



Armidale Bushwalkers armidalebushwalkers.club Newsletter Feb 2021

ARMIDALE BUSHWALKING CLUB 2020 WALKS REPORT

2020 got off to a very slow start regarding walks. There was one day walk in January around Point Lookout with five members. Smoke from the fires still lingered in the valley below Wrights Lookout although where we walked had not



been burnt. February saw one day walk in the Sunnyside area with five members present area while the Secretary was away in Tasmania. During March we had two day walks which had the dates swapped. The outcome was that neither walk went ahead. A weekend walk was organized for a Friday and Saturday later in

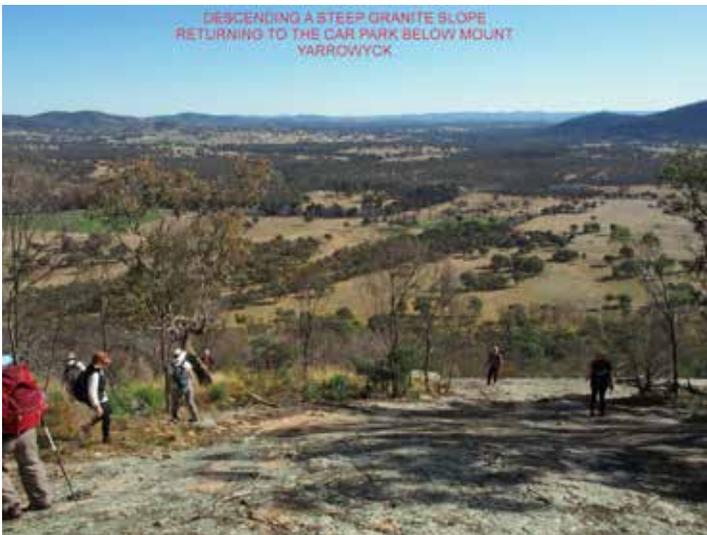
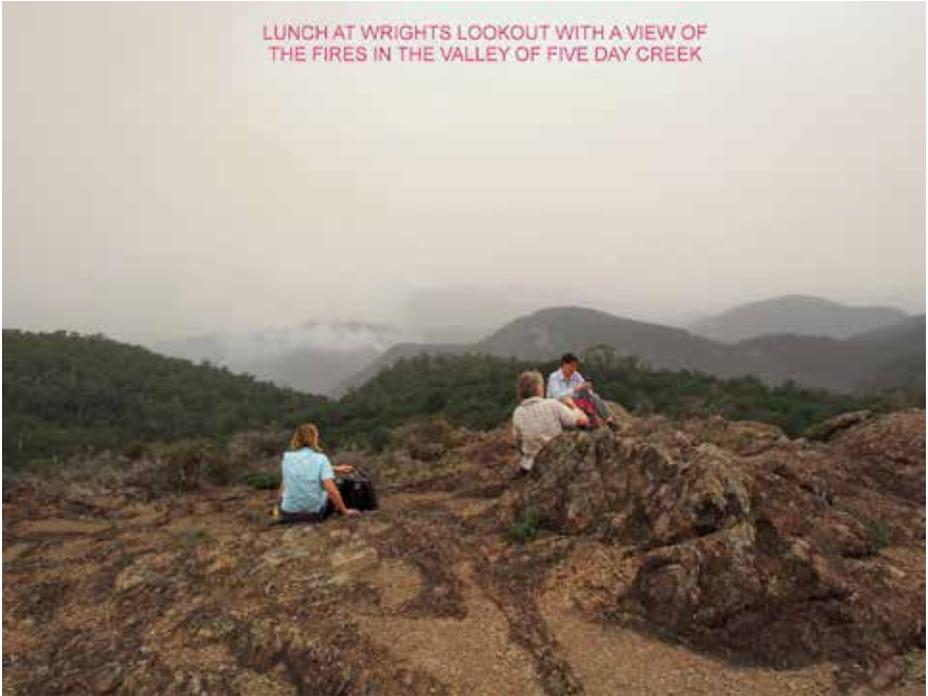
March which meant that a number of members including the Secretary were unable to participate in the walk. The walk was to be the last for many months as the Covid crisis forced everyone into lock down. Walks were cancelled and



the garden never looked better when the lock down ended in late May.

We got together at Gara Gorge at the end of May and discussed walks for the winter months. A short walk along the Threlfall Track helped everyone shake off the lock down blues and get back into shape for the winter walks. The first walk for the winter was to the summit of Mount Duval camping near the trig with twelve participants. A wet start on the Sunday meant we were back at the cars and home for lunch. On the following Sunday twelve members enjoyed a day walk traversing the summit of Mount Yarrowyck. July saw quite a few walks cancelled due to the weather and leaders having other commitments. Four members joined an unscheduled half day walk on the first Sunday in July in the Long Point area.

