

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB

September 2023



BBC



This month is an important one as we hold our club's AGM.

At the AGM the club executives report to members on matters which they have been dealing with during the year. This year's meeting is rather different in that members are being asked to support a revision of the club's constitution. This has been done to ensure currency and compliance with recent changes by government in respect of guidelines for the administration of associations. So, please come to the meeting and ask any questions you have regarding this matter.

Another reason for attending the meeting is that it is a way of members to indicate their support to the committee members for the work that they voluntarily do.

Of course if you have any interest in undertaking one of the committee or sub-committee roles please fill out a nomination form. Or you could ask one of the existing committee members about how you could be involved to help out or even just to gain an understanding of what the role entails so that you would feel more comfortable in perhaps considering involvement in the future.

I look forward to hearing about how the meeting went.

... Bill



Wed August 2 MEDIUM/HARD WEDNESDAY WALK –2nd August - Snowy Corner to Mt Domain and return via Fishing Gap: Phillip led thirteen walkers, starting the walk on a very overcast day, on a marked trail from Snowy Corner - Barbie's Trail (Pink Ribbons) - to sunny views from Mt Domain. Photos Phillip



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Planning bushwalks in the bushfire season

In our part of the country the bushfire season generally corresponds with the best and most popular times of the year to go bushwalking; spring through to autumn. So bushwalkers need to be particularly cognisant of the risk of bushfire, very hot weather and extreme fire danger ratings.

The possibility of any or all of these must be taken into account when planning a trip. Depending on the group, a coastal, lake or reverside walk may be best. For further information see [here](#). Ed.

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Contributions welcome

Articles and photos

Send to

editor@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2pm-5pm, 10 SEPTEMBER
St Margret's Church Hall
Cnr. Phillip Ave. & Antill St. Hackett

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Sunday 10th September, 2023** at St Margaret's Uniting Church, Cnr Phillip Avenue and Antill Street, Hackett, commencing at **2:00 pm**.

This meeting is a very important one as members will not only receive reports from office bearers and elect the Committee for 2023-24, but they will also need to consider carefully and vote on proposed changes to the Club's constitution that have been necessitated by changes to the ACT legislation governing incorporated associations.

It is essential that as many of you as possible attend and vote on these important issues. For those who are not able to attend, for whatever reason, a proxy voting option is available.

I hope that as many members as are able come to the AGM to consider carefully the proposed changes to the constitution and to vote in person or if not by proxy.

There will be refreshments provided by the Club after the meeting and a chance for members to socialise.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Julie Pettit
Secretary, BBC

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

Sign in a Braidwood coffee shop

This cleaning with alcohol is total bullsh*t
NOTHING gets done after that first bottle.....!

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

In the August Newsletter, we discussed the adoption of new Model Rules for handling disciplinary matters that have been developed by ACT authorities. In this issue we look at other changes. All of them can be summarised as follows:

- at present no processes are prescribed for the appointment of Honorary Members; the amendments prescribe processes that are intended to be fair and to be available to all financial members;
- the *Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT)* allows associations to opt out of retaining a Common Seal if it is not required to conduct business and, as we have no need for one, the proposed amendments will delete references to a common seal; and
- various clauses have been redrafted and renumbered for clarification without changing their meaning (see clauses 7 (Meetings), 8 (Committees and Officers), 9 (Finances), 10 (Books and Documents) and 11 (Dissolution)).

For a more complete explanation, please read the papers distributed by the Secretary.



Ed.



A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

The Great South West Walk - 18 to 28 October 1993

Participants: Enid Brooker, Doug Gillies, David Hall, Pat and Eric Pickering, John Thwaite.

Eric Pickering

[I was delighted to be offered this 30 year old account for republication. You might like to also have a look at the report in the April 2017 issue of a series of day walks in the park which can be accessed from our website's

[Resources for Members page.](#)

Ed.]

This walk between Portland and Nelson in south west Victoria had fascinated me since I read about it in the November 1983 issue of *WILD*. The Portland Parks authority provided track notes and the Portland Police arranged safe parking for the cars. We contacted Mrs Gwen Bennett, Secretary of The Friends of the Great South West Walk, who offered and kindly arranged transport to the start of the walk. Thank you, Gwen and Friends.

