

September 2020

Brindabella Bushwalking Club

Newsletter and Program



BBC



View to Red Rock on a recent walk led by Peter Ford

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Coronavirus Update

- * Some restrictions have eased , but they have no impact on bushwalking. The latest ACT updates can always be found here: [Updates](#)
- * Keeping your distance and maintaining hand (and respiratory) hygiene are essential.
- * If sharing a car, it may ease the concern of fellow passengers if you all wear masks.

BBC Website

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

From the President

Thanks to all who attended the AGM and elected our committee for the coming year— the details are on the next page. All reports will soon be in the Members' Area of the website.

I'm pleased to report that annual subscriptions remain unchanged and remind you that you can renew your membership by using the online form at the website, or simply press CTRL and click here — [Membership Form](#)

The members also agreed to leave the car sharing costs unaltered at 12 cents per person per kilometre. The committee will continue to monitor the situation.

COVID-19 restrictions are still with us and the key elements remain physical distancing and hygiene measures. Somehow, our leaders are still finding walks in or very near the ACT urban areas in order to keep driving distances short; there've been so many good ones this year that perhaps one of you might produce a book describing them all. Leaders may still impose limits on the number of people in some cases due to the lack of parking space at the start of the walk, so register early with the leader.

For the remainder of 2020, walks will continue to be announced as 'short notice' activities in the week prior. However, provided there has not been a second coronavirus wave in the ACT, our new Walks Officer and Sub-Committee are aiming to produce a full six-month walks program for the first half of 2021. The same cannot be said for social activities, which will be announced on an ongoing basis, depending on the rules pertaining at the time.

We need a volunteer to look after Facebook — please email me at president@brindabellabushwalking.org.au if you'd like to help us with this.

This newsletter includes a comprehensive report on what was apparently an excellent week at Ulladulla, led by John Clune. There's also a great article by David Wardle on the National Parks of Western NSW..

Due to a spot of clumsiness, I won't be walking for a while, but I hope to see you on a walk before too long.

Peter Dalton



Recent Snow on Mt Domain



The following members were elected to the committee for 2020—2021

President	Peter Dalton
Vice President	Prue Deacon
Walks Officer	David Wardle
Secretary	Julie Pettit
Treasurer	Lana Burmester
Membership Secretary	Davinia Wells
Training and Development Officer	Bob Chittenden
Social Convenor	Elaine Atkinson
Facebook	Vacant
Webmaster	Peter Ford

Our Hard-working Sub-Committee appointees for the new year are:

Walks Sub-Committee

David Wardle
Jillian Bellamy — assisted by Leigh Hermann
Peter Wellman
Kathy Handel
Robyn Kelly

Social Sub-Committee

Elaine Atkinson
Julie Pettit
Colleen Fox
Wendy Thompson
Monty Fox
Terry O'Brien

Emergency Officers: Doug Finlayson and Colin Boreham

Outgoing Committee and Sub – Committee Members.

We sincerely thank John Ellis, Helen Locke, Robyn Gallagher and Peter Boyland who are all taking a well-earned rest from the duties they have been performing for us in recent years, but particularly in the difficult circumstances that 2020 has brought. The AGM minutes have more to say about these members.