More walks were cancelled in August due to bad weather. The only walks that went ahead was a day walk near Ebor along the rim of Guy Fawkes Gorge and another day walk the following Sunday from Dangars Falls down to Salisbury





A SHORT WALK ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF THE GUY PARKES RIVER AT FOOT TO THE UPPER FALLS

Waters along the track with nine members participating.

Spring arrived in September and the early flowers were lovely in Gibraltar Range National Park. Five members went off track to try to get closer to Old Man Hat. Despite the fires there were pockets of unburnt scrub. The grass trees were flowering well after the fires. On the Sunday we were joined by another member and followed an old track to the top of Dandahra Falls. Four people participated in a bike ride later in September in the

CAMPING & OUTDOOR SPECIALISTS

Armidale Outdoors

152 Rusden St
ARMIDALE

P. 6772 7744 • E. outdoorsadsl@nsw.chariot.net.au

SEE MAP 6

southern part of New England.

In October five members plus a visitor followed the Namoi River through Warrabah National Park. There was a good flow in the river and the area was recovering from the long drought and a fire in 2019 which burnt the central part of the park. The weather was warm so lots of swims were enjoyed.



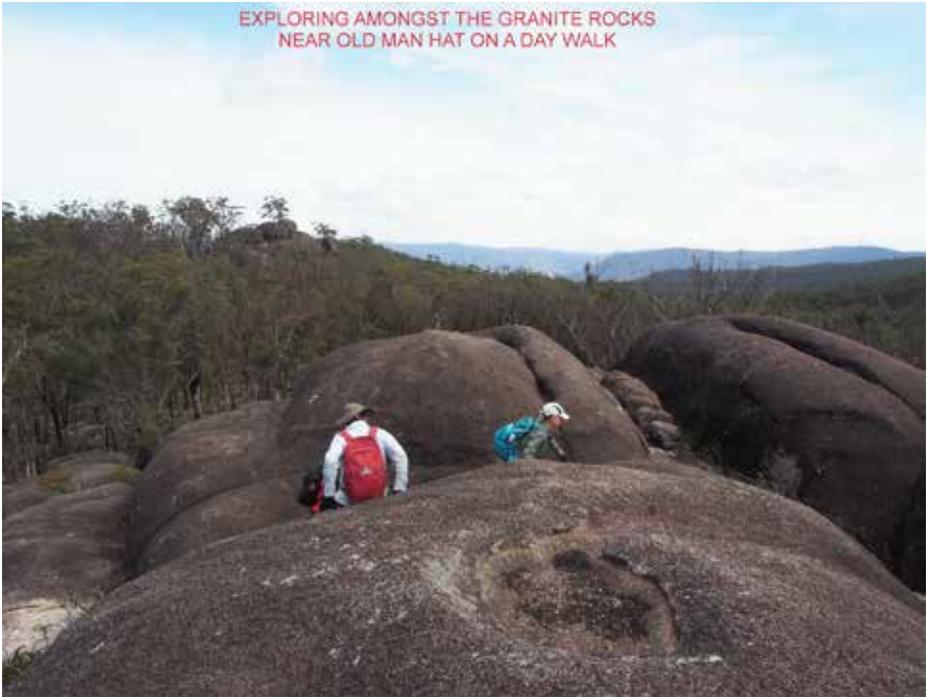


DINNER ON A DAY WALK TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT ARROWYCK



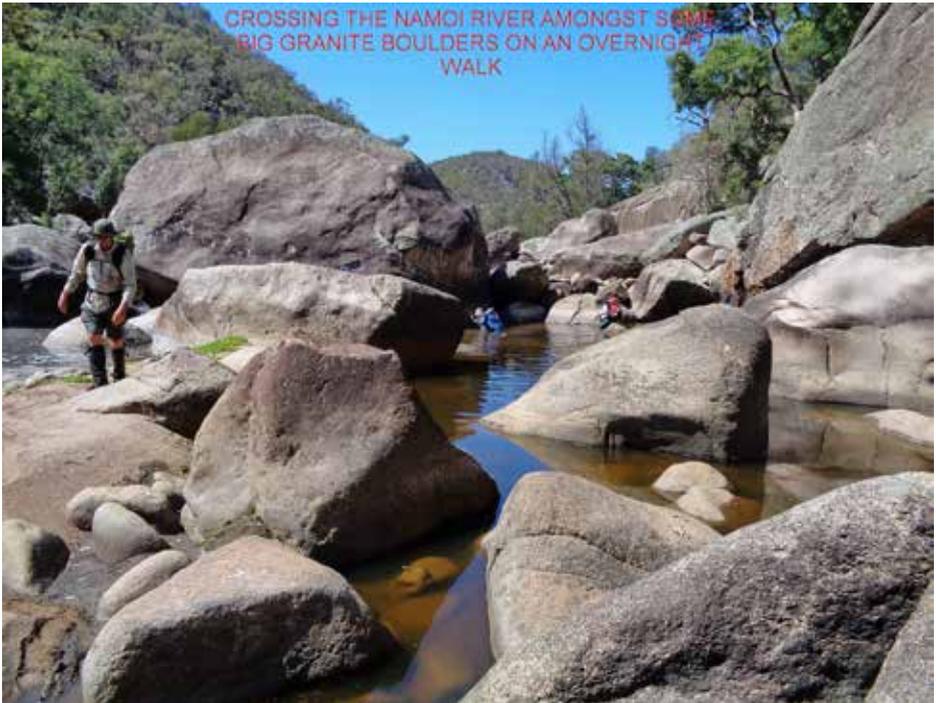
DESCENDING FROM MOUNT DUVAL ON A WET MORNING

