



From the President

nearly upon us even sooner. While the club has slowed down a bit in the lead up to exams the good news is that Boree Log is nearly upon us. For those not in the know Boree Log is the event of the year, check out the website now to sign up for trips and for more information.



UNSWOC President
Matthew Perrett

On to other news the club just got in a shipment of wet suits to get ready for canyoning season. We also just got a shipment of some new climbing shoes and back packs in as well. Like always if you need any of this gear just get in contact with our two excellent gear guys Steve and Black. (b.bambrook@student.unsw.edu.au, steven.hare@student.unsw.edu.au).

There still will be heaps of stuff happening during the summer for those left in Sydney. We hope to see new members getting active and pursuing your activities and start leading trips on your own. If you need any assistance in this matter, get in touch with any of us and we will be more than happy to help you out. Also don't forget that even though Friday nights discounted climbing at The Ledge is only during semester don't forget that your membership card will still give you a discount on any day.

For all of those who will be leaving the club next year to move onto a new life after uni I wish you all the best in all your

future adventures, and for the rest of you I look forward to coming back next season (we have lots of exciting this planned but more on that later).

Wish you all a very active, safe and fun filled summer break.

Cheers Matt.

Spring 2008 Pubgaine Results

On Friday September 5, two teams from UNSWOC competed in the Spring 2008 Pubgaine, hosted by the UTS Outdoor Adventure Club. A Pubgaine is similar to a Rogaine, except that instead of visiting checkpoints in the bush, pubs in the city are visited. At every pub, you have to record the answer to a question about the pub to prove that you have been there.

Each pub is worth a different amount of points depending on the distance from the start and end points. Further, any team that purchased a round of drinks at a pub could double the points received for visiting the pub.

Despite the consistent rain, spending three hours running from pub to pub, downing drinks as fast as possible then running on to the next pub was a great way to spend a Friday night.

Congratulations to the 1st placed team of Stewart Johnson and Mark Smith, and 3rd placed team of Simon Li, Joan Lee and Steven Hare. A special commendation to Joan who managed to get into 11 pubs without any ID!



Molesting Matt's car "Ka" after Juggler's canyon



The Great South West Walk By Caroline Morley

After a brief detour to retrieve a forgotten sleeping bag, Steve and I set off into the middle-of-nowhere in Victoria for the longest bushwalk of either of our lives – a 230km loop starting and ending in Portland, and crossing just over the border into South Australia.



Happy campers at the start of the walk

We started off at the visitor's center in Portland and picked up the worst trail maps ever, and set off with our ~20kg packs. The first night was the only one we didn't sleep in a campsite, which are located at 15-20km intervals all the way along the walk, each equipped with a water tank, a toilet, and a picnic table, along with a small piece of flat-ish ground to pitch a tent.

The first few days traversed farmland and state forest along a river. After Portland, we went three days without seeing a soul other than each other (Steve and I got to know each other pretty well!) We saw heaps of kangaroos, sheep, cows, some emus(!), birds, parrots, and some very intrepid possums. Possums may look kind of cute to unsuspecting Americans like me, but we weren't impressed when one helped itself to half of our dessert while we weren't paying attention!

At the halfway point we came into Nelson, a little town with a post office inside the general store and not much else (other than the pub, which was unfortunately not open yet at 11am) to collect the food that Steve had mailed. With full

packs again we started along the longest beach of our lives. Overall we walked over 50km along that damn beach, sinking in soft sand, climbing up sand dunes, and avoiding freak waves. Within the first few hours (five minutes after a conversation about the possibilities of hypothermia if we fell into the ocean in mid-July), one of these freak waves came hurtling towards us. Realizing he had no chance to avoid being hit, Steve got caught in water above his ankles – moving fast enough to knock him off his feet into the ocean!

We finally shared our campsites with other people during this section, a novelty to us after six nights alone. Three girls studying outdoor education were attempting the walk for the second time (after cheating at their first attempt!). It was nice to have some other people to talk to for a while.

Day 9 was our longest day, over 30km, but the weather was gorgeous and we were happy to be off of the beach, up on the cliffs above. We saw heaps of interesting things, including a lighthouse and a "petrified forest." Day 10 brought us back into civilization, past the lovely Portland Aluminum Smelter (who paved a wheelchair-accessible nature trail for us!), and back to Portland for some real food



Sunbeams over the ocean and the beach we walked and well-deserved beers. Overall it was a great trip! :)



Mt Solitary Night Traverse By Steven Hare

It was an idea I had had in my head for years. When I was much younger, I had heard a story of a group that had decided to undertake a night walk. Not your average couple of hours strolling about the suburbs, but a long bushwalk completed under torchlight. It seemed like an interesting spin on bushwalking. So with a near full moon approaching I decided it was time to give the all night bushwalk a go.

