

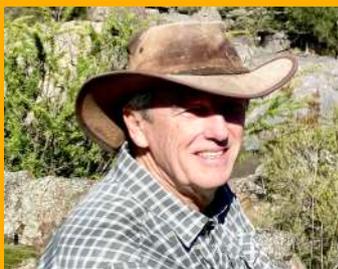
# BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB

## SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



### From the President

As is reported in detail later in the Newsletter, the club's recently held AGM was informative and attended by 30.



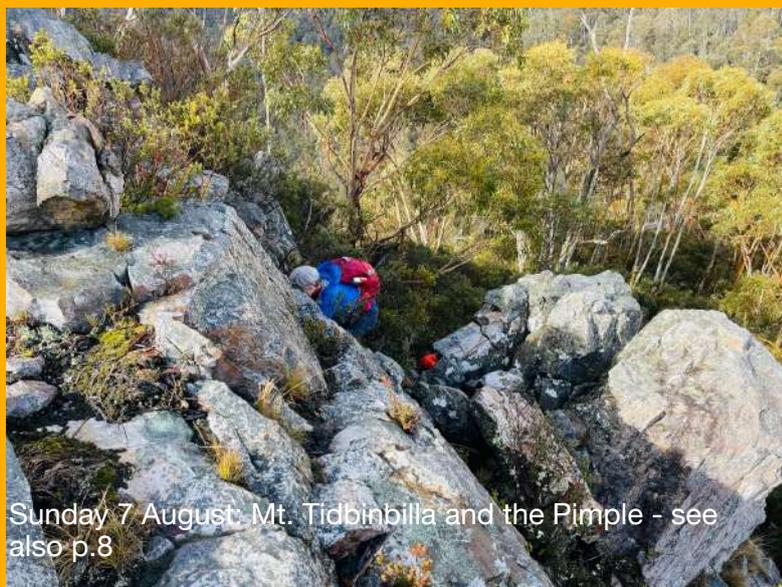
Although all committee and subcommittee roles were filled, any additional help for the walks and social subcommittees is always most welcome.

The previous incumbents stood again in their respective roles. I thank them all for their continued support and active involvement in the club and I look forward to another interesting and rewarding year of walks and/or other activities under their guidance

Our committee members are focussing their minds on what events we will be offering in the next 12 months, in particular what walks and/or social activities are most appreciated and are accessible to the broadest range of members. I think that the adage "when you are onto a good thing, stick to it" may result in us repeating some events which we have done previously, even so I am sure that they will continue to be well received.

Spring is with us now and recently there have been days with glorious conditions for walking. The return of blue skies and mildly warm days have been most welcome and without doubt helps lift one's spirit. As one walk leader mentioned to me recently after leading a local walk... "they certainly are a happy bunch". So get out and enjoy the outdoors. Whether it is a very easy, easy, or hard walk, enjoy the experience and remember we are lucky to be able to do such activities in a safe and secure environment.

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



Sunday 7 August: Mt. Tidbinbilla and the Pimple - see also p.8

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**Contributions welcome**  
Articles and photos

Send to  
[editor@brindabellabushwalking.org.au](mailto:editor@brindabellabushwalking.org.au)

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

View NW from near Booroomba



# Annual General Meeting

The AGM on Sunday 28 August was the first one to be held in the afternoon. The Executive Committee anticipated that this might facilitate attendance by those who were reluctant to drive at night. It was attended by 30. The meeting heard reports from committee members and there are no changes in Committee composition. All office holders from last year are remaining in place. Fees remain unchanged and can be paid at any time using [the form on the website](#).

The **President, Bill Gibson**, spoke of Covid disruptions, revised guidelines for walk leaders, increases in fuel costs, the ACT Government's outdoors studies of Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and Namadgi Walking Trails, repairs to Rocky Creek Crossing and changes to website and newsletter arrangements.

