



The SCROLL

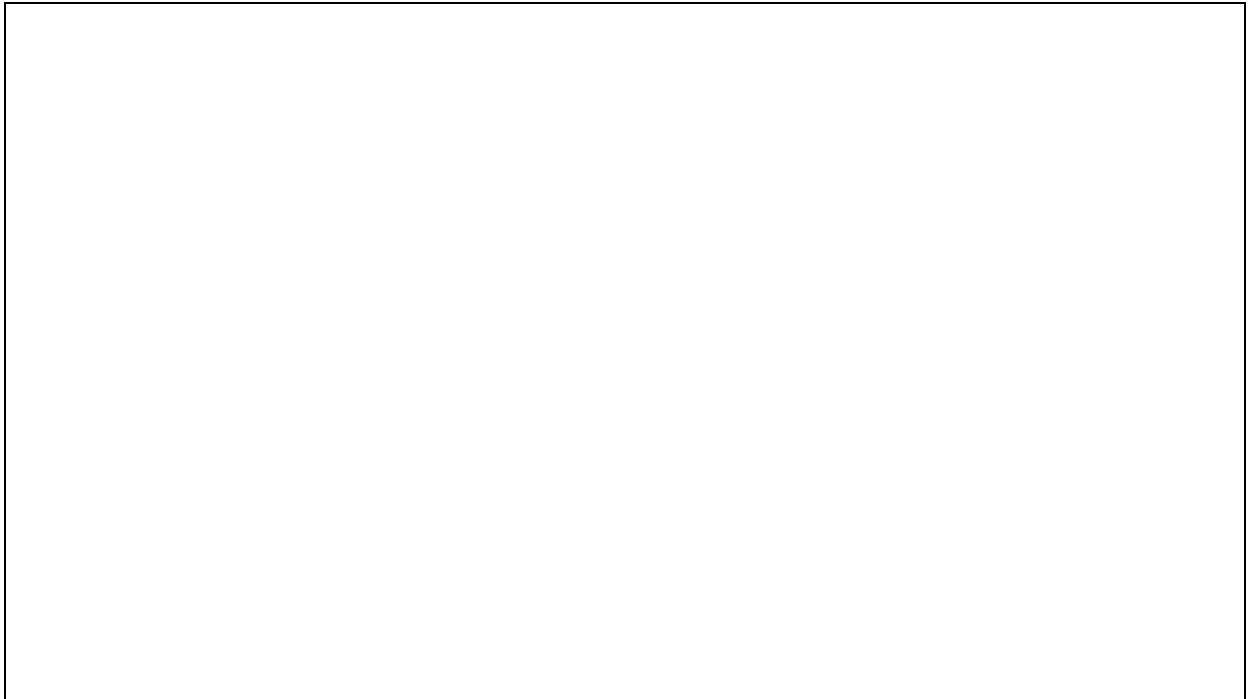


CANOEING

BUSHWALKING

Newsletter of
Manning River Canoe Club Inc.
P.O. Box 511, TAREE 2430
manningrivercc@hotmail.com

Issue: March 2007



Next Meeting, AGM, 7th June 2007, Taree (BBQs Galore) Camping Shop 6:30pm

President: Ian Winkley 6550 9051 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

Newsletter

If you are very astute then you will have noticed a change in the look of the front page of the newsletter. Nothing has really changed all that much, the contents are still as riveting and informative as ever. As a consequence of the discussions over a possible name change we are going to try a bit of a new face to the club while still retaining the original name. It was felt at the last meeting that more needs to be done show that we also do bushwalking and that it is a big part of our activities. Thus the different look for the Scroll. Only minor changes but significant in what face we put out there. If anyone has any thoughts or designs let me know. I would like to put a small graphic of a bushwalker and canoeist on the front similar to what is on this issue. For this issue I have used the simple icons you normally see associated with trip announcements. If you have a more elaborate but simple and small size graphics or have a keen drawing skill let me know.

Geoff

Name change

No we are not going to change the name of the club. The response from the call in the December newsletter for everyone to voice their opinion was very quite. Very few responded. The discussion held at the March meeting was also not overly strong for a name change. Given that there was some desire for the name to be retained the discussion ended with a decision to instead promote ourselves as a club that undertakes bushwalking and canoeing.

