

SUTHERLAND BUSHWALKERS NEWSLETTER

September 2026



President's Report

Spring has sprung, and it is a perfect time for outdoor activities. The wildflowers are already beginning to bloom and the walking is in benign temperatures. Who could ask for more!

The club is holding its first Social Night in quite a while! There are 35 members coming along to Club on East to share a meal and drinks and catch up with friends. I hope this will be the first of an annual or even bi-annual event.

Our club continues to have a solid financial base and membership continues to grow. Our activities are almost always full, and activities are scheduled for most days of the week. Having said that there is always room for more activities. If you have thought about leading an activity, feel free to contact myself or another committee member to discuss. It is a very rewarding thing to do.

Since our last newsletter the club has held its annual organisers and volunteers lunch. A successful afternoon was enjoyed with much discussion on bushwalking safety. A long discussion of first aid kits, PLBS - including In-Reach and Spot devices, and weather conditions was enlightening and informative. My thanks go out to the people who organised the buffet lunch after a snafu with the catering order. A great effort under some trying circumstances.

Safety is always first in mind when on activity, but accidents happen. The club has insurance through Bushwalking NSW. If you need to utilise this, the incident must be recorded on the appropriate form and signed by the activity leader and yourself.

See you on the track,

Cheers

Ken

President 2026

Program News

Activities for October, November & December 2026 (4th Quarter) have been added to the on-line Bilby program. More activities may be added at any time, so don't forget to check the program regularly.

As club members have now become more comfortable using the Bilby platform, we are transitioning away from a quarterly program (which requires planning 3+ months in advance) and focusing more on a **monthly program** of activities. The monthly 'Upcoming Activities' email has been working well for those organisers (and club members) who prefer to plan just a few weeks in advance.



Di with her new friend - Alayne Michel (photo)

We will still send out a quarterly 'request' for new activities, as this gives all club members a regular reminder that we need activities for the club to operate. However, we welcome submission of new activities at any time during the year. **Ideally, short notice activities will be submitted and published at least a week before the start of the month, so they can be included in the monthly 'Upcoming Activities' email.**

The on-line program is always up-to-date, so club members who are keen to make bookings should check for new activities regularly

Activity Organiser News

Thank you to all the Activity Organisers who have contributed to the program recently. Without your activities, we don't have a club!

Our most prolific 'Leaders' for the last 3 months (June, July, August) have been **Di Turner** (17 walks), **Tim Gardner** (10 walks), **Annette Mathews** (9 walks/rides), **Kay Rogers** (8 walks) and **Alan Webb** (7 paddles). Special mention to NEW 'Leader', **Ann Kirschner**, who organised two 'Birding' walks recently.

New activity organisers are always needed and very welcome. Please ask any current activity organiser or committee member how to get started.

Heather Hughes (Program Secretary)



Tim puts walkers in some tight situations - Allan Bunt (photo)

Glenbrook to Lapstone with Di

Di Turner led a walk with 14 people from Glenbrook station down to Lapstone station, through Knapsack Reserve bushland that is a Blue Mountains Council park, not a national park.

After only 1 hour on a new Mariyung train from Central to Glenbrook, we scattered across the many coffee shop options (and toilets) in Glenbrook. We then crossed the highway, past Glenbrook Native Plants Reserve and Nursery, and headed north to the bush.



