



Newcastle Ramblers Bushwalking Club Newsletter July 2026

Editor Bob Clifton – newcastle.ramblers@gmail.com



Our Wednesday bike rides are popular and this one was the Hermitage Road Circuit (Belord to Pokolbin) on 9 June 2026 (photo by Sue)

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Note from the Editor

I have had plenty of material to work with since our last newsletter with the Club having enjoyed a wide range of activities – it is nice to record a sample of the wonderful and varied activities the Club gets up to - many thanks to all involved.

This newsletter reports on the very successful week-long trip to the Mulubinba Alpine Lodge in Perisher for some great Summer alpine walking. Thanks David for getting the trip organised.

The trip to the Daintree again this year to volunteer with the Rainforest Rescue was a feature to be followed by travels further north to Cooktown. In addition, we have had a couple of Snowy trips which missed out on being included in the last issue.

With the possibility of petrol shortages and additional costs Lynne and others arranged a selection of walks in the Central Coast and Sydney bushland which can be accessed by train.

Col McCluskey headed off to Macquarie Island in April – we have been following his exploits via Facebook and have included a page or two of his amazing photographs.

In June the Ramblers joined with the Invictus Australia, Newcastle and arranged two local walks for its members. We look forward to future involvement with them.

We can look forward to reports from at least two trips to the Snowy Mountains and to Japan before the end of the year.

The Club Committee has met regularly and amongst other matters decided to move away from the use of PayPal, to investigate a new website and management system, and change activity planning time frame from seasonal to one month.

All the best

Bob

Rambler Retreads – Wednesday Mornings



*Do you ever wonder what earlier Club Members do? Well, they meet up for coffee at **10.00am each Wednesday at Elma's Café in Clyde Street, Hamilton**. From left to right Royce, Peter, Arthur, Hazel, Keith, Greg, Richard, Bob and Tony. All welcome to join in. Peter Crawley was there but missed the photo*

Travel to Macquarie Island with Col McCluskey – April - May - June 2026



Col with lots of new friends in the background

Col McCluskey headed off to Macquarie Island in April for a twelve month stint as Station Electrician. We have been following his Facebook posts with great interest - included below are a sample of his interesting photographs so far.

He is part of a 20 person team which left Hobart to arrive at MQ I Station on 15 April and unload the cargo for their extended stay.

Col had the opportunity in May for a three day bushwalk with a difference starting from the MQ I Station to Bauer Bay Hut on the first day, then to Brother's Point on the second day, and return to the Station via the Eastcoast Track.



Col's home at Macquarie Island Station and unloading supplies from the ship. The Station at night.



RSV Nuyina is a state-of-the-art icebreaking research and supply vessel. Equipment which was on hand for unloading supplies for the winter stay



Col and his group setting off for the three day walk



Shelter along the way and the overnight accommodation at Bauer Bay Hut and Brothers Point



The Island abounds with wildlife

Elected and Appointed Club Positions 2026-2027

The Club AGM was held on 16 March 2026 with the election of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and four Committee positions. At a subsequent Committee meeting other positions of the Club were filled. We thank Peter Farley, our Club Public Officer for standing in as Returning Officer at the AGM this year.

President	<i>Malcolm Mills</i>
Vice-President	<i>Dale Graham</i>
Secretary	<i>Brett Bennie</i>
Treasurer	<i>Kay England</i>
Committee	<i>Nell Watson, David Morrison, Barry Williams</i>

New Member and Visitor Liaison Officers	<i>Kate Rados</i>	Assistant Treasurer	<i>Peter Crawley, Craig Whitford</i>
Membership Secretary	<i>Kate Rados</i>	Newsletter Editor	<i>Bob Clifton</i>
Activity Officer	<i>Malcolm Mills</i>	Photo Competition	<i>David Morrison</i>
Assistant Activity Officer	<i>Lynne Walker</i>	Web-site Manager	<i>vacant</i>
Meetings Planning Officer and PLB Officer	<i>Malcolm Mills</i>	Club Public Officer	<i>Peter Farley</i>

Ramblers Walks Officer Report for 2025/2026

I must start by thanking all leaders for putting on the many walks and Club members for participating in what has been a pretty full program throughout the year. I thank Lynne (with some help from Bob) for the routine updating of our program for its circulation to members and for its addition to our website.

