

ADELAIDE BUSHWALKERS

Tandanya



www.adelaidebushwalkers.org

Volume 45 Number 1 Autumn 2015



Adelaide Bushwalkers

"Takes you places"

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	\$10

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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

Summer 2015 Volume 45 Number 1

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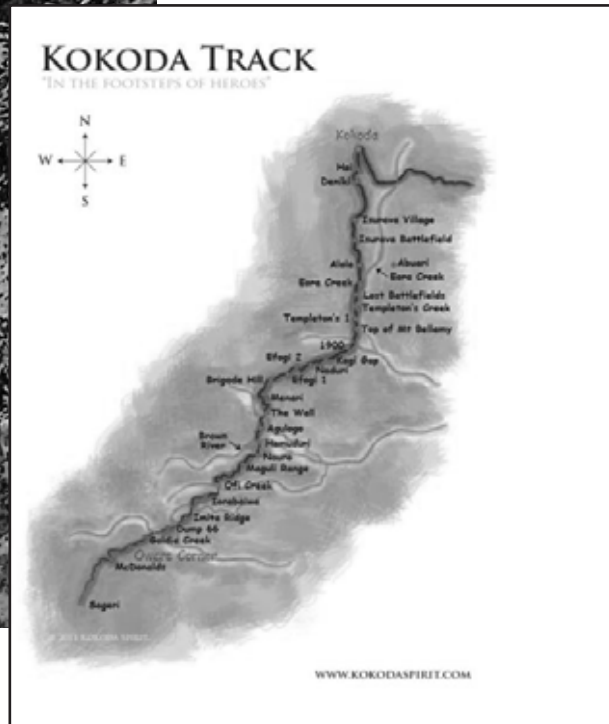
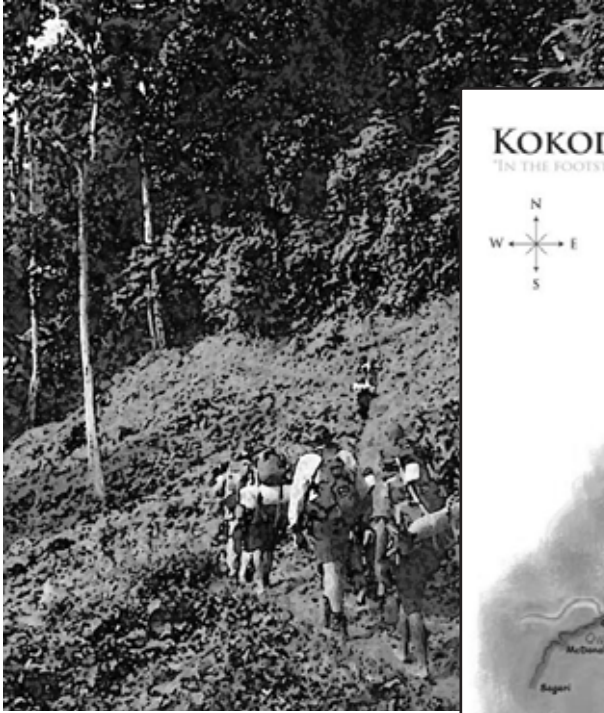
It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.

Nelson Mandela

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Close off date for next issue: Wednesday 20th May 2015

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Walking the Kokoda 2014

By Luke Adams

I won't forget standing in the mist on top of Brigade Hill, listening to fellow walkers read poems about the men who fought there and the loss and grief their families endured for the boys left behind. It was a powerful moment, and I don't think anyone had a dry eye.

Shane, our trek leader employed by Kokoda Spirit, asked us to turn around and face the Papuan porters and staff as they launched into a gospel song followed by the PNG national anthem. They sang loudly and in tune, we responded with Advance Australia Fair in our own self-conscious way. By the time we finished, everyone was covered in a fine wet mist that clung to our hair. I hadn't come for the emotion, I'd signed up for the walking, but this morning made the whole trip very special.

The Kokoda Track had been on my bucket list for many years and seemed an excellent and obtainable adventure.

I left home at 4:30am on a cold and wet Sunday morning and headed to the airport for the flight to Brisbane and then on to Port Moresby. Meeting the trip leader for dinner that evening, he gave me a briefing on what to expect. I met the other 18 participants the next morning and we loaded the bus for the start of the trip. The first stop was the Bomana War Cemetery on the outskirts of Port Moresby. It's sobering to see the headstones of 3000 fallen Australians. Walking among them you realize the futility of it all, the average age seemed to be about 24. I couldn't imagine my adult sons heading off to war.

We re-boarded for the start of the track at Owers Corner, the staging post for troops beginning the Kokoda campaign in 1942. Here we met our PNG staff including my own porter, Dominic. We had a lovely lunch and took lots of group photos. The

walk began by descending to the Goldie River. We were soon introduced to the steep slippery mud that would be our constant companion for the next eight days. Steep hills, long descents, impenetrable jungle and mud, mud and more mud are the hallmarks of this trek.

