



### Easter Bushwalks - Gorge Camping or Mountain Accommodation

Once again, we have a variety of walks on offer this Easter, ranging from day walks in the high country based at a cosy alpine lodge to a pack-carry at one of East Gippsland's most spectacular gorges.

Two pack-carry options are being offered in Coopracambra national park, near Cann River in East Gippsland. The centrepiece is the red sandstone Genoa River gorge. Expect to get your feet wet, however this is usually the best time of the year to do this walk. In spring the river level can be too high to make sections of the gorge safely passable, however in autumn it's normally at its lowest (even the runoff from February's deluge will have subsided by Easter).

The harder pack-carry option is a circuit, doing a full passage along the 29km length of the gorge section in two days.

An easier option base-camps for three nights (after a 17km walk in along a track) on the river near the upper section of the gorge. From there, day walks venture down the gorge as far as possible in the time available as well as climbing Mt Coopracambra or one of the nearby peaks for views of the region. This region is one the club only visits about once per decade, so don't miss this rare opportunity. Contact Stephen 9387 6481 for bookings.

The accommodated trip is based in the Currawong lodge at Dinner Plain. Day walk options include a return trip to Mt Feathertop via the Razorback, one of the most spectacular walks in Victoria as well as Dinner Plain, Mt Loch-Derrick hut or a lunch on the Cobungra river by Dibbins Hut. Note that many of these walks (particularly the most scenic ones) are quite lengthy (~20km) with ups and downs of a few hundred metres and hence have a medium or medium-hard grading. Only a limited number of beds are available, cost includes accommodation and a continental breakfast, \$115 if paid by March 7<sup>th</sup>, \$125 afterwards.

Bookings at Clubnight or phone David 9380 8126.



*"I'm sure it's around here somewhere" Simon Walliss studies the map for Frenchman's Cap (background), SW Tasmania, a highlight of the 2004-05 Christmas-New Year bushwalks. Photo: Chris Kouts*

**More photos and stories from this summer's walks pages 3-4**

### Also in this Issue

- ❖ **Lost!** how a nature call turned into an embarrassing ordeal for one Sunday walker (p6)
- ❖ **In Profile:** Neil Warden (p6)
- ❖ **Heritage Cowpats?** upholding a noble tradition or superannuated cowboys? (p5)
- ❖ **Alpine Hut Reconstructions** three rebuilt (p4)
- ❖ **Bush Recipes** tempting treats for overnight camps (p7)
- ❖ **Treasure Hunt competition;** Easter egg prizes for the first few to solve the puzzle (p8)

### Other Autumn Highlights

**Anzac Day** pack-walk; a long weekend again this year, with a circuit to Mt Cobbler – Mt Koonika, with plenty of time to explore features such as Lake Cobbler and Dandongadale Falls.

**Cope Hut working bee (May 14-15).** A few odd jobs to ready the hut for winter including repairing the leaky roof, replacing mattresses and improving the stove. Plus short walks around the high plains. Accommodation is either in the hut or tenting outside, both just a few hundred metres from the vehicles.

**Annual General Meeting** Clubnight April 11<sup>th</sup> Time once again to elect a new bushwalking committee, and as always new volunteers are sought to assist with clubnight and the general planning of our activities. So if you're a regular walker (and YHA member) and keen to influence the club, express your interest to one of the existing committee (see page 2) beforehand and come along on the night.

**YHA BUSHWALKING COMMITTEE  
2004/05**

Chairman	Simon Walliss
Secretary	Greg Shepherd
Treasurer	Robert Yuen
Walks Sec.	David Sisson
Social Sec.	Cynthia Bell
S & R	Ken Sussex
Webmaster	Andrew Brown
Newsletter	Stephen Smith
General	Ron Bell
	Stuart Hanham
	Andres Vidovic

YHA Bushwalking emergency mobile phone  
(For emergency contact on walks) 0428 313 880

General Enquiries: 0500 500 272

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO YETI**

These articles don't write themselves y' know, nor are they all plagiarised from the internet (well some of them aren't anyway). If you've enjoyed yourself on one or two YHA trips or have some thoughts about bushwalking which you'd like to share, then here's your opportunity to do so. Find a spare moment, jot them down then email them to [yhabush@bigpond.com](mailto:yhabush@bigpond.com). Deadline for the next issue is May 20<sup>th</sup> 2005.

