

# BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



## Contents

**This 'n' That**

---

**2018-2019 Committee**

---

**President's 2018 AGM Report**

---

**Feral Horses in KNP**

---

**Winter Walking Photos**

---

**Renew Your Membership**

---

**Contributing Articles**

---

**New Members**

---

## This 'n' That

### *President's Pontifications*

The AGM has been held and your committee and sub-committees have been elected for the next year. They volunteer a lot of time and effort to make this club function as well as it does, so please give them your support.

On your behalf, I'd like to thank Peter Ford for the wise and steady influence he has had over the club as president for the past two years. When elected in 2016 he said that it would be for a maximum of two years because he believed it was desirable to keep getting new people and new ideas in the job. Under his leadership the club has continued to resist introducing any new bureaucratic processes or policies and the new committee intends to stick with the 'keep it simple' approach to what ought to be a pretty basic endeavour - bushwalking.

We also farewell Terrylea Reynolds from the position of Facebook coordinator. She has a number of other commitments now and needs to devote her energies to them. Terrylea started our Facebook presence and it has continued to grow steadily. I'd like to thank Helen Locke for offering to take on the role.

There is an article on feral horses in this newsletter. While the committee avoids getting involved in political issues, one of our 'objects' under the constitution is the "maintenance of the natural environment", which is why we thought it appropriate to include this item.

Peter Dalton



The following members were elected at the AGM

**The Committee for 2018-2019**

President	-	Peter Dalton
Vice President/Walks Officer	-	John Ellis
Secretary & Public Officer	-	Julie Pettit
Treasurer	-	Lana Burmester
Membership Secretary	-	Davinia Wells
Social Convenor	-	Elaine Atkinson
Training & Development	-	Bob Chittenden
Committee Member	-	Peter Ford
Committee Member	-	Vacant

**Walks Sub-Committee**

John Ellis	Kathy Handel	Robyn Gallagher
Robyn Kelly	Peter Wellman	Jillian Bellamy
Annabel Agafonoff		

**Social Committee**

Elaine Atkinson	Wendy Thompson	Julie Pettit
Colleen Fox	Terry O'Brien	Peter Boyland
Monty Fox		

**Facebook Manager** - Helen Locke

**Emergency Officers**

Doug Finlayson

Colin Boreham

**BBC Facebook Page**

Visit the facebook page to see photos, walk reports and information about upcoming activities. It is at: <https://www.facebook.com/BrindabellaBushwalkingClub/> You can set your facebook page to receive notifications every time there is a new post.

# President's Report 2018

As presented to the AGM by Peter Ford

The programs of day walks, trips away and joint Wednesday walks with the other clubs have continued to prosper and develop, BBC has continued to grow; the social program has been well supported and important programs such as First Aid training have been well attended. You will hear the details in subsequent reports. All this does not just happen. It is due to the efforts of committee members, sub-committee members and others who do not necessarily occupy any formal position. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all concerned.

There are problems with the Family Walks program but not due to any lack of effort. Others will speak to this.

Looking ahead, we have a number of challenges and I'd like to say a few words about three of them - modernising electronic communications, maintaining a good safety record and coping with the rapid growth in numbers on some walks.

## **Modernising Electronic Communications**

Our website and membership database are central to our life as a club. So too is our membership database and the Wednesday Walks list that is common to ourselves, the CBC and the NPA. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Allan Mikkelsen for the setting up and maintenance of the website. Over time, however, all technical systems need to be reviewed to ensure they continue to meet the objectives for which they have been set up and ours are no exception. In consultation with Allan, we're making some major improvements. Let me assure you however, that these improvements will continue to conform to the principle of 'keeping it simple'.

## **Maintaining a Good Safety Record**

Together with the CBC and the NPA, we have successfully resisted initiatives that appeared to come from commercial interests for government regulation of certain recreational activities including bushwalking. Our case was supported by our ability to point to our own rules and to our excellent safety record. However, we cannot afford to become complacent. In this connection, we have made some amendments to our guidelines to address issues that have arisen throughout the year. Bushwalking will never be risk free but we need to be sure we manage the risks as well as it is possible for us to do.

## **Coping with Rapid Growth in numbers on some walks**

At the sharp end of the club's activities, are walk leaders. All else is support. Your committee is conscious of this and works very hard to maintain that support.

