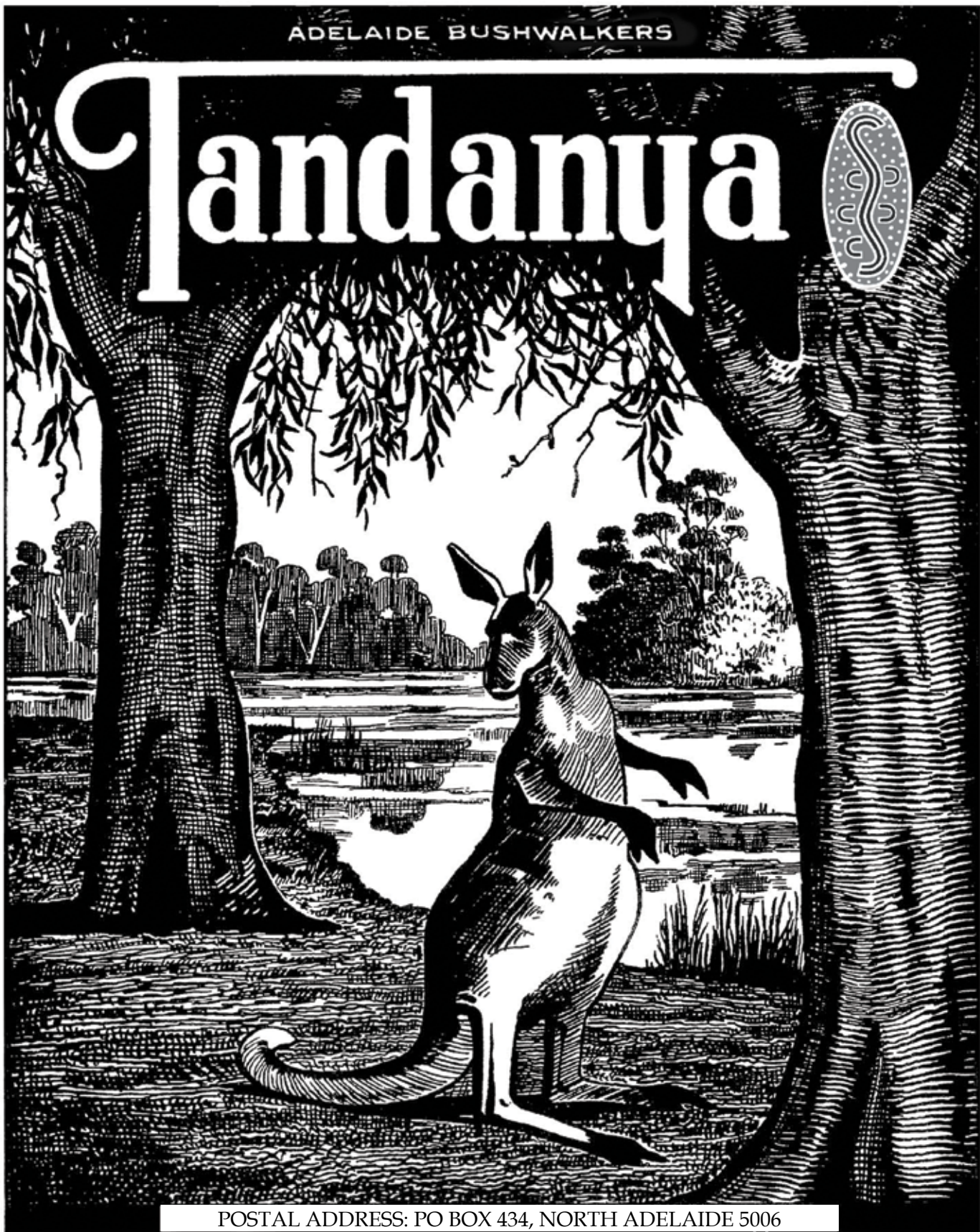


ADELAIDE BUSHWALKERS

Tandanya



POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 434, NORTH ADELAIDE 5006

— Spring 2014 Volume 44 Number 3 —

ABW Club information

The club meets at the North Adelaide Community Centre, 176 Tynte Street, North Adelaide on the first and third Wednesdays each month (February to November).

