

# BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



## *President's Pontifications*

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I've had a great holiday but, as usual, am happy to be back.

It was pleasing to learn that the Octogenarian Celebratory event was so well attended, with many of our annoyingly fit over-80s completing the walks - well done to all involved, particularly the organisers, Annabel and Margitta.

By all accounts, the Potluck Dinner was an outstanding success, for which I'd like to thank both the Social Sub-Committee and all who attended. This newsletter includes a copy of the speech Julie Pettit made to farewell long-standing member, Anne Campbell at that function and I commend it to you.

Timothy Walsh has provided a comprehensive obituary for another of our long-term members, David Large who, incidentally, was also one of our octogenarians. The article and photo are on the next page - thanks for your contribution, Timothy.

If you've never visited Bournda National Park, I think the report by Lyn Willson of the club trip there earlier this year will make you put it onto your must-do list. Perhaps you can persuade Lyn to program it again for early next year?

The Walks Officer is close to finalising the next program, which will be distributed by the middle of June. As explained in the last newsletter, the timings for this were advanced a bit so that he could have everything in order before heading overseas in early June. Our walk leaders and the Walks Sub-Committee have done a sterling job in meeting the deadline.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and welcome your contributions for future editions.

Peter Dalton

# Vale David Large

*By Timothy Walsh*

**David Large** died on 26 March after battling various forms of cancer for several years. He was nearly 82 and had become an active member of BBC on retirement in 1993.

David was born in Mudgee, grew up in Wollongong and moved to Canberra to join the public service in 1959 after a short spell at Port Kembla steel works. He had been a Queen's Scout as a boy and led a troop in Canberra. He had served a brief National Service stint in the army catering corps.

His real love was bushwalking and the environment and he was a formidable bushwalker. He frequently led day and overnight walks for NPA and BBC as well as participating in many private walks. These included trips to Namadgi, the Snowy Mountains, Warrambungles, Hume and Hovell track, Nadgee, Budawangs, Great Ocean Road, and further afield to the Heysen Trail, the Kimberley, Kakadu and Tasmania, including the challenging south west. He made several trips to New Zealand and a walking tour to Japan. He had a special love for the Royal National Park near Sydney and often used this overnight walk as a training walk for longer expeditions.

In 2005 David became obsessed with the Bibbulmun Track in Western Australia and completed this 1000 kilometre walk at least five times. He loved the order and routine walking the Bibbulmun Track could offer. As well, he revelled in being able to meet and talk with a new cohort of walkers most nights.

David was known as something of a gear freak and spent a good amount of time researching the latest light weight gear and places to visit. This benefitted many as he was always pleased to offer advice to those keen to do likewise.

David was always a stimulating walking companion. On many trips he brought along newspaper quizzes to entertain us in the evening. He was widely read and never afraid to engage in robust conversations. One friend has said of him "Initially I found him a little forthright in manner but soon discovered his generous and kindly heart". Once, in New Zealand we arrived at an isolated hut to find three walkers looking for a fourth to play bridge. David, a keen player, was pleased to be able to oblige!

Although he rode a horse for pleasure when he first moved to Canberra, David was a passionate supporter of the Save Kosci protest movement held in November/December last year. Despite his poor health and obvious deteriorating condition he was a key player in NPA ACT's contribution to the campaign. He drove support cars and on the last day joined the main body of participants who walked from Charlotte Pass to the summit of Mount Kosciuszko. He managed to get to Rawson's Pass. No mean feat.

David was lucky to be supported in his travel adventures by Robin, his patient and understanding wife.



# 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](mailto: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.



## BOURDA CAR CAMP

*[This article and the photos on the next page have been provided by Lyn Willson]*

Our camping trip to the south coast in mid March saw a group of BBC members return to the Hobart Beach campground in Bournda National Park, which over many years has been a popular spot with club walkers.

