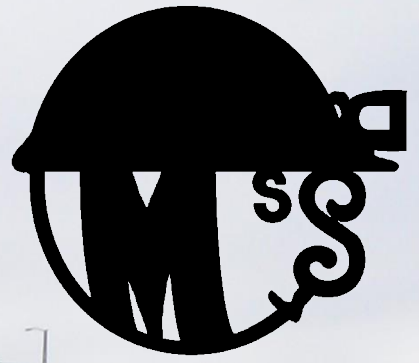


NEWSLETTER MONTHLY



Trip Reports:
Kayaking
Mountain Biking
Canyoning



July 2008

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Cover Shot:
Graham trying to get the hang of kayaking.
Photo by Rod Smith

Last Meeting

Last meeting we were without our President who is trying to make a molehill out of a mountain. We had trip reports from Mt Solitary, Jenolan Caves, Pages Pinnacle, Kayaking from Drummoyne to Manly and Mountain Biking. After a superb supper from Tim we were thoroughly entertained with a slide show of America presented by John Gray.

Next Meeting

Date: 18th August, 2008
Time: 7.30 pm
Venue: Baden Powell Scout Camp
Pomona Street, Pennant Hills

Quote of the Month

“That is not going in the Newsletter!” - Steph obviously didn't want me to print that she said her feet farted.

Announcements

Jim Crockett is looking into organising a trip to Wombeyan Caves. However, to do this, we need to join a trip with another club that knows the area. This will require a bit more organisation than for a normal trip, so Jim is wanting to know how many people would be interested in that kind of trip before going any further. So, if you are interested in visiting Wombeyan Caves sometime next year, please let Jim know.

Brett has bet Dave that he will quit smoking. There is a bottle of Mead and lamb shanks in it. If Brett doesn't touch another smoke before the November Jenolan trip, Dave will be buying the Mead and lamb shanks. Otherwise Brett will supply them.

Trip Reports

Kayaking from Drummoyne to Manly - 13th July, 2008

Participants: Graham Boyles, Denise Thomas, John Buddle, Rod Smith (TL).

This is a trip Graham and I had talked about for a while, now we were going to attempt it. We had no idea how long it would take, so we wanted to get an early start to maximise the daylight hours we'd have. 11:30, mmmmm.

Graham, Denise and John had to hire kayaks. Blue Earth is located in Drummoyne and hire kayaks at a reasonable rate, so this was the logical place to hire them. I drove to Manly to leave my car for the return journey, and we all jumped in John's van to go get the hire kayaks.

No-one seemed concerned that John didn't have roof racks (or one of his rear side windows). The kayaks were tied down onto the roof and driven to the launch spot at my place.

Not having been to my place before, John, Graham and Denise were keen to have a look and admire the view. Graham could contain the child in him as he did some looking with his fingers and attempted to break stuff. I had to herd John and Graham out so we could hopefully head off before lunch.

The weather proved to be very kind to us, little to no wind, overcast but no chance of rain. I pointed out some of the local landmarks as we headed toward the Harbour Bridge.

Usually the wash from single boats isn't too bad, but there are exceptions. We found one such exception off the end of Balmain. As a result of that I was sitting in a puddle till lunch. Denise, like the other two, had a spray skirt on, but still managed to get wet from the waist up.



John and Graham doing their impersonation of a Chinook
Photo: Rod Smith

We all enjoyed a different perspective of the city. There were probably a lot of people looking out at the harbour, and we were on it looking back. We passed Lunar Park, under the Harbour Bridge, and past the Opera House.

John decided he wanted to have a look at Fort Denison. Graham and I were getting hungry, so he and I, with Denise in tow, headed for Taronga Zoo where I knew we could get out on a small sandy beach and stretch our legs. As we made our way we watched John. He was at Fort Denison when the fired the cannon signifying that it once 1:00. We thought he'd then head north to meet us. Instead he went east, straight into the middle of a yacht race! A couple of minutes later we lost sight of him completely. Graham said not to worry, he'd probably show up at Manly. Considering his navigational skills, I wasn't so sure.



Graham trying to flag down some of the Harbour traffic
Photo: Rod Smith

A water taxi went past and mentioned there were penguins just back from where we were. We turned back to have a look, but didn't see any.

I reached the beach at Taronga Zoo just as a bit of swell arrived, resulting in a less than glorious landing, and a kayak half full of water. I emptied my kayak as Graham and Denise timed their landing much better than I did, and stayed a lot drier.

