



NEWSLETTER

September 2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The recent months have been all about the weather. The rain seemed to be never ending, turning many of our much loved tracks into muddy creeks.

For our activity organisers there have been several activity cancellations due to track closures or some last minute changes to put on an alternate walk so our members could still get out and about.

Many of our members have had Covid and I've been happy to hear that all seem to have had a mild dose thanks to vaccination and have been able to resume activities again after recovery.

The online New Membership Application process via our website has been launched, removing the requirement to post in a form. This has made it easier for the applicant and our volunteer membership officer. Membership renewals will also be online at the end of the year.

Our volunteer track work has recommenced this year and the current focus is to revisit most of the tracks that our club has restored over the past seven years as part of our Adopt a Track project. Having done such a good job the first time, it has not been difficult to bring them up to top grade again.

Our monthly General Meetings have had some interesting and informative guest speakers, and more are scheduled through to the end of the year.

We have just held a get-together for our activity organisers which many were able to attend, as an

opportunity to thank them and swap ideas about what works well when organising an activity and how to support new leaders.

I look forward to seeing many of you out and about enjoying our Spring program of activities.

Shaune Walsh

President



Horse drawn wagon and a motor vehicle crossing the recently constructed Audley Weir, Royal National Park, New South Wales, ca. 1920.

State Library



Photo supplied by Anne Brownlee

RNP 15 July 2022

We met at Bundeena at the start of the Coast Track and what a surprise, the sun was out and a nice day predicted after all the endless rain.

Firstly walking out to the Balconies and following the track south to try to catch a view of a passing whale, only one, but a good morning tea spot up on the rocks.

Continuing past Wedding Cake rock then down to Marley Beach, the outlet was quite wide and deep after so much rain. Most of us resorted to removing our shoes and finished walking along the sand in bare feet.

Continuing along to Little Marley and amazed to see that the whole beach has changed shape with the recent storms with the sand banked up causing a barrier at the southern end of the beach.

We found our way round and a good lunch spot under the trees. Heading back the same way all grateful for spending a beautiful day in the Royal.



This walk was requested by one of our members, but not able to make it on this day. I will put it on again in the next program.

Lexia Duncan

Mt Westmacott

Wednesday 3 August 2022

Tony, Kerrie, Al, Fi, Robyn, Beatrice, Shaune, Phil, Deb, Ken

With the promises of blue sky, and Tony L's famous rock cakes and scones for morning tea, 10 of us set off from Waterfall in cool and overcast conditions.

We wandered down to Camp Coutts, admiring the railway line culverts just for Roger L (2 gauges!),

and then up to the trig point on Mt Westmacott, where the aforementioned comestibles were consumed along with a cuppa and a smile. From there we did some good old fashioned bush bashing along rock ridges, and through the scrub. The blue sky appeared as we wound our way down to Kingfisher Creek, past Yenga cave to a perfect lunch spot.

After a quick explore, we made our way to Kingfisher pool and waterfall, and then back to the cars via the Bullawarring and Mooray tracks. The Mooray track was in great condition after our club had completed track maintenance on it earlier in the year. The Sutherland Bushwalkers certainly make a difference!

Many thanks to Tony Larkin for an excellent walk, and morning tea!

Ken Newman



Cuteness overload! A small frog peeking out of one of the waterholes on Kingfisher creek



Whitsunday Islands - (Ngaro Sea Trail) and Conway Circuit

July 2022 - a few walkers reminisce

Becky Rae- Organiser, -Pete, Leonie, John, Jackie, Sheree, Jeannette, Anne, Bob, Claire, Hana, Terence, Tracy (part 2)



Two weeks in paradise with thoughts occasionally drifting south to wet and cold Sydney. The trip was a last minute decision and filled within 3 days of it going out as an alert.

Camping in South Molle National Park on South Molle Island for 2 nights. Sandy Bay didn't live up to its name and was a coral beach so shoes needed to swim. Afternoon walk to a high point to enjoy the fading afternoon light. We were the only campers on the island and walked all the trails covering about 14km and all corners of the island.

Skion Kop- site of an ancient stone tool quarry, down to the ruins of the cyclone ravaged resort where John had taken his family on holidays many years ago and Paddle Bay with the narrow spit that joins to Mid Molle at low tide.

The lights of Shute Harbour could be seen across the water at night as we settled into island life. Up early the next day, swam, then climbed the highest point to Mt Jeffries and fantastic views to the south and east. Excellent beach combing on our small beach with such a variety of dead corals, shells and pebbles.



