

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



This 'n' That

President's Pontifications

It's getting warmer and the snakes are awake, so keep a good lookout and make sure you have a broad elastic bandage in your first aid kit just in case! It's also time to start carrying more water and possibly some hydralite tablets.

The committee for 2019-2020 is hard at work developing the walks program for the first half of 2020 and preparing for the upcoming social activities that are in the current program. The next of these is the Picnic in Weston Park on Friday 18 October - you should have received a reminder email by now.

If you have ever been on a walk that you enjoyed and would like to do again, please let the relevant walk coordinator know (their names and contact details are in the early pages of the program); they will then ask a leader to schedule this for the next program. Leaders are always looking for ideas or inspiration, so don't be shy.

David Wardle has developed a proposal for a multi-day 'Iconic' walk in the ACT. The details are in this newsletter and David would welcome any feedback, constructive criticism or advice you might have.

Peter Dalton

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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.

New Members

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

Amanda Gillespie
Neil Ferguson
Iowa and Ian Hawke
Stephen Hunter
Barbara Jesiolowski
Ralph Snowdon
Craig Mc Donald
Leslie Moore
Geoffrey Nelson
Helen Peake
Janette Ryan
Eva Sedlacek
Glenda Snape
Kasia Taylor
Michael, Jane, Daniel and Rebecca Tedeschi
Ian Tucker
Louise Curran
Melinda Walker
Paul Walker
Sue Watson
Zenobia Williams



Our new advertising tools on display at the Tidbinbilla Open Day



Not one of our 'new faces'

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 president@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.

WALKING IN THE ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

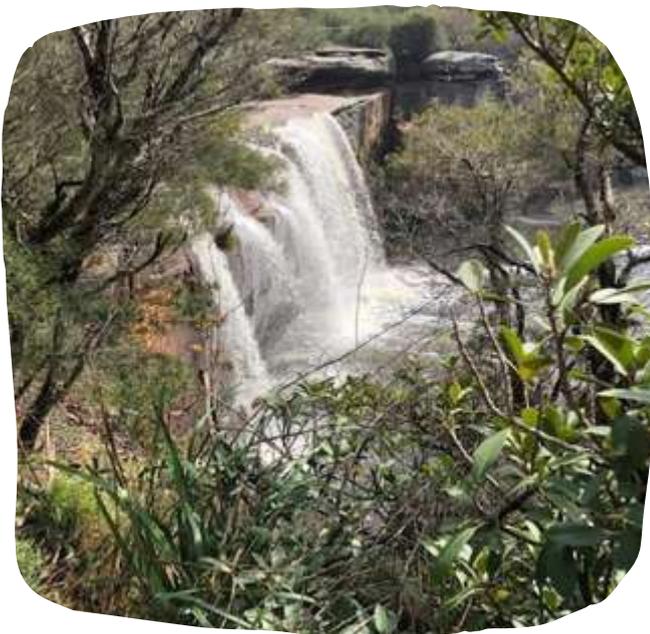


In mid September John Clune led a group of 17 people to stay at national park houses in Royal National Park. We were hoping to walk the coastal and inland tracks at the most beautiful time of the year.

It was not to be. Three days of heavy rain (70 mm) called for a drastic change of plans. Some of the group went to Sydney for a day, some went on short, sodden walks and others enjoyed the comfort of our various houses - reading, watching videos and snoozing. One disillusioned member went home.

The logistics were an added complication for John. Mobile phone coverage was difficult between two of the houses and impossible with the third. That house became even more isolated after the road between us was flooded. One of the houses had an access road that proved impossible for non four wheel drives in these conditions.

On Thursday it stopped raining. John led a small group on an inland track. It was a spectacular mass of wild flowers. It was also mostly ankle deep in water. We waded along until the track crossed a creek, now a raging torrent. Peter Wellman remarked that "it should be possible to get across if we're careful." The rest of us were not persuaded. And that was the end of that walk.



Walking in Royal National Park (continued)

Meanwhile, Jillian led one of the original coastal walks, which she describes below:

After three days of rain and with the sun now shining, twelve of us set out to walk the section of the Coast Track from Wattamolla to Bundeena, about eleven kilometres.

