

BUSH TELEGRAPH

2010 No. 3
SPRING



Nangar National Park 24-26 April 2010 by Mike Robinson

Inside this issue:

The weather forecast was not looking good for our base camp in Nangar National Park over the ANZAC long weekend. This did turn a few people off but 6 hardy members decided the 4 hour trip to visit this little known park was worth it. Vaz and Julie arrived late Friday afternoon and selected a great camping spot. Louise and I arrived Saturday around 10am and Les and Bruce by noon, thereby completing our group.

After a chatty lunch we took the short drive to Dripping Rock (which wasn't dripping) and the start of our 7km return walk to Mount Nangar. This track initially traverses a couple of small hills before following a lovely little creek deep into the folds of the ranges. As the creek narrows the track changes direction to follow a ridge on a steep zigzag path slowly leading us to the top of the range. A further short flat walk brings you to Nangar Trig and its brilliant views east towards Orange. And what we could see didn't look pretty. Lots of heavy cloud with rain, although around Nangar was OK; just patchy cloud. And it looked quite clear behind us. We took the usual photos but as it was getting cool we didn't stay too long. On the way back we had a little rain (enough to put on our raincoats) but it gave us the opportunity to check out Bruce's latest addition to his wet weather ensemble.... a lovely flowery broly. He reckons it's great for keeping rain off your head and will definitely be carried on all future trips!! Keep an eye out for it.

Back at camp the clouds hadn't got worse but also hadn't got better. We collected wood for a fire and set about arranging dinner etc. Les thought it may be a good idea to set up a tarp over the cooking area just in case, which we did. A little later a bright flash was seen "What do you think that....?" Our question was answered mid sentence by a rolling rumble of thunder and a short time later the first drops of what turned into a solid night of quite heavy rain. Thankfully there was very little wind so the tarp allowed us to sit out of the rain in relative comfort, cook dinner, enjoy some red wine and have a laugh. Thanks Les. So, no fire tonight and we all turned in early, hoping for a brighter morning.

Sunday dawned overcast but not really raining, just a couple of short showers. After a lazy breakfast the weather had improved and we set off on the days longer walk (about 12kms) to Mount

Murga. A short walk from the campground to the creek we had followed yesterday before a different sharp climb up a ridge to the range top. This track requires walkers to follow small diamond shaped pieces of metal nailed to trees. Generally these are easy to follow but occasionally they disappear, requiring a bit of searching. Especially when the track makes an unexpected 90 degree turn. But, overall, not too difficult. By this time the weather was improving every minute and it was turning into a great day. This park is very rocky and even though we had a lot of rain overnight (Orange had 33mm) it had soaked into the ground. This made the track nice and soft underfoot. The cleansing rain also provided Julie with the perfect opportunity to indulge in her craft passion and spend time collecting lots of intriguingly shaped pieces of wood and coloured rocks to decorate her creations. And where was all this booty going you may ask? Yes, you guessed it, into Vaz's pack. The only person whose pack increased in weight as the walk went on! Anyway, after 4kms the walking track meets a 4WD road with a sign to Mount Murga. A few hundred metres further on things were getting confusing. Tracks, other roads, confusing signs and no real idea of where we should have been going. We tried a couple of options but none worked so we sat in the sun for lunch before heading back to camp via a different track.

We arrived at camp lathish in the afternoon under a cloudless sky. It was going to be a beautiful night. It started to cool off early so we all rugged up, started the fire and commenced cooking dinner etc. Afterwards, we sat around the fire under a starry sky chatting, drinking red wine, chocolating and having a great laugh. A night, totally opposite to the previous one.

Monday morning we had another lazy breakfast before we packed up, each with plans for the trip home. Most of us stopped off at Borenore Caves Reserve which is well worth the short diversion off the highway.