**YETI ONLINE**

"Yeti" has its own website [www.vicnet.net.au/~yhayeti](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~yhayeti) containing an online version of the latest issue as well as archived articles from past editions. The web versions are well worth visiting, as they often include additional photographs not able to be included in the print version for reasons of space, as well as superior reproduction.

**TRIP LEADERS**

If you wish to have a brief description of your upcoming trip printed here in YETI please contact the editor with the details.

**YHA ACTIVITIES CLUBNIGHT**

Is held on Monday nights at the YWCA building, 489 Elizabeth Street in the city, from 8pm to approx. 9:30pm. Special events start at 8.15pm sharp, everybody welcome.

**ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

If you recognise an article in this newsletter it is probably because it has been plagiarised from another source. This is the only way we can bring you this newsletter. YETI makes no apology for any offence caused.

**YETI THANKS**

The following contributors to this issue:

John Belfio  
Chris Kouts  
Richard Miller  
Dzung Nguyen  
Simon Walliss  
Neil Warden  
Pieter Wijtzes

**Chairman's Report**

Christmas proved to be a successful time with, for the first time in a long time, three extended walks taking place. Mark Beyer led a successful walk on the northernmost part of the Alpine Walking track from Canberra to Kiandra. Greg Shepherd led a walk around The Bluff which was unfortunately shortened due to bad weather and I led a trip to Frenchman's Cap in Tasmania.

2005 has been busy so far with most walks being popular. There are some great trips at Easter this year! We are running an accommodated trip to Dinner Plain staying in the most luxurious accommodation yet. Book early! For those more adventurous there will be a number of options for walking in the Genoa Gorge and Coopracambra National Park in Far East Gippsland.

Try to come to some of the social events we have put on. They are good fun events and the more the merrier!

Look forward to seeing everyone out walking!

*Simon Walliss*  
Chairman

**Tips for Better Bushwalking****#8 ...and early to rise**

An early start is the first step to a successful day's walk. While it's tempting to have a weekend sleep-in, this wastes the best part of the day. It's cool, morning light brings out the best in the scenery, so unless it's raining, what are you doing lying in your tent? If there's a long walk ahead, allow as much time as you can. The worst that can happen is that you arrive at campsite early and everyone has time to relax, prepare dinner, wash and generally chat. On the other hand a late start leaves very little time up your sleeve if things go wrong or simply take longer than you expect. Even if you spend the same length of time, people feel less tired arriving at their campsite at 5pm than 7pm.

So when the leader nominates an early start, don't complain, respect their wisdom, assist by being ready on time and in the long run you'll enjoy the walk more than the short-term gain of an extra hour in bed. And if it's the leader who won't budge from the sack, well perhaps a few wake-up calls are in order...



*Demonstrating how not to waste the best part of the day*

## A "Summer" of Bushwalks

### The Bluff (Dec 27-29<sup>th</sup>)

**An inauspicious start:** What was planned as a three day circuit led by Greg Shepherd around The Bluff and King Billy peaks was quickly scaled back to a base-camp at Bluff Hut, with just a day trip out to Mt Lovick.

**A silver lining:** The extra beauty a few centimetres of snow adds to the landscape



*"Which season did you say this was?"*

**Memorable moment:** The Flying Cow. A bullock startled by John Belfio panicked and attempted to climb the steep section below the summit of the Bluff. Suddenly the animal lost its grip and slipped down sideways, becoming briefly airborne before landing on its side with a dull thud and remaining silent and immobile. Fearing the worst (or sensing the opportunity for fresh steak) a few people ventured closer, whereupon the cow sprang to life, jumped up and this time managed to bolt clear of the group.



