

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Contents

This 'n' That

New Members

Contributing Articles

Facebook

The Heaphy Track

Social News

The next Program

Mount Gudgenby

Bushwalkers in Perisher

Bibbulmun Track

President's Pontifications

This 'n' That

The Walks Officer is already thinking about the July - December program. There is an important article on this later in the newsletter.

The Secretary forwards the NSW Bushwalking newsletters to all members. Unfortunately, somebody keeps using the 'unsubscribe' link on that newsletter and so we don't receive the next one. While she has a cunning trick in mind to try to prevent this happening, please don't unsubscribe our club from the newsletter.

If you want to be added to the Wednesday Walks email list(s), please follow the instructions on page three of the Walks Program. If you want to be removed from a list, notify the list owner at wed.walks-owner@ists.tip.net.au

There is a lot in this newsletter and I'd like to thank all our contributors - articles and photos involving club members are always of interest to your fellow bushwalkers, so please keep them coming

The autumn weather is beginning to make conditions more comfortable on our walks. I look forward to enjoying your company on an upcoming walk.

Peter Dalton

New Members

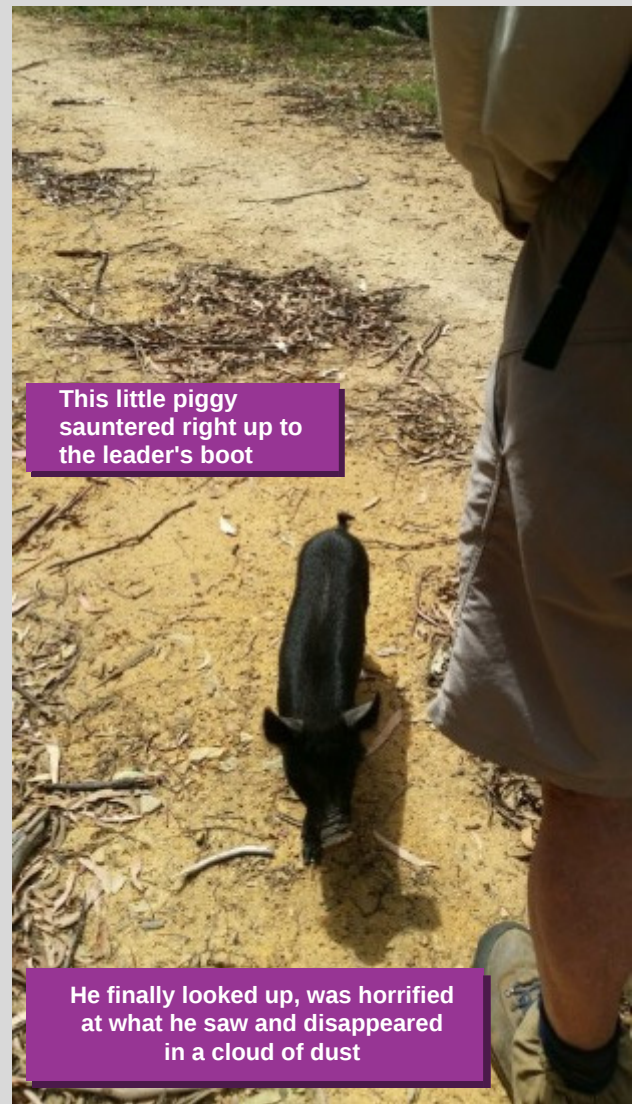
The Club welcomes the following new members who have joined us recently:

Garry and Suzanne Bluff
Martin and Christine O'Hare
Gillian Cardin
Amanda, Paul, Fergus, William and
Polly Cessford
Vincenzo Falazarana
Catherine Karabin
Dee McAtee
Luke Mulders
Lorena Nesa
Stuart Reed, and
Judi Sutton

And also

Ken and Di Johnson
Suzanne Sherwood
Siobhan Cardigan, and
Paula Lecht;

who have all rejoined after a break



Contributing Articles

Suitable articles are always welcomed and photos make them better, although it may not always 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

Our Facebook Manager is regularly posting photos, walk reports and information about upcoming activities. Please pay a visit and see what our members are planning or have recently have been up to.

It is at: <https://www.facebook.com/BrindabellaBushwalkingClub/> You can set your Facebook page to receive notifications every time there is a new post.

