

## THE BUSH CLUB NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2011

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

Walks Program Autumn 2011 p. 18

Walks Reports Summer 2010-11 p. 13

### WALKS SUBMISSIONS

#### Email addresses

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### THIS ISSUE

In this issue Bob Taffel gives detailed instructions for members who may want to undertake the Cape-to-Cape walk in the south of Western Australia.

We have information about a number of books, and also a project that may be of interest to members.

Our regular contributor, Michael Keats is himself the subject of an interview, together with his partner in crime, Steve Murray. Their exploratory walks have resulted in several books, with Michael as author and Steve as illustrator.

I have written about a recent trip to Nepal, a stunning place that many of our members have visited.

Finally and sadly, we say farewell two of our members, Penny Lewarne and Terry Davies.

## THE CAPE TO CAPE WALK

By Bob Taffel

**Dates:** October 4-14, 2010

**Leader:** Graham Lewarne

**Support:** Anne Tribe

**Walkers:** Sandra Bushell, Barb Fleming, Carol Henderson, Lucy & Peter Levett, Diane & Alan McPhail, Ron Rodgers, Bob Taffel



**Note:** The aim of this write-up of the walk is to inform Bush Club members who may contemplate doing this walk.

The walk starts from the town of Dunsborough, approx. 250kms south of Perth on excellent roads, mostly divided dual lane highway. The total length of the walk from Dunsborough is about 150kms and the walk ends at the Cape Leeuwin lighthouse, nearly 15kms from the township of Augusta. The drive back to Perth takes around 4 hours.

The track takes you from Dunsborough to Cape Naturaliste lighthouse (approx. 15kms), around the edge of Geographe Bay and then down the coast with a couple of inland diversions that add to the variety of the scenery along the way. The track is marked roughly every 100 to 200 metres so it's not a great navigational challenge though there were a few times where we had to toss up which way to go at a track junction. We only got it wrong once!

The book, *The Cape to Cape Track Guidebook* by Jane Scott and Ray Forma, contains all the information you need for the walk. This guide is really excellent, incorporating 1:25000 topo maps for each section and a very clear

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set of written guide notes and commentary. You could probably do the walk without it but at \$21.95 you'd be silly not to have it with you. The other book, not quite as essential, is Jane Scott's *Find that Flower*, a beautifully produced guide to the flowers and trees you'll see on your way and a bargain at \$19.95. If you do the walk in spring, as we did, then this book is practically essential. Both books are available from:

Cape to Cape Publishing, 50 Harvest Rd, Nth Freemantle, WA 6159 or email: [capetocape@smartchat.net.au](mailto:capetocape@smartchat.net.au)

We did the walk as a series of day walks with car shuffles (not very long ones) each day. With eleven people (ten walkers) on the walk we hired 3 Corollas from Bayswater Car Hire, the cheapest car rental firm we could find ([www.bayswatercarrental.com.au](http://www.bayswatercarrental.com.au)).

The cars were excellent but the service is a bit less than smiling and helpful. Each car had to be hired in the name of the driver and then, for an additional \$20 single payment (not per day) the hiring driver can nominate others to drive the car. It's a good idea to have this worked out before you pick up the cars so that alternate drivers' licenses can be sighted when you pick-up the cars. Bayswater do not have a counter at the airport but their depot is about a ten-minute (less than \$20) taxi ride from the airport. They also have a Perth city depot.



While the walk can be done in five days at a fast pace, Graham wisely planned for eight walking days, with a day off after five days, when we visited the town of Margaret River and had a very pleasant lunch at the Voyager winery. We walked from north to south, which seems to be the preferred direction. Also,

the walk book gives more explicit directions for walking north to south.

The walk would have been much more difficult if it were not for the fantastic job Anne did in being our support driver. More importantly, Anne shopped for us on most days for breakfast and lunch supplies and, on two nights, for food for a BBQ. In addition, she also was able to suss out places to eat along the way and check on our accommodation to ensure that things were as Graham had planned and booked. We owe her a huge vote of thanks in making the walk such a great success. At this time of the year the places we stayed were not very busy and all allowed Anne to bring the perishable food in early and put it in a fridge.



If you want to make the best of the walk, with spring flowers at their peak and whales migrating south in September and October, timing is critical. The dates Graham chose were perfect and the flowers, combined with the beautiful and varied coastal topography and whales breaching offshore, made the walk probably the best one that any of us has done. At the start of the walk the first 500m took us about an hour just looking at the flowers and trying to identify them in Jane's book! After that we got a bit more used to the display we were to experience for the whole eight days. Even on the last day, with 120kms completed, we were still seeing flowers we had not seen anywhere else along the way.

