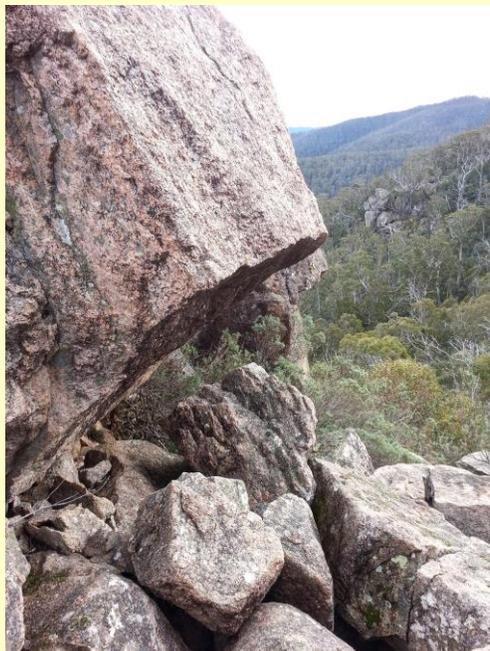


Brindabella Bushwalking Club Newsletter

August 2016



Below Square Rock

From The President

The Annual General Meeting is fast approaching - **Tuesday 6th September** at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm at St Margaret's Uniting Church Hall, which is at the corner of Phillip Ave and Antill St, Hackett. **Note the new venue this year.**

You will all receive an email copy of the agenda and information about some proposed changes to the club's constitution to be considered at the meeting; the new committee will also be elected.

The Treasurer will be on hand to accept subscriptions as well, so please bring your completed membership form along if you haven't already submitted it.

See you on a walk soon. David Wardle

BOM Beta Site

The Bureau of Meteorology has created a new website that shows very detailed forecasts for any location (this will actually be for the nearest weather station - e.g. the forecast for Michelago will be based on Tuggeranong's). The website provides 3-hourly forecasts for wind, rain and temperature and is a good guide for bushwalkers.

The website is: <http://www.bom.gov.au/places/>

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Leader's First Name & Phone Number

An abridged walks program appears on the club's website for all to see. Potential new members read this but then, because they can't contact the walk leaders, they email the Membership Secretary. She then gets in touch with the Walks Officer and the walk leader, one of whom phones or emails the interested person to discuss attendance at a particular walk, and membership in general. This is a lengthy process, made more so if the membership Secretary is away at the time.

The committee has decided to include walk leaders' first names and phone numbers in the publicly-available program on the website, to allow enquirers to speak with the walk leader in the first instance.

Any leader who does not want their contact details published in this way will need to tell the Walks Officer when they submit their walk proposals for the program.

Your Photo in the Newsletter or on Someone's Facebook page

In Australia:

- There are no laws that stop someone taking your photo or video in a **public place** and then posting it online.
- There are no laws that stop someone posting photos or videos of you taken from a **public location**, even when you are on **private property**.
- It is a crime for someone to take a picture or video of you doing a **private activity** if you didn't know or didn't agree. Private activities are things that you do in private when you don't expect to be watched. These could include undressing, using the toilet or engaging in a sexual act.
- Any photos you've **taken in public** - which is considered any place where people have no reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g. bushwalking) - can be published online without getting permission first.
- You have no expectation of privacy in anything you do in public. This includes where you go and what you do while you're there.
- If you're in a **public place** and someone snaps a picture of you while you're falling down drunk, getting arrested, picking your nose, scowling at a crying baby, or not wearing pants, there's probably nothing you can do if that picture shows up online somewhere.

Simple courtesy and etiquette, however, mean that **we should ask** if the people in the photo mind it being placed on your facebook page or in the Club's newsletter. In particular, don't put up any photos that might cause embarrassment, without asking first.

For example, I asked before using the photo below.

