

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



From the President



Above and right: Booroomba Rocks and beyond Wednesday Medium/Hard Walk 7 September



This month's Newsletter is an enjoyable and informative read, with contributions from several members about their individual walking or reports on club walks. Thank you to those who take the time to put together most interesting commentaries on their adventures. Keep them coming!

If you haven't noticed, our editor-in-chief, Peter Ford, has recently introduced a topic which he calls 'Blast from the past.', where he pulls together articles using pictures and details from very early club outings.

I find them very interesting even if I can't put names to the younger faces, many of whom are still active club members. It also highlights that over a very long time, the club has/continues to provide interesting, varied and valued bushwalking activities to our members.

Welcome to our new members and irrespective of your walking experience, don't hesitate to seek advice/help from fellow club members on any aspect of bushwalking, although depending on who you ask you might be overwhelmed by the amount of information/advice that will be forthcoming. With the festive/holiday season rapidly approaching please note the social events which are upcoming and put them in your diary.

That's it from me, so I hope to see you on a walk soon, until then take care.... Bill

PS: I especially like the 'Gazpacho' cartoon in the newsletter. 😊

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Contributions welcome
Articles and photos

Send to
editor@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

Coming Social Events

Fri 21 Oct – SPRING FAMILY PICNIC

Contact: Elaine Atkinson (6288 3557, 0410 154 133). Weston Park from 4.30pm. Follow the signs to the miniature railway. Plenty of parking at the railway and the BBQ area is on the right as you approach the car park. BYO meal/drinks and something to share for dessert or nibbles. BBQ facilities are available. Bring portable chair and cardigan. This is a family event.

**COVID
UPDATE**
[CHECK HERE](#)
FOR ADVICE
AND
RESTRICTIONS

Welcome to New Members

New Members

Mimi Christie
 Mark and Jennifer Clothier
 Beata Erickson
 Michaela and Alexander Flanigan
 Suzanne Gravel
 Russell Hearne
 Russell Heaton
 Keith Huggan
 Dagmar and Ron Kelly
 Toni Lea Howie
 Glenda and Neil Lynch
 Scarlett McKone
 Peter and Susan McMaster
 Pam Morrison
 Karen Neill
 Rosanna Ricafort and Lucas Ortiz
 Therese Smith
 Joanne Tilbrook
 Peter Woodrow



BBC Membership Renewal

BBC Memberships for the 22/23 year are now due. If you haven't renewed your membership it is important that you complete the Membership Form and deposit the amount required into BBC's Bank Account.

The easiest way to complete your renewal is to go to our website: www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au and click on **Application for Membership** at the top of the page. You will be directed to the Membership Form which you can fill in on line. Take note of BBC's Bank Account details and then press "submit". The Membership Form will be emailed to me.

It is very important that you fill in a Membership Form and submit it, as that is the only way that I will receive the information that you have renewed your membership and then I can update your information. If you only deposit money into our bank account I will have no knowledge that you intend to renew your membership.

Thank you

Davinia Wells

Brindabella Bushwalking Club Membership Secretary

Returning Members

Colleen and William Fulton
 Anne McCarthy
 Kerry O'Neill
 Paul Walker

During the month, membership briefly topped 450 but then settled back to 449 - still very good.

Facebook

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

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

Please send your photos etc. to Heather at facebook@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

TUMUT TRIP - 16 to 22 SEPTEMBER

It was Peter Wellman's and Mary Lindsay's second attempt to put on this trip – the first proposed for May 2020 having been thwarted by Covid.

However most of the original takers were still keen to go and 12 of us set off for Tumut on Friday 16th looking forward to a break from Canberra and the prospect of some interesting walks in spite of the weather forecast looking none too good. Most of the group stayed at the Ribbonwood Cottages about 3 Kms from town in very pleasant accommodation surrounded by lush countryside and some very pregnant cows in nearby paddocks. On a number of mornings they awoke to new baby calves in the next door paddock born during the night.

Two members of the group camped at Riverglade Caravan Park within walking distance of town and next to the very swollen Tumut River. It proved a testing time for the two intrepid campers as there had been heavy rain the night before arrival and also during their stay with a mini-cyclone on Saturday night resulting in a sleepless night as the wind brought down several trees and branches in the park and of course there was lots of wind, rain and mud. However it never does one harm to be out of one's comfort zone from time to time.

Day 2: We set off early for what was to be about a 12 Km walk on part of the Hume and Hovell trail beside the very fast flowing Goobarragandra River and mostly on firetrail or well made track. After only about 500 metres – our first challenge!! A swing bridge held precariously suspended over a raging river. This was a true test of our mettle as only 1 person at a time was allowed to cross on the narrow rocking bridge with some heart stopping moments in the middle where it swayed a bit more. It took some time for us all to get across but, happy to report we all passed the test. The track then wound through lovely bushland but was often crossed by little rivulets which due to the extent of recent rainfall were quite muddy in places so care was needed. In places the track widened into grassy open areas and the going was a little less wet.



