

Kevin's Wilderness Journeys

KEVIN'S WALK ON THE WILDSIDE



ISSUE 13: JULY-AUGUST 2005

Welcome to the new issue of 'Kevin's Walk on the Wildside.' I hope you weren't planning any trips in the last week or so (late June 2005) - way too wet for most wilderness outings I'd say. I know I was unable to achieve a great deal in the way of wilderness adventures during this week of the big wet. Never-the-less I won't complain too loudly, I was very happy to miss out on the walks given that the dry earth in NSW desperately needed the drink - and didn't the eastern regions get a drink!

I missed the snow in the Barrington Tops by a whisker - the snow was there when I arrived in Gloucester but I decided to head on up the next day. When the next day came a whole heap of rain had fallen and the snow was all gone. Later in the trip I was going to visit Woko National Park but that was stopped thanks to the condition of the access road - the gravel access road was being worked on during a week of rain. So I missed out on achieving several goals - well, there's always next time I guess.

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:

nrbcpastorkev@yahoo.com.au

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1. WILDERNESS NEWS

In this section of the newsletter I try to bring you important conservation, environmental and wilderness news, as well as links to more information.

Thailand: The Mekong Giant Catfish

In the Mekong River there exists a fish scientifically known as *Pangasianodon gigas*, or the Mekong Giant Catfish. This fish is enormous and is able to reach a size of 3 metres in length. It is the worlds' largest freshwater fish. Once numbering in the thousands, fishing has reduced the numbers of this fish to perhaps a few dozen only. Also threatening the fish is the decline in water quality in the Mekong River and the destruction of important spawning grounds.

In the news this week is a report that the largest ever Mekong Giant Catfish was caught by fishermen and eaten after it died. This fish is now facing extinction and conservation bodies like the World Wildlife Fund are working hard to try and save this magnificent fish.

For more information visit:

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/news/displayPR.cfm?prID=207>

http://www.arkive.org/species/GES/fish/Pangasianodon_gigas/

United States: Arkansas - Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

There has been an amazing discovery in the United States with news that the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker, long thought to be extinct, has been spotted in the wilds of Arkansas. The Ivory-Billed Woodpecker is the largest woodpecker in North America.

The woodpecker has been found in the area of Arkansas known as the Big Woods, a huge area of pristine wilderness which is currently a battleground as conservationists try to save as much of the area as possible. The rediscovery of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker has provided invaluable proof of the need to conserve not only this area, but other large areas of wilderness. This large bird long thought to be extinct has been living in this large area of wilderness - what else may yet be found in other large tracts of wilderness?

For more information visit:

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/news/woodpecker.cfm>

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/ivory/>

2. KEVIN'S WILDERNESS JOURNEYS:

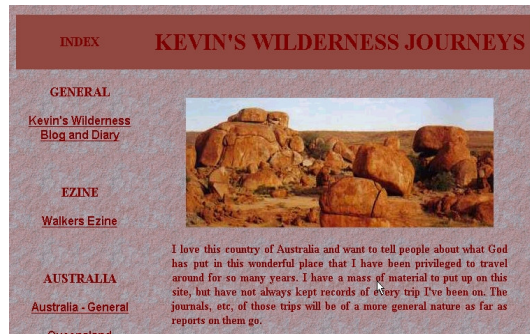
Web Site

I've been able to do a little work on the site and have now made all photos relating to my Oztrip 1 more accessible to all. There has also been a few other little additions and improvements across the site.

There is also a new link on the front page directory - to Ausquaria, my aquarium site. Why not pop over and have a quick look. It's early days at the site but progress is being made.

Visit the web site at:

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



3. NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

The National Parks Association of NSW seeks to work with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in protecting our natural environment and heritage in New South Wales. If you would like to join the NPA and/or find out more simply visit the web site below. The NPA also has an online store, which can be reached via the URL below.

Fore more information visit:

<http://www.npansw.org.au/web/index.htm>

4. FROGS AUSTRALIA NETWORK

Australia, like most of the world, has a problem with frogs - that is, with the decline in native frog populations. The Frogs Australia Network is all about conserving Australia's frog and increasing available information about them and local populations.

