

# BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB

## MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



# From the President



In May 2022 I wrote about the value of joining a bushwalking club with the benefits of making new friends, meeting people from all walks (no pun

intended) of life and very importantly experiencing new places to walk in a safe manner, led by experienced and knowledgeable colleagues.

In addition to these benefits, clubs (not only BBC) offer bushwalking 'life-skills' training.

Whether it be a 'First-Aid course', a 'Navigation course', 'Walk-leader training' (courses all run by BBC) or 'How to more safely cross Creeks and Rivers' (a course run by CBC, one of our fellow Canberran bushwalking clubs of which I am also a club member and attended recently), the education and skills development from such club offerings are invaluable and, in certain circumstances, could be life-saving.

When designing such courses or materials, we endeavour to ensure that there is a strong emphasis on those aspects of the training material which are more relevant to bushwalking, rather than a 'generic' course.

So, whether you are a new or long-standing member, do consider in addition to joining walks, making use of these additional offerings available to all club members. They could make a favourable difference to your walking experience.

I do hope to see you on a walk soon, so until then do take care.....Bill



Sunday 12 Feb. walk to Tennent Homestead ruin

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### Website update

Check website for:  
[Maps](#); and  
[Trip reports](#)

Contributions welcome  
Articles and photos  
Send to

[editor@brindabellabushwalking.org](mailto:editor@brindabellabushwalking.org)

# Three Mile Dam Car Camp, Kosciusko NP

## 14 -17 February

Seven hearty souls bivouacked at the Three Mile Dam Camping ground (near the Mt Selwyn Ski Resort). It is a somewhat primitive NSW NPWS camping ground, consisting only

of two drop toilets with camp anywhere you like, situated in an extremely picturesque spot surrounded by the crystal clear dam. The dam is in the shape of a horse's hoof.



The weather for the duration of camp was very kind to us. Moreover, there is a large variety of fauna and flora to be sighted and definitely talked about.

From millions of tiny annoying house flies who believe insect repellent is a nice entree; March flies the size of dragon flies; a few nice little brown birds, ducks and parrots; plus a couple of brumby families.

Flowers of various species and varieties are everywhere.



By 1530hrs on day one we were all set up and proceeded on the short 3km heritage walk next to the camping ground.

Unfortunately, most of the artefacts have been destroyed by fire, but enough of them remain to allow for the odd comment and discussion.

Early on day two we began the long day inspecting the Mt Selwyn Ski Resort, which is still very much a work in progress. After scrutinising the Resort, we walked on to check out the ruins of Four Mile Hut. Although, burnt to the ground, it was interesting to observe the items that remained such as a wood saw and shovel without handles, plus numerous other objects.

After checking out the surrounding area of the Four Mile Hut we then proceeded on our way to the extensive Nine Mile Diggings, exploring and rambling amongst the diggings while marvelling at how much effort must have gone into moving all that rock with just a pick and shovel.

Day two was a 27km round trip on a warm day and we were all happy sitting around the camp fire organised by Mike Smith, followed by an early night.



Day three was a walk up Shaw's Hill. The walk started at the Great Dividing Range at an altitude of 1500m and by lunch we reached the summit of Shaw's Hill also at an Altitude of 1500m.

There are however some very interesting and steep undulations with an ever changing vista in addition to a good view of the prominent Snowy Hydro 2 construction site.

Day three was a challenging a 21km round trip

On day four, after packing up, we independently made our way to the approximately 5km Kiandra historic walk.

Most of the buildings that were damaged or destroyed by fire are currently being refurbished and/or rebuilt.

We then ended our trip by coming down the mountain to Canberra's heat.



**Bob Chittenden**

## SOCIAL NEWS MARCH 2023

Sunset Walk Mt Ainslie: Friday 3 February

**There were 56 attendees this year including 1 prospective member and 2 grandchildren.**

Despite the very windy day, the wind eased off and though chilly, it was not freezing.

I forgot to thank the members of the social sub-committee who helped make the night a success. A special thank you to Mark, the barman – we couldn't do without you.