The routine each day was to wake at 5am, pack the sleeping gear, clothes and tent, and hand the walking packs over to the porters. We'd enjoy a breakfast of cereal, coffee and sometimes pancakes, get organized and hit the track by 6:45. Each of us would wander along at our own pace with our ever-present porter. We'd walk for a few hours, have a short break, then continue on until lunch at about 1pm. This meal was typically a long affair with cooked noodles, baked beans, biscuits and steaming hot tea.

It was then back to the trail for a couple of hours, arriving at camp between 4 and 5pm. The porters would help pitch the tents and we'd organize our bedding for the night. A communal dinner in the shelter huts next to the camping areas would be followed by a good-natured discussion on the highs and lows of the day.

The highlights of the walk, along with the memorial ceremony on Brigade Hill, included finding a rusty old .303 bullet in the mud, viewing the live munitions found on the battlefields, spending time at the fantastic Australian-sponsored memorial at Isurava, and walking into Kokoda as a group to celebrate the end of a successful trek. We had a brief memorial gathering at Kokoda and marked the occasion by downing a couple of cold SP beers.

On the last day of the trip we waited out a particularly long storm then packed up wet tents

and gear and walked down to the Kokoda airfield. Again it was a matter of hurry up and wait, as the flight was delayed due to low cloud. After a couple of hours we heard the familiar sound of a TropicAir nine-seater. Luckily I was on the first flight out. Thirty minutes later we'd reversed our eight-day route and were back in 'civilization', the smoky and hot Port Moresby airport.

Washing off eight days of mud and sweat in the hotel was bliss. A lunch of beef burgers and beers with new friends by the hotel pool certainly hit the spot. Once all three flights had arrived we met up for a celebratory dinner at the Port Moresby Yacht Club.

It was a shock to the system to arrive back in cold and windy Adelaide late the next day!

Summary

I would recommend this challenging walk to anyone interested in one of Australia's most famous battles, one in which Australia's sovereignty was at stake.

Luke Adams works at Paddy Pallin in Adelaide - a long time Tandanya supporter.





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Adelaide Bushwalkers' 2014 Photo Competition

By John Norris

The photograph competition and Christmas social meeting was held on Wednesday evening the 3rd of December.

Fifty-six members attended along with two representatives (Darren and Tim) from the Scout Outdoor Centre who have been great supporters of the club for many years. This was a great attendance also considering a few regular members were away on the Great Victorian Bike Ride at the time.

A group of volunteers began setting up the venue from 5:30 pm and they also stayed back after the festivities to clean and pack up. The clean up was

greatly assisted by many members pitching in, which is a fantastic attribute of this club. A big thank you to all those who pitched in and made the evening the success it was.

The competition is going from strength to strength each year with a record 96 photos submitted and on display for everyone's enjoyment. There was a tremendous range of top quality photos from all over the world including India, China, New Zealand and Turkey. Another big thank you goes out to everyone who took the time and effort to submit their splendid photos. The number of contributions may have been enhanced by our web designer, Jeremy Carter, setting up the Yogile website to facilitate the collection and sorting of the entries.



The **Historic** category was won by "*Mt Magnificent*" submitted by Roger Kempson with a magnificent photograph of a group of Adelaide Bushwalkers atop Mt Magnificent in July 1967.



The **Open** category was won by “*Road Trip*” by Arjunan Vikraman with a panoramic picture of the quintessential Australian country road and landscape.



The **Extreme** category was won by “*Careful*” taken by no other than club president Mark Proctor with a stirring picture of Stephano, Trevor and Andrew crossing Wilkin River at Top Forks Hut near Gillespie Pass NZ, 2014.



The **Landscape** category was won by “*Setting Up Camp*” taken by Nino Fioretti with a great panoramic picture of members setting up camp at the base of Pindari Glacier in the upper Himalayas, India.



The **Fauna & Flora** category was won by “*The Apostle Birds*” by Melanie Jackson, taken at the Wilpena Camping Grounds in the Flinders Ranges.



The **Artistic** category was won by “*Misty*” also entered by Roger Kempson with a delightful picture of trees in the mist in the Snowy River National Park, October 2014.

The esteemed judging adjudicators could not decide whether it was the popularity of the photographer or the “people” subject that got the entry on this page across the line? However, the people have spoken and that is the democratic outcome!

Postscript: Gabrielle, followed closely by newcomer Arjnunan were by far, the most popular photographed identities in the competition. Well done guys!

Each winner received a \$25 gift voucher from the Scout Outdoor Centre who also upped the ante with a 20% discount (excluding GPS, Watches, HRM and specials) on anything the winners purchase with the voucher. Thank you again to the wonderful support provided by the Scout Outdoor Centre.

All of the photos entered into the Photo Competition are available for viewing and download at

www.adelaidebushwalkers.org/blog/2014-photo-competition/

“Peg-Leg Blinman” and family



Did You Know?

