



Autumn edition

Volume No 4, April 2014

Bushwalk.com Magazine
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<http://bushwalk.com>
Volume 4 April 2014

“We would like to start by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of this vast land on which we explore. We would like to pay my respects to their Elders, past and present and thank them for their stewardship of this great south land.”

Cover picture



Chrissy Armstrong in the light blue raincoat on the misty rocks is at South Bald Rock, Girraween National Park

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Please send any articles, suggestions or advertising enquires to the editor.

Warning

Like all outdoor pursuits, the activities described in this publication are dangerous. Undertaking them may result in loss, serious injury or death. The information in this publication is without any warranty on accuracy or completeness. There may be significant omissions and errors. People who are interested in walking in the areas concerned should make their own enquiries, and not rely fully on the information in this publication.

The publisher, editor, authors or any other entity or person will not be held responsible for any loss, injury, claim or liability of any kind resulting from people using information in this publication.

Please consider joining a walking club or undertaking formal training in other ways to ensure you are well prepared for any activities you are planning. Please report any errors or omissions to the editor or in the forum at BWA eMag.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Wow, edition 4. Each edition I learn something new and get to meet people in our broad community.

As we have in the past, this edition explores some of the wonderful things people in our walking community are up to. I am excited by the variety of articles and peoples eagerness to share their stories with us.

A big thanks to the authors and photographers who have taken a great deal of time and care in sharing all this with us. A big thanks to our sub editor and our designer - great people to work with.

2014 is an exciting year for bushwalking in Australia. We are hosting two important international conferences. [Walk 21](#) and the [IUCN world parks Congress](#). This is already creating great opportunities politically and socially to share joy of bushwalking with the wider community. I will highlight some of these in future editions, but we can already see some of the discussion around the [NSW Great Walks program](#).

This will be a busy and exciting year.

Next edition will be focused on Winter. If you have cold tales to share, please let me know. If you have a good website or app to share please let me know as well.

Happy walking
Matt McClelland (aka Wildwalks)
matt@bushwalk.com



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt McClelland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Declaration: The bushwalking community is a small world and paths often cross. To help improve transparency I thought it be helpful to list my associations within the outdoor community. I have personally approached the authors of the articles included in this edition and suggested the topics. These are people I know through bushwalk.com. I operate bushwalk.com and wildwalks.com as well as been the author of several walking guide books (published by Woodslane), I have also written for Great Walks. I contract part time to National Parks Association NSW on an ongoing basis to coordinate their activities program. In the past I have had a partnership with NPWS NSW and have hosted advertising for Wild magazine. I have also partnered with a large number of other organisations in environmental campaigns and have a regular bushwalking segment on ABC regional radio. Obviously there is some advertising through the mag which the companies have also paid for. I have probably forgotten something - if you are worried about transparency please either write to me or raise the issue on bushwalk.com.

@ BUSHWALK.COM

Those who read our previous edition might have been asking themselves about the new Q&A section I've been talking about setting up. I have to apologize, but life has been just too busy lately. Time flies by and things are left standing. I'm expecting this new section will go live sometimes in the next two months. For those who haven't read the last edition, here is a short overlook of what I'm talking about.

New Q&A section coming soon

A forum is a great way to share, debate and discuss ideas. It can be a great way to build relationships and build up community knowledge. Forums also have their limits, issues and downsides. Answers to simple questions often become hard to find among a sea of discussion and debate. Sometimes there is more discussion around the edges of key ideas making it hard to fish out those wonderful simple, practical and clear bits of help.

Computer nerds will be familiar with <http://stackoverflow.com/>. Stackoverflow took a cumbersome forum and created a Question and Answer website that has become an amazing resource to many thousands of people every day.

Any member will be able to ask or answer a question. The more specific the question the better. There is room to provide extra information and context questions. Other members can then provide their best, clearest and most helpful answer. Answers are voted up and down, so the most popular answer appears at the top of the list. Instead of debating an answer, you just simply provide the best and clearest answer you can.

One great thing with Q&As is that it saves filling the forums with similar questions and responses. So when someone asks 'What is the best public transport option to Cradle Mountain?' then it will naturally end up voted to the top of the list. This will then be easy for other walkers to find through a web search. As some answers change over time, you can update answers or vote for the more recent and accurate one.

This will not replace the forum, it is just a new tool to help share those key bits of information. I have installed the software and had it skinned to the familiar bushwalk.com theme, it even works well for mobile devices. There is still a tad more work to be ready for use, but I hope to launch this new part of the site during February. The same site rules including not posting specific information on accessing sensitive areas will still apply. I hope you drop in to ask a question and maybe provide an answer or two. I will put up link on bushwalk.com once it is ready. Happy to chat about any thoughts, ideas and concerns in the [Forum&Site](#) forum.

ROCK ART ENCOUNTERS

Anthony Dunk

If you've done much travelling or bushwalking in Australia, the chances are that you've encountered Aboriginal rock art at some point. The greater Sydney region, where I live, is particularly rich in rock art, but parts of northern Australia also have high densities of art and most other parts of the country have a number of sites too. Each region has its own distinctive art styles.

The Aboriginal peoples of Australia have lived here for an estimated 50,000 years or more. In that vast span of time they have travelled across and lived in almost every part of this country. They have left behind countless rock engravings, hand stencils, cave drawings, decorated trees, axe sharpening grooves, stone tools, tool making flakes, grind stones, and shell middens.

If you stick to the walking trails you may encounter a few sign-posted rock art sites, but these represent only a tiny sample of what is out there. To view the vast majority of the art you have to leave the tracks behind and go exploring through the bush. Going off track is definitely not without its difficulties and dangers, so it is not recommended for inexperienced bushwalkers. For me, the sport of [rogaining](#) gave me the confidence to go off track, and helped teach me the navigational skills required to avoid getting lost.

When walking off track, scrub and snakes are frequently encountered, so wear effective foot and leg protection including boots, long pants and gaiters. Take a GPS and maps so you don't get lost, and if you're walking in remote areas, take a satellite Personal Locator Beacon (PLB).

In the Sydney region, most of the rock engravings occur on the flat platforms of Hawkesbury River sandstone, that occur mostly on ridge tops. These are best viewed when the sun is low in the sky, or after rain.

If you find any rock art or artefacts, treat them with the utmost respect and do not outline engravings or damage them in any way. They are a precious record of the ancient Aboriginal cultures that created them and are protected by law including large fines or imprisonment. Also keep in mind that many sites are still of special significance to the descendants of the first Australians who are represented by the various local Aboriginal land councils.

Common subjects depicted in rock engravings include animals, people and dreamtime

figures. Sometimes European items such as sailing ships are also shown. I find these "contact" images particularly interesting as they show an overlap between traditional Aboriginal life and visitation, and then colonisation by the British.

“ In the Sydney region, most of the rock engravings occur on the flat platforms of Hawkesbury River...



Stencils of hands

Hand stencils and cave drawings may be found in suitable rock shelters, which are usually dry with flat, sandy floors. Art in rock shelters is even more susceptible to damage than rock engravings, because the drawings and stencils have been protected from the elements for hundreds of years by the cave that houses them. You should never touch the rock surfaces or light camp fires in or near these sites. It's even important to avoid stirring up dust as this can cover the art.

Rock shelters often contain both stencils and drawings. The stencils of hands, boomerangs, and other items were often formed by spitting a pigment mix from the mouth over the object, leaving a splatter silhouette on the rock. The pigment used was often white pipe clay.

Cave drawings were often done using charcoal from a camp fire or red ochre. Red ochre is a mineral called iron oxide, which occurs naturally in some rock strata.

If you look carefully on the sandy floors of rock shelters you can often find shells or hard, sharp rocks fragments such as chert which may be either small cutting tools, or the remains of the tool making process. These are sometimes only visible along the drip line towards the outer edge of the cave. Even if there is no visible art in the shelter, these artefacts may be signs that Aboriginals once camped here. Even such seemingly insignificant artefacts as these should be left in place to preserve the archaeological record.

Although probably not as exciting as rock engravings or cave art, axe grinding grooves are also frequently encountered. These are usually found near a source of water and are often located near the tops of waterfalls on rocky creeks. These grooves were made when men sharpened their stone tools, using water from the creek as a lubricant. Stone axe heads were often made from basalt as this is a rock which can hold a fine, sharp edge. The heads were often hafted to a wooden handle. The tools were then used for purposes such as cutting climbing notches in trees to facilitate hunting possums or harvesting honey from native bee nests in tree hollows.

Several years ago, I was fortunate enough to find a perfectly preserved stone axe head in the back of a cave containing rock art. It had probably lain there, undisturbed for hundreds of years since its owner had discarded it. I left this tool in place and reported it to the national parks service.



If you find a significant Aboriginal site or artefact on your walks which you believe may not be recorded, please notify the appropriate government body in your state. In NSW, sites should be reported to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. You should also avoid publishing the location of any sites as they may be damaged by over visitation.

“...I was fortunate enough to find a perfectly preserved stone axe head...”



Anthony Dunk has been a keen bushwalker all his life and is the author of three bushwalking guide books covering parts of the greater Sydney region. He has recently self-published a book on the rock art of the Central Coast of NSW. He also develops bushwalking related software including the Handy GPS app for Android and iPhone. His web site is www.diamondspirit.net/adunk

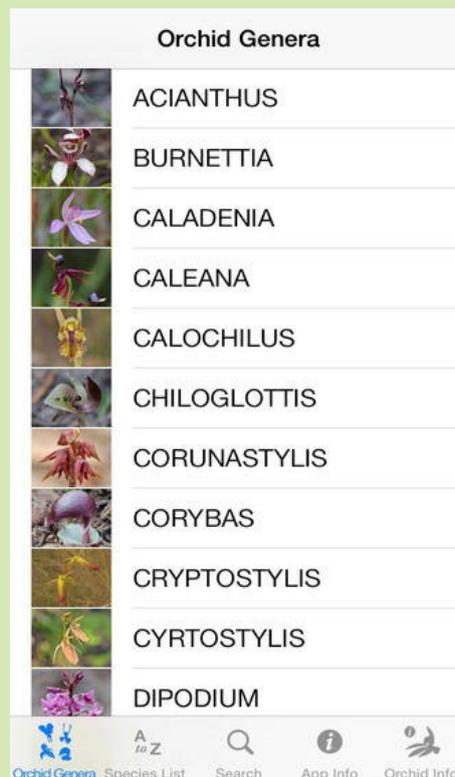
APPS REVIEW

William Higham



The recent release of two Tasmanian wildflower apps provides the keen bush-walker and botanist with portable and easy to use field guides for their Apple iPhone or iPad. Both the 'Flowering Plants of Tasmania' and 'Orchids of Tasmania' apps use detailed descriptions, photographs, and distribution maps to assist with wildflower identification. A search bar facility allows plants to be selected based on scientific and/or common names, while plants may also be browsed by flower colour or plant form. A detailed glossary is included as well as location

guides to places to view wildflowers in Tasmania. With over 580 photographs 'Flowering Plants of Tasmania' describes 460 native species including 113 Tasmanian endemics.