Annual subscription fees

Category	Normal	Student
Prospective Membership	\$60	\$30
Full Membership	\$60	\$30
Associate Membership	\$10	\$ 5

Family membership is no longer available for new members.

Contact Details

Email: info@adelaidebushwalkers.org Web: www.adelaidebushwalkers.org

Post: PO Box 434, North Adelaide, SA 5006

Banking Details

Bank: Bank SA BSB: 105 900 Account: 950 866 540

Account name: Adelaide Bushwalkers Inc.

Membership queries

Contact the Membership Secretary, Kate on 0410 660 562 or via email through info@adelaidebushwalkers.org.

For privacy reasons, the names and contact details of other office bearers are no longer published in the magazine. Please use the contact details above.

Adelaide Bushwalkers Inc.

Tandanya

Spring 2014 Volume 44 Number 3

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Close off date for next issue: Wednesday 19 November 2014

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2013 Photo competition - Landscape Category - by Gabrielle McMahon

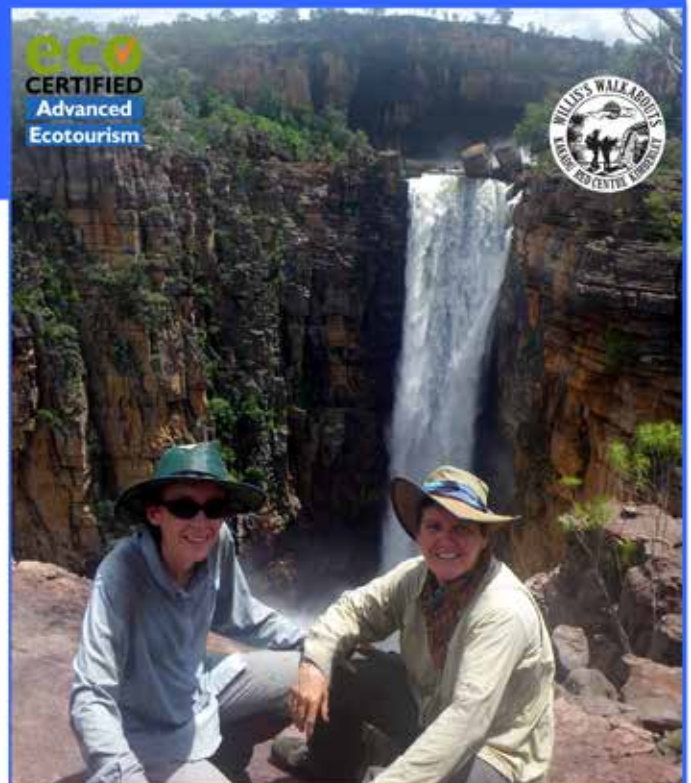
Russell Willis

Your Kakadu Bushwalking Representative

Did you know that you have someone to represent **your interests** who sits on a committee which reports directly to the Kakadu Board of Management? The **Kakadu Tourism Consultative Committee** "provides advice on tourism issues (both commercial and private) in Kakadu National Park. Matters are brought to the committee either by the Kakadu Board of Management or by members on behalf of the groups they represent.

I have probably spent more time bushwalking in Kakadu, both commercially and on private trips, than anyone else. That's why I was invited to join the committee as the bushwalking representative in 2006. I've been there ever since. The committee meets quarterly. If you have any issues you'd like me to bring up, please let me know.

Russell Willis



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Log Books on Peaks in Flinders Ranges Placed by Adelaide Bushwalkers

By John Bartlett

Background

Until 1987, placing log books on peaks in the Flinders Ranges was generally a haphazard procedure.

In most cases, log books consisted of notes from visiting walkers on pieces of paper torn from note books, then put in aluminium canisters, plastic pots or whatever was at hand. The next visiting walker(s) would add their contribution.

However, one or two older members of the club think there may be an earlier version of the very good metal containers used since early 1987.

In conjunction with Jeremy Carter, I will endeavour to research and verify this scanty information, and go on to prepare a full story of the state of log book containers and log books placed by ABW on peaks in the Flinders Ranges. This will also be published on our website which will allow both members and hikers to let us know of issues with logbooks, and provide us the opportunity to engage hikers to retrieve and renew logbooks. We hope to include archived copies of logbooks as scanned documents online.

My research will involve searching through club archives, and possibly the archives of the State Library and Walking SA.