Buoyancy vests

It is becoming common place for people to turn up to canoeing events without a buoyancy vest. Sometimes I have found the person does not have a vest part way into the trip. The club's policy is that no vest no paddle. This is for you own safety. Mostly the infringements have been on placid waters so no harm was done however that is not to say that something could have occurred. The no vest attitude must stop. Be on notice that if you turn up without a vest then you will be requested not to participate in the event. If you do not have one then the club has a few for loan. To cover wear and tear and replacement I would ask for a \$5 donation to the cause if you need the loan. Let me know.

Geoff

Event date changes

There are a few date changes for some events that were notified in the December Scroll. Make sure you check out the new dates and do not rely on the old scroll or you will either miss out or be the only one to turn up.

AGM

AGM

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AGM

Yes the dreaded AGM is about to come around again. The meeting will be on Thursday 7 June at which will be a Pizza night (\$5 contribution for ingredients, BYO wine) just to give you some incentive to attend. Please give consideration to those that have been working tirelessly to carry on the organisational side of the club. Some might like to take a rest for a while so if you feel you could contribute and take on a position then the AGM is the time to speak up. We could always consider the election option of if you don't turn up you will get a job.

REPORTS

Murrays Ck Exploration

With no takers there was no trip. Ian, Mick and I did however go for a bit of a wander around the region for a look see the following weekend. We did find an interesting cliff line and also sampled a small section of Murrays Creek. There is some interesting country to explore next summer.

Geoff

Snowy Mtns sojourn mark 2

Unfortunately the trip did not get off the ground through insufficient numbers so there are no good picks or travelogue.

Lower Macleay Jan 26-28

For those who chose not to go for fear of no water to paddle in or no fish to catch eat humble pie. Not only did the river rise during the weekend to give good paddling conditions but the fish were biting well, at least for Dean.

Dean, Greg, Chris and I turned up Thursday night on schedule expecting the water to be lacking in volume thinking that we would have to scrape down the river. After waiting more than the allotted time for our supposedly scheduled other paddler who did not turn up we went up to Georges Junction to be pleasantly surprised by at least some water to paddle in. Chris, being an unfamiliar boat that Greg had obtained for her and padded up the seat not quite right, also found that there was just enough water to go for an unscheduled swim in the second rapid. Apart from Chris's swim the remainder of the first day's paddle was uneventful. We did not attempt any fishing the first day as a thunderstorm threatened from upstream but passed us by and we wanted to see if it also left our camp alone. The only downside to Friday was two flat tyres let down by an unprincipled land owner who objects to the public using public land to access the river. Thanks to other very nice and hospitable other neighbours who loaned us a foot pump we were not delayed too much.

Getting back to camp was a greater down as I found my tent fully collapsed on the ground and everything soaking wet. Other campers said that the thunderstorm had struck with a vengeance including strong winds, hail and heavy rain. My tent, not being set for gale force conditions was not fairing well so to prevent total damage they had collapsed it. Apart from everything being wet there was no damage. I did manage to dry bedding out by lights out but clothes and everything else took another day.

Chris D our itinerant canoeist decided to turn up just before dark so there was another to share the good water.

Saturday found the water level even higher than Friday and it was great to be on the move again. Chris S, having struggle the day before with an unforgiving boat, elected to stay in camp for the day and conduct the car shuffle so it was only four participants to enjoy the good river flow, leisurely paddle and great fishing. The day was hot with strong westerly winds blowing down the valley. At one point Dean was standing up in the front of the canoe acting as a sail allowing us to travel down the river as fast as we could ordinarily paddle without having to lift a blade. The fishing also did not let us down or at least did not let Dean down. It only took him a few of casts to land two nice perch allowing



for fish all round for everyone at dinner that night. Greg however though he must have been bewitched because no matter how much he tried, including changing of lures, did not even get so much as a strike. The wind was still howling down the valley when we got into camp mid afternoon. At least this time my tent survived and everything was dry. Because of the wind I did take the precaution of setting a couple more guy ropes for added security. Just before dark we thought the end of the wind had come about because it seemed to just blow itself out. We were mistaken because it started up again about 10 minutes later blowing from up the valley and quite cool. Cool enough that by nightfall a light jumper had to be donned.

