



Newcastle Ramblers Bushwalking Club Newsletter March 2026

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Sheltering for Morning Tea along Tibeaud Creek on Alan's Snowy Backpack in November 2025 (photo by Mel)

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Note from the Editor

One way or another our program has been busy with something for everyone since our last newsletter. Thanks to contributors and in particular to Lynne Walker for her enthusiastic posting on our Facebook pages and on her Instagram account. Pictures paint a thousand words with much of this newsletter relying on the great photos available on Facebook. They document and portray our wonderful Club experiences and enjoyment.

From the content of this newsletter you will see that the Rambler's infatuation with the Snowy Mountains has continued with no less than four very interesting extended walks with more walks planned before the cold sets in. David also arranged a week of mountain walking staying at the Shortland Ski Lodge in Perisher. Reports will have to wait until our July newsletter.

David also organised another very successful photo competition with over 68 photos submitted by 12 members. Thanks to David Richards for being our judge this year and for his entertaining and experienced judging. Congratulations to Lynne Walker for taking out the coveted Garry Scully Trophy which has been awarded each year since 1973. The winning photos for each category are included in this edition.

Landcare activities remain a regular pass time for many of our members – progress in Arcadia/Nesca/KEP is reported.

Col McCluskey, a long-standing member returned briefly from Tasmania and his many other adventures to be recalled by the Antarctic Division and given the opportunity to work on Macquarie Island for a 12-month stint. He heads off in April 2026. We look forward to some interesting stories from his new office in the Antarctic.

Please keep posting on line and providing reports

Until next time - all the best

Bob Clifton – Editor



The Uniting Church Hall in Charlestown where we have been holding our Club meetings since 1985 has been rebranded as the Milson Street Hub with a more community focus to cater for the many groups which use the hall and local interests. The entrance foyer sports a large screen showcasing the various activities which occur in the Hub and includes a presentation by our Club.

Twilight Walk to Lorn – Tuesday 18 February 2026

Walkers: Angella (leader) and 15 Ramblers

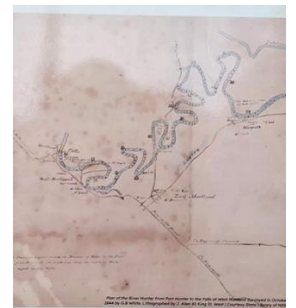


Congratulation Angella for such a well planned and organised walk for your first as leader. The evening weather was perfect as we strolled from the meeting place at Reading Cinemas, down High Street and across to the Levee Bank of Horseshoe Bend, to return along the Levee Bank to the Belmore Bridge. We walked across into Lorn to take in this lovely leafy suburb with its historical homes.

Angella had booked the Belmore Hotel for dinner which was excellent

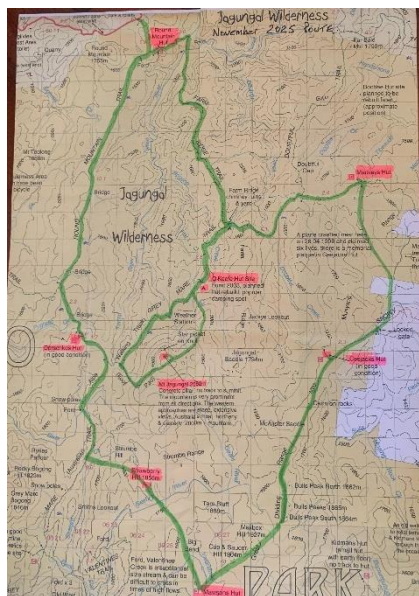
All up about 6km and a most enjoyable twilight walk. Thanks Angella

Note and photos by Bob



Alan's Snowy Backpack – 23 Nov to 30 Nov 2025

Walkers: Alan Thomas (leader), Sue Holt, Peter Downes, Col McClusky, Melissa Gavenlock, and Glenn Thomas



Route highlighted in Green

Two cars left Newcastle at 0630 on Saturday 23rd and drove to Round Mountain carpark via Gundagai and Tumut, arriving about 3:30pm, where Col was waiting for us. We walked the short distance into Round Mountain hut for the night. This hut has been completely rebuilt since the last bushfires. Although they have maintained the dimensions and

layout as well as the look and feel of a historic hut, inside it is a considerable improvement.