I was very much involved in the 1987 log book exercise, and following recent questions and comments from a few club members, I decided to research and record the matter more fully.

Plea to Members

1. If any members on reading this article can contribute more information or clarify detail regarding log books in containers placed by ABW, and including the whereabouts of filled logbooks that have been removed from peaks, please contact me (preferably IN WRITING).

I can then go on and finalise this history for the posterity of the club.

2. If any member is, or knows a competent sheet metalworker who would donate their labour making another batch of containers, then please contact me.

About the time of the club's 50th or 60th Anniversary in 1996 or 2006, a price was obtained to make some more containers, but the cost was prohibitive.

The 1987 Exercise

The club decided to give some formality to log books on peaks in the form of sturdy, waterproof metal containers to contain log books which would have a frontpiece informing all-comers that it was placed there by ABW.

Club member Bill Gehling prepared a sketch of a sound log book container. He gave the sketch to me, and I then prepared a detail drawing (which I still possess), and then a batch of 4 or 5 containers was made by a former member Kevin Packer in early 1987.

In May 1987, I led an extended walk in the Narrina Station area, and containers and log books were placed on Patawarta Hill and Mt Hack.

Mt Tilley was climbed on that trip, but I can't remember if we placed container/logbook on that occasion.

It is my understanding that these very good containers and log books were also placed on Pompey Pillar, Cleft Peak, McKinlay Bluff and Mt Aleck, but this needs to be verified by club members.



Metal ABW logbook container at Mt Hack

Known Peaks with ABW Containers and Log Books

Peak	Logbook	Confirmed
Patawarta Hill	ABW container	June 2013
Mt Hack	ABW container	21/8/2014
Cleft Peak	ABW container placed 1987	Is there a logbook currently there?
McKinlay Bluff	ABW container placed 1987	Is there a logbook currently there?
Kankana Peak	ABW container placed 1987	Is there a logbook currently there?

In June 1999, I led a group to place a new log book on Patawarta Hill. The first book was full, and at the time was held by Walking SA – I will follow that up.

These may exist on other peaks, but once again, verification is needed.

Some peaks that may have ABW containers with log books, or canisters or pots with notes include:

Containers and Log Books on Other Peaks

Peak	Logbook	Confirmed
Aroona Valley/Pigeon Bore/Parachilna Gorge area		
Mt Barloo		
Mt Barbara		
Iralbo Peak		
Kankana peak		
Mt Falkland	Logbook of some sort	18/6/2011
Mt Hayward		
Mt Elkington		
Wilpena Area		
Point Bonney	ABW container placed 1992	15/9/2012
Mt Sawtooth (unofficial name)		
Mt Abrupt		
Mt Karawarra		No logbook present 14/9/2012
Pompey Pillar	ABW container	27/7/2013
Mt Aleck	ABW container	Logbook in ABW container 16/7/2011. Reported removed by Arkaba Station early 2014. Not present 9/8/14
North Flinders Ranges		
McKinley Bluff		
Mt McKinley		
Freeling Heights	Logbook present, container unknown	17/4/2012
Cleft Peak		
Mt Tilley	Small notepad in deteriorating lunchbox dating from 1984	19/8/2014

The above list is not exhaustive by any means, but it is a start.

I reiterate a request to members to come forward with more information on this topic which is very much part of the life and soul of ABW.

I can be contacted as follows

08 8377 5661 H
 08 8377 5120 F
 041 980 6128 M

12A Oraston Avenue Brighton SA 5048

Email jbartlett1@bigpond.com



Simon Cameron shows the ABW logbook on Patawarta Hill with the ABW metal container beside him

Adelaide Bushwalkers President's Report 2014

By Sally-Anne Thomas

I'm a relative new member of ABW having joined in 2007 because I wanted to extend my walking experience, meet new people and I wanted to do it safely and with like-minded individuals.

It was the best \$40.00 I ever spent! I just wish I'd discovered ABW 15 years earlier.

I don't think there is a member here that doesn't recall with fond feelings their early years in the club, the places they have been, the experiences they've shared and the friends they have made. And all this derived around the ethos of the overnight back-packing experience.

ABW has continued in this vein since its inception in 1946. Much has continued on as it has in the past and we have much to be proud of. People come, some get married, others leave, many remain and the one constant is that, like many other bushwalking clubs, we all get older.

