

UNIVERSITY OUTDOORS CLUB

NEWSLETTER

19th, 20th March - Bushwalking

A beginners walk to Hidden Valley led by Rod Nilsen (Maths Dept). Recommended for those who want to give bushwalking a go.

26th, 27th March - Canyoning

Mt. Hay Canyon in the Blue Mountains. This trip is for experienced abseilers only and swimming may be necessary. Contact John Graham - Ph. 288405.

2nd, 3rd April - Bushwalking

Kanangra - Cloudmaker, Kowmung - Gingra. A very picturesque walk taking in some very beautiful country. A medium grade walk. Contact "Jungle" Jim Sligar, 9/10 Bessell Avenue

8, 9, 10, 11th April (Easter) - Bushwalking

Bevan Jones is leading a Warrumbungle jaunt that is sure to be very enjoyable. Contact Bevan at Electrical Engineering Dept.

Also:- In the Snowy Mountains Ian Burns is travelling to the Murry River via Deadhorse Gap, Tin Mine Hut and finally out to Tom Groggin. He intends to li-lo down the Murry River for a way. Contact Ian Burns 841627.

Alan Barrett is going caving for one day at Bungonia on a day to be decided. If interested ring Alan on 295628.

16th April - Bushwalking

Day beginners walk in the Royal National Park. Proposed route is Burning Palms, Otford etc. Very easy grade. Contact John Graham 288405.

19th April - Film Night

In conjunction with Ski and Sports Centre we are presenting films demonstrations and slides on Cross-Country Skiing. All are invited to the Union Hall, 7.30 pm. It should be a very enjoyable night.

23, 24, 25th April (Anzac) - Bushwalking

Blackwater Creek area of the Blue Mountains, although the final route is not known. The grade is medium - Contact Bevan Jones (Elect. Eng. Dept.).

May Break - Bushwalking

Bimlow tableland expedition (5 days) of mammoth proportions. Grade is very hard. Led by Bevan Jones.

CLUB DETAILS

President - John Graham Ph. 288405

Secretary - Ian Burns Ph. 281627

Quartermaster - Rod Nilsen (Maths Dept.)

For any further information about the club feel free to contact the above members.

KALONG FALLS

5th December 1976

Personnel Chris Cook
 Ian Burns
 Kevin Donegan

The acute petrol shortage gripping NSW last December was not enough to deter the intrepid members of WUCO who had heard stories of a canyon trip consisting of no less than nine abseils, mostly over 100 feet. Kalong Falls enticed us to attempt making the 320-mile round trip to Kanangra on one tank of petrol.

Three members set out on Saturday night and crawled into sleeping bags at 3 am after an early morning supper of port (Seaview Tawny) with cheese and bacon jaffles. Another two members, John Graham and Alan Barrett were leaving from Sydney on Sunday morning, but after detouring to find petrol in Lithgow decided they would be too late to catch up to the others.

The Book ("Outdoor Senior Scouting" by Rick Jamieson) said one long day. Nevertheless another WUCO expedition got off to an early start at 11 am after a brief discussion with a Senior Scout leader who said in amazement, "You're doing Kalong Falls and just starting now."

The first abseil was reached after a 500 metre walk from the car park at Echo Head and consisted of an easy 80 ft drop. The first dramatic incident started the adrenaline flowing after the second abseil (100 ft) when great difficulty was experienced in retrieving the rope. The 3rd and 4th abseils were each 150 ft in height calling for the full length of our ropes.

The 5th abseil is hardly worth mentioning, so I won't. Then came the 6th abseil, about 80 feet of sloping ramp. This was followed by further drama and Ian looked over the next cliff and could see the bottom 220 feet below. No way would our ropes reach that far, so there was only one thing left to do - panic. But as luck would have it, over to the left there was a ledge about halfway down, allowing us to break our journey. This then became abseils 7 and 8 after which came the highlight of the day - lunch: consisting of roast chicken and "tossed" salad.

The last abseil, according to the book was long and dangerous, ending in a pool of water. Mr. Jamieson's advice was to walk along the ridge to avoid this one. Then came the long and arduous walk up Murdering Gully, appropriately named, to enjoy the spectacular views from Kanangra Tops before returning to the car at 8 pm just before sunset.

Summary: This is a very enjoyable trip (5-star and definitely on the do-again list) for experienced abseilers. Since it involves no swimming it can be undertaken in winter as well as summer.

Kevin Donegan

JAGUNGAL TRIP REPORT

Date 25th - 30th January 1977
People Bevan Jones (Leader), Steve Davies, Rod Nilsen
Map Kosciusko 1.100,000 (Series R651)

We drove down to the Snowy Mountains area on Friday 28th and camped at 5 mile dam, a little beyond Kiandra. The next morning we drove around to Round Mountain and commenced walking in overcast conditions which gradually improved. We followed a clearly defined track along to the S.M.C. hut (locked) and had lunch just a little further on.

