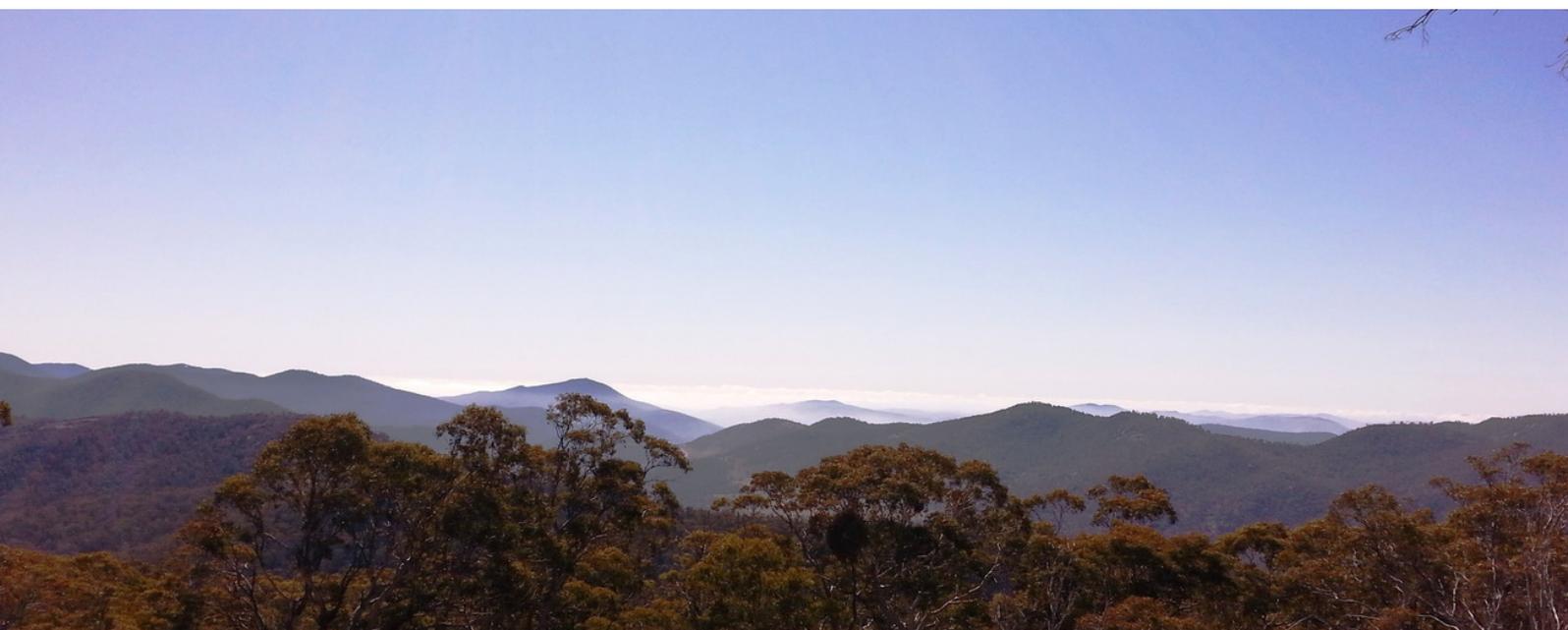


BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



This 'n' That

President's Pontifications

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Another year of great walks has come to an end and the new program is about to begin. I sincerely thank all of our walk leaders for the work they do in making our programs so successful. We've had some great trips away and in the next 6 months our leaders have come up with 9 more. I think this might be a record.

If you would like to go on one of these camps please check the grade of walks on offer so that you avoid being disappointed. For example, when the leader says that they will be Medium grade then there will probably be no alternative Easy walks available.

With so many leaders away so often on these trips, there are some weekends with only one walk programmed. If you'd like to fill one of these vacancies, please let the Walks Officer know.

If you have no other plans for Christmas Day, why not join Janet at the Cotter where she is planning a Short and Easy Walk with an optional swim, followed by lunch. The details appear later in this newsletter.

There are a couple of reports in this newsletter from recent trips by our club members. These welcome articles are always of interest to your fellow walkers, so please keep them coming.

