

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER



BBC

From the President

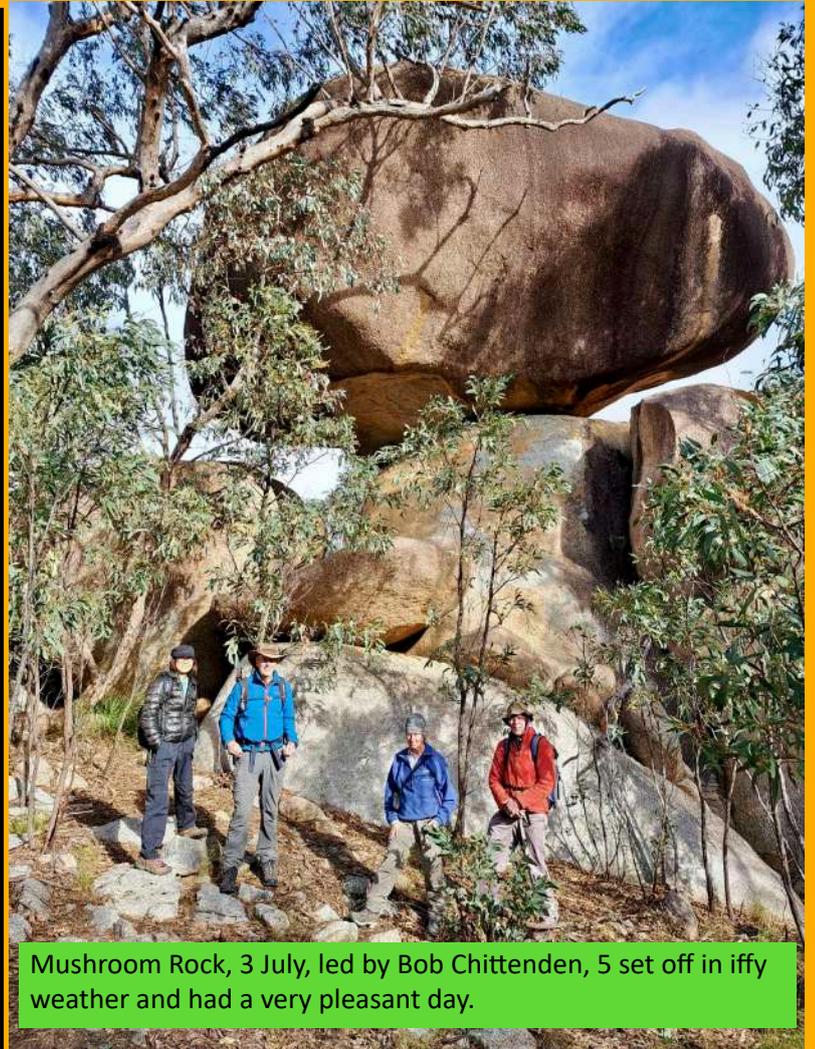
I have been fortunate enough to join the recent club walks around the Brisbane and Maroochydore regions enjoying many terrific walks.



Whilst the walks were varied and interesting, some of the circumstances which we found ourselves in were less so. We encountered very severe weather for a few days as well as several occasions where continuing on the planned trail was not prudent due to flooded creeks and/or treacherous tracks.

These circumstances reminded me of the necessity to plan and prepare for different situations which may present before, during or after a walk. We had the benefit of reliable weather forecasts, alternative walking options (to choose from) as well as experienced leaders, so we coped and all enjoyed the walks. However, the lessons learnt from this adventure are:

- Ensure that you have up-to-date track information about the walk you are planning – if possible, talk to locals/rangers/other colleagues who have recently done the walk,
- Have a 'Plan B' which supports changing situations – e.g. substituting an equivalent walk in a different locale,
- Whether on or off-track, make sure that you have appropriately detailed maps for the walk. If too high level, then you could easily be confused as to where you are and/or where you are going – if in doubt, consult with colleagues on the walk, and
- As I mentioned in my June column, make sure that you have all reasonable equipment and first aid items.
- Although we were walking in rather wet environments, the one item I hadn't prepared for was how to deal with leeches!



