



The SCROLL



CANOEING

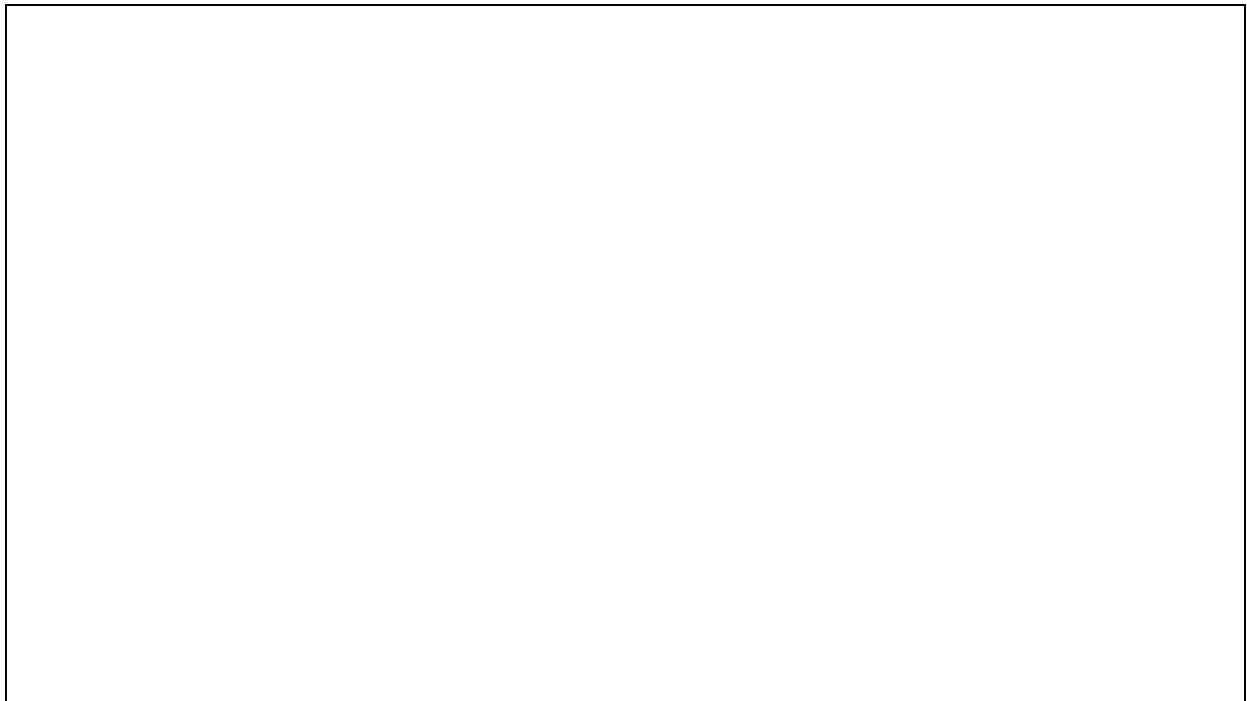
BUSHWALKING

Newsletter of
Manning River Canoe Club Inc.

P.O. Box 511, TAREE 2430

Web:- <http://manningcanoebushwalk.wordpress.com> email:- manningrivercc@hotmail.com

Issue: June 2008



Next Meeting, 4th September 2008, Taree (BBQs Galore) Camping Shop 6:30pm

President: Geoff Martin Treasurer: Pam Humphries 6553 2860

Secretary: Mick O'Brien 6551 2531 bushcamper@bigpond.com

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

Publicity & Web: Jen & Stu Ireland 6552 6574 stuireland@yahoo.com

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Didn't get your newsletter?

Sometimes not everything goes according to expectations and your newsletter may not reach you. The newsletters come out every three months, March, June, September and December in the first week or two, depending on how quick I can get it completed after the meeting. If you do not receive it in the first few weeks please contact me so I can find out what went wrong and correct the situation. Don't leave it for months.

Geoff

Membership renewal

The new financial year has come around as one of those inevitable events and it is once again time to dig deep in those pockets. Club fees are once again due so we can pay those necessary bills that will allow us to continue to operate and to allow you to go on trips. Keeping costs down to as low as it is possible the fees for this year remain the same as last year. Also to keep that necessary paper work rolling and to make things all official you will need to complete a new membership form and return it with your subscription. The new forms, headed 2008/2009, are included with this newsletter. Please get them back in as quickly as possible with your membership. We have those dreaded insurance bills coming up that need to be paid.