The campground is on the southern side of Wallagoot Lake, a large saltwater lake that last opened up to the ocean in June 2008. Bournda National Park stretches 13 km south from Tathra, with a good walking track along most of its length. While we were there we were lucky enough to see families of black cockatoos, sea eagles, kangaroos, wallabies, and many lace monitors, including one huge old fellow shedding his skin. The Park is part of the Ulladulla to Merimbula Important Bird Area, and another group in the park while we were there were enthusiastic and very knowledgeable birdwatchers, equipped with high-power binoculars, night-torches, call-recorders etc.

After setting up camp on the Friday we did an afternoon walk to historic Scott's Hut, a well-preserved pioneer structure, and along the south side of the lake.

On the Saturday we did a longer walk around Bournda Lagoon and along Sandy Creek, a beautiful area with a wide variety of vegetation, then back over headlands and along the surf beach. Rain was falling during most of this walk but it didn't dampen the spirits of the walkers – especially when they returned to the starting point to find hot tomato soup and sourdough bread waiting for them!

Sunday morning saw us drive into Tathra – which that day was celebrating its survival from the destructive fires last year. From Kianinny Bay, where we admired the very large rays gliding around in the clear, shallow water near where the fishermen clean their catch, we walked part of the Kangarutha Track, over rocky headlands with great views, and up and down to a series of bays. Then it was a great early lunch at Blend cafe, and onto the bitumen again for the drive up Brown Mountain and home.

A really pleasant feature of the camping at Hobart Beach was our communal fireplace, which we made good use of, under the supervision of Firemaster, Bob Chittenden. We were very pleased, too, to have a visit one happy hour from Andrew Walker and his wife Olga, now resident in Tura Beach, just down the road from Bournda. It was great to catch up again with a previous President of our club, who in fact organized the first club trip to Bournda, in the days when we were the Family Bushwalkers.



# Bournda Camp Photos





# Celebrating our Octogenarians

The attendance list for the octogenarian picnic and celebrations on 13 April at Uriarra East showed fifty-five names in total. What a great turn-out.

And what a great day it was. Colourful party balloons marked our spot under the casuarinas, the sun was at its best, the autumn colours brilliant and the Murrumbidgee murmured softly (with fairly low water level).

Two walks were on offer: Julie Pettit led the Uriarra loop of about 4 km which leads back up the road, then over a turnstile down into the valley of the Molonglo River and up again over a somewhat precarious rocky outcrop down into the Murrumbidgee River valley, followed by about 2 km of flat and sometimes sandy walking. Margitta led the second walk, which started at the end of the loop walk and followed the river until it met up with the first group not long after they came down the rocky outcrop.

Amazingly, most octogenarians took the harder option. A few remained behind altogether, with some younger ones among them. The easy option only counted seven walkers, two of them “qualified” as octogenarians.

As the walkers returned, lunchtime approached and people settled down to their lunch. But it wasn't long before champagne corks were popping and glasses being filled.

In speaking on behalf of the President, who was bushwalking in Spain, Peter Ford thanked the organisers and the social committee for putting on such good get-together and commented that, while the media often depict active octogenarians as shuffling around a dance floor, our octogenarians can generally be found pushing through bush and summiting mountains.

And then there was cake! Two big and delicious carrot cakes and a smaller one of nuts and spices – enough for everyone to have a big slice. Thank you Judy, Joy and Mary. Also thank you to the social committee members Elaine, Colleen and Monty.

The group photo, taken by Eric Pickering, shows sixteen octogenarians. Of course, not all of the Club's eighty-year-olds were there, either because of a previous engagement or for health reasons.

Here are a few comments from club members:

“Many, many thanks for the get-together last Saturday. So many people and so many over 80s. It was a great social occasion.” ..... It is likely that some of us attending on Saturday will not be coming to the next walk for the over-80s, but at least we met each other at this one. Get-togethers like last Saturday are a way of maintaining the relationship with club members after they have to give up club walks.