Mushroom Rock, 3 July, led by Bob Chittenden, 5 set off in iffy weather and had a very pleasant day.

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Contributions welcome
 Articles and photos
 Send to
editor@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

COVID UPDATE
 CHECK HERE
 FOR ADVICE
 AND
 RESTRICTIONS

Do not trivialise any walking activity. No matter what your experience level is or the type of walk undertaken, appropriate planning and preparation will ensure that you and others with you will enjoy the walk safely.

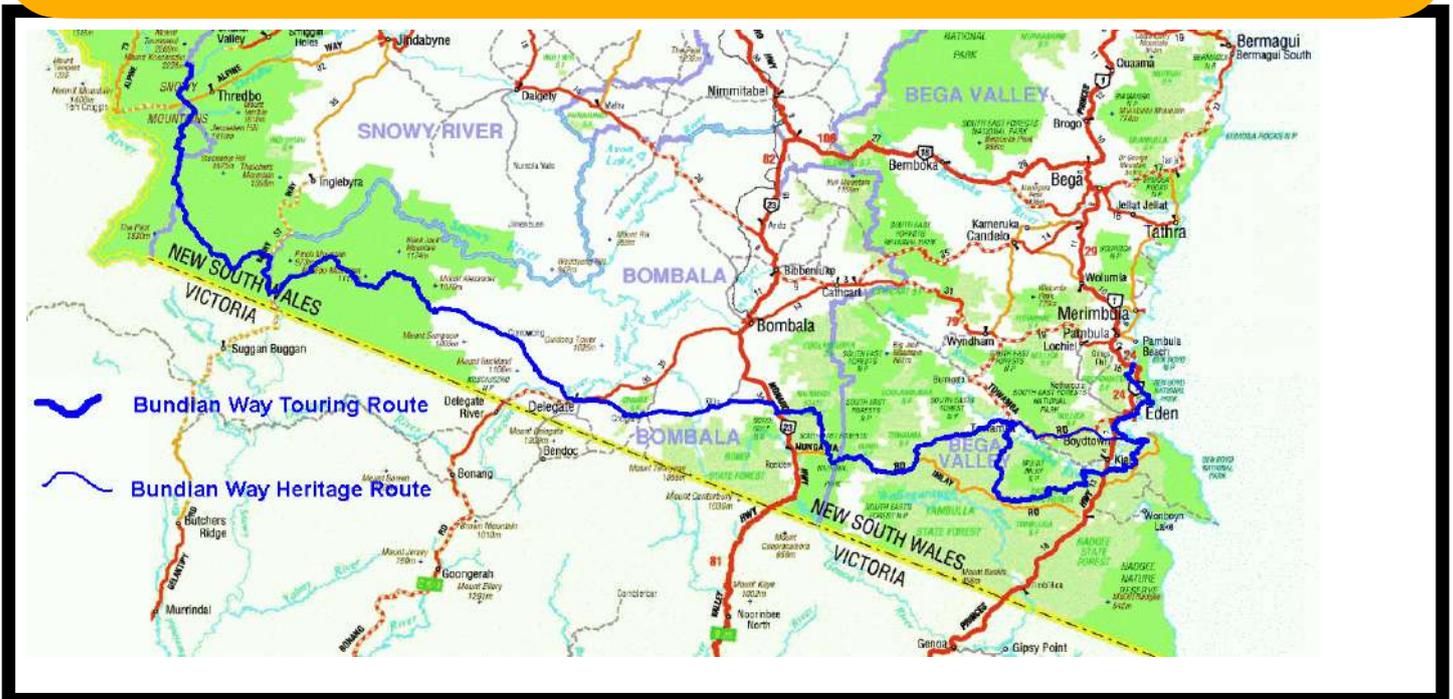
I do hope to see you on a walk soon, so until then do take care.....Bill

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST at 3:00 pm - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – at St Margaret’s Uniting Church Hall on the corner of Phillip Avenue and Antill Street, HACKETT. The entrance to the church grounds is off Antill Street and there is plenty of parking at the rear of the church and hall building. Arrive from 2:45 pm for a 3:00 pm start and the meeting should end no later than 5:00 pm. Usual business will include the delivery of annual reports and the election of office holders.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DAY AND TIME. This has been arranged to suit those who don’t like driving at night so the Committee encourages you to attend and help support the ongoing smooth running of your Club.

