

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB

NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Bill has been away during October but, in his absence, I thought you might like a forecast for November.
Ed.



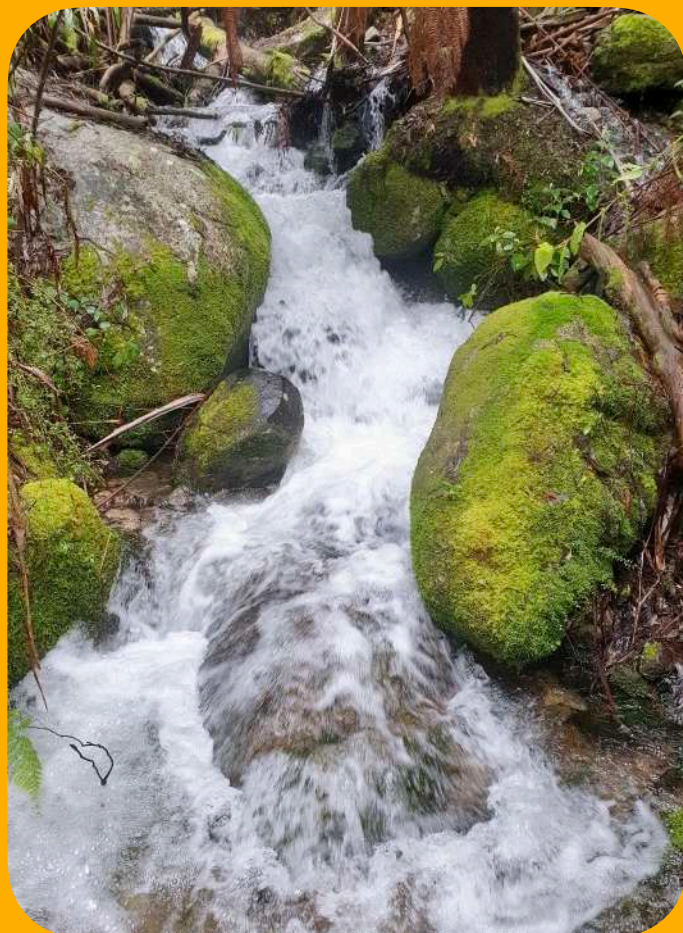
Contributions welcome
Articles and photos
Send to

Please check as there are changes from time to time



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

Sunday Oct 23 : Given the heavy rain on Friday and Saturday, Sunday's scheduled Settlers Track was replaced with walks at Tidbinbilla. First we attempted the Ashbrook Firetrail, but Mountain Creek was too high. Instead we took several short walks: the Lyrebird and Cascade trails - the cascades were roaringly magnificently.



Leigh Hermann

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Vale Judy Grant



A much loved and respected member of BBC, Judy Grant passed away peacefully at home on Thursday 29th September after a long battle with liver cancer. Judy was a very enthusiastic and active member of the club, having joined the then Family Bushwalkers Inc. in the early 1980s and participated in both local day walks, often as a leader, and many interstate and overseas trips.

Judy was an active participant in the Club's social activities up until the last four years and acted as a member of the Social sub-Committee in 2008 and as Social Convenor from 2009 to 2011. Mary Lindsay remembers that Judy was an excellent cook and really loved to cook for others especially fellow walkers who benefited from her skills. Following Judy's lead, club participants started to bring cakes and biscuits to add to the coffee and tea that walkers had previously brought to share at the end of walks.

Judy was instrumental in introducing John Clune to the then FBI and often said that "he was the best recruit she ever made". Many members who have enjoyed John's well planned and led trips away and local walks would attest to that.

Judy was a great lover of the natural world and the native flora and was quite an expert in wild flower identification especially native orchids. She loved gardening and maintained a beautiful and productive home garden.

Judy was a very caring person and made it her business to welcome new members and take them under her wing, especially those who were unfamiliar or uneasy about bush walking.



In spite of her failing health over the last five years or so Judy fought her illness with her usual courage and determination – maintaining her optimistic outlook on life and her sense of humour. She was able to travel to England with her daughter Donna and much-loved granddaughter Lindsay, to fulfil a long held dream of visiting Kew Gardens. She was also able to travel to the USA with them and take Lindsay to see Disneyland.



Judy was a caring, capable but unassuming person and a great friend to many. She lived life to the full and was much loved by those Club members fortunate enough to have known her well. She will be much missed by all.

*Julie Pettit
Mary Lindsay
Robyn Kelly*

Vale Bob Stewart

Older members of the BBC will remember Bob as a member of the club from the early days, when it was the Family Bushwalkers Inc. He and his wife Robyn were originally involved with the family side of the club but like many of the originals they continued to be active after their children grew up, going on weekend walks as well as trips away.