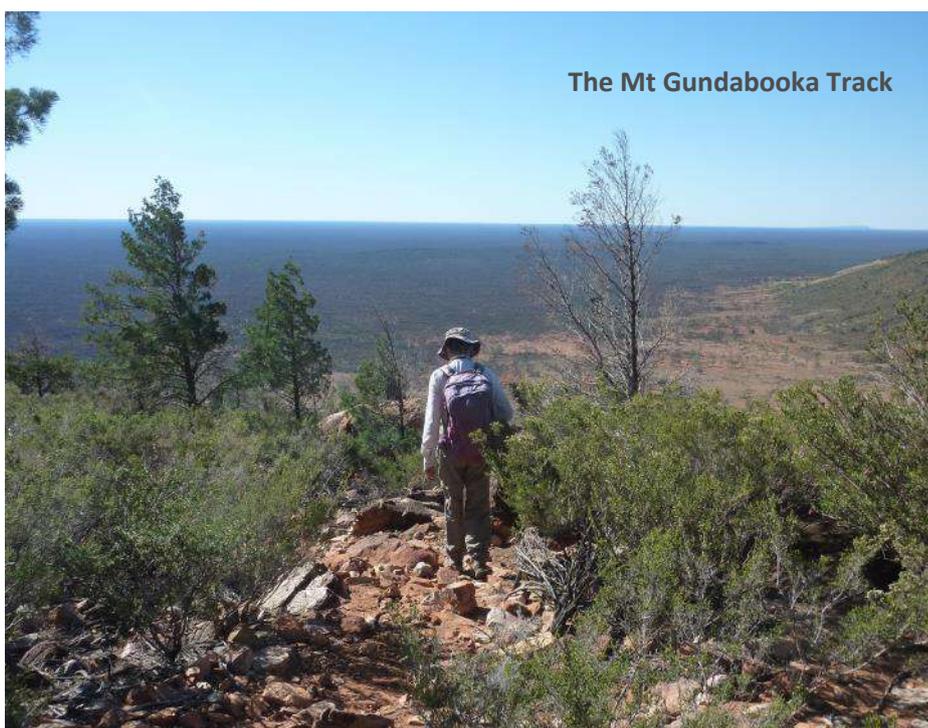
WALKING IN NATIONAL PARKS IN FAR WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