Sunday again dawned bright and sunny with the water still flowing strong. Chris S again elected to mind camp so the rest of us set off to do the remaining, longest stretch down to Pee Dee. Not wanting to get home late we decided to just enjoy the paddle and not try any fishing.

Overall the river proved to be quite a good section to paddle however access is difficult because of all the barbed wire or electric fences and no camping signs. Wherever the road is close to the river it is usually high up on a cutting making abseiling equipment necessary to get down to the river.

Geoff

Hastings River, Yarras ~ Ellenborough, 25 February

Despite the possibility of scraping down the river because of the lack of water enough people showed they were brave enough to give it a go so the trip was on. Chris Dennis, Jennifer and Stuart Ireland, Greg Skinner, Paul Gallagher and of course myself met as planned at Ellenborough reserve bright and early Sunday morning. Chris had stories of paddling the river the weekend before in good water which cheered us along.

The river flow at Yarras Bridge when we saw it didn't look like the river would meet up with the expectations that Chris had been alluding to. At least there was enough water not to have to scrape all the way. That is to say the kayakers would not have to scrape but Jen and Stu in their daggy old fibreglass barge of a Canadian (editorial description, not Stuart's) might have a bit more of a rough time. After the first few races, you couldn't really call them rapids, this assessment proved correct. The kayaks managed to get through without too much difficulty but Stuart was constantly out of the boat dragging it over the rocks.

With 22km to go in low water I set a reasonably quick pace. Not to be too heartless I called a break for morning tea after an hour and a bit of paddling. With no Don or Roger there was no fire going or billy boiling before the last person got off the water. We braved the conditions and had a non cuppa stop. A quick check of the map showed that we were on schedule for the distance to be undertaken.

The second stop was lunch and a short climb up out of the river with map in hand (where is Mick with his GPS when you need him) had us geographically located and still on schedule. Stuart was adamant about a cuppa this time so set to making a fire and getting the billy boiling. He ignored the disparaging remarks from onlookers insinuating that that was not how Don would have done it.

After lunch it was only one more stop for a quick swim in a deep pool and to stretch the legs before the last run to Ellenborough. By this time however the clouds had appeared from over the western horizon and the thunder was rumbling around the hills. What started out to be a bright sunny day was now appearing to finish in a drenching. For those looking for a show the rain did not disappoint. Just as we were getting off the river down it came. Heavy enough that all you needed was a cake of soap for a shower.

For a river with not much water the trip still proved to be quite successful. That is apart from the survival of Ireland's boat. Stuart, on the way home, painfully declared that the trip might be the last for the much loved craft. The patches on patches were starting to give out at a much greater rate than repair could manage. About time you got into the modern plastic era Stuart. Be brave.

Geoff

If anyone would like to have a trip report or advertisement etc published in the newsletter, I would be grateful to receive them. You can post any material to the club address, give it to Geoff Martin at the Taree Camping shop, email to me or deliver to 1 Apple Tree Street Wingham 2429. Keep everyone informed, let people know how good the trip was so that other people will attend and make future activities even more rewarding for all.

Geoff (Ed)

Minutes from March 1st 2007 Meeting

Meeting opened at 7.05 pm

Attendance:

G Songberg, G Martin, J Ward, J & S Ireland, G Stewart,
P Gallagher, M O'Brien, L Butler, J Yarrington

Apologies:

D Ward, P Humphries, I Winkley

Previous Minutes:

As per Eskimo scroll – business arising as follows;
M O'Brien, G Martin, G Stewart to look into costs of web hosting for club

Reports:

Treasurer Judy reported that finances are looking healthy at \$ 1224.43 in the bank, which is a result of reduced canoe insurance premium and good house keeping on behalf of the club and it's committee

General Business:

After much discussion before and at the meeting, many thanks to those who took the time to put forward their points of view via the web, it was decided that the current name of the club should be maintained. Geoff Martin with Geoff Songberg moved that the name of the club be retained as Manning River Canoe Club (MRCC) with modification to Logo, Advertising and Marketing to highlight the fact that it is a bushwalking club and canoe club on a 50/50 basis. This was accepted unanimously by all present. It was also agreed upon by all, that the title of the newsletter be changed simply to the "Scroll". Update event calendar.

Meeting closed at 8.05 pm

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.

