

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB

JUNE 2022 NEWSLETTER



BBC

From the President

I would like to talk briefly about safety when hiking. Whether you are walking independently or as part of a group the same basic guidance applies.

Deborah and I have just completed walks in outback South Australia. We have been in Arkaroola near the Gammon Ranges, Gawler Ranges NP and Lincoln NP. In most of these areas we did not have access to mobile phone service and so we were both uncontactable and unable to make contact with anyone. Whilst this has its benefits it also reinforced the need for appropriate and adequate planning, preparation and provisioning for such circumstances.

Firstly, as Prue Deacon covered in the April newsletter, make sure that you have the fitness and experience required of the walk. Secondly, ensure that you have appropriate equipment for the walk – First-Aid and snake bite kits, sturdy footwear, hat and sunscreen, compass and maps, head-torch, sufficient water, food and clothing suitable for the range of weather conditions that are possible. A PLB is recommended, especially if you are walking by yourself and a mobile phone for emergencies, although as mentioned earlier you may be out of phone coverage for parts of the walk.

Always let someone know what you are doing, where you will be and when you expect to return so that if needed, they can alert others when you don't return within the expected period.

Paying attention to these basic points will ensure that you enjoy the walk safely.

I do hope to see you on a walk soon, so until then do take care.....Bill



Andrew Struik and Philip Gatenby in the lead
Photo by Philip Hope

Phillip Hope led 6 walkers up Mt Domain in rather overcast conditions on 4 May with rain and cloud at the summit. It was a good day for fungi and leeches.



Contributions welcome
Articles and photos

Send to

editor@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

Inside

2. Wharf to Wharf walk - *Leigh Hermann*
4. New members/ car sharing costs
Chris Acker tribute - *Colleen and Monty Fox and the McCanns*
5. Potluck dinner - *Elaine Atkinson*
The 'Great South Coast Walk'
6. Mt Lowden and Serenity Rocks area - *Prue Deacon and David Wardle*
7. Luxury lodges in national parks?
8. A return to international treks?
9. More photos from recent walks

**COVID
UPDATE
CHECK [HERE](#)
FOR ADVICE
AND
RESTRICTIONS**

Wharf to Wharf 2nd to 6th May 2022

Leigh Hermann

In 2021, a community project initiated by Lions Clubs and supported by the Bega Valley Shire Council and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, resulted in the launch of the 'Wharf to Wharf walk' (W2W), a 27km coastal walk between the Tathra and Merimbula Wharves in southern NSW.



I asked the group, should we postpone? No they said, we'll find other walks. Not a problem. So off we set for 4 nights at the NPWS Hobart Beach campground. Then, as it turned out, the weather gods were with us. The tracks were very muddy and wet in parts, but they were mostly open (yay!), and the sun shone. We had a brilliant three days.

On the **first walking day**, Tuesday, after leaving cars at Merimbula, we walked the southern section. After a very muddy track by Bondi Lake we reached the very pretty Bournda Lagoon. This was one of the creek crossings I'd feared, but Bob's recce the day before had found it doable. Either a rock scramble or ankle-deep water. No Problem!

This coastal walk links several existing walking tracks in the Bournda National Park with other shorter coastal tracks. It crosses several lake outlets.

I'd been thinking of a club trip in this area since being impressed by Bournda NP in early 2021. Then in spring last year a friend walked the W2W and reported it an easy and very pretty walk - a prime destination for a short club trip. So I put it on the club program. Easy, I thought. Two days to walk from Tathra to Merimbula, and a third day climbing Gulaga (formerly Mt Dromedary) near Narooma – a walk that'd been on my wish list for years.

But the weather gods had other ideas. My recce in January found the lake outlets were no longer closed over. Much rain had caused the lakes to flood and the Wallagoot Lake entrance had been opened by a council digger. Crossings could potentially be chest high depending on the tide. So I researched the detours – they were possible but would make the walking longer. But then more stormy weather in early April resulted in track closures – the Kangarutha track (almost all the first day) and the Gulaga track from Tilba Tilba were closed. Bummer!