Article and Photos by David Wardle



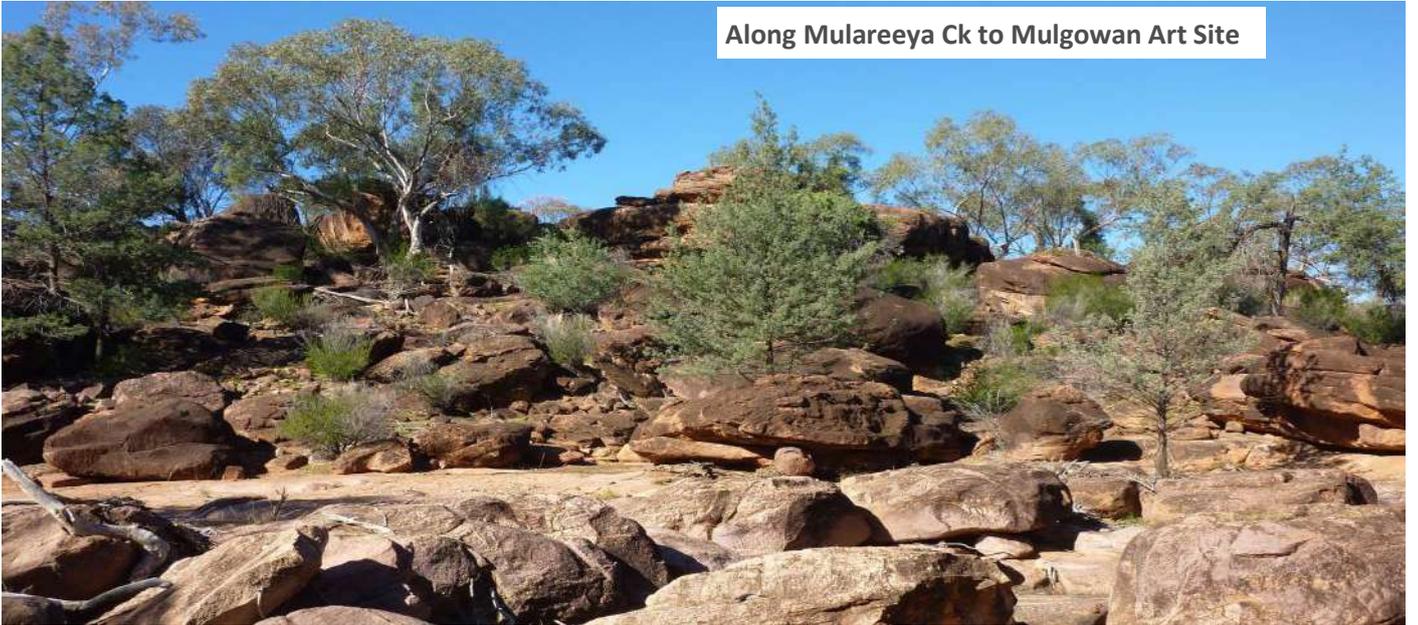
The View from the top of Mt Gundabooka

It had been a long-held dream to drive down along the Darling River from Brewarrina to Wentworth. It was such an interesting time seeing lands originally occupied by the Baarkindji aboriginals, then taken over by large pastoral stations, and again after each of the world was carved up for soldier settlement. We indulged in the remnants of the river boat trade, interesting river-side towns, old pastoral properties such as Dunlop and Kallara and of course food. However, exercise was also required so we booked into the Shearers' Quarters of two of the area's major National Parks – Gundabooka and Kinchega.



The Mt Gundabooka Track

Along Mulareeya Ck to Mulgowan Art Site



The Gundabooka National Park is south east of Bourke and stretches from the Darling River at the old Yanda Station to the Gundabooka Range.

The national park is made up of four former grazing leases with the centrepiece being the Gundabooka Range which rises 495 metres from the surrounding plains. There are a number of campgrounds, the Redbank Homestead and the Belah Shearer's Quarters. The walks range from easy to quite strenuous. One of the shorter walks takes you to the Mulgowan aboriginal art site where you can wander along the rocky overhangs and see at close hand the painted and stencilled images. The highlight walk of the park is the climb up to Mount Gundabooka, geologically a massive syncline of 385 million year old layers of hardened sandstone. The views of the Darling floodplain go on forever to the distant horizon. The vegetation changes from the River Red Gums along the watercourses to the mulga, white cypress pine and mallee on the hills. Emus have learnt to hang around the carparks with a few kangaroos on the ground and the odd eagle circling above. When night comes you could be the only person on the planet and the sky above will keep you transfixed until the cold drives you back inside.



Mt Belah Shearers' Quarters—At the end of a hard day's walking



Twists and Turns of the Darling River

While there are many National Parks in western NSW our next park was at Kinchega just south of Menindee. <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/kinchega-national-park> Not a hill in site here, so the walks are along the banks of the Darling River with numerous shorter walks around the interpretation of the Woolshed, Homestead and other pastoral activities. The Darling had almost stopped flowing at many places and alas now exists as a series of small weirs to trap enough water for the numerous small towns such as Louth, Tilpa and beyond. The riverside walk at Kinchega takes you to one of these weirs – Weir 32 – with a gaggle of pelicans waiting patiently below the weir hoping to spot a wayward fish flopping over the crest of the weir. A highlight of the walk is the boiler of the Paddle Steamer Providence flung up on the riverbank following an explosion with the destruction of the boat and death of the crew in 1872. At its peak Kinchega stretched from Menindee to the South Australian border and to the northwest past Broken Hill covering an area of over 800,000 hectares.



Paddle Steamer Providence's boiler

There is much to see and explore from the Fish Traps at Brewarrina, thought possibly to be the oldest human made structures on the planet, to the archaeological discoveries on the sandy lunettes at Lake Mungo. And I might mention in the strictest of confidence the discovery of the best pie floater that I have ever tasted at the Old Wharf Café in Pooncarie.

Ulladulla Explorations

21 - 28 August 2020

Written content by Peter Ford and Mary Lindsay — photos by Peter Ford and Sonja Weinberg



How was the view where you were?

Despite the difficult conditions created by the virus and the closure of many coastal national parks, eighteen walkers joined the trip, with most staying at the Big 4 Caravan Park at Burrill Lake.

