FREE for ANUMC members
$2 for non-members
Welcome to the Market Day edition of the Epic, the ANUMC’s quarterly magazine. Whether you’ve been a member for longer than you care to remember, or if this is your first foray into the outdoors, you’ll find something that piques your interest in the Epic.

We’ll introduce you to the ANUMC Executive and Committee, tell you all about the great activities on offer in the club, and let you know about the activities that are happening in the coming months.

Check out the reports and photos from recent trips. We’ve had groups head down to the coast for some summer kayaking, a group went up to the Snowys for a New Year’s Eve party and others went out further afield to South-West Tassie.

Happy adventuring in 2010.

Lauren Bartsch
EPIC Editor

LAUREN BARTSCH
Determined to hang around Canberra for a few more years (apparently it has something to do with finishing a PhD) Lauren decided that the Vice-Presidency of ANUMC would be the perfect way to avoid the afore mentioned PhD. Having just invested in a new mountain bike, you’ll see Lauren out on her bike, on bushwalks, canyon trips, and pretty much every other activity on the club’s calendar.

ADAM SAMUELSON
Adam is new to Canberra and the ANUMC. He arrived a few months ago to take up the yoke of gainful employ after finishing a BA with philosophy and international security majors. He’s often heard blathering non sequiturs or waxing lyrical on the virtues of the beer can stove. Keep an eye on the calendar for Adam’s upcoming bushwalking trip, or catch him climbing, cycling and kayaking over summer.

As always we’ll be looking for new inclusions to the magazine, so if you have an idea for a column, have put up a new climbing route, would like to share your favourite back country recipes or have a trip report, be sure to contact us.

When you’re off on your next trip, keep in mind sending in a contribution for the next edition of EPIC!

Front cover: ‘Sunset over Lake Burley Griffen, Australia Day 2010’ by Alana Wilkes
Back cover: ‘Canberra from Baroomba’ by Ben Davies
Beautiful morning at Fisheries Beach by Richard Salmons
Welcome to the ANU Mountaineering Club. As you’ll notice from the size of this magazine, we are quite a big club. In 1967 three different outdoors clubs came together to form the ANU Mountaineering Club. They were the ANU Bushwalking Club, the ANU Climbing Club, and the ANU Kayak Club. So how then did we come to choose mountaineering as the banner under which the various clubs would unite? I would proffer this suggestion, or at least dare to impart my wisdom, with this explanation.

Mountaineering, along with bullfighting and motor racing, according to Ernest Hemmingway, is one of only three true sports. The *undertaking* of the sport, wrote Hemmingway, at some stage invariably involves the involvement of an *undertaker*. Nevertheless, a death on a mountain, in the bush, in a canyon, or in a river, is a tragedy every time, yet one which outdoors people understand is a real risk. For those in the media who say that we participate in these activities for that sense of being close to death, I would question whether they really understand what they are talking about at all. Mountaineering is the paradigm of the outdoors because it is the culmination of all those skills learned bushwalking, rock climbing, cross-country skiing and more. It requires true personal effort; there is nothing easy about it, and there is no place for a casual attitude. Mountaineering is therefore a worthy banner for under which the Club to unite.

Make no mistake about it though; I am not interested in you joining so that you can *get out into* the mountains. I want you to join the Club so that we can get you *involved in* the mountains. We are a community of people with a common interest in the outdoors, with a strong hint of environmental conservatism around the place. I hope that your time in the ANU Mountaineering Club will be one which challenges your views of the environment, the mountains, and the people in the outdoors community. I would hope too that what you learn here, whether it be about minimal impact bushwalking, canyoning etiquette, or the use of poo-tubes in the snow, will be meaningful to you and that you will pass on the knowledge to others, in turn getting them involved in the outdoors too.

See you in the mountains,

Tom
ANUMC President & Bushwalking Officer
About the ANUMC

Why should you join the ANUMC?

The ANU Mountaineering Club is Canberra's biggest and most active outdoors club. We are a community of students, graduates, public servants and more, who all have in common a passion for the bush and being active in the outdoors. Members of the ANUMC are able to participate in trips, climb for free on climbing nights at the ANU gym and hire a huge variety of gear from our Gear Store. In addition, members receive support from the Club to participate in advanced training and skills sessions and discounts at many Canberra outdoor stores.

How can I join the ANU Mountaineering Club?

Firstly, you need to be a member of the ANU Sport & Recreation Association and secondly, you need to show us proof of current membership. PLEASE NOTE: an SRA membership card is not acceptable as proof of current SRA membership because it does not have an expiry date printed on it.