Then over a headland to Tura Beach. Lunch was at a lookout on Tura Head. Another beach walk on Short Point Beach then we took the flooded Mundooi track past Merimbula's Back Lagoon (the entrance now closed over – phew!) to Short Point headland at Merimbula. A kilometre or so of urban walking took us over the headland to Merimbula Wharf. Overall, a mix of headland views, tea-tree forest, lakes and beaches. A solid 15.5 km effort, but some found the almost 4km of beaches hard work. That evening we relaxed with drinks around a fire – very pleasant.



On Wednesday (**day 2**) we did the northern section. With the Kangarutha track closed between Kianinny Bay and Boulder Bay North, we left the cars on White Rock road and took the Fire Shed Trail to join the W2W at Boulder Bay.

This section to Wallagoot Gap is similar to the Light to Light – ups and downs, going over headlands and dropping down to pretty coves, and lovely views. No beach walking until crossing Wallagoot Lake entrance (again, not deep at all) then a km or so of beach to reach the campground. A shorter day – 12.5 km – and an early finish. Dinner at Tathra Pub was enjoyed by all.

For our **final day** a smaller group headed off to tackle Gulaga, a mountain of significant spiritual importance to indigenous peoples. A longish drive meant we weren't on the track until after 10. There was an incentive to keep moving – good coffee at La Gallette (formerly Pam's Café), but we had to be back by 3pm.

As it turned out, for a climb of over 800 m it was relatively easy. After a constant gradual ascent through the most marvellous tree fern forests we reached a saddle (with toilet!). From here the track curled around the mountain top, the final km through wonderful lush rainforest.

The views from the top were obscured but we'd had good views en route. As it turned out, light rain on the descent meant the coffee shop had decided to close early. But who cared (well, maybe the 10 walkers) ... we'd had a great walk.

Overall, it was a successful three days. I'm looking forward to doing the walks again in October with a different group, this time staying in cabins. Spring will be different. Hopefully the tracks will be drier and we might even see whales!



Welcome New Members

Karen Baker
 Christopher and Swee See Colton
 Sue Connell
 Allan Brownsdon
 Gemma and Peter Dodds
 Alan Dolan
 Shaun Gowing
 Lyn Hay
 Cheryl Henschell
 Christine Hoysted
 Megan Kearney
 Yvonne Korn
 Celia O'Donnell
 Gina Rasmussen
 Marie Santsingh
 Nicola Viney
 Christine Willis
 Jane Wills
And welcome back returning members
 Noel Mungovan
 Sue Watson

Chris Acker - a tribute

BBC received news late last week that a much loved and respected member of our Club had passed away. Chris Acker and his wife, Margitta, have been keen walkers in Canberra, surrounding regions and overseas. Up to very recent times, walking was a regular activity each week until health issues prevented Chris from participation in Club and social outdoor events. Chris celebrated his 90th birthday in 2022 at Mirinjani and, there, suffered a fall before succumbing to his injuries a few days later.

Originally from Germany, Margitta and Chris married at St Peter's Lutheran Church in Braddon on 28 July 1962 in the presence of 16 guests, only 2 of whom were German. Today in 2022, Margitta, their 2 sons, Tim and Ralph and their treasured families, so many friends and colleagues gained over their 60 years in Canberra, are mourning the loss of a husband, father, grandfather and friend.

Chris was a loyal friend to many people. He was also more than a bushwalker, being a keen skier, bike rider and fisherman. He was adventurous and adaptive. He came to Australia knowing no-one, knowing very little English, very distant from any support from family and friends. Yet he quickly made new friends and adapted to a very different environment and culture to that in which he was brought up.

