



NEWSLETTER

December 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a great way for the club to end 2019, with those extra mid-week activities in the program. In Oct and Nov, 17 additional activities were held in addition to our usual Wednesday and weekend ones and I'm very pleased to say that they all had good turn outs. The "Double Up Wednesdays" with two or more walks of differing grades, all attracted plenty of walkers also.

Special thanks to our new Activity Organisers, Michele, Debbie and Suzanne. It's great to have you on the 'leaders team', adding new dimensions to the club's activities. Michele for your urban walk through historic Sydney; Debbie for "off track" bits in the Royal and Suzanne for handling an incident on her first walk as a leader and then stepping up the next day to cover for the injured leader, well done.

The summer season is upon us, which also unfortunately means bush fire season, as we are already well aware of. A reminder to activity organisers to update yourselves with weather conditions, fire bans and park closures etc leading up to planned activities. It's your call to cancel completely or perhaps do something else in a safer zone. Members can help the organisers by checking your emails regularly, in case of last-minute changes, and don't forget to give them both your email and phone contacts when booking onto activities.

At the club's October monthly meeting, the bush poet had us all completely captive for an hour, with his terrific delivery of old and new bush poems including an M16 rated one. (I can assure you that all the audience were beyond that classification!) The previous month was a very interesting presentation on the early surveying of Port Hacking. Some of you will have had survey marks

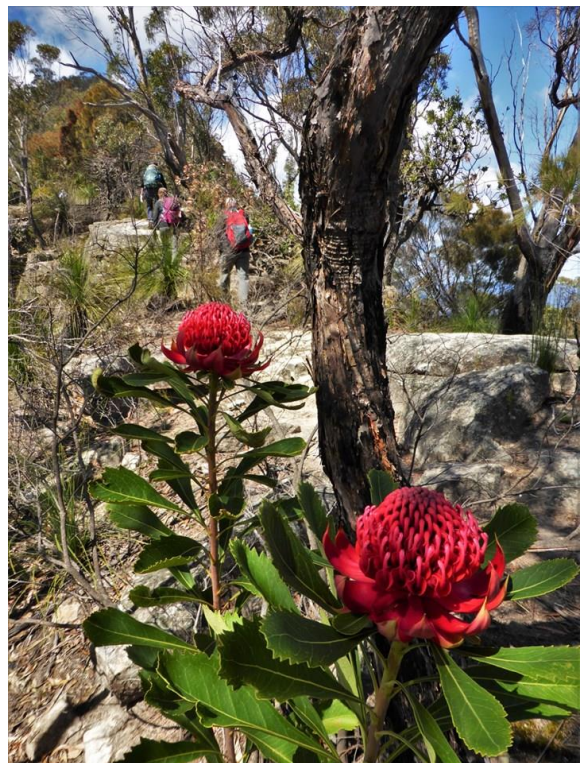
pointed out to you carved in rocks, when out with our "Royal Tony." After learning and seeing photos of tree markings, no doubt those who know what to look for, will have eyes scanning trees as well as rocks! I once again urge members and visitors to come to club meetings, as we have great presentations and you also get to know other club members.

As the new year rushes upon us, it's time to renew your club memberships. Warning, if you are not current by 31st Jan 2020, the club's insurance will NOT be valid for you, and you'll also lose your years of continuous membership. So, let's all get paid up early, and by doing that, it will certainly help Wendy with the busiest time for memberships.

With 2020 being the club's 50th anniversary, the committee decided to give all 2019 members a one-off special birthday bonus deal, and to claim this you must renew your membership before 31st Jan. There are some changes regarding the way membership renewal will be done. The majority of members will only receive their membership renewal form by email. These changes are designed to help make the process much easier for our Membership Officer to handle.

Well, I certainly have had a great year of enjoyable and varied activities, with lots of friendly members, all starting back in January with that wonderful Kosciuszko experience. I trust that your year has been just as good and like me are looking forward to many more activities with SBC.

By Allan Bunt





Heysen Trail, SA

Heysen Trail IV Sth Aust.