Finally, on behalf of the committee, I wish you a safe and enjoyable Christmas/New Year break and look forward to seeing you on a walk in 2019.

Peter Dalton



WALK, SWIM AND LUNCH AT THE COTTER ON CHRISTMAS DAY – Short and Easy

Leader: Janet Duncan (janet.nd58@gmail.com)

Wondering what to do on Christmas Day? Please join me and a congenial group in walking around the attractive area at the Cotter Reserve: to the Dam Viewing Platform, up the hill to another Lookout where you are able to see the extent of the Cotter Dam and return from there, following the river, to our lunch spot. We can enjoy our Christmas luncheon about 1 pm. Please bring food for yourselves and something to share. You will need to bring a chair, dinner plate, bowl and cutlery as well as a glass and coffee mug. I will bring a lovely plum Pudding with custard to share. Drinks are your choice as is a hot thermos for tea, coffee or whatever. Please bring a Christmas Decoration too.

If it's a hot day, remember to bring your swim wear. We walk with our morning tea then return to the cars and settle down for a sumptuous Christmas Lunch. Last year we had a great group who thoroughly enjoyed having company and, thanks to Derek we all attempted to play a fun and ridiculous game – a mixture of skittles and boules.

I prefer bookings, but it's OK just to turn up. If you prefer you are most welcome to meet at about 12.30 pm at the Cotter Bend Picnic grounds where we plan to have Lunch.

Map: Cotter Dam. **Meet at Coleman Court by 9.30 am or at the Cotter Bend Picnic area by 10.00 am. \$5 if you are a passenger. *****

BBC Facebook Page

Visit the facebook page to see photos, walk reports and information about upcoming activities. It is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BrindabellaBushwalkingClub/> You can set your facebook page to receive notifications every time there is a new post.

Yarrangobilly Caves Trip Report

Article by Peter Ford & photos by various participants



From 11 to 16 November, about 20 of us, using Yarrangobilly Caves House as our base, took part in walks led by David Wardle and in some guided cave walks. The number varied from day to day as people came and went.

After a coffee and cherry pie morning tea rendezvous in Adaminaby, we drove on for 13 km to the Kosciuszko Park boundary and took a pleasant walk along fire trails to Gavel's Hut for lunch where we encountered about 20 horse people. With passions running high (see the 'Save Kosci' campaign), we wondered if there'd be an altercation but lunch passed peacefully in the shade of the big trees.

The Park Rangers gave us a guided tour over our accommodation in the 'Caves House'. It consists of the '1901 Building', the '1917 Building', both named imaginatively after their dates of construction, and the Lyrebird Cottage. All have been renovated internally, the 1917 wing with 'en suites', dishwashers and other modern paraphernalia, but their original decor has been largely preserved. One change is that the 'Gentlemen's Smoking Room' of the '1917 Wing' is now 'The Blue Room'.

Later, we joined the others for pre-dinner drinks on the verandah of the 1901 Wing under the watchful eyes of resident kangaroos.

Day 2 - we drove to the 4wd parking lot on the Cumberland Track and walked the short distance to the Landers Falls lookout and then to Big Talbingo Mountain overlooking the Tumut River and Fiery Range to the east. On the way, we passed a lot of activity on the Snowy Mountains Highway related to the Snowy 2.0 project. It was about a 10 km walk and 500 m. climb. The northern part of the park is very different from the south - more thickly forested with tall gum trees and bird life. The views are also dramatic.

Our pre-dinner drinks were at the Lyrebird Cottage. A lot of new people had arrived and were staying for two days.



Day 3 - after early morning walks, we spent the morning on a tour through Castle Cave with hard hats and torches and the afternoon on a walk to Vickery's Hut, a historic log cabin.

It was a full day and we arrived back a little late for our drinks and nibbles. Smoked trout went down well for dinner.

Day 4 and it had been raining since early morning. The planned walk to the old copper mine was cancelled and instead we did another cave tour - this time into the Jersey Cave which is more spectacular, and much older, than the Castle Cave. It was still raining steadily when we came out so we abandoned plans for a circuit walk which would have taken in a lookout, and returned to the Caves House for lunch. Looking out on the rain from a sheltered part of the verandah with a book in hand may have been a better way to spend the afternoon.