The Heaphy Track

[Peter Ford]

At 78 kilometres, the Heaphy Track in the Kahurangi National Park in the north-west of the South Island is the longest of the New Zealand Great Walks but is also one of the easier ones. However, it has its moments including a 700 metre climb over 17 km. on the first day from the east. The track is well constructed and, over its four to six days duration, climbs to high plateaux, passing through varied and impressive scenery including rain forest, wide tussock flats bordered by the 'Dragons Teeth' peaks, finally descending to the wild west coast and running parallel to the beach through Nikau Palm forests. For the more adventurous, the peaks beckon and provide true wilderness routes.



On the Tussock Flats - day 3

Truus and I walked the track in February and opted for the 6 day version, which gave us time to have a look around some of the huts. The weather was fine and warm with the occasional shower but it's necessary to be prepared for anything including flooded tracks due to rain or, on the coastal section, track closures due to exceptionally high tides. Even on the calm days that we experienced, it was really something to look up at the enormous Rata trees near Lewis Hut and to watch the huge and confused surf pounding the beach near the Heaphy Hut. The Rata were covered with epiphytes and themselves originated as epiphytes. They are particularly susceptible to the depredations of possums.

Each hut was patrolled by one or two Weka on the lookout for food and anything of interest. They have been known to take watches, jewellery and even a kindle. We were keen to see one of the rarer birds and, being in the habit of departing early each morning, kept our eyes open. On our third morning, we had a brief sighting of a Kaka. We didn't see a Kiwi but clearly heard one the next morning. We also saw a few of the large carnivorous snails (Powelliphanta) endemic to the area.

The Heaphy Track

[Continued]



The origins of the Track lie in the early explorations of the country and travels of miners and settlers who built on Maori knowledge and experience. Tall tales and true abound about the eccentrics who were some of the early walkers - a man who is said to have walked the whole track with a parrot on his shoulder, another naked except for his boots and backpack, a woman pushing her gear in a shopping trolley and another in high heels.



Our fellow walkers were predominantly Kiwis but also included Europeans, Chinese, Americans, Canadians and a few other Aussies. From discussions over dinner in the huts, it was clear that the general view was that this is a walk that fully lived up to the claims made for it.

The Social News

Octogenarian Celebration - Sat 13 April

SHORT WALK AND BIRTHDAY LUNCH AT URIARRA – 4 km Easy (grade 3)

It's now three years since our inaugural Octogenarian Celebration and our ranks are growing. Quite a number of our members are over 80 or will soon reach it. All members of BBC are invited to join our esteemed octogenarians on a short walk around Uriarra (the Uriarra Loop Walk) followed by a celebration lunch in the Uriarra East picnic area. Bring lunch, camp chairs and tables and own glasses.

Champagne, juice and cake will be provided.

Meet at the Uriarra East picnic area at 10.00 am. To get there, turn left off Uriarra Road at the sign to Uriarra East picnic area, about 1 km before Uriarra Crossing.



Potluck Dinner Reminder Friday 3 May



Coordinator: Elaine Atkinson (62883557 or 0410154133).

All members are welcome to share a great meal of food contributed by participants and enjoy a social time together. We plan to have a band again this year. The cost is only \$5 per person.

If you are planning on attending, don't forget to email Elaine (elainem.atkinson@gmail.com) or call her on one of the numbers above **by no later than Fri 26 Apr** to book a place and discuss a contribution.

Please don't all leave it until the last moment.

The venue is St Margaret's Uniting Church Hall at Hackett on the corner of Antill Street and Phillip Avenue. The entrance to parking is on Antill Street.

Meet at 6.30pm for pre-dinner drinks and nibbles, followed by dinner at 7.00pm.



A recent
Weekend
Walk

The Next Program

It's only March, but the Walks Officer is already starting to lay out the program for July - December this year.

Because so many of our members are heading off on adventures in the coming months, including the Walks Officer, proposals for walks must get to him by the time the Walks Sub-Committee hold their meeting on Tuesday 30 April. The process of laying out the program, having it checked and then getting it printed will take most of May.

Unfortunately, a couple of our regular leaders have informed him that they will be unable to lead walks, although we hope they'll be back next year as strong as ever.

Situations Vacant - Leaders

We rely on volunteers to lead walks for the enjoyment of our members. No prior training is necessary and an experienced leader can help plan a walk and accompany the new leader during the walk. This mentoring approach involves the experienced leader giving as much or as little assistance as the new leader wants. It is quite painless!