We even spotted a wayward wombat out grazing at a time of day when he/she should have been tucked up in his/her burrow. On the way we had to cross several stiles some made of thick poles of varying heights requiring some deft balancing acts by walkers. Morning tea was taken at a pretty spot overlooking the raging river and we then proceeded to the Hume and Hovell campground where it



started to rain in earnest. It was a case of raincoat on – raincoat off – raincoat on again on the return trip and this was the pattern also for most of our walks in the following days with frequent short sharp squally showers coming upon us quickly and then disappearing just as quickly. We retraced our route to our nemesis – THE SWING BRIDGE (shades of Nepal for me and some others who had experienced the Annapurna trail) where again everyone was able to cross without incident.





Day 3: We travelled towards Talbingo with the aim to walk on higher less muddy and wet ground. We started the walk from a camping area beside the Joumana river where we planned to walk about 8 Kms along a firetrail. It was a very pleasant walk through eucalypt forest which has recovered well from the 2019 fires that came very close to Talbingo. All along the track there was bright yellow wattle out and brilliant purple hardenbergia climbing up the surrounding undergrowth. Unfortunately after about 2 hours of walking our path was blocked by a very fast flowing and wide side stream which we judged too risky to try to cross so we retraced our steps back to the campground.



The majority voted for a side trip into Talbingo where we were fortunate to find a very cosy and interesting café with lots of local bric a brac and very tasty Devonshire tea. It started to rain heavily as we left but Peter (ever the optimist) was keen to go on another walk – the Blowering Cliffs Walk. Some decided to return to Tumut but 7 decided to do the walk. True to Peter's predictions it fined up sufficiently for us to enjoy this wonderful walk. A gradual but steady uphill climb on a good footpad but slippery in places due to the rain for about 4 Kms with a narrow rocky steep path for the last kilometre or so to the base of the cliffs. There was lots of evidence of lyrebirds around and we could hear them in the surrounding forest. It was well worth the climb as the falls were quite spectacular – in full flood with spray billowing out in clouds – quite a sight.



Day 4: Our walk took us to quite a different environment – the Micalong Swamp Reserve. It entailed a fairly long drive, about 40 kms from Tumut into higher country covered in plantation pines. The walk took us along a well made track skirting the swamp to our right which was very full after all the rain and covered completely in reeds and other water plants but surprisingly lacking in birdlife. We crossed a small footbridge and proceeded away from the swamp and into beautiful forest with tall white trunked eucalypts many very large old ones which had obviously escaped past logging. Once again we came to a point where our proposed route was blocked by a large deep stream with no safe way to cross. So we took a side track which was still part of the Hume and Hovell track and followed this back to the swamp crossing at Chinaman's Creek on a foot bridge to the firetrail this time with the swamp on our left having looped around it. The walk back was quite long and muddy in places having been



badly churned up by careless 4WD drivers. The walk ended up being about 16.3 Kms so we were all very well exercised by our return to the cars but again a very interesting and enjoyable day and thankfully the rain stayed away.



Day 5: Eight of us walked along the Hume and Hovell Track from the Goobarragandra River following Walls Creek and Mill Creek until we emerged 14 km and 550 m later onto the Snowy Mountains Highway near Blowering Dam. It was a beautiful, varied walk despite its challenges, in the form of flooded side creeks, one of which we were forced to cross on a wooden bridge tipped at a 30 degree angle and covered with slimy leaves, and a never ending succession of fence crossings on tree trunk stairs. The whole experience was enhanced by the stunning spring weather – the best of the trip – and it was certainly one of the highlights of the week.



Of the 4 who chose an easier day two travelled to Adelong to visit the old goldfields site and to walk along the sculpture track beside the river. A number of local towns have established sculpture walks as a tourist attraction with works from sculptors from around the world. Adelong has 10 sculptures while Batlow and Tumbarumba have 6 and 4 respectfully. On return to Tumut they decided to do the Wetlands Walk which is a lovely reserve with many paths extending along the Tumut River and a bird lovers paradise. Two other members of our group decided to do a trip to Tumbarumba for the day.

Day 6: On the last walking day six of us participated in a delightful walk of roughly 8km to Warogong Sugarloaf with a 450m height gain, steep in places. There was lovely bush and views from the top. There was one interesting water crossing on the way up and back, made easier with extra branches. The threatening rain managed to hold off.

Thank you Peter and Mary for a wonderful and interesting trip.