However, the rain cleared and we decided to visit the 'Glory South Cave' - not as pretty as the other two but the vast chambers were certainly impressive. It was self-guided and slightly unsettling. When we regained daylight, we were happy to do the circuit track, taking in a lookout over the Caves House.

Day 5 - After a morning swim in the thermal pool, we finished the trip with a 21 km walk on the Coppermine Track to the Yarrangobilly River. At the start, there were many indications of activity associated with Snowy 2.0 - especially trucks and signs about washing all vehicles. We wondered if this was intended to avoid contamination of soil samples. The track took us through Snow Gum and Mountain Ash forests at 1450 m to the river at 840 m. Of course, this meant a climb back out of the same dimensions. It was a challenge but a fitting end to a very enjoyable trip.



On our final morning, Truus and I followed the track for a couple of km from the Caves House along the river bank to 'Glory Farm' ruins. There's not much there apart from a few graves but the Park's information panels tell the story of a pioneering family who ran cattle at Kiandra to keep the miners supplied with meat. Henry Harris arrived in Australia in 1858, acquired a land grant and prospered until he died from the effects of frostbite from a long journey in the saddle during heavy winter snow.

Thanks to David Wardle for organizing this visit to a lesser known part of the Kosciuszko National Park and for leading the walks.

Book the Trip Below Now

The trip described below is in the next program, but the deadline for bookings is on 10 December and you have to book through CBC's website. If you are interested in this trip and are unsure about how to book, please contact Janet for advice.

Fri 4 Jan – Fri 11 Jan – GUNUMA LODGE AT SMIGGINS – H/M/E Walks

Leader: Janet Duncan janet.nd58@gmail.com

Join a congenial group staying at Gunuma Ski Lodge at Smiggins for a week doing a variety of activities: walks, fishing, coffee at Charlottes Pass or simply enjoy being in the mountains. Walks may include easier walks e.g., Rainbow Lake, Waterfall, Porcupine Rocks, Island Bend and longer walks e.g., Mt Anton from Guthega, The Sentinel, Mt Townsend and beyond.

Self-cater for breakfasts and lunches. For the evening meal people are organised into catering groups of 4+ so you may only need to cook for one evening meal, depending on numbers. Previously this has worked out extremely well and is fun with delicious meals. The kitchen is well equipped with storage space for your food. There are TVs, lounges and a deck to enjoy life! Please check out www.gunumalodge.com.au

Accommodation: Cost is \$34 p/n, \$238 per person for 7 nights. Please book as a member or guest through CBC site and when approved details will be advised with **full payment by 10 Dec**. I will email information about the Lodge, a walks Itinerary and the evening meal roster.

Transport: \$120 return trip and pooled where possible. Each car will need a National Park Pass: \$17 p/d = \$102 or buy a year's Pass for \$190. Day walks will be charged following CBC/BBC rates.



Emergency+ Phone App

If you have a Smart phone, then you really should install the **free** Emergency+ application that can save lives. This App is available for both Android and Apple phones.

If you need help in an emergency, then you select the App and it will give you your coordinates (or a street address if you are not in the bush), which you can relay to the phone operator, and the choice of three buttons to press – one will dial 000, the second will call the Police, and the third the SES.

It does, of course, rely on your phone being in an area of coverage at the time.

