



From the President

Hi all!

I wanted to take the opportunity to welcome you all to the UNSW Outdoors Club. I hope most of the new comers have had a chance to get involved with the club's activities. We had a very fun Boree Log in March with about 55 participants camping and attending trips in the Blue Mountains region. I hope you all enjoyed it and those of you who missed out can always join us for the next semester's Boree Log. Other than that there will be plenty of chances to take part in other trips during the semester and break.

To briefly describe the club, it consists of fairly easy going people with varying levels of involvement in different outdoors activities. Some are pure beginners while some are fairly advanced. But depending upon where your interests lie, there are always things to get involved in that you haven't done before. That is why **the club is one of the best places to expand your adventure repertoire**. One of the reasons the club exists is to involve new comers and get them confident in the art of enjoying the great outdoors. This is a cycle we like to keep, thus enriching the club's experience pool in the process. With the members from very broad backgrounds, overseas trips are starting to become a big part of the club. So, you'll never know where your next destination may be if you use the club's resources! And we encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity.



Rajan Chhetri
UNSWOC President



Waterfall abseil in Starlight Canyon

The club is run by a small number of experienced members. As they are a good source of information, feel free to contact any of us regarding any trips you may be interested in running. As the executive committee changes every year, we see changes in priorities of the club. This actually has **the advantage of getting the club involved and gaining experience in activities** that may not have been mainstream in the past. So, the club is an ever evolving and maturing body. One of the aims of the current Exec. was to see the profile of mountaineering raised in the club. And with the number of members getting involved in mountaineering now, I can confidently say we have well achieved the goal and mountaineering is fast becoming a regular activity with the club members! So, we encourage you to get involved and get others involved in activities you are passionate about.

Make use of the club gear, it's there for your use. We have a big collection of gear ranging from climbing to kayaking and we are ever on the lookout for gear updates. Safety on trips is another issue we are very careful about. We have measures in place to ensure club gear remain in good working order. We look for your assistance in helping us identify any risks involving the gear so they can be properly dealt with.

Welcome to the club and enjoy your time with the club. I believe **adventure** is not just something that you get involved in but it **is actually a way of life** and an excellent one at that! ***It has given countless people a lateral outlook on life that completely changes your attitude to life and I hope you can find the same.*** I hope we will have left an indelible lust for adventure in your hearts when you leave to pursue your calling in life. So, come along and get involved. I personally look forward to sharing some excellent time with many of you.

Cheers,
Rajan Chhetri
President UNSW Outdoors Club



It is important for the climber to learn and use the correct terminology.



Queen Charlotte MTB New Zealand

There is no doubt about it – the Queen Charlotte track was **the best day's mountain biking** I have ever done. The views, the odd surprise here and there, and the endless kilometres of sweet singletrack elevate it beyond anything else I have seen.

The Queen Charlotte track is in New Zealand's Marlborough region, in the Northern part of the South Island. Designed and built to be shared between walkers and mountain bikers, the track (nearly all single-track) **runs 71km**

along the spectacular Queen Charlotte sound, from Ship Cove in the north to Anakiwa in the South. The area is quite hilly – around 400m in the higher parts – and the track rarely skirts low, tending to go straight for the high ground. This serves two important purposes; firstly, the elevation gives excellent and unimpeded views of the surrounding bays and inlets; secondly, the height gives riders plenty of gravity to play on the downhill runs. The trade-off of course is all the huffing and puffing needed to push the bikes up the steep (sometimes slippery) uphill sections. Walkers on the track also tend to zoom backwards alarmingly at unsuspecting mountain bikers from time to time. It is all worth it though, as the track is truly excellent, provided that the rider can avoid distraction from the ever stunning scenery.

The Northern part of the track, from Ship Cove to Punga Cove, is closed to mountain bikers during the busy summer season, re-opening on March 1. We were a week too early for this, leaving us with around 45km on dirt for the day. But **the hills, the views, and the sheer quality of the single-track** meant that this was more than ample. By comparison the Queen Charlotte track was



Don't miss the corner!