With 320 photographs 'Orchids of Tasmania' describes 184 of the approximately 220 orchid species of Tasmania. Many of the wildflowers described are also found in Australian mainland states and where this occurs these are listed for each species.

Both apps are available for download at the iTunes store.

WALKING SA

www.walkingsa.org.au

Walking SA supports South Australian bushwalkers and works towards the availability of further walking opportunities. It has over 20 clubs as members plus individual members.



RIVER BEND HERITAGE TRAIL

Ron Jackson

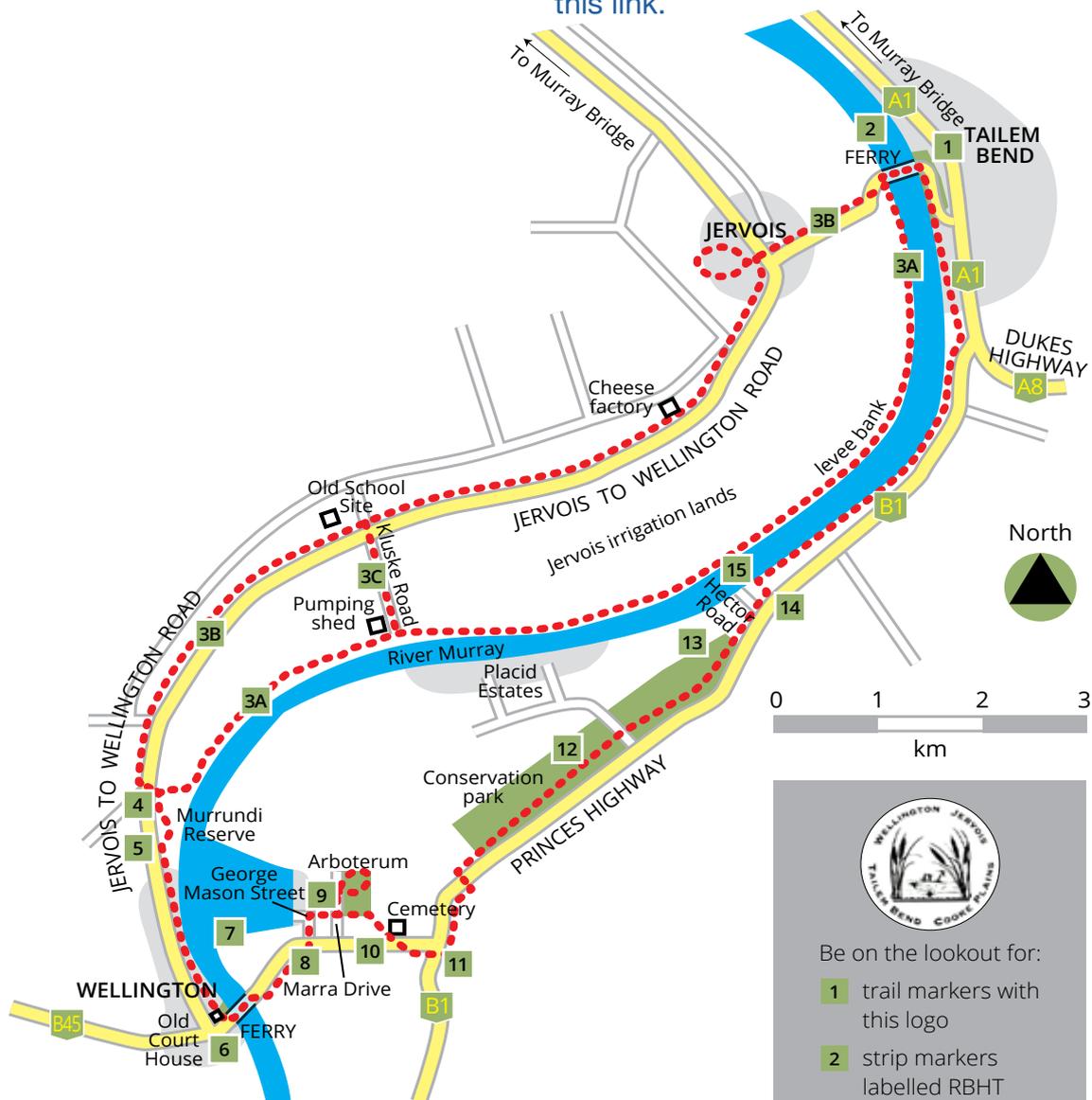
The River Bend Heritage Trail is a loop trail along Australia's mighty Murray River, between Tailem Bend and Wellington, South Australia.

This is about 7-8 hours walk that leads you on a 25 kilometres circuit hiking trail. You can start either from Tailem Bend and end up at Wellington or choose the opposite direction. It can be undertaken as a whole or in sections by selective placement of cars along the route.

The walk will take you by many points of interest:

- historic Jervois and its buildings of yester-year
- historic dairy properties on the Jervois to Wellington Road
- levee bank of the Jervois irrigation lands
- Murrundi Reserve with opportunity to view the river wildlife
- East Wellington Pangarinda arboretum
- historic East Wellington cemetery
- Mowantjie-Willauwar Conservation Park

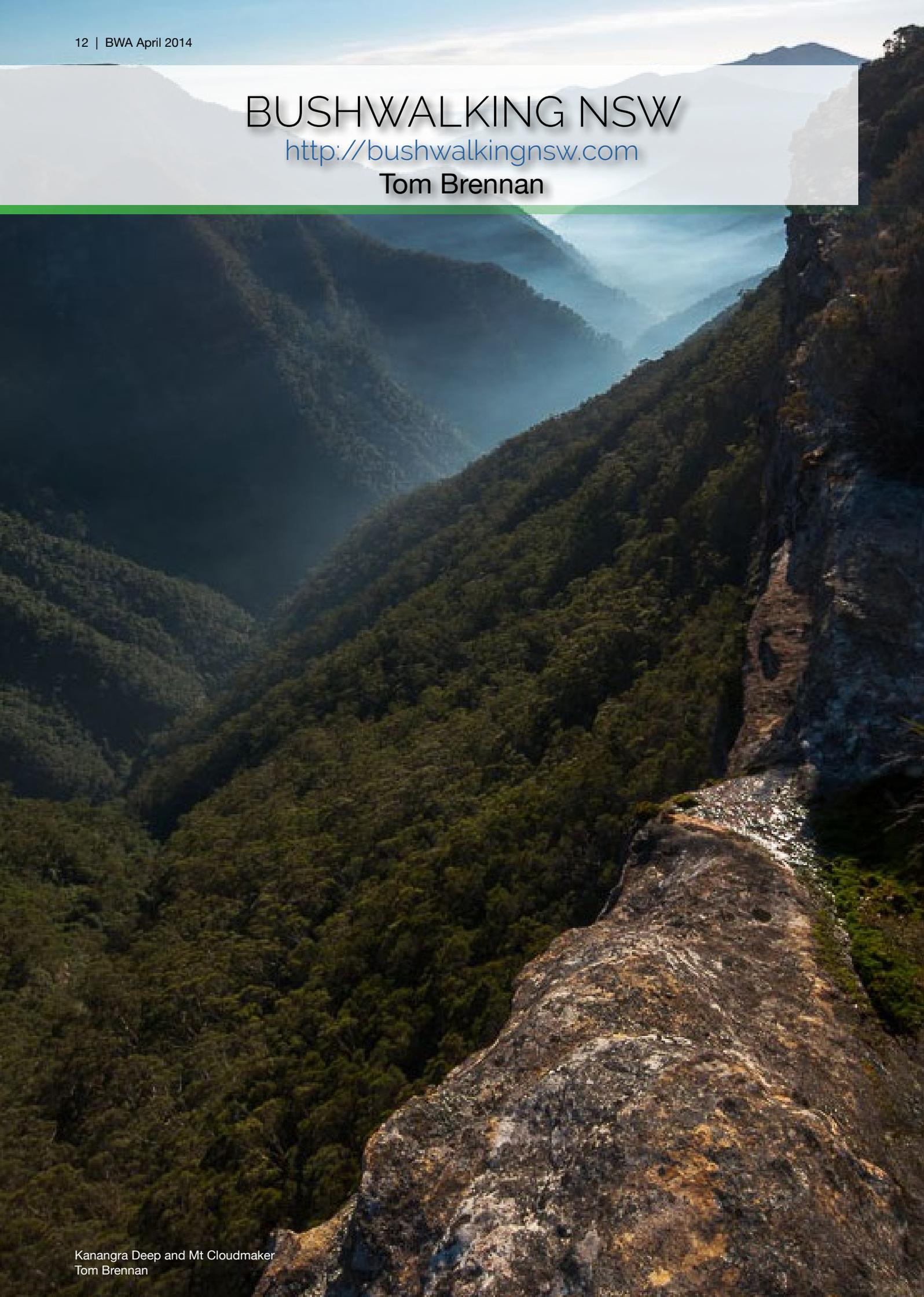
See the map below. To get more info check [this link](#).



BUSHWALKING NSW

<http://bushwalkingnsw.com>

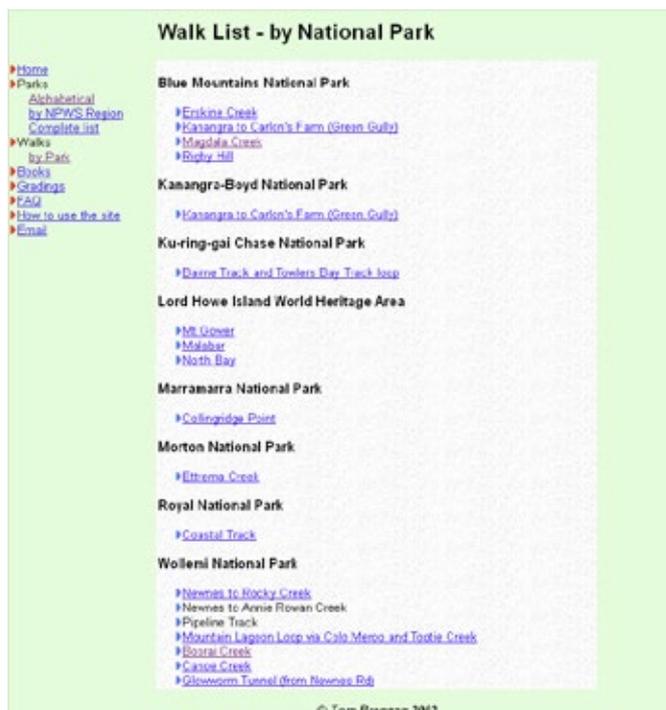
Tom Brennan



BUSHWALKING TRACKS AROUND SYDNEY AND BEYOND

I started Bushwalking NSW in 2002 to deal with the lack of online track notes for bushwalkers in NSW. The inspiration for this website came from the Australian Bushwalking and Camping Reference Site that was run by Richard Merry for a number of years in the late 1990s. He wrote that site from scratch, with walk contributions from a number of people (myself included). I incorporated a number of the concepts of his website into Bushwalking NSW, in particular the idea of linking related walks, parks and regions so that you could easily move around the website.

