

# Brindabella Bushwalking Club

April 2026 Newsletter



BBC

Issue 105



*Spring Creek Gorge — 1 March 2026*

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*Late summer colours — Old Boboyan Road*

## From the President



Hi Members,

We held a committee meeting this week and a couple of things we discussed were:

- Our membership continues to grow.
  - the social convenor, Elaine, is doing a wonderful job organising social events for members of all ages.
  - Some analytics from a Facebook account shows the people who visit the site are two thirds women and one third men. That is made up of Over 65: 23.6%, 55-64: 25.1%, 45-54: 24.3% and others: 27%. We also had nearly 30,000 views in the last 90 days. So we must be meeting a need.
- We did discuss the petrol price and a separate email has been sent out about it — also, see below.
  - We still don't have a Training and Development officer, but one member volunteered to organise a first aid course recently, Thanks David.

We have asked another member to run a navigation course in the second half of the year and details about that should appear in the next program. I would recommend this to new leaders to go on and also other leaders who want to refresh their skills.

I hope to see you on a walk soon.

Wayne Holgate

### Fuel prices have surged since the start of the latest Middle East war

Fuel prices are out of control right now. Your committee has decided not to keep chasing these by regularly revising the cost per passenger when car pooling to walks. There may be a change when the program for July—December is issued, by which time prices should have settled to whatever the 'new normal' is going to be.

**In the meantime, please consider giving your driver a 'tip' to compensate for the higher fuel prices.**

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



### BBC Website

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

## Vale Andrew Walker

Andrew Walker was a member of Brindabella Bushwalking Club and its predecessor, the Family Bushwalkers Incorporated, for many years. Sadly, he died of a stroke on 17 March 2026 at Pambula.

John Clune was a great friend of Andrew's and the following is John's tribute to him.



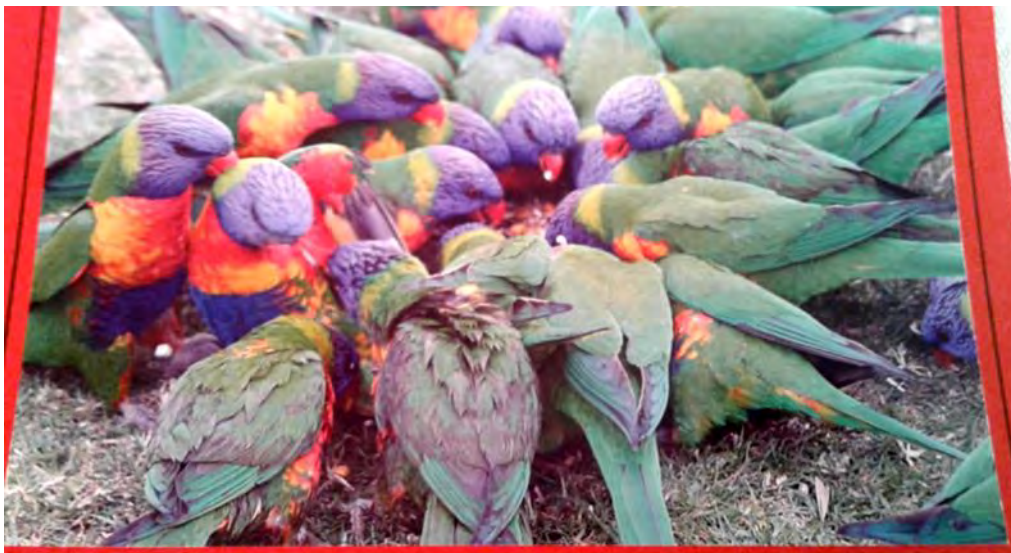
**Andrew in 2001**

I met Andrew about 30 years ago when I joined the club. He was a remarkable walker who did not let his inability to bend one leg stop him from undertaking long, hard, rocky walks.

