

A CENTURY OF CONSERVATION

1914-2014

DUNPHYS KOWMUNG ADVENTURE 2014

SEPTEMBER 26TH TO OCTOBER 6TH

KATOOMBA TO PICTON



Stage 4

Uni Rover Trail to Yerranderie

October 2nd October 3rd 2014



DUNPHY'S KOWMUNG ADVENTURE 2014

• New Beginnings •

Stage 4

Uni Rover Trail to Yerranderie October 2nd

October 3rd 2014

Myles Time October 21st to October 24th

1914



Introduction: After a pleasant night on the top of the range, Myles and Bert spent the next morning exploring in order to determine the route. They got lost near the boulder which you will pass at GR: 321 -271 . You may call it both Lost Rock and the Dungal Boulder. Feel their anxiety as they realised they were lost, and their relief to know, when they retraced their way back to camp that they were on the right ridge, the Boyd Range. This is of course also known as the Uni Rover Trail and used to have reflective markers on it. I know because in the '60s, I was one of the SUBW-Uni Rover crew that re-marked it. As you walk along it, look for the "Hall of Mirrors" as you go through some thickets of Blue Mountain Mallee (*Eucalyptus stricta* or *Eucalyptus apiculata*).

Myles and Bert set off again after lunch at about 1pm. They had watches and Myles was meticulous about recording the time, but this was a bit late for getting down to the Kowmung, so they had to camp out on the top of the ridge as shown on the map. **DONT FORGET TO PHOTOGRAPH THIS SPOT.** Be aware of the moment **WHEN** you first see Mt Colong (or Coolong) as shown on Myles' map. For it was here, in 1968 that history was made and the Colong Committee was formed to save the Colong Caves.

Back to the route ahead! You are lucky since Alex, aka Myles 2014, insists you have to get to Lannigans Creek, which is a fair ask. So down over the Dicksonia Bluff and to the Kowmung where Myles waxed lyrical about the country he found. I must say to you, Dear Walkers, that for me the most glorious part of the Kowmung is downstream from here to the junction of the Gingra Creek. It is not **TOO** hard and has everything plus some great campsites. I think Myles thought so too.

Here is an excerpt from his journal as he stood at the Lannigan Creek junction.

From the Journal No 4; Page 139



“I cannot help repeating that this place is splendid. Lie on your back on the grass-covered bank, the whispering pines (the River She-oaks) overhead, the soft lap and splash of the gently flowing stream beside you.

Hear the wonga kook-kook cooking with intermittent regularity, the black-backed magpies' clear cut call, the bold defiant whistle of the lyre-bird. Watch the perky pretty blue wren hop daintily to within feet of you, making a great little fuss the while, as if resenting the intrusion into his domain. Regard the great wedge-tailed eagle soaring grandly aloft, a mere speck, king of the crags, and lord of the air.

And the greatest charm of the Kowmung is this: it is a gem locked within the ringed illimitable ranges; the mighty terraces; the makers or breakers of men; the ranges which have as many moods as a woman; the ranges which zealously thrust back from them those who love not the Hidden Places.

The breeze harping through the pines is delightfully soothing. One could lie all day beside the stream and still enjoy.

The river is not yet spoilt. Its condition is natural. Excepting for a few casuarinas about Lannigans Creek which some cattlemen last summer cut down for feed, everything is just as nature is shaping it. You can roam as we did, for weeks and see no one. The place is yours whilst you are there. Then, cities and towns are dead to you and don't exist. You come to you own inheritance. Even as your ancestors did, you go forth armed to seek a meal. It is fine. Shout, sing, whistle, caper, feel young. Let the blood of youth course through your veins with added impetus. Realise you are living and live! For the days of youth are numbered. Too quickly they pass away.

....Only in the forest and the bush, in the mountains or on the plains, can you secure the relaxation which Nature intended for you.

.... The cities are artificial. Get out or peg out!”



Continuing our journey . . .

