



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW  
*protecting nature through community action*

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**SOUTHERN SYDNEY BRANCH**

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### **Connectivity and corridors**

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**BUSINESS MEETINGS** All are welcome to attend, have your say and hear what's happening in the NPA. Contact Peter on 95287341 or Gary on 95701813 for details. These meetings are now held on either the 1st or 2nd Wednesdays of the month, except when this coincides with school holidays

**BRANCH MEETINGS:** Come and meet other members from your local area, new members and friends are most welcome. These meetings are organised for you, are informal, informative and relaxing. An interesting evening is guaranteed and supper is provided. The venue for Branch meetings is the Multi-Purpose Centre, 123 Flora St Sutherland (near Belmont St) 3 minutes' walk from the railway station and with plenty of parking. All meetings commence at 8.00pm. Now held on the 4th Wednesday night every second month.

**The next meeting is September 25<sup>th</sup>. See inside for details.**

**Note that it is also our AGM!**

## Vale Graham and Diana Reid

Branch members might have heard that a popular, quiet, unassuming member of our Branch was killed in tragic circumstances by a family member two weeks ago. He and his wife were both lost to us and today, and as your President, I attended a special Thanksgiving Service to remember them. Graham and Diana Reid were special people and as they looked down today they would have noted the large crowd who attended to give thanks to their lives amongst us.

Members who attend our regular Branch meetings will remember Graham. He would unfailingly help set up the hall, help pack up, help with the washing up and be one of those quiet, regular caring voices in supporting our natural world. He would be most visible on AGM nights when he ran the elections for office with his usual quiet efficiency.

Outside the family of the NPA Graham was committed to his church, the Anglican Church at Jannali, where he ran bushwalks for parishioners, ran a youth group for the boys and attended Bible studies and church services on a regular basis. Diana was also a regular church goer, also attended Bible studies, knitted teddy bears for the children who were born in Sutherland hospital and no doubt did much, much more.

Graham was a dedicated member of Probus and of the Liberal Party as well as being actively involved in many sports but his main sporting passion was bushwalking and through that he developed a love for nature. It is this last love that drew Graham to us.

In my role as Branch and my earlier role as State President I have attended quite a few funerals of past members of NPA but perhaps none as poignant as this one. Given the circumstances of their death the grief must indeed be hard for the remainder of the family. We in the NPA feel for that family as they work through their grief and hope that they are supported through their grief.

As for the NPA we shall miss them dearly.

Brian Everingham  
Branch President

## Walks/Activities

Contact Esther Chow ([eeesee@gmail.com](mailto:eeesee@gmail.com)) or Brian Everingham ([brian.everingham@gmail.com](mailto:brian.everingham@gmail.com))

Walks leaders are Brian Everingham, Geoffrey Lee, Esther Chow, Bob Crispin, Hugh Hodge, Angelo Emmanuel and Bandula Gonsalkorale. They have truly come up with quite a diversity of activities for this three month period. Would you also be interested in leading a walk? We can pair you up with an experienced leader if you'd like some support.

The list below is a bare listing. See the Activities program for details of leader, for walk descriptions and for any additional notices.



|                                     |   |         |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------|
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> September    | Great North Walk section 2                        | Grade 3 |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September | Engadine to Audley and return                     | Grade 2 |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> September  | Barren Grounds NR                                 | Grade 3 |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> September    | Great North Walk section 3                        | Grade 3 |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September   | Middle Harbour Creek Loop<br>via Two Creeks Track | Grade 4 |

|  |                                 |         |
|--|---------------------------------|---------|
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September          | Gerringong to Kiama             | Grade 3 |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September          | Oxfam Trail: Section 5 and 6    | Grade 4 |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September       | Wentworth Falls Loop            | Grade 2 |
| Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September          | The Great North Walk: Section 4 | Grade 4 |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> October | Introductory Pack Walk          | Grade 3 |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October         | Cowan to Brooklyn               | Grade 3 |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October            | Great North Walk: Section 5     | Grade 4 |
| Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> October            | The Great North Walk: Section 6 | Grade 3 |
| Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October         | Berowra to Mount Ku-ring-gai    | Grade 3 |
| Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October          | Wises Track and Karani Ridge    | Grade 3 |
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November            | The Great North Walk: Section 7 | Grade 4 |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November            | Audley to Winifred Falls        | Grade 3 |
| Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> November          | NPA Annual Dinner               |         |
| Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November           | Oxfam: Section 7                | Grade 3 |
| Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November        | Waterfall to Heathcote (HNP)    | Grade 3 |
| Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> November           | Jacaranda Walk 1                | Grade 3 |
| Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November           | Jacaranda Walk 2                | Grade 3 |
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December            | Jacaranda Walk 3                | Grade 3 |