THE BUNDIAN WAY



[A Project of the Eden Local Aboriginal Council](#)
(For the 2010 report click on the above link)

The Bundian Way is currently in development to become a connected walking track but is not yet open for walkers (see [the home page](#)). However, to get a taste of it, all those interested are invited to experience the [Whale Dreaming Trail](#) and [Story Trail](#) in Eden and the [Bundian Way Art Gallery](#) in Delegate.

The basic facts and the claims outlined in the [Report](#) are:

- It is 365 kilometres in length, honouring European and Aboriginal history and linking the sea with the mountains;
- Since 2010, it has been thoroughly surveyed on foot to establish the old pathway route;
- In 2013 it was granted [heritage listing](#) in NSW;
- It ‘passes through some of the wildest, most rugged and yet beautiful country in Australia’; and
- For safety reasons, some departures from the original route are proposed.

Walking in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast – A John Clune Sequel

Deborah Gibson

John has organised many excellent walking trips and this was yet another. Escaping the Canberra winter, 18 walkers met in Brisbane. The weather was a little colder than expected, but perfect for energetic walking. Our first walk was the Enoggera Reserve Circuit in the D'Aguilar National Park, a straightforward 12km walk through undulating Eucalypt forest. Day 2 we lost two of our walkers to COVID isolation – what a disappointment! John's pre-trip research had identified that Brisbane abounded with Conservation Parks, and on Day 2 we undertook a 14km walk through one of the earliest parks to be gazetted, the Daisy Hill Conservation Park. The park is part of the network of protected koala habitats, although it wasn't until we reached the Koala Conservation Centre at the end of the walk that we actually saw any koalas, and as a bonus, a cuddling pair of tawny frogmouths perched just outside the Centre (I have only just learned that these are aren't actually owls, they just look like them).



On day 3 we undertook the iconic walk up Mount Coot-tha, starting from the Botanic Gardens, and along with a crush of other tourists, rewarding ourselves with a coffee and some spectacular views at the café at the top. Afterwards the group split and some went on to complete the 15km Southern Trails circuit while others took a network of trails through the Botanic gardens. On Day 4 John delegated the choice of walk to Bill while he and Liz took a day off to explore Brisbane, and a smaller group of us set out back to D'Aguila National Park for what turned out to be a challenging walk with some very

steep ups and downs. Not surprisingly there was almost no-one else on the track, although we did meet a local volunteer ranger who appeared to be running sections of it. John took back the walk leader role for Days 5 and 6 and we stayed closer to home, undertaking some more relaxed walking in another couple of conservation areas – on the Toohey's Forest Circuit and the Karawatha Border Trail respectively, both lovely densely treed forest areas with comfortable walking tracks.

Seven days in we relocated to Maroochydore and into another very pleasant and well-appointed caravan park. Some of the cabins were quite majestic with their outdoor kitchens, king beds and full-sized fridges. Our first walk (day 8) was a magical walk along a section of the Sunshine Coast Great Walk on a 13km circuit out to Mapleton Falls and Peregrine lookout. It is easy to see why they call it a 'Great Walk'. We walked through several different ecosystems, including tall Eucalypt Forest and subtropical rainforest, saw magnificent strangler figs, lush grass trees and ferns, and enjoyed magnificent district views. On day 9 we drove towards Noosa and did a 14km walk in the Wooroi trails area, an area popular with mountain bikers. By day 10 the weather was starting to deteriorate so we did a shorter walk through the Parklands State Forest, getting back to the cars just before the rain arrived. And boy did it arrive! We had torrential rain and high winds for the next 36 hours, and of course an enforced rest day. A lot of movies got watched that Friday. The weather started to clear early Saturday morning, so we drove to the Glasshouse Mountains National Park for a circuit walk with great views of these imposing formations.