Great views from the escarpment edge - Rhonda Daniels

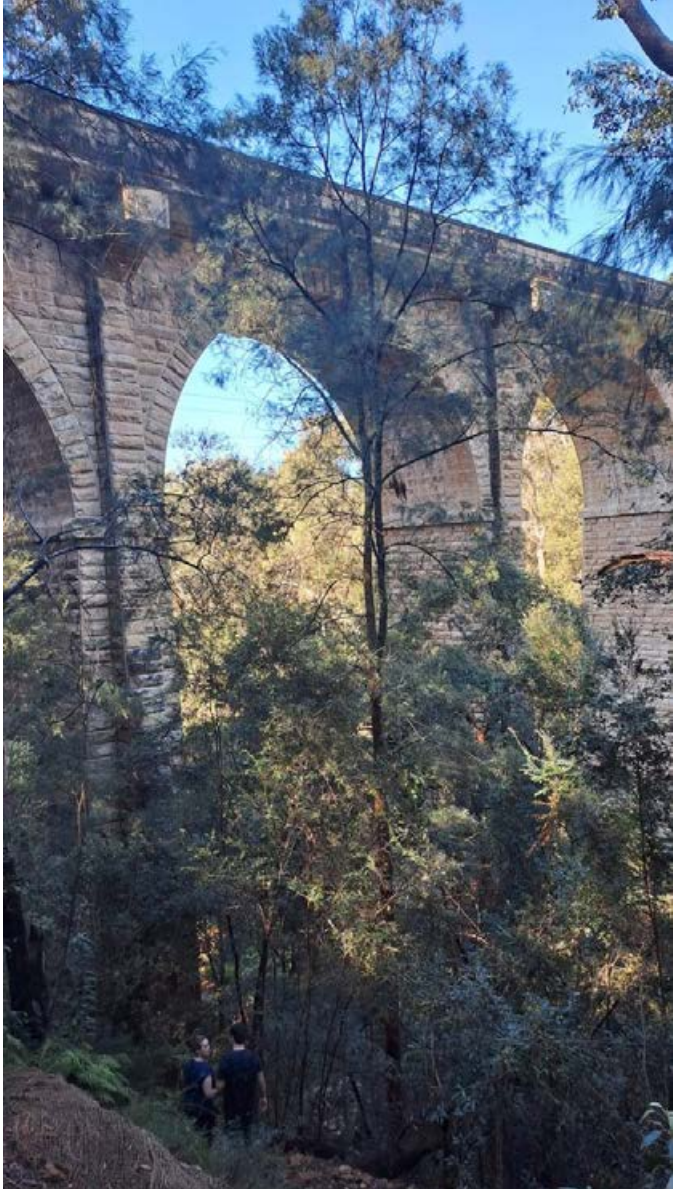
We strolled along a wide fire trail to Marges Lookout, with great views of Penrith Lakes to the east, and the new Western Sydney Airport to the south-east. It's always fun trying to work out just what we can see in the distance. Janelle had recently been to the visitor centre at the new airport and recommended it. Then it was along a bush track to the second lookout, Elizabeth Lookout, for similar views from a slightly different angle. Who were these lookouts named after - the royal sisters, or worthy locals? There were no plaques to guide us.



More views - Carol Weston

Then it was down a set of well-built sandstone stairs to the Knapsack Gully viaduct, built in 1867 for rail, then used for road, but now just for walkers and cyclists. Across the viaduct was an old quarry -

clearly needed after seeing all the sandstone used in the viaduct, and up to the Quarry lookout above, for more views east.



The Knapsack Gully viaduct, always impressive - Carol Weston

We headed south to the entrance to the old railway tunnel - 600 m long. The tunnel has been restored, but a Blue Mountains Council staffer explained why we couldn't go in today (filming underway) and why it wouldn't be open to the public full-time (safety and security issues). We followed a bush track south to Darks Common. The track, called the Tramway route, led us straight to a cliff edge overlooking the railway line a long, long way below. Apparently, it was built to carry materials to construct the railway. With a late lunch, we enjoyed the views to the south-east. (see photo of our lunch spot, with Di pointing west).

Then it was a short stroll through very sleepy Lapstone for the train back to Sydney (for most of us). I spotted Ethel Reserve - the third spot named after a woman on the walk. We had perfect walking conditions with sun, no wind or rain, but a dry dusty ground made it slippery in places. Not too much in

flower. Various wattles were coming out, and we did see *Grevillea mucronulata* (with green spider flowers) and *Pimelea linifolia* (white flowers), both also found on sandstone in Sutherland Shire.