## THE GREAT NORTH WALK

As part of the commemorations of the bicentenary of the founding of the New South Wales colony, a number of walking tracks were linked to form what became known as The Great North Walk.

Starting from the obelisk in Macquarie Place, in the Sydney CBD, the trail continues across the harbour, through the northern suburbs before crossing the Hawkesbury River. From Patonga, it continues through various national parks and farming areas until it reaches Queens Wharf Tower in Bicentennial Park, Newcastle.

The total length is about 250km but some walkers diverge from the accepted route in order to make the trek a bit more interesting. There is a choice of completing the GNW by either accumulating day-walk sections or combining several sections into pack walks.

There is great variety of scenery and difficulty, “something for everyone”. The first section combines a number of street walks with strolls through the many leafy valleys of the North Shore. Here, the history of the city and views of the harbour are the main attractions. The sections further north are more and more devoted entirely to bushland, yet we are still not out of the metropolitan area.



There are plans for NPA groups to complete the GNW over the coming twelve months. Early sections begin on 25th August and continue each week until we reach The Mighty Hawkesbury at Brooklyn. At this stage, the logistics of car shuffles and accommodation are still under consideration.

## FREE TALK/ SLIDESHOWS IN 2019

The next Branch night is September 25<sup>th</sup> and should be quite a night. There will be a special screening of the film *Cultivating Murder*.

Filmmaker Gregory Miller began making the documentary *Cultivating Murder* soon after the murder of OE&H compliance officer, Glen Turner near Moree in 2014. The film follows the murder trial and conviction of Ian Turnbull a major rural producer from Croppa Creek. It also reveals the large scale illegal land clearing that was taking place at the time, and questions whether the amount of land in NSW under cultivation is already too much. At the time of the court case the NSW Government set about changing the entire environmental legislation and introduced the new Bio Diversity Act, which is largely based on self-assessment principals which are not beneficial for the environment and biodiversity in the state. The screening of the film will be followed by a Q& A with the filmmaker.

For this night we are asking for a donation to help cover the costs of the screening and to help produce even more films that are central to our fight to protect nature.

### Branch AGM

In addition there will be a quick AGM at the meeting where office bearers for your Branch will be elected for the next year. If you think you have what it takes the positions open will be as follows:

Branch President  
Branch Vice President  
Hon Secretary  
Hon Treasurer  
Activities Officer  
Webpage coordinator  
Newsletter editor  
State Councillors (4 positions)  
Committee members

And do not be shy!!!! You do have the skills to participate. Contact Brian Everingham for details of any position that attracts.

The meeting is at the Sutherland Multi-Purpose Centre, 123 Flora St Sutherland (near Belmont St)

PS The November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting at 8pm is on **Sir Joseph Banks - his life and legacy**

Rhonda Daniels from the Australian Plants Society will share the life and legacy of Sir Joseph Banks, patron of the natural sciences. Banks collected many plant specimens in 1770 on Captain Cook's Endeavour voyage, followed by a long life supporting scientific discovery. Learn why he is remembered in the Banksia genus and many place names including Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve at Kareela.

### While The Billy Boils

In 2007 I started to write a series of articles on bushwalking and I thought it was time to reprint them over the course of this newsletter. Many members have not been around that far back and you are the people I thought might like to dip into the archives.

So read on ..... Brian Everingham



Yes, that's me.... In January 1978. With Everest peak in its snow plume.

