



The SCROLL



CANOEING

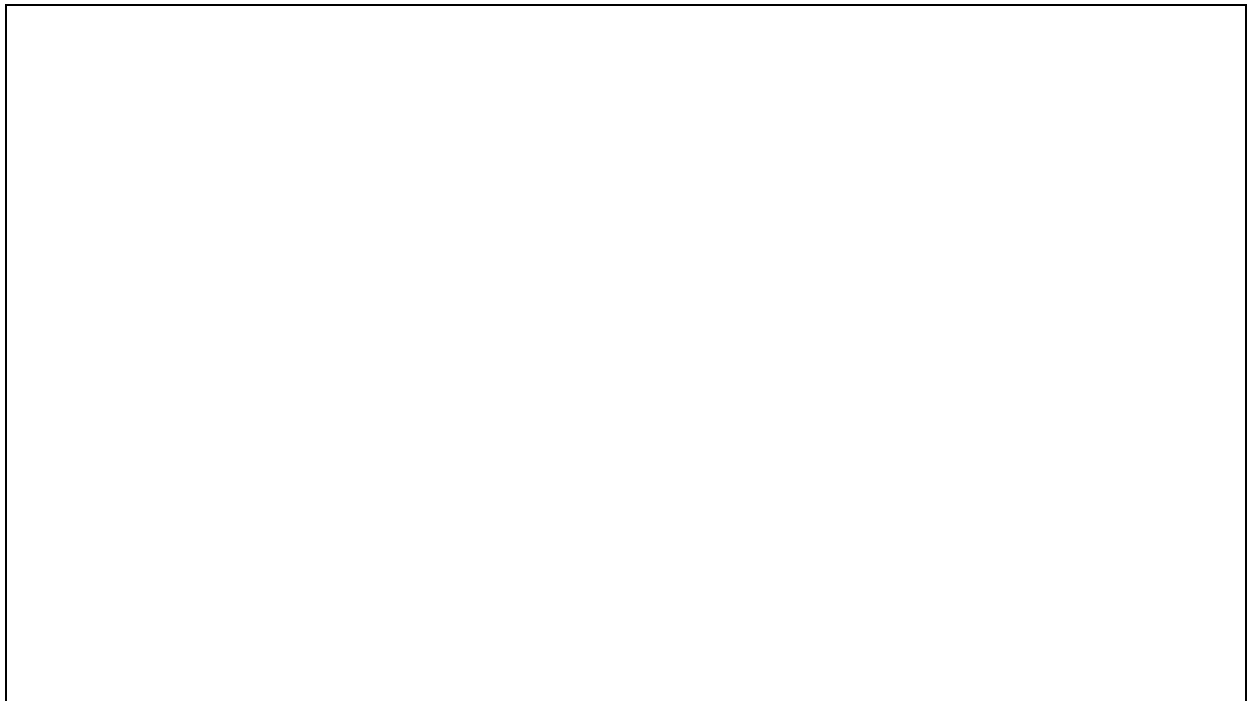
BUSHWALKING

Newsletter of
Manning River Canoe Club Inc.

P.O. Box 511, TAREE 2430

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

Issue: September 2008



Next Meeting, 4th December 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

40 Paddles and 40 Pubs in 40 Days

Heading up the coast from river to river are paddlers Scott Rawstorne and Geoff Greenwood who are already embarking on their unique paddling adventure to paddle on 40 rivers and visit 40 pubs in 40 days. They are undertaking to raise money for Heartfelt House, an organisation based in Northern NSW that provides support to adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse and their family and friends.

Beginning their journey in Rylstone on August 25, Taree is to get a visit from the adventurers on September 27 when they will be paddling from Wingham to Taree on 27 September and all a welcome to jump in their Kayaks and join them. They are due to finish the journey in Ballina on October 3. Geoff Martin is organising to meet them and join the paddle so contact Geoff at the Camping shop if you also feel inclined.

Further information can be obtained from the team's web site www.ecapology.com.au or www.heartfelthouse.org.au If you don't want to paddle then you can also help by buying raffle tickets for the chance to win either a kayak or a rainforest retreat holiday, or by going to the Escapology page on Everyday Hero (www.everydayhero.com/escapology) and making a donation. Any amount over \$2 is tax deductible.

REPORTS

THE EXPEDITION TO FIND THUNDERBOLT'S CAVE

The mystery of Fred Ward – was there really was a cave in the Bucketts used by the bushranger Fred “Thunderbolt” Ward.