*A White Christmas at Bluff Hut (both photos: Pieter Wijtzes)*

Despite the weather, the idea of a relatively short (3-4 day) and easier pack-carry after Christmas proved a success, attracting nine people, over half of whom were doing their first pack-walk with the club. Expect to see similar trips offered in future (provided we have volunteers to run them).

### Mayford (Feb 5-6<sup>th</sup> 2005)



*Teaming up to cross the Dargo Rvr (photo: Stephen Smith)*

Normally in late summer the Dargo river isn't much deeper than a Delta Goodrem lyric, so it's possible to get across without getting your socks wet. This however was a few days after the "big downpour"; Mt Hotham's 60mm of rain was much less than many other parts of Victoria, but enough to give the river a bit of a boost. Finding the best crossing point took a bit of careful surveying by early riser John Belfio.

## Ron Bell presents

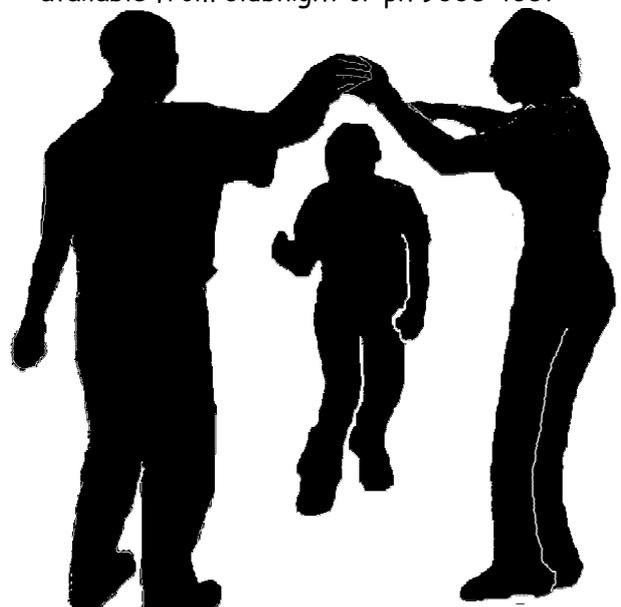
in association with the Budawangs Touring Company

# BUSHDANCE 2005

featuring a new band  
Blackberry Jam

Reelin' into Collingwood Town Hall  
Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>

Tickets \$18 (\$22 at door)  
available from Clubnight or ph 9338 4057



### Frenchman's Cap (Dec 26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> 2004)



The group ascending from Lake Tahune (l-r David S, Chris, Ivan, Paul, David E & Neil). photo: Simon Walliss

**An inauspicious start:** A late start (4pm) on the first day, followed by a crossing of the sodden Loddon Plains and then a further day hut-bound waiting out a dose of southwest Tasmania's world-famous weather.

**Memorable Moments:** When the rain stopped, the weather cleared dramatically, providing spectacular views not just of Frenchman's Cap peak but of the surrounding lakes and valleys. Residual snowfall on the higher peaks was icing on the scenery. And then after the peak of Frenchmans came a crossing of the mighty Franklin River.

**A stroke of luck:** Finding river guides camped at the Franklin River crossing point. The river level had subsided but was still fast-flowing after the recent bad weather. Four out of six members of the group were confident enough to swim across, however even they were happy to have their packs ferried by the guides.

**The hardest day:** A twelve hour walk, much of it being off-track through thick scrub. When the Tasmanian sun comes out it can get quite hot, compounded on this day by some of the group running short of water.

**An inauspicious ending:** Finding that there was no accommodation in Hobart on New Year's Eve. The only option was a camping ground at Bronte Park 150km out of town, by which time it was late at night with nowhere open to get a proper meal.

### Alpine Walking Track: Canberra to Kiandra (Dec 26<sup>th</sup> - Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005)

**An inauspicious start:** The minibus to take the group from Kiandra to the start of the walk at Tharwa just outside Canberra never turned up (to this day no-one knows what happened to it). After giving up waiting, everyone drove to Tharwa. Arriving late in the afternoon, the National Park information centre had closed, meaning the leader was unable to obtain a map covering the first section of the walk. And then, a few hours into the walk, one of the participants, Trish, suffering the effects of a virus, was forced to pull out along with her partner Andrés.