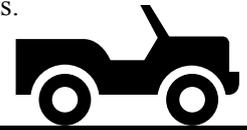
Car Sharing Costs Will Rise in the Next Program

We are all well aware that fuel costs have risen greatly in recent times and so the committee has had no choice but to raise the cost per kilometre for each passenger to **14 cents**. The full document that explains how we use 'trigger points' to adjust the per-kilometre cost is on the **Resources for Members** page of the Club's website – here is a direct link: [Car Sharing Costs](#)

The following points summarise the Club's policy:

- Drivers should not have to contribute to fuel costs provided they have two or more passengers.
- Calculations are based on consumption of 12.5 litres per 100 km.
- The price of unleaded fuel is used as the benchmark.
- Calculations don't include 'wear and tear' and cleaning costs.
- There is no allowance for the cost of registration and insurance.
- The price per passenger per kilometre from 1 July 2022 will be 14 cents.

Peter Dalton



BBC thanks Margitta and Chris for their strong support over many kilometres of walking trails, walking trips in Australia and around the globe. We send our support and condolences to Margitta, Tim, Ralph and their families with special wishes to Evie and Louis, Chris's much loved grandchildren.

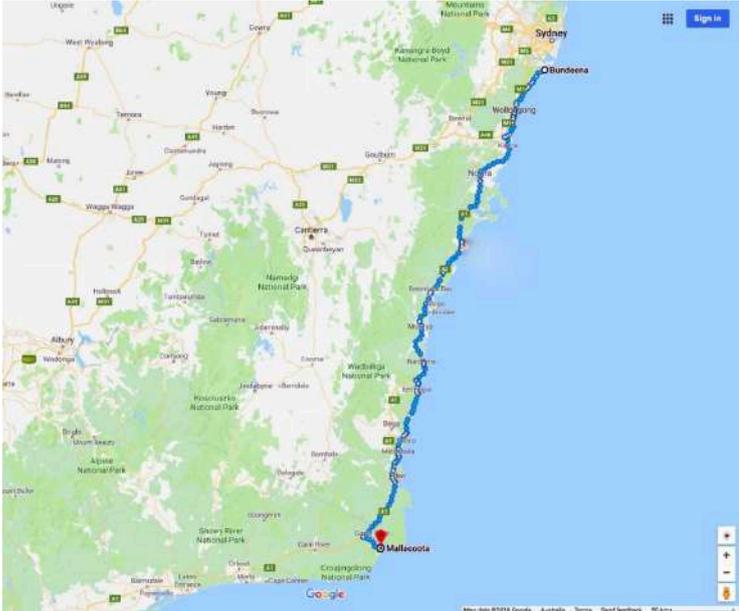
Colleen and Monty Fox and the McCanns

This 'n' That

- Ever had trouble repacking your tent after your first night on the track or fitting your gear into a stuff sack? If so, you'll have some appreciation of the stages of rage, puzzlement, bargaining and grief which can follow your unsuccessful attempts. Be assured you're not alone as [this article](#) testifies.
- If you're considering a car trip soon, either camping or with accommodation, you might like to check out the [Darling River Run](#).

The 'Great South Coast Walk'

It's often been remarked that we're very lucky to have the NSW south coast within close reach. One consequence is that a number of wonderful walks - both day walks and multiple day walks - are readily accessible. About 18 years ago, David and Pennie Briese decided to walk south along the coast from Sydney. Three months later, they arrived at Mallacoota and the [Great South Coast Walk](#) was born.



Their [original trip report](#) is organised into 15 stages:

- [Stage 1 - Royal National Park Coastal Track](#)
- [Stage 2 - Across the Illawarra \(Stanwell Park to Lake Illawarra\)](#)
- [Stage 3 - The Kiama Coast \(Lake Illawarra to Gerroa\)](#)
- [Side trip - The Kangaroo and Shoalhaven Rivers by canoe](#)
- [Stage 4 - Crossing the Shoalhaven \(Gerroa to Huskisson\)](#)
- [Stage 5 - Jervis Bay to Ulladulla](#)
- [Side trip - A Hard Days Night in the Budawangs](#)
- [Stage 6 - The Murramarang Coast \(Ulladulla to Bateman's Bay\)](#)
- [Stage 7 - The Eurobodalla Coast \(Bateman's Bay to Tuross Head\)](#)
- [Stage 8 - The Eurobodalla Coast \(Tuross Head to Mystery Bay\)](#)
- [Sidetrips - Montague Island and Mt Dromedary](#)
- [Stage 9 - Mystery Bay to Bermagui](#)
- [Stage 10 - Mimosa Rocks National Park \(Bermagui to Tathra\)](#)
- [Stage 11 - The Sapphire Coast \(Tathra to Pambula\)](#)
- [Stage 12 - Ben Boyd National Park and Twofold Bay](#)