By many accounts Fred Ward – Captain Thunderbolt was personable, courteous and some say even compassionate, all of which would have appealed to the isolated settlers of the Upper Hunter region. His name may have been derived from the time he robbed the tollbar gate at Maitland. He pounded on the door and demanded the toll which made a “sound like a Thunderbolt”

He is accredited with mail coach robberies, hotels and stores, stations and residences, hawkers, a tollbar gate, 80 horse thefts (mostly racehorses) one escape from lawful custody and numerous firing on local police. He was shot at Uralla on 25th May 1870 at age 35. He was according to records at large the longest of all bushrangers in Australia's history.



Although there is little factual evidence that Thunderbolt frequented the Gloucester district, wonderful stories of him being in the area persist even today. Tales about Thunderbolt's cave and stables in the bucketts, his lookout and the stealing of a horse from the Gloucester races are all well loved stories. It may have been his incredible bushcraft, or his ability to flaunt the law with his speedie getaways, that his lawlessness appealed to the “ordinary man” whose lives at the

time were often harsh, monotonous and uneventful. Perhaps these storytellers of old enjoyed reveling in the glory of some association with Thunderbolt and felt life was a little more exciting for just knowing of him.

On the weekend of 23rd & 24th of June a group of 15 adventurers from the Manning River Canoe and bushwalking club set off to explore both ends of the Bucketts near Gloucester with the hope of finding the cave on Sunday.

The first day was up over a steep volcanic rock plug so there was lots of climbing and a couple of crevices to negotiate. The view from the track on the way up was stunning, the vegetation was unique and made for a wonderful day. The journey to the trig and back took about six hours and was moderately challenging.



Saturday afternoon we set up camp in the Gloucester Caravan Park with a selection of camper vans, tents and one club cabin, talk about roughing it. Then we strolled down to the top pub for a meal and some live music before hitting the sleeping bags for a well earned rest.

On the second day we were up and about at the ridiculous time of 8 o'clock and headed off from the southern end of the buckets to look for the cave and got obstructed for an hour with dense vegetation and Lantana before reaching the rock face where there was mostly Ferns and mulch forming a relatively easy path. We stuck to the rock face for quite a while as we moved up around bald knob towards peaky knob. There was the usual doubts as to where the cave was, were we going in the right direction and maybe there wasn't a cave after all.

Then all was forgotten as we rounded another rock and there it was. I know it's just a cave but to find something that was supposed to have been a hideout and yards that Captain Thunderbolt used to house stolen stock in 1860 was pretty exciting for us all. The cave had a double entrance and was very uneven inside which would have made entering and living inside a challenge. It was about ten metres deep with two end openings about ten metres square and a smaller area in the middle which would have been ideal in all weather conditions. The stables area is now non existent, however when we visited some forty years ago there was some signs of a fence structure on the southern end of the cave. The roof of the cave was black from many hours of fire which indicated that it had been used quite extensively at some stage in the past.



Our imaginations ran wild for the time we explored the cave, imagining what it could have been like for the men staying in the cave hiding from the law and existing on basic food.



After a while we had to drag ourselves away and hug the rock for a while longer to access the saddle above the cave where we settled in for a well earned lunch before heading down the other side to the cars and the reality of the modern times we live in.

Overall the trip was fascinating with a bit of mystery, adventure, challenge and overall a very rewarding couple of days. Bring on the next adventure.

Geoff Martin

Some of us thought Geoff might be trying to fool us with the cave as we found another under a rock which we christened little thunderbolts cave. You could enter only on hands and knees.

Ed

Caparra Hut re-roofing

Thanks to the generosity of Robert Alley in scrounging roofing iron, screws and sarking all for the right price the hut now has a new roof and a new lease of life. No more should we have to dodge the drips on a wet night. Rob and I arrived bright and not too early, about 9:00, on Saturday and before you could even say what do we do first iron was flying off the roof as the old sheets were pulled off. As soon as enough of the old iron had been removed Rob started putting the



fresh sarking and new sheets down. That left me free to take the odd photo and continue with the removal. Geoff Martin and Greg Stuart arrive an hour or two later and immediately leant on the gate post to supervise. Rob and I decided that we couldn't allow that so we put them to work putting up the mesh screens across the front windows and Perspex in all the windows that had no glazing. At one point Greg did not move fast enough and I nearly got him with a sheet of iron, only a small section. Rob only had a few batteries for the drill so was only putting enough screws in to hold the iron down. Right on schedule, just when we were ready to put more screws in,

Bob Finlay arrived with the generator so we immediately put him to work screwing the majority of the roof down. By 2:30pm everything had been finished. Rob had gone off earlier to do a bike run to keep his points up in the bike club race to be first. Bob and I finished off the last little bits of the roof while Geoff M and Greg continued with their supervision. With everyone gone it was only me left who had contemplated staying overnight but faced with looking at the walls I decided to go too. Rob and I however returned at dark and loaded up all the old iron to be disposed of. Hopefully Rob got a few dollars at the scrap metal dealer for all his effort.