Are we there yet? - Carol Weston

Thanks very much Di.

Rhonda Daniels

Gymea Historical Walk 5 June 2026

A casual amble around Gymea and Gymea Bay stopping at various points of historical interest, from the beginnings of the area in the 1860's to the present day. The lived experiences of Lisa and a recent Gymea History book by a local journalist (The Gymea Story: The History of Gymea and Gymea Bay by Kim Hatherly which is available through Sutherland Library) informed the walk. Additionally, many anecdotes from other participants added more colour to the local history and made for a lively, conversational walk.

Lisa and Ray Madden

Passerine birding

A Monday morning birding walk along Lady Carrington Drive was a leisurely stroll to spot a few passerine birds. Bird spotting was a bit slow for a couple of reasons, the weather was a bit inclement and the time of year impacted on sightings as well.

A total of 14 species were spotted.



Eastern Yellow Robin

The highlight was having male [Golden Whistlers](#) within reach, singing and darting through the shrubbery as they displayed their pre-breeding behaviour – a moment thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Ann Kirschner

A Walk in the Mountains

The Blue Mountains has always been regarded as one of the best walking areas in NSW and possibly Australia. There's plenty of day and multi-day walks to enjoy with loads of stunning scenery and it's not too hard to find a place to get away from the tourist crowds that are on the more popular tracks.

I recently got back up there on one of Tim's walks. His walks do come with a reputation, one which I might add, he is happy to uphold! A walk organised by Tim is expected to be challenging, they often - or should I say usually - will include off-track sections, steep hills and a decent pace. Tim's quote of the day sums up his walks, "Why take the easy way when there is a harder option available". That being said, you know what to expect and you also know that it is going to be a great walk to some hidden gems in the bush.



Glenbrook Creek

The walk I recently went on started at a place that I had never been to before - or so I thought! When we started into the bush we came to Martin's Lookout, which I immediately recognised from a previous adventure with Tim. The lookout had views across to the Blue Labyrinth and Lost World Lookout which was marked with an obvious white cross that commemorates Reverend Raymer, a prominent bushwalker in this area who died trying to save some pupils in the surf at Wollongong.



Tim shows the way out from Lost World Lookout

From Martin's Lookout we descended down a steep track to Glenbrook Creek. We crossed the track and proceeded off-track up the creek. Some walkers camped nearby were a little bemused as they explained that there was a track along the creek on the opposite side of the creek but we explained that our leader preferred the off-track route!



Morning Tea at Sharks Head Cave

Getting back up the other side of the valley to the lookouts was quite challenging, steep and rough and a faint footpad to follow occasionally. We stopped at Sharks Head Cave for morning tea before heading up the ridge line and out to the lookouts. The tracks along the top were in good condition and we stopped for a while at Lost World Lookout before moving on to Bunyan Lookout for lunch. The weather was very kind to us and the views were amazing.



Some of the off-track is a bit tricky!

After lunch we completed the loop by navigating back down a steep ridge line, again with partial footpads to follow, down to the creek. As is often the way with bushwalks, we finished with a decent climb back up to Martin's Lookout and the cars.

A great day was had by all. Thanks Tim, for another brilliant walk.

John Hughes

GreenWay Urban Walk
17 June, 2026
Leader: Vanessa, Walkers: 15

The GreenWay is a recently connected and opened council walkway from Leichhardt to Dulwich Hill, a length of approximately 6 km.

First we had a light rail ride to the start of the walk, then we followed the Hawthorne Canal through playing fields and playgrounds where mothers and kids seem to gather. Further on the path goes under beautiful bay fig trees, past a tunnel depicting train history of the area and a mosaic mural made from 475, 000 tile pieces, all were very interesting.

Still further on art works appear, like the recycled wood playground which was a good spot for morning tea, a guessing game to identify bird feathers, train models to represent past rail links, a 1950s style spaceship playground that bought back memories of childhood play adventures, a fabulous book library and a glow tunnel to walk through.