Full-time domestic Australian undergraduate and postgraduate students of the ANU are automatically members of the SRA. Simply show a current and valid ANU student card when signing up.

All other persons must take out SRA membership first ($110 per year) and present their receipt when signing up to the club. You may request a reprint of your receipt from the front desk staff at the SRA at any time. We cannot sign you up to the ANUMC without this proof of SRA membership – no exceptions sorry! Any questions regarding SRA membership are best directed to the SRA Membership Services Officer at this phone number: (02) 6125 2273.

How much does it cost to join the ANUMC?

$30 for current ANU students (both full and part time)
$50 for everyone else

FREE for Exec, Committee Members, Valued Club Affiliates, Honorary Coaches and Life Members of the ANUMC

Our membership year runs from 1 February 2010 to 28 February 2011. Memberships for people joining on or after 1 September 2010 cost only $20 for ANU students and $30 for non-students to reflect the reduced time covered.

For more information about joining the ANUMC, please check out our website at http://anumc.anu.edu.au

Al and Jasmine peer over a canyons edge. Photo by Richard Salmons.
The Executive

PRESIDENT and BUSHWALKING OFFICER: TOM GLEESON

25yo, elitist bushwalker, passionate canyoner, purist telemark skier. Regularly enjoys tough, pointless scrub bashes on remote ridges and avoids following a track at all cost. Allergic to tourists and snowboarders. Looking for companion to join (yet another) pointless scrub bash in Kanangra. 6'2" tall, looking for scrub 8' tall. Meet at Thurat Spires, bring your own compass.

VICE PRESIDENT and EPIC EDITOR: LAUREN BARTSCH

Having decided to hang around Canberra for a few more years (apparently it has something to do with finishing a PhD) Lauren decided that the Vice-Presidency of ANUMC would be the perfect way to avoid the afore mentioned PhD. Having just invested in a new mountain bike, you'll see Lauren out on her bike, on bushwalks, canyon trips, and pretty much every other activity on the club's calendar.

SECRETARY: ALANA WILKES

Alana is a farm girl from Armidale in Northern NSW. She moved to Canberra in 2007 to join the public service (currently in water policy) and it wasn't long before the ANUMC caught her interest. Kayaking and bushwalking are her activities of choice, but more recently cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and hanging out at the climbing wall have been added to the list. Other interests include social netball, soccer and ultimate frisbee, as well as bird watching, target shooting and gardening.

TREASURER and GEAR STORE OFFICER: KIRILL TALANINE

Kirill joined ANUMC in 2009, and has since then strived hard not to be a total numptie. And he must have partialy succeeded in not scaring away all other club members through rock climbing, bushwalking, skiing and canyoning trips, as there were a few still prepared to go mountaineering with him in New Zealand this summer. His zany plans for 2010 include continuing on as a gear store officer, surviving being Treasurer, learning to paddle and hopefully climbing some more mountains.

GENERAL OFFICER: GARRICK LARKIN

Garrick joined the ANUMC in 2000 as a first year and took up XC skiing because it was so cheap compared to downhill. Garrick is also involved in a range of other outdoors activities especially bushwalking, sailing and kayaking.
The Committee

CLIMBING OFFICER: SAM MARGERISON

Sam first joined the club in 1998 when he relocated to Canberra for uni and has been a member ever since. He’s filled a number of roles on the committee and exec including database officer, gear store officer and five years as treasurer. This year he’s taken on the job of climbing officer as a good excuse to go on more climbing trips! As well as climbing, he enjoy bushwalking, cross country skiing, and mountaineering. Feel free to get in touch if you have any ideas for climbing in the club, or if you’re interested in running a trip. It’s always great to see new climbing leaders and trips to new climbing areas.

CANYONING OFFICER: FINN LATTIMORE

Finn joined the ANUMC in 2004. She enjoys rock climbing and canyoning and would like to get into more kayaking, bushwalking and skiing if only there were time for everything.

