

# BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER



## *President's Pontifications*

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**Centenary Trail Route Change**

Thank you for the wonderful feedback you gave us about the April newsletter. The articles listing useful things to occupy you when you are not allowed to bushwalk seemed particularly welcome. Necessarily, of course, most of the options involved being sedentary. There are a few more of these in this newsletter.

It looks like relief is not too far away now, as the government has begun easing restrictions. You'll be informed of our plans as soon as we know the new 'rules'.

As all our trips away have been deferred indefinitely, I've included an article on Madrid, where I should be right now. If there is any interest, I will follow this with others on walking areas in southern Spain that I particularly enjoy.

The Willsons have also provided a great article on their Coast to Coast walks over the years, while David and Prue are telling us about urban walks we can still enjoy and which will be on the program as soon as it's legal to do so.

I've deliberately included a lot of photos in an effort to brighten your 'isolated' day!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and welcome your contributions for future editions.

Peter Dalton

# Virtual Great Train Journeys to Explore from Home

*Warning - some of these videos are very lengthy and you might run out of time to do those jobs you had planned!*



**The Flåm Railway, Norway.** Widely considered to be one of the most beautiful train journeys in the world, this 12-mile route takes you from the end of Aurlandsfjord, a tributary of the Sognefjord, up to the high mountains at Myrdal station.

[The Flåm Railway, Norway](#)

**Geibi Line to Fukuen Line, Japan.** You can get a taste of the Japanese countryside as you travel virtually from Hiroshima Station to Fuchū Station on the Geibi Line to Fukuen Line.

[Geibi Line to Fukuen Line, Japan](#)

**Bernina Railway - Switzerland to Italy.** The trip starts in St. Moritz, Switzerland on a perfectly sunny day and ends in Tirano, Italy via the high-mountain Bernina Pass.

[Bernina Railway, Switzerland to Italy](#)

**North Wales Coast - England to Wales.** This kicks off in Chester and quickly travels over the border into Wales, passing through lush countryside before hitting the coast and continuing west.

[North Wales Coast](#)

*There are a lot more of these train journeys, but this is probably enough for now.*



## Contributing Articles

Suitable articles are always welcomed and photos make them better, although it may not always 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.

# Madrid (for walkers)



**Crystal Palace in El Retiro Park**

*This is just an introduction to the city. There is a separate link at the end that provides details on nearby day-walking areas that can be reached by public transport so, if you are still interested, please select that link.*

## Getting to the City from the Airport

Taxi fares from the airport to anywhere in the city centre are regulated and the price is displayed – it was 30 Euros in 2019. The express bus is only 5 Euros and is great value if you know where to get off it and if you don't have much luggage to lug to your accommodation. ***Hint: travel any time in spring or autumn and you should get away with just a carry-on day pack - summer is too hot and winter too cold.*** However, for two people unfamiliar with the city, 15 Euros each is pretty cheap to get dropped at your door.