The Rules for Walkers, the Walks Grading System and the email addresses of the Walks Committee are all in the current Walks and Social Program



Bob at Rest

Bush Explorers Encyclopaedia

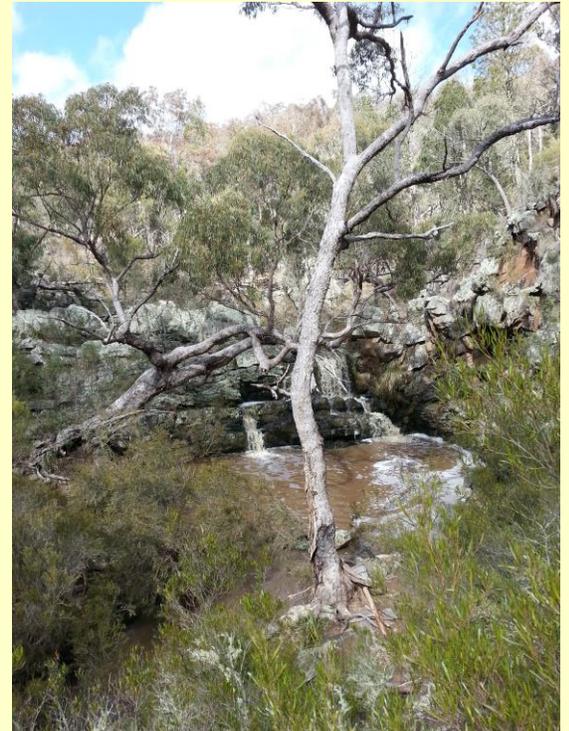
On line right now is a new, free, interactive resource for all bushwalkers to help plan walks in the Gardens of Stone National Park, part of the western Wollemi National Park and part of the Blue Mountains National Park - the Bush Explorers Encyclopaedia.

Using the website www.bushexplorers.com.au you can now find complete data and in most cases a picture, about over 1100 of the stunning features to be found in these unique areas.

The discovery process is simple. Go to the website www.bushexplorers.com.au , press the 'Encyclopaedia' button and then, using the search function, key in the name of the feature you are interested in. In seconds, you will have information to use in deciding whether this feature is one you wish to visit.

Each feature has a description, the name of the relevant topographic map, grid references, its status with Geographic Names Board, whether it is protected within a national park or not, sample walks to do, as well as links to where you can find out more information.

The bush explorers Michael, Brian and Yuri are keen to receive your stories and photos from any visit, historic or current. Good stories and pictures can be added to the website so that it always provides up-to-date and comprehensive information for all users.



Kowen Forest in flood

Trevor Willson's Amazing Car Shuffle Calculator

Ever been confused when trying to set up a car shuffle? Here's the solution.

| <i>No. of people on walk</i> | <i>Total No. of cars needed</i> | <i>No. of cars needed to transport drivers</i> | <i>Max no. of passengers per car during shuffle</i> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| 6 - 10 | 3 | 1 | 5,5. |
| 11 - 13 | 4 | 1 | 4,4,5. |
| 14 - 17 | 5 | 1 | 4,4,4,5. |
| 18 - 22 | 7 | 2 | 4,4,4,5,5. |
| 23 - 26 | 8 | 2 | 4,4,4,4,5,5. |

Thanks Trevor.

Inappropriate Emails

Emails are a marvellous way of communicating, but should never be used to harass, bully, or abuse anyone. Always remember that the email, once sent, cannot be retrieved, but can easily be forwarded to others - and often is.

If you receive an email of that nature and are offended by it, you should refer it to either the police or a solicitor - depending on the severity of its content. If the email refers to a bushwalking matter and perhaps is not sufficiently serious to bother the police with, you should notify the Club President.

For Sale

Women's Boots. Kathmandu, dark chestnut colour, all leather, vibram soles. Size: Uk 7, US 8, Eur 41.

These boots are too narrow for my feet and consequently have only been worn a few times. They are in very good original condition. Asking only \$40.

Contact **Glenys West** westge@tpg.com.au

Green Gully Walk, Oxley Wild Rivers National Park

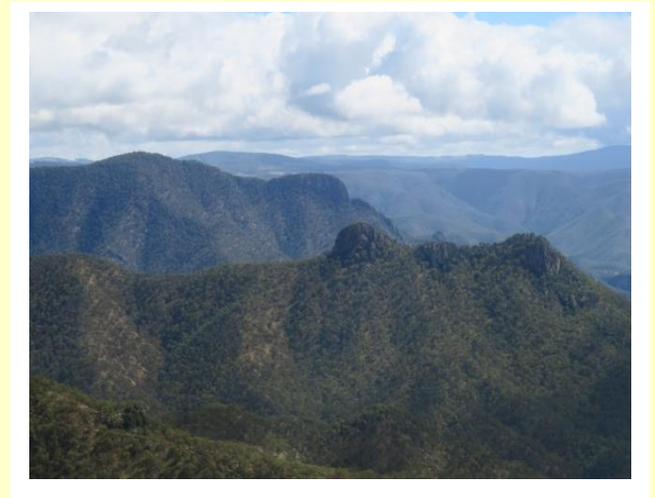
(A report by Mary and Ray)

This four day walk with hut accommodation each night would have a classification near the top end of medium by our BBC system. We did this walk during the April school holidays. We are pleased to have done the walk.