I don't think you could classify any of the eight days as more than a grade 3, though a couple of the long stretches on the beach were a bit tiring where the sand was soft. The shorter days were

closer to grade 2 in my estimation. The walk publicity lists the walk from cape to cape at 135kms but Alan McPhail's GPS came in at a bit under 150kms, including the first day's walk from Dunsborough to Cape Naturaliste. While there are many swimming opportunities, a lot of the way is in coastal heath with not much shade and thus summer would not be a good time to do this walk.

This walk is highly recommended. Plan for late September or early October and you won't be disappointed!



Below is the itinerary that Graham put together and I think it would be close to ideal unless you really want to do it as a pack walk. There are some campsites along the way and it would be easy to include a couple of camping grounds for showers and washing. Water is not abundant, which could be a problem for summer walkers.

#### **Travel Day (Monday 4 Oct)**

- Planes arrive Perth approx. 8.15am.
- Drive from Perth to Dunsborough (Approx. 3 hrs)
- O/N 2 nights at Dunsborough Lakes Caravan Park
- Coles supermarket for lunch, snacks. Good places to eat and for coffees.

#### **Day 1**

- *Dunsborough to Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse.* Distance 13.5 km
- Car shuffle back to Dunsborough Lakes Caravan Park

#### **Day 2**

- Drive to Lighthouse

- *Cape Naturaliste to Smith's Beach* (south end). Distance 20.5 km
- O/N Chandler Smith's Beach Villas (luxurious and highly recommended. Close to the walk, with good BBQ.)

#### **Day 3**

- *Smith's Beach to Moses Rock Campsite.* Distance 15.5 km
- O/N Gracetown Caravan Park (2 nights). BBQ facilities or drive to Margaret River.

#### **Day 4**

- *Moses Rock Campsite to Gracetown boat ramp.* Distance 13.5 km
- O/N Gracetown Caravan Park

#### **Day 5**

- *Gracetown boat ramp to Prevelly.* Distance 22 km
- O/N Prevelly Beach Resort (2 nights). Eat at Margaret River or at Prevelly, next to the campground.

#### **Day 6 Rest Day**

- Visit to Margaret River vineyards
- O/N Prevelly Beach Resort

#### **Day 7**

- *Prevelly to Contos Campground.* Distance 16 km
- O/N Hamelin Bay Caravan Park (2 nights). BBQ facilities.

#### **Day 8**

- *Contos Campground to Cosy Corner Road.* Distance 27.5 km\*\*\*
- O/N Hamelin Bay Caravan Park

#### **Day 9**

- *Cosy Corner Road to Cape Leeuwin.* Distance 21.5 km. Café at the lighthouse.
- O/N YHA Baywatch Manor, Augusta. Good meal at hotel.

#### **Final Day Return Travel**

- Drive Augusta to Perth (Approx. 4 hrs) and fly Perth – Sydney mid-afternoon flight

\*\*\*Graham originally planned to end at Hamelin Bay, 5kms before Cosy Corner Road. During the walk we decided to make an early start (8am) and walk to Cosy Corner so as to make the last day, with its long beach section, a bit shorter. In early October it was dark by around 7.30pm.

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## BUSH WALKING BOOKS

### DISCOUNT OFFER

Two of the best walking books for walks around Sydney are Volumes 1 & 2 of *Bushwalks in the Sydney Region* by Lord & Daniels. These are now available to club members at \$15 per volume from John Clarke. John's email address is [jsc31@aapt.net.au](mailto:jsc31@aapt.net.au) or you can call him on 9744 1916. If you are wondering, these books have not "fallen off the back of a truck" and their sale at this price to club members is sanctioned by the NPA.

### Field Guide to the Bushland of the Lane Cove Valley

The long awaited and extensively revised full colour *Field Guide to the Bushland of the Lane Cove Valley* by Dr John Martyn has been printed and is currently being shipped to Australia. This is the first time this iconic publication has been revamped and updated. The contents have been reviewed by experts and augmented with many new entries, making it the most authoritative publication of its kind in the region. All profits will go to our environmental conservation and education efforts" [www.step.org.au](http://www.step.org.au)

### Shoalhaven and Illawarra Bushwalking Guides

Two committee members of the Shoalhaven Bushwalkers, Gill and John Souter, have written two new walking books. The first, *Best Bush, Coast and Village walks of the Shoalhaven* has been printed and will soon be in the shops. The second, *Best Bush, Coast and Village Walks of the Illawarra*, will be available towards the end of this month. Both are full-colour and each contains over 300 photos and maps.