He was the first leader of the club to organise a walking trip to France for a large group. It was unique because there were 2 walks a day, easy, medium or hard. Andrew led most of the easy walks, and an Englishman living in the Pyrenees led the harder walks. He inspired me to introduce trips to Europe every 2 years for anyone in the club until 2023.

Walking was just one of Andrew's many activities, which included singing with the prestigious Oriana Chorale, being president of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens Canberra, a skilled photographer, capturing both birds, and Liz and me at our wedding reception. He was generous, hospitable, kind, AND a good cook.

In Tathra he gave recitals with another talented pianist, and with Olga became fully involved in the community there. He will be sorely missed by everyone whose life he touched.



# Three Mile Dam Car Camp – 2026

(Leader: Bob Chittenden)

*A special thank-you to Lam, Leigh and Nancie who supplied the photographs for this article.*

The Three Mile Dam camping ground is in the Snowy mountains, near Mount Selwyn. It is run by the NSWNP's.

The down side is that its only amenity is a drop toilet.

The upside is that it is clean, you camp wherever you like and the setting overlooking the dam is magnificent.



There were only five eager and fearless people who attended the camp.



After setting up our tents, we set out on the Gold Seekers circuit from the camp site (4Km, 120m climb).

The walk has plenty of information boards explaining the fauna, flora and history of the area, plus a couple of machines that have seen better days.



After dinner, each evening, as the sun went down, we enjoyed each other's company by sitting around the camp fire chatting while toasting and eating marshmallows plus consuming various nibbles.



The first night was exciting, what with brumbies stomping around the tents, plus other woodland creatures making quite a noise. Someone even heard a dingo or wild dog howling.



All this noise caused one of our otherwise brave campers to sleep in her car for the rest of the camp.

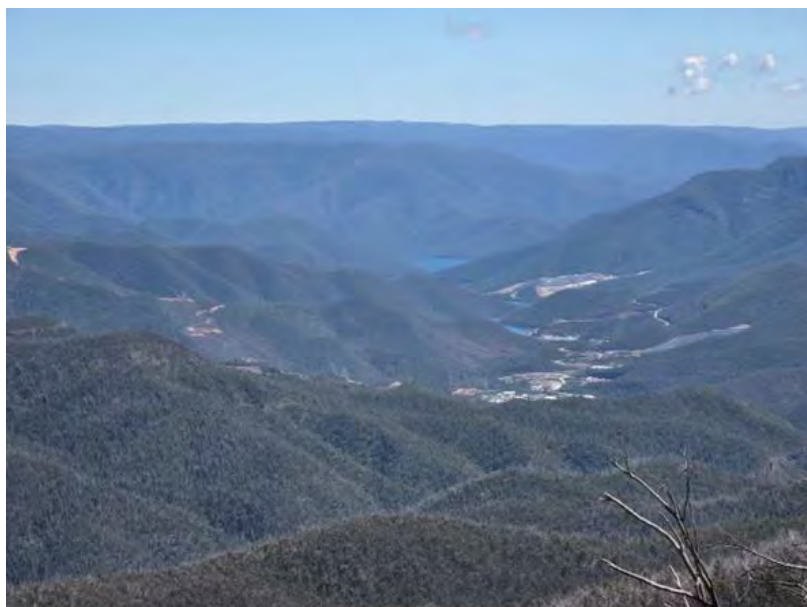
The second day we walked from the camp to the Four Mile Hut and gold diggings, inspecting the Mt Selwyn ski resort on the way (18 km, 430 m climb).



The picture is of the rebuilt four-mile hut, its construction imitating the building techniques of the past, including using Shell petroleum four-gallon kerosene tins as cladding.

The rebuilt hut has been built alongside the remnants of the hut that was burnt down during the 2020 fires.

The third day we walked from our camp following the Wallace Creek Fire Trail, climbing Shaws hill, to view the Snowy 2.0 works (17 Km, 470 m climb).



