

BANKSTOWN BUSHWALKING CLUB INC.

THE OUTDOORS CLUB THAT DOES IT ALL!

BUSH TELEGRAPH

2018 No. 3
SPRING



Rogaining NSW Navigational Workshop 14-15 April 2018

by Meela Davis

Fun in the forest! Howling winds, countless kangaroos, deceptive gullies and killer trees.

Rogaining NSW held a Navigational Workshop in April. Most of the attendees were rogainers of varying experience. For myself, I wanted to improve my navigation in general, and hopefully stop myself from getting lost in large car parks.

Arriving just on registration close, I form up with my brand new team mates and we hook ourselves a coach. Piling into Lisa's car, Coach Andrew asks us about our experience and intentions for the weekend. Lisa, Monica and Carlton are all more experienced bushwalkers and rogainers looking to level-up. Lisa and Monica have competed in several Nav Shield events, and feel themselves to be stuck in a groove. I'm looking to feel more confident in reading terrain and taking bearings so that when I get myself lost, I'm much more likely to get myself found again. We all consider ourselves intermediate level navigators, though to be honest, I'm a bit behind the others.

Little Steps in Lidsdale. The first exercise is at Lidsdale State Forest. Andrew coaches us to hit 9 controls in numerical order, helping us to identify features of the terrain and correlate them to the map. We don't use the compass, but to use techniques such as contouring and navigating up and down gullies. Gullies and spurs can be very subtle. It is easy to end up in the wrong one if you zone out for a few minutes. As I am coming to understand, with rogaining the tiny details are very important. We practice noticing dry water courses, gently raking gullies, knots of blackberry and thick-

ets of different vegetation. Tiny specks of blue or a faint wiggle in a contour line on a map translate into big differences in the real world. It starts to make sense to me how easy it is to get lost while following a track or navigating by cairns instead of by terrain.

Back to the Hash House for an amazing lunch. Theory time! We get a session from top roganier, Gill Fowler, on strategies, course setting, and techniques. Then we have a session where Joel Mackay explains the gear he takes on a 24 hour rogaine. There's only a tiny bit of teasing about having worn the same outfit for the last 10 years.

Maps of past 24 hour championship courses are passed around and we are asked to set a course using the techniques just learned. Coaches float around, answering questions, observing and giving advice they have gained from their years of tenure as top rogainers. We talk about strategies to create your rogaine course - estimating your speed, the terrain, location of water drops. Thinking about where you want to be when it is dark, where you want to be when you are tired. We string controls together in a logical series and the coaches approve.

An amazing dinner comes our way.

Once stomachs are full, it's time for some night nav. I am the only person without a head torch. It didn't feel like a big deal when I packed, but it was a big deal. I wasn't able to move or navigate as well as the others. Control-spotting was impossible for me, and map-reading became map-juggling.

(Cont'd p3 with pics)

(Further links & pics on nswrogaining.org website)

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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

Our Spring Program has plenty to offer our members – a diversity of activities in a wide range of areas around Sydney. Take a look and see how you can get active as the weather warms up and the flowers put out more blooms, many having bloomed already in Autumn/Winter due to unseasonal temperatures.

Climate change has definitely been evident this year in many parts of the world, including Australia. Heavy snow-falls arrived late in the season and are hoped to stay in place for some good cross-country skiing. We also hope for more rain to add to the few small showers we've had recently, especially for the farming communities, but also for our native bush, which is under stress.

Thank you to the leaders who have put activities on the **Spring program** and to those leading their very first walk/s during Spring. We are always on the lookout for more leaders and more activities. Leading an activity is both personally rewarding, and a great way to have company to get to areas you would like to explore.

It's great to see the resurgence of a group of keen **cyclists** in the Club. The latest Program has trips to suit all experience levels.

A reminder that Membership fees for 2018-2019 were due on 1 July so if you haven't received the Membership renewal form (sent to all members via email by Aidan early July), then please contact him ASAP to have it emailed to you now. Please note the various methods of payment and how to return your fully completed and signed (very important) forms to Aidan. If using the EFT option and returning the forms digitally to Aidan, please note that pdf scans are preferred. Photos can be difficult to read and print at his end (required for Club files), so please help make his job a little easier.

