

Brindabella Bushwalking Club

Newsletter and Program



Spotted in The Pinnacle Nature Reserve

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Coronavirus Restrictions Update

- * Car sharing is theoretically possible because the ACT Government COVID-19 website now states it is “a **good idea to limit passengers from outside your household to one**” - previously this was a ‘rule’ rather than a ‘good idea’. However, this is discretionary and by no means compulsory; we expect many will choose not to car share for now.
- * We are not limited by numbers on walks.
- * Community hygiene requirements remain.
- * Physical distancing of 1.5 m is still the general rule except, when in cars, “where possible, maintain physical distancing”.

This newsletter includes a section showing the dates walks are planned for in the coming month or so, their grading and the leader's name. All known trips away are also listed. With the ever-changing coronavirus situation and with Namadgi not yet available, we haven't been able to issue a formal program for July - December.

I remind you that **nobody can book a place until the leader emails the detailed description out**. You book directly with the leader by return email, **not through the Walks Officer**.

Car Parking at the Start remains an issue and the leader might have to put a limit on the number of participants for this reason. Please be understanding.

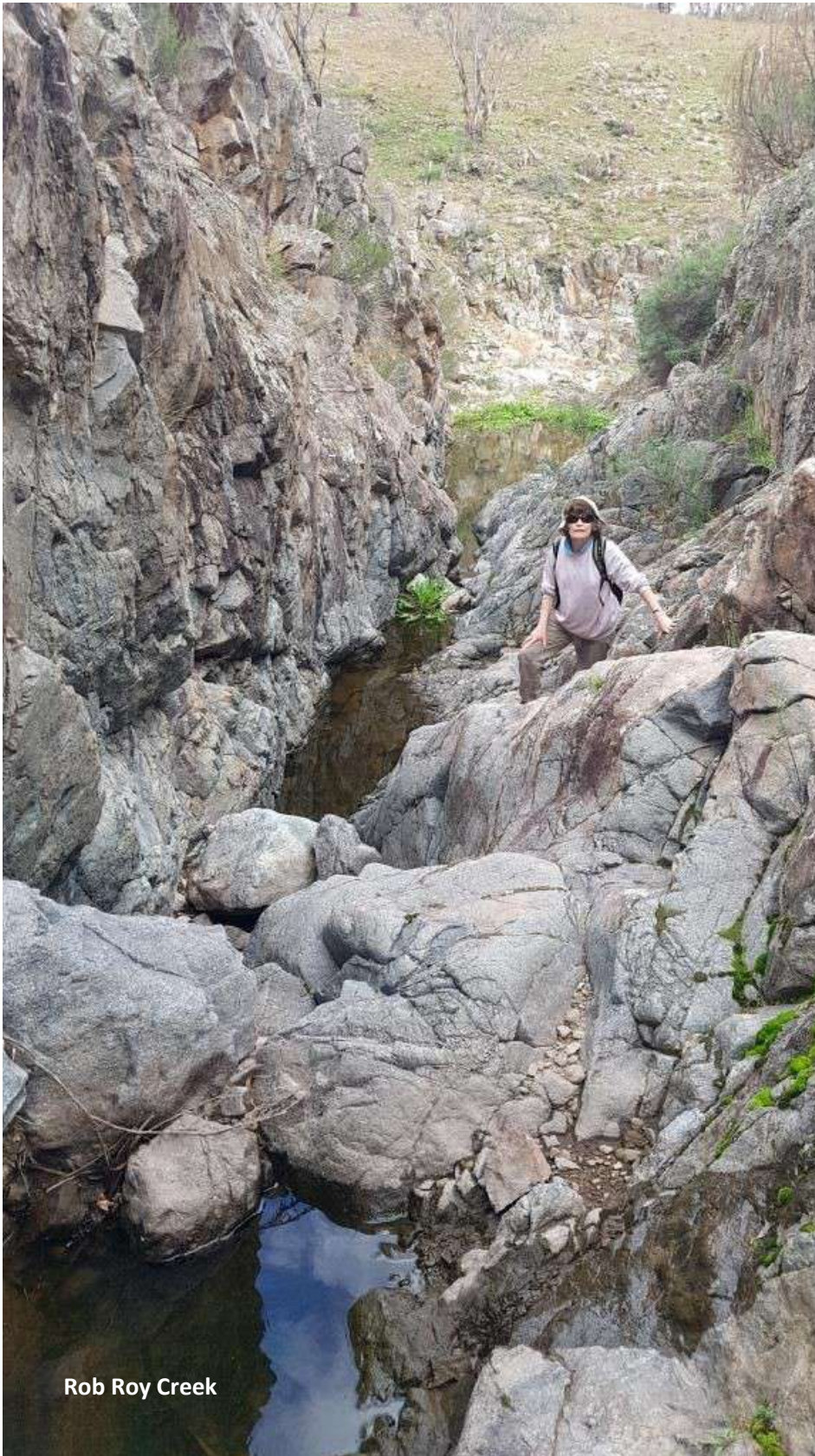
As a **hygiene measure**, leaders will record your details on **the ‘sign-on’ sheet** for you—no signature is required for the time being. They will remind you of the risks and obligations associated with the walk.