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Nangar National Park May 2009

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All opinions and recommendations contained in this magazine are the individual authors' alone, and do not constitute official endorsement by the executive or members of the Bankstown Bushwalking Club Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S PIECE

BY BELINDA ROTHERY

As I was on holidays in June I missed the club meeting where there was a BBQ on before the meeting for people to socialize and get a cheap dinner. From what I hear, I missed a great event. There was a large turn out and everyone had a great time and managed to get home from the meeting nice and early. Thanks to Kathie and her helpers for a great night and to Bernard for chairing the meeting in my absence. Don't worry if you missed out, we are doing it all again for the October meeting, Monday 11 October. If you don't have any plans for that night, come along to the club meeting rooms between 6 - 7:30pm, grab a sausage sandwich and have a chat with old and new friends. This BBQ is not limited to club members so you can bring your non-club member family and friends along with you.

We are always looking for things to do before or after a club meeting. If you have any ideas for a speaker or something fun and interesting to do at a club meeting, just email the walks committee when the call goes out for walks to go onto the next program.

The recent assault of a young woman walking alone on Florabella Pass in the Blue Mountains National Park is a graphic reminder to everyone to not to walk alone in the bush or other isolated places. When you are out in the bush be aware of your surroundings and any people that are around and report any incidents to the Police. Don't forget to let people know where you are going, who you are with and when you'll be back.

AMUSING PLACE NAMES

BY MIKE ROBINSON

Sometimes in our travels we come across place names that obviously explain why the area was given that name and make us wonder why people decided to live here. Others are quirky. Some just odd. Try these examples:

Alligator Creek, Qld	Cement Mills, Qld	Jaffa, Qld	Scrub Creek x 3 and Scrub Mountain, all in Qld
Amphitheatre, Vic	Cheepie, Qld	Jetsonville, Tas	Shotts, WA (bottoms up)
Bagdad, Tas	Coal Point, Coalcliff & Coaldale, all NSW	Lonesome Creek, Qld	Snake Valley, Vic
Baffle Creek, Qld (no good for rogaining)	Coal Falls, Qld	Lower Light, SA	Speed, Vic
Balaclava, Vic & SA (who goes there?)	Coalville, Vic	Machine Creek, Qld	Spit Junction, NSW (spit, yuk!)
Banana, Qld	Cockburn, SA (and even worse for boys), Cockburn Central, WA	Magpie, Vic	Sulphur Creek, Tas
Basilisk, Qld (snakes in Potter speak)	Coconuts, Qld	Marshlands, Qld	The Leap, Qld
Bindi Bindi, WA	Coffin Bay, SA	Mosquito Creek, Qld	The Levels, SA
Black Snake, Qld	Coldstream, Vic	Mount Romance, WA	The Limits, Qld
Blowhard, Vic	Dark Corner, NSW (not near Sunny Corner)	Mount Sheila, WA	The Mine, Qld
Bogan x 2 & Bogan Gate, all NSW	Deviot, Tas	Mullett Creek, Qld	The Risk, NSW
Boogan, Qld (how Olders pronounce Bogan???)	Dog Swamp, WA	Needles, Tas	Thornlands, Qld
Bowling Alley Point, NSW	Dripstone, NSW	Number One, NSW (no number two thankfully!!)	Tin Can Bay, Qld
Broadmarsh, Tas	Dry Creek, SA	One Tree Hill, SA	Tinderbox, Tas
Broke, NSW & WA	Dubbo, NSW	Pasha, Qld	Two Rocks, WA
Cane, WA	Dykehead, Qld	Peek-a-Doo, Qld	Useless Loop, WA
Cape Arid, WA	Eggs and Bacon Bay, Tas	Perisher Valley, NSW	Weatherboard, Vic
Cape Barren Island, Tas	Fannie Bay, NT	Perseverance, Qld	Windabout, WA
Cardigan, Vic (got yours?)	Firefly, NSW	Pile Gully, Qld	Yorkeys Knob, Qld
Casino, NSW (not if you have a problem)	Foxground, NSW	Police Point, Tas (good or bad??)	The above are all official places and have postcodes. Of course many more exist which are also official, and only appear on maps and such...Murdering Gully, Windy Ridge, & Greenpatch come to mind.
	Ghooli, WA	Quarry Hill, Vic	And not forgetting places overseas: Asbestos in Canada and Upper & Lower Slaughter in England, and Sandfly Point in NZ.
	Grass Patch, WA	Raby, NSW (had your shots?)	Any more you would like to suggest?
	Gravesend, NSW	Reedy Marsh, Tas	
	Groomsville, Qld (watch out girls)	Ringbark, WA	
	Hail Creek, Qld	Rooty Hill, NSW (had to put this one in)	
	Hermit Park, Qld	Rottnest Island, WA	
	Horse Camp, Qld	Sandfly, Tas (my personal favourite)	
	Howlong, NSW (beats me?)	Sandpatch, WA	
		Scotchey Pocket, Qld	