On 17 October Gordon Page, one of The Friends, met us at the Portland Police Station at 8.15 pm and transported us some 60 kilometres to Moleside camp. On the way Gordon gave me tide charts for the coastal section of our walk and provided some helpful advice. We set up camp in the dark with steady rain falling.

Next morning we woke to find ourselves in a rather beautiful grassy place on a bend in the majestic Glenelg River. The river was much wider and deeper than I had expected. Pit toilets and water from a side creek were available. The first three days of the walk were along the river which rises in the Grampians, winds its way west, briefly curving in and out of South Australia, and reaching the sea at Nelson. It is fortunate that this section of the river and its surrounds are protected by National Park status. It was rather beautiful and peaceful walking alongside the river. There were many wildflowers in a variety of colours - purple (glycine), red (kennedia, epacris impressa), pink (boronia, black-eyed susies), yellow (wattle, daisies), cream (epacris), white (tea-trees) etc. and a host of other varieties. The forest is mainly stringybark, with thickets of grass trees (Xanthorrhoea) with their tall four-metre woody stems covered with white flowers. Occasionally the track takes interesting diversions into the bush away from the river - the Eagle Hawk and Bullocky's Tracks are examples of these.

En route to Nelson we camped at the Post and Rail Camp and at Pattersons. Pit toilets and water from a water tank fed by the toilet roof were available. These facilities were to be a feature of all but two of our camp-sites.

There are several other camps and landings in this section presumably used by canoeists and those in other watercraft. At Pritchard's landing we met Mr Kelly, a Park's officer. He was the only person we saw on this section of the walk. He told us some interesting things. The river is tidal for over 70 kilometres upstream - as far inland as Dartmoor where Major Thomas Mitchell started his voyage in 1836. There had been about 70 huts along the river, largely for recreational use. Following the declaration of the Lower Glenelg National Park in 1969 and a 15 year phase out period nearly all the huts were removed. The only huts remaining are those at Pattersons which I understand have been retained for historical reasons. Pattersons was a canoe camp established in the 1920's by the Pattersons of Warrock Station for their family and staff.

As we approached Nelson the white limestone cliffs of the Glenelg River Gorge became much more evident and the water seemed deeper. We could imagine how Mitchell felt in 1836 as his party rowed towards the mouth of the river hoping to find a natural harbour. His hopes would have been soaring at this point of the journey. Unfortunately the estuary proved to be quite unsuitable as a harbour. The track followed the cliff-edge closely providing splendid river views. There were wild flowers in abundance, notably a very attractive variety of grevillea. Here and there we caught sight of the emus and an emu chick. Closer to Nelson were a few boat houses.

We arrived in Nelson mid-afternoon after three days and 50 kilometres of walking. Nelson is a village with a store/post office, a hotel and accommodation. We collected the food for the second part of the walk which we had posted to the Nelson Post Office a week earlier.

Next morning we set off down the road to the sand dunes and the Discovery Bay Coastal Park. The walk over the next seven days included a mixture of beach, dune and cliff walking and an excursion into the Mount Richmond National Park.

BEACHES. The beaches are wide, backed by dunes and pounded by an unrelenting sea. The surf was enormous. The huge waves reared up, curled over and disintegrated into a white foam. The wind would catch them at the crest sending sheets of fine spray several metres into the air and travelling in unison with the breaking waves. We noticed several fast flowing rips. These factors and the reasonably cool conditions were enough to set aside any thoughts of serious swimming or surfing.

Discovery Bay has 60 kilometres of Beach broken only by the rugged Cape Montesquieu headland. We walked 35 kilometres along the beach and did not see another soul. There were enormous pieces of thick, leathery seaweed, some interesting sea-birds - gulls, terns, dotterels and oystercatchers - and in places, plenty of flotsam and jetsam.

The camp-sites on the beach sections of the walk are tucked away in the shelter of dunes. The White Sands, Lake Mombeong and the Swan Lake Camps are situated near fresh-water lakes in the Discovery Bay hinterland. The beautiful Trewalla Camp overlooks Bridgewater Bay.