We were away by 7:30am Sunday morning east down to the Tumut River, easily crossing it and then crawled slowly up the 300m climb onto Farm Ridge.

Farm Ridge is a lovely walk with abundant wildflowers and great views. Unfortunately for us, it was rainy and foggy most of the day, so we were glad to get to O'Keefe's and set up our tents. This is a beaut hut, with the inside walls decorated with Newspapers from the 1940's and 50's. For someone like me, born in the 1940's, it provides a trip down memory lane. Who knew just how effective patent medicines were back then! They could cure just about anything. Also, Grace bros were selling Ladies dresses for 12 shillings – Target just couldn't compete. Monday was an "easy day" climbing Jagungal in the morning and an off-track return to O'Keefe's. The weather was fine and it was

very pleasant on top of Jagungal with great views in every direction. A few patches of remnant snow were still evident on the eastern slopes. The early part of the return trip was pretty easy going, but there has been a lot of scrub growth post bushfire and since I did this walk with Bob Clifton. Consequently, the timber became just too thick to stay on the ridge, so we dropped into the creek in the hope that it would get easier – it didn't! Our walk coincided with a 1000 km bike- race and numerous competitors came along the Grey Mare Fire Trail, a few stopping for the night. Generally, they seem to be doing it pretty tough, not much to eat, long hours in the saddle and plenty of muddy creek crossings.

Tuesday was always going to be a long day but it turned out to be a bit longer than I'd planned. At least it was nice weather.

We followed the Grey Mare Fire trail 9 km east to Mackey's hut and, after a quick inspection, we headed south following Tibeaud creek upstream. The ground quite open, however it has been extensively dug up by pigs and then re-covered by snow grass making it pretty bumpy to walk on. I'd planned to cut more or less southeast to Cesjacks once we got past Spencer Peak. This route looked okay on a 1:25000 map with 20m contours, but would have been hard going, with plenty of rocky outcrops and scrub, so we took a longer route, continuing South until we eventually picked up the road and followed it to Cesjack's hut. We were glad to get there, having done about 21 km for the day.

The wind strengthened just as we arrived, so we tried to locate our tents in the wind-shadow of the hut, with varying degrees of success.

This wind was to be the main weather feature for the rest of the trip, often at gale force and very, very cold.

Again, we were away by 7:30am, heading SW to climb The Great Dividing Range and reaching the plateau to huddle behind a rock for morning tea. We then swung S past "The Bulls" towards Mailbox Hill.



(l) Col enjoying the new stove at Mawson's Hut (Photo by Mel)



(m) Mel taking in the view. (Photo Sue)



(r) Mt Jagungal (Photo Sue)

This is usually a pleasant walk, but on this day the freezing wind howled and there were regular showers. After we swung SW to head to Mawson's we encountered biting cold wind-blown hail and being head-on into the wind, it was hard going. The wind eased as we dropped toward Valentine Creek. One highlight was to see an Echidna, the first time I've ever seen one at these altitudes.

We all pretty glad to arrive at Mawsons to find the fire going and the "kitchen" warm and cosy. Four young hikers were there and offered us hot water, so it wasn't long before we warmed up.

Glenn, Mel and Sue managed to get a bit of a wind break from the hut, but Peter and I made the mistake of pitching our tents in the 'usual' location. Shortly after, a particularly violent 'shooter' demolished both tents and we suffered pole damage. As a result, Col, Peter and I slept inside the hut that night.

I should make mention that KHA have replaced the cantankerous pot belly in Mawsons with a much better cast iron stove, with a side door! A big improvement- but I later noted that Derschos still has the old "Ultimate 500".

Thursday was a nice sunny day, although the winds were still extreme; so, a walk on the Kerries was out (we'd get blown off). We'd had a couple of hard days, so we had an easy day – a climb to the west to visit my favourite snow gum, then the afternoon spent with a bit of Navigation training and tent pole repairs.

