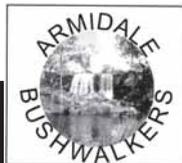


Armidale Bushwalkers



Armidale Bushwalking Club Vol 2 No 2 April 2006

email bushwalkingclub@waterfalltrack.com phone 6775-9214

Walk Report March 25 2006

by Robyn Bartel

At the car park we met, hopeful and dry,

At Point Lookout, what a far cry -

The fine curtain of rain began as a mist,

We wondered: how had it come to this?

"Altitude" was mentioned, and "Onshore breeze",

Orographic rainfall was more than a tease.

We had come for the views over the land to the sea,

But it was precipitation we found in the gorge country.

But the Lyrebird Walk had the birds of its name

And the Weeping Rock was true again,

So how could we then possibly complain?

When the Cascade Walk delivered the same!

And although we did try hard to extend
ourselves,

It was only one option at the end of
the day

That for us five held at all any sway...

And that was, I admit, for us to retire,

To the open arms of a roaring fire,

To glasses of wine and takeaway
pizza

Back in Armidale, at the home of the
leader!!

We backtracked up to the lookout at
Wrights,

From which the only fantastic sight

Was of ourselves silhouetted, dark
against light,

The great low clouds were wonder-
fully white!

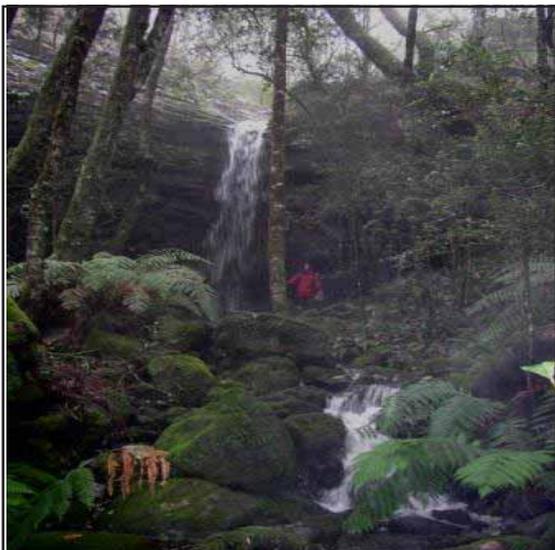
(You can see from the photos

How determined we were though

To push human endurance

And our walker's insurance.)

The last part of the tale is the
hardest to tell...



Little Drip and Big Drip - photo Robyn Bartel

Walkers intrepid:

David, Luise, Peter,
Joanne, Robyn.

Date: March 25
2006

Walk route: Start at
Banksia Point, first
to Weeping Rock,
then Lyrebird Track
to the Cascades
(lunch). To Wright's
Lookout before
returning to Banksia
Point (original plan
was to car camp at
Wattle Flat and then
walk the Cathedral
Rock circuit on
Sunday morning).



Walkers in the Mist - photo Robyn Bartel

**Don't forget to have a look at our website for the latest in
walks and all bushwalking stuff.**



Beat having a good time - photo David Lawrence

Armidale Bushwalking Group Program, April- September 2006

Date Trip Details(School Holiday periods framed in **Bold**) Leader

Friday 14th to Monday 17th April (Easter)

Overnight medium backpack of 4 days in Oxley Wild Rivers N.P in the Apsley River area. Includes one steep climb. Paul McCann67726156

Sunday 30th April

Day walk Oxley Wild Rivers NP – Steep Drop Falls area. Some significant stands of native vegetation and great views of Rowleys Creek Gorge. In conjunction with Armidale branch of NPA Paul McCann6772 6156

Friday 5th to Monday 8th May

New England NP- Bellinger River area. From a walk-in campsite which will be base for 3 nights, explore rainforest and ridge areas near The Crescent. Timing subject to river levels. This walk will be in conjunction with ULITARRA Bushwalkers. Suitable for experienced walkers. Peter Rodger 6772 0464

Saturday 20th/ Sun. 21st May

Macleay Gorges Backpack- route to be determined. Paul McCann6772 6156

Sunday 4th June Six Waterfalls Walk

Easy /medium all off track 7 kms. Booking Colin Wood 6775 9214, bookings must be definite as only 9 limit. Get in early for this great walk.

(1)Friday 9th- Monday 12th June Queen's Birthday Weekend .