Despite undergoing major heart surgery Bob continued to undertake many walks with the club. He was also a keen cyclist and cross-country skier, which no doubt helped keep him fit into his nineties. He and Robyn recently moved into aged care and not long afterwards Bob died in his sleep.

Lyn Willson

TATHRA REVISITED - Second Wharf to Wharf Walk - 11 to 13 October

Leigh Hermann

In this year's June newsletter I reported on the club trip to Hobart Beach campground, when we walked the Wharf-to-Wharf between Tathra and Merimbula Wharves. I looked forward to the October cabin-accommodated trip, hoping that the track would be drier and that we'd see some whales.

Setting out from Tathra



Well, my hopes were met in part. Excitingly, we did see whales with several sightings of active tail slapping throughout the 2 days. Other wildlife was seen too – an echidna, goanna, and even some glossy black cockatoos that flew over one evening. And in spite of it being the week Victoria was flooded out, we had remarkably fine weather. But the tracks were not drier, and the lake entrances were vastly different – it was so interesting to see the changes.

This time we walked the full route north to south, with the sun on our backs and the wind behind us. On the first day, from Tathra Wharf we took the Tathra cliff coastal walk to Kianinny Bay. We'd missed this section in May as the bridge at Kianinny Bay had been washed out to sea last summer and the track was closed. The bridge has now been replaced with stone steps and stepping-stones, no bridge to wash away next time. The Kangarutha Track was again delightful – many lovely coves and rocky headlands, and whales, with lots of ups and downs. In May we'd waded the Wallagoot lake entrance, this time it was sanded over. The final 1.5k to Hobart Beach was on hard sand. All good.



Next morning we started from Scotts Bay on Wallagoot Lake. While the cars were being deposited at Merimbula, the rest of us walked the short 1km to Hobart Beach Campground. This track was an indicator for the rest of the day. The lake was high and it was either a tricky log scramble or boots off at one very wet stretch.



From Hobart Beach the track skirts Bondi Lake – this section was even wetter than last May, the wetness seemed to go on forever. However, the Bournda Lagoon entrance was the surprise. What had been an easy wade or rock scramble in May was now wider and deeper. For most of us it was trousers off for a groin-deep wade, although some smarter ones managed to find a knee-deep crossing further up the lake. The rest of the day was straightforward – beach and headland walking with lunch on Tura Headland. At Merimbula's Short Point the Mundooi Track was no longer flooded with Back Lake much lower than May. But of course, this meant the lake was open. So for the third time that day it was boots off to cross ankle deep. A final stretch through the suburbs took us to the Merimbula Wharf – a destination everyone was keen to reach.



Crossing Bournda Lagoon

The final day was spent climbing Gulaga, a mountain of significant spiritual importance to indigenous people. This was for most part a straightforward climb, mostly on fire-trail to a saddle with picnic table and toilet. From here the track looped to the south, the final stretch a steep rocky section through a most magnificent mossy rainforest. On the return journey with good directions (thanks John) we found a wonderful outcrop of rocks, a site of very special spiritual significance. Overall an 800 metre climb.



Overall it was a successful trip, with everyone happy with the walking they'd achieved. As mentioned earlier, this was a cabin accommodated trip, in contrast to May's camping at Hobart Beach in Bournda National Park. We stayed at Kianinny Bush Cabins, 3km outside Tathra on the road to Bega. The cabins are highly recommended – well-appointed

and spacious, to quote one of our group "everything we need and nothing we don't", with covered group areas suitable for evening get-togethers.

Thanks to everyone who participated, including the non-walkers who helped with car shuffles, and those who assisted the slower walkers. A good time was had by all.



Despite his size, this Bournda resident let us pass.
Ed.



Addendum - My wife, Truus, and I had planned to participate in this walk but, as Robbie Burns said:

*'The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men
Gang aft agley'*

and we had to withdraw.

With Leigh's agreement, we kept our accommodation booking and organised our own shorter walks which included participating in the first 2 k of the party's second day. We found plenty of walks from which to choose and appreciated Leigh's advice in this connection.

Jillian Bellamy and John Wells also had to stand aside from the walks and, in their case, were able to assist with driving walkers to and from the walks.

Peter Ford

Diana's 'Seventy Before Seventy' Challenge



I started the 'Seventy Before Seventy' on the 9th June 2021, which was my 69th birthday. The plan was to walk 70 hills before I turned 70 on 9th June 2022. In addition, my faithful teddy bear was also turning 70. So, I decided to take him along as well. I made him a full set of bushwalking gear including boots, day pack, raincoat, jumpers, trousers, shorts, shirt and walking pole. He turned out to be a little more fragile than I thought and frequently needed repairing. One thing I insisted on was taking a photo of us on the top of each hill as evidence of achieving the top. Sometimes these were 'selfies' with my phone.