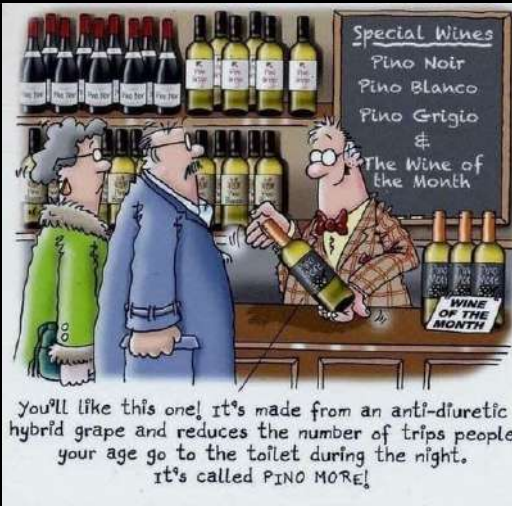


Julie Pettit - with contributions from:-

*Mary Lindsay
Diana Kirby
Erica Miller*



- o Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.
- o How is it that one careless match can start a bushfire but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
- o I didn't say it was your fault. I said I was blaming you.
- o You're never too old to learn something stupid.
- o Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening' and then tell you why it isn't.



Pro tip: If you stir coconut oil into your kale, it makes it easier to scrape it into the trash



A Week Walking in Southern Spain

So you have had a planned holiday cancelled over the last year or two? A fairly common experience resulting from the Covid pandemic. But other things can upset travel plans too. Like volcanos. And, surprisingly, can have a *good* outcome.



Cerro de Lucero

In April 2010 the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland decided to let off some steam. And some ash, lots of ash which slowly spread over the skies above western Europe. A number of countries were forced to cancel flights for fear of dangerous interference with the plane's equipment.

We had booked a walking tour based in the "white village" of C6mpeta, south of Granada and inland from M6laga in southern Spain. The walks were to be day walks in the Sierra de Almijara.

We duly turned up at the nominated hotel on the right day to join the rest of the group. In the large hotel, however, there was hardly a human being in sight. But there was a message for us from our leader saying that the other 12 participants, all from Great Britain, were unable to join us because of the cancellation of their flight. She was waiting for instructions from her company as to what to do. "The two Aussies are here," she reported. "And me. What happens now?"

What happened was that with no other viable option, they agreed that, if those two Aussies were willing, the trip could go ahead. Great! Wendy, our Ramblers guide, and Lyn were both competent Spanish-speakers so contact with the local people, who were missing out on their normal "full house" of tourists in the village, was very rewarding, and lots of doors were opened to us.

Best of all, we were able to enjoy a week of great walks in the mountains surrounding C6mpeta, something to think back on with great pleasure in these times when

our walking capacity has markedly decreased. Our walks in this wild and sparsely populated area included the following: -

- A 15 km walk with 600m climb in the [Sierra de Almijara](#) to the north of the village. On the remote heights of this track we met up and chatted to a very fit and friendly 79 year old German who spends his winters in this area. Back in town we enjoyed a Tinto de Verano in the plaza, where Pepe, the hotel owner, joined us.



On the track in the Sierra de Almijara

- A walk to the larger town of Frigiliana via Acebuchal where we stopped for a cafe lunch. 20 km. Lovely wooded hills, olive groves, and small farms, many abandoned. Pepe, the hotel owner, wearing his second cap as owner of the town's only taxi, met us at Frigiliana to drive us back to town.
- A morning walk to Canillas de Albaida and the hills behind it. We met and chatted with a group of English walkers who were stranded in Spain because of the flight cancellations but seemed quite happy with the outcome. Afternoon walk around C6mpeta village, where, yes, every single building is white. After dinner we went to the Museo de Vino. And tasted far too many wines.
- Best walk of the week: 17km with 700m climb. Via Pepe's taxi to the start of the walk at F6brica de la Luz from where we walked initially beside the beautiful Arroyo de la Cueva del Melaro, then up into the rolling, rocky hills. Picnic lunch again at an old, abandoned farm in warm spring sunshine.

Continued next page

One of the doors which was opened later in the week was the door to Pepe's private museum, in the cellar beneath his house, which to our surprise turned out to be a shrine to General Franco, packed full of memorabilia of Franco, including guns, photos, records of his speeches, uniforms, currency etc. As is reported in Laurie Lee's book "As I Walked out one Midsummer Morning", this area was the scene of much brutal inter-village fighting in the civil war. We passed through some villages which had been 100% Franco supporters and the next village a few kilometres away in the next valley had belonged to the partisans. Pepe remained in the year 2010 convinced that Franco had been the best thing that had ever happened to Spain, and his demise the worst thing, and by the end of our week in his village (which by now we felt that he "owned" like a mafia boss) he was willing to take us into his Franco cave and offer us a glass of "The blood of Christ".