I make a few general comments which have a big bearing on our programmed activities and participation by members.

We have been aware for some time that the nature of the Club has been changing with members getting older and preferring less adventurous and strenuous walking – preferred walks for most are local, on tracks, and of a duration less than three to four hours.

We have seen an overall change in weather patterns which affect our walking and planning – there have been extended periods of heavy rain, extremes of heat, National Parks closures due to storm damage, and the growth of vegetation in our favourite walking locations. With the uncertainties of weather many members leave it until the last minute to go on a walk or to cancel out.

A few years ago, we re-establish seasonal activity programing. We see fewer longer term commitments to the program with a preference by both leaders and participants to leave it to the last minute to put on a walk or to let a leader know that they would like to take part. This is all part of the way we lead our lives these

days and the influence and convenience of social media and mobile phones.

With these general comments out of the way I move on to reflect on the wonderful number and variety of Club activities we have enjoyed, there being something for everyone most weeks of the year.

After a brief absence Peter and Tracey have returned to arrange our fortnightly daywalks. I thank them and those leaders who stepped up to make sure we did not miss out on any Wednesdays. Malcolm and Ingrid took a special interest in the Dungog area leading us to the many attractive walking and social options around Dungog.

I thank Philippa and others for maintaining our program of regular mid-week bike rides

We enjoyed a range of regular twilight walks during daylight saving times and welcome the initiative of David Morrison with early morning breakfast walks to beat the heat

The Snowy Mountains and Kosciusko NP were again a very inviting locations for us in the Spring and Summer months with no less than five extended back packs and a week-long stay at the Shortland Alpine Lodge in Perisher to enjoy day walks. The weather conditions experienced were the full range of mountain weather. I thank Alan Thomas, Bob Clifton, Lynne Walker, Sue Holt for their efforts in organising these walk and it is great to

see the wonderful spirit of those involved. I thank David Morrison for making the arrangements for the Club to return to the Lodge in February which is a wonderful time of the year to experience the mountains and wildflowers.

Well attended and popular car camps have been plentiful during the year. We enjoyed Easter 2025 at Hill End organised by Jenni May and other great locations visited included Morton NP, Royal NP, Mill Creek, and Mt Royal. Not to forget Blackberry Picking at Nundle.

Ramblers have not limited their walking and travelling to Australia. Anna Braithwaite organised the circuit walk to Mt Blanc and many others have been travelling independently to far flung wonderful places like the 'Five Stans', the Antarctic on two trips, Austria, and other places. Reports of these travels have been the subject of interesting and entertaining presentations to our Club Meetings.

The Club participated in the Lake Mac Rogaine and fielded a two-day team in the NSW Nav Shield in August. Ten members honed their first aid skills in a First Aid Workshop in November.

A truly wonderful adjunct to our walking activities has been a continuing involvement by members in bush regeneration and Landcare. Members have been involved in the Barrington Tops, Crowdy Bay, Daintree Rainforest, Arcadia Park, Green Point, and

Greta – the general public express appreciation of our efforts and it is a good opportunity to promote our Club.

Dale Graham and Nell Watson facilitated 'Women's Week Walks' to support the Bushwalking NSW initiative. Our Club organised two such walks for about ten participants each which included the State Minister for Women's Affairs Jodi Harrison and the President of Bushwalking NSW. The walks were to Mt Sugarloaf and to the Blue Gums Regional Park.

Our Christmas Meeting and Get Together was held at the Speers Point Park in beautiful clear weather and was attended by about thirty members. Nine of our members made it up to the Blue Mountains Music Festival again this year for mountain walks and music – we have been regular attenders at this festival since before 2009.

You can see from my report that we really have been very active and have enjoyed so much together. I look forward to another wonderful year ahead and as usual encourage as many of our members as possible to come forward with ideas for the program and to organise an activity.

Report by Bob Clifton on behalf of Malcolm Mills – Walks Officer

Ramblers Club Auction Night – 20 April 2026



Another busy Club Auction was held this year with a wonderful array of interesting items. Lots of backpacks and other camping gear, apple strudel, plants, and bush clothing. Auctioneers this year were Arthur, Robert, Brett, and Bob. Over \$375 was raised.

