

Armidale Bushwalkers



Armidale Bushwalking Club Vol 1 No 4 August 2005
email bushwalkingclub@waterfalltrack.com phone 67759214
www.bushwalking.org.au/~armidale

Six Waterfalls Walk, Sunday 19th June, 2005

by David Lawrence

Party of: Colin Wood (Leader), Peter Erskine, Robyn Bartel, Brian Cheetham, Seth Cheetham, Margaret Vaughan, Beat Haas, Ben Katz, Margaret Katz, Julie Kennelly, David Lawrence

were well rugged up, with waterproofs, in the hope of seeing actual flowing water.

After a short shuttle, we began walking along the Barwick (Back) Creek. The Grassy Forest made for excellent walking, with Gum Topped Peppermint, Brown Barrel, New England Peppermint, and Messmate Stringybark the common trees of the ridges, and White Sallee, Black Sallee and New England Peppermint the overstorey in the colder areas.

After just about enough walking to be warmed up, we reached the first of our falls, at about (E) 368 264 on the Barwick {Back Creek on my ancient (E)bor 1:25000 map}. This was a pretty little fall and set of cascades, with plenty of water to give it sparkle and dash.

As Colin had anticipated, in this high basalt country, there's nearly always enough water to keep the falls running. Yet the streams are seldom so high that you have any real problems crossing them. We made the first of our many creek crossings for the day. Colin had chosen his route wisely, as it was only a short further walk to Moffat Falls, probably the most photogenic (and the only named) fall of the trip. Framed by tall gums, it was an irresistible sight for the camera-carriers in the party, and we tried various angles to get that perfect Falls shot. We suspect that none of us did as well as Colin- he knew his angles and light, and it is his photo included in this article.

We followed the Barwick west till we cut a south-bearing property road. It gradually petered out as we entered thick scrub, where we made the acquaintance of Prickly Shaggy Pea (also known as Native Holly). In the Styx area, this plant forms



Party on "6 Waterfalls walk" - Moffat falls in background - photo Colin Wood

Most of the New England had been in drought for months. Walkers in the gorges had reported that the Gara River had stopped flowing, Salisbury Waters was just a few stagnant pools, and one party had crossed the Macleay without realising it - the bed was overgrown. So we were a bit sceptical when Colin added his "Six Waterfalls Walk" to the calendar. Some of us expected a day of rough rock scrambling and comments along the line of "Well, in normal times, it's a really good waterfall....."

Nevertheless, ten of us hopefully joined Colin at Yaraandoo, 71 km from Armidale on the Point Lookout road on an overcast Sunday in June. We

dense thickets in a distinct belt from about 20 to about 80 metres above the major watercourses. The botanical description lists the leaves as having " margins irregularly lobed with a spine terminating each lobe". We all now have a few scars to illustrate the description, without seeing the masses of yellow and brown flowers it bears in Spring.

After breaking out of the lower edge, Col suggested lunch, as their wouldn't be enough room for it at the next waterfall. We yarned about earlier trips, good camera angles, the best lightweight stoves... Refreshed, we then headed down to probably the most spectacular of the day's falls. At about (E) 349 259, the Barwick tumbles about 70 metres through a narrow slot it has worn into the bedrock. We cautiously crawled to the edge, peering down through the thick scrub, then scrambled about looking for a full view of the fall. After a couple of fruitless forays, we resigned ourselves to not being able to take a photo that would do it justice.

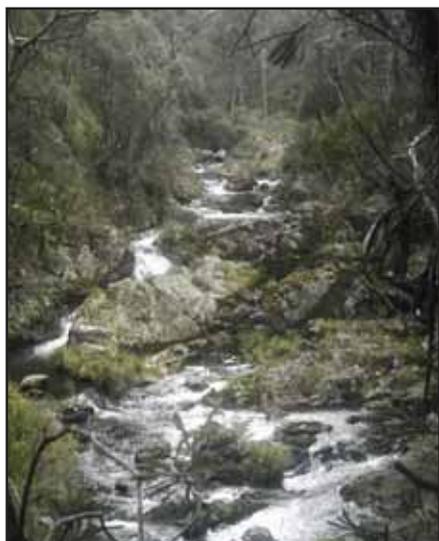
We then headed up the northwest ridge. A blue cord marked the way, apparently a survey mark for



A bit 'scrubby' in the gorge - photo Colin Wood

the minihydro planned by the property owners. A steady puff up the ridge took us to their house site about 160 vertical metres above the Barwick. We all felt the pull of living in this beautiful spot, but its isolation was a bit too much for most of us.