Leigh Hermann has compiled an excellent article on walks in Rob Roy Reserve, beginning on the next page. Also, in response to requests from members, Trevor and Lyn Willson have provided walk notes and photos from their first Country to Coast trip. There are plenty of ideas for leaders in both of these articles.

All the information about walking with the Club is available at the club's [website](#)

Exploring Rob Roy

By Leigh Hermann



Rob Roy Creek

I love maps. And I have a lot of fun tracking walks and comparing my routes with other walks I've done in the same area. On one of Prue's recent walks it was suggested I share the Rob Roy routes I've recorded with my Backcountry Navigator app.

At 1094 metres, Mt Rob Roy is the defining feature of Rob Roy Nature Reserve which is part of the Canberra Nature Park that adjoins the southern suburbs of Tuggeranong. If you can rely on Google Maps reserve boundaries, the reserve has been recently expanded and is larger than the map shown on the

www.environment.act.gov.au website. As such, it is no longer necessary to obtain lease-holder permission to access the reserve unless you wish to enter from Tharwa Road.

Walks in Rob Roy Reserve

by Leigh Hermann



Tuggeranong Hill from the slopes of Callaghans Hill

Access to Mt Rob Roy is generally from Orange Thorn Crescent in Banks. From an elevation of 680m there is a very steep climb up the bituminised Banks Steep Track, after which Rob Roy Link and Eco Tracks take you almost to Rob Roy summit. A short diversion (~150m) from the main track – marked by a cairn- takes you to the trig (A), which is a nice achievement, but does not offer views. There are many other options for interesting walks on the mountain shown on the map on the next page.

Route 1 (Pink) The route described above can be extended south by taking a short cut across to Nth Telegraph track, then Snowgum track to Rose Trig – a lovely spot for lunch with views to the west over Tharwa. Be aware, though, that Rose Trig is not at Rose Hill to the NE. For the return route take a loop westwards around the hill and include a diversion to Big Monks trig (916m) (B). Distance 15km.

Route 2 (Red) Starting from the ACTEW substation near Callister Cr Theodore, follow fire-trails (firstly Fishbone Rd then Pini Track – possibly also known as Rob Roy Eco Track) to Callaghan Hill then continue south to Mount Rob Roy firstly on Pini Track then when Pini turns west take a more direct route steeply uphill off-track. You will cover 14km if you return by looping clockwise around the mountain (as described above), via Big Monks, the Banks Steep track, then behind houses back to Theodore.

