

# Brindabella Bushwalking Club

## March 2025 Newsletter



BBC

Issue 92



Orroral Valley

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**BBC Website**

[www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au](http://www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au) [All newsletters are on the website]

## About your Committee



I've been told it is my turn to add to the brief biographies of your committee members that have been appearing in the newsletter recently, so here goes.

My first bushwalking and walk leading began in the Army (Infantry) nearly 60 years ago. This gave me a love for the map and compass, and an understanding of how terrain and vegetation affects your progress.

The arrival of children, regular moves around the countryside and other interests kept me away from bushwalking for a long time. I resumed with gusto in the late 1990s and have participated in club walks twice a week since then.

I was a member of the Shoalhaven Bushwalkers Club until returning to Canberra in 2013, whereupon I immediately joined BBC and, before the year ended, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the committee. I've remained on the committee since then in a variety of positions. It's been a privilege to be allowed to contribute, as part of the team, to the success of this great club.

Walking and navigating off-track has always been my main interest, but the company of fellow walkers comes a very close second.

Peter Dalton

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## Bush Search and Rescue Operator

NSW SES Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) is a specialist Unit of experienced bushwalkers, canyoners and rock climbers, experienced in operating in remote or wilderness areas. BSAR was involved in the recent lengthy search in Kosciuszko National Park. If you are interested in learning more about them and perhaps joining them as a volunteer, all the information is at this link [Bush search and rescue operator | NSW SES](#).

## Facebook

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

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

*Please send your walk reports and photos to Heather at [facebook@brindabellabushwalking.org.au](mailto:facebook@brindabellabushwalking.org.au)*

# Deadmans Hill

*Henry Gardner*



In my journeys around the beautiful hills and valleys surrounding Booromba Rocks I have been intrigued by the oddly-named "Deadmans Hill" - presumably missing an apostrophe as is so often the case these days. The following ditty came to mind on a recent BBC-sponsored Wednesday Walk in the vicinity:

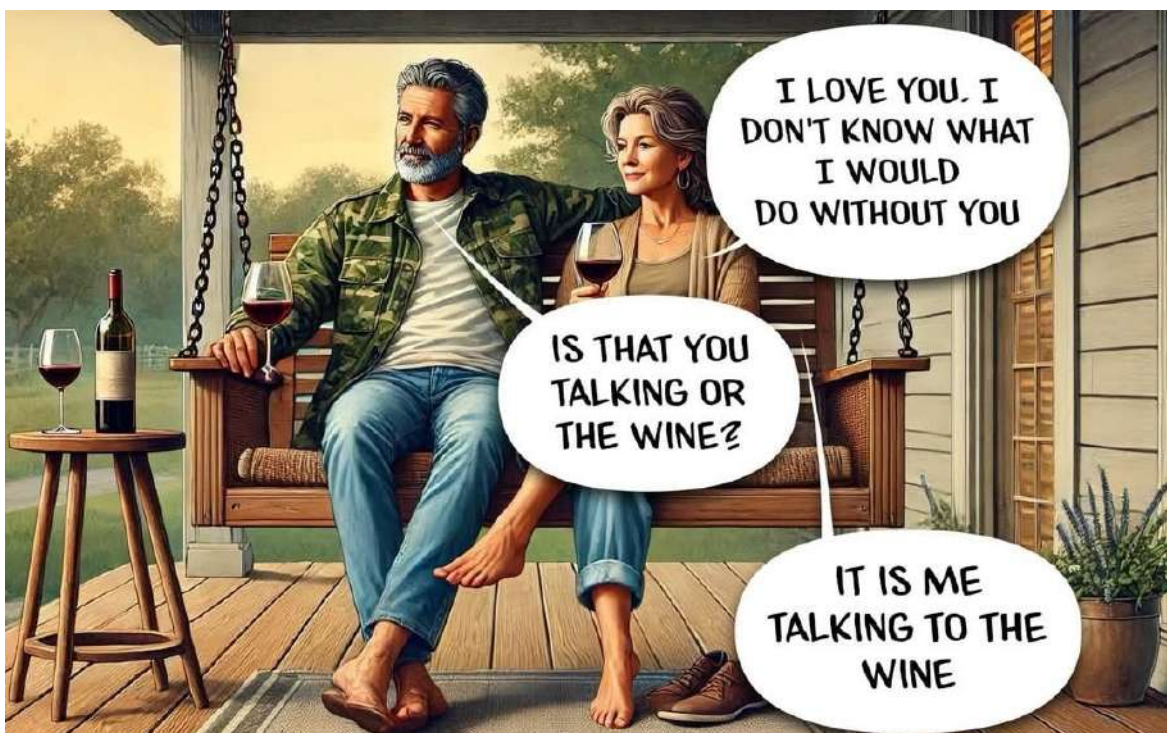
There once was a man called "Deadman".