MOUNTAINEERING OFFICER: JANOSCH HOFFMAN

Once upon a time a twelve year old Janosch can face to face with the Himalayas, he quickly became quite captivated/obsessed with them, some might say unhealthy so. Two subsequent 40+ day climbing trips followed and Janosch came to appreciate the growth known as the ‘Mountain Man Beard’. Multiple trips to the European Alps, the Altai mountains in Mongolia and New Zealand were undertaken, further fueled his obsession with all things massive and icy, which continues till this day. Janosch is planning another mid year trip to either New Zealand or Mongolia, followed by a stint in Antarctic Summer. And then he will live happily ever after.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING OFFICER: RICHARD SALMONS

After an upbringing based on school camps in the coldest and wettest parts of the Victorian high country, Richard now opts for outdoor adventures that don’t involve touching mud or bush-bashing of any kind. This has made ski-touring the obvious choice, as this allows Richard to spend many days in the wilderness insulated from the soil by several inches of snow. While snowy vistas are ideal for the winter, he also spends the warmer months within the cool confines of canyons, or at the coast. If not with ANUMC, Richard currently divides his time between his Kingston bachelor pad and mountain huts near Argentiere, France.

WEB OFFICER: DAVID PRICE

David enjoys canyoning and climbing as well as most other outdoor activities. In between working as a software developer and doing lots of outdoor stuff, he occasionally finds time to build and maintain the club’s web site.
The Committee

MOUNTAIN BIKING OFFICER: JASMINE RICKARDS

Three years ago Jasmine had never been to Canberra and didn’t own a proper mountain bike. She was tricked into the Scott 24 hour mountain biking race at mount Stromlo over a beer and after the pain faded she has never looked back. Two knee reconstructions have confirmed Jasmine is much too unco for team sports so mountain biking, skiing and canyoning are the perfect medicine. She’s sad that she doesn’t get more holidays but has to confess that she’s started 2010 well with a mountaineering trip to New Zealand and two weeks hiking the Arthurs in Tasmania including getting to the top of Federation peak. She’s hoping to find loads of new ANUMCers to mountain bike with this year especially girls!

SEA KAYAKING OFFICER: ANDREW COLLINS

Andrew joined the ANUMC in 1983. He has been a keen climber and mountaineer and has made a real contribution to kayaking, in particular he has helped develop sea kayaking running numerous skills sessions. Andrew’s focus on leading beginning trips has been a great boon to the club. In 2010 Andrew was inducted into the ANUMC Hall of Fame and awarded the coveted ‘Ice Axe’ in honour of the contribution to the club.

KAYAKING OFFICER: DAVE BOLAND

Dave has been paddling for about 5 years, and spends far too much time frowning at the radar on the BoM website. When not trying to predict river flows from the rainfall data, he can often be found splashing around in the lake or ocean, dangling halfway up a cliff, or falling down a snowy slope.

ROGAINING OFFICER: FELIX SCHILL

Felix came to Australia almost 6 years ago to join the Mountaineering Club (and also to do a PhD in computer science, but that’s done now...). He enjoys running, bushwalking, climbing, biking and canyoning, and most other outdoor activities. He is a competitive rogainer, the sport of long distance cross country navigation. He will happily help you to put to a rogaining team together, or give navigation tips. Felix also organises the weekly cross (country) running group. When he is not running around Canberra’s forests, he can often be found hanging around at the climbing wall.

CLIMBING WALL OFFICER: JULIEN BERNU

Julien left his rainy, squeezed and polluted Parisian suburb 18 months ago to join the ANU and enjoy Canberra’s sunny and outdoorsy lifestyle. Although he’s mostly interested in climbing, he also likes canyoning, skiing, hiking, mountaineering, caving, windsurfing, scuba-diving,... He would love to get involved in even more activities but unfortunately he has a minimum of research to do to justify his salary.
CLIMBING WALL OFFICER: ADAM KERZ

Adam arrived in Canberra in 2007, moving from warm, sunny Brisbane for a job and the great climbing nearby. He has been in the ANUMC since then and spends most of his free time climbing and most of his work time skiving off, reading about climbing. Adam also enjoys mountain biking and bushwalking but both come a far second to climbing. Find him at the climbing wall or on a cliff near you!

GEAR STORE OFFICER: KYLIE MULLIGAN

Kylie is an interesting specimen. Kylie is also a graduate of the Narrabundah college outdoor education program. On the suggestion of her physiotherapist, she stopped incurring the same old boring injuries on the sports field and started incurring the same old boring injuries walking up mountains. She can, from time to time, be found in the gear store, helping all you lovely adventurers find the right gear for the trip.

GEAR STORE OFFICER: ANTHONY MANN

Anthony left his beloved home state of Tasmania a bit over 12 months ago to pursue a career in storing outdoor gear for the ANUMC. He's a qualified botanist, and he has also worked in an outdoor shop in Hobart, was a white water rafting guide, a mountain bike tour guide, and also dabbled in a bit of bushwalk guiding. In his spare time back in Tassie his passions revolved around the oceans, rivers and the mountains. He took up cycle touring in February 2006, but only managed one trip because he took a wrong turn somewhere, and it took him 18 months and 27,000 kms to find his way home again. He's looking forward to many more adventures now that he's on the North Island!

