

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



This 'n' That

President's Pontifications

This is a brief newsletter to welcome the new year in, and to announce some exciting news (on the next page).

Hot Weather. The club doesn't have a hard and fast rule about when a leader should cancel a walk because some walks that are flat and incorporate swimming or start very early could be perfectly suited to the forecast high temperatures, while others are clearly not.

If you are in doubt, phone the leader to find out.

Leaders should feel that there is no pressure for them to continue with a programmed walk if they deem the conditions to be unsuitable.

We have another comprehensive Trip Report in this newsletter from Phillip that makes me feel more than a little inadequate nowadays.

The first big BBC social event is the Mt Ainslie Sunset Walk on Friday 1 February - the details are in the program - I hope to see you there and on some of the other great walks on offer in the new program.

Peter Dalton

Contents



This 'n' That

Lost Walkers

New-Look Website

Bushwalk Australia

Contributing Articles

Lower Bohinj Ridge

Lost Walkers

A year doesn't go by where we don't have at least one case of walkers becoming separated from the main party, requiring a search to locate them. Let's make this year the exception! Simply adhering to the [Rules for Walkers](#) and the [Guidelines for Leaders](#) will almost always prevent this happening. Both these documents are on the website and available for download if you like.



The New-Look Website Has Arrived



Please visit the club's website at www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au to check it out. This is the same address as before, but the layout and content have been changed.

There is still some work to be done to improve the site, but we're working on it.

If you'd like to see anything added, please let either Peter Ford (tford@pcug.org.au) or Peter Dalton (president@brindabellabushwalking.org.au) know and we'll see what can be done.

The photos that appear are some random ones and can these can be readily replaced with any better ones you might like to submit. For the time being, the total number of photos won't increase, but perhaps the quality will.

The web page menu has a clickable link to a 'Members Area'. You will need a password to access this and it will be emailed to you in the next few days. There aren't a lot of 'secrets' there, but we could start adding some at a later date so thought it worthwhile to incorporate this capability from the outset.

Please offer any feedback or suggestions you might have.

Bushwalk Australia Magazine

The latest Bushwalk Australia magazine includes some stunning photographs and items of interest. It can be found at: <http://emag.bushwalk.com/BWA201812.pdf>

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 president@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.

BBC Facebook Page

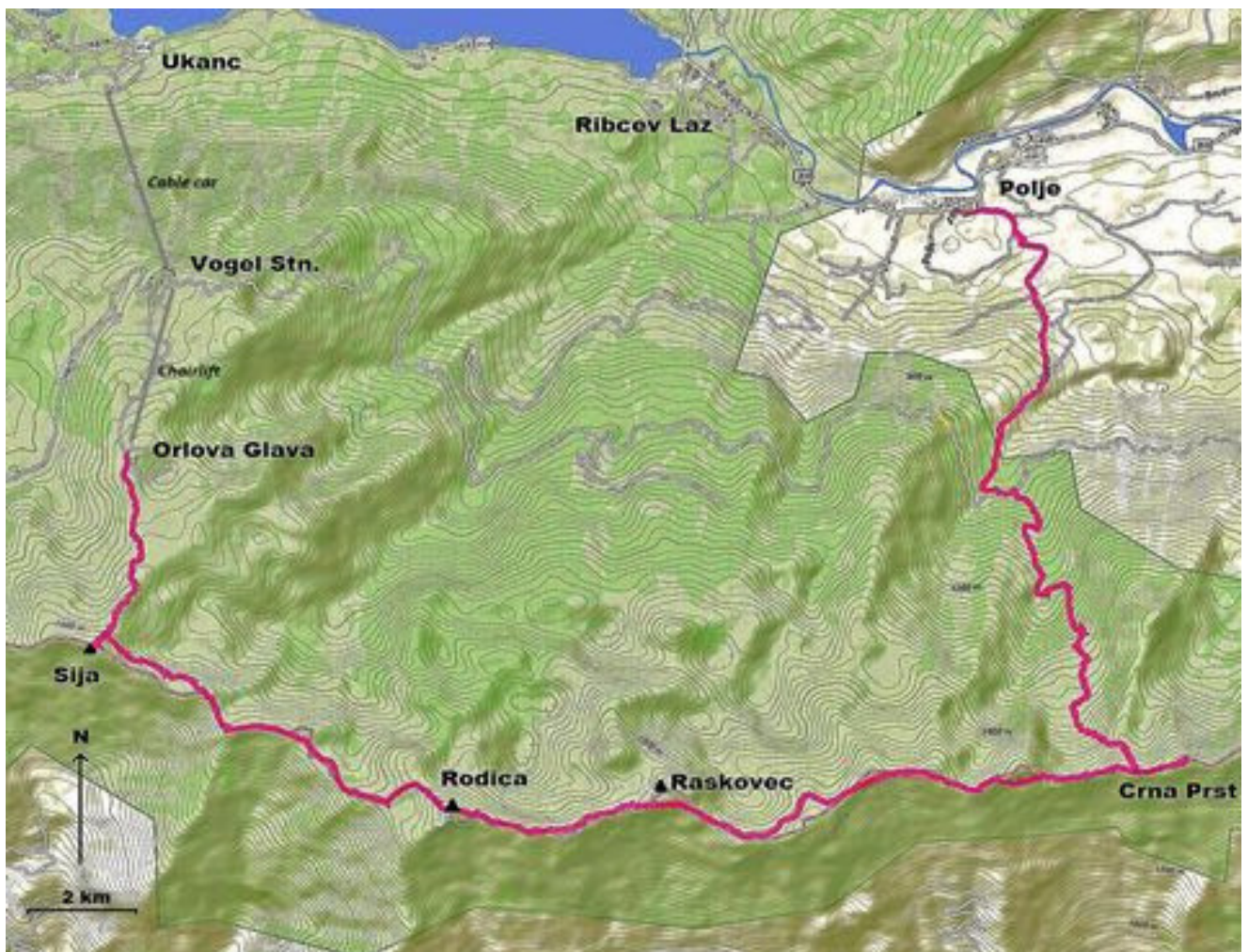
Visit the Facebook page to see photos, walk reports and information about upcoming activities. It is at: <https://www.facebook.com/BrindabellaBushwalkingClub/> You can set your Facebook page to receive notifications every time there is a new post.