We all called him "Dead" - til he died!

We gathered soon after,  
and wallowed in laughter.

Now the daisies push up by his side.

The photo above shows the largest rock slab on Deadmans Hill. This was taken on the walk to an adjacent hill, Led by Andrew Cupit on Wednesday 5 February.



## Volunteering

Volunteering is a great way to help others in your community and also for you to be involved in a worthwhile pursuit.

BBC committee members are volunteers who administer your club and keep everything ticking over nicely. There are two positions that need to be filled at the next AGM.

**President.** Bill has been the president for five years now, when the normal time in this position is two or three years. He plans to do a lot more travel in the future and will not be standing for re-election at the AGM. The president chairs three committee meetings and one AGM per year, so the position is not particularly onerous. Email Bill at [president@brindabellabushwalking.org.au](mailto:president@brindabellabushwalking.org.au) to discuss the role.

**Newsletter Editor.** The current editor is 'keeping the seat warm' while awaiting a replacement. The editor has a great deal of autonomy and basically assembles articles, photos and cartoons in an eye-pleasing manner for club members. If you are comfortable using a computer, you'll have no trouble producing the newsletter. Contact Peter at [editor@brindabellabushwalking.org.au](mailto:editor@brindabellabushwalking.org.au) for more information.

Your club functions efficiently and effectively as a result of the efforts of the volunteer committee members – can you help?

