



## NEWSLETTER

September 2021

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I write this, we are again in lockdown since the 26th June due to Covid and our activity program is suspended. I hope the infection rate improves and that some form of group outdoor activities will be permitted in September, but we will have to wait and see.

Many club friends are keeping in touch and meeting up in pairs for our permitted exercise, which is a practical way to still enjoy the outdoors.

Prior to this it was great to see an interstate trip to Broome WA go ahead, as well as closer to home, an overnight pack walk, plenty of day walks, cycle rides and paddles.

In the background your committee is once again meeting via video link to keep the general club administration and future activity program preparation happening.

By the time we recommence club activities a large percentage of our members will be vaccinated which will make us all feel a bit safer.

I look forward to catching up again out on the track.

*Shaune Walsh*

President



Mitchell Falls - from the air (from the club's WA trip)





## Bright Week - 18th - 25th April

Activity Organiser: Jennifer Whaite

Participants: Robert Gallant, Kerrie MacLean, Carol Weston, Donna Mulholland, John Smith, Adrienne Smith, Josephine Cheah, Josephine Blackman, Helena Smith, Tracy Cleary, Jeff Cleary, Lynette Jones, Harold Mattner, Filomena Mattner, Deidre Bowie, Michele Howie, Ray van den Anker, Lou Ryan and Monica Sui.

Twenty of us visited Bright in Victoria on a trip organised by Jennifer Whaite in April. What a lovely time to visit! The town and surrounds are planted with mature deciduous trees and the colour in the latter half of autumn was glorious.

We spent the week happily sampling all that the area had to offer. This ranges from shorter walks along the river and through the town from our guesthouse to longer full day walks in the national parks as well as visiting the many charming villages nearby.

On the first day the whole group travelled to the Horn in Mt Buffalo National Park. A short walk took us to the lookout, where there were spectacular 360 degree views of the national park and the alpine landscape. After morning tea we split into two groups to do two different walks. The longer walk was the Back Wall and it traversed the alpine grasslands dotted with granite boulders and crystal clear tarns. The whole group successfully navigated the creek crossings and enjoyed lunch with a view of the surrounding mountains despite the very crisp breeze. The other group did a shorter and very pleasant walk in the same area out to Dicksons Falls.

Day Two saw the group do a variety of things depending on their level of fitness and inclination. Some cycled to Wandiligong, a nearby village, and did the history walk which focused on the early settlers attracted to the area by the prospect of discovering gold. Others went on a walk along the

Ovens River to see the autumn colours and mine races dug by early miners, then visited the local art gallery, and checked out the many shops and cafes. Another group cycled to Porepunkah and scoped out some of the farm shops on the way. At the evening happy hour each day, each group recounted their adventures and shared recommendations.



On our third day a big group walked to Mollison's Galleries. On the drive up we stopped to take in the fantastic view of the valley below in the mist. The walk itself was a 15 km loop and we were lucky enough to have perfect walking weather- cool and clear with no breeze. We walked out along a track with the odd patch of ice on it to Og, Gog and Magog, then Eagles Rock which had brand new ladders and finally to Mollison's for lunch. The walk back out was through some beautiful bushland scattered with tall white gums, small creeks, granite outcrops and of course, terrific views.

The other group did a 10 km walk along the Bon Accord track just out of Harrietville. The group nearly aborted the walk as there were signs saying the track was closed due to deer shooting. After checking, they discovered that the shooting had been postponed. The walk was attractive with lots of white gums and a low ferny understory and lots of cairns showing the way. To complete the day, they were forced to have a delicious afternoon tea

at Bella Cafe and buy honey and chestnuts on the way home.

The intrepid cyclist of the group, Jeff, cycled 78 kms to Myrtleford and back, stopping for lunch with other cyclists. The weather on day four prevented a number of planned walks. Those that walked found that the wind, mizzle and mist made it difficult to see much and at 3°C it was chilly.