March 2007

Tirrill Ck: Tapin Tops

When: Sun 11 March 2007

Where: Tirril Ck Flora Reserve

Maps: Kokomeric

Activity: Day walk downstream of main gorge – old growth forest, cascades & swimming holes

Grade: Moderate – some rock hopping

Meet: Blue Mtn Ck Rd (southern end) & Knodingbul Rd 9.30 am

Costs: Nil

Contact: Mick O'Brien 6551 2531 or 0400 475 835 or names at Snowgum



Canoeing day paddle

When: Sunday 25 March

Where: Killawarra to Wingham

Maps: Taree 1:25,000

Activity: A relatively easy day paddle of about 18km. There are only a couple of rocky races with mostly long pools and gravel bars between. Bring more people with canoes.

Grade: Easy

Meet: Wingham Brush 8:30am for a car shuffle.

Cost: Nil

Contact: Geoff Songberg 6557 0052



April 2007

Nandewar Ranges: Mt Kaputar – Waa Gorge

When: April 12-18, School Holidays – after Easter

Where: Kaputar National Pk - Narrabri

Maps: Kaputar, Coryah, Grattai



Activity: Car based camping/walking including two separate overnight walks. The trip has been designed to suit both those that can only attend on the weekend and those that can attend for the full time.

Grade: All types of walking in this area. Wilderness to tourist

Meet: Thursday night or Friday, location to be arranged – Travel together (car pool)

Costs: Some minor costs involved

Contact: Mick O'Brien 6551 2531 or 0400 475 835 or names at Snowgum

Selby Alley hut trek

When: Saturday 28th April to Sunday 29th April or Monday 30 April

Where: Gloucester and Barrington Tops

Maps: Gloucester Tops and Barrington Tops 1:25,000



Activity: Camp at Gloucester river camp area in the National Park on Friday night. Leave from the locked gate at 8.30am for a twenty kilometre walk to Wombat flat then on to Selby Alley hut for the night. For those that can only attend for two days your party will depart Sunday morning for the return trip to Gloucester Tops. For those that can spare an extra day Sunday we are exploring the area around the hut and the nearby sections of Barrington Tops. We will do the return trek to Gloucester Tops on the Monday. Quite a few have expressed an interest in both the 2 and 3 day events so there should be plenty of company the first day and at least a few other people to talk to the remainder of the time on either version.

Grade: Moderate but taxing

Meet: Gloucester River camping area on Friday night.

Cost: Nil or share car costs

Contact: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 at the Camping Shop

May 2007

Elands Mountain climb

When: Sunday 13th May

Where: Elands

Maps: Bobin & Comboyne 1:25,000



Activity: Bike ride from Bobin to Ellenborough Falls, walk to the bottom of the falls, walk back up and return to Bobin. Starting at Bobin hall the ride passes through hilly country for 5km before starting a 9km, 480m ascent to Elands. It is then a gentle glide for 3.5km down to the top of Ellenborough Falls. Here we will leave the bikes (bring a chain to secure your bike) and do a quick walk down many steps to the base of the falls only to turn around and go back up. We can then have lunch at the kiosk. I have it on good authority the food is good. After getting weighed down with lunch it is once again on the bikes and back up to the top of the hill at Elands. Then it is an easy decent to the bottom of the hill followed by the last 5km over a few hills back to Bobin.

Grade: Moderate but being decidedly unfit will be a disadvantage

Meet: Bobin hall 8:30am

Costs: Nil other than if you want to buy lunch at the falls kiosk

Contact: Geoff Songberg 6557 0052

What the??? – Where are we??? -Walk

When: Sunday 20th May

Where: Blackhead hinterland

Maps: Hallidays Point



Activity: Learn how to apply your compass to map reading skills with Peter Bell as a practical follow up our intro course at last meeting. Also on this walk Alan & Helen will give us an overview of Landcare activities in the area and maybe a bit of bushtucker info. The walk takes in Littoral rainforest, bush and beach.

Grade: The walk will be easy - A great family outing, especially for the kids. The walk will take about 4 hours with a BBQ afterwards. Please invite a family or friends along for the fun.

Meet: Blackhead reserve behind Surf Club

Costs: Nil – Bring your own drinks and food for the Barbie.