On Saturday 11th October, I was met by Matt, Kosul and Holger and we headed up the mountains with a quick stop in Katoomba for dinner. The sun had just dropped below the horizon as we parked at the top of the Golden Stairs on Narrowneck. In the fading light we started walking just after 7pm. It is a quick walk down into the valley, and by 7:30pm we were making our way around the Jamison valley on a fairly well defined walking track. Soon after we donned headlights, having lost the last of the daylight. It is interesting to walk at night through the bush, as you get a much different perspective to walking by day. Also there are the nocturnal animals that awaken and make some interesting (aka somewhat frightening) sounds.

We took a break before the steep ascent of Mt Solitary begins, having been walking for nearly two hours. The ascent itself was quite thrilling, with much exposed rock scrambling and climbing involved, all undertaken with headlights only lighting the way. And the higher you climb, the better the views get. This is true even at night. Although the ranges to the south were very dark, looking north revealed the lights of Katoomba which are quite spectacular across the dark Jamison valley.

It had been very overcast as we drove up, however by the time we reached the summit of Mt Solitary the clouds were starting to move on and disperse. We startled some bushwalkers on the summit, before continuing on to the gully that feeds Chinamans Creek. Here we startled some more sleeping bushwalkers (most of whom appeared to be camped in the middle of the track!) who were quite surprised when we indicated our plan to traverse the whole of Mt Solitary at night.

After a decent break and some snacks at the lookout south of the gully, we continued along Mt Solitary. By this stage the night was bright enough that some of us turned

torches off and walked by the moonlight alone. We were rewarded

often by excellent views as we continued along the cliff tops of the northern edge of Mt Solitary, before reaching The Col at the far eastern edge. Here we took another break and signed the logbook, while looking out the east at the walk down to the Kedumba river that lay ahead of us.

It was just after midnight when we started the incredibly steep descent. The wet track from rain earlier on Saturday didn't help matters, and there was much cursing and slipping as we half walked/half slid off Mt Solitary. Thankfully the track became less steep as we descending, and was quite easy to follow thanks to the numerous white track markers pegged to trees.

Around 2am we reached the Kedumba River. The crossing was quite exciting as it required us to walk along a wet and slippery log to get across. From the Kedumba River it is a long steady climb up onto the Kings Tablelands, passing through the Kedumba Walls. Even at night the walls are quite spectacular, as are the views from the top. Looking back from the top of the walls towards Mt Solitary, the whole valley was shrouded in low lying fog. It looked quite surreal, almost as though you could step out and walk across the top of the fog. The last section of ascent is on fire trails which were nice as they afforded expansive views of the starry sky. It seemed to me that as the night wore on, the stars appeared brighter and brighter. Admittedly it could have been extreme tiredness that was making us delusional, but regardless to our eyes it was stunning.

We reached the old Queen Victoria Hospital just after 4am, having walked over 20km and ascended and descended over 1000m during the night. From here we called a cab for a lift back to the car at the Golden Stairs. Then it was back to Sydney for some well deserved sleep.

