

ADELAIDE BUSH WALKERS

# Tandanya



[www.adelaidebushwalkers.org](http://www.adelaidebushwalkers.org)

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*We are what we repeatedly do; excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.*  
—Aristotle

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Close off date for next issue: 16th May 2018

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Explore,  
Make friends,  
Get fit  
Adelaide  
Bushwalkers



Adelaide Bushwalkers specialise in multi-day wilderness hiking with full packs and camping gear, along with other complementary activities such as day walks, kayaking, cycling and social activities for our members.





# The Australian Alps Walking Trail

Part 2 of three sections. March 2017

18 days (2 rest days)

259Km

9,9012M Ascent

10,065M n 3Descent

Walkers were:

Lorraine Thomas

Colin Kinnaird

Sue Curtis

Greg Chambers



Long way to go. Colin, Sue, Greg



Beautiful trail

## ABW WALK SNAPS



Colin "helping" Greg at Big River crossing!

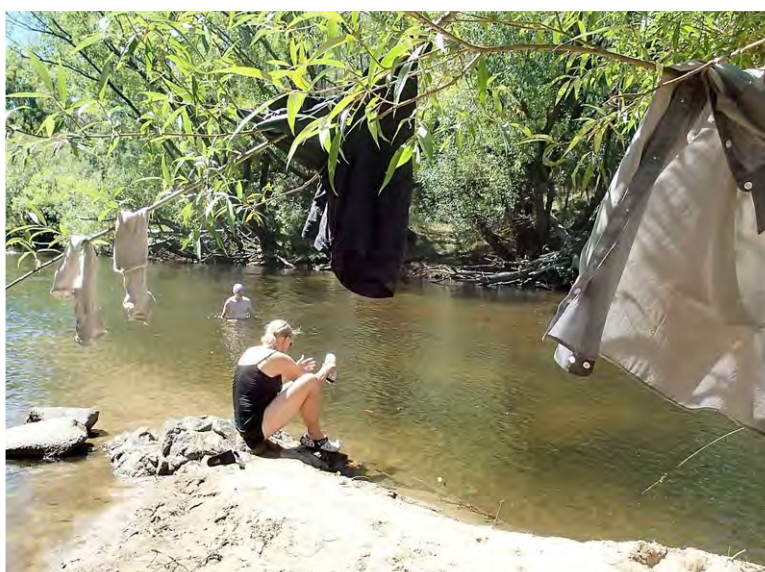




Campsite Cowombat Flat



Which Way? Colin, Greg, Sue -Bogong High Plains



Washing Day Taylors crossing



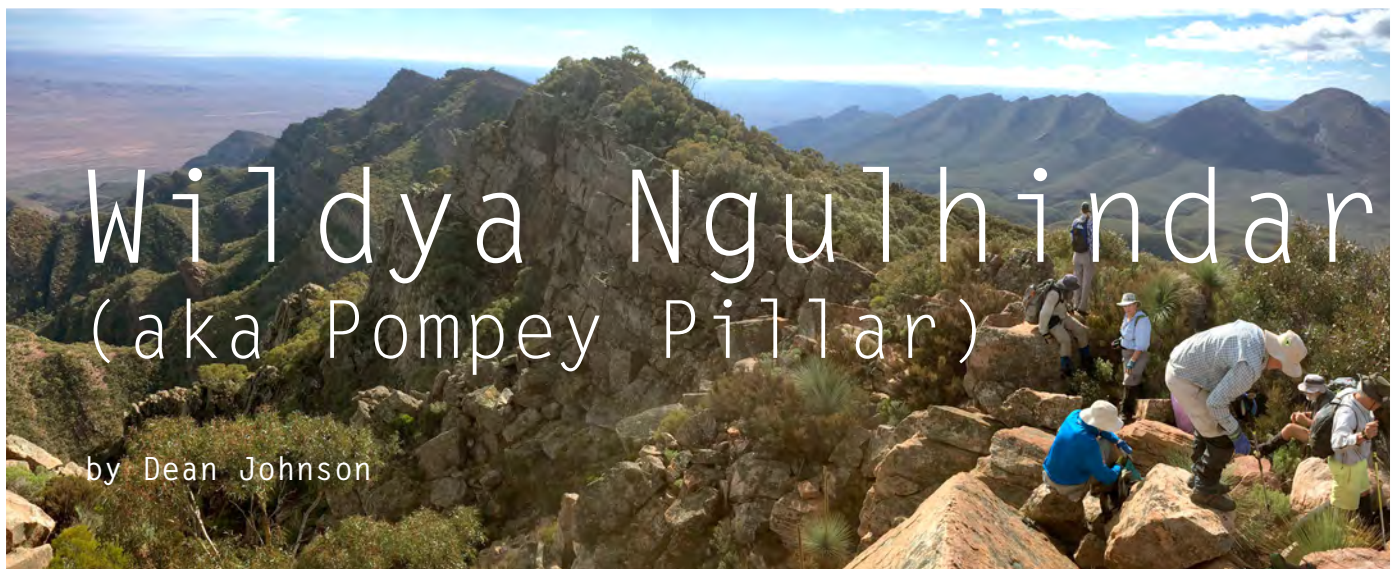




Misty Morning going down Mt Wills



Sue Straddling the Mighty Murray River. Victoria on the left and NSW on right of picture



# Wildya Ngulhindar (aka Pompey Pillar)

by Dean Johnson

At 1160m, Pompey Pillar, with the aboriginal name of Wildya Ngulhindanha ( I wonder what that's worth at Scrabble) , is the second highest peak of Wilpena Pound after St Mary.

On the June long weekend of 2017 John Callinan led a group of ten club members to the peak of Pompey Pillar on what proved to be a hugely enjoyable and challenging adventure.

After the late night/early morning arrival at Wilpena Pound Campground and subsequent lack of sleep it was a welcome relief to be setting off on our walk slightly later than the other groups. Lesley and I took advantage of this with a refreshing shower and a coffee (and a pie for me) at the visitors centre cafeteria. As we sat on the terrace we watched the earlier starters from the club trundle by with what I suspect was a hint of envy when they saw us. I simply raised my mug to them and smiled, or maybe it was a smirk.

