

Brindabella Bushwalking Club Newsletter

September 2017

Pool at Booroomba Rocks



The following members were elected at the AGM

The Committee for 2017-2018

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

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Walks Committee

Peter Dalton	Kathy Handel	Robyn Gallagher
Robyn Kelly	Peter Wellman	Jillian Bellamy
Annabel Agafonoff		

Social Committee

Elaine Atkinson	Lucinda Lang	Julie Pettit
Colleen Fox	Terry O'Brien	Peter Boyland

Emergency Officers

Doug Finlayson	Colin Boreham
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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.

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.

Brindabella Bushwalking Club President's Report 2017

Measured by the range of walks offered and the extent of participation in them, it's been another successful year for the club. Trips away included walks on sections of the Great North Walk and the Great South West Walk and areas around Mallacoota. All were well attended and much enjoyed by those who participated. In Mallacoota, we were made welcome by the 'Mallacoota Footmobiles' and we look forward to returning their hospitality when they visit Canberra in the not too distant future. The walks program was suitably complemented by the social program which included two pot luck dinners, one with a speaker on the Arboretum and the other with the bush band, 'Paverty'.

The range of skills required from the club's leaders is wide; so too is the range of skills available to us. I'd like to thank all office holders who have worked hard throughout the year to ensure things run smoothly. I'd also like to acknowledge the work done by others outside the formal committee structure. Our walks program is at the heart of the club and is supported by a range of other activities. We owe much to all those who have led walks, organised social activities and carried out other activities for the club. As our previous president pointed out, these things do not just happen. For those who step up, the demands on time and effort can be considerable but the rewards are also great.

Support for leaders and other walkers through training in navigation and first aid continued to be provided throughout the year. Proposals to improve the club's website have also engaged the committee's attention throughout the year and these will remain a challenge for the year ahead. In this connection, I'd like to acknowledge Allan Mikkelsen's invaluable work in setting up and maintaining our current website and assistance in the work of improving it. Of particular value to the committee is the ability we now have to contact members directly from the website. It's also of interest that our early history is now available on the members' page. Of course, the website already provides essential information such as the forthcoming walks program but the committee would like it to also do more. In essence, our aim is to make the website more user friendly and, as a result, more widely used by members and prospective members. One aspect of this is to make it more attractive to the younger generation who do everything by mobile phone. Our Facebook site nicely complements our official website and is growing in popularity. Regular updates on walks are posted by Terrylea Reynolds. If you already haven't seen it, please check it out. There are lots of interesting accounts of bushwalks with photos.

We have continued to cooperate closely with the Canberra Bushwalking Club and the National Parks Association. In this connection, may I mention, that Rod Griffiths, from the National Parks Association, is planning to undertake a walk around the ACT border in October and has invited walkers to participate either for a part day, a full day or over a number of days. I would be happy to provide further details to anyone interested. Trevor Wilson has kept up the supply of our promotional pamphlet to adventure stores and we also continue to look for new opportunities to promote the club publicly and attract prospective members. Such opportunities sometimes arrive unexpectedly. For example, an invitation to participate in Lish Fejer's program '*Sunday Brunch*' on local ABC Radio 666 on 11 June provided a good opportunity to promote bushwalking generally and all three ACT bushwalking clubs. The invitation, was originally issued to Lorraine Tomlins, President of CBC. As Lorraine was unavailable on that date she kindly passed it on to me. This is another clear example of our close cooperation.

Our continued participation in the Recreation User Stakeholder Group, hosted by 'Active Canberra' enabled us to keep abreast of government activities potentially affecting bushwalking. An example of one such activity that raised concerns was the publication of draft 'Australian Adventure Activity Standards' for consultation. Together with the Canberra Bushwalking Club and the National Parks Association, we expressed the view that, while these standards may be suitable for commercial organisations, they would be unduly burdensome if applied in their totality to clubs. In his response to a joint submission from the bushwalking clubs, the Chief Minister expressed the hope that we might use the finalised standards for reference purposes when we next review our own rules. Since then we have secured an assurance that there will be no regulation of clubs in the ACT and have been advised that the definition of 'dependent' will be revised taking into account the points we have made. This response would appear to finally close the matter.