Mt Taylor in raincoats

What I had not factored in was a COVID lockdown soon after I started. Initially we were only allowed out for a maximum of one hour per day in the local area. This influenced some of my early walks; they were near home, easier and not as high.



Mist on the Pinnacle



Mt Painter

As things eased I could go further afield and for longer e.g. Bullen Range, Mt Domain, John's Peak, the Pyramid, Booroomba Rocks, Square Rock, Rob Roy, Mt Stromlo, Mt Arawang and peaks in the Goorooyarroo Nature Park, to name a few.



Gibraltar Rocks



Snowgum on Mt Gingera

Eventually some 'normality' returned and we could once again travel interstate, mostly to NSW and Victoria. The later walks were generally higher, longer and further away from home e.g. Mt Imlay, Mt Kosciuszco, Mt Northcote, Mt Clarke, Mt Perisher, Mueller's Peak, Mt Bimberi, Mt Jagungal, Tantangara Mountain, the Twins, Mt Loch and the Horn. Most walks were day walks but some, such as Mt Jagungal involved overnight backpacking.



Razorback - Mt Feathertop

I finally finished two months early with Porcupine Rocks and the Ramsheads.



Porcupine Rocks



Ramsheads

Once I had finished this challenge I made it into a photobook with details of each walk including the date of the walk, the name of the hill/mountain, the height of the hill and the weather on the day. Each walk was represented on a single page of the book, there was also a section at the end for signs and information boards.

This challenge was good fun and I enjoyed it. Sometimes a little embarrassing when the bear came out in public. And a big thank you to everyone who accompanied me on walks.

Next the 'Eighty Before Eighty'.

Diana Kirby

SOCIAL NEWS OCTOBER 2022

Monday 3 October: picnic lunch Reconciliation Place

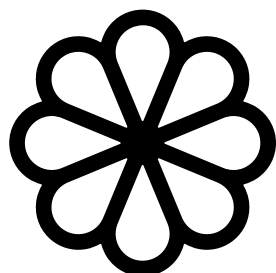
27 members attended the lunch picnic/BBQ. A wonderful time chatting with friends on a pleasant spring day. Most of us drove to the venue, but 3 members cycled and 5 others walked. A great outing.