27/8 - 12/9 2019

Leader: John Holland
Followers: Leonie, Judy, Beckie, Marilyn and Murray (with guitar)
Supporter: Henry

The 1,200 km Heysen Trail, named after the great Australian artist, Sir Hans Heysen, stretches from Parachilna Gorge - 55 kms north of Wilpena Pound - to Cape Jervis. It covers South Australia's most diverse and breathtaking landscapes, traversing coastal areas, native bushland, pine forests, vineyards, rich farmland, historic towns and rugged gorges. Since 2016, we have walked 771 km from north to south, this year's Stage 4 distance being approximately 211 km over 14 days.

Henry and I took three days to drive to Burra, the rest of the party flying to Adelaide, collecting a car and driving to our meeting point, the old mining cottages in Burra, dating back to 1849 but since modernised into very comfortable accommodation.

After an excellent meal in an old pub, things got serious the next day when we were all transported to the start of the section where we finished last year at Hallett. This day was an introduction to what was to follow on almost every day to the end - WIND - and 898 m Mt Bryan in between us and our comfortable accommodation in a converted school house.

I should add that as Henry and I have backpacked the whole trail, without support, in the past, I did not feel compelled to walk every last inch if the weather was bad; at roadside camps we found a nearby cabin and the rest of the time we put up our tent allowing the rest of the group to spread themselves out in huts - actually, I am a light sleeper and can't abide snorers!! Henry's job with the support vehicle

has been to carry a small(?) bag from everyone, usually consisting of a tent and other heavy equipment, water and, this time, was able to reach almost every campsite though it involved hundreds of kms of dirt roads to find a way in. On the one occasion when the car was 4km from the hut, with a high ridge in between, he was met with gale force winds. The next day, it was no better and discussion was given as to whether we would have two nights in the hut to enable the weather to pass on - I believe Sydney suffered shortly after. We decided to proceed and, for safety reasons, I accompanied Henry back over the mountain to reach the car. This time it was so strong that it blew Henry and I over twice, with full packs. Very scary. I stayed with Henry and we met up with the others who had walked out the other way and I think everyone was glad to see the end of that day.

Our first rest day, after 5 days' walking covering impossibly steep hills, gorges, river beds and a miscellaneous collection of camp sites, huts, shelters and even a brand new hut where we had been forewarning everyone that it was a remote site with a small metal shelter, ended us back in our cottages at Burra.

So much for a rest day - no one wanted to miss anything in this historic mining town, the first in Australia, where just about every building is on the National Trust. We obtained a key which enabled us to enter all sorts of buildings on the huge Burra Mine Historic Site. The next day, again windy, we were dropped off and walked back to our accommodation.

So began the next 7 days of walking to Kapunda. More hills but bringing with them extensive views and more wind. I should also add that we had heavy rain squalls and, at times, ice on our tent so the fireplaces in huts were much appreciated. We crossed and walked alongside both the North Mount Lofty Ranges and Tothill Range and were never short of scenery. Huppatz Hut and Marshalls Hut were great venues. They were tied up with a long family history, an interesting cemetery and still visited by family members.



At Kapunda we had excellent accommodation in the caravan park, two nights with walks on both days and great pub food. Even the sun shone as we walked alongside paddocks of bright yellow canola and other crops.

All too soon, stage 4 was over and Henry and I spent 3 days travelling back through dusty, drought-stricken countryside. A great trip John, and I am sure none of us fully appreciate the amount of work that goes into the organisation. Our thanks go to our walking companions, without whose company the trip would not have been so enjoyable.

By Marilyn Fooks



Kedumba Valley
Blue Mtns NP

13 - 15 Sept 2019

Organiser: Shaune Walsh

Participants: Beatrice Walsh, Kerry Clarke, Gina Holloway, Finlay Shaw, Trevor Robinson

On a previous hike over Mt Solitary we had an overnight camp in the Kedumba Valley and was impressed by the scenery and history so I planned a return trip to spend a little more time in the valley to explore some more.

After morning coffee in Wentworth Falls village, we parked at the National Park gate on Kings Tableland overlooking the Jamison Valley.

With full packs we followed the fire trail descending into the valley, first passing the Cleary Memorial Lookout. Here were magnificent views of where we would be spending the next few days as well as a tribute to Dan Cleary who built this road into the valley and to his son who was tragically killed.