Saturday night was our farewell dinner. Sally chose a great little restaurant just around the corner from our accommodation. Being a large and somewhat noisy group, the few other diners cleared out early leaving space for Virginia to create a dance floor. Accompanied by music from the 60's, 70's and 80's, by the end of the night almost everybody had had a spin on the floor. Heaven knows what the 20 something wait and kitchen staff were thinking.

Continued p. 8

Namadgi Walking Trail Study

*David Wardle
Walks Officer*

The ACT Government recently undertook a consultation with users of the Namadgi National Park to seek views and to discuss the future directions of Namadgi walking trails. Along with other bushwalking clubs, there were representatives of trail runners, rock climbers, mountain bike riders and commercial event organisers. Your Vice-President and I attended on behalf of BBC. The Consultants who had been engaged to undertake these consultations on behalf of the Government were [TRC Tourism](#). They certainly gained a good understanding of the wide variety of users of the Park and what at times could be competing needs.

We provided the Consultants with a copy of our Walks Program and other information about the Club. We also provided a written submission on the points that we made at the consultation in response to various questions, a summary of which follow:

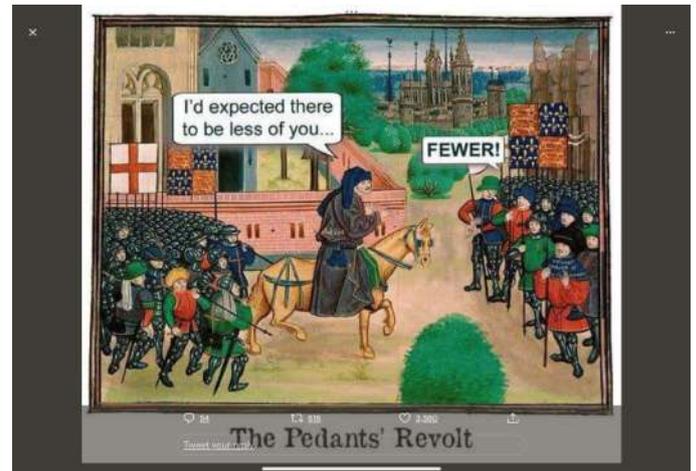
Namadgi Trails and Facilities

We appreciate many of the formal maintained tracks such as sections of the Australian Alpine Walking Track, the Centenary Trail and specific tracks such as those to Square Rock, Nursery Swamp, Stockyard Spur and the Settlers Track. We see the potential for more named and well-marked tracks that can be attempted by people of average fitness and awareness of the bush. The Smokers Trail is a great example where a naming and linking of currently existing tracks provides a popular new walking outing.

An issue that must be faced with a sense of urgency is the provision of toilet facilities in the parking areas at the start of a walk. The Square Rock car park is the prime example where the surrounding bush is being severely degraded by the lack of toilet facilities in this heavily used area. We note the new toilet at the commencement of Stockyard Spur and welcome its addition to the facilities.

There are also many other popular unmarked walks in the ACT that would benefit from specific track marking if only to keep walkers to a specific route rather than wandering widely across some delicate areas. A case in point would be the walk from Murrays Gap up to Mt Bimberi from the Australian Alpine Walking Track where too many 'desire lines' are being created. Simple discs on trees or some such would suffice to achieve this; no other construction on the ground would be wanted.

While many protocols would come into play, we feel that consideration should be given to marking tracks through wilderness areas.



Track markings generally keep people to a specific route, stopping people making their own tracks through sensitive areas, minimising damage and the spread of weeds. In bad weather identifying a track marker is a wonderful boost if there is any uncertainty about the way ahead.