After introductions and a briefing from John we began our walk which saw us heading straight through the Pound on the Heysen Trail for 10k until we reached Bridle Gap. As we began our descent down the outer rim, Alex nominated Lesley to be point man (sorry, person).

Well I couldn't allow my limelight to be stolen from me so I immediately stumbled over a rock, agitating an old knee injury which turned out to be a bit of a worry. So during an unscheduled pit stop we strapped my knee up, I took a painkiller and commandeered Lesley's walking pole before marching on through the pain threshold; Mum's little soldier. Lesley resumed her duty in the lead while I, in reality, stumbled along crying inside at my poorly knee.

After 1km we left the Heysen Trail and headed north, just east of the Bunbinyunna Range. From here it was a relatively easy walk 6km until we reached Leslie Creek although along the way we stopped for a 'civilised debate' on the best route to take which involved handbags, maps and compasses. I stood in the background nodding every now and then. It was lucky I was there.

Thanks to my helpful nodding we made it to our campground in decent time close to the multiple armed Leslie Creek and while some stayed to set up camp, collect firewood etc, a group of us embarked on a crucial mission the likes of which had not been attempted since Frodo and his little pals headed off to Mordor. Our objective: to locate John's Magical Well. At this point, Leslie Creek branches

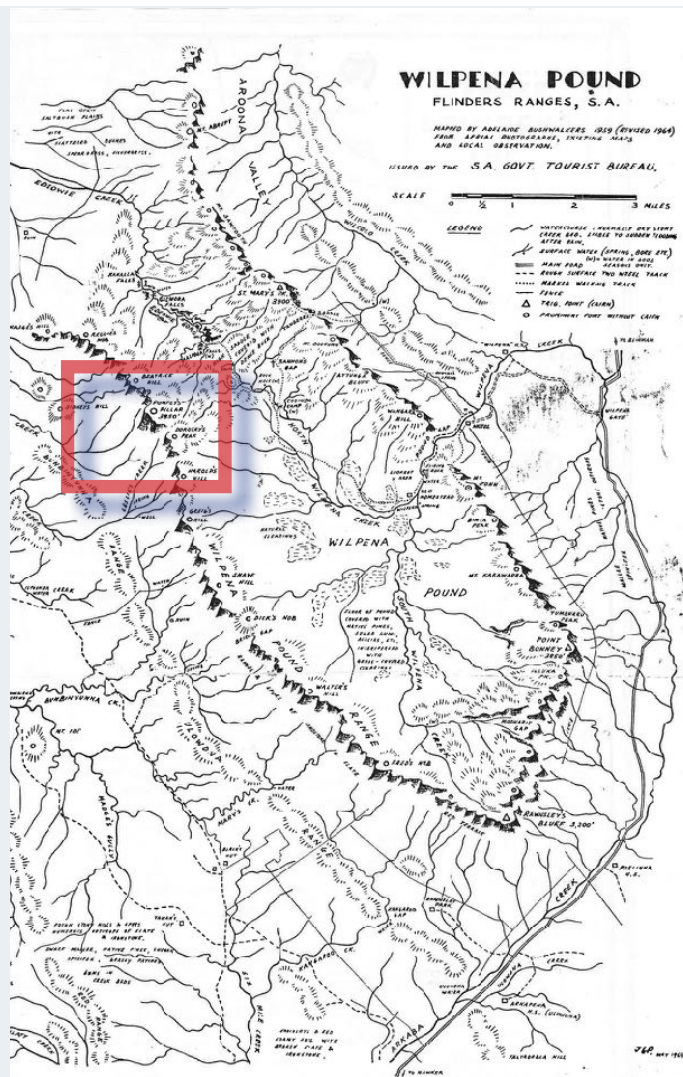


off into five different arms fed from the peaks. John knew there was a well on one of these as he had collected water from there on a previous occasion. I asked him how long ago that was to which he replied 'Oh, about twenty years or so'. I've learnt a lot from John in the last few years about bushwalking and the Flinders Ranges so obviously I trusted his instincts, and he did seem rather confident. Well, sort of.

The well wasn't easy to find but our dogged search party eventually found it on the first creek with sheer determination, instinct and ok, maybe a little luck. It was well hidden under a sheet of corrugated iron covered in years of foliage growth and fallen branches but there it was, as John had remembered. Interestingly, the well is shown on a map hand drawn by ABW members in 1959 from aerial photographs, existing maps and local observations. The well can clearly be seen on the most southernly of the creeks, directly south of Pompey Pillar.

We managed to clear some of the undergrowth and gain access then we removed the galvanised sheeting before peering inside. It hardly tantalised the taste buds but hey, a well is a well. As long as it's got water, otherwise it's just a hole.

This is where the billy cans and rope came into use. We lowered the billy cans into the well with rocks in them so they sank and collected our water. It was a genuine team effort and we were all thankful to have full bottles and water bladders to return to camp with after we had replaced the sheets and covered them over with branches. We didn't see why anybody else should have an easy time finding it.



ABW Wipena map from the '60's



John's magical well

On the way back to camp we found a rare luxury.... A toilet! This was on the outskirts of Middle Camp, a 4wd campground owned by Merna Mora station. Ok, it could do with a lick of paint but then surely it wouldn't look out of place in a 5 star hotel!



After a nice evening round the campfire followed by a good night's sleep we set off in the morning refreshed and looking forward to the day. From the camp we headed north east up Leslie Creek, counting the creeks as we went for reference. Then a hop up to another creek which led us up the gully between Dorothy Peak and Pompey Pillar. We took a moment to plan the easiest route, although easiest doesn't mean easy. The going started to get tough from here through thick scrub as the climb grew steeper and quite a bit of scrambling and climbing was required in parts. This walk had the lot. And that's what made it such fun. I tell work colleagues about these weekends and I swear they think I'm mad.

We made it the top for lunch, ready for a rest. It had been quite a tough morning but very enjoyable and we felt a real sense of achievement as we sat down and soaked in the views. While at the top we found a log book in a tin box between the rocks. I should have made a note of what was written in the log book or taken photo's of it but maybe I was too tired. But we all signed our names in it as proof of our success.