After lunch we followed the track along to O'Keefe's hut but only for a short way before climbing up to a S.W. ridge giving access to a relatively easy climb to Jagungal. From here, there is a superb view in almost all directions, the Main Range is prominent, also Round Mtn, Talbingo and/or Table top. We camped overnight on the Southern side of Jagungal but still very high up.

The next morning we proceeded past the upper reaches of the Geehi River to Jacky lookout (navigation here was a little tricky, despite the good conditions). Our route out was now down farm ridge, via the ruins of farm ridge hut to the Tumut River.

At Round Mtn Hut the present author could only draw the club emblem in the visitor's book by copying one thoughtfully provided by a previous WUCO trip, a report of which has not been made available.

Special mention should be made of the wild flowers on this trip. Although at the lower altitudes some flowers were past their best, and an earlier trip might have been better still, the flowers alone would have made this trip worthwhile. The Alpine Mint Bush (*Prostanthera cuneata*) was very prominent and exuding a minty fragrance. Also noticeable were the Trigger Plant (*Stylidium graminifolium*), Billy Buttons (*Craspedia uniflora*), some buttercups and many daisies.

Rod Nilsen

SKI & SPORTS CENTRE

The Ski and Sports Centre have a large range of maps and SILVA compasses to aid you on your expeditions.

We also carry Fairy Down Sleeping Bags, Karrimor packs and Kastinger walking boots.

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Find us at 2 Atchison Street, Wollongong (opposite Waltons)

ANOTHER JAGUNGAL TRIP REPORT

- * Round Mountain - Mt. Jagungal - Farm Ridge - Round Mountain
- * 26th, 27th, 28th December-1976
- * Kevin Donegan, Brian Donegan, Dave Whitelaw, Ian Burns.
- * Kosciusko 1.100,000.

The first night was spent at Bradley's Hut after the trip to the Snowy Mountains. This is a shelter hut about 15 k's from Cabrumirra and provides a good nights stop-over. The walk itself was not designed to be a particularly strenuous one (being the festive season) so we set as our first days objective the SMC hut near the foot of Jagungal.

The route from Round Mountain to SMC hut is quite easy going and good time could be made along here if so desired. Arriving at the SMC hut we found the small hut already occupied so we moved on towards the base of Mt. Jagungal.

A suitable campsite was found on the upper reaches of the Tumut River, shortly after one branches left to avoid proceeding towards the Grey Mare Range. Tents were erected and a sumptuous feast of turkey on the spit, baked potatoes and mushrooms followed.

A leisurely start was made the next morning up the side of Jagungal, a fairly easy ascent from the west. Once upon the exposed Jagungal, however, the biting wind made conditions awkward. Gloves and overpants were donned for the final grassy stroll to the peak. Views from the top are extensive but cloud unfortunately shrouded the Main Range. Wildflowers were plentiful on the slopes as we scurried off the mountain towards the weather hut. A snow fight was had on the descent which further aggravated the cold conditions.

Lunch near the weather hut was cut short by threatening clouds approaching and a quick dash was made to O'Keefes hut. The night was spent here in good comfort. The hut itself is in reasonable condition and could accommodate 5-6 people in comfort. A friendly fireplace graces one wall of the hut making this shelter very inviting in the winter months.

The third day saw the weather improve and made the trip to Farm Ridge Hut (ruins) and along Farm Ridge itself, quite enjoyable. The Tumut River was crossed and a return made to the cars at Round Mountain after a visit to Round Mountain Hut.

This trip can be recommended for those who like to take a leisurely pace. The days walking on each day was finished quite early. The more energetic could comfortably complete this trip in two days. This time of year is strongly recommended to see the profusion of wildflowers.

Ian Burns

BOOTS VERSUS SANDSHOES

by Brian Donegan

A.B., C.P., H.K., T.W., D.C.

The above letters do not represent the abbreviated French or German form of my academic achievement. They are rather the affectionately shortened names of some of the variety of footwear used by many bushwalkers.

This article is not about to answer the eternal argument for the devotees of either boots or sandals. It will attempt to present the advantages and disadvantages of each, and hence I should gain enemies from both camps.

I personally am not a fanatical supporter of either school. The terrain to be encountered on any particular walk determines my choice of footwear.

Cold climate conditions, unusually heavy undergrowth, boggy or marshy country (e.g. Tasmania), needle sharp hard rocky ground (e.g. parts of N.Z.) or snow covered ground would favour boots as a choice. For the cynics (pro sandshoe camp); boots are also good if you want to play a game of football at the end of the walk.

Canyoning, or walks which involve much crossing of rivers or streams and coastal tracks would all be better done in sandals. All water associated activities e.g. canoeing, rafting, Li-loing are also more suitable for sandals. Again for the cynics (pro boot camp); this is the way to get extra mileage out of your old squash/tennis gear.