The Bankstown Bushwalkers Online Community

by Lynda Paju

Did you know that we have 2 ways that members can share information with other members?

Club Photo Album

Photos can be viewed at <http://picasaweb.google.com/bankstownbush> or you can follow the instructions at <http://bankstownbush.wikispaces.com/Photo+Album> to add your photos to the album.

Club Google Group

We've also recently expanded the use of our Google Group so that members can:

- download current and old copies of the club program (complete with leaders' contact information)
- look at pages where members have put links to sites of potential interest to other members.

view an archive of all messages to club members.

Instructions for accessing the Google Group can be found

at <http://bankstownbush.wikispaces.com/Google+Group>

Only club members can add files or pages to these pages, and anything you add is only viewable by club members.

I've kicked off the sharing of interesting "stuff" by including a page that contains links to 5 episodes of an excellent BBC documentary on high altitude medicine. Another club member sent me these, and it occurred to me that it would be really good to share these links with other club members.

As well as that some of you might have similar good stuff to share.

So please enjoy these videos, and if you are confident enough to add your own pages with interesting links to videos, web sites or other information of interest to club members please feel free to go in and add yours.

If you have any feedback on these sites I'd love to hear from you at lyndapaju@gmail.com.

Lynda (wearing her "webmistress" hat)

A Little Bit of Trivia about BBC Perpetual Trophies

by Helen Wright

Have you ever wondered how our trophies came about? With our club celebrating 30 years of existence it is timely that the present membership be aware of the background information.

In 1990 it was decided by the Management Committee to give recognition annually to highly involved, dedicated members without whom the club wouldn't thrive. There would be an award

specifically for those who volunteered to lead walks and other activities. The other, more general, would go to a person who had made important contributions of any sort during the year. It was

decreed that nominations would come from members who would determine the eventual winner. The next step was to design and construct the trophies. The first was easy: with the majority of leaders engaged in walks/rogaines it made sense to have a compass set on a wooden base. A compass was donated by the late Ross Hamilton as were the blocks of wood that he varnished. For club members a suitable object needed to be attached to the other

corresponding base. As it turned out 1990 was a very wet year- especially the first half. My boots were starting to fall apart because of the incessant rain and my sloshing through mud.

So I suggested that it be "touched up" and mounted on the base. Since it fitted snugly on the base the problem was solved especially when Ross offered his services in mending, preserving, polishing and mounting it as he had done with the compass on the other base.

At that time rogain events were being promoted to help members develop their navigational skills. It culminated with our own "Hell Raiser" Rogaine at Lake Macquarie in 1991. Ross became an accomplished navigator and believed that by encouraging others to participate in rogaines their skills would be enhanced.

When Ross was gravely ill in 1997 it was very timely and appropriate that the Management Committee arranged to have a special trophy made to be called the Ross Hamilton Shield to be awarded to the best team from Bankstown in the annual Paddy Pallin Rogaine. The winners' names would be engraved on a wooden plaque.

When complete it was shown to Ross who was honoured and so proud that his vision would be realised.

NANGAR NATIONAL PARK (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

We also stopped for lunch in the old verandah town of Millthorpe but it was closed. Yes, basically the whole town was closed. I find it rather strange that a town that survives on cafes and antique shops was closed on the Monday of a long weekend. The other 20 or so people we saw in the ten minutes we were there, who were also looking for a lunch place, seemed equally bemused. A lovely town but be careful when you go. Saturdays and Sundays seem the safest bet.

