Brindabella Bushwalking Club

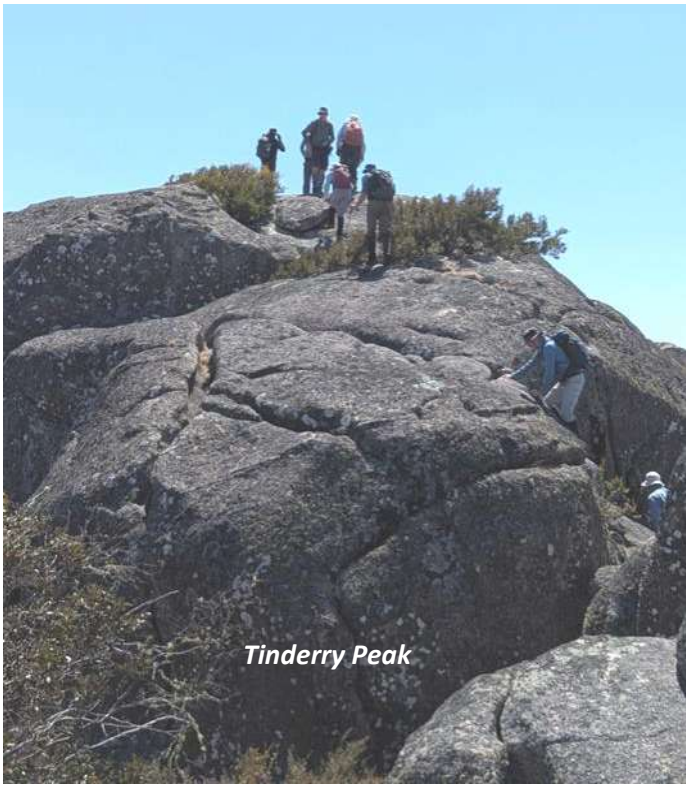
November 2025 Newsletter

BBC

Issue 100

Waterfall at Kowen Escarpment

In this issue



Tinderry Peak

From the President

Have you ever wondered how leaders know where to go on bushwalks? A lot of this comes down to experience and research.

Experience usually comes from many years of bushwalking. It can also come down to doing that walk with someone else and following their route. This is OK if it is an easy grade walk. But as the route gets harder you need the experience to understand the decisions you have to make on a walk. Things like recognising tracks as opposed to animal tracks, where the vegetation is and how thick it is, how steep the countryside is, how you tell if it is steep, how long the walk is, how fast you walk, how much vertical climbing is on the walk?

Research can be obtained from the club's walks database that can help guide a leader on what walk to put on. It can also come from wanting to repeat a walk that you recently went on and have gathered information about from the leader.

When the program is published you may wonder what all the descriptions are.

I explain this by looking at my walk on the 22nd November. It states in the current program:

Sat 22 Nov - BENDORA ARBORETUM AND HUT, VIA MOONLIGHT HOLLOW ROAD – 12 km Easy (7)
Leader: Wayne Holgate (0420 359 223). This walk starts at the Bulls Head Survival Shelter on Mt Franklin Road and follows Moonlight Hollow Road and Chalet Road to Bendora Hut. Beautiful tall trees and spectacular views followed by lunch at the hut and then a walk around the arboretum. Tree plantings from the 1940s include pines, conifers, cypress, poplar and larch. A short car shuffle (5 km) for the return to Bulls Head. Climb: 250 m. Cars: 96 km ($14). Map: Tidbinbilla. Meet at W.

It states the date (22nd November)

Where the walk is **(**BENDORA ARBORETUM AND HUT, VIA MOONLIGHT HOLLOW ROAD)

Distance (12km)

Grade (Easy)

Grading (7) This is defined in the beginning of the program. This depends on the distance, the terrain and the amount of climbing

Leader and contact details (Wayne Holgate (0420 359 223)) Please contact them if you are unsure of your ability to do that walk

Description of walk. (This walk starts at the Bulls Head Survival Shelter on Mt Franklin Road and follows Moonlight Hollow Road and Chalet Road to Bendora Hut. Beautiful tall trees and spectacular views followed by lunch at the hut and then a walk around the arboretum. Tree plantings from the 1940s include pines, conifers, cypress, poplar and larch. A short car shuffle (5 km) for the return to Bulls Head.)