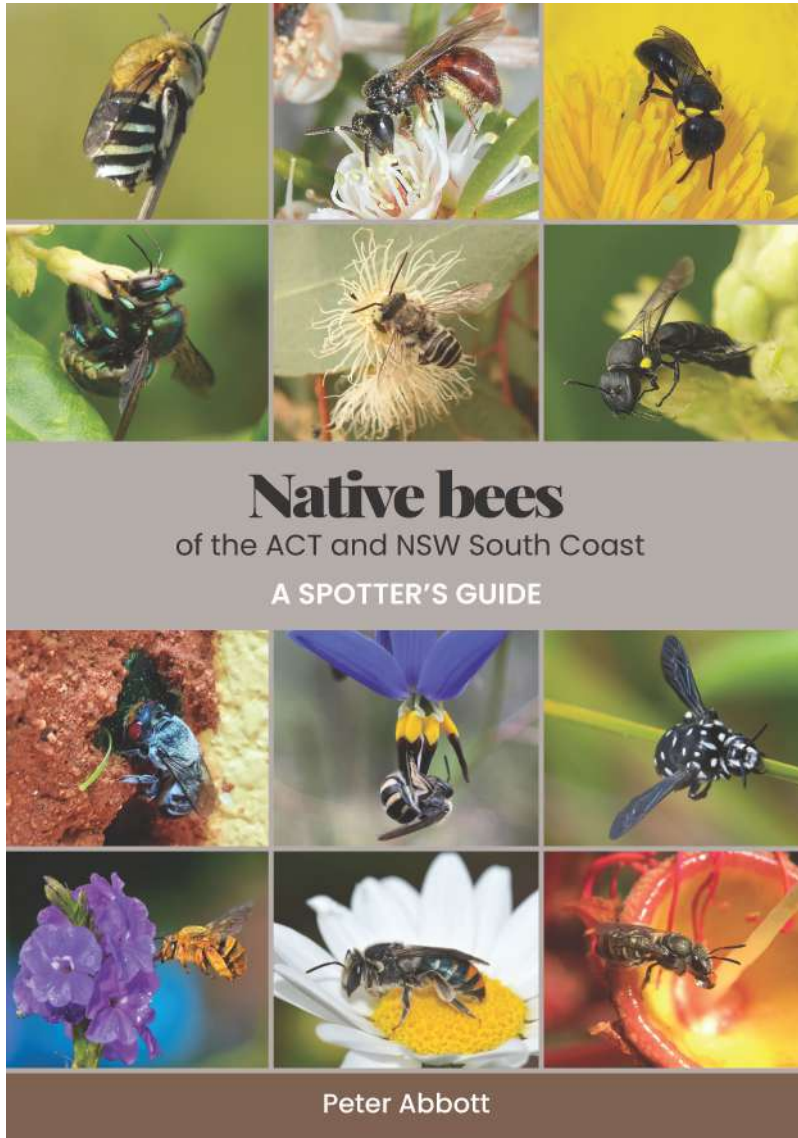


Unfortunately, the weather has not been kind for our spring picnic which is now on hold. There might be an opportunity for a coffee morning by the lake instead. Will check the weather first and will fit in with my trips away.

Next programmed event is the Christmas party is Friday 16 December in Pearce. A reminder will be sent out closer to the date.

[Elaine Atkinson](#)
Social Convenor
0410 154 133





Native bees of the ACT and NSW South Coast – A spotter's guide

This guidebook, written by one of our members, [Peter Abbott](#), will introduce readers to the gentle art of spotting and identifying native bees. It highlights the many and varied native bees in the ACT and NSW South Coast region. It is highly illustrated and written in non-technical language to assist readers to become familiar with the local native bees. It also provides simple visual clues to assist in identifying the major bee groups and many individual species. The aim of the book is help everybody to become native bee spotters.

The book will be available from mid-November at the ANBG bookshop and online at www.NativeBeesACT.etsy.com

Peter says he worked on the book '[during his Covid days](#)'. Prior to that he had been studying native bees for a couple of years before the fires and had been eagerly awaiting their return.



For comparison - a bumblebee

Ed.

Facebook

Our Facebook Manager regularly posts photos, walk reports and information about upcoming activities. Click [here](#) and see what our members are planning or have recently been up to.

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



GREAT SOUTHERN WALK - Sydney to Wollongong



In June, 2021 the NSW Government announced that it would develop a 'Great Southern Walk' from Sydney to Wollongong.

Submissions were recently sought on options for providing accommodation in the Illawarra Escarpment area and among those provided was one from [Bushwalking NSW](#). The draft, which was circulated to member clubs for comment, sought to achieve a balance between the needs of walkers and protection of the environment. For example, it recognised that any multi-day walk must include campground facilities to support walkers 'overnighting' but added that 'the location of the proposed campground should have a minimal ecological footprint, preferably on land already disturbed and with existing vehicle access.'

[final submission]

Current proposals are for a 59-kilometre walk from Kamay Botany Bay National Park, through Royal National Park and into the Illawarra Escarpment State Conservation Area. It is claimed that it will 'take visitors through stunning coastal landscapes and places of national heritage significance' and that:

'Featuring dramatic coastal views, a range of stunning natural environments and opportunities to stay overnight, this new walk has an abundance of experiences for individuals, couples, groups and families.'

The Great Southern Walk constitutes the first two stages of the Great South Coast Walk discussed in the June issue.

ON TEENAGERS, ADULT:

Statistics show that teen pregnancy drops off significantly after age 25.

Mary Anne Tibbels, Republican state senator from Colorado Springs
(contributed by Harry F. Punter)

MONDAY DECEMBER 1999

Which Boots are Best for You?

For some comparisons, see [here](#) from [Escape](#).

There are also other websites offering analyses but this one covers boots available here.

Recommendations vary depending on the kind of bushwalking you do and your gender. Issues canvassed include comfort, durability, price, whether you want a waterproof boot and weight.

For good measure, *Escape* also includes a [section](#) featuring what they regard as the best 72 walks in Australia. Day and multi-day walks are grouped by State and Territory. Of course, such lists are very subjective and its level of accuracy can be gauged by the fact that only two walks are shown for the Canberra region: Gibraltar Peak (ie. Gibraltar Rocks) and the Canberra Centenary Trail.



5-9

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"It took me three hours, but I finally discovered why you're limping. You lost the heel off your shoe."

Blast from the Past



1990s but where?



Start of the Great North Walk after crossing from Brookland - 1990s



1990s but where?

Third from left is Bob Stewart (see p.2)

More Photos from Recent Walks



London Bridge
1 October



Saturday 15 Oct, 12 walkers completed the Settlers Track (4 huts) walk

Wed.walks 19 Oct. - Easy/Medium - Lees Creek (above); Medium - Little Ginini Mountain (below)



Mountain Creek, Ashbrook Firetrail , Tidbinbilla - Sunday 23 October