All Wednesday walks are continuing to grow in popularity, which is great, but problems arise when the numbers regularly go above 30 as they do for Easy/Medium walks. To some extent, these problems can be regarded as a subset of those involved in maintaining a good safety record. It's a good problem to have and one that has already been addressed by our Walks Coordinator in concert with those of the other clubs. It's now important to monitor the situation so as to ensure that we appropriately manage risk and maintain a good bushwalking experience for all participants.

I've been honoured to serve as President of the Club for the last two years and, despite some difficult moments, have enjoyed the experience very much. I think we can look forward with confidence to the year ahead.

# Concerned about feral horses in your favourite walking areas?

Article supplied by CBC member, Linda Groom



**Untrampled meadows at Pounds Creek**

Photo: Mike Bremers

## Here's something you can do!

In June, the NSW Parliament passed the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018, giving an introduced species greater protection than any endangered native animal in Kosciuszko National Park. A number of members of bushwalking clubs and the NPA found this deeply concerning. We decided to run a protest walk from Sydney to the summit of Kosciuszko and have set up a new association to run the walk – **Save Kosci Inc.**

The walk will take about 35 days, including rest days, from 3 November to approximately 8 December 2018. It will follow a mixture of major and secondary roads via Camden, Mittagong, Hilltop, Goulburn, Tarago, Canberra, Cooma and Jindabyne and cover around 20 km per day. Walkers will follow roadside verges and footpaths and sometimes on tracks through reserves, though a varied country landscape, visiting a number of small country towns.

In addition to getting the Act repealed, the aims of the walk are to:

- Support a range of methods to control feral horses in NSW national parks, including ground-based lethal culling, under ranger supervision and according to RSPCA guidelines;
- Implement the NPWS Draft Wild Horse Management Plan of 2016; and
- Protect the habitat of the native broad-toothed mouse, corroboree frog and other native species affected by trampling and grazing



The walk is supported by NPA ACT, NPA NSW and Bushwalking NSW. We are hoping that it will attract some BBC walkers, especially for the stages near Canberra. Some clubs are scheduling a lodge-based weekend in the Perisher area for 8-9 December, with the aim of joining the end-to-end walkers for the final day or two to the summit. It's a great way to meet walkers from many other clubs. Walkers and helpers will be responsible for all their own costs, though we hope to provide at least some free meals along the way.

Interested in helping? The Save Kosci campaign needs these kinds of helpers:

- End-to-end walkers
- Section walkers – from a couple of hours to a couple of weeks
- Support vehicle drivers and other non-walking helpers – from a day or two upwards; retirees with campervans, here is your chance to do a road trip for a Good Cause!
- Desk-based researchers and writers
- People to sew banners
- Bushwalking photographers, with the patience to get close-ups of feral horses eating, drinking, trampling etc in KNP

A new web site for the walk is now running: [savekosci.org](http://savekosci.org), with a supporter registration form coming soon. Please use that form to register. Registration costs \$12. Inquiries are welcome to Linda Groom, [lbgroom@gmail.com](mailto:lbgroom@gmail.com), Convenor, Save Kosci Inc.



