

BANKSTOWN BUSHWALKING CLUB INC.

THE OUTDOORS CLUB THAT DOES IT ALL!

BUSH TELEGRAPH

2018 No. 2
WINTER



Bondi to 'Bar Metrogaine

25 February 2018 - by Meela Davis

I wanted to kick off 2018 with something I had always been interested in trying... Rogaining!

I contacted the BBC and Thaïs happily accepted me into the team. We all met for the first time, in a busy Hash House on an uncharacteristically dreary February morning. Our group was mixed - Thaïs, of much and varied experience; Becks, who has been to Everest Base Camp and Kilimanjaro; Barbara, who's hiked the Camino Frances and maintains a cracking pace all day; Amanda, a first time rogainer who confesses to being daunted by the phrase '10 kilometre walk'. And me - erstwhile runner, recent hiker, specialties include: getting lost. Dangerously lost.

We're given a large map covering a large hunk of coastal suburbia between Bondi and Malabar. Turning it around and around, we decide on the lower half-to-third; setting a nice course from South Coogee to Malabar, then returning through Maroubra and coastal views.

We don't quite hear the whistle blow, but do see teams race off in all directions. We confidently set off past the first landmark (a park), hit a road and then just get kind of stuck. Everyone grabs a compass, trying to find a bearing within the corridor of cars. Metal cars. The kind that attract magnets.

Time for a riddle - what points north in the evening and south in the morning? Yes, it's my compass! On a recent trip, I had safely tucked my important tools together in the top of a backpack. Compass, notes, pencil, and phone. The phone is a giant battery, which is

a giant electromagnet, which in turn polarised my compass, making it point south instead of north.

Confidently, our party strides off in the wrong direction. Then returns with slightly less confidence. After some lively discussion and competitive compass-reading, we're back on track. So, it turns out rogain is harder than it looked!

The false start doesn't hinder our confidence for long. We start reading the map well, working together to pick up on the tiny little details that make or break control-finding. It's fun to pick up clues that lead to controls that are well-hidden behind a rock-shelf or down a winding staircase.

Rogaining reveals scenery that remains hidden to the casual passer-by. Just off the Heads at Malabar, there is a secret tiny railway track used to transport material to the pillboxes that jut up over the headland.

(cont'd p.2)



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All opinions and recommendations contained in this magazine are the individual authors' alone, and do not constitute official endorsement by the executive or members of the Bankstown Bushwalking Club Inc.

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President's Piece

by Thaïs Turner

The 2018 AGM was held in March and we warmly welcome a number of new faces onto our committees. Thank you to all those who have served the Club in our elected and appointed positions. There have been a few changes of personnel. You'll find a list of the 2018-2019 position holders, and all the 2017 reports presented at the AGM, in this edition of the Bush Telegraph.

It's pleasing to note that our membership numbers are steadily increasing, thanks to the good work of our outgoing Membership Officer – Glenda. We now welcome Aidan into this role. We also say 'Thank You!' to our long standing (7 years) Membership Rep – Kerrie - and welcome Abdul into this role. Another long standing member – Ric – has decided to step back from the abseil committee after 8 years. Thanks Ric!

A hearty 'Congratulations!' also goes to **Shannon** – the winner of the **Club Member of the Year** award for completing the most activities (excl social) during **2017**. Shannon's 25 activities included walks and rogaines, and she was also the activity leader on many of these.

Thank you to all the leaders who have submitted their Activity Registers promptly. In 2017 the submission rate improved to 100%. A fantastic effort! The Club Management team and the Walks and Abseil Committees are very happy. Just a reminder to ensure you're using the latest version of the Registers (dated 2017).

We experienced unseasonal weather earlier in Autumn (so the plants were behaving as if it was Spring) but now the tem-

peratures are definitely falling and it's time to move into our winter weather adventures. There are plenty of activities on the Program to entice you outdoors and into the bush.