Canoe Trip- Riverside to Georges Junction. All canoeing gear and transport supplied at cost. Suitable for beginners. David Lawrence6775 3164

(2) Above dates Backpack Combalo Spur- Guy Fawkes River

Paul McCann6772 6156

(3) Above dates Alternative to 1 and 2 if flooding in the East- a joint backpack in Mt Kaputar National Park David and Paul

Friday 30th June- Sunday 2nd July

Long Point -start walk Friday afternoon, camp on river Friday and Saturday nights, walk out Sunday. Medium backpack. Kathy King 67725401

Sunday 9th July Wollomombi Gorge Rim Walk

Brian Hardaker 67721159 Sunday 23rd July Warrah National Park Jim Palmer 6775 8281

Sunday 30th July Killungoondie Plain- Dibbs Head – Lanes Lookout.

Alan Went 66554433

Sunday 20th August

Mt Yarrowyck – easy walk to Aboriginal art site, followed by steady climb to Mt Yarrowyck summit. David Lawrence 67753164

Saturday 2nd/ Friday 8th Sep.

An extended walk from Dangars Falls, then down into Salisbury Waters and the Macleay River. All river walking with no hills and at a moderate pace. Peter Rodger 67720464

Saturday 2nd September

A day walk to accompany the through walkers above at the start of their walk. Easy walk on tops. Jane Grown 67722980

Sunday 10th September

The Great Australian Bushwalk- annual event run by the NSW National Parks Association branches, to promote bushwalking and our parks and reserves. Armidale branch is conducting walks at different levels at Dumaresq Dam/Mt Duval. You don't have to be a NPA member to participate. Kate Boyd 67724026

Sunday 17th September

Point Lookout- Lyre bird, Wrights, Cascades circuit. Easy walk, all on tracks. *(Maybe it will be dry this time-David)* Colin Wood 6775 9214

Advance Notices

1. Last year three club members completed an extended walk from Walcha (Apsley Falls) to Coffs Harbour. This year we hope to do something similar in the opposite direction viz. Walcha to Newcastle in a number of stages. The whole route is not yet determined, but will incorporate National Parks and State Forests including Barrington Tops and the existing "Tops to Myalls" walking track which will get us to the coast at Hawkes Nest (on Northern bank of Port Stephens). Stage 1 will be about 12 days, terminating at Gloucester. Depending on weather conditions and other circumstances the later stages may be carried over to 2007. If you would like to join in on any of the stages for a few days please contact Paul McCann 67726156 or Peter Rodger 67720464.

2. Expressions of interest invited for an extended walk on the Larapinta Trail in the Macdonnell Ranges of Central Australia, probably mid-June/mid July. Magnificent views, true "wide brown land" scenery. A world class walking track. Contact Paul McCann 67726156

Gwyder River Report 28th March 2006

The trouble with most of the rivers in the New England is that they are bare of all trees and there's just a sheep-beaten bank crumbling into a dusty dried out gutter frying in the sun. Or they are an hour's knee-trembling descent down in a gorge, with a couple of hour's lung-busting climb out afterwards. The Gwydir is different. About 27 km west of Armidale on the Bundarra road you reach Milsons Bridge. Turn off left before it and drive 300 metres down beside Boorolong Creek. Park, climb over the floodgate



Morning Light on The Gwyder - photo David Lawrence

(with the property-owner's permission) and wander on flat banks down to Gwydir Junction. On the way, you pass an abandoned orchard where quince, apricot and fig tree still bear, and the largest Isabella grapevine I've ever seen smothers two full-grown Radiata pine trees.

Above Boorolong Junction, a great slug of sand from the Rocky River (Upper Gwydir) goldfields has buried the former riverbed, so most of the water travels silently below and you can cross dryshod. We wandered under the cool shade of Casuarinas up the south side, enjoying the flat going and the sight of a numerous birds taking advantage of the occasional pools. We inspected a fig and a few sheets of "gal." marking a rough goldrush hut, and puzzled over the deep rut that we reckon was a long 'water race' dug to service the various gold – panning operations that must have existed here in the late 1800s. Ribbon Gums drooped like old courtesans on the fertile riverbanks, and Blakely's Red Gums stood stiffly keeping their feet out of the water a bit further up the slope.