You know, for me that's not a bad thing. I get to walk with my peers, people that have similar interests and often times, similar experiences and similar view points.

Why is this relevant? Because we needed to stem the tide. The challenge we face with clubs like ABW is trying to elicit interest and involvement from younger participants while keeping it relevant to our existing members and retaining our ethos. So in a year of change, aptly steered by the Committee, the club has taken a big step and shoved ABW and its members into the 21st century by implementing an online activity registration system, interfaced with a new website. That is undoubtedly the major achievement for the year. It's not been delivered without a little pain, but it was worth it and we have plenty of time to round it out and get it right.

And for all this, I want us to acknowledge the efforts of Mark Proctor and Jeremy Carter. Mark scoped the original design, reviewed its progress, commented and worked tirelessly to get it right. Jeremy Carter, who was engaged to deliver the work, bought his professional skills, his bushwalking experience and his enthusiasm, design work and consultation and kept at it until it was nigh on perfect. To those other members who provided comment and feedback and tested the software, a big thank you for your constructive feedback.

So with that significant achievement, I see the 2013/14 as a year of adaption and change. There has been some concerns about the direction the club has taken and I hope we have adressed these and been able to deal with them openly and honestly while acknowledging that we need to keep working on being inclusive for those who are not very tech savvy. It has also been great to see how far we have moved on the scale of acceptance hearing unsolicited feedback recently from older members who have adopted the new regime with praise and fervour.

Only time and our ongoing efforts as a club will determine how successful we will be in broadening our appeal, increasing participation, and attracting new members to the club.

We have made a good start already. Our membership is up 18% from the prior year with an increase from 161 members to 196 members, comprising 131 Full Members, 50 Prospective Members and 15 Life Members. The increase in the prior year was 12%. We have to build on that.

Our new member intake continues to increase year on year indicating that we are reaching the broader walking community though Facebook, the website and general promotions.

Our conversion from prospective to full members has also increased from 10 in 2012/13 to 16 in 2013/14.

Congratulations to:

Alan Barnes	Alex Donald
Emily Wilson	Julie Sandford
Kate Quinn	Marnie Joyce
Susan Pearl	Patricia Van den Berg
David O'Connor	Phillip Van den Berg
Vic Rowe	Stefano De Pasquale
Karen Madera	Ben Campbell
Bruce Marquis	Nino Fioretti

But none of this could be achieved without hard work. We have to have something on offer to leverage the interest of new members and the real achievers here are our Activity Leaders. You are the backbone of this club. Without you we have nothing and I wish to thank each and every one of you for your efforts. For planning, coordinating and facilitating the training walks, walks in SA and interstate, walks overseas, bike rides and kayak trips. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Please do not stop!

And then there are those of you that work quietly behind the scenes and offer up your services in other ways.

- Dave and Helen Evans, and oft times, John Bartlett, who make sure we have a cup of tea to chat over at meetings.
- Trevor May who maintains the Activity Inventory
- Harry Hakkennes who dedicated lots of hours to maintaining our website for years until quite recently
- Ray Hickman for his work digitising the old walk reports to ensure we hang on to our history and our club knowledge
- Jeremy Carter for managing our Facebook site, and now our website.
- Richard Bowey for conducting the annual audit of our finances

2013 Photo competition - Open Category - by Lee Marling



2013 Photo competition - People Category - by Sean Bryant



2013 Photo competition - People Category - by Brendan Gore

I thank each of you earnestly for the significant contribution you make. Without you, there would be a very big hole!

To the retiring Committee, I don't know about you but it feels like it's been a long year! We've had several absences over the course of the year due to work commitments but the wheels have kept turning and there's been a lot done.

Mark Proctor (Vice President) who has been a rock. Boy am I glad you retired! Mark has held the fort when I've been away and worked tirelessly throughout the year to keep things on track. Thank you Mark.

Trevor Jones (Secretary) who is a sensational secretary. He is so efficient that we often get delivered the minutes to review within an hour our meetings! And you're so polite when you have to follow me up!

Andrew Cope (Walks Secretary) who has continued throughout to press our Leaders to get Activities on the program and done so very successfully. Great job Andrew.