The following weekend five members undertook the World Heritage Walk in Gibraltar Range and Washpool National Parks. The burnt areas were recovering from the fires and the grass trees were still in full flower. Later in October several members participated in a day walk along Sandy Creek in Cathedral Rock National Park. The park was extensively burnt during 2019 and was slowly recovering. Some members explored amongst the granite tors but were unable to get to the top of them. On the last weekend in October five



members walked along the Apsley River upstream from Riverside Camping Area. The area had been devastated by the fires in 2019 and some sections along the river banks were choked with weeds. The river was running well and some members walked to the summit of Tooth Rocks and got a reasonable view despite the lingering storm clouds.

The first day of November saw two members explore along Salisbury Waters upstream from Dangars Gorge then returned to the picnic area for lunch. Later in the day we followed the north rim of the gorge to some vantage points which gave a different view of the gorge. The following weekend several



CROSSING THE NAMOI RIVER AMONGST SOME BIG GRANITE BOULDERS ON AN OVERNIGHT WALK

members went on an afternoon walk through Imbota Nature Reserve near Armidale. The third weekend in November five members walked along road reserves and crown land corridors around North Hill. Later in November four members explored the Melrose area along Postmans Creek. It is hard

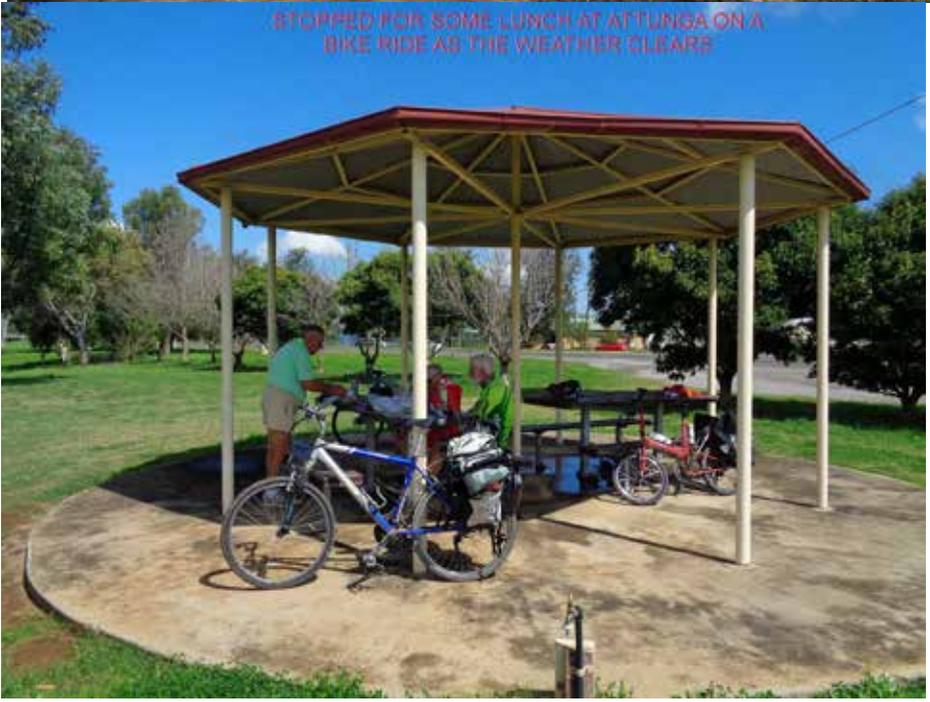
to imagine that there was a town at Melrose almost as big as Uralla. Not much of the town remains today. On the last weekend of November several members walked north along the escarpment from Point Lookout. Keys were exchanged with another group walking south and