Mark Beyer (front row, left) and his happy campers relaxing outside Oldfields Hut. photo: Dzong Nguyen

**But after that:** Everything went very well. Sketch maps from Siseman's AWT guidebook combined with Mark's wealth of experience got the group to the area they did have maps for without getting lost. The bad weather which affected the other two Christmas walks didn't penetrate as far north as the Kosciuszko National Park, so much of the walking was quite warm-hot. This section of the AWT puts in a strong case for being the second best (after the Kiandra-Thredbo part taking in the Main Range), with a variety of scenery, huts and not too difficult walking.

And although unfortunate for Trish and Andre having to drop out, they were able to drive the vehicles to Kiandra, thus saving the rest of the group a long wait and car shuffle at the end of the walk.

### Alpine Hut Reconstructions

Federation Hut (Mt Feathertop) and Michell Hut (Mt Bogong), destroyed in bushfires two years ago, have both been rebuilt this summer, their value as emergency shelters having been recognised. The new designs are more generous with windows than their predecessors, and so should be much less gloomy inside.

Lovick's hut was reported destroyed by those on the Bluff Christmas walk, however it appears that this is temporary. The old hut was demolished for safety reasons after being deemed structurally unsound but should also be rebuilt by the end of the summer.

## Heritage Cowpats?

With the “grazing reduces blazing” argument all but extinguished (just ask any of the thousands of livestock roasted alive on the Eyre Peninsula about that one), proponents of continued cattle grazing in the Alpine National Park are now attempting to play the heritage card.

An application for “emergency national heritage” listing was submitted recently in an effort to gain Federal Government protection for an activity under threat from the State government’s Alpine Grazing Taskforce.

Yes, the reasoning is that because something’s been practised for over a hundred years, it should continue that way into eternity. As if it isn’t bad enough to have a Prime Minister trying to steer the country back to the 1950’s, now comes a move to lock the high country into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. “Heritage”, alongside “patriotism”, one of the last desperate catchcries when no cogent arguments exist to counter the tide of public opinion.

When the high country was first discovered by pioneering white settlement in the 1850s it must have seemed like paradise; verdant plains, ideal for summer grazing at a time when much less than the present-day 85% of lowland forest had been cleared for farming. Let no revisionism denigrate the achievements of these early pioneering families. By all means preserve this history in the huts and trails of the region, and record the folklore of the early settlers, but there’s no nineteenth century cattle left that will miss their summer pasture. Heritage should be something of value for the general community and future generations, not solely a group of superannuated cowboys insisting on the right to continue grazing at a peppercorn rent because that’s what they’ve always been used to.

Dogs and cats were once permitted in the area as well, before it became a National Park, however nowadays when it’s no longer permitted to even collect dead wood for a campfire on the Bogong High Plains, what makes cattle grazing so special that it can’t move with the times?

Cattle have to feed somewhere in order to produce the thick, succulent eye-fillet steaks that many of us love (vegetarians had better skip to the next paragraph),

however no-one (not even the mountain cattlemen lobby) has claimed that a diet of alpine daisies makes them taste better. So where is the benefit of it to the rest of us?

Perhaps if there was evidence that tourists wanted to see grazing in the Alpine National Park, there would be a case for arguing “heritage”. After all it worked for W-Class Trams. They’re noisy, draughty and the brakes don’t work, but tourists love them (until they actually ride in them), so there’s a good argument to rattle them around the city on a Sunday afternoon. Can the same be said for hordes of visitors travelling the Bogong High Plains road, hoping to glimpse a distant herd gnawing away at the rare vegetation while a few horsemen canter nonchalantly about? While the really lucky tourist may get their vehicle ‘autographed’ by some of these majestic animals scraping themselves against a side-panel, those less fortunate will have to make do with the sight of heritage blowflies buzzing about heritage cowpats.