The website was launched in late 2002 with 17 walks, 10 parks, and a bilious lime-green theme.



Over the past 12 years it has slowly grown to nearly 60 walks across some 15 national parks. That probably doesn't sound like a great deal, but the website gets over 500 visitors a day, and serves up some 25-30,000 pages a month.

It's aimed more at bushwalkers with some experience than the casual walker. While

there are many on-track walks, there are also plenty on lesser known tracks and a selection of walks with off-track sections.

Technology-wise for those who are interested, I wrote the website from scratch in PHP, on a MySQL backend. It's had the occasional upgrade, but most of the functionality is what I built in the early days. I would love to move it to a content management system, as you get a lot of benefits for "free" such as comments and security. That would still require a major code rewrite, so don't hold your breath waiting.

The website is also sorely in need of a design refresh, though it has had one upgrade from the vomitous-looking original!

“ the website ... fills a useful niche at the more experienced end of bushwalking track notes websites.

Unfortunately for the website, it doesn't always get the attention it deserves. Over the years, my interests have shifted towards canyoning and off-track bushwalking. From a wilderness perspective it's simply not appropriate to put a lot of information on remote areas on the Internet, so that's limited the amount of new walks I've been able to add. I also spend a lot of time maintaining my bushwalking and canyoning photos websites, as well as my canyoning website, so the time I have to invest in Bushwalking NSW is a bit restricted. Nevertheless, I do try to add a few new walks each year, and certainly the existing information is well used judging by the website logs.

So, where to from here?

Well, more walks and parks, of course! This will probably continue to be a gradual thing. I don't see the website as becoming an internet dominator, but it fills a useful niche at the more experienced end of bushwalking track notes websites.

Other than a general functionality upgrade, the other main thing I'm keen to get is some better quality maps on the website. Also, driving directions and better public transport information, and when is the best time of the year to walk.

There have never been that many bushwalking track notes websites, so the first real competition arrived in 2007 with Wildwalks. However, other than the obvious, the two websites don't have that much in common. The majority of walks on either website don't appear on the other, and I'd take a guess and say that the audiences are somewhat different too.

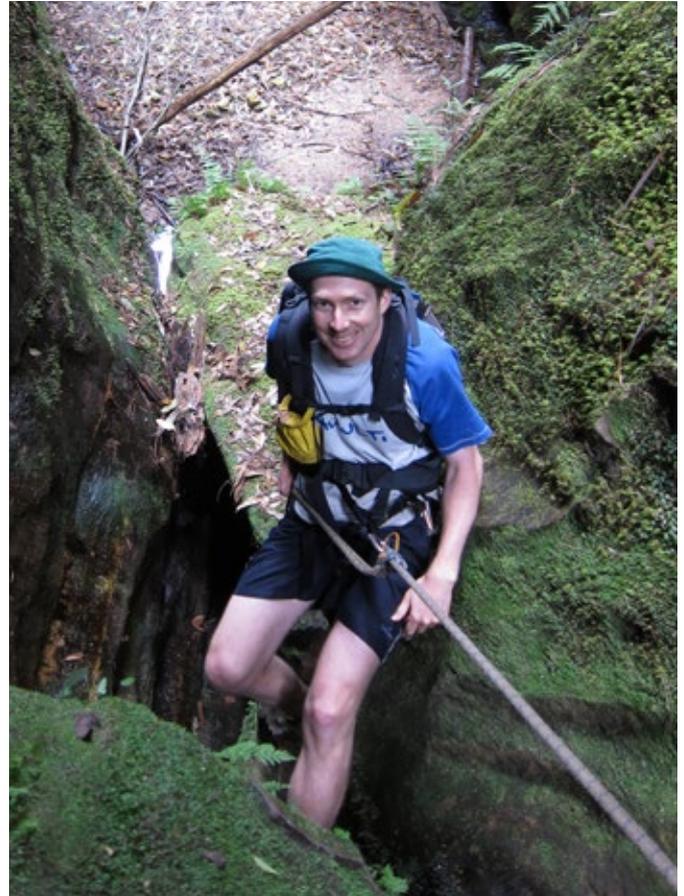
The site name has also got some competition. The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs of NSW renamed itself to Bushwalking NSW a couple of years ago. I now get occasional emails from people thinking I'm the Confed! All I can say is - I had the name first!

For those who are interested, the top five walks on the website are:

1. [The Castle \(Morton NP\)](#)
2. [Pigeon House Mountain \(Morton NP\)](#)
3. [Hanging Rock and Baltzer Lookout \(Blue Mountains NP\)](#)
4. [Ruined Castle \(Blue Mountains NP\)](#)
5. [Mt Gower \(Lord Howe Island WHA\)](#)

Other popular ones include Kanangra to Katoomba, Mt Solitary Traverse, the Coast Track and Blue Gum Forest

The most popular park is the Blue Mountains NP, with Morton, Wollemi and Ku-ring-gai Chase up there. The odd one out is The Rock Nature Reserve, near Wagga Wagga, coming in third, and I can only assume that this comes up in some unrelated search!



Tom Brennan lives in Sydney, and has been bushwalking and canyoning for 15 years. He loves the remote parts of the Wollemi, where he can often be found in summer exploring for new canyons.

A screenshot of the Bushwalking NSW website. The header features a landscape image and the text "Bushwalking NSW". The main content area includes a navigation menu on the left with links for Home, Parks, Walks, Books, Gradients, FAQ, About us, and Contact us. The central text describes the diversity of landscapes in NSW and provides information on national parks and reserves. A "Bushwalking News" section highlights a "Park closure web page has moved" on 10 Jan 2014. On the right, there are two "Updated" sections listing recent walk and park updates, such as "The Big Hole and Marble Arch" and "Deua NP".



Sunrise on Gould
Brian Eglinton



CLIMATE CHANGE

Stephen Lake

Background

Climate change is real.

On balance, it's probable that very few people have the expertise to discuss these sort of issues in detail. In many parts of life we defer to experts - physician, plumber, lawyer or computer technician. We generally accept their advice as they know more than we do. If the matter is serious then a second opinion is obtained.

In science there's peer review, where the results of the study or hypotheses are reviewed by experts in that field. Sometimes results are combined into meta-analysis, where a large number of studies are combined. This is what IPCC has done.

Science at the cutting edge is always contentious and is often viewed with disdain by those with a vested interest or a lack of understanding. It happened with the suggestion that the earth was round (it is), and again when the proposal that the sun was at the centre of the planets, not the earth. Eventually the truth will emerge.

The consequences for doing or not doing something need to be considered. If only one egg is put in the cake instead of two it's of little long-term import. A campfire on a hot, dry, windy day could be fatal. The chance of needing a seat belt is minimal, but we all wear them. At least we should. Why? If that one chance in 10 000 arises and we don't have a seat belt on then there could be dire results. You don't expect to get lost or have an accident, but you should let someone know before you go, and many parties carry a PLB, GPS and mobile phone.

This is where we are at with climate change. Forget to a large extent the science. Forget the vested interests and political moves. Forget fudged figures. Forget the extremists of all persuasions. Just focus on one thing.

If there is indeed global warming and we do nothing it will be much harder for our children and their children. I'm not prepared to take the risk. Is there anyone here who is prepared to gamble with the lives of their children and grandchildren? This is real. About 200 people died in a six day Victorian heatwave last summer, twice the normal number. This heatwave was similar to Mildura. Imagine what it will be like if this climate is the norm.

So, hands up. Who is prepared to gamble with their children's lives?

“ Is there anyone here who is prepared to gamble with the lives of their children and grandchildren? ”

The impact

This depends on location. The Darwin snow season will not be affected by climate change, and I can't envisage rising sea levels to be a problem at Pelion Gap.

Water is essential for life. One major consequence of climate change is that precipitation will happen in the wrong place, time or amount. Slow steady rain is good, but not if it's over oceans. Having a month of precipitation in a few days will lead to flooding. In general, water sources are drying. This is not noticeable at lower levels, but is very apparent at higher altitudes. In my state, Victoria, a number of places that had water from small creeks are no longer running. This will affect where parties camp, and more experienced walkers will change their routes. Less experienced walkers will find that their campsites have no water, with no contingency plan. In most cases there will hopefully be only a day of discomfort, until the next water source is reached. However, it could be that in very hot weather there will be dehydration and heat-related medical conditions.

In 2013-14 there were bushfires. These and days of very high temperatures limit the bushwalking season. Chris Towers, President

Bushwalking Australia, says:

“In states such as Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland there is a defined and somewhat short bushwalking season that is primarily determined by the seasons, i.e., weather. With increasing temperatures the bushwalking season in these states is likely to become even shorter, and it is also possible that a bushwalking season may become necessary in the remaining states. Many bushwalking clubs, and indeed many bushwalkers will curtail or cancel walks due to high temperatures and extreme weather events, so with climate change increasing temperatures and the frequency and scale of severe weather events the opportunity to bushwalk with be compromised.”

“Was the heat an outlier or a taste of things to come?”

Last summer there was snow on Tasmanian peaks, followed by days of very hot weather. Care needs to be made with observations such as this, as they should be viewed in the context of several years. Was the heat an outlier or a taste of things to come? I don't know.

Probabilities

Like life, there are many uncertainties in bushwalking, just probabilities. I can't say for sure that I'll need a map, but consider it highly probable. It's necessary to consider the likelihood of what may and may not happen, and plan accordingly. In some parts of Australia, and the world for that matter, more extreme weather will probably lead to variations the current bushwalking or ski touring season.

It used to be that skiing was from the end of June to the middle of October, with a final trip on Cup Day, first Tuesday in November, in the Snowy Mountains. Whilst ski seasons vary, in general they are shorter now than was the case when I started skiing in the mid-70s.

Climate Commission

The Climate Commission advises that “The nature of heatwaves has already changed

in many parts of Australia. Over the period 1971-2008, the duration and frequency of heatwaves have increased, and the hottest days during a heatwave have become even hotter.”

The Commission advises that “Projections indicate there may be an increase in the proportion of tropical cyclones in the more intense categories (3-5), however a decrease in the total number of cyclones. By 2030, projections

show that there may be a 60 per cent increase in severe storm intensity and a 140 per cent

increase by 2070. Projections also indicate that tropical cyclones are moving southward as sea surface temperatures increase. There is some evidence to suggest the zone in which cyclones form and decay may change by around 100 kilometres during this century.”

Queensland rainfall intensity is projected to increase, whilst total Queensland rainfall will be stable or decrease. A higher intensity means that more flooding is probable.

