

# BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB

## APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER



I have just been walking with the club on NZ's North Island for just over two weeks. What could possibly go wrong?

Prior to going, we had been concerned about the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on the East coast of the North Island. Major road and tramping tracks had been damaged, even one of the State Highways remained closed after some huge landslips had obliterated the road for many kilometres. Many tracks were closed but we were still able to find substitute walks.

So, all is well....Sorry, I spoke too soon, our walk leader fell under the spell of Covid...Not a problem, we had a backup walk leader...guess what, a few days later the backup walk leader also fell foul of Covid!

Who would have thought that this would happen....Anyway, the walks proceeded with the support of other very experienced and capable walkers. In the end, everyone had a great time with many enjoyable walks.

The main thought that I took from this adventure was that as anyone who leads a club walk or even a group of friends, you should spend some time thinking about possible adverse scenarios and how to address these situations. This can include injury, inclement weather and tracks closed or impassable etc. Further, where groups of people are walking over an extended time period, then ideally you should have other experienced and capable walkers who can step in to cover for unforeseen events which result in the walk being unable to progress as initially planned.

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



*There was time for a quick snooze after lunch.*

Sat. 18 March hard walk - Mt Gingera via Stockyard Spur  
led by Luisa

### Inside:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| NZ tramping - <i>Various</i>                            | 2  |
| Mt Bimberi - <i>John Ellis</i>                          | 5  |
| Vale Ann Tedder- <i>Mary Lindsay and Judith Webster</i> | 6  |
| Social News   | 7  |
| Snowies Alpine Walk                                     | 8  |
| Murrumurang South Coast Walk                            | 9  |
| Blast from the Past                                     | 10 |

*Editor: Peter Ford*

### Website Update

Check website for  
Maps and  
Trip Reports

Contributions welcome  
Articles and photos

Send to

editor@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

# New Zealand Tramping 9 - 23 March

Thanks to **Cynthia Breheny**, **Trish Carroll** and **Mark Hopkins** for the following reports on the days spent in each of three beautiful locations.

## The Bay of Islands

After 3 years of planning & rescheduling by John C, Deborah & Bill, 20 BBC members miraculously appeared at Auckland Airport.

**Day 1:** On our way towards the northern tip of NZ, we drove through dense forests & past luminously green fields which suggested that the rain we were experiencing was not unusual. *En route*, world renown artist Hundertwasser's building - a riot of shapes & colours culminating in a golden onion dome grabbed our attention in Whangarei. The 35m high waterfall there was equally spectacular. We reached Kerikeri where John C tested +ve! Masks on!

**Day 2:** On the Kerikeri track huge Kauri trees & rogue eucalypts shaded our way to Rainbow Falls which had, until recently, supplied hydro-electricity to 17 residences.

**Day 3:** From Paihia, 20 minutes south of Kerikeri, we walked 17km through a tangle of streets, across boardwalks over mangrove swamps, through forests of burrawang look-alikes and slender tree ferns, and caught 2 ferries on our way to return to Paihia.



**Day 4:** From Waitangi Treaty (which apparently included free parking!) Grounds we walked through forests of ferns and elephant ears and across a boardwalk over a mangrove swamp. Hurrah! After almost 6km we reached Haruru Falls gushing over a crescent shaped cliff. Some visited the excellent museum afterwards.

**Day 5:** Oh no! Bill G tested +ve! We are now down two walk leaders! The rest of us took the ferry across the Bay of Islands landing us on Urupukapuka Island where well-formed and sign posted tracks led steeply up and down several circuits over this volcanic island which had been denuded by Europeans, but now included copses of trees hung with lichen. Feral animals had been eradicated there. After a hot walk, cool swims & drinks were appreciated. On our return our ferry passed a replica 3 masted sailing ship.

*Photo courtesy: Cynthia Breheny*



**Day 6:** A visit to Hundertwasser's public toilets in Kawakawa was a colourful experience on our long day driving to Thames. The traffic around Auckland was so slow that we felt we were becoming acquainted with drivers of adjacent vehicles!

## Track Poetry from cyclone ravaged Thames Coromandel

**Day 7:** Karaka Walking Track (11.2 kms 478 meters up)

A dappled line of walkers  
clinking over the rocky path  
and the sticky, sucking, water-wet clay  
beneath the lace canopy of 'cicada' filled tree ferns.

A stream, our fickle, gurgling companion,  
meanders below



then unawares tumbles over rocks, trees,  
branches, itself  
bubbling up its cacophony of joy to delighted  
ears.

Through to the giant's nubbed crayons bright  
vermillion striped with green and black.  
Over the boundary nowhere stile  
into the slip slide; push pull; over the top to  
face the descent into bog country.  
Only 800 meters!!...but who's counting?