Climb (250 m in vertical metres)

Cars distance travelled and petrol cost per passenger (Cars: 96 km ($14)

Map: Tidbinbilla (1:25000 topographic map)

Meet (where to meet)

If you want to know more about navigation then, when the club puts on its next navigation course, please consider it. You could also ask the leader why they have made certain decisions during the walk

BBC Website

www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au *[All newsletters are on the website]*

Number 100

This issue of the newsletter is **number 100**. The first one was in September 2015, the next in December that year and the number of editions kept increasing each year until 2021 when 12 were produced. They have been issued each month since then. All can be perused by opening the club's website and navigating to the Resources for members page — here is a shortcut: **Resources for Members - Brindabella Bushwalking Club**

BOM Rain Radar

Not happy with the new BOM Radar? The old one is still here (for now): 128 km Canberra (Captains Flat) Radar

Nature Mapr is ending, but with a reprieve until 2029 in the ACT

Some of you may be users of Nature Mapr, a website where contributors upload sightings of species. More than 815,000 records of over 23,000 species have been added to Australia's biodiversity knowledge via Nature Mapr.

Sadly, because it is has been so successful, it is now not financially viable! NatureMapr has announced that, with the exception of the ACT, they will be closing the platform across Australia next year. It will remain open for the ACT until 2029. Nationally, users are being encouraged to export their data (sightings) before the platform closes.

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 our Facebook Manager at
facebook@brindabellabushwalking.org.au

A Walk with the Bromley Ramblers in Toy's Hill National Park, south of London

While holidaying in Europe, Prue and David joined the Bromley Ramblers for a walk. The advertised description is shown below and some photos from the walk follow here and on the next page. This is an option when in the UK.

RAMBLERS Bromley

Bromley Group

We are the Bromley Ramblers. We open the way for everyone in our local community to enjoy the pleasures of walking.

Join the Ramblers and enjoy

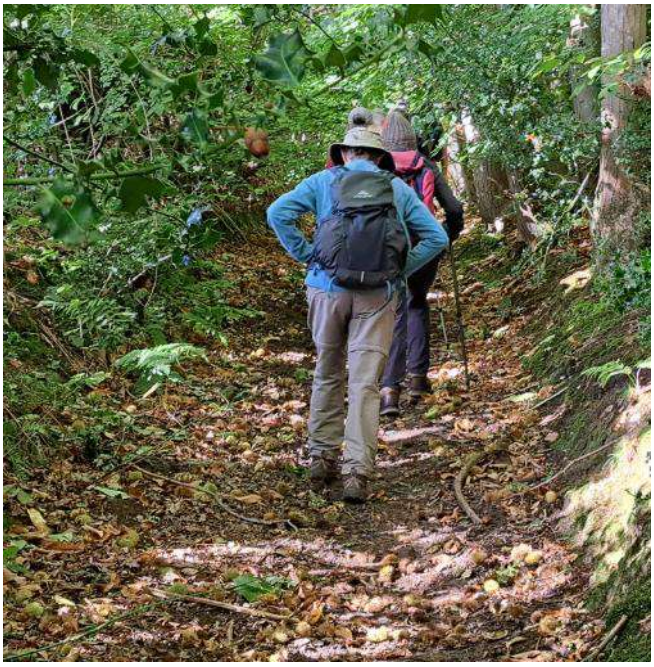
- unlimited free access to 50,000 Ramblers group walks
- a library jam-packed with thousands of tried-and-tested routes

Autumn Colours Close to Sevenoaks

Start: Sunday 5 October 2025 10:00 am
Estimated Finish: Sunday 5 October 2025 4:30 pm

Overview

Enjoy autumn colours and fine views as we explore the countryside and woods around Ide Hill and Toys Hill. From our start at Dryhill we head to Toys Hill, passing the 'jam house' (bring change if you want to buy some), then turning back on ourselves for Ide Hill and lunch (bring a picnic, but there's a pub for a quick drink and public toilets). We then pick up the Greensand Way before going through Whitley Forest and back to Dryhill. A longer morning of around 7 miles and a shorter afternoon of around 4.5 miles, and, of course, a few hills.