As well as being a terrific guide for all walkers, these books should be of great assistance to leaders when planning and conducting walks.

The guides give easy, medium and hard walks, as well as walk variations. They also include summary tables of distances, grades, durations and highlights, with accurate colour maps

showing waypoints and nearby facilities. Information about the history of the local area and environment is provided, in addition to charts of local wildflowers and birds.

Available from the authors, **Gillian & John Souter** Tel: 4443 7555 or email: [info@offtheshelf.com.au](mailto:info@offtheshelf.com.au)

### Walking volunteers

The Walking Volunteers Group (WVG) is a small group of experienced walkers who have produced the Walking Sydney Harbour & Coast maps and brochures. As most members would know, these are available free at harbourside council libraries and at [www.walkingsydney.net](http://www.walkingsydney.net) and [www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au](http://www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au). Further maps and brochures are in their final stages and will be printed shortly (including routes to Parramatta).

WVG is about to take delivery of route markers for the paths around Sydney Harbour (Harbour Bridge to Gladesville Bridge). The system is the European one of small self-adhesive reflective signs showing the way (they harden to become resilient to damage).

WVG has a considerable task ahead installing the markers on the Harbour circle route and is looking for Bush Club members to help with the task. Bill Orme, Co-ordinator of WVG, will provide a 1-2 hour training course for volunteers who would be put into small groups (2-3) and given responsibility for installing the markers on a section of the route. The groups would be asked to take a continuing interest in their section (in effect adopting it) by walking it every six months or so to refresh signs and check for changes. Any changes would be described on the website and incorporated into future editions of the maps). Each group would be invited to suggest better routes and improvements to the local information.

Interested members should contact Col Prentice ([colprentice@bigpond.com](mailto:colprentice@bigpond.com)).

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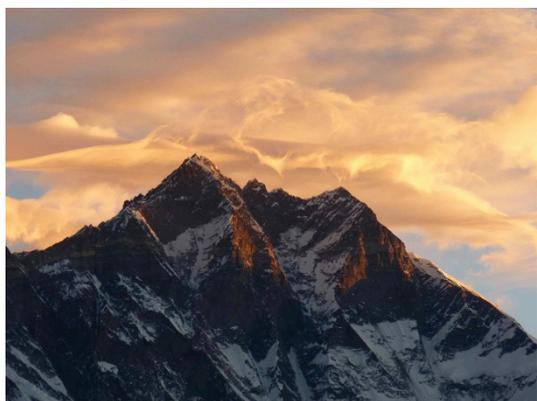
## NEPAL

By Lynne Outhred

**Date:** October 31- November 19 2010

**Leader:** Morrie Donovan

**Walkers:** Jacqui Bogue, Geoff Dauncey, Cecelia Goon, Lynne Outhred, Pamela and Darryl Warren



What an adventure – we were off for three weeks trekking in Nepal, following the track taken by the great Sir Edmund Hillary, though not quite all the way! We skipped going all the way to the summit.

Nepal borders the two most populous countries in the world, India in the East, South, and West, and China in the North and it contains more than 240 peaks over 6,096m above sea level. The Himalayas, which include Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world, are covered with snow throughout the year. Nepal's population is about 29 million people of more than 60 caste/ethnic groups.

We spent three days acclimatising in Katmandu and being shown the sights by our wonderful guide, Bishnu of Himalayan Sunrise. The two places that Bishnu took us in and near Katmandu were Swayambhunath and Bhaktapur.

We walked through the crowded city to Swayambhunath, where we practised our climbing skills on a seemingly never-ending set of steps (said to be 365). Once at the top, Katmandu lay spread out before us. Swayambhunath dates from the 5<sup>th</sup> century and features Buddhist artwork and large wheels for prayers. Its popular name is Monkey Temple because so many monkeys live in its precinct. The huge statue of Buddha with

colourful carved decoration is the main attraction of the temple. The stupa has four sides and on each of the sides, a pair of eyes has been carved. Although the site is beautiful, on the walk there I was dismayed by the amount of rubbish in which dogs, cows and pigs scavenge.

Bhaktapur is the third largest city in the Katmandu valley. The city was the capital of Nepal from the 12th to the 15th century. Bhaktapur's Durbar Square is a World Heritage site. The Golden Gate, one of the world's most beautiful and richly carved specimens of its kind, is the entrance to the main courtyard of the Palace of 55 windows.

