

# Brindabella Bushwalking Club

## September 2021 Newsletter



BBC



*View from Main Range, Kosciuszko National Park*

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### Coronavirus Update

- \* The latest ACT updates can be found here: [Updates](#)
- \* Unfortunately, as the saying goes — 'It's all turned to custard'.

### BBC Website

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

## From the President

**Covid.** Nobody knows how long the lockdown will be with us, and consequently we cannot guess when our program of walks will resume — it certainly won't be until after 17 September. A big proportion of our members are fully vaccinated and I am hopeful we will avoid any serious illness from the disease.

**Subscriptions are due this month.** The easiest way to renew is to use the [Membership Form](#) on the website.

**AGM Results.** The AGM was held via Zoom and the new administration was elected (details on the next page). It was a shame that we couldn't hold this in person and use the opportunity to catch up with so many of our members that we hadn't seen for quite a while.

This will be my last President's Report. I've had an interesting time in the position and I thank you for your support and forbearance during that time. On your behalf, I congratulate Bill Gibson for accepting the nomination and for being elected as our new president. It was time for a change and Bill's enthusiasm and 'people skills' will bring this. He has a great committee to support and guide him, which is always a bonus when you first take office.

For the time being, I will remain as editor of the newsletters. The newsletters are only as good as the content you send me, so please submit anything you think might be of interest to our members (especially articles including photos) to me at [BBC Editor](#)

Peter Dalton



### Facebook

*Our Facebook Manager regularly posts 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/>

*Please send your walk reports and photos to Heather at*



**The following members were elected to the committee for 2021—2022**

President	Bill Gibson
Vice President	Prue Deacon
Walks Officer	David Wardle
Secretary	Julie Pettit
Treasurer	Lana Burmester
Membership Secretary	Davinia Wells
Training and Development Officer	Bob Chittenden
Social Convenor	Elaine Atkinson
Facebook	Heather McLoughlin
Webmaster	Peter Ford
General Committee	Peter Dalton
Public Officer	Julie Pettit

**Our Hard-working Sub-Committee appointees for the new year are:**

**Walks Sub-Committee**

David Wardle  
Jillian Bellamy  
Leigh Hermann  
Peter Wellman  
Kathy Handel  
Robyn Kelly

**Social Sub-Committee**

Elaine Atkinson  
Julie Pettit  
Colleen Fox  
Wendy Thompson  
Suzanne Bluff  
Monty Fox

**Emergency Officers:** Doug Finlayson and Colin Boreham

**Outgoing Social Sub – Committee Member:**

Terry O’Brien

# Revised Walk Report Forms

Our Walk Report forms have always had several drawbacks:

- There was only room for 20 names on the first page.
- Even then, the space for each name and signature was cramped.
- You couldn't copy and paste the walk description into the PDF version.
- The information on the Word version sometimes got jumbled or overlapped, depending on your computer and printer settings.

**The forms have now been updated**, as follows:

- The walk description has been moved from the first to the second page, meaning the 20 spaces for names/signatures are now larger.
- The first page now only has the walk name, the risk waiver and the signature area; this means that if the leader anticipates there could be more than 20 attendees, they can print two copies of the first page.
- Leaders can also print an additional front page to keep in reserve in their car or pack, should the need unexpectedly arise at any time in the future.
- The form is now a 'fillable' PDF. This means the leader can copy and paste the description into it, without any fear that the rest of the information on the form will move about or overlap. There should never be a problem when printing it.
- The 'fillable' areas on the form are highlighted in blue to show their existence, but the colour disappears when you copy text into it.

The Walk Report and Family Walk Report forms are available in this area on the website:



*Sunbaking in the front garden — Spring has sprung*

## RISKY MANAGEMENT OR MANAGEMENT OF RISKS?

It's a trite but true observation that every activity carries a level of risk. Of course, the level and nature of the risk will depend on a number of factors. In bushwalking, for example, the terrain, navigation, length, weather, vegetation and altitude are all important factors.

Do you take a 'she'll be right' approach or do you give it some thought? I would suggest that the first is risky management and the second, management of risks.