Mel and Glenn led the way of Friday, using their newfound nav skills along the route we'd planned the previous afternoon. The weather was good, still windy but not as bad as the previous two days. We made good time and had no trouble crossing the Geehi River. It's quite scrubby and slow going getting up to Strawberry Hill but it was delightful to find that it's still quite open on top

and we were able to huddle down out of the wind for a second morning tea and enjoy the views.

My original plan was to head NW from Strawberry Hill towards Strombo Hill and then swing W and drop down onto the Grey Mare FT. I'd warned everyone to expect the "mother of bush bashes" for the 1 km drop as I'd come up that way a few years back, and swore I'd never do it again!

Fortunately, Peter had a better idea. His 1:40000 map, showed a clear area along the creek that starts just S of Strumbo Hill (upper reaches of Straight Creek). So, we aimed for this, and while it was a bit scrubby in places getting down, we soon found much easier going along the creek, arriving at the Fire Trail in time for lunch. This is a much easier route than our "traditional" route and one that I'll use in future; thanks Peter. An easy stroll along the F/T to Derschos for the final night. It was too windy to camp in our usual possie in the trees above the hut, so we all pitched our tents just below the hut.

The weather Saturday morning was awful! It's a 14 km road walk back to the cars and its pretty boring at the best of times, but we encountered rain and bitterly cold gale force wind. By the time we arrived at the cars, we were all wet and freezing. Half an hour or so later, we were in Cabramurra, with coffee, soup and burgers. The old canteen at Cabramurra has re-opened for Snowy 2 and there were plenty of people about.

Then to Cooma for the night and a good meal at the Alpine Pub. Despite the weather, we all had an enjoyable trip. Great company and camaraderie.

First Aid Training Workshop – November 2025



Ten Ramblers attended another very interesting First Aid workshop in our meeting hall in November

Garry Scully Perpetual Trophy Photographic Competition – November 2025

The Club's photographic competition started in 1973, which makes this year the 52nd year it has been run. It was again organised by David Morrison – many thanks to David. The number of entries this year was lower with people being away on trips, however the quality of entries was again of an exceedingly high standard.



*David Morrison and David Richards (judge)
present the Garry Scully Trophy to Lynne
Walker*

This year's photo comp attracted 68 photos from 12 photographers. Thanks for contributing.

Categories of photographs for the 2025 competition were as follows:

- Ramblers People - People involved in activities that the club undertakes
- Places Ramblers Go - Places where the Ramblers go,
- Things Ramblers Come Across – Objects or things that might be seen on a Club activity, natural and man-made
- Special Category - The special category for 2025 was 'Fungi'.
- People's Choice – Members get to make their pick.

Our judge this year was David Richards, formerly of St George Camera Club and now in the Lake Macquarie Camera Club. He is also a bushwalker and a member of Watagan Wanderers. We thank him for his entertaining and very knowledgeable and experienced judging.

Lynne Walker took out the coveted Garry Scully Trophy with her photograph *'Waiting for the Storm Cootapatamba Hut*. Congratulations to Lynne for winning the trophy and the Club Photographic Competition Album. The winner of Peoples Choice was a three-way tie between Bob Clifton, Jenni May, and

Dawn Mahony. Congratulations to all category winners, and thanks to all members who participated this year.

Winner of the Garry Scully Perpetual Trophy 2025



Overall Winner - 'Waiting for the Storm Cootapatamba Hut – Lynne Walker

Ramblers People:



1st – ‘Morning light at Gales Flat’ - **Pamela Gallagher** **2nd** – ‘Morning Tea overlooking Nungar Plain’ - **Bob Clifton**



3rd – ‘Crossing Nungar Plain’ - **Bob Clifton** **3rd** – ‘Not another Water Crossing Howqua River’ - **Lynne Walker**

Places Ramblers Go:



1st – ‘Outlook above Hill End’ - **Kate Rados**

2nd – ‘NE View from Tomaree Mountain’ - **Dawn Mahony**



3rd – 'Cape Pillar Tasmania' - David Morrison



3rd - 'Stormy night at Bonnie Vale' - Jenni May

Things Ramblers Come Across:



1st – 'Natural magnifier' - Dawn Mahony



2nd – 'This is my Fungi' - Kate Rados



3rd – 'Don't get too Close they Spit' - Kate Rados

Special Category (Fungi):



1st – 'Pixie Castles Eleebana' - David Morrison

People's Choice

This year there were three winners which all received the same number of votes.