Our third day was spent preparing, shopping, and for two of our party, recovering from the after effects of sweet and sour buffalo! In Katmandu you are surrounded by small shops and people encouraging you to buy, buy, buy. I quickly learnt the word "china", (NO). Most shops are tiny, like a garage with a roller door and open until late.



*Morrie and Bishnu*

At 6am next morning our bus arrived with a driver and his offsider whose job was to tell the driver how much space he had to maneuver, in terms of distance from buildings, other vehicles, the cliff edge etc. The driver used his horn constantly to warn bikes, pedestrians, rickshaws, motorbikes and cars of our approach. Negotiating our way out of Katmandu was an astounding experience and would have been impossible later in the day. The drive from Katmandu to Bhandar via Jiri took thirteen hours and we were all grateful that we had hired a

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bus, rather than ride on the roof of the local bus, with people, goats and hens.

Our 18-day trek began in Bhandar and ended in Lukla. We walked through Kinja, Sete, Junbesi, Thaksindu, Khari Khola, Puijyan, Phakding, Monjo, Namche Bazar, Tengboche, Khumjung, Phakding, and then to Lukla.

The scenery in Nepal is stunning. During the first part of the trek we walked through valleys and over passes where we looked out on mountains whose sides were covered with terraced gardens built on unbelievable slopes and small villages and isolated houses. As we walked higher, snow-covered mountains dominated the view.

However, although the mountainous scenery is astonishing to us, whose highest mountain is a mere 2,228m, what fascinated me most about Nepal were the people and the culture. The people are primarily Hindu (80%) or Buddhist (11%) and we encountered many monasteries, stupas, prayer walls and prayer flags in our travels. The people we found to be very welcoming and positive. The villages are primarily agrarian, and have little contact with the outside world. During our trek we saw only one TV, no cars and no electronic gadgets, except for mobile phones. We walked along tracks similar to bush tracks, but not fire trails, in Australia.

What amazed me was that we were walking along a major highway and we met both men and women carrying everything that was needed in the villages along the way: eggs, foodstuffs, kerosene, corrugated iron, beer (in the more popular tourist sections). Their loads were enormous and many of the porters appeared to be carrying their own body weight or more. The sight of diminutive Nepalese men and boys, bent double under crushing weights, is heart-breaking to witness. However, they have no alternative: walking and carrying is one of the few ways they can earn enough to feed their families.

Some trekking companies took advantage of people's poverty and paid them more for carrying heavier loads so as to save on porters' accommodation and food costs. I was angered when I encountered a group of three very large European trekkers with small backpacks, followed by a single porter, about half the weight of any of them, staggering under the burden of three extremely large bags.



Animals were also used to transport materials. At lower altitudes we passed mule trains, sometimes of 40 to 50 mules. You had to watch your feet carefully after encountering so many animals! At higher altitudes mule trains were replaced by zopkyo, a cross between a yak and a buffalo—these shaggy black beasts plodded on their way, bells tinkling and red neck ribbons glistening in the sun.



Above 3500m we first encountered yaks (females are naks). Yaks look rather like a very shaggy fur rug on legs. It's wise to stay on the uphill side of the path when they pass or they may brush you over the side of a hill or mountain.

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Our furthest destination was Tengboche Monastery. We'd crossed our fingers for a clear day, hoping that no one in our party had angered the Goddess by walking the wrong side of any mani stones (stones that are carved with the famous Sanskrit mantra). Luckily, the skies were clear. It was a steep uphill climb through pine forest, but by lunchtime we emerged at the saddle at almost 4000m where the monastery sits among rhododendrons and firs. The views from Tengboche are fantastic – here we saw clearly the snow-capped summit of Everest against a brilliant blue sky. Everest's neighbours, Lhotse and Ama Dablam are perhaps even more beautiful. Next morning we woke before sunrise to capture images of the sunrise against the backdrop of the mountains.

After breakfast we slowly descended towards Lukla, first passing through the enchanting Sherpa village of Khumjung, below the sacred peak Khumbila. Here we saw the school founded here by Hillary in the fifties and later visited the hospital, funded by the Hillary Foundation, and only the second hospital we saw on our trip.

