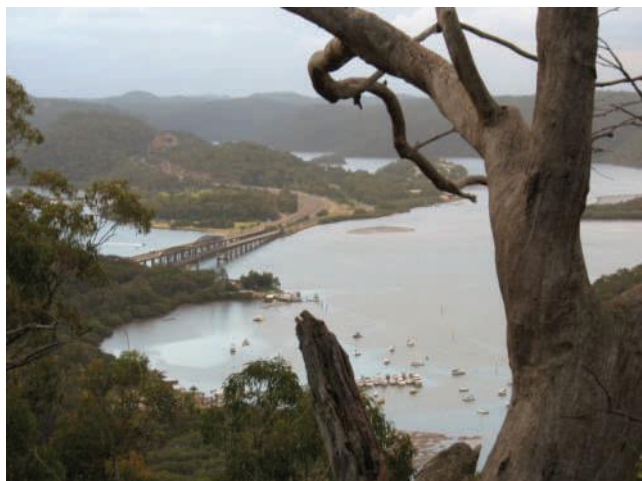




THE GREAT NORTH WALK

By Susan Ireland

It was the Easter long weekend, and while most people were at home eating chocolates and hot cross buns, some of us were mad enough to brave the rain and go bushwalking instead. We walked from Cowan to Wondabyne— a two-day walk which we decided to do in three days. With scenery that stunning, you wouldn't want to rush! Of the whole 200km walk, they say this section is the most beautiful...



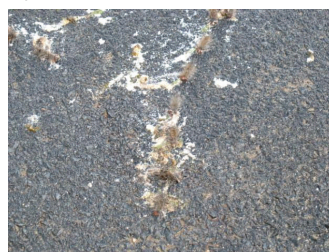
Sure it's a little overcast, and it was certainly windy on top of that hill, but it's a beautiful place to be...



This section of the walk requires you to cross the Hawkesbury, from Brooklyn to Patonga. On arrival at Brooklyn, we realised that there is no longer a direct ferry service. We arrived at Brooklyn just in time to see the last ferry leave for Little Wobby beach -10:30am. As far as we know, Little Wobby Beach is the closest the public ferry will take you to Patonga. So we caught a water taxi instead. At Patonga, we saw the strangest thing – caterpillars following each other in a line – head to tail, head to tail...



As they crossed the road...



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WHAT'S ON IN MAY?

- 7th-9th: Banff Outdoor Film Festival
- 4th: Cheap indoor climbing—The Ledge
- 11th: Cheap indoor climbs
- 15th: Club AGM
- 18th: Friday climbing
- 25th: Friday climbing

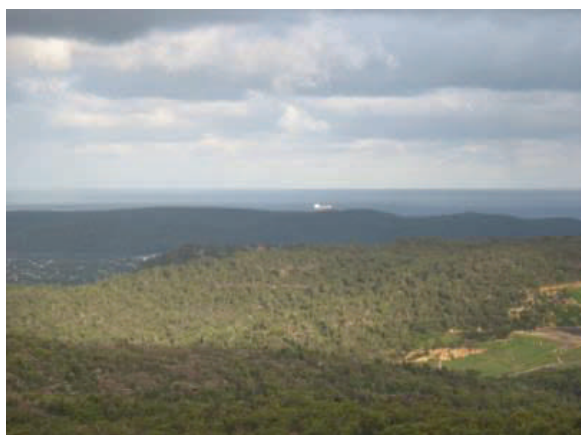
More trips coming soon!



The next section of the walk – Patonga to Van Dahl’s campground to Wondabyne – was a little further from civilisation, but every bit as beautiful...



Palm Beach from Mt Warrah



The ocean from Mt Wondabyne—spot the ship and the tip...

That evening, my old Duke of Edinburgh scheme log book came in handy. For anyone who is thinking of doing this section of the great North Walk, there is a small campground (Van Dahl’s) at GR 390943. It is right on the top of a hill, and near water (there is a large pool & waterfall down the steep hill).



One wet campground...

Despite the promising-looking early sunshine, the rain soon saw us trapped in the tent, wishing we’d eaten a little quicker, so we could’ve packed up before the rain. After huddling inside the tent for ages, finally there was a gap in the clouds – we were sure to pack up quickly!

Despite the rain, it was a very enjoyable walk – we even found an unopened can of VB at Wondabyne train station!





GETTING INVOLVED

This year I had my first ever position on a club exec – social officer and Sports Association rep. At first, it was confusing, at times overwhelming, but overall, very rewarding.

I think the most important lesson of all is an appreciation for the amount of effort that goes into organising the activities we love so much! Call me a sook, but I think what really drives this club is valuing everyone's effort, and showing this appreciation by supporting fellow club members.

Over the past year I have come to value the planning that goes into everything – from maintaining and lending out gear, to meetings, to Boree Log planning, O-week, and of course, newsletters! There are people with so much passion, and so much knowledge. Some finished their degree years ago, but just keep coming back!



Happy bushwalkers...

Many find our club addictive, and anyone who has organised club trips and activities before will understand why. It's a real buzz when people come and have a great time – all because of what you did to make things happen. Seeing people arrive, and the smiles on their faces makes it all worthwhile. :)

The AGM on Tuesday 15th May is your chance to get involved with your club! There will be talks on events of the previous year, as well as elections for next year's executive. If you enjoy being part of the action, you should consider going for a role.

If you are over-committed already and don't want a specific role, there are plenty of ways you can contribute: upload pictures to the web, submit to newsletters, run trips, and the easiest of all - simply be there!

See you soon!

Susan I.



Spirits not dampened...