Lieutenant James Grant of H.M. Brig *Lady Nelson* was the first European to see this coast-line on December 3, 1800. The Frenchman, Baudin aboard *Le Geographe* was next in 1802. He is responsible for the French place names in the area and Grant for some of the British names. Grant noted many fires along the Bay suggesting the presence of Aborigines. He also noted that there was flat land behind the beaches covered with brush and tall timber. Settlement of the area did not commence until the 1830's when pioneers such as former sealers, Dutton and Henty, entered the area. (Crown Surveyor J Tyers arrived in 1839 to establish the South Australian border - an exercise finally resolved in 1914 by the Privy Council!).

DUNES. The dunes of today are possibly little different to those seen by Grant, Baudin, Tyers and the early pioneers. The south-westerlies are still ferocious and unrelenting: the land is a little more vulnerable because of clearing, attempts to drain coastal swamps, over-grazing and erosion. There have been problems with "dune drift" which has sometimes threatened to drown the lakes and hinterland farming land. Marram grass introduced by Baron von Mueller in the 1880's has been used effectively in some places to stabilise the dunes.

I found the dunes fascinating. Some dunes, particularly the ones a kilometre or so inland, are thickly vegetated with masses of impenetrable scrub. Beautiful green "curtains" of a species of rambling succulent hang from any convenient bush or tree branch. Wild flowers were abundant - the beautiful noonflower (carpobrotus) and the vividly purple daisy (brachycome) were two very spectacular varieties. Without the track maintained by

the Friends of the GSWW, progress in these areas would have been slow and difficult. The inland track from White Sands to Lake Mombeong was an example of this. The last kilometre of this section is a memorable walk along the shores of the picturesque and tranquil Lake Mombeong.



Other dunes have little vegetation but contain evidence of Aboriginal presence - shell middens, chert mining and tools. It is likely that similar evidence has been engulfed by shifting sands possibly to be revealed at some future time. At the base level of these dunes is a peat-like material, appearing also on the beach, which may belong to a former wetland. These dunes also contain relics of a former forest.

Yet another variation on the dune theme occurred between the beach and Swan Lake Camp. The two kilometre stretch from the beach to the Camp was stunning. We could have been in the Sahara Desert! There were so many dunes with almost no vegetation. The dunes were huge, rising to 40 or 50 metres and the area vast. Some are used for the strictly controlled sport of dune buggy driving.

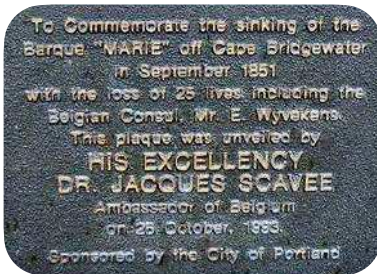
MOUNT RICHMOND NATIONAL PARK. As a break from the beach and dune walking and to avoid the soft sands of Descartes Bay we made a diversion inland to Mount Richmond. Part of this section of the walk took us near farmland and pine plantations before entering the Park. The Park is renowned for its wildflowers; we were not disappointed, flowers were everywhere. The mountain is the remains of a volcano covered by sand blown up from Discovery Bay. It is now a habitat for some 450 species of native plants. The route out of the Park took us to Tarragal Camp then across some fields and stiles. It was enough to cause an outburst of *On Ilklemoor Baht'at* from Enid and David. At Bridgewater Lakes, normally a very attractive area, we experienced a violent storm, a fitting welcome for our return to the coast and the cliffs.

CLIFFS. There were two main areas of cliffs to be walked:- Cape Duquesne, and Capes Bridgewater and Nelson at

either end of the beautiful Bridgewater Bay. Some cliff areas were stony with no vegetation except for a few tough old shrubs growing horizontally. Other cliff-tops were covered with low-growing shrubs in flower, and pockets of mallee.

We had a surprise at the *Blowholes*. It was 8.30 am 26 October 1993 and in the distance we could see a ranger scurrying towards the cliff top. When we got close to him we could see that he was busy varnishing the wood surrounds of a plaque mounted on a stand. It was a memorial to the *Marie* a three-masted wooden barque of 400 tons and the *Jane* a three-masted schooner of 208 tons. The ships were wrecked nearby in 1851 and 1863 respectively. The plaque was to be draped with the Belgian flag and unveiled at 10.00 am that very morning by the Belgian Ambassador. The Belgium Embassy tells me that the ship was en route from Antwerp to Sydney

via Adelaide with 25 passengers including the Belgian Consul and nine personal staff. They all perished. (Belgium had representation in Australia as early as 1837!)