The views from the top were simply spectacular, making the morning's efforts more than worthwhile. Reluctantly, we made our way down. A slightly different route on a more westerly gully made it

slightly easier and we made very good time on our return to camp. The next day involved a straightforward but enjoyable walk south across open country to Rawnsley Park Station for our pick up by the ABW bus. Luckily for me, we had plenty of time on our arrival there for a nice, cold beer. Or maybe I had two.



A leisurely morning stroll



Success!



**Wildya Ngulhindar  
(Pompey Pillar)**

**Location:  
Wilpena Pound  
Central Flinders Ranges**

**Height:  
1160m**

**Geology of Wilpena Pound:**

**'The spectacular skyline of Wilpena Pound, in the central Flinders Ranges, comprises an orange-hued sandstone that is hard and resists weathering and erosion. The same sandstone similarly forms the skyline of the nearby Heysen Range and Elder Range.... The orange sandstone formation is called the Rawnsley Quartzite after Rawnsley Bluff and the rock type of which it is made.'**

<http://www.tesep.org.au/images/casestudy/CaseStudyExample1.pdf>

**Indigenous stories:**

**'According to the tradition of the Adnyamathanha people, the indigenous inhabitants of this part of South Australia, Wilpena Pound was formed when two Dreamtime serpents travelled south and carved the landscape in their wake.'**

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bushtelegraph/indigenous-traditions/4909706>

**ABW Club information**

The club meets at the North Adelaide Community Centre, 176 Tynte Street, North Adelaide on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm (February to November)

**Annual subscription fees**

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

Family membership is no longer available for new members

**Contact details**

Email: [gohiking@adelaidebushwalkers.org](mailto:gohiking@adelaidebushwalkers.org)

Web: [www.adelaidebushwalkers.org](http://www.adelaidebushwalkers.org)

Post: PO Box 434, North Adelaide, SA, 5006

**Banking Details**

Bank: Bank SA BSB: 105900 Account: 950 866 540 Account name: Adelaide Bushwalkers Inc.

**Membership queries**

Contact the Membership Secretary Tracy on 0457 339 383 or via email through [gohiking@adelaidebushwalkers.org](mailto:gohiking@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.







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# Top Tips For Bushwalking

by Tasmanian Expeditions

July 26, 2017

<http://blog.tasmanianexpeditions.com.au/top-tips-for-bushwalking-etiquette/>

The following article is written by a commercial guiding company to remind their patrons about walking etiquette. The same advice is also relevant for ABW walks so I leave it to the readers to make appropriate interpretations of the context of the advice given e.g. tour guide in this article means walk leader is our context.

It's no secret that bushwalking is a relaxing way to connect with nature, offering an excellent opportunity to unwind. And when you are so far removed from the rush and fast paced nature of city living, it's one of the most relaxing and meditative physical activities you can partake in. While you are enjoying the serenity of the bush, it's worth recognising that there is generally agreed-upon etiquette amongst bushwalkers that help ensure all trekkers on the track enjoy their experiences.

## What is bushwalking etiquette?

**Bushwalking etiquette** is being considerate of others and ensures that everyone enjoys their trip. It involves doing the right thing and respecting other people. A group that respects each other are in a better position to handle emergencies and unexpected obstacles. You need to know how to interact with other hikers, and how to respect and treat the environment, while being considerate of the impact you are having on the ambience of the trail.

## Pre-Walk Bushwalking Etiquette

**Don't be late – try to be 10 minutes early**

The oldest rule in the book of bushwalking etiquette, especially on a guided tour, is to get to the meeting point on time (preferably 10 minutes early) to avoid keeping others waiting for you. This is courteous regardless of whether you are attending a pre-departure meeting the day before the trip commences, are waiting





# Etiquette

to be picked up from your hotel on the day the trip departs, or are mid-trip and waiting to depart for the morning's hike.

Being ready to go at least 10 minutes before your scheduled departure gives you time to double check your gear, and ensures that no time is wasted during, meaning you are more likely to be able to finish the day's itinerary and any potential side trips. If you find yourself running late, whether it be because you are feeling ill, have misplaced an item or simply find it hard to get organised, it is important to inform one of the guides, who will happily help you!

## **Trek in small groups of up to 16 people**

We think small is good; it limits the environmental impact and allows you to forge life-long friendships with like-minded travellers. Groups larger than 16 persons can crowd the track, be slower and have excessive or frequent stops which can delay the progress of the group. Ensure when joining a guided tour you choose an operator that specialises in small group travel (like us!), or if you are planning a self guided group, be conscious that trekking in smaller number generally has a lesser environmental impact than larger groups.

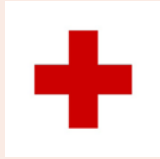
## **Pack your gear and ensure you have adequate clothing so that you do not need to borrow from others.**

It is important for every hiker to carry enough gear of their own. Everyone needs to have enough water and changing clothes to avoid the need to borrow from others. If a traveller in the group has insufficient gear, it may cause problems borrowing from other group members, and is a safety issue for all those involved. For this reason, we provide detailed packing lists for each trip, and our guides conduct extensive gear checks the day before each trip departure which assesses your equipment and gear, quality and quantity in preparation for the trek. If you do not have adequate gear, please inform

your Adventure Travel Consultant as you may be able to hire additional clothing such as waterproof jackets and pants for your trip.

### **Get a medical check to ensure you are physically able to complete the trek**

Different levels of our more require



treks require varied fitness. For some of the more challenging treks, we require travellers to have a comprehensive medical check-up before the trip to give you the go ahead to join on the trip. Ensure that you communicate any medical issues with our Adventure Travel Consultants and guides so that they can be aware of the medical action to take in emergency situations. While on the trip, ensure you inform your guides of any problems that arise while on trip- no matter how insignificant they may seem. Our guides have extensive wilderness training and for the safety of yourself, your fellow trekkers and our guides, it's important that you communicate any issues that may affect your performance on the trip.