The GreenWay information board - Libby Davey (photo)

The end was Dulwich Hill where we split, with some going straight back on the light rail, others walking on to Wolli Creek and two of us having coffee at the café.



One of many art installations - Libby Davey (photo)

I think we were all happy with the GreenWay and its many info boards at various points. It really was an easy walk but it was interesting to stop, read and to take your time.



A lovely walk along the waterway - Libby Davey (photo)

Special note: Along the way a student wallet was found with his school id and opal card inside. I contacted the school to report it found and I later posted it to the school teacher. I have just received a card of appreciation from the student wishing to thank the bushwalking club.

Vanessa Hicks



Dear Mr Hicks

Thankyou so much for returning my wallet to Newington. I hope you like the big bunch of flowers on the front and that your bushwalking group does well now and into the future.

From: Laurence Haines and

Mushroom Hunting in the Tarkine

A recent article in *The Guardian*, “**Mushroom trip: a mycologist’s tour of the Tarkine**”, provides a fascinating look at the world of fungi in Tasmania’s ancient Tarkine (Takayna) rainforest. The article follows mycologist Dr Alison Pouliot on a three-day fungi workshop, where participants discover an astonishing variety of fungi hidden among the rainforest.



Possibly a Sky-blue Pinkgill

There are delicate blue mushrooms, brilliant red species, unusual earth tongues, enormous bracket fungi and the wonderfully named echidna fungi. At times, the group travels only a short distance because there is simply so much to discover and photograph along the way.



Bridal Veil Stinkhorn

For those of us who already enjoy photographing fungi on our walks, the article is a great reminder of just how much there is to learn about these fascinating organisms. Fungi aren’t simply interesting shapes and colours on the forest floor – they play an essential role in healthy ecosystems, breaking down organic matter and forming important relationships with plants.

So, the next time someone calls out on a club walk, take a little extra time to appreciate what you have found. And keep those cameras handy.

Read the full article:

[Mushroom trip: a mycologist’s tour of the Tarkine - The Guardian](#)

Thanks for this information, Janice McLeod

Bullawarring Track - Yelgun Cave - Mooray Track
4th August
President Ken + 13 followers

A cool & crisp morning saw us gather for the traditional introduction circle which included two guest ladies, one of which was wearing shorts - how brave I thought. Off we tramp down through the valley, with a little bottom scrambling and a rocky path to make you watch where you planted your feet. We headed down to Kingfisher Pool, a campsite and Yelgun Cave, which many of us had not been to before.



You shouldn't get lost here!

The Royal NP, just the other side of tracks, is the big brother overshadowing Heathcote NP but really this is a gem with many wonderful walking tracks, Heathcote Creek, waterfalls, a natural campground with a toilet and a beautiful mix of flora. In the creek beds we saw hollowed out circles with water flowing and swirling through them. Every time I go somewhere in Heathcote NP, I think why don't I go more often. How good it is to sit in the warming sun on a rock shelf overlooking a pool with a waterfall.



Classic signs in Heathcote NP

Continuing on down the Bullawarring Track we came to the Mooray Track, where this time the theme for this part was UP! The track is constantly being weathered so this can be a hop & scramble at your own pace - all part of the adventure. Seems like it goes for miles but at the "rest" spots, just stop and see the flora coming to life. There are colours appearing like the two-toned pea shaped bush, purple waxflower and orange fungus on branches (horticultural ignorance here).



Orange fungus thriving on this branch!

Ken was an excellent leader giving tips to the new people but a reminder to all of us on basic rules when out in the bush. At the end, the guests were very happy and likely to join us again.



The beautiful Boronias have started to flower.

Thanks Ken, it really felt like it was worth getting out of a warm bed and putting on the boots.