Overall, a really nice weekend. Even the traffic back through the mountains wasn't that bad, especially if you know the back way! And, in another surprise, the weather bureau actually got their ANZAC weather guesstimate correct: OK, rain, then clearing. So, if you're heading past Orange, spend a night in Nangar National Park, it is well worth it.

PS: Since then I have checked the maps and found the way to Mount Murga so expect another trip to Nangar in the future.



Views of Nangar National Park from May 2009



THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BANKSTOWN BUSHWALKING CLUB.

Original article written by Paul Obohov (a foundation member) in 1990.

This condensed version has been edited by Helen Wright to mark the Club's anniversary.

The honour of initiating the Club via advertisements in local newspapers in late 1979 belongs to Edward J. Griffin. The Bankstown Bushwalking and Social Club started as an organised entity on the 11th February 1980 with a committee of four including Edward Griffin, and some walks organisers. Membership at the time consisted of about 23 people demonstrating the interest the club had galvanised in the Bankstown area. Two social organisers were elected at the general meeting on the 25th February. The next couple of meetings were spent hotly debating the constitution resulting in an impasse. At the meeting of 31st March the original committee was dissolved and the following persons were elected: President, Bryan Wood; Vice-President, Bill Brown; Secretary, John Baremans; Treasurer, myself plus Social Organisers, Nikki Layton and Peter Perkins. The position of a seventh vote tie-breaker on the committee was created and voted on: this being Ron Marshall. Nowadays this position is better known as the People's Representative. The meeting of 14th March elected the first Walks Committee comprising Andrew Magalas, Dave Sharpe, Lyn Smith, Janette Wells, Bryan Wood, and myself.

The President of The Federation of Bushwalkers of NSW namely Murray Scott attended some of our first meetings. Later, Beth Meeks, Vice-President spoke to the management committee at its meeting on April 9th. She explained the workings of FBW Search and Rescue to us for the first time and invited the Club to affiliate. After witnessing some of their meetings the BBSC agreed to do this on 1st September that year.

The Club accepted a backpack symbol as its emblem at the meeting of 19th May, 1980 on a motion put by Bob Sauers and seconded by Ron Marshall. Whilst the Walks Committee prepared the first walks program, Management focussed its attention to purchasing equipment and maps. The position of Equipment Officer was introduced and filled by Bob Sauers at the June 2nd general meeting. During that month a constitution was drafted and later put to members at a special meeting on 8th September. It was accepted clause by clause with some amendments. The first walks program became available on the 23rd June. The preceding long weekend was the inaugural ski weekend to the huts at Anglers Reach attracting seventeen participants. Organised by Dave Sharpe, this annual event became entrenched amongst the club's activities for many years thereafter. Also that month Bob Sauers organised the first caving activity at Abercrombie Caves but, until there were enough people with sufficient skills re caving and safety, further exploration was suspended. This necessitated a first aid course that was incorporated into the social program costing members \$5. The first two kits costing \$55 were displayed on the 13th

October. On this date, the first Newsletter Committee was thanked for producing the first edition of "The Bush Telegraph." The publishers were Jackie Anstis, Bob Sauers, and Lyn Young. The club now encompassed abseiling along with canoeing and rafting amongst its activities. All proved to be popular with the members. So the meeting of the 3rd November elected Bill Brown, John Bourne, Peter Perkins and Bryan Wood as the first Abseiling Committee. This committee then became a standing committee elected at Annual General Meetings thereafter.

The AGM of 2nd March, 1981 saw the election of the club's third management committee and other established positions. Here, our first Federation Representatives were elected. They were John Baremans, Bob Brown, Ron Marshall, and Dave Sharpe. Full membership status to the Federation was reported by our representatives on the 7th April. Membership fees were set at \$11 for ordinary members, and \$12 for family membership. General meetings became monthly in 1981 at the church that used to be at 7 Greenfield Parade, but in August, the meeting place changed to the Arts and Crafts Centre that was then in Meredith Street. Walks became more diversified as some members gained instruction in map and compass use. Abseiling became a regularly scheduled event in 1981 and thereafter. Trips to the snow were done as the season allowed. Cross-country skiing was the predominate activity with stays in huts or periodically in the snow fashioning igloos for the occasion. The club struck it lucky to have three "refugees" from a caving group join mid year. Little did Geoff Scott, Sue Clapham (now Scott) and Greg Smith realise that they would soon be press-ganged into leading caving trips. Geoff Scott reported on a caving weekend at the Bungonia Caves at the meeting of October 12th. This was the beginning of numerous caving expeditions undertaken by the club thereafter.