The **Walks Officer, David Wardle**, reported on the large participation on walks despite 42 cancellations due to Covid and rain, a great mix of walks in the ACT and NSW, Robyn Kelly's response to the growth in demand for half-day Easy Wednesday walks, the commitment of leaders and the work of the Walks Sub-Committee.

The **Treasurer, Lana Burmester**, assured us that our finances are sound and the Membership Secretary, Davinia Wells, reported a pleasing rise in membership from 409 to 442.

The **Secretary, Julie Pettit**, reported in more detail on the range of matters addressed by the President, on issues under consideration by the committee and on the general work of the committee throughout the year.

The **Social Convenor's report by Elaine Atkinson** covered the seven social events that took place throughout the year and on plans for the coming twelve months.

The **Training and Development Officer's report by Bob Chittenden** covered the Walk Leaders' First Aid course and Navigation and Leadership Training and mentioned that the next course will be advertised in October/November via email and will be held on a Tuesday.

Finally, the **Facebook Activity Report by Heather McLoughlin** told us that our Facebook page is reaching 760 people and we have had nearly 800 likes over the past year.



## [Everything you need to know about Magpie Swooping Season](#)

Protecting your baby is natural.

Not all magpies swoop.

The ones that do are just using their body language - beak clapping, whooshing above your head and screeching to warn you to keep away.

Magpies usually breed between August and October. Females will typically lay between three and five eggs in early to mid-August and will sit on them for three weeks until they hatch.

It's during this time that some males defend their nests. The good news is that an individual will swoop for only about six weeks.

And yes, they do remember your face!

## A NOTABLE EVENT

*I recently invited our Life Members to write an article about a notable walk they had experienced. My thanks go to Milton Turner for this riveting account of dealing with an accident he suffered while on a multi-day walk in 1997.*

*Ed.*

It was in early 1997 that Peter Tedder had arranged for another backpacking trip to Tasmania after a successful trip there in early 1996 to walk from Macquarie Harbour to Kelly Basin via Hibbs Lagoon. I had done the earlier trip with Peter and was intending to go on the 1997 trip from Moores Valley to Melaleuca. However Peter decided that there would be a work-out backpacking trip to Kosciuszko some 2 weeks prior to the trip to Tasmania.

Early in 1997 we drove to Guthega prepared for a 5-6 day walk in the mountains. We started off at Guthega Power Station and after walking for several days we were approaching Tin Hut in the Gungartan Range when we had to stop because I had slipped on maybe a slippery grass surface and had fallen onto my back with my right leg in the air, which led to a loud crack! As I found out later I had a fractured fibula! But for now we had to figure how to get me down to the main fire trail and then out to the cars about 15k away. I did suggest getting a helicopter (but no mobile phone) but the group assured me that they could get me back to the cars which at my pace would take nearly 2 days of walking.

After the analysis of the problem I was comforted with a cup of tea and covered with a shade (it was hot) and given some pain relief medication which fortunately one of the group carried.

In the afternoon we neared Tin Hut where we intended to stay the night. I was not able to carry a pack so my pack was 'raided' and the contents distributed among others in the group. I was helped along the way with a walker on

each side of me holding my arms to keep me stable. When we reached the hut I was instructed to sleep with my boots on! Fortunately I was able to walk slowly with little pain thanks to the medication.

Next day we set off to go down a rugged track to the Whites River hut. I was again supported with 2 members (Gary and Colin) of the party and we made it safely to the hut where we spent that night.

We were off next morning along the fire trail to the cars, and in the afternoon we headed for home. I was pleased to get back safely, thanks to the help of the members of the group. Thank you all. As suspected, after a shower and a meal, the visit to the hospital confirmed that I had a fractured fibula. Unfortunately this prevented me from going on Peter's trip to Moores Valley/Bond Bay in February. A great disappointment for me.



