

## **Saturday Jaunt May 31st Waratah Park, Burrellow and Kurrajong Heights for Dinner**

**Participants:** Andrew and Lucy Fox (leader)  
Rick and Jenny Vey- Cox and guest Faisal  
Mary and Chris Keys

**Author:** Mary Keys

What a great idea – time to get the Saturday morning chores done and then we met at the park near the RAAF base at Richmond. Perfect weather and a nice spot for lunch on the run before setting off up the Bell's Line of Road to take in some bush walking down through the gorge in Waratah Park.

Every time we venture up that way we find another jewel of nature less than 50 km from Sydney. Waratah Park is set well into the forest and there are quite a number of picnic tables interspersed amongst the trees and nice clean long drop toilets. This would be a great place to get away from the summer heat – there is quite a canopy to protect you from the sun. From here we took the walk down into the gorge where there is a waterfall. Down below the rock overhangs there was a cool, wet and ferny paradise. The bushwalk was a half hour in and half hour out. After all that exercise a cup of tea was required and we were kept amused by Faisal doing all the teenage boy athletic stunts.

Back into our vehicles and about turn in the Sydney direction – this time down Patterson's Fire Trail and on to Burrellow in the National Park. We travelled through some beautiful forest and then took the descent to the Burrellow camp and picnic area. The road is 4WD only, not difficult but we can see why the parks close it off after a bit of rain – it is so close to civilisation that yobbos would tear the track up in no time.

Yet another national treasure and we had never been here before. A great place to camp overnight, have a fire, a good meal and a slow start to the next day. Sleeping , reading, bush walking could all be on the agenda. In winter it would be cold but then a fire would keep you warm and the trip home would be quick.



Although you do need to take in your own wood we were able to get a small fire going from embers that were still glowing within one of the metal fireplaces – Faisal had a great time collecting dried leaves and providing oxygen to get it going.

Then our trusty vehicles climbed the 6.5 km out of the valley to Kurrajong Heights where we concluded the days outing with a meal at the Kurrajong Heights pub. We recommend the steaks!

Thanks to Andrew, a great day , a great format and some great finds.