Friday saw a big group head out from Harrietville along the East Ovens track. This turned out to be only suitable to walk in summer when water levels in the creek are lower. The many creek and river crossings ultimately led to the walk being abandoned after it became clear that the track was either non-existent or under water. All agreed that better signage and information on the maps and brochures may have been helpful. After lunch in Harrietville the group took the Charlie Miley walk which also followed a creek and featured old mine remnants and lots of different types of wild mushrooms. We saw gang-gangs and yellow breasted robins among others.

On the pretty Gorge walk at Mount Beauty on our final day, we saw kangaroos, black cockatoos and crimson rosellas. We also realised that Victorian Bluegums have incredibly long leaves of up to 85 cm. That's as long as my arm! We also dropped in to the Visitor's Centre where there is an interesting display of the history of the town and local area. We were also lucky to come across a local music festival with a skateboarding competition and market stalls.



In summary, it was a thoroughly enjoyable trip with a fabulous variety of activities available. Thanks to Jennifer for organising such a great trip and for all

those who led the many walks. I'll definitely sign up for this trip again.



*Michele Howie*

### **Down Memory Lane, my membership experiences.**

Having plenty of time to reflect over the last few weeks, I started looking back at old trips with the club and what fabulous adventures I've had since I joined. Not only me, but all the members who put themselves out there and participate.

I joined the club in January 2004 and my first trip was a car camp to Coolendel west of Nowra organised by Coral Palmer. One walk on that weekend we had to put our packs in a plastic bag then swim across the Shoalhaven to get to the start of the walk, way off the radar of anything I had done before and I was hooked.

In the 2003 January- March program there was 13 bushwalks, 3 Kayaks, 5 bike rides, 3 training days, 1 Rogaine, and a massive 12 weekend and extended trips away, walking, kayaking and riding in Australia and New Zealand and 5 advance notices for more trips away including "tramping in Europe" with John Holland.

A lot of those organisers from that program are STILL leading and participating in club activities. That is a lot of donated time these people have put into the club. We must be doing something right to keep people interested for that long.

Back to back trips in June 2006 led by Anne & Eric Phipps and Lyn McMillan to Girraween and Lamington National Parks saw us all rugged up and freezing as temperatures in Girraween plummeted to below zero, we had big fires and early nights as we were all in tents.



Rita will always remember the swoop of the rogue kookaburra with its eye on her toast. Just as she was about to take a bite it was silently snatched away. The walking up there is fantastic- big boulder country.

2006 was a busy year and 14-16 of us braved the rough dirt roads into the ghost town Yerranderie. Once a thriving silver mining town of 2000 people it is now a sleepy private town, which until recently was owned by an interesting woman who fell in love with the place when she used to go there with her father in the 1940's. The town's access was cut off in the late 1950's by the construction of Warragamba Dam & Lake Burragarang. Val Lluede donated the town and surrounding property in 2011. Val worked tirelessly to preserve some of the old mining shacks and the post office that still stands today as an accommodation lodge for intrepid visitors.

That weekend we welcomed another group from the club walking from Mittagong to Katoomba.

The 2006 program also featured trips to Kangaroo Island and the Grampians, Lamington National Park, Six Foot Track, Cycling from Albany to Perth in WA, with Lyn McMillan, snow shoeing in Kosciuszko National Park with Henry & Marilyn Fooks, hiking part of the Larapinta Trail in the NT with Peter Wherry, Kokoda Track in PNG with John

Morris and Wilderness Coast with John Holland & Leonie Grimshaw.

2007 saw a group of about 18 members set off across the Nullarbor for a month in South West WA, Irene in her tiny car nervously keeping up with Anne & Eric with their trailer. Others flew and met us there. We walked sections of the Cape to Cape and Bibbulmun tracks, camping and staying in cabins along the way. Stunning walks especially as it was wildflower season.