GEAR STORE OFFICER: GABRIELA SCHEUFLE

Gabriela has been enjoying the Australian outdoors for about 3 years after having successfully escaped from Europe. About a year ago, she moved from Brisbane to Canberra, where she discovered the club and with it the joy of canyoning. She is also engaged in trips, which involve rock-climbing, hiking, cross-country skiing, and salsa dancing. Most recently, Gabriela went mountaineering in NZ as a member of the ANUMC 2010 Expedition.

IN ABSENTIA probably off climbing a mountain somewhere...

GEAR STORE OFFICERS: BRENDRA MARTIN & MEL STAMELL

CLIMBING WALL OFFICERS: MICHAEL ELLERMAN, HENNER BRUCH& ERIC CHAN

VACANCIES

We currently have 2 Executive position vacant for keen members. The Social officer position involves co-ordinating the clubs social events, and the General Officer helps out with running big club trips and other general duties. We also have positions available for Epic editors, and we're always keen to hear from people who would like to help out in the gear store and the climbing wall. Please contact anumc-exec@anumc.anu.edu.au for more information.
Interclub Canyoning Weekend

Kanangra-Boyd National Park
10-12 December 2009
What a great weekend with old friends and new! My count includes at least twenty-two canyons representing the ANUMC, Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC), Sydney University Bushwalkers (SUBW), the Katandra Abseiling Association (KAA), and the University of NSW Bushwalking Club (UNSWBWC).

We had a good time camping together at the Boyd River Crossing camping ground and enjoyed fine and sunny weather over the weekend. Canyons visited included Kanangra Main (and the Slot), Danae Brook, Kalang Falls, and Dionne Dell. Murdering Gully was an experience for many! The level of experience ranged from some who had never canyoned before, right through to trip leaders and some of our mountaineers preparing for their big New Zealand trip in January.

Left: Fintan heading down Kalang Falls. Photo by Glenn
Below: Eva on her first canyon abseil. Photo by Lauren Bartsch
Bottom: Tom on the last abseil of Dionne Dell. Photo by Lauren Bartsch
Jervis Bay – 20-22 November 2009

After a long winter without coast kayaking, a keen group of paddlers (Bec White, David Anderson-Smith, Mel Powell, Dave Boland, Alana Wilkes and Jen Arnold, led by Salih Ozgul) headed for Jervis Bay to re-acquaint ourselves with the sand and swell.

We left Canberra on Friday night and set up camp at the Huskisson caravan park, only to be woken early by the screeching lorikeets that had settled in directly above our tents. That morning saw us paddling out from Wreck Bay, under the watchful eye of a lurking sting ray, into a big enough swell to enjoy the surges forward as we paddled down from the crest of each.

We pulled in at Kitty’s Beach for morning tea and a swim, and then returned via a series of beautiful turquoise bays. After a greasy lunch in Vincentia, it was time for lazing around on the beach and snorkelling, sighting colourful fish, sea urchins, sting rays and even a wobbegong!

Saturday night was spent barbecuing all sorts of gourmet delights while overlooking the sea at Huskisson. After a walk along the beach, it was an early night, this time all of us were tired enough to sleep straight through the noisy midst of bogans around us.

The next morning we stayed within the Bay, paddling out from the beach at Green Patch towards Bowen Island and its colony of penguins. The previous day’s fleeting glimpses of seals were trumped by sightings of penguins from the nearby colony, as well as a pod of dolphins at close range.

On the way back, Murray’s Beach made another great spot for morning tea and a quick snorkel in water that seemed a lot cooler than the day before. After packing the boat trailer and campsite, almost losing a set of car keys in the process, it was a late lunch then back to Canberra. Many thanks to Sal for running a fun and relaxing weekend!
Huge range of climbing equipment, gear for every pursuit, clothing for every destination. 15% discount for ANU MC Members (excludes sale items)
Mika: ‘The wind picked up and the temperature dropped rapidly as it began to rain more heavily. The track we’d been following for several hours deteriorated and soon vanished. We were forced to make yet another creek crossing and scramble uphill through thick, soaking wet scrub, all the while searching for a clear, level piece of ground big enough to accommodate half a dozen tents. The light was fading fast as we arrived; wet, tired, and chilled to the bone, at a small grassy frost hollow dominated on three sides by the ragged silhouette of the nearby ranges. As we hurried to establish camp the clouds cleared and the temperature dropped below freezing. It was then I realised that one, possibly more, of the group was hypothermic ….’