Photo courtesy Peter Tedder  
L to R: Milton Turner, Kathy Saw, unidentified, Colin Boreham  
Peter Tedder in front

**Milton Turner**  
**More photos p.5**

# Rob Roy and the black and white mine 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## An incident causing emergency services to be called for help

*Wayne Holgate*

This Wednesday day walk sounded wonderful, and the day was clear with no wind so I went along together with 15 others. The walk to the top of Rob Roy was straight forward. Leader Jenny Horsfield planned to lunch at the top. There were many rocks and boulders on the top but it was not hard to negotiate in any way.

So I walked to the top, and looking around, I decided on a nice place to sit. I don't know what happened but suddenly, I was over and fallen on my left side with the wind knocked completely out of me and struggling to suck in air. Other walkers were quick to react and asked if I had hit my head, could I feel my arms and legs and where it hurt. After a few minutes I regained my breath and, with the aid of others, moved to a level place.

They walked me down to a track (only 100m) and we waited for assistance. After about an hour, three vehicles arrived, 2 ambulance and one police car, and the ambo and then a doctor gave me to a health check. They determined that it looked like a broken rib(s). They gave me some medication and took me down to the bottom of Rob Roy where I was transferred to ambulance to be taken to hospital to assess the damage. I spent the next 4 days in hospital. The damage was 3 broken ribs and a small puncture of a lung.

I would like to thank all who helped me on the walk, the ambulance staff and police as well as hospital staff.

As I think back to the accident, these things happen but I did have a pair of walking poles in my pack to use for going downhill so as to alleviate strain on the legs. I will now try to use them more, especially on uneven ground. Would they have stopped the accident? Who knows. But there may be a bit of pride in there and we all know pride comes before a fall. At least I was doing something I enjoy.

Jenny Horsfield, CBC leader, reported that the incident gave an insight into a new approach by the emergency services.

*'A recent incident on a CBC Wednesday walk gave an insight into a new approach by the emergency services. When one of the party had a serious fall and we rang triple zero 'using the Emergency Plus app' I gave our position using lat.long coordinates as they requested. The position was accurate and the woman taking the call repeated the coordinates back to me.*

*However while we were waiting for the emergency services to arrive we had another call asking us to use What3words to give a more precise location. One of our party had this app on her phone and was able to provide that information.*

In a postscript, Wayne said that, luckily, one of the ambos knew this area well and insisted on using a better track to access the incident than that which had been directed. Central dispatch systems sometimes have their limitations in that they are computer generated and lack local knowledge.

**See article on what3words app on next page.**

## Emergency Plus App

If you have a smart phone, you really should install the free [Emergency Plus App](#) that can save lives.

The app is available for both Android and Apple phones. If you need help in an emergency, then you select the app and it will give you your coordinates (or a street address if you are not in the bush) and the choice of three buttons to press - one will dial 000, the second will call the police and the third the SES.

It does, of course, rely on your phone being in an area of coverage at the time.

*Republished from June 2018 newsletter.*

*Ed.*



## What3words App



Some people just cannot comprehend latitude and longitude or grid references. Now a clever chap has come up with a clever solution. Even if you are comfortable with grid references etc. please bear in mind that the stress of managing an incident can cause mistakes and also that the person on the other end of your communication may be less comfortable with all that is involved than you are.

He discovered that the entire surface of the earth could be divided into ten metre squares and each square could be identified by three simple words e.g. my location now is 'events.fever.green'.

Only 40,000 words were needed to achieve this. As reported by [the other BBC](#), rescues are increasingly being carried out using this system. (Click on the above heading for a full explanation of the App.)

The App works well with the Emergency Plus app so please consider downloading both to your phone.

## VALE CLARE HUGHES

We would like to record the death this week of Clare Hughes (now Clare Friend), at the age of 92. Clare and her late husband, Dick Hughes, were founding members of the Family Bushwalkers Inc (FBI) in the 1970s. This was the predecessor of the Brindabella Bushwalking Club. Together they organised and led many challenging walks and were instrumental in the club's establishment and rapid growth. Thank you Clare.