## Where to Stay

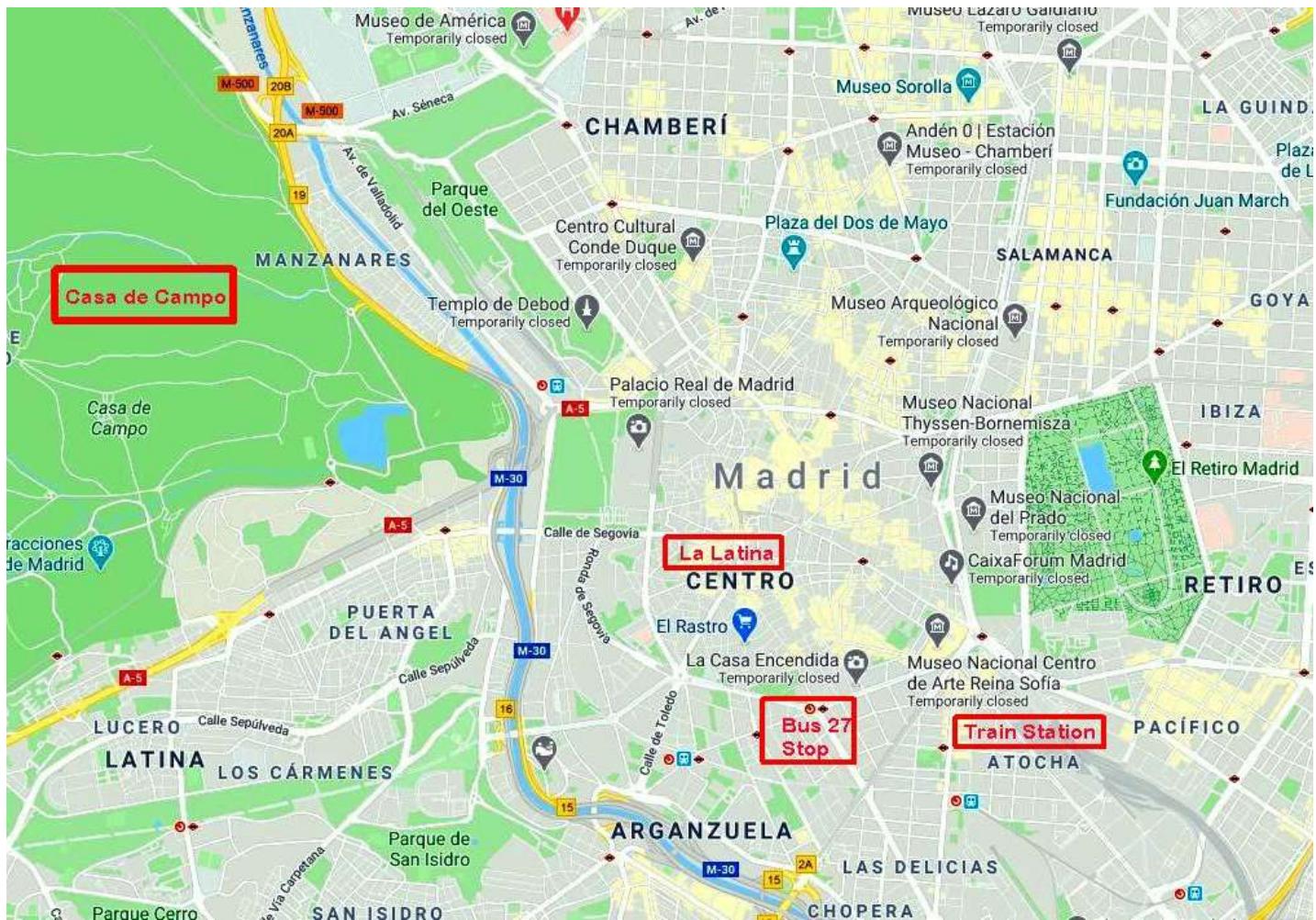
This is a very big city and you **must** stay in the centre of the old district, as is the case with most European cities. It will be cheaper elsewhere, but that would be like an international tourist staying at a hotel in Campbelltown when visiting Sydney – not much fun at all! Apartments are no dearer than hotels (but generally not as modern) and come equipped with washing machines and kitchens. The only downside with these for some people is that they could be on the third or fourth floor of a building without a lift – not a problem for bushwalkers with minimal luggage – but remember to check the details if it is a concern.

In addition to being near the major points of interest, you are also very handy to the central train and bus stations which allows you to head off on day trips in any direction.

The suburb of **La Latina** is ideal, but anywhere in **Centro** is good.

## How Long

This depends entirely upon your interests, but I'd say no less than 5 days.



This map extract shows the centre of Madrid

## What to Do

Being fairly unrefined, I never feel the need to visit every cathedral, religious statue or art gallery when overseas. I don't do this when visiting Australia's capital cities, so refrain when elsewhere. The Reina Sofia gallery in Madrid (need to look it up) is one exception because it isn't dominated by dark paintings of long-dead aristocratic Spaniards (did I mention I was unsophisticated?).

You will have done your research and will have selected 'must-sees' according to your personal preferences, so I'll concentrate on walking areas.

**Casa de Campo.** The normally placid Manzanares River flows through the city and the Royal Palace sits above it on the eastern side. On the opposite side (there are several bridges available) sits Casa de Campo, an often-overlooked park of more than 4200 acres almost in the city centre. This has walking and cycling tracks criss-crossing it everywhere and the high points afford excellent views of the mountains to the north, which are snow-clad up until late May. You can easily spend a whole day here and it is a good place to overcome jetlag on your first day.