Th a n k s Colleen for helping shop and chop (broke the record by 10 mins) and Wendy for helping set up.

We have decided to start the event 30 minutes earlier next year to avoid walking down at dusk. The venue is great as it caters for those who want to walk or drive to the top for drinks and nibbles with our walking friends.



*Elaine Atkinson  
Social Convenor*

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



## Barrel Mystery Solved

On 11 February, Tim the Yowie Man (*Canberra Times Panorama*) wrote that a longstanding mystery, reported some time ago by our David Wardle, had been solved.

David was reportedly the first to alert the paper, early last year, to his find, during a club walk, of a yellow, concrete-filled barrel weighing in at three-quarters of a tonne, squirrelled away near the top of Mt Foxlow, located between Carwoola and Captains Flat.

Speculation flourished as to whether the explanation was a giant geo-cache, the remains of a bizarre scientific experiment gone wrong or even alien activity(!)

When it came, the explanation was more reasonable - it was a remnant from when the area was used by helicopters for training. Drums were filled with varying amounts of concrete to simulate the kinds of load that helicopters might be called upon to transport.

*Ed.*

## Walking in the Honeysuckle Creek area

So much of our walking is on land that has had previous occupations such as aboriginal pathways, timber getting or pastoral activities.

One area that we know well was occupied by the various space tracking activities at Honeysuckle Creek. Interpretive panels provide a glimpse of what was previously there. However a bit of research before a walk will reveal much and add so much interest to a walk.

This [tribute website](#) is managed by Colin Mackellar and acts as an archive for the siting, development and operation of the Honeysuckle Creek Tracking Station and associated facilities. So much on this website will help interpret the areas through which we walk.

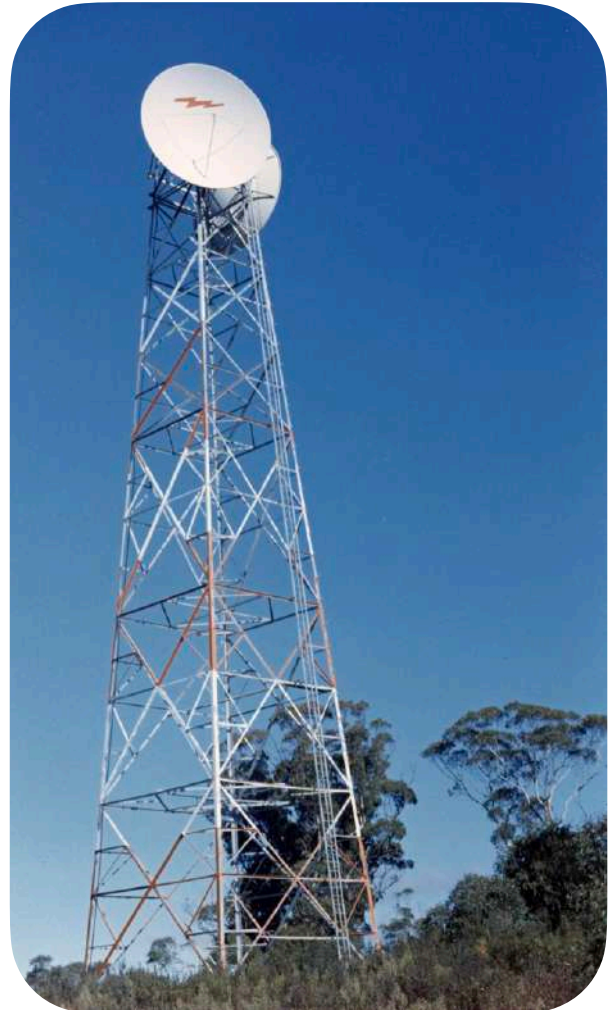
The overgrown track leading up to the top of Deadman's Hill leads to the site of the Passive Repeater Tower which took the signal out of the Honeysuckle Creek valley. All for us to see now are the four concrete footings and even

they are hard to find in the undergrowth.