Bushwalkers (along with many others) are very concerned by the NSW State Government's proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall. During flood events this would inundate 4,700 hectares of pristine World Heritage listed National Parks and 65 kilometres of wild rivers - twice the length of the Franklin River that was under threat in the 1980s. The next Bushwalking NSW meeting on Tues 15 May at Redfern Town Hall will address this issue. Bushwalkers should try to attend, and join the campaign to keep the dam wall as it is.

We are very close to having a Club promotional flyer ready for distribution, so you can spread the word about your Bushwalking Club in your local communities, and a Club business card so you can easily hand out the Club contact details to people you might meet while you're on adventures in the bush.

Advance notice: the Club will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2020. Let's plan for some great activities.

See you on the track soon,

Thaïs

Bondi to 'Bar Metrogaine (cont'd)

by Meela Davis

Being a social, walking rogaing experience, the team doesn't stress about hitting all controls. Around lunch, there's a stop at Malabar for a takeaway coffee. There are quite a few people having a full sit-down brunch using their rogaing maps as placemats at the cafe. I think that's a nice thing about rogaing - there are little children, crews of people chatting, young people, older people, lackadaisical breakfast-gaining teams and serious teams who sweep up the course. Everyone can get something out of it.

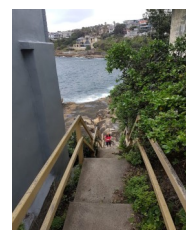
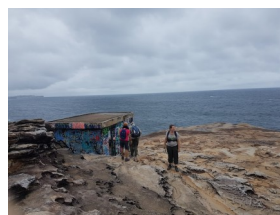
Being a walking team, we take some time to get to know one another, chatting about our backgrounds, interests and views on outdoor sports. I wouldn't have met any of these ladies during my normal everyday life. Over the course of 6 hours and a half marathon, we get to know one another and start to function as a team.

One team does manage to clear the course. I meet one of them in the dinner line, and he proudly tells me they cleared all controls. He and his partner are super-wiry, running some 50km over the 6 hour period!

Our team doesn't quite clear the course. We do hit our target for the day, and come home satisfied with a fun day out.

Our stats for the day

- walked a half marathon.
- controls bagged: 17.
- points: 1080 out of a possible 3070.
- late penalties: none, back on time!
- new friends: several.



AGM March 2018 Reports

2017 Management Committee Report for March 2018 AGM

Activities Programs

Club members have enjoyed another year of variety in their adventurous outdoor activities. Some weather events affected planned trips, as with previous years. Each quarter we have a packed program, with new leaders coming forward in 2017. Thank you to the Walks, Abseil and Social Committees for creating programs full of fun activities. Thank you to all the leaders (especially new leaders) and also to all the participants (and a special welcome to new members). We had 25 different leaders during 2017, so I hope this trend continues to inspire others to lead activities which showcase your favourite places.

Behind the Scenes

Thank you to the Management Committee (Thaïs, Paul, Jon, Kerrie and Shannon, plus Wai-Lin and Samantha for part of the year). Thanks as well to all those who volunteered to provide our tasty suppers at Club Meeting nights, and the presenters who provided interesting and diverse topics on Club Meeting nights. We see the world through their slide shows. Thanks also to the Social Committee (Shannon, Barbara and Thaïs) who organised the successful annual Christmas Party.

Club Promotion

Glenda, our Membership Officer has streamlined our systems and we've grown by approx 20 new memberships during the year. This is great news. Some promotion in local papers and through the new Canterbury Bankstown Council, as well as the local MP, also occurred in 2017. Brochures, posters and business cards will be created in 2018. A survey about the Club logo during 2017 concluded that it would remain the same, while a survey about the Club name is set to occur in 2018. Don't forget to check out the Club's Facebook page and all the trip photos.