Kate Corner (Membership Secretary). What a great ambassador you are! I'm sure your enthusiasm alone has persuaded many a potential member to join the club. Thanks Kate.

Gabrielle McMahon (Social Secretary) who continued in the role despite initially having other plans. Thank you Gab. I did not dare ask!

Sean Bryant (Gear Hire) who has taken on the role with quiet confidence and done a great job. He's even bought us some new gear!

Dave Evans (Library) who offered to fill the position part way through the year and has been whipping it into shape ever since.

Dani Bezuch (Tandanya) who despite some personal challenges and set-backs has kept at Tandanya. Thanks Dan. I think the pain is behind us!

John Norris (Conservation) who lends an opinion that is always well considered and wise. Thanks John.

What a great team! Thank you all for your hard work and commitment.

So where to from here? We have built a good foundation, great reach with our technology and I believe ABW has an exciting future ahead.

ABW continues to be well regarded in the bushwalking community, we remain true to our ethos and I believe we have become more accessible and more relevant to the bushwalking fraternity which will stand it in good stead into the future.

I for one am very proud of our club and what we have collectively achieved from its inception in 1946 to its presence now in the technology age. We are proving to be adaptable and sustainable. Which is good because dinosaurs die!

Thank you all for your support during the past year. I wish you and the club all the best for the year ahead and beyond.

Sally-Anne Thomas
President, Adelaide Bushwalkers, 7 May 2014



2013 Photo competition - Open Category - by Tracy Bryant

Ral Ral Backwaters

By David Wattchow

Prior to Easter 2014 and impromptu group of canoeists explored the backwaters of the Ral Ral Creek system in the Riverland. The group consisted of David and Margaret Wattchow, David and Helen Evans, Trev Moyle and Paul Godfrey. The main river and creeks are quite attractive, but the essence of the area lies in the quieter lagoons and interconnecting creeks.

We left Liba Liba landing at lunchtime and paddled North along Ral Ral creek, soon leaving the houseboats behind. The creek is wide, and twists and turns, till the Wide Waters are reached and a fabulous camp spot with a northern aspect. Great views (especially of the sunrise), flat ground, heaps of firewood. No need for torches the full moon was so bright.

Travelling south along the eastern shore of the lake we encountered a light southerly breeze. The waters are expansive but soon we narrowed down into one of the prettiest creeks in the area, Nelbuck Creek, a small sinuous creek for several kilometres before encountering the main stream. We ignored a tiny creek that Trev and I had "bashed" along previously, finding

an open entrance to the Horseshoe Lagoon further down. Bird life was not as abundant as in times past, though we spotted several large stick nests high in the trees which we surmised belonged to the fabled white bellied sea eagle.

The potential existence of this creature sparked some hilarity about another fabled creature that frequents the area – the bunyip. We reckoned this area of lagoons would be a favourite place for bunyips and they might pounce on unsuspecting canoeists at any turn. Of course the pugnacity of the bunyip might depend upon whether it was the common red bellied variety, or the less common yellowbellied, or the incredibly rare white bellied bunyip. Either way, best they remain as a myth.

Now motoring upstream (the broad expanse of the main river is not so interesting, though there is an interesting shortcut through "Log Creek"), we found a good spot to stop at the entrance to Nelbuck Creek. Main river access also meant popular access, and we cleaned up the rubbish in the area. Bright moonlight on the water, and pelicans fishing were highlights.



Pelicans on backwater



Kylie Lagoon sunset



Dave and Helen Evans cruisin' along



Wide waters sunrise – Ral Ral Creek



Early start, Wide Waters – Ral Ral Creek



Leg stretcher

Next morning Dave and Helen headed up Hunchee Creek for a relaxing day, and Trev, Paul, Margaret and I found the entrance to the wonderfully named Mosquito Creek. We had barely enough water to float the canoes, and after a kilometre or so ran into dense reed beds that precluded further progress so we wound our way back to the mainstream, then got into the Horseshoe Swamp, just prior to Headings Cliffs (and a noisy bunch of speedboats).

