



The Bush Club Inc. Newsletter
Number 1, Autumn 2008
www.bushclub.org.au
P.O. Box A1214, Sydney South 1235

Walks submissions

Please use the email address

walkssecretary@gmail.com

for walk submissions to be posted in the newsletter.

For short notice walks, please use the email address

bushclubsnw@gmail.com

This issue includes articles by and about two remarkable women of many in the Bush Club.

Memorable Members: Pam Organ

Irrepressible effervescence and a love of exposure! There are not many women that you can apply such a description to and be totally honest. These are key descriptors that flowed as I engaged Pam Organ to tell me about herself. She bubbles with pent up excitement when you press her buttons with phrases such as ‘negotiate a cliff with exposure,’ ‘climb a rock face’ or ‘let’s do a canyon.’

Pam is tough, resilient and determined. Pam is the name that many know as editor of ‘Walks and Talks.’ She finally put her quill back into the inkpot for the last time in 2006 after 10 years of massaging the words of less talented members into readable English. ‘Walks and Talks’ has now ceased as a separate publication. Pam’s one regret is that the Newsletter has not been expanded sufficiently to allow more reporting of walking activity, thus continuing the record of the Bush Club’s growth and development.

With relish Pam spoke about her early prowess as a writer. In the days when there was still value in money, Pam was a consistent winner of children’s prizes for ‘essays’ sponsored by the Sunday Sun newspaper – winning 7/6 (in old money) for each successful effort. For a young person this represented a small fortune. For Pam it was also an incentive and writing well became embedded in her psyche.

A graduate of Hornsby Girls High School, one of the more influential people in her schooling was a Miss When, Librarian, English teacher and later Headmistress of the school. Miss When was eruditely literate and drummed home the message that the written word must be “pithy.” Pam must have listened intently for she is ever economical with words and subscribes to the Churchillian dictum mentioned by Sir Winston in a letter to a colleague - “If I had more time this letter would be shorter.”

Reminiscing, Pam recalls her father – a mad walker and an adventurer. “Dad had a wonderful book called ‘100miles around Sydney,’ which formed the basis of many adventures, for as well as having driving excursions there were walks to be taken as well. There is more than a bit of the adventurer and ‘tom boy’ in Pam. The eyes sparkle when she talks of exploring alone in her favourite “Wattle and Stone” country, something she did for years before even thinking about joining a walking club.



When Pam did join a walking group it was the “Walkabout Group” within the All Nations Club, circa 1975. She recalled, “In a membership of some 200 there were just 5 Anglo-Australians. To add to the cosmopolitan feel meetings were held in Kings Cross. The President was Peter Bonner, a top leader. I was secretary for a number of years. It was a great time for walking.”

The NPA walking program attracted Pam also. She joined them in 1982 and became a keen leader. “I would look at a map and construct new walks that joined tracks. I look at some now established tracks in the Royal and around Terry Hills and feel a sense of achievement that a

particular track now goes right through thanks to my efforts.”

Within the NPA Pam was rated with the elite walkers, “ I just love the stimulus of challenge, exposure and a challenging climb or two.”

“I joined the Bush Club late in 1988 because of the people involved, they were, and are people I relate to.” Pam said, as her eyes danced. “I am looking forward to this toe of mine being better so I can again get out there and feel the adrenalin rush when I pit myself against yet another sandstone challenge.”

“Recently I went on a walk to Mount Bushwalker in the Morton National Park, it was not a particularly difficult walk but it made me incredibly happy. In the bush I picked up the scent – that compulsive urge to explore, I was in my element.”

Gooches Crater is my favorite destination - it is where my spirit lives and where my mortal ashes will be cast so I can bushwalk in a heaven so special forever.”

Michael Keats

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My Idea of Heaven

My idea of heaven is a planet, one of many planets far from Earth. Each of us has our own idea of what we would like heaven to be, but my heaven would have many beautiful trees and flowers, rocks, rivers and sandy beaches, cliffs honeycombed with caves, grass covered hills and deep valleys. There would be no thorny bushes or spiky lawyer vines.

All life, human, animal and insect would be vegetarian. There would be food in abundance to be picked from trees or harvested from the ground all the year round.