To fill the six day program, John Clune, ably assisted by Bob Chittenden, had reconnoitred a number of locations near and far. Of course, the weather is another matter and the severe warning that was issued for much of south-east Australia, also covered Ulladulla.



High Tide at Rennie's Beach - John Clune and Mark Hopkins return to report on the result of their reconnoitre - 'sorry everyone, we have to climb over the headland'

Day 1 required an introduction to the area so we walked from Ulladulla back to Burrill Lake. This involved a mixture of beach walks and coastal heathland, providing opportunities to see a variety of coastal vegetation. A highlight was an unexpected sighting of four Red Tail Cockatoos as we climbed from the beach to the grandly named 'South Pacific Heathland Reserve' for lunch.

Day 2 began with a visit to the Burrill Lake Aboriginal Rock Shelter which is estimated to have been occupied for 20,000 years. It's worth checking the <http://baybushwalkers.org.au/burrill-lake-ramble/> website for more information. From there we continued in improving weather conditions on the very scenic Giriwa Goanna Trail recently built by the indigenous custodians of Burrill Lake.



Burrill Lake Rock Shelter

Left to right:: Mark , Lucinda , Brigitta , Terry , Dick , John , Liz , Ian , Truus (back in the shadows) , Lorena , Sonja , Jane , Mary , Helen & Peter

Day 3 was spent in explorations of the eastern side of Lake Burrill. We walked on track north from the Caravan Park to the Kings Point Reserve and along the lake shore where, with some advice from a local and a little bush bashing exploration by John Clune, we found a great place for lunch at the top of the lake. We returned by a more direct route through the bush.

The beach between Tabourie and Ulladulla



Day 4

By this stage many walkers had returned to Canberra, leaving nine hardy souls to complete the walk from the caravan park at Lake Tabourie back to Burrill Lake caravan park. We walked the (considerable) length of Wairo Beach, many of us getting wet feet in the process, then over Lagoon Head and down to a series of unnamed black pebbly beaches. This section was slow going as we scrambled over the black rocks, but memorable because of the series of rock shelves just offshore. The waves of high tide pouring over these rock shelves created a series of cascades. We left the beach at Dolphin Point and completed the day by walking back to the caravan park along the shore of Burrill Inlet.



Day 5

The day started badly when three of us failed to find the meeting point. After a good deal of stuffing around each group set off on its own walk, finally meeting up just after morning tea. The weather was perfect and the walk, starting west of Mollymook, took us through lightly timbered country to the banks of the beautiful Narrawallee Inlet. From there we walked south along Narrawallee Beach to Bannister's Point where we had lunch - unfortunately not at the luxurious restaurant of the same name.

From there, after a few deviations through the suburbs we continued south along Mollymook Beach then along rock shelves at its southern end to the lovely circular Collers Beach. We detoured over Ulladulla Head, following its Aboriginal signed track down to our finishing point at the northern jetty of Ulladulla Harbour, where the resident seal was still waiting for scraps from the fish cleaning station.



Day 6

Our final walk was in Murrumbidgee National Park. Starting at North Head lookout we walked through forests of spotted gum with an understorey of cycads, all miraculously untouched by fire. We ambled slowly back to South Durras, with forays down to the coast at Honeysuckle Bay, Oaky Beach and Little Oaky Beach. It was a stunning day - bright sunshine, no wind and 19C - a fitting end to another great John Clune walking trip.