Contact: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 at the camping shop

Wallabi - Saltwater lagoon Walk

When: Sunday 27th May

Where: Wallabi Point/ Khappinghat National Park/ Saltwater Lagoon

Maps: 1:25,000 Cundletown, Hallidays Point



Activity: Starting with a beach walk along Wallabi Beach then into the beach forest following an established trail to the “1st camp site” then the five islands.(Pointing out an Aboriginal Fishing Trap) The walk then climbs slightly to the original homestead ruins owned by the Palmers. The walk then follows a loop to the Duck Hole Trail that opens onto the Saltwater Lake. (A perfect place for morning tea) The walk continues on the sandy trail and returns via “The Wallaby” trail. (A secret trail that I found some years ago). After retuning along the beach its time for a BBQ at the Salt Water Reserve.

Grade: Easy but will take around 4 hours

Meet: 3 Ocean Drive Wallabi Point Leaving 9.00am

Costs: Nil Bring your own morning Tea and Lunch

Contact: Greg Stewart W 65929625 H 65533460

June 2007

MEETING – Thursday 7th June 6:30 Snowgum shop

AGM

As an added incentive there will also be a **Pizza Night** before the meeting freshly cooked

Pizzas at \$5 per person to help with ingredients

BYO wine other drinks and nibbles

Be there support the club and support the Camping shop, buy something

Mick's Mystery Apsley walk

When: Saturday 9th June to Monday 11th June

Where: Apsley River gorge, somewhere



Maps: 1:25000 Apsley, Rowleys Ck, Kunderang, Green Gully

Activity: Bush walk somewhere in the Apsley Gorge within the area of the maps listed, only Mick knows. He has also been known to lead a very enjoyable stroll along the valley floor on the lookout for idyllic camping spots, climb rocky crags just to get a view and delve into deep dark chasms just for the heck of it. He has also been known to try and go into the gorge in the worst possible weather on an almost vertical unexplored ridge line only to be turned around by sheer verticality and the inability to reach the bottom. Be daring, cast your fate into Mick's hands.

Grade: Plenty of down and up. Could be tough could be easy

Meet: Ring Mick

Costs:

Contact: Mick O'Brien 6551 2531

Mountain biking Kappinghat NP/Kiwarrik SF



When: Sunday June 24th

Where: Wallabi Point/ Khappinghat National Park and Kiwarrik State Forest

Maps: 1:25,000 Cundletown, Hallidays Point, Taree

Activity: Easy ride through the Trails within the Khappinghat National Park and Kiwarrik State Forest. Using formed roads and trails. 2.3 hrs will allow us to cover a lot of ground. Stopping for Morning Tea. BBQ lunch at Saltwater for anyone interested (bring your own lunch)

Grade: Easy pace, Moderate distance ride

Meet: 3 Ocean Drive Wallabi Point Leaving 10.00am

Costs: Nil other than bring your own morning Tea and Lunch

Contact: Greg Stewart W 65929625 H 65533460

July 2007

Caparra Hut spit roast or a Bush Xmas in July

When: Saturday 21st July

Where: Caparra Hut

Maps: 1:25000 Kerriki

Activity: As it is the middle of winter there is not likely to be any wanderings up the creek. There however might be some walking to lookouts in the area or a bike ride. Come prepared. Whatever happens this is always one of the better, more enjoyable activities on the club calendar. Definitely no experience needed though a good red wine doesn't go wrong during the evening. Camp the night if you wish, breakfast is also on the menu.

Grade: Easy

Meet: At Caparra hut when you get there

Costs: For food catering \$15 per head dinner and breakfast or \$10 for just dinner, BYO drinks. Please make payment early to Geoff at the shop so he will know numbers for catering.

Contact: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 at the camping shop

Extra Trips

May 23-28, Don Ward on the Macleay

Don has been playing trains a lot lately so has not been able to attend many activities. With his rosters continuing to clash with trips he is looking at doing a Macleay River trip from 23 to 28 May. If anyone is available for that period then contact Don, 6552 5837, as he would like to do a trip sometime between playing trains.

Easter 6-9 April + a few days, another Macleay trip

Peter Lock, an ex member of the club who a few will know as Picnic Pete, is also wishing to do the Macleay but at Easter and for a few days following. Pete now lives in Queensland but he is hoping that some of the club might like to meet up with the crew he has organised to do a combined trip. Contact for Pete is peter2007@lock.id.au



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

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