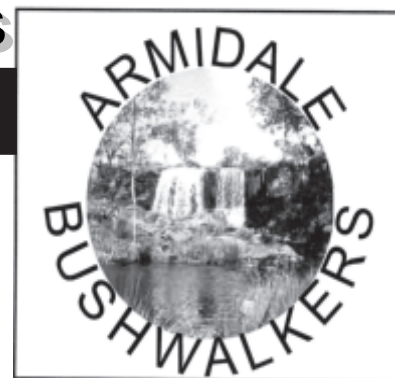


# Armidale Bushwalkers

ARMIDALE BUSHWALKING CLUB Vol 1 No 1 Nov 2004  
EMAIL [bushwalkingclub@waterfalltrack.com](mailto:bushwalkingclub@waterfalltrack.com) PHONE 67759214



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two organisations lead to the birth of Armidale Bushwalking Club. The first is Inverell Bushwalking Club, a great group of people who gave many of us some very happy memories, and the confidence to form our own club. The other is the New England Ecotourism Society. In a wish to provide outdoor activities for its members, NEES has sponsored the formation of our club. Like a good parent, NEES is supporting us in our first difficult steps, but is encouraging Armidale Bushwalking Club to become an independent organisation with its own aims and activities. I would like to acknowledge both of our "parent" organisations, and hope we maintain close relations with them as we grow up.

In this first edition of our newsletter, there are nine walks ranging from easy daywalks to fairly strenuous 3-day backpacks. It's a good sign for our future health that there was such a number of people prepared to lead walks. We have a magnificent area for outdoor activities on our doorstep. I'm looking forward to enjoying it with all our new members.

David Lawrence President Armidale Bushwalking Club

## IMPORTANT POINTERS FOR ALL WALKERS

### PRIOR TO WALK

1. Arrive at starting point on time.
2. Ensure that you are fit enough for the degree of difficulty of the walk. If in doubt discuss with the leader well prior to the walk.
3. Carry sufficient water for conditions of walk. Generally a minimum of one litre or two litres or more in hotter conditions.
4. Ensure you are suitably equipped including first aid kit, sun cream, hat, rain gear and appropriate clothing and footwear. A map and compass may also enhance your enjoyment of the walk.
5. Ensure you complete the waiver sign on sheet after noting any risk warnings.
6. Remember to bring a sense of humour and adventure. Our leaders are all volunteers so please remember to be patient and kind.

### DURING THE WALK

1. Be prepared to follow the leader's instructions. Remember the leader has your welfare at heart.
2. Generally you should not leave the walk early, but if it is necessary you must advise the leader and, sign off on the activity sign on sheet.
3. Do not allow yourself to become separated from the group. If experiencing any difficulty such as pace, blisters, shortage of water, advise the leader immediately.
4. As a courtesy and for safety reasons you should not generally walk ahead of the leader. At the same time you should not walk at the leaders elbow the whole time. Allow others to also enjoy walking with the leader.
5. Be prepared to contribute to car costs if you are a passenger in another members vehicle.
6. It is your responsibility to allow sufficient distance between yourself and the walker in front so that you are not injured by branches flicking back.
7. Do not leave the track or fall behind the person appointed 'tail' for any reason without advising the 'tail'.

### At The End Of The Walk

1. Ensure the leader is aware you have made it to the end.
2. Remember to thank the leader.

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# WALKS PROGRAMME NOVEMBER 2004 - FEBRUARY 2005

(13,14, 15 November- TAFE Outdoor Rec- Devils Chimney)

Sunday 14th November Peter Rodger- Gibraltar Range NP- Waratah Viewing. Grade easy. distance 10k contact ONLY Wed 10th November after 2pm 67720464

Tuesday 23rd November -. Bullock Creek wetlands (on Point Lookout Rd) to junction of Serpentine and along Serpentine to Yaraandoo 4-5k. All off track some rock hopping, plenty of opportunity for swim. medium/easy Colin Wood 6775-9214 after 7.30pm



(25,27,27 November TAFE Outdoor Rec- Chaelundi)

Sunday 28th November . 3 parts to walk 1.Cathedral Rock. NP. Barokee - Native Dog 13k (car shuffle required) medium, with rock scramble - 2. Just circular walk to rock and back to Barokee 6k easy with rock scramble or 3. just short walk near Native Dog 2k, easy suitable all walkers. All three groups meet up at Native Dog picnic area on the Guyra road.Colin Wood- 6775-9214

Sunday 5th December Blue Hole Gourmet Walk. Planned as a Christmas function, with opportunity to do the Threfall Walk (Grade 1 - Easy), with a 4 km extension available to the Carriages at Silverton (Grade 3-Medium). After the walks, get together for a picnic lunch (Barbecues, toilets on site) , followed by a 15 minute General Meeting to plan future activities. Contact Andrew Pearson 6771-2360 /David Lawrence 67753164- by Thursday 2nd December

Saturday 15th-Sunday 16th January Wattle Flat Car Camp. Toilets, Barbecue plates, water available. Easy short walks, Bring lilos and canoes for the river. opportunity to see platypus. Probably the coolest car camp in the New England.

