



The SCROLL



CANOEING

BUSHWALKING

Newsletter of
Manning River Canoe Club Inc.
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Issue: December 2007



Next Meeting, 6th March 2008, Taree (BBQs Galore) Camping Shop 6:30pm

President: Geoff Martin Treasurer: Judy ward 65525837

Secretary: Mick O'Brien 6551 2531

Editor: Geoff Songberg 6557 0052 geoffrey.songberg@lands.nsw.gov.au

Trip Convener: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 Taree Snowgum (BBQs Galore) Camping Shop

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It would appear that my plea for reports in the last issue either fell on deaf ears or everyone wants me to write all the reports. As no reports were received and I decline to do all there are no reports on club activities for this issue.

It is getting harder to put a newsletter and calendar together. How about some input.

Geoff S

Caparra Hut

For those who were not at the December meeting or received my last email Caparra Hut has been severely vandalised. This time it was so bad both National Parks and the Police were called. Every window was smashed including the wooden reveals that holds the glass in. The culprits threw large logs through the windows to achieve their destruction. And to top it off they killed two goannas leaving one inside and the other underneath the hut. National Parks officers would very much like to find the culprits as there is a very large fine they would like to issue.

As a consequence of the damage the weekend at the hut dinning and relaxing was abandoned. Instead a few of us went up for a day to face the very unsavoury task of cleaning up the mess. All the glass has been swept up and disposed of and the very smelly goanna removed from inside. The one underneath had already gone, probably taken by scavengers. As a consequence of the remaining odour, we could not do much with the remains that had soaked into the floor boards, the hut will be out of action for months to come.

There will however be a working bee in February to carry out some repairs. At this stage it is not intended to replace the glass but rather cover the windows with aluminium fly screen to keep the bugs out and bolt steel mesh on the outside. The mesh has already been donated and the club will fund the bolts and fly screen. What will be needed is someone with a hand drill or electric with a small generator to drill though 150mm of wall stud to bolt the screens in place. There are also some fence posts to replace in front and holes drilled in them.

Another item that needs replacing is the roof. So if anyone has access to roofing iron at the right price then it would be appreciated. The hut is about 8m square with a pitched roof for those that cannot remember.

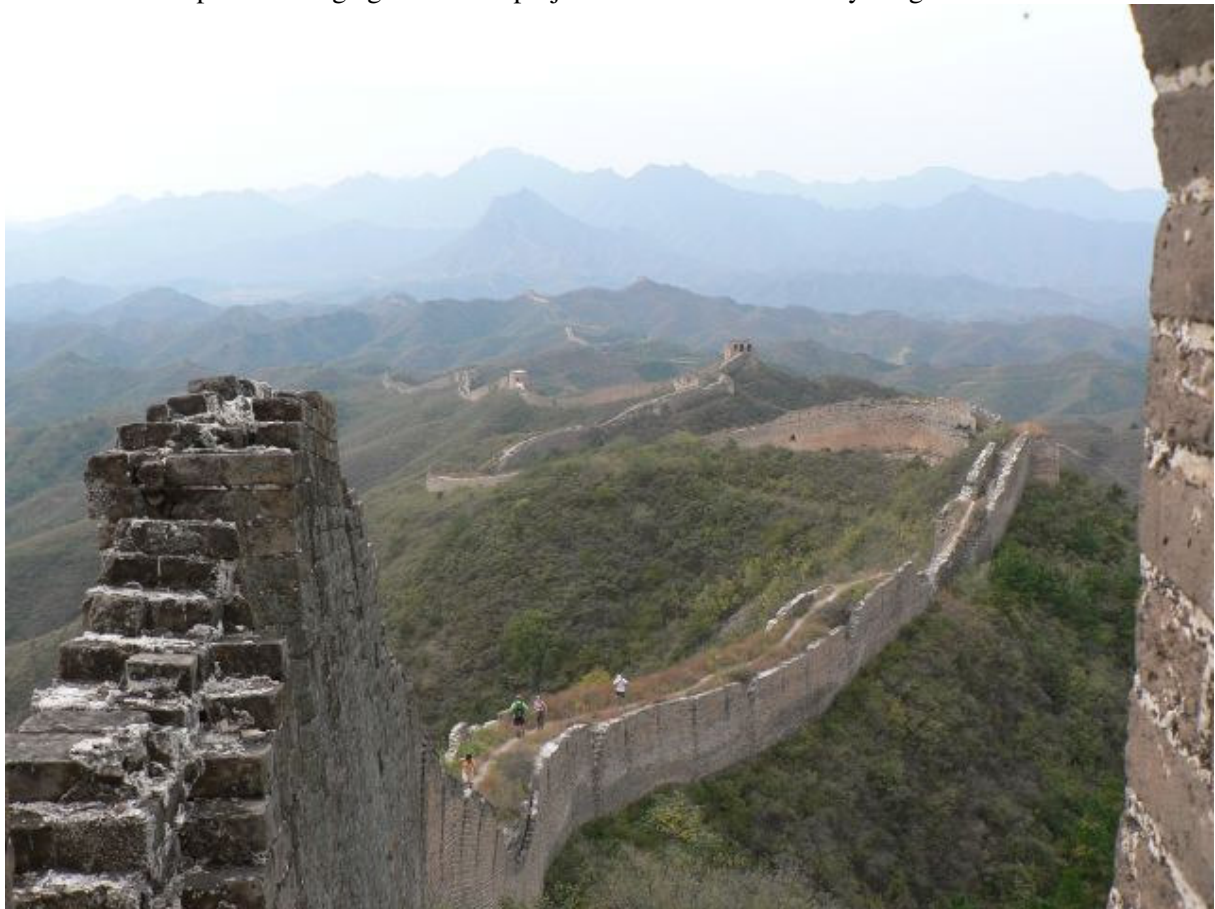
There are also a number of trees down that need cutting up with a chainsaw. Some brush clearing equipment and a saw would be helpful. An of course there will be the usual mowing of the grass.