A Week at Mulubinba Alpine Lodge, Perisher KNP – 22 February to 1 March 2026

Participants: David Morrison (leader) and 18 Ramblers

It has been many years since the Club spent time at the Mulubinba Alpine Lodge in Perisher for a week of mountain walking. Thanks David for making it all happen. It was a great week

Day walks on the list for the week included - The Waterfall Walk, and Rainbow Lake - Perisher to Charlottes Pass - Charlottes Pass to Dead Horse Gap – Charlottes Pass to Guthega. Others split into smaller groups to take on shorter walks.

Craig has put together a more detailed report on the walk from Charlottes Pass to Dead Horse Gap (see below)

Photos by the various participants



Members settled in to the very comfortable accommodation in the lodge.



(l) Porcupine Rocks on the way from Perisher to Charlotte Pass and (r) lunch on the way to Guthega.



(l) and (m) Group shots on the way to Guthega and (r) at the waterfall on the Waterfall Track

Mt Kosciuszko – From Charlotte Pass to Dead Horse Gap - 26 February 2026

Walkers: Jenni May (leader) and 7 Ramblers



Group shot on Mt Kosciuszko in the mist

Having driven up to the turntable at Charlotte Pass, we arrived just after 0800 hours. There were some cars already parked along the roadside there but not too many and no one was about anyway. The day was cool-ish, really pleasant for walking BUT the cloud up there was low and for most of today, visibility was limited to about 50m, so no views throughout!

Shouldered packs and off we went along the (now closed) wide gravel surfaced Summit Road. The road ascends gradually with the Snowy River valley (today unseen) being below on the right along this section, initially surrounded by Snow Gums but around 1800m high the trees soon peter out and for most of this walk, the vegetation is grassland with occasional low level flowering plants. The climb continued but after a while it levelled and even started a slight decline. Suddenly we were on a concrete bridge with an un-signposted running creek and then a short time later a more substantial concrete bridge with no railing (there never are up here) and a sign stating “Snowy River”. The juvenile River here wasn’t too deep but it was certainly far too wide to jump and too cold.

The road started climbing again and eventually the vague outline of a building appeared up on the bank on the right. Wondering whether we had reached Seaman’s Hut – we had but that wasn’t it. This building was actually the small toilet block adjacent to the Hut. (I was unaware that there was one until then.) Walking on a very short distance was the actual hut. We all went inside to both investigate it and to have our morning tea break in comfort.

Continuing on the road’s gradient now steepened noticeably as it climbed Etheridge Ridge. Suddenly ahead a bunker appeared through the fog. We had arrived at Rawson Pass. This area was flat and as mentioned, comprised a bunker built into the hillside with an adjoining toilet block – the highest toilets in Australia. The Pass itself is an open, flat – to the right being the rougher road up Kosciuszko itself whilst on the left (being our ongoing ‘footpath’ to be taken soon) leading down towards Thredbo.



We now ascended Kosciuszko itself in the dense fog. The road was formerly trafficable right to the summit and I read somewhere that there is the story of a 1929 model Roadster car up there, so it can hardly be seen as a ‘proper’ peak in world terms.

The Kosciuszko summit is a little underwhelming overall being a rounded knoll. There is a formal paved path right up to the one metre high (former) trig which, to be fair, is well made. On the way down the mountain it became clear that the group which we had seen on the summit was just the vanguard of people arriving from Thredbo. We pressed on towards Thredbo.

As mentioned earlier there is a raised steel walkway from here almost to the top of Thredbo about 5 klms distant. This is built

to mitigate the erosion which would occur with multiple feet on these fragile soils and alpine vegetation and it being raised about 500 mm off the ground, it discourages people from stepping down onto the ground.

There are no steps along here – it is possible to move along reasonably rapidly or we could after a while. Initially we came across masses of upcoming adolescent boys usually in groups.