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d u r i n g t h e  
A p o l l o M o o n  
L a n d i n g.



***Tower Foundations on Deadman's Hill***



***Hard to believe now but this is the tower that stood on the footings in the 1970s***



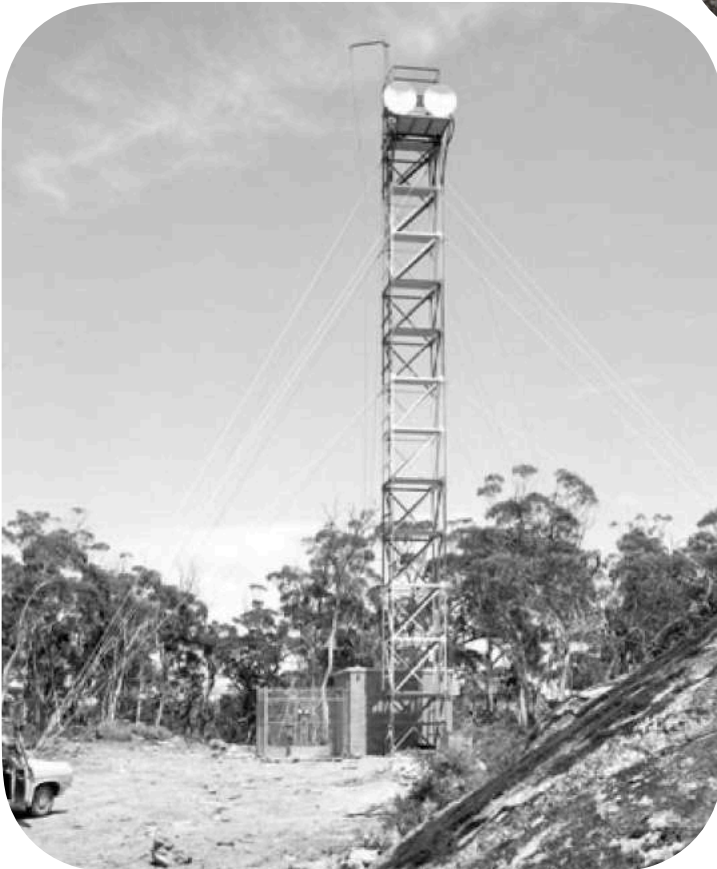
***Foundations supporting diesel fuel tanks at the Tracking Station***



*The generators in the onsite power station that consumed the fuel to power the Tracking Station and associated communication network*



*The walk along the much eroded old Apollo Road - hard to imagine now that all of the building materials and heavy equipment to operate the Tracking Station came up this road.*



*The Collimation Tower which is the reason for the concrete slabs and anchor points at the start of the Legoland Walk.*



*The counterweight for Honeysuckle's 26 metre antenna being taken up the steep and winding old Apollo Road.*



## Need Walks and Maps for an Unfamiliar Location?<sup>6</sup>

**A warning before you read on:** this procedure requires you to spend some time at the computer so, if that's not your thing, you might like to skip this article.

**Why.** Whenever and wherever you travel (at home or abroad), you need to put in quite a bit of research to find suitable hikes or walks, and then you have to find maps for these. You need to do all this before you leave home, particularly if you are travelling to a non-English speaking part of the world.

There are numerous aids to help, if only you know where to look. One that has been around since 2006 is Wikiloc. It boasts over 40 million trails, of which more than 14 million are hiking trails! This number is an overstatement though, because there are many duplicates as a result of people using a different name for the same walk, or because one might just be a slight variation on another.



**Wikiloc** is a free service (there is a paid 'premium' variation, but the free option is excellent) and is community-based in that it relies on individuals uploading trails for the rest of us to enjoy.

In addition to the website, there are phone apps available for both Apple and Android phones. However, for planning and preparation, it is easier to use the website and work on a bigger screen.



**Is it complex?** No, it's not, but there are a number of steps in the process. To walk you through Wikiloc, a new page has been added to the Club's website, named [Online Routes and Maps](#). If you'd like to give it a try, just select the link and follow the instructions.