So Queensland will have hotter summers, and stronger cyclones. Combine this with tidal surge and the Great Barrier Reef withering and there's good reason to be concerned about the economy, let alone the outdoor enthusiast. Will a bushwalker be more reticent to go out in hotter windier conditions? Probably.

Summary

Climate change will require modification to how we conduct our walks, ski trips and climbs. It's probable that the places that are hot now in summer will have a seasonal recreational shift. Climbing at Arapiles in summer will probably be less common. This will be gradual, with slow change.

I once thought that all I had to do to win an argument was to state the facts, as logic will win. This is not so. In too many instances ideology pervades clear thinking to such an extent that reason is not enough. Further,

“Projections indicate there may be an increase in the proportion of tropical cyclones...”

there are often higher priorities which push conservation down the agenda.

One thing that nearly all people can appreciate is money. Link conservation to money and the message will be appreciated. Farms no longer viable, higher food prices. Low-lying areas under water, billions of dollars lost and the economy ruined. Higher domestic energy costs due to hotter climate. Complementing money, ask if people are prepared to take the chance with their children paying the price for our inaction.

For many years my tag line has been *Conservation is good economics*. Trust me: I'm an investor, with all income from investing. Make the conservation-economics link.

Votes can send a strong message to sway our politicians out of their short-term election cycle thinking. This is not just a surge of letters and emails now, but a constant drip. There's a plaque at The Chasm on the Milford Track, NZ:

“*Conservation is good economics*”

The Chasm

The finest workers in stone are not copper or steel tools, but the gentle touches of air and water working at their leisure with liberal allowance of time.

Henry David Thoreau

The writer has been walking, rock climbing, skiing and mountaineering for over 40 years, mostly in south east Australia. He was chairman and president of two bushwalking clubs, and was on Bushwalking Victoria Search and Rescue. He has strong conservation views. In a previous life he was managing printing for a large entity, and has written for and sub-edited a number of publications. Now semi-retired he is an investor, and rates a good year as when he loses less than the year before.

A slow drip of action can erode ideology. If all readers wrote just one email for every trip they did, and maybe gently spread conservation values to others, our children would have a better chance of surviving. Climate change links are listed below.

To check out the impact of climate change on Australia's alpine areas - Garner 2008, check the following link:

[http://www.garnautreview.org.au/CA-25734E0016A131/WebObj/01-JAlpineareas/\\$-File/01-J%20Alpine%20areas.pdf](http://www.garnautreview.org.au/CA-25734E0016A131/WebObj/01-JAlpineareas/$-File/01-J%20Alpine%20areas.pdf)

Other climate change links:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/walkers-list-risks-of-global-warming-20130121-2d375.html>

<http://2degreesproject.com.au/Story/bushwalking>

<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/files/Submission%20to%20Senate%20Extreme%20Weather%20%20Climate%20Change%20Enquiry.pdf>

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/changing-nature-of-a-bushwalk-in-2070-20120917-262m5.html>

<http://vnpa.org.au/page/nature-conservation/parks-protection/parks-and-climate-change>



FREE CLIMATE CHANGE COURSE

Climate Council offers a new free course, run by Climate Councillor Prof. Lesley Hughes, with Guest Prof. Tim Flannery. If you're interested and want to learn about the changing climate and its effect on us and our effect on the [future climate change](#), check out the link at the bottom and apply. At the end of the course you'll receive a Certificate of Achievement.

To name just a few topics you'll learn about:

- Why human activities are changing the climate;
- Why an increase of 2°C or 4°C in global average temperature is important;
- The role of extreme events and the effects they have on our species, ecosystems, coastlines, food supply, health, infrastructure, economy and security;
- How the changing climate is affecting, and will continue to affect, the incidence and impacts of extreme weather;
- The role of extreme events and the effect it has on our species, ecosystems, coastlines, food supply, health, infrastructure, economy and security;
- How climate change will interact with other pressures on global systems such as ecosystem degradation and human population growth; and
- Why fixing the climate problem is urgent, and how the timing of solutions is critical.

This course will start on 24 March 2014. It requires approximately 2-4 hours of study per week, but can vary depending on the student. This includes watching videos, and taking quizzes and assessments.

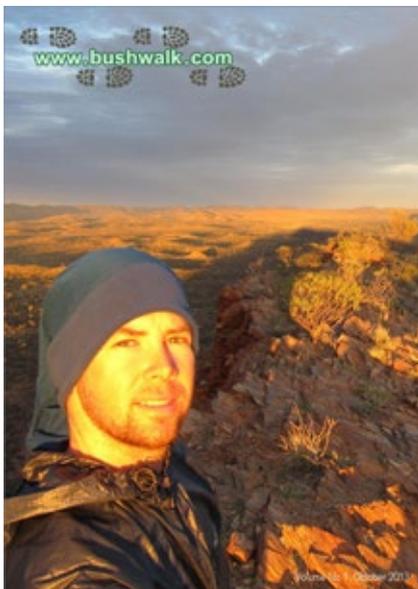
[Click here to go to the course page.](#)



BUSHWALK.COM EMAG

You're reading the fourth edition of the Bushwalk.com emag. It has been quite a journey so far. We are learning a lot on our way and are trying to create a magazine worth spending your time reading it. There are some interesting articles for everyone so I hope you're enjoying it. I know there are things you like and some you don't. Maybe there is something we had in previous editions and you'd like to keep reading about it (like the food articles or the articles with maps in them). We want to know your opinion so do check the [forum](#) and let us know what you think.

If you missed some of our previous editions, you're invited to check them now. Just follow the links below.



Emag 1: October 2013



Emag 2: December 2013

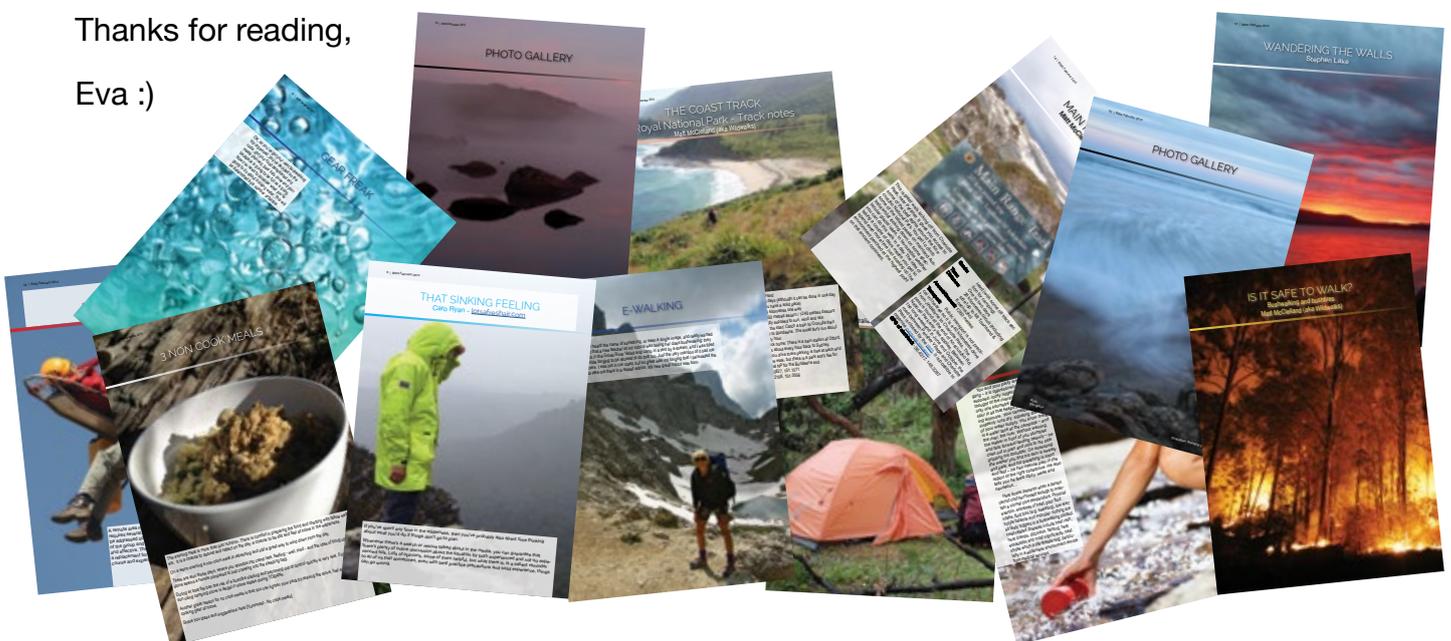


Emag 3: February 2014

We love producing this emag so join us and continue reading the emag. The next issue will be out on 1 June 2014.

Thanks for reading,

Eva :)



WASHPOOL: CALL OF THE WILD

Chrissy Armstrong

The serene, rainforest creek we are following has suddenly become gorge-like: the water deep and black and the sides are now bare and sloping rock. Without a second thought, we begin a familiar routine. We drop our packs, thread our walking sticks through the straps, launch the packs into the water and jump in after them, boots and all.



As we swim, cicada noise pulsates in deafening crescendos. Dense green forest lines the steep valley and a flock of wonga pigeons takes flight across the narrow band of sky above.

At the end of the pool we drag our water logged packs onto a rocky beach, lug them 10 metres further on, where we are forced to repeat the entire process, launching ourselves into the next pool as we struggle our way through day three of our adventure.



We are following Washpool Creek, which runs through the middle of Washpool National Park in northern New South Wales, travelling from the creek's headwaters, through remote rainforest to the other end of the park, 35 kilometres away. With no tracks to follow, and just the creek to guide us, it is quite literally immersing us in a rugged, wilderness experience.

Washpool National Park came into existence in 1983 following

“ Bill Haydon, known locally as the ‘Cedar King’, disappeared in this very wilderness back in 1964

heated opposition to the logging industry's plans to expand operations into previously untouched, old growth forest. Saving Washpool was an historic win for wilderness conservation and in a bold move, immediately after the area was declared a National Park, the access bridge over Coombadjha Creek was demolished and old logging roads along the ridge tops were closed, effectively cutting off all vehicle access and isolating the heart of Washpool's remarkably pristine, untouched forest.

Since then a footbridge has been built, to replace the demolished logging bridge, and

this is where we begin our summer adventure, in the kind of pouring rain that regularly accompanies rainforest walks.

It takes some searching to locate the imprint of the old logging road. Years of regrowth make it a slow and scrappy route but we follow it towards the headwaters of Washpool Creek, in the next valley north, dropping onto the creek as soon as possible where progress is easier. High in the catchment, we come across a small cascade, twisting and dropping in a series of steps and ledges. After this, the creek flattens out and is flanked by dark rainforest dotted with massive Corkwoods, Rosewood and Carabeans, all straight as gun barrels as they pierce their way in a direct and unwavering line to the sun. Underfoot, a carpet of hard water ferns and maidenhair and around us dripping bangalow palms.