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So you have joined the NPA, decided you'd go walking, thought you'd get fit and begin the makeover. It's a New Year resolution and 2008 is going to be THE YEAR. But, gosh, what do you pack, how do you prepare and can you keep up with all those keen walkers? Perhaps you came along on an initial Great Australian Bushwalk, thought about it for a while, joined, looked at the activities program and just waited. Perhaps you were a little shy, thought you needed some extra skills, hoped that you would absorb them as you looked over place names and wondered just where and when you'd go.

Or, perhaps, some malevolent relative has purchased this NPA membership as a gift pack, a Xmas gift, as he/she poked you around the midriff and hinted dark thoughts about that body and what it used to be like in days of yore.

Well, this column is for you. Over the course of the coming year - and beyond, if the readership so desires and the writer has not gone off walking into the distance – we will explore all and any themes that come to mind. It will be your column. Send in your questions, provide your own comments, add your own anecdotes, and I'll attempt to synthesize your contributions to provide some invaluable advice.

But first, let me tell you a story. It's about me. The year was 1975 and yours truly had arrived in this city to take up a teaching position. It's a strange place for a boy from the country and I hankered to go and walk, get out into the bush, relieve myself a few hours each week of the burdens of lesson preparation and marking. That's when I discovered the NPA. On the walls of the Hurstville library was a notice and it offered walks!

Well, I joined. I even went to the local Scout shop and bought a compass. I tried it out in the bushland at Menai. You can't do that now. It's all gone, buried under housing estates. I need not have bothered, I might add. By the time I actually got brave enough to book myself onto a walk, a two day camp at Bundanoon, using the youth hostel, I found out that others could navigate and read maps and get me there and back without too many lost byways.

So don't hesitate. Throw yourself in. Phone up. Make that booking. It won't be as daunting as you imagined. But first, remember that those walks leaders are all volunteers. Be nice to them. Most will surely answer your questions with patience and give you all the time in the world but sometimes they might also just be rushing to remove the boiling pot pan from the stove or rescue the child from the neighbour's dog. And if they seem distracted, they have probably returned from a hard day of earning a living. So phone at the times stated on the program, or at a reasonable time in the evening. State your name clearly. Ask if there is space on the walk. Admit your competence. Accept the advice of the leader if he/she thinks you are not up to this activity. Don't take it as a personal slight. And accept if the walk is full. There will be space somewhere for you. And then you, too, can try out that new compass.

Brian Everingham  
brian.everingham@gmail.com

PS Contributions to this column are welcome. Indeed, I would be adrift without. Lost. Without a compass and a map. Please write and write often.

PPS Next journal will be devoted to just how leaders determine distance and altitude gained. Yes, just how they claim this strenuous hill is "relatively flat", "undulating" and a "doddle".

And, finally, if you think I am going to debate the merits of Dunlop Volleys or walking boots, you will just have to come on an overnight campout and sit around a camp fire, while the Billy boils.

## News about our Parks

### Royal National Park Plan of Management

The Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and Garawarra State Conservation Area, discussion papers have now been summarised in readiness for the preparation of the draft plan of management for this suite of parks and all documents can be accessed at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/royal-national-park>

NPWS will use the information, along with further planning investigations to inform the development of a draft plan of management for Royal National Park, Heathcote National Park and Garawarra State Conservation Area. When it is released we do want you to make a submission to the draft plan of management and the Branch will also make a formal submission. There will be field trips to inspect parts of the park in preparation and you will be more than welcome to come along. Just keep an eye on the activities program.

### Wattamolla

In case you haven't noticed work has commenced on the upgrade of the new amenities building, with all demolition work now complete. Ground preparation is currently underway and once complete, trenching and services will be set out prior to the pouring of the slab and foundations for the new building. Work is progressing well and remains on schedule for completion in November 2019.

### Wedding Cake Rock

The upgrade of safety fencing at Wedding Cake Rock has commenced and by the time you receive this email it might even be finished. A new fence has been designed to enhance visitor safety at the rock while also recognising and responding to the unique characteristics of the site. All panels were prefabricated and helicoptered to site in June 2019. Installation is now underway with the works expected to be complete in July/August 2019.