The Blinman Copper Mine was discovered by Robert Blinman, a shepherd. He had a wooden leg, which was partially destroyed when he fell asleep too close to a camp fire. The town of Blinman was laid out in 1864. Blinman's Hut was half a mile east of the town.

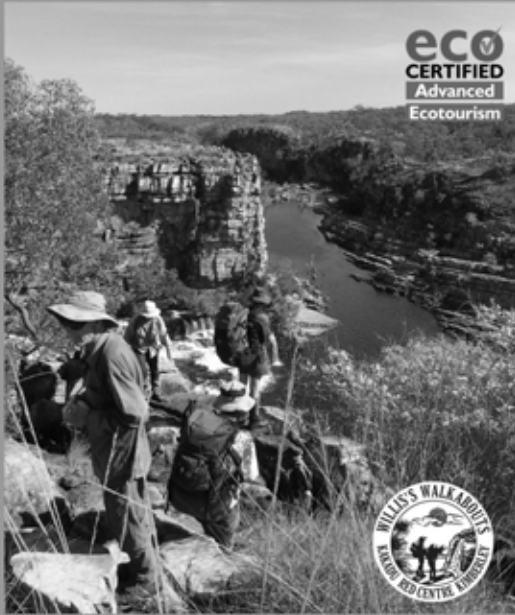
Nomenclature of South Australia, Rodney Cockburn, Adelaide, 1908



The **People** category was won by “*Gabrielle Takes a Bath*” taken by Mark Proctor. Photograph taken at the ruins of Mt Fitton Station.

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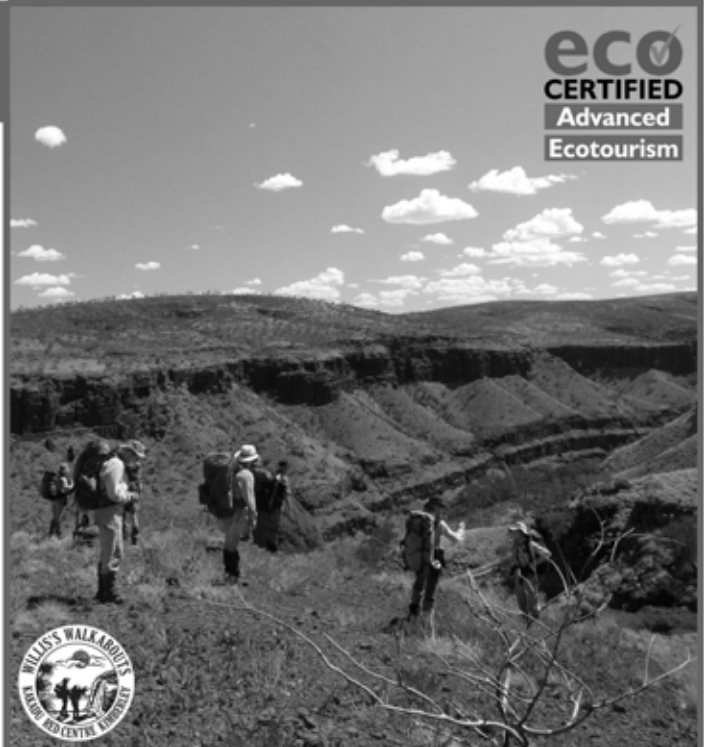
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70 Years of Bushwalking

By John Bartlett

Before moving to Hobart in September 1945, at the age of 11, I was in the Boy Scouts, in 1st Torrens Park Troop.

My eldest brother Gordon, 13 years my senior, had been in the Scouts and Rovers (1st Unley Park) and with the outbreak of World War II, he had joined the RAAF. Tragically, Gordon was killed when his plane was shot down over the North Sea on 21 September 1941 when he was 21.

In his time in the Scouts he developed a keen interest in hiking, and I have a pre-war topographical map of Adelaide and the Mt Lofty Ranges, which shows the routes of Gordon's Scout hikes.

I inherited several of Gordon's interests, and as is apparent to those who know me, I too developed a love of walking in the bush which I enjoy greatly to this day.

It was while I was in the Scouts here, in July 1945, that I went on my first pack-carrying overnight weekend walk from Aldgate Railway Station to Mylor and return.

I can still remember saying to my mates while waiting for the train home "The war will be over soon, and we'll be able to buy Hoadleys Violet Crumble bars again".

My parents and I moved to Hobart in September 1945, and when we had settled down, I joined 1st Hobart YMCA Scout Troop. Tasmania is a superb place for walking, and it was not long before I was out and about regularly with the scouts - firstly day



walks in the Mt Wellington area, and then further afield on overnight walks.

A hike to the summit of Mt Wellington from the Cascade Brewery when I was 13 was the start of my long standing compulsion for peak bagging.

The next extended walks were Cloudy Bay on Bruny Island, Hartz Mountains and Lake Echo.

Finally, not long before moving back to Adelaide with my mother in March 1952 when I was 17 (my father had died in July 1950 when I was 16), two friends and I walked the full length of the Overland Track - Cradle Mountain to Lake St Clair. This was the crowning glory of those walking years in Tasmania.

