

## **Danjera Trig - 28th March 2007**

- by Brett Davis

The walk to Danjera trig was relatively short at around 12kms, but extremely difficult. Danjera Trig is only about two and a half kilometres west of Bladen's Pass, which itself is about twelve kilometres north of Main Road 92 just off the Yarramunmun Fire Trail. An old fire trail leaves the main fire trail at this point, but this was so overgrown in places that we soon lost it and were forced to make our way off-track to the pass.

Finding the entry point into the pass was difficult, even though there are actually three - two tricky scrambles, or a crawl through a short tunnel under a large chock stone. Bladen's Pass is almost certainly the narrowest pass in Australia, and probably the world. It is too narrow for even the smallest set of hips, and must be sidled through for much of its length. If it was any narrower, it would not be a pass at all. Packs must either be pushed ahead of you, or dragged behind. A much loved thermos belonging to Brett and Karen Davis became a victim to the ruggedness of the pass.

Once through the pass, a steep descent of 360 metres through unmarked cliffines and wattle regrowth takes you to the very pretty intersection of Danjera Creek with Boolijah Creek. A steep spur to the west leads to a traverse along a steep slope, with cliffines both above and below you. This slope is interspersed with steep-sided gullies requiring careful negotiation. Once across a small creek, a further steep climb to a number of pinnacles takes you to eastern side of the Danjera Plateau, its edge a maze of gullies, cracks and ravines through boulders and more pinnacles.

After crossing the headwater tributaries of a small but deep creek, the final flat, scrubby kilometre to the trig was a pleasant relief after all that has gone before. Situated on a rocky outcrop, the trig has fantastic views of the valley below, with a number of distant trigs visible - the Point Perpendicular lighthouse, Cambewarra and Coolangatta, the Vincentia water tank, and Tianjara Mountain.

The return was via the same route, with modifications based on previous experience. Initially, we ventured further away from the rugged edge of the plateau and found much easier going over a succession of flat, open rock slabs, enabling us a much quicker return to the pinnacles (and pink tape we had left) marking the beginning of the descent. The traverse went well, but we picked the wrong spur for our descent to the Boolijah and Danjera Creek intersection, and arrived at Danjera Creek a few hundred metres west of the intersection.

We chose a more direct route up to Bladen's Pass, climbing directly from the rocky crossing of Boolijah Creek a couple of hundred metres south of the intersection and following an easterly bearing. The ascent took an hour, and the climb through Bladen's Pass took another fifteen minutes or so. Once on top of the escarpment, Karen quickly located the overgrown fire trail, and we managed to follow it all the way back to the cars.

An early start - 6:30am in Nowra and 7am at the T intersection of Braidwood Road and Turpentine Road - had seen us begin walking shortly after 8am. We arrived back at the cars over 9 hours later! The group of seven who took part in the walk were Karen and Brett Davis, Sandra Kelley, Peter Dalton, Ray Warner, Noel Walton and Gordon Grenenger.

Sandra Kelley commented after the walk that it was probably the hardest day-walk that she had ever done with the club. The author is in complete agreement ...