Toy's Hill National Park (contd)

Lutons Crutching Shed – club walk Sunday 28 September

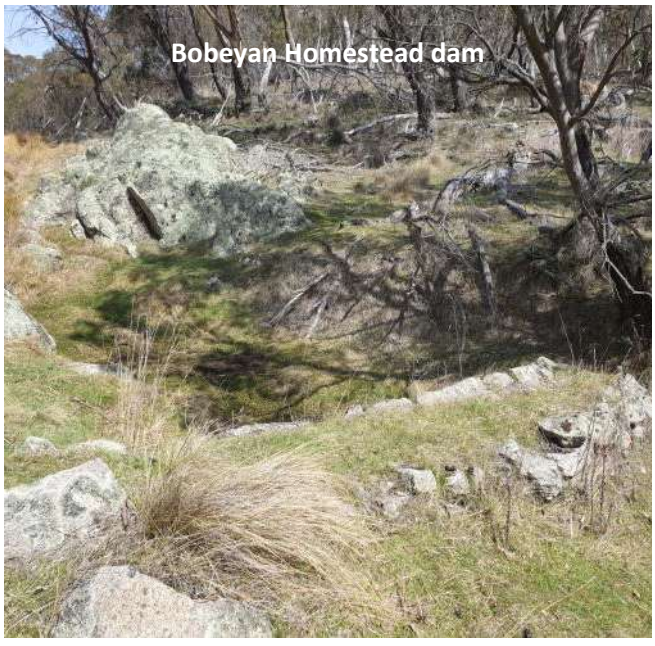
In my 15 or so years with BBC I hadn't been to Lutons Crutching Shed and I was keen to get there. So to make it happen I put it on the 6 monthly program using a walk description that seemed suitable, but that I hadn't tested.

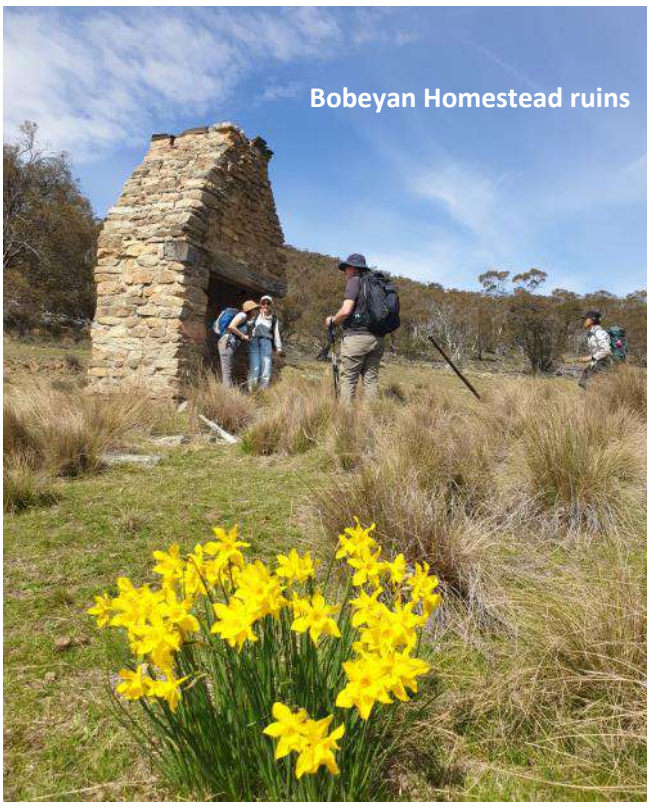
A very useful recce (thanks Margaret P for your company) found the distance and climb were understated, so I upgraded the walk and set an earlier start time. Using a walk report on John Evans' Johnny Boy's Walkabout Blog, we looked for a number of interesting features that otherwise we might have missed. We also found the creeks easily crossed, unlike the wet conditions walkers had experienced in the Naas Valley a few years ago. So as very useful recce.

On the actual day weather was perfect for a longish, 19km walk. Starting from the locked gate on Old Boboyan Road our first stop was where John had marked David Brayshaws Cairn. This small pile of rocks is where in 1931 David Brayshaw died while riding home from Bobeyan where his brother lived. After being missing for two days his riderless horse was found with David's body nearby. He died of exposure. Sad.


David Brayshaw's cairn

Next we stopped at the commonly-visited ruins of the 1860s old Bobeyan Homestead. A number of features could be inspected here: the fireplace, an orchard, and a small dam on the nearby creek. Daffodils and grape hyacinths were in bloom. With thanks to Johnny Boy, we also found the known-about but often not-found nearby gravesite of Mary Westerman and daughter Mary (accidentally killed in June 1850) and of Sarah Brayshaw (died in 1864). A lovely spot for morning tea admiring the daffodils that appeared to have been stripped by cockatoos.


Bobeyan Homestead dam


Bobeyan Homestead ruins

Continuing along the valley, we left Old Boboyan Road to take Sam's Fire Trail to Lutons Crutching shed, built in the 1960s for sheep crutching, this being the removal of excess wool and dags from around the rear of the sheep to reduce the chance of fly strike. Lutons is a popular spot to camp, especially for those tackling nearby Sentry Box Mountain, with a water tank, a flat grassy area for tents, log seats and protection from the weather. We also found, nearby, the fireplace remains of the old Crawford Homestead. This site dates likely back to the 1840s; the building was valued at £50 in 1883 and was demolished in the 1950s.

