



HAPPY NEW YEAR



BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB

JANUARY 2023



BBC

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to a new year of walking with the club. In looking through the walks program for the first half of 2023 it reminded me that the

club offers over 200 events each year and when you include the addition of Wednesday walks run by colleagues from CBC and NPA swells this number to almost 270 events each year.

These walks are well received and attended however we should not lose sight that this is only possible as a result of our walk leaders leading them, as well as the Walks Sub-committee led by David Wardle and the walks co-ordinators Leigh Hermann, Kathy Handel, Robyn Kelly and Peter Wellman co-ordinating them. So, thank you to all as we wouldn't be able to participate and enjoy these walking experiences without these contributions.

In addition to the core walking activities, we have numerous social events during the year. This is thanks to Elaine and her very enthusiastic and supportive sub-committee members.

During some of our walks we have had a number of injuries to colleagues and whilst this kind of thing is not completely out of the question, it is nonetheless disturbing for all involved. I am happy to say that on each occasion the walk leader and fellow walkers handled the situations very well. I am sure that a combination of the experienced walkers as well as the club's annual First-Aid training course that Bob Chittenden arranges helped.

I hope that you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday season with family and friends and a Happy New Year. I look forward to another big walking year in 2023.

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



Yanununbeyan State Conservation Area - Medium walk 3 December

Contributions welcome

Articles and photos

Send to

editor@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

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A walk in the Tarkine

With two local guides, five members of BBC set out in November to explore the Tarkine region in Tasmania's Northwest.

It's Australia's largest tract of temperate rainforest and home to more than 60 rare and endangered species. It is a huge area, 447,000 hectares of wilderness, with only small parts currently protected, and a fair bit of mining going on or intended.

We spent three days walking in this very special area and learned about its proposed future. We experienced the tall myrtle and sassafras forests, volumes of water falling over cliff faces (there had been some heavy rain in Tasmania, too) and the roaring wild coastline with its lichen-strewn boulders. We stayed overnight in comfortable cabins in the small and remote township of Corinna (pop. 300) by the Pieman River. Our walks on the first day led us to Philosopher's Falls near Waratah at the edge of the Tarkine. The falls are named after James "Philosopher" Smith, who, in the second half of the 19th century, discovered tin in the area. The walk follows a water race before descending some 200 steps into a fern-filled gully. On the return walk, our guides set up lunch right in the middle of the forest; they even provided picnic blankets. Another walk on that day was from Corinna through rainforest along the Pieman and Whyte Rivers.

On the second day it was off to the coast. A small boat carried us to the Pieman River mouth; a 6.30 a.m. departure with breakfast served on the boat. We walked south along the coast, crossing a wide creek and wading through ocean froth until we reached the granite boulders, a special feature along this coastline. They were truly magnificent. In amongst the boulders, sheltered from the wind, our guides got out their small gas cookers and their bottles of water for our morning tea. This is a lonely stretch of coastline; there are a few beach shacks at Pieman Heads, a public toilet and a very basic camping area. Rutted 4WD tracks run parallel to the beach. The only person we saw was the owner of one of the shacks. It was a grey day, the rain threatened, but never came, and by the time we returned to Corinna, there even was a glimpse of blue sky. Total distance about 13 km of exhilarated walking.



Our final walk in the Tarkine was to Montezuma Falls near Rosebery. Apparently the falls are named after the mining company which explored this area; and the walk simply follows a disused tramline through dense forest to the falls, at 104m Tasmania's highest. And they were certainly a spectacular sight. We enjoyed lunch at the base. The return walk was close to 12 km, all level.

Then it was back to Launceston and a few days' rest before our next adventure in the Freycinet National Park.



Margitta Acker and Colleen Fox

(More photos on p.4)

Some Freycinet Walks

Julie Pettit

A sixth BBC member joined the group on their return to Launceston from their Tarkine trip and we all enjoyed several days exploring this lovely city and the surrounding region as well as partaking in many fine dining experiences and some wine tasting. On Saturday we were picked up by our two guides in their small bus for a drive to Freycinet with instructions to be fully ready to walk on arrival, our group of 6 having been joined by two fit young Mums from South Australia and a Canadian lady – so 9 of us plus our two guides.