We continued from Khumjung through Namche back down to the Dhukosi River—turquoise coloured water fed by a glacier—and on to Phakding where we spent the night (my notes say 200m ascent and 1500m descent)



The following day we went on to Lukla, a village packed on to a ledge between the mountains at 2,800 metres, whose dubious claim to fame is having one of the most hair-raising landing strips in the world. It's built on a slant, and aircraft

have only about 500 metres to halt before airstrip turns into mountain. At the other end is a thousand meter drop. You don't make the trip in cloudy weather because, as one pilot famously said: "Here the clouds have rocks in them."

Lukla does not have the charm of Namche Bazar. When we arrived Lukla was packed with tourists because no planes had been able to fly for some days due to heavy cloud. When flying resumed, villagers clustered around the airstrip fence. Watching helicopters and planes land is the local spectator sport. The airport perimeter was packed with tourists with their luggage, all waiting for transport. Some had been in Lukla for four days. After a delay of one day, in which we honed our skills at card games taught to us by Bishnu and joined the crowds watching for planes, we finally boarded a flight to Katmandu.

The trip was one that I will always remember for the scenery, the people, especially Bishnu our guide, our porters, and the company of a wonderful group of people. If you intend to trek in Nepal I would unreservedly recommend Bishnu Rai ([trek@himalayansunrise.com](mailto:trek@himalayansunrise.com)).

Thank you Morrie.

## **LEAD WITH A FRIEND!**

Asking a more experienced leader to come along as support is a great way to start leading. If you're not sure who to ask, phone:

**MIKE PRATT**

**PHONE: 9588 2894 (7:30-8:30pm)**

Mike will be happy to find a co-leader for you. The co-leader will share the planning and implementation of your walk. Enjoy learning new skills and experience the satisfaction of contributing to a great day out.

## **VALE TERRY HOGAN**

An obituary for Terry Hogan is planned for inclusion in the Winter Newsletter.

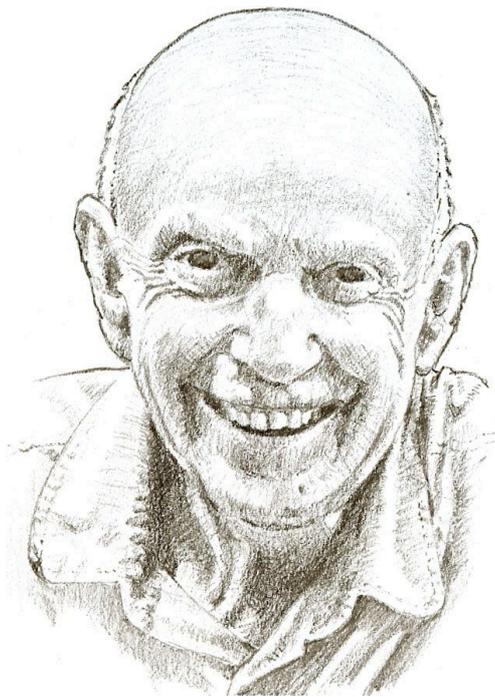
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## THE ODD COUPLE OR PARTNERS IN CRIME

### MICHAEL KEATS: RENAISSANCE MAN

By Bob Taffel

“You know, we really need to get a wider bookshelf to replace the one in the lounge room” I said to my wife, Sue, the other day as I contemplated adding the latest and biggest of Michael Keats’s books, *The Upper Grose Valley: Bushwalkers’ Business* to his other three already claiming space on the shelf. Furthermore I know that even if I could fit this latest tome there are more coming from the same author and that I will definitely want to have them on my bookshelf too.



Michael Keats, author and bushwalker extraordinaire! There can’t be many in The Bush Club who haven’t at least read one of Michael’s walk reports and most have come to recognise the style, a combination of useful detail and descriptive prose that has the ability to take the reader out of the chair and into the bush with him. A source of wonder to many is how Michael can apparently come home from a long day’s walk and then sit down and write one of his

comprehensive reports so that next day all those on his circulation list can know where he’s been and what it was like.

Michael joined The Bush Club in 2001 as a greenhorn bushwalker having newly retired from full time employment after fifteen years involved in aged care as the CEO of the Voluntary Care Association. This position gave him much experience in lobbying, i.e. battling, all levels of government as the Association fought for a better deal for residential staff in residential aged care facilities as well as home care. He recalls his first walk, led by Alan Mewett, and the warm welcome from the other walkers including Ron Mead, Graham Conden, Howard Tooth and Sandra Marder, all still current members, who were among the walkers that day.