So we headed northwest to take in the last two waterfalls. Smaller, but equally attractive, and running well. Heading home along the powerline to Yarandoo, and waving off the four doing the car shuttle, we settled down to coffee and sticky date muffins before the woodfire at Yaraandoo. A pleasant end to a lovely day. Thanks, Colin!



Gorge on the barwick river - photo Colin Wood

Essential's for all day walks
day pack - personal first-aid kit - water (at least 1-2 litres) check with leader for availability of water on walk - warm top - rain gear - snack - lunch - torch.

Overnight or extended walks check with leader

Weekend Walk Blue Nobby To Macleay River 21-22 May 2005

by Paul McCann

**Paul McCann, Peter Rodger,
Peter Van Haaf, Allen Went,
Allen Cunningham.**

The group of five gathered at the Visitor Information Centre for the short drive to Blue Nobby. After completing the negotiations with the land owners, we headed off towards the former Enmore State Forest. We noticed that the country between Armidale and Blue Nobby was suffering badly from the effects of the prolonged drought, but the paddocks around Blue Nobby seemed a little greener. The property owners confirmed that they did have some rain in the last few weeks. The taller trees in the paddocks and in the former state forest also indicate that the area receives a higher rainfall than surrounding areas.

We followed the four wheel drive track into what is now part of Oxley-Wild Rivers National Park, then turned off following a ridge with some assistance from the compass to GR 942010 (Enmore) where the ridge ends rather abruptly allowing for a superb view of the Macleay River and gorge. After morning tea, we followed the ridge from this point south then east gradually descending to the Macleay River with more great views. The ridge is narrow and knife edged in places, but maintains a steady grade down to the river.

The day was noticeably warmer down in the gorge so we found a shady spot for lunch. The river was not running and was basically a series of rather scummy pools full of green algae. At times we could not determine where the river might have flowed in wetter times. Crossing the river was a non event as we headed upstream. We came across a stallion which did not seem too bothered by our presence. We wondered if it might have thrown it's rider further down the river. We also observed several brush-tailed rock wallabies bounding effortlessly up the steep rocky slopes above the river. We arrived at our intended campsite near a pool in the river and soon had our tents up and a fire going. The nearly full moon appeared through the trees to the east as the

evening became night and darkness descended across the gorge.

Next morning we headed up the ridge following the river at first then heading west as the grade steepened. The views looking upstream improved as we ascended to the knoll I have named "grass tree knoll1 due to the large number of grass trees growing on the top. The skirts on the grass trees indicate that a fire has not been through this area for many years. The views from the ridge extend upstream towards Mihi Gorge and up the Gara Gorge towards Mount Duval. After lunch we continued along the ridge in a southerly direction passing Mount Crow and Blue Nobby. We met an NPWS park worker who was setting wild dog traps and baits around the perimeter of the park. He told us that the dogs near the park boundary were mostly interbred with domestic dogs and they (NPWS) don't target the purer dingos further into the gorges. He also mentioned of a wild dog the size of a small mule (I'm glad I didn't encounter this dog on the walk!). We arrived at Blue Nobby and after advising the property owner that we had returned safely we returned to Armidale ending a very enjoyable weekend walk.

Standard Walks Gradients

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.

Mt Rumbee Walk 15 May 2005

Kathy King

This walk was the first combined Armidale/Inverell Bushwalking Clubs gathering so many old friends met up again and we also made some new acquaintances. Fourteen walkers started off from Rod Blomfield's property in the Ben Lomond



district to traipse across paddocks and up onto the summit of Mt Rumbee. Rod and a neighbour, Fran Webb, came with us and Rod led us on a much more adventurous and interesting 12 km round trip than I had planned. There were 7 Armidale walkers and 5 from the Inverell Club.