Bush Telegraph

The Bush Telegraph (the Club's quarterly newsletter) was produced in print and digital versions in 2017 and made available to all members. Thanks to the contributors who shared a wide range of interesting stories & pictures of Club trips, and trips from further afield, as well as information pieces, recipes, jokes & poems. Please continue to submit your items so we can continue sharing our activities with other members. How about writing a brief report on each Club activity to share with other members through the Bush Telegraph?

Risk Management

The Walks & Management Committees updated forms & procedures during 2017 to conform with the latest safety principles. Our very informative Club website (www.bankstownbushwalkingclub.org.au) is still in the process of being updated. Have a look and explore all the links to keep informed.

Our Club has a very good safety record and we work hard to maintain this. However incidents continued to occur in our favourite National Parks across the State in 2017, and the Police, NPWS and other agencies continued to remind outdoor adventurers to carry a PLB if possible, and to follow some basic rules to ensure the best outcome. Bushwalking NSW meetings (quarterly – all welcome) and their monthly newsletters are another good way to keep up to date with how to stay safe in the great outdoors.

Club Constitution

In March 2017 Club members voted to update the older 2003 Club Constitution to the new Model (with a couple of amendments) from NSW Fair Trading (the government department overseeing Associations) to conform with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009, and with Regulation 2016.

Insurance

During 2017 the new insurer Jardine Lloyd Thompson Sports Division was chosen by Bushwalking NSW on behalf of their member bushwalking clubs. Our Club personal accident, and third party liability cover are now with JLT. See our website and Club Information Sheet for more details.

We've had a very active year, and look forward to sharing many more with all our members.

We'd love to chat with you at a Club meeting soon, and to see you out on the bush tracks.

Thaïs Turner, President,

on behalf of the Management Committee

Treasurers Report for Year End 2017 for March 2018 AGM

This year the club incurred a loss of \$277.44.

The club remains financially sound. The "effective" balance in our Commonwealth Bank account plus petty cash at end of year 2017 was \$5,250.78, which takes into account unclaimed 2017 expenses. Included in this amount are abseil funds of \$2,995.00.

Total net assets of the Club are \$4,815.49. This figure takes into account additional "assets" in the form of prepaid fees to BNSW and "liabilities" from membership fees to end of June 2018.

The main items of income and expenditure for the Club during the year were:

Major income:

membership: \$3065.00

abseil revenue: \$910.00

advertising: \$200.00

booklet & gear sale: \$25

Major expenses:

BNSW fees (including insurance): \$2039.02, with fees made up as follows: Insurance \$7.88 pp and BNSW fees \$7.65 pp (for 131 members).

Christmas party: \$276.77, well worth the cost for this successful function.

Club administration and running (stationery, printing, hall hire, PO Box, suppers, Fair Trading fees, other): \$1576.60

First aid course reimbursement: \$307.50

Purchase of books for our library: \$77.85

No raise in membership fees are recommended for the coming 2018/19 year, but a raise may be necessary in the following year, as we have now incurred a loss for the last five years.

Zero interest from Commonwealth Bank was earned this year. We could consider depositing several thousand dollars into an interest bearing term deposit, to gain in the order of \$50 pa interest.

Jon Gray

Treasurer

AGM March 2018 Reports

2017 WALKS COMMITTEE REPORT for March 2018 AGM

Hello everyone

We've had another year with extreme high temperatures and bushfires featuring over the summer period. There have been some extreme rain events too. Climate change is having an impact on our activities now. As bushwalkers we are in a position where we can see the impacts more than others with a more urban outlook.

Unfortunately from time to time this means last minute cancellations and changes of plan. It's always better to err on the safe side and remember that the bush (for the most part) will still be there another day. It's great that members continue to be supportive of our leaders when they have to cancel or change plans, no matter how disappointed they are.

At the time of writing, fire damage has closed part of the Royal National Park, and we won't be able to schedule some of our favourite walks for a while. Perhaps our leaders can find some new areas to explore?