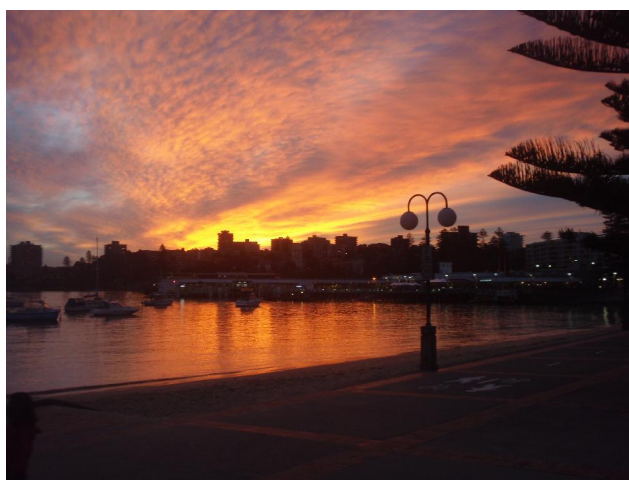
After a light lunch and a toilet break we were ready to proceed. This was the furthest I'd paddled from home, so I was looking forward to the rest. We estimated we were about halfway and, since it was 2:00, we'd have enough daylight for the rest of the journey.

We'd just started heading out when we looked up and saw John coming the other way. Apparently his knee had started to play up, so he'd gotten out somewhere on the other side of the harbour for a stretch and walk around.

The water started to get a bit rougher as we came into view of the Heads, and the open ocean in between. A big square-rigger went by and we paddled over for a closer look and a wave to the crew.

At one point John got out of his kayak onto a rock shelf. Graham and I waited for at least five minutes to watch the spectacle of John getting back in, confident we were going to see him capsize. Unfortunately, for us, he didn't, back he went close.

Soon we were in sight of the wharf at Manly. John went in for a closer look, not a great idea with a ferry coming, but he didn't hang around long enough for it to be a problem.



A beautiful Manly sunset
Photo: Rod Smith

We paddled into shore. We'd done it! Graham commented that it was easier than he had expected. The favourable conditions had certainly helped.

Now we just had to get the kayaks back where they belonged and ourselves home. Thankfully Graham could take the kayaks back the next morning since he wasn't working.

A successful and top trip!

Rod.

Mountain Biking to Faulconbridge Point – 20th July, 2008

Present: Steve Wilson, Brett Pilcher, Stephanie Pilcher, Rod Smith (TL)

The planned trip was reasonably short, so I figured a 9:30 meeting would be adequate. Typically disorganised, I still had my road tyres on my bike, so I planned to get up there early and change them over while waiting for everyone else. Everything nearly went according to plan, except for the fact that Steve was already there when I arrived at 9:00. Nevertheless I started changing the tyres over, only to have Steph and Brett arrive early at about 9:15. I quickly finished changing the tyres, threw everything back in the car, and we drove to the start of the ride.

As I did my last-minute preparations before the ride I realised I hadn't thrown everything back in the car after changing the tyres, there were two tyre levers sitting on the footpath back where we'd met. Oh well, at least there were only about \$3 each, not great loss.

It wasn't long before we were on the bikes and on our way. 30 metres further on we were back off the bikes. After we got round the gate we were back on the bikes.

Steve lost his drink bottle on the first downhill section for the day. Lucky for him Brett spotted it and picked it up. The rest of the ride out was rather uneventful, with Steph setting a steady pace, and the boys charging off, especially on the downhills (what fun!).

After less than an hour we were admiring the view of the Gross from Faulconbridge Point. Standing on the edge of a cliff there was invariably a discussion about jumping off, mostly while attached to a rope.

We lounged around for a while, enjoying the spectacular weather, not in any hurry to move on. However, since I was the only one to bring lunch, we decided to head back then drive into Springwood for lunch.

We started from the lookout, which involved a short section down a single file track. Nothing too difficult for experienced mountain bikers, it's just a pity there were no experienced mountain bikers amongst us. Still, there were no stacks, and we were back on the easier fire trail for the rest of the ride.

Steve went ahead on a couple of occasions to get some footage of us hurtling down the track. Brett and I were happy to oblige by doing the downhills as fast as we could. Before we knew it we were back at the gate, and the cars shortly after.

After a nice, healthy ride what could be better than chicken and chips at Springwood? We couldn't think of anything better, so that's what we did. And we were all home at a very reasonable hour.

Top weather. Top company. Top trip!