## **Hiking trail Etiquette- On Track**

### **Work As A team**

As the old saying goes, there's no 'I' in team. Remember that the success of your trip often comes from sticking together with your group; not straying off track, speeding ahead or remaining far behind without telling anyone. Keep your trekking buddies informed if you want to stop and take photos. One of our guides will always walk towards the back of the group to ensure everyone is accounted for, and will happily keep you company if you want to walk a little slower than the rest. If you prefer to walk with the rest of the group, try to ensure that you leave enough space for the person in front of you. In case you're walking on a path

that has overgrown vegetation, leave at least a metre of space in front and behind you so that vegetation from the person in front of you doesn't hit you, and that tree branches don't flick back and hit the person behind you.

It's always courteous to point out obstacles like loose rocks or slippery tracks to the others – and a helping hand for those less nimble than yourself over these obstacles is encouraged. Teamwork is all about ensuring everyone is safe and happy. Help anyone who may need assistance, even if it's just keeping them company with a small rest break. While our guides work hard to ensure everyone feels welcomed, trekking is a fantastic opportunity to make life-long friends, so if there are people in your group that you are unfamiliar with, make an effort to get to know them! After all, your common interests of trekking, spending time in nature, travelling and adventure form a strong ground for the makings of a good friendship!

### **Understand the roles of our guides**

Our guides love their jobs! Spending time in the wilderness, connecting with nature, making new friends and sharing the best parts of Tasmania with people- it's some of the things they love about their roles. When they aren't out on a trek, they're training for upcoming trips, researching the history of the trails, cultures, environment and ecology of the area so that they may share this information with you. While on the trip, their focus is to coordinate a seamless, enjoyable, informative trip for our travellers. It really is a job full of passion, dedication and focus.

That being said, if they ask something of you or the group, such as carrying a portion of the group's food for the trip, it is for the benefit of the group and the logistics of the trek, so we politely ask that you to cooperate with them. By following their guidelines and instructions, you are



working with them to ensure the success of the trip. In case you don't agree with anything politely raise your concern and they will happily discuss rationale for decisions made with you.

### **Treat the environment with respect**

Tasmanian Expeditions operates in some of the world's most pristine and beautiful environments, including the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area. By visiting these areas, we also have a responsibility to treat the environment with respect and leave no trace from our visit. You can help leave no trace by taking everything that you carried into the park, out with you when you finish your trip. This includes biodegradable litter from banana peels or apple cores, as these can take a while to decompose and can be eaten by animals that don't feed on them, giving them adverse effects.

Secondly, unless instructed otherwise, ensure that you stay on track. Using the dedicated track ensures you avoid stepping on fragile plants, eroding the track, loosening the rocks and widening the trail.

### **Going to the toilet**

If your trip has allocated toilets provided by parks and wildlife services, such as those on the Overland Track, use the existing toilets that have been provided. Ensure that you clean your hands with antibacterial gel after your visit. If there are no provided toilets on the track, please alert our guides and they will assist you in finding an appropriate spot away from the track and water sources. As a general rule, the area you use should be about 200metres from any water sources, and be at least 20 centimetres deep. Make some noise as you walk to your location so that you don't run into someone using the same spot!



### **Say hello to other hikers**

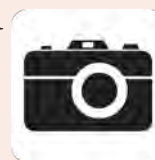
One of the things we love about hiking is the people you meet on the track! There are so many opportunities to meet other trekkers on the trail. A friendly "hello" and a smile goes a long way. After all, you are all experiencing some of the best wilderness Tasmania has to offer – what's there not to smile about? Plus, you never know you may need each other when you get blisters or injuries, and you can share information about that day's experiences and obstacles.

### **Step aside on slopes and give way to people going uphill**

The rule of the track is that it's courteous to give way to uphill traffic. The logic is that going uphill is strenuous compared to going downhill. If you try to change your speed you may lose momentum. Therefore, people going uphill have a right of way.

### **Ask others if you can photograph them before taking photos or sharing online**

Photos are a great way to collect memories of your trip, however try to have good judgment of when and where to take photos. If you're planning on taking a lot of action shots, it's a good idea before the trip begins to ask the group for permission to take their photo. If someone objects to having their photo taken, respect their decision and avoid taking their photo throughout the trip. When you stop to take photos, be conscious that you aren't blocking the path, and let others pass by first if they want to continue on.



If you have received permission to take group photos, it's also common courtesy to ask if they are OK with sharing their photos online and in social media, as photos that have been posted online can be republished anywhere else without your knowledge. It's also a good idea after the trip to ask if your group would

like to share your photo with each other using websites like Drop Box. After all, while you may have been taking photos of stunning sunsets in the afternoon, others might have been taking photos of the wildlife along the trail or near the campsites. Exploring each other's photos will help you relive your experience and discover more about the destination long after you have finished your trip.

### **Noise and technology – avoid playing loud music, taking phone calls, etc.**

Trekking is a still and quiet experience away from the city noises in our everyday lives. When you are deep in thought with the sounds of the bush, birds and the breeze, nothing snaps you back to reality than the high pitched shrill of a phone ringing, music blaring or loud conversations.

**Calls:** Try to limit calls to emergencies, and if you must make calls on the trail, keep your conversations short and low so as to not disturb others.

**Loud Conversations:** While we are all for getting to know others on the trail, other bushwalkers outside of your group may not take to hearing your conversation if they are trying to enjoy the sounds of the bush. Keep your voices soft; you'd be surprised how easily sound carries in the wild.

**Loud Music:** We understand that the sounds of birds singing doesn't float everyone's boat. If you want to listen to music, use your headphones, and definitely don't use speakers where sound can travel easily and ruin the ambience of the wilderness.

## **Bushwalking etiquette at Camp**

### **Try to avoid pitching your tent directly next to other tents**

Hiking trail etiquette ensures that you're considerate of other people's

needs, and it's important to be mindful of other people and respect their needs and privacy. This doesn't mean that you isolate yourself from other people. Some people love an extremely quiet environment while others don't mind any forms of noise. Set your tent a few metres away from other people on the trek to give them some privacy. If areas have limited space and you must camp nearby, avoid loud conversations to not disrupt others in their sleep.

Additionally, keep your personal gear inside your tent and avoid leaving your belongings lying around in shared areas. Wildlife along trails like the Overland Track are known to rummage through bags looking for snacks, and can even chew through plastics to get at the food. Additionally, gear lying outside can be a hazard at night when there is low lighting. For the safety of your gear and others, please keep your belongings inside your tent or cabin when possible.