There would be no need to store food. The temperature would be pleasantly cool to warm, never hot or cold, so clothing would be unnecessary. Rain would fall as light showers, quickly followed by warm sunshine and this would occur several times a day so there would be no need to wash.

We would be almost as light as thistle-down, so that if we fell off a mountain we would float gently to ground. Rock, sand and earth, therefore, would be comfortable to lie on making a mattress unnecessary. Minerals would be picked up, admired and put back again. There would be no machines, no man-made utensils, no fires and therefore no rubbish. Fire would be unnecessary for warmth and food would be delicious, eaten as found.

There would be no fighting as everybody would have the same ideals and there would be no need to own anything at all. There would be children in abundance and everyone would love and care for them. Schools would be unnecessary for they would learn from nature. Language would be universal.

There would be many forms of animals, birds and insects, all living harmoniously with one another.

Anyone becoming tired of this paradise could drift quietly away to another planet of their choice. Visitors from other planets would be welcome but only those with the same ideals would be able to find the way.

Could there be such a heaven?

*Written by Pearl Gillott during her battle with cancer in the 1970's. Pearl passed away peacefully at Canterbury Hospital on Friday February 15th. Pearl's friends are invited to a short walk and memorial picnic on Monday 10th March. We shall dip our pots in the waters of Kangaroo Creek, boil the billy, share a picnic lunch, reminisce and then scatter Pearl's ashes as she requested. Please bring camp stove, fuel and billy, if you have them. Full details in Walks Schedule, March 10th. Mike Pratt.

Thank you Michael

To Michael Keats for all the work he has put into the Newsletter as editor. In the last few editions Michael has contributed a series of articles about members of the club in addition to his role as editor. He continues to support the new team by suggesting items of interest. To those on the email list Michael sends detailed reports of his walks.

Our next issue:

Please send articles to Lynne Outhred (Lynneouthred@bigpond.com or 106 Chapman Ave, Beecroft NSW 2119).



Our Life Blood New Members

The club membership is currently 487 with 95 prospective members. Eight new members were approved at the last subcommittee meeting and ten new prospective members applied.

New Members approved:

Jan Mathieson, Alison Watson, John Friend, William Hope, Tom Sear, Jay Hong Woo, Linda Salway, Lee Oehm, Greg Fraser, Dennis Trembath, Carmela Tassone, Carol Lee, James Yap

Ian Edwards, Membership Secretary



Office Bearers 2007-2008

President	Graeme Lawless	9953 2735
Vice President	Tony Hickson	9419 2546
Vice President	Carol Henderson	9879 6709
Club Secretary	Carol Henderson	
Treasurer	Bob Wood	9531 0135
Walks Secretary	Kaye Birch	0407115560
Membership Secretary	Ian Edwards	9899 1747
Training Officer	Tony Hickson	9419 2546
Newsletter Committee	Bev Barnett	9876 3252
	Lynne Outhred	9484 2657
Webmaster	Jacqui Hickson	9419 2546
Librarian	Mike Keats	9144 2096
Short Notice Walks	Tony Hickson	9419 2546
Social Secretary	Pearl Gillott	
Insurance Officer	Howard Tooth	
Database Manager	Ron Mead	
Committee Members	Bob Taffel	
	Michael Pratt	
	John Wilson	



Short Notice Walks Can you help?

Although we would prefer leaders to commit to walks in the formal program, we know that it is not always possible to commit so far ahead. So we would like to encourage members to contribute to the Short Notice Walks program to supplement the formal program.

Club members who do not have an email access can phone one of the following members and they will let you know what is on the SNW program: Lyndal Lawless 99532735, Chris Edwards 9899 1747, Carol Henderson 9879 6709, Bob Taffel 9958 6825

Bushwalking in deepest Ashfield

With trepidation, we set off for Strathfield station, to meet leader Carol Henderson, known

for her gung-ho exploits. We worried about our ability to handle this latest adventure. We checked our backpack for necessities – first aid kit, enough water – would gaiters be needed, we wondered?

