

# BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB CHRISTMAS 2019 NEWSLETTER



On behalf of the Brindabella Bushwalking Club committee, I would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas break before kicking off into the New Year's activities.

You will all have received the program for January to June by now and seen that our leaders have come up with another terrific offering of walks and social events. For what I think is a first for the club, we even have something planned for every weekend in January. With the current heatwave, this might seem a bit ambitious, but I hope not.

The first social event for the year is the Mt Ainslie Sunset Walk on Friday 7 February. This is always a pleasant gathering, with snacks and drinks provided by the social committee at the summit. If you aren't up to doing the walk, just turn up at the top anyway for a catch-up with your friends.

The bushfires, which are not yet extinguished, have devastated much of Tallaganda National Park, the coastal bushland between Batemans Bay and Ulladulla, and are now burning through the Budawang Wilderness area and the southern sections of Morton National Park (more details later). This will impact our walking program somewhat and we can only hope that Namadgi and the Brindabellas escape the fires through this hot, very dry season.

There is a report on the recent trip to Jindabyne and also a couple of brief items in this newsletter that I hope are of interest to you.

*Peter Dalton*  
President



## Corrected Walk Description

A gremlin caused an error in the walk description for Sunday 5 January - the corrected description is shown below and an email will also be sent out in the week before the walk.

### **Sun 5 Jan – PINE ISLAND TO POINT HUT AND RETURN SWIM, WALK – 7 km Easy (5)**

**Leader: Bob Chittenden (62310856).** We start this walk at the southern parking area at Pine Island (closest to Point Hut) and follow the track to Point Hut and cross the road to the swimming spot and morning tea. We return to Pine Island for another swim and lunch. Total climb about 60 m. Maps: Tuggeranong and Williamsdale. Cars: **Meet at southern parking area at Pine Island** (closest to Point Hut) GR 872775 so that you can swim/party at Pine Island after lunch for as long as you want. Start 9 am – early start to avoid the heat and expect to finish before lunch.

**This modification deletes the following from what appears in the program:**

*"Climb: 150 m max. Cars: 70 km (\$8). Map: Tidbinbilla. Meet at K at 8am \*\*\*.*

## Topographic Maps of Victoria for Mobile Devices

These are now available online - For the details, click [here](#)

## Ambulance Cover

An ambulance journey in the ACT now costs \$982 if you aren't covered by private health or a pensioner health care card.

## Bushwalking NSW Newsletters

The latest Bushwalking NSW Newsletter is available by clicking [here](#)

You can subscribe to the newsletter if you'd like to receive it regularly.

## Closure of Parts of Namadgi National Park

More than a quarter of the Namadgi National Park will be closed for the rest of the summer due to the increased risk of bushfires.

The Bimberi Wilderness, a 29,000 hectare area of the national park, will be closed until the end of March.

It's the first time the area will be closed to visitors for an extended period of time since the 2002-03 summer, when the Canberra bushfires ravaged the ACT.

ACT conservator of flora and fauna, Ian Walker, said the decision to close the national park was made to protect the community.

"This is about being precautionary. We know that fuel moisture levels are low and temperatures are increasing and there's no sight of rain or cooler conditions coming," Mr Walker said. "It's a remote area of the national park and it's rugged and access is relatively limited, but we want to make it clear to people it's closed because of the increased fire risk across the ACT and across the country."

The national park closure will affect the ACT section of the Australian Alps walking track, along with Pryors Hut, Mount Gingera, Mount Bimberi, Cotter Hut and Upper Cotter.

Public access will be closed at the Ginini car park on Mount Franklin Road, Stockyard Spur, Smokers Trail and Cotter Hut Road. The closure will be enforced with road blocks and signage across roads leading into the national park.

Mr Walker said **further closures to other areas of the national park were on the cards if conditions continued to deteriorate.**

## Other National Park Closures due to Fires

**The Morton National Park**, south of Braidwood Road, is closed until further notice. The fires are expected to move through the old Tianjara artillery range where firefighters are not permitted to enter because of the danger from unexploded ordnance.

**Budawang National Park** is closed and the fires are now spreading north and north-west through Byangee Walls and The Castle. Water bombing is being conducted whenever aircraft can be spared, but it is likely that most of the wilderness area will be burnt.

**Meroo National Park**, **Berimbamala National Park**, **Clyde River National Park**, **Cullendulla Nature Reserve**, **Murramarang National Park** and **Murramarang Aboriginal Area** also remain closed.

# A Stay at Jindabyne and Bushwalking

*By Judy Lejins*

*Photos by Heather and Lana*

In November I arranged a four day stay at the Canberra Alpine Club Lodge in Jindabyne for a group of BBC members. Most of the group were in the 'upper age bracket' and wanted just easy or very easy walks. Some who were recovering from 'repair jobs' to their legs were happy just to do small strolls and relax on the balcony enjoying the view over the lake.

On the first afternoon (Friday), we walked from the lodge along the lake where we looked at the statues and the war memorial, the group were impressed with the statue of Strzelecki, which is quite an imposing piece of work.

As we had walked in the Perisher area in previous years, this time I chose walks on the Thredbo side.

On our second day we drove to the Cascade Hut turnoff, about 5km past Thredbo, where we parked the cars and walked to Bobs Ridge, a return walk of 9.5km and climb of about 390m. There are large rock formations on the ridge with extensive views across to Victoria. We perched on rocks or sat on the grass to eat our picnic lunches before making our way back down to the cars.

On Sunday we drove to Thredbo. I had not anticipated the hundreds of mountain bikers who had gathered in the village for a downhill competition, but, we managed to find trails shared with only the occasional bike. Most of our group did the River Walk, a 4km loop along the river and back above the golf course, others did the Meadows Walk, tracking a bit higher and 7.5km. Again a picnic lunch but this time followed by a coffee stop at one of the cafes in the village.

On the Friday and Sunday evenings we had potluck dinners, each member providing either a main course or a dessert. On the Saturday evening we enjoyed a sumptuous Persian Banquet at Café Darya, a couple of minutes' walk from the lodge.

I had planned a town walk in Cooma for our last day but many of the group decided to head home, and whereas on the previous days the weather had been sunny but mild, this day proved to be hot. One of our group is a member of the Raglan Gallery, so those of us not in a hurry to get home, were given a tour viewing the paintings done by local artists.

The poem on the next page was written by one of my group.

# Listening to the Wind

*By Gerry Jacobson*

Out with the bushwalking mob.

We head into the upper reaches of the Thredbo River,  
and I've forgotten how beautiful it is.

Lunch in the tussock, my back to a snow gum,  
listening to the wind.

Didn't Rae and I walk through from Victoria in the glory days,  
dancing over the Cobberas Range with packs on?

And didn't I come through here with Graham and others  
in mist and falling snow?

Head down, I struggle up the steep track.

There are great heaps of horse dung.

Who owns this national park?

Snow, breeze and the smell of zinc cream ...

plodding through sunlit tussocks  
and the high plains stretching.



Some photos taken during the Jindabyne Trip