We walk, wade and scramble down the creek and draw further and further away from our starting point, but closer to another of the park's controversial mysteries. Bill Haydon, known locally as the ‘Cedar King’, disappeared in this very wilderness back in 1964. According to legend, at the northern end of the Washpool wilderness, Haydon was minding his main logging camp while two other workers were out overnight hand-felling a cedar in a particularly steep gully. When the workers returned next morning they found the campfire still warm and Haydon's abandoned mug of tea sitting on a nearby stump. Despite a large organized search, Haydon, an experienced bushman, was never seen again and his body was never found.

We continue heading north towards this mystery and the wilderness. Our shoes and shorts are wet through from rain and so we



just go sloshing into the creek where crossings are needed. We take our first swim early on day two as there is no easier way around the deep pools.

Near the confluence of Washpool and Pi Pi Creeks, the cicadas grow deafeningly loud

in the growing heat and humidity. We cannot speak for the noise so we walk in the moment itself: balancing from rock to rock, pausing to catch the movement of a platypus in a deep pool. The forest flats either side of the creek make for beautiful walking. We are wandering through forest that is scattered with impressive emergents: Blue Gums, Brush Boxes and Tallowood, some reaching 70 to 80 metres in height, tower above the rainforest understorey. The creek is widening and is lined with smooth, round boulders that are perfect for hopping.

Come day three, we are right in the guts of the Washpool wilderness and the creek has begun to feel like our guide, leading us through an ancient landscape. Unfortunately, first thing in the morning it leads us straight into a huge block up. Truck-sized boulders, jumbled together, choke the valley and stop us in our tracks. After exploring options, we are forced to climb a steep tongue of rock into the forest, where we slowly and carefully began to traverse the slopes. Getting back to the creek proves trickier after a few false starts and some clambering in a precariously loose gully.



At this point, the low rain clouds of the past two days finally begin breaking up and we get our first expansive views of the surround-

“ Truck-sized boulders, jumbled together, choke the valley and stop us in our tracks.

ing countryside. I am suddenly aware of the deep, wild place our little creek has brought us to. The sides of the valley rise 500 metres above us. We look up into the hills longingly and greedily, wishing we had more time, more food, with so much to explore.

Mid-afternoon we pause on a flat, large gravel beach in the middle of the creek. It's decision time: whether to push on or pitch camp early and rest up. We choose to keep walking for another half an hour, while the dry weather holds. But, as is often the case with wilderness adventures, two hours later we are still going. The creek has narrowed in and the sides are steep and rocky. There is not a campsite to be found and we are forced on and on.

Emerging from a string of long pools and swims, we face another block up of giant boulders that form a seemingly impenetrable wall of stone across the creek. It is past 4pm and fatigue has set in after a full day of rock hopping, swimming, climbing, scrambling and generally exhausting our bodies.

At the water's edge I spy a small patch of gravel nestled between the sheer rocky bank and the creek boulders. It suddenly looks extremely appealing. We squeeze the tent onto it, lay out our wet clothes, slap at the increasingly numerous march flies, and sit staring vacantly at each other, too exhausted to talk.



Oorooro Creek, feeding into Washpool Creek from the west, is our first definitive landmark in many hard won miles and it appears surprisingly early the next morning. This helps explain our exhaustion the night before. We are ahead of schedule and must have covered at least eight river kilometres

the previous day. We celebrate our gain by taking a long morning tea on some sunny rocks. The first water gums have appeared along the creek and cabbage tree palms now infiltrate the rainforest banks. We also spy two impressive red cedars quietly standing at the mouth of Oorooro Creek. They are straight and tall, not record breakers but girthy, shaggy headed and they remind me that this is Bill Haydon's wilderness.

There is still another day and a half of walking ahead of us before we reach the bridge that marks the end of our adventure. We have yet to endure our wettest camp of the trip, pitched nerve-wrackingly close to the rising creek. We have one final, massive block up to negotiate in the continuing rain and we have a hundred more swims to complete as the sides of the creek become more and more overgrown.

And yet, sitting in the sun at Oorooro Creek, staring at those red cedar I am perhaps beginning to appreciate Bill Haydon's disappearance all those years ago, I, myself, am beginning to succumb to the lure of Washpool's wilderness; entranced by its beauty. Could I easily do the same? Leave my steaming cup of tea on a rock, wander off into this wilderness, follow Washpool's enchantment, never to be seen again.

- NOTE: This trip was done Christmas 2012. Unfortunately in February 2013 floods washed out the access bridge to the northern end of Washpool National Park and it remains closed until further notice.
- For more information about Bill Haydon there is a book, launched in 2009, co-written by one of his granddaughters.
www.billhaydon.com.au/index.html
- More on the history of the battle for Washpool: At the forefront of the battle against logging was the Grafton Branch of the National Parks Association (NPA) which was formed at the outset of the fight, in April 1980. They worked closely with conservation groups in Sydney and campaigned using stunning black and white images by renowned wilderness photographer Leo Meier. The campaign gained wide public attention following the broadcast of a Channel 10

documentary 'The Battle for Washpool' in May 1981, which featured the Colong Committee's Milo Dunphy advocating the forest's protection. The mood in the nearby town of Grafton was ugly at the time with several businesses in town refusing to serve those known to be members of the NPA and a violent confrontation was narrowly averted when the NPA held a meeting in the disputed area.

The campaign was an important battle and an exciting win for wilderness conservation. Washpool Creek, then and now, is home NSW's largest, continuous unlogged expanse of rainforest. It also contains the world's largest coachwood rainforest.

Former President of the NPA, Peter Morgan, was quoted in an old edition of the Colong Foundation bulletin celebrating the park's 25th birthday: "Lying on a rock in the middle of Washpool Creek, in a new national park, was a magic moment... We still belong to the wilderness. We can find the closeness if we try. Even if we don't we still have some lingering feeling that wilderness is important. We have to cherish what we have, not just for ourselves, and not just for our children... For the magic..."



Chrissy Armstrong is based on the NSW Mid North Coast. She is passionate about the Australian landscape and the beautiful, secret places it has to offer. She'd be lost, literally, without her partner (and navigator) Craig and a 1:25,000 topographical map. To read about some of Chrissy's other adventures visit awildland.blogspot.com.au.

PHOTO GALLERY



Sunrise, Point Eric. Red sky in the morning, sailors warning... A 2-day storm followed
Lex Harris

Competition: Tasmania March 2009

BWA Photo Competition



Other States

April 2013 & 2012

WINNER APRIL 2013



Mt Tutoko
Brian Eglinton

WINNER APRIL 2012



Sunrise over the lake
Andrew Smith

Brian (aka eggs) has had two visits to New Zealand. On his second visit, he was part of a party of four, taking their time enjoying the Routeburn Track over four days. While they were expecting a few days of rain, the weather was favourable for each day of the trip, leading to great views of the surrounding peaks. This is a telephoto shot of Mount Madeline just in front of Mt Tutoko and Alice Peak, as seen from Conical Hill, the high point of the Routeburn Track. Tutoko is the tallest peak in Fiordland. Its snow and glacier covered top rises high and majestic above the Hollyford Valley.

I am originally from southern Sydney, where my old stomping ground was the Royal National Park. More recently I have lived in Brisbane, and for the past six years most of my bushwalks have involved exploring the forests of the McPherson Ranges on the border of Qld and NSW. My camera is a constant companion when out walking and I consider it an essential piece of kit.

However, I confess that this particular photo was not taken on a bushwalk! I took this photo at Lake Macquarie on the NSW central coast at Easter 2012, where I was crewing in a sailing regatta. We were camped by the lake for several days, and each morning I would get up early to take photographs of the sunrise and the boats. The Pelicans swimming by were a bonus this particular morning.



Milaa Milaa Falls
John Walker



Negotiating Telowie
Brian Eglinton



A view of the Budawangs
from Mt Bushwalker,
Morton NP NSW
John Walker



Tasmania April 2013

WINNER



Cradle, evening
Louise Fairfax



Sunrise on Stumpys Bay
Hallu



Lake Victoria Morning
Peter Jessup



Amazing the amount of
s*it that washes up
on the lakeside
Doogs



Nelson Bay Pre-Dawn
Dan Broun



Landscapes

April 2013

WINNER



Lake MacKenzie
Brian Eglinton

Day two of Brian's walk on the Routeburn Track brought their party to the emerald waters of Lake MacKenzie. Evening clouds were beginning to encircle the peaks of the Ailsa Mountains while the clear and still waters of the lake reflected the grandeur. Lake MacKenzie drains via a moraine boulder jumble, so its level varies a lot with incoming flows. At this time it was down a few metres from its high water level, allowing easy exploring of its rocky banks.



Walkers descend Mt
Campbell
Louise Fairfax



Stormfront
Dan Broun



Morning mist from
Mt Buffalo
Hallu



A hint of fagus
Doogs



Elinjaa Falls
John Walker



Non-landscapes

April 2013

WINNER



Keen Kea
Brian Eglinton

The Kea is the infamous alpine parrot of New Zealand. It is highly inquisitive and quite mischevious. While ascending through mist above Lake Harris on the Routeburn Track, Brian and his party came across a group of Keas stripping bark and small twigs from a native deciduous tree. While taking time to observe their squawking and tussles for the best bits, one of them came up to observe them. It showed no fear at all, virtually peering into the camera lens right next to the track.



Wolf Spider - Monadnocks Conservation Reserve, Western Australia
Andrei Nikulinsky



Messages in stone
Dan Broun



Mangrove Roots, Qld Wet Tropics
John Walker



Mycena cystidiosa
Louise Fairfax



Oh hi there!!
Doogs



Forester Kangaroo
at Mt William
Hallu



Other States

May 2013

WINNER



Smoke in the Valleys
Tom Brennan

Rachel and I were out at Kanangra Walls planning to do Wheengee Whungee Creek, but my knee injury meant a last minute change of plans. A bushwalk seemed like a better idea than a canyon. Compagnoni Pass had been on our hit list for some time, so we decided on that. Surprisingly, there was no-one camping at Boyd River on Friday night, given that the forecast was for a beautiful weekend. It was Mother's Day on Sunday, but still...

Kanangra Walls were absolutely spectacular on Saturday morning. We had it all to ourselves. Smoke from the hazard reduction burn in the Wild Dogs earlier in the week had settled in the valleys, creating a mystical look. I could have stayed for ages taking photos, but we had a long weekend ahead of us. Unfortunately by the time we came back on Sunday afternoon, there was smoke everywhere and the effect was muted.