Many marked tracks such as Mt Tennent, Honeysuckle to Booroomba, Settlers, and Nursery Swamp are hugely popular and in many instances are growing to the point of being 'over loved' with the associated maintenance and cost issues. However Namadgi also had a plethora of unmarked tracks. A good example would be the walk over to Rendezvous Creek branching off from the Nursery Swamp track. Another part of this walk no longer on maps is the walk up Rendezvous Creek and eventually meeting up with the footpad mentioned above joining up with the Nursery Swamp track. This would make an ideal longer through walk. The Old Apollo Road alignment also makes an interesting walk with much historical association.

An additional potential marked trail exists with the old track alignment up Deadmans Hill starting from the existing Booroomba Rocks Carpark. While some clearing and stabilisation would be required it would make use of current facilities and provides great views and an important association as the site of the passive repeater station from the Honeysuckle Tracking Station.

In general terms we feel that there is much untapped tourism potential for bushwalking in the ACT and hope that the Trails within Namadgi would draw attention to the unique walking environment that we have here in the ACT. The Namadgi Walking Trail Study has the potential to support and expand the infrastructure necessary to facilitate bushwalking in the ACT. The Brindabella Bushwalking Club will continue to provide walks to encourage people to utilise the great environment in which we live. We are pleased to have been a part of this consultation.



INDIGENOUS HERITAGE TRAILS

Prior to Covid, the Goolarabooloo community in Broome had been running the [Lurujarri Heritage Trail](#) for over 30 years. In July each year, tourists were welcomed by the Roe family, and then embarked on an eight day trek (extracts below). They hope to reopen it next year.

The walks were initiated in 1987 by Paddy Roe as a trigger to encourage the members of the Goolarabooloo community to walk the country again so as to stay connected with their heritage. He also sought to 'wake up non-Aboriginal people to a relationship with the land; to foster trust; friendship and empathy between the indigenous community and the wider Australian and international communities'.



The [Lurujarri](#) Trail follows the land of the traditional Song Cycle. The same camping places are used as have been used for millennia, the same reefs fished. The middens in the dunes are thick with shards of past feed, spear heads, charcoal flint and grinding stones, and testify to how long the Law and Culture has been going on.

The route follows the songline through living country. In walking the trail, the ultimate aim is 'to arrive' and to experience 'living country' (we are not conquering a trek!)



In the ACT we have the [Ngunnawal Country track](#), which, while not matching the Lurujarri Trail, nevertheless offers much of interest. From the explanation given by Wally Bell, an Elder, on the website video, the relationship of the Ngunnawal people to their land is similar to that described above for the Goolarabooloo people to theirs.

For more information on this and other Canberra Heritage tracks see [here](#).

Ed.

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

NSW National Parks and Aboriginal Joint Management

A proposal for [Aboriginal joint management](#) of national parks in NSW has been announced by the NSW Government. The proposal is one of [a number](#) on which consultation is proposed over the next 18 months:

‘The NSW Government recognises that land title is central to the development of a new model for Aboriginal joint management. Accordingly, it is anticipated the new model will provide for the potential handback of title to all NSW national parks – covering nearly 10% of the State – over a 15 to 20-year period, subject to the land being leased back (long term and for nominal rent) to the NSW Government for its continued use and management as national park.’

‘The proposed new model will be developed in consultation with Aboriginal communities and native title holders, as well as with other stakeholders who use and value our national parks, including conservation groups, tourism bodies, local government and recreational users.’

Ed.

Constitution and Rules

The

Like the foundations and framework of a house, the [Constitution](#) and [Rules](#) of a club are generally out of sight and out of mind but occasionally rise to prominence in Committee discussions when decisions are required on various issues.

From time to time, maintenance requires a few adjustments.

The incorporation of a club confers a number of benefits but also imposes obligations relating to the management of finances, administration of membership, the running of meetings and so on. In this connection, there was general agreement at our last Committee meeting that (subject of course to any decisions made by the incoming Committee), it would be timely to carry out a comprehensive review of the Constitution and Rules next year.