After a short stop at our accommodation, the luxury resort Freycinet Lodge, we were taken to the start of



the walk to Wineglass Bay Lookout involving a steep climb for about half a kilometre for a magnificent view of the Bay with its pristine curving white sand on one side of a narrow isthmus. Surrounding us were the imposing peaks of several rocky mountains of the Hazard Range covered in huge striated granite boulders in hues of red, brown and cream. We then descended a rather gruelling 1000 steps to the bottom of the lookout and across the isthmus track to Hazards Beach and walked along the northern part of the beach with a high sand bank beside us - the remains of an Aboriginal midden stretching right along the beach representing generations of feasting on mussels, scallops, mud oysters and clams. We then



branched off along a wooded coastal track with lots of she oaks and large banksias and eucalypts. After so much rain in recent weeks the track was very muddy in many places and we often had to resort to either laying down branches

and logs to avoid some of the mud or take detours further into the bush. There were also several small rivulets to negotiate – so the 12.5 km walk took quite a bit longer than expected but was very enjoyable if challenging in places. We saw lots of edible plants and wildflowers along the track including varieties of orchids such as hooded orchids, the prized flying duck species and donkey orchids.

After arriving back at the Lodge and cleaning up we were treated to a delicious meal and local wines in well sited dining room with spectacular views overlooking Great Oyster Bay.



On the next day, 5 of our group decided to have an easier day and did a 6 km return walk into Coles Bay along the beach. But before doing so most decided to join the fast boat trip across Promise Bay from the Lodge to the drop off point for those doing the other programmed walks from



Cooks Beach. The sea was quite choppy so it made for an exciting and bumpy journey as the boat thumped its way across the bay. The boat captain steered the boat as close as he could to the shore then put out a pontoon-like ladder.

However, this still left quite an expanse of water to wade through before reaching the shore.

Most of those disembarking were of a stature sufficient to avoid getting too wet however, for me it meant getting very wet indeed - up to the waist or more. Fortunately, a “knight in dusty bush gear” came to the rescue in the form of one of our guides who offered a piggy back to shore which was readily accepted.



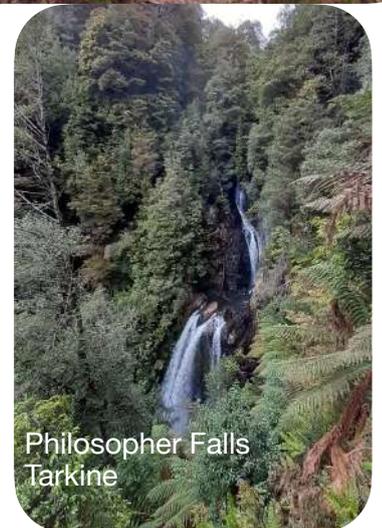
Our two fit young SA walkers and one guide decided to climb Mt Graham. Susan (our Canadian friend) and I went with the other guide on a bush track leading up from Cooks Beach on the Peninsula track towards Hazards Beach. It was a lovely track through thick eucalypt woodland a long walk along the whole length of Hazards Beach with lots of shore birds running about, then a repeat of some of the track walked on day 1. All up the walk was about 13 Km with two more quite deep streams crossed with our gallant guide once more coming to the rescue with a piggy back ride for me.



On our last day the 3 younger members of our tour tackled an early morning climb up Mt Amos – a very steep and hard climb with lots of rock scrambling over granite slabs. They managed to get to the half-way point and were still able to enjoy spectacular views. The 6 members of the BBC group were taken to several locations on the north-western side of the peninsula with a short boardwalk to the small lighthouse at Cape Tourville to enjoy a panoramic view of the coast, followed by a short descent to Sleepy Bay where we viewed some wind eroded rocks of various interesting shapes. After picking up the early morning walkers we visited the Friendly Beaches and enjoyed a walk of about 3 Km along this lovely stretch of sand. On our return journey to Launceston we stopped at the popular Craigie Knowe winery for a lunch platter and wine tasting arriving back in the late afternoon after a very enjoyable trip.



***Above and right:
More of the Tarkine
area showing signs
of past logging***



**Philosopher Falls
Tarkine**



SNAKES IN THE ACT

With summer well under way, it's a good time to brush up your knowledge of our local snakes.

A useful guide to identification and behaviour (that of humans as well as that of snakes) has been provided by the ACT Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate [here](#).



In summary, eight species of snakes are known to inhabit the ACT, with five regarded as potentially dangerous to humans. However, while all snakes in the ACT are venomous, except the blind snake, they are shy, nonaggressive creatures that will quickly retreat if not provoked.



Those marked with an asterisk are potentially dangerous.

The Eastern Brown Snake is the most frequently seen. The Red-Bellied Black Snake, Tiger Snake and the Black-headed Snake are seen only occasionally.

For more information check out the ACT Environment website referenced above.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to new and returning members.