Duncan: “I was seventeen, it was a hot mid-summer day, it was the first four day walk I had ever led. On the second day we had left our packs behind for a day walk and that night we were stuck, too far away to return to our camp. We had been beating through Budawang scrub for two days without food. Leanne had never been bushwalking before and was exhausted and had a blister on one heel the size of a golf ball. Brendan had a serious burn on the sole of his foot where he had slipped into the fire we had started to keep us warm overnight. Richard hadn’t been walking much in the last twenty years and was feeling it hard. I had collapsed from heat exhaustion earlier in the day and felt responsible for the mess we were in. And now we were so tired and delirious with hunger, we couldn’t agree which way to go…

“Oscar Wilde once said, “experience is the name everyone gives their mistakes.” Fortunately the ANUMC is blessed with a wealth of people with a long history of mistakes. People like Mika and Duncan who, between them, have led more than 150 trips for the Club and are amongst its most ‘mistaken’ trip leaders. Always ready to learn from their vast and growing list of mistakes, each year these two generous souls willingly share their wealth of experience with interested Club members on the annual ANUMC Leadership Weekend.

The Leadership Weekend is an intense and fun two day training program covering skills and knowledge relevant to leading in the Australian bush. This unique event, now in its eleventh year, is designed for ANUMC members with some outdoor experience who are interested developing their outdoor leadership skills and hopefully leading trips for the Club.

The program consists of an extended 1.5 hour pre-trip meeting and tutorial followed by two days out bush in an area familiar to the ANUMC. The outdoor program consists of a series of short bushwalks with daypacks, interactive scenarios and lessons that explore the challenges of safely leading others in remote and not so remote locations. Exactly what is involved and where we’re going is not revealed in advance as surprises are part of the challenge of leadership. Issues dealt with include trip planning and risk management, navigation, crisis management, and conflict resolution in the bush and lots more. All participants will experience first hand what it’s like to deal with these and other leadership challenges in the bush with the aim of learning from each other and building our confidence and ability to safety lead trips. While the focus is on bushwalking, the skills and experiences are relevant to all ANUMC outdoor activities.

Be assured that it’s not all hard work. On Saturday night we’ll camp somewhere nice and not too far from the cars. This means you can bring along some of the special little goodies you really enjoy around a campfire but hate having to carry long distances.

So, if you’d like to hear more about how Mika and Duncan survived the episodes above, or if you’d like to share your experiences (or mistakes) with others so they might learn from them, then come on the Leadership Weekend. It’s sure to be a lot of fun.

The next Leadership weekend is scheduled for March 13-14, 2010. See the trip calendar for details.
There are a lot of armchair bushwalkers around the place; people who purchase expensive “outdoors” clothing from over-priced retailers, selling the latest poorly made piece of junk from an overseas factory somewhere. So the saying goes: all talk; no walk. These people are best kept well away from south-west Tassie, an unforgivable place, a savage wilderness. The storms are the worst which Antarctica and the Southern Ocean can muster to unleash upon the jagged ridgelines and mountain peaks. The scrub is impenetrably and delightfully thick and pointless. The mud is waist deep, warm and rank – known to have swallowed whole bushwalkers alive as an offering to the mountain spirits of the south-west. Much strength is used up trying to press on regardless through the mud, and many a Dunlop Volley has disappeared forever into the depths of these bottomless mud pits. Some yuppies pay considerable amounts of money for a cosmetic mud bath; strange people indeed…

There is a place far from these armchair bushwalkers and misguided yuppies – south-west Tassie. Rising higher than all the other peaks is Mount Anne, a magnificent throne of dolerite, columns of it soaring to the sky. In early January, five walkers from the ANU Mountaineering Club, Sydney University Bushwalkers, and the Katandra Abseiling Association headed out towards Fake Pedder (not a typo…) to visit Mount Anne and the mountains nearby which form a circuit around Lake Judd. Huey blessed us with unimaginably fine weather for the five days, a rare treat for a trip to the south-west. For two of the days we enjoyed the pleasure of sharing the company of two local bushwalkers, Jess Fuller-Smith and Mel Kruger. Their offers of chocolate and assistance with pack hauling through the most exposed sections of rock scrambling when the winds were at their worst was much appreciated. I’d rather not say much more about the trip. I’d like to tell you that it was horrible, miserable, terrible, and without reason to make a return visit. This way I hope that Mt Anne, The Notch, Mt Lot, Lot’s Wife, Lightning Ridge, Lake Picone, Judd’s Charm, The Lonely Tarns, and Lake Judd will not suffer the degradation which comes from popularising a route too much. Unfortunately, it would seem that already the area has been visited too often by persons ignorant of minimal impact bushwalking principles. There are a skein of tracks across the fragile alpine plateaux and soggy button-grass plains where they have attempted to avoid the worst of the mud, instead simply causing more erosion and damage, creating new sections of deep mud instead. Upsetting as this was to see, the area was still more beautiful than anything I had seen on the mainland.