SOCIAL NEWS MAY 2022

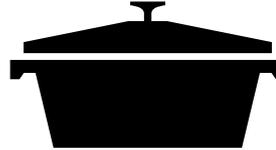
Potluck dinner Friday 13 May

What a wonderful evening!!! 40 attendees enjoyed sharing a meal and catching up with old friends. Potluck dinners are still a winner, so will continue as an annual event.

Thanks to everyone for your yummy food contributions and helping stack tables, chairs and clean up at the end of the night. A great group effort.

David Briese, guest speaker, spoke about the Great South Coast Walk. After early retirement in 2004, David and his wife Pennie decided to walk from Bundeena to Victoria while they pondered their future. 3 months later, a great walk was in the making. Hopefully this walk will become an iconic Aussie walk for Australians and overseas visitors (the 660km walk can be divided into sections). You can view the walk on BBC website under the links page or follow on [Facebook](#) which also includes photos taken at the dinner.

LOST: a camp chair was left at the autumn picnic. If you are missing your chair, please contact me.



Elaine Atkinson
Social Convenor

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0410 154 133

- [Stage 13 - The Lighthouse to Lighthouse Walk](#)
- [Stage 14 - Green Cape to Wonboyn](#)
- [Stage 15 - The Nadgee-Howe Wilderness Walk](#)

While each of these stages is significant in itself, David stresses that the sum of the walk is so much greater than its parts. Any one of these legs could be the basis of a club trip - over to you, leaders!



Mt Lowden and Serenity Rocks area

Prue Deacon and David Wardle

On 25 May we returned to the Mt Lowden / Serenity Rocks area for the first time since the devastating fires of 2019/2020. (Tallaganda State Forest. Maps: Bendoura, Bombay).

We drove out through Hoskinstown, negotiated a lot of potholes on the way to Rossi, and continued to the junction of Lowden Road and Coxes Creek Road. From there we walked along the Lowden Trig Fire Trail, climbing up to a high point (where the Bald Hill Fire Trail comes in from the left) and descending (accompanied by the beautiful calls of lyrebirds) to the valley (which collects various tributaries of Mulloon Creek). At grid point GR 323 677 we turned into the now very clear start of a footpad (trail bike track).

The track appears to have been kept open by the trail bikers and has been partly rerouted to be closer to the creek. After recent rain, the creek was running fast and there were some difficult crossings. We needed sticks (there were plenty lying around near the path) but still got wet feet. At one point a huge boulder by the creek could be used as a marker for the off-track ascent to the rocky outcrops (from which one can circle around to approach Serenity Rocks from the south). On this occasion we continued along the track till we reached a T-junction with another old footpad – just downhill was the final creek crossing (GR 321 691) before the climb up a spur to Serenity Rocks (Serenity Rocks is at GR 330 693, near spot point 1214). We did not go the whole way, just far enough to check that the track was still there.

Retracing our steps, we stayed on the track, crossing the creek and climbing up past the new T-junction, steeply up and past the old T-junction, continuing to a fire trail at GR 319 686 which led us up to a junction with the Bald Hill Fire Trail. More beautiful lyrebird calls. We turned south and followed the Bald Hill Fire Trail until we reached the Lowden Trig Fire Trail and then headed back towards the car. At GR 315 672 there is a sharp bend and turning circle on the Lowden Trig Fire Trail. Here another old footpad has been kept open (presumably by trail bikers) and we followed it round the western side of a small hill, descending to reach the Lowden Trig Fire Trail a few hundred metres from the car.