Another interesting place was the so-called

Petrified Forest - sandstone monuments to a former forest. We noted evidence of this forest over the full 60



kilometres of Discovery Bay but the best examples of the former trees are in the area near the blowholes. The generally accepted theory is that drifting calcareous sand dunes covered forests of *melaleuca lanceolata*. Water percolated through the sand and formed a hard crust around the trees, a process helped by chemicals leaching out from the rotting trees. Subsequent erosion has revealed sandstone casts representing over-sized replicas of the trees. On the cliffs of Cape Duquesne approaching the Springs Camp we experienced the full might of a southerly-buster. We were subjected to buffeting by the wind estimated at 120 kph. Pat could scarcely keep her feet. The Springs is arguably the most exposed and wind-

swept camp-site in Australia but we managed to find a relatively calm camp a little farther inland.



We set off to inspect the Springs. There are several natural springs along this part of the coast. The reason for their existence is simple enough. The cliffs are of limestone underlain in places with impervious basalt. Ground water seeps through the limestone to the basalt which happens to be tilting seawards. We clambered down the cliff via a convenient ramp to inspect this particular spring. Beautiful fresh water was gushing from a hole in the limestone a few metres above sea level. Behind us the sea was in a fury, pounding the rocks with all its might. We felt as if some of the waves would surely come and take us. From the seaward side it was obvious that the ramp we had walked down was man-made. Early settlers built it for cattle when other sources of water failed.

At Cape Bridgewater we admired dolphins and seals showing off their swimming and diving skills in the water below us. Some swallows swooped close by and showed their considerable aerobic talents in the strong wind. We made our way down to the beach-side village of Bridgewater tucked in the sheltered western end of the beautiful Bridgewater Bay. We found the kiosk shown on the map and had a welcome break from our dehydrated diet of the past week before moving on to Trewalla Camp. Trewalla Camp was possibly the most attractive camp-site on the walk. It is sheltered and surrounded by lush vegetation and wild-flowers. There are steps leading to a wooden deck where we would sit with our mugs of tea and enjoy views of the ocean.

THE FINAL TWO DAYS. In the final two days we walked the beach of Bridgewater Bay and the cliffs of Cape Nelson where there is a lighthouse. It was windy but fine for our final night at Mallee Camp. In the morning we set out on the final 16 kilometres of walking. After a few kilometres it began to rain and the wind grew stronger. On the exposed cliffs it was bitterly cold. We walked faster and faster to keep warm.

At about 11.30 am we staggered wet and cold into the Portland Information Centre. We were glad to change into warm, dry clothes. The walked started and finished in rain

but we were happy and content having completed our eleven day, 175 kilometre walk. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience of walking in this beautiful part of Australia. The terrain is varied and full of interest. There are beautiful views of river, lakes, beach, cliffs and dunes. Wildflowers are abundant and there are many geological and archaeological surprises. The walking is easy thanks to the development of the track by the Portland High School and community groups in 1983 and continuing track maintenance by the Friends of the Great South West Walk.

We averaged 16 kilometres a day with plenty of time for viewing, photography and investigating and were in camp by 3.00-3.30 pm each day. This area is not remote in the same sense as Kakadu or the Kimberley but there is that wonderful experience of wilderness. The sub-title used by the Portland people is most appropriate - *A Walk on the Wild Side*.

Huts in Namadgi National Park

The Orroral Valley bushfire of January 2020 burnt more than 80% of Namadgi National Park, causing significant damage to natural, cultural and social values throughout the park. This included two heritage listed stockman huts located in in the Booth Range area: Demanding Hut and Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut.

Both huts are included on the ACT Heritage Register and the ACT Government is proposing a three-pronged approach to addressing the loss of the two huts:

- Construction of two new hut structures that will respect the original values of Demanding Hut and Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut, while preserving each hut's remains within the park.
- A research, conservation and interpretation project that will bring local and specialist knowledge together to communicate the extent, construction and use of each original hut place.
- A new Conservation Management Plan for the series of Stockmen's Hut Sites in Namadgi National Park that form a serial listing on the ACT Heritage Register.