Social events in the early days included restaurant nights, BBQs, guest speakers, square dancing etc. Included in the first program released on 23rd June was a trip to the Bong-Bong picnic races. The 1980 Christmas Party was financed by the Club to the tune of \$150. In the early years the club raised funds in a number of novel ways eg stalls, abseiling displays. It donated generously to various charities eg Royal Blind Society. It supported environmental groups eg Wilderness Society, Greenpeace, National Parks & Wildlife etc and still does. Social events in 1982 included a river cruise on the Georges River, a woolshed dance, tennis and the inaugural Annual Sports Carnival. 1983 social events included bush dances, horse riding, pushbike riding, sampling of pack foods, and the first of many car rallies. A three-burner gas stove and large gazebo/tarpaulin were bought in 1983 for comfortable socialising during most weather for base camps and picnics.

Club Email Group — important info from Lynda Paju

Do you want to organise people to join you on an event that isn't on the program, or to advise other club members of changes to a programmed activity?

Club members may send emails to **all club members** by e-mailing our email list at bankstownbush@googlegroups.com. Please note that you must be a club member whose e-mail address has been provided to the club in order to be able to email this address. You'll also have to send your email from that address. This is so that spammers can't email our email list address and send annoying spam to club members.

*It's recently come to our attention that **Hotmail blocks emails from Google Groups from time to time without notifying either the account holder (you) or the sender. We recommend providing an email address which is not a Hotmail address so that you can be sure to get club email list messages.***

To update your email address email the club secretary at bankstownbush@gmail.com

Tramping with Huts in New Zealand 2010

by Lyn McMillan

I have been to New Zealand many times and each time I have been able to do some tramping. New Zealand has a very comprehensive network of huts. The huts allow you to walk from one place to another over several days and have the "luxury" of arriving at a hut each night for shelter. Huts range in services and price and are graded accordingly.

A basic hut has water, sometimes outside, a pit toilet, a fire for heating, 4 walls, a roof and floor and always mattresses in bunks or slab beds (sleep up to 10). The top of the range huts could also have flushing toilets, gas heaters and gas burners for cooking. Huts are always in quite special locations and usually within a comfortable walking distance from a road or another hut. They provide accommodation for trampers and track maintenance workers and are also used by hunters at certain times of the year.

Some huts are very popular so there are booking systems in place. The huts, with the network of tramping tracks, provide the opportunity for people to experience the New Zealand country and its people, with a relatively small amount of effort and organisation and on a relatively small budget. The Milford Track is an example of a track which has a booking system and all the facilities you would expect to find at a top of the range hut.

You never know what to expect at a hut. You may find it empty and have it to yourself. It is more likely though that you will have company. Trampers arrive throughout the day. Some have travelled far, some only a short distance. Some people pack up Friday night and head for the hills, arriving quite late at the first hut for their weekend away from civilisation. Some bring their children with them. You have to admire their determination as they transport the children on their backs for most of the day.

If you are travelling alone, on most days you will find someone at the hut who will share a cuppa and with whom you can share tales of the adventures of your trip. You may even find some track workers sharing the hut. These fellows are incredible people, they work for the Department of Conservation, and work in what some would consider very difficult conditions. They love the bush and enjoy the experience of being able to show off their country and help people experience their country and huts for themselves. They are always happy to share their knowledge and if requested, will offer assistance and advice.

My prior trips to New Zealand have always been to tramp in the South Island. For our last trip we decided to spend some time on the North Island. We tramped on Mt Taranaki for 5 nights, the Matamateaonga track over 3 nights, the Northern Tongariro Circuit over 4 nights and around Lake Waikaremoana over 4 nights. I have now been able to tramp all the Great Walks of New Zealand

with one exception. I have not done the Whanganui River tramp, it is actually a paddle, so maybe next time.