During the 9km steep 700m descent into the Kedumba Valley we passed the Goat Track and were amazed that this extremely steep and rough track was one of the routes for the early settlers in the 1800's.

We set up our camp for the next two nights on what was once Maxwell's Farm. In the 1880's the Maxwell family set up a farm in the valley and took their produce up the Kedumba Pass to the shops at Wentworth Falls. Kedumba Homestead, a slab hut and previously very derelict, is being restored using original methods and could soon be available to hikers.



Maxwell's Slab Hut

There are also some interesting Maxwell graves, one of which had some fantastic bush poetry as a tribute. Also of interest is some very informative Aboriginal interpretations of the rock and cliff formations and their ancient paths into the valley.

We explored south to the prohibited entry line to the Warragamba Dam catchment area and up a very steep track beneath Lions Head with great views as far as Mt Colong.

After two enjoyable but cool nights we packed up and crossed the Kedumba River and up to Solitary Pass where we met the track coming down from Mt Solitary. Following this down, we later crossed the Kedumba River again before eventually meeting the fire trail back to the cars after a 700m ascent.

Thanks for the great company and campfire stories that made a very enjoyable three days in a beautiful area.

By Shaune Walsh



From Cooks Nose over the Brogers Creek Valley



Cooks Nose
Barren Grounds NP

Sat 12 October 2019

Organiser: Barry Mann

Participants: Allan Stone, Rex Fleming, Irene Mann.

The walk was in the Barren Grounds, up on the escarpment past Jamberoo. The temperature at the start and finish of the walk was 11 degrees, unusual for this time of year. Cooks Nose is a "there and back walk", 4km each way. It rained for the first 2km going out, and the last km coming back - so it was a cool and cloudy day, but good for walking. Being mostly a firetrail, there were no wet branches to bother with.

Wildflowers were everywhere. We saw Sydney Boronia (*Boronia ledifolia*), Boronia Pinnata, Dog Rose (*Bauera rubioides*), Fuchsia Heath (*Epacris longifolia*), what was thought to be either white Coral Heath or Blunt Leaf Heath (*Family Epacridaceae*), heaps of the pea family (*Family Fabaceae*) with bright yellow/brown colour similar to the egg and bacon plant, and a couple of waratahs, names all courtesy of Alan Fairly's "Wildflowers of Sydney", and a knowledgeable member of our group.

The lookout from Cooks Nose was a little misty but very beautiful with mist rising up over the escarpment. It was too damp to stay there for lunch, so we deferred that till we returned to the shelter at the start of the walk.

We stopped at the Jamberoo Pub for coffee/wine refreshments, then continued back to Kiama which was a balmy 17 degrees. A great way to spend a wet/cold day.

By Barry Mann

Loftus - Woronora Heights - Sutherland

Wednesday 9th October, 2019

Organiser: Margaret Dooley

Participants: Tracey, Allan, Vicky, Gordon, Nancy, Jan, Gary, Paul, Brian

A glorious day for walking. Morning tea beside Loftus Creek, views and then lunch by the Woronora River and coffee at Sutherland. Plenty of time for talking as we got our exercise in and even time to appreciate two participants' garden (especially the vegetables!)

Illawong

Wednesday 23rd October, 2019

Organiser: Margaret Dooley

Participants: Jan, Megan, Bem, Jennifer, Leonie

Such a relaxing day that I forgot to take a group photo! This didn't mean an easy day as it was a good exercise walk with lots of ups and downs. However, morning tea with its great views up the Woronora River and a relaxing lunch by the Georges River made it feel like we were miles from anywhere. There were some beautiful sections of bush - surprising for such an urban area - and interesting history and housing to see.



Two Valleys

Wednesday 30th October, 2019

Organiser: Margaret Dooley
Participants: Finlay, David, Vicky, Debbie, Josephine, Allan, Lyndell, Janice, Gordon, Nancy, Wendy, Leonie, Frank

Our walk began with great hilarity as we climbed Mt Olympus at Tempe House to find an escape route, after finding ourselves locked in the grounds.