The descent was otherwise unremarkable. There was a railing on the right hand side further down which must have been the lookout down to Lake Cootapatamba but of course, no view of it today. Later on we called a halt about half way down and stepped off the track to

sit in the lee of a group of tors out of the slight northerly wind and have lunch. Continuing on, the walkway dropped markedly at one point and crossed a nice alpine stream later determined as being the very early part of the Snowy River.

A more noticeable, steady descent followed soon after and with the fog being less dense, a stream was seen on our right flowing in our direction of travel. We had clearly reached the Thredbo River catchment. Descending to a bridge across that stream the steel walkway stopped and a paved brick lined path began. A sign announced the beginning of the Thredbo Resort Area and soon a track junction on the right was reached. The signage said that Thredbo Chairlift - Top Station was 500 m ahead while Dead Horse Gap was 4 klms distant to the right. Here two members of our group opted to descend the chairlift to Thredbo (at an eyewatering 'daily' fee of up to \$75!!!!) rather than walk down



Jenni led a walk from Charlotte Pass to Dead Horse Gap via Mt Kosciuszko. Several of us drove around to Thredbo to bring them home. It was not clear exactly what time they would get to Dead Horse Gap but we had arranged for Jenni to call us from the top of the chairlift so we could be there an hour later. Well, it was quite a bit more than an hour, and there were some shenanigans while we were waiting.

From here on extensive work is being undertaken to improve the track via the installation of some steps and likely some boardwalks, with numerous rock and tool bags being seen beside the track. The track continued to wind as it descended, sometimes with little plateaus to aid in our knee recovery. Periodically the sound of running water came from our right – unseen Bogong Creek was running parallel to our descent towards the Thredbo River. All the while the vegetation was becoming thicker and the visibility becoming a little more clear as the descent continued. Soon the Cascades Car park could be seen below and then breaking out of the timber into grassland,

the Creek was in front of us and turning right at the final track junction, we crossed the footbridge on Bogong Creek and climbed up the embankment to The Alpine Way at Dead Horse Gap (actually the Cascades Car Park) around 1530 hours.

A quick organisation about who was in which car and we were away for the 50 minute drive along The Alpine Way past Thredbo and the outskirts of Jindabyne back to Perisher.

Day Walk – 8 hours. 21+ klms

Report by Craig Whitford



There is always amazing nature to observe in the mountains

Barrington Tops Backpack – 22 to 24 May 2026

Walkers: Alan Thomas (leader), Anna Braithewaite, Sue Holt, Mellissa Gavenlock, Nick Searl, Lynne Walker



Nick, Anna and Alan arrive at the Selby Alleys Hut - still smiling

Alan's backpack walk was originally planned for the Mt Yengo NP, however on advise from the Park Ranger that creeks were dry he changed his prooosed walk to the Barrington Tops.

It is a long drive to the Tops via Scone and the group arrived at Little Murray to park about 2.00pm. Donning packs in misty rainy conditions it was wet and quite atmopheric to reach Junction Pools to find the Barrington River in flood – there was no way to cross safely. As they set up tents the rain really started and it was into tents before 5.00pm for a cold dinner.

Sue was not too well on the way in and Mellissa suffered a leaking tent for the night which made for an easy decision the next day for them with Lynne to retreat back to Little Murray and the Polblue shelter before returning to Newcastle.

Alan, Nick and Anna decided to walk on through flooded creek lines to the Careys Peak Hut to camp and at least have some shelter with a fire to dry off. Arriving there early in the day left time for them to walk on without packs to check out the well maintained Selby Alley's Hut and return for the night.

Whilst a very wet experience it is one of those walks which will be memorable - it was still great fun.

Thanks Alan for getting the Club up into the Barrington for a backpack

Note by Bob as described by Lynne and photos by Lynne and Nick



The work to remove the Scotch Broom by NPWS and volunteers has been very effective... have a look at the left hand side of Junction Pools Track compared to the right hand side... Edward's Swamp/Plain was also looking pretty clear.



There were four flooded creek crossings on the way to Careys Peak via Edwards Swamp



(l) The Carey's Peak Hut was welcome relief from the damp conditions and was an opportunity to dry off a bit. We camped nearby. (m) and (r) After our set up at Carey's we walked for the afternoon to Selby Alley's Hut. It has been a while since we last visited this hut and were delighted to find it in such good clean condition – thanks NBC for your ongoing commitment to this historic hut.