The photos hardly capture the grandeur of the mountain scenery with alpine tarns scattered about. I hope that you enjoy the photos nonetheless, and please tread lightly if you make a visit to the south-west. It’s the only way to protect this ancient and fragile environment.
Mount Anne Circuit
Thanks to organisation by Andrew Collins, a group of ANUMC kayakers enjoyed a two-weekend sea kayaking course on the South Coast, run by Dave Winkworth and Gordon Carswell on the 5-6 and 12-13 December 2009. Twelve paddlers set up camp near Moruya Airport for the first weekend.

We started off in the Moruya Estuary with basic skills, including paddle techniques, stopping, turning, bracing, exiting, emptying the boats and getting back into them. After lunch and a throw around of the frisbee (something that became quite a feature over the two weekends, thanks to some inspiration by our resident expert and rep player, Mica) it was back out into the estuary. This time we practiced towing, which proved quite difficult against the wind and current, ferrying across the current, then more exits and re-entries, making sure the individuals that had avoided getting too wet in the morning went for a swim. Those who still had energy left had a go at rolling their kayaks, before heading back to camp and into Moruya for dinner. Finding a dinner spot was easier said than done, but we settled for a pub where locals were rumoured to perform stunts involving methane and fire, although we were disappointed in this regard. Back at camp, those who had driven down that morning were educated in the games played the night before, such as ‘Big Booty’ and ‘Chk Chk Boom’... perhaps the less said about those the better!

Next morning we made use of techniques learnt the day before to surf on the small waves in the estuary, although this became quite taxing as we had to paddle against the wind and current. After lunch, we practiced rolling, with a few more picking it up for the first time. An energetic trio kayaked up the estuary to Moruya while the rest of us finished packing the trailer and headed into town to collect them. Then it was time to head back to Canberra so we could get another five days work out of the way, ready for another weekend at the coast!
The second weekend was held south of Eden. After a detour via Green Cape lighthouse, the group travelling on Friday night were barely asleep before the Saturday morning travellers got up to leave, so it was a tired group that set out. This time we were putting together the skills learnt the weekend before and heading out for an overnight kayak. We launched from Fisheries Beach and paddled through calm waters past Edrom Lodge and under the pier used to load wood chips into ships. Around Red Point and past Boyd Tower, used once as part of whaling operations, we paddled out into the open ocean that was unusually calm. It was a paddle of about 12km south, past amazing red cliffs and turquoise bays, to a beach near Mowarry Point. After a late lunch and setting up camp, it was time for a sleep, snorkel or rolling practice, then frisbee on the beach until we got too hot, frisbee in the water until it got too cold… then back on the beach again! We had tasty stove dinners, then a wander along part of the Light to Light walk, toasted marshmallows and even a bit of star gazing from the beach before much needed sleep.

Next morning was a somewhat leisurely start, no doubt a little too much so for our instructors who had risen hours earlier, but of course we had to stop and wander up the nearby rocky point to check out the whales that were travelling through! We had another easy paddle back up and around Red Point and then it was up with the sails as we finally had the wind behind us. We had lunch on the beach where the Towamba River meets the sea, then paddled back around to Fisheries Beach to pack up… and naturally have another game of frisbee and a swim before fish and chips in Eden, then back to Canberra.

Many thanks to Dave and Gordon for running two fantastic weekends, providing much helpful advice and being so patient! Thanks also to Andrew for organising, and to Andrew and Dave Boland for running skills sessions on the lake in preparation. Much appreciated!