Twigs and red dunes near
Cape Péron
Hallu



Sunset Fainters
Snowshoeing
Ryan Judd



Minerva Pool and
cascades
John Walker



Rocklea station
Hellsbellstaz



Falls in Autumn
Brian Eglinton



Wooden Birds, Bold Park,
Western Australia
Andrei Nikulinsky



Tasmania May 2013

WINNER



Early Morning From the
Sentinel Range
Biggbird



Autumn snow near
Hartz Mountain NP
Iluvswtas



Dismal beauty
Gayet



Mt Ida
Dan Broun



Mt Beecroft, near summit
Louise Fairfax



Landscapes May 2013

WINNER



Moonlight over
Lake Pedder
Bigbird



Full moon snow camping
Ryan Judd



Full moon Narcissus
Dan Broun



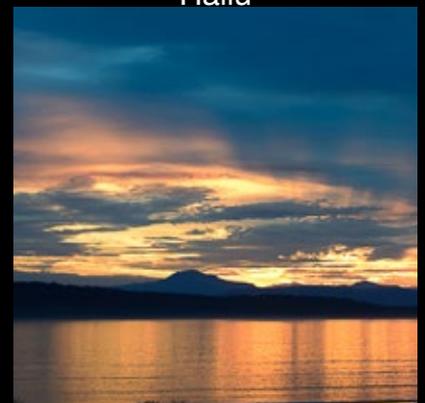
Bottle Bay,
Francois Peron
National Park
Hallu



Walker descends
Mt Beecroft
Louise Fairfax



Southwest over the Calf
from Adamsons Peak
Iluvswtas



Sunset
Gayet



Non-landscapes

May 2013

WINNER



Stillwater
Dan Broun

'Stillwater' was taken early on a morning on the shore of Lake St Clair, or Leeawuleena (sleeping water). It's a dark image taken at a dark time in my life. I was running away from the demons in the city, and ended here, stillness. Not a lot more to say about that image. Leeawuleena is a very special place in many ways, to marvel at the forces that created it, the forest that envelopes it, or to naval gaze, it's a haven.



Kookaburra, Bold Park,
Western Australia
Andrei Nikulinsky



Just an edge
Gayet



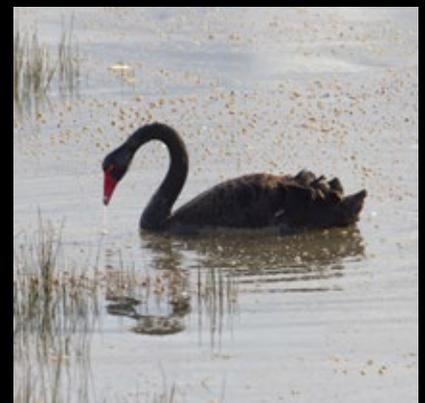
Ruddy Turnstone
landsmith



"Why are you scratching
your ass ?" Pelicans at
Monkey Mia
Hallu



Rainforest fungi
Louise Fairfax



Black Swan,
Tamar Island Wetlands
Peter Grant



GEAR FREAK



Lucy and Susan (aka the barefoot sisters) hiked most of the 2,600 mile Appalachian trail without any shoes, only wearing footwear when there was snow on the ground. Their mantra was to hike barefoot “only while it was fun”.

Working out what footwear (or lack of) can drastically change your approach and enjoyment of walking. It can make a big difference between what is “fun” and what becomes a constant painful experience with every step.

Footwear is a personal choice and above all of the ideas, arguments, tech and medical advice the best tip is to wear something that is comfortable for you.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR FEET LOVE YOU

Geoff Mallinson aka Geoffmallo

I started my outdoor footwear story by wearing a pair of Scarpa Treks absolutely everywhere. The now famous full leather stiff hiking boot and it's siblings represent one end of the spectrum and are either loved or hated. They worked for me at the time, but since then I've had the opportunity to refine my choices and experiment more with other types of hiking shoes. I now wear a



light-weight trail runner for most of my walking.

Six ways to choose the right footwear

1. What terrain will you be covering?

Scrambling along the Western Arthurs requires footwear that's better at climbing than a hike to Mt Kosciuszko along the flat metal track. I like having shoes that can bend and mould around rocks and tree roots, giving me more grip.

2. What weather will you be walking in?

A winter trip along an Australian Alps track will require different footwear to a trip along the Larapinta. I find my trail runners to be fine in most conditions until I need to wear snowshoes. Remember you can always wear warmer socks too.

3. How fit are your feet?

Boots have long been recommended

because of the superior ankle protection. They act as a strong fixed shape giving support. We don't all need this high level of support though. Personally my feet are strong and I prefer to let my muscles do the work. My feet are less sore after a big day in trail runners than when locked into a boot.

4. What's your budget?

Any historical look at Australian bushwalking will bring up the mighty and cheap Dunlop Volley. A tennis shoe that has probably spent more time in Blue Mountain canyons than on a tennis court.

However, recently the quality has suffered greatly. Trail runners are generally cheaper than boots, but mightn't last as long.

“ I thought boots were the best footwear for bushwalking.

5. What does your gut say?

In the end it comes down to comfort. Go with what feels good. You have to be comfortable with your choice. If you're really unsure about the "toe shoes" someone is recommending, then don't take the risk for your next week long adventure.

6. Experiment and test thoroughly

Only time in your shoes will tell you what works for you. Never wear a new pair of shoes for a big walk. Try a pair of lightweight runners on a shorter walk to see if you like them.

Remember this is a personal decision that a retailer can't make for you, nor can your outdoor friends, an online forum or even an eZine article! Gather the information and opinions and filter that through what you want to do, and what's important for you.

Why Trail Runners are my first choice

I thought boots were the best footwear for bushwalking. They were strong and almost indestructible. They were waterproof (well



kind of), they had grippy soles and they had good ankle support (which apparently we needed when carrying our heavy packs). I've since moved on to trail runners. A lightweight running sneaker that is designed for use on rough terrain, just like we walk on. I'm currently wearing Inov-8 X-talon 212s. They are far lighter than any hiking boot I've worn, have better grip in mud and on slippery rocks and have enabled me to hike faster and further than previously.

Generally trail runners:

1. Are lighter
2. Dry faster
3. Are cheaper
4. More minimalist (more flexible, less arch support and lower heel raise)
5. More breathable

FAQ

Don't you miss the ankle support?

No. I travel reasonably light and don't need the ankle support. For me I find having fit strong feet and ankles is better than supporting ankles with boots.

Do your feet get cold?

Occasionally. I can change socks depending on the weather. The only time they really get cold is when walking through cold alpine creeks. They are warm again 30 seconds later due to my smart wool socks, which dry far faster than in boots. My feet would always get hot and sweaty in full leather boots.

Are they okay for off track use?

Absolutely. I've hiked, scrambled and walked through many places and find their nimbleness a great benefit when walking off track. Think ballet shoes versus ski boots. Your feet and flex and grip the terrain far better. I feel more in touch with the ground I'm covering.

Do they wear out too fast?

Trail runners will wear faster than your full leather boots. They also cost less so you can replace them. I'm yet to have a big failure and have only seen small holes wearing through the top layer on one set (and extremely lightweight pair). I really don't mind replacing them every couple of years.

Do your feet get tired in them on long multi-day walks?

No. However greater muscle strength in our feet is required. Just like your legs will get tired if you haven't walked much then go on a big hike, if you always wear boots you may find your muscles are a bit tired in your feet too until they strengthen (a good thing in my humble opinion). I find lifting the weight off boots constantly more tiresome.

Can you walk in the mud?

Yes. I've long ago disposed of the idea of clean dry feet when walking in muddy terrain, whether walking in boots or trail runners. I now focus on wicking the moisture away and managing the overall health of my feet. I wear gaiters just like with boots (or sometimes some smaller ones) and walk through rivers, creeks or mud with my shoes on. It's really nice to stop for a break, take your shoes off and they'll be dry when I'm ready to move. I also don't need the coveted space around the fire in the hut to dry my boots overnight (which isn't very good for your boots).

Geoff was the first person to climb all 26 peaks over 2000 metres in Australia in one go on foot. Loving long distance walks especially above tree line and back country skiing, he has learned the art of packing very light. One of Geoff's



greatest joys is sharing the outdoors with his wife and four kids. In 2013 Geoff rode his bike from Perth to the NSW Central Coast with his 10 year old son, the youngest to complete the journey. Geoff was central to the production of the www.sixfoottrack.com website and was the man behind (and in front of) many of the camera shots. You can follow Geoff's blog at <http://geoffmallinson.com/>

SELFIES

Hey,

We have another winner of our selfies competition.

It's an image by Naturelover on Mt Amos.

It's a beautiful picture, capturing the calmness and energy of the place.

Enjoy :)



THE PASSING OF ALEX COLLEY

Alex Colley's life spanned a period so long and in a world with so many changes that it is hard to imagine what that must have been like. He was born six years after the Wright Brothers' first powered flight and died with the entire world online via the Internet.

But Alex just didn't live through an entire century of change, he changed it himself and in profound and permanent ways. We are all the beneficiaries of his enduring work and his achievements. There is so much to say about the man and the scope of his influence both as a conservationist and as a bushwalker.

Alex was a conservationist decades before conservation was a mainstream issue. He was advocating the need for national parks and wilderness areas before the Second World War when such positions were considered radical. Originally influenced by talks Myles Dunphy gave at Sydney Bushwalkers meetings, Alex recognised the need for the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs to take a firm conservation stand. His experience with political parties and the Federation convinced Alex that rational argument backed by facts from experts in their field could win the day. With this approach Alex achieved so much.



ALEX COLLEY'S EULOGY

Roger Treagus

He joined the Colong Committee in 1968 when the Colong Caves and Boyd Plateau were threatened by a massive limestone mine proposal. Alex devised all sorts of strategies to frustrate the proposal, from street demonstrations, to encouraging a mass purchase of single shares in the developer's company to bolster the share registry with conservationists and stack the company's AGM. Through ten years of work by the Committee, the mine proposal was defeated and the Kanangra area was safe. He even got his local Turramurra branch of the Liberal Party to unanimously support the conservation case.

Alex was secretary of the Colong Committee from 1972 to 2007, when he turned 95, and



in that time wrote submission after submission to governments and actively campaigned to preserve a fair proportion of the north coast and tablelands for national parks. He went bushwalking with Neville Wran and Bob Carr and carried considerable influence with them, leading to his crowning success of getting the Greater Blue Mountains region proclaimed as a world heritage area. Bob Carr is on record as saying that when people take pride in knowing the Blue Mountains has that world status they can thank Alex Colley.

His energy for the cause seemed boundless. In 2001 he broke his neck in a fall and was hospitalised. Spiro Haginikitas, one of our long time SBW members visited Alex in hospital all bound up in braces and clamps for his neck. Despite these handicaps Spiro observed Alex busily writing. "What'ya up to Alex?", Spiro asked. Alex responded, "Oh, I'm just writing up a Plan of Management for Lamington National Park!"

For all of his work Alex was showered with awards: the Catchment Leader of the Year in 1998, the Senior Achiever Award in 2000, the Lifetime of Conservation Award from Australian Geographic in 2009, and of course Alex's Order of Australia Medal.