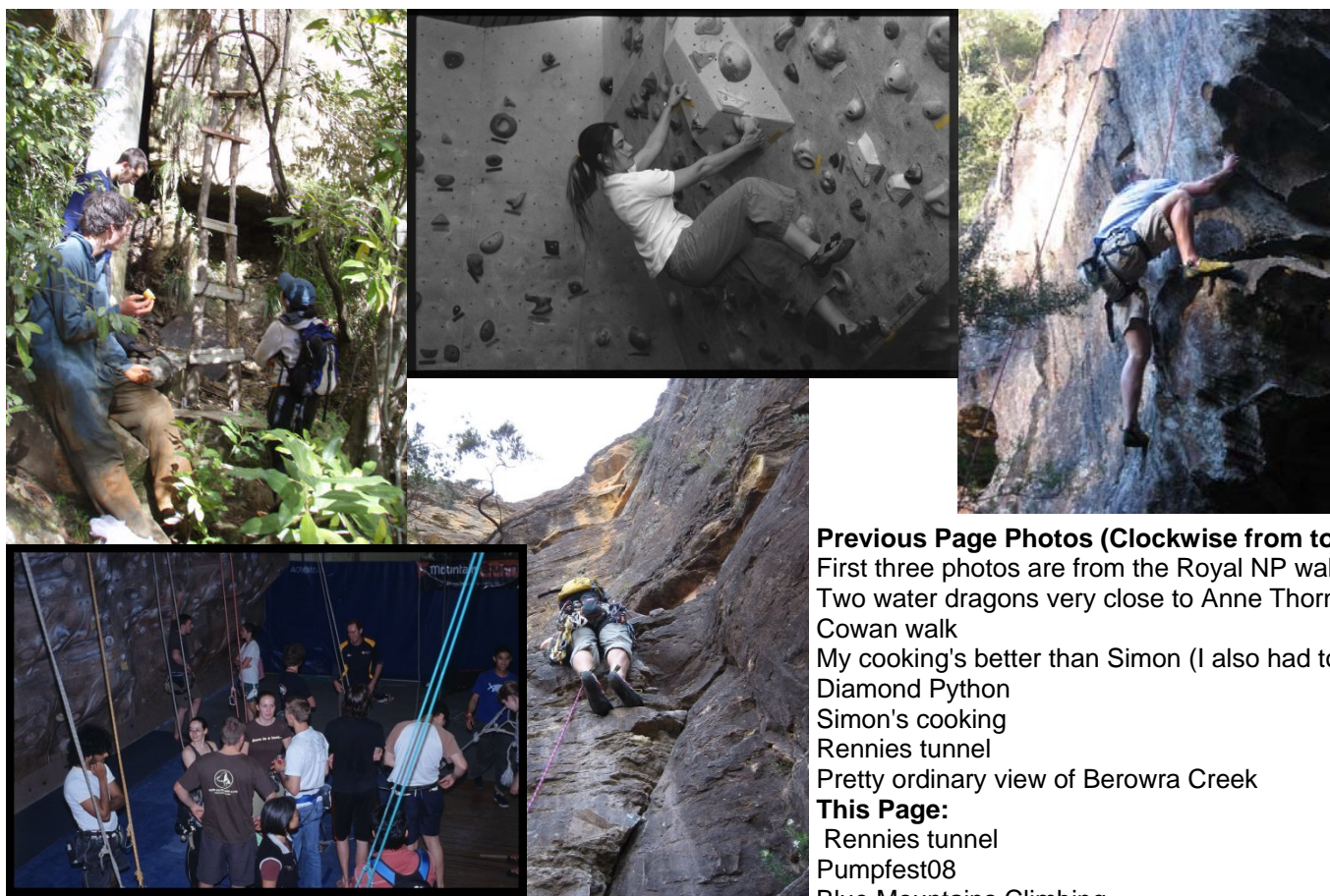
Anyone wanting to undertake a night bushwalk should be warned: navigation is significantly more difficult at night than by day. Further nights are generally colder, and it is easy to make bad decisions due to tiredness. Despite this though, night bushwalking is definitely rewarding. The thrill of scrambling up mountains under torchlight alone, seeing a star filled sky and enjoying the quiet is definitely worth the effort.



The Log

Newsletter of the UNSW Outdoor Club
October 2008





Previous Page Photos (Clockwise from top left):
 First three photos are from the Royal NP walk
 Two water dragons very close to Anne Thornleigh to Cowan walk
 My cooking's better than Simon (I also had to carry it)
 Diamond Python
 Simon's cooking
 Rennie's tunnel!
 Pretty ordinary view of Berowra Creek
This Page:
 Rennie's tunnel
 Pumpfest08
 Blue Mountains Climbing
 Photo Credits: Ian Donaldson, Remy Teuscher, Omar Laraqui, Simon Li

Upcoming Events

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Activity</i> | <i>Location</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Every Friday during uni semester | Indoor Climbing | The Ledge, Sydney Uni |
| 31st October | Whitewater Kayaking | Penrith Stadium |
| 15-16th November | Boree Log | Mt Wilson |
| 15th November | Canyoning Trip (Boree Log) | Wheengee Whungee Canyon |
| 15th November | Climbing Trip (Boree Log) | Blue Mountains (tbc) |
| 15th November | Walking Trip (Boree Log) | Mt Banks |
| 16th November | Canyoning Trip (Boree Log) | Wollangambe 2 Canyon |
| 18th November | Deepwater Soloing/etc. | Hawkesbury River |
| 22-23rd November | Festival of the Canyons | TBC |
| 30th November | Social Activity | End of year Christmas party |
| 4th January 2009 | Cycling Trip | New Zealand |
| 14th March 2009 | Marathon | Six Foot Track |