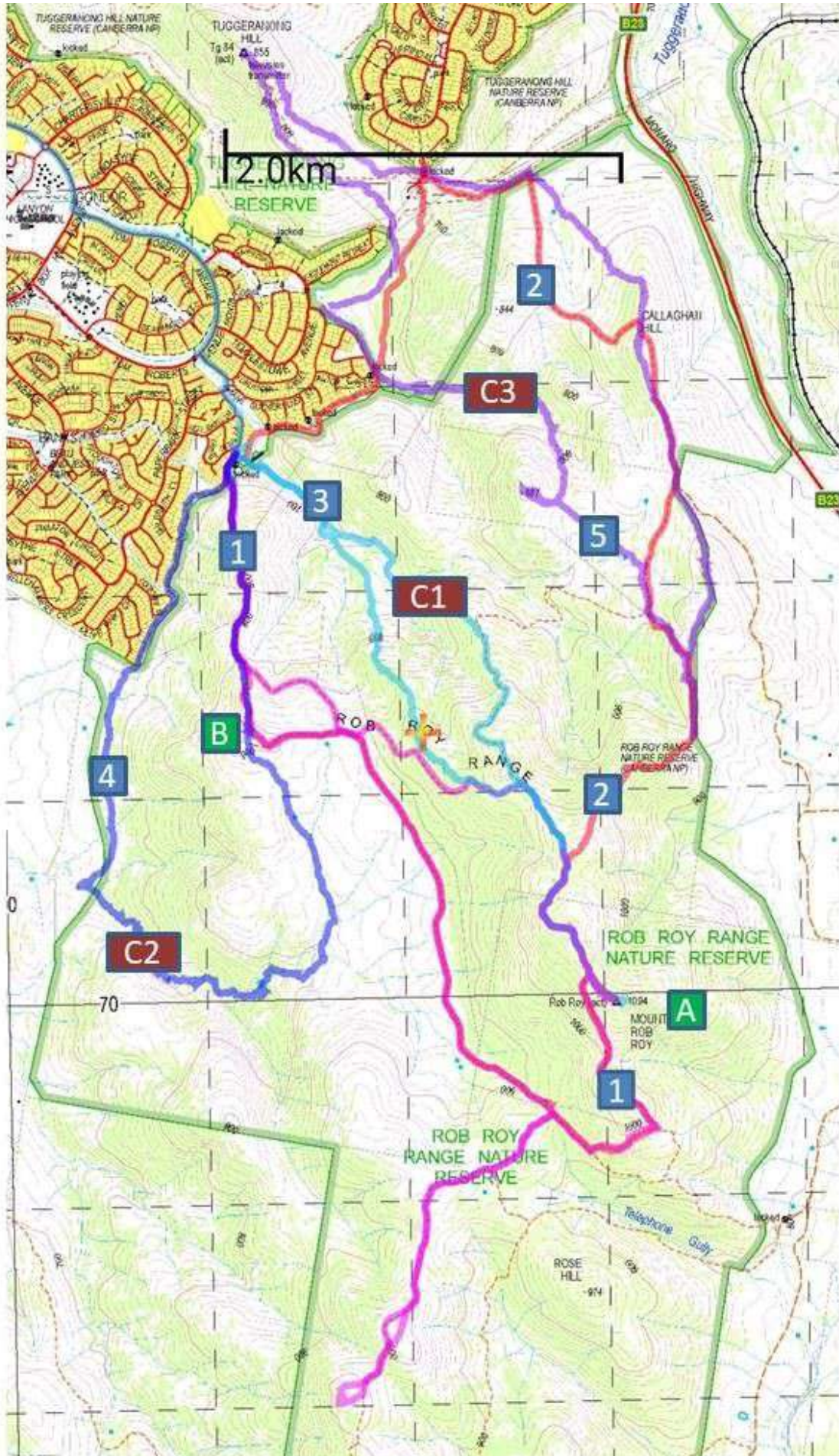
Shorter, more interesting walks follow various creek lines (marked C1, C2 and C3 on the map).

Route 3 (Light Blue – C1) Instead of taking the Banks Steep Track, drop down to the creek behind the flood mitigation weir (I've seen it referred to as Wrights Ck), and follow this rocky gully bed for about 1km before taking a lightly wooded spur on the right to reach the fire trail that leads south to Rob Roy. Return to the creek and cars via another wooded spur further west. 8 km.

Route 4 (Dark Blue – C2) From Banks, keep right and head SW behind houses for 1km until you reach another entrance to the Nature Reserve. Enter the reserve and continue south for another km, keeping highish to avoid the brambles, until you reach a creek bed. Turn left here and follow the creek (flowing after rain) for another km or so, enjoying scrambling the wonderful rock formations. You will reach a cliff face ('waterfall') – keep right to ascend this. When you've had enough of the creek, exit to the right, but follow the general line of the creek across open land aiming for Big Monks, and then your car. About 8km.