### **Clean your campsite before you depart**

One of the best things about arriving at a campsite is spending the evening in pristine nature. Give other trekkers the same experience by ensuring you clean your camping area thoroughly before you leave, looking out for rubbish, ropes or gear that you might have strewn about. If you spot rubbish along the trail, take it out with you- even if it isn't your rubbish. Ensure that you leave the campsite better than you found it.



# A few Thoughts on Light Weight Backpacking

by Marcus Pereira  
(Scout Outdoor Centre)

Sea to Summit ultralight insulated air mat

Light weight backpacking has become a form of obsession in the world of bush walking, and for good reason. As the weight on our backs goes down we can move faster and further, spend more time exploring and less time resting. As we age the reduced weight gives new life to our backs and knees, in turn filling us with the type of trail lust and vigour we had in our youth... ok maybe that's a stretch but it has to be better on the knees. With all the interest in light weight bushwalking and consequently gear, we thought it would be worth sharing two primary strategies that will help reducing your pack weight as well as a couple considerations for going light.

The first is to invest in a couple of items that have the potential to shave quite a bit off your base weight\*. The 3 items in your pack that tend to have the biggest effect on base weight are: tent, sleeping bag and mat. If we were to use a One Planet Nitrous -1 sleeping bag (550 grams), a Sea to Summit ultralight insulated air mat (480 grams) and the Mont Moondance 1p tent (1.42 kg). Altogether, we are looking at approximately 2.5 kg for shelter and sleep system. Building from this very light base it is easy to see how people keep their base weight under 7 or 8 KGs.

The second way to reduce the weight in your pack is though elimination and before you cut off the end of your toothbrush, it might be worth checking if there is a spare kilo or two that could be shed of your waist. Jokes aside this will look different for each situation and if you have any particular questions don't hesitate to pop into the Scout Outdoor Centre, the staff would be more than willing to help.

As we cut the weights of our packs there are a couple things to bear in mind. The first being, as materials get lighter and thinner there tends to be a sacrifice in durability. Are you chasing a FKT (fastest known time) or do you want a bit of gear to see you through the apocalypse? Be sure to know what you expect out of piece of gear before you make a purchase.

Another important factor is your experience in the bush, particularly the area you will be recreating in. The less you know about a place the more gear you need for unexpected events. Be careful not to sacrifice your safety for a few grams saved in your pack weight.

A final thought I leave you with is to remember why you are taking time to bushwalk. For many of us it's an opportunity to trade in the daily grind and all the stress it holds for a simpler, more grounded existence. Don't get too stressed counting grams and don't make walking more complicated than it has to be, just get outside and have fun.

\*Base weight is the weight of one's pack before packing consumables (food, water, etc).

A base weight of less than 5 KG is considered ultra-light

A base weight of less than 10Kg is considered light

A base weight over 10KG is considered a traditional pack weight



Mont Moondance 1p tent



by Adrian Heard

Like many of you in the Adelaide Bushwalkers, my partner and I love nothing better than walking in the Northern Flinders Ranges. I first visited the ranges by car in 1977 when the Gammon Ranges were still part of Balcanoona Station, and during Easter 1984 I completed my first bushwalk in the Gammon Ranges National Park. By 1990 I had become so inspired by the area that I published a book on walking in the Northern Flinders Ranges. I was hooked, and we have been walking there regularly ever since.

What I do remember is that first walk in April 1984 and the number of people that we saw walking around Cleft Peak and The Terraces. It was a fairly busy place. I did many walks in the Gammon Ranges National Park and Arkaroola Sanctuary in the 1980s and I do remember at least occasionally running into groups of people. While the number of visits per decade I have made to the Northern Flinders Ranges has decreased over time, I still manage (in my sixties!) an extended bushwalk every couple of years or so. My memory, which is tending to fade, tells me that I have seen very few people (almost no-one in fact) in the remote areas of either Arkaroola Sanctuary or the Gammon Ranges National Park in the 2010s.

Is this decline in overnight bushwalking numbers real? You probably have your own opinion on this matter, and it would be interesting to hear from people as to whether there is general agreement on the subject.

While I suspect that the decline in numbers is real there are several factors which may be contributing to my perception. The first is that my early days of bushwalking in the Gammon Ranges were just after the southern (Balcanoona) section of the park had been declared, and there was a lot of interest in the newly expanded (and much more accessible) park. Also at that time the bitumen road from Hawker to Leigh Creek had just been opened, making the journey much easier on the spine. Perhaps that time was the pinnacle of Gammon Ranges bushwalking?

The second is a trend that applies to many bushwalkers, and that is that as you become more familiar with the country you branch out into more and more remote parts of the park. My partner and I have done a number of our recent trips in the Western Gammons, north of Oocaboolina, and this is not an area where you are likely to run into other overnight walkers.

One thing I do know is that National Parks have little or no data on overnight bushwalkers. Also tourist operators, who for obvious reasons want to keep a positive attitude towards changes in tourist numbers, are not helpful people to talk to when discussing this topic. I think that tourist numbers in the Northern Flinders Ranges have declined slightly over the years, but I cannot confirm this. I do remember talking to the owners of Edeowie Station some years ago on a walk into Edeowie Gorge, and they said that the visitation rate to Edeowie Gorge was about one third of what it was in the 1980s. That is a big drop in numbers.

The good news story to all this is that as bushwalkers who love this special part of the world, we look like we are going to be able to keep it all to ourselves. In a world of increasing population it is rare that you can find a bushwalking location where numbers are actually decreasing. To many it is a place of little water and hot, dry conditions. For those of us who know it better, we know it as a place of great diversity and beauty, dotted with some wonderful waterholes. We continue to have the courage to go into this wilderness knowing what a magnificent place it truly is.

*Adrian is a regular hiker in the Flinders Ranges and Tasmania. His interests include botany and ornithology*



# New Facilities At Onkaparinga Gorge National Park

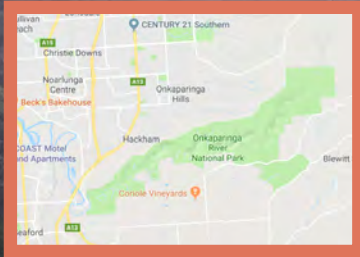


image: Google

At the weekend of 24/25 February ABW had a basecamp at the new campground at Onkaparinga Gorge National Park. The aim of this camp was to showcase the new trails and lookouts recently opened in November, 2017.