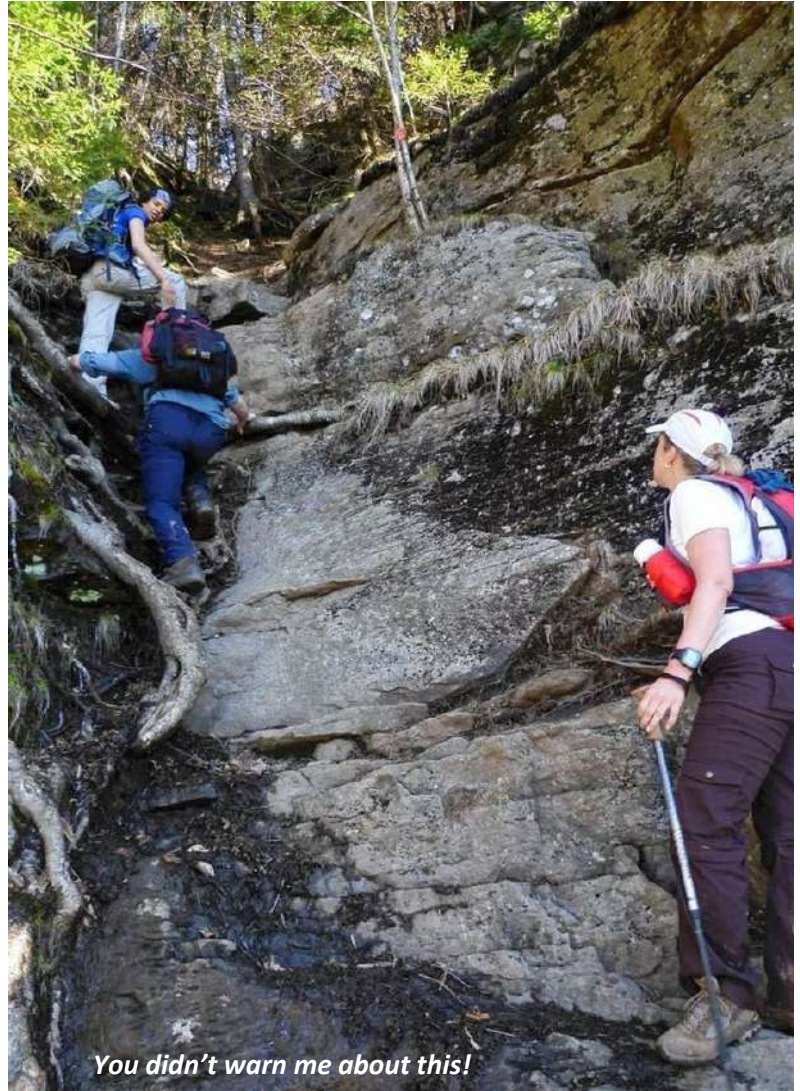
Whether as leaders or participants, and whether consciously or subconsciously, we all make some assessment of such factors every time we decide on undertaking a particular walk. If we do this consciously, which, I suggest, is good practice, it is also helpful to have regard to some helpful guidelines.

In this connection, we recently received correspondence from Bushwalking NSW with accompanying documents relating to the public liability insurance cover for our club.

Among them are 'Risk Management Guidelines' covering all the factors mentioned above, together with others, and setting out a framework to assist your thinking. The Guidelines are endorsed by Bushwalking NSW to assist affiliated clubs with planning and implementation of risk management.

The Guidelines can be accessed at <https://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/bushwalking/wp-content/uploads/BNSW-Risk-Management-Guidelines.pdf> and from the 'Links' button on our website. Please note the copyright reservation.