Alex wrote two books on conservation, "Sustainability" and the glorious coffee table production "Blue Mountains - World Heritage" published in 2004 with Henry Gold's magnificent photos.

“All of these things that Alex achieved would more than fill the lifetimes of most people, but for Alex this is only part of the story.”

All of these things that Alex achieved would more than fill the lifetimes of most people, but for Alex this is only part of the story. His other great love was of course bushwalking, and as well as being a legend as a leading conservationist he was a legend as a bushwalker too.

Imagine this. Alex went bush for the first time in his home town Lithgow at the tender age of four back in 1913. His last big walk was in Central Australia with Dot Butler in the 1990s. That is nine decades of walking. Amazing. Alex said that growing up in Lithgow was great as the bush was so close. In those days the family's means of transport was the horse and buggy, the normal method of getting around for most. He would get up at 4am in the summer, meet his walking companion, go for a bushwalk, get back for

breakfast and then go to school. When the depression came, Alex would disappear into the bush for weeks carrying only a bag of brown rice for sustenance. On the occasion of his 90th birthday Alex described how he joined SBW. His own words tell the story much better than I can. This is what he said.

“I was invited to join the club in 1931. I was having my lunch after a walk in among some low bushes just around the hotel site at Megalong and a head appeared above the bushes and introduced himself as Mouldy Harrison. Anyway we had a nice little talk and he said, ‘why don’t you join the Bushwalkers?’ I said ‘Oh Mouldy, I couldn’t do that.’ I was doing an Economics course and I had to work 44 hours a week and use all my spare time to study so I couldn’t do that.

“...Alex would disappear into the bush for weeks carrying only a bag of brown rice for sustenance.”

Anyway then I had a second invitation when I was doing Economics. I somehow think there must have been some vibes between us I think. I sat next to Tom Herbert and we got very friendly and one day I mentioned I’d been for a walk and he said, ‘What, do you go bushwalking?’ and I said, ‘Yes’ and he said, ‘Well fancy that - I’m the President of the Sydney Bush Walkers’ and he asked me to join and I said ‘Oh no Tom, I’m a bird of limited intelligence, I couldn’t do that, I’ve got to concentrate on this’. But Tom could. Tom not only did an Economics course, he used my lecture notes quite a bit. I gave him a copy and he passed nevertheless. He was able to row for the faculty and be the President of the Sydney Bush Walkers. How he did it all at once I don’t know but he did.

Anyway when I passed I sat around and my walking companions got a bit too fat or a bit too unfit to go out into the bush and I thought, ‘Well, why don’t I go into the Bush Walkers.’ So I walked into the club room and as I walked in up came Mouldy Harrison who said ‘Hello Alec’ and I said ‘Hello Mouldy’. We’d only seen each other for ten minutes and he remembered my name and by some miracle I remembered his. Anyway I had an easy passage then. They couldn’t really turn me down because I was nominated by the

President. I got in quite easily and a little while after that I was elected to be on the Committee and I have been on the Committee nearly every year since then. I enjoyed that very much”.

Alex joined SBW in 1936. He was President in 1941 and 1942, he has been editor of the magazine, Vice-President, Conservation Secretary for 30 years and mostly on the committee for all of 60 plus years, a feat never likely to be repeated. Alex put an indelible stamp on the character of the club both in running the club and with his walks. He explored bushland unlikely to have been trodden by white man before. This included Mt Currockbilly in Morton NP and a fair slice of Wollemi, plus discovering many passes and negotiable routes in the Blue Mountains. He once walked from the Wolgan to Coricudgy and then to Putty through the heart of the Wollemi wilderness in 10 days armed only with the very rough sketch maps of the time, quite possibly the first white man to get through all that country. He was a member of the legendary Tigers whose walking feats were almost superhuman. The names of members of this group within the club are historic. Apart from Alex there was Hilma Galliot whom Alex married, Jack Debert (SBW’s first president), Bill McCosker, Len Scotland, David Stead, Gordon Smith and Dorothy English (better known now as Dot Butler). Hilma was no slouch. She once walked 50 miles (not kilometres) down the Grose River with Gordon Smith in 24 hours. The perfect partner for Alex.

Being the pioneer and explorer that he was, Alex led many original walks on the walks program such as the first group climb of Carlon Head, and a weekend walk from Wentworth Falls to Katoomba via Kedumba, the Coxs, Scotts Main Range, the Kowmung, the Gangerang traverse via Ti-Willa, to the Cox/Kanangra junction, up Breakfast Creek and on to Katoomba. That’s a hell of a way of going between those two towns. In fact Alex’s contribution to the Club’s walks program is almost inestimable. Here is just a taste of what Alex delivered.

- April 1939 – Katoomba – Nellies Glen – Carlons Farm– Black Dog Track – Coxs River – Cedar Creek – Ruined Castle – Scenic

Railway – Katoomba

- October 1941 - Mongarlowe Road - Currockbilly Mountain - Clyde River - Brooman Road
- October 1943 – Nowra – Cambewarra – Barren Grounds – Budderoo – Jamberoo – Kiama
- August 1947 - Canberra - Mt Franklin - Mt Gingera - Mt Franklin - Canberra (Train. £6/2/6)
- May 1958 - Katoomba - Mt Solitary - Korrowall Buttress - Cedar Creek - Katoomba.
- January 1991 - Batemans Bay - Tabourie via coast.

That is over half a century of leading.

Alex was the complete bushman, always finding his routes through the bush and discovering water where others said there was none. He introduced his daughter, Fran and kids from other families to skiing (Alex did cross country skiing while the family downhill over many seasons). Back in those days Perisher boasted a couple of rope tows only. Alex shunned such conveniences and always skied up the hill. The families camped at Sawpit, which was a little primitive, especially when the very limited warm water in the shower ran out. That never bothered Alex as he just bathed in the local creek. During the Second World War he enlisted in the army and as part of his basic training went on forced marches. Alex recalls how much he enjoyed that experience although he never met another soldier who liked it. A mark of a true bushwalker.

“Alex was the complete bushman, always finding his routes through the bush and discovering water where others said there was none.”

When Alex married Hilma their first walk together was not a stroll in the park but an assault on Ti-Willa Plateau in the Gangerangs. He loved that part of the Blue Mountains. He also loved the Jamberoo area, where he built a cabin and called it Ti-Willa. This began a move by many bushwalking and SBW notables to establish cabins there, including the family of Paddy Pallin, Jean and Ray Kirkby and Frank and Anice Duncan.

After Hilma's death, Alex and Dot Butler became partners for 20 happy years until

Dot moved to Tasmania to be closer to her daughter, Iluna Bluewater. They were a legendary couple, both with amazing bushwalking achievements.

The club would never have run as smoothly as it did without Alex's "behind the scenes" work. Before the operation was moved to the Hollands, there was for years, in Alex's garage, a monthly gathering of people like Dot Butler, Geoff Wagg, Spiro Haginikitas and Ray Hookway helping to print the club Magazine and tackling the old printer. Before the Internet and email, this was the means by which SBW members knew what was happening and what walks were on.

Alex knew a bit about printing as he had worked part time in the publishing section at Sydney University where he was an undergraduate. Sitting his final exams he was also the clerk in the examination section of the Registrar's office so he may have been the first student ever to see his results before they were published.

There were so many sides to Alex, and I'm talking here about Alex from the Sydney Bush Walkers Club perspective. Others will recount wonderful stories about Alex through all his other work and activities. There was so much to this wonderful man.

Alex is survived by his daughter Frances Colley (past SBW member), her husband, David Hart, and Alex's twin grandchildren Alexander and Louisa Colley Hart. Long time SBW member Shirley Dean had enduring guardianship for Alex and has supported Fran in caring for Alex (and Dot) for two decades when Fran and her family lived in Adelaide and then in the US. This was great dedication. Shirley was in fact introduced to SBW by Hilma when they formed a great friendship.

Recently Australia's latest list of national treasures were announced. It was noted by other bushwalking clubs, not our own, that there were no bushwalkers on the list and Alex was an obvious nomination. What more can we all say than that Alex: you have in fact been a national treasure for a very long time. A very long life, lived to the fullest. I hope you are right now up there somewhere discovering new tracks to follow.

KEEP WALKING - NEPAL

<http://keepwalkingnepal.com>

Ron Jackson

Having viewed the images of a friend's trip to Nepal, and being impressed with what I saw and heard, I rounded up several other walkers from our Keep Walking group in SA and, together with my wife Meredith, travelled to Kathmandu in anticipation of a mind-boggling trekking experience in the Himalayas.



Sherpa carrying five mattresses

NEPAL - OUR UNEXPECTED CHALLENGE

We chose to book with an international travel company and were most fortunate in being allotted Ang Ngima Sherpa as our primary trek leader. It transpired that he had summited nine major peaks in the Himalayas, including Everest on three occasions and had a wealth of leadership skills and experience: a remarkable young man in many ways as we were to find out.

Our journey was in the Annapurna region and after a short Pokhara flight and bus trip we trekked to Australian Camp near Khari. Ang Ngima and his crew of English-speaking Nepalis made us feel most welcome and already part of his extended family.

Over the following days we visited several villages of the Gurung people, also home to the soldiers of the famous Gurkha regiment. Continuing further into the Annapurna we experienced the wonders of the Himalayas and the friendliness of people at every point along the route. Memories of this time include snow-capped peaks, lines of heavily laden donkeys and porters, seeing villages with roof cladding laden with rocks - cheaper and more readily available than nails.



Along the way, Ang Ngima shared stories of his mountaineering adventures. He told us how he assisted the famous "Snow Leopard" on his final attempt at Everest, of a rescue he was involved with, and stories of his

childhood in the Solukhumbu. It was these accounts that led Meredith to ask Ang Ngima to plan a future trek for us, one that would take us through the Sherpa villages, to view Everest as they see it, and to learn more of Sherpa culture.

“ He told us how he assisted the famous ‘Snow Leopard’ on his final attempt at Everest

So, the following year found us again in Kathmandu under the care of Ang Ngima and family, en route to the Solukhumbu Valley. After a short flight to Paphlu, we booked into the first of our lodges then trekked to the nearby crowded and amazing market place at Dhorphu.



The next days on our route included the villages of Junbesi, Pangkarma and Phugmochi, and provided us with an amazing insight into the Sherpa culture. Visits to a





Buddhist school, Endingma medical centre, Thuptenchoing monastery and the Everest View Lookout complemented the running commentary by our guides on local life and traditions.

On this trek we met Shelly, an Australian woman who had also trekked with Ang Ngima and had a close friendship with his extended family. Ang Ngima asked, and gratefully received, our advice as he was keen to begin his own trekking business. His aim was to have more regular work for himself, for family members and to be able to employ young men from his village and surrounding areas as guides and porters.

Our unexpected and ongoing challenge was underway!!