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

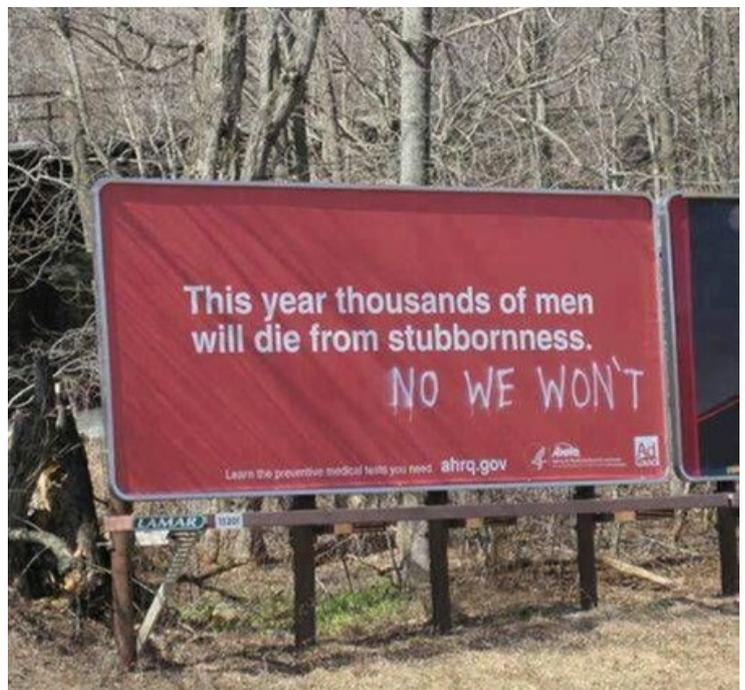
An article may be edited to correct spelling errors and to suit the newsletter's style by restructuring, cutting to fit, and even re-writing sections if the editor believes that will better appeal to readers.

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

New Members

The Club welcomes the following people who have joined us as members in the last couple of months.

Sue Byrne
Andrew Cupit
Jennifer Cupit
Pauline Ingall
Jurek Juszczuk
John Kelly
Leanne Shirley
Pat Van Steenwyk
Graeme Carey
Wendy Walker



Climbing Triglav (Slovenia)

Story and photos by Phillip and Jan Gatenby

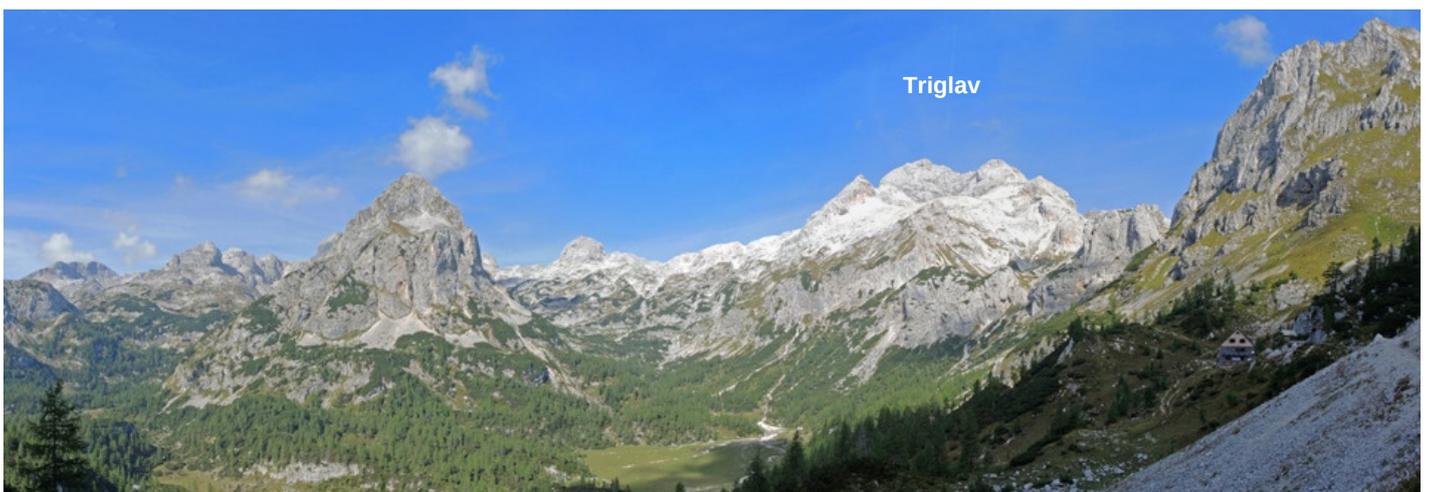
Such is the significance of Triglav in Slovenian culture that a stylised image of the peak (2,864 m, the country's highest) appears on the national flag. It's named supposedly after a three-headed deity who early Slovenes believed lived on the mountain and when seen from the south-east Triglav does seem to have three summits (or "heads"). All Slovenes are expected to climb Triglav at least once.