REPORTS

Little Run West Ridge (Lookout & Waterfall) – Mar 08

This was titled Connolly's Ck on the calendar but we never actually made it to the creek. It had been a plan of mine to explore the western ridge of Little Run having observed a couple of substantial cliffs on a recent run into Potaroo Falls. We could spend the morning checking this side out and for the afternoon fun a short stroll to Connolly's where we left two of the vehicles.



Showers over the past week had made conditions quite mild for the walk beginning at Knodingbul Rd and following an old overgrown logging trail. This eventually led us to an excellent view from the previously mentioned rock face right above the parking area at Potaroo. We could see as far as Cape Hawke and Crowdy Head with all the high points in between – possibly a better lookout than Rowley's Rock. After a long rest and photo shoot we made a decision to attempt to find a small waterfall that was marked on the map. We returned to the logging trail which in its day would have been a two wheel drive road and followed this to a log dump then dropped down into a steep gully criss crossed by dozer trails. Eventually we reached a small watercourse that was heavily canopied by the surrounding bush. The water in the creek was quite clear and running well with the recent rainfall as we made our way to the top of the falls. This short but picturesque gully is typical of those found in the Dingo/Tapin Tops region. Its geological features are similar to Little Run and Bobin with well-rounded, smooth water worn rocks punctuated with numerous small waterfalls and cascades. The fall was flowing well but unfortunately we could not get a good view from our location above the rocky outcrops. The billy was produced for a much needed cuppa before continuing on as well as a few shared snacks.

With the help of the GPS a snig trail was quickly located to take us back to the main forest road where we soon found the trusty old Suby to get us back to the cars and a late lunch. Thanks to all attendees for making it a really enjoyable day.

Mick

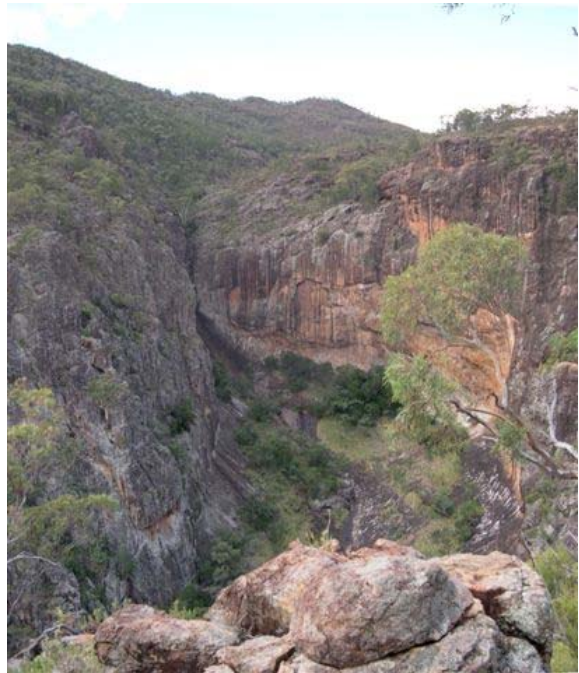
Mt Kaputar National Park – April 08

We managed a roll up of four enthusiastic members for this trip into the volcanic mountain country of the North West. It was early on Monday the 21st when we finally rendezvoused at Waa Gorge car park in the Nandewar Ranges, just on 500 metres asl with adjacent peaks around 800 m higher than the surrounding plains. Though it was cool with heavy cloud cover, there did not seem to be much chance of rain unlike where we had just travelled from on the coast. Our plan was to do some exploration of the gorges and an overnight walk incorporating a climb of Mt Grattai – the highest point in this section of the park. This area is now classified as the Grattai Wilderness, which also meant untracked except for some very faint fire trails.