Rod (TL)

Canyoning – Tiger Snake & Penrose Gully - 27th July, 2008

Participants: Paul Richards, Stephanie Pilcher, Brett Pilcher, Rod Smith (TL)

I picked up Brett and Steph at about 8am before we headed out the Bells Line of Road. We were taking it easy, chatting and catching up, firm in the belief that we had plenty of time. As we passed Pierces Pass I checked the time, and realised that we no longer had plenty of time. We were only about 5 minutes late meeting Paul at the Tiger Snake carpark, but I promised Brett and Steph that I'd go a bit slow on the drive out.

We were reasonably well organised and on our way within ten minutes. With a small group I figured we had plenty of time to do both Penrose Gully and Tiger Snake, and it makes more sense to do Penrose Gully on the way in. So, once we arrived at the saddle at the end of the firetrail, I looked for an easy way to lead the group down to the left. In what seemed like no time at all I called a stop to put on harnesses.

I sent Brett and Steph ahead with the rope to have a go at rigging the first pitch, mainly for the practice, but also to give them something to do while I finished putting my harness on. They ran into the first problem, finding the anchor. Once I had my harness on I climbed up to the anchor and rigged the pitch. Before long we were committed.

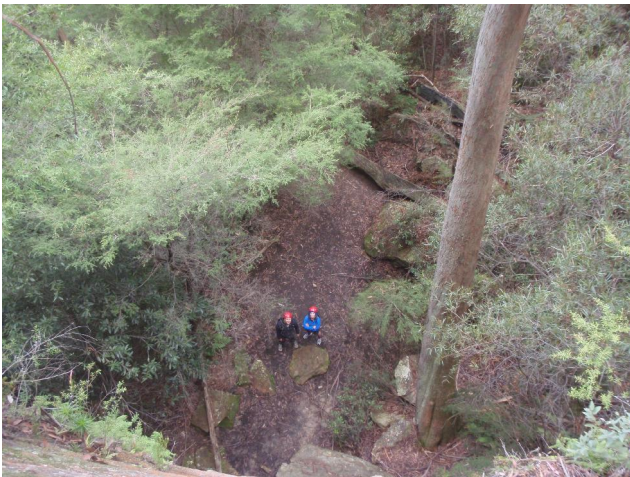
At the top of the second pitch Paul said he wanted to go back, it looked too narrow. Especially since Steph had struggled to fit through the squeeze at the top of the abseil. I think he was only joking. Maybe he was a little nervous while attaching himself, because he managed to get his rack on backwards. Steph and I had already descended, so it was up to Brett to help rectify the situation. The first step was to Brett to try and haul Paul into a better position. Once Paul was securely wedged, Brett fixed his rack, and Paul was able to complete the abseil.

I took the high (and wider) route through the next section. The last abseil went off without a hitch, Steph impressing everyone with her growing confidence and skill while abseiling. Harnesses and helmets were removed and chocolate lamington fingers were eaten.

There's a faint track forming from the end of the canyon to the top of the break in the cliffs. We admired the view from the top over the Wolgan, before setting off in search of the Tiger Snake track. We found a track at the top of the ridge. We turned left and headed for Tiger Snake, only to find the track disappear on us. I was confused, there should only be one track out this way! We turned around and followed the track back, passed where we joined it, until we hit a much better defined track. We were now on the Tiger Snake track. Our best guess is that the track we found is forming from people coming out of Penrose Gully, it's obviously becoming more popular.

Some people abseil the entry into Tiger Snake, I've always down-climbed it. Brett had a look and climbed down without a problem. I followed, and then Steph had a go. Halfway down she got stuck. Brett and I got under her to give her support, safety and footholds. Paul came to the rescue and threw down the end of a length of tape to give Steph something to hang on to. It wasn't long before we had Steph safely down.

There was a bit more water than usual at the bottom of the next short drop. There was no avoiding getting our feet wet. As you would expect, the water was rather cold. There was another pool at the bottom of the next drop. The others opted to abseil, and wade through the next pool. I, instead, climbed over the top and avoided the pool. Next was the short down-climb on the roots, which Steph abseiled due to lack of reach.



Brett and Steph looking up from the bottom of the last pitch in the first section of Tiger Snake
Photo: Rod Smith

One more abseil in the top section. A great, slightly overhang, drop. Time for lunch at the bottom.

Considering there was a bit of extra water in the top section, I decided it would be better to take the high and dry option. Brett rigged the abseil and descended first, no drama. Paul descended last and managed to get a glove under the ropes. He found it easier to remove his hand from the glove rather than remove hand and glove from under the rope. We were wondering if the glove would come down when we pulled the rope down, and Paul wondered if he'd need to get a new pair of gardening gloves. As the tail came down we looked up to see a glove following the rope.