Contact leader: David Lawrence 67753164 (by 9 pm, Thursday 13th January)



January Long Weekend? Lindsay Teychenne Styx Backpack, from Headquarters to New England National Park. Name of walk: Forest Headquarters to Hyatts Flat Date: 21th January 2005 - 23rd January 2005 Venue: Styx River State Forest Map:Hyatts Flatt

General description: This walk is two days of the Waterfall Way Walking Track (aka Waterfall Track). The track is marked for ease of navigation but is off-track for small portions requiring some scrambling over fallen logs. Most of the track is on old fire trails involving some steep climbs. Couple of river crossings involving wet feet. Saturday night camp spot is on rocky ground.

Grading: Terrain: occasionally steep, mostly tracked, Distance 24 km

Leader and contact details: Lindsay Teychenne 0438 71 3886

lindsayt@armidaleit.com Maximum Numbers:12

Duration: Camp out Friday evening for early start on Saturday, finish (around) 4:00pm Sunday

Transport: Private vehicle with shuttle arrangement at start and finish Passenger \$ contribution: to be determined but about \$20.00

Sunday 6th February 2005 .Walk in New England NP The walk will follow well marked tracks through rain forest and eucalypt forests - Starts at Banksia point - Lyre Bird walk (part of) - Robinsons Knob Trail - Tea Tree Falls walk finish at Tom's Cabin; grade easy. distance aprox 6k. Maximum 12. Car Shuttle required.Nick Stephenson 67726117

## HISTORICAL ARTICLE FROM POINT LOOKOUT TO THORA

BY I. BUTLER (*Sydney Bush Walkers*)  
from the *Bushwalker annual 1939*

It was in the spring on the Northern Highlands, and was bitterly cold. We left the service car and made our way along the road across the Serpentine and slowly on up the hill. Then a stretch of plateau country in which numberless small streams, coming seemingly from nowhere, bubbled and cascaded and tumbled along.

Cliff Mosely owns what is claimed to be the highest dairy farm in the State, right at the foot of Point Lookout, and, in addition, he ranges the New England National Park and cares for all lonely wanderers needing directions. Perhaps, if he had not been there to guide us we would have still been wandering around in the sub-tropical jungle of the Bellinger, fighting the lawyer vines, monkey-ropes and stinging trees. The next morning he came up to the top especially to direct us. He and his two dogs and Mac and I went to the edge of the precipice and looked out over the Promised Land beneath us. The Land of Canaan took in everything (almost) from Point Lookout to the Dorrigo Plateau, to Coff's Harbour, a strip of the ocean for some 80 miles to the south, and back to Point Lookout again: most of it steep, evenly graded and densely wooded hills, the main feature being the Bellinger River, with its interlocking spurs, making its way through to the sea some 40 miles away.

The first night we camped just below the lookout. It was bitterly cold and there was a gale blowing from the south-west. Fallen trees and branches from past gales littered the ground, and we slept and shivered in fear.

### Track to Antimony Mines

Next morning, after getting our directions from Cliff, we set out down long the track to the Antimony mines. On the way along we climbed onto a tiny plateau known as Wright's Lookout. It might be some hundreds of feet below Point Lookout, but it is all bare on top and one can stand and drink in the view from all points of the compass. While we were there some light and cheerful clouds were drifting across the soft blue, giving a corresponding pattern of light and shade on the densely wooded hills.

The first day was little more than a stroll, measured in terms of effort. We camped at the ruins of an old deserted hut, about the only place on the ridge we were following where any water is to be found: even here it would not have been possible to get any, if it had not been for the information which Cliff Moseley had given us—we had to wander down the hill a short distance at a particular place, and then almost dig for it.

The next day was probably the only day of the tour in which we really extended ourselves, but it was a memorable day. First of all we followed the antimony track down to the antimony mine, just because we wanted to see what an antimony mine was like. On the way down we met one of the miners bringing out some antimony on packhorses. He yarned to us for a while and told us of the untold wealth of antimony which was waiting down in the valley to be obtained. He also gave us some directions which, if we had followed them, would probably have left us bleaching skeletons in the jungle of some lonely creek: but we had been warned. We saw the antimony mine, and then back up to the

top—something like Kedumba, and certainly just as much of it. It was fairly easy following the ridge along except in one or two places where we made detours around some of the knobs on the top of it: much of the time, it was almost like walking on a razor edge. The track gradually petered out as we came towards the end of the ridge, and we began to descend. This was all right at first, but the steepness soon became uniform and monotonous at about the nearest grade to vertical at which earth will rest. This went on for hours, and we became hot and thirsty and it began to grow late in the afternoon. If anything, it got steeper, and we slipped and slid and scrambled. As the dusk began to come on we encountered lower vine and got scratched and tied up by them. Once I touched a leaf of a stinging tree—can you imagine the worst nettle that you have ever been stung by? Well, multiply that by a hundred and you will begin to have a vague idea of the potency of a stinging tree. Their leaves are large and light green and hairy—but you will learn to recognise them very quickly. It was almost too dark to see when we began to hear the welcome sound of running water down below, and we slid the last hundred or two feet down to the bottom of a V-shaped creek.