It was a clear autumn day though I rather think Rod and Fran would have preferred it raining given the droughty conditions during the past 2 months. The countryside looked brown and parched but the creek we rock-hopped across was running strong and clear. Rod said it was permanent water and showed us a good "trout hole". As we were climbing the road up the mountain, Jim Palmer stopped to check out the tiny birds making a fuss in the bushes – were they red-browed firetail finches or something else? Difficult to say but Jim had the binoculars and declared them to be the firetails.

Paul McCann chatted about his recent New Zealand trip and said he wanted to make it an annual event. David Lawrence and Peter Rogers planned their "From Walcha to Mutton Bird Island"

trek later in the year. So many places to see, so little time!

The 360° view from Mt Rumbee (1500 m) was well worth the short, sharp climb to the top. There was much deliberation as to what features we could see. Mt Kaputar was in the far distance to the west and to the north was the "tabletop" form of White Rock Mountain. To the east Ben Lomond with the towers on top but we couldn't spot the village hidden in the trees at its base. With binoculars, we could make out the watertower near Inverell and the town itself. As we lunched on the summit, we looked over the brown landscape with its soft rolling hills and down to Rod's house below.

Merryn McClaren felt nostalgic as her family came from around this area and she had stayed on "Koala", where Mt Rumbee is located, when she was a child. On the walk back she had a feeling she had "been here before" but realised that we were probably walking down a slope which was very reminiscent of a painting she had just bought of the Ben Lomond area.



Rod and Kim invited us to afternoon tea in their garden. Their two boys and the beagle met us at the road and escorted us in. Kim had made a cake and everyone else produced their own goodies and we couldn't offend anyone by knocking back their offerings. Well, we had expended lots of energy on the walk that day!

The Escarpment Walk, Guy Fawkes River National Park, Sunday 7th August

by Jane Grownns

Party of : Jane Grownns (Leader), Col Wood, Sue Grieg, Irving Greig, Margaret Brown, Margaret Vaughn, Lindsay Teychenne, Beat Haas, Julie Kennelly, Robyn Bartell, Peter Erskine.

As our first try at this walk had to be cancelled due to extremely unpleasant weather, we were glad to see the skies blue and cloudless. It turned out to be a really warm day, given it was the middle of winter in New England. We reached the Chaelundi Rest Area just after 10 in the morning and set off to our first lookout at Chaelundi Falls which are only a few hundred metres from the car park. The creek was actually flowing but the drought has left the falls pretty sad. Lucifer's Thumb is roughly

Paddock. This is dry sclerophyll forest with very little woody understorey due to the annual burning by early settlers to provide lush green growth each year to fatten cattle driven up from the valley below. Once it has crossed Jordan's Track, which



At Lucifers Thumb photo Colin Wood

another 2 km and has spectacular views of the Guy Fawkes River in the valley. We could see patches of dry rainforest in the sheltered gullies below and spotted a pair of eagles soaring just above the tree tops.

After retracing our steps a little we walked along the edge of the escarpment through the Fattening

goes down a spur into the valley, the Escarpment Track goes through an extensive stand of small Forest Oaks (*Allocasuarina*) and then back into dry sclerophyll with extensive woody understorey including *Banksias*. We had lunch at the Spring Gully Picnic Area and then walked the 5 km back along the road to the Chaelundi Rest Area through the Fattening Paddock. This part of the walk had some of the largest and most impressive eucalypts in the area.

Mount Duval Walk, 29th May, 2005

Party of: David Lawrence (Leader), Lisa O'Brien, Ian Olorin, Isabel Tasker, Lindsay Teychenne, Margaret Vaughan, Alan Cunningham.



Mt Duval looms over Armidale. You can see it from way out of the district. From Mt Kaputar, its distinct dome is on the extreme eastern horizon, 142 kilometres away. Standing under the DCA tower on Round Mountain near Ebor, Duval looks close, but is still 58 km almost due West. When you're driving north on the New England highway from the noise and haste of Sydney, its reassuring bulk signifies you're back on the "clean, lean, hungry country"- the New England Tablelands.