Gavells Hut Kosciusko NP - Bob Clifton



North East View from Tomaree mountain - Dawn Mahony



Stormy night at Bonnie Vale - Jenni May

Spot Lighting Frogs in Flaggy Creek, Glenrock Conservation Area – 19 January 2026

Walkers: Barry Williams (leader) and 6 Ramblers



A wonderful night-time adventure... walking along Flaggy Creek in Glenrock SCA... looking for frogs, listening to cicadas, finding eels in the rock pools. The night was soft and the gibbous moon added to the light of our head torches.

We heard and found lots of Wilcox's frogs ... a real treat.

Daywalk to Brambles Green and Dark Point – 28 February 2026

Walkers: Bob Clifton (leader) and Nell Watson



(l) The Myall River at Brambles Green – a great place to camp and swim. (m) Looking south to Dark Point (r) looking across the middens of the Worimi Conservation Area

Just a great three to four hour walk over ten kilometres in the Myall Lakes NP. We walked the 4km return through lush Cabbage Tree and Melaleuca Rainforest to the Myall River at Brambles Green – we had the place to ourselves except for a canoeist and a pod of grey Dolphins. Returning to the main road we relocated the short distance south towards the Dark Point parking location to walk on the 4WD track to the beach and a beach walk of 2km to Dark Point. It was getting hot by then. Our return took us over the sand dunes past the Worimi Conservation Area and its middens. This is a great walk for the cooler months as there is little shade on the beach and dunes.

Note and photos by Bob

Bushwalking NSW – Women’s Week Walks– 2 to 8 March 2026



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.



Mt Sugarloaf and the Blue Gums Regional Park were the locations chosen to introduce the walking women to the joys of bushwalking.

Bob's Snowy Trip – 9 to 16 November 2025

Walkers: Bob Clifton (leader), Malcolm Mill, Ingrid Waeger, Nell Watson, Col McCluskey, Bob and Fran Barber



Around the campfire at Pockets Hut

The Vickerys Trail drops 250m steeply off Prosser Trail into Jounama Creek and to Vickerys Hut located in a serene protected location on the banks of the creek. We were setting up camp before 3.30pm to enjoy this beautiful spot after our seven-hour drive from Newcastle. We had not visited Vickerys Hut before which has been beautifully restored in 2022 to replicate the original following its loss in the 2019/20 fires which swept the region. Our evening around the campfire was delightful in clear mild weather.

The next morning's climb back to the vehicles (**Monday**) wasn't too bad and within the hour we were on the road to Adaminaby for morning tea and to check out the buildings of Sawyers Hill and the Kiandra Courthouse, both restored following the destructive 2019/20 fires – each are great examples of our European heritage.

Just beyond the Tantangarra Road turnoff Malcolm's vehicle started to overheat which necessitated leaving his car on the side of the road and to reorganise the occupants of the other vehicles. It was lucky that we had a spare vehicle for this trip which allowed us to carry

on and not disrupt our planning. The NRMA arranged to pick the car up and take it to Adaminaby for assessment. We ended up having a long lunch at the great little café in Adaminaby which also gave us time to explore this lovely country town.

After sorting out Malcolm's car we drove back to Tantngarra Road to follow Pockets Saddle Road past the huge Snowy 2 Project and park vehicles on the Port Phillip FT at the track head to Old Currango Hut. Before heading off we needed a car shuffle to the locked gate on Pockets Saddle Road where we would finish up in five days' time.



Views of the reconstructed Vickerys Hut and its adjoining shed, and also a photo of the original hut (left bottom). The hut is one of two in the National Park, featuring interlocking log construction. The roof is of iron and the floor of wood. The chimney is also of iron. The construction of the shed is made largely from flattened kerosene tins. Not far before reaching the hut it is necessary to wade the creek knee deep. The hut was built in 1938 by Ross and Noel Vickery for sheep and cattle grazing. The shed was built in 1940. The site had been previously occupied in the early 1900's and used for breeding horses and potato growing.