*Mary Lindsay*

## VALE YVONNE SCALES

On Friday 19 August the BBC lost a long-standing member when Yvonne Scales passed away peacefully at Clare Holland House at the age of 98.

Yvonne and her late husband Derek were originally members of the Family Bushwalkers Inc as our club was then known, and they often took their three young daughters on bushwalks with them.

She and Derek loved every minute of the walks they did. No doubt the regular exercise and the enjoyment of the outdoors and the bush was something that helped keep them fit and young at heart.

Yvonne remained active in the club until well into her nineties, attending the AGM and taking part in the Octogenarian walk and picnic.

A Memorial Service for Yvonne will be held in the second week of October.

*Lyn Willson*

### **More photos from story on p.3**

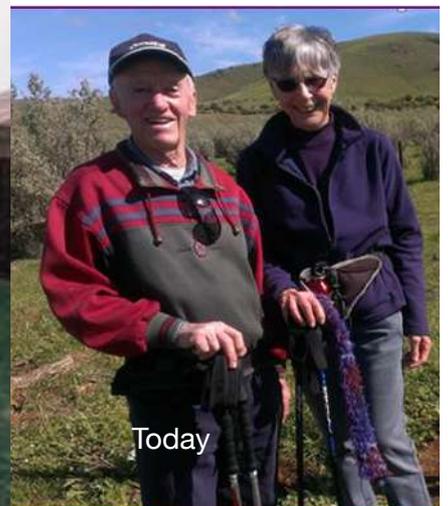


Tin hut

*Milton was transferred from SA to Canberra in 1969. He and Jan joined FBI in 1984 at the invitation of Col and Val Boreham and he became Walks Officer around 1986. He was appointed a Life Member in 2001 for his contribution and he and Jan moved back to Adelaide the same year.  
Thanks Milton.*



The result



Today

# Estimate How Far Away Something Is

(from [mathsisfun.com](http://mathsisfun.com))

Here is a clever method to estimate how far away something is:

- Hold your arm straight out, thumb up
- Close one eye, align your thumb with distant object
- Switch eyes (don't move your thumb!)
- Your thumb will seem to change position

Now ... estimate how far it moved sideways (you could imagine the length of a car or something).

**Multiply that by 10** and you have an estimate of how far away.



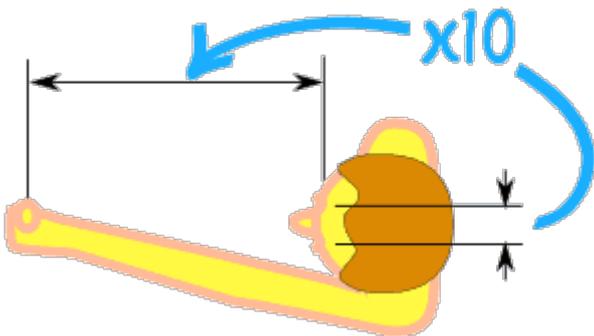
## Example

Here your thumb seems to jump about **half a car length**.

Half a car length is about **2.5 meters**.

Times 10: the car is **about 25 meters** away.

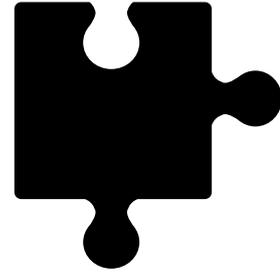
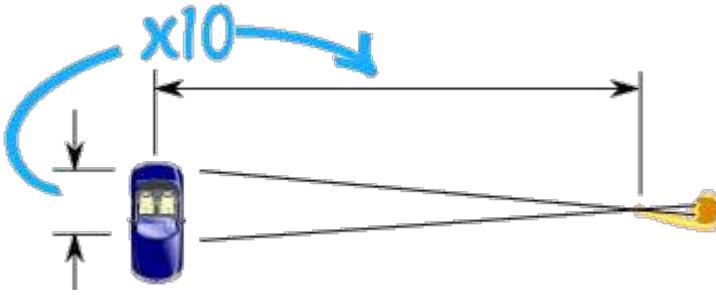
## How it Works



The distance from your **eyes to your thumb** is about 10 times the distance **between your eyes**



*Continued next page*



And so, the distance **to the far object** is also about 10 times the **width your thumb seems to move at the far object**.

