

RMIDALE BUSHWALKING CLUB INC. ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Spring 2019

DATE	CONTACT	VENUE	DETAILS
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> September to Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Chris Smith  Paul McCann 0456368680	Gibraltar – Washpool World Heritage Walk east of Glen Innes	THIS WALK HAS BEEN CANCELLED. BOTH PARKS HAVE BEEN CLOSED DUE TO FIRES NEARBY. THE FIRES HAVE NOT YET IMPACTED ON THE PARKS AND HOPEFULLY THE WALK CAN BE OFFERED AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Julie Kennelly 6775 1664 evenings	New England NP east of Armidale	A day walk along Cliffs Trail to Diamond Flat. The fires have not as yet affected the park so hopefully the walk can go ahead.
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> to Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Paul McCann 0456368680	Werrikimbe NP east of Walcha	An overnight walk along Cobcrofts Creek and possibly down to the Hastings River. The park is currently unaffected by recent fires so hopefully the walk can go ahead. Expect some thick vegetation, leeches and some steep terrain.
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	NPWS 67389100 / 1300072757 to register. Lynne Hosking 0421043134 if you can offer or need a lift.	Wollomombi Falls east of Armidale	Guided walk (10-12.30) and BBQ lunch.(1-2pm) Grade medium 4 km walk, some steps. You can opt to return after first or second lookout. Meet at Wollomombi Falls 10am. Organised by the NWS NPWS as part of the Gondwana 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Paul McCann 0456368680	Styx River area east of Armidale	A day walk exploring the headwaters of the Styx River where it leaves the basalt plateau near the camping area alongside the river. Expect some thick vegetation, leeches and steep slopes as well as wet feet (the river is still flowing well despite the drought).
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Lynne Hosking 0421043134	The Pilliga staying at Pilliga Pottery	<i>Spring into Pilliga</i> , is a vibrant weekend organised by Naomi Hodgson and local Pilliga people with walks, music, talks, good food and fun. It is a really diverse activity weekend. If you are interested Lynne can send you a program
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Leontine Barnett 0428851952	Mount Yarrowyck west of Armidale	A day walk to the summit of the granite hill. Expect some steep slopes and light scrub. The walk will be cancelled should weather or fire conditions be unsuitable on the day.
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Paul McCann 0456368680 for the walks  Peter Laffan 0428821069 for the musical	Dorrigo NP east of Armidale	A weekend car camp with day walks. The walks will depend on fire and weather conditions prevailing at the time. Currently the park is open and is unaffected by the nearby fires. There will be an opportunity to attend a school group musical as well.
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Peter Laffan 0428821069	Venue to be decided closer to the dates.	An overnight walk in an area not affected by fires or the drought. Further details will be advised closer to the dates.
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> or Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Paul McCann 0456368680	Booralong Creek and the Gwydir River west of	A day walk along Booroolong Creek and the Gywdir River. The creek still has some water from the numerous springs at it's source but that situation may change.

November		Armidale	
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> or Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Joc Coventry 0448727001	Venue to be decided	Day or overnight walk in an area not affected by fires or drought. Further details will be advised closer to the dates.
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Frances Grindlay 0406625259	Venue to be decided	Day or overnight walk in an area not affected by fires or drought. Further details will be advised closer to the dates.
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Pat Schultz 0428725852 (after 20 <sup>th</sup> October)	New England NP staying at The Residence. Accommodation can sleep 8 cost is \$62.50 each if we have 8 people sharing.	Come join the Armidale NPA for some walks and a Christmas celebration on the Sunday. <b>Though this is a very early invitation, Pat needs to be sure of numbers to book the accommodation so please RSVP by 24 October.</b>
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Peter and Trudie Laffan 0428821069	Property north of Armidale	Come join us for a Christmas Party and short optional walks. Further details will be advised closer to the dates.
December 2019 or January 2020	Ken and Leontine Barnett 0428851952	Kosciuszko NP south of Canberra	Expressions of interest are sought for a trip to the Snowy Mountains for walks and maybe assist with hawke weed control as well. Further details will be sent out closer to the dates.
School holidays July 2020	Paul McCann 0456368680	Northern Territory	Expressions of interest are sought for a a trip with an extended walk and a 4WD camping trip visiting various national parks either in Central Australia (Larapinta Trail) or the Katherine area (Jatbula Trail). The plan is to fly and/or catch the Greyhound bus to either Katherine or Alice Springs. 4WD's will be hired for a week's duration to visit remote parks and set up any food drops if required. The Jatbula Trail is around six days duration and the Larapinta Trail may require two to three weeks depending on how much of the trail we walk. Food drops are required only for the Larapinta Trail. The Northern Territory has some spectacular and interesting scenery as well as interesting fauna and flora.

#### SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES:

- All leaders must check the NPWS website for park closures and other alerts. Never enter a closed area as there may be hazards which could impact on those on the activity. Fines apply for entry into closed areas without permission. There are currently numerous park closures and fire bans due to the dry conditions and fires so always check the NPWS and RFS websites for the park or state forest you plan to visit early in the week prior to the walk and again the day before the date of the walk. **IF UNSURE, DON'T GO ESPECIALLY IF THERE ARE FIRES IN THE AREA!** If smoke is observed while on a walk then consideration should be given to exiting the area ASAP and if possible advise adjoining property owners and the RFS about the fire.
- Leaders planning on entering private property should always obtain permission from the property owner or caretaker before planning any walks and again before the walk to advise on the number in the party, the time and date of entry and the number attending the walk or activity. If the details change such as number in the party, dates or the route to be taken then you must contact the owner or caretaker and update them on the changed details. If a property owner or caretaker cannot be contacted then do not assume it is ok to enter the property. Postpone the walk or choose another route instead. If there is a legal right of way the adjoining property owners or caretakers should still be advised of your intentions for the walk.
- All activities are subject to last minute changes if river levels, bush fires and weather conditions make for unsafe walking. Contact the leader prior to the activity at least a week in advance. If you are unsure about your suitability for a activity discuss it with the leader.
- If you contact a leader concerning a activity and your plans change resulting in being unable to join the activity please advise the leader of your withdrawal from the activity preferably no later than the evening prior to the activity. If there is a last minute problem (car won't start, flat tyre or you got lost trying to find the meeting location) try to

contact the leader on their mobile phone if they have one. We may be able to pick you up or wait for you if you are on your way to the meeting point. Normal waiting time is fifteen minutes at the agreed meeting location unless advised otherwise by the leader.

- Leaders should ensure they have a printed copy of the waiver form for all participants to sign at the start of the activity. A digital copy has been emailed to all members along with some notes as to which forms need to be completed especially if children (under 18) are participating in the activity. The leader needs to sign and date the bottom of the waiver form after completion of the activity. Completed waiver forms should be returned to Armidale Outdoors after the activity or given to the secretary if they are on the activity. If you need a copy of the waiver form advise the secretary and a copy will be emailed to you.
- Leaders should also ensure they have at least one distress beacon with the group at all times. The club has a distress beacon for use on club activities along with a water filter and some climbing tape usefull on activities traversing steep slopes. These items can be collected from Armidale Outdoors. Alternatively arrange for another member who is participating on the activity to collect the distress beacon and other items from Armidale Outdoors. Please ensure the items are returned so they can be used on the next activity. The club also has two 2-way radios which may be usefull on certain walks.
- All participants should record a suitable emergency contact on the waiver form in the event of an incident occurring on the activity. The email column is optional but please record your email address if you are a new member or if you have changed your email address since the last activity so we can send you updates to the program. All non members must pay an insurance surcharge of \$5 to the club or the leader prior to joining the activity. If you are a financial member of another club affiliated with Bushwalking NSW then you are covered and do not need to pay the \$5. If you plan to do multiple activities with Armidale Bushwalking Club please consider joining the club and your membership fee will assist us to continue offering activities.
- Finally take time to enjoy your surrounds and the many interesting things one might see on a activity. If you get behind ensure you call out so those in front can wait for you and ensure you don't become lost. If you are having trouble keeping pace with the group let the leader know. Never assume which way the group went unless you can see them ahead or have established voice contact. Those in front should regularly check to see if those behind are in sight. If you cannot see those behind then tell the leader to stop and back track to locate the missing persons.

#### A FEW TIPS FROM BUSHWALKERS WILDERNESS RESCUE SERVICE ON WAKING SAFELY:

Give written route details to a responsible person.

Tell them when you return.

Take adequate clothing, spare food, water proof matches, map and compass.

Don't travel faster than the slowest person in your group.

Don't leave an injured person alone.

If you're lost, stop! Stay where you are. If you're overdue, phone home ASAP.