Living again in Adelaide, there were years of studying architecture, marrying, raising two children, building both a house and a career, so the satisfaction of regular bushwalking (as hiking became known as) lay dormant.

While living at Bedford Park for many years, I had the pleasure of many, many walks in the Sturt Gorge and Flinders University areas, giving me

time to keep fit and to contemplate both where the next long walk would be, and life's problems in general.

Family holidays in the Flinders Ranges and the Grampians gave me many opportunities for developing a love for those wonderful places in South Australia and Victoria we are fortunate to possess, and during many of those trips, I was able to push on with my passion for bagging peaks.

I was fortunate enough to do long treks in the Himalayas, in both Nepal and Kashmir, and in the Pyrenees, as well as a day walk to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back.

After frustrating attempts trying to organise extended walks with friends, and after my late beloved wife Mary said to me one day "Why don't you join a bushwalking club?", I decided to join ABW in September 1980.

I will always remember, on a four day walk in the Aroona Valley area in 1981, saying "I hope I am still doing this when I'm 50". Well, here we are 34 years later, but no pack carrying any more. The other thing I used to say in my working years was "Work is what I do between bushwalks!".

It is nearly 35 years since joining ABW, and I get as much pleasure from the Club as I ever did due to my current involvement as Wednesday

Walks Co-ordinator, leading day walks on Club bus trips and Wednesday walks, writing articles for Tandanya and attending meetings including handling the supper which many members enjoy.

I have fond memories of leading many extended trips in Tasmania and Flinders Ranges, cross country ski trips in the Australian Alps, and perhaps one of the most memorable of the lot, a 14 day walk in Kakadu National Park.

It's good to see that a third group in the Club, led



by Lorraine Thomas, is walking the whole of the Heysen trail. I was heavily involved in the first group to walk the Heysen Trail between 1988 and 2005. That seems a long time to walk the trail, but the reason is that we only walked one stage per year. The next group, led by Jeannie Pope and Peter Magnasalis finished in 2014, taking half as many years because they walked two stages per year. Now we have the group led by Lorraine who

is planning to walk the trail in about half as many years again. Great stuff!

I have thought for a long time that the Club should continue to have groups walking the Heysen Trail because it is such a magnificent concept - one of South Australia's gems.



Many of you will recall how in October 2013, ABW took a big part in the Warren Bonython Memorial Walk, which involved having groups walk the whole of the trail in one day. Warren conceived the idea of the Heysen Trail, and of course he was the Club Patron for a long time as well as making a very generous bequest to the Club in his will.

The club operates differently now in this electronic age resulting in easier and more rapid means of communication, and this may be a contributing factor to the fact that we have fewer members at meetings these days. However, there are still lots of walks on the program and that obviously is the lifeblood of the Club.

It is a good thing that the Club has moved with the times, but us "oldies" take a little while to adjust. I think the Club website is excellent.

It has always been the case that if a certain member wants to go on a walk somewhere, then that person must take the initiative and organise the trip. All going well, other members will join the trip.



Did You Know?

Mount Brown was named by Matthew Flinders on March 9 1802, after the naturalist Robert Brown, who accompanied him on the voyage of the Investigator...The murder of Mr. James Brown at the mount in the early fifties ... accounts for the incorrect idea entertained by some people that the mount was named after James Brown.

The name of another great naturalist is perpetuated in Cape Buffon (south of Beachport) bestowed by Baudin in 1802; while Cape Bauer (near Streaky Bay) was written on the map on February 5 of the same year by Flinders in honour of Ferdinand Bauer, a painter of natural history, who was also on board the Investigator.

Nomenclature of South Australia by Rodney Cockburn, 1908



Gear Tips

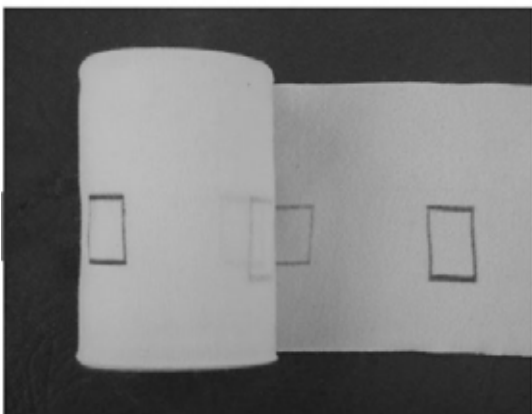
Snakebite Bandage

By Mark Proctor

Many of us have received tuition in first aid and in how to treat a patient for snakebite. The rough idea is to calm the patient, lie them down and immobilise the injured limb, preferably with a splint. Then to inhibit the passage of the snake's venom through the lymphatic system, you apply a pressure bandage along the affected limb.

Easy. But how tight does the bandage have to be? You may have got it right after a few tries in front of the first aid instructor but can you still remember how tight that is?

