

Kevin's Wilderness Journeys

KEVIN'S WALK ON THE WILDSIDE



ISSUE 8: JULY 2004

Welcome to this the eighth issue of 'Kevin's Walk on the Wildside.' With this issue comes news of further journeys within Australia and of continuing improvements to the web site.

Since the last issue of the ezine I have been to quite a number of national parks in both Queensland and New South Wales, including Springbrook and Mt Barney National Parks in Queensland, and Mount Warning, Border Ranges and Mebbin National Parks in New South Wales. Information on these trips and national parks is currently being added to the web site.

I am beginning to review the site in order to improve it. One of the ways I'm doing this is to reduce the file size of some of the photos so that they don't take as long to load and so that I have more room for more content on the site. With large file sizes the amount of space I have available is quickly reduced. The photos must still be good enough for viewers to enjoy.

If you have any feedback on the site please let me know about it. All you have to do is send an email to me at the address below:

KevinHere@emaildownunder.com.

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1. KEVIN'S WILDERNESS BLOG:

I have a blog now on the site - a place for leaving any thoughts or comments concerning preparations for future trips, wilderness news, etc. Just go to the site's front page and click on the link to the blog. It really is as simple as that.

This will be where I begin to leave thoughts about upcoming trips, unless they happen suddenly like the last few that I have taken. What I will add to the Blog in days to come will be the actual journey journal entries that I wrote on my last trip - not they are particularly exciting or revealing. This only covers July 2-8, 2004 - or the period of my last trip. The two trips prior to that I had forgotten to write in my journal (only a new thing for me you see). Hopefully it will become more interesting with future trips.

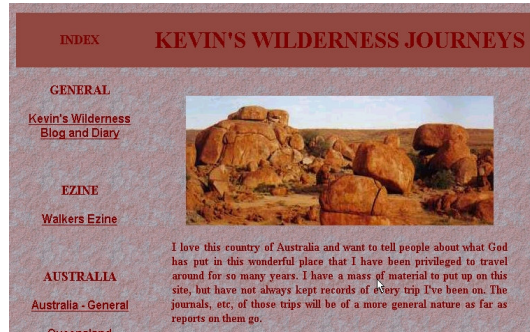
Any of my readers have an online Blog or Journal that records their trips and experiences? If you have, send me an email and let me know. I'll add a link to it on the site, as well as have a look at it myself.

2. KEVIN'S WILDERNESS JOURNEYS: Web Site

More content has been added to the web site meaning that even more information concerning wilderness areas in Australia is available. Planning a holiday to a national park in Australia? A quick trip to the web site may be just the thing - perhaps some helpful info on a place you intend to visit has been posted there? Maybe a photo of one of the attractions is there and will help you to determine whether you will visit or not? It's worth a look for these reasons alone.

Visit the web site at:

<http://wilderness.esmartweb.com/index.html>



3. AUSTRALIA TRIP 2:

In November 2001 I went on a journey across Australia, east to west, and then back again. During the trip I hit a Kangaroo in my car which caused a fair bit of damage to the car. The journal of this trip, along with all the photos, is included in the web site.

On this Australia Trip 2 web page I have links to various photo albums from the trip. Below is the first 3 days of journal entries. For the full journal of the trip, including all the links to the photos from the trip, go to <http://wilderness.esmartweb.com/Australia/oztrip2.html>.

Day One: October 28 - Newcastle to Dubbo (433km)

I left home at 1.30 pm after church. I had a half-hour break at Merriwa at 3.30 pm, arriving in Dubbo just after 6.00 pm. Here I stayed in a small cabin at Dubbo City Caravan Park (\$42.00). I decided to take it easy for the night.

Day Two: October 29 - Dubbo to Broken Hill (750km - Trip Total: 1183km)

I left Dubbo at about 7.45 am. The trip eventually taking about 6 hours, with about an hour of breaks included. There was nothing of particular note during the trip. I did see at least a hundred wild Emus and a number of lizards, including Bearded Dragons.