The map above shows where it is. The lake you can see has several restaurants and cafes on its fringe. Select one where you see a lot of cyclists relaxing and you'll enjoy a generous (free) tapa with your well-earned drink near the end of your walk.

Website: [Casa de Campo](#)

**Retiro Park.** This more-formal park is immediately north of the main train station (Atocha - see the map) and covers about 350 acres. It is a welcome, green shaded area that is a retreat from the busy streets. There is a smaller botanic garden that adjoins it.



Retiro Park, too, has a large central lake with boats for hire and a smaller lagoon near the crystal Palace which is filled with photogenic tortoises. It is a pleasant break from the busy city streets.

Website: [Retiro Park](#)

## Day-Walks Away from Madrid City

There are some great walking areas sufficiently close to Madrid to utilise public transport to get there and back on the one day. Because not everybody is likely to be interested, the details and photos of these are in a separate document which can be opened by clicking here.

[Day Walks](#)

## BBC Facebook Page

Our Facebook Manager is regularly posting photos, walk reports and information about upcoming activities.

Please pay ia visit and see what our members are planning or have recently have been up to.

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

## BBC Website

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

*All newsletters are on the website.*

If you need the password to access the members' Area, please send a request by email to  
[webmaster@brindabellabushwalking.org.au](mailto:webmaster@brindabellabushwalking.org.au)

# A circuit around Wanniassa Hills and Isaacs Ridge

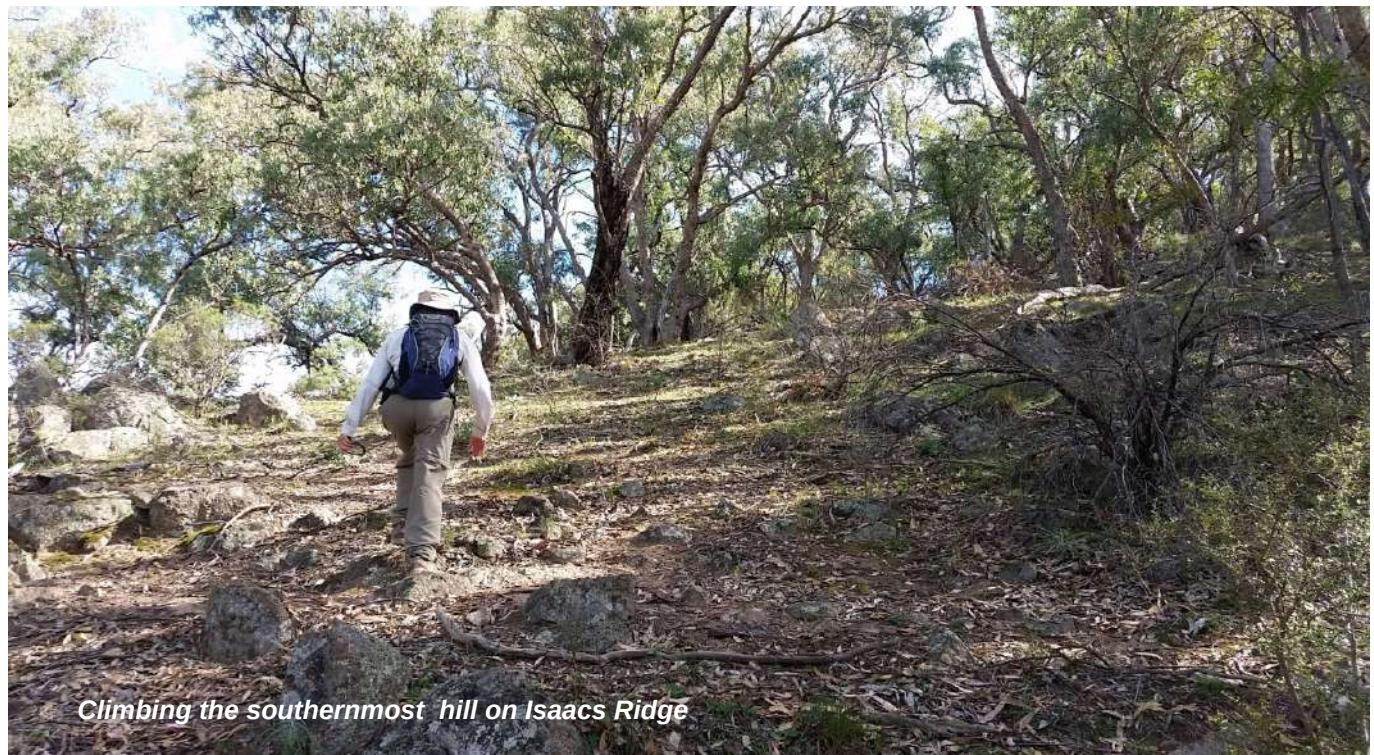
Prue Deacon and David Wardle, 22 April 2020

