

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



In this issue

New format for the newsletter - I hope you like it

Poetry - two recent trips to the high country produced two poems

Vale Val Boreham

A tribute to Val appears in this issue

Reminders

- Potluck Dinner
- Family Walks
- Facebook

OAM for Di Thompson

This 'n' That (President's pontifications)

If you'd like to broaden your knowledge of bushwalking, there are plenty of books from which to choose. Not surprisingly, perhaps the most useful list of those relating to NSW (with links to reviews for some) is that provided here by Bushwalking NSW http://bushwalkingnsw.com/book_list.php

A recent encounter with a mountain bike rider prompted me to find this interesting paper http://www.jdemco.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/1649/2016/09/Liability_for_Sports_Injuries_1.pdf

on the law in this area as the section on sporting injuries also applies to bushwalking accidents. I was setting out on a bike borne reconnaissance of a club walk and he was returning on foot forlornly pushing his bike ahead of him on its rear wheel with the front sticking up showing a front wheel that looked like a saucer bent into a figure eight. He told me he had collided with the only other bike in a 10 k radius. It reminded me of an Australian Haiku poem (okay it's not real Haiku):

**In all that space
There was only one tree
And they managed to drive
Straight into it**

By the way, ACT legislation in 2002 addressed the same issues and also protected 'Good Samaritans' such as first aiders.

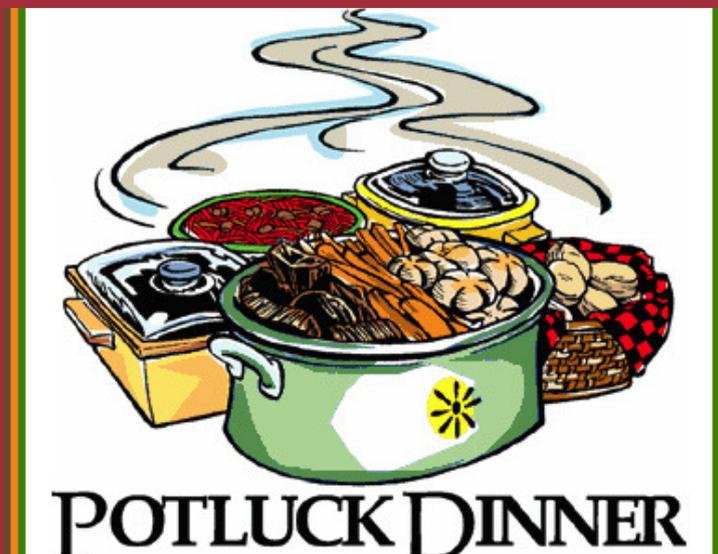
Peter Ford

Friday 27 April – Potluck Dinner

Information about the Potluck Dinner didn't make it into the current program, but it will definitely be held - on Friday 27 April. It will once again be at St Margaret's Uniting Church Hall at Hackett beginning at 6.30 pm for pre-dinner drinks, with dinner at 7.00 pm.

Elaine Atkinson (elainem.atkinson@gmail.com or telephone 62883557) is coordinating the event, so if you have an idea for a guest speaker or suitable entertainment, please let her know.

Once the details of the entertainment or guest speaker have been finalised, you will all get an email and the particulars will also appear in the next newsletter.



BBC Facebook Page

The facebook page is attracting plenty of interest and Terrylea is keeping it up to date with photos, walk reports and much more. Visit it at: <https://www.facebook.com/BrindabellaBushwalkingClub/> You can set your facebook page to receive notifications every time there is a new post.



Perisher Ridge

JANUARY 2018

Blue Sky,
Snow Gums, gnarled, twisted.
Alpine breeze, cool.
Wafting grass,
Silver and green, green and silver,
Like a gentle ocean wave.

Vast tracts of flowers.
Alpine heath,
Yellow and bright,
Snow daisies, white, yellow and
mauve,
Pale violet aromatic mint,
Pimelia's intricate white lace,
Bright pink triggers,
Cream richia sentinels,
Amber billy buttons,
Lilies nodding their
Exquisite electric blue.

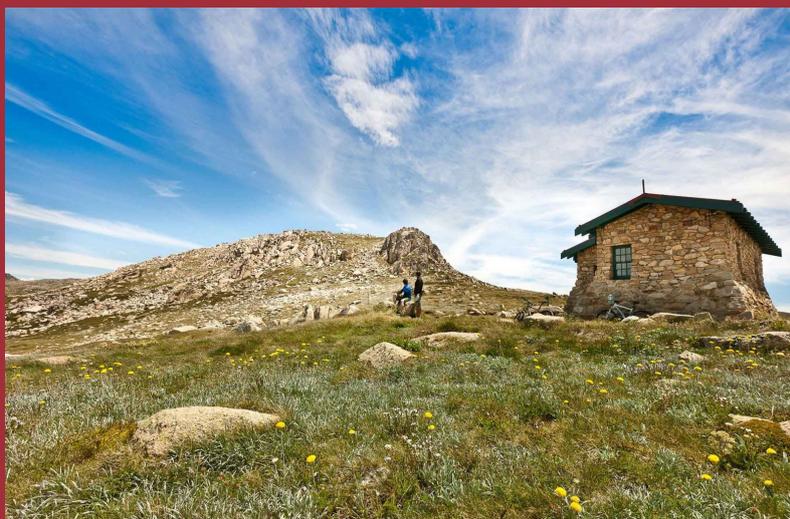
Our path meanders upwards.
A floral ridge, a carpet of flowers,
We find grass and shade
Beneath a friendly tree.
We snooze, we dream, we savor,
This Heavenly Place called Perisher!