It is only six kilometres on a rough foot pad/track to Old Currango Hut and we there within two hours to take in the location, its views across Currangorambla Plain and its history. The hut was built in 1873 and restored by KHA and NPWS in 1986. It now sports a nice new toilet. In earlier years we would look east across the plains to see large herds of brumbies grazing on the lush regrowth of the receding dam waters. We did not see any horses at all during our trip until our very last day when exiting Long Plain Road.



Old Currango Homestead is located just below the tree line at the north west end of Currangorambla Plain, with fantastic views across the plains to the Brindabella Ranges in the east. The primary building was built in 1873 by Tom O'Rourke, who had been grazing on the plain since 1834. It is the oldest remaining building in the Kosciuszko National Park.

Tuesday - It was a very cold frosty morning as we hit the Mosquito Trail heading north to reach Bill Jones Hut before lunch. As we set up a cold wet change with hail came through and it was nice to retreat to the hut in front of its warm fire for the afternoon. A walking group of eight and another couple all on the Australian Alps Walking Track called in very wet and cold to dry out and warm up before camping nearby.

The next morning (**Wednesday**) was again very cold with below zero temperatures and ice in the billys, however the weather was pleasant as we walked east to Pockets Hut about 7km away. About 2km out from the hut we took an off-track shortcut through some lovely open woodland rather than staying on the trail. Wildflowers this year were not as abundant as usual. We arrived at Pockets about lunch time which left time for a nice 3km off-track walk in the bushland north of the hut returning via the Leura Gap Trail. We were here for two nights. This hut also sports a new toilet replacing an earlier delapidated version. That evening around the campfire we were joined by two twenty-year olds who had walked 32 km from the start of the AAWT – quite an impressive effort.



Bill Jones Hut with its dirt floor was built in 1952 by William Travis Jones, who held the lease thereabouts from the 1930's to the 1970's. It was most likely the last hut to be built for grazing in the area. It stands with in the Cooleman Karst Limestone area. On the side of the fire place Jacky's makeshift frying pan still hangs after 15 or so years.

For **Thursday** we walked for about 5 km north along the Leura Gap Trail past a prominent knoll with interesting and different native plants for morning tea and then further on to an open swampy location for lunch. We returned the way we had walked. Bob and Fran remained at the hut because Bob's shoe had disintegrated and he needed time to fashion an emergency repair.



We enjoyed a morning tea on the top of a prominent knoll along the Leura Gap Trail. Bob Barber had remained at Pockets Hut to repair his walking shoe.

On **Friday** we walked the 6km back to the car we had left at the Pocket Saddle Road gate, did the car reshuffle and drove back to Adaminaby for lunch and to check out the progress with Malcolm's vehicle. It could not be fixed in Adaminaby and needed to be towed to Cooma. For the afternoon we drove back to Long Plain Road, calling into Long Plain Hut where we met up with members of the KHA who were setting up for the association's annual members get together. Some of us are members and we arranged to catch up on Saturday to participate in the Millers and Hainsworth Huts inspections with their respective caretakers. We left shortly afterwards to camp at Cooinbil Hut about fifteen minute's drive further along Long Plain Road.

On **Saturday** before the planned hut inspections we were away early driving to the Blue Water Holes and along the way calling into the Coolamine Homestead complex – both locations are worthwhile to visit. After our short visit to Miller Hut the walk into Hainsworth Hut is about 4.5km each way and we were there to meet the caretaker for lunch – it was getting pretty hot by the afternoon and we were pleased to return to the cars and head down to Cooma for the night at the Kinross Inn Motel. Of course, we dined that night at our favourite Rosie's Lebanese Restaurant.

We went our different ways on **Sunday** with Nell and I calling into the National Botanic Garden in Canberra for MT. Malcolm and Ingrid stayed another night in Cooma to sort out their vehicle while Bob and Frann headed straight back to Newcastle. Col remained in Cooma in anticipation of a job interview in the area.