From around Wilcannia to Broken Hill the land looks extremely dry. This really is pushing into the arid zone I think.

Tonight I have stayed at the Lake View Caravan Park in a small cabin (\$49.00). I have enjoyed being able to rest here since my arrival.

Day three: October 30 - Broken Hill to Wudinna (734km - Trip Total: 1917km)

I left Broken Hill at about 6.30 am and arrived at Wudinna at about 3.30 pm. The trip took longer than yesterday because of longer breaks, etc.

From the NSW border to Yunta, the temperature turned very cold.

I was struck by the arid nature of the geography and flora of the region. Again there were many Emus and Wedgetail Eagles. Some Kangaroos were also seen.

In South Australia the landscape changed to a much more ' faralike' lok, as experienced in coastal NSW. The journey from Port Augusta to Wudinna was a little disappointing. However, the visit to Mt Wudinna and Polda Rock was a significant boost. In this area, Shingleback Lizards abound.

The room I had at Wudinna was disappointing (\$63.00). I think I prefer the cabins to motel rooms.



ABOVE: Big Galah at Kimba



ABOVE: Mt Wudinna



ABOVE: Shingleback Lizard



ABOVE: Mt Wudinna

4. WORLD HERITAGE AREA: CENTRAL EASTERN RAINFOREST RESERVES (AUSTRALIA)

The area in which I do a lot of travelling in New South Wales and Queensland is largely part of the World Heritage Area: Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia). It is one of several World Heritage Areas in Australia. This area is home to many threatened and rare species of fauna and flora.

The Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia) is made up of a number of Australian national parks including the Barrington Tops National Park, Mount Warning National Park and Springbrook National Park. These parks are featured in the 'Kevin's Wilderness Journeys' web site . For more information on this

World Heritage Area visit the following sites:

http://whc.unesco.org/pg.cfm?cid=31&id_site=368
http://www.wcmc.org.uk/protected_areas/data/wh/cerr.html

5. THE OXFAM CHALLENGE BORNEO

The Oxfam Challenge Borneo will take place between June 1-14 and August 12-25, 2004. The challenge involves walking jungle trails, mountain climbing, caves, beaches and boat travel. To be part of the challenge may be a challenge in itself. Registration is \$500.00 and then an additional \$5000 is required for the challenge itself and for supporting Oxfam Community Aid Abroad. It's well worth the work though as these trips may very well be once in a life time journeys for many. Visit the site at:

<http://www.caa.org.au/challenge/borneo.html>

Surf all over the Oxfam challenge site and find out about further challenges and opportunities including Oxfam Challenge Yunnan in China and Oxfam Challenge Vietnam/Cambodia. There's also an email newsletter.

6. OXFAM TRAILWALKER SYDNEY 2004

Oxfam Trailwalker Sydney 2004 is one of the great and toughest events in world bushwalking. You could call it 'extreme bushwalking.' This year's event takes place from August 27, 2004. The event involves teams of four covering 100km in a 48-hour period. Teams must also raise \$1 000 to support the work of Oxfam Abroad. For all the news on Oxfam Trailwalker Sydney visit:

<http://www.oxfam.org.au/trailwalker/sydney/index.html>

7. KEVIN' S WILDERNESS WALKERS MAIL GROUP:

Associated with Kevin' s Wilderness Journeys web site is the ' Kevin' s Wilderness Walkers Mail Group.' The mail group currently only has a few members and very little in the way of activity. One of the members (other than myself) has posted some photos in the photo album of her visits to the Colo and Wollemi wilderness area west of Sydney. Hopefully as more people join the group there will be an increase in activity.

Why join the mail group? A good question. The group gives an opportunity for those who love wilderness and the bush, especially in Australia, to share their experiences and perhaps pass on information about destinations, track conditions, etc, to other group members. By doing so there is an opportunity to assist others who are planning trips to the same area, etc. When you think about it, the opportunities for the sharing of information are limitless.