Just reaching the starting point on time was exhausting – bumper to bumper cars, filled with glassy-eyed and steely nerved Christmas shoppers, equally determined not to be late for their own adventure. After checking the compass - yes, we were on the southern side of the station, we found our leader who greeted us all with a smile, then briskly set off into the great unknown – well, for some of us anyway. Comments such as “where on earth are we?” were heard. No-one lagged behind, for fear of having to find their own way home.

After a few near misses with cyclists in the process of ridding themselves of their office angst, we ambled along the great cycle/walkway which runs from Parramatta to Tempe. We eventually reached our dinner spot in front of the “Sugar Shack”. Nothing to do with the 1960’s pop-song – and no, coffee was not available, as in the song - but a lovely old sandstone building now housing several units, formerly a sugar refinery amongst other lives. Most of us enjoyed our sandwiches whilst gazing over the fragrant Cooks River, however Mike & Jenny had chosen their spot unwisely, and sat in something unmentionable. As evening approached, it was time to press on to our goal – the bright-lights of Ashbury!

A frisson of excitement surged through the group. This caused us to wander off-track and thus discover an unscheduled stop – the “Miracle House”, according to the sign. Some of us felt sure that the lighting on this house alone, could have powered a rocket into space. Not one section of the small house was unadorned. At the front gate, there was a placard exhorting us to return twice more, after which much good fortune would come our way. How could things get better than this? All our Christmases had come at once.

Now back on track, we arrived at the ‘piece de resistance’ – Second Avenue, Ashbury. Wow! Most of the houses, on both sides of the street, were lit up – well, like Christmas trees. Santa was everywhere and in many forms. The reindeers jostled for space with the Wise Men and angels. Many of the proud designers of these displays were at their front gates and chatted

with our group. We heard the sad story of one family's blow-up santa having received fatal stab wounds to the back from persons unknown.



From Second Avenue we walked into Third Avenue, vying for the best decorations. It was hard to judge the better street. Then on to our final 'good fortune'. Carol, ever the planner, had arranged for us to have coffee & cake at her friends' house nearby - as well as champagne for the birthday girl, Sandra Bushell. A great finish to a very different walk. Forget the bush-bashing - this is my type of walk! Thanks Carol.

Kaye Birch



The sea was pounding in against the rocks —a spectacular sight.

A laid back late elevenses at the lookout overlooking Werong Beach is a perfect spot for our second morning tea. The day is humid and the shade in the Palm Jungle very welcome. The pace is well, andante, in keeping with the theme of the weekend.

We admire cabbage palms and angophoras with their twisted branches and roots growing from rocks. Alas, the tide is high and the surging waves make the Figure 8 Pool not the place to be. And the beach is closed.

We seek it here, there, everywhere but the shade is nowhere to be found. A low rock overhang beckons. Hobson's choice: have a damp seat in the shade or be dry in the sun—a five star view, but not a five star lunch spot. But Jeanne has style; she finds a natural bath tub fed by cooling spray from the surf going whump, whump against the adjoining rocks.

Ascending from Era Beach we meet an echidna searching for lunch. Very nonchalant he does not mind Jan taking a close up snap.

Garie Beach kiosk is a welcome oasis before the last climb of the day to the YHA hostel hidden in the trees with views across the sands of Garie beach

The gas man cometh! Three cheers for Don for saving dinner by getting the gas stove going. Happy hour just got longer and longer, a sumptuous spread with red wines to produce a mellow drift into dinner.

Awake to the sounds of birds and the crashing of the sea. For some morning strolls by the sea, but for others the thought is quickly dismissed. They enjoyed the luxury of mattresses and pillows, as well as contemplating a leisurely breakfast-with style of course.

At Curracurang we divert to the waterfall and its lovely fern fringed pool for a delightful swim.