Sense has prevailed with the application for “emergency” heritage listing being dismissed – after all cattle can come back anytime, it’s not like a historic building being demolished and lost forever. The case for heritage protection remains open however, as does tabling of the report from the Alpine Grazing Taskforce originally due last spring but continually delayed. Let’s hope the State Government has the political will to treat a National Park as a true National Heritage area and resist any attempts at Federal intervention.

### Five other traditions which existed for many years but missed out on a Heritage listing

- ◆ ASHTRAYS IN CAFÉS
- ◆ NEGRO SLAVERY
- ◆ ASBESTOS FENCING
- ◆ FOX HUNTING
- ◆ “HEY HEY IT’S SATURDAY”



## In Profile - Neil Warden

## L O S T !

### How long have you been walking with YHA?

12 years. I was looking for an outdoor activity group to replace Rovers, who were expelling me for being over the hill!

**Can you remember your first walk?** Yes, Bryce's Gorge where someone had to be carried out with a broken ankle.

**Your favourite walk?** The Western Arthurs (Christmas 2003); the hardest walk I've done, but also the most spectacular.



Neil - firmly entrenched in bushwalking

(photo: Simon Walliss)

**Most memorable walk?** My first Easter trip, across the Bogong High plains; I barely survived, my legs seized up afterwards.

**And a trip from Hell?** A Colin Cody epic in the Caledonia river area, two-three days of mostly scrub-bashing and a twelve hour walk on the final day. My knees seized up in Colin's cramped 4WD on the way home. I was unable to go to work the next day, the only time this has happened after a walk.

**Most embarrassing moment?** Sitting in a hut with a candle and a cup-cake hoping someone would notice and sing Happy Birthday to me; it took a while but eventually they did.

**Have you ever thought about hanging up your boots?** A lot of time during the first 4-5 years due to frequent problems with blisters. It took me nine years to find a good pair of boots (Merrells).

**Unfulfilled destination you'd most like to visit?** In Australia, the Blue Mountains, overseas Nepal.

Totally bewildered, I found myself alone facing a choice of many directions, but not knowing which one to take or where I was. And all the time I tried to stay calm and think straight, an old Clash song kept playing over in my head; not the best way to start my first Sunday walk.

The signs weren't good from the start; I'd discovered there weren't any hot dog stands along the route, and not having brought a packed lunch, faced the prospect of going hungry. Excusing myself for a quick nature call I headed away from the others. Having relieved myself, something else caught my attention and I wandered towards it. Everything went well until the time came a few minutes later to rejoin the others. I hadn't been concentrating on where I'd been going and realised I had no clue as to which way to go back. Heading off in a likely direction I came to a large open area, problem was there was no sign of anyone from the group. Turning 180 degrees, I charged off in the opposite direction until eventually reaching another clearing, but still nobody.

By now panic had started to set in. Choosing another route led to another area looking like the one I'd started out from (or had just come from?), but problem was I still hadn't run into anybody. Was I in the right spot but they'd gone off to look for me? Would they realise what had happened? It had seemed like I'd been lost for ages, but maybe it was just a few minutes and no-one had yet missed me. Should I wait or should I go? I paused for a bit longer until it became clear no-one was going to turn up. At least food wasn't a worry; having some fruit and a couple of Mars Bars I could probably hold out for a few weeks.

Think rationally, "calm down" I told myself. What had the leader said to do in this situation? I racked my brain in vain – not much actually, barely a word since leaving Spencer St. Remembering something I read about carefully retracing steps until reaching a recognisable landmark, I set about trying to reconstruct the route I'd come from. Suddenly there it was, a sign familiar as one I'd stood in front of earlier that day. "Special: Bananas \$2.49/kg".