Lutons crutching shed

Crawford Homestead ruins

From there it was a short cut off-track to cross Sheep Station Creek – an easy crossing if the right spot is found – and followed Grassy Creek Fire Trail to Lone Pine Homestead ruins for lunch. This homestead was built in 1910 by Dan and Della Crawford. In 1932 many of the materials were removed and only the stone fireplace remains. The pine tree has fallen down. We also visited a nearby memorial plaque to Dan and Della's baby daughter who died in 1915.

We continued along the Grassy Creek Fire Trail until Bulls Flat Fire Trail on the left. This took us to the intersection with Waterholes Fire Trail. Here we headed off-track, crossing Bulls Flat Creek – again, not too marshy, to then contour off-track through open woodland to reach the Old Boboyan Road about 3 km from the cars.

This was a lovely walk in an open valley, mostly on firetrail but with a couple of off-track sections to make it interesting. Lots of roos, blooming wattles and perfect weather. Eight of us enjoyed the 19km, 260m climb, and were pleasantly exercised at the end of the day.

For more information, see Johnny Boy's Walkabout Blog – … bushwalking in the ACT and nearby NSW and The Kosciuszko Huts Association - KHA Website

Leigh Hermann

USING THE WEBSITE

BBC Website (**http://www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au/**) is designed to address two audiences, members and prospective members. In relation to both, perhaps the most important reference document is the program of bushwalks and social activities for the current six-month period. The new program for the first half of 2026 will be posted in early December. However, the wide range of other information available should not be overlooked.

Apart from the sections of our website that are directed to prospective members, the content of the main body of the website comprises information, and links to information, that is considered to be of continuing relevance and importance to existing members. Much of it is well known by members but it serves as a reference document. It is there to be consulted when there is occasion to check something that needs to be clarified - e.g., transport costs, meeting places, rules, advice to walkers etc.

Information content is leavened by a few photographs which are refreshed from time to time. Recent newsletters are also available by clicking the relevant buttons.

Other links in the **Resources for Members** area are to a range of websites including those providing information on other clubs, general bushwalking information, weather, maps and access to particular walking areas.

Suggested Improvements. In line with the Club's principles, we endeavour to keep the website simple and are always looking for ways to improve your experience in using it. Therefore, any suggestions would be welcome.

Cockatoos are raising their family in this hollow near Lyons.

Spotted on the Easy Wednesday walk on 29 October

I spent $500 on a limo and just found out the fee doesn't include a driver.

I spent all that money and have nothing to chauffeur it.

7 DAYS WALKING IN KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK

Sunday 4th to Saturday 10th January 2026

Leader: Janet Duncan (0423 213 679)

Enjoy 7 days / 6 nights of walking every day or relaxing and only doing the occasional walk staying at the Canberra Alpine Club's Perisher Lodge. This lodge has been used by Canberra Bushwalking Club and Brindabella Bushwalking Club in previous years for hiking weeks. Walks will range from easy, medium and hard to tough walks, with varying distances from several kms up to 25 kms. Walks may include climbs to Mt Stilwell, Mt Anton, Mt Twynam, The Paralyser, Porcupine Rocks, some of the Kossy circuit, Blue Lakes, around Sawpit and Island Bend areas, depending on leaders, weather, inclination and rest days. Each night there will be a short meeting before the evening meal to discuss the next day's walk/s and leader/s. When booking please advise me if you are willing to lead walks. Maps: Geehi 1:25000; Perisher 1:25000.