Skip a few years to 2012, then it's overseas to the tiny pacific island of Vanuatu. The club went to Vanuatu about 5 times around this time, it was a very popular trip organised by Lyn McMillan and hosted by the local French man PASCALLE who took us on amazing walks and adventures. Who could forget spending a rainy night on the edge of an active volcano on Tanna Island as it huffed and steamed and shot up plumes of boiling red lava. No safety barriers there, but hey, who would argue with the power of the earth rumbling below our feet and exploding in our faces. I think about 50 or so club members ended up going on this trip.

2018 South Coast of NSW for the Light To Light walk organised by Gina Holloway. An easy enough pack walk with stunning scenery, whales, beautiful swimming and warm fires. This walk is being developed into a "Great Walk" so get in soon before it gets too busy and hard to book.

So many great times with the Sutherland Bushwalking Club and such great friendships made, sadly a few of the old faces have gone, but their memories will always remain.

Thank you to all the people who are still organising fantastic trips and activities, at home and all over Australia. Our wings are clipped at the moment but we will fly again and venture further afield once again.

I'm sure all the new members and organisers will gather their own fond memories of all the things that go wrong, the unexpected marvellous things that happen, the brave and great friends we make along the way and the smiles that we all wear after coming home tired, dirty or injured or both and we think- wow that was great, let's do it again sometime.

*Becky Rae*



### Florance Head - 3 July 2021

Our Club activity at Barren Grounds was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid19 issues. Being outside the Greater Sydney area, we decided to do the Mt Bushwalker walk down on the Little Forest Plateau near Conjola - this is a very enjoyable walk, and has been on the Club program several times.

Unfortunately, on the way up the hill to Porters Creek Dam, a notice proclaimed the Mt Bushwalker track was closed until October due to upgrade activity on the car park for that walk. So....we decided to investigate the track out to Florance Head, which is also up on the Little Forest Plateau. There was track upgrade activity at the start of this track, with the parking bay for this track also closed, and cars parked wherever possible along the track. The upgrade is to the "Little Forest Walking track" which connects this car park to the Florance Head and Rusden Head walking tracks - the upgrade appeared to be 99% done! Nevertheless, there was a detour around this work.

So, we eventually found the Florance Head track....a return walk of 7 to 8km, reasonably "level" and 95% on a fire trail. The bush was badly burnt in 2020, so now provides good all round views. Half way along, a small diversion leads to the escarpment edge with superb views over the coastal plain and Milton/Ulladulla.

The track terminates in scrub, with a narrow track leading to the head, and views of Pigeon House Mountain across the Budawang Wilderness Area. An effort, but well worth it!

Next we will try the Rusden Head track....