Peter Ford



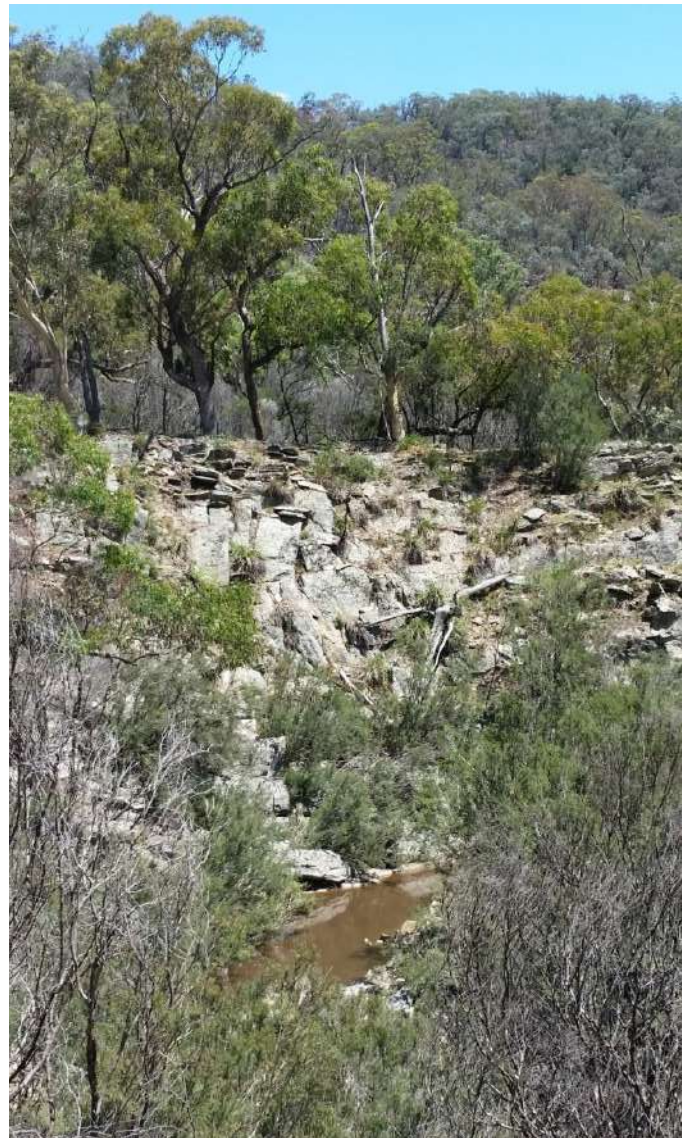
**1 Sep is Wattle Day**



**The following 6 Photos show where  
we should have been walking in recent weeks**



***Legoland***



***Hells Hole***

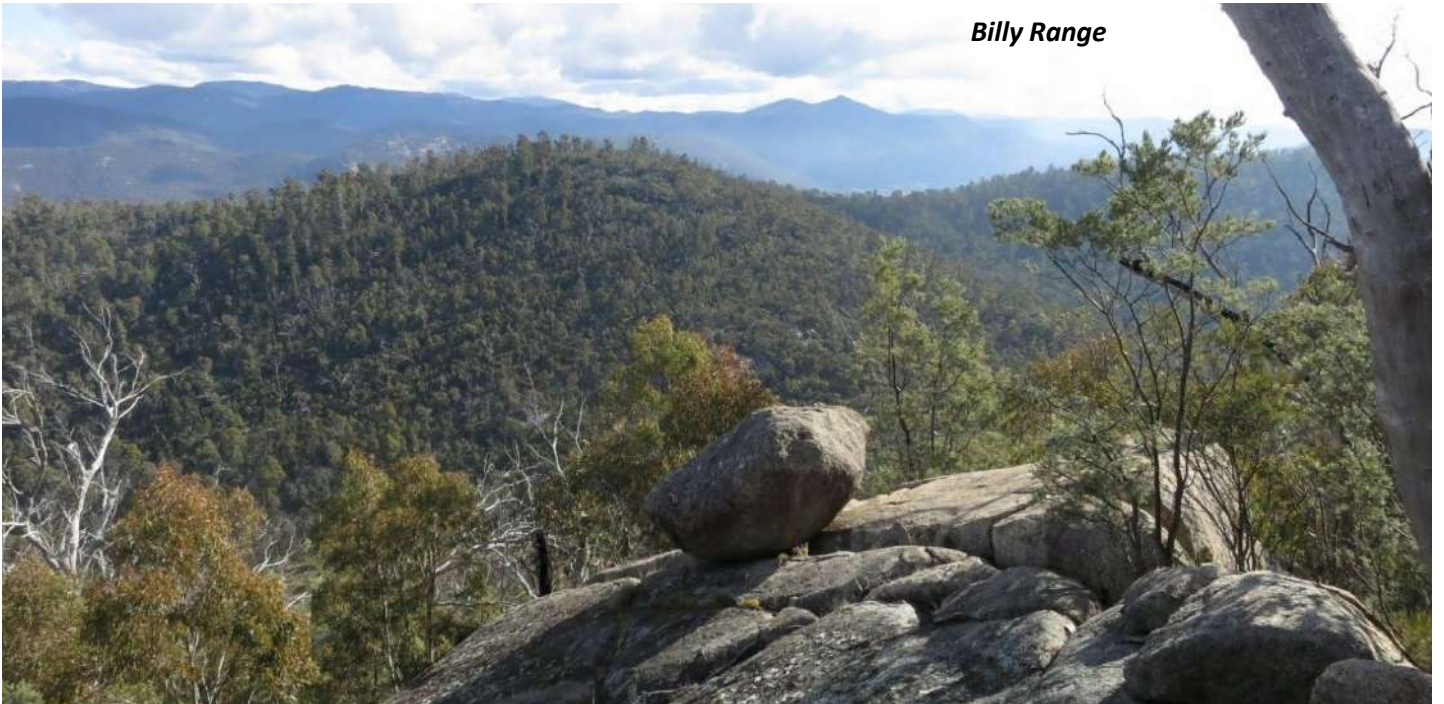


***Mt Ainslie Quarry***

*The Pinnacle*



*Billy Range*



*Bruce Ridge*



# For all the Grandparents and Great-Grandparents

(A message for you — copied from the Sydney Morning Herald)

SPECTRUM, AUGUST 28-29, 2021 3



RICHARD GLOVER

## VIRTUALLY GRANDPARENTING AS THE MILESTONES ZOOM BY

*Could he wait until November before deciding to walk?*

According to the photographs sent every day, my grandchild is growing older at a supercharged pace. His mother also sends regular videos. Here he is gnawing away at solid food. Or laughing at his father, a traditional occupation in our family. Or, desperately reaching for a toy, proving that he is oh-so-close to crawling.