**Day 8:** Cookson Kauri Walk (5.4 km; 228  
meters up)

800 misty steps  
up to honour an ancient  
Kauri warrior.

**Day 9 Delights:**

Some: up the Pinnacles tramping.  
Others: coastal walk, coffee and glamping.  
Some: clambering over rocks, slipping and sliding.  
Others: in various packs on bicycles gliding.  
Each spending their allotted gold of the day,  
Each exchange perfect in its own peculiar way.

**Day 10:** Waiomu Kauri Walk (5.6 km; 125 meters up)

**To Ann**

False starts and closed tracks open  
to the kindness of strangers:  
She was planning a solitary walk across the creek  
up the stony path and stairways to a unique  
kauri stand.  
We were hoping to do the same, but the closed sign  
prominently displayed on the fence made us incline  
to stopping.  
*Oh no she said, its perfectly fine. I've walked up here  
hundreds of times and know that it is totally clear.  
Follow me.*  
Which we did. Eighteen solitude-intruding Aussies  
track  
the plant-wise, generous, unassuming back  
of our new friend.



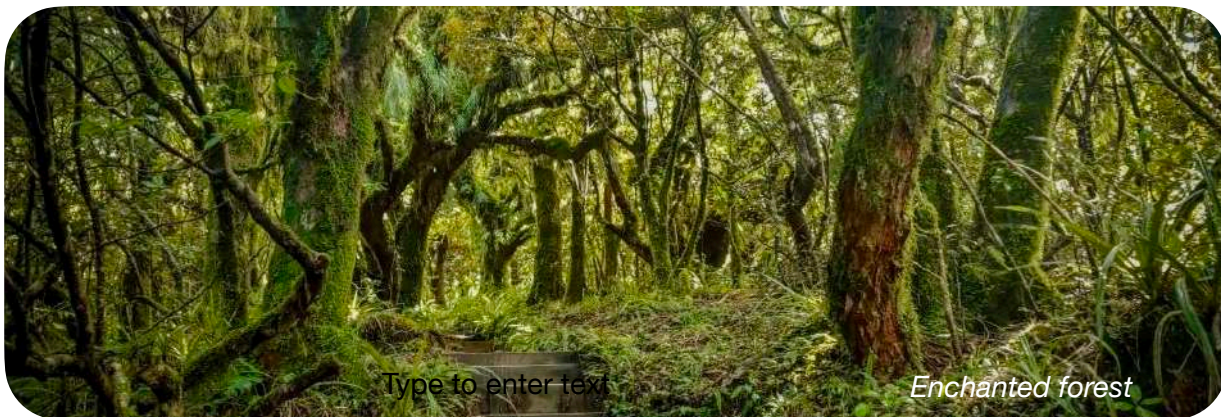
## The Mount Taranaki Alpine Area

**Day 12:** Our first walk to be led by John Clune was planned to start from North Egmont Visitors Centre, half an hour from our motel in New Plymouth. However, heavy rain which set in around 6am and didn't abate until 9 am led to a change of plan. Instead, John led us along the Te Henui Walkway, a 9.5km out and back walk starting at the coast and heading through parkland along the Waiwhakouho River. Back at the Autolodge by 11.15am, we set off for the North Egmont Visitors Centre. While the group ate lunch, our leaders garnered information and John led us on the Veronica Loop walk which, although short, involved 340 metres of elevation, hundreds of steps, tree roots and a wet track. A rather tough introduction to the area!

**Day 13:** Our second day on Mt Taranaki began with an hour drive to the Dawson Falls Information Centre. We split into 2 groups, Bill Gibson leading a small group to attempt Fantham's Peak, a challenging 10km and 1100 meters elevation. The rest of us set off with John C to do a circuit including the Ridge and Enchanted Forest



tracks, 4-500 m elevation and 8km. The Enchanted track turned out to be anything but, with extensive erosion and lack of maintenance creating arduous going.



*Photo courtesy: Mike Vale*



Bill's group meanwhile were forced to abandon their walk short of the peak, due to high winds and poor visibility higher up the mountain.

**Day 14:** After yesterday's hard walk, most of us opted for an easy day around New Plymouth in order to check out the Coastal Walkway, the museum and galleries. Bill, however, with a small group went back for more alpine views, on a climb up to Pouakai Hut and Ruahunoko Tarn, a route that had them climbing more than 3000 steps.

**Day 15:** After a 9am start from the Autolodge, we headed back to the N Egmont Visitors Centre in fine sunny weather. Our first walk was on the Summit Track which at lower levels serves as a service road for facilities on the mountain. After an ascent of 300 metres we enjoyed spectacular views and morning tea from a vantage point just below a prominent translator tower before heading back down to the Visitors Centre for lunch.