*[continued on the next page]*

## Celebrating our Octogenarians

(Continued)

One interesting observation made at the gathering was that there were more males than females over 80 years of age. This is the reverse of what you normally see in our society and perhaps shows the benefit of bushwalking for men." (John C.)

And another comment:

"It was a memorable gathering, celebrating friendships forged over many years. I was terribly impressed by all those who took part in the walks – our lot never give up, but also appreciated the opportunity to catch up with the non-walkers. I agree ..... that these sorts of occasions help us maintain long-standing relationships, so important as we grow older. The weather was perfect, we'll have to do it all again!" (Annabel)

And when we do it again, be it next year or the year after or the year after that, there'll definitely be more of us (and most likely a few less as well)!

Margitta Acker (who "qualified"!)



**16 of our OBEs - 'Over Bloody Eighty',  
or 'Old But Experienced'**



# Farewell to Anne Campbell

[ As delivered by Julie Pettit at the Potluck Dinner on 3 May ]

I would just like to say a few words about our dear friend Anne Campbell who a lot of you will already know is soon to leave Canberra and move to her old stomping grounds in Adelaide where some of her family also live.

It is a big move for Anne having to sell her lovely home and large native garden, say goodbye to her many friends here and give up her many interests to make this move, and we wish her all the best for this new phase in her life.

Anne has been a long standing, much loved and dedicated member of BBC who has given so much to the Club.

Anne joined BBC in about 1997. She has always been a keen walker and lover of the environment, especially the flora. She has led many Easy Wednesday Walks and other walks in earlier times. As well, she has participated in many of the Club trips both locally and overseas where she has always fitted in so well with everyone and was a knowledgeable, interesting and easy going walking companion to be with. She has also been active as a guide at the National Botanic Gardens for many years, is a member of the Society for Growing Native Plants, and was a keen cross country skier.

Anne's contribution to the administrative arrangements that now govern how the Club operates is legendary. She was a Committee member from 2008 – 2011 in the position of Treasurer/ Secretary. At the time this job was huge, encompassing the duties of Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Secretary - jobs now taken up by 3 Committee members. The job when Anne was the incumbent I'm sure took up much of her spare time, but she tackled it with dedication and a great deal of professionalism doing so much to tidy up the Club's records and filing system, and setting us up to be able to continue our record keeping and filing so much more efficiently. Her hard work in this sphere has certainly made my job as Secretary so much easier.

Anne was the driving force behind the Club's constitutional changes in 2011 and 2012 when we changed our name to Brindabella Bushwalking Club Inc. as well as updating the old constitution to reflect current practice and clarify much of the loose wording and ambiguity in some of the provisions.

Anne was also instrumental in kicking off the archiving project of the Club's old records. There was a big accumulation of old hard copy records going back into history which the Heritage Library was keen to have deposited in their archives. Anne and I then went to work to cull and classify Club records and we were able to make a well documented and organised deposit to the Heritage Library at Woden in 2015. This remains an ongoing task which should be repeated every 5 years or so but now that the groundwork has been accomplished largely due to Anne's efforts it won't be so hard next time around.

So, Anne we come to the sad part when I'm sure I can speak for everyone here in saying how much we will miss you – your warm friendship, eternal optimism, good humour and dedication to the Club over the years. We wish you all the best for the future and hope you can find time to visit us in Canberra from time to time and even perhaps join in some of our adventures.

Anne, I would like you to take away this small token of our esteem and thanks for everything you have done for the Club. Best wishes for the future, Anne and we sincerely hope we will all meet up with you again.



**REMEMBER WHEN YOU COULD REFER  
TO YOUR KNEES AS RIGHT AND LEFT?**



**INSTEAD OF GOOD AND BAD.  
AH GOOD TIMES, EH!**

*And let's not start on hips!*

**BBC Website**

[www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au](http://www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au)

All newsletters are on the website, and the new program will be there at about the same time you receive your copy.

If you need the password to access the members' Area, please send a request by email to [webmaster@brindabellabushwalking.org.au](mailto:webmaster@brindabellabushwalking.org.au)