Thus, the walks BBC used to do in this area are still accessible. Despite the evidence of the bushfires, it is still very pretty with some regrowth of the taller eucalypts and an undergrowth of mostly low grasses, bracken and reeds – but note that these do hide fallen logs and other obstacles.

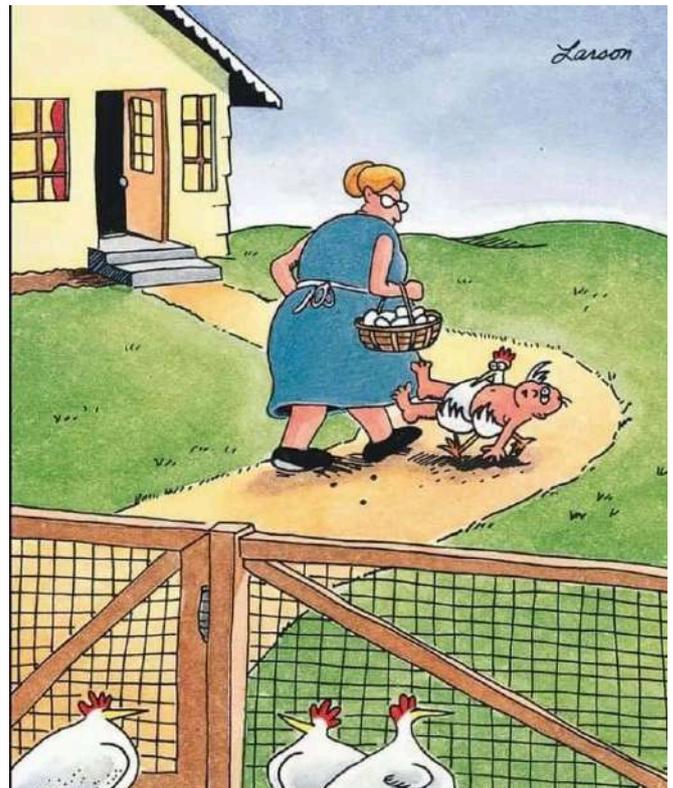
Rain

*It rained and rained and rained and rained,
The average fall was well maintained,
And when the tracks were simply bogs
It started raining cats and dogs.*

*After a drought of half an hour
we had a most refreshing shower,
then the most curious thing of all:
a gentle rain began to fall.*

*Next day was also fairly dry
save for the deluge from the sky
which wet the party to the skin:
and after that, the rain set in.*

Floods, closure of tracks, cancellation of walks! With all these things happening it appears time to feature this well known poem. It is usually attributed to 'anon' and appears in slightly different versions. This one was found in a 'Fiordland Trampler' publication in New Zealand. For an analysis of its possible origin see [here](#). Ed.



Bridges help people cross rivers

By MICHELLE DUMIVEN

Have you ever wondered what life would be like without bridges across the Rock River? Else would we get from east to west? Perhaps you'd be an ancient, but not a very practical one.

Bridges have helped establish towns, industries, commerce and the like for hundreds and even thousands of years. And, throughout that time, bridges have evolved from a simple log bridge to a massive steel or highway bridge. In a same week to highly complex, made-up spanning miles of distance, modern, such as the 24-mile-long Lake Pontchartraine Causeway near New Orleans, La.

To Do:

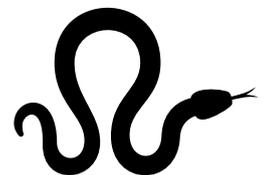
The next time your family visits Discovery Center Museum, try to find the two different arch bridges and one suspension bridge in Rock River Discovery Park. If you want to learn how engineers build bridges and buildings, you might want to participate in our upcoming Learning Architecture Camp, from 9 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, July 26, through Friday, July 28. Open to children ages 10 to 11, the camp will explore engineering and architecture with models.