Accommodation, Catering and Gear Information

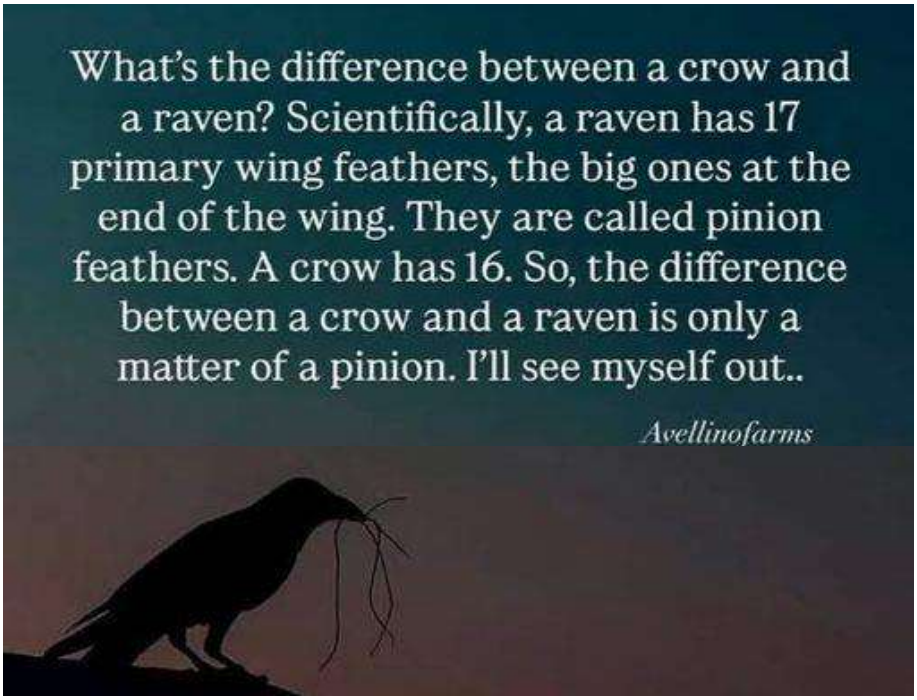
Canberra Alpine Club Perisher Lodge is at 6 Flame Robin Pl, Perisher. Please see the following link: https://cac.org.au/

COST $34.65/person/night = $207.90 Book by Dec 15th with a $50 deposit when booking. I will give you my bank details so you can pay me. Then I will transfer all monies to the Canberra Alpine Club (CAC). Rooms have from 2 to 5 beds and I will endeavour to only have 2 people in each room. We are not booking the whole lodge. Therefore, please note if members of CAC wish to book at the same time there may be more room-sharing for our group. A few rooms have an ensuite, while most share bathroom facilities. Bring clothing suitable for walking in temperate as well as maybe very cold or wet conditions. Last year some were almost caught in a hail storm.

Please cater for yourselves. There will be a shared BBQ on the 1st Night and Leader will supply a yummy dessert. This Lodge has a well-equipped kitchen, and each room is allocated a separate shelf in the refrigerators and cupboards to store food (similar to most ski lodges).You are able to freeze meals, eg casseroles and keep them safely in the Lodge freezer. It also has a washing machine, microwaves, all most comfy.

Transport Information. Return trip Canberra to Perisher using BBC rates~420kms @ 14c per person is $60 each, plus your share of a Kosciuszko National Park Car Pass @ $17 per day. Allow transport costs for day walks. The National Park Passes offer a 4-day Pass for $80 plus $17per extra day. Pensioners less. When booking please state whether you wish to drive and how many passengers you can take, or if you need transport.

If interested in a simply lovely, relaxed week at Perisher please book by emailing Janet or if you have queries text 0423 213 679. Deadline is Dec 15th.



Tidbinbilla's newest (and toughest) walking track is officially open!

(Information from ACT Parks and Conservation)

The Mindjagari Track takes its name from the Ngunnawal word for 'sky, clouds appear' – and with good reason. The 14 kilometres of new trails cross the highest peaks in the Tidbinbilla Range, with views that stretch from Lake Burley Griffin to Kosciusko National Park. The track has also been designed to improve fire management and emergency responses in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

Here's what 's been built:

- A formalised track along the Tidbinbilla Range, linking the existing tracks to Johns Peak and Fishing Gap.
- A side trail to the 'Pimple': a jaw-dropping rock formation with 360-degree views of the mountains.
- Two 'shortcut' spur tracks linking back to the valley floor. That means you can choose a walk option from 9 km through to the full 27 km (12 hour) loop – or shorten your walk if necessary.

This is a Grade 5 track (*BBC Grade 12*), meaning it is only suitable for very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Even the shortest loops require huge elevation changes in remote alpine country. If you're not adequately prepared, or have any doubt in your ability, we urge you not to take it on.

To learn more about the Mindjagari Track – and read our specialised safety advice – visit [Mindjagari Track - Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve - Canberra]

The ACT Government is committed to improving tracks and trails so you can best enjoy our parks. Thanks to the Australian Government's Disaster Ready Fund, Mirrabee, the Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation, the National Parks Association of the ACT, Iconic trails, Canberra Bushwalking Club , Brindabella Bushwalking Club and everyone else who made this new track possible.

The next Walks Program

It should not come as a surprise that your Walks Committee is already thinking about the Walks Program for the second half of the year. The walks on the current program are getting pleasing numbers as people are resuming their walking activities with more confidence as COVID is becoming increasingly under control. Our own social distancing regime and squirts of hand sanitiser have played a magnificent part in this I'm sure!

