

Brindabella Bushwalking Club

June 2021 Newsletter



BBC



Magnificent old unburnt tree alongside Rendezvous Creek

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Coronavirus Update

- * The latest ACT updates can be found here: [Updates](#)
- * Keeping your distance and maintaining hand (and respiratory) hygiene are essential.

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



We had our first snowfall on 15 May

From the President

Next Program. The Walks Officer has nearly completed the program for July to December, so you can expect to receive it in the coming weeks.

Trip Reports. No new trip reports have been received in the last month. However, Trevor Willson has provided an excellent article on trips with UK company, Ramblers, that club members have enjoyed in the past. Perhaps we'll be able to embark on some of these journeys by this time next year? Thanks Trevor.

Bushwalking Manual. Bushwalking Victoria has been developing a manual for many years and now that it has been produced, Bushwalking NSW has adopted it. The Manual says that it "provides Information and guidelines for safe and enjoyable bushwalking". Some misguided person at Bushwalking NSW has described it as 'the rules', but I'm sure they'll soon retract that statement! It really is comprehensive and contains excellent advice for walkers, leaders and committees alike. A link to it is now in the Links section of our website. You can also go straight to it from here [Bushwalking Manual](#)

Annual General Meeting. This year the AGM will be held on Tuesday 31 August - still three months away and there will be plenty of reminders between now and then. A couple of our committee members would like to move on and would prefer not to be renominated for 2021-2022. Remember, this is a 'committee of management', so your bushwalking experience and expertise are not as important as your administrative abilities. Please consider volunteering for a committee position.

Peter Dalton

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/>

Please send your walk reports and photos to Heather at
facebook@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

Remember when....

Remember when it seemed that half the members of the club headed off for overseas adventures at this time of the year? Those times may come again, but it doesn't seem that it will be anytime soon.

So maybe it's not a bad time to think back to some trips that club members have enjoyed in years past. As you would expect with such a fit and adventurous group, a wide variety of trips have been undertaken, many independently, but more with trusted travel companies which offer the experiences members are seeking.



Competa, Southern Spain

Top of the list of walking-focussed travel companies which have been used by BBC members over many years would have to be the British company Ramblers.

Ramblers Walking Holidays began life in March 1946 originally as the commercial wing of the Ramblers' Association, a walking club, to sell books, establish some guest houses for walkers – and to organise walking tours, mainly on the continent but also in the UK.

In a cramped, shared room in Buckingham Street in London the founding figure of Ernest Welsman began planning the first holidays in those early days of package travel abroad.

By 1948, the company had a whole room to itself and had launched its first winter program. A year later, 600 clients were travelling on 40 different itineraries, and after five years, Ramblers' Association Services (RAS), the company's original name, was carrying 3,000 clients a year.

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In 1946 'A walking tour of Arctic Lapland' was advertised for the following 1947 season, at a cost of £46 for 24 days, and necessitating 'a readiness to walk strenuously when occasion demands, as it often will' and clarifying that 'nailed boots must be worn'.



In 1949, the brochure description for a 22-day holiday to Portugal began as follows:

'Be warned! The travelling on this trip may be tough. Third class London to Lisbon overland takes four days ... (average progress 15 miles an hour) and requires at least eleven changes. Incredibly slow and unconscionably late, the Spanish trains offer something new in overcrowding and discomfort even to London straphangers. You should be capable of entering trains by the window and of fending for yourself if the party splits up for the journey across Spain. Portugal is the most foreign country in Europe except for the remoter parts of the Balkans.' The same brochure observed that 'we do not seek British standards except in sanitary matters; much of the fun of going abroad is lost if you try to take Britain with you.'

The company has grown exponentially over the years and their catalogue now offers over 250 guided holidays at various levels of difficulty on six continents. And it is no longer a requirement to be able to enter a train through the window! One reason for the quite modest costs of their holidays is that many of their guides are not fully salaried – they do their guiding for the love of it and have their own travel and tour costs and incidentals etc covered by the company. The quality of the leaders, their knowledge and love of the area covered by the tour are features of the company which our club members have valued – and which have led to many return customers.



Club members on a Ramblers trip in Western Crete

John Clune, who has done numerous trips with them over the years says “I have nothing but praise for this company – and for its sister organisation, Holiday Fellowship. And they are very good value for money.” John actually met his wife Liz on a Ramblers Greek Island tour. They have also done two of the “Cruise and walk” trips, and been to Spain and Italy with Ramblers.

Mary Lindsay and Peter Wellman took Ramblers trips to Corsica, North Portugal, Cuba and Morocco amongst other destinations. In fact, Mary thinks that maybe their trip to Corsica – along with John Clune and Andrew Walker – may have been the first Ramblers trip that anyone in the club had done.

But it is Judy Lejins who takes the cake: since starting in the 1990s she has done fifteen Ramblers trips. And to a wide range of destinations, including South Korea, Mexico, Chile, Egypt and Mauritius. The most interesting, she reports, were to Bhutan, Reunion and Ecuador. Clearly a satisfied return customer!