Congratulations to Meela Davis who, with her non-BBC team member, in the May 'Wingaine' at Wingello (Southern Highlands) – in stormy, dark and wet conditions - still came 2nd in the Women's 6hr event in what was one of her first 5 rogaines! Becks & Thaïs came in 9th of 17 teams in the Women's 6hr category. We stayed on when most had headed for home so we were rewarded by sharing in the selection of local produce being given away. The honey, jam, chutney etc from Bundanoon locals was very nice.

In the Paddy Pallin Rogaine at Kitchener near Newcastle in June Meela joined Becks & myself and we also did well. We were very pleased to win our Club's **Ross Hamilton Shield Award**. The Crough family (Robert, Yvonne, April & John) were another BBC team who entered and did well.

Discussions are still occurring about the proposal to raise the **Warragamba Dam** wall. The case has been put to the IUCN by the Colong Foundation due to the high level of concern held for our environment with these threats to 4,700 hectares of pristine World Heritage listed National Parks and 65 kilometres of wild rivers.

We have a Club promotional **flyer and business card** now ready for copying and distribution, so you can spread the word about your Bushwalking Club in your local community, and to people met while on your many adventures in the bush.

Advance notice: our Club **Christmas Party** is coming up on Mon 10 Dec. If you have any suggestions send them to myself, Barbara and Abdul and we'll see if we can incorporate them into a fun night for all.

See you on the track soon,

Thaïs

Villaggio Bar Cafe 14 June 2018

from Shannon

A great night was had at Villaggio Bar Cafe, Revesby. Laughing, chatting, pizza, pasta and wine, followed by nuttella pizza for dessert.

Dinners are always welcome on the activities program. Do you have a favourite restaurant you'd like to share with the club?



Kamay Botany Bay NP 11 June 2018

from Shannon

The inclement weather didn't deter 14 bushwalkers from getting outdoors on Monday 11th June.

We navigated our way around large pools of water (courtesy of the weekend's heavy rainfall) and ate lunch in the rain.

Our efforts were rewarded with the sight of whales at Cape Solander as well as a magnificent rainbow.



Rogaining NSW Nav Workshop (cont'd) by Meela Davis

Andrew again coached us in some difficult gully-work. He was happy with our response when we failed to locate control 3. We decided we had got it wrong, moved on to where we thought it could be and again failed to find it. We moved on, hit our other controls and then doubled back to the control 3 gully from a different angle. Again we failed to find it.

Later, talking to the other teams, we confirmed that control 3 was not placed correctly. We were in the right spot - the control was lost!

Back to the Hash House, hot tea and into bed. The howling winds kept lots of folk awake. Quite a few tents were claimed as its victims, collapsing and ripping.

Featureless Falnash State Forest. This was difficult! The terrain was flat and featureless. Choosing attack points was tricky. Finding any feature to take a bearing from required us to use all of our new skills. Halfway through, Andrew split our team into 2 pairs and sent us in different directions while he followed and kept an eye on us. I'm happy to report that we found our controls easily!

Usually when I see a featureless map, my first reaction is "oh that will be easy". Um... no. That will be hard because there is nothing there to navigate from!

Walking back to the car, we hear a loud cracking sound. A few metres in front of us tree trunk rips at the base and it crashes to the ground. By chance it fell away from us. Unconsciously, we feel less secure and walk more tightly together. Although really, if another tree fell, being together would not help much at all. It still feels safer to huddle up.

Minigaine! We participate in a proper minigaine. Working in teams to set a course, navigate to controls and manage our time. It put our new skills to the test. For me it highlighted the importance of teamwork. The others had been working together for some time, and I was the interloper, disrupting their established dynamic for better or worse. Talking afterward to some high performers, it is obvious that working as a team is just as important as navigating well and managing time.

The weekend was fabulous overall. I like to think I learned a lot about navigation, reading maps and compass skills. There was a lot to learn about strategy and teamwork. Navigation isn't just following a track or taking a compass bearing. There is a strategy to deciding how you will move from A to B, and it depends a lot on why you want to go there and what you're going to do afterwards.

Now I can no longer claim to get lost in large car parks. Instead it will be "easily outsmarted by large trees". The danger was worth it, and a good weekend was had.



Team concentrating by Chris Stevenson NSWRA (used with permission).



Map by Meela

Concord Foreshore Trail 19 May 2018 from Abdul Zaitoun



Ross Hamilton Shield Award 2018

Meela Davis, Rebecca Parsons and Thais Turner won the Club's Ross Hamilton Shield for the Paddy Pallin Rogainers of the Year for 2018.