I've always enjoyed the fact that so many features of the New England were named after two hairy convict stockmen. Apparently, new settlers eager for land were directed to ask "The Beardies", Chandler and Duval, the first whites working in the area north of Armidale. Chandler River, Chandler's Peak, "The Land of the Beardies" around Glen Innes, and of course Mt Duval were named from

these two. Quite early- in 1880- part of the was preserved for timber, and gazetted as Duval State Forest in 1917.

The mountain is on Newholme, a research station of the University of New England. They have to know who is on the mountain, so you need

to ring Milton Curkpatrick to get permission. He's an obliging bloke, so providing you don't have dogs, are careful about closing gates, and don't light fires, you should have no trouble getting permission from him.

Our party had a leisurely 9 o'clock start from the Visitor's Centre. We parked at Newholme, did a few introductions,

and began walking the firetrail winding up the east side of the mountain. When in Nepal, at a ripe-maybe even overripe- age, I had been taught by my 17 year old guide how to walk up a mountain. First, have a look at it from a good distance away. Then decide to do it. Remember, as long as it takes, you will be living on the mountain, so set a pace where you can talk, and laugh, and enjoy the trip. After a little while, look back at what you have already achieved before looking up at what you still have to do. Stay relaxed, and very soon you will be on top.

So our pace was very leisurely. The sandy soil of the track comes from the Duval adamellite, part of the New England Batholith which covers 30 000 square kilometres from south of Uralla to the Queensland border. It's an ideal walking surface, clean, dries quickly, non-slip. As we climbed, the thick forest that has grown back since stock were



the mountain fell away below us, and we met the first of the shaggy old Messmate Stringybarks that are the main summit tree. We had entered the level of the cloud band you often see sitting on the very top. The average rainfall rises from about 850 mm at the base to over 1000 mm as you climb from about 1040 to the 1393 metres at the summit. The wetter

completely excluded in 1982 provided a welcome contrast to the areas cleared for grazing and decimated by dieback on the flats below us.

and cooler climate supports a moist, tall open eucalypt forest usually found towards Point Lookout.

At first we passed through New England Stringybark, Red Gum and Yellow Box, with a thick shrub layer. The big bright green bush is Blackthorn, whose white flowers around Christmas sometimes get it called New South Wales Christmas Bush. The scientific name *Bursaria spinosa* refers firstly to the little brown "purses" that hold the seeds and secondly to the sharp spines that make it a trial to ride through. Not

It felt right walking along the level summit on a Sunday, above worldly cares and surrounded by the cathedral-like tall forest, with a short turf of Snow Grass as a carpet. We fooled around, took photos, and had a leisurely lunch from our packs. Then we crossed over to the North side of the mountain, and walked south then east as the firetrail contoured in and out of ferny gullies and



across the drier shoulders of the mountain. A leisurely stroll saw us back to the cars a bit after 1.30- a very pleasant Sunday morning.

surprisingly, it was cleared as a nuisance by the early settlers. Lately people from the CSIRO have found it is a major food for an insect that kills Christmas beetles, and so its presence helps control dieback.

As we chatted and photographed- and laughed-

Blue Hole to Dangars Falls Trip, April 23-24th, 2005.

Jane Growns

**Peter Rodger, Peter van Haeff,
Peter Emerson, Jane Growns,
Cindy Schneider, David
Lawrence**
33 kms, Medium Grade Two-

After an early lunch, we angled down to the main ridge between Squires Gully and Long Swamp Creek. It gives a fairly gentle descent to the creek junction, reached at 1 pm. The lack of water allowed us to travel directly down the dry river bed, over tumbled rocks and stretches sensuously sculpted granite.

Gara Junction was a chaotic hectare of large



day walk

Our party of five left the Blue Hole at 8.48 am Saturday. We headed southeast for about 400 metres, then climbed a gate back into private land. For the next 2 hours, it was up and down across incredibly dried-out farmland and many barbed wire fences that parallel the western edge of Gara Gorge (great tumbled boulders choke the riverbed, making walking down it difficult). It was a relief to cross into the cool green woodland of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park at about 11.30 am.

boulders. We picked our way through them, acutely conscious that a misstep would give at best a twisted ankle. We were relieved when we crossed into the metamorphosed sediments below Cooney Junction, where the rocks were smaller and the walking easier.