One of the many tight switchbacks



Looking back towards Picton from the track

a tougher day out than some 65km rides in the Blue Mountains, which tend to run downhill overall.

I did this ride with Matt Perrett, as a rest day from a longer cycle touring trip in New Zealand.

This meant that we had our own bikes and gear, but bikes can be hired at reasonable rates in nearby Picton. Boat transport is the best way to get to and from the track. We caught a ferry from Picton to Punga Cove, while the company transferred our luggage (panniers etc.) to the end of the track in Anakiwa. The boat trip alone is worthwhile – ours went the long way via a predator free (island) bird colony and Ship Cove. Apparently Captain Cook returned several times to Ship Cove to make repairs to the Endeavour.

The track itself is well thought out and built, overwhelmingly single-track except for a few onroad linkups. **It contains many sections of nice, flowing twisties and turns.** These tend to be formed by cutting into the hillside, making it impossible to short-cut or straighten the track (which tends to destroy the appeal). There is nothing too technical on the section we rode, making it suitable for most riders, but with some provisos. A couple of times the track turns sharply across the top of a steep slope after a fast downhill. These parts are signposted, but there is nothing to prevent a rider from going over the edge should they miss the corner (and ending up a long way down). In another part the track drops quickly in a series of 15 or so tight switchbacks

(barely a bikelength in diameter). These only add to the fun for experienced riders, but could be traps for the unwary.

Anyone not wanting to do the full track (or the part we did) could have a lot of fun on the final 20 km or so from Torea Bay to Anakiwa, a gentle downhill blast. If you ever happen to be in this part of the world, check it out!

Stewart Johnston



Boree Log - Mount Wilson

As a Newcomer...

From the first greeting at the booth during O-week to the car ride home from the Boree Log weekend excursion, being a newcomer to the UNSW Outdoors Club has been **full of warm welcomes and exciting adventures**. Coming in as an inexperienced but energetic outdoors-woman, I jumped at the opportunity to attend the Boree Log outing to the Blue Mountains. With the transportation and equipment taken care of, I was responsible for little, yet provided with plenty. Upon arrival at Mt. Wilson, a group of us set out on a beginner's canyoning adventure led by the experienced Shane Greenup. Not having much of an idea about what can-



Boree Log Bushwalk - view over the Grose Valley

nyoning was, I was pleased with the gorgeous river and luxurious but industrial-strength lilos. Developing a keen sense of direction for forks in the trail with Shane's, "**Just keep following the biggest path,**" I led our water soaked group up and up back to the campsite.

Killing time with some slack lining and cricket, we awaited dinner that our professional chefs had been slaving over all day. As dark set in, the fire grew and the stew and veggies



Boree Log Climbing



were flowing. Food, drink, and the merriment of the day's activities followed late into the night.

The next morning I set out with the rock climbing group to Mt. York. Although it was my first time outside of a climbing gym, I was given plenty of opportunities to watch and join the action. Even not having my own shoes did not prove to be a problem; I was graciously allowed to share shoes with a fellow climber. Impressed by the generosity, patience, and skill of the experienced climbers, **I was able to learn everything from good climbing technique to how to clean up a climb.** It was the atmosphere of the group and the sheer joy that comes as a result of scaling a cliffside that made me fall in love with outdoor climbing.

Going into the trip as a novice and coming out as a semi-experienced canyoner, bushwalker, slack liner, camper, and rock climber made this a weekend to be remembered. The instruction, involvement, and energy of the others made for a terrific introduction to the art of loving outdoor adventures.

Julia
Tattan



The Boree Log Campsite



Oz Day Weekend Canyons!