This year's PP rogaine was held at Kitchener in the Hunter Valley near Newcastle.



Paul Bowdler (Club vice-president) presented the Award to Thais on behalf of the winning team at the July 2018 Club Meeting.

THREE MEN ON A WALK BY J. R TURNER (THAI'S GRANDFATHER)

(continuing the story from Autumn 2018 Bush Telegraph)

Eventually we reached the newly made road and later we descended on the hamlet of Goone-Gerah, a tired and hungry party. This stretch of 22 miles was one of the best of the tour. Goone-Gerah is a picturesque spot in the mountainous Gippsland country. Huge hills surround the small clearings and man seems to hold only a permissive occupancy from nature, which holds unlimited power on every hand.

We lodged, or rather remained at Mrs. Edward's boarding-house that night. The landlady who was a typically stage type Australian housewife had an obsession concerning influenza. She feared one of our party might harbour some dreadful germ on his person. After submitting ourselves to a complete cross-examination as to our capacity to resist colds etc. we were granted the privileges of the fire, and it was here that trouble commenced. Harold Fraser placed his boots before the glowing flame and left to change his clothes. The fire burnt so fiercely that, before we had time to realise the danger, serious damage occurred to the very necessary boots, by shrivelling the soles beyond repair.

This occasioned a change of plan. The mail coach from Delegate to Orbost arrived at 9pm and perforce we booked seats to Orbost as Harold Fraser was without tangible means of support.

At about four in the morning the coach was made ready, and after a little breakfasting, we commenced our forty mile journey.

The coach needs a little description. Despite its pretentious claim to be called a mail coach truthful observers would unhesitatingly dub it a spring cart, for this is actually its original design. Some few simple alterations transformed it into a passenger vehicle, and so Cobb & Co were perpetuated by this rude conveyance, travelling regularly between Delegate and Orbost.

The horses kept a fairly good jog trot and soon we were at the road-makers camp four miles from Goone-Gerah. They were engaged in regrading the road and seemed pleased to see us all. A motley crowd they represented several nations including, Italy, U.S.A., Greece. They were busily engaged drawing their breakfast rations from the cook, who presided over a fairly well stocked bark hut.

Set in a huge forest with giant gum and mountain ash this spot made an impression on the coach passengers. King Lory parrots, Rosellas, together with Galahs, and smaller mountain birds added to the scene. The presence of the busy road camp seemed to intrude on a natural sanctuary.

From here to Jensions the forest continued in unbroken splendour.

The straight tall gums were a source of continual admiration. Some beautiful tree-ferns also evoked considerable delight. At Jensions, a small clearing wedged in a valley, heavily wooded, we made a short stay. After collecting the mail we proceeded on our journey past the bed of Martin's Creek and on to Sardine Creek. One of the party discovered, upon arrival at this point, that his hat was missing and some passing travellers reported seeing a felt hat at Jensions farm.

After partaking of some refreshment we continued our journey on to Orbost through less-wooded country. At about four o'clock we arrived at the Commonwealth hotel. During

the evening we called upon the local constable, by name, Simpson. A decent fellow, he arranged for a constable to retrieve the felt hat, lost on the previous day. He also produced a pair of boots to replace those destroyed by fire at Goone-Gerah. Altogether he was a good Samaritan.

Orbost, on the Snowy River, 230 miles from Melbourne is the terminus of the East Gippsland railway line. It is a rich agricultural district, and the maize yield is the finest in Australia.

We left Orbost on the following morning, by goods train but not after considerable trouble with the Station Master, who felt it was stretching a point to allow travellers on the goods train. We travelled to a point three miles from Tostaree in the Guards van. Truly a quaint way of travelling but still very effective. Eventually the train stopped to load sleepers, so we alighted. The engine driver invited us to travel on the tender for a few miles and we jumped up amongst the coal, so on to just outside Tostaree.

Lunch was arranged for us here. Billy was boiled and raisins produced. The wind however, marred the meal blowing viciously from the south. As soon as our wants were satisfied we made for Lake Tyers. Such a bewildering set of cross roads met our party soon after our venture into the bush, that it was deemed advisable to take the Princes Highway to Nowa Nowa.

We reached Nowa Nowa after a pretty walk of eight miles. Just outside the town we had the good fortune to hear the bell-birds. The strange, tinkling, sounds are pleasingly musical and strongly resemble small silver bells ringing out their delicate notes.