Our trips away have proven particularly popular and book up within hours of them being advertised leaving many on a frustrating waitlist. We are already looking at more trips away for the next Program. This is where we need your help. On walks you frequently talk about trips that you have done and where you have been. We are always ready to help if you would like to turn your holiday stories into trips away for BBC members. The NPWS website will always give you plenty of ideas.

Again, suggestions for Saturday and Sunday walks are always welcome. We watch eagerly for more areas to reopen within Namadgi. However devastating the recent bushfires were, they will have opened up areas that were previously impassable because of thick undergrowth that has now been removed. A recent walk along the ridgeline north of Shanahans Mountain provided amazing views to both the west and east now opened up following the 2020 bushfires. Already this has provided some ideas for future walks.

If you have favourite walks from either your recent or distant past please let us know and we could support you in leading the walk yourself or encourage another leader to do it for you. All suggestions welcomed.

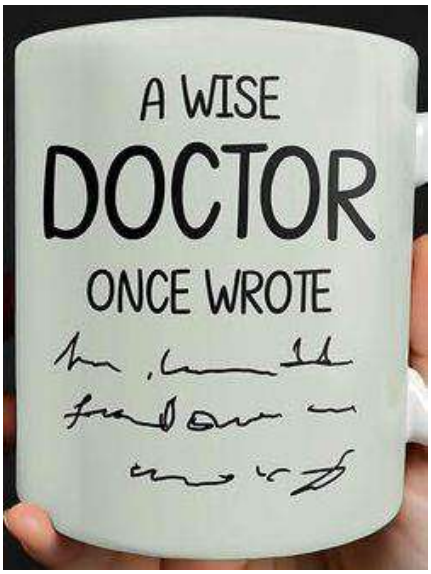
Coming Up This Month

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

Date	Walk Title	km	Rating	Leader
Sat 1 Nov	Power to Flower — see note below	8	Easy (6)	Janet Duncan
Sun 2 Nov	Mirigan Rocks, Orroral Valley and Fishlock Yards	14	Medium (11)	Andrew Cupit
Sat 8 Nov	Progressive Dinner **(book by 1 Nov)**	8 -10	Easy (6)	Sue Williams
Sun 9 Nov	Glenburn and Burbong Precinct Heritage Circuit	13.5	Easy (7)	Terrylea Reynolds
Sat 15 Nov	Spinnaker Ridge	7	Medium (9)	Prue Deacon
Sun 16 Nov	Geodetic Dome and Orroral Homestead - see note	10	Easy (7)	Peter Dalton
Sat 22 Nov	Bendora Arboretum and Hut, via Moonlight Road	12	Easy (7)	Wayne Holgate
Sun 23 Nov	Big Hole and Marble Arch	13	Medium (8)	Phillip Hope
Sat 29 Nov	Sparrow Hill and East Kowen	12	Easy (7)	Leigh Hermann
Sun 30 Nov	A Tallaganda Ramble	10	Medium (8)	David Wardle

Walk Changes

The walks shown in the program for 1 and 18 November ***have been swapped***. They are now as shown above and as previously emailed to members.



After playing guitar for years, I thought I could learn to play the piano.

But it's not an easy instrument to pick up.

Walk Statistics for October

This month we trialled an additional weekend short walk. It was popular with 12 walkers enjoying the short 4km followed by coffee.

A similar walk will be offered in November.