Shortly afterwards, having seen the Keep Walking SA logo on my T-shirt, he started a business called Keep Walking – Nepal. Whilst

there is no formal or financial affiliation between the two organisations, we continue to happily assist where possible. We have written trek notes and tour descriptions using information provided by the family, and encouraged friends and acquaintances in the Australian bushwalking community to consider a trek with Keep Walking Nepal. Those who have trekked with this family business returned with high praise for our Sherpa friends and the whole experience that they are offering.

Keep Walking Nepal now has a Kathmandu office, a website, and advertising brochures. Where possible we continue to offer assistance, knowing that many Sherpa families have benefitted from the establishment of this business, and will continue to enjoy employment opportunities. Trekkers are the key to the success of the business, and this is where we need your support. If you or your friends have an interest in a Nepal adventure, please look at the website information below. New promotional ideas and assistance are welcome. Please assist us along our long road.

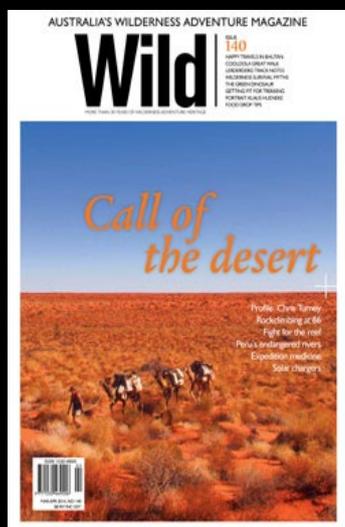
You can find more info on KeepWalking - Nepal here:

Web <http://keepwalkingnepal.com>
Email keepwalking@internode.on.net

“ Our unexpected & ongoing challenge was underway!!

Machapuchre (“Fish Tail” in English) situated in the Annapurna Himal or north central Nepal

MAGAZINES



Wild
Mar/Apr 2014 issue
Wild, Australia's
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- Trekking in all its forms – day hikes, overnights and longer, multi-day experiences.
- Tasmania's Overland Track – we sent Senior Contributor, Andrew Bain, to walk the Overland in summer
- We sent Australian Geographic Society Chairman, Gregg Haythorpe in Tassie to traverse the Overland in the depths of winter
- The Milford Track celebrated 125 years
- we joined a group of former guides on the Milford Track for this milestone
- The Rees-Dart Track a very well kept NZ secret

This edition is on sale from March 20. For even more adventure, see agoutdoor.com or FB Australian Geographic Outdoor.



The Great Walks
Apr-May issue

This issue is packed full of Australia's best tropical walks. From the Larapinta Trail and Katherine Gorge, to the Jatbula Trail and Kakadu National Park, we showcase the walks that will keep away the winter blues.

One of our other travel yarns is on Tasmania's best kept secret for bushwalking. Which is... shhhhhh it's a secret!

As for gear we feature our annual boot review, featuring a dozen of the best pairs on the market, and we also review walking poles and socks - all good news for your feet!

There's also a handy story on emergency communications for dummies and Great Walks learn the hard way about ignoring the symptoms of dehydration.

UPCOMING EVENT

Once a month, in a nondescript warehouse in Sydney's inner west, a motley collection of bushwalkers, rock climbers, canyoneers, kayakers, cavers, mountaineers, bush runners, mountain bikers and other outdoor enthusiasts converge.



ADVENTURE TIME

Tom Morris, Emma Spencer and Tim Vollmer

It's not a club or formal organisation, it's not even the same people each time, but the crowd always shares a common bond: a love of nature and passion for adventure.

Each month our little warehouse is filled with enthusiastic people listening excitedly to speakers as they talk of trials, tribulations, and triumphs on trips big and small. Best of all, when many traditional bushwalking clubs are struggling with an aging demographic, we've had an amazing cross-section: travel-weary old-timers to fresh-faced beginners.

Like most good ideas, Adventure Time came about organically. Tom and Em were sitting around the warehouse where they were living, having one of their long-winded chats about climbing, canyoning and bushwalking. The rest of their non-outdoorsy housemates were grumbling about how annoying it was that they never shut up about the bush. Em joked about how it would be great to have a

house full of people just like us and it got us thinking about the possibility of organising an event.

Our warehouse was already hosting a monthly world music night, so we decided to try our luck with a meet-up of Sydney's outdoor community. We contacted our mate Tim and began bouncing around some ideas on the format and speakers, and within a month we were holding our first event.

“...enthusiastic people listening excitedly to speakers...”

For that first night we had lined up the climber and BASE jumper Lucky Chance, exploratory cave diver Deborah Johnson, some short films, a slack line and plenty of booze. Out went the emails and messages to as many clubs, forums and social media groups as we could think of, then we just sat back and hoped beyond hope that people would turn up.



When the night came, the warehouse was packed. The speakers were amazing, the questions from the crowd kept coming, the conversations between new friends carried on, and it was well after midnight before we managed to push the last few people out the door.

Given that promising start, we knew we had to continue with it.

Since then we've had a great range of speakers covering a broad range of outdoors activities, all of whom have generously donated their time to talk about their adventures.

Mountaineer, caver and climber Jeff Crass talked about Muller 82, a three-month exploratory cave expedition in Papua New Guinea. Paddler Richard Barnes spoke of the allure of kayaking and his trips across Bass Strait, Nepal and Antarctica. Rock climber Mike Law disclosed the wonders awaiting people on Sydney's sea cliffs. Mountaineer Allie Pepper spoke of her love of high altitude mountaineering. Bushwalker Pete Ridgeway talked about the amazing Aboriginal art hidden in the Wollemi. Paragliders Tash Sebire and Gem Woldendorp discussed their trip in central Greenland. David Noble talked about decades of canyon exploration in the Blue Mountains. And Patrick Spiers spoke of adventures across isolated landscapes with his sled and kite.

Sydney may be the greatest city on earth for people who like to get out and enjoy nature,

with endless opportunities for those who want to walk, canyon, paddle, climb, abseil, mountain bike, or otherwise delve into wild places.

And having so many opportunities for adventure means our city is home to an amazing array of talented outdoors enthusiasts.

Our little event is about doing our bit to build some connections among this amazing collection of people, inspire others to get out and try new things, and facilitate the dreaming up of new and bolder adventures.

It's only been about six months, and there's a long way to go, but it's definitely been more successful than we'd hoped.

But we've still got lots of plans. We want to increase the range of outdoor pursuits represented, do more to inspire new trips being organised at the event, and bring together people who have never met so they can travel into the bush together on their own adventures.

By the time this magazine goes to print, our next event will have happened -- with world-record holding BASE jumper and rock climber Glenn Singleman and iconic trail runner and now bushwalker Ben Artup presenting. But there will always be more Adventure Times in the months ahead.

If you'd like to be kept in the loop, send an email to adventuretimesydney@gmail.com and we'll let you know the details of the next event as it is finalised.

We'd love to see you there!
Tom, Em and Tim

“ The speakers were amazing, the questions from the crowd kept coming...



IN THE NEWS

Hug a tree

Recent studies show that people benefit greatly from hugging trees. Besides giving us fresh air, trees are also good for our mental health. But it's not just about hugging them. People who live in urban areas with lots of green canopy cover are more disciplined, experience more positive emotions, recover faster from injuries, and much more. It seems that connection goes both ways - the more we surround ourselves with nature, the more we try to take care of it - like recycling materials or planting new plants. [↗](#)

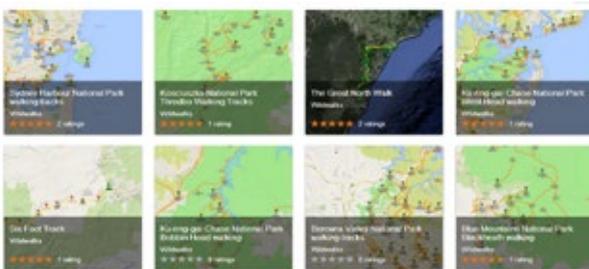
Emuview

Matt (aka Wildwalks) had the opportunity to share 'Emuview' with the Sydney Morning Herald. This is the camera used to document the [Six Foot Track](#). The camera captures a full 360 degree panoramic image every 5-10 metre as he walks. Matt hopes that this will assist new bushwalkers better prepare for their adventure. Also, that the better we can equip people for their first walking experience, increasing the chance they will have a long and happy walking career.. [↗](#)

Ultimate conservationists?

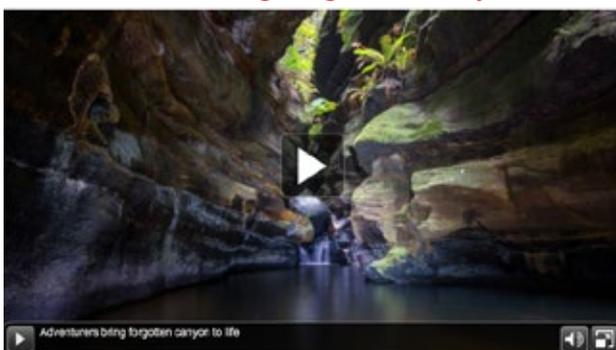
Mr Abbott hit the news with a comment he made about National Parks. The PM said "We have quite enough National Parks, we have quite enough locked up forests already. In fact, in an important respect, we have too much locked up forest". National Parks are the best system we have for protecting biodiversity. The science suggests we need to increase our protected areas by around 50%. The alarming rate of loss of native biodiversity seems to support this idea. The timber industry does play a role in conservation, but do you think they are the [ultimate conservationists](#) as the PM clearly states here? [↗](#)

A free online hiking guidebook?



[Wildwalks](#) is now a Google Maps Gallery partner. This give people a new way of viewing their walks on Google Maps. The park maps help you explore the walking track network and discover the best ways to access different areas. There is also a map of the whole Great North Walk and other walks. Zoom in to see photos. [↗](#)

Adventurers bring forgotten canyon to life



Check out this adventurous duo who uses a ground-breaking technology to map the planet's hidden natural places and bring them to life online. [↗](#)

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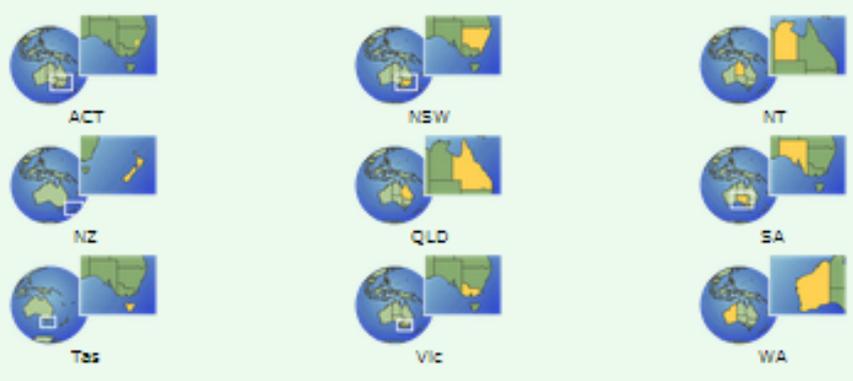
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