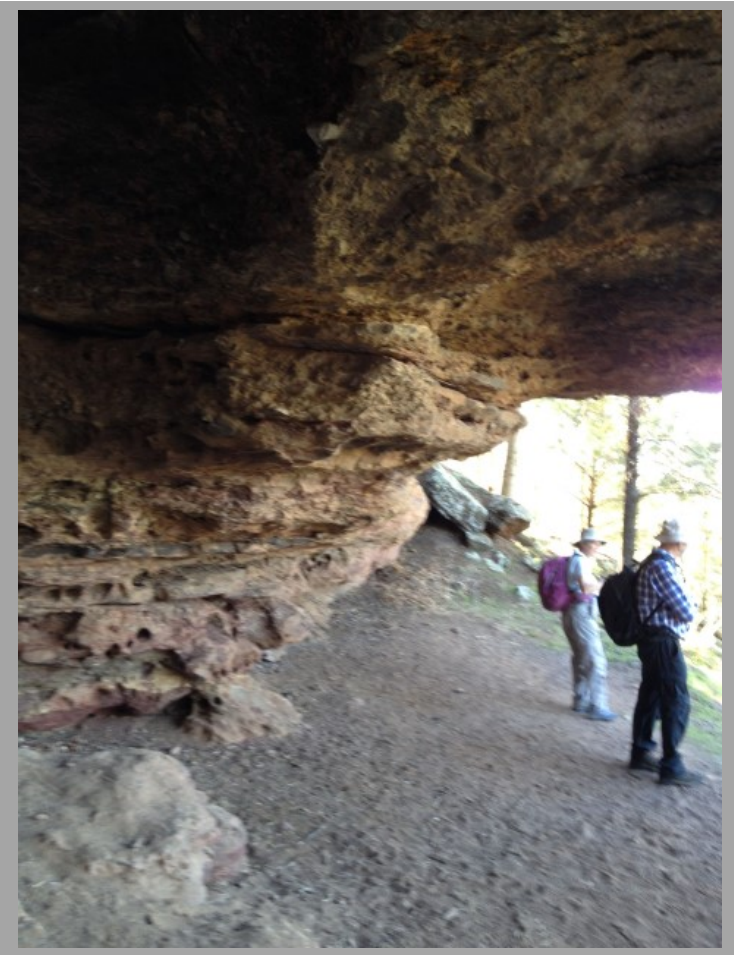
Finally, in opposing the application of these standards to clubs, I think we were right to point to our own detailed practices and rules but it would be a mistake to be too complacent about these matters. I would therefore like to close by posing the question 'Is there anything else we could or should be doing to improve our support for members and leaders?'

Peter Ford

WALKING IN THE RIVERINA

Recently 14 of us enjoyed time in the Riverina, walking and exploring, on a trip organised by David and Prue.

The trip started in Lockhart, a small town which has been well preserved and restored and the main street of which retains all its original early 20th century verandahs and many interesting buildings of the period.



From here we walked up to Galore Hill which, although only 200 metres high, provides 360-degree views of the surrounding countryside. It was named by an early (white) settler who exclaimed, upon surveying the rich plains below 'there is land enough and galore.' We also explored the caves there, said to have been used by the bushranger "Mad Dog Morgan."



The next day we moved to Wagga, where we climbed The Rock, at 507 metres the tallest summit for miles, giving terrific views of the rich country surrounding it, at this time bright with ripening canola.

We marked our arrival at the summit with a "happy birthday" to Eric, who was celebrating his 85th birthday.

The walk was notable for the participation of four octogenarians - Eric, Pat, Laurie and John.

On our last day, we walked beside the Murrumbidgee on the Wiradjuri trail, with beautiful beaches and red gums, all within a few hundred metres of the centre of Wagga.

We all enjoyed the trip, especially those of us unfamiliar with the area, so many thanks to David and Prue for organising it.

The accompanying photos, taken by Davinia, are from the trip to the Rock Nature Reserve and the climb to the Rock.





Namadgi Skyline

Good News !!

Subscription Fees

The AGM agreed to leave Subscription fees at their current levels for the next year.

Those who have not yet paid their fees are reminded that they are due now.



Car Costs

Car costs also remain unchanged at 12 cents per kilometre per passenger.

Progressive Dinner

The next Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday 18 November. The deadline for contacting Sue Williams about this is Sunday 12 November - all details are in the program.