	<p>Birthday Celebrations Soon we will be 70!</p>
<p>Dear Leaders, this letter is sent to inform you about a project to celebrate our Club's 70th year. This initiative will challenge members and promote networking, ideas and enthusiasm. The publication planned upon completion will become part of The Bush Club's recorded history.</p> <p>There is much to be done. There are 70 rivers to be visited and this project must be completed by September 2009. Because of scheduling complexities and timeframe it is hoped to commence the project in the month of June 2008; this year's Winter schedule.</p> <p>The committee comprises Joan Adams, Co-ordinator; Morrie Donovan, Michael Keats and Michael Pratt.</p> <p>Expressions of interest and offers of walks are urgently sought and should reach Joan Adams by as soon as possible. Joan's postal address is 10 / 15 Chester St., Epping, NSW 2121.</p> <p>Her Email address is jma04@ozonline.com.au</p> <p>*A social gathering of leader participants is planned in May to launch this project. A venue for this function is needed. If you can assist, please contact Joan above.</p>	

Otford to Bundeena in Style

Apple and blackberry pies with ice cream, coffee and bubbling conversation on a sunny Saturday morning at the Otford Pie Shop with two full days to savour the coast. Definitely a beginning with style.

But at Wattamolla the rain finds us. Drizzle all the way to Bundeena arriving at 4:30PM a suitably stylish time to finish. Did you ever hear of a coffee shop that ran out of coffee and sent the waitress to the supermarket to buy some more? But Tom has style; he sweet talked the owner of the shop next door –lady of course- to produce some coffee.



The rain pelted down as we made the ferry sending a damp dozen to Cronulla. Some found an inventive way of drying off in style, leaping aboard the train with seconds to spare. Being a gentleman I do not say whom or how.

Many thanks to my co leader Jeanne and companions who made the weekend such an enjoyable occasion. Definitely worthy of an encore in Summer 2008

Ron Watters

Diminished Christmas Gathering

A Botanic Garden pavilion and mild sunny weather failed to attract members to The Club's Christmas Party held on Saturday December 15th. However six friends shared goodies and enjoyed each other's company. Subjects discussed included snakes, cherries and party dynamics. Unfortunately the lack of support may see an end to our Christmas gatherings, certainly in their present format. Those who attended were President Graeme Lawless, Yvonne Bourne, Louise Archibald, Belinda McKenzie, Richard Weston and Michael Pratt. Social Secretary Pearl Gillott who arranged the event was unable to attend due to illness.

Mike Pratt

Vale Pat Lane and Margaret Cunningham

Pat Lane

Former Bush Club member and leader Patrick Lane died on 25 December 2007, aged 84.

Pat led walks in the Royal and the Heathcote National Parks usually with off-track variations, such

as coming off Scouters Mountain or down the steep slopes to Heathcote Creek, or tempting us into the mangrove mud near the Temptation Creek area, or traversing the rocky ledges above creeks in the Watchorn Hill area. The late Marion Burden was one of the many stalwarts who never missed an opportunity to walk under Pat's leadership.

Although he rarely referred to map or compass on these walks he knew the topography well and was never in doubt as to where he was taking us. Never one to talk loudly and incessantly as he walked, he nevertheless displayed a wry humour when he did speak as befits one of Irish background who had been Emeritus Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Sydney.

We extend our condolences to Mrs Patricia Lane, a former member of The Bush Club and her family.

Alan Mewett

Margaret Cunningham

Margaret Cunningham died on 1st October 2007 aged 73. She joined the Bush club in the 1960s. Margaret loved walking in the bush, on or off track, day walk or overnight. Her pack (bright



orange) is still remembered by her fellow walkers today. She loved to travel, particularly if a good walk was involved somewhere along the way, like King Island, Corner Country, etc. Perhaps walking was in her genes, as one of her convict ancestors, Henry Angel, was assigned to walk with the measuring wheel for explorers Hume & Hovell. Margaret will be remembered by all who knew her.

Arthur Cunningham



Web Information

www.bushclub.org.au

Have you looked at the Bushclub website recently? See the latest photos from all sorts of walks - you may be in one of them. Find out where other people are walking!

Useful Links page: Check out this page for all sorts of information about walks you might like to do: other walkers' experiences, train timetables, weather forecasts - all available on the one page.

Gear for sale: Do you have any gear you'd like to sell - or would you like to buy some second-hand? There's a section on our News page where you can advertise.

Dehydrated food recipes: needed for the web site (in fact, it's PEOPLE who want them). Vegie and meat recipes welcome. They'll be accessible from the NEWS page (where there are already a few good ones).

Please send any recipes, or photos from your walks to bcwebmaster@hotmail.com Don't just wait for Jacqui to hassle you.

Jacqui Hickson