Another great Snowy walk in mostly fine and pleasant weather. Always good company – thank everyone

Report and photos by Bob



(left) The Rest House at Sawyers Hill (Sawyers Hut), originally built in 1910, was a traveller's rest hut serving as a shelter for travellers, miners, and mail carriers. It was once part of a larger building that was used by coach travellers on their way to and from the once thriving Rules Point Hotel. The Rules Point Hotel was the centre of high-country social life, located in the heart of the Snowy Mountains near the turn off to Long Plain Road. The building was demolished in the 1960s as the area became Kosciuszko National Park. **(right)** This was the site of the courthouse and gaol established as part of Kiandra Township with a gold rush in the area in 1859–60. It was later turned into the Kiandra Chalet and then a DMR-RTA depot. The Courthouse burnt down in the January, 2020 fires and was subsequently restored by NPWS.



We car camped near Cooinbil Hut and had the campground to ourselves – no horse people. We enjoyed the verandah for happy hour and dinner whilst sheltered from the stiff cold breeze.



It is always interesting to call into the Long Plain Hut. On this occasion it was the location for the KHA Annual Members Get Together and we were able to meet other members of the KHA.

With spare time on Saturday morning we drove from Cooinbil Hut to the picturesque Blue Water Holes, stopping at the Coomamine Homestead Complex and its surrounds



In one of the buildings the walls were plastered with very interesting old newspapers. Evidence of former stockyards still remain.



Millers Hut, another Club favourite. Later on Saturday we inspected Millers and Hainsworth Huts as arranged by the KHA and were able to meet the caretakers of those huts.

Our President and Vice President Adventures - Christmas in Austria – Nov to Feb 2025/2026



The photos were taken where we stayed over the Christmas /New Year period in the Sontag /Stein Mountains in the western part of Austria, We stayed in one of these huts in the photo with it magnificent views. Other pictures show us having fun in the snow and where we did a walk through a canyon where the river and everything was frozen - the temp was minus 14 degrees C. Malcolm can be seen below the frozen waterfall.



Back in Australia in February they were in time to arrange another successful Blackberry Picking expedition to Nundle with four other Ramblers. Over 18 kg of Blackberries were collected which will appear soon in bottles at our Club Auction in April. The high-quality berries and Sheba Dam are pictured.

Note and photos by Ingrid

Twynam Saddle Rescue on the Main Range – 16 January 2026

Walkers: Lynne Walker (leader), Sue Holt, Robyn Tucker Mary McPhillips, and Melissa Gavenlock

We arrived at our Twynam Saddle campsite at about 4:30 pm on day 3 of our walk. Not long after we had set up our tents, we heard screams from above us. We watched in horror as a young man slid down the snowy ice drift under the summit of Mt Twynam... and then fell onto some rocks below. Luckily, these rocks stopped the fall from being much greater - and probably fatal.

Seconds later one of his mates moved across the ice and then started to slide down after him. Amazingly, this second young man seemed to have survived the descent uninjured and he frantically started to check on his companion. Even though we couldn't hear what he was saying, it was clear that he was letting everyone know that the first young man had sustained some significant injuries.



Mt Twynam is the large peak on the right of the photo. The snow drift in the report is the big one, running diagonally in the middle. The injured teenager landed on a large rock at the bottom of the snow drift. Little Twynam is the rocky peak on the left of the photo – our campsite was in the 'dip' in the middle (Twynam Saddle).

And so, began a mountain rescue - with two of our party as first responders. Robyn (a theatre nurse) and Sue (who has completed a remote area first aid course), gathered first aid gear and a communication device (in case an emergency call was needed) and climbed up from the saddle to the rocks above where the injured teenager had landed. Robyn had soon triaged and stabilised his injuries. For over an hour and a half, Robyn and Sue did a fantastic job of calming and encouraging him - and helping him to remain as comfortable as possible until others arrived. He was a member of a group of scouts participating in a training course for Certificate 2 and 3 Outdoor Recreation. The staff involved in the course took over his care as they waited for the emergency rescue team to arrive - having already radioed for assistance. They praised and thanked Robyn and Sue for all they had done.

By 7 pm, the white out had descended into the saddle and covered the top of the mountain. The temperature had started to drop and visibility was reduced to metres - so, we retreated to our tents. At about 8 pm, a light rain had started - not the most promising conditions for a night-time rescue. A challenging situation for both the injured young man and his support crew on the rocky ledge - and the rescuers who had to trek in to reach him.