This was one of our walks in the nature reserves in the South Woden area. We were off-track for most of the way, in fairly easy woodland and grassland, with gentle climbs and descents and some nice rocks. It took about 5 hours. At various points there was traffic noise from Long Gully Rd and Mugga Lane - unavoidable but not obtrusive.

We parked on Long Gully Rd, near the turn-off from Yamba Drive. We crossed the road and headed straight up into the Wanniassa Hills reserve. We then walked along the ridge, roughly parallel to the Centenary Trail, towards a reservoir above Fadden. We stopped for morning tea (leftover hot cross buns, yum!) on a grassy slope with views to the east, including the glistening solar farm. From near the reservoir we followed a fence line to the north and through pleasant woods to Long Gully Rd, then followed the Centenary Trail up to the underpass and under.

We went back down through scrub on the other side of the road, trying to find a gap in the fence to get through to the southern end of the Isaacs Ridge reserve, but were then totally blocked by another fence. So we backtracked to the underpass. A little beyond we found some tyres positioned for climbing over the fence, which we did. (This particular fence seems designed to deter off-track vehicles from the reserve. There are several other fence remains from former uses of the area). We took a circuitous route to climb the hill at the southern end of the Isaacs Ridge. This was a lovely wooded and rocky area with nice views all around. From the top we continued towards the radio masts on the Isaacs Ridge but then stayed on the eastern side of the ridge below the walking/cycling track. But we were confused at one point to find ourselves in pine forest after climbing over a fence. We soon realised we had crossed over an old abandoned section of the ridge track. We climbed back over the fence further down and continued along the ridge to find a lunch spot with views to the east – Boral Mugga Quarry (explosions and dust), Fyshwick, Queanbeyan.

We descended to old farmland - the lower part of the reserve adjoining Mugga Lane - and wandered through grassland to Long Gully Road. (There is a proper entrance to the reserve close to the intersection of Mugga Lane and Long Gully Road). There were lots of patches of everlasting (yellow buttons) and new plantings of native shrubs and trees. We stayed in the reserve, walking parallel to Long Gully Rd back to the car - mostly woodland, then some grassy areas and exotic plantings from previous property use.



*Climbing the southernmost hill on Isaacs Ridge*

# Country to Coast Remembered

Lyn and Trevor Willson

In our current situation it may be difficult to look forward. The complete cancellation of the club's organised walks and bigger events like John Clune's New Zealand trip and Peter Wellman's Tumut trip leaves us all feeling a bit empty. And big question-marks hover over our plans for the coming months, or even longer

So perhaps it is a good time to look back a little and remember some of the good times we have had together around our shared interest in bushwalking.

The Willsons have been doing that, looking back over some photos taken on our Country to Coast trips and reliving some happy times and interesting places.

We have organised four such club trips, the first in 2010. The concept was simple:

- camping and walking trips of about 10 to 12 days in length
- walks at the medium to easy level
- a chance to get to know some of our regional centres and small towns
- and, obviously, starting in the country and ending at the coast.

Trip 1 started in Mudgee, with stops at Nundle, Apsley Gorge and Port Macquarie and ended at Crowdy Bay National Park.

Trip 2 kicked off at the Abercrombie Caves, then visited Oberon/Fish River, Kanangra-Boyd National Park, Blackheath and Wisemans Ferry and finished at the coast at Umina.

Trip 3 began in Nangar National Park near Eugowra, then went via Orange and Mount Canobolas to the Barrington Tops, then Port Stephens and finished in Newcastle.

Trip 4 began at Forbes, and then on to the Warrumbungle National Park, the Pilliga, Uralla, Cathedral Rock National Park and via the Waterfall Way to South West Rocks and Hat Head National Park.

