

# BUSH TELEGRAPH

2020 No. 2  
WINTER



## Wyanbene Cave – a first timer's experience, March 1992 by Jon Gray (in June 1992 BT)

My first reaction when I saw the cave entrance was – oh my Lord, what have I let myself in for here. But I soon started to feel better once we were on our way. We passed many impressive features – stalactites, stalagmites, you name em. All was quiet and peaceful, except for a certain unnamed female voice carrying back to us from up front (....eeeasy!) (Robyn Cox). And it was primarily up-right walking – this was simple – obviously all the scrambling and crawling aspects of caving had been exaggerated. Huh! – there was nothing to this....

Or so I thought. The crawling started in earnest when we hit the “sewer pipe”, 50 m on our stomachs through cold water – hmmm, I hadn't quite expected this! We passed through some long exposed slippery muddy sections – I preferred not to think about the consequences of slithering down one of the slopes into the unfathomed depths below.

Eventually it was time for a well-earned morning tea break in a large cavern. I can't say the view was that great, in fact there was only pitch blackness, but anyway, I was happy for the rest. Shortly we set off again down some frighteningly tight squeezes and about 15 minutes later came out into another large cavern. When I realised this was in fact where we had just been, I began to worry about the reliability of our navigators! The fact that nobody seemed to be quite sure which way to go did not inspire me with confidence; my enthusiasm for the ongoing passage was rapidly

waning, particularly since my first set of torch batteries had just about had it. Being lost down here without lights was another thing I preferred not to think about!

It was about this time we heard the reassuring voices of Peter (*Willis*), Tim (*Fox*) and our intrepid President (*Noelene Marmont*) – perhaps things would now take a turn for the better. We all sat down and had lunch, and I forced myself to eat some of the sodden ball of dough that had once been my nice sandwiches. It was decided that a small party would head directly back, a party which I enthusiastically elected to join – what's so bad about being a wimp anyway!

So Peter, Noelene, Steve (?) and myself started back, hoping we would have no trouble retracing our steps. Well, wouldn't you know it, ..... 10 minutes later we were stuck. We just couldn't find the way forward at all; its funny how all those crevices look so alike. After half an hour of searching we finally found the route again – whewhh! Then things began to go more smoothly. (Cont'd Pg 2)



Noelene Marmont in Wyanbene

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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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## EDITORIAL

The Club's AGM was held in early March so we can welcome all office bearers and holders of other Club positions, for 2020-2021 (see p6). Pleasingly there were record numbers of members who volunteered for the Walks, Social & Abseil Committees.

The new President, Samantha, isn't continuing with a President's Piece, so now we have an Editorial in this spot. Guest editors will be invited for future issues.

I hope all Club members are keeping safe and well. All of us would have been affected in some way by the disruptions of the 2019/20 Summer/Autumn seasons. Drought, Fires, Floods, COVID-19 Pandemic – the challenges have followed one after another, but we can be thankful they weren't simultaneous.

Although our usual level of outdoor activities have had to be curtailed dramatically, and Club Programs cancelled for the foreseeable future, many of us would have found other ways to get our energising doses of the bush environment and social interactions.

Members may perhaps have been able to: discover or re-

discover walking areas close to home with several Council reserve and National Park tracks having remained open for exercise purposes; find innovative ways to exercise at home; take time to review photos of previous trips; participate in Zoom sessions run for all members' benefit by the Club's Walks, Social and Abseil Committees, or by other external groups in areas of interest; see footage of the wild & wonderful outdoors on YouTube/Netflix/TV or other sources; connect with one another via social media, phone and Skype; read books, magazines and newsletters in our favourite formats; spend time reminiscing, and planning activities for when it's possible to again get into the bush, go walking with Club groups, get 'on rope', go camping, or visit favourite social venues.

In this Winter issue of the Bush Telegraph you'll also find the Club's AGM 2020 reports, as well as some stories and items from past years, as we celebrate the Club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout 2020.

Hope to see you on the track, in the not-too-distant future.

**Thaïs Turner, Editor**

## WYANBENE CAVE 1992

BY JON GRAY

(CONT'D FROM PG 1)

Soon after this the most wonderful sensation came over me; it was a realisation that I was actually going to make it out alive after all. I would once again get to see the wonderful blue sky and green open expanses. From here on I really began to relax and enjoy myself. Even the long stomach crawl through the "sewer pipe" was fun. The incredible cave formations impressed me more than ever. When we finally saw the shaft of sunlight that signalled the end, I was sorry it was all over.