On the way we saw some very colourful creatures, as one does in the Snowies.



We also came across a couple of metres-long healthy tiger snake.



On the way home, a couple of campers spent time walking the Kiandra Heritage Track (1.5 Km, 20 m climb)



and the Cemetery, where Lam can be seen contemplating the meaning of life after another week camping and walking in the Snowies.



Who else has  
**CAROWNER VIRUS?** 

**SYMPTOMS:**  
**~ SWEATING AT PETROL PUMP**  
**~ NAUSEA WHEN TOTAL APPEARS**

## The Cotswold Way

The Cotswold Way is one of the UK National Trails stretching for 164kms from Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire to Bath in Somerset. The trail had its 50th anniversary in 2020.



The Trail follows the western edge of the Cotswold Hills, through rolling pastures, beech woodland and many small picture postcard villages built from honey-coloured Cotswold stone. Part of the walk traverses areas classified as an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' from a natural history point of view, and passes Neolithic burial barrows, stately homes and historic battle sites. The stunning path along the Cotswold escarpment offers ever-changing views to the west towards the River Severn and the Malvern Hills.



Trails such as this link many local rights of way to form a continuous trail. This also means however, that there are many sections with easy access to public transport that deserve a day walk in their own right.

Prue used to live in the village of Prestbury at the foot of Cleeve Hill outside Cheltenham, so this was the motivation of our walk along this section of the Cotswold Way.



Cleeve Hill is the highest point in the Cotswolds at 330 m, and provides fantastic views over Cheltenham, the aforementioned River Severn, the Malvern Hills and, with good visibility, the mountains of Wales. There is a regular local bus to take you out of Cheltenham and with one change, drop you off at the start of the walk.



Cleeve Common on the top of Cleeve Hill is registered as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, although the rolling hills include a mixture of uses from grazing to golf.

***“The sum of the whole is this: walk and be happy; walk and be healthy.  
The best way to lengthen out our days is to walk steadily and with a purpose.”- Charles Dickens***



The tracks are well marked, with seats at appropriate points and local animals to observe your passage.

David Wardle

PS. You can choose your meal at the end of the day. A nice pub meal, or who would believe it but pumpkin flavoured coffee!

## Start Times for Walks

**Reminder:** As shown in the preliminary pages of the program, the 'Start Time' is the time at which vehicles will leave the meeting place and drive off to the beginning of the walk. Walkers need to assemble at the meeting place at least 10 minutes before this so that the attendance sheet can be signed, car pooling arranged and drivers briefed on the route. The leader also needs time to speak with visitors/new members to ascertain their suitability for the walk and to explain the 'waiver' they are signing.

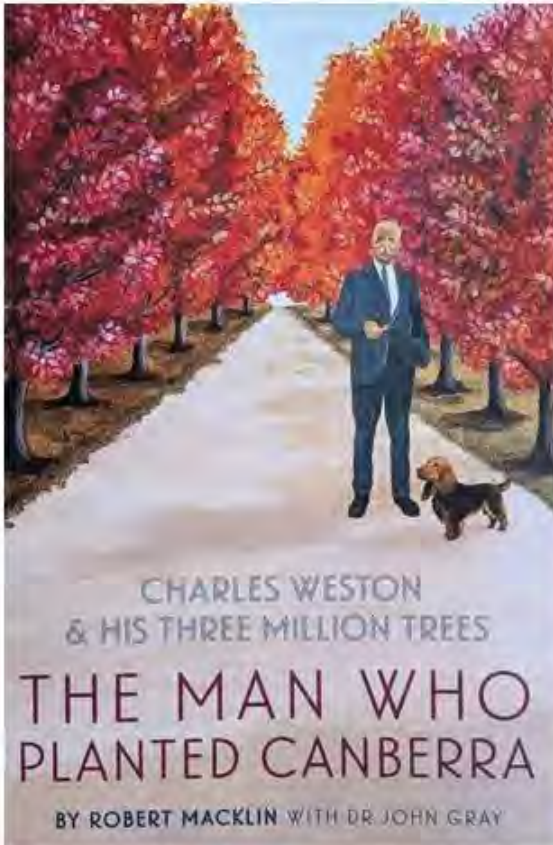
## Book review

### *The Man Who Planted Canberra: Charles Weston and his three million trees*

by Robert Macklin, with Dr John Gray,

National Library of Australia Publishing, 2025, 240 pp, \$34 [ISBN 9781922507778]

