



## Welcome!

Well the university year has begun, and so with it, the year's adventures! Our first club meeting will be on Wednesday of week 2 (7<sup>th</sup> March), and be sure not to miss our club-wide camp out – Boree Log at the end of week 3 (16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March)!

Check out 'What's On' on page two for more thrills!

## My first Boree Log

*Boree Log is a traditional clubwide camp that runs twice a year.*

Boree Log was my first club trip ever! It was three years ago, but it sticks in my memory as my first real taste of the outdoors!

As a nervous first year, I met other club members while waiting for the bus to the Colo campground. It's refreshing to spend time with like-minded people! I was a bit of klutz that night, as I knocked over my billy, spilling all my dinner on the ground. But my new friends were generous, and I did not go hungry. Owen even baked a cake! I never thought camp food could be so homely!

Saturday morning was so exciting - so many activities to choose from! Canyoning, bushwalking, rock climbing, kayaking, and liloing. I didn't know what half of these were, but I decided to give canyoning a try. Canyoning is like bushwalking, only you go straight down a river! We bushwalked, abseiled, scrambled over boulders, swam through the water – we did a bit of everything! It was so action-packed and so much fun! After a grueling day, we re-

turned for the traditional Saturday night roast.



An unbeliever at first, the traditional Saturday night formal dress party is no rumour!



Sunday I was keen to try outdoor rock climbing, although the weather closed in. Instead, I joined the bushwalkers for a wet, but satisfying day.

Boree Log was the beginning of a whole new world for me. Through the outdoors club I've had the opportunity to do things I once could've only imagined - like climbing 100m high cliffs!

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(see [unswoc.org](http://unswoc.org) >photo gallery > album: climbing > album Arapiles



## Mountain Biking



I go on rides to get that feeling of power and thrill of pulling off a steep descent. Biking can range from your fast road riding to your technical off road trails.

Road riding is fast, fun and full of judgments. Road riding is a great way to get to uni and good practice for off road trips. With a little practice of a route to uni you will come to understand how the traffic lights work, when they go green and when it is safe to move off. Over time you will understand how cars operate, how to see a danger well before it happens and change course accordingly. Most people think city riders are crazy - most are - but they see problems before most others, which allows them to flow through traffic with greater ease. All of this is used in the judgment of off road trails.

Off road riding is much more technical. There is no greater thrill on a bike from riding at high speed through rough terrain - provided you don't fall off! Of course it takes time to get good! But just being there is a great thrill, and you are continuously improving yourself.

### What's On—Feb/March 07

22/02 Inaugural O'Week Campusgaine  
25/02 Manly Metrogaine  
02/03 Cheap Indoor Climbing (Sydney Uni)  
02/03 PUBGAIN!  
03/03 Dam Cliffs Rock Climbing  
07/03 MEET, GREET & EAT! (club meeting)  
09/03 Cheap Indoor Climbing  
15/03 Road Trip  
16/03 Cheap Indoor Climbing  
16-18/03 BOREE LOG!  
23/03 Cheap Indoor Climbing  
30/03 Cheap Indoor Climbing





Off road riding involves understanding of terrain and being able to pick the best way down. All of these give great enjoyment as you learn and improve. You only get better if you try, and the more you try the more fun it becomes!

Riding down trails, you are kilometers from anywhere, and enjoying the beauty of the environment all around you. There are many trails within and around Sydney to enjoy the feel of off road riding. There are very difficult as well as gentle and flat off road trails to conquer.

If you are a beginner, don't fear there are many skilled bikers in the club which can teach you the basics and allow you to enjoy the thrills of mountain biking.

Liam Filson (Mountain Biking Officer)

## Nowra Adventure

They call it the Sport climbing Mecca. After three years of rock climbing, my pilgrimage to 'Mecca' was long overdue.

Sport climbing is when there are permanent metal bolts in the cliff. You clip the rope into these bolts, via a quickdraw, as you climb up. These bolts are strong enough to support a small car, so sport climbing is pretty safe. We were going to Thompson's point – infamous for being stinking hot in the summer – though I found it quite pleasant & shady. We started up a climb called 'Vanderholics' (grade 18). It had a nice little cave half way up where we could stop to take a rest:



Climbing is a great workout. You use the arms, legs, abs, and all sorts of obscure muscles you never knew you had! I was very proud when, around lunchtime, I managed to produce a bead of sweat! I'm a bit of a lizard – I really like the heat – so I guess that means it must've been pretty hot!



Another thing about climbing is that it looks totally awesome:



But the exposure can be quite scary! I was really impressed with Dave E's efforts on Mosquito Slapper (21) (above).

We camped overnight at the animal park, and to my surprise, I saw peacocks in flight! I never knew they could fly very well, but they were way up high in the gum trees!



The next day, we set out searching for a way down to the bottom of 'the Grotto' cliffline. Sometimes finding the cliff is as hard as actually climbing it! We gave up trying to find it, and went back to Thompson's Point! We learnt the hard way that climbing two days in a row is a little too much for us. Our nerves were shot! After a couple of easier climbs, Dave E showed us the way down to 'the Grotto' – proving that my map reading skills are a little under par... Overall, it was a really enjoyable trip. The weather was gorgeous, the climbs were high and well-protected. Minus the noise of the boats, 'Mecca' isn't a bad description...

*SI*



### **You Can Run Your Own Trip!**

Visit [unswoc.org](http://unswoc.org):

'discussion forum' to find interested people and an experienced trip leader

'contact us' to contact the officer in charge of your area

'club activities' for information on trip preparation and safety

Have a fun and safe time in the outdoors!