My first caving trip had been a most memorable experience. I would never have guessed it before, but now I find myself asking – "When is the next caving trip on?"



Post-trip satisfaction! (Steve, Noelene, Peter and Jon)

## Ross Hamilton Shield—Paddy Pallin Rogainer of the Year 2019.



As the winner of the Ross Hamilton Shield—Meela Davis - was unable to be present at the July Club Night, she was presented with the engraved shield at an abseil training day at Alford's Point on 7 Sep 2019, by then President, Thaïs.

## Member/s of the Year for 2019

Samantha Bryant and Thaïs Turner were joint winners for the 2019 Member of the Year Award.

Below, newly elected Vice President, Rex Ellacott, presents Thaïs with the 'Boot' trophy, at the March 2020 AGM. (Samantha was unable to be present this night).

The Member of the Year award is presented to the member/s who have participated in the most activities (excluding social) during the previous calendar year.

Samantha & Thaïs both recorded 27 activities.



## 2019 Management Committee Report for 2020 BBC AGM

### Activities Programs

Although some extreme weather caused some chaotic times at the start of 2019, and again at the end of 2019, several new leaders came forward & some members really got out there in 2019 and walked almost every weekend. Thank you to the Walks, Abseil and Social Committees for creating our fun-filled programs. Thank you to all the leaders (6 for social and 25 for walks and other related activities) and to all the participants. The tally of 38 social events and 100 walks and other related activities, held during 2019, is a great testament to all Club members, and we know this will continue.

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Planning was underway throughout 2019 for the Club's 40<sup>th</sup> milestone. While we could still yet achieve the suggested 40 leaders, and 40 walks, for 40 years, throughout 2020, it was exciting to note that we had 40 participants (current and past Club members) at the enjoyable anniversary re-union event on Sun 23 Feb 2020 at Haigh Park, Moorebank. Thanks to Barbara for getting our super cake!

### Behind the Scenes

A heartfelt Thank You to the Management Committee (Thais, Ivars, Barbara J., Jon, Aidan and Shannon) who have done a large amount of work behind the scenes to keep the Club on track. To reinvigorate the social aspects of our Club Nights we changed the format to a General Meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> month, alternating with a Social Night on the other months. This change has been positively received and will continue into 2020. Thanks to all those who volunteer to provide tasty suppers at all Club Nights and to the Social Committee (Abdul, Barbara and Thais) who co-ordinate the action, especially organising the Club's annual Christmas get-together, which was held at Bankstown RSL in 2019.

### Club Name

One of the more controversial aspects of the year was a survey to gauge members' feelings on a change to the Club Name. While varied comments were received and the process was not all smooth sailing, the result was a clear 63% majority of members choosing to keep the Club Name as it is. In conjunction with a similar survey about the Club Logo which was run in 2017 and resulted in another clear majority of 72% choosing to keep the logo as it is, it is now hoped that our focus can return to our bushwalking pursuits, and on other relevant efforts to improve the Club experience.

### Club Promotion

Aidan (Membership Officer) has helped grow our numbers with new memberships throughout 2019, Barbara J. has been maintaining the Googlegroups email list and Kshitij keeps our website up to date. Promotion continues through the local MP's newsletter, a listing in the Council's online directory, and Bushwalking NSW listings. Thais also secured a couple of feature articles in the Canterbury-Bankstown Torch newspaper in Jul and Nov. New posters / flyers and business cards were distributed widely around the local area in 2019, and we are looking to join Open Days at local tertiary institutions.

### Social media

Don't forget to check out the Club's Facebook page and Instagram page; explore the informative Club website [www.bankstownbushwalkingclub.org.au](http://www.bankstownbushwalkingclub.org.au) and have a look at all the great photos being posted on these Club social media sites for your interest, and for promoting what we do to others who might like to join our Club.

### Policies

Privacy concerns mean we've now introduced a place to give consent to your image being loaded onto our websites, via a checkbox on the Activity Registers. We've also introduced a guideline for providing reimbursement to drivers who participate in car-pooling. In April we created a Child Protection and Safety policy. Refer to the website for more details.

### Bush Telegraph

The Bush Telegraph (the Club's quarterly newsletter) was again produced in both print and digital versions in 2019 and made available to all members. Thanks to the contributors who shared a wide range of interesting stories & pictures. Please continue to submit

your items. How about writing a brief report on each Club activity to share with other members through the Bush Telegraph?