Monday

A short walk from the car park brought us to the first of the plunge pools – Mill Bullah meaning “two eyes”. This must have been pretty important to the Kamilaroi, permanent water, hence food and abundant overhangs for shelter. Even after many visits to this spectacular gorge I still feel over awed and inspired spiritually. In a lot of ways I envy our early Australians life styles – both indigenous and pioneer. From the pools we followed the track to the most popular section of the area. The 100 metre high multi coloured vertical walls of Waa Gorge. A photographer’s paradise this kept Stu occupied for some time as well as the mandatory walk to the very end of the canyon. From here we ventured further along the creek till another plunge pool blocked our path. Not to be stopped we had some lunch then looked for a way around this setback. Alas it all became too dangerous to continue up the sheer unforgiving walls so we sought to find an easier way through one of the downstream tributaries. This proved to be fruitful resulting in an easy climb to the rim of the gorge giving an overall picture of both rocky fissures. With another photo session done and impending rain we set off for the car park discussing our next couple of days requirements with regard to water. Due to the dry conditions there would be no water available enroute so it was decided that each person would need to carry a minimum of 6 litres for the two-day pack walk. With a plan in place we set about enjoying the night with a meal, drinks and guitars followed by rest full ‘not a care in the world – I’m on holidays’ style of sleep.



Tuesday



We set off for Grattai a little later than planned after some repair work to the water bladders, last minute GPS plots and the obligatory departure pic. The temps were great for backpacking, low 20’s, medium humidity all advantageous for conserving water intake. We located Rocky Gully and followed this

upstream until a location was reached to down packs to further explore a waterfall marked on the map as being about 20 metres in height. Even without water flowing it still proved to be spectacular with an abundance of fig trees including one bonsai specimen barely 5cms in height (see photo). Back with our packs once again we set about de burring our clothes before setting off along the ridge. Farmers Friends were really prolific in this part of the park and we tried to leave it that way – not take them with us. For the next hour or more we had to force our way through thick wattle until we reached Berrigal Ck where a quick lunch was consumed.

It was now 1 pm and we still had a great deal of distance to cover just to get to the saddle between Ginns and Grattai where we hoped



to find suitable level ground to camp. The scenery and vegetation were changing every couple of hundred metres or so, from dry sandstone soils with cypress pines prolific to stunted wattles on barren volcanic rock outcrops – at least the going was getting easier as we climbed higher. As we struggled out of a very steep gully I noticed through the trees a large clearing and with the time approaching 4 pm it was time to call it quits for the day.

Rules 1 & 2 of bushwalking;

- 1 Don't keep walking after sunset!
- 2 Never walk past a good campsite !!!



This was a great spot except if it rained? It was soon obvious that the reason the wattle did not wish to inhabit this particular spot was because of its swampy nature. Dry on our visit, but 10 mil would make it uncomfortable, not raining this time, thankfully.

Wednesday



It was a beautiful morning. Views of Grattai with the sunrise, crisp, dry coolness – rested, focused – wildlife spruiking. At least that's how I felt. The uninitiated would say 'Bugger! No hot water again!' We broke camp early and reached the saddle by 10.30 am with a minimum of effort by carefully

following the contours instead of the unforgiving line on the GPS screen. A half hour cuppa break, then on with the mission to climb Grattai. A quick check of our position and average speed revealed that we really did not have much time to waste with regard to reaching the vehicles before dark, so at a bit after midday we stowed the packs and began the final ascent of the mountain.

Mt Grattai is unusual in so much that you do not realise what you just achieved until you are well and



truly back down in the trees – then you wish you could have spent more time there on the summit. More time to observe the eagles just a few metres above you – more time to reflect on time and how little/insignificant we humans really are in this world – more time to breathe the air and feel the coarseness of the volcanic rocks on one's skin. Time is our lord – it rules un-compassionately – we had to get moving quickly if we were going to make it back today. A quarter hour break then on towards the steep spur that would take us back to Berrigal Ck, finding many good campsites along the way. With the spur located, and not without difficulty I might add, we slid our way down – only two hours till dark – more than 3 k's to the cars – average speed to this point less than 1 kph. At the bottom we all breathed a sigh of relief, then 'upped the ante' pushing forward at a better than 2 kph rate reaching the picnic area about 6 pm, a very tired but happy crew.

Thursday/Friday

The weather was deteriorating as we left the Nandewars and headed to Split Rock Dam for an overnight camp before the final trip home. Another night spent around the fire then on to Tamworth for refuelling the next morning. As we drove over the range it soon became apparent that an event in the form of a minor-moderate flood was about to happen. We only just made it across the rivers before all roads were cut – what a day!!! Thanks to Jen, Stu & Greg for making this a memorable trip back to an old tramping ground favourite of mine.