This works because the triangles are similar, and so the relative lengths are the same.

## Learn the Size of Things

To be useful you need to know how long, wide or tall things are!

- Small cars are 4 m long
- Large cars are 5 m long
- Cars are about 1.8 m wide
- Adults are about 1.8 m tall
- A 5-year-old is about 1 m tall
- A truck and trailer is about 20 m long
- The width of a small house is about 8 m
- The width of a large house is about 12 m
- The height of a single-storey house is about 5 m
- The height of a two-storey house is about 8 m
- Tall buildings have about 3.5 m for every storey

(Note: to use this method for height, tilt your head and thumb 90° to the side.)

"True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country." – Kurt Vonnegut

"I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member." – Groucho Marx

"Never argue with an idiot. They will only bring you down to their level and beat you with experience." – George Carlin

"A new report says that dogs can sniff out prostate cancer with almost 98 percent accuracy. The report also finds that cats can sniff it out with 100 percent accuracy, but they prefer to watch you die." – Conan O'Brien

## This 'n' That

If you haven't already explored them, next time you are at the south coast, you might like to check out some of the [short walks](#) from Durras. They are readily accessible and a few hours spent on the trails or swimming at one of the beaches will be worth it.

Dark Beach is actually two beaches, one white, the other grey, divided by a rocky outcrop - both are suitable for swimming.



Dark Beach - a short walk, or drive and walk, from the Durras Caravan Park



## Facebook

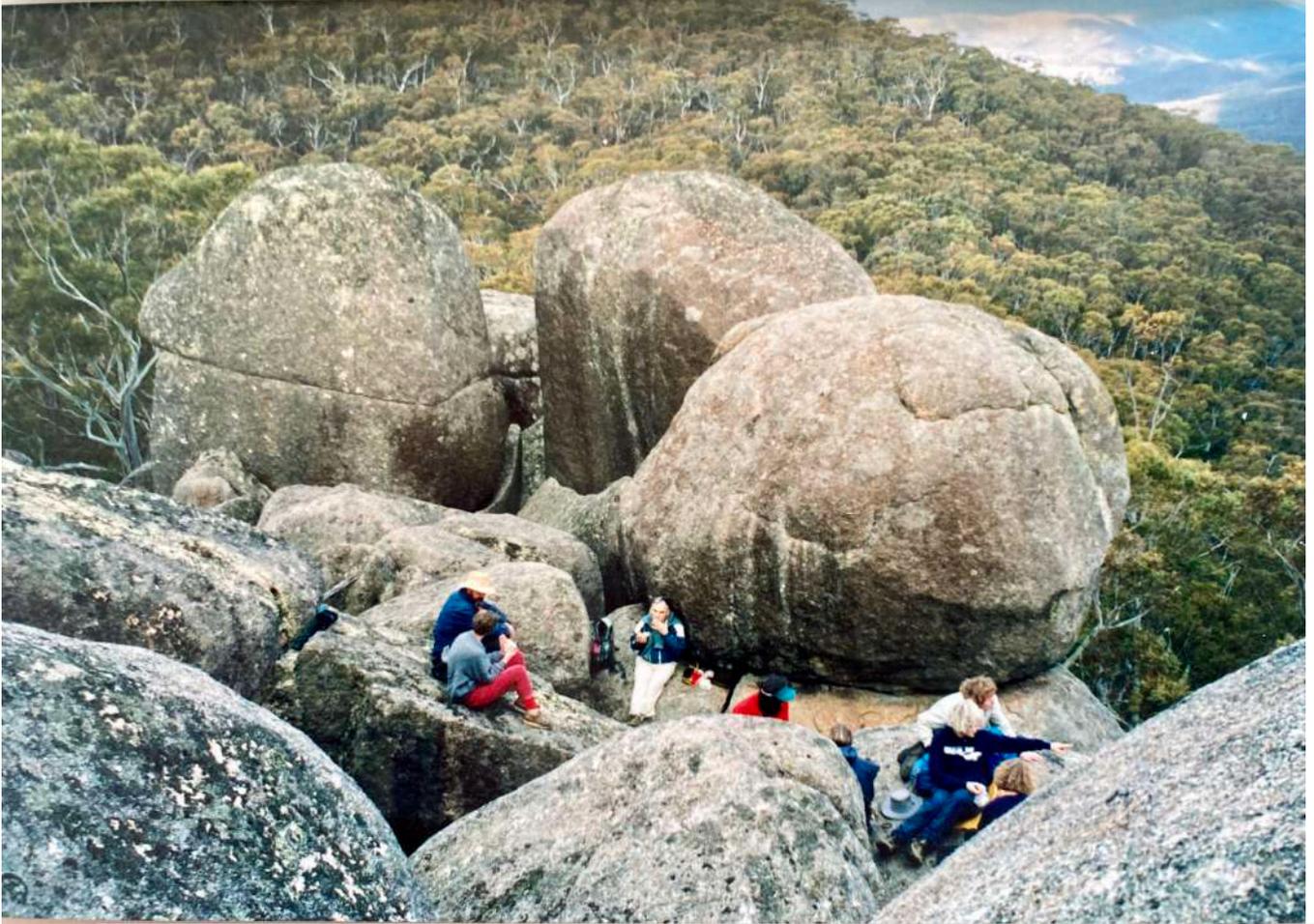
Our Facebook Manager regularly posts photos, walk reports and information about upcoming activities.