Lots of new track has been laid but despite this we were not denied the fun of taking our boots off in order to cross three swollen creeks.

The croaking of the frogs and the songs of many birds were a delight to hear. We were delighted also to see a pair of ospreys flying quite close overhead.

The wildflowers were abundant and beautiful. The Gynea Lilies were magnificent - the best I have ever seen them.



We walked at a very relaxed pace, taking lots of photos, not wanting to miss anything in this stunning landscape, and finished off with a welcome cup of coffee at Bundeena.

So - another memorable club trip away, although not in quite the way we had anticipated!

Iconic Walk For the ACT



Having done a number of so called 'Iconic Walks' recently such as the Three Capes and the Jatbula Trail I think that it is time that the ACT had an Iconic Trail. Kangaroo Island, Great Ocean Walk and others being developed are a great way to showcase and add minor infrastructure to a walking environment. There are many benefits, such as making some of our favourite areas more widely known, promotional attention to the Namadji National Park as well as local economic benefits for the ACT community with sympathetic and managed tourism. The Centenary Trail in the ACT is already well known with links to many of our suburban areas and reserves. A new multi day trail could do the same for Namadji.

In the past there had been a number of proposals for a high level new track carved along ridge lines and mountain peaks in southern Namadji - understandably, these were received with considerable opposition. My thoughts just link existing tracks and fire trails with appropriate signage and can easily be managed within the existing infrastructure and regulations of the national park. Most of the walk is along the Australian Alps Walking Track in the ACT and can be conducted in line with its requirements; i.e. permits, numbers of people and locations for camping (especially around the Cotter Hut area).

The walk would start at the Namadji Visitor Centre utilising the AAWT via Bushfold flats, Booroomba, Honeysuckle, and the link road to the Orroral Valley. Then continue on the grassy track up the centre of the Orroral Valley to the Smokers Trail and Smoker's Gap. The only less than pleasant part of the walk would be along the roadside of the Corin Road to the Corin Dam before ascending Stockyard Spur. Once at Pryor's Hut head south with a slight diversion to climb Mt Gingera before continuing all the way down the firetrail to the Cotter Flats where there are quite clear regulations for camping under permit that would be obtained from the Namadji Visitors Centre at the commencement of the walk where registration of walkers could be undertaken. Again, a side trip could easily be made along the AAWT to Murrays Gap to climb up Bimberi. Home would be along the AAWT to Orroral Tracking Station and then finish at the Orroral Campground. The walk could be done in either direction.

I think that this is a modest proposal and doesn't require the cutting of any new tracks. And within the current protocols for the AAWT, camping in the water catchment areas of the National Park should not present environmental or management issues for the Park administration. Appropriate signage and a guidebook would be required.

This walk would introduce people to the high country of the ACT with mountain peaks and alpine grasslands. It would showcase indigenous occupation and early European pastoral settlement and the wide range of flora and fauna of this region. What do you think?

David Wardle: wardle@webone.com.au

Walks and Social Program Jan - Jun 2020

The BBC Walks Sub-committee will be meeting on Tuesday 12 November to plan your Walks Program for the first half of 2020. The details are in the current program and if you would like to attend, please let the Walks Officer know.

To assist the leaders and potential leaders, it would be helpful if members who are planning extended walks/car camps away from Canberra could indicate the dates and areas they are intending to go. If these activities are forwarded to the Walks Officer by Monday, 14 October, he will send an email to all BBC members showing the planned walks for the next Program. Specific details are not necessary at this stage - just the dates involved, a brief indication of planned activities and the name and contact details of the leader. This, of course, does not exclude members wishing to add to the Program at a later date - it is just that it will help other members who may wish to lead walks and still participate in the away walks as indicated.

Leaders. Please start sending your walk proposals to the relevant sub-committee member so that they will be prepared for the meeting on 12 November.

Our Website

brindabellabushwalking.org.au

All the newsletters, the Walks Program, Club information and necessary forms are on the Club's website.