Eric Pickering



Who Rings the Bell

(For J.L)



Who rings the bell to plan the trip
to book the lodge
to let us know
who'll take pot luck
and who will sleep with whom?

She rings the bell
the old year's out, the new year's in
we pack our bags with gourmet food
and frolic down the highway
don't even stop at Cooma.

Who rings the bell?
Let's all arise from wildest dreams
to mill about, to stir the porridge
to brew the coffee and fry the eggs
let's not forget the exhaust fan over the stove.

She rings the bell.
It's time to go
by 9 am all 35 are organised
five different walks
and those who remain
can read their books and wash the floor.

Who rings the bell for Kosci's top?
We sign the list
'Some tak' the high road
And some tak' the low road
And I'll be at Charlottes afore ye.

She rings the bell.
It's forecast hot
we have plan B and even C
we all go down to the river
at Guthega
a picnic lunch with march flies

Who rings the bell?
Come circle round
she calls out names
some wear the veil
all 29 are present but who is not
and who's forgot their name?

She rings the bell for Nibblies
now drinks appear
it's white or red or rosé
to sip and crunch this twilight hour
and rehash past adventures.

Who rings the bell for Barbecue
and calls the blokes and coves and coots
to slave away with beer in hand
they brush the flies and turn the snags
and chops and steaks and rissoles.

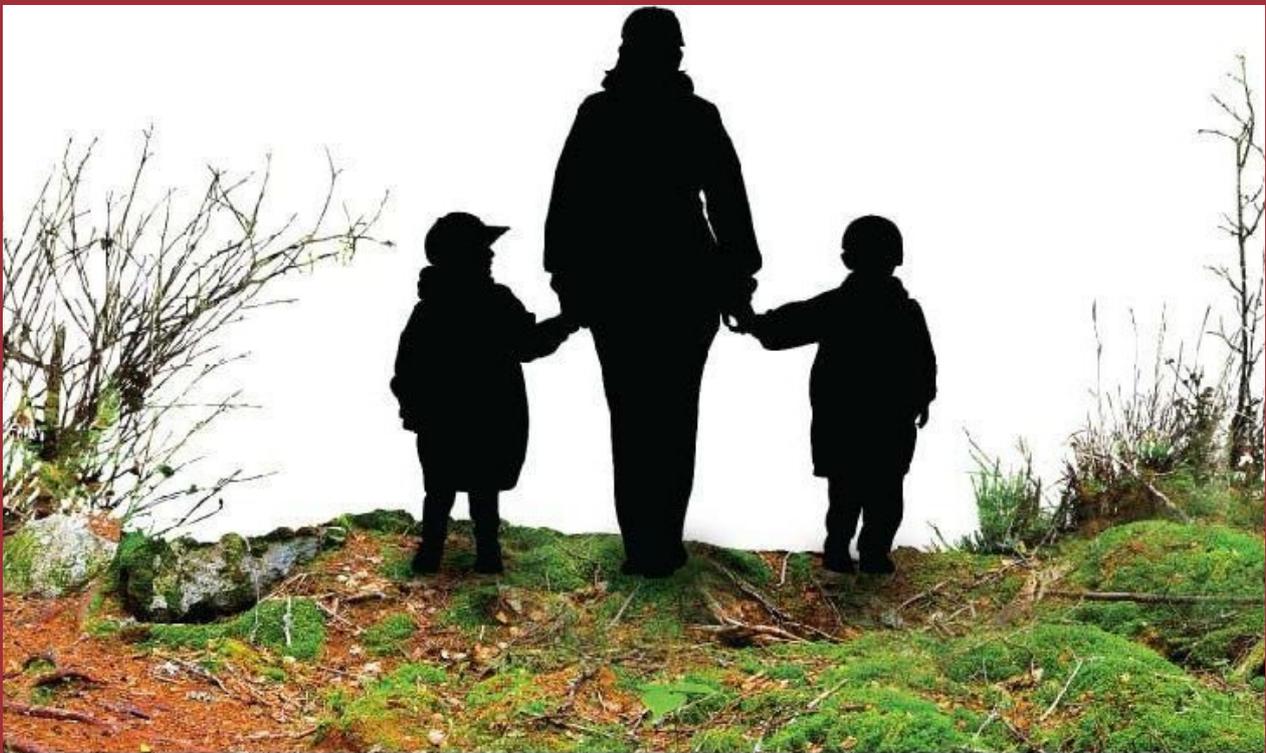
Ask not for whom the bell tolls.
It tolls for us, for me and thee
and will do soon if we don't stop
putting bottles in the garbage

Gerry Jacobson

Family Walks

Family walks are scheduled for the last Sunday of February, March, May and June (see the program for more information). Our walks are suitable for families with young children. The children in our group are mostly of primary school age, however on some walks strollers will be possible. The pace is slow, with a long stop for morning tea, and attractions for children are often included. Most walks are in Canberra bushland and about two hours long. Details of the walks are routinely emailed to members who have indicated their interest in going on the walks.