Around 10 pm we heard whistles answering from above and below ... the SES volunteers and NSW Ambulance Rescuers had made it to the saddle. They were communicating with the injured party on the rocks above - following their answering calls to find a way up to them.

At about 1:45 am the rescuers had extracted the teenager and stretchered him down into the saddle near our tents. He was transferred onto another trolley stretcher - similar in principle to a wheelbarrow, which was used to carry him up over Mt Twynam and down onto the Main Range Track below. Here a 4WD buggy was used to take him to Charlotte Pass - and then he was delivered to Cooma Base Hospital. Apparently, he is doing well - a wonderful outcome.

The SES volunteers and Ambulance Rescue Team were absolutely fabulous. As you will see from the photos, this would have been a difficult extraction in clear daylight. The skill required to navigate off track in the Main Range in the dark (and in a complete white out) and then extract a patient from the rocky cliff line is impressive. We are so lucky to have the service of these volunteers and the expertise of Ambulance Rescue personnel.

Report and photos by Lynne

Lynne's Northern Kosciusko High Plains Backpack - 31 October to 9 November 2025

Walkers: Lynne Walker (leader), Sue Holt, Alan Thomas, Mary McPhillips, and Melisa Gavenlock



Lynne's walk replaced the one originally planned by Sue to the Victorian High Country because of the diabolical weather forecast for that week in Victoria. Rather, Lynne chose to lead an alternative walk in the northern section of KNP at lower elevations and with more protection.

The week of walking consisted of two loops between Gooandra Homestead and Millers Hut, relocate, and then from Pockets Hut to Hainsworth Hut. Both of these walks are located north of the Snowy Highway.



Day 1 - Camping at Gooandra Homestead after the drive down from Newcastle and the 5km walk in from the Snowy Highway



Day 2 - Walking across the Tantangara Plain to Witzes Hut (left) for morning tea... then off track over Zing Ridge to Hains Hut (right) to camp for the night. A cold but refreshing dip in the Murrumbidgee at the end of the day was a treat!





Day 3 Walking from Hains Hut to Millers Hut following a section of the Australian Alps Walking Track. There were two river crossings... first the Tantangara and then the Murrumbidgee River. This was the warmest day of our trek, and after 15km of rough walking we were hot and tired when we reached Millers Hut to camp.

Day 4 - Walking with a storm brewing. From Millers Hut we crossed Bally Creek, car shuffled to begin the next 4 days and then the tramp along the AAWT to Pockets Hut to camp. A solid climb and bush bash to Black Mountain filled the afternoon as the black clouds rolled in and the wind began to rise. School students arrived not long before the front hit ... sheltering under flapping tarps.

Day 5 - It snowed on and off all day ... starting with a magical walk from Pockets Hut to Oldfields Hut. We were very grateful for shelter and a warm fire in the hut; and the good company of other walkers who spent the day with us. The glimpses of a snow-covered Mt Bimberi were a special treat.



Day 6 - Walking off track cross country from Oldfields Hut to Old Currango Homestead. The day was bright and sunny, but the wind was bitter. We used the distant snow-capped peaks of Whites Mountain and Mt Natung to hold our bearing across the snow grass plain. A couple of creek crossings and boggy marshland made the day 'interesting'. We were glad to finally sit on the veranda of Old Currango Homestead for lunch... looking across the plain to the snow-covered peaks of Mt Bimberi and Mt Murray. After an exploration of the spurs behind the homestead we settled down to prepare for the predicted cold night ahead.



Day 7 - The last day of our Kosi High Plains Backpack. We woke to find our tents crunchy with ice and white frosty grass glistening in the sunrise. A beautiful final morning at Old Currango before setting off along Mosquito Creek Trail to visit Hainsworth Hut and then to the cars. We walked through some lovely snow gum woodland and enjoyed morning tea in a grassy spot out of the icy wind. Our final night was spent in a magical historic stone cottage near Cooma.