Nowa Nowa we found to be a small strip of land with a road awkwardly straggling through. An hotel, a couple of stores and some fierce looking timber-getters greeted our appearance. We sat down to rest on the hotel stool, outside the dining room. After some argument we decided to remain there for the night. We had scarcely made the decision, when a party of footballers arrived at the hotel. Here was a lucky situation. If they would arrange for our conveyance, there was still a chance of reaching Lakes Entrance that night? So we made overtures to the driver and were eminently successful. In an hour we had driven-portion of the party travelling the footboard-to Mr. Broome's Federal House, Lakes Entrance.

Having arrived so early at Lakes Entrance, we were enabled to stay over the week-end, from Friday till Monday morning, at this very fine Victorian seaside resort.

On the first day we crossed the lake and indulged in some surf-bathing. The afternoon was spent at Scone cottage, about five miles from the Entrance. Afternoon tea is served at the cottage, which is built on an elevated point commanding excellent views of the lakes.

The following day the house party, including Sahib, a civil servant from India, Mr. Leslie a leading tobacconist from Melbourne and Mr. Bastin of Seddon, Melbourne, enjoyed an all day picnic to the Tambo River. The trip up the river was very much appreciated by all, and a halt was made for dinner at Mossiface. After dinner drizzling rain set in. The combined enthusiasm of Harold Fraser and several others in the party failed to avert the chilling influence of the bad weather.

(to be continued)

Impact of raising Warragamba Dam wall: BNSW Meeting 15 May18 by Jon Gray

Thais, Kerrie and I attended this important meeting, which outlined the severe threats from the proposed dam wall raising that will spoil so much of the Blue Mountains wilderness area that we all love. There were presentations by Harry Burkitt, a Campaigner for the Colong Foundation for Wilderness and Alex Allchin, BNSW President, both inspiring speakers.

We heard that if Warragamba Dam wall is raised by 14 metres as proposed, the dam will hold the equivalent of two additional Sydney Harbours. Over 4,700 hectares of World Heritage listed National Parks and Wilderness Areas will be impacted - permanently scarred from sedimentation, erosion and invasion of exotic plants. It will inundate 65 kilometres of wild rivers, including the lower Kowmung, Coxs, Nattai, Kedumba and Wollondilly Rivers, killing multitudes of native plants and animals living in these valleys.

We were all urged to take whatever action we could to stop the proposal, including contacting our local NSW politicians, writing to newspapers and online social media, donating money or time to the Blue Mountains Wild Rivers campaign: <https://www.wildrivers.org.au/> and signing the petition: <https://www.wildrivers.org.au/petition>

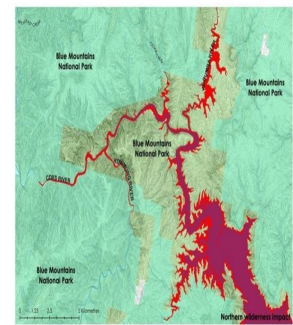
Later, we were advised of upcoming events with BNSW:

Presentation: Exploratory trips in the West MacDonnells, 7 pm Tuesday 21st August, 2018, Redfern Town Hall, 73 Pitt St, Redfern.

Bushwalking NSW Annual Bush Camp at Bungonia, with walks, canyons, training and BBQ, Saturday & Sunday 20 - 21st October 2018 .



Expect much more unsightly scarring like this around Lake Burragarang, BNSW

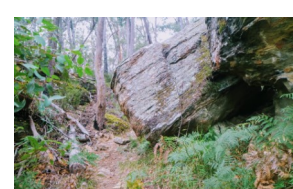
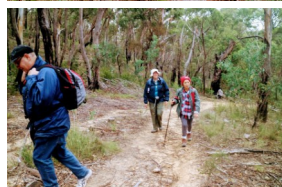
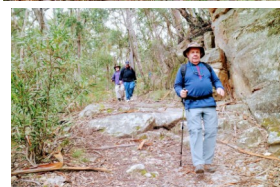
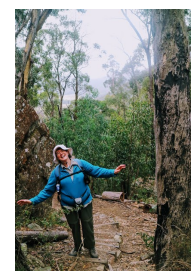


Additional inundation that will be caused, BNSW

Mount York 28 April 2018

from Rex Ellacott

Our group followed the historic path of the Cox's Road.