Surprisingly the bottom section was almost bone-dry. We went up and had a look at the arch before making our way down through the canyon. The walk out was eventful, except Paul kept saying we were lost because he couldn't remember any of it. We were back at the cars around dark, and had enough time for Brett to get home and watch the Rugby.

Top company, top trip!

Future Trips

Welcome to the new look future trips section. Anyone with artistic abilities are welcome to submit their own icons for any of the categories here, and/or any other categories. If we use your icon then you'll have to be prepared to accept the praise and admiration from your fellow club members. Send your icons, or any other feedback, to roderick__smith@hotmail.com.

Legend:

Activity



Caving



Canyoning



Diving



Hiking



Abseiling



Cycling



Horse Riding



Kayaking



Climbing



Skiing

Grade



Easy



Easy/Medium



Medium



Medium/Hard



Hard



Extreme

Accommodation



Camping



Cottage














Extras




































Kites







Camp Ovens

Where	When	Activity	Grade	Trip Leader	Accommodation (if applicable)	Additional Costs	Let Trip Leader Know By:	No. of Spots Left
Jenolan	2 nd - 3 rd Aug			Rob Clyne 0409 033 224 caver@people.net.au and Rod Smith 0438 444 262 roderick_smith@hotmail.com (that's 2 underscores)		\$5 Hut fee	31 st Jul	12
Other Info:								
Tuglow	30 th - 31 st Aug			Jim Crockett 0407 284 256 jim.crockett@reach.com			8 th Aug	
Other Info:								
Snowy Mountains	13 th - 14 th Sep	 or Snow Shoeing		Dave Stuckey 0414 590 305 stuckedl@cba.com.au		Hire of gear, if required	9 th Sep	
Other Info:								
Lindfield Rocks	21 st Sep		Instructional	Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au			17 th Sep	
Other Info:								
Narrowneck or somewhere similar	27 th - 28 th Sep			Graham Boyles 0414 200 718 graham_boyles@yahoo.com.au			23 rd Sep	
Other Info:								

Where	When	Activity	Grade	Trip Leader	Accommodation (if applicable)	Additional Costs	Let Trip Leader Know By:	No. of Spots Left
Pierces Pass and Dogface	11 th - 12 th Oct			Rod Smith 0438 444 262 roderick_smith@hotmail.com (that's 2 underscores)			7 th Oct	
Other Info: 200m abseils. Massive exposure!!								
Gooches Crater	25 th - 26 th Oct			Brett & Steph Pilcher Brett 0412 049 099 brettpilch@hotmail.com Steph 0423 526 288 skeeling@iinet.net.au	Camp Cave		21 st Oct	
Other Info:								
Jenolan	1 st - 2 nd Nov			TBA		\$5 Hut fee	29 th Oct	12
Other Info:								
Little Big Hole and Daylight Tunnel	15 th Nov	 		Rob Clyne 0409 033 224 caver@people.net.au			11 th Nov	
Other Info:								
Malaita Point	16 th Nov		Instructional	Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au			11 th Nov	
Other Info:								

Where	When	Activity	Grade	Trip Leader	Accommodation (if applicable)	Additional Costs	Let Trip Leader Know By:	No. of Spots Left
Danae Brook	6 th Dec			Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au			N/A*	Trip Full*
Other Info: * If enough other people are interested, we will run a second trip on the same day								
Xmas Party	6 th Dec	Eat, drink and be merry		Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au			2 nd Dec	
Other Info: 								
Wollangambe	26 th Dec			TBA			19 th Dec	
Other Info:								
Claustral	27 th Dec			TBA			19 th Dec	
Other Info:								
Dargans	28 th Dec			TBA			19 th Dec	
Other Info:								
New Zealand – Routeburn trail	Jan 2009			Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au		Hut fees, flights	20th Jun	
Other Info: This needs to be booked and paid for, specifically the huts on the walk, thus the early notice required. Gourmet eating. 								

Where	When	Activity	Grade	Trip Leader	Accommodation (if applicable)	Additional Costs	Let Trip Leader Know By:	No. of Spots Left
Kites over Kosci	24 th - 26 th Jan			Johan Verhagen 4758 9811 johan.verhagen@sydneywater.com.au			20 th Jan	
Other Info: 								
Alcatraz	TBA			John Gray 0427 876 679 john.gray@sydneywater.com.au			TBA	
Other Info:								