Speaking of leaders, we are lucky to have a great bunch of leaders who contribute to the program. It's been said many times, but a bushwalking club is only as good as its leaders. Ours provide us with a huge selection of activities from the challenging to the civilised so we seem to hit all bases. And there are plenty of opportunities to try non-bushwalking activities too.

Again, we'd like to encourage more club members to lead activities. As you would appreciate a larger number of leaders can provide more variety in the activities we offer. And the upside for the leader is that they have company when they do the trip they want to do on the date they want to do it.

In finishing the Walks Committee would like to say a huge thank you to all the leaders who make the program what it is and to the club members who support the trips that our leaders organise for them.

See you in the bush.

Chris, Geoff, Louise, Lynda, Mike, Shannon & Wai-Lin

The Walks Committee

2017 SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT for March 2018 AGM

The Club's social activities, as in previous years, were many and varied in 2017.

We've successfully achieved our Club's second Object which is 'to provide opportunities for social activities and to encourage friendship between members and other members of the community'.

We thank the approx 10 different organisers of our social activities for providing such a diversity through the year, including:

Film festivals (Ocean, Banff, and Radical Reels) ; Dinners (after some walks, as well as Rocks area, and Bankstown Sports Club) ; Garden visit (Camellias at Caringbah) ; Sculpture exhibitions (Scenic World, Rookwood, and By the Sea) ; Brigadoon Highland Gathering, and Wings Over Illawarra Air Show ; Art Gallery, VIVID light festival, and Cumberland Gang show ; Base Camps (Mount Wilson, Kangaroo Valley, Wee Jasper, Bungonia, and Shoalhaven) ; Meet-night presentations (NZ walks, Club website, Navigation

tips, Spanish Camino, Careflight, and Around Australia featuring W.A. / Kimberley).

You'll be pleased to know that many walks/activities are followed by coffee (and sometimes cake) at a nearby café. This is a great opportunity to rest weary legs and reminisce about the day's adventure.

As a special treat Shannon organised a BBQ lunch at Wattamolla after one of her walks in 2017, supplying meat, salad & bread, with Julie and Vaz bringing along their portable barbecue, and others bringing nibbles to share. It was a great success. Let's have more of these events when we can.

The quarterly Bushwalking NSW General Meetings at Redfern were attended by several members. These are a great chance to hear guest speakers, and meet members of other bushwalking clubs. Remember anyone can attend, not just the delegates.

The Careflight presentation at the Oct meeting happily resulted in merchandise purchases and a \$200 donation being forwarded to Careflight to continue their important work. They were very appreciative of this gesture, and Club members on the night were very interested to find out more about this vital organisation.

The Club's Christmas party in Dec was well attended by 41 members. This year saw a new format with caterers providing the main BBQ meal and Shannon & Barbara organising the nibbles and desserts. This year we added a fun aspect with a Trivia segment, led by Thaïs. Winners were very happy with their lucky door prizes, and the Leader of the Year award was presented to Thaïs.

The Social Committee would like to thank all members who provided supper at the Club's meetings. Everyone is very grateful for the effort you put in to this important social aspect of our meetings. Don't forget we are on the lookout to add volunteers to this list for our meeting nights in 2018.

If anyone has any ideas for other social activities they'd like to organise for the Program, please contact one of the Social Committee members.

Barbara, Shannon & Thaïs
The Social Committee

2017 MEMBERSHIP OFFICER REPORT for March 2018 AGM

At end of 2017 membership figures were identical to end 2016: 130 members. (118 adults & 12 children under 18yo.)

29 members were deleted from the membership list during 2017 due to resigning or non-renewal for 2017/2018.

29 members were also added to the membership list during 2017 (24 new members and 5 rejoining members).

The rate of enquiries is approx 6 per month. The main sources were: finding the Club via the internet, from referral by friends, & from links on other adventure activity websites.

Rope related activities continue to draw many new members to the Club & there are now several families with children.

Members are electing to receive their communications of the Program and Bush Telegraph in the majority by email (85%) with the remainder by postal methods (15%).