If you are interested in these walks or have children, grandchildren or friends who might be, please contact **Annabel Agafonoff (62820252)** for details.



Contributing Articles

Suitable articles are always welcomed and photos make them better. It may not be possible to use all the photos. We will include the photographer's name in the newsletter, unless they ask us not to bother. If it is not your photo, you must have the photographer's permission to use it. Send your articles to **walks@brindabellabushwalking.org.au**

An article may be edited to correct spelling errors and to suit the newsletter's style by restructuring, cutting to fit, and even re-writing sections if the editor believes that will better appeal to readers.

The newsletters will also be placed on the Club's website.

Vale Val Boreham

This tribute was supplied by Mary Lindsay and photos are courtesy of Lyn Willson

Val Boreham, who died last month, has been closely associated with the BBC and its predecessor organisation the Family Bushwalkers Inc, almost since its inception. Her contribution to many diverse aspects of the club was recognised by the awarding of lifetime membership to Val. However, because of her quiet and unassuming demeanour, many club members remain unaware of the extent of her contribution.

The Borehams joined the FBI in 1975. Thereafter they were regular participants, together with their (sometimes reluctant) children in day walks, car camps and social functions, at which Val could always be relied upon to produce some wonderful and envy - inducing dish.

I heard about Val on my first bush walk in 1983, although she was not present. There was much talk on the walk about an upcoming club dinner and I asked if I might attend. I was told: "Ring Val. She'll sort you out." Which she did, displaying one of the characteristics for which, I subsequently realised, she was so much loved by club members. That was the ability to put people at ease, to make sure they were welcome and to link them to other walkers. All of this was achieved so discreetly that one was hardly aware that it was happening. But many walkers have benefitted in this way from Val's kindness.

In the 1980s the Borehams used a minibus for car camps. This became a haven for wet and cold tenters on miserable evenings when it was impossible to sit around a camp fire. At times there were so many people jammed in there that we generated our own heat and it was quite warm.



Val at Mt Coree (2008)

Vale Val Boreham

Later, after the children became independent, the Borehams travelled widely within Australia and overseas, both independently and with the club. Val loved these trips and other participants loved having her there because she was always appreciative of the work of the organisers and so joyful and happy to be in the bush and walking.

More recently, Val responded to the changing demographics in the club by establishing, with others, and initially leading, two sub groups. The first, established in 1996, was the family group - to cater to the interests of families with young children. This had been the initial impetus for the club's formation in 1969 but gradually the number of children participating had dwindled. Through Val's efforts (and those of other members) the family group is now self sustaining. But without Val's foresight and dedication it is unlikely that it would ever have seen the light of day.

The most successful of all of Val's many contributions has been the establishment of the short, easy Wednesday walks. These are a godsend to all the bushwalkers who, through age or illness, are no longer able to walk for a full day but who still enjoy walking in the natural environment with like minded souls - not to mention the opportunity the walks provide for catching up with the gossip. These walks are now the best attended of any in the club program.

Val had a long, happy and productive life and was involved in many groups and organisations. But the club was always close to her heart and so, although Val is no longer with us, her contributions to its continued success remain and we, her walking buddies, remember and give thanks.



MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION – DIANNE THOMPSON



- We congratulate Brindabella Bushwalking Club member, Dianne Thompson on receiving a medal in the Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day Honours awards.

The medal was awarded in recognition of Dianne's service to conservation and the environment.

This service includes:

National Parks Association of New South Wales

- Adviser and Media Contact for Wild Horse Management in the Kosciusko National Park, for many years.
- Representative, Kosciusko National Park Strategic Plan.
- Recipient, Prudence Tucker State Conservation Award, 2014.

National Parks Association of the Australian Capital Territory

- Past Member, Namadgi Interim Board of Management, for 6 years.
- Member, for more than 30 years.
- Recipient, Inaugural President's Award, 2015.

New South Wales Nature Conservation Council

- Representative, Advisory Council, New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, since 2014.
- Representative, Southern Ranges Regional Advisory Committee (formerly Snowy Mountains Region Advisory Committee), since 2000.
- Representative, Snowy Monaro Bushfire Management Committee, since 2007.
- Representative, Perisher Valley Resort Conservation Management Committee.

Well done and richly deserved, Dianne!