It did not take him long to graduate from novice walker to leader following a conversation with Graham Conden questioning why the club did not organise trips to more interesting places. Graham’s succinct reply according to Michael was, “Walks are offered by leaders who are all volunteers; if you want to walk in different places, become a leader”. Michael rose to the challenge and with some coaching from Graham and some boning up on map reading soon was leading his own walks, of course with the odd slip-up that all leaders know can happen to the best of us. He well remembers his first walk as leader, the Nellies Glen-Devil’s Hole Circuit. Peter Kinna, then a prospective, took a tumble and gashed an eyebrow. Michael says he learned a lot about leadership that day and determined there and then to enrol in a first aid course. He was somewhat surprised that following this incident people still came on his walks!

At the 2003 AGM, with little opposition, Michael became the club’s first Librarian and proceeded to “beat the bushes” for content for the library, maps, books, notes, photos and anything else that could be useful in documenting bush clubs and walking history. Among those

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responding with material was Don Brooks, who invited him to come and pick up his collection of maps etc. As Michael sifted through the material on offer, a battered copy of the Kurrajong topo map stood out with its highlighter lines (courtesy of Don over the years) showing many separate walks that all linked together. This map inspired Michael, in 2004, to launch a series of walks with a common theme, in the Lower Grose area, and although he was not conscious of it at the time, led to the start of the first of his several books on bushwalking. Following the success of this first effort, *Day Walks in the Lower Grose River and Tributaries*, he was inspired to write about the Wild Dogs and with support on the ground from the likes of Dave Dash and Steve Murray, and background material from Wilf Hilder, the Wild Dogs became the subject of his second book, *Day Walks in Therabulat Country*. Steve, with his amazing gift for sketching has also made major contributions to Michael's books.

Michael takes some pride in being the originator of the idea of short notice walks for the club. At the time this idea, to use the power of email, was extremely radical to many in the club but with the support of the then president, Graham Conden and the future president Mike Pratt, the first Short Notice Walk, an east-west crossing of Mt Solitary with Michael leading, took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2003. Many predicted the ruin of the club, saying that it would never be the same again. Today Michael smiles in the knowledge that the first proved to be decidedly incorrect while the second, to a fair degree, is true.

Michael's third book, *The Passes of Narrowneck*, arose out of a chance meeting on a Bush Club pack walk, with John Cooper, our current Walks Secretary. As a result of this meeting, John became a Bush Club member and, in turn, introduced Michael to a series of walks traversing all the known passes of Narrowneck. By this time Michael had met Brian Fox through an inquiry to the

Geographical Names Board regarding the naming of Cronje Mountain in the Wild Dogs. The discovery that Brian too is a very keen walker, as well as an acknowledged historian, led to their collaboration.

When Michael was writing *The Passes of Narrowneck*, he mentioned to Brian that he was working on a walking book on the Upper Grose Valley that would complement his first book on the Lower Grose. This simple comment led to a huge walking and research effort by the pair and resulted in the production in early 2010 of the nearly 600-page book, *The Upper Grose Valley – Bushwalkers Business*. A quick browse through this amazingly detailed book would convince anyone that there would now be little left unchronicled about this area. During the course of the writing of the book, Brian also became a club member.

Since completing all the walks for the Upper Grose Valley book, Michael and Brian have been walking and researching extensively in the Gardens of Stone National Park. A new work will soon be published and Michael tells me it is likely to be in the form of eight volumes. As if this isn't enough to keep him occupied, he was inspired by the production of The Bush Club's 70 Rivers project book, to start a book of interviews of those members who have had a substantial influence on the shape and history of the club. He plans to release this book in conjunction with the club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Will Michael ever stop walking and exploring? It's hard to imagine but when and if that day ever arrives, his interest in, and collections of, molluscs and shells, together with his membership of the Malacological\* Society and his current 10 year longitudinal survey of the molluscs of Long Bay for the Australian Museum will help quench his insatiable curiosity and doubtless provide the fodder for further publications.

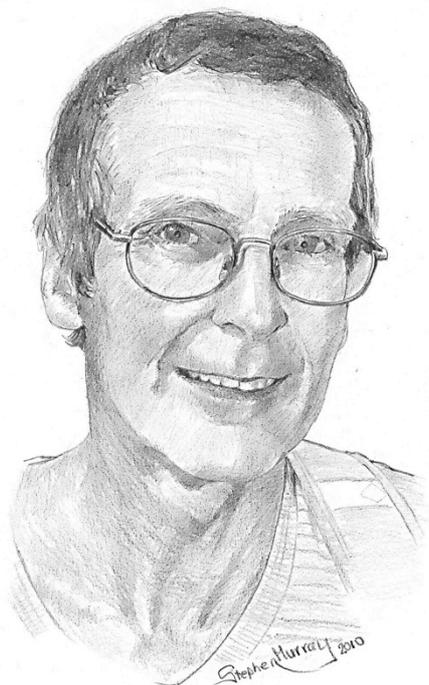
\*Malacology: the science of studying molluscs