For more info, call Discovery Center Museum at 800-451-7019 for admission fees and registration information.

So, build your own bridge or building at home, you will need:

- Paper sticks
- Gum drops

By joining the program sticks in to the gum drops, you can connect them together to create your own structure. How high can you make a tower stand? How long of a span can you get to a bridge?



Luxury lodges in national parks

On 17 May, Bushwalking NSW hosted a presentation on legal issues involved in the development of new luxury facilities in national parks. The presentation, which focused in particular on current, and still unresolved, proposals for the [Light to Light walk](#) in Ben Boyd National Park, was given by Dr. Christopher Birch, Senior Counsel, who is also an experienced bushwalker. You can watch the [video of his presentation here](#).

The legal framework for managing national parks in NSW is to be found primarily in the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Its objects spell out in some detail the generally accepted ones - preservation of species and genetic diversity; maintenance of environmental services; and tourism and recreation. The Act also requires the development of management plans specific to each national park.

However, the 'tourism and recreation' element of the statutory objects provides plenty of scope for commercial activities and any comfort that may be drawn from the other elements is largely illusory as, provided procedural requirements are followed, the Minister is invested with ample power to amend management plans so as to accommodate commercial developments.

More stringent protections are provided for declared 'wilderness areas' but these are few and far between.

Discussion also covered the impact of helicopter flights drawing on experience in Tasmania and New Zealand where it was felt that they had adversely affected appreciation of the natural environment. There was particular concern about the prospect of helicopter joy flights from Cooma and Jindabyne to remote parts of Kosciuszko National Park. (At this point, my attention strayed to recollections of a Coast to Coast walk across England and images of very low flying RAF jets hot-dogging it across the Yorkshire moors.)

Questions by participants had to be notified in advance and the question and answer format was managed by the Vice-President of Bushwalking NSW, David Bell. This effectively allowed for important issues to be adequately addressed although at the expense of free flowing debate. In concluding, Dr. Birch canvassed other views and suggested that affiliated clubs might wish to determine their own policies for the purpose of formulating submissions on these issues when opportunities arise.

Ed.



Green Cape Lighthouse



Kosciuszko National Park



Kanangra-Boyd National Park

Facebook

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

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

Please send your photos etc. to Heather at facebook@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

A Return to International Treks?

With the revival of International travel, some members may be considering opportunities for joining guided walks or for planning their own.

If you are one of those who like to plan your own walks, you may be interested in checking out [this website](#). To carry out a search on their website you need to join but there is no charge. If your search locates trails in the area you nominate, you will find a short description of what the walk offers and how to access starting points. You will also be invited to upload your own walks.

A related online magazine, [Wikiloc Planet](#), also publishes short descriptions of outstanding walks in particular areas such as the [Picos de Europa](#) in Spain:

The essential Cares Trail



Mountain goats on the rocky cliffs on the Cares Trail - Photo by @IKANDU

The **hiking trail** along the **Cares River**, also known as the Divine Gorge, passes through the towns of **Caín** (León) and **Poncebos** (Asturias). Following along the bank of the river, the **Cares Trail** gives way to a walk through rugged nature with narrow paths and tunnels carved into large limestone rock walls, bridges and also mountain goats. The **Cares Trail** is one of the most visited and **well-known hikes** in **Picos de Europa**. This path is a must-do in this national park!

I've participated in guided walks in the Picos de Europa some years ago with Waymark, when it was active in commercial hiking, and it's certainly a remarkable area.

Ed.



More photos from recent walks



Mt Tennent 23 April led by Phillip Hope



Mt Coree tri-club M/H Wednesday walk 11 May



Bullen Range tri-club E/M Wednesday walk 11 May - looking for a contact lens?

In the first week of May John Clune led a group of 8 on various walks around Sydney.

Guisies Creek, Gigerline Nature Reserve, Wednesday M/H walk 18 May.

For further photos from these walks see our [Facebook page](#).