Volunteer Planting with Rainforest Rescue in the Daintree, FNQ – 13 to 23 May 2026

Participants : Bob Clifton (leader), Malcolm Mills, Ingrid Waeger, David Morrison, Nell Watson and Craig Whitford

Following on from our successful planting occasion in 2025 we again joined Rainforest Rescue Community Planting Day on Saturday 16 May 2026 as part of an extended trip which included time in Cairns, Cape Tribulation, Laura, and Cooktown – all up ten days of interesting visits and easy walking to all of the good spots.



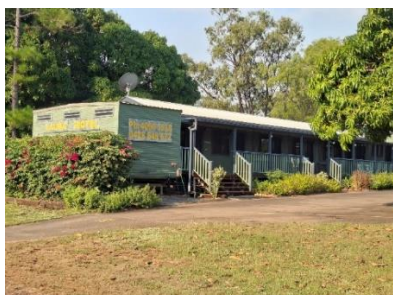
Here we are with 125 other volunteers planting over 5,000 rainforest trees into Lot 110 Cape Tribulation Road, located in the Daintree River Oxbow. It was a very successful morning. The Ramblers are on the left hand side of the photo. It would be nice to get back again in 2027.



Ramblers busy planting and a group photo with the Rainforest Rescue CEO Branden Barber

A Day in Quinkan Country with Jarramali, Laura, FNQ – 18 May 2026

We had arrived in Laura the evening beforehand to book into the little motel in the town and to dine at the Laura Hotel across the road. In addition to the superb bangers and mash we met Kevin, the proprietor and learned about the Barramundi fishing and crocodiles of the region. He had lost his good mate by crocodile attack about three years ago and had taken over the pub's operation to prepare it for sale. We spent time in the Quinkan and Regional Cultural Centre in Laura which was excellent with beautiful exhibits of Kuku Yalangi culture, and the history of discovery and development of FNQ through gold mining and the cattle industry.



Laura is a tiny town on the Laura River at the start of the trek north to Cape York Peninsular with a population of about 500 people. Behind our motel and opposite the pub there is a very interesting park with historical items reflecting the gold rush days and the end the Cooktown to Laura Rail Line built in the gold rush days. The early prison of the town has been preserved. Of particular interest is a display about the very endangered Sawfish which is still found occasionally in the Laura River.

Johnny Murison met us at 8.30am on Tuesday morning to whisk us away by 4WD some 38km west of Laura on the old Maytown Road through the Olive Vale Cattle Station and to the well-established and maintained Jarramali Camp on the Little Laura River. Along the way we had stopped to walk through open woodland into to several art shelters and then onto a prominent rock outcrop for escarpment views. Quinkan art thought to be up to 35,000 years old depicts animals and spirit figures. It is of high quality and is still in relatively good condition. UNESCO regards the Quinkan rock art as one of the ten most significant bodies of art in the world. Johnny was able to explain the significance of the images along with Aboriginal culture and his own background and connection to country.