The sandals fraternity will take pains to point out that the gym shoe HK's (from Hong Kong) or TW's (from Taiwan) are definitely not suitable for bushwalking because of their lack of arch support. The most popular sandals for walking are the Dunlop Volley O.C (orthopedically correct). The international type which has extra padding about a self centering tongue system retails for approximately \$10. These should last for 5 or 6 weekend walks of moderate to hard standard.*

Certainly the novice walker would be well advised to wear sandals as he is unlikely to encounter the Pro Boot Situations outlined above. Another important consideration is the weight difference. Forgive the hackneyed adage "A pound on the feet is equivalent to 5 pounds on the back".

A pair of walking boots would cost almost five times as much as sandals, but on the other hand you should get nearly ten times the amount of wear from the. Unless selecting specialized snow and ice mountaineering boots, or choosing hob nailed horrors for deer stalking in the N.Z. foot hills; it is suggested that a suitable walking boot be lightweight, have a soft leather upper and vulcanised vibram sole. They should be a comfortable fit with one pair of thick woolen socks.

If still confused after reading this article, then don't bother seeking advice from a bushwalker, as he will undoubtedly indoctrinate you with the thoughts of his school. Rather see me, and I will sell you a pair of good boots because they have a higher profit margin than sandals.

* Bullshit Brian, they last a lot longer than that. (Ed).

COX'S RIVER - BLUE MTS TRIP

MAPS USED (1) Cox's River Topographic
(2) Gangerang, Wild Dog Mts sketch map

MEMBERS OF PARTY Ian Burns, John Graham, Dave Whitelaw

DATE Late October 1976

This trip is a classic example of what can be achieved by a small group of enthusiastic, dedicated bushwalkers when they set their minds on the task in hand, especially when the goal is a bottle of port to be awarded for the trip's successful completion. The mission of this expedition was to 'knock off' the section of the Cox's River between its junction with Breakfast Creek and its junction with Kanangra Ck, some 10 kms, on speedy li-lows, and return via Yellow Pup Ridge. The crucial aspect of this tip was that we had to return to the car within 24 hours of setting off from Wollongong or else the bet became null and void. Now, this sort of escapade might be considered a perversion by the more more puritan bushwalkers, who like to stop and enjoy the scenery, identify the surrounding landforms, identify flora and fauna and who generally dislike walking at night for all of these reasons, but these people forget that usually when a bet is placed, there are others who are foolish enough to take it up. In this instance the pleasures of 'normal' bushwalking are subordinated by an overwhelming desire to secure THE PRIZE, not to say that much enjoyment cannot be had by all anyway. Another reason for our haste in returning to the car instead of camping and continuing the next morning was that we didn't have much food, didn't have all our sleeping bags and didn't want to beat around the bush because we couldn't see anything come sunset anyway.

Preliminary groundwork had to be done to ensure the mission's success, such as ringing the Water Board to hear whether the Cox's River was high enough (after the recent heavy rain) in order that the river journey wouldn't be too bumpy and that we wouldn't get gravel rash. The latter was the least of our worries as it turned out. Not so the former.

Entry to the walk was made via Blackheath then south to The Pack Saddlers, Carlon's Farm, Tyral. We set off walking at 8.00 am after the 2½ hour drive and 4 hours sleep. Initially we walked along the dirt road beyond Tyral for one km then branched off on a track down Carlon Creek, in easy style, and then quickly made our way down Breakfast Creek, so that by 10 am we were at the junction of Breakfast Creek and the Cox's River.

It was running swiftly and full as we were to find out, there were many rapids and some rather turbulent ones at that. The water was quite cold enough especially when we were being constantly submerged. However, it was made bearable and even enjoyable by the often brilliant sunshine. "Thank God there's a sun", someone once said. Some members of the party felt the cold more than others but this could probably be directly related to the number of dunkings during each set of rapids. Some members were even battered and bruised and scarred but this could be attributed to lack of expertise and technique at this sort of masochism. Notwithstanding the calm sections of the river were most relaxing and the rapids were rather exciting as is to be expected. Anyway after 6 hours along the river we had come to Kanangra Creek where we had a head count and found we were all present and correct and had some lunch and a sleep in the sun (for the second time). At 4 pm we began the long walk back out via Yellow Pup Ridge. The route followed a track via Mt. Dingo, Mt. Merrimerrigal and Mt. Warrigal and was made at a fairly cracking pace as the sun sank lower in the west. About sunset we had reached the junction of the track and the dirt fire road near Mr. Mouin and were already rather weary. Before us lay at least another 10 kms of long and winding road

before we could begin to look for the 'turnoff' to Tyral, a short cut track 2-3 miles long. Not being able to see to well, every likely post or turnoff was examined in the darkness before we found the right one. Even then the way was not too clear, however by good luck and good management we came to a T intersection whereupon we took the LH turn. After 15 minutes we found ourselves on the end of a narrow ridge with steep drops on 3 sides and nowhere to go, so back we went to our intersection. After another 3/4 hour of stumbling and peering ahead into the darkness (who needs a torch) we finally found ourselves back at the welcoming lights of Tyral at 10.00 pm. After gorging ourselves with snacks and other goodies at a Greasy Joes' along the highway, we were beginning to feel almost human again. By 1.30 am we were back at the Gong. Recommended as a good 2 day trip.

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