Weekend Walks

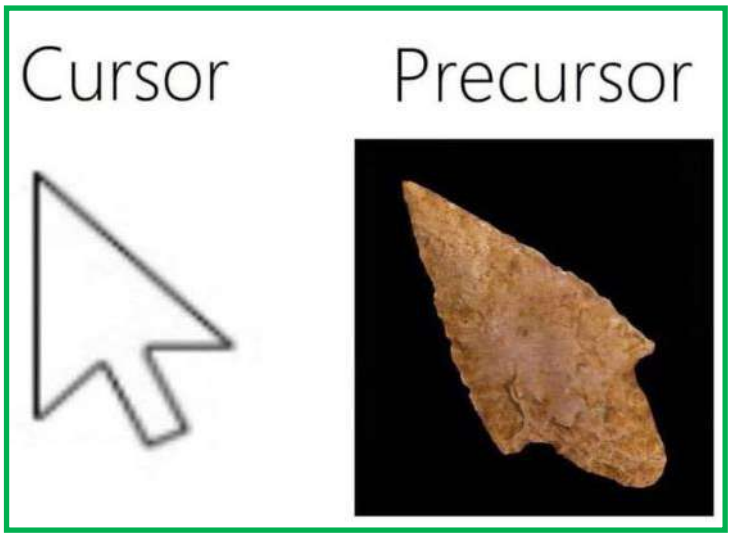
Date	Activity	Number attended
04-Oct-25	The Onion	0
05-Oct-25	(no walk - Boorowa Irish Woolfest)	30
06-Oct-25	Labour Day:McQuoids and Cooleman Hills & Mt Arawang	11
11-Oct-25	Forster Hill	15
12-Oct-25	Punch Bowl Ck and Points South	7
18-Oct-25	Short Saturday walk - Lawson	12
18-Oct-25	Three Short Walks in Namadgi	4
19-Oct-25	Frank & Jacks Hut, Hospital Ck Cascades	7
25-Oct-25	Cronins Forest	6
26-Oct-25	Mulligans Flat to Hall via One Tree Hill	0

Wednesday Easy walks

01-Oct-25	Black Mountain Orchid Trail	42
08-Oct-25	Kaleen	16
15-Oct-25	Cooleman Ridge	25
22-Oct-25	Umbagong Park	12
29-Oct-25	Curtin Horse Paddocks	20

BBC led Easy/Medium and Medium/Hard walks

01-Oct-25	Mundoonen Nature Reserve	6
08-Oct-25	Tinderry Peak	18
15-Oct-25	Macarthur to Red Hill Lookout	21
15-Oct-25	Tidbinbilla Skyline	10



First Aid

First Aid Kits

Walkers must carry a first aid kit, containing, as the absolute minimum:

- a wide compression bandage (used for snake bites, sprains and breaks),
- some wide micropore surgical tape (all-purpose),
- Bandaids: note that plastic ones don't stick to sweaty skin so fabric ones are preferred.
- Pain killers: Important: you need to have the sort that you use. Some people can't take aspirin or ibuprofen, for example, as they conflict with other medications they use. On the other hand, some prefer aspirin over Panadol. You cannot anticipate that others on the walk will have what you need.

Some first aid needs arise more often than others: sunburn, thorn pricks, insect bites, abrasions and bruising from falls, blisters, heat exhaustion, and sprains and strains from slipping on rock or wet wood. Snake bite is always a possibility, although rare (has never happened on one of our walks).

Non-stick wound dressings are always useful for cuts and grazes and some people carry tweezers to remove prickles.

A folded handkerchief is excellent for compression on a cut until first aid begins, in fact it can be considered the first step in first aid for bleeding!

A small commercially-available first aid kit will normally contain everything you need, except for the compression bandage. This example from Bunnings is extremely good value at $10.

MediMate 75-Piece Grab & Go First Aid Kit

★★★★★ 5 (3) I/N: 0796142

$10

Add to Cart

Contents:
- 1 x bandage conforming 7.5cm x 4.5m
- 1 x moleskin blister pad
- 1 x surgical tape 1.25cm x 4.5m
- 1 x triangular bandage 96cm x 96cm x 136cm
- 1 x instant cold pack - small
- 1 x swabs gauze 7.5cm x 7.5cm
- 1 x dressing non-adherent 7.5cm x 7.5cm
- 10 x adhesive bandages 19mm x 76mm
- 20 x junior adhesive bandages 10mm x 40mm
- 10 x alcohol prep pads
- 1 x small scissors 9cm
- 1 x plastic tweezers 11cm
- 10 x safety pins in bag
- 10 x cotton tipped applicators
- 1 x CPR face shield
- 2 x cleansing wipes
- 1 x disposable PVC gloves XL pair
- 1 x first aid guide
- 1 x carry bag

SOCIAL NEWS NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday 5 October – Boorowa Irish Woolfest – an annual event in the Hilltops Region of NSW.
30 club members met for coffee and a chat/lunch in the park, a walk along the river/enjoyed the various activities the town had on offer (street parade, working dog and wood chop demonstrations, pipe bands, Irish music and the many street stalls). Some photos are below and on the next page