Mt Goonook 18 May

After seeing Mick use the GPS at Mt Kaputar Stuart attempted planning his first walk using one. The first attempt went slightly wrong when after consulting the map and planning a route found that the first waypoint was over 5000km away. However, the next day did go better with an exploratory trip matching the lay of the land.

Stuart, Geoff, Chris, Vera, Jim, Greg, Chris and friend Shannon enjoyed a nice scramble up the mountain through some lantana at the start to come out with great views looking to the north east over the Lansdowne Valley. We continued on to the top and sat on the lee side of the mountain for lunch looking at Mt Coxcombe and the Lansdowne scarp. The wind was blowing a gale from the south west and it was good to be sheltered from it. We continued on to the trig station for excellent views down into the Killabakh Valley and Killabakh Hall. Geoff, using local knowledge, knew a track straight down to the south from the trig so we set off back that way. It gave us a complete circuit of the mountain. We arrived down in a very sheltered pocket of rainforest and then walked on down a track to complete a pleasant day exploring.



Stuart

Minutes from General Meeting June 5 2008

Meeting opened at 7.00 pm

Attendance: M O'Brien, S & J Ireland, R & P Finlay, G Songberg, R Alley, G & C Stewart, P Humphries, L Butler.

Apologies: G Martin.

Previous Minutes: AGM Jun 07 – As per Eskimo Scroll – No business arising.
GM Mar 08 – As per Eskimo Scroll – No business arising.

Reports: Treasurer: Geoff, on behalf of Judy, reported the club finances to be in a healthy position, currently \$ 1560.79 with all expenses up to date and members subscriptions for the current year expected over the next two months. Insurance will become due in July.

Secretary: There is a requirement for trip leaders to make sure attendance forms are completed & returned to the Sec – also to collect visitors fees where applicable. Congrats to Stu for a fine effort with the website – link with Confederation to be forthcoming.

Election of Committee: Returning Officer: Greg Stewart

The following positions were filled with eager volunteers and jubilant nominees!

President: Geoff Martin Vice President: Les Butler
Secretary: Mick O'Brien Treasurer: Pam Humphries
Trip Convenor: Geoff Martin Editor: Geoff Songberg
Publicity Officers: Media: Jen Ireland
Web: Stu Ireland

General Business: Membership fees will remain unchanged. Rob Alley has roofing iron for Caparra Hut – working bee to be organised. Club funds will be used to supply necessary hardware for this job to be done. The proposed website was voted by all present as most acceptable for the clubs needs. The event calendar was updated.

Meeting closed at 8.00 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.

June 2008

Tip Trip

When: Saturday 15 June



Where: Koorainghat State Forest. Exploring in our own back yard

Maps: Taree 1:25000

Activity: A 1/2 day walk through the Koorainghat State Forest. The forest has varied terrain and is easily accessed using single track MTB trails and fire trails.

Grade: Easy/ Moderate Some hills

Meet: Meet at the grassed area outside the Taree Tip. At 9.00am

Costs: Nil

Contact: Greg Stewart 6553 3460

Gloucester Bucketts review

When: Saturday Sunday 21-22 June



Where: Gloucester

Maps: Gloucester 1:25000

Activity: We will meet at Gloucester camping area on Friday night or Saturday morning for a weekend campout. Saturday morning we will set out on the northern end of the buckets at around 9am and climb to the trig station. The view from here on a fine day is spectacular. We will return to camp and a campfire dinner with Greg, Mick and Geoff on guitar. Sunday Starting at 8.30 we follow Geoff Martin as he tries to find Thunderbolts cave again after about 40 something years.

Grade: Moderate – we will not be working too hard but some sections are testing.

Meet: Gloucester campground 8.30am each morning

Costs: Nil

Contact: Geoff Martin 65525255 or worldadv@ozemail.com.au

July 2008

Camden Haven Paddle

When: Saturday 5th July

Where: Camden Haven river and Watsons Taylor lake

Maps: Lorne & Laurieton 1:25,000

Activity: A flat water paddle down the quite waters of the Camden Haven from Rossglen, across the top of Watsons Taylor lake into Stewarts River to the village of Johns River, a distance of about 13km

Grade: easy

Meet: Wharf road & Pacific Hwy Johns River (road to road works depot) 9:00am.