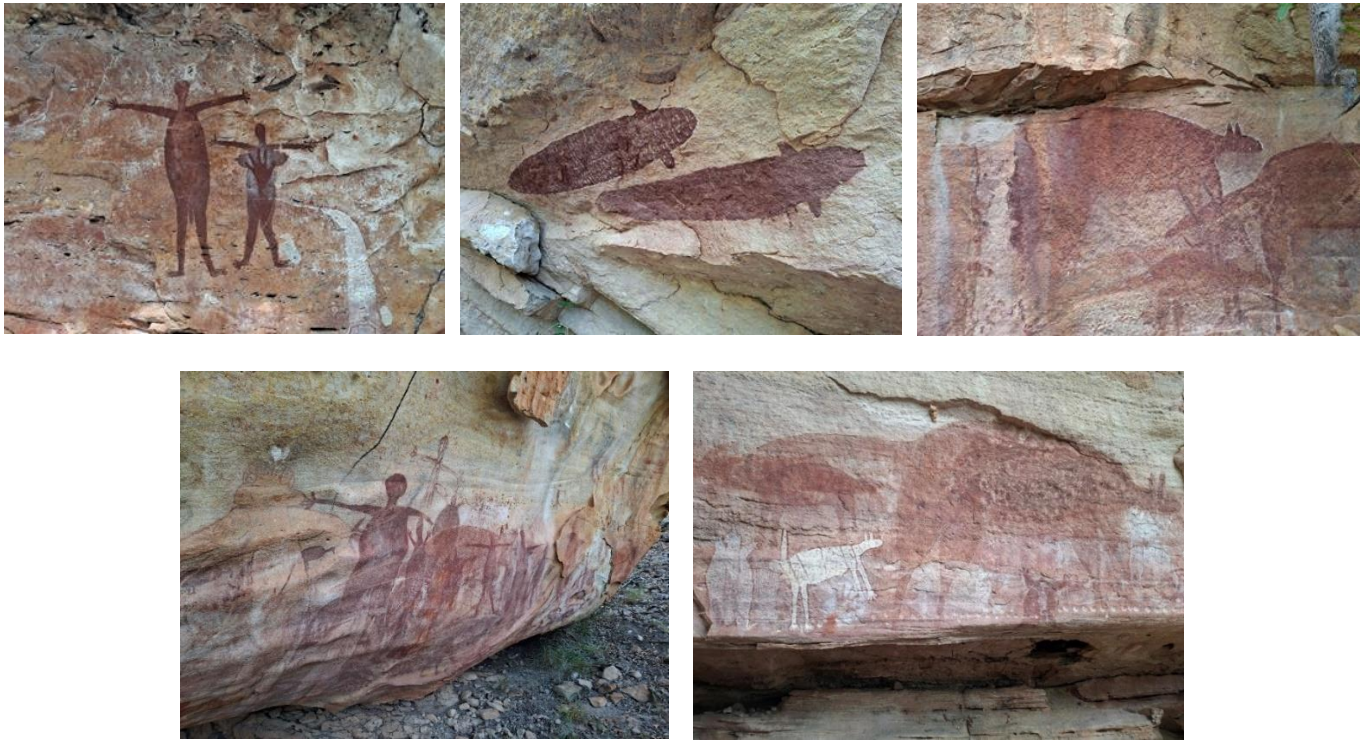
Quinkan art was not much known about or appreciated before the 1970s. Percy Trezise, formally an Ansett pilot who used to fly over the rugged escarpment country later spent years exploring the region documenting the many art sites it contained. He purchased a small property and established Jowalbinna Bush Camp, running tours of the art sites with his son Steve for many years. It is this campsite and tours that are now run by Johnny.



During our excursion before lunch we walked through beautiful clear open woodlands maintained by Aboriginal cool burning techniques. We ended up on a prominent outcrop to take in the views of the surrounding wilderness. Our second excursion was through more rugged bushland to several escarpments and across small flowing creek lines. Each art site had been a campsite or an initiation site for Aboriginal people for generations

After our morning excursion we adjourned to camp for a cool drink and to enjoy a delicious lunch of fruit and an egg and bacon wrap. Our next excursion was via a quad vehicle taking us through rough terrain to escarpment country and several rock shelters which had been winter campsites for the local indigenous people. The shelters contained similar but different painted images. We enjoyed the harder bushwalking involved to get to the sites and Bob and Nell jumped into a very inviting natural pool to cool off on the way back. Johnny had us back to Laura by 3.30pm leaving us plenty of time to drive the two hours into Cooktown for the next three nights. All up we had bushwalked some 8km for a fabulous day in the bush.

Report and photos by Bob



Several images which provide an idea of the style and nature of Quinkan Art



Johnny poses in a massive overhang leading to a prolific rock art gallery



We visited many overhangs of this nature and had time for a cool off dip before returning

The Blue Mountains Music Festival – 12 to 16 March 2026

Walkers: Bob Clifton (organiser) and 10 Ramblers and friends

Our group arrived at different times on different days, however Dale, Paul, Anna, Jenni and I met up at the Fairmont Hotel in Leura before driving to Sublime Point LO for a sunset picnic – great views into the Jamison Valley and across to the Kings Tableland. We all met up on the Friday night at the Old Bank Bistro in Katoomba for dinner together.