(Some years ago -was it really 1998?- our party surrendered to the beauty of the sandy campsite under the casuarinas beside the deep pool at Cooney, and went into camp early. Memories of a campfire flickering, of Jack Patton and Chris Bone talking about the application of law to wild

teenagers and wilder adults, and Dick Kingston telling his outrageous jokes...)

But our 2005 party had planned to do the walk in two days, not the leisurely three of earlier times. So we pushed on, crossing the dry river bed repeatedly through the sharp bends that characterise the Gara in this section. We found a bivvie camp of sheltered twigs, and speculated it was the work of the hermit that lives in the gorges. What lead him to a choice of wilderness over human company? We all felt the pull of a life of rocks and trees and sky and long long silences. But we had "promises to keep, and mile to go before we sleep".

Another great tumble of rocks announced the Gara -Salisbury junction at 4.20 pm. Though the legs were a bit rubbery from all the rock hopping, we passed over the inviting flat and headed up Salisbury Waters. Here, 50 metre scummy pools at 1/2 kilometre intervals were the only sign of water. The leaves hung listlessly on the trees, and the grass and shrubs appeared dessicated by the drought. No inviting tent lawns, no splashing rapids- just a wide flat of dead trees a couple of kilometres from the junction became our campsite for the night.

We arrived at 5.10, and just had time to set up camp and gather firewood before darkness fell. With the fire sputtering, lots of dead timber for backrests, and the little stoves purring or hissing according to their nature, the campsite became an inviting haven. A drawn-out dinner, numerous brews, lots of talks on tracks and river junctions and how far it was tomorrow, and the evening wound itself down. Peter Emerson, having not slept for a couple of days, was first to bed at 8 am - "the bushwalker's midnight", according to Peter Rodger. The rest of us followed soon after.

An early misty morning, and we'd packed and started walking by 8 am. Of course, only a few hundred metres further on we found the perfect campsite. Glowing cliffs dropping into one of the few remaining deep cleans pools on the river, clean sandy banks just wide enough for a few tents, green shade water-rich casuarinas. Oh, well- maybe next time.

Contrary to the normal pattern, the Salisbury seems to become wider as you go upstream. We travelled by wide grassy flat and stony river bed.

We saw many Brush-Tailed Rock Wallabies perched incongruously on near-sheer cliff faces, and the occasional Wedge-Tailed Eagle, their main predator, sailing on the thermals rising from those cliffs. Occasional dramatic screes broke up the arid grassy slopes and red cliffs. After a break at Spring Camp junction, we reached the Mihi and lunch at 12.10 pm.

It's a good idea to wait for the cool of the late afternoon before heading up out of a New England gorge. So we luxuriated in a long laze by the junction pool till 2.30, then, after edging carefully around the north side of the next big pool, we began climbing the NPWS track at 3.00 pm.

Slowly- very slowly- we gained height. A marvellous lookout 800 metres up the track gave a view back along our walk along Salisbury Waters- and past Gara Junction to Long Point, the reverse of the view Isabel showed us on March 6th. The daylight had faded, and the kangaroos were out feeding when we tail-enders reached Dangars Falls Carpark at 5.45 pm, to find our lifts waiting. Oh, the comfort and ease of an 18-km car ride!

Armidale Bushwalking Club

Minutes of General Meeting Thursday August 11th 2005 at the Outdoor Guiding Centre

Meeting opened: 7.00 pm

Present: Dave Lawrence, Col Wood, Peter Rodgers, Jane Gowns, Steve Tremont, Robyn Hean, Peter Vidot, Craig Birchall, Lindsay Teychenne, Beat Haas, Angus Adair, Rowena Childs, Sue Greig, Uri Steinitz.

1. Apologies: Cathy King, Sue Burgess, Lisa O'Brien

2. Minutes of last meeting (Thursday April 28 2005, Wicklow Hotel): Read and approved. Moved Col Wood, Accepted unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report: Since formation, receipts total \$1 632.72. Main expenditure \$644.60, paid to the Confederation. We now have a surplus of \$826.41. Full report filed with secretary.