You'll feel a great sense of satisfaction at the end of the walk when everybody thanks you for leading it.

If you can lead even one walk per program, it takes some of the load of those who presently lead up to ten walks. Pick a walk you have previously enjoyed and a date (preferably several possible dates); then let the relevant Walks Sub-Committee member know. The Walks Sub-Committee members are:

- Short Wednesday Walks - Robyn Kelly (rkelly13@tpg.com.au)
- Easy/Medium Wednesday Walks - Kathy Handel (kukinya@bigpond.com)
- Medium/Hard Wednesday Walks - Peter Wellman (wellman@iinet.net.au)
- Easy Weekend Walks - Jillian Bellamy (geoffb@apex.net.au)
- Medium Weekend Walks - Robyn Gallagher (gallagher.robyn@gmail.com)
- All other activities - John Ellis (walks@brindabellabushwalking.org.au)

Trips Away

The large number of interesting trips away from Canberra that we have are treasured by our members. Unfortunately, though, our leaders sometimes find that the trips overlap with each other or are at a time when they are committed to leading day walks at home.

In an effort to get around this, we ask members who are proposing to lead trips away to let the Walks Officer know **ASAP (by 12 Apr if possible)**. He will pass the information on to all our leaders (we maintain a list) so that they can plan accordingly. Please help him with this as it will ultimately benefit you, our leaders and members alike.

Mount Gudgenby

[Story by Eric Pickering - photos Phil Gatenby]



Mt Gudgenby from the valley floor

A Day Walk with a Difference - March 2008

I had cancelled a proposed 4-day Easter trip because of car problems. Pat and I agreed that we should go for a walk anyway, perhaps overnight but leaving Easter Day clear. "But where?" she said, "I have always wanted to sleep on top of Mt Gudgenby. It is a beautiful mountain with 360 degree views", I replied. Later I had second thoughts about climbing 800 metres with full packs and carting enough water. It was too late, Pat wanted to go.

On Good Friday after a sleep-in following an excellent night at the Circus du Soleil, we started walking from the Boboyan car park at 12.30 pm. It was a beautiful afternoon, cool and sunny; the valley was unusually green and carpeted with masses of miniature yellow flowers. We had never seen so many flowers there. Had they been fooled, like our pear tree, into flowering again after bearing a large crop of fruit a month ago? Did they think it was spring, after recent rains and warm conditions?



The Trig on Mt Gudgenby

All too soon we were into the trees, many just saplings seeded after the 2003 fires, now getting stronger and bigger. The climbing got tougher and we were starting to notice the seven litres of water in our packs in addition to the normal paraphernalia.

After the final push up the steep protective rock slabs, we arrived at the summit a little weary but elated. Gudgenby is a magnificent mountain with a clump of granite boulders at either end of its flattish top – one clump with corridors to squeeze through and an exquisitely balanced boulder on top – the other a large upright boulder with a stone trig so skillfully built that it really adds to Gudgenby's splendour. In between are other attractive boulder arrangements on a bed of granite.

Gudgenby is without question the Territory's most impressive mountain, 1100 metres above the Canberra plain and about 11 degrees cooler.



It was cold, really cold! We put on all our clothes – thermals, beanies, long pants, warm tops, parkas, - erected the fly, made and devoured some hot vegetable soup, ate our bolognaise and rice and were in bed by 7 pm.

It had been overcast when we arrived but shortly into the evening the sky was clear –planets and stars were there first, shortly to be outshone by the waxing Easter moon now almost at its zenith. Gudgenby's granite clumps became masterpieces - mysterious giant sculptures casting weird shadows over our humble fly which shook and flapped in awe.

We can recommend a night on top of Gudgenby at full moon, but be warned it is not for the faint-hearted!

For the record this “day walk” was completed in one day comprising two consecutive afternoons.

Bushwalkers in Perisher

28 February to 4 March

Article By Judy Lejins; photo courtesy NSW Office of Environment & Heritage



I organised a group of 30 bushwalkers from Brindabella Bushwalking Club to spend four nights at Perisher and to have the opportunity to walk each day.

On the first afternoon, those who had arrived early enough joined a walk to Middle Station from the lodge, viewing the construction work being carried out on the new Leichardt Chairlift along the way.