We finished off the trip with a visit to White Island (an active volcano 50kms off shore from Whakatane) followed by some touring on the North Island.



Above: Inside a basic NZ hut (note 3 level slab beds)

Below: Mt. Ngauruhoe



BOOK REVIEW by Thai's Turner

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

This book is one of the most inspirational I have read lately. It is the amazing and uplifting true account of an adventurer and his incredible humanitarian campaign in the Taliban's backyard. Mountaineer Greg Mortenson found his way into an impoverished Pakistani village in the Karakorum Mountains in 1993, after a failed attempt to climb K2. Moved by the people's kindness he promised to return to build a school. This is the riveting story of that promise & it's extraordinary outcome as Mortenson built not 1 but 55 schools, especially for girls, in the forbidding terrain. Mortenson achieved where others would not have known how to begin. His testament to the power of the humanitarian spirit is an engrossing account that helps us to understand different cultures and countries, and peoples who share the same desires to see their children educated, so they can choose their pathways for the future benefit of their nations. Further info can be found at www.threecupsoftea.com and www.ikat.org

OVERSEAS ADVENTURE

BY BELINDA ROTHERY

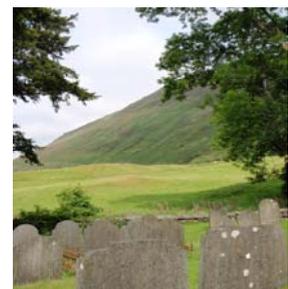
In June I had a (relatively) quick holiday in the UK and northern Europe. I didn't have time to go for any walks but I did do a few days driving around Wales and Southern England. While the country side is postcard pretty, it was nowhere near as dramatic as we have right here in Sydney. As the small towns are so close to each other and no real rugged bushland anywhere, it is clear as to how and why foreign visitors get themselves quickly into trouble in the Aussie bush. Over there you can walk from pub to pub and there are even cafes along the way! The most amusing part in Wales was driving into Brecon on the edge of Brecon Beacons National Park and seeing all the cafes in the rest stops on the road along the way. I think 5 little portable cafes 10 minutes from town is a little excessive. We didn't stop in any of them but it got a giggle every time we passed one!

Unfortunately we had very bad weather for the cruise through the Baltic Sea. It was cold and

rained nearly every day and I had to buy a beanie in Tallinn, Estonia to keep my head warm. The worse bit about it all was that when I looked at the weather for here in Sydney it was always warmer! Trips to Europe and the UK always make me appreciate what we have here in Sydney - beautiful weather and awesome places to walk and spend time away from the city.



Belinda in Tallinn Estonia



A valley in Wales

CLUB MEETINGS EVERY MONTH

USUALLY HELD ON 2ND MONDAY OF MONTH—
EXCEPT JANUARY

**Georges Hall Community Centre
188 Birdwood Road
Georges Hall NSW 2198**

**Club email address:
bankstownbush@gmail.com**

Contributions to this newsletter are always
welcome & can be emailed to Thais on
tmaturner@yahoo.com

Deadline for Summer issue is: Fri 22nd Oct 2010

Meetings coming up in 2010:

Sep	13th
Oct	11th
Nov	8th

We're on the Web!
[http://
bankstownbush.110mb.com](http://bankstownbush.110mb.com)

30 years of Club Presidents compiled by Thais & Kathie.
Assisted by Geoff, Lyn, Bruce, Tim & Helen who can all give you many rec-
ollections about the early years of our Club. Ask them sometime!