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 Summer issue is: Fri 26th Oct 2018

Meetings coming up in 2018:

September 10th

October 8th

November 12th

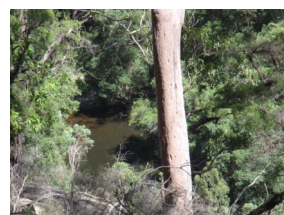
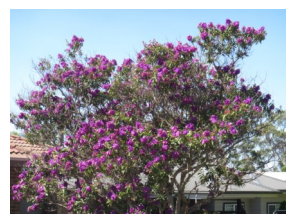
We're on the Web!

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

Welcome to our **NEW MEMBERS**

Tony Kapovic
Marisa Kapovic
Owen Loney

Florabella Pass 18 March 2018
from Thaïs Turner



SNIPPETS

Compiled by Thaïs Turner

- Check out nswrogaining.org to see how well BBC members are going in rogaines throughout the year. Find more info and consider joining a team. A great way to learn to navigate and practice route finding skills in a bush and urban environment, in places you may not be able to access at other times, in a helpful learning environment.
- 2 stands of Wollemi pines planted in secret canyons near Mt Tomah 6 years ago have now developed male and female cones and are producing fertilised seeds for the first time. They are doing well in their new locations and are a great insurance for the continuation of the Jurassic era plant discovered in 1994 in the Wollemi area by Dave Noble.
- As environmentally conscious people you may like to keep watch for the ABC new series about the War on Waste. The first of 3 episodes began on Tues 24/7/18 at 8:30pm. It pleasing to see that the big grocery chain stores are implementing the single use plastic bag ban this year, and there is momentum gathering for a ban on plastic straws. We can do many small things in our own houses to help the environment too. Check the ABC website for more information.
- 11-19 August is National Science Week. Check out what events are on in your area. Citizen Science is on the rise, get involved!
- 22-28 October will mark this year's National Backyard Bird Count. Play your part.
- From Aug 1 to mid Sep the Scenic World Cableway (the gondola ride) will be closed for a \$4m upgrade.

- **Concerned about feral horses in national parks? Here's something you can do!**

In June, the NSW Parliament passed the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018, which sets a disturbing precedent by giving an introduced species greater protection than native animals in Kosciuszko National Park.

A number of members of bushwalking clubs have responded to this by setting up a new organization, Save Kosci Inc, to run a protest walk from Sydney to the summit of Kosciuszko. Although the walk focuses on Kosciuszko, we hope it will also make politicians hesitate before proposing 'horse heritage' bills or permitting grazing in other NSW national parks.

The walk is supported by Bushwalking NSW and NPA (ACT and NSW branches).

The walk will take about 35 days, including rest days, from early November to mid-December 2018. The main group of walkers will follow a mixture of major and secondary roads, via Mittagong, Goulburn, Canberra, Jindabyne and Charlotte Pass. The exact route will be chosen for the walkability of the footpaths and road verges and the availability of budget accommodation or camping en route. It will pass very close to Bankstown. Walkers will be responsible for their own costs.

In addition to getting the Horse Heritage Act repealed, the aims of the walk are to:

- Support a range of methods to control feral horses in NSW national parks, including ground-based lethal culling, under ranger supervision and according to RSPCA guidelines
- Implement the NPWS Draft Wild Horse Management Plan of 2016
- Protect the habitat of the native broad-toothed mouse, corroboree frog and other native species affected by trampling and grazing.

It would be great if some of your members would consider participating in part or all of the walk, and/or provide any of these sorts of help:

- Support-vehicle drivers and other non-walking helpers – from a day or two upwards; retirees with campervans, here is your chance to do a road trip for a Good Cause!
- Desk-based researchers and writers
- People to sew banners
- Musicians to perform as the walkers rally at the start of the walk in central Sydney
- Bushwalking photographers, with the patience to get close-ups of feral horses eating, drinking, trampling etc in KNP

A new web site for the walk is now running: savekosci.org, with a supporter registration form coming soon. If any members are interested, we'd be grateful if they could use that form to register. It should be available by late August. Registration costs \$12. Inquiries welcome – to convenor@savekosci.org

Linda Groom

Convenor, Save Kosci Inc



icebreaker.com
PURE MERINO



For specials,
Join the Alpsport club
Free to join on our
website or in store.

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