We left our cars on Tooma Road, west of Tooma Reservoir, and started our hike along Snakey Plain fire trail. The plan for this first day was to get to Wheelers Hut, pitch tents, climb the Dargals, return to the hut and celebrate New Year’s. We started in the shade of densely vegetated subalpine bushland, which kept us more and less cool under the sun. Walking at our own pace, but more and less as a compact group, after an hour or so we’d covered 4km and 300m of elevation to gain the summit of an unnamed hill (1570m). The view, especially north over the Tooma Reservoir, was beautiful and inspiring for the rest of the walk. This point marked the beginning of the Jagungal wilderness area. We continued through a spectacular tall-growing mountain ash forest and arrived at Wheelers Hut as dark, menacing clouds started to cover the sky and the rumble of an approaching storm could be heard.

Wheelers Hut is a beautiful old timber slab hut on the edge of Broadway Plain, surrounded by multicoloured snow gums. Upon arrival we met a solo bushwalker from Melbourne, Paul, who must have felt invaded by this noisy group. We rested a little and pitched our tents. It started to rain heavily so we waited for a while before deciding to challenge the weather. Hoping for the best we set off during a break in the rain with the intent of keeping to the plan and climbing the Dargals that afternoon. Shortly after setting off, the rain resumed, quickly became much heavier than before and was soon a torrential downpour. Rain seemed to come from everywhere. Thunder and lightning crashed and flashed all around and the track we were walking on suddenly turned into a creek. We turned back and retreated to the shelter of Wheelers Hut, absolutely soaked, excited and a bit scared too. After changing into dry clothes, we had a very nice evening sitting on the veranda, watching the passing of
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On New Year’s Day we walked from Wheelers Hut to Derschkos Hut, a distance of over 12km with a climb of 580 m, with a side trip to Hell Hole Creek. Morning rain delayed our start a bit, but didn’t stop our enthusiasm to keep on going. From Wheelers Hut we headed east across Broadway Plain, passing through the overgrown slag heaps and water races of the old nineteenth century gold mining area known as Toolong Diggings. The off trail going was generally easy, mostly across the broad spanning valleys with alpine creeks, grassland and lots of wildflowers. A few more scrubby sections allowed us to experience the resistance of the Australian bush. We picked up Hell Hole Creek fire trail and followed it to the Tooma River where we enjoyed the welcome opportunity to jump in and freshen. This was definitely one of the highlights of the trip. After our swim we continued up the fire trail as it climbed, at times steeply, some 300m through bush and forest to near the top of an unnamed hill (1599m). Just beyond the summit, on the edge of Hell Hole Creek valley, we stopped for lunch in long, soft grass in the shade of an ancient old snow gum.

After lunch the group split, with one lot continuing about 6km along the fire trail to Derschkos Hut for a rendezvous with Maureen, Mika, Malba and Mt Tabletop on the horizon.
The third day was greatly anticipated by everybody since the plan included a climb of The Big J, Mt Jagungal (2064m), and a walk along Tumut River to Round Mountain. Another thunderstorm rolled over the mountains just before dawn, with showers persisting for a few hours that morning. Ben and Katanya's tent failed to cope with the wet conditions, forcing the two to abandon their aqua dome before dawn for the shelter of the hut. After some delay, during which Ben and Katanya decided to head straight for Round Mountain Hut, we left Derschkos after the rain had stopped and proceeded along the trail to encounter The Big J. The sky seemed clearer, our expectations were high and the prospects good for a wonderful view from the summit. The climb to Big J, though foggy and rainy, was quite revealing to experience the different types of vegetation in the alpine area. We went from subalpine to alpine, with snow gums below the tree line, and nothing but alpine grass, flowers, low vegetation and rocks above the tree line (at about 1800m). Big J was particularly impressive. On the cloud shrouded summit we had no view, but did have the satisfaction of being on the highest mountain in the area. We descended and had lunch next to Tumut River.

After lunch, and some debate about route options, we started down the Tumut River, with the adventurous intent of following it some 14km downstream through swampy grassland and around steep cliffs to the Farm Ridge fire trail below Round Mountain. A few hundred metres from the fire trail we camp to a wonderful high waterfall. Here, on the edge of the cliff overlooking the falls, with very little room for escape, Mika had a very close encounter with an angry red belly black snake which struck twice at his gaitered legs. Despite the weight of his pack the sudden fright made him swear loudly, jump clear and fill his body with adrenaline for a while.