In December 2025 a report on Canberra's tree canopy cover showed an overall small decline over the previous 5 years, from 22.7 to 21.8 per cent. Although there are some valid reasons for the decline, it is easy to imagine that Charles Weston, 'the man who planted Canberra', would not be pleased by the news.



Weston, who died in 1935, is the subject of a new book by recently deceased Canberra author Robert Macklin. Charles Weston's huge contribution to designing a garden city, with high tree canopy cover for the national capital, is championed in Macklin's book (built on a thesis by Dr John Gray).

Born in London in 1866, Weston worked as a gardener in some of Britain's stately homes as a young man. He left in 1896, at age 29, seeking opportunities in Australia, where the movement towards Federation was well underway and the search for a national capital site would shortly begin.

While working in Sydney and gaining a reputation for his horticultural knowledge, the federal government sought his advice on a nursery site for the planned capital. This led to Weston's first visit to the Canberra region in 1911. Weston's recommendation of a 60 ha site at Yarralumla is one of many influences he had which shaped the city we know today.

#### *Life in Canberra*

After moving to Canberra to work and rising through the ranks, his modesty, lack of aristocratic heritage and formal education would work against him. He was at times belittled as only a 'tree planter'.

Weston also earned criticism from Walter Burley Griffin who took issue with his nursery



Craig Watson

Charles, in his regular gardening attire, and wife Minimia in 1925

site choice, describing it as 'altogether in the wrong place'.

It was not until 1921, aged 54, that Weston rose to the position of director of tree planting in the city area. It was from this time onwards his influence on the green landscape of Canberra was at its greatest.

*The Man Who Planted Canberra*, as well as being a biography, serves as a history of Canberra's early development. It contains much detail on the Griffins, our early prime ministers and Canberra notables such as King O'Malley, Charles Scrivener and John Butters. Much of this is background rather than directly relevant to the work of Charles Weston. The book includes scores of photos, maps, illustrations, extracts and quotations. Historical aerial photos of the developing city are of particular interest.

The colossal figure of three million trees, referred to in the book's subtitle, is mentioned (but not referenced) towards the end of the book as the total number of plantings that had occurred in Canberra by the time of Weston's retirement in 1926. How many of these reached maturity, or remain today, is not speculated upon. It is evident, however, Canberra will need many more successfully established trees, and a vision like Charles Weston's, if the ACT Government's goal of 30 per cent tree canopy cover by 2045 is to be achieved and maintained.

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## 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 4 Apr	Gungahlin and Percival Hills	12	Easy (7)	Leigh Hermann
Sun 5 Apr	Hill above Snake Rock, East of Gibraltar Creek	10	Medium (10)	David Dedenczuk
Mon 6 Apr	Easter Monday – Walk and Morning Tea	5	Easy (5)	Elaine Atkinson
Sat 11 Apr	Honeysuckle Creek – Gorilla Rock Circuit	9	Medium (10)	Henry Gardner
Sun 12 Apr	Orroral Heritage Walk	12	Easy (7)	Peter Boyland
Fri 17 Apr	Potluck Dinner <b>(book by Wed 15 Apr)</b>	-	n/a	Davinia Wells
Sat 18 Apr	To Be Advised	tba	Easy	Glenda Snape
Sun 19 Apr	Tuggeranong Siding, Border Railway Loop, Melrose NR	10	Medium (8)	Derek Synnott
Sat 25 Apr	Settlers Track	10	Easy (7)	Janet Duncan
Sun 26 Apr	Southern Namadgi: Pheasant and Boboyan Hills	14	Medium (9)	Robin Cayzer
Sat 2 May	Autumn Walk and Picnic	-	Easy	Elaine Atkinson
Sun 3 May	Stockyard Spur from Corin Dam	8	Medium (8)	David Wardle