Triglav is the centrepiece of Triglav National Park (TNP), the only national park in Slovenia. The park covers an area of 884 sq km (about 4 per cent of the country). Moves to establish it started in the early 19th Century and the park was finally set up in 1924. TNP protects much of the Julian Alps, one of the mountain ranges of the Southern Limestone Alps that stretch from northern Italy to Slovenia and which also includes Italy's Dolomites. This group of 16 ranges are part of a larger grouping of ranges that form the European Eastern Alps.

When Janet and Terrylea organised a joint CBC/BBC trip to Slovenia and Croatia we jumped at the chance presented to us to climb Triglav. While not part of the program, the leaders of the club trip were happy for us to arrange a private two-day walk to climb Triglav.

There are several ways of getting to the final ascent of Triglav's summit. Generally routes from the north are harder than the southern ones. The Cicerone guide describes three of these routes, two from the north and one from the south. Each takes two days, climbing to a mountain refuge near the summit on the first then summiting and returning to the start point on the second. Surprisingly, the easiest and probably shortest route to the summit is not referred to in the Cicerone guide. It approaches from the east and joins the southerly route. The easterly route starts from a hamlet called Rudno Polje, easily accessible from Ribčev Laz by a free "hop-on, hop-off" bus. This route reduces the amount of climbing on the first day by almost 800 m. We chose to go this way but for our second day left our options open for getting back to Ribčev Laz - either retrace our steps to Rudno Polje or follow the Cicerone guide's route back to Lake Bohinj. Before the walk, the visitors centre in Ribčev Laz booked accommodation for us in a mountain refuge called Dom Planika pod Triglavom. From here Triglav's summit is about 90 minutes and a 450 m climb away.



The free bus dropped us at Rudno Polje at 10:25 am - the weather was warm. The many parked cars testified to the popularity of the place as a point to begin a climb of Triglav. We were walking by 10:30, initially up through forest and then under Viševnik (2,050 m) and over Studor Saddle (1,892 m) before contouring around the slopes of Tosc (2,275 m). At one place the track took advantage of a natural ledge a couple of metres wide with a precipitous drop-off on the exposed side.

Early afternoon we reached a picturesque refuge at about 1,800 m called Vodnikov dom na Velem Polju and enjoyed our lunch with views across a valley to Triglav. A sign in the refuge said "There's no wi-fi so you'll just have to talk to each other". Another climb after lunch of 600 m included a few cable-assisted sections around rock faces and finished with a zig-zag up a steep scree slope to Dom Planika, our refuge for the night. The refuge is 450 m below Triglav's summit and, in a fairly dry environment, is pretty basic with less-than-hygienic toilets and no water except for a dribble for teeth cleaning. A 1.5 litre bottle of water cost €4.50 (a beer was €4). The refuge, however, provided sheets. A lot of people were outside for the spectacular sunset, followed 11.5 hours later by a spectacular sunrise. We left at 6:30 am for the summit, ahead of most of the crowds, crossing a scree slope then climbing steadily over rocks, followed by a scramble up a cleft in the rocks, with the aid of cables and spikes.



Above the cleft were more spikes and cables as the route got steeper and a nearby refuge, Triglavski dom na Kredarici (Kredarica hut), became visible below. Just below one of the lower "heads", called Mali Triglav, our route joined the route from Kredarica and then the main summit ridge. Beyond this peak the ridge dipped and narrowed, then rose towards the summit. Now there was lots of scrambling upwards but most of the way there were steel cables. We passed people with helmets and via ferrata gear and some were even roped up. Both sides of the ridge had significant drop offs, particularly to the north into the remnants of Triglav's dwindled glacier. So many feet had been this way that in places the rocks were polished but fortunately dry. A few memorial plaques dotted the route.

The summit was less crowded than would be the case in an hour or so but still quite a few people were around. Alpine music was playing and some were drinking beer (at 7:50 am!). Many photos were being taken. The views were great, including of the other peaks in the Julian Alps and down towards Lake Bohinj. Since 1895 a two-metre tower called Aljažev stolp has graced the top of Triglav, serving as a storm shelter and triangulation point, and now a site of national cultural importance. It was removed for restoration 5 days before our climb and re-installed a few weeks later so we were among the relatively few people to climb Triglav without seeing the tower. We had to make do with a 20 cm replica. On the way down, after about half an hour on the summit, we had to give way to lots of people on their way up. Not long after leaving the top, I was startled by a whoosh of air and cries of delight as a paraglider soared past (photo earlier).