Transfers were done through Scamper, an island camping connection- who seemed to drift in as the tide suited and delivered us next to Dugong Beach, now on Whitsunday Island in the Whitsunday National Park. Once again we were the only campers on our small sandy cove in Cid Harbour. It was a safe anchorage for all the yachts in the area as a storm was forecast.

Lucky for us it didn't happen and was warm and sunny the next day. Dugong Beach faces west so amazing sunset over the sea and distant islands. Two walks, Sawmill Track a short 3 km return we did on arrival to another calm bay.

We saved ourselves for the next day to walk up Whitsunday Peak, 9km return up 437m in a very short time to imagine the amazing 360° view we should have had but we were in cloud so no view! Oh well back down into the sunlight and another swim.

Scamper supplied us on transfer with water and ice if required. Moved on again after 2 nights on Dugong for 3 nights on magical Whitehaven Beach, the south end. Powder soft sand, beachside camping and other campers to share the beauty of a beach that fills with day trippers starting around 9 am. They come by kayak, large and small charter yachts, sea planes and are loaded onto day trip boats and ferried ashore like cattle. All in reverse around 3-3.30 when they all leave.

We all sat very smugly and watched them leave. A few walks here but by far the most beautiful and most popular was the 7km meander to the end of Whitehaven and beautiful Hill Inlet.

Thanks for everyone's easy relaxed company. We loved every day of the journey.

Becky Rae

- Lots & lots & lots of boats
- South Molle - lots of grasstrees



- Whitsunday Island - lots of hoop pine
- We became very acquainted with the Bush stone curlew - with its eerie, plaintive cry - sounds like a small child in distress. We saw them on the islands and around Airlie campground



- Members of our group, in our typical walking clothes, did not come up near to the standard of one camper at Whitehaven beach. High heels and bright red lippy.
- We enjoyed lots of beautiful sunsets from our camp chairs.



- Beautiful clear water - opportunity for swimming; 3 of our group provided entertainment when trying to negotiate entering the water on a very corally beach - Sheree gave them 8 points for entertainment, but only 2 for execution.
- Conway Circuit - a welcome shady track through rainforest. Only meeting 2 black snakes, some goannas, pigs, and beautiful Ulysses butterfly.

Anne Brian

Best company, sun bleached coral, pure white sand and sandy everything, refreshing, shimmering ocean swimming, tropical camping groves, food crated and opportunistic wildlife, easy walking, postcard views, sunset quizzing, island travellers not tourists. Lucky us!

And on the Conway, wide winding ups and downs, enveloped in rainforest and of course a cooling rocky creek.

Airlie Beach time and still quizzing!

A great getaway...thanks Bec

Leonie and John

The Whitsundays and surrounding area were an idyllic winter escape from Sydney's gloom with a few walks thrown in to even further add to the experience and SBW legitimacy. Sun, perfect temperatures, azure blue sky, aquamarine water, tropical flora & gardens, islands floating off to the horizon, little beaches & big beaches, secluded coves, islands with rugged, green wooded interiors and high peaks, the crystal white sands of Whitehaven Beach, magnificent sunsets, wildlife ranging from whales to the mournful, wailing curlews.



And fortunately, as the group camped on only three islands, it leaves another 71 for the future! And that was just the islands, the 3 day Conway Circuit walk was in contrast within the deep shaded rainforest up behind the coast - very pleasant walking, babbling rocky creeks, peaceful with interesting campsites deep in the forest

Another excellent trip planned by Rebecca Rae and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Terence Hatton

Heysen Trail continued...no.5

May 2022

Organised by John Holland, Leonie, Lexie, Hana, Kerrie, Bec, Pete, Leanne, Greg, Jennifer and Robert.



After a 2 year Covid hiatus, we continued south from Kapunda to Kuitpo Forest. Heavy packs and tents were abandoned for a "holiday" style adventure through the Barossa Valley and Adelaide Hills. We based in cabins at Tanunda and Mt Compass and a luxury home in Balhannah.

Some highlights

- Roughly 15 km days, 8.30 start on mostly cool walking days, some good hills of course, over stiles and following fence lines when on private property. And some do as you please days off car exploring.



- Kerrie and Hana spotted koalas...lots of them and spread the magic...what a thrill and what fluffy ears!
- Quaint villages nestled in the Adelaide Hills and expansive vineyards in the Barossa.
- The glorious autumn leaves...reds, oranges and yellows.



- The luxury of our Balhannah home with central heating plus a wood fire, an inside barbecue, a large heated tub and pool on the deck, all working together in the large kitchen and a billiard table which was superseded by our quizzes.
- The country hospitality of a local whom we had met at her farm gate the afternoon before who caught up with us the next morning with her quad bike packed with tea, coffee and a chat on the dirt roadside.