A Swedish company has taken the guesswork out of the task with the Setopress medium/high



compression bandage. The key feature of this bandage is a series of rectangles printed on the bandage. If you stretch the bandage until the rectangles resemble squares then you have the right tension. And the rectangles also give a guide for achieving the half width of overlap for each turn of the bandage around the limb. Finally the Setopress bandage is 3.5 metres long which is sufficient to wrap a leg from toes to knee or an arm from fingers to armpit.

Remember that the purpose of the pressure bandage is to suppress the lymphatic system from allowing

the snake venom from reaching the vital organs of the body. So you leave it on until medical help arrives to take over the treatment with anti-venom or other suitable treatment.

Gaiters are also a good protection against snakebite.

They form a barrier for the

most common point of the bite, are generally helpful against Australian snake species which have smaller fangs and you may be fortunate enough for the gaiter to provide an air gap between your leg and the point of the bite.

Setopress bandages are available from Australian medical suppliers for \$15-20 each.

If you have any Gear Tip ideas which might be useful for other club members, please send them to info@adelaidebushwalkers.com

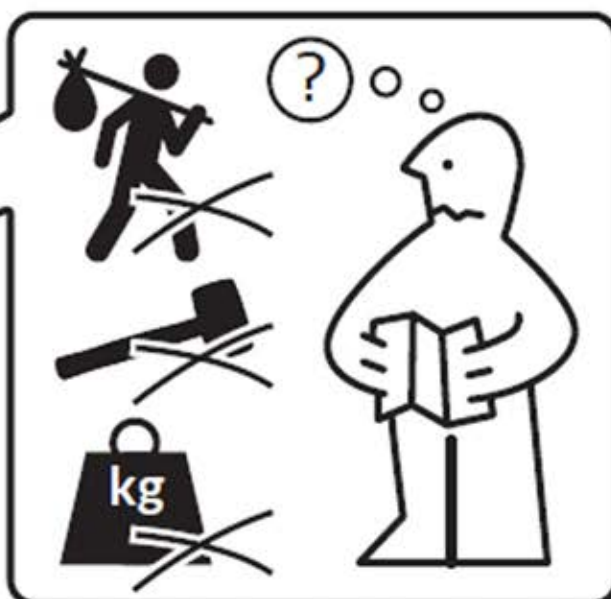
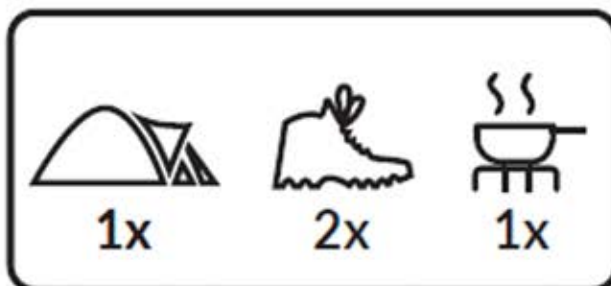
Bandages can be ordered from Atlas McNeil Health Care supplies, www.atlasmcneil.com.au

NEW MEMBERS WEEKEND

Sat 9 May - Sun 10 May 2015

KUITPO FOREST

Offering new members to ABW an introduction to all things bushwalking including tips on gear, food, bush hygiene and safety.



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Leader Gear Checks- should they be compulsory?

By B. Marquis



Should leaders have to check participants in a walk are carrying vital gear such as a first aid kit, torch and rain jacket etc.? If that walker gets into trouble on a walk because they have neglected to bring the right equipment who is liable? Is it their fault or the leaders for not checking? They may impact on the rest of the group for example by getting hypothermia for not having a proper rain jacket or thermals.

I can speak from personal experience in regard to not bringing a rain jacket when I was a member of the Brisbane Bushwalkers on a Mt Barney walk.

I couldn't find my raincoat before leaving. It was bright and sunny in Brisbane. On arriving

at the base of Mt Barney the leader inquired where my rain jacket was as others were getting them out. South of Brisbane on the NSW border weather conditions were much different with rain threatening. The leader was unimpressed with my lack of professionalism as we were walking most of the day on an exposed ridge and hyperthermia was a real risk. I should not have made assumptions about the weather being sunny just because it was sunny in Brisbane in the morning then it will be sunny on the NSW border later in the day. I would like to say in my defence, however, I was living in Queensland during the drought and all I remember is never ending fine weather and blue skies and the main threat only ever seemed to be sunburn or perhaps heat exhaustion, certainly not hyperthermia. As it turned out another walker had a spare emergency rain jacket which provided me with enough protection.

Another example from personal experience was coming to the aid of a walker who had a heavy fall on an ABW trip a couple of years ago. I was the first to get my first aid kit out but I had no suitable bandages. Fortunately better organised members of the trip had full and well maintained first aid kits.

Nobody likes any formal checks of gear because, after all, it is a recreational trip and not an army manoeuvre. But as I am sure many walkers have discovered it is amazing just how much can go wrong even on a day trip and how painful the regret is that some simple preparation guidelines were not followed. It only takes one severe incident occurring for an unprepared party to prove that gear checks are essential.