REPORTS

Just to pad the newsletter out I thought a short report on the China trip might wet the appetite of anyone with a travel bug and a tendency towards trekking.

Just awesome: trekking fever

The China – Tibet tour was a fantastic adventure, a combination of trekking and tourist sight seeing. Trekking parts of the Great Wall of China for four days was an experience in itself. We saw and walked along the top of the wall in many of its remaining forms. This ranged from fully resort high profile tourist sections on the outskirts of Beijing to trudging along narrow foot tracks besides farmers corn fields to reach the wall only to find a mound of dirt. This was all that remained of the wall as the bricks had been pilfered long ago for other projects. And there was everything in between.



In between the Great Wall trekking and trek high up in Tibet there was the obligatory tourist sight seeing including such infamous places as Tian'anmen Square, the Forbidden City (the palace of the last Chinese emperor), the terracotta army in Xian, the Potala palace in Lhasa (former home of the Dalai Lama) and numerous temples. With a little bit of determination and standing in a queue at Xian railway station we managed to secure sleepers on the new “rooftop of the World” train across the Gobi desert in China and across the Tibetan plateau to Lhasa. An amazing journey to say the least and because the trains are now equipped with oxygen released into the carriages none of us got affected by the altitude. Though for some it was a different story when we had to tough it out in normal air of Lhasa at nearly 3700m above our normal sea level existence.

From Lhasa we headed off by four wheel drive across Tibet to near the Nepal/Tibet border for our main goal which was a ten day trek to the Kanshung (Hidden) face of Everest. We climbed through two major passes, each over 5,000 metres high along with our guides and twenty five Yaks carrying our trek bags and saw some of the most incredible sights. We could almost touch Everest with our fingertips we were that close. The Kanshung face of Everest is an amazing sight and you feel so much closer to the mountain. We spent the last night before climbing the final pass camped on snow which was a new experience for some of the group. The next days climb through the pass was a difficult one due to the snow and we had to descend to the snowline in sixty centimetres of snow. It was an interesting day and quite fun once everyone got used to the snow. In the photo below Everest (8850m) is the one on the right just touching the cloud. The seemingly larger, but closer, mountain to the left is Makalu (8460m). Our camp was beside the lake seen in the bottom of the valley down the pass (LangMa La. 5330m)



Even after the trek even the drive down the Friendship highway to the friendship bridge on the Nepalese border was an adventure in itself. What with road works and dynamiting going on all around us as they cut the road into the almost vertical face of the valley. Some of the crew were a little concerned but we lived to tell the tale. Those of us who were in from and waiting at Zangmu on the Chinese/Nepal border had another beer. We then went on to Kathmandu in a bus with plenty of guitar playing and singing happening.

Geoff Martin is planning another couple of trekking trips into Nepal during October 2008. If you are interested contact him at the Taree Camping BBQs Galore shop.

Minutes from General Meeting Dec 6 2007

Meeting opened at 7.00 pm

Attendance:

G Songberg, L Butler, Y & G Martin, M McDonald, P Humphries,
K Gollan, J Yarrington, J & S Ireland, R & K Alley, P Gallagher,
G Stewart , M O'Brien

Apologies:

D & J Ward, I Winkley

Previous Minutes:

As per Eskimo scroll – no business arising

Reports:

Reports from Mick & Geoff regarding damage to Caparra Hut and subsequent clean up arising from vandalism. Situation worsening as time goes on with NP staff now becoming involved due to killing of wildlife.