Examples of instances where discussions have raised such issues in recent years include:

- Revision of the rules on sharing transport costs;
- Record keeping and other administrative obligations; and
- Proposed legislative changes to [Model Rules](#) dealing with a wide range of issues.

Any proposed amendments arising from the review would need to be put to the club’s next annual general meeting for adoption.

Ed.

Aboriginal Rock Art in National Parks

The Blue Mountains, Brisbane Water, Mutawintji and Gundabooka National Parks are featured in a [recent promotion](#) by NSW Parks of Aboriginal Rock Art.



‘Go home Picasso. You’ve had enough.’

This 'n' That

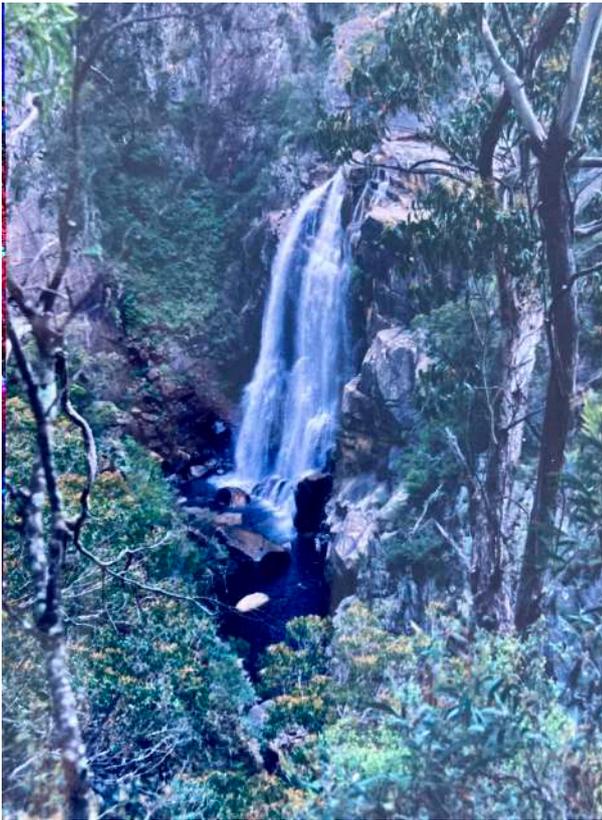
Plans for a Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk

NSW has announced [plans](#) for a new 46 kilometre multi-day walk in Dorrigo National Park. It will offer 2 day and 4 day options. The proposed Dorrigo Escarpment Great Walk traverses Dorrigo and Bindarri National Parks along the rugged escarpment, past teeming waterfalls, giant old growth trees and over wild rivers, as it heads down towards the coast. It will include 3 suspension bridges and 46 kilometres of walking track of which over half follows existing tracks and trails.

To offer enhanced access and affordability, accommodation will include 4 purpose built communal low impact walkers' huts and camping areas with tent platforms and composting toilets. The huts and camping sites will be owned and operated by NPWS and booked through the NPWS website.



Blast from the Past



Sun. 3 Nov. 96 - Mt Wee Jasper, returning through bush to confluence of Micalong Creek and Goodradigbee River



14 Dec. 96 - Mt. Morgan Med/Hard 16k.
750 m. Climb - leader Bob Galloway



Aaahhhhh!

A little boy was sitting on the footpath with a bottle of Turpentine. He was shaking it up and watching all the bubbles. A Priest came along and asked the little boy what he had. The little boy said, 'This is the most powerful liquid in the world; it's called Turpentine.' The Priest said, 'No, the most powerful liquid in the world is Holy Water. If you rub it on a pregnant woman's belly, she'll pass a healthy baby.' The little boy replied, 'If you rub turpentine on a cat's bum, he'll pass a Harley Davidson !'

Fleece versus Down - which do you need?

(Based on [this article](#) in 'Adventure')

When it comes to bushwalking jackets, there has long been a debate on the respective merits of fleece and down. Although the characteristics of each are generally well known, a range of factors can come into play when it's necessary to choose between them. Breaking down the issues may help in making a choice.