We scrambled down to below the waterfall and continued along a narrow sodden grassy valley, eventually coming to a second smaller waterfall where the river pierced a prominent ridge of exposed rock. What we could see of the valley beyond was narrow and steep and clearly likely to be very slow, if interesting, going. Since it was already mid afternoon we decided to abandon the river route for another day and instead return to Round Mountain fire trail for easier, safer walking. Unfortunately, the trail was not so near and the route to the west was not so easy either. We had to bush bash up hill and make ourselves a way through to more open easy walking across flower covered alpine meadows on the crest of Toolong Range. After a while we did manage to reach Round Mountain trail which we followed north for about 5km. Reaching a prominent creek, a tributary of the Tumut River, we decided to camp there rather than push on for another 7km to Round Mountain. The chosen spot was beautiful, a grassy plain with a wonderful view of Mt Jagungal on one side and on the other the dead burnt forests. We had a swim, dinner, funny and interesting conversation and the full moon rise. This spot is another highlight of the trip.

A misty morning on our last day soon transformed itself into a warm and sunny day with beautiful clear blue sky. We slowly stirred from our sleeping bags to a leisurely breakfast and photographs before packing up and heading off to Round Mountain Hut to rejoin Ben and Katanya. By midday we were all back at Round Mountain car park. While the drivers fetched the cars, four of us climbed Round Mountain while the rest of the gang lounged beneath a snow gum having lunch. The view from the summit of Round Mountain was magnificent, absolutely clear. The grand vista stretched from Mt Kosciuszko and the Main Range in the south, to the Brindabella Range in the north. It was the perfect ending for a wonderful weekend; it made our trip absolutely round. A four day bushwalk around Jagungal Wilderness in which we covered 50 km of distance and gained almost 2000 m elevation.

The trip meant different things for each of us: for some it was an exciting experience in the bush with such a variety of terrain and vegetation. For some others, it was a bit of a painful experience (blisters, sunburn, horsefly bits and fatigue), and for some, another time bushwalking in Northern Kosciuszko. In any case, for all, this trip had lots of highlights: Hell Hole Creek, Round Mountain summit, getting caught in the New Year’s Eve storm, camping in an alpine meadow, the snake encounter on the waterfall, the top of Toolong range, swimming in the Tooma River, solar system of flies, forests, waterfalls, interesting discussions and very nice people. This trip made me wonder why people go bushwalking, why I like bushwalking. My answer is very simple, I enjoy being in the wilderness being happy with a bit of food, dry socks and nothing else to do than appreciating the green forests, the steep mountains, the colourful flowers and the venomous snakes.
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Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs - 10am to 5.30pm, Fri 10am to 6pm, Sat 10am to 4pm
Closed Tuesdays Only.

advecq@aenet.com.au
Here are a selection of upcoming trips. Check out the full calendar and sign up to trips at http://anumc.anu.edu.au

**FEBRUARY**

Come and try indoor rockclimbing  
Wednesday 17th February  
SRA rockclimbing wall (in the old gym)  
5:30pm-6:30pm

Evening paddle introduction  
Thursday 18th February  
Outside ANU boathed  
5:45pm-8:00pm

Festival of the Canyons (Mark II)  
Friday 20th February- Sunday 22nd February  
Blue Mountains  
Nic Bendeli

Evening paddle introduction  
Tuesday 23rd February  
Outside ANU boathed  
5:45pm-8:00pm

ANUMC Welcome BBQ  
Wednesday 24th February  
Copland Courtyard  
5:30pm-8:00pm

**MARCH**

Navigation course II  
Wednesday 10th of March  
TBA  
6:30pm

Leadership Weekend  
Saturday 13th March- Sunday 14th March  
Secret Location  
Mika Kontiainen

Canoe to coffee, cake and cabernent  
Saturday 13th March  
Lake Burley Griffen  
Nic Bendeli

ANUMC Huge Days Out #2 Coast trip  
Friday 19th March-Sunday 21st March  
NSW South Coast  
Garrick Larkin

**APRIL**

Cycle tour to Mt Kosciusko  
Friday 2nd April - Monday 5th April  
Canberra to Kosi  
Steve Lade

April at Arapiles  
Friday 2nd April - Monday 5th April  
Arapiles, VIC  
George Bills

Alpine Bushwalking on the Main Range  
Saturday 10th April-Sunday 11th of April  
Snowy Mountains, NSW  
Tom Gleeson

Three peaks from Kanangra  
Friday 23rd April-Monday 26th April  
Kanangra-Boyd NP and Blue Mountains NP  
Tom Gleeson

Abseil course/refresher  
Monday 1st March  
SRA rockclimbing wall  
6:00pm

Bushwalking info evening and Navigation course I  
Wednesday 3rd of March  
TBA  
5:30pm

ANUMC Huge Days Out #1 Bluies Extravaganza  
Friday 5th March-Monday 8th March  
Blue Mountains  
Lauren Bartsch