Cup Gum Campground is located on the south eastern side of the Onkaparinga National Park, there are several campsites in a beautiful setting each with its own fire pit and logs to sit on around the fire. Other facilities include a flushing toilet and day car park about 200m away.

A new trail starting from the campground or the new carpark leads down to the river and can link up with the Gorge Walk and other trails. There is now the Punchbowl Link Trail connecting the two lookouts and the side trip to The Punchbowl. For ease of access there are two new carparks on the northern side of the park along Piggot Range Road, Sundews Carpark (with toilet) and Punchbowl Carpark.

Along with a network of old and new trails we covered about 30kms over the weekend over one small area of this entire park and I am pleased to say most of this was on carefully crafted and interesting walking trails (apart from the rough scrambling in the Gorge Walk) and there was very little on vehicle track. As this park is so close to Adelaide it is well worth a visit and great for families so get your Avenza App going, it makes it so easy, and go visit.

Lorraine Thomas



**Five bags of rubbish we collected from the river flat downstream from rock climbing area.**





# 1998



## **ABW Wednesday Walkers**

### **20th Anniversary**

On Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018, we will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with two walks in Belair National Park. Note change of lunch arrangements

Walk No. 1 will be from 8.30am to 11.30am, and  
Walk No. 2 will be from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Meeting place is Belair Golf Course carpark off Upper Sturt Road (UBD Grid Ref 143 E16). At the conclusion of the walks, a light picnic lunch will be served by the Wednesday Walkers in the green shelter shed on North side of the Main Oval UBD 143 E15/E16, close to park entrance. This is a short walk from the Belair Golf Course car park. Toilets close.

Note vehicle access to a parking area near this shelter is inside of Belair NP entrance.

Cost of lunch \$10. To assist with catering, let Margaret Young know (phone numbers below) if you are attending. Bring a chair.

Any club member is welcome, particularly from the Committee

For more information, please contact the organisers:

June Boscence 8387 2446

Margaret Young 8358 4262 or 0405 977 650

#### Original Wednesday Walkers

Back row - Ann Ward, John Bartlett, Arthur Ward, Frank Hall, Mal Kirkham, Natalie Stanton, unknown, Judith Cahill, Bob Stanton, Jane Orange.  
Front row - Sharon Moyle, John Duruz, Naomi Wattchow, Margaret Wattchow, June Boscence.





# 2014



The Wednesday Walkers at a lunch at John Bartlett's home following a walk on his 80th birthday. Those in the picture are: Standing: Ian Boscence, Brent Martin, Phil Coles, Denis Harper, Harry Greet, Wendy Foreman, Sally Patterson, Ian (Toni's friend), Sheila Dickinson, Bill Gehling, Liz Woodham, Alan McLean, Cynthia Kirkham, Jan Harrison, Ann Ward, Janet Callen and grandchild, Ian Dickinson, Marilyn Browne, Melanie Jackson, Roger Kempson, Arthur Ward, Frank Hall, Chris Lloyd, John Butler, Rosemary Butler, David Evans, Michael Weaver, Lorraine Billett, Graham Foreman. Sitting: Rita Clayton, Bonnie Marriott, Toni Beattie, John Bartlett and Snowy, Margaret Young, Pauline Curnow, Judith Cahill, Barbara Phillips. Hidden at right: Alan Brokenshire, Helen Evans. Left early - Mal Kirkham. Also present - Paul Bartlett (behind the camera and Stuart Anderson.

There are approximately 40 club members on the list of Wednesday Walkers, of whom three are endorsed Multi-day Walk Leaders, and 27 are endorsed Day Walk Leaders.

Any club member – full or prospective, is very welcome to join in on the Wednesday walks – an excellent way to meet other club members, enjoy a social event, make new friends, enjoy a good morning tea and see more of the interesting places around Adelaide.

There is a high level of support for these activities and no events have been cancelled over the past 2 years. The walks have an average attendance of about 15. I am taking over from David Evans as Wednesday Walks Co-ordinator, and the program for the first half of 2015 is under way, but at this stage, and on behalf of all the WWs, I would like to pay credit to the work David has done in the last two and a half years as our co-ordinator.



# Tasmanian Wilderness Photographers

By John Bartlett

Because of my great fondness for bushwalking in Tasmania, and because of my overall love of the island, I have always relished in the photography of Olegas Truchanas and Peter Dombrovskis. I began walking in Tasmania when I was twelve in 1946 whilst living in Hobart, and after leaving to come back to Adelaide in 1952, I have been back 23 times. I went walking on most of those return trips, and I have had the good fortune to complete most of the popular walks and some remote walks there. Thus I can relate to many of the areas Olegas and Peter photographed. I hope newer members of ABW will benefit from the following information on two legendary figures of wilderness Tasmania.

Olegas Truchanas was born in Lithuania in 1923 and arrived in Tasmania in 1948, and already had an impressive knowledge of photography. He quickly realised that very little was known about the huge wilderness that was South West Tasmania. Ten years later, his name was known to conservationists, bushwalkers, photographers, canoeists and yachtsmen. He had discovered that few Tasmanians knew much about the South -West, and

fewer cared about its future. On many of his trips to the South-West, he travelled alone, giving him the opportunity with his artistic insight to evaluate and appreciate all that surrounded him.

Olegas designed his own kayak for his historic trips to the Franklin and Gordon Rivers, and his name will forever be associated with this wilderness area. As well as the Gordon-Franklin area, he became vitally involved in the very beautiful and isolated Lake Pedder. His walks in to and flights over the lake gave him the opportunity to amass many now famous photos of the lake with its pristine landscape and beach.

Tragically, for the lake and the conservation movement, the Tasmanian Government decided to continue hydro-electric development including the building of the Gordon River dam and two other dams which would result in the flooding of Lake Pedder. In spite of the huge efforts on the part of Olegas, the conservation movement, and a large number of Tasmanian people, the project went ahead, Lake Pedder was flooded in 1972 and the large impounded Lake Pedder that many club members know was created.