New:

Shirley Aitchison
Lesley Band
Josephine Bennetts
Rachael Bilton
Richard Hefferman
Celia Ng



Returning:

Peter Aitchison
Jane Andrews
Judy and John McKenna



CHRISTMAS PARTYDecember 16,

To talk over walks, achievements and Club happenings 27 people met at Jillian's place to celebrate Christmas and reminisce over the year. While there was a distinct wind chill factor it didn't dampen spirits and there were plenty of laughs and good food to keep us warm. We all enjoyed chatting, eating and catching up with new and old friends. Many thanks to Jillian and Elaine for organising the event.

Watch your email box for news of upcoming social events in the New Year.

Wendy Thompson
Social sub-committee member

I will organise a few short notice outings for January. Notification via email. I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Elaine Atkinson
Social Convenor



Facebook

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

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

National Parks for Sale



'Huts' under construction on the Three Capes Track. Credit: Rob Bakers

funding. Pressure from special interest &-profit making groups detracts considerably from their work. NPWS funding must be increased to effectively respond to pressure for development in NPs and to deal with the explosion of invasive species.

Visiting NPs is beneficial for mental wellbeing, but expensive

In November, Bushwalking NSW – the peak body for bushwalking clubs in NSW & the ACT, held a symposium on tourism development in national parks (NPs) at which 11 speakers, representing park managers, users & supporters spoke, identifying the ideas described below.

Most Australians want to protect nature and wildlife for current and future generations as well as for wildlife's intrinsic value. The ability of National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) to do this work is hampered by Ministers who are able to interfere with Plans of Management &

accommodation will benefit only businesses and their customers, while damaging NPs. Private developments could turn our NPs into theme parks, negating their protected status. Small-scale, low-key structures like toilets & signage facilitate park use for all. However, sites for significant development should be sought outside NPs before considering development within. If development is to occur within a NP, adaptive reuse of pre-existing structures must first be considered.

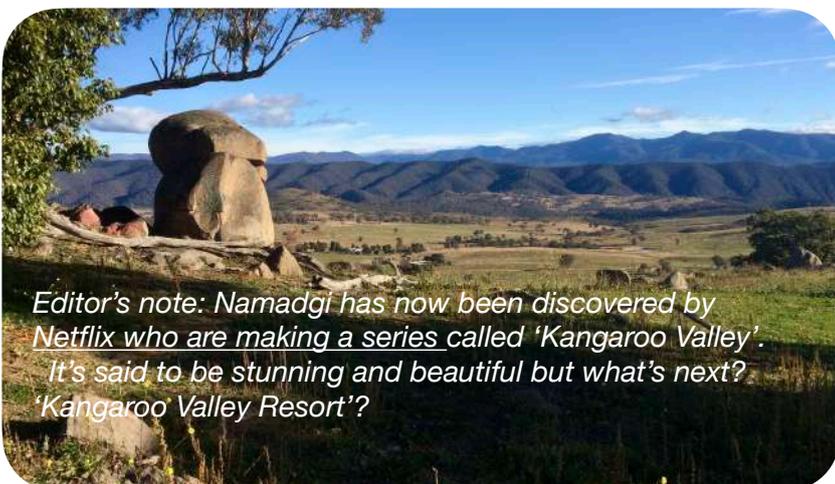
Why sell the crown jewels to the highest bidder? Investment in our NPs is welcome, but outcomes must ensure that NPs remain permanent, public and protected for all.

Cynthia Breheny

Editorial

Readers will recall my invitation to members to express their own views on bushwalking related topics in the newsletter. The club doesn't take a position on these issues but, if you have an opinion, you are welcome to express it here.

Ed.



Editor's note: Namadgi has now been discovered by Netflix who are making a series called 'Kangaroo Valley'. It's said to be stunning and beautiful but what's next? 'Kangaroo Valley Resort'?

BLAST FROM THE PAST

1994 Kosciusko

es-Sun
1 Dec

GUTHEGA - SELWYN HIGH COUNTRY CROSS-OVER **Hard Pack Camp**
 A six day, early summer walk along the main range and alpine heathlands of the Kosciusko NP. Features of the walk are the summer alpine flowers and the huts that, where possible, will be our daily objective. The huts are Tin, Mawson, Cesjack, Mackey, Boobee, Brooks, Broken Dam and, via possible side trips, Valentine and Happy. If insufficient numbers for a cross-over, route will be modified, or commercial arrangements made for pick-up.
 Cars: To be arranged Maps: Kosciusko, Tantangara 1:100000
 Leader: Pete Tedder 282 1711
 Meet at: Phone Pete for details by Mon 21 Nov.