Quite a bit of history as we walked along the Cooks River - no wonder the river was totally degraded by the 1900s with industries such as wool washing, tanneries, and boiling down works all putting their waste into the river and dam walls compounding flooding and sewage overflows.

We then walked across to Wolli Creek - still some history but a totally different walk - changing vegetation from forest to woodland to mangroves, beautiful stone escarpments, fish ladders and Jackson's sandstone cottages, built in the style of miners' cottages.

Informative chat with the resident of Cottage No.12. Still much work to be done in the valley by Bushcare but plenty of birdlife.

A well-earned iced drink was our reward after nearly 17 Km on a hot day.

By Margaret Dooley



Urban Walk from Redfern to Circular Quay

Wed 30 Oct 2019

Organiser: Michele Howie
6 Club members

Right from the start outside Redfern Rail our learning started.

Michele talked about roofs, chimney stacks and balconies.

Did you know there are eras and styles that tell the age of the building and all by the decoration. I knew then this walk was going to be interesting for I love social history but architecture is something of a mystery to me.

Turns out Michele has studied this and now was giving us a stroll around the older parts of Sydney roof to roof.

Through Redfern to Uni of Syd where a few of us have never been, so we were on campus for a brief time and strolling like students.

Glebe to the waterfront, around Black Wattle Bay to the Fish Market, over the hill to Pyrmont, around Darling Harbour to modernist Barangaroo concrete and noise to the old wharves near the Harbour Bridge.

While I have walked this several times this walk was all about social living and how interesting it was.

A cool refreshing drink at MCA to end the day and rest my sore feet.

This was Michele's first as an Activity Organiser, and here I say "well done". Praise also to Ray as 2IC. Thank you for the learning, for making me look up to roofs and sticky-beaking in front yards. A first walk for a leader is a big step but it has been taken, so now where are we going next Michele ? Thank you, a great day out.

By Vanessa Hicks



Forest Path to Palona Cave
Royal NP

Thu 7 Nov 2019

Organiser: Suzanne Boylan

Participants: Ken Woolley, Lexia Duncan, Jill Veage, Frank Baliotis, Jenny Dunn, Filomena Mattner

Just a small matter of a recently fallen tree struck by lightning, completely blocking our vision of the track and a way forward, was not going to stop these adventurous walkers from seeing what they came for - Palona Cave!



By Suzanne Boylan



David Beck
Suzanne Boylan
Linda Cameron
Colin Drever
JoannYoung
Maree Vogt
Tatyana Babic
Robert Codell
Jenny Dunn
Scott Findlay
Tatiana Gulyaeva
Claire Lim
Francis Hartigan
Megan Edwards
Alayne Michel

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I just wanted to let you know that joining a bushwalking club has exceeded my expectations and thought I would write a thanks that you may or may not want to include in your newsletter! -

In July this year I joined the Sutherland Bushwalkers. I had read some of the Newsletters and the vibe from the walk articles was of a friendly and adventurous group of walkers. I had become an avid bushwalker and was looking to explore new areas and to experience off-track walks and eventually do some overnight pack walks.

I participated in two enjoyable walks led by inspiring leaders, Tony Larkin and Gina Holloway. The groups I walked with were great fun and the walks met what I was looking for when I joined the Club. I had no idea that within a few months of joining I would elect to lead two walks and through unforeseen circumstances, end up leading a third walk the very next day after my first walk as an activity leader!

I wanted to say what a privilege it is to be a member of the Club and express thanks for the support from Allan Bunt, Margaret Dooley, Vanessa Hicks and the members who have joined my walks so far and who have offered interesting conversation, great stories about walks they have done and a good laugh. *Suzanne Boylan*



Views from Mt Solitary, Blue Mtns NP.

NEED TO CANCEL GOING ON AN ACTIVITY ?

Don't forget to let the activity organiser know as soon as possible.
We often have walks that are full and the organiser can offer your spot to someone on the wait list.



Gooseberry Bay hike, Royal NP



Palona Cave RNP



First Aid on way to Wollangambe Crater



Anice Falls track clearing briefing



Kedumba Valley, Blue Mtns NP