

# BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



## **This 'n' That** *President's Pontifications*

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First the drought, then the heatwave with its accompanying devastating bushfires, and now pestilence. Until a couple of weeks ago, some of us were dismissing COVID-19 as just another type of influenza that would quickly run its course. Besides which, it was not an Australian problem. How wrong we were!

Later in this newsletter there is an important article on BBC's precautions for managing the virus, while still trying to enjoy bushwalking. The health authorities and federal government will no doubt impose new requirements as time goes by and we as a club, and individually, need to keep tuned.

Some of you might think we've gone too far and others will reckon we haven't done enough. What we haven't done is add restrictions over and above those that apply to the general community.

On behalf of the committee, I'd like to thank all of you who have contributed to our decision-making process.

On a happier note, there is a great article by Eric about Janet's walk in Braidwood. It was rated as an outstanding success and there could be more to follow.

Peter Dalton

## **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.

# COVID-19 Precautions for Bushwalkers

- Adhere to the latest advice from Government agencies - it is changing quickly.
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water or appropriate sanitisers. Carry a personal sanitiser pack, and avoid touching your face or shaking hands.
- Practise 'Social Distancing' (at least 1.5 metres apart) wherever practicable.
- If you intend to ride in someone else's car, have the exact petrol money ready. The drivers can collect the money and then sanitise their hands after everybody has paid.
- If you have travelled recently from any overseas location you must self-isolate at home for two weeks afterwards.
- If you have upper respiratory symptoms - fever, cough, sneezing, sore throat - you will not be able to participate in any bushwalking activities until the nature of the illness is clear and you no longer have such symptoms.
- Until forbidden by the authorities, our walks will continue as per the program, albeit with substitute walks as a consequence of the bushfires

Please stay healthy and safe and follow health authority advice to help prevent exposure to the Coronavirus

## COVID-19 - Guidelines for Leaders

**Leader.** If you don't want to lead the walk, let the Walks Officer know ASAP and the walk will be cancelled.

**Waiver Form.** Don't hand the form and pen around to everybody, but ask them to provide their names and phone numbers and record them yourself. This record will allow us to notify walkers if someone on the walk later contracts the virus.

**Isolation.** Anybody who has recently returned from overseas should self-isolate for 14 days and should not be on the walk.

**Coughs, sneezes and high temperatures.** Because some of us get runny noses and seasonal colds at this time of year, it will be difficult to decide if this is the case or if it is something worse. If in doubt, do not let them participate.

**Car-Pooling.** There are divided opinions about car sharing. At this time people are still allowed to cram into trams, trains and buses during peak hour, so it would seem that car sharing is a much less risky proposition. Some people will not want to car-pool and will prefer to take their own cars because it is impossible to apply 'Social Distancing' when in a car with others.

**General.** Participants should be complying with the government's guidelines regarding keeping a reasonable distance apart and personal hygiene. If someone is not covering their mouth when coughing or sneezing you will have to chide them.

I know we like to limit bureaucratic rules in the club, but we still need to do what we can to limit the spread of this virus, without cancelling our entire program.

## Social Activities

The autumn family picnic at Uriarra on 18 April will likely still go ahead. At this stage it meets all the current 'rules'.

There are several reasons why the **Potluck Dinner scheduled for 22 May** might not be held:

- The rules for indoor gatherings of this sort could prohibit it;
- Many of us are in the 'most at risk' age group and health authorities might not allow us to attend;
- Due to members being cautious, there may be insufficient interest to make it viable and; finally,
- St Margaret's church hall managers might not let us use the hall.

We expect to make the decision on the Potluck Dinner by the end of this month and will let you know by email.

## Vale Kathy Saw

Article and photo by Eric Pickering



Kathy is in the blue shirt

Pat and I recently attended a lovely farewell to Kathy Saw who passed away on 1st March 2020. It was in the English Garden in Weston Woods near the garden center, a beautiful setting with wonderful old trees casting shade over the now lush green lawns. I remember Kathy as an eager participant on some of the multiday packwalks usually joint NPA, CBC, FBI which Pat and I conducted into the rugged Yalwal, Ettrema and Budawang areas of NSW.