Costs: Nil

Contact: Geoff Songberg 6557 0052



A walk for a lookout with Les

When: Sun 20th July

Where: Kiwarrak forest and Talawahl nature reserve

Maps: Nabiatic 1:25,000

Activity: Day walk from Blackbutt road to a lookout for some great views

Grade: Easy but a few steep sections

Meet: Blackbutt Road and Pacific Hwy 9:00am (2km South of Lakes Way)

Costs: Nil

Contact: Les Butler 6553 2042



August 2008

Paddle on the Lansdowne

When: Saturday 2nd August

Where: Lansdowne to Coopernook

Maps: Coopernook 1:25,000

Activity: A flat water paddle down the quite waters of the Lansdowne River finishing at the Coopernook pub, a distance of about 12km

Grade: easy

Meet: Coopernook pub 9:00am.

Costs: Nil

Contact: Geoff Songberg 6557 0052



A walk in the rainforest with Les

When: Sun 17th August

Where: Kiwarrak forest and Talawahl nature reserve

Maps: Nabiatic 1:25,000



Activity: Day walk from Blackbutt road through pockets of rainforest
Grade: Easy
Meet: Blackbutt Road and Pacific Hwy 9:00am (2km South of Lakes Way)
Costs: Nil
Contact: Les Butler 6553 2042

Caparra Hut weekend

When: Saturday & Sunday 23 & 24 August

Where: Caparra

Maps: 1:25,000 Kerriki

Activity: Thanks to Rob Alley we now have enough material to renew the roof on the hut. There are also a few finishing touches to the windows to be done. It will not be an all weekend working bee as a BBQ with a few wines or ales (depending on your preference and bringings) on Saturday night with a bushwalk and/or bike ride on Sunday.

Grade: Easy

Meet: at the hut

Costs: Bring tools

Contact: Geoff Songberg 6557 0052

September 2008

MEETING - Thursday 4th September 6:30 Taree Camping shop

Dawson River paddle

When: Saturday 6th September

Where: Dawson River from Brimbin reserve to Cundletown

Maps: Wingham, Taree, Cundletown 1:25,000

Activity: Paddle down from Brimbin reserve at the bottom end of Yarratt forest finishing at Cundletown. A distance of approximately 12km

Grade: Easy

Meet: River Street reserve Cundletown next to the boat ramp 9:00am

Costs: Nil

Contact: Geoff Songberg 6557 0052



Selby Alley hut revisited

When: 21 - 22 September

Where: Barrington Tops

Maps: Barrington Tops 1:25,000

Activity: There has been talk about revising Selby Alley Hut and so here is your chance. This time the plan is to come in from the north, possibly Pole Blue, so some different territory can be visited for



a change and also to allow a bit more time around the hut for exploring. For those heading off to Nepal here is your chance for a bit of training in our local not so high altitude mountains.

Grade: Moderate

Meet: Pole Blue on the Gloucester Scone road 8:00am

Costs: Nil

Contact: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 at the camping shop

North Brother up and back

When: Sunday 28th September

Where: North Brother mountain at Laurieton

Maps: Laurieton 1:25,000

Activity: An invigorating climb up the many steps of North Brother mountain from Laurieton. Then a picnic lunch which unfortunately you will have to carry unless you can organise a delivery to the top of the mountain. After lunch it is back down the mountain just to test those jelly legs. For those going to Nepal an opportunity not to miss even if it is only to show everyone else just how fit you are.

Grade: moderate

Meet: Western end of Laurie Street Laurieton (Turn right at Theatre) 10:00am

Costs: Nil

Contact: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 at the camping shop



October 2008

Great North road

When: 4-6 October

Where: Wisemans Ferry – Bucketty, St Albans

Maps:

Activity: Bike, walk and drive along some of the convict built Great North road between Wisemans Ferry and Bucketty with a side trip to St Albans, or at least that is the idea. This trip is at present only in the early planning phase. Further information is yet to be determined so if you have any local knowledge please let me know.

Grade: Not too hard

Meet: to be advised

Costs: Unknown

Contact: Geoff Songberg 6557 0052





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

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

FOR SALE

As new pump up Canadian canoe \$675 (\$1100 new)
Ph 6551 5151 or 0409 154 056

Used twice, excellent condition Includes 2 way pump, luggage bag, adjustable seats, paddles