Things were starting to come together. Before the bananas I remembered .. what was it... a tub of butter. But which direction had I come from? I asked a young girl in a green uniform if she knew where the butter was. "Aisle 12, about six rows that way" she pointed. And lo and behold a few moments later I found myself facing the dairy cabinet. Things were really coming back to me now, all the rows no longer looked alike. I'd needed the butter to spread on the rolls which I'd picked up in the bakery section...around the corner to my right. I dashed around expecting to see loaves of bread and sure enough there it was – the confectionery shelf?! Lost again?- no this *was* the right way I realised, remembering the Mars Bars. I then found the bread, next to the entrance I'd arrived from, by an arcade leading directly to a car park. Would this be the right one at last? I reached it and there they were, waving frantically at me. Had they been concerned by my disappearance after all?

They had: "Jesus christ!, where the hell have you been, we were supposed to be at the start of the walk half an hour ago".

## Bush Tucker

### Spaghetti Tunamagic

This one's quick, easy yet very tasty, and suitable for both epic hikes of a week or more as well as weekend walks (where additional fresh vegetables can be added if desired).



100- 150g spaghetti  
100g tuna in olive oil (tin or sachet)  
2 tbsp "Tomato Magic"  
grated parmesan cheese to taste

1. Cook pasta in boiling water; varieties such as vermicelli or angel-hair only require 2-3 minutes cooking.
2. Lightly drain; leave a few tbsp of water in the pan.
3. Add Tomato Magic and mix thoroughly until dissolved and the pasta is coated in a paste.
4. Add tuna, stir to heat through
5. Top with parmesan to taste.

*Hint:* For walking, tuna in oil (as opposed to brine or springwater) has much a much higher energy content and goes well coating pasta.

### Pasta Kebananara

Instant pasta meals are extremely convenient, however just by themselves they can seem bland, even in the bush. A few simple extras however can elevate them to a gourmet meal.

Fresh herbs are one of these wonder ingredients; they weigh next to nothing and will keep for a few days even if chopped beforehand.

120-140g packet "Creamy Bacon Carbonara" pasta  
125ml carton long-life milk  
1 stick of kebana (100g), chopped into 1cm pieces  
1 cup water  
2 tbsp fresh Italian herb mix (parsley, basil, spring onions, chives).  
Olive oil to taste

1. Heat milk and water to boiling point.
2. Add pasta+sauce mix, simmer 10mins (or as per directions on packet)
3. Add chopped kebana, stir to heat through
4. Sprinkle with fresh herbs and mix lightly when ready to serve.

[Recipe supplied by Chris Kouts](#)



### ...and something for Sunday morning

As it isn't uncommon to be camping in remote locations, several hour's walk from the nearest café, a major dilemma for many on Sunday morning is how best to get their caffeine heartstarter. For the very keen, miniature plungers are available from outdoor shops which brew a quite passable cup of coffee.

For convenience and also surprisingly good taste (based on



the opinion of quite a few of our weekend walkers) the best product available at the moment is the Nescafé range of coffee sachets. Just add hot water to the contents and stir. Cost is about \$4 for a packet of 8. Cappuccino and Latte (pictured) have been successfully road-tested on recent walks.

Other varieties available include Caramel (also given a thumbs-up), Mocha and Vanilla.