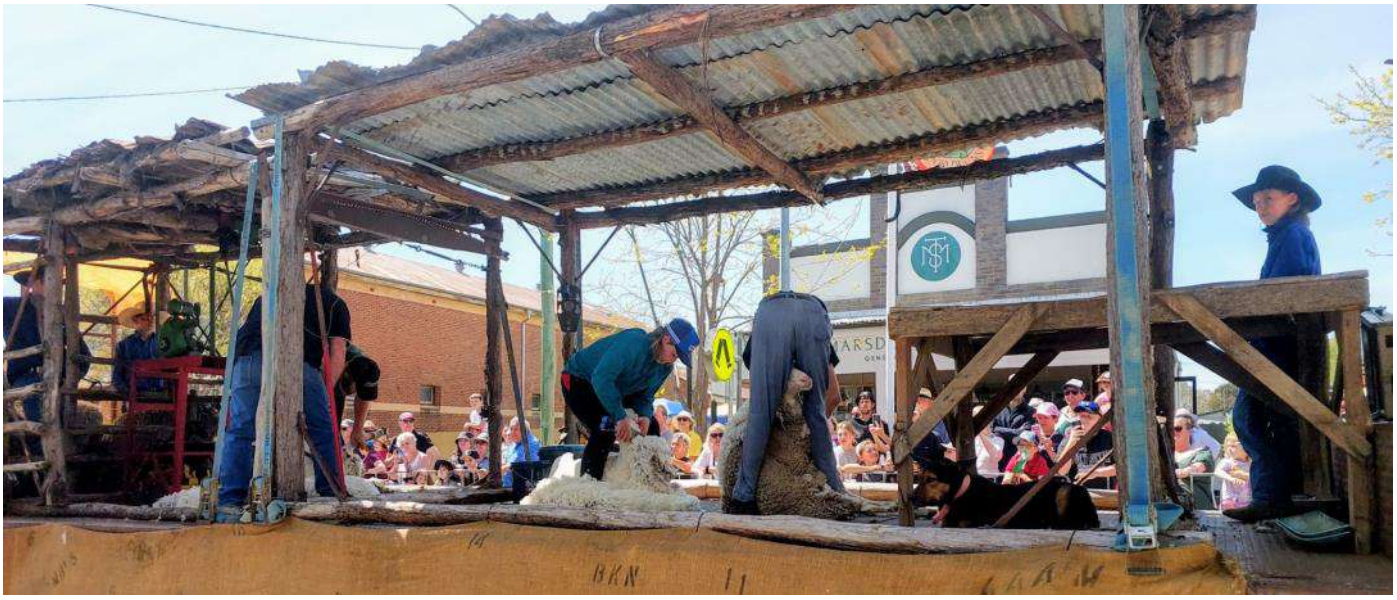
A glorious weather day less than 1 ½ hours drive from Weston Creek. The countryside was very green with golden canola fields along the way.

The highlight of the day was the "Running of the Sheep" It was "shear" excitement to watch 150 merino sheep running a lap of the main street. They were "sheepish" at first, then started "ramming" and at times were running in the one direction. What a funny sight when the sheep did a "ewe" turn at the roundabout before heading back down the street.

You can log on to I-view and watch the segment on Back Roads (featured about 9 months ago): Back Roads: S11 Hilltops Region, NSW : ABC iview . More information and official photos can be seen on the following link: Home - 2025 - Boorowa Irish Woolfest

Thank you to the drivers who gave other members a lift. Doug and Judy (2 of our nonagenarians) enjoyed a wonderful day in the country. One couple stayed in Boorowa for 2 nights. Thank you to Galia who led 11 members on the HEA Dunk Memorial River Walk from Boorowa Park.

Thank you for the many emails and messages thanking me for organising such a wonderful day out. Will we repeat in a couple of years? I didn't have the opportunity to chat to everyone, so please accept my apologies.



Upcoming Event: BBC Christmas Party: Sunday 7 December.

Kathy and Keith at Wamboin are our hosts again and the club will cater for the party (yet to be discussed). Further information is in the Walks Program and I will send emails closer to the date. 79 attendees last year – can we break that record?

Elaine Atkinson
Social Convenor

The check-out operator said "strip down facing me".

By the time I realised she meant my credit card, it was too late

Always Wear Underwear

Always wear underwear in public, especially when working under your vehicle. From the local paper comes this story of a Nowra couple who drove their car to the shopping centre, only to have the car break down in the car park. The man told his wife to carry on with the shopping while he fixed the car.

The wife returned later to see a small group of people near the car. On closer inspection, she saw a pair of hairy legs protruding from under the chassis.

Unfortunately, although the man was in shorts, his lack of underpants turned his private parts into glaringly public ones. Unable to stand the embarrassment, she dutifully stepped forward and quickly put her hand up his shorts and tucked everything back into place.

On regaining her feet, she looked across the bonnet and found herself staring at her husband who was standing idly by watching.

Daylight Savings Time has arrived