**Coast Track**

Track work has also continued with the commencement of the upgrade of the Burgh Ridge Track, one of the most degraded and frequently used sections of the coast track. The Burgh track provides access to the shack communities of South Era and Burning Palms and the Figure 8 Pools, one of the most popular visitor destinations within the park. Works are expected to take approximately 12 months and will include a combination of elevated boardwalk and stone staircases. Work also continues on the upgrade of Thelma Head and sections of the track from Little Garie to Figure Pools.



Work commences on the Burgh Track



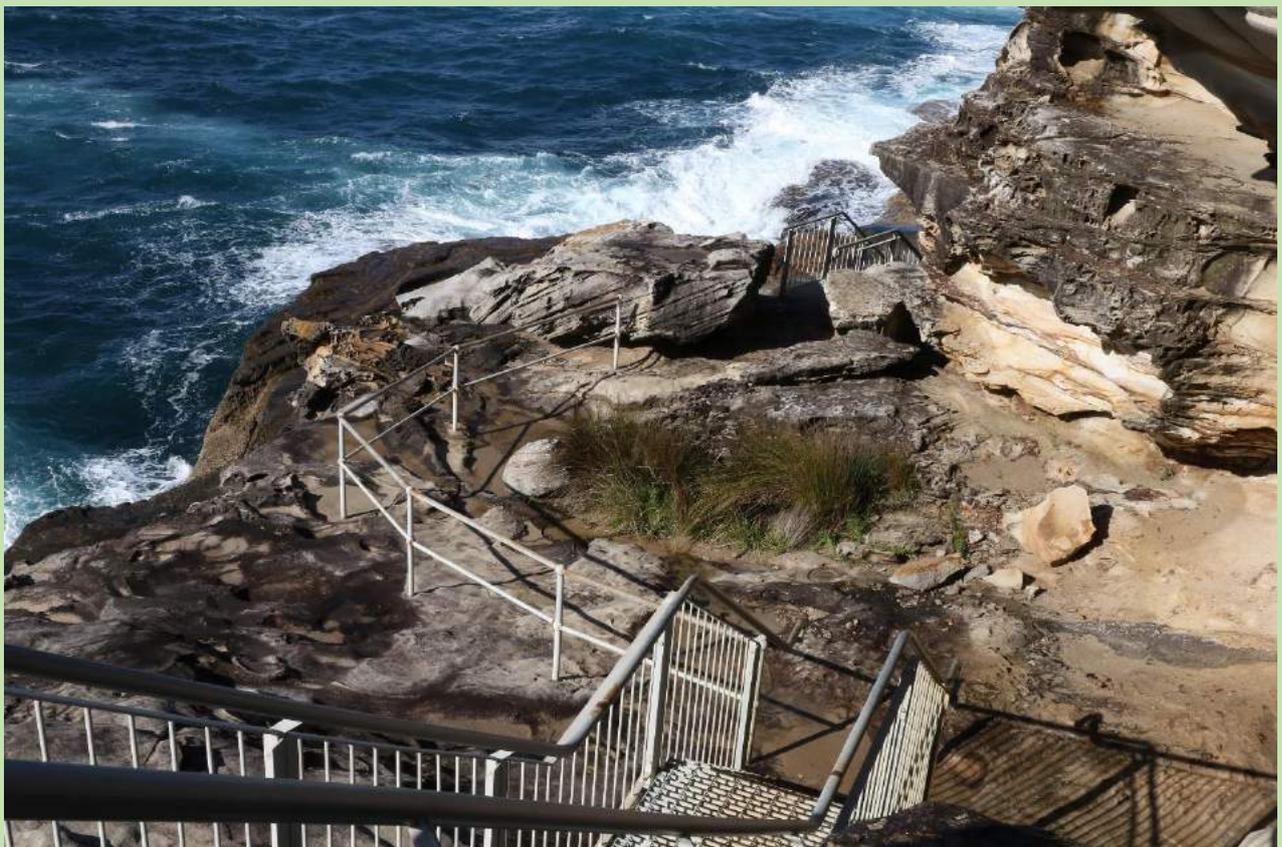
Track work on Thelma Head

## **Kamay 2020 Project**

The Kamay project is progressing with Stage 1 of the Kurnell Precinct Master Plan to upgrade visitor transport, interpretive, educational and commemorative infrastructure at Kurnell, Kamay Botany Bay National Park as detailed in the 2019 Master Plan and a new commemorative installation on track.