Visit the group at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kevins_wildwalkers/

8. THE COLONG FOUNDATION FOR WILDERNESS:

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness is all about saving Australia's wilderness areas from further destruction. This very useful web site can be found at:

<http://www.colongwilderness.org.au/>

A number of current conservation and wilderness issues are highlighted by the site including the further preservation of Wollemi wilderness areas. Currently areas around Newnes and the Wollangambe River are threatened by a sand mining operation.

You can also assist the foundation by becoming a member and subscribing to the bi-monthly newsletter. I haven't joined yet, but in the near future I will be.

9. MOUNT WARNING NATIONAL PARK

Recently I visited the Mount Warning National Park, which is part of the World Heritage Area: Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves (Australia). It is located in northeast NSW on the road to Kyogle off the Pacific Highway from Murwillumbah.

Mount Warning is a sacred place to the Bundjalung Aboriginal people. To the Bundjalung only certain chosen people are allowed to climb the mountain. The Aboriginal people ask visitors to consider not climbing the mountain out of respect for their beliefs.

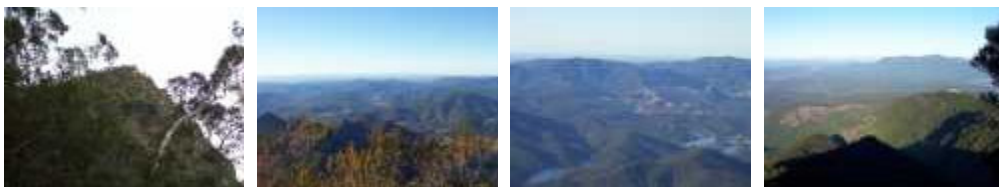
Mount Warning was named by Captain Cook in 1770 to warn people on ships about the reefs he encountered while sailing up the coast.

Mount Warning was declared a national park in 1966 and was listed as a World Heritage Area in 1986.

There are a large number of bird species to be found in the Mount Warning National Park (upwards of 100).

The Mount Warning National Park is reached via the Kyogle Road, some 12km west of Murwillumbah. Leave the Kyogle Road following the Mount Warning Road into the park.

There are basically two walks accessible to most visitors of Mount Warning National Park. The first is an easy 200m walk into the rainforest and a viewing platform at the end of the track. It goes uphill from the Breakfast Creek Picnic Area through the rainforest on the lower slopes of Mount Warning. It's a good introduction to the rainforest of the area.



ABOVE: Views of the Mount Warning summit and from the Mount Warning summit

The second walk is quite daunting really, as you peer up to the summit of Mount Warning from the Breakfast Creek car park. It looks as though it's going to be a straight up experience and very difficult - not much changes in your perception as you make your way up the mountain. This is an 8.8km return walk/climb and will take you between 2-4 hours to complete. Coming down is easy, but going up is quite a workout, especially when the safety chain is reached to assist climbers reaching the peak 200m further on. Still, this is a walk that is worth all the effort with spectacular views to be had from the top.

Visit my Mount Warning page at:

<http://wilderness.esmartweb.com/NSW/warning.html>

10. KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

The Kosciuszko National Park Draft Plan of Management is currently open for public comment. It remains so until Friday 20 August 2004. You can view and/or obtain a copy of the draft plan by visiting the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service web site at:

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au>

If you have any comments to pass on to the decision-makers about the draft plan of management these can be sent to:

KNA Plan of Management Review
Parks and Wildlife Division
Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)
PO Box 733
Queanbeyan NSW 2620

kosciuszkopom@npws.nsw.gov.au

11. SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE

If you would like to subscribe to 'Kevin's Walk on the Wild Side,' simply send an email to Kevin at KevinHere@emaildownunder.com and let me know. If you want to unsubscribe, simply send me an email and let me know. Members of the mail group automatically get a copy of the ezine as part of the group.