*Barry & Irene Mann*

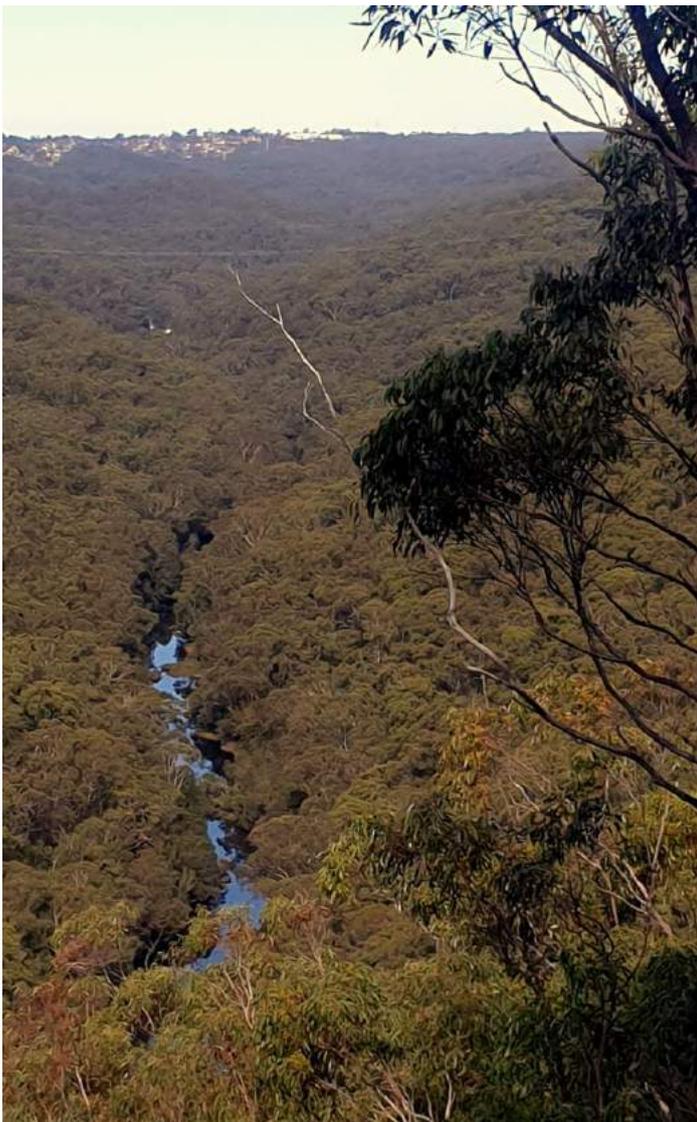


## Covid Cavorting?

Cavorting clearly isn't the right word. Covid Capers? Lockdown Perambulations? Whatever you want to call it, the recent lockdown has provided Deb and I with plenty of opportunities to explore our own back yard - all within the Sutherland LGA, and all within a 10km radius.

We have been able to complete a couple or three recesses for the next program, marvel at the speed at which houses are sold these days (it seems on average to be 3 days between the sign going up and the sold sticker), get some exercise, and generally get out of the house for a couple of hours a day. We have been amazed at what is literally at our doorstep.

For those of us in lockdown, we hope you are getting out and walking too. With a bit of luck, a lot of vaccinations, and some common sense shown by society, we should all be out walking together soon.



A warm welcome to our new members

**Sue Constable**

**Frank Fraser**

**Terese Jones**

**Colin Jones**

**Vicki Bell**

**Paul Gorham**

**Annemarie Smytheman**

**Roxanne Hilton**

**Jennifer Smith**

**Kerry Phillips**

**Mark Savage**

**Fadila Bella**

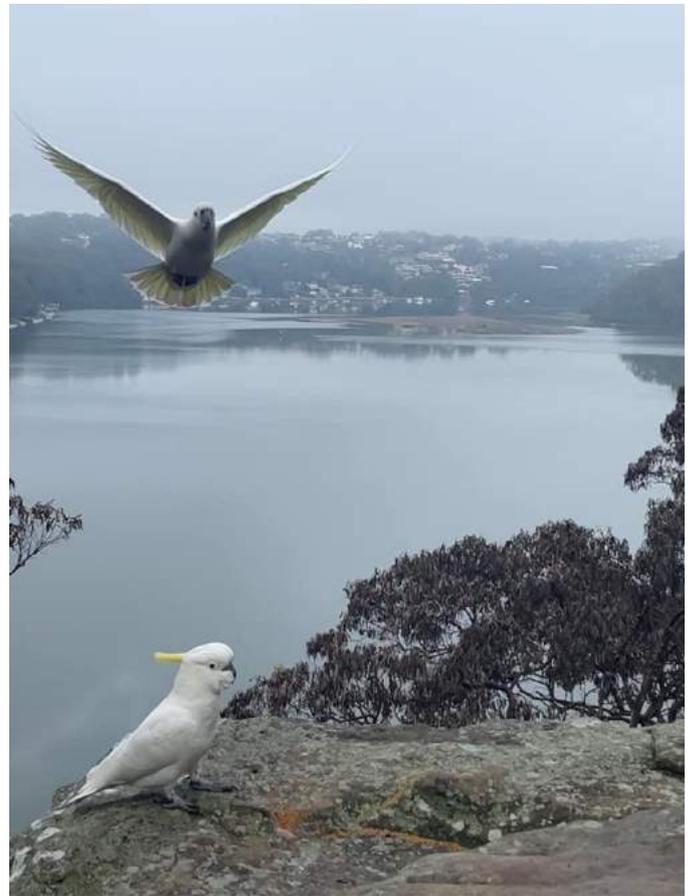
We look forward to seeing you out on the track, on the water or on the road soon!