The site includes a great deal of information relating to Australian frogs, including a latest news section. The news section also includes news of new species of frogs discovered in New South Wales forests.

For more information visit:

<http://www.frogsaustralia.net.au>

5. NSW STATE FORESTS

We often hear much of travelling to National Parks for camping holidays or bushwalks, but have you considered visiting a NSW State Forest? There are many opportunities for bushwalking and camping in State Forests, as well as many other possible things to do in a NSW State Forest.

For more information on possible things to do visit:

<http://www.forest.nsw.gov.au/recreation/default.asp>

If you need a starting point visit the NSW State Forests web site at:

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

6. OXFAM CHALLENGE

Each issue I have been highlighting upcoming Oxfam Challenges - currently Oxfam is organising another four challenges. Three involve cycling (China, Sri Lanka and Vietnam-Cambodia), while the fourth is a trek (Nepal).

For the latest information visit:

<http://www.oxfam.org.au/challenge/>

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. AUSTRALIAN BUSH HERITAGE FUND:

The Australian Bush Heritage Fund is one of those organisations I intend to join but haven't yet done so - perhaps writing this will be the prompt I need to do so. The 'Fund' seeks to save Australian bush for future generations. In effect it buys back important regions and saves them from development, clearing, etc. Already the 'Fund' has saved 1/4 of a million hectares.

Why not visit the site and have a look at the latest newsletter? There are another three reserves that have recently been acquired by the 'Fund' and there articles on each. There is also the promise of other properties soon to be acquired.

Perhaps you would like to join and/or donate to the Australian Bush Heritage Fund?

For more information visit:

<http://www1.bushheritage.asn.au/>

9. WORLD HERITAGE AREAS - ARGENTINA

Los Glaciares National Park

Argentina is a country of amazing natural diversity, with areas of frozen wonderland to tropical rainforest to blazing desert. Argentina is home to a number of important World Heritage Areas including the Los Glaciares National Park.

Located on the Chilean border in the Andes Mountains, Los Glaciares National Park rivals Antarctica with its icy white wonderland and glacial landforms. The area of Los Glaciares National Park is home to the huge Lake Argentino - at about 160km long. It is a land of rugged beauty and magnificent glaciers, with many of these glaciers flowing into glacial lakes that provide incredible vistas.

Of all the places that one could visit in the world, Argentina is the one place that truly captures my imagination. Of course there is also Antarctica, but I count this as largely Australian. Perhaps it is the many resemblances to Antarctica that seem to draw me to Los Glaciares National Park and the amazing region of Patagonia. One day I would truly love to see this wonderful wilderness area for myself.

For more information visit:

http://www.wcmc.org.uk/protected_areas/data/wh/glaciare.html

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0401/feature3/>

http://www.adventurephotographs.com/patagonia/los_glaciares/fitzroy/index.asp

<http://community.webshots.com/album/284197243ahvmoP>

<http://www.losglaciares.com/en/parque/>

<http://www.pbs.org/edens/patagonia/>

10. OTHER INTERESTING WEB SITES

Patagonia Expedition Race

Keeping with the Patagonian theme in this edition of the ezine, why not visit the Patagonia Expedition Race site - perhaps you would even like to enter?

For more information visit:

<http://www.patagoniaexpeditionrace.com/in/index.htm>

Survivor

OK, so most people hate reality shows - but Survivor is a show I'm into. Why? Well it's sort of wilderness in a way! Well, they visit some of the world's wild places - however, I'm not too sure as to how well they look after them.

Have a look at the menu for choosing a show at the top of the page to find the Survivor series you want to have a look at.

Go on, have a look at:

<http://www.cbs.com/primetime/survivor/>

The Amazing Race

While on reality shows, I also like The Amazing Race. Contestants get to see a huge amount of the world if they stay in the game and do a heap of things in some truly amazing places - again, not really wilderness but I still like to watch the show and see the world as it passes by so quickly.

Have a look at the menu for choosing a show at the top of the page to find the Amazing Race series you want to have a look at.

Visit the site at:

http://www.cbs.com/primetime/amazing_race/

The Australian Museum Online

Visit the site at:

<http://www.amonline.net.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 **nrbcpastorkev@yahoo.com.au** 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.