

Brindabella Bushwalking Club

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022-2023

In addition to the normal administrative activities of the Committee, the Committee members focussed on two matters of significant importance for the club, being a substantial revision of the club's constitution and documenting the rationale and process associated with Honorary (Life) Membership submissions.

The review of the Clubs constitution was necessary to ensure alignment with and ensuring that our obligation to comply with necessary due processes for associations were met. The constitution changes are a major point for discussion at this AGM. The rationale and process associated with Honorary (Life) Membership submissions has been recently published on our website.

During the year the Committee also provided inputs to the ACT Government sponsored "Namadgi Walking Trail" study, where we put forward our views on limiting any developments to help protect the environment as well as suggestions for upgrades to tracks and facilities in support of all bushwalkers, whether they be casual or more serious hikers.

The reports from other Committee members will provide details about club activities and material(s).

In quick summary though, I would like to highlight that:

- Our membership numbers remain steady with new members bolstering our numbers.
- Our financial position remains sound.
- In addition to our many walking program activities, the social events continue to be a great success and very well attended.
- Our annual first aid course and annual navigation skills and walk leaders' development activity was well attended, the latter assisting in the development of new walk leaders.
- Our website continued to be enhanced with additional content and links to other sites of interest to bushwalkers, and
- Our monthly newsletter and Facebook pages were also very well received.

Whilst we had a small number of (injury) incidents on walks, our walk leaders and other walk participants handled these situations very well, the Committee decided to provide additional education and guidance to all of our members via newsletter articles during the year on how to handle and report such events.

I would like to thank all of our Committee members for their great contributions during the year and thank Prue Deacon and David Wardle for their contribution to the club both as active members but also in numerous Committee roles over many years. They have decided to not continue in Committee roles thereby freeing up time to spend with family as well as for themselves. I am sure that they will remain active participants in club activities, but as participants rather than leaders.

I apologise for not attending this AGM, as Deborah and I will be hiking in Europe, but I am very confident that Prue Deacon, our Vice-president will chair the meeting exceptionally well.

Bill Gibson
President
August 2023

Brindabella Bushwalking Club

WALKS OFFICER'S REPORT 2022-23

It has been another successful activity year for the Brindabella Bushwalking Club. While there has been a significant increase in member participation in Club activities, there has been a marked change in the way that members have attended our various walks. All walks on a Wednesday have seen a strong increase whereas the weekend walks have suffered a drop. Members spoken with about this are just saying that their weekends are busier with family and other activities whereas mid weeks are easier to quarantine for walking. The bounce back from COVID restrictions will be another reason for the overall increase.

The Easy half day Wednesday Walks are a star activity with 744 attendees all enjoying the social and physical activity. The inclusion of these walks every week has certainly proven well worthwhile.

Our Walks Program has continued with a great mix of walks within the ACT, surrounding NSW and away trips. The trips away have included the Wharf to Wharf, Cockatoo Island, the Royal National Park, Tumut, the Victorian High country, Three Mile Dam, the Sunshine Coast, Lamington National Park, the Grampians Peak Trail, Perisher, an ascent of Bimberi and at last the long postponed trip to New Zealand. A note here that some trip leaders have filled in one Walks Report for the whole trip while other leaders have provided a Walks Report for each walk of the time away. This means that the walks on trips away are significantly underreported. This need for consistency can be addressed next year.

WALKS	NUMBERS ATTENDING 2021-2022	NUMBERS ATTENDING 2022-2023
Easy Walks	648	429
Medium and Hard Walks	484	365
Easy Wednesday Half Day Walks	548	744
Easy Medium Wednesday Walks	189	344
Medium Hard Wednesday Walks	164	256
Walks on Trips Away	200	102
Walks on Social Activities	118	327
TOTAL	2171	2567

Our program provides Easy or Medium and occasionally Hard Walks every Saturday and Sunday, generally within an hour's drive from the meeting point. On Wednesdays either on our own, or in conjunction with other Clubs, we provide Easy, Easy-Medium and Medium-

Hard walks, all of which are increasing in popularity. With all of our walks it is the enthusiasm and commitment of our many leaders who have maintained this relentless program throughout the year.

