEWSLETTER

June 2022

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Activities for the year are progressing well, with some extra opportunities to test our wet weather gear and it's great to see some new organisers adding to the program.

A new committee, comprised mainly of existing members willing to administer the club for another year, was elected at the AGM.

This year a new online membership renewal process will be launched after testing. So, the process should be simplified for members by removing the requirement to print, sign and post a membership renewal form. Also, following a member idea, we are trialling an activity suggestion page together with the preparation of the quarterly Activity Program.

In August we will have a get-together for our volunteer activity organisers to share experiences and swap ideas of what works well for our members.

After a long pause due to restrictions, the Adopt-a-Track project has restarted with some additional tracks cleared already by our club volunteers.

It's good to see that things are continuing to look more promising for more interstate and overseas activities.

I look forward to seeing many of you out and about.

*Shaune Walsh*

President



## Deer Pool and Marley Beaches

Sunday 23 March 2023

So, it has been raining lately apparently, and many programmed walks are all booked out. Needing to get out in the bush, I put on a late notice walk to Deer Pool and the Marley Beaches and anxiously watched the weather forecasts as the rain continued to fall!

On the week leading up to my walk, two great club members, not only reported to me on the state of Deer Creek Crossing, they sent photos also. The second lot the creek looked more promising. Come Wednesday 23rd March I felt comfortable leading a group of six, including a first timer, on the walk.

Yes, the track was wet and Deer Creek crossing was still up a bit, but all managed to cross safely with our boots off. While drying off our feet we took the opportunity to have morning tea above Deer Pool. Soon after, we had a short scramble up some off-track hidden rocks for views of Little Marley, the sand dunes and the lagoon. Some entered their 2<sup>nd</sup> childhood and ran down a steep dune - we won't mention who fell over!

The wind picked up on Marley Beach and Little Marley had lots of seaweed on it and in the water. However, at the southern end, out of the wind it was lunch time and some clear water for two of us to swim. On the return journey over Deer Creek, we all braved it with boots on and no doubt some water was taken on board, especially the bloke who stepped into a deep hole!

What nearly didn't happen, turned out to be yet another great fun club walk. We caught up with members we hadn't seen for a while and successfully "blooded" a new member.



*Allan Bunt*

## Abrahams Bosom

Sunday 24 April 2022

**Participants: Lisa and Ray Madden, Lou Ryan, Irene and Barry Mann.**

We met at Currarong general store at 10:30, then drove up to Abrahams Bosom Reserve to start the walk around 11:00. The Old Testament reference reflects the name given by coastal steamship captains to this sheltered corner of the headland. The weather was a cool 17 - 20 degrees. We avoided rain all day, despite a nearby rain "bomb" after lunch, and it was pleasant walking, only marred by the excessive water on the tracks. In many cases the water was muddy and deep, requiring careful footsteps around the puddles and "lakes" across the track.

First we went down to Whale Point, where the SS Merimbula was wrecked on the headland in 1928. There is not much left, except the steel bow which was apparent on the rocks. Divers can apparently access more of the wreck.

Next the track took us around Wilsons Beach, but because of the watery condition, we veered back up to Marions Way thence on to Mermaids Inlet and Gosangs Tunnel.



*Lou emerges from Gosangs Tunnel*

There must have been a 1000 people (a little exaggeration here) doing the walk up to Gosangs Tunnel and return. There were largish groups of visitors, especially family groups with young kids who find this particularly exciting. It is interesting, but not all that much! Lou was the only member of our group who tried it out - scrambling through the narrow hole for 20m or so, to experience the views from the rock shelf on the far side.



*Is the track a creek, or the creek a track?*

The track, leaving the crowds behind, then ascends a ridge line, with great views over the ocean and the layered rock formations of Beecroft Head, the north head of Jervis Bay. Then a kilometre walk to Merimbula Trig Station where we stopped for lunch on a raised platform, with sweeping views in all directions - a great lookout! The track from here is downhill. Not sure if the track was a stream or the stream was a track! We crossed over Abraham Bosom Creek, then followed it downstream to reach a rock shelter, remnants of an Aboriginal midden. From here, it was a short clamber up the hill, and a return to the start. ( I must confess to losing balance and stepping into a "mud" hole up to my ankles). We were back at the cars by 2:45 after our 10km+ walk....

I am sure all parties will spend Monday morning cleaning the mud off their walking shoes and socks, with good memories of the day.

*Barry Mann*

## **Cycling trip Tempe to Rushcutters Bay Saturday 23 April**

Despite the gloomy weather forecast, nine intrepid cyclists met at Tempe for an 8:30 am departure.

One person (who shall remain nameless) arrived early but at the wrong starting point. However, we were soon all on our way around the airport cycleway and through mascot to the Bourke Road cycleway, which we traversed to Botany Road. A wiggle through Redfern on cycleways and quiet roads brought us to the Bourke Street cycleway and up to Taylor Square.