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](mailto:facebook@brindabellabushwalking.org.au)

## ***Blast from the Past - Sunday 23 August, 1991***



Sun Aug 23 ORRORAL RIVER RIDGE

Medium 14km

A walk along a ridge from the Orroral River picnic ground to Honeysuckle Trig or somewhere in between. Some cars will be placed at the Orroral Tracking Station for the return journey. Great views and rock formations including the magnificent outcrop which I understand to be the original "Eyre".

CARS: 100km (\$8) MAPS: Rendezvous Ck & Corin Dam 1:25000

LEADERS: Pat and Eric Pickering 286 2128

MEET AT POINT K.

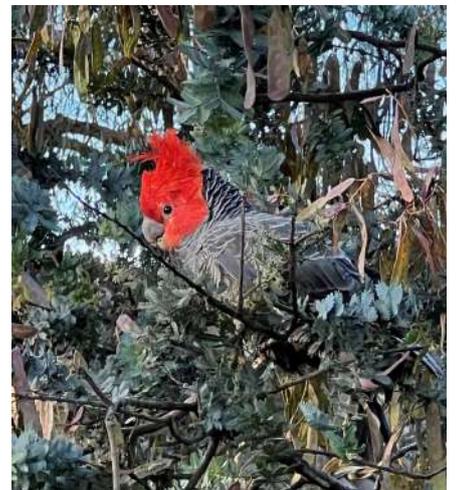




Wed. E/M Black Mtn. Fortune favours the brave

## More Photos from Recent Walks

**Below left:** Sunday 7 August – Andrew led a walk with 7 other keen hikers to Mt Tidbinbilla and the Pimple. We climbed steeply from the Mountain Creek car park up to Mt Tidbinbilla via snowy corner. We then headed north towards Tidbinbilla peak before veering off north-west towards the Pimple.



Gang Gangs: To find out more about them, the ANU Difficult Bird Research Group and the ACT Government are asking Canberrans for help collecting [gang-gang feathers](#).



Easy Wed walk August 10: Margitta led us around 5 km of the walkways of Kambah and then provided us with delicious biscuits to have with a post walk coffee.