BBC Facebook Page

The facebook page is attracting plenty of interest and Terrylea is keeping it up to date with photos, walk reports and much more. Visit it at: <https://www.facebook.com/BrindabellaBushwalkingClub/> You can set your facebook page to receive notifications every time there is a new post.



Snow on Mt Domain in August

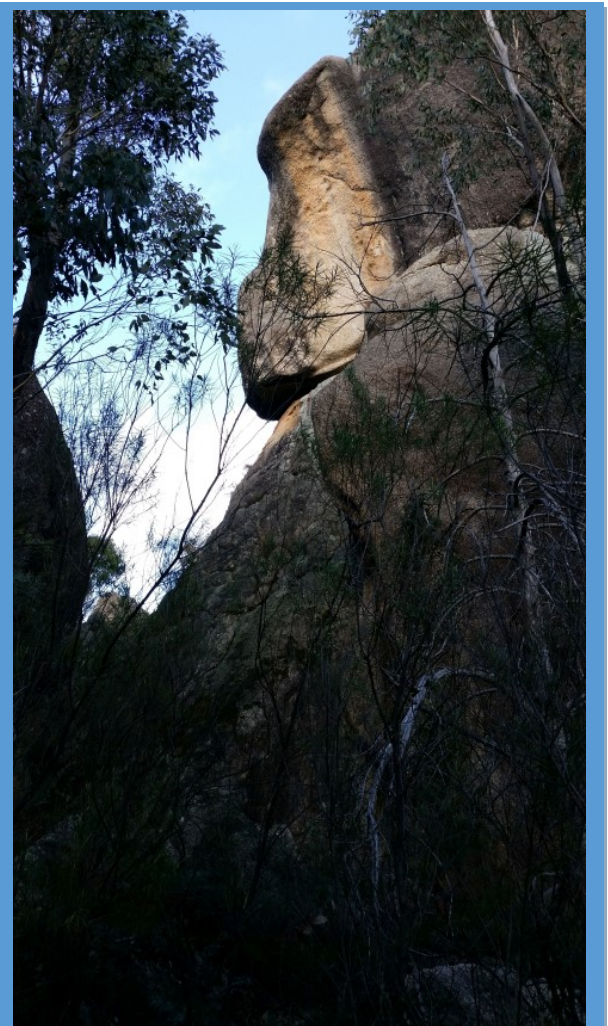
The Rules for Walkers, the Walks Grading System and the email addresses of the Walks Committee are all in the current Walks and Social Program

Deadline for the Next Program

The next Walks Program Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 7 November**. This will be to set the program for January to June 2018.

Please try to get your proposals for walks and other activities to the relevant committee member before that date (their email addresses are at pages 1 and 8 of the program).

If you want to advertise details of trips planned for the second half of 2018, please send the information to the Walks Officer (walks@brindabellabushwalking.org.au)



Why is it called 'Gorilla Rock'?

This 'n' That (President's pontifications)

A question that came up at the AGM was about the number of new members who joined in the past financial year. The Membership Secretary has researched the records and has advised me that there was a total of 50 new members for the 2016/2017 financial year. These comprised 38 adults and 12 children. A further 21 have joined since 1 June.

As our Returning Officer, Trevor Willson, observed when the committee was elected, there is a high degree of continuity and we are also pleased to welcome Lana Burmester to the role of Treasurer. Davinia Wells has been re-elected to the position of Membership Secretary thereby carrying into effect the constitutional change that was made in 2016 to allow the two positions to be separately filled.

Annabel Agafonoff has joined the Walks Committee this year to represent the family walks. We are also fortunate in being able to welcome Elaine Atkinson as Social Convenor and Peter Boyland as a member of the social committee at a time when there is a need to provide much needed support to those who so ably organise our social functions and work on the night. Lucinda Lang has done a great job over the past year as Social Convenor and will remain as a member of the Social Committee. Margitta Acker has taken a break from the social committee this year and I'd also like to thank her for her contribution to the success of our activities.

If you would like to chat about any aspect of the club's activities I'd welcome an email to president@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

Winter

Sunlight

On

Lake

Burley-

Griffin



Conclusion

We hope you've enjoyed this newsletter and, as always, we'd be very happy to consider items from you for inclusion in the next newsletter - these can be emailed to walks@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au