This guide also involves the use of Google Earth and serves as an introduction to it for people unfamiliar with this other terrific free resource.

**Questions?** If you have any questions about using Wikiloc or Google Earth, please email the [webmaster@brindabellabushwalking.org.au](mailto:webmaster@brindabellabushwalking.org.au).

**Next Time.** It is also very simple to use Google Earth to do a 'map recce', create a route and print it off or download it to a smartphone or GPS. Many leaders do this to create new walks locally. If you'd like to know more about this, **please give some feedback to the webmaster** and he'll prepare something for the April newsletter.

Don't forget to check it out: [Online Routes and Maps](#). Please experiment and let the webmaster know of any glitches or necessary improvements.

*Peter Dalton*

## Repairs to Auroral Road

Almost two years have now passed since the closure of Orroral Road due to a major storm.

As you will recall, this closure was preceded by a number of interruptions to Orroral Valley access that were also due to storms and, of course, the bushfire damage in 2019. Estimated completion dates for repairs have come and gone but work is under way and you can follow progress [here](#).

*Ed.*



## COWS PUSH IN

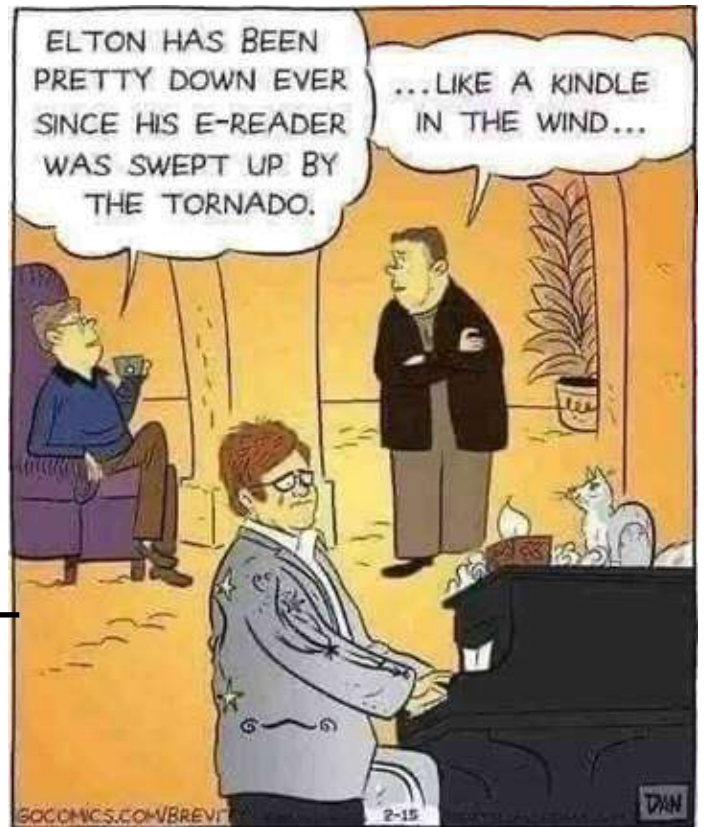


An easy Wednesday walk around the Belconnen Ponds on 8 February, led by John Wells, was interrupted by a herd of Moody cows that had things to do and places to be. On our behalf, John courteously gave them right of way which was met with another long chorus of mooing. After a welcome and entertaining break for the 20 humans, our walk resumed.

*Ed.*

'True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country.'

*Kurt Vonnegut*



## New Model Rules for Incorporated Associations

### Explanatory note on membership aims

'The new structure is intended to provide more clarity to associations and those wishing to become a member. The change in language is considered more inclusive.'

### **Groucho Marx**

"I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member."

## Facebook

Our Facebook Manager regularly posts photos, walk reports and information about upcoming activities. Please visit [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](mailto:facebook@brindabellabushwalking.org.au)

**You don't need to be on Facebook to look at these posts - e.g.** 



Easy Wednesday Walk Red Hill 22 February

# Blast from the Past Tasmania 1994