It is with both excitement and relief that we can report the reopening of the Orroral Valley after a three year closure. On recent walks it has been so pleasing to see the regeneration of this area of Namadgi which had been so badly affected by both fire and flood. As you will see from the current Program, the proposed walks have been enhanced by the provision of so many favourites from this much loved area.

Leaders: As already mentioned, our Club thrives on the enthusiasm and commitment of our leaders and without them nothing on our Program would exist, so on behalf of all members of the Club I want to express my great appreciation to them. They all continue to amaze with offering both new and regular favourite walks for each Program. Our team of regular leaders have been joined by some equally enthusiastic new leaders who provide a new take on familiar and new walks.

Walks Sub-Committee: The members of this Committee spent a lot of time during the year working with our walks leaders and organising their walks into the Walks Program. In the Program for the current six month period we continue to provide a great range of walks at all of the various walking levels.

The Sub-Committee this year has been:

Easy Wednesday Walks:	Robyn Kelly
Weekend Walks:	Leigh Hermann and Ian Tucker
Easy/Medium Wednesday Walks:	Kathy Handel
Medium/Hard Wednesday Walks:	Peter Wellman

I would also like to acknowledge Jillian Bellamy who has served on this Committee for many years and has now stepped back as other priorities have demanded her time.

Emergency Officers: I would also like to thank our two Emergency Officers, Doug Finlayson and Col Boreham who have always been just a phone call away if required. Doug and Col have served in this role for many a year for which the Committee is extremely grateful. Now is the time for a change and who better for this role than the past two Walks Officers? I thank John Ellis who will join me in the role as the new Emergency Officers.

Program: The Committee has recommended that we cease printing and posting the Walks Program from the current issue. The majority of our members now receive the Program in digital form as do those participating in our various Wednesday Walks and Social Programs. If there is any member who is unable to access the Program in this format they could let a Committee member know and we will attempt to make alternate arrangements for them.

We look forward to another year with an active Walks Program and with much to enjoy for our members.

David Wardle
Walks Officer
August 2023

Brindabella Bushwalking Club
TREASURER'S REPORT 2022-23

The BBC started the financial year with \$19,159.60 and finished with \$20,537.97. Our surplus for the year was \$1,378.37.

The income is derived from membership subscriptions and a (very) little interest on monies held in the bank. The subscriptions were higher again this year with new members joining. Additional money was gathered from members who are not currently walk leaders for the First Aid Training program, and then paid to the Training Provider. Eleven members, current walk leaders, who did the training were paid for by the Club.

Expenses were higher this this year compared to last year - a bit more on administration and website/IT. Our biggest expense continues to be our Insurance and Affiliation, \$4,905.70 paid to Bushwalking NSW.

The Committee recommends no change in membership fees for the coming year. The rate for taking a passenger in your car remains at 14 cents/ kilometre/ person.

The Financial spreadsheets, books and receipts have been audited by Louise Dalton who found them to be in order. I would like to thank Louise for so quickly and thoroughly reviewing the Financial Papers, and generously giving her time.

I would also like to thank all the Committee for their support over the year.

Lana Burmester
Treasurer
August 2023

APPENDIX C

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB INCORPORATED

1 JULY 2022 to 30 JUNE 2023

2021-2022		2022-2023
\$17,235.50	OPENING BALANCE	\$19,159.60
	INCOME	
\$8,225.00	Subscriptions	\$8,530.01
\$19.58	Interest on Accounts	\$14.03
\$755.00	Miscellaneous (Training)	\$705.00
\$8,999.58	TOTAL INCOME	\$9,249.04
	EXPENSES	
\$0.00	Advertising	\$0.00
\$0.00	Administration (Hall Hire)	\$43.75
\$66.95	Administration	\$220.43
\$125.00	Equipment	\$0.00
\$0.00	Auditor's gift	\$0.00
\$1,525.55	Insurance	\$1,967.05
\$2,717.00	Affiliation fees	\$2,938.65
\$470.80	Walk Program Printing	\$501.00
\$123.79	Walk program Postage	\$116.10
\$139.00	PO Box	\$148.00
\$478.64	Social (food, drinks, Hall hire)	\$543.74
\$1,330.00	Training	\$1,100.00
\$98.75	Website	\$281.95
\$0.00	Other (refund)	\$10.00
\$7,075.48	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7,870.67
\$1,924.10	SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	\$1,378.37
	BALANCE SHEET	
\$5,613.10	Term deposit	\$5,627.13
\$13,546.50	Community Solutions Account	\$14,910.84
\$19,159.60	Total bank accounts	\$20,537.97
\$17,235.50	Members Funds (Starting Balance)	\$19,159.60
\$1,924.10	Current Year Surplus	\$1,378.37
\$19,159.60	Members Funds (Final Balance)	\$20,537.97