There was nothing else for it: we made a rough camp on a soggy, rocky bit of sand, almost in the creek. Everything was so soggy; we couldn't get a fire going. We were too tired to worry very much what happened but we did think at one stage that the weather looked threatening, and gave a fleeting thought to the fancy that the creek might rush down in the middle of the night and carry us away in the darkness. There was only a slit of sky above us, but the steep walls of the creek were studded with glow worms which scintillated like so many blue-white stars.

### Camp at Creek Junction

On, on, along the bed of the creek through an alley of tropical vegetation dangling long monkey-topes and covered with beautiful epiphytes. It was rather difficult going, but we look things easily. In the afternoon we emerged on to a beautiful little clearing at the junction of our creek with another one coming in from the north side. No one appeared to have been there for years, but there was an old camp and some fruit trees in bloom; it was such an ideal camp-spot that we immediately decided to stay. That night we slept comfortably and soundly.

From the clearing onwards we were on a fairly good track most of the way: the river (now quite definitely the Bellinger) opened out and the going was fairly easy. We soon emerged to the outposts of civilization—dairy cows, farmhouses and wild orange trees. We had another camp before we declared the formal end of our trip at Thora.

Measured in miles the whole of the trip was probably quite a short one. However, it was a trip which had some extremely interesting features. Point Lookout is perhaps the highest point on the New England tableland and it is well over 5,000 feet. We descended from this to only a few hundred feet above sea level; from the stinging cold of the tableland to the warmth of the coastal plain: from typical tableland woodland of eucalypts down to sub-tropical jungle of monkey ropes, epiphytes—and stinging trees.

## STANDARD WALK GRADINGS

Grade 1 (Easy) Suitable for most people, including those with reduced walking ability, to walk on well marked and even tracks. Tracks are man made, not steep, and may have a few steps. Suitable for beginners. Distance should not exceed about 10km.

Grade 2 (Easy-medium) Easy walk, mostly on well-marked tracks of low gradient. Distance should not exceed about 15km.

Grade 3 (Medium) Medium walk with some hilly sections &/or rougher terrain on defined and distinct tracks with some steep sections requiring a moderate level of fitness. Suitable for fit beginners. Distance should not exceed about 15km.

Grade 4 (Medium-Hard) Steeper, rougher terrain mostly along defined and distinct tracks (may have off-track sections of no more than one quarter of the walk) or a longer distance track walk. There may be rock scrambling involved. Distance depending on circumstances. Not suitable for most beginners.

Grade 5 (Hard) Off-track or difficult terrain, for walkers with advanced outdoor knowledge and skills to find their own way along often indistinct tracks or off track in remote locations. May include steep sections of unmodified surfaces. There may be rock scrambling involved. Distance should not exceed 25km, but may be short & difficult. Not suitable for beginners.

Grade 6 (Very hard) Strenuous off-track walk or very long distance, for highly experienced walkers to explore remote and challenging natural areas without reliance on managed tracks. Extensive knowledge of map reading and compass use necessary. There may be rock scrambling involved. Distance covered may be up to 30km or more, but may be short & difficult. Only for experienced walkers.

## ATTENDING YOUR FIRST WALK

· Book on a walk by calling the trip leader listed on the walks program. Let them know that you are new to the club. They will advise you of meeting arrangements and can assist with transport if required.

· Please note that when you book to go on a walk you will be gone all day, most walks will start at 8am and will not be returning to the car till at least 4pm.

· Expect the "third degree" from the leader. When you ring a leader, whom you have not walked with before, you may be asked a number of questions. The purpose of these questions is to determine as best as possible whether the walk that you are considering is the right sort of walk for you in this stage of your bushwalking career. The safety and enjoyment of you and other members of the party depends on you being open and honest in your answers.

Some questions you may be asked include:

Depending on your answers to these or other questions, leaders will give you information about the walk. Please keep in mind leaders are volunteers who give their time, energy and expertise so others can share the enjoyment of bush walking.

So when you get the "third degree" from a leader, think about the leader's responsibility to you and other party members, and try to assist by giving accurate information in a spirit of cooperation.

Every individual planning to join, whether as a single or as part of a couple/family must complete a membership form.

Steps in becoming a member

1. Complete the membership form.
2. Upon receipt of your membership form, you will receive the Walks Programme.
4. Book on a walk by calling the trip leader listed on the walks program. Let him or her know that you are new to the club. He or she will advise you of meeting arrangements and can assist with transport if required.

The sooner you take the step of contacting a trip leader to go on your first activity the sooner you will start to benefit from the experience of our activity leaders, so don't delay.

Join in, enjoy...

*if not claimed return to  
Armidale Bushwalking Club  
PO Box  
Armidale 2350*