## Emergency+ Phone App

If you have a **Smart phone**, then you really should install the free **Emergency+** application that can save lives. This App is available for both Android and Apple phones.

If you need help in an emergency, you just 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.

The app uses a mobile phone's GPS functionality and **what3words**, so callers can provide emergency call-takers with their location information as determined by their smart phone.

**what3words** has divided the world into 3-metre squares and given each one a unique three-word identifier.

**what3words** works offline - ideal when you have no data coverage or are in a remote location.

With **what3words** available within the Emergency+ app, callers can confirm their exact location quickly and accurately.



## Are you looking for walks beyond Australia?

So you want to go walking somewhere overseas, but want to be independent and not part of a commercial group—where do you find walks that suit your preferences regarding distance, amount of climb and so on?

The answer is **Wikiloc.com**. This website has more than 74 million activities to choose from (see the opening screen below); all include downloadable GPS files for your smartphone, photos, and often descriptions of the route and its highlights. And, it's free to use! You'll be encouraged to upgrade to Premium, but this is unnecessary.



The BBC website has comprehensive guidance on how to use Wikiloc [here](#)

In a nutshell, you type in the name of the town or city you are going to, select the right one (there is often a place of the same name in several countries or districts within the same country), and see the results. Expect to be overwhelmed with choices.

For example, entering the small town of La Adrada in Spain (population 2800) and zooming in on it brings up 7385 results (increasing daily). However, these include all 'activities' and not just walks.

You refine the result by only selecting 'Hiking' from the various activities on offer and the number is 2582. Then if, for example, you choose 10-20 km as your desired distance, the number of results comes down to 884.

Now you can select the maximum amount of climb you want, say 400m, the grade of the walk; e.g. 'Moderate' and only 'loop trails' that'll bring you back to your start point.

The final result is still large at 425.

Once you start examining these routes, you'll discover there are duplicates (with different names) or ones that vary only slightly from others. The real number of discrete walks is probably only about 150—still a lot for a small town.

You can use these routes in conjunction with your favourite navigation App; e.g. Backcountry Navigator, and use the offline maps your App provides for that area.

These GPS routes are really tiny in terms of the amount of space they use on your device.

With Wikiloc you do all your planning and preparation well ahead of your departure from Australia and are ready to go on arrival.

Give it a try.

## The Recovery Position

The recovery position helps keep a patient's airway open and clear by safely positioning them on their side until medical help arrives or they recover.



### First aid fact sheet

## Recovery position

### What to do

#### Adult or child (over 1 year)



- 1 With the patient on their back, kneel beside the patient and position their arms.
  - Place the patient's furthest arm directly out from their body.
  - Place the patient's nearest arm across their chest.
- 2 Position the patient's legs.
  - Lift the patient's nearest leg at the knee and place their foot on the floor so the leg is bent.
- 3 Roll the patient into position.
  - Roll the patient away from you onto their side, carefully supporting their head and neck the whole time.
  - Keep the patient's leg bent with their knee touching the ground to prevent the patient rolling onto their face.
- 4 Place the patient's hand under their chin to stop their head from tilting and to keep their airway open.



#### Infant (under 1 year)

- 1 Lie the infant face down on your forearm.
- 2 Support the infant's head with your hand.

**In a medical emergency call Triple Zero (000)**

**DRSABCD** Danger ► Response ► Send for help ► Airway ► Breathing ► CPR ► Defibrillation

## Walk Statistics for March

After having 29 on an Easy/Medium Wednesday walk in February, BBC and CBC will now be offering 2 Easy/Medium walks each week.