I certify that I have reviewed the BBC Books and Accounts for the Financial year ending 30 June 2023 and find the above Statement represents a true and correct position of the Association as of that date.



Louise Dalton
Honorary Auditor

Dated: 17 JUL '23



Lana Burmester
Honorary

Treasurer Dated: 18 July '23

APPENDIX C

Asset Situation as at 30 June 2023

Description	Acquisition Date	Original Cost	Open WDV	Depn Method (Prime)	YTD Depn	Closing WDV	Comments
Topographic Maps	Various	Unknown	\$0	100%	\$0	\$0	See below
Steripen	Feb-08	\$208	\$0	13%	\$0	\$0	Held by Prue Deacon
Seagate External HDD No 1	Mar-12	\$100	\$0	20%	\$0	\$0	Held by Secretary
Seagate External HDD No 2	Mar-12	\$100	\$0	20%	\$0	\$0	Held by Webmaster
Toshiba External HDD No 3	Jun-22	\$125	\$100	20%	\$25	\$75	Held by Walks Officer
Paper Shredder	Oct-14	\$100	\$0	20%	\$0	\$0	Held by Membership Secretary
PLB - KTI SA2G	May-16	\$270	\$108	10%	\$27	\$81	Held by John Clune
PLB - KTI SA2G	May-16	\$270	\$108	10%	\$27	\$81	Held by Leigh Hermann
Advertising Table Throw	Oct-19	\$150	\$60	20%	\$30	\$30	Held by Secretary
Advertising Banner	Oct-19	\$184	\$73	20%	\$37	\$36	Held by Secretary
Lenovo Vivobook laptop	Feb-21	\$648	\$389	20%	\$129	\$260	Held by Secretary
Lenovo Vivobook laptop	Mar-21	\$648	\$389	20%	\$129	\$260	Held by Membership Secretary
		\$2,803	\$1,227		\$404	\$823	

Notes: WDV = Written down value
 Depn = depreciation
 YTD Depn = this financial year's depreciation

The maps are depreciated by 100% when bought.

No maps have been purchased in recent years. They are now available free online at www.maps.six.nsw.gov.au.

No assets were bought or disposed of in this financial year.

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022-2023

Statistics for the membership year:

Memberships	367
Adult members	444
Child members	15
Total members	459
New and returned members	103
Memberships not renewed	52

Comments:

The Club has again seen an increase in members this year. At our last AGM we had 443 members.

There have been more new, and returning members and as well fewer people opting not to renew their memberships compared to last year.

The method by which emails have been sent to members has changed over the course of the last year. Instead of using the Data Base, the Club's email list has been used by the relevant committee members to communicate with members.

You will soon receive an email requesting that you update your membership. Please don't renew your membership until you receive that email. Some of you paid twice last year and instead of receiving a refund, your membership was progressed to the next membership year. If you don't receive an email from me, assume that you are already financial for the 23/24 year.

If you do not intend to renew your membership for the coming year, please notify the Membership Secretary as soon as possible so that your email address can be removed from the Data Base and from the generic list. This will ensure that you are not receiving unnecessary emails. Also, if you are not renewing and have had your email address added to a Wednesday Walks list, you will need to contact the managers of those lists so that your email address can be removed.

This year has seen the removal of some internet providers and hopefully every member who has been affected has contacted me and the Wednesday Walks' list managers with their new email.

Thanks are owed to Peter Dalton who has ably taken over my job when I have not been able to check relevant emails.