A couple of kilometres up the river, we climbed out of the flats onto the Blackfellows Gully Adamellite, a pink granite that carries stunted Tumbledown Red Gum and Orange Gum. We paused on a bluff overlooking a miniwaterfall, and saw two platypuses (on the first trip) and a long-necked tortoise (on the second) swimming in the plunge pool. A bit of a clamber, and we were down on the riverbank, with a good feeling of wilderness- "far from the madding sheep". We had to watch our footing as the tumbled boulders and flood-scoured potholes were covered with thick grass and sedges.

The increasing riot of rocks told us we were near TiTree Junction, and we soon flopped down by the "Junction Coffin"- some kind of a watertank swept down by floods- that is something of a landmark here. A bit of a rest, and we headed back down the northern Gwydir bank, clambering over the occasional narrow gully coming down from the Pinnacles till we reached the rock

shelf above the Platypus Pool we'd looked down on earlier. We dug out treats from our packs, and watched Laban (and later, his brother Kaelem) light a fire with flint and steel. They were very quick and expert, which probably explains why people were reluctant to have a go when Kaelem invited them- we oldies don't like to risk looking incompetent! We lay back and sipped coffee and tea, and brunched on our goodies, including blackberry tarts made from local Rocky River pickings. Like lizards, we absorbed the heat from the beautiful pink granite, and idly speculated on Aboriginal people using it for a fishing platform, or for grinding axes in some too-distant past. After reluctantly packing up, we poked down off the rock.



Laban makes fire, flint and steel style - photo David Lawrence

By now it had warmed up, and we were lucky enough on both trips to get a good sight of a Black Snake beginning his morning routine slithering along the riverbank, tongue flickering out testing the air for scents. Soon we were back settled country, with the smell and tracks of sheep scarring the river flats. Another old homestead yard, with grand old elms hooped with iron buggy rims, and hedged in places in a double-netting fence that kept the sheep from chewing them off completely.

The first group in early February made a long stop at the big grape vine to gorge themselves on the great clusters of Isabellas hanging all over it. By March 19th, all grapes were gone, and



Making short work of Isabella grapes - photo David Lawrence

the second were reduced to gnawing on unripe figs ("Do you think they would still be poisonous?") and nearly-ripe walnuts – poor substitutes. Then it was over the fence, into the cars, and home for a late lunch after our easy 11 km Infant Gwydir River walk.

Armidale Bushwalking Club

Meeting Thursday March 23rd 2006 at the Outdoor Guiding Centre

Meeting opened: 7.10 pm

Present: Dave Lawrence, Col Wood, James Reid, Jane Growsns, Kathy King, Steve Tremont, Lindsay Teychenne, Beat Haas, Jim Palmer, William Hughes, Joanne Davidson.

1. Apologies: Peter Rodger, Peter Vidot, Paul McCann, Virginia & Bob Kaspar



A Chilly swim - photo Colin Wood

2. Minutes of last meeting (Thursday August 11th 2005, Outdoor Guiding Centre): Read and approved. Moved Jane Growsns, 2nded Steve Tremont, Accepted unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Since January, receipts total **\$665**. No expenditure \$644.60. Total \$1281.45. Full report filed with secretary.

4. Membership Report: 30 members at present. Lindsay will send email reminders to past members with email. Hard copy reminders will be sent to immediate past members without email.

5. New Treasurer: Dave thanked Beat for all his hard work as Treasurer. Dave nominated Kathy King as the new treasurer. 2nded Steve. Passed unanimously.

6. Correspondence: Insurance Questionnaire from Confederation. Unanimously approved the provision of Personal Accident Insurance to all members. Unanimously approved following "For a child under 18 to engage in club activities, they must have written parental/

guardian permission.” Status of child members needs to be further deliberated – **Action: Jane and David Confederation regarding the child member question.**

Correspondence about The Wilderness Challenge, the Inverell



After a swim - photo Colin Wood

Bushwalking Club newsletter, The Bushwalker magazine and the latest Confederation minutes were tabled.

Col Wood has requested a Nav Shield pack - held first weekend of July.

7. Events Past and

Future: The winter walks program was discussed- to be finalised by David and

Peter Rodger next week

Dave - Proposed Convocation of Outdoor Recreationists Easter 2007 at Kunderang. NPWS are cautiously positive. Will go ahead if they support it.

8. Other business: Lindsay presented 2 receipts for stationery. Dave moved these be paid.
Passed.

9. Next Meeting: Thursday
24th August, Outdoor
Guiding Centre, 7 pm.

Meeting closed 8.20 pm
followed by coffee and photos
of previous trips.



Getting the feet wet - photo Colin Wood