The Project Board, appointed in late 2018 and chaired by the Hon Bruce Baird, met at the end of June to consider progress. During 2018/19 reports were commissioned and received including building inspection report and measured drawings for Alpha House, precinct surveying, bushfire assessment, revegetation management plan, services location report and monument repair scopes. Works completed include conservation works to the Solander and Isaac Smith monuments, creek restoration works, tree safety works, and installation of park use fee machines.

The tender for the design and construction services for the commemorative installation was released on 6 June 2019 and closed on the 30 July. An expert panel will assess the designs and recommend to the Project Board a shortlist for further development and public exhibition. The project team is also working closely with the local Aboriginal community on this process, and its advice will be integral to the selection process. The new commemorative installation will be completed before April 2020.



## **Failure of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process to Protect Nature & the Need for a New Economic Development Paradigm**

Globally, one million species are now at risk of extinction in the coming decades, and in NSW over 1000 species are also in danger of extinction. Clearly a new paradigm of economic development is needed urgently for broad acceptance among all stakeholders to address this biodiversity challenge. There is also growing international concern regarding flaws in the EIA process for development approvals to adequately protect Nature from the onslaughts of economic development, particularly given its pervasiveness in environmental decision-making. This concern has been raised in the IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services) Report (2019) which identified biodiversity offsetting, a key component of the EIA approach, as having mixed effectiveness in protecting Nature- and its outcomes are often contested. These concerns have also been echoed in Australia where the NSW Environmental Defenders Office (EDO, 2018) have questioned the integrity of the EIA process, identifying needs for improvements in the independence and objectivity of consultants and the reliability and validity of the information provided.

The EIA approach sets as acceptable certain levels of minimal environmental degradation, however 'minimal' impacts for individual developments will be cumulative across multiple projects. This is particularly relevant with respect to climate change, air and water pollution, and the degradation of biodiversity. The burden of proof of environmental detriment through development is also so onerous for those that oppose such activities, in defence of biodiversity. Given the plethora of identified flaws in the EIA process a more transformational approach is clearly warranted with regard to the way economic development is integrated into the needs to sustain and regenerate biodiversity, which underpins the ecosystem services required to sustain society through the coming generations.

A transformational development paradigm is now needed to not just sustain but regenerate Nature.

The vast majority of development projects are either extractive from, or destructive of, the natural environment. Hence, this new development paradigm begins with the first question a developer should be required to address and convincingly answer is;

How will your development project actually ENHANCE the natural environment? How does your business proposal actually regenerate Nature, rather than being of minimal or no impact (as determined by the EIA)?

Hence, the development project-right at the beginning of its planning- is required to be environmentally regenerative rather than typically environmentally degenerative. The EIA process could be redirected to a prosocial and creative role in determining how a development proposal may regenerate nature.

This is currently the approach which is actually being used at the Governmental level for business development in Bhutan, the Asian regional success story in biodiversity conservation and ecological regeneration. There are also examples in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region within the ecotourism sector and mining sector for analysis, where there are percentage revenue

streams flowing back to environmental protection, establishment and regeneration of National Parks. With regard to the urban or built environment a new building complex for example could be environmentally enhancing or environmentally regenerative by design by i) being constructed of materials that actually absorbs CO2 and ii) has a forested roof which provides added habitat for wildlife. This approach is a step beyond the developer being required to 'protect the environment', but to actually enhance the environment, as a contributor to the public good. It's a design approach that continually replenishes, rather than slowly and incrementally depleting the natural world.

But more generally, development projects-which all degrade Nature to some degree-could most clearly and readily demonstrate a commitment to the regeneration of Nature and safeguarding biodiversity by a commitment of percentage revenue streams to support management and expansion of the network of protected areas (IPBES, 2019).

Ross Jeffree, Branch Councillor



The author taking note of an orchid on a recent walk

## Curra Moors-Post fire Out of the Ashes

Your Branch has made a few visits since the fire of January 2018. Here are two images from August.