*Photo courtesy: Cynthia Breheny*

After eating, John took us on two shorter circuits near the Visitors Centre, both of which featured the verdant growth of forest on the lower slopes of the mountain. A fitting end for our walking experience in Taranaki





# A (comparatively) Easy Ascent of Mount Bimberri

*John Ellis*

On Wednesday, 22nd February, a valiant group of six BBC members set off from Canberra with the aim of climbing our highest ACT peak, Mount Bimberri, in a relaxed and leisurely manner.

As we approached our destination, it was interesting to note the rather large "village" that has been set up along Lake Tantangarra by the Snowy Mountains Authority to hold the workforce for the new Snowy River Scheme which is now under construction.

After parking our two cars at the locked Garrungoram gate on the Pockets Saddle Road, we headed to our campsite for the night at Oldfield's Hut. Many of our group, while being experienced bushwalkers, were novices at actually carrying a heavy pack and camping, "in the wild", for two nights. We had plenty of time to attend to erecting our tents, exploring the local surrounds and "settling in". A windy but fine night followed - the forecast for the mountains several days earlier was for periods of heavy rain - fortunately it was wrong as overall we had good weather for the entire walk.



Oldfield's Hut campsite

The next morning, carrying only our day packs we followed the track along Murray's Gap to the small pile of rocks indicating the start of the (very)

rough footpad which led to our destination. The quite large Highland Copperhead snake we saw sunning itself on a nearby rock was allowed to rest in peace and was unaware of the numerous photos taken, (from a distance...) of the interest it had created. One problem with the foot pad to the top, especially lower down the mountain, were the numerous tracks created over time by several previous walkers as they attempted to find the "main" footpad which only became apparent about half way to the summit. The footpad for much of the



Highland Copperhead

beginning had several fallen trees/branches across it and also many patches of small rocks which needed care to be taken, especially when returning downhill.



Stinkhorn Fungus



Orchids



Fairy Aprons

Several interesting forms of vegetation were sighted - Stinkhorn Fungus, Mauve Leek Orchid, Fairy Aprons - during our climb and we reached the top in time for lunch. Considering it was February, the weather was quite cool and windy, so lunch was had sheltering behind some nearby rocks.

We descended the same way as we came and then had a pleasant walk back to our Oldfield's campsite. On the main Murray's Gap track, there were the occasional signs of the damage caused by the feral brumbies which now inhabit parts of the area.



Dinner is served

It's amazing how appetising a meal - mainly consisting of a dehydrated food pack, boiling water added (with exotic names such as Mongolian Lamb, Thai Curry etc) can be after a full day of walking in a beautiful wilderness area!

After leisurely packing our packs on our third and final



Up and up



The start of the climb



Mt Bimberi  
Top of the ACT

day, we headed back to the cars - again with our heavy packs, which were now at least a little lighter, and headed back to Canberra. On the way home we diverted to the bakery at Adaminaby and sampled some of their excellent coffee and pastries. All in all, this was a really pleasant walk with a group of convivial participants. We are indeed fortunate to have areas such as the one we explored so close to where we live.



The valiant walkers

## VALE ANN TEDDER( ANNIE)

Club members will be saddened to hear of the recent death of Ann Tedder, a long term member of the BBC and of its predecessor, the FBI.

Ann and her husband Peter joined the club in the early 1980s when they came from Darwin to live in Canberra. They were outdoor people, having done a lot of camping, fishing and boating in the Northern Territory. But they had little bushwalking experience when they joined the FBI. Very quickly they became very involved and enthusiastic participants, walking and camping regularly and then taking up pack walking in a big way. On these walks Anne was always an asset – cheerful, friendly and uncomplaining. She was also a regular provider of goodies at the end of walks.

Peter led many walks, including many tough pack walks in Tasmania in the 1990s and early 2000s. On those walks Annie was always great company – good humoured and unflappable, even when experiencing a leech in her nose! Hers was the voice of reason when unexpected challenges cropped up needing new decisions, due to weather or water shortage. Subsequently Ann and Peter nurtured the bonds formed on those expeditions, holding regular reunions at which Annie was a delightful host.

Outwardly she was 'gentle Annie', but with a tough inner personality.

Mary Lindsay and Judith Webster

## Orroral Valley Update

Although the ACT [website](#) has not kept up, the *Canberra Times* of 7 March reported that ACT Parks and Conservation has announced that it is working towards reopening Orroral Valley for camping and bushwalking from mid-May.