Vanessa Hicks

Suburban Exploration - Randwick Monday 6 July 2026

Under grey skies, walkers gathered at the entrance to UNSW (technically in Kensington) to begin a Random Randwick Ramble. Coincidentally, nearly all walkers had an affinity with UNSW through study or children studying or husbands lecturing (reportedly 33 years). For the one walker not so imbued, a honorary doctorate was bestowed as we exited the gates of the university.



UNSW's most recent graduate

The walk traversed nearly all the compass points of the suburb taking in the environmental park, various early settlements (Struggletown and

Irishtown) as well at the last remaining rainforest gully typical of much of Randwick before settlement. A thank you to our local resident walker (Kathy) who was able to add other points of interest along the way including the late Fred Hollows' house, the vigorous bushcare work in a couple of settings and her own house!



On the boardwalk in Fred Hollows Reserve

The rain mostly stayed away, the heaviest was at morning tea when we were safely under shelter. A 15 minute light rail trip back to the city was an easy and welcome end to the day.

Lisa and Ray Madden

ShireCAN Update

Gay Curtis, ShireCAN Coordinator presented at the June 2025 monthly club meeting and spoke briefly about the organisation. Here are some brief updates on this initiative from Gay.

In June this year at the Australian Local Government Association conference (ALGA) the City of Sydney initiated a motion in support of the Climate Compensation Fund. It was passed unanimously with no amendments. Sutherland Shire Council did not attend.

There were a number of individual Councils to pass a motion at their Council Meetings to support a Climate Compensation Fund, protecting ratepayers. Councils of all persuasions are supportive of financial sustainability in the face of rising costs and increased weather events/disasters.

In November the NSW Local Government Association will hold a conference. It is expected that Councillors from Sutherland Shire Council will attend. A motion in support of the Climate Compensation Fund will be on the agenda. Let's hope it will be a similar result as per ALGA with the motion passing unanimously.

Contact info@shirecan.org.au for more information.

Thanks for this information, Gay Curtis



A new release of Bilby is coming. This means that it will look a little different on the screen. There will be minimal change, if any, in the way that we use the system but there are cosmetic changes that might mean that some of the buttons we use could be in a different place. You will also be asked to agree to the risk waiver with each booking, which is one extra click in the process and aligns well with our insurance responsibilities.

For organisers, some menu items will move or be placed in a drop-down menu system. A drop-down menu is sometimes indicated by a hamburger symbol of three horizontal lines (≡) or an ellipsis, which is three dots (...).

If needed, we will send out an email on the changes that affect us, when the update arrives.

Don't forget that 'Bilby Help' is available.

- Bilby documents are on our club website.
https://www.sutherlandbushwalkers.org.au/?page_id=15983
- In the Bilby system use 'Help and Support'
- Or email directly to
bilbysupport@sutherlandbushwalkers.org.au

Q2 Club Activity Stats (Apr, May, Jun)

Sutherland Bushwalking Club now has 342 registered members and we participated in 68 club activities during Q2 2026.