The first and last days are just under 18 km on fire trails with about 500 m and 900 m total ups respectively. The second day is about 300 m up and a lot down, about half on fire trail, worn tracks at the beginning for a bit and then much more near the end. The third day starts and ends on old trails with the longer middle section beside, in and out of Green Gully Creek.

At the beginning of the second section of track on the second day there is a sign asking walkers to avoid walking on the worn track to allow the grass to recover. We dutifully did so for the first 100 or so metres, and then nearly came to grief on a steep sided bit. From then on we ignored the request.

On our first day we were passed by a three vehicle convoy of 4WDs. Search and Rescue first, police second, ranger third. Had a chat and they had been called out to look for two missing walkers from a party ahead of us. As it happened, the two girls did find their own way out, so the searchers decided to have a trip of their own. Guess where the girls got lost? Of course - they were avoiding the worn track!



Kunderang Brook Valley
(Day One)

Green Gully Walk, Oxley Wild Rivers National Park (contd)



Bird's Nest Hut
(End of Day One)

The third day along the creek was interesting, with a brief swim at the gorge. The cobbler peg weed was prevalent along the creek and the seeds are hard to remove from clothing. The hut at the end of the third day has a notice about cobbler peg and where it likes to grow. Pity it wasn't at the beginning of the third day. The seeds germinate well in dry sandy soil and much less likely to do so in moist areas. We were removing batches of seeds from our clothing every so often and did so over sandy soil rather than contaminating grassy areas. Pity our ignorance! It was not the right thing to do.

The huts and the sites of the huts are very pleasant, with paving at the hut doorway and to the table, benches and open fireplace at each site. The limit of six in a party is because of the small size of the huts with room for only six stretchers, with mattresses. The good thing about this trek is that only one party at a time is permitted at each overnight. Of course, one cannot take a rest day to explore locally as there's another group a day behind.

The old homestead at the beginning and end of the walk has bunk rooms and a shower in the bathroom. We booked into it for the end of the trek and started the next section of our holiday washed, polished and in clean clothes. The second hut also has a hot shower, but that is outside in the cold. We used it, but it was a fast and superficial wash.



Pinnacle by Green
Gully Gorge

If you can do the trek outside school holidays you may not need a long lead time to obtain a slot, so one could check the long range weather forecasts to choose a dry time. Information about, and bookings for, the huts can be found here: <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/Walking-tracks/The-Green-Gully-track>

We had a little rain the first day and overnight at the first hut with wet bush and overcast for the next morning.

There is a small, pleasant picnic and camping area about 20 km before the locked gate at the start of the trek. We stayed there overnight going and coming.

Walking in the Flinders Ranges A Joint CBC/BBC Trip from 4-15 May 2016

This report by Terrylea Reynolds might encourage some of us to visit, or re-visit, the amazing Flinders Ranges.

Fourteen members* attended the trip within the Mt Remarkable and Wilpena National Parks from 4-15 May 2016, with Janet Edstein as our leader. "You need to be fit" she'd reminded us all before we left and we were to find out that she was right.

On our first day at Melrose Caravan Park we headed off to climb the bluff known as Dutchman's Stern. This was where we got our first real glimpse of the smooth-barked sugar gums, spiky xanthorhoea, quartzite and rocky tracks that would become so familiar to us over the next few days. Noisy weebills (tiny birds) darted in and out of the trees as we tested our legs on the 11km winding trail which became harder underfoot and steeper as we ascended past the Heysen Trail intersection.

A windy day saw us all quickly donning our fleeces at the top where we met a couple of volunteer park workers creating a visitors' lookout. The magic then truly started as the cloud began to lift and we saw hints of the spectacular red desert and vast plains before us as we looked out towards Spencers Gulf and Lake Torrens.