Walks Program and Social Activities

Upcoming Day Walks

[If you don't receive emails about Wednesday walks, but would like to, just follow the instructions on the Club's [website](#)

Leaders will not accept bookings until after the detailed description has been emailed to you

Date	Grade	Leader
Sat 12 Sep	Easy	Ken Hird
Sun 13 Sep	Medium	Bill Gibson
Wed 16 Sep	Short	Robyn Kelly & Colleen Fox
Wed 16 Sep	Easy/Medium	Elaine Atkinson
Wed 16 Sep	Medium/Hard	Prue Deacon
Sat 19 Sep	Medium	Phillip Hope
Sun 20 Sep	Easy	Jillian Bellamy
Wed 23 Sep	Easy/Medium	CBC
Wed 23 Sep	Medium/Hard	NPA
Sat 26 Sep	Medium	Bill Gibson
Sun 27 Sep	Easy	Ken Johnson
Wed 30 Sep	Short	Robyn Kelly & Colleen Fox
Wed 30 Sep	Easy/Medium	CBC
Wed 30 Sep	Medium/Hard	NPA
Sat 3 Oct	Medium	Peter Dalton
Sun 4 Oct	Easy	John Clune
Wed 7 Oct	Short	Robyn Kelly & Colleen Fox
Wed 7 Oct	Easy/Medium	Terrylea Reynolds
Wed 7 Oct	Medium/Hard	Peter Wellman
Sat 10 Oct	Medium	Prue Deacon
Sun 11 Oct	Easy	Davinia Wells
Wed 14 Oct	Easy/Medium	CBC
Wed 14 Oct	Medium/Hard	CBC
Sat 17 Oct	Easy	Ken Johnson
Sun 18 Oct	Medium	Peter Dalton

Walks Program and Social Activities

Leaders will not accept bookings until after the detailed description has been emailed to you

Date	Grade	Leader
Wed 21 Oct	Short	Robyn Kelly & Colleen Fox
Wed 21 Oct	Easy/Medium	John Ellis
Wed 21 Oct	Medium/Hard	Leigh Hermann
Sat 24 Oct	Easy	Colleen Fox
Sun 25 Oct	Medium	Prue Deacon
Wed 28 Oct	Easy/Medium	CBC
Wed 28 Oct	Medium/Hard	NPA
Sat 31 Oct	Easy	David Wardle



Advance Notices — **subject to coronavirus restrictions**

Trips Away

Thu 15 - Thu 22 and Thu 22-Thu 29 Oct 2020 — WILSONS PROMONTORY AREA, VICTORIA —

lower Medium walk: led by Peter Wellman (62885985), Peter Ford (61612470, pford@pcug.org.au). Two parties will go to the area, the first led by Peter Wellman and the second week by Peter Ford. The walking groups will stay near Yanakie just west of Wilsons Promontory and for 6 days will go on lower medium grade walks.

The main accommodation will be in three cabins for four people in each, at a cost of about \$63.75 per person per night (Buln Buln Holiday Cabins www.bulnbuln.com.au). Walkers may stay at other local accommodation/motor camps (there is at least Telstra phone coverage). The walks are mainly Wilsons Promontory NP, with one in the Strzelecki Ranges and another in Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. This is a good time for flowering time. The distance from Canberra to the accommodation via Cann River Valley is about 665 km, so about 7 h 40 min driving, but with stops it takes about 9 h 10 m. The cabin accommodation needs to be held by a deposit of \$171. Interested walkers should contact Peter Wellman by email: wellman@iinet.net.au.

2021

May 2021 – Walking in Austria, Stubai and Zillertal Alps - Easy and Medium walks.

Leader: John Clune. One week at Mayrhofen in the Zillertal Alps, possibly staying in Hotel Garni Hubertus. These towns are south of Innsbruck. It is likely that we fly into Munich and take a train or bus to our accommodation. Both towns are in valleys near Innsbruck and are at the end of train lines. Contact John at j.clune@bigpond.com if you are interested in going.

Facebook

Our Facebook Manager regularly posts photos, walk reports and information *about upcoming activities*. Please pay a visit and see what our members are planning or have recently have been up to.

<https://www.facebook.com/BrindabellaBushwalkingClub/>

Helen, our Facebook Manager, has done a wonderful job for us, but is now going to take a break.

If you use Facebook, you already have the skills needed to take this role on.

Please let the president or secretary know (by email) if you are interested in joining the committee in this capacity.



Isaacs Ridge Wednesday Walk—before the afternoon rain