There have been between 18 and 24 participants, in camper trailers, slide-on campers, tents, and, where available, cabins. Most of those who joined us turned up for more than one trip, but Bob and Joy Liebke and Colleen Fox are the only ones who have been a part of all four trips.



On North Brother overlooking Camden Haven River, Dooragan NP - Trip #1

Apart from many interesting walks through a wide variety of landscapes, some of our memories include:

- Happy Hour in the caravan park in Mudgee in 2010 listening to Rob Oakeshott's endless speech before announcing his decision on which government we would have for the following 3 years.
- Three people getting punctures on the one day on a newly graded road in the Barrington Tops. All of them blamed Trevor.
- The interesting guided visit to the historic woollen mill at Nundle.
- The snake man in Forbes who gave us an up-too-close experience with some of Australia's dangerous snakes.
- The walk up to the Breadknife in the Warrumbungle National Park.
- Terry O'Brien sitting himself down in the bush or in the main street of some of the towns we visited and knocking off a very competent sketch.
- Welcoming a young American tourist to join our happy hour – and dinner - at Gloucester River campground. He was travelling in a minute hired car with no camping gear, and slept on a picnic table. Rumours that Julie Pettit lured him into her tent with chocolate brownies have been denied.
- The Smiths' Pajero giving up the ghost completely near the observatory at Siding Spring, and having to be trucked back to Canberra.
- Kayaking near the mouth of the Hastings River at Port Macquarie, and enjoying watermelon on the beach at the end of it.
- The competitive wine tastings which were held on the second night of each trip. And having to help slide Bob Chittenden into his tent at the end of the evening. He refused to learn that you were supposed to spit after each taste. (Lesley McCann, by the way, proved that she has the most discerning palate in the group.)
- The rollicking good dinner we had in the banquet room upstairs at the Uralla Pub while a storm raged outside and the rain just bucketed down.



BBC group at Kanangra Walls, Kanangra Boyd NP - Trip #2



*Polblue Swamp, Barrington Tops NP - Trip #3*

We are often asked if there will be a Country to Coast Number 5

**Who knows?** The aches and pains have been increasing, the walks getting shorter and easier (and the coffee breaks longer). But Australia has a lot of beautiful coast, a lot of wonderful countryside and interesting little towns to explore. Maybe someday, when Covid-19 is but a memory, we may be able to get on the road again with a group of happy BBC walkers and explore some more country and coast.



*Breadknife walk, Warrumbungle NP - Trip #4*

# Canberra Centenary Trail – an Alteration to the Designated Route

David Wardle



*Looking down into Mugga Quarry*

On one of our various isolation walks, Prue and I decided to walk a section of the Canberra Centenary Trail that we had not tried before. We checked the Centenary Trail guide book, the Government's website and the online map. What we did not see though was an 'Alert' not particularly prominent on the website saying that there was a diversion in place. Of course we found this after further searching when we got home.

The section that we attempted to walk was from the back of Isaacs and O'Malley passing various horse paddocks, the Mugga Quarry and the back of the Murray's coach depot on Mugga Lane. There were no diversion notices in place and in fact a Centenary Trail marker still indicated the previous route, and we had done as the guide book suggested and followed the Horse Trail markers. Alas this section is now blocked permanently short of Mugga Lane up behind the Murrays Coach garages.

To follow the new route once you leave the O'Malley houses on your left (western side) don't follow the Equestrian Trail as suggested in the guide book but continue a further 50 metres on with the water tank in view and then proceed in a north easterly direction until you pick up the next series of newly installed Centenary trail markers. The track now heads around the northern side of Mugga Quarry almost hugging Hindmarsh Drive, circling down towards the Remand Centre and the designated crossing of Hindmarsh Drive and Mugga Lane.

The track has been diverted at some stage in the recent past because of a security fence now surrounding the old Mugga Quarry and cutting off the former route. If in the area do explore some of the numerous tracks which are interesting to follow, some of which we will put on when BBC walks resume.

## From the Archives

The photo below appeared in the last newsletter and John Ellis identified the lady in blue shorts as Gail Burns and the man third from the right as Pete Tedder. Can you put a name to any of the others?



What about these three chaps?