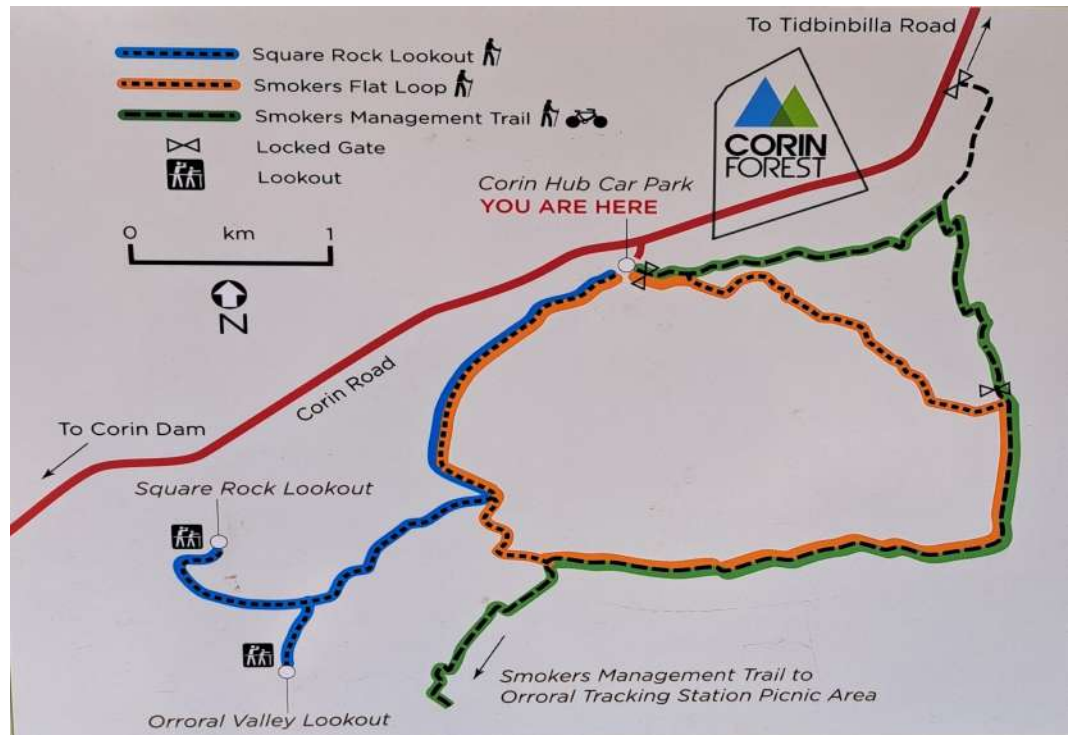


I understand being a responsible adult... but every day? Every single day? That seems a little excessive.

## SMOKERS FLAT LOOP AND SQUARE ROCK WALK

One of the most popular and easily accessible walks in the Namadgi National Park is receiving some attention and upgrades. Whether you walk the track in a clockwise or anticlockwise direction, the starts and finishes are being upgraded.

Mostly it is just clearing and levelling the track with attention to draining water away from the track.



In other areas more steps, both stone and wooden are being added and new lengths of metal grating are being incorporated into former boggy areas.



The Smokers Flat Loop has a bit of everything.

The start (if you are walking clockwise) takes you through former pine forests with the telltale signs of the old forest access tracks cut into the hillside and regenerating native forest.

Once onto the Management Trail part of the track, you are walking through pleasant eucalypt forest with both new and old growth canopy. All along the track are interesting rocky outcrops if you have time for a bit of an explore.

Across the short link track skirting a luxuriant boggy area, you enter the track to Square Rock.

Apparently the next section of the track to receive an upgrade is the short diversion to the Orroral Valley lookout.



While the track upgrades are most welcome, there is no indication of that most important facility for the many walkers who traverse the track – public toilet facilities.

David Wardle



### **What is this?**

*An almost-immediate and scammer-proof way of paying someone or of being paid.*

### **What does it cost?**

*Nothing for the payer or receiver.*

### **How do I set it up?**

*Login to your financial institution's website and look for the PayID menu item. Select it and enter your preferred method of receiving payments. You can use your mobile number or email address. Then follow the remaining couple of prompts and you are set.*

### **What information do I have to provide to someone who wants to pay me?**

*Just the PayID link you have selected; i.e. your mobile phone number or email address. You don't have to remember your BSB and account number – who does?*

### **Does the person paying me also have to have it set up?**

*Yes.*

### **How do I know it is going to the right person?**

*When you enter the person's phone number, for example, their name will be shown before you hit 'Send', 'Pay' or 'Continue' - depending on your bank's setup. You can also add a description; e.g. car-pooling.*

### **How long does it take for the funds to arrive?**

*Less than a minute.*

### **Show me the payment process.**

*[This video](#) explains the process. To confirm the procedure that your bank uses (they don't differ very much), Google its name and PayID (e.g. NAB PayID), then select 'videos' from the top menu in the next window and all will be revealed.*

### **Split payments will become a breeze**

*Let's say you're going on a bushwalking trip and you're all staying in the same rented accommodation. That would normally mean one person foots the bill, then commences the logistical challenge of rounding up payment from the others..*

*Well, you now just give your PayID to your fellow travellers, then they can instantly transfer their share of the money to you. Easy!*

### **Payment for Car-Pooling**

*As more people just aren't carrying cash nowadays, using PayID might turn out to be our best solution.*

## SOCIAL NEWS MARCH 2025

**Friday 31 January:** Sunset Walk Mt Ainslie.

55 attendees this year (50 members, 3 visitors and 2 grandchildren) enjoyed the annual walk (huff and puff), drinks, nibbles and chat at the top of Mt Ainslie. There were 30 walkers. This event caters for all as there is the option to drive to the top. I'm sure the club banner was a welcome sight for the walkers. Welcome to our new members – you have joined a great club.