Facebook Photo Comp Winners



AAWT Cross Cut Saw track - *Marilyn and Henry Fooks*



Lockdown in Oatley - *Sonia Baxant*



Torres Del Paine walk - *Ray Van Den Anker*



*Stephen Shubitz*



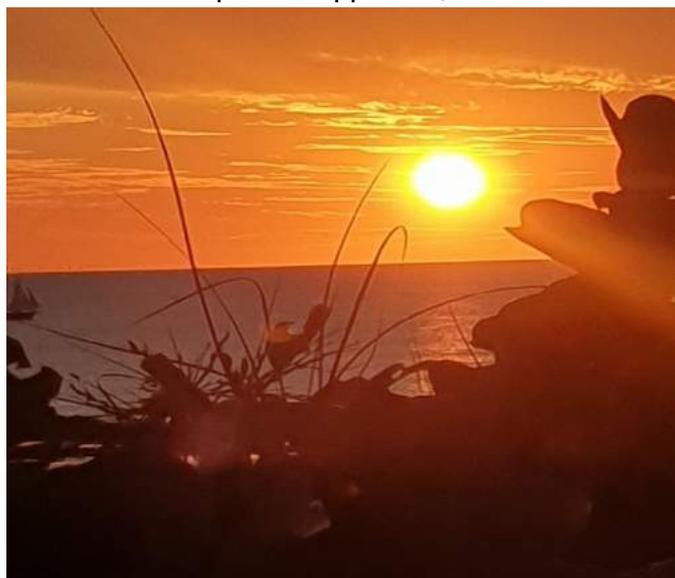
Megalong Valley - *Allan Bunt*



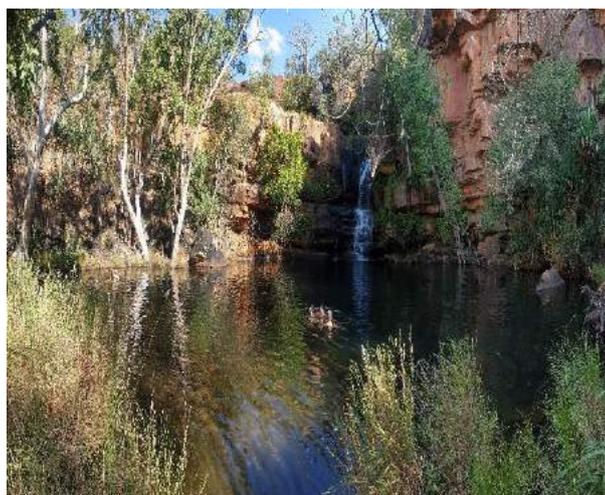
Gladstone Pass - *Allan Bunt*



Transport for approx. 5,000 km



Cable Beach Sunset



Swimming in one of many gorges



Wolfe Creek Crater

### *Website*

Don't forget to check our website. All the important information is available on the site.

### **Have you seen our Members Only Facebook Page?**

So far, nearly 120 members have joined the Facebook group, sharing walks, rides, kayaks and photos and generally keeping in touch. If you would like to join in on the fun then:-

- 1) Go to your own Facebook page,
- 2) Search for Sutherland Bushwalkers in the Facebook Search,
- 3) Click on the page that has Eagle Rock as the photo
- 4) Hit "Request to Join".

You should have access within 48 hours, usually much quicker though!

### **Leading a Walk!**

Did you know that you can contribute to the club without being on the committee? Have you ever thought about leading a walk? The club is always looking for new leaders! It isn't a difficult job and is very rewarding. If you are still unsure, you can organise to co-lead a walk, many of our current leaders began this way. For more information, check out our website!