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## STEVE MURRAY: ARTIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

By Michael Keats

Steve Murray and I have been bushwalking/climbing/rock scrambling /exploring and walking together now on a weekly basis for nearly a decade. During that time we have exchanged so much personal information that seeking a separate opportunity for “an interview” was unnecessary. A further two-hour session would not elicit any more or different information and stories than I already have.



The story of how Steve’s magnificent line drawings and sketches have come to be a regular feature in the Bush Club quarterly Newsletter and in the bushwalking books published by Brain Fox and myself is worthy of telling.

Way back in time when Steve was seeking a career he decided to become a graphic artist in the advertising industry. He had a natural talent for drawing and it was a travesty that he was just one year into formal training and apprenticed to an advertising firm when the Australian Government served him with call up papers for National Service. Like any person threatened with such a damaging notice to his career, he sought deferral

but ultimately found that the insidious nature of the issue hanging over him all the time became too much, so he decided to share with the boss the sad news. He was immediately fired.

In the interim period between being fired and the next National Service intake Steve took a job labouring on the roads. Now Steve has always been an athlete, and the open-air, physical activity and casual work gear was such a seduction from being locked away in an advertising studio, that when his National Service stint came to an end, the prospect of suits, collars and ties and no sunshine for eight hours a day was abhorrent. In short he did not go back to advertising or his graphic arts studies.

Jump forward several decades in time when Steve and I meet bushwalking. Immediately we discovered a whole lot in common – a love of the outdoors, exploratory walking, remote destinations and much more. We gravitated to each other and reinforced our proclivities, pushing the bush club walks program into more adventurous activities. Such activities are now weekly events unless we are pack walking.

During my time as editor of the Bush Club Newsletter, I started interviewing members who had made significant contributions to the development of the walks program and the Club. I shared with Steve the thought that it would be great to illustrate the interviews with a sketch of each interviewee—I did not want a photo—I wanted something a bit different. Then Steve revealed his past and he ‘volunteered’ (with a bit of heavy cajoling), to have a go.

The revelation of his talent was immediately obvious. Feedback from members and non-members was positive and very encouraging. Steve responded by rekindling his interest and honing his latent skills. He has since joined several art societies and his work is such that he is in the top percentile of Australian graphic artists. On the rare occasions when there is time after lunch on a walk

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Steve's sketchpad is out and with a few deft strokes he captures the essence of the scene at hand.

At our various, regular, essential early morning coffee stops, particularly if we are waiting for others to join the group, other customers find themselves to be involuntary subjects. On those rare occasions when the establishment is empty an architectural feature may be the focus, or a photo from the dailies. The artist within is always at the ready.

Steve has a life long commitment as an athlete. Consequently, there is a tension between bushwalking and his other love, K1 kayaking. Many are the times when a K1 race has taken precedence over a bushwalk, or even the requisite training program to ensure that a personal best or a win is secured on the water.

I asked Steve, "How did you come to take up bushwalking?" The answer was not what I expected. "I was hit by a bus while working at a building site, and that event caused such damage that I could no longer compete as a distance runner." Steve used to run tens of miles (yes, miles) every day, which accounts for his greyhound-like build. Steve's injuries healed remarkably well, despite a protracted workers' compensation case. Fortunately for him he can still 'paddle and bushwalk'. I won't go near the story of his weights program but suffice it to say that there is no way his body will ever be anything other than 'in shape'.

Steve has a love of history that sits well with bushwalking. Tales of old walkers, old walks and past experiences makes him a great raconteur. His wife Suellen says that he can remember details/stories that belong to another era far better than current data. Perhaps this a fore taste of what we are all headed for.