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Example of Checklist

- Thermal Items
- Fleecy jacket
- Raincoat
- First aid kit
- Hat & sunscreen
- Water (2-3 litres)
- Lunch & snacks
- Spare food
- Torch
- Whistle
- Pencil & paper
- Change of clothes
- Money, ID
- ABW membership card

SEAT@SUMMIT sleeping mats

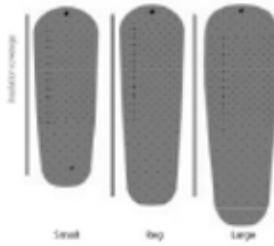


Ultra light
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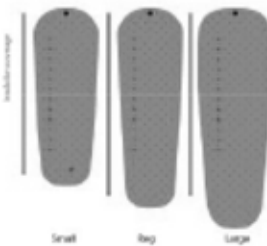
Small Reg Large

Comfort light
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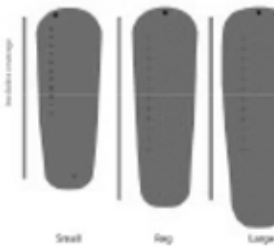
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Exhaustion is clearly apparent after the group of ABW walkers scaled a near vertical, 100 meter climb out of Lake Rengenna canyon on the Central Plateau, Tasmania.

When it comes to surviving in arid areas we are really only 'weekend warriors'

By B. Marquis

We do a lot of walking in arid locations. Our efficiency at using water consumed and adaptations for desert survival for most of us are that of a sedentary urban animal. There are few or no Indigenous Australians in the club, many of whom retain desert living skills and physiological adaptations. Few of us spend much time or have any real need to develop behavioral adaptations to living in the arid zone.

There are vast differences between you (*Homo sapiens sapiens*, a member of the primate genus *Homo*, distinguished from other apes by a large brain and the capacity for speech) and a true desert adapted animal such as the camel (an even-toed ungulate within the genus *Camelus*).

This is an animal so well adapted to conserving water and surviving in the desert, population levels in Australia are around 300,000. Here are some of their adaptations making them so well suited to life in the desert.

Camels do not directly store water in their humps as was once commonly believed. The humps are actually reservoirs of fatty tissue. Concentrating body fat in their humps minimizes the insulating effect fat would have if distributed over the rest of their bodies, helping camels survive in hot climates.

Unlike other mammals, their red blood cells are oval rather than circular in shape. This facilitates the flow of red blood cells during dehydration and makes them better at withstanding high osmotic variation without rupturing when drinking large amounts of water: a 600 Kg camel can drink 200 l of water in three minutes.

Camels are able to withstand changes in body

temperature and water consumption that would kill most other animals. Their temperature ranges from 34 °C at dawn and steadily increases to 40 °C by sunset, before they cool off at night again. Maintaining the brain temperature within certain limits is critical for animals. To assist this, camels have a *rete mirabile*, a complex system of arteries and veins lying very close to each other which utilizes countercurrent blood flow to cool blood flowing to the brain.

Camels rarely sweat, even when ambient temperatures reach 49 °C. Camels can withstand losing 25% of their body weight to sweating, whereas

most other mammals can withstand only about 12-14% dehydration before cardiac failure results from circulatory disturbance.

When a camel exhales, water vapor becomes trapped in its nostrils and is reabsorbed into the body as a means to conserve water. Camels eating green herbage can ingest sufficient moisture in milder conditions to maintain

their bodies' hydrated state without the need for drinking.

The camels' thick coats insulate them from the intense heat radiated from desert sand; a shorn camel must sweat 50% more to avoid overheating.

The camel's long legs help by keeping its body farther from the ground. The kidneys and intestines of a camel are very efficient at reabsorbing water. Camel urine comes out as a thick syrup, and camel feces are so dry, that they do not require drying when the Bedouins use them to fuel fires.

Source Wikipedia



Walk Notes to impress fellow walkers

By B. Marquis

Lake Acraman on Eyre Peninsula is the visible remnant of a cataclysmic event that occurred about 550-600 million years ago that shook the earth literally to its foundations. An asteroid approximately five kilometres in diameter slammed into the ancient Rodina Supercontinent penetrating deep into the earth before vaporising and releasing approximately 1.5×10^7 megatons of energy and an impact-induced seismic shock of about 10 on the Richter scale “and possibly of a magnitude not previously recorded”

The consequences for earth were profound and long lasting. As expected there were resulting tsunamis of massive height, perhaps over 100 metres, and huge quantities of dust and debris were blasted into the atmosphere and probably into space to encircle the earth before falling back.