Davinia Wells
Membership Secretary

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2022-2023

The normal three Committee meetings held each year were largely taken up this year with deliberations about the proposed changes to the Club's constitution. It all started with my growing concern about the lack of required Disciplinary and Dispute Settling mechanisms in our existing constitution which changes to the *Associations Incorporations Act 1991* some time previously had made mandatory for all affected associations. We had delayed making any changes while we awaited a revision of the Model Rules governing such changes and these were a long time coming. A small Working Group comprising Peter Dalton, Peter Ford and myself was established to research and consider necessary changes. We had reached the point of going ahead with appropriate changes to incorporate Disciplinary and Dispute Settling procedures into our constitution when, as Murphy's Law would have it, new draft Model Rules were issued by the ACT government. This led to the Working Group deciding on a complete review of our constitution with the resulting proposed changes which the whole Committee then considered in detail. I would like to thank Peter Dalton and Peter Ford for their tireless and invaluable assistance in this project which was beyond one person to carry through and also Prue Deacon and David Wardle for their contributions.

The first meeting of the newly elected Committee took place on 8th November, 2022 where we discussed recent changes to the website and the emerging need for more guidance to leaders about the importance of filing Incident Reports where serious incidents occur on walks. The Committee considered some of the difficulties faced by leaders in organising and conducting trips away with regard to vetting potential participants for their suitability, the mix of walkers with different capabilities, and meeting expectations for accommodation.

The Committee also decided to cease the former practice of the Secretary filtering correspondence from Bushwalking NSW before sending out a link to their News and Events publication to all members with a summary of the main contents. Instead members were encouraged to subscribe as individuals and this was publicised in the BBC Newsletter, and in the letter to new members. The next Walks Program will also carry a reminder about this.

Our second meeting on 1st February, 2023 discussed the need for printed Walks Programs in the future, and a decision was taken to discuss this issue more fully with members at the AGM. We also addressed the proposed changes to the constitution with the focus on disciplinary and dispute resolution procedures and the paragraphs dealing with membership particularly Honorary Life Memberships.

At our third meeting for the year held on 18th July, 2023 we acknowledged the great work being done by our Social Convenor with the number of very successful social events held during the year. We also considered a number of initiatives taken by our very able Webmaster, Peter Dalton including a policy document on Honorary Life Membership Nomination procedures, guides to the Webmaster's tasks, and an alternative method to alert members of walks if there were to be a problem with the Wednesday Walks email system. The need for printed Walks Programs was again discussed and the package of documents to be sent out to members in mid- August (at least 21 days before the AGM) as required when there are constitutional changes. The level of Transport Costs and Subscription Fees to be put to members at the AGM was also discussed as were succession plans for Committee members with a number expressing a wish to step down.

Julie Pettit
Secretary
August 2023

Brindabella Bushwalking Club

SOCIAL CONVENOR'S REPORT 2022-23

During the 2022/2023 year, the club has enjoyed a variety of social activities. These activities are also covered in the monthly newsletters and Facebook. I organised extra social activities during Covid when we could get out and about. I expected interest to wane when we were free to travel again. However, this has not been the case so I'm happy to keep organising activities. It's great to see all members young and old chatting and enjoying themselves at various social outings at beautiful locations in Canberra. It's also great to see some members ride their bikes or walk to the venues. Thanks everyone for your positive feedback and happy faces.

Monday 3 October 2022: October long weekend lunch picnic, Reconciliation Place

27 members enjoyed meeting for lunch and chatting with fellow club members. A very happy day in the spring sunshine.

Friday 21 October 2022: Spring picnic, Weston Park

A non-event due to bad weather. Rescheduled to Friday 28 October and bad weather again. Will rethink this event due to unpredictable spring weather.

Friday 16 December 2023: Christmas party, the Bellamy's in Pearce

27 people met at the Bellamy's home for our annual Christmas party. While there was a distinct wind chill factor (definitely no swimming in the lovely pool), it didn't dampen spirits and there were plenty of laughs and good food to keep us warm. Members enjoyed chatting, eating and catching up with new and old friends. Many thanks to Jillian and Geoff for hosting this event.

New Year's Day evening picnic Bowen Park – Sunday 1 January 2023

There were 24 attendees this year. This will continue to be an annual event, weather permitting. It was another happy outing with fellow club members catching up after Christmas.