**Day's end
from
Dom Planika**



By 9:15 we were back at Dom Planika, retrieved the gear we'd left, then continued the long descent. With still so much of the day left, instead of returning to Rudno Polje and the bus, we decided to go all the way down to Stara Fužina, the village on Lake Bohinj that almost adjoins Ribčev Laz. Soon after Vodnikov dom (a morning tea stop this time) we turned onto the Bohinj track. The long walk down was mostly through forest. Nearing the end of the main descent our gently graded leafy surfaced track turned into a steep rocky 'road'.

The forest in TNP is under attack by bark beetle and dead and dying trees (particularly spruce) are being removed so in parts foot tracks have been bulldozed to allow forestry vehicles access. Hopefully these operations, while widespread, are temporary as it made for quite unpleasant walking. Jan, who had a sore wrist from an earlier fall, fell and landed on her wrist twice more on this steep and loose section.

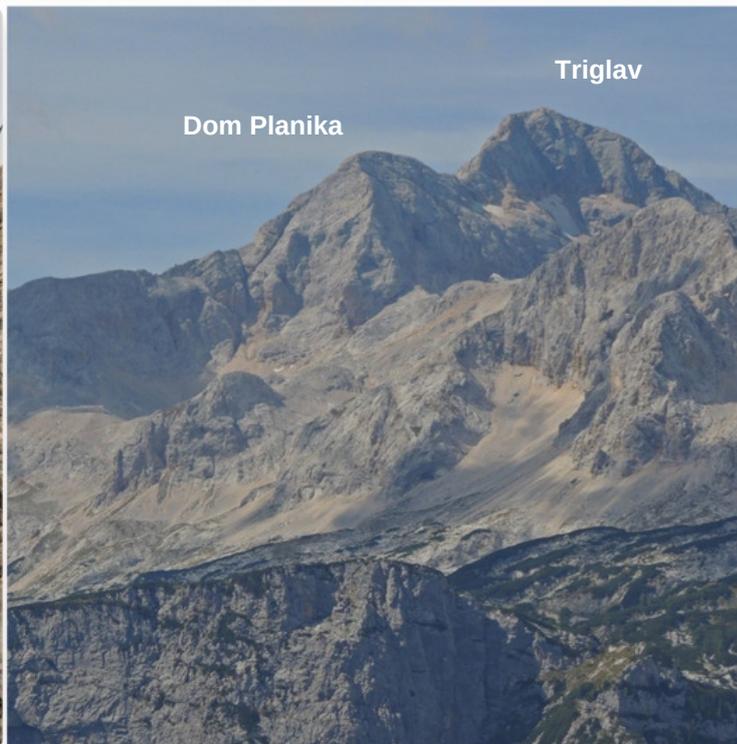
Summit and Aljazev Stolp



Cable Assistance



Triglav



Dom Planika

Further on we joined the track through the Voje Valley, beside the Mostnica River. At a refuge halfway up Mostnice Gorge, Planinska koča na Vojah, Mike and Annette Smith were having soup. Jan and I ate our lunch on a seat near the refuge and walked back to Stara Fužina and Ribčev Laz with the Mike and Annette for a well-earned ice cream and other refreshments. All up we'd walked 33 km, climbed 1,870 m and descended 2,690 m. This is a spectacular 2-day walk but only for those with a head for heights and good knees.

Save Kosci

The **Save Kosci** walk from Sydney to the summit to Kosciuszko is due to conclude in a few days. The walk is seeking stronger action on feral horse damage in Kosciuszko National Park.

You can follow the walkers' progress on the Save Kosci Facebook page.

There is a petition form [HERE](#), which can be printed (as many times as you need) and which you and your friends might like to sign. Petitions to the NSW Parliament need to be on paper (yep, dark ages - but that's their rules!) to have a chance of being presented in Parliament.

Completed petition forms should be returned to GPO Box 160, Canberra, ACT 2601 before 31 March 2019.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the force behind the campaign:
Linda Groom, Convenor, Save Kosci Inc, 0473 919 441