Note also, the rest of March stats will be included in the April report.

### Weekend Walks

28-Feb-26	Fitzroy Falls and Mandanoo Point	7
28-Feb-26	Short weekend walk - ANU Sculpture Walk 2	18
01-Mar-26	Spring Creek Gorge	6
07-Mar-26	Square Rock and Smokers Loop	3
08-Mar-26	Enchanted Hill	5
14-Mar-26	Bywong/Wamboin Greenways	16
14-Mar-26	Hill 1409 (postponed from 31 January)	3
15-Mar-26	Five Hills in Goorooyaroo	0
15-Mar-26	Short weekend walk - O'Connor Ridge	7

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

04-Mar-26	Wamboin Forest Walk	9
04-Mar-26	Three Lookouts at Booroomba Rocks (additional E/M)	8
04-Mar-26	Orroral Hill & Rabbit Ears	7
18-Mar-26	Fishing Gap to SP 1381	7
18-Mar-26	Bluetts & Lower Molonglo	19
18-Mar-26	Gibraltar Rocks (additional E/M)	18

### Wednesday Easy walks

04-Mar-26	Jerrabomberra Wetlands	14
11-Mar-26	Pinnacle Circuit	14
18-Mar-26	O'Connor Ridge	21



## SOCIAL NEWS APRIL 2026

A wonderful day at The Cotter on the Canberra Day holiday. 23 attendees (20 walkers).

We enjoyed a picnic lunch (Cotter Bend picnic area) after the 6 km walk. The countryside and rivers are magic after the rain. See the photos below and on the next page. It was great to see some new members there.

**Next social outings: Potluck Dinner Friday 17 April** (organised by Davinia Wells) and;

**Autumn Walk and Picnic Saturday 2 May.**

Elaine (Social Convenor)



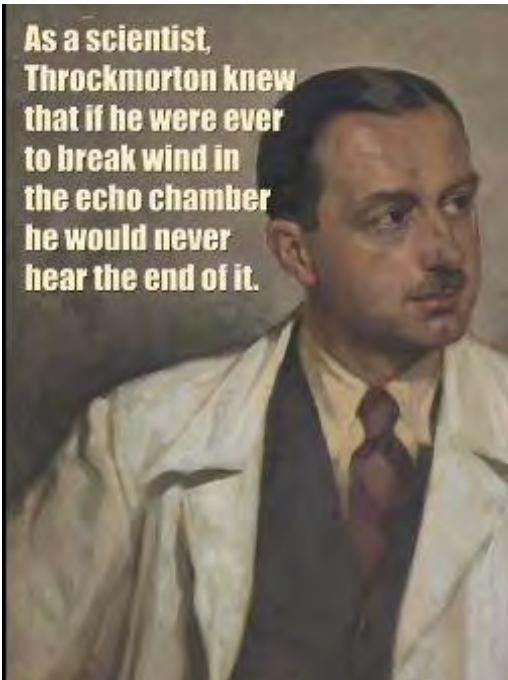
## Canberra Day Walk and Picnic



## April Antics

**I SPOTTED AN  
ALBINO DALMATIAN  
YESTERDAY  
IT WAS THE LEAST  
I COULD DO**

**As a scientist,  
Throckmorton knew  
that if he were ever  
to break wind in  
the echo chamber  
he would never  
hear the end of it.**



When I was a boy, my momma would send me down to a corner store with \$1 and I'd come back with 5 potatoes, 2 loaves of bread, 3 bottles of milk, a hunk of cheese, a box of tea and 6 eggs.



EATLIVER.COM

You can't do that now. Too many freakin' security cameras!



*A very rare picture of a black kangaroo*

I went down to the prison yesterday for a conjugal visit.

And...?!?

Well, apparently, you have to actually know someone there!