Lower Bohinj Ridge

Article by Phillip gatenby

Most of the Julian Alps lie to the north and west of Lake Bohinj our base for exploring this area on the CBC/BBC 2018 Slovenian trip. One ridge, however, extends from south-east to south-west of the lake and appears to be the most southerly arm of these mountains.

A peak called Vogel (1,922 m and climbed by the group on 11 September, see Terrylea's report in the BBC Newsletter of September 2018) is on the ridge's west and is a popular walking destination from the top station (also called Vogel) of a cable car which goes up from Ukanc on the western end of the lake. East of Vogel the ridge has a number of peaks over 1,900 m.



Our track on Lower Bohinj Ridge. Map source: Adapted from World Topographic Map (ArcGIS)

With nothing set in concrete for our last day in Ribčev Laz my thoughts turned to a walk on this ridge, described in the Cicerone Guide and called Spodnje Bohinske Gore (Lower Bohinj Ridge). An initial forecast for dodgy weather meant I didn't decide finally to go until the day before, so with a last minute decision and strong competition from the Cow Ball (a festival to celebrate bringing the cows down after summer grazing and also reported by Terrylea), there were only three of us on the walk (my companions were Mike Bremers and Jan).



Off to the Cow ball.
Photo Jan Gatenby

Getting to the start required a bus, cable car and chairlift. As we waited in Ribčez Laz for the bus, a tractor with a trailer drove by. On the trailer was a giant cow replete with a pile of “manure” below her rear end and orange eyes the size of road reflectors (which they probably were) that glowed. Clearly off to Ukanc for the Cow Ball.

The cable car soon cleared the usual morning fog and from Vogel station we had spectacular views over the top of the fog to Triglav and other mountains majestic in cloud and sunshine.



Summit of Šija. Photo Jan Gatenby

Walking from the top of the chairlift near Orlova Glava (1,682 m), the first peak reached on the ridge is called Šija (1,866 m), due south of the cable car station. We then turned east along the ridge to Rodica (1,966 m), our high point for the day. Beyond, the ridge sharpened with steep drop-offs particularly to the south. Our path skirted other peaks, including Raskovec (1,967 m) and Matajurski vrh (1,936 m), and wound from either side of the ridge depending on its relative steepness. We wandered through a spectacular and bare limestone landscape. The track was a little airy in places but mostly quite manageable. Mist wafted in from the south but there were still good views to the valleys below on both sides. At the eastern end of the ridge is a peak called Črna Prst (1,848 m) which means Black Earth. At a nearby koča we sat and ate our lunch. It was like dining in the clouds.

Ridge walking. Photo Philip Gatenby



Approaching Črna Prst.
Photo Jan Gatenby



Limestone strata. Photo Philip Gatenby



The most commonly used footpath off the ridge from Črna Prst is to the town of Bohinjska Bistrica but we wanted to end up closer to Ribčev Laz so decided to take a less trodden path, north-west to the village of Polje only 2 km east of our hotel. This meant back tracking a few hundred metres on the ridge from the koča. The 1,350 m drop to the valley floor was overgrown in places, sometimes slippery and steep. It was a quick descent, startling a small stripy snake near the top which slithered out of our way, through low shrubs, including ripe wild raspberries, as well as beech and pine forest. Lower down our track was obliterated in places by recently bulldozed vehicle tracks to allow access to trees that had been cut down in the ongoing fight against bark beetle. By late afternoon after a walk of 19 km, a climb of 940 m and a descent of 2,040 m, we were waiting at Polje for the bus to Ribčev Laz. The tractor and giant cow again went past now heading away from Ukanc. The Cow Ball must have ended.