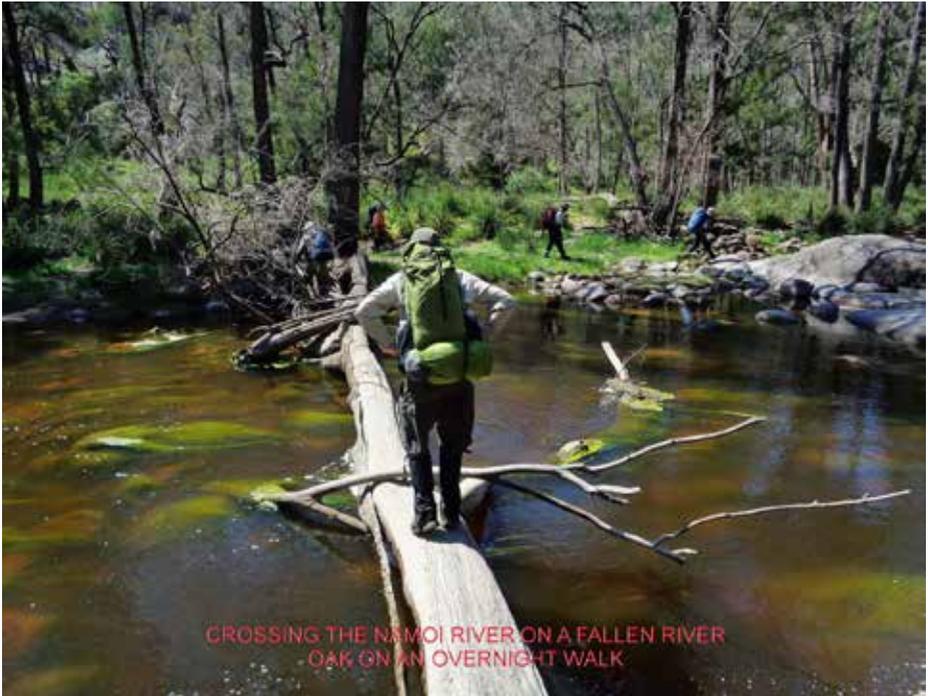
ADMIRING AN OLD SHED FULL WITH MATERIALS FROM TIMBERING WHICH WAS THE FORMER TOWN OF MELROSE



FOLLOWING MOOSEM TRAIL THROUGH THE TALL FOREST
IN THE MORNING SUN ON THE WORLD HERITAGE WALK



STOPPED FOR SOME LUNCH AT ATTLUNGA ON A
BIKE RIDE AS THE WEATHER CLARED



we finished near Majors Point around lunch time.



In December the planned canoe trip was cancelled due to low river levels. A week later and some of the rivers were approaching the minor flood level! The walk in Washpool National park was also cancelled due to the weather. The final activity for 2020 was a joint walk and

HYPNOTISED BY IMMINENT LANDSLIDE
CROWDS WAIT AT CLIFF TOP
WARNING SIGNS WILLBE PUT UP
ANOTHER FISSURE NEAR ECHO PT.
DARING SCRUNITY

“GUARDIAN” SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE KATOOMBA,
January 1931

What terrible danger lurks above the heads of pleasure trippers who tread the shady paths of Blue Mountain valleys thousands of feet below the beetling cliffs?

Since the publicity given to the imminent falling of millions of tons of rock at



Narrow Neck, above the Jamieson Valley, it has been disclosed that another section of the-cliff face half a mile closer to Echo Point is breaking away.

The "Guardian" man was informed to-day that there' is a fissure four feet deep and a hundred yards long at this point.

GREATEST ATTRACTION OF ALL

For the moment, the threatened cliff slide between Katoomba Palls and Narrow Neck rivals all the usual mountain sights.

Thousands viewed it. yesterday, the majority from the safety of a peak some 400 yards distant; others, more foolhardy and venturesome, crept to the 16ft chasm and peered over. Police early in the day inspected the sight, but declared it was not in their province to order people off. Council declared they had no jurisdiction, as the land was portion of the late J. B. North's estate, and therefore private property, and while the verbal battle raged' as to who should accept the responsibility, people risked their lives on the brink

Late to-night, however, the police communicated with the executors of North's Estate in Sydney. As a result, signs warning people of the dan ger are to be erected to-morrow morning.

A danger which few have realised Is that the adjacent hillside is breaking in two places One is four yards behind the main break, and another, smaller, ten yards behind, is in solid rock, and is an indication of the tremendous drag of the detaching mountain of stone.

Undoubtedly, it is dangerous to approach within a quarter of a mile of the spot, '

That the mighty crash is not far off evident from the increasing widening, if the gap. Two days ago one could step across, now it is 16 feet wide, and mends in an irregular line for over 200 yards. About 80 feet down the cliff another huge split has occurred.

At 3.45 to-day the largest observed tall to date lasted 30 seconds. Watchers stood terrified fearing that the whole cliff would go.

First sign of the disintegration was noticed over a month ago, when the cleft was only one inch across