

## World Water Day 2021

When I was in High School, I studied all about the water cycle in Geography under Howard Brockington and then, again, at University under Professor Tweedie. I had always been fascinated by the water cycle and, beyond that, the power of water in all matters related to the construction of our landscape, be it coastal, glacial or simply fluvial! Water was a constant in all its forms, influencing all, as it worked its magic. It did not matter whether it was a rainforest or a desert. Water was one of those primal forces not to be denied.

Sometime during those years, I was kidnapped by the discipline of History and have given my life to that mistress but deep down the lessons of those years studying the water cycle have never left me and so when I discovered that there was such an event as World Water Day, I could not but be attracted to somehow marking the occasion.

Accordingly, as is my custom, I placed a morning event onto the walks program of the National Parks Association. It was then that the entire east coast of NSW got inundated with water! Floodwaters were all along the Mid North Coast, creating evacuations, and the rains that arrived in the Sydney basin fell with regular persistence. It did not matter that these events have happened before, quite often along what used to be called Deerubbin and is now the Hawkesbury-Nepean, thanks in part to the narrow choke where the Hawkesbury cuts through the high cliffs as it turns east and towards the coast. What matters to our media is it sounds better to call it a 1 in 100-year event. It makes it more, somehow, “scary”. Its effect relies on the memory of viewers, hoping that no-one remembers they used the term only a few years back.

The actual official walk to celebrate World Water Day was therefore cancelled but this intrepid wanderer could not resist heading out, camera and tripod in position, to record the various ways water affected the local national park: Royal National Park, on the southern edge of Sydney.

So, come along for the ride!







Images from National Falls











Scenes from Toonoum Falls







Ocean water below and sky-laden water above



Scenes from Governor Game Lookout





Surf Life Saving headquarters at Garie – the dangers of water!







Managing water







Scenes from Wattamolla







A reminder of the power of water







Drainage and roading to water tank south of Wattamolla car park







Track without good drainage



The power of the sea





A coastline in retreat, thanks to water







Sediment washed out by water







The life-giving forces of water on all living things!

Nothing is softer or more flexible than water, yet nothing can resist it." – Lao Tzu

"The fall of dropping water wears away the Stone." – Lucretius

*Brian Everingham*