Bill Jones Hut  
water source

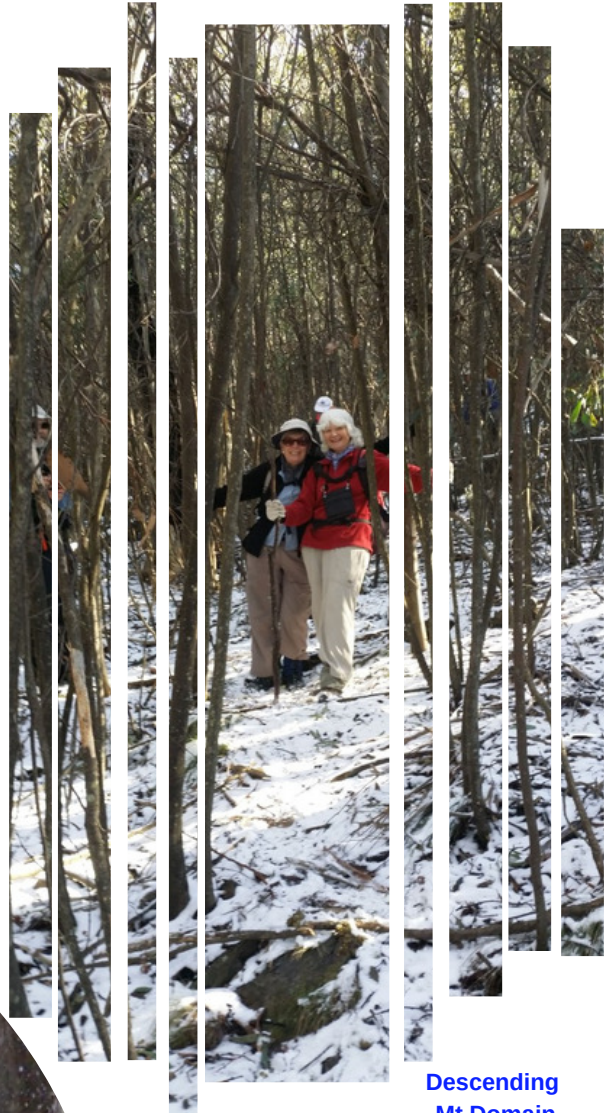
Photo: Mike Bremers

# Recent Photos



Grevillea in Tallaganda National Park  
Photo: Prue Deacon

It's been a great season  
for snow in the local area



Descending  
Mt Domain



Fire Trail in Tallaganda National Park  
Photo: Prue deacon

# Renewing Membership

**It's time to renew your membership.**

The AGM voted to leave fees unchanged - the details are on the Membership form. A form is included with the email containing this newsletter. Please complete and submit it to the membership Secretary. The preferred method of payment is by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the club's bank account (shown on the form).

## Contributing Articles

Suitable articles are always welcomed and photos make them better. It may not be possible to use all the photos. We will include the photographer's name in the newsletter, unless they ask us not to bother. If it is not your photo, you must have the photographer's permission to use it. Send your articles to [walks@brindabellabushwalking.org.au](mailto:walks@brindabellabushwalking.org.au)

An article may be edited to correct spelling errors and to suit the newsletter's style by restructuring, cutting to fit, and even re-writing sections if the editor believes that will better appeal to readers.

The newsletters will also be placed on the Club's website.

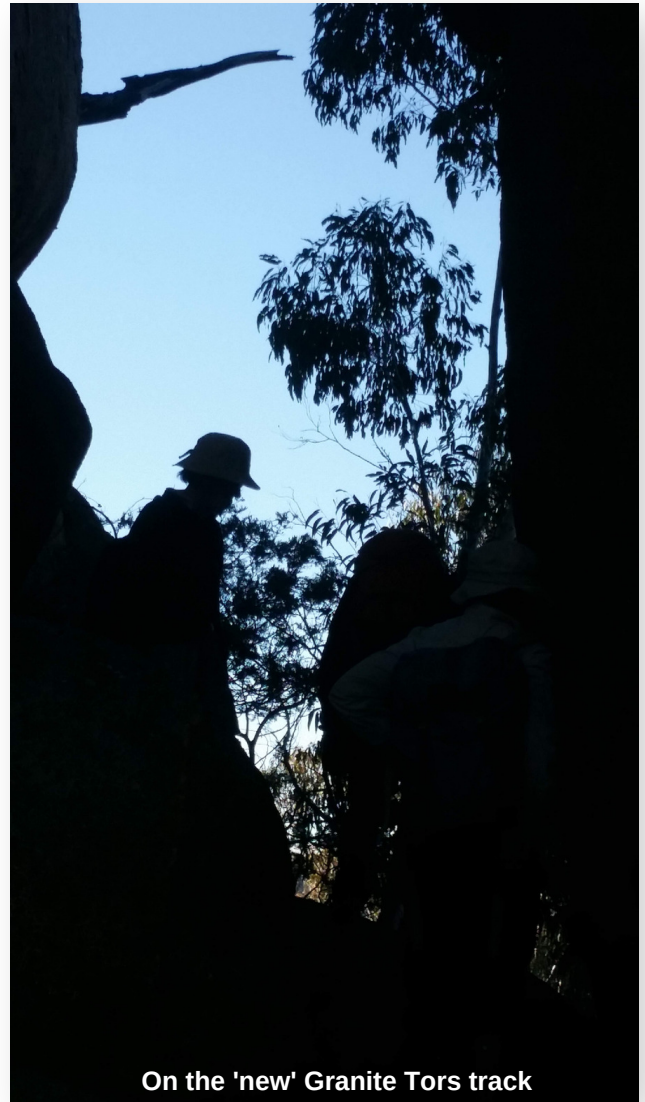
## New Members

**The Club welcomes the following people who have joined us as members in the last couple of months.**

Anne Forsythe  
Ian Davies  
Jurek Juszczak  
Michael Kearney  
Dianne Markwart  
Gregory and Janice Raisin  
Bill and Debra Stuart  
Leanne Sherley



Spring Time



On the 'new' Granite Tors track