The size of the area of the earth surface severely affected was approximately 100 km in diameter with a crater of at least 40 km diameter. Geological surveys and drilling

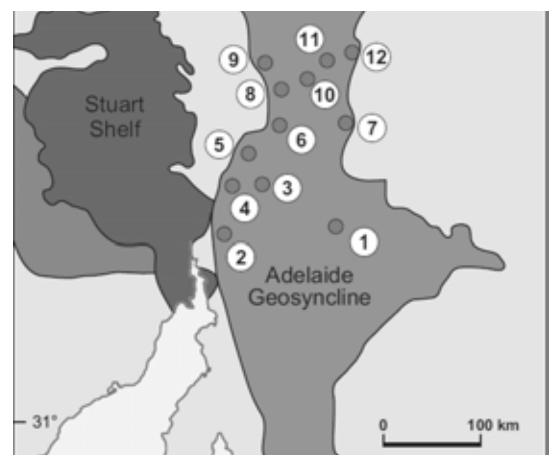


This image is actually of the famous ‘dinosaur killer’ asteroid that hit the earth 65 million years ago about 45 seconds after the impact. This asteroid was twice the size of the Acraman Impact. Artwork Copyright Don Davis. <http://www.donaldedavis.com/>.

programs in South Australia have discovered ejecta still visible as a thin sedimentary layer in a vast area of the outback from the Officer Basin near the Western Australian border to the Flinders Ranges. Objects from space typically enter the atmosphere at $>10,000$ km/hour so a five kilometer wide lump of rock at that speed could be expected to do some damage!

Evidence of the Acraman Impact in the Flinders Ranges

Lake Acraman is on private station property and is inaccessible. However, evidence of the ejecta from this impact can be seen in the Flinders Ranges. One easily accessible location is adjacent to the Bunyeroo scenic drive, at Bunyeroo Gorge in the Flinders Ranges. At the time of this impact, the Flinders Ranges had not been formed and the area was covered by a shallow sea. Mud from the sea now turned to rock holds evidence of this ejecta. This can be seen on the Bunyeroo scenic drive on the geology trails. Signposts on the trail indicate the Acraman ejecta.



Known Acraman Impact ejecta location sites in the Flinders Ranges, Image from:

Dysson, I, 2005, Tsunamis and super-hurricanes after the Acraman asteroid impact, MESA Journal #39

The Night Sky, Autumn 2015

by Dr. Ian Musgrave

Autumn has arrived again and the nights are getting longer. After a good days walk, the sky will now be dark enough to stare up at the autumn skies before hitting the sleeping bags. This year, as well as the usual spectacular night skies there is also a lunar eclipse and some planets to brighten up the autumn night.

The nights of the autumnal full moons are Friday March 6, Saturday April 4 and Monday May 4. While nights on and around the full moon are great for not tripping over things in camp, or night walks, they wash out the magnificent canopy of stars.

However, on Saturday April 4 there will be a total lunar eclipse to enliven the night. From 8:45 pm ACDT the Moon will look to have a chip taken from its side. As the night wears on more and more of the moon will go dark as it is covered by Earth's shadow and more and more stars come out. Finally at 10:30 pm ACDT the Moon will be fully covered. It does not disappear; it shines with a coppery glow, a burnished coin set amongst the stars. After a scant six minutes Earth's shadow slips off the moon and it slowly reappears again.

Three bright planets grace the autumn skies: Venus, Jupiter and Saturn. Bright Venus is easily visible low in the western skies during twilight. It never really gets very high in the sky, so you need a fairly level, clear horizon to see it. On March 23 the crescent moon is close to Venus and on April 21 the crescent moon, Venus and the bright star Aldebaran make a triangle in the north-western sky.

Jupiter is the second brightest object in the sky after Venus (and the Moon and Sun of course).

It is visible above the northern horizon at the start of autumn, easily recognisable by its brightness and its warm yellow colour.