She never mentioned it to me, but I discovered Kathy had another life. She was Australian rogaining champion in her age group between 1977 and 1995 and is revered by her rogaining friends as both a participant and an administrator

I found a couple of pictures of Kathy in my collection. The one above is near Folly Point in the Budawangs (NPA/FBI walk 2004).

**Canberra Bushwalkers visit Braidwood  
21 February 2020**

Braidwood, Braidwood,  
Bushfires and Flood  
No customers, no money.  
Historic Town  
Janet suggests a walk and talk,  
And spend, spend, spend

We arrive, 9 of us, in Braidwood town and  
split  
To meet again for lunch.  
Janet, Peter, Pat and I, coffee  
At the Deadwood,  
Albion Coach House of 1872  
A rustic place to relax



And enjoy their special cake,  
While Keith, Kath, Robert, Mark, Jillian  
Hunt rare books.

History, historic cottages,  
Splendid homes  
Beautiful churches



Stained glass masterpieces,  
Rare Gargoyles shooting rarer rain  
Beyond walls to those below

Wonderful backstreets,  
We wander, imagine and wonder,  
Bridge named Archer,  
That wonderful horse.  
Two Melbourne Cups in years gone by

Shops, purchases,  
First class pocketknife or two.  
Good for car or bushwalk later.  
Me, a teapot! Pat, bushwalking pants.



Museum, magnificent,  
If you care to look  
Monkittee and Araluen, local tribes,  
Old wagons, old Mongarlowe lockup out  
back.



Upstairs, local lads,  
Clarke Brothers,  
Busrangers who shook hands  
With their captors,  
Then hung!  
Another story?

Lunch at Pink Hotel, superb!  
Vege pancake with salad,  
A Tofu salad,  
Pat and I shared.  
A great culinary experience  
With our group,  
Outdoors, in courtyard

Wonderful day.  
Great company.  
We say thank you Janet.  
A thoughtful walk  
To help our Braidwood friends.  
Let's do it again, you say,  
In another town,  
P'haps Majors Creek/Araluen  
Or coast,  
Good idea, let's do it!

**Eric Pickering 2020**

## Who, When, Where?



*From the archives, here is a photo taken on one of our bushwalks. If you know where and when it was taken or who is enjoying the water, we'd be delighted to hear from you.*

## 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](mailto: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.

## Our Website

[brindabellabushwalking.org.au](http://brindabellabushwalking.org.au)

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

# Namadgi National Park

In early February, David Wardle wrote to Brett McNamara, the Manager of Namadgi National Park to let him know that we are looking forward to getting back into the park but, more importantly, to let him know how much we appreciate the work he and his team do. To quote an excerpt from David's letter: "If you ever doubted why you and all of your Ranger colleagues do what you do, we just wanted to let you know how very much all of your joint efforts are so much appreciated."

Brett replied, and included some photos he had taken (on this and the the next page). His personal comments to David have been removed and the remainder of his reply appears below.

"It's certainly not lost on any of us that our summer of discontent has touched and altered so many lives. Ecologically, I sense that we are yet to fully comprehend the enormity of what has occurred. The mountains have burnt hard. Without doubt this summer has been etched in the pages of history.

Given the deep connection these mountains have across our community, with time, collectively we will commence our post fire recovery journey.

Experience suggests that some form of communal gathering to process, to understand, to grieve what has occurred provides a foundation from which to move on.

As a Park Service we will look to take these first steps with you in the days, weeks ahead.

Offering a personal insight, the devastating experience of Nth Kosciuszko, in particular the Kiandra heritage losses, certainly drove our resolve to steer the approaching flames around our built and environmental heritage.

While we have had good people doing extraordinary things, your ongoing support gives meaning and a sense of purpose to all.

Look forward in catching up with you in the mountains of Namadgi. Their resilience, will be our strength.

Brett McNamara"