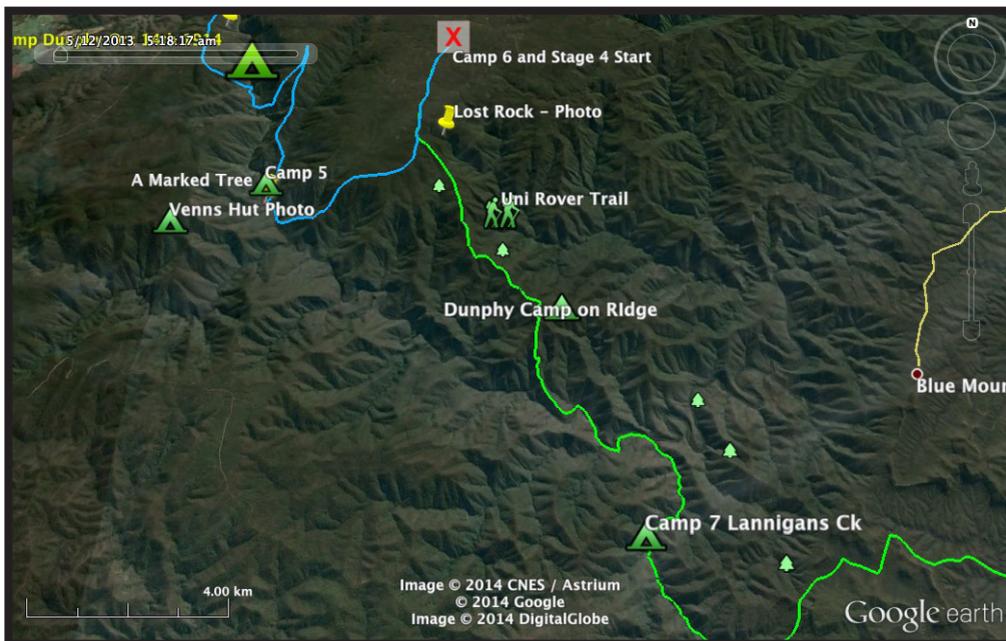
Track Notes - Summary



October 2nd: Starting at the Uni Rover Trail head you have some way to go before you reach the place where Bert and Myles turned around near the Lost Rock. This is a fairly casual walk across the Boyd Plateau with its tall forests of Brown Barrell, Peppermint and Snow Gum. And then past the peaty bogs which Myles noted when they arrived after a hard climb up Misery Ridge.

Next you come to the Lost Rock, and please pause a moment to remember the views that Myles and Bert saw from here. Has anything changed from their view? Then onto the Boyd Range proper as it starts off very narrow and heads for the Kowmung River, mostly flat and good going until you reach the right hand turn for the river.

Take the greatest care getting round the Bluff which is named after the tree fern *Dicksonia antarctica*. Then down to the Kowmung at Cache Bend, so named as they found some food left there.





Here are the Photo Points where you can replicate those taken by Myles 100 years ago. See the separate folder for the originals for comparison and note the flooded river.

After a few ‘ups and overs’ you arrive at Lannigans Creek which is where Myles waxed lyrical about the beauty of the Kowmung as the sun was setting. On the way up Lannigans he was once again taken by its beauty despite the stinging nettles and nowadays, the thorn bushes.

He wrote: “The Creek is lovely. Its six miles of course holds most beautiful matter for photographic study ... The lonely silent beauty of it all sinks into the soul, so that quite unconsciously one takes off one’s hat, for the majesty of Natures manifestations somehow seem to demand it.”

Locate where the camp was and find his photo points. Take your own photos and feel his words come alive. Camp in serenity above the Kowmung in the heart of the wilderness. This is your inheritance.

Stage 4 Day 2
October 4th 2014



You too may be lost for words as you walk up Carkeneller Creek and on to Yerranderie. For after yesterday's great times, Bert and Myles had a tough two days getting lost in the Kowmung Maze.

So I will skip the tension of the "Squatting Rock Debacle" and you can enjoy Modern Myles as you blog your way to Yerranderie. In 1914 it was a town, and Bert aka Sierra will need a new pair of boots from the General Store. Good Luck.

NOTES: Get fellow walkers autographs here. These notes are provided for your edification and entertainment. The author bears no responsibility for errors or grid reference misprints, etc. If YOU notice any then this is your education.

Wyn Jones 2014

Myles Joseph Dunphy

The sun has risen and set on many a day,
And shone its guiding light upon the vales
Where many feet have passed along the way
Since Myles Joseph Dunphy trod these trails
On jagged mountain ridges swept by gales,
When passes on the plateaux he explored
Where precipices all around him lay
And eagles in the skies above him soared.
For places wild at heart, he made a stand
And fought for what was well worth fighting
for;

He mapped the country with an artist's hand
To share with us the vision that he saw
Let's keep alive his vision for the land
With wilderness located at its core.

Col Gibson