4. Membership Report: 60 members at present.

5. Correspondence / Newsletter: Col had heard that some activities had been removed from the Confederation's insurance policy, e.g. abseiling, kayaking, canyoning, but have since been re-included.

Jane /Dave had received minutes from the Confederation but they cannot send them directly to the committee email. *Action: Jane to send last Confederation minutes to committee.*

Action: Col to send Dave the username and password for the Confederation's online database, so that he can then change any details about the Armidale Bushwalking Club as needed.

Several leaflets/newsletters from the Federation were tabled for distribution.

6. Reports/photos. Jane gave a brief trip report from the Escarpment walk in the Guy Fawkes River NP last Sunday.

Dave explained the risk waiver form.

A slide show of photos from recent walks was shown.

7. Next meeting to be held Thursday 29th September in conjunction with a talk by Ian Brown which will be open to the public. A bio of Ian was distributed.

It was agreed that we would offer Ian a gratuity of \$150. Moved Col, Seconded Lindsay.

We will need to advertise the event. *Action: Rowena and Col will organise for a review he has written of one of Ian's books to be published in the Express and for a small advertisement to be placed.*

Suggested venue – upstairs at the Wicklow, assuming cost is about \$50. We will ask for a gold coin donation to help cover costs.

It was agreed that the total budget for the evening should not exceed \$250. Any further costs must be agreed upon by at least 3 members of the committee. Moved Dave, Passed unanimously.

8. 9. Planning of Spring/Summer walks program:

A detailed outline of the Walcha to Muttonbird Island walk from Sep 8 to 20 Oct was circulated. It was suggested that the club might organise day/overnight walks to meet up with the long distance walkers at Tabletop, Dangars Falls and the Syndicate Track – see below.

Peter Rodger mentioned the booklet entitled "A Guide to Northeastern NSW – Walking Canoeing Caving Climbing" published in 1981. A copy is held by Jane as secretary and is available for loan to members. It is useful for providing new ideas for anyone who wants to organise a walk. An updated version is being developed by the UNE Mountaineering Club.

10. Other Business:

Peter Rodger said that the NPA is organising the Great Australian Bushwalk and is asking for someone from the Armidale BC to lead an 'intrepid walk' in the Point Lookout area on 16th October.

Meeting closed 8.20 pm followed by coffee and snacks.

Walks Programme Sept - December 2005

Date	Leader	Venue	Grade/details
11th Sept	Colin Wood 6775-9214	Cathedral Rock- easy with 2 climbs - optional.	Easy 12k climbs medium
17th - 18th Sept	Dave Lawrence Contact Jane growsns 6775-2980	Tabletop & Coxcomb Long walk but quite level Nearly all on firetrail O'Night accom at Tabletop Hideaway, \$20 pp or camping. This walk designed to link up with Walcha, Armidale MuttonBird Little Excursion (WAMBLE)	Easy/ Medium
25th September	Jane Growsns 6772-2980	Dangars Falls, track walk of varying length planned possibility of BBQ. will link up with (WAMBLE)walkers.	
9th Oct	Colin Wood 6775-9214	Banksia Point - Lyrebird track Wrights lookout, Cascades Lyrebird trac, best walk in New England NP	Easy Medium 12k
Mid October	Lindsay Teychenne 0427717237	Syndicate Track Steep downhill section This will be day walk and link up with (WAMBLE) May require lengthy car shuffle	11k Med Hard
23rd Oct	Lindsay Teychenne 0427-7177237	Styx River area Forest HQ to Eely Fire Lookout Off-track	11k easy
5th-6th November	Paul McCann 6772-6165	Gibraltar Range - Waratah Walk. 2x1 day walks. Mostly on tracks	Easy

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20th Nov	Colin Wood 6775-9214	Six Waterfalls walk all off-track All who missed out last time get in early. Limit 9.	7k Easy Medium
4th Dec	Dave Lawrence 6775-3164	Blue Hole - Gara Gorge Xmas Party, Gourmet walk bring along your favourite goodies to share. AGM to be held. Last walk for the year.	5.5 k Easy

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.