### Environment

The Club joined the Give a Dam Alliance in 2019, not wanting to see damage to the Blue Mountains World Heritage area that would occur if the Warragamba Dam Wall were to be raised. Recent events show that project would not stop flooding in the Hawkesbury Valley. The Club added its voice to petitions to remove feral horses from Kosciuszko NP and to save its endangered native flora and fauna. A new NP&W Regulation was put into place in 2019 and many NP Plans of Management were out for comment. We joined with BNSW via our Club delegates, on these and other issues. Interesting information relevant for own Club, can be found in the results of a 3yr study into Bushwalking by SportAus.

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

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

**Thais Turner, President,  
on behalf of the Management Committee.**

### BBC 40th Anniversary Reunion—23 Feb 2020

Haigh Park, Chipping Norton.

It was great to see a mix of current and past members among the 40 people who attended the 40th celebrations. Barbara J. also sent members a link to other pics from the day.

Pics (clockwise from top left) by Thais, Cyril J, Helen Wright, Thais.



### Poem: To MIKE—from Bush Telegraph Feb 1992 edn.

Before you go on holidays,  
We just want to have our say.  
Mike, you know that we'll all miss you,  
And we wish that we could come too.  
So Gloria, Noelene and Mary will plan,  
To put your trip on the social program.  
We could just book a whole plane,  
That'd just be insane.  
But then, you know, Ian Turner'd be late,  
And Trish, of course would have the wrong date.  
Gloria's luggage would be so heavy,  
That we'd all have to pay an extra levy.  
And then Robyn would begin to sing,  
Something about a golden ring.  
So maybe it would just be better,  
If you just send the occasional letter. Anon.



### TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR END 2019 for AGM MARCH 2020—Cover statement

In the 2019 calendar year our Club had a small gain of \$55.20.

The club remains financially sound. The balance in our Commonwealth Bank account plus petty cash at end of year 2019 was \$ 5,394.86.

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

Main income:

- membership: \$3275.00
- abseil revenue: \$470.00

Main expenses:

- BNSW fees (including insurance): \$2122, with fees made up as follows: Insurance \$ 7.08 pp and BNSW fees \$7.65 pp (for 146 members)
- Club administration (stationery, printing, hall hire, PO Box, Fair Trading fees, other): \$1352

- Suppers: \$143
- Christmas party: \$114
- Donation (to Colong Foundation): \$200

Further simplification of the Club's annual financial statement is being trialled. All income and expenses are being allocated to the year of the transaction even where they relate to the previous or coming year. This change facilitates easier preparation and auditing by Club members.

A formal audit of the Financial Statement and records is not required by NSW Fair Trading, but they have been checked by the Management Committee and any members are also welcome to do so.

Jon Gray

Treasurer

4 March 2020

### 2019 Walks Committee Report for 2020 BBC AGM

We are all aware of the extent and devastation caused by this summers' bushfires. They started early in October on the north coast and extended right through until early February 2020. Large areas of walking country in all directions have been devastated, and the livelihoods of residents and small business owners in those communities are under pressure.

In previous walks reports for both 2018 and 2017 we commented on the "extreme high temperatures and bushfires" that occurred those summers and how these affected our activity program. But this fire season has been extreme, with many National Parks and State Forest closures. The changing climate is having a large impact on our activities now. As bushwalkers we are in a unique position where we can see the impacts first hand, more than others with a more urban outlook.

Following the fires some areas had substantial rain causing damage and flooding. Many national parks remain closed due to both fire and flood damage and may be well into the year. Some parks are slowly opening specific areas as the danger from falling trees and flood debris etc. is removed.

Recently we've had many last minute cancellations and changes of plan. In fact, we had so many that we felt the need to republish a more limited summer program. But 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 may be. And it was great to see leaders offering additional activities via short notice walk

notifications to fill some of the gaps.

Remember, walking is great for both physical and mental health and you have the opportunity to catch up with friends and socialise all of which is good for the soul. While so many of our favourite areas and walks remain closed, we can use this as an opportunity to explore new areas that we may not have thought to explore before. And we can make sure that we call in at the local shops and cafes after our walks and spend a little cash to help the small businesses in bush fire affected areas make a living.

The committee would like to extend our thanks to those leaders who send through their activity details prior to the Walks meeting which makes our job much easier. In 2020, meeting this deadline will be even more important as the walks committee will need to do a thorough check of all activities to ensure that the areas they are in have not been burnt and that the parks are open and the proposed walks safe.