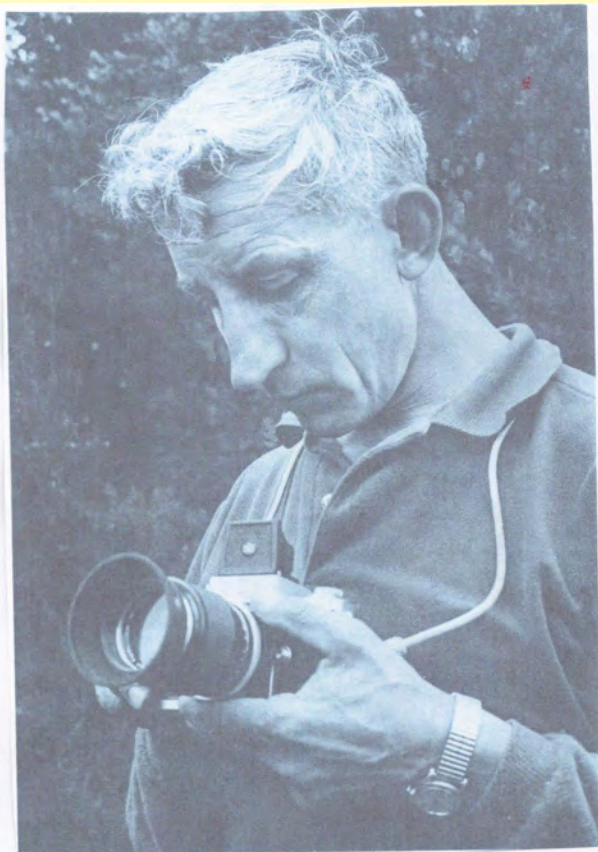


The Lower Gordon River Power Development Scheme would be the next threat to the great beauty of the South-West. This scheme never went ahead. In January 1972, he again set off to his beloved Gordon River, but things went wrong and he drowned in the river. His companion who had driven Olegas to the launching place was able to raise the alarm, and three days later, his body was found by the search party.

In the search party was a young Peter Dombrovskis whom Olegas had taught canoeing and the use of a camera. It was Peter who saw the body of Olegas Truchanas first. Most of Olegas's early photographs were lost when his house was destroyed in a bushfire in 1967. However, over the next five years, he substantially rebuilt his collection of photos of the Lake Pedder area.

Peter Dombrovskis was born in Germany in 1945, and migrated to Australia in 1950. He became the protege of activist and photographer Olegas Truchanas. Peter became well known through his Tasmanian Wilderness Society calenders as well as his 1983 book *Wild Rivers* co-authored with Bob Brown. This book was an example of his skill in photographing the Gordon and Franklin Rivers.

His most famous photograph was *Morning Mist, Rock Island Bend, Franklin River*. This photograph portrayed a section of the Franklin River which was to be flooded by the proposed Franklin Dam. The visual appeal of the Franklin River had a profound effect in the highly contentious 'No Dams' campaign of 1982. The building of the dam was abandoned.



Above: Olegas Truchanas



Right: The flooded Lake Pedder. Taken by Frank Hall on a trip in 2009 from the slopes of Mount Anne. John Bartlett is the person in centre of picture.

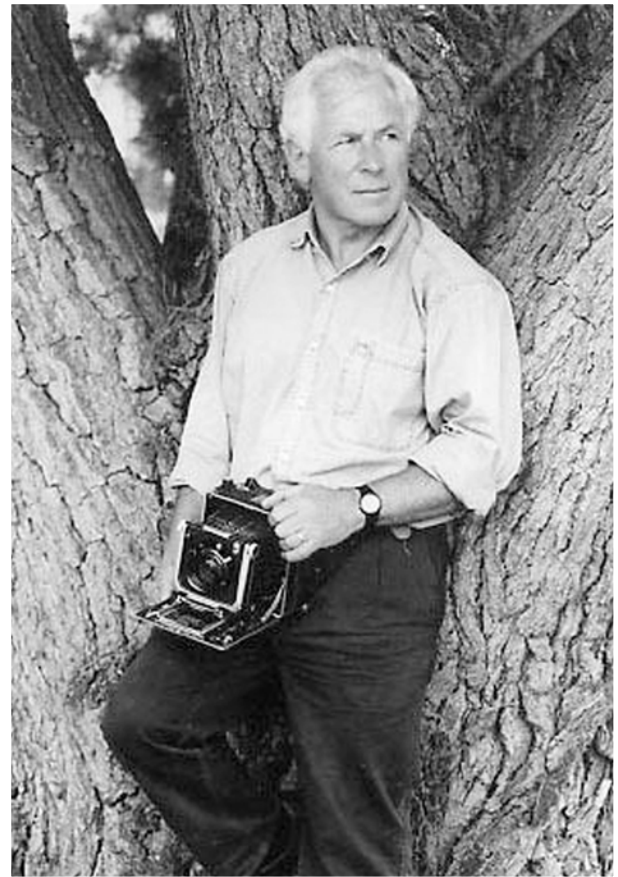
In March 1996, Dombrovskis died of a heart attack while photographing near Mount Hayes in the Western Arthurs range in South-West Tasmania. Perhaps his other famous photograph is of Lake Oberon in the Western Arthurs.

The legacies left by Truchanas and backed up by Dombrovskis are huge. Truchanas had lived to see the failure of the Lake Pedder and Pieman River campaigns, but then turned his attention to the Gordon and Franklin Rivers, and later on, Dombrovskis was involved in the massive campaign in having the Franklin Dam abandoned.