Our second day's walk was to Porcupine Rocks where the group enjoyed a picnic lunch on the rocks while gazing around and admiring the views.

I offered a choice of three walks for the third day, all starting from Charlotte Pass. The walks throughout our stay were geared to those who usually do the easy walks, with the one exception: today's walk on the Main Range Circuit which includes the walk to the top of Mt Kosciuszko, a total of 22.5 km. The other two walks offered were to the Snowy River and Seamans Hut or Blue Lake. Everyone observed how low the river was.

On the last day the group had a choice of two walks both starting from Sawpit Creek picnic ground. The first was the Piallabo Track to the Thredbo River which required a car shuttle. The second the waterfall walk, always popular, a lovely 6km walk on a circular track through a forested area. The two groups met back at the picnic ground for lunch.

For the first evening we had a barbecue with everyone bringing their own meat or alternative. Half the group brought salad and bread to share and the other half a dessert.

For the following three nights we had a roster each comprising of around ten people who prepared dinner for the group. Each person had to provide only one course once, either a main or a dessert. The outcome was a variety of very delicious dishes. Everyone brought and prepared their own food for breakfasts and lunches, the latter usually being a cut lunch. There were the usual nibbles and drinks before dinner, as is customary at the lodge.

An enjoyable time was had by all, getting together walking, dining and generally socialising. The poem on the next page tells of one member's feelings and observations on the walks.



Chairlifts are not only useful in winter but, when not operating, make shady places for bushwalkers to sit and rest. Photograph by Andrew Cupit.

Crossing the Range

By Gerry Jacobson

currawong calls
kookaburra cackles
the walker
skirts the cliff top
cold hands on the sticks

crossing the range
I walk in flowers
snow daisies
eyebright ... billy buttons
as far as eye can see

silent
ski lodges brooding
among
sub-alpine flowers ...
empty mausoleums

losing the trail
in waist-high scrub
floundering ...
stumble and wobble
scratched but pushing through

breathless
at eighteen hundred metres
sometimes I feel
like a seventy-year-old
with a heart condition

descending ...
sunlight gleams on silver
dead tree trunks
cloudshadows move over a
graveyard of snow gums



Explore the Bibbulmun Track & Beyond with the Track Specialists

Editorial Note: I've included this advertisement because all proceeds go towards maintenance of the track and its facilities.

SPECIAL OFFER 10% Discount for group of 4 twin share on 29th April 2019 Departure.

This special itinerary is operated by the Track specialists in the region – **The Bibbulmun Track Foundation**. The Foundation's Lead Guide, Steve Sertis, says "we have walked every step of the Track many times - we know the Track intimately and are passionate about sharing it with others".

The Bibbulmun Track in Western Australia, listed by National Geographic as one of the world's 20 Top Trails, stretches almost 1000kms from Kalamunda in the Perth Hills to Albany on the south coast. From giant boulders, to magnificent ancient forests, coastal heathlands and spectacular views, the Track passes through some of the most diverse and unique areas of Australia's south west.

The Foundation's itinerary has been extended to 9 days and incorporates full and half-day walks along sections of the Bibbulmun Track and beyond into the Stirling Range National Park near Albany where participants climb to the summit of Bluff Knoll (1094 metres) and are rewarded with the breathtaking 360o views.

Participants walk on the Track with only a small daypack and a private air-conditioned bus provides transport to and from the Track each day. Each evening the group returns to comfortable accommodation in the rural towns and villages along the Track to relax and enjoy the local fare. All meals, accommodation, transport to and from Perth, guides and a Bibbulmun Track branded quality Deuter day pack and water bottle worth over \$200 are included in the tour price of \$2,900 twin share.

The flexible itinerary allows people of all experience and fitness levels the chance to explore the Track and expert guides go the extra mile to ensure that participants have the best experience.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation is a not-for-profit, community organisation dedicated to provide support for the management, maintenance and marketing of the Bibbulmun Track to ensure its long-term sustainability. They have been providing free information and conducting guided walks on the Bibbulmun Track for over a decade. All proceeds from this trip go straight back into the ongoing maintenance of the Track.

For more information call (08) 9481 0551, email events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or visit <https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/walk-the-track/guided-tours/bibbulmun-beyond-9-day-tour/> to download a dossier and booking form.