On Saturday January 21st, Steve, Stewart and Su Li headed off for the mountains for a **3 day canyoning epic**. At Mount Tomah we met Shelley and Chris, did the car shuffle and before too long realised we didn't have a map! A quick duck back to the botanic gardens at Mount Tomah and a friendly ranger offered us his map. We gratefully accepted and then shortly headed off down a gully towards Ranon (Slippery Log) canyon. The route in had a few drops and we did a few short abseils on the way in. Before long we hit a creek and things started to look very canyon-like. Some



Gracefully descending one of the slippery logs

creek walking followed by an abseil, then we found out why the canyon was also known as Slippery Log. There are a few spots where **the only access down is to slide down the inclined logs, which are almost treacherous**. However we all managed to descend safely, and we shortly reached a large drop that leads into Claustral canyon. From there it is very nice walking through the high walled and highly picturesque canyon. A few further climb downs and short jump-ins and we reached the tunnel swim just before the Claustral exit. After de-suiting, the long climb out began. We reached the car at the Claustral carpark just after dark, having stopped for a chat with two canyoners from SPAN and taking in the night time views of Sydney in the distance from the top of the ridge. Ranon is a fantastic canyon!

From here Shelley and Chris headed back to Sydney while the other three started the long drive out to Kanangra. We reached Lithgow just in time for Stew to do the quickest food shop ever, as Woolies was just shutting. From there it was out to campground at Boyd River where we quickly crashed in the emergency shelter after midnight. At some point during the night we were joined by Anthony. Sunday saw us tackle Arabanoo Creek Canyon which is fairly dry but had several nice abseils. The weather was perfect, and we got

away without wetsuits. Typical of many canyons around Kanangra, Arabanoo was fairly open, as opposed to many of the canyons around Newnes, Mt Wilson etc that often have sustained tight constrictions. We stopped for a feed at the exit ridge around 3:30pm, before starting the steep climb out. Once Cottage Rock was reached, the walking was easier as we were on a plateau. Photos were taken overlooking Kanangra Main and Kalang Falls, before we headed back to the car and back to camp. A quick feed and it was off to bed ready for the big day ahead of us on Monday.

Monday saw the group take on a **very challenging canyon, Kanangra Main. With 10 abseils, the first three of which are successive 50m pitches**, K-Main is not for beginners or the faint hearted. We got a reasonably early start, leaving the car around 7:45am. Even so it was over an hour before the start of the first abseil was reached. The first three pitches took over two hours to negotiate as we only had one set of ropes. However they were highly exhilarating, with only small ledges separating the second and third pitches.



Stew on a 7m Jump-in!



Oz Day Weekend Canyons! - cont'd...

Changing into wetsuits on a ledge barely big enough for four with a 50m drop right beside you is heart stopping stuff. Once the three largest drops were under our belts we continued on. The water levels were quite high making some of the abseils quite interesting (aka slippery!). We did get slowed down at one point where our rope got stuck as we tried to pull it down. Stew had to prussic back up and reset the rope before the pull down was achieved. Thankfully this only happened once, as such incidences can seriously slow a canyoning party down.

Around 6pm we completed the last abseil and headed down the creek keeping an eye out for Murdering Gully, our ascent route. **After much searching and some backtracking we found the incredibly steep path up out of the canyon.** By this time it was approaching 8pm and starting to get dark. The majority of the climb out was done under the glow of our headlamps. Getting back to the car at 10:30pm completely exhausted, we wasted no time in packing and getting on our way back to Sydney. Unfortunately the dramas didn't end there, and about 20 minutes into the drive a loud thump was heard. It seems a foolhardy roo decided our car was a good target, and bounded straight into the side of it, leaving a nice little dent. With that late night excitement it was then straight back to Sydney. Despite all of us being pretty stuffed at work on Tuesday, three canyons in three days was definitely worth it.

Steve Hare



Lilo-ing on Wollongambe Two
Photo: Shane Greenup

Upcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>
Every Friday during uni semester	Indoor Climbing	The Ledge, Sydney Uni
24th May	Canyoning Trip	Juggler Canyon
30th May-1st June	Bushwalking Trip	Barrington Tops
6-9th June	Bushwalking Trip	Blue Mountains
7th June	First Aid Course	UNSW
15th June	Paddy Pallin 6hr Rogaine - ENTER NOW!!!	Near Lithgow
20th June-1st July	Great South West Walk	Victoria
15-16th August	Australian Rogaining Championships	Copeton Dam - near Inverell