Glenda Bartlett
Membership Officer

AGM March 2018 Reports

2017 Abseil Committee Report for March 2018 AGM

We've had another busy year on the ropes. Revisited a favourite abseil route down the Narrowneck hole twice this year, hopefully making the navigation to the starting point easier to find. Also quite a few new club members have joined us, and learnt some rope skills so they can participate on the abseil trips.

The canyons in the previous years fire affected areas seem to have cleared, as have the trails leading into and out of the canyons, making navigation a bit easier. Only late in the season did we experience any park closures from fires, which meant we had to change our trip plans

Our caving group have had some achievements, by reaching the bottom of the Adytum in Blowfly Cave, Bungonia a couple of times. Some great pictures were taken to show off the event.

The SRT training has garnered interest especially for the

caving season. Having skilled participants make this activity more enjoyable and efficient. Also it keeps the trip leaders happy and willing to run more trips!

We would like to remind people to regularly inspect their equipment for wear. Replace prusik loops every few years as they are inexpensive, yet very useful should you need them. The club also has sacrificial tape and spare maillons for participants to carry, should we need to replace aged anchors, or make our own on abseil trips.

The abseil committee will be changing a bit in 2018, with Kshitij away for 6 months and Ric stepping back, but still willing to lead trips and run SRT training days. We welcome others willing to step up and have a go in the committee, as it is a good experience to help learn more about our activities.

Chris, Paul, Ric, Kshitij & Tim

Your friendly Abseil Committee

Wentworth Falls Wander (14 April 2018) by Jon Gray

Eleven of us recently spent a very enjoyable day wandering around the Wentworth Falls – Valley of the Waters area on a near perfect sunny autumn day. We started at Conservation Hut, then soon got our first taste of the breathtaking views out over the Jamison Valley from Queen Victoria Lookout. Most of us proceeded down to the base of Empress Falls – a magical spot. Soon after, we all proceeded along the cliff top walk, with frequent stops to soak in the spectacular views. We had lunch near the top of Wentworth Falls, where we were “refreshed” with periodic light sun-showers that blew over us from the nearby falls!

After lunch we commenced down towards the base of the Falls. This stretch of path and staircase has got to be one of the most dramatic walks in the whole country (if not the world). Only myself and Barbara F went all the way to the base of the Falls (or near enough to), the others all choosing to stop and take it easy at higher points. Following a more direct route back to Conservation Hut, we enjoyed a very civilised afternoon tea at the upmarket café there. We all agreed it had been a wonderful day!

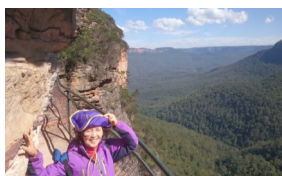
Pics clockwise from below:

From Queen Victoria Lookout (JG)

From base of Empress Falls (JG)

Group selfie from Breakfast Point Lkt (AB)

Melissa on the Grand Stairs, Wentworth Falls (JG)



BNSW meeting 20 Feb 2018: Good club management by Jon Gray

This last meeting, attended by Thaïs, Kerrie and myself, featured an interesting talk by the BNSW Executive Officer, Kirsten Mayer, titled “Keeping Your Club on Track”. She offered many good pointers for successful club management, of both a general and specific nature. She had widely sought advice from all BNSW member clubs, as well as other organisations such as NSW Office of Sport, NSW Fair Trading and NSW Volunteering.

Her key markers of a “Club on track” were:

- A shared identity and vision by club members
- An active and committed membership with renewal
- Full and varied activities program
- Engaged leaders, with encouragement for new leaders
- A positive constructive culture
- Active training programs
- Good communications
- Good governance, with well documented policies, guidelines and procedures.

Hopefully we would get at least a pass based on these markers! Many of the more specific ideas for successful club management that Kirsten and BNSW had come up with are presented on the BNSW website: <http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/club-management/>

The Canberra Bushwalking Club won the award for the “best club running tips”, as they had provided a range of tips ranging from “formal to fun” (see their website <https://canberrabushwalkingclub.org/>). Our BBC *Leader of the Year* and *Member of the Year* initiatives were noted as useful strategies worthy of adopting.