Repairs to Rocky Crossing on Orroral Road are scheduled for completion in late April.

## Namadgi NP Management Plan

ACT Parks have recently announced that the first stage of the development of a new Management Plan is open for comment until 12 May on the [Your Say website](#)

### **Classy insults:**

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."

- Stephen Bishop



## SOCIAL NEWS

### Picnic at Molonglo Reach: Monday 13 March



Another wonderful social outing at a lovely venue. A few members asked to have a picnic there again. The trees are beautiful at Molonglo Reach. A sunny day, with a slight chilly breeze.



Considering there was a big group in New Zealand, I expected a small group. I was wrong. 28 of us and 4 visitors (including 2 grandchildren). Great to see new members and 3 members rode their bikes. LL enjoyed her ride through the Jerrabomberra Wetlands. A few people walked to Duntroon's WW1 training trenches at the end of Dairy Road.



#### Social events April:

**Saturday 15/4:** autumn picnic Weston Park. A special day for our octogenarians and nonagenarians.

**Friday 28/4:** potluck dinner St Margaret's Hackett.

These are annual events and details are in the program. I will send out reminders closer to the date.

*Elaine Atkinson  
Social Convenor*

### Survey on Park Usage

The club has received a request from the Australian Urban Design Research Centre, based at the University of Western Australia, to invite our members to participate in a survey of their use of parks and reserves of all kinds so as to assist local government. If you think you may be interested in this, please check this [link](#) for further information.





# SNOWIES ALPINE WALK



On the Guthega to Charlotte Pass Track looking out towards the Main Range and the headwaters of the Snowy River. **Credit:** Julie Bishop/DPE

The Snowies Alpine Walk is gradually taking shape. Details of progress to date and plans for the future can be found [here](#).

In summarising the plans, Environment NSW says:

‘The Snowies Alpine Walk project will deliver a world-class, multi-day walk across the alpine roof of Australia in Kosciuszko National Park in Monaro Ngarigo Country. Featuring active days and comfortable nights, the 55-kilometre, 4-day walk will extend existing walks across the park’s spectacular alpine area to link the resorts of Guthega, Charlotte Pass, Perisher and Lake Crackenback.

The walk has great potential to become a landmark ‘must-do’ experience for both domestic and international visitors.’

This stage of the walk was opened in June 2022 and is the second of four stages.

Just for fun, I tried asking [chatGPT](#) to write an article on this. Here is an extract from what came back in about 10 seconds:

*‘The Snowy Alpine Trail starts at Charlotte Pass, which is the highest point in Australia accessible by car, and ends at Perisher Valley, a popular ski resort...*

This follows a statement that ‘the trail spans 21 kilometres’.

While confidently expressed, both the statement about Perisher and the one about distance are incorrect. Perhaps it’s too early to put **chatGPT** on the staff.





# Murramurang South Coast Walk

From 28 April, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service are offering packages for a new 34 km. coastal walk between Pretty Beach, south of Ulladulla and Maloneys Beach, north of Batemans Bay.

Intermediate distances are Pretty Beach to Depot Beach (10 km.), Depot Beach to South Durras (8 km.), South Durras to Oaky Beach (8 km.) and Oaky Beach to Maloneys Beach (8 km.). Pretty Beach is about 37 km. from Ulladulla and Maloneys Beach about 13 km. from Batemans Bay. It is, of course, still open to walkers to choose to do shorter sections between intermediate points.

A '2 night cabin self-guided' walk would encompass cabin stays at Depot Beach and South Durras. The cost for up to 4 people, including accommodation and transfer would be \$929. A 3 night camping package, which includes pre-booked campsites at Pretty, Depot and Oaky Beaches, is also available with a 'transfer and welcome tour on select days.'

NSW Parks have graded the walk at 4 - 'Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.'

Bookings can only be made for the period April to November. This walk is now open for multi-day bookings with accommodation at campgrounds or in cabins - see [here](#).

*Ed.*




---

## Facebook

Our Facebook Manager regularly posts photos, walk reports and information about upcoming activities. Please visit the website [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)



# Blast from the Past

*Courtesy of Gary Schneider and John Clune, I have a collection of BBC walks photos from the 1990's. However, I don't know the stories behind them so, if you do, you may feel an urge to write about them. Please do!*

Ed.



3 Sep.  
1995

**804-658 BOOROOMBA ROCKS AREA** **Har**  
amb this mountain from Namadgi Visitors Centre. Total climb 900  
stly on track. The final climb of 400m will be exploratory throu  
bably with some rock scrambling.  
s: 80 km (\$5) Maps: Williamsdale, Corin Dam  
der: Eric Pickering (286 2128)



1995/96