Like almost every other grandparent in this time of the pandemic, we must acknowledge these achievements from afar.

This generation of grandparents – trying to make contact with small children over a video link, laughing and waving our hands like demented clowns – must be the first in history to hope their grandchildren slow down when it comes to life's achievements.

I want to say: "Hey kid, take it easy. Are you not watching the daily press conferences? It would be good if you waited until at least November before deciding to walk." But, no, he seems determined to tick off the accomplishments that mark the first year of life.

I can see from the videos that his hand-eye coordination is coming along quite well. It involves his hand and his father's eye. The Space Cadet, as I used to call him, did the same thing to me. I take a curious pleasure in the pain that's being inflicted all these years on.

The child also has a defiant attitude when denied access to something he wants. Though only eight months old, he has willpower and self-belief aplenty, the fruit of his parents' boundless regard.

Such self-belief emerged in the child's father at the same age. It was the product of the same forces and had identically terrifying results. Quietly, I cheer on my grandson in his campaign to get whatever he wants, whenever he wants it. It's wonderful to see such a clear case of karma in action.

More importantly, my small grandchild's achievements are a joy to behold. We thrill to them. The delight he expresses playing with water. The pleasure he takes in his spectacular mum and dad. The excitement of that day when, courtesy of the BBQ, he first saw fire – his tiny body shaking with delight, and with awe that his dad, his very particular and own dad, was somehow in control of this beast.

I like, too, the way he regards bananas as not only a source of essential vitamins and minerals but also as a decorating option.

In a few months, when he's up and moving around, I might post him a pack of indelible markers. That way he can decorate his parent's walls, much as The Space Cadet decorated ours.



## For all the Grandparents and Great-Grandparents

(Continued)

It was a portrait of a large yellow rabbit with red eyes, as I remember it, rendered in the middle of the living room wall. Impossible to remove, it stayed there for years, right until I repainted the room.

Yet for all the pleasure of seeing my grandson's current achievements, and imagining those to come, I desperately want to visit him in person.

I'd carefully planned, after all, the grandfather I wanted to be – giving the new arrival all the gifts I had given my own children.

This, to be precise, largely involved a tuneless rendition of *The Road to Gundagai*, sung every night to send them to sleep, and always ending in them begging: "It's OK dad I'll agree to go to sleep if you'll only agree to please stop singing."

It was my main achievement in parenting, but not my only one. I also developed advanced level skills in lulling a baby to sleep, understanding that sleep only comes when the person holding the child is at their most uncomfortable.

You must hold the child to your chest, while simultaneously leaning backward, jiggling slightly, tilting to one side, and then cricking your neck in a way that will do permanent damage.

Then, after some hours, when they finally succumb to sleep, you walk carefully towards their room, bend low over their cot, thus putting maximum strain on the small of your back, and lay them down. You then leave your hands beneath them for a time, the small of your back throbbing slightly, before removing your hands slowly, like a bomb disposal expert aware that any sudden movement could trigger an explosion.

*Quietly, I cheer on my  
grandson in his  
campaign to get  
whatever he wants ...  
It's wonderful to see  
such a clear case of  
karma in action.*

Mission accomplished, you creep slowly back out the door, soft-footed, like a cat burglar. At this point, they wake up. They then scream as if they were the victim of a street mugging.

You return to the cot. Maybe, you think to yourself, a song would work.

"There's a track winding back to an old-fashioned shack..."

All these skills, perfected so many years ago, are now ripe for a reprise and yet, instead, it's back to the video link, waving and leaping and laughing, in the hope that we might fix ourselves in his mind as part of his tribe.

At this rate, with the perpetually elongated lockdown, I'll next see him when he's got his driver's licence and whizzes over in his self-drive car.

"Hello, Pa. I'm the one in all those Zoom conference calls. Glad to meet you in person. Something has come up in my history course at university. You wouldn't happen to know the lyrics to *The Road to Gundagai*?"



*The Morning Tea spot on one of Prue's recent Wednesday Adventures East of Honeysuckle Campground*

Finally, a couple of Truths in these Trying Times

**By replacing  
your morning  
coffee with green  
tea, you can lose  
up to 87% of  
what little joy  
you still have  
left in your life.**



**Lockdown has turned us  
all into dogs.**

**We roam the house all day  
searching for food.  
We are told "No" if we get  
too close to strangers and  
we get very excited about  
car rides.**

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