Breakfast, Bowen Park, Friday 13 January 2023

All I can say is FABULOUS. Fabulous company, fabulous venue, fabulous weather and fabulous food and coffee. There were 16 members and 2 lovely grandchildren who all enjoyed chatting and eating in the shade before the heat of the day. The lake was sparkling. We all oohed and aahed when Caryl's French toast arrived. My waffles with lots of fruit were also delicious. This will also continue to be a short notice annual event (best to know the weather forecast).

Friday 3 February 2023 – annual Mt Ainslie sunset walk

56 attendees this year, including 1 prospective member and 2 lovely grandchildren. Despite the very windy day, the wind eased off and though chilly, it was not freezing. Future sunset walks will start 30 minutes earlier (6 pm) to avoid walking down at dusk. The venue is great as it caters for those who want to walk or drive to the top.

Monday 13 March – picnic, Molonglo Reach

Another wonderful social outing at a lovely venue with beautiful trees. A few members asked to meet there again. A sunny day, with a slight chilly breeze didn't deter us.

Considering there was a big group in New Zealand, I expected a small group. I was wrong. 28 members and 4 visitors (including 2 grandchildren). A few people walked to Duntroon's WW1 training trenches at the end of Dairy Road.

Saturday 15 April, Weston Park: Autumn /Octogenarian / Nonagenarian Picnic

What a beautiful autumn morning in Weston Park. 45 attendees Included 2 visitors and a 3 yr old grandson. Of the 45 attendees, there were 13 octogenarians and 6 nonagenarians.

Many of us enjoyed a 1 hour stroll through the beautiful trees before Prue gave her speech thanking the older members for their contribution to the club and shared many memories of walks.

Friday 28 April, Potluck dinner

31 happy members enjoyed our annual potluck dinner. Maybe it should be called a food fest as there was plenty of yummy dishes to choose from. Thank you for your generous contributions. The numbers were down due to illness and other commitments. Some members were delayed due to bad weather and a traffic jam which was frustrating, but the atmosphere of joining friends and sharing food lifted their spirits.

Jenny Horsfield was our guest speaker. Jenny is a writer and historian with a special interest in the landscape and human stories of the Canberra region. Jenny spoke about her previous publications as well as her next book as a work in progress – 'Our grassy landscapes and the people who care for them: the story of Canberra people and their attachment to this special place'. Thank you Jenny.

Monday 12 June: Morning Coffee at The Courtyard Café, Old Parliament House

29 members and 3 visitors enjoyed morning coffee, good food and company on a chilly winter's morning. Some members went for a walk, visited MOAD or visited the National Archives. Due to the success of the morning, I will organise again next year.

Sunday 16 July: A day in Captains Flat

Another very successful social outing. For me, this was the best ever social outing and many agreed. The activity certainly has generated lots of goodwill among our members.

37 club members (including 3 new members – welcome) and 3 visitors enjoyed a fabulous day in perfect weather in one of our local towns about an hour from Canberra.

We met at Colin Winchester Oval for morning tea before setting off on our adventure. There was something for everyone – a walk to Ragged Falls or a drive to the lookout and railway station. A special thanks to Mike, Doug F and Bill for your contribution on the day.

37 stayed for lunch (and more talking) in the sundrenched courtyard at the Captains Flat Hotel, first opened in 1938.

Those who visited the Outsider Gallery across the road found it a great experience – fun, eclectic, funky and the list goes on. The huge mosaic floor is amazing. Worth a visit if you're in Captains Flat again.

Thank you to the members of the Social Sub-Committee (Colleen, Julie, Wendy, Ian, Mark (a great barman), Gayle and Lorena) for your contribution to the club's social events. Thanks too to members who pitched in helping at the potluck dinner. Many hands make light work.

We are indeed a GREAT walking club!!!

Elaine Atkinson
Social Convenor
August 2023

Brindabella Bushwalking Club

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT 2022-23

Walk Leaders' First Aid Course

Successful completion of a first aid course is not a mandatory requirement for walk leaders, but is strongly recommended.

BBC first aid courses are tailored to contain both the requirements of our club and most of our leaders, with consideration given to:

- a. cost,
- b. bushwalkers specific first aid, and
- c. the practical component must not exceed one day.

The course was open to all BBC members, with walks leaders being funded by the BBC.

The cost per person this year was \$100.