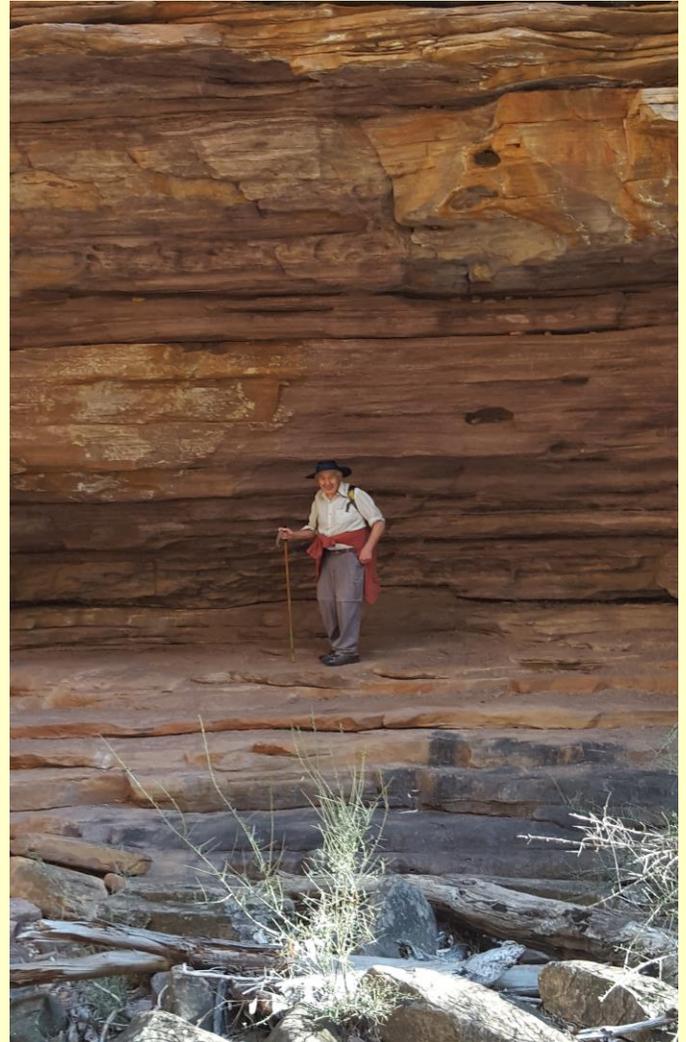
Walking in the Flinders Ranges (contd)



Terrylea and Mark suggesting that it rained

The rest of the week saw us battling the elements as driving rain seemed to appear out of nowhere for 36 hours forcing our leader to rethink the itinerary. Our plans to drive northwest on outback roads that can quickly turn to quagmires were not looking promising. But with the weather easing we continued undaunted and, armed for all conditions, we hiked through the weathered walls of both Alligator and Hidden Gorges. We even braved the cold water with some of the fairer sex squeezing in a quick dip at Port Germein before the wild winds and king tides tore half of the heritage-listed jetty away a few days later.

But we couldn't leave Melrose just yet - we had one more challenge ahead - the 21 km return climb to the summit of Mt Remarkable. This well-marked trail over broken rock and long scree slopes required tricky footwork and constant vigilance. A dry forest with sheoaks and mallee box occasionally provided glimpses of beautiful parrots, rosellas and white-backed magpies. The remnants of a 1980 light plane crash were also still visible.



Doug Wright at Alligator Gorge

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Yellow-footed Wallaby

After five days we bid Mt Remarkable National Park and Melrose Caravan Park a fond farewell as we drove through Wilmington to Quorn, destined for a half-day trip on the famous Pichi Richi railway.

The steam train enthusiasts were in their element as we sat inside the lovingly-restored timber carriage that had been reserved by our leader especially for us. With windows down and cameras snapping constantly we gently chugged past rocky outcrops and over old bridges glimpsing the odd abandoned homestead in the distance. Run completely by volunteers this trip along the old Ghan rail line was indeed a highlight of week one.

Walking in the Flinders Ranges (contd)

Page Peregrine Falcon

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Mt Remarkable



We continued onto Rawnsley Park Station (our home for the next week), where some of us set up tents and others opted for cabins. The howling wind that first day proved a challenge for the tent dwellers who somehow survived intact overnight; however some wisely opted for cabins later on.