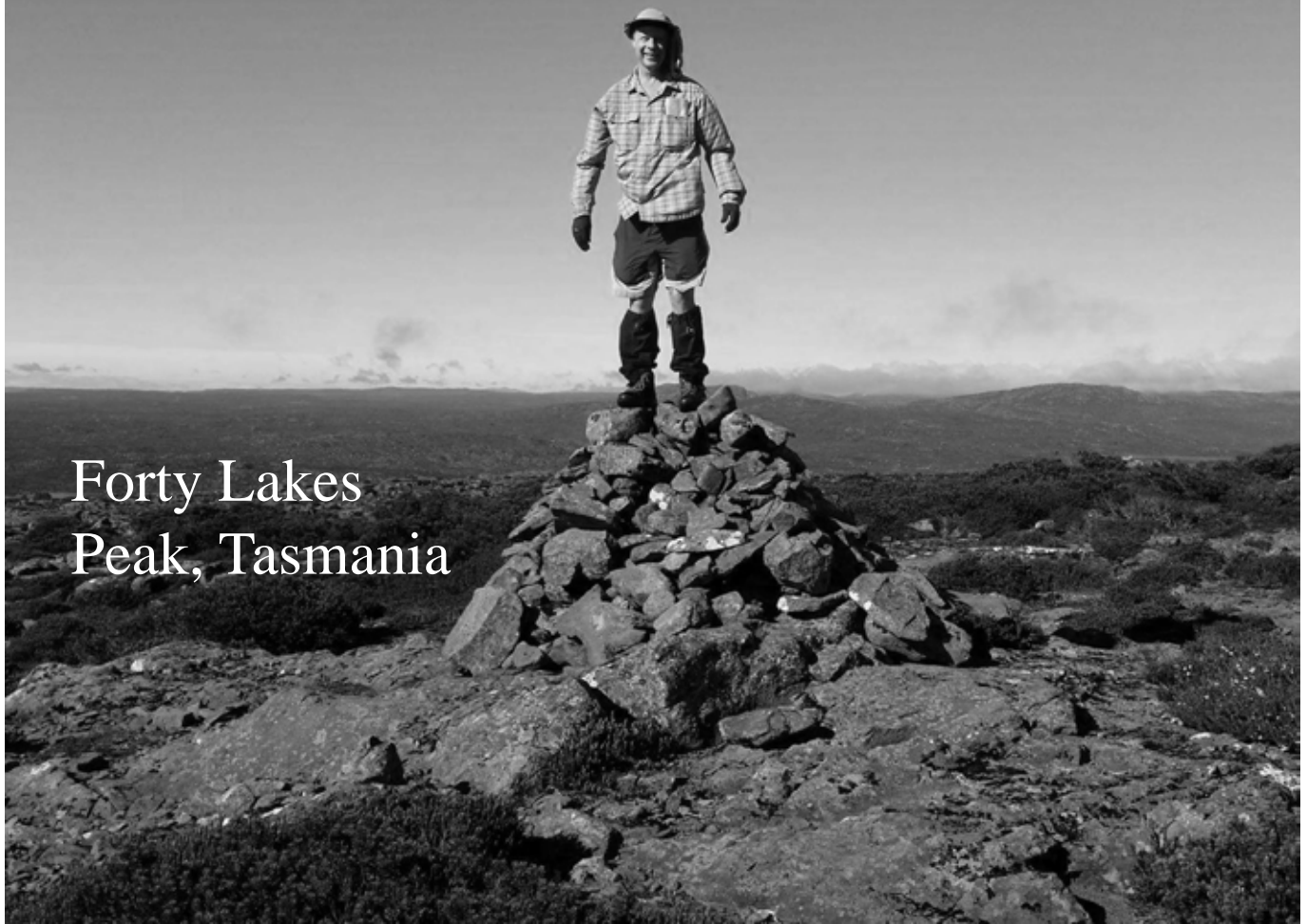
In case you have difficulty deciding, on March 3, March 30, April 26 and May 24 the waning Moon is close to Jupiter. If you have binoculars with you, Jupiter's moons are easily seen in even small binoculars. At the start of autumn Jupiter is close to the Beehive cluster in Cancer, a faint but pretty cluster easily seen under bush skies.

As autumn progresses, Jupiter moves from the northern to north-western skies, and moves away from the Beehive towards the bright white star Regulus. By the end of autumn, Venus and Jupiter can be seen together in the early evening skies.

Outside the city and suburbs, the sheer number of stars can paradoxically make identifying constellations harder. One obvious constellation is Orion. The "saucepan" that marks Orion's belt is easily seen above the north-western horizon once full dark has fallen. Above the "saucepan" is the brightest star in the sky, Sirius in the head of Orion's hunting dog, Canis Major. During autumn Orion gets lower, and vanishes around mid-autumn. At the same time, Orion's nemesis, Scorpius the scorpion, rises in the east. The distinctive curled question mark of Scorpius is very easy to pick out.

The head of Scorpius is defined by three bright stars to the left of a bright red star in the body of the question mark (Antares). However,

Adelaide Bushwalkers will take you places....



Forty Lakes Peak, Tasmania

Hiking in Tasmania last summer, Michael Round took this photo of TJ on top of Forty Lakes Peak (they could see 33 lakes), during their 8-day walk across the Central Plateau from Western Creek to Derwent Bridge.

if you look this autumn, you will see what appears to be four bright stars! The bottom and brightest "star" of the four is in fact the planet Saturn, and it will stay in the head of the Scorpion for all of autumn.

Autumn is a great time to see the constellation of the Emu. This indigenous constellation is made up of dust clouds and the dark right of the Milky Way, and it is really only visible under the dark skies of the bush. It is best seen around mid-autumn when its distinctive shape is high enough to see before midnight.

Looking south, the Southern Cross and the

two Pointers are obvious around midway between the zenith and the horizon. The Coalsack Nebula, a dark area clearly visible under dark skies between the Cross and the Pointers, is the Emu's head. The dust lanes below the pointers form the Emu's neck and the dust lanes around the curl of stars that marks Scorpius's tail is its wings and body. Once seen this "dark constellation" is obvious. There is a lot more to see in the autumn skies, just let your eyes roam!

Dr Ian Musgrave is a bushwalker and blogger who describes and interprets the night skies in SA.