Anna organised a Friday morning walk to Lockleys Pylon and the next day a morning walk to the nearby Fortress Ridge. Anna was able to lead us down a steep scrubby foot pad to visit Dr Dark's Cave. Both walks were of about 4 hours duration. Many of the group stayed over on the Sunday night to return to Newcastle on Monday.

It was another great four days in the mountains for walking and music and the weather was fabulous. *Report and photos by Bob*



The 29th BMMF lived up to its normal high standard with a wonderful range of music. The venues and facilities are much improved and on this occasion the weather was brilliant for the festival duration



The Norman Lindsay Gallery in Springwood is always a great place to stop on the way up to Katoomba. On this occasion we could join a very informative group tour of the gallery



(l) and (m) Views to Lockleys Pylon and the cairn on top of the Pylon. (r) The stunning view from Fortress Ridge



Dr Dark's Cave. Items used by the Dr and his family still remain in the cave.

Dr Eric Payten Dark (1889–1987) was a pioneering Australian general practitioner, author, and environmentalist. Best known for his advocacy in social medicine. His wife was the famous novelist Eleanor Dark. Eric Dark qualified as a medical doctor early at the University of Sydney to serve in World War I. Joining the Royal Army Medical Corps, he was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery at Passchendaele. Dr Dark was an active social reformer, authoring medical and political pamphlets, as well as the book *Medicine and the Social Order*. He championed improving social, economic, and environmental conditions to build the "health of the nation". He was also an avid rock climber and bushman, and a founding member of the Sydney Rock-Climbing Club. In 1937, Dr Dark discovered a massive sandstone overhang in the remote Grose Valley. The Darks used the location as a family weekender, leaving behind everyday artefacts like a fireplace, pots, pans, and a visitor logbook.

Bangalay Reserve, Lake Macquarie - 7 June 2026

Walkers: Barry Williams (leader) and 15 Ramblers



It was a big roll up for a leasurely walk through Bangalay Reserve with its overgrown tracks... rocky creeks... caves and overhangs... grinding grooves... magnificent spotted gums... all in our Lake Mac backyard. Sue features along the rainforest clad creekline and again in the enclosed entry which opens to a large interesting cave.

Note by Lynne and photos by Nell

Walking with Invictus Australia – Blue Gums Regional Park and Mt Sugarloaf

Walkers : Nell Watson (leader), and Ramblers and Invictus



Nell organised two beaut bushwalks with members of Invictus Australia. One to Mt Sugarloaf on 27 May 2026 and the other to Blue Gums Regional Park on 24 June 2026. Just great to meet them and show what our Club has to offer.

Backpack from Little Wobby to Wondabyne – 15 to 17 June 2016

Walkers: Lynne Walker (leader), Alan Thomas, Brett Benny, RobynTucker, Magrid Schindler, Angela Begg



After catching an early train from Newcastle we had morning tea at the Brooklyn Wharf... before a lovely ferry ride to Little Wobby

It was a little strange to walk through people's yards and even under their houses as we made our way to the beginning of the climb up onto Midway Ridge. This was a wonderful ridge walk with spectacular views across the Hawkesbury. It started raining while we sat on a rock platform for our lunch ... and kept going until we reached camp! But it was such a delightfully warm winter's day that we didn't really mind.

We arrived at camp a little wet and bedraggled. After putting up our tents and collecting some firewood, Alan used his magic to light a fire. We boiled the billy for a warm cuppa. The Rocky Ponds campsite was damp and sandy... but quite adequate. After this, we had about a half an hour left before sunset, so we used this time to walk down Tank Creek. This is a beautiful rocky

creek, dotted with waterfalls and rock pools (hence the name Rocky Ponds!). We walked as far as the largest of these ponds (sometimes called Jeannies Pool) before returning to camp to warm up, dry off and cook dinner. We didn't have visits from possums overnight ... flying foxes instead! A warm and welcome fire helped us to dry off and cook dinner as we looked upwards to a clear and starry night sky.