Thanks once again Rob, job well done. Thanks to the rest of the boys for their part, including Geoff M and Greg for their superb supervision.

Geoff S



Minutes from General Meeting June 5 2008

Meeting opened at 6.40 pm

Attendance:

G Songberg, L Butler, G Martin, G Stewart, R & P Finlay,
P Humphries, M O'Brien

Apologies:

S & J Ireland

Previous Minutes:

As per Eskimo scroll – no business arising

Reports:

Geoff S – Caparra Hut re-roofing was an efficient success thanks to Rob A & his expertise. Extra work was also added to windows.

Mick O – Insurance COC from Federation with change of address.

General Business:

Treasurer Pam H will be collating info on members & posting receipts for fees collected. Secretary to draft invitation to past, present & affiliated canoeists/bushwalkers/outdoorists for reunion & information day to be held in Nov. Posters to be organised to invite interested parties to same.

Update event calendar

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.

September 2008

North Brother up and back

When: Sunday 14th 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) 9:00am

Costs: Nil

Contact: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 at the camping shop



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 Saturday

Costs: Nil

Contact: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 at the camping shop



40 Paddles and 40 Pubs in 40 Days

When: Saturday 27 September



Where: Manning River Wingham to Taree

Maps: Taree 1:25,000

Activity: Come along and join in the fun with a couple of paddlers raising money for Heartfelt House charity in a 40 paddles and 40 pubs in 40 days. This segment is from Wingham Taree, from pub to pub. Bound to be a few drinks at the end.

Grade: easy

Meet: Contact Geoff at the camping shop to register your interest and find out meeting time and place.

Costs: Donations to the cause can be made with any over \$2 tax deductible

Contact: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 at the camping shop

A nother North Brother up and back

When: Sunday 28th September

Where: North Brother mountain at Laurieton

Maps: Laurieton 1:25,000

Activity: Geoff M has decided to have another trial at the mountain just to put in that last bit of fitness before Nepal. See if you can bet the Nepal fit team up the mountain and back down again.

Grade: moderate

Meet: Western end of Laurie Street Laurieton (Turn right at Theatre) 9:00am

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



Goulburn River walk with Newcastle bushwalking club

When: 18-19 October

Where: Goulburn River National Park

Maps: Mt Misery and Bylong 1:25,000



Activity: – **BEGINNERS OVERNIGHT WALK**, 7 km track walk to Morrisons Flat where we will camp beside the river. Level riverside walks upstream and down stream, Excellent sandstone gorges to explore.

Grade:

Meet: Meet 9am at Sandy Hollow general store

Costs: Unknown

Contact: Mick O'Brien 6551 2531

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Grade:

Meet: Meet 9am at Sandy Hollow general store

Costs: Unknown

Contact: Mick O'Brien 6551 2531



November 2008

Kerripit River walk with Newcastle bushwalking club

When: 1-2 November

Where: Gloucester Tops

Maps: Gloucester Tops 1:25,000

Activity: **Overnight Walk** Kerripit River, a classic wilderness walk on the edge of Gloucester Tops, follow Hut Creek from the Munro Hut to the Kerripit River and return to the tops link trail via the river and suitable exit ridge – This is a trip for experienced walkers.

Grade: Advanced

Meet:

Costs: Unknown

Contact: Mick O'Brien 6551 2531



Fun day and open day

When: Sunday 23 November

Where: Wingham Brush

Maps:

Activity: Sunday Fun Day – All welcome bring your friends and prospective new members Paddles from Wingham Brush for everyone, boats supplied or bushwalks in the brush plus **BBQ. with Meat and bread supplied Bring your own drinks, chairs & salads etc.**

Grade:



Meet: 1:00pm at Wingham Brush

Costs: Nil

Contact: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 at the camping shop

South West Rocks camping canoeing and walking

When: 29-30 November

Where: South West Rocks – Trial Bay



Maps:

Activity: Bring your Kayaks for a paddle around the bay or up the Macleay River plus a bushwalk and lots of campfire fun.

Grade:

Meet:

Costs: Camping fees

Contact: Geoff Martin 6552 5255 at the camping shop

December 2008

MEETING – Thursday 4th December 6:30 Taree Camping shop

Xmas dinner follows a short meeting with lots of awards and prizes to be won.

Venue to be decided

Give your name to Geoff at the Camping shop

January 2009

New England N. P. – Styx River

When: Thur – Sun, 1,2,3 & 4 Jan 09

Where: Styx River Camping Area

Maps: Ebor & Hyatts Flat 1: 25000

Activity: Bushwalking, Fishing, Car Camping

Grade: Easy and Medium Walks

Meet: TBA

Costs: National Parks Fees

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



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