This backwater had more birds – which generally frequent the shallower waters – we guessed fishing was easier. A large emu on the riverbank did not stir, perhaps due to an injured leg. The swamp was fed by a small creek connecting to the main stream, so we slipped through and now had 6 k or so of paddling to get to Amazon Creek, a lovely gum lined serpiginous creek that exits on to Big Hunchee Creek and a lagoon. This section is rather degraded, and wide, perhaps as a result of stock (near the end of Amazon Creek there is a stock bridge). It seemed to take ages to get back to Dave and Helen (which also involved portaging a weir – but logs in the central part made this task quite easy).

They had selected a nice spot, and next morning was quite cool, with resultant mist on the river. Wreathes of this rose once the sun warmed it the next morning.



2013 Photo competition - Landscape Category - by Trevor Jones

Build Up & Wet

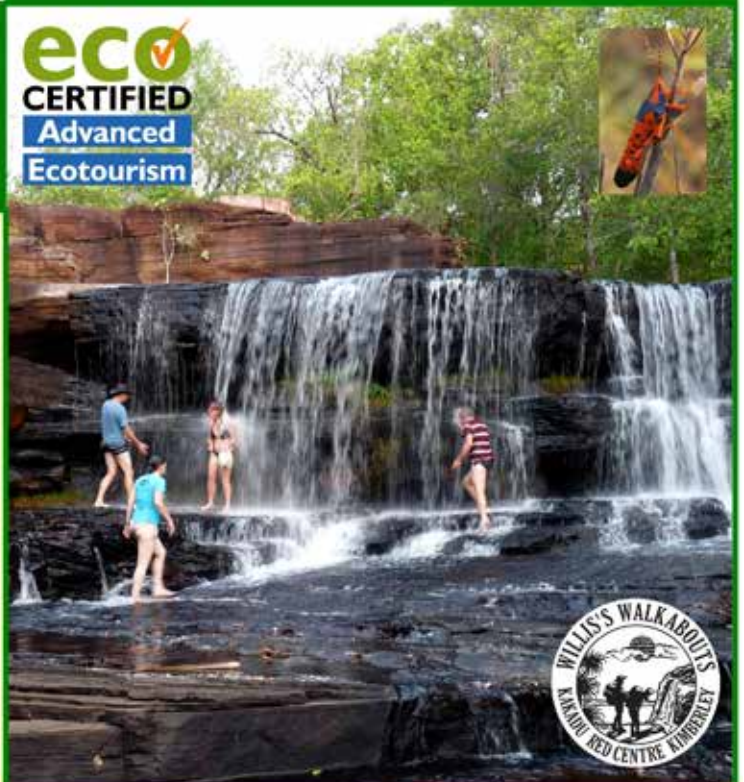
Our most **dramatic** seasons

Our water is warm! Southern Australia has nothing like our tropical seasons. We can't do them justice in this small space. All we can do is suggest that you **check out** our Build Up page, www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/buildup.shtml and our Wet season page, www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/wet.shtml

We want more of you to experience these amazing seasons so **we will give a minimum of a \$500 discount** to anyone who quotes this ad and books one of our trips beginning between October 2014 & March 2015. Please ask us for details.

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Lunch stop : Horshoe Lagoon

From the bowels of their voluminous Canadian Dave and Helen produced a bottle of shiraz. "It's only the 2013!!" did not stop the consumption of this drop, complimenting the dehyd mince. Canadians are just great for stacking gear and food into. We had fresh bread and toast every morning. River water is not very enticing to drink, so we allowed 3L / day/ person of fresh water (this was more than enough).

Now we plunked along the main river, exploring some shallow lagoons on the way to Bulyong Creek. This is another gem of an interconnecting creek. At the junction with Kylie Lagoon Trev and Paul motored off and the rest explored this lagoon, which has a channel winding through reed beds to reach the main stream. Water weeds and lillies infest much of the surface area. We spotted spoonbills and egrets in the trees, along with the endemic pelicans and swamp harriers.

The northern aspect of the lagoon was swampy, but the southern bank offered good camping among the bulokes. Again, dense mist covered the flats backing on to the lagoon. Margaret and I explored a backwater, and Margaret spotted a native water rat that we sneaked up on with the canoe. It was frolicking between the water lilies, then dived deeply under the channel, the only evidence of its passage being a line of bubbles.

We paddled back along the lagoon to Ral Ral Creek, enjoying the last few kms in good weather before loading up and heading home. There are still a few waterways left to explore!!



Exploring Kylie Creek.



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