**History of the sunset walk as reported in March 2025 newsletter:** Did you know the first annual walk and social event was in 1989 to welcome the start of walking year (there were no walks in January then) or was it billed as the first social get together for the year. It is unknown if the event continued annually, but records show John Clune co-ordinated the event in 2003. The next event was held 2005 when it was picked up again and has been every year since with various coordinators. Some years the event has been cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. Whatever the history, this popular event is a great club tradition!!!

Thank you to the members of the Social Sub-committee (and Jo) who helped make this social get-together a success.





## Sunset Walk Photos



**Monday 17 February:** picnic tea (Queen Elizabeth II Island), Carillon recital (by Dr Andrea McCrady, Dominion Carillonneur of Canada) and walk around the lake. *Photos on the next page.*

What a beautiful weather evening and great location for this outing. The night before was winter (and rather chilly the couple of days beforehand). Free parking. 24 attendees and 5 of us walked around the lake. I'll organise another summer evening picnic next year. If you are interested in free tours of the National Carillon, I understand there will be future free bookings, though nothing on the NCA website yet. Further information re the National Carillon can be found on Google.

**Upcoming Events:** Monday 10 March (Canberra Day). Walk and picnic (subject to weather) at The Cotter. I will send an email closer to the date.

Elaine Atkinson

## At The Carillon



**Sometimes the thoughts in my head  
get so bored, they go out for a  
stroll through my mouth.  
This is rarely a good thing**

## Coming Up This Month

*(See the program on the website for more details; Wednesday Walks have been omitted)*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Walk Title</b>	<b>km</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Leader</b>
Sat 1 Mar	Cooleman Ridge Circle	11	Easy (6)	Peter Wellman
Sun 2 Mar	Tidbinbilla Peak Circuit with Scenic Saddles	13	Medium (10)	Henry Gardner
Sat 8 Mar	Mount Taylor twice	8	Medium (8)	Peter Wellman
Sun 9 Mar	Ashbrook and Other Trails	11	Easy (7)	Andrew Cupit
Sat 15 Mar	Walk in Arboretum	9	Easy (6)	Janet Duncan
Sun 16 Mar	To Be Advised	-	-	-
Sat 22 Mar	Legoland Exploration including Roman Walls & Belfry	8	Medium (8)	Phillip Hope
Sun 23 Mar	Yass Heritage Walk	9	Easy (6)	Sheree Bamforth
Sat 29 Mar	Autumn Family and Octogenarian/Nonagenarian Walk and Picnic	Short	Easy	Wendy Thompson
Sun 30 Mar	Devils Gap Circuit with Slabs and Rocks	11	Medium (9)	Henry Gardner

## Walks Statistics for last month - February 2025

### **February heme**

Varied weather this month - some hot days, others pleasant, some reported as 'sweaty'. No walks were cancelled but numbers a bit down.

### **Weekend Walks**

01-Feb-25	Black Mountain Morning Circuit	5
02-Feb-25	Wanniassa Hills Nature Reserve	11
08-Feb-25	Trees of Gigerline NR	11
09-Feb-25	Griffin Weston Forest Trail - Part 1	15
15-Feb-25	Red Hill Ramble	13
16-Feb-25	Griffin Weston Forest Trail - Part 2	10
22-Feb-25	West Belconnen to Civic	7
23-Feb-25	Shanahans Mt and Mount Boboyan	9

### **BBC led Wednesday Easy/Medium and Medium/Hard walks**

05-Feb-25	Cotter Dam & Mt McDonald	9
05-Feb-25	Hill 1246 near Booroomba Rocks	9
19-Feb-25	Gibraltar Peak and Tidbinbilla River	23
19-Feb-25	Southern Borders of Rob Roy NR	9

### **Wednesday Easy walks**

05-Feb-25	Cotter Dam to Cotter Campground & Ret	17
12-Feb-25	National Arboretum	16
19-Feb-25	Stirling Ridge Loop	27
26-Feb-25	Lake Tuggeranong	n/a



I'm just half the tree I used to be.

Gigerline Nature Reserve

**Sometimes you might feel like no one's there for you, but you know who's always there for you?**

**Laundry.**

**Laundry will always be there for you.**