What are they?

'Fleece' is a synthetic material made using spun polyester fibres: 'down' refers to the insulating stuffing of a down jacket utilising duck or goose plumage'.

Warmth

Fleeces have varying degrees of warmth but are not as warm as down; down jackets that have anything above a 550 'fill power' (briefly, a good ability to 'fluff up') will provide lots of warmth in cold, dry conditions.

Weight

Both are lightweight.

'Packability'

Down jackets can be compressed to a smaller size.

Waterproofing

Neither is waterproof but fleece is somewhat water resistant and is quick drying

'Breathability'

Fleeces are usually highly breathable; down jackets are not as breathable and are slow to dry in sweaty conditions.

Durability

Fleeces are tougher and will better withstand contact with rocks and branches.

Price

Fleeces are generally affordable; down is always expensive.

Ethics and Sustainability

There are issues with both types of jacket; in summary, synthetic materials are more damaging to produce and won't biodegrade but will last longer while the production of down may raise ethical issues.

The Verdict

It depends on what kind of bushwalking you do but, for typical conditions around Canberra, fleece may be better.

Ed.

Recommended viewing:

More vicarious walking in England, Scotland and Wales with a new season of Kate Humble's Scenic Coastal Walks.

Walks include Northumberland, Isle of Wight, Hastings and Kent.

[SBS OnDemand](#)

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Noticed among the credits for 'Villa', a recent French film:

'Inside every old person is a young person wondering what the hell happened.'

(attributed to Groucho Marx - I like his thinking.) Ed.

**Marijuana
issue sent
to a joint
committee**

The Toronto Star 06/14/96

Continued from p. 3 - Brisbane and Sunshine Coast - A John Clune Sequel



On our final day we revisited the Mapleton Falls National Park. The planned circuit was thwarted when we reached the creek which was swollen and fast flowing. Fortunately we met a barefooted local who was off to explore a rock cave and helped us find a route down to the beautiful Kureelpa Falls, a lovely spot to park ourselves for morning tea. On our way back the same barefooted local recommended we visit the popular Kondalilla Falls. The track to the top of the falls was pretty crowded, but thereafter thinned out considerably as we wound our way down to the bottom of the 80 metre falls. This loop is also part of the Sunshine Coast Great Walk, and equally as stunning as our Day 8 experience. A spectacular way to end what was a great trip. Thanks again John. And count us in for the next sequel.



MORE PHOTOS FROM RECENT WALKS



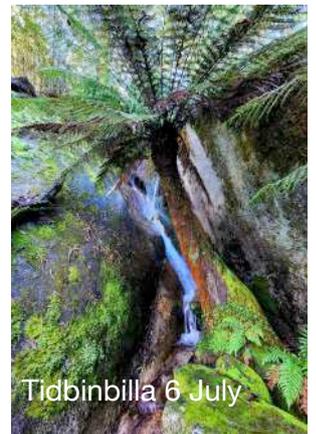
Above: On 6 July, Peter W led 14 walkers from the London Bridge area on the Medium/Hard joint clubs walk through unspoilt first and views.

Right: On the same day, Robin Cayzer led 24 walkers on the Easy/Medium walk through the Tuggeranong Pine Forest, the Old Tuggeranong Road and Railway Siding.

Below: And Judy led 14 on the Easy Walk for an exploration around the AIS and parts of Bruce.



Goorooyaroo Reserve 20 July



Tidbinbilla 6 July



EASY WEDNESDAY WALK July 27 On a perfect day Robyn led 20+ walkers on the bike paths around Weston then down to the Molonglo and across to the fire trails through the pine forrests before completing the loop back to cars.



Sunday medium walk 24 July: Leigh lead a small group of walkers who started at the Tidbinbilla Tracking Station, before climbing up and over the Bullen Range down to a ridge overlooking Kambah Pool. No nude swimmers in sight but good views up and down the Murrumbidgee. A lovely warm still day.