CLUB MEETINGS EVERY MONTH

USUALLY HELD ON 2ND MONDAY OF MONTH—
EXCEPT JANUARY

Georges Hall Community Centre
188 Birdwood Road
Georges Hall NSW 2198

Club email address:
bankstownbush@gmail.com

Contributions to this newsletter are always
welcome & can be emailed to Thaïs .

Deadline for Spring issue is: Fri 3rd Aug 2018

Meetings coming up in 2018:

June 18th

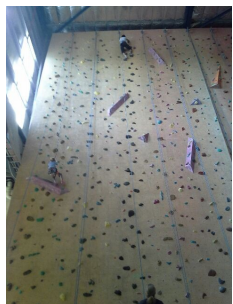
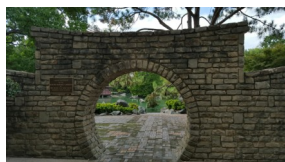
July 9th

August 13th

We're on the Web!

[http://
www.bankstownbushwalkingclub.
org.au](http://www.bankstownbushwalkingclub.org.au)

Pics from Shannon: 5 pics of Auburn Botanic Gar-
dens—on 31 Mar 2018.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Robert Stokes
Warren Sandom
Monicah Njoroge
Nicole Astridge
Stephen Holley
Marchelle Madden

Please make our new members
welcome when you see them on
the next activity.

**AWARD WINNERS
2017**

Member of the Year

Shannon

Leader of the Year

Thaïs

Ross Hamilton Shield

(for the Club's Paddy Pallin
Rogainers with the highest
score)

Rebecca Parsons & Paul
Bowdler

**CLUB OFFICE BEARERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS –
elected & appointed at March 2018 AGM****POSITION**

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer & Public Officer
Member's Representative
Walks Committee

NAME

Thaïs Turner
Paul Bowdler
Barbara Jacquemin
Jon Gray
Abdul Zaitoun
Aidan Basnett (Rep)
Geoff Bovard
Louise Glynn
Wai-Lin McCaull
Lynda Paju
Mike Robinson
Shannon Simonit
Chris Ward

Social Committee

Barbara Jacquemin
Thaïs Turner (Rep)
Abdul Zaitoun

Abseil Committee

Paul Bowdler
Tim Fox
Kshitij Sahni
Chris Ward

Membership Officer

Aidan Basnett

Newsletter Editor (Bush Telegraph)

Thaïs Turner

Activities Program Editor

Wai-Lin McCaull

Web Master

Kshitij Sahni

Bushwalking NSW Delegates

Jon Gray

Kerrie McLean

Thaïs Turner

Child Protection Officer

Chris Ward

Left: Lien making it to the top of the climbing wall on her first
attempt—well done! Climbing Day held on 22 April 2018.

Below: 2 pics of Rose Bay to Watsons Bay walk 11 Mar 2018.
Strickland House and Vaucluse House.