On the home stretch now. We've passed the 900 plus kms and on to Victor Harbour and Cape Jervis. What a journey.

Leonie Grimshaw

Bargo River and Tahmoor Canyon

May 2022

Bargo River and Tahmoor Canyon are fantastic in summer, but in May the start of winter? Also, what about all the rain and floods of late, what condition would the river be in? With those concerns on my mind, five joined my questionable walk, four of them hadn't been to Bargo before.

On arrival at the river, we were pleased to see that it wasn't in flood and water level looked okay. There wasn't much debris on the banks, another good sign. After a short river side walk it was a leap over a side creek and up to the high-level track.

For morning tea, we descended to be above the impressive Mermaids Pool and didn't do the 40 - foot jump in! As a scout leader 35 years ago, just to keep up with the boy's activities I did the jump, but only once!



Back up to the high track with views into the canyon from a pleasant open bush walk to top of Rosie's Pass. This pass is named after the dog owned by the chap who privately created and maintains the track. A 300m steep descent with some ropes for support got us all down to the canyon floor. Even knowing we had four river crossings, I still managed to miss the first one! The convenient metal grates from previous walks had been washed away in a flood!

Coming to a cliff wall and deep water on the other side, it was a back track to find a crossing with stepping stones and a log.

Lunch was at Pencil Falls, sitting amongst dozens of potholes in a large flat rock area. Our next crossing was an all boots off affair, which we gingerly did aided with sticks the courtesy of flood debris.

The magnificent steep high canyon walls and low winter sun meant we walked in the shade, so didn't tempt anyone to take a dip in any of the pools. The first of the last two crossings was deeper and

swifter and everyone took a second or two, mustering up courage to get across, half did it with their boots on. Luckily the last one had natural stepping stones where the little metal grate bridge used to be.

After climbing up Jack's Pass, it was back onto the high track and back to the cars. Now the group are looking forward to returning in swimming weather conditions to do this 10km walk again.



Allan Bunt



VALE

It is with great sadness we report on the passing of club members Dot Bourke and Bob Austen.

Dot Bourke

Dorothy (Dot) Bourke passed away 21 July 22.

Dot was a member for many years from the early days of the formation of the Sutherland Bushwalking Club.

From the Leader Obituaries -

“Much loved staff member of Kirrawee High School, yoga enthusiast, adventurer and traveller. She was farewelled by some of her old walking friends at her service.”

Bob Austen

Bob Austen, a member for 35 years and known to many of our present and past members passed away in August. He was a leader and participant in many day and multi-day bushwalks with our club over many years and is featured in our club's recent 50 year history book.

Although restricted in recent years by Parkinson's Disease, Bob and Maureen still enjoyed the Charlottes Pass week a few years ago and catching up at the Xmas BBQ breakfasts.

Bob is fondly remembered by those that bushwalked with him.

All things Electronic

Do you have an idea for a walk, but don't feel confident enough to lead it? In the members section of our website, you can fill in a form, and we will try to organise a leader.

We now have about 140 members on our Facebook page, which is a great way of sharing photographs of all activities.

Our first new members have been processed via our new on-line membership process, which will be used for membership renewals for 2023. The committee hopes this addresses the issues that members have discussed with us in the past. No more printing, filling in and posting forms!

Finally, the website continues to hold a plethora of information for members and guests. If you haven't visited in a while, have a look here -

<https://www.sutherlandbushwalkers.org.au/>

Club Meetings

Our club meetings are held at 7.00PM on the last Wednesday of each month at the Stapleton centre Sutherland. The meetings offer a chance for members to get together socially, as well as being entertained by guest speakers. Alix our Assistant Secretary has organised some fantastic guest speakers for the meetings.

We recently were entertained and informed by Ken Thompson on the latest information in relation to climate change, and in July by Graham Quint who presented on the National Trust.

The formal part of the evening is completed at the end of the meeting and usually only takes 15 minutes.

Watch out for the club's e-mail, and come along!

Pygmy Possum Vacancies

Did you know the club is running a second week at Pygmy Possum Lodge, Charlotte Pass, next February? There are still a couple of vacancies to fill the lodge. See the latest program for details.



A warm welcome to our new members

Suzane Jackson

Dianne Bowden

Tatiana Gulyaeva

Lauren Thompson

Julie Smythe

Marc Cugnet

Paul Crollini

Regina Crollini

Paul Stewart

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



Swirls in monochrome in the creek



Whose Legs? (Answer at the end of the newsletter)



Whitsundays trip camp



Whose legs answer - It is Tony Larkin!