One interesting aspect of Ramblers is that it is registered as a charity and profits are channelled back into a variety of outdoor, walking-related or environmental conservation projects - things like track repairs, improvements to signage and grants to small local walking groups.

Namadgi National Park Roads Update

Orroral Road. It seems that it'll be quite a while before we can get back into the Orroral Valley (by the road, anyway). ACT Roads are responsible for maintaining sealed roads and unfortunately other priorities have prevented them carrying out the necessary repairs at Rocky Crossing.

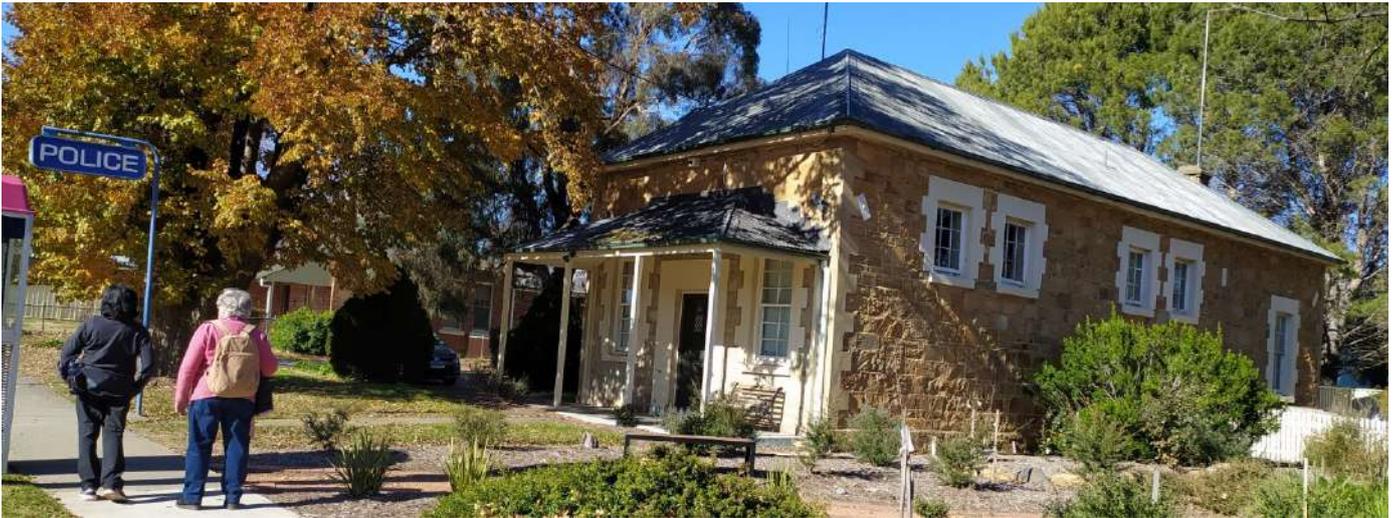
When upgrading river and creek crossings, there is now a need to consider 'fish passage'. The photo below shows what the crossing used to be like. You can see that in normal times fish could not move freely along the Orroral River, and after heavy rain would be shot out through the culverts. The requirement to address this will be complicating the task.

While there is no estimate of when the work will be done, perhaps they might create a temporary crossing?



Orroral Ridge Road. While much of the flood damage on unsealed Orroral Ridge Road (the road that goes from Honeysuckle campground up towards Legoland) has been repaired, there is still a problem with damming that is delaying its reopening. Once again, there is no forecast for when the remedial work will be completed and we'll be able to drive up there.

Social News



The Police Station was originally the old court house

What a marvellous day we had in Bungendore on Monday 31 May with a fabulous group of 24 club members (2 nonagenarians) and 1 visitor!!!

We are indeed a walking, talking coffee club. We enjoyed morning coffee at the Café Wood Works, followed by a town historical walk, browsing the local shops and then lunch in the beautiful sunshine in The Village Square.

What a happy outing and a perfect day to the end of autumn.

Elaine and the social sub-committee



The Oriental Bank was built in the 1870s and featured in the 1969 Ned Kelly film with Mick Jagger

BBC boosting Bungendore's Economy



After morning tea at the Woodworks Café



The group enjoying lunch in the Village Square

Some Club Photos



*Peter Wellman led a weekend group to these substantial ruins near Cronin Forest (Rossi area).
Note the unusual angled chimney — there is one at each end.*



*Recognise the people in this photo from the Bungle Bungles in June 1992?
The names are at the bottom of the next page*



Found just above a creek in Namadgi. When full, this would have weighed over 60 kgs.



18 walkers enjoyed Eric's recent Tidbinbilla Ramble—too many to name!

*The people in the photo on the previous page are (from left to right):
Mary Hoffman, Ray Franzi, Eric and Pat Pickering, Jennifer Hand, Mary Lindsay, Peter Wellman, and Allan Mikkelsen*