Club names:

(the S was for Social)
BB&SC from 1980 – Sep 90
BB&SC Inc Sep 90 – Mar 97
BBC Inc from Mar 97 - present
Presidential terms began from
AGM in March of each year.
1980 Feb-Mar Edward (EJ)
Griffin (Founder & interim
President)

80-81 Bryan Wood
81-82 Peter Perkins
82-83 Bill Brown
83-84 Bill Brown
84-85 Bill Brown
85-86 Bill Brown
86-87 Geoff Bovard
87-88 Geoff Bovard

88-89 Geoff Bovard
89-90 Tim Fox
90-91 Tim Fox
91-92 Helen Wright
92-93 Noelene Marmont
93-94 Mike Robinson
94-95 Mike Robinson
95-96 Thais Turner
96-97 Thais Turner
97-98 Thais Turner
98-99 Gail Siccardi
99-00 Gail Siccardi
00-01 Sue Bradfield
01-02 Sue Bradfield
02-03 Malcolm Sherlock
03-04 Malcolm Sherlock
04-05 Peter Worrall
05-06 Peter Worrall
06-07 Peter Worrall/Bruce
Cockroft
07-08 Bruce Cockroft
08-09 Bruce Cockroft
09-10 Belinda Rothery
10-11 Belinda Rothery

NEW MEMBERS - up to 18/7/10

*Please say hello and welcome them, when you meet these members on
the next Club activity:*

**Tony Larkin, Alf Lopez, Maura Larkin, Renae Searles, Melissa
Lu, Denis Alexandrov**

Rejoining - Lynn Beevers and Klara Kelleher

PORT HACKING /HACKING RIVER CRUISE by Kathie Graham

How privileged we were to be part of the inaugural "cruise and bushwalk" run by Cronulla Cruises on May 1st this year. An early start at Cronulla wharf saw 12 of us gather under not so bright skies. The open boat ride across Port Hacking was very scenic although a little chilly, but like all good bushwalkers we were prepared with jackets and scarves and some even had additional clothes to lend to others. Port Hacking was busy as usual with all sorts of water craft and we all marvelled at the beautiful houses and boats and imagined what it would be like to live there and own such a boat. It was when we entered the quiet sheltered waters of the creek that the real magic began. As an eco friendly vessel this boat is able to cruise at a depth of only 50cm and allows access to pristine sections of the Royal National Park. The commentary informs us of the traditional owners, flora and fauna and the ecology of the mangrove forests. We are amazed by the clear clean waters and the number of fish that are easily seen and by the peace and quiet. The boat pulls in to a huge flat rock platform which is where those wishing to go for a walk disembark. Carefully picking our way across the slippery rocks and up a track to Winifred Falls. Again our guide tells stories of how things used to be in this area and how it, too, is changing. Back to the boat for the return trip. We collect our pre ordered lunch brought to the Lilli Pilli wharf especially for us and we all eat and enjoy on our way back to Cronulla. Not wanting our lovely day to end so soon

many of us opt for a coffee on the wharf before heading home again. A really great day and an experience truly recommended.



Recently Engaged — Jon Gray & Melissa Lu

Bianca Smith (Ron & Helena's daughter, who was also one of our youngest club members in the 90's)

Rich Place – Poor Place: Travelling in Nepal

by Lynda Paju

As many of you know a group of 10 club members spent a delightful month in Nepal earlier this year. Many people visit Nepal and there are lots who can tell you about the beautiful mountain scenery and the wonderful, culturally diverse, warm, and welcoming people of Nepal. All of this is true. But there is another side to Nepal. It is one of the poorest nations on earth. So there are dilemmas facing the tourist in Nepal. By Nepali standards we are incredibly wealthy. Here are some statistics* that really bring these differences home:

* Source – CIA Factbook	Australia	Nepal
Median Age	37.3	20.8
Infant Mortality Rate	4.75 deaths/1,000 live births	47.46 deaths/1,000 live births
Life Expectancy at Birth	81.63 years	65.46 years
Literacy	99 % age 15 and over can read & write	48.6% age 15 and over can read & write
Per capita GDP (\$US)	\$38,800 (2009 est.)	\$1,200 (2009 est.)
Ranking on list of national wealth as measured by per capita GDP	23/227	207/227

There are some obvious impacts of this level of poverty on the tourist. Nepal isn't a travel destination for the pampered, luxury craving, lounging by the pool at the resort, 5 star accommodation type of tourist. The power supply can be relied on to be unreliable and the taps won't give you clean drinking water. There are beggars in the streets and yes, much of the poverty is confronting. Poverty leads to political instability too, and from time to time the situation in Nepal does flare up with general strikes which cripple the country.