A short run downhill then took us across Rushcutters Bay Park to the evocative old world Royal Australian Navy Sailing Association building, where we all enjoyed a cuppa in the Navy Bear Cafe, sitting under an umbrella, chatting, and looking at the moored yachts in Rushcutters Bay.

An uneventful return journey took us up (yes, up a steep hill) to Paddington then through Moore Park, over the extraordinary pedestrian bridge spanning Anzac Parade before rejoining the cycleway on Bourke Street and Bourke Road. We then wiggled up through Marrickville on quiet roads, which returned us to Tempe by midday.

A very enjoyable ride with a lovely bunch of people.



*Greg Johnson*

## Warrumbungles Trip

4-8 April 2022

The Warrumbungles were declared a National Park in 1953 but were long enjoyed before then by local and notable explorers who saw the beauty and significance of this area created millions of years ago. Now, thousands of people enjoy the area for its views, walks, camping & outdoor adventures! This of course includes our club!

Ken thought only a few might participate but was pleasantly surprised when 28 members put their names down for the 4 nights and circled their wagons and tents in "Camp Walaay" on a sunny Monday afternoon.

The night sky on Monday and Tuesday was sparkling from galaxies, nebulas, star clusters, satellites, and all other things unknown to me. The Warrumbungles is a Dark Sky Park appreciated by visitors who are also drawn to Siding Spring Observatory just up the road.

Ken not only arranged walks but engaged an astronomer to come to camp to talk about this spectacular sky and guide us through the observatory facility the next day. Unfortunately, Wednesday night was overcast, but Donna the Astronomer came along anyway and spoke with us around the campfire, for just over 2 hours. So many questions, and so many interesting answers! Whether you follow this science or not, star gaze or just look up, this night talk and the tour was just so interesting, you could not help but learn something.

Back to our purpose of bushwalking. There were just two grades- hard or easy track. Two elevations - UP or flatish. Two lengths - long or short. The tracks are all well-defined, and there were a number of walks to choose from each day. Each walk had guaranteed, often vast and spectacular views all around.

Finishing the time away, we hit Coonabarabran, firstly to the pub and then finished at the local Chinese restaurant for a great meal.

So, Ken and Deb, for all your planning and effort, I thank you for a fabulous camp away with a great bunch of people and for me a personal re-visit (long overdue by 55 years) to the Warrumbungles.

*Vanessa Hicks*

*Note - I would like to thank Pete D, Kay R and Henry F for leading walks. Ken*



*The Breadknife from the Grand High Tops track*



*Coming down from Belougerie Split Rock required 6 points of contact - 2 hands, 2 feet, and both sides of gluteus maximus!*

## Mt Jagungal Backpack – 21-25 March 2022

Leader: Philip Meade

Participants: Shaune, Steve, Tracy, Kay, Hana, Helena and Marilyn

The weather didn't auger well for Phil's second attempt to climb Mt Jagungal, his first attempt last year was marred by heavy cloud. Armed with all our wet weather gear, the trip was pressing ahead regardless.



The meeting point on Monday was Khancoban Lakeside Caravan Park where, against all the odds, Phil had managed to secure ensuite rooms with everything we needed. Most Snowy Mountains accommodation is currently being held by Snowy Hydro workers whilst working on Snowy Hydro 2.0. This has benefited all the towns right across the Snowy Mountains and we were served an excellent meal at the local pub that night.

Tuesday morning saw an early start for the beautiful 45 km drive through the Park, via Tooma Dam, to the start of the trail at Round Mt car park. Flanked by Round Mt itself, which I christened the offspring of Jagungal and was to be our point of location that we had to get back to on this circular

42 km walk, Round Mt trail is a remote service trail through open woodland and, after a few ups and downs, led us, 14 km later, to our first night's stop at Derschko's Hut. Located in the Jagungal Wilderness, this stunning white hut was constructed by the SMA around 1960 as an emergency shelter for hydrologists. Securing a campsite close to the hut whilst the rest of the group ascended the hill behind to camp with views of Jagungal, I was entertained by 4 guys, two of whom were fairly local and were experts on the area, one having climbed the mountain 45 times in the last 40 years. That night we had our first and only rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning.



Wednesday dawned and as I ascended the hill to join the others, realised that Jagungal no longer existed! Unfortunately, Helena farewelled us having only the day before returned from the Overland Track so left us before her energy ran out completely. For Phil's sake I hoped history wasn't repeating itself as we set off in cloud, hoping it would clear. Sure enough, after 2 km we arrived at the Tumut River, the mist had cleared and, donning all our cold weather gear for the 460 m climb to the summit at 2,061 m, we were all happy to leave our packs and commence the 5 km return climb. It was



an interesting climb, divided into 3 parts, beginning with tall shrubs which closed around us and, at times had us almost completely hidden, followed by an open area through trees and close to a rocky, false summit. Needless to say, every step was upwards, so it was a relief to finally skirt around very large boulders and scramble to the summit post.