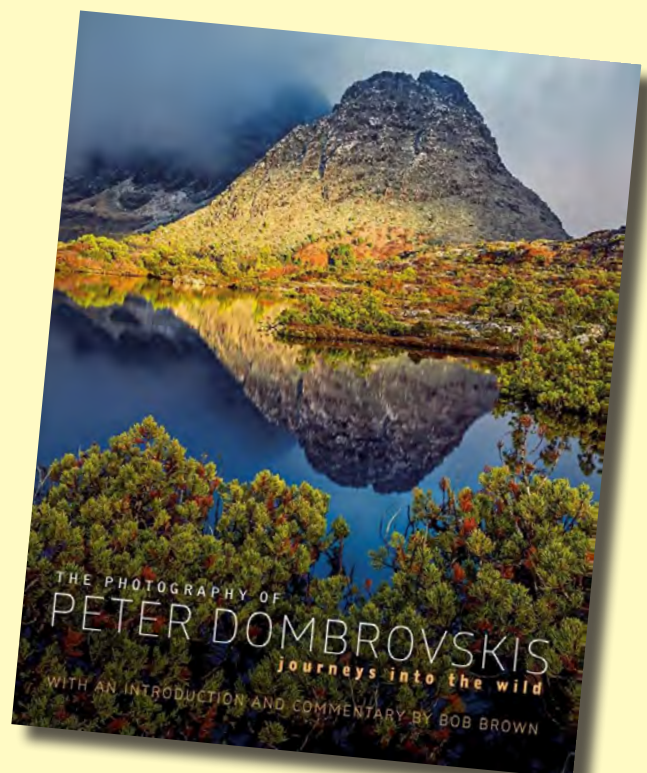
In the 1990's, there was a Federal Government inquiry into the draining of Lake Pedder. The key findings of this enquiry dictated that for several reasons, it was inappropriate to go ahead with the draining. A lesson to be learnt from the Lake Pedder and Gordon/Franklin issues is that, in future, greater weight must be given to the preservation of environmental and scientific diversity when considering exploiting pristine areas.

Footnotes: Olegas Truchanas had three children, and they appear as youngsters in several of his Lake Pedder photos. On a walk in the Central Highlands sometime in the late 1980's or early 1990's, our group from ABW met his daughter Rima, and at the time, she was involved in promoting "Minimum Impact Bushwalking" in Tasmania. I see from her website she is an acupuncturist in Castlemaine, Victoria.

To see many of the images by Truchanas and Dombrovskis, just look on Google.



Peter Dombrovskis  
photo courtesy Liz Dombrovskis



Journeys Into the Wild  
The Photography of Peter Dombrovskis  
By: Bob Brown (Introduction by)  
National Library Of Australia



# LAKE PEDDER

## Tasmanian Wilderness

by Roger Kempson

John Bartlett asked if I could provide some notes on a trip I did to Tasmania in my early years, with a special mention of Lake Pedder, to complement his article about the wilderness photographers Olegas Truchanas and Peter Dombrovskis. Both these remarkable men died well before their time while taking part in the activities they were passionate about.

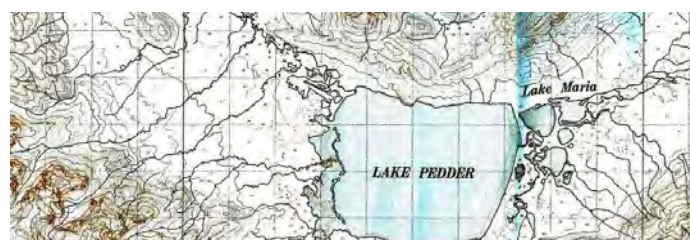
Roger on a rock pinnacle above Lake Pedder

Many of you would have seen Bob Mossel's presentation to the club about a year ago of the expedition he and his brother did with three young women in 1973 in walking across Australia from the top of Spencer Gulf to the Gulf of Carpentaria in 124 days. Bob was a keen member of ABW for some years. He held a pilot's licence for light aircraft and took members on flying trips to remote and spectacular areas. When he announced a 10 day flying trip to Tasmania (Adelaide to Adelaide) my wife Anne-Marie and I and one other jumped at the chance. This trip was in February 1972: we had only been married 7 months after meeting through ABW - she was 21 and remained a full member of ABW until our sons were born. With four of us in a 4-seater Cessna we had to pack extremely lightly and any actual bushwalking would be confined to short walks.

Our significant landing spots were on King Island and Flinders Island in Bass Strait, Cox Bight (tricky, not permitted now),

Melaleuca (did a boat trip with Dennis King while there as he ferried a party of bushwalkers to their starting point), a small island off the NE tip of Tasmania (very bumpy landing and take-off and the strip had been closed for some time, so the only man on the island, the lighthouse keeper, informed us), Lake Pedder and Maria Island.

I had already had a delicious tastes of Tasmania with a walk through Cradle Mountain- Lake St Clair NP in Dec 1966-Jan 1967 with ascents of several peaks and a side trip to the Labyrinth. Then in Dec 1968-Jan 1969 over the high level route to Precipitous Bluff with return along the South Coast Track - this was a 10-day walk led by Peter Beer with his wife Alison, myself and two others.





**Lake Pedder** Prior to being flooded it was the jewel in the crown of the south-western Tasmania wilderness. It was a shallow lake formed during the last ice age, surrounded by spectacular mountain ranges and was the source of the meandering Serpentine River. It was nine square kilometres in area and bounded by white quartzite sand. On the eastern shore there were sand dunes and a wide beach on which small planes could land. Unfortunately its national park status was revoked by the Tasmanian government to allow the Hydro-Electric Commission to flood it to create a large reservoir for a power station. Despite numerous protests over several years from the conservation bodies throughout Australia there was no change of heart and the area was inundated just a few months after our visit. Huge numbers of people either walked in or flew in to the lake in its final days. In these more enlightened times it is difficult to imagine anything similar occurring now. It should be noted that mining and logging operations near Precipitous Bluff were proposed later in the 1970s but this never eventuated.

Our Paddy Pallin A-tent (no sewn-in floor then!)





**Photography** At the time I only had a very basic camera and took slides (usually Kodachrome), as many members did at the time. Shots from the plane were taken on a short exposure, and being taken through the window of the plane they lost a little in clarity. For this article I scanned the slides on my Epson scanner using a frame holder that can process 8 slides at a time. Even under good storage conditions I've found that slides fade somewhat over a period of decades and can have specks of mould growing on them. Except for basic editing using Auto Correct for overall exposure and cropping I didn't attempt any further enhancement of the images.





The beach at Lake Pedder from  
the air Photo: Roger Kempson