Further details on the proposal, including site plans and artist impressions, can be found in the [Namadgi National Park Huts Project Proposal](#) (updated [here](#)). *Ed.*

Miracle cure kills fifth patient

By The Associated Press
A fifth patient died Tuesday from an experimental drug tested as a miracle cure for hepatitis B, legend medical news said as scientists unravelled the mystery of what went grossly wrong in a clinical trial.

Agonisingly, the first case was

interview describing the horror of realizing the drug was killing people months after they stopped taking it.

"The dreadful thing [is] watching us see what will happen," he said, his voice trembling, before learning of the most recent death. "I just hope we're over the

Top left, scientists would discover that in Australia, F1AS, steadily attacks the very building blocks of cells in livers, kidneys and nerves.

Five people treated with F1AS have died of liver and kidney failure, despite liver transplants for three of them. The

10 GREAT AUSTRALIAN WALKS SBS

SBS has launched a series of Great Australian Walks on Thursday nights at 7.30 pm which is also on SBS Iview. The series features Julia Zemero exploring selected national parks including Blue Mountains National Park on 14 September. You can see what's coming up [here](#). *Ed.*



Above: the huts as they were...

Top: Demanding Hut 1940s

Bottom: Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut 1967

Barbershop singers bring joy to school for deaf



A three day walking holiday in the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Heather Mcloughlin

In the nineties I spent a few days at Uluru and Kata Tjuta. I have always wanted to go back there. In August 2022 I swapped the swag and tent for a 5 star hotel in Yulara.

I enjoyed the two main walks although they were both very busy last year so that special feeling of spirituality was missing. In 1975 I did not see anyone else as I walked around base mid afternoon and that was a very special experience.

There are two main walks and of course it is a photographer's paradise. I went on both walks at sunrise, in a group, with a guide. Both sites were stunning at sunrise.

For the park's Anangu traditional owners, Uluru and Kata Tjuta tell important stories from the beginning of time. According to Tjukurpa (creation stories) the park's unique geological formations were created by ancestral beings that have travelled through the landscape since time immemorial.

1. The walk around the base of **Uluru** follows the tracks of the ancestral beings. The rock's shapes and textures hold knowledge and stories that have been passed down through generations of Anangu and are still relevant today. This time I saw rock art which I had not seen last time. It is a flat, easy 11 km walk.

2. The 36 steep-sided domes of **Kata Tjuta** lie 50 kilometres by road from Uluru. Kata Tjuta is a Pitjantjatjara word meaning 'many heads'. This is an Anangu men's site and is sacred under Tjukurpa.

I walked in the Valley of the Winds to the Karingana lookout and back (2.5 hours, 5.4 km return)

The track to the lookout goes down into the valley and creek beds. It was challenging in sections with many steps and some steep spots.

One of the highlights for me was watching the sunrise at Kata Tjuta I looked back to Uluru and took the most stunning photo of my trip (see opposite).

Parks Australia's web site re the walks <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/uluru/do/walks/>



Three Capes Track Offer

My wife (Lisa Walkington) and I were due to do the Three Capes Walk with the Tasmanian Walking Company – 4 to 7 October 2023. Due to a recent injury I am now not able to do this. I understand I can swap the tickets to two other people.

Therefore, I am offering a 2 for 1 deal of \$3,500 if someone from BBC would like to do it.

Neil Williams
Ph 0411286246



In the south-east of Tasmania a new forty-six-kilometre hiking trail charts spectacular sea cliffs and dramatic gullies. The trail is one of the largest nature tourism projects in Australian history and its design will no doubt inform others in development.

A narrative of suffering is inseparable from the natural beauty of Port Arthur, from the European invasion of Tasmania and Port Arthur's days as a notorious penal colony, to its more recent history as the site of Australia's worst massacre. In something of a historical inversion, this sheltered bay has become a departure point for an awe-inspiring hiking trail called the Three Capes Track, guiding a forty-six-kilometre journey along the rugged south-eastern coast.

While a mood of excitement and intrigue can be felt as we depart the port, it is impossible to escape the weight of history at this place, where previously thousands arrived in dread and defeat. On board the small ferry, calm waters give no hint of the wild Southern Ocean beyond the headlands. You can just make out the jagged Jurassic-era dolerite cliffs and pillars on the horizon, their soaring heights discernible even from such a long distance.

The boat trip makes for a bold introduction to the hike and gives a preview of the drama of the landscape that awaits.

From a Tassie promo - for more see [here](#)