The views were outstanding, but the cold breeze eventually drew us away and we had an uneventful descent back to our packs, removing all our layers and enjoying lunch in the sun. This wasn't the end of the day though and we still had a further 5 km undulating trail to reach our night's camp at O'Keefe's Hut - another great hut built in 1934 by A.S.O'Keefe to support local grazing. It has two large rooms, a new fire recently installed by NP's and, to any backpacker's delight, a lovely dining room table complete with upholstered chairs which, together with walls covered in pre-war newspapers and protected by Perspex provided our evening's entertainment.

Thursday saw us heading out on the main access trail and then Farm Ridge trail, focussing on Round Mt in the distance and 16 km away. We seemed to be ascending or descending very steep trails all day but through stunning scenery. The Tumut River crossing required a change of shoes unless one didn't mind finishing the day in wet boots and socks. Shaune and I changed our shoes, and I will be eternally grateful to him for helping me across - I do not like river crossings in fast flowing water and on slippery rocks.

We finally arrived back at the cars, having climbed 1,550 m in three days, for the 2 hour drive back to Cooma - a beautiful drive via Tumut Pond Dam. Here we had good rooms in a motel and strained the hot water system prior to an excellent meal at the local RSL club.

Friday saw us unfortunately returning to civilisation and, guess what, heavy rain on the journey. Many thanks to Phil for his care and consideration as a leader and to my fellow walkers, without whose company, the trip would not have been so enjoyable.

*Marilyn Fooks*

## **Bushwalking Hoddles Track Kiama** *(or Not! - ed)* **Saturday 19 March 2022**

Well, the trip was cancelled because of RAIN. We had 3 walkers drop out earlier, then with 3 left, we cancelled the trip early on the Saturday morning due to 20mm of rain overnight. This brought the Kiama rainfall to 925mm for the first 3 months of the year.

Later on that Saturday morning, we noticed that the track was mostly covered in cloud/mist, so views would have been a washout. Irene and I decided to check this walk out on the Thursday prior to the Saturday. We first did this walk some 8 years ago. Then we repeated the walk in the middle of Covid restrictions in 2021 when we were restricted to our local LGA. The track then, was dry and somewhat pleasant, although difficult in places.

This time however was not as pleasant. The ground was mostly "spongy", and following several days with 100km wind gusts, there were many trees blown over. Weeds were in abundance, in places shoulder high covering the track. Irene also found 8 leeches on the way back, whilst I found 6. On prior walks, we saw none.

Unfortunately, no body looks after this track which runs from Saddleback Mountain up the escarpment to the Barren Grounds Nature Reserve, it remains of historical significance having been surveyed by Robert Hoddle in the 1830s as a bridle trail, to bring produce from the Southern Highlands down the escarpment to Kiama for subsequent shipping to Sydney. This was quicker than the overland route. but was eventually replaced by the Jamberoo Mountain Road. Now days, the track stops at the top of the escarpment with no access through the Barren Grounds Nature Reserve. In the future, the track will probably end at the base of the cliff line at Noorinan Mountain, unless some venturous person takes up a chain saw!

We may reschedule at a later dryer period.

*Barry Mann*

**Track work day,**  
**Mooray Track, Heathcote NP**

**Monday 11 April 2022**

It was quite a warm day to be out clearing, draining and just walking back up the hill! It certainly provided a bit of a work-out, but who can complain about a warm day after all the recent rain?

It was great to have 15 members along on our 50<sup>th</sup> track-work day. Not only was it our 50<sup>th</sup> day, but we have now also topped 2,000 hours of work since we started.

While on statistics, we have now cleared over 20 kilometres of track. Today was our 7<sup>th</sup> track, after already completing the Burgh, Lilyvale, Uloola, Couranga, Anice Falls Tracks & Princess Marina Tracks.

The Mooray Track added another 2.5km to our total, plus numerous drainage points & culverts.



*Morning tea for the workers*

Our Adopt-A-Track Project has really helped Sutherland Bushwalkers cement a firm relationship with NPWS and the staff at the Royal - thanks to our club's hard work and commitment.

If you are keen to join in this great initiative, please check out the club's program for future dates.

*Tony Larkin*



*Moreton NP from Rusden Head*



A warm welcome to our new members

**Mark Betteridge**

**Cheryl Brighton**

**Janelle O'Connell**

**Debbie Andrew**

**Judy White**

**Trevor White**

**Wendy Davis**

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



*RNP*



*Drainage work on the Mooray track Heathcote NP*



*Fungi on Hermitage Foreshore walk*



*Breadknife and Butterknife from Lugh's Throne, Grand High Tops walk, Warrumbungles*



*Club members on the Menai to Barden Ridge walk*