General Business:

Canoe Insurance due in January with a decision made to limit canoeing membership to 20 for the 08 season/year. The condition of Caparra Hut to be assessed early in 08 with working bees to be scheduled at the next meeting in March. Update event calendar

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Bushcamper Canvas

Mick O'Brien is now operating a new business trading as **Bushcamper Canvas**

For all you canvas and like material repairs or new makings call Bushcamper alias Mick

Email: bushcamper@bigpond.com

Unit 1 / 4 Caesia Place

Taree 2430

Phone: 6551 2531 Mobile: 0400 475 835

ADVENTURING CALENDAR

It is imperative that participants in events contact the organiser before attending an advertised club event. The organiser then knows how many people are intending to participate and who to contact in case of cancellations, change of venue or dates etc.

Details of all club activities will be available on the notice board at the Taree Camping, BBQs Galore shop. Prospective participants can place their name in the space provided so that the organisers can gain some idea of prospective numbers. Full details of non activities, those sponsored by other organisations can be obtained from the secretary.

Note: Buoyancy vests are compulsory on the all canoe trips and must be worn at all times while on the water. Helmets must also be worn on white kayaks water trips.

January 2008

Wilson's Promontory

When: Saturday 5th January to Sunday 13th January 2008.

Where: Wilson's Promontory, S/E Victoria.

Maps: see web site for details www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Activity: 6 day overnight walk: 3 nights in the northern area and 2 nights in the southern area of the park.

The park has 740 native plants, 180 bird and 30 mammal species including seals. Vegetation includes warm and cool temperate rainforest, eucalypt forest, heath, grassland, swamps and coastal dunes. The scenery ranges from sandy beaches to prominent headlands and plunging granite cliffs.

Meet: Travel together in car pool. Camp at Corner Inlet Coastal Park Sun 6th, start walk Mon 7th. A possible stopover on Sat night would be Nadge National Park (Batemans Bay area)

Grade: Moderate.

Costs: Campsites \$ 9 per night. These must be booked in advance.

Contact: Chris Dennis 6582 3111

NOTE: Camp sites must be pre booked and as numbers are limited participants will need to contact Chris before the end of October.



Myall Lake Circumnavigation

When: Saturday to Monday 26 to 28th January

Where: Myall Lakes National Park

Maps: 1:25,000 Myall Lake

Activity: Flat water paddle around Myall Lake provided the weather forecast for the weekend is favourable. Two overnight stops somewhere on the shore of the lake. Bring insect repellent

Grade: Easy

Meet: Neranie Picnic Area Friday night or Saturday morning before 8am

Costs: NP Vehicle entry fee may apply

Contact: Geoff Songberg 6557 0052



February 2008

Caparra Hut repair

When: Saturday & Sunday 2nd & 3rd February

Where: Caparra

Maps: 1:25,000 Kerriki

Activity: To make repairs to the hut but it will not be a total work weekend. In between working there will be at least one creek walk, possibly Little Run. Be prepared to camp out in the grounds as the hut may not be usable. Bring whatever tools you think might be needed. See the hut report at the front of the newsletter to see what needs to be done.

Grade: Easy

Meet: at the hut

Costs: Bring tools

Contact: Geoff Songberg 6557 0052

South West Rocks camp

When: Saturday Sunday 16, 17 February

Where: Trail Bay Gaol at South West Rocks

Maps:

Activity: Paddling and kayak surfing in Trial Bay and a walk across the headlands to the lighthouse

Grade: Easy

Meet: Trial Bay Gaol camping area

Costs: NP camping fees apply, see the office at the Gaol

Contact: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 at the Camping Shop



March 2008

Another paddle somewhere

When: Sunday 2nd March

Where: on a river somewhere

Maps: why bother, been there before and know the river.

Activity: could be flat could be white water, let's just see what providence provides

Grade: somewhere between easy and advanced

Meet: yet to be determined you will have to ring to find out.

Costs:

Contact: Geoff Songberg 6557 0052

MEETING ~ Thursday 6th March 6:30 Taree Camping shop





CLUB LOANER



\$20 per day all inclusive to all club members
CLUB PLASTIC CANADIAN, PADDLES, BOUYANCY VESTS AND HELMETS
Losses and damage must be paid for by the user
Enquiries: Geoff 6557 0052

ANOTHER LOANER

For those needing a kayak I have a couple of Bass kayaks (rather wide, short, slow and very stable)
that I am prepared to offer on loan to club members or participants in club trips for the same deal
\$20 per day all inclusive
Geoff 6557 0052