Main Range Loop Walk from Charlotte Pass, Kosciusko NP – 12 to 16 January 2026

Walkers: Lynne Walker (leader), Sue Holt, Robyn Tucker, Mary McPhillips, and Melissa Gavenlock

Route: Seamans Hut; Muellers Pass; Mt Alice Rawson; Mt Townsend; Mount Du Faur Albina Pass; Mt Sentinel; Watsons Crags; Twynam Saddle; Illawong Swing Bridge; Snowy River Walk back to Charlotte with two vehicles left at Charlotte Pass



Our campsite on night 1 near Seamans Hut



Campsite in the beautiful Wilkinson Valley (m) An earlier campsite along Alice Rawson Ridge with Mt Townsend in the background (r) On top of Mt Alice Peak



Day 3 of our Main Range Backpack Climbing Muellers Peak before breakfast... and then returning to the Main Range track to walk above Lake Albina and climb Mt Carruthers. A side trip to Watson Crags delivered great views of Alice Rawson Ridge, the Sentinel and down into the Geehi. We contoured around Mt Twynam to our campsite in the Twynam Saddle - beautiful as the white-out crept in!

Notes and photos by Lynne

Obelisk Hill-Arcadia Park Landcare - Progress Report and Record for 2025

The Ramblers have continued their involvement since the inception of the Obelisk Hill-Arcadia Park Landcare back in October 2010. Below is a brief report of achievements during 2025.



Heath Banksia (Banksia ericifolia) was planted in 2023 on the Northern Slope of Nesca Park

It is amazing what a dedicated and resourceful Landcare group with the wonderful assistance of Natural Areas, Newcastle City Council (NCC), Newcastle East Public School, the University of Newcastle, and corporate volunteers can achieve over twelve months. Last year was an outstanding year of volunteering at our work sites around Obelisk Hill, Arcadia Park, the entrance to King Edward Park (KEP), and Nesca Park.

Our group has been so enthusiastic and energetic missing only a few Fridays throughout the year due to very wet weather. We have had turnouts of 10 to 15 volunteers for each session. We have welcomed many new members during the year and received excellent support from corporate volunteers. These include Pacific National, WGA Newcastle, and KPMG Newcastle. Year 3-4 students from Newcastle East Public School and International students from the University of Newcastle also worked with us.

The year has been marked by incessant rainfall events through May, June, July and August resulting in cancellations to work sessions, school planting mornings and an inability for Natural Areas to deliver mulch to work sites. Both Arcadia and Nesca Parks remained sodden and difficult to work for many weeks. On the bright side we did not have to water new plantings for a long time. However, November and December were unusually dry necessitating a sustained effort to keep new plantings watered and alive.

Our significant achievements during the year have included:

- Tallying over **1900 hours** (1700 hours in 2024) of volunteer effort, equivalent to more than \$75,000 in value. This does not include the many extra hours put in by individuals outside of planned sessions including mowing, weed control, watering, and administration.
- Planting a total of over **4000** native trees, shrubs and grasses.
- Working with Nesca Parade Landcare on a regular basis to progress the restoration of Nesca Park's surrounding bushland.
- The general maintenance of the many locations we have worked in over the years - Ordnance Street Nature Strip, Wolfe and Ordnance Street native beds, and the eastern slope of Obelisk Hill. We also maintained weed control along the Memorial Drive Nature Corridor.
- Undertaking morning tidy rounds of the Darby Street Community Garden to nurture and enliven this lovely community garden space. The small garden near the corner of Bull and Brook Streets has also been maintained.
- Being awarded a City Community Environmental Grant to enhance the biodiversity of Nesca Park.,

It is wonderful to see the increasing interest and use of Arcadia Park by our local community and visitors. The Park with its diverse native plantings has become quite an attraction in the City.

I would especially like to thank all of the members of our group for their friendship, great company and outstanding energy and enthusiasm.

Bob Clifton



Wildflowers of Nesca Park planted in 2022

Christmas Meeting and Christmas Get Together – Monday 15 December 2025



For our 2025 Christmas we did things a bit differently with our December meeting and Christmas celebration being held outdoors at Speers Point Park. The weather was perfect with about 30 of our members enjoying Christmas Spirit and some lovely food