Route 5 (Purple – C3) This was one of Prue D's recent walks. Starting from the northern end of Jane Sutherland St, Conder (more parking here than at Orange Thorn) we first scaled Tuggeranong Hill before heading east to reach Callaghan Hill (with Prue naturally not taking the firetrail). We continued south for lunch, returning via Spot Height 887 and then a creek line back to the cars (I managed to fall in the creek!). About 11 km.

Walks in Rob Roy Reserve



Walks in Rob Roy Reserve



Mt Tennent from Big Monks

To sum up, Rob Roy offers much in variety of terrain (grasslands, forest, rocky creeks) and wonderful views in all directions. But be warned, most Rob Roy walking will involve a steep climb at some stage – no walk can be considered easy. But some routes are easier than others.

I'm happy to share the gpx track files if you're interested.

And many thanks to the various leaders who over the years have taken me to Rob Roy – Brian Willey, Bob Chittenden, Bob Dewar, Mike Smith, Linda Groom, Lorraine Tomlins, Jenny Horsfield and Prue Deacon.

Leigh Hermann



Fence Post near Big Monks

Following the Willsons' article on their *Country to Coast* trips in the April Newsletter we have had queries from some readers who, facing the cancellation of their 2020 travel plans, are interested in exploring more of the travelling and walking possibilities closer to home. We have therefore asked Trevor and Lyn for some details of the walks – and other experiences – participants in the first of their trips were able to enjoy.

Walk Notes from *Country to Coast* Trip No 1

Trevor & Lyn Willson



Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve, near Mudgee

Mudgee:

There is a very good town walk here. Pick up a brochure from the Visitors' Centre. It takes you around the streets of this lovely colonial town with its interesting architecture, providing great notes on its history.

Not far north of the town there is a 9 km easy walk in the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve which takes you to Castle Rocks, with its interesting sandstone pagodas.



Walk Notes from *Country to Coast* Trip No 1

Dunns Swamp in the Wollemi National Park, an 85 km drive from Mudgee, is a pleasant place for camping, kayaking and for walking around the swamp. The Pagoda Lookout track is short and a bit rough but worth it for the nice views.



Nundle:

A small historic mining village, Nundle has a great rock collection at the Visitors' Centre near the caravan park. Of even greater interest is the historic woollen mill – one of the last woollen mills in the country still operating. Worthwhile tours can be booked and are held every weekday.

There is a short but pleasant walk to Hanging Rock, to the east of the town, with great views over the surrounding countryside.

Walcha:

Walcha is famous for its outdoor sculpture, some of which have been purchased from the *Sculpture by the Sea* competition in Sydney.

Walk Notes from *Country to Coast* Trip No 1

Apsley Gorge is a spectacularly deep gorge in the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, with a good campground and a reasonably challenging rim walk.

Tia Falls, just a bit further along the road east of Apsley, again offers interesting walking, eg along the Tiara Track loop.

Port Macquarie:

Apart from the town walk, kayaking in the estuary and visiting historic buildings, we did the Coastal Walk (9km), returning to town by bus. This pleasant walk starts on Town Beach, continues past Flagstaff Hill, and covers headlands and little bays. For the more energetic it could be a return walk of 18 km.



Laurieton:

There is a good walk up North Brother Mountain, starting from Laurieton town, with fantastic views across the coast from the top.

The short 5km walk out to Point Perpendicular in Kattang Nature Reserve is also worth doing.

Crowdy Bay National Park:

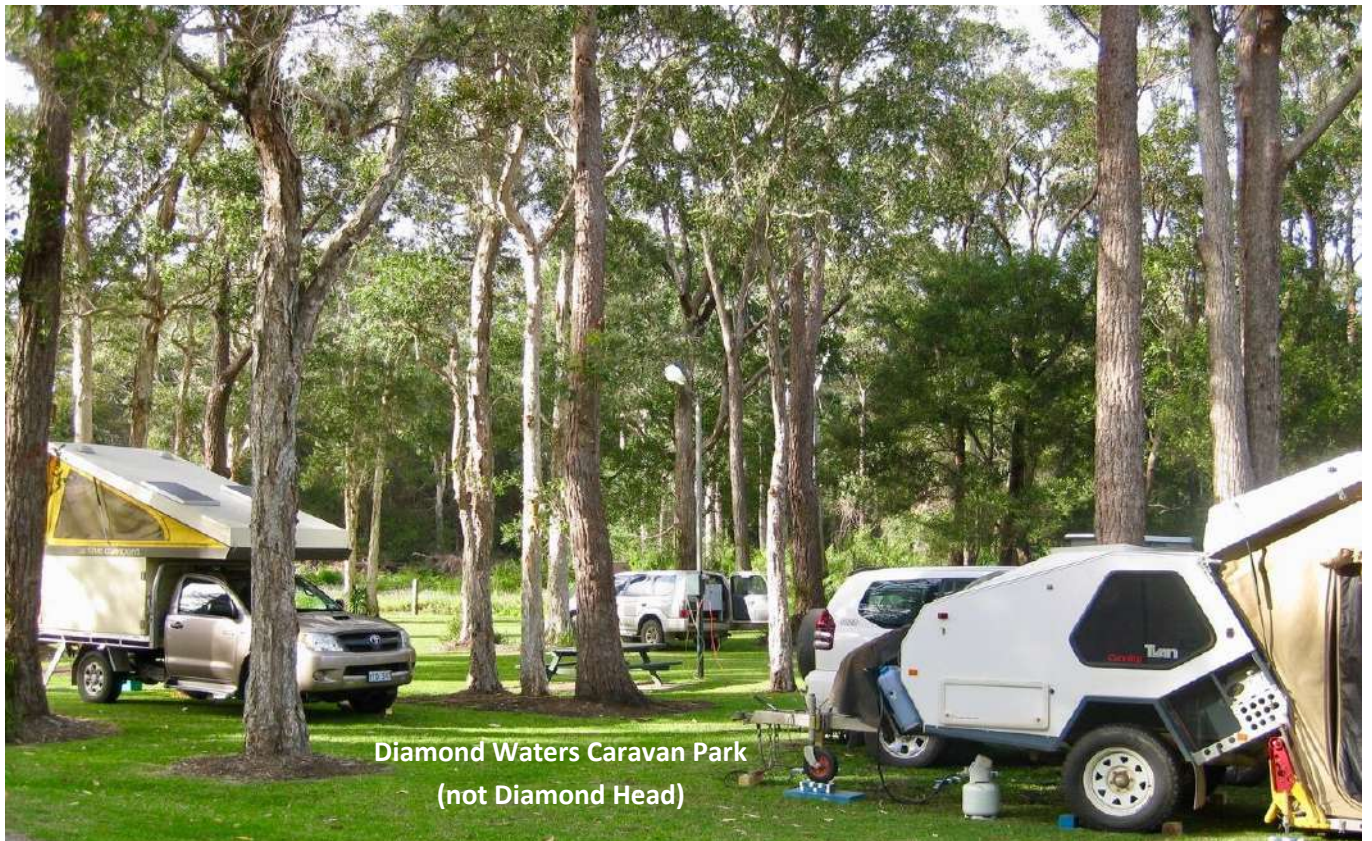
During wildflower season in Spring the loop walk from the caravan park at Diamond Head is a must with its variety of coastal heath flowers. It also takes you through light forest to spectacular headlands.

Spacious Kylie's Beach campground (named for nearby Kylie Tennant's cottage) offers good access to the beach and headland for walks in the National Park.

Walk Notes from *Country to Coast* Trip No 1



Point Perpendicular (north coast version)



Diamond Waters Caravan Park
(not Diamond Head)

Thanks Trevor and Lyn—this will surely have inspired some of our members to head north soon.