In conclusion the Walks Committee, as always, would like to thank all the leaders who contribute to making the program what it is; hugely successful and satisfyingly varied. And the Club is always happy for "new" leaders to put their hand up and lead a trip. Just ask anyone on Walks if you need any advice or have any questions.

See you in the bush!

**Chris, Geoff, Louise, Lynda, Mike, Shannon & Wai-Lin**  
The Walks Committee

### 2019 Membership Officer report for 2020 BBC AGM

Current members (as at 9/3/20) stand at 119 as opposed to 144 last year, which is down by 25. I need to chase these up.

I would like to do some sort of membership drive in the new year, but I'm not sure yet how I'll be doing that.

Numerous enquires have come through, which are responded to within 24/48 hours of receipt, some of whom have become new members.

I hope the new financial year proves to be a friendly and a needed positive one.

**Aidan Basnett**  
Membership Officer



**From the Club History files.**

An embroidered cloth badge in use by Club members (and sewn on many a backpack) in the 1990's.

#### Extra 2019 Membership statistics:

During the calendar year of 2019: 20 new members joined the Club, and a quarter of the 31 visitors attending walks activities converted to membership.

## 2019 SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT for 2020 BBC AGM

Our Club not only offers walks and adventure, but is also committed to providing diversified activities that will encourage social cohesion among its members and establishing camaraderie through its social activities.

2019 was an exciting year as we began planning for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary re-union event to be held in February 2020, and the Social Committee introduced some changes to the Club Night format, based on requests from members.

The first Social evening started in June, then August, and October, and for December we had the yearly Christmas get-together (again held away from Club Rooms, on a weekend). The change has been positively received by our members, and it is intended to continue this arrangement of Club Social Nights alternating with General Meeting Nights.

The Social Committee would like to thank all members who've supported us throughout 2019.

We thank the social activity leaders for their passion, energy, and creativity in coming up with exciting activities for our members to enjoy.

A special **thank you** to all the members who've led these activities in the last year, and we hope that you'll continue to share your energy and creativity in the coming years.

- Abdul - for leading the first social dinner at Jasmine1;
- Paul - for incorporating socialising on his basecamp weekends;
- Samantha - for introducing a series of Trivia nights at Twin Willows Hotel, the dinner night at Georges Hall, the lunch at Kirribilli, as well as a workshop get-together at Bass Hill;
- Shannon - for leading the visits to the Norman Lindsay Gallery, and Hazelhurst Arts Centre;
- Thais - for encouraging us to join in with the BushwalkingNSW general meetings, to see the Film festivals: Ocean Film, Banff Centre Mountain Films, Radical

Reels, the Highland Gathering at Bundanoon, the Careflight Base visit at Westmead, the Gang Show, and incorporating socialising on the Oberon and Bents Basin basecamp weekends as well as on the VIVID and Sculptures walks, and co-organising the Christmas get-together at Bankstown RSL Club;

- Barbara J. - for taking a group to the REAL Festival at Penrith, and co-organising the Christmas get-together at Bankstown RSL Club;
- Abdul and George - for sharing their home cooked delights for the pot luck dinner and cards night;
- Vicki - for putting Archery on the program.

Also, thanking and recognising the contributions of our Club Night presenters – a guest speaker from the Colong Foundation - Keith Muir - who talked about several important environmental campaigns; Jon Gray for sharing photos of his trip to Vietnam; Chris Ward for presenting the Map and Compass Navigation workshop; Julie and Vaz for sharing photos of their trip to the Kimberley region of WA, and Thais for the fun-filled Trivia Night.

And big thank you to our supper providers – Abdul, Aidan, Carol, Barbara F., Shannon and Barbara J.

The Social Committee appreciates your time, contribution and effort whether leading social activities, sharing your skills, or providing supper during the Club nights. We hope to see more members participating in social activities. Let us be grateful to the people who unselfishly dedicated their time, effort, and energy in keeping this Club going. And all the best to the next Social Committee members.

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

### The Social Committee

## 2019 Abseil Committee Report for 2020 BBC AGM

In the earlier part of 2019 we enjoyed canyons on the Newnes Plateau, at Mt Wilson, Wentworth Falls, Wolgan Valley, Bungonia and Kanangra, despite very high temperatures and rain.

During the year some abseil training days and abseil trips were affected by some wild extremes of weather, but were able to go ahead with last minute changes. Others training days fared better and many new people were introduced to abseil skills, and were gaining skills to participate in day-trips such as Castle Head and Devil's Hole.