SNIPPETS

Compiled by Thaïs Turner

- After some heavily discounted sales as a prelude to closing all stores Australia-wide earlier in 2018, **Mountain Designs** has been bought by Spotlight Group Holdings. Their aim is to continue the brand as an Australian icon, but whether this involves any shop front retail outlets remains to be seen.
- Look out for the new walking tracks in the **Malabar Headland National Park**. A few of us got to experience the rugged beauty and military history of the Park on the Metrogaine in the area in Feb 2018. You may find your own chance to experience the area too, sometime soon.
- The project to return the 'Bottomless Pool' which had filled with sediment, at the base of **MiniHaHa Falls** in Yosemite Creek, North Katoomba, to it's former status, has won the Blue Mountains City Council & the North Katoomba Community an award for outstanding work over many years, in the NSW Local Government Awards, in late 2017. Land-care & Bushcare groups were key to the success of the project which had positive results and significantly improved the health of the bushland & aquatic habitat of the stream. Source: BMCS Hut News No. 353, Nov 2017, Pg 12.
- **Mount Tomah Botanic Garden** celebrated its 30 year anniversary in Nov 2017. Have you visited the cool climate garden recently? Autumn colours would be looking wonderful right now.
- Did you know there is a **Tassie Devil Sanctuary** at Lithgow? See www.secretcreeksanctuary.com.au for all the info. They are looking after retired Tassie Devils from Devil Ark, and many other native animals as well.
- There has been much outrage that the **Bell and Clarence** areas are set to become a massive dumping ground to bail out the poor planning of Sydney's major infrastructure projects. There are plans for 15 years or more, for 30 large trucks a day, driving along narrow winding stretches of road, so a complex of old sand quarries can be filled in with spoil from the construction of WestConnex motorway and the proposed airport. Noisy dusty trucks will be going along the whole mountains length of the GWH on route to Bell. The old quarry is at the headwaters of the Wollangambe River not far from the scene of the destructive colliery accident in 2015 that dumped coal fines into the river. Source: BMCS Hut News No. 353, Nov 2017, Pg 1.
- Remember to get in contact with Bushwalking NSW to find out how you can get behind the campaign to keep **War-ragamba Dam** wall as it is, and resist the NSW gov't proposal to raise the wall by 14 metres. Raising the wall would be an environmental disaster for areas of the Blue Mountains that we as bushwalkers have come to know and love. Exclusion zones around top water levels would see most of the current walking areas Restricted or No Entry. During flood events a raised wall would result in the inundation of 4,700 hectares of pristine World Heritage listed National Parks and 65 kilometres of wild rivers - twice the length of the Franklin River that was under threat in the 1980s.
- The **Bushwalking NSW** meeting on Tues 15 May at Redfern Town Hall addresses this issue. Bushwalkers should seek out more information and join the campaign to keep the dam wall as it is. Don't put off getting involved – the need for action is now, decisions are being made very soon.
- **Jenolan Caves** is set to receive an \$8.5m facelift. The funds will be spent on upgrading walking tracks, boardwalks, and observation platforms to the Blue Lake area, as well as improving the Grand Arch entrance area.
- For those interested in Tasmania: the **Frenchman's Cap Track** (45km) recently had a makeover with a brand new Bushwalker's Hut at Lake Tahune. In a first for a bushwalking hut in Tassie, the new design utilizes a micro hydro system to power the heating and lighting.
- Also in Tassie, for the Mountain Bike enthusiasts: a small town in the northeast – Derby – is set to once again become a key leg in the **Enduro World MTB Series** after a \$3.1 million investment (incorporating 85 km of trails) improving the world class MTB park. This outlay has proved to be a winner economically as it returns \$30 million annually. More info at: www.ridebluederby.com.au
- For the **Backcountry Ski** enthusiasts: The Backcountry Film Festival was held in Sydney on April 21, with other places around the country still to come. Find out more at: www.backcountry-festival.com
- The **Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival World Tour** is on now (including a great Aussie film from an amazing Tassie location); Gutsy Girls Adventure Film festival is coming up in July; and Radical Reels Film festival is on in Nov. Plus many other outdoor film festivals throughout the coming months from Telluride USA, and from Europe. Check their websites for all the details.
- The **Colong Foundation** is celebrating 50 years of standing up for wilderness areas in NSW. Check their website for all the details of the activities they have planned.
- Also make sure you mark in your diaries that the **Bushwalking NSW annual bush camp** and AGM is to be held on the weekend of **October 20-21** in the **Bungonia National Park**. There will be a fireside BBQ on Saturday night and many walks, workshops, training, socialising and other events on both days. This is a great opportunity to meet bushwalkers from BNSW member clubs from across NSW in a wonderful setting. Hope to see you there.



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website or in store.

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