Walks Program and Social Activities

Upcoming Day Walks

[If you don't receive emails about Wednesday walks, but would like to, just follow the instructions on the Club's [website](#)

Leaders will not accept bookings until after the detailed description has been emailed to you

Date	Grade	Leader
Sat 11 Jul	Easy	Elaine Atkinson
Sun 12 Jul	Medium	Bob Chittenden
Wed 15 Jul	Short	Robyn Kelly & Colleen Fox
Wed 15 Jul	Easy/Medium	John Ellis
Wed 15 Jul	Medium/Hard	Peter Ford
Sat 18 Jul	Easy	Colleen Fox
Sun 19 Jul	Medium	Bob Chittenden
Wed 22 Jul	Easy/Medium	CBC
Wed 22 Jul	Medium/Hard	NPA
Sat 25 Jul	Easy	Jillian Bellamy
Sun 26 Jul	Medium	Leigh Hermann
Wed 29 Jul	Short	Robyn Kelly & Colleen Fox
Wed 29 Jul	Easy/Medium	CBC
Wed 29 Jul	Medium/Hard	NPA
Sat 1 Aug	Easy	Nishat Mueller
Sun 2 Aug	Medium	John Clune
Wed 5 Aug	Short	Robyn Kelly & Colleen Fox
Wed 5 Aug	Easy/Medium	Graham Chalker
Wed 5 Aug	Medium/Hard	Peter Kallio
Sat 8 Aug	Medium	Peter Wellman
Sun 9 Aug	Easy	Elaine Atkinson
Wed 12 Aug	Easy/Medium	CBC
Wed 12 Aug	Medium/Hard	CBC
Sat 15 Aug	Medium	Jillian Bellamy
Sun 16 Aug	Easy	Bob Chittenden
Wed 19 Aug	Medium/Hard	Peter Wellman
Sat 22 Aug	Medium	Robyn Gallagher
Sun 23 Aug	Easy	Leigh Hermann
Wed 26 Aug	Easy/Medium	CBC
Wed 26 Aug	Medium/Hard	NPA
Sat 29 Aug	Medium	Prue Deacon
Sun 30 Aug	Easy	Bob Chittenden

Advance Notices—subject to coronavirus restrictions

AGM—Tuesday 8 September

Being hopeful that there won't be a second 'wave' of coronavirus to interfere with our plans we have booked St Margaret's hall for the AGM. There will be more advice in future newsletters.

As usual, all committee and sub-committee positions will be declared vacant. We will definitely be needing a new Walks Officer and Weekend Medium Walks Coordinator; if you are interested in these or any other committee positions, please contact the president soon to discuss what is involved.

Trips Away

Thu 15 - Thu 22 and Thu 22-Thu 29 Oct 2020 — WILSONS PROMONTORY AREA, VICTORIA —

lower Medium walks. Leaders: Peter Wellman (62885985), Peter Ford (61612470, pford@pcug.org.au). Two parties will go to the area, the first week led by Peter Wellman and the second week by Peter Ford. The walking groups will stay near Yanakie just north of Wilsons Promontory and for 6 days will go on lower medium grade walks.

The main accommodation will be in three cabins, with four people in each, at a cost of about \$63.75 per person per night (Buln Buln Holiday Cabins www.bulnbuln.com). Others may stay at other local accommodation/motor camps (there is at least Telstra phone coverage). The walks will be mainly Wilsons Promontory NP, with one in the Strzelecki Ranges and another in Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. This is the main flowering time. The distance from Canberra to the accommodation via Cann River Valley is about 665 km, supposedly 7 h 40 min driving, but with stops it takes about 9 h 10 m. The cabin accommodation needs to be held by a deposit, so you will have to pay soon a deposit of \$171. Interested walkers should contact Peter Wellman by email: wellmanp@inet.net.au.

2021

May 2021 – Walking in Austria, Stubai and Zillertal Alps - Easy and Medium walks.

Leader: John Clune. One week at Mayrhofen in the Zillertal Alps, possibly staying in Hotel Garni Hubertus. These towns are south of Innsbruck. It is likely that we fly into Munich and take a train or bus to our accommodation. Both towns are in valleys near Innsbruck and are at the end of train lines. Contact John at j.clune@bigpond.com if you are interested in going.

Facebook

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.

<https://www.facebook.com/BrindabellaBushwalkingClub/>

You can set your Facebook page to receive notifications every time there is a new post.

BBC Website

www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au [All newsletters are on the website]

If you need the password to access the members' Area, please send a request by email to

webmaster@brindabellabushwalking.org