And yet so many of us love Nepal and go back again and again. We go for the mountains the first time, and the people bring us back again and again. We can learn so much from the friendliness and cheerful acceptance of what life throws at them that most Nepalese display. Nepal is amazingly culturally diverse, and on the whole people live relatively harmoniously with different ethnic groups & religions living side by side.

I'd like you to consider Nepal as a destination for your next trip. Not just for the mountains & people, but because spending money with local tourism operators & businesses is one great way to inject money into the economy of a poor nation & help people earn a living with dignity.

And if you are considering donating money to a charity anywhere consider Nepal. A little money can go a long way to improving peoples lives here. Select a charity that concentrates on clean water, sanitation, health care or education.

Some charities operating in Nepal that I think are worth supporting are:

World Vision – Sponsor a child for \$43 per month. <http://www.worldvision.com.au/Home.aspx>

The Himalaya Trust – the charity set up by Sir Edmund Hillary to benefit the people of the Everest Region

http://www.australianhimalayanfoundation.org.au/html/s01_home/home.asp?id=home

The Himalayan Education Development Program – a locally-run charity set up to provide educational opportunities for people from an area in the Solu Khumbu region that doesn't receive the economic benefits of the trekking industry. <http://www.himalayaneduproject.org/>



Parramatta River walk group
14/6/10



Kokoda memorial
14/6/10



These 3 photos submitted by Gray Thorn

SNIPPETS

- Roger Caffin, editor of **The Bushwalker** - Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. magazine, is seeking bushwalking articles with photographs for publication. Technical specifications as follows: *Pictures at maximum available resolution: at least 300 dpi, preferably in their original unedited form and sent separate from the text file. *JPG, PDF or TIFF formats are preferred for the pictures. *Text must be sent as a plain text file (*.txt), not as a Word file (*.doc). *Send your stories, letters, and other articles via Email: editor@bushwalking.org.au or post to: Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc., P.O. Box 119, Newtown NSW 2042. Further details on the website www.bushwalking.org.au
- For those without access to computers and the Internet to be able to follow the links we regularly place in this magazine, please consider a visit to your local Library to check the range of outdoor recreation magazines (see titles in our last issue) and enquire about access through their computers.
- Many Rogaines (the sport of long distance cross country navigation) occur annually - Metrogaine, Autumn, Paddy Pallin, NavShield, Lake Macquarie, NSW Champs and Socialgaine. BBC Members vie for our Club award (the Ross Hamilton Shield) at the Paddy Pallin Rogaine held in June. Bobby Tucker & team mates James and Mark won it this year. Other BBC teams included Joy, Danny, Mike & Louise and Linda B. & her team mates Shane and Ali. Events may be held in one or more of these formats: 3hr, 6hr, 12hr, 12 in 24hr, 15 in 24hr or 24hr. For your chance to learn to navigate join Thais' slow & steady team at the Socialgaine this November. To be held in the St George area of Sydney.
- Check the TV programs on Getaway and ABC2 for some great documentaries coming up soon.
- A rumour - from 1st July 2010 all Victorian National Parks became free to enter. Most NSW Nat Parks though, still have entry and/or camping fees.
- BWRS Inc has re-activated it's map sale. Check out www.bwrs.org.au/mapsale/index.html for the current list of available items.
- Beware of thieves—illegal firewood & fencepost collectors have been targeting (& damaging) Blue Mountains N P & selling to unsuspecting customers.
- Since closing for repairs in March 2009 & replacement of 1000 steps, the 103 yr old Grand Canyon Track re-opened on 3 July 2010. Go visit soon!
- Nature conservation seems to have taken a back seat since the NSW Parliament sneakily passed the National Parks and Wildlife Amendment (Visitors & Tourists) Bill 2010 in early June. Sensitive bushland is now a target for developers as the cash-strapped Department forgets it's mandate.
- Beware — hunters endorsed by the Game Council NSW pose a danger to walkers in State Forests. Debate continues about the hunters' true purposes and their access to various public land areas. Add your voice to the opposition to hunters & developers, if you feel passionately about these topics.



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