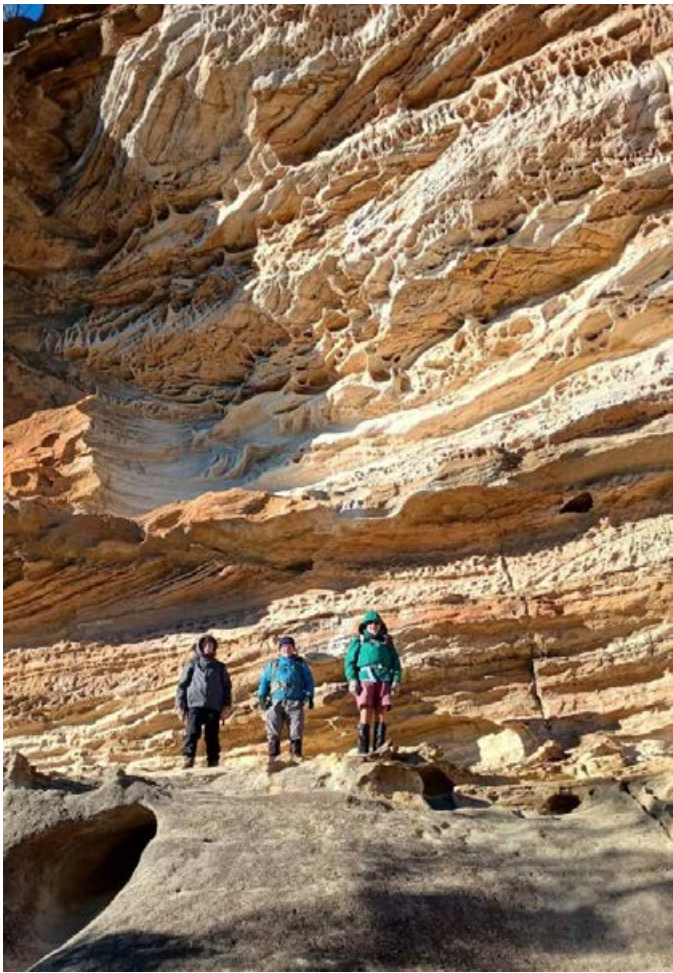
It is pleasing to report that our participation rate has been steadily increasing. Many of our activities are hitting capacity, which indicates the need for more activities to be scheduled. Some new activity leaders would certainly help in this regard, so if you have any walks, rides or paddles that you would like to do then please consider running an activity, as it would certainly be of benefit to our club members.

Activity Type	Number of Activities	Number of Participants
Morning Walk	13	142
Day Walk	45	433
Paddle	6	39
Multi-day Walk	0	0
Cycle	2	17
Multi-day Trip	0	0
Track Work	2	24
(Data from Activity Organiser's Trip Reports)		



A warm welcome to our new members:

Susan Duffy	James Campbell
Lesley Gray	Andrew Sharp
Judy Buliak	Paul Freed
Donna Ryan	Robyn Driver
Christabel Carnus	Mark Kirby
Nicole Oceano	Maureen O'Neill
Anthony Brady	Karen Smith
Brigitte Moseley	Donna Campbell
David White	Cathy Appleby
Daryl Crich	Natalie Carleton



The magnificent Blue Mountains - Allan Bunt

Vale
Pete Guest
1946 - 2026

Our friend and valued club member Pete Guest passed away in late June.

Pete came to Australia for a holiday in 1974 and loved it so much he stayed. He joined the bushwalking club, in 1999 and in February 2004, he met Becky on a club trip to Coolendel and then again in November that year on the Six Foot Track. They got engaged on the trip to Coolah Tops and married in 2006, honeymooning on the club trip to Yerranderie.

He told me on more than one occasion that marrying Becky was the best decision of his life.

Pete was a prominent member of the club for 27 years, participating in numerous walks and trips over that time. Pete was also a prolific walk leader. He was always up for a chat and had a great sense of humour. I have fond memories of chatting with Pete at Pygmy Possum and on many other walks, car camps and trips. In fact, Pete's great sense of humour, some would say cheekiness, was the main talking point among members at his memorial service.

Pete was an integral part of the committee serving as vice president for a number of years. His sage advice and good humour was always welcome. Most of all, I will remember Pete as a good bloke. He will be greatly missed.

Our sincere condolences go out to Rebecca and family.

Ken Newman



- **Annual Christmas BBQ Breakfast**
 Saturday 5 December. All members are warmly invited to attend.



Christmas Brekkie at Audley - Heather Hughes (photo)



Pete Guest in Scotland

More Club Photos from our Facebook Posts



Coast track - Allan Bunt



Sydney Coast Walk - Phil Travis



Palona Brook - Patty Bianco



Karingal Track - Annette Mathews



LCD - Libby Davey



Track Maintenance - Allan Bunt



Heathcote NP - Mark Laurendet



Thursday Morning Walkers - Heather Hughes



This is the easy way! - Allan B



Mighty Mushies - Ann Kirschner