Above: Abandoned farmhouse



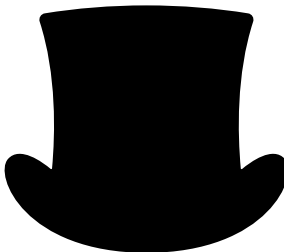
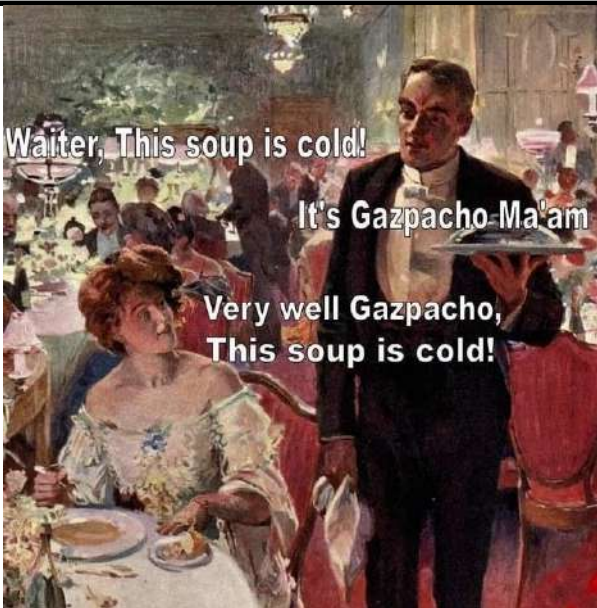
The white village of Cómpeeta



Approaching the ghost village of Acebuchal



Trevor and Lyn Willson



YANKEE HAT ROCK ART SITE

ACT PARKS AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

Why has the bridge been removed?

The walking track to the Yankee Hat rock art site is not open from Bogong Creek. Extensive damage to this track occurred during the 2020 bushfires, and the bridge over the creek was deemed unsafe.

Is the Yankee Hat rock art site open to the public?

The rock art site is closed. This is in accordance with Ngunnawal community wishes and is necessary until essential works are completed to ensure protection of this important cultural site.

When will it re-open?

The bridge, walking track, and the viewing platform at the rock art site will be rebuilt in stages. This will occur over several years in conjunction with the Ngunnawal community. Thank you for your patience.

What else can I do here?

You are welcome to explore the Gudgenby Valley and beyond. Have a picnic at the car park or on Bogong Creek.

The short Gudgenby Loop Track from the Bogong Creek bridge area provides pleasant views of the Gudgenby Valley and surrounding mountains. Follow the red arrows off the main track.

Status of Namadgi Tracks

Things you can and can't do

Walks

Yankee Hat Track (Rock Art Site - CLOSED)
2km return (1 hour) Easy
Extensive damage occurred on this track during the 2020 Bushfires. The track and rock art site will re-open when repair works are complete.

Gudgenby Loop Track is a short alternative that provides pleasant views of the valley and surrounding mountains. Follow the red arrows off the Yankee Hat Track at Bogong Creek.


◀◀ Gudgenby Bush Regeneration Circuit
5km return circuit (2 hours) Easy
See how the land has been rehabilitated from pine plantation to native forest. Walk through Candlebarks and Snow Gums. The first two kilometres follow the Old Boboyan Road.

◀◀ Old Boboyan Road
14km one way (5 hours) Moderate
Walk part of the mostly flat, original road from Thanwa to Adaminaby. See how the land has been rehabilitated from a pine plantation to native trees. Enjoy the Boboyan Valley grassland and pastoral heritage.

▶▶ Rendezvous Creek Track
3.2km loop (1.5 hours) Easy
This short walk features mountain streams, boulders, woodland, forest, open grassland and views to the Gudgenby area. It links to Rendezvous Creek Fire Trail.

Horse riding
Horse riding is permitted along fire trails east of and including the Old Boboyan Road.

Mountain bike riding
The Old Boboyan Road is the most suitable for cycling in this area. Mountain bike riding is allowed on all fire trails except those in the Timber Wilderness.



Yankee Hat Track: Photo: J. Burns



For further info please call **6237 5307**
Namadgi National Park Area Manager



Blast from the Past - Tasmania's South West 1991

“A WALK TO THE WORLD’S END”

To the early French explorers, Southern Tasmania was the world’s end. Beyond here, they sensed, lay only sea and ice. To walk the Port Davey/South Coast Track is to share some of that feeling. Beyond here, there are no roads, no power lines, and few modern conveniences. You are walking to the southern extremity of an island at the world’s end. This is wilderness.



More Photos from Recent Walks