But now it has become another sad year for abseiling. The recent fires have destroyed most of our favourite areas and these are only now being slowly reopened. The first trip in the current canyon season (Nov 2019) had just gotten through before the surrounding National Parks were closed. Then the following heavy rainfall caused massive flooding damage to the areas untouched by the fires. The few areas still open have been very busy and slow going.

The caving trips had a better run. First, a weekend in Wee Jasper - the cavers had a couple of fun days underground, while the non-cavers enjoyed the music festival nearby.

Shortly after we had a successful weekend in Tuglow Caves, which concluded just before it rained.

Care needs to be taken in canyons after all the recent events. The heat from fires may have weakened anchor points, so careful inspection should be taken before abseiling. Ash and debris washed into the canyon slots may also cause issues passing through narrow slots.

Always remember to take care of your equipment. Careful inspection for weak points and wear is essential to ensure safe trips. We recommend participants to replace prusik loops every few years as they are inexpensive, and carry sacrificial tape and maillons on trips to replace old anchors.

The abseil committee has become quite small and we welcome people to join us to help out and possibly learn more advanced skills.

**Chris, Paul, Tim & Kshitij.  
The Abseil Committee.**

**CLUB NIGHTS EVERY MONTH****Social Evenings or Meetings**

*Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.*

*To be advised to Members via email.*

**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 7th Aug 2020**

**Club nights coming up in 2020**

July	To be advised
August	To be advised
September	To be advised

**We're on the Web!**

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

**Office Bearers & Position Holders AGM 2020**

President	Samantha B
Vice President	Rex E
Secretary	Wai-Lin M
Treasurer	Jon G
Member's Rep	Abdul Z
Walks Committee	Geoff B Louise G Ivars K Wai-Lin M Lynda P Mike R (Rep) Shannon S Chris W
Social Committee	Glenda B Rex E Cheryl F Wai-Lin M Shannon S Amanda T (Rep) Abdul Z
Abseil Committee	Paul B Tim F Rod H Ulyana L Donna M Lynda P Chris W
Public Officer	Jon G
Membership Officer	Aidan B
Child Protection Officer	Chris W
Newsletter Editor (Bush Telegraph)	Thaïs T
Activities Program Editor	Geoff B
Web Master	Kshitij S
Bushwalking NSW Delegates	Jon G Thaïs T
Social media administrators (incl Club Facebook & Instagram)	Aidan B Paul B Rex E Tim F Lynda P Kathy T

**Report on Bushwalking NSW February 2020 General Meeting****By Kerrie McLean**

The February meeting was again held in Redfern Town Hall and as usual it was well attended by members of other clubs – mostly located in the Sydney area.

Executive Officer Kirsten Mayer commenced the meeting and introduced the keynote speaker – Chris Gersch, walks leader from the Blue Steel Dash Club. His topic for the evening was Exploring with Teenagers and Young Adults. Chris discussed at length and showed numerous photos of a 21 day walking trip that he co-led on the Annapurna Circuit in Nepal in 2012 with 8 youths, with the eldest being in their early 20's. To facilitate this there were 4 adults (both male and female) and 5 Nepalese guides. The reason for an extra guide was in case of an emergency.

The trip was broken down into sections:

**Prior Preparation:** Training walks, getting the group together, make sure new gear has been worn in, involve parents, use a common communication platform such as Facebook.

**Parental Trust:** Giving parents precise planning.

**Challenges on the Trip:** Sore body parts, mental fatigue, keeping the group together, track discipline such

as having gear ready, looking after feet. New city, new country and the new normal in a third world country.

**Providing a safe environment:** Looking for conflicts and rifts in the group, altitude sickness, rest days.

**The Doldrums:** Around days 4/5 they are starting to hit altitude, food not 100% to their liking, get their morale up.

**The Highs:** Wonderful country and people, sense of achievement at the end.

**Post Trip Management:** Have regular catch ups to reminisce and talk about highs and lows. Time for reflection. Talk to parents about the trip.

Kirsten Mayer then discussed that they are in the process of updating the Constitution and advised that it is nearly completed. She also advised that the Acknowledgement of Risk forms on their website are legally correct.

After the drawing of the lucky door prize the meeting was then closed.

The next meeting will be a video conference via the Zoom platform on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. The keynote speaker is Professor David Bowman whose topic is Adapting to the New Bushfire Conditions. RSVP is essential and you can register on their website [www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au](http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au).

