

MAX GENTLE

On 14th July 1962, Max Gentle passed away suddenly at his home in Oatley at the age of 51. Max joined the Club in April 1929. He was essentially a solitary walker; he did many trips on his own and, in fact, it was not until he met Gordon Smith - doing several trips with him - that he decided to join the Sydney Bushwalkers. Even then he very often walked many miles on his own, and cycled huge distances in this State and others.

As a bushman, a better man was hard to find and many were the successful Club and private walks conducted under his leadership. After his return from interesting and usually unfrequented country, Max would sit down and write an article for "The Sydney Bushwalker", so that in future years, the information would be available to members wishing to traverse the area, a practice which could well be followed with advantage by present leaders.

Max made no secret of the fact that he did not like rock climbing in high places, and yet he spent many hours on his own exploring the Kanangra and Gangerang Areas, his name being perpetuated in Gentle's Sheerdown and Gentle's Pass. He was a member of the original "Tiger" group.

Of all our bushwalking country the Colo River was his favourite, and in 1931, in company with Gordon Smith, walked the length of the Colo River, with a 2 day side trip to Mt. Uraterer, the first and then fastest recorded trip by Bushwalkers in that area. Another feat of his was walking from Blackheath to Richmond down the Grose River in one day - on his own.

During the last couple of years, Max made infrequent visits to the Club, but was always assured of a warm welcome by his walking mates over so many years. He was also a member of the Bush Club and was to have led one of their walks on July 22.

Representatives from this Club and the Bush Club attended the burial service at the Methodist Section of the Woronora Cemetery.

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RON BAKER

Old hands will learn with regret the passing on of Ron Baker a few weeks ago, at the early age of 39.

Ron joined the club about 1942 after much solo walking, mainly in the Ku-Ring-gai Chase, his old home being on the Chase fringe, at Wahroonga, where