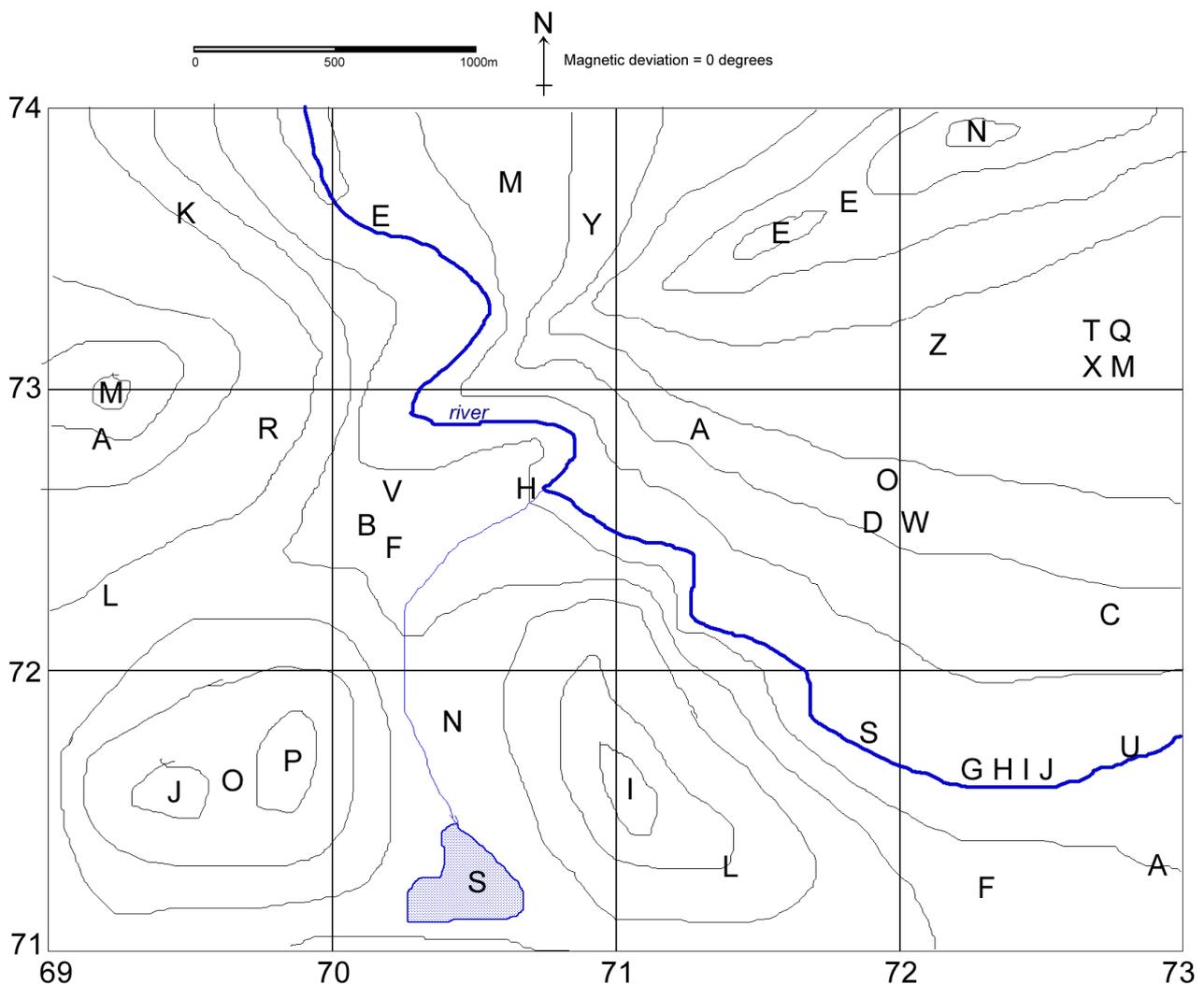
## Yeti Treasure Hunt

Solve the clues to discover whereabouts the Easter Bunny's treasure is hidden.  
The first five correct answers win Easter Egg prizes.

Follow the directions for the map below, noting the letter at the end of each step. Once you have all the letters, rearrange them to form the name of an Australian town.

1. Start on the letter "A" at grid reference 713 729
2. The next letter is 1.5km west.
3. From there, go to the summit of the nearby hill for the third letter.
4. Next letter is 1800m away on a course of 70°
5. Staying this side of the river, climb the side of the hill to the saddle for the next letter.
6. Then follow a course of 168° until you reach a letter on the riverbank
7. Head approx 400-500m upriver for the next letter.
8. Cross the river and pick up the letter from the summit of the nearest hill
9. Next letter is 1300m NW.
10. Now proceed due east until you reach a letter from which the bearing to hill "N" is 15°
11. Finally, (from the last letter not hill "N"), head 280° for 2km, find the nearest letter, use this letter twice.

Once you've unscrambled the letters, email your answer to [yhabush\\_contact@yahoo.com.au](mailto:yhabush_contact@yahoo.com.au)



Solution next issue