This year's nationally accredited senior First Aid course consisted of an online component followed by a half day practical including a BBC specific bushwalking component.

The course was conducted by Canberra First Aid.

Ten people attended this year's BBC First Aid Course.

The course was conducted much better this year with all BBC required topics covered adequately.

After being approached by NPA's Outing Convener (who had also held discussions with President CBC), next year we shall also invite CBC and NPA members to attend our course if spaces are available. All members attending from other clubs shall need to pay full amount to our treasurer as the First Aid Provider does not handle individual submissions.

Navigation and Leadership Training

Successful completion of the Navigation and Leadership course is not a mandatory requirement for walk leaders, but is strongly recommended.

Ten people attended the 2023 Navigation and Leadership Training Course.

The BBC has an ageing membership, but we are getting new members who wish to become leaders.

The content of the training comprises a one-day introductory course on daylight terrestrial navigation training (mapcraft, compass, GPS etc) plus the duties and responsibilities of a Walks Leader.

The course was held in a bush setting with participants divided into two groups led respectively by Bill Gibson and Bob Chittenden.

The 2023 Navigation and Leadership Training Course shall be advertised October/November via Email and shall be held on a Tuesday.

Bob Chittenden
BBC Training and Development Officer

28 July 23

Brindabella Bushwalking Club

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT 2022-23

During the last 12 months Newsletter articles can be categorised as follows:

- 13 reports of club multi-day walks;
- 6 reports of individual walks or trips involving walks;
- 19 news reports relating to bushwalking issues;
- 7 social news reports; and
- 11 articles on issues related to bushwalking.

The club walks that were the subject of reports were:

Tumut (October)
Second Wharf to Wharf - Tathra to Eden (November)
Grampians; Jindabyne (December)
Tarkine; Freycinet (January)
Kosciuszko (February)
Three Mile Dam (March)
New Zealand; Mt Bimberi (April)
Royal National Park (May)
Victoria's High Country (June) and
Lamington National Park (July).

Many club members contributed to the newsletter over the year and that is the way it should be. All members are warmly invited to contribute to future issues by submitting articles on any matters related to bushwalking.

Peter Forde
Newsletter Editor
August 2023

Brindabella Bushwalking Club

WEBMASTER'S REPORT 2022-23

Routine maintenance of the website continues, with the new program and newsletters being added in the usual couple of places at the same time as they are distributed to members. The list of maps held by the club has also recently been updated.

Trip reports that aren't just duplicating earlier ones have been added to the Resources for Members page.

The Walk Report form has had yet another tweak. Some leaders had been failing to add their own name as one of the participants and others had been failing to include the date of the walk. It's now more difficult to overlook these!

If preferred, the **Printable Membership Form** can now be completed from the website before printing.

The Honorary Life Membership Nomination Process is now explained at the Resources for Members page.

Succession Plan. The website has been constructed using WordPress, uses no coding and is very easy to maintain. If you are interested in taking on this role next year, please email webmaster@brindabellabushwalking.org.au and we can arrange a gradual hand over.

Peter Dalton
Webmaster
August 2023

Brindabella Bushwalking Club

FACEBOOK ACTIVITY REPORT 2022-23

The Brindabella Bushwalking Club Facebook page is a public page, open to anyone to view and it has had 885 likes and more than 1000 followers.

www.facebook.com/BrindabellaBushwalkingClub/

The page continues to provide members and others interested in the Club with information about the walks and social events being held by the Club. I also post articles which I think may be of interest to members. The page provides a contact point for queries about membership and other issues.

Messaging/Inbox Activity: The messaging feature continues to be well utilized by visitors/members mainly asking how to join the Club.

Walks and Trip photos and reports: I really appreciate the contribution of members and followers. Thank you very much to all contributors.

Conclusion: As a means of advertising the Club and informing members and followers of upcoming walks and events, the Club's Facebook strategy continues to be successful. I encourage anybody who takes photos to send them to me – you don't have to include a report. I also encourage people who do multi day walks, independent of the club, particularly interstate to share their photos and experiences with us so that members might get new ideas for their leisure and holidays.

Heather McLoughlin facebook@brindabellabushwalking.org.au
Facebook Administrator

September 3 2023