

# Brindabella Bushwalking Club

## May 2026 Newsletter



BBC

Issue 106



*Border Railway Loop Walk on 19 April*

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*Tidbinbilla Walk on 15 April*

## From the President

I would like to mention the