At Rawnsley Park the landscape had already changed into something even more special. The richness of the red dirt had magnified, the vivid blue of the sky was breathtaking and the gnarled grandeur of the river-red gums soon had us spellbound. Our leader soon had us walking along dry creek beds, exploring abandoned homestead ruins, marvelling at the crystal clear water trickling in the Blinman Pools and searching for peregrine falcons. We were lucky enough to also visit the renowned Cazneau Tree, famed for being on the National Trust's Significant Tree Register, and photographed by Harold Cazneau as a testament to the hard life of those early South Australian settlers.

What fun our drivers had navigating the slippery, muddy roads through creeks still full from the recent rains on the days we spent exploring Brachina, Bunyeroo and Glass Gorge. It was a rock-lover's heaven as we travelled along the world-famous 'Corridors through Time' geological trail, stopping to read the interpretive signs along the way. These gave us a peek back into Australia's Ediacaran Period some 635 million years ago. Fossil sites in the Flinders Ranges are still yielding up their secrets from this distant past and we were fortunate to see some of these up close at Parachilna just outside the very quirky pub.



Blinman Pools

Throughout this second week we watched the landscape change around us as the day progressed and we started to see what so inspired Hans Heysen. To the ordinary eye what might look like an arid landscape, violently interspersed with massive gorges and the most beautiful of gum trees, gave up its secrets. Colours changed from pale grey, through to grey-green, buff, vivid red and deep orange as dawn gave way to day and eventually to crimson sunsets.

But the most impressive part of our trip still lay ahead - Wilpena Pound itself; the might of which first announced itself as we hiked up to the Wangara Lookout just past the Hill's Homestead which had been established in 1899 by the Hill Family. After trying to farm the area for many years until 1914, severe flooding eventually put an end to their dreams.

Walking in the Flinders Ranges (contd)



Janet on the scree

The name, Wilpena, is thought to be an Aboriginal word meaning "place of bent fingers" with some suggesting this is because it resembles a cupped hand when seen from above. The traditional owners, the Adnyamathanha, people however translate the word to mean 'meeting place' - a coincidence perhaps for those of us who live in Canberra which is also Aboriginal for 'meeting place'.

Onto Day 11 and we all got up early eager to climb the famous, and perhaps daunting, St Mary's peak. At 1171 m this is the highest peak in the Flinders Ranges. But we bushies are ready for anything, right? What better challenge is there than a notoriously steep walk with lots of rocky outcrops and hard-to-find trail markings in part?

With the promised reward of spectacular 360° views and a magnificent calm, clear day ahead of us we set off on the 14.6km 'outside' trail. Huffing and panting, and after some very careful footwork along the narrow rocky ridge just short of the top, we arrived several hours later feeling very proud of ourselves.

Then to our delight the real magic took over and we were treated to a visit by a couple of the most beautiful of creatures - the endangered yellow-footed rock wallaby. After lots more happy snaps, and feeling refreshed after a leisurely lunch, some of us decided we just couldn't get enough walking so we took the longer 'inside' trail back and that night, with 21.5 km under our belts, we slept well.

Still one more challenge lay ahead before we were to our say goodbyes to the beautiful Flinders Ranges and so, on our last day, we put our boots on one last time and hiked the 11.5 km seriously steep and slippery trail to Rawnsley Bluff. So, with that last donning of boots, and a judicious application of sunblock all round, we made good time up the Bluff and were blessed with one last look inside Wilpena Pound before we had to all pack up and go our separate ways back to Canberra.

A huge 'thank you' to Janet for all the effort that went into making this trip so special for all of us.

If you haven't yet been to the Flinders Ranges, but plan to go one day, then get ready to have fun dodging emus whilst driving, trying your hand at quoll spotting, searching out aboriginal art and carvings and seeing the beauty that Heysen captured - the Flinders Ranges - a very special place indeed.

**Walkers were Janet Edstein (Leader), Rosalind Webb, Quentin Moran, Mike & Annette Smith, Esther Gallant, Lawry Herron, Cate Kennedy, David Wardle, Prue Deacon, Mark and Terrylea Reynolds, Cynthia Coppock and Douglas Wright.*

Conclusion

We hope you've enjoyed this newsletter and welcome your contributions for the next edition, which can be emailed to walks@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

We're on the Web!
www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au