We woke to a misty, cool morning which kept our tent flies wet. Packing up wet gear is not much fun - but we weren't too miffed, as we would not have to pitch tents again this trip. The Highway Ridge Firetrail from camp to the Rocky Ponds Track junction was non-existent. It was so badly eroded that it was like climbing up a rocky river bed! We walked in the mist until we reached the base of Mt Wondabyne. We were very happy that it lifted for morning tea up on the trig - as this meant we had wonderful views across the Broadwater and down to Barrenjoey.

The next section of the walk was a steady downhill slog from Mt Wondabyne on a mostly rough footpad and wet rock platforms. And then came the steep and rocky descent into Kariong Brook. Lunch at the waterfall meant a welcome rest in a spectacularly beautiful place. The final 2 hours saw us crossing Myron Brook (one of my favourite places), before a slow and steady climb, on weary legs, up onto the ridge... followed by a final hurried descent to Wondabyne Station. It's a good thing that the train is 10 carriages long as it takes all of this length for the train to come to a stop after flagging the driver. A great 2 day backpack... I will do it again!

Report and photos by Lynne



Overnight Car Camp at Mogo Camping Area - 14 to 15 April 2026

Walkers: Bob Clifton (leader), Malcolm Mills, Ingrid Waeger, Steven Ryan, Greg Powell, Jenni May, and Kate Rados



Greg in the southern cave of the Mt Manning Site. Ochre paintings can be seen on the walls behind him

Always a quiet out of the way camping location which on this occasion we had to ourselves even though it was the school holidays. After our meet up in Wollombi at 9.00am we arrived at the camping area to find Greg escorting a 3m long line of hairy grubs to safety across the parking area. Rather than set up tents straight away we headed off to have lunch at the Mt Manning Aboriginal site. We spent time examining the art, visitors book, and interpretive information in the two caves and then lunched above on the rock platform.

We were back in camp early afternoon to set up and enjoy this beautiful location. The weather was perfect for a great night around the fire with stars above.

On Wednesday morning we packed and were away on our walk down into Mogo Creek to check out the creek surrounds and the cave overhang which we know as the Sun Cave. Along the way we located another overhang which contained hand stencils and other images. We enjoyed lunch in an open grassy area on the banks of the creek before returning the way we had come. Again, back at the cars by 3.00pm left us time to debrief at the Trading Post in Laguna before our drive back to Newcastle. Top two days, thanks everyone for your company

Report and photos by Bob



An example of the ochre paintings, and nearby we observed axe grinding grooves and an interesting circular engraving in the floor of the cave.



On the way down into Mogo Creek we called into another overhang with plenty of Aboriginal hand stencils and other images.



It was easy walking along the Mogo Creek bed to take morning tea at the junction of two creeks before our steep 100m climb up through open scrub to the what we call the Sun Cave with its prominent painting depicting the Sun and other images

Daywalk to Johnson Hill, Myall Lakes NP – 9 June 2026

Walkers: Bob Clifton (leader), Alan Thomas, Nell Watson, and Brett Bennie.

A very pleasant walk in the Myall Lakes NP which we have not enjoyed for a few years. It starts from the Boomeri Camping Ground and is a 9km return walk through open coastal forest with patches of Cabbage Tree Palm Rainforest and sweeping views north from the hill.

The ferry at Bombah Point was in operation and after crossing we enjoyed lunch at the Myall Shores Tourist Park which is now operated by the NRMA. We walked the length of the park to observe the high standard of upgrading which has been undertaken. It is a very nice location on the lake foreshore



(l) Morning tea with views north from Johnsons Hill, (m) open forest and patches of rainforest (r) the view across Bombah Point to the ferry

Tanilba Bay Exploration – 25 April 2026

Dale has discovered a very interesting website 'Soundtrails' which has soe wonderful walk possibilites included – check it out for ideas. Dale followed its recommendation for Tanilba Bay to plan and explore the area for this walk.



(l) The group at the Birdsong Viewing Deck of the Tilligerry Habitat Centre. (m) The view looking across to Sunrise Point and Tanilba House (r) Jackie, Paul, and David inside the Temple of the Stork – an example of the stonework of structures constructed during the early 1930s in Tanilba Bay



Two Creeks Track Garigal National Park. Craig, Dale, Alan, Dawn and Mick are pictured. Photo by Mary who was the leader of the walk on 18 July 2026. More details next newsletter in November,