Steve and I both suffer from a strange and perverse 'reverse polarity' when it comes to directions, or is it merely that an underlying curiosity gets the better of rational thinking? So often when we review a walk brief on site after parking the vehicle we will say "Let's head north

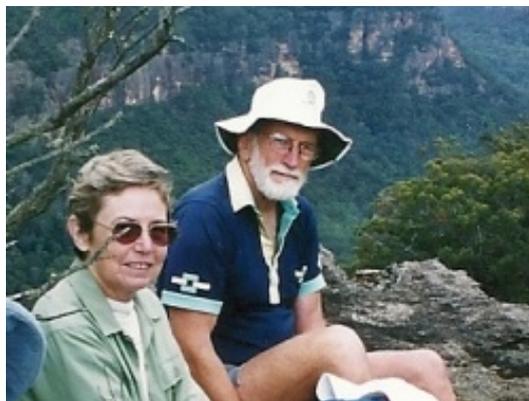
along the ridge' and immediately proceed south! It makes for interesting outcomes. We have done it so often it is a standing joke.

A self-professed "Luddite", when it comes to technology Steve has problems with mobile phones, digital cameras, GPS units and computers. After ten years he does now know how to make a call on my mobile but still checks to make sure it is turned off. He has a great compact camera, but would much rather pull out the sketchpad and pencil than snap a digital image. He tells me that pictures taken years ago remain on the memory stick, in the camera because he is not too sure how to get them out...

My wife Jenny refers to Steve and I as the "odd couple"- a cruel but possibly correct perception of two slightly eccentric old codgers who still think they are teenagers and often act like it as well.

## VALE PENNY LEWARNE

By John and Jan Wilson



Bush Club members were saddened to learn of the passing of Penelope (better known to most members as Penny) on 5 November last year. With her husband, Graham, she had been a keen and active member of the Club but in recent years she struggled valiantly with illness. She coped well but it increasingly inhibited her involvement in Club activities.

Penny and Graham joined the Bush Club in April 2002 and participated in numerous walks in Sydney, around Australia and overseas. In these early years they walked in Ireland, Scotland and Brittany, as well as New Zealand

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and Tasmania. They went twice to walk in Etxexuria in the Pyrenees and in 2006 assisted the Taffels to run the Bush Club's walking activity there.

Penny enjoyed many Bush Club walks, particular favourites being those along the Harbour Foreshores. The highlight for her, however, was having completed the entire Great North Walk in both directions led by Graham Conden. She had felt hesitant about her ability to do this walk but was most appreciative when the leader suggested that she walk at her own pace and enjoy it. She obviously did.

Penny enjoyed the social aspects of walking and liked sharing views with others about books, films and similar subjects. As a trained biologist, she was very interested in the flora and fauna and was keen to learn about these from other walkers.

Many of us will remember Penny as a warm caring person, with a wide range of interests in addition to walking; she loved reading, doing crosswords and embroidery and shared with Graham a special love of good food and cooking, wine, theatre, films and concerts. She was a strong member of her church and a very fond mother and grandmother of her three children and her five grandchildren. The affection and respect with which she was held was witnessed by the large number of Bush Club members and friends who attended her Thanksgiving Service.

During the last few years of her life Graham helped and supported Penny as a constant carer. Our thoughts and very good wishes are with him now at this time and as he continues his ongoing involvement with the Bush Club's program.

### **WANTED!**

A good home for a pair of Ladies Zamberlan walking shoes, brown suede in very good condition, low kms. Euro size 40. Free to someone who'll love them. Bob Taffel, 9958 6825

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## **VALE TERRY DAVIES**

By Mike Pickles

A Bush Club member since 1995, Terry Davies died in December 2010 after a long fight with cancer, which began in the breast some years earlier. Terry was a proud Welshman born in Pontypridd in 1935. He attended Pontypridd Grammar School and later went to Southampton University where he gained a BSc in economics before being articled to a firm of chartered accountants in London. Finding that intolerable, he came to Australia in 1967 together with his wife, Brenda, and their first two children. He started work with the Bank of NSW eventually working his way up to investment manager for the Mercantile and General Re-insurance Company. Both Terry and Brenda were long time walkers with the NPA Wednesday group and although currently suffering from a chronic leg condition, Brenda often organizes luncheons at the Sydney Rowing Club.

Terry was an intrepid walker, a keen golfer and a great raconteur who would often turn up to walks sporting a strikingly garish pair of walking socks. One of my most vivid recollections of him was on a walk to St Ives via Christies pool when after a very wet period Kierans creek was a raging torrent and the main party could not find a way across. Without a care in the world, Terry just stripped off and jumped into Christies pool to try and find a better way for us to cross. The rest of the party looked on in amazement while Terry floated nonchalantly on his back all around the flooded pool.

Terry will be greatly missed by his family, friends and all who knew him.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME**

Please send anything you think will interest our members to Lynne Outhred [bushclubeditor@gmail.com](mailto:bushclubeditor@gmail.com) or

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