## SNIPPETS

Compiled by Thaïs Turner

- From Mike (for when it is okay to go walking in these areas again):

**Royal National Park** - there is a new **"bus" service** in the Royal linking popular destinations for walking etc if you don't want to take your car or, potentially, to avoid a car shuffle. Note though that one of the proposed routes isn't active as yet. Have a look at: Park Connections - Royal National Park Transport and Activity options - Park Connection. The Park Connections bus services transform the way that you can experience The Royal National Park.

**Kosciuszko National Park** - info can be found on KNP website under **"alerts"** & relates to Summer fires.

The Tooma Road which runs between Khancoban and Cabramurra, and is the access point for Jagungal from Round Mountain, Wheelers Hut and the Dargals, is due to re-open around Dec 2020.

Elliott Way from Cabramurra to Tumbarumba is due for re-opening May 2021.

There are also numerous other roads still closed, where there are no advised re-opening times.

- From Lynda (via a Club email on 11 Feb 2020):

### **Why you shouldn't throw fruit and other "organic" scraps away in the bush**

From time to time I see people doing this on club walks and it upsets me because of the potential for damaging wildlife. I came across this article and I really love it. Although written for NZ conditions it's equally applicable here. And though it refers to apple cores, it really applies to all organic scraps, e.g. banana skins and orange peel.

<https://blog.doc.govt.nz/2020/02/11/what-your-apple-core-can-do-our-native-birds/>

If you don't have time to read the whole thing, here's the summary from the end.

What you can do when out in nature:

- Show you love this place by always being prepared to carry your litter away with you.
- There are no rubbish bins in the bush, so pack prepared
- Remove as much packaging as possible, so you don't have to carry it out again
- Pack your food and supplies into reusable containers
- Take a bag or container to store your rubbish
- A leak-proof, air-tight container (e.g. an ice-cream container) is ideal

- From Thaïs:

From Australian Geographic eNews on 19/3/20 By Simon Evans.

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2020/03/the-coronavirus-outbreak-is-an-important-moment-to-finally-address-the-illegal-wildlife-trade/>

Blue Mountains National **Park**, Wollangambe and Colo **River systems** have been **saved** by a dedicated group of locals who have fought for 3 years and achieved success with the official knocking back of a plan to fill the Bell Quarry with Sydney construction waste for a considerable number of years into the future.

Info from Great Walks magazine Apr/May 2020 (print version): (Note: please check for more recent updates)

- **NSW** first government funded **rail trail** was opened on 3 Apr 2020. It is a 22km cycling and walking trail from Tumbarumba to Rosewood in the Snowy Valleys. (Make sure you check the latest information about access to this trail before going).
- After the Summer 2020 fires the Kosciuszko NP Main Range Walk **re-opened** earlier in 2020, and also re-opened was the **new** 35km Thredbo Valley Track, which goes from Thredbo to the Gaden Trout Hatchery.

Blue Mountains Conservation Society has alerted bushwalkers that they can participate in [Feralscan.org.au](https://feralscan.org.au)

A local source (rather than NZ) of **'Walker's Wool'** (which is ideal for preventing and treating blisters, especially on the feet) has come to attention. An Australian farmer, Roger Dietrich, of "Rockleigh" Old Junee, NSW 2652 has advised the Club that he is now producing this wool from sheep bred on his farm. It is washed and carded and the lanolin is preserved in the wool. If members are interested they can contact him on 0405 846 999 or by email [roger@oldjune.com.au](mailto:roger@oldjune.com.au) or [wool@oldjune.com.au](mailto:wool@oldjune.com.au)

12 Blue Mountains **koalas** (with high levels of genetic diversity, important for survival of the species) were in danger from the Green Wattle Creek **bushfire** in Dec 2019. They were already being tracked (since 2015) with mini radio tags & detection dogs, so a local conservation organisation, Science for Wildlife, with the support of NPWS, were able to remove them and take them for safekeeping to Taronga Zoo. Once the recent rains ensured enough regrowth on their specific type of eucalypt food source, they were able to be released back to the Black Range area. Now there are 13, as a tiny joey in the pouch has joined the 8 adults and 4 joeys originally removed. They continue to be tracked to check they are settling into their home again.



 **Black Diamond**



icebreaker.com  
PURE MERINO



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

1045 Victoria Rd West Ryde NSW  
[www.alpsport.com.au](http://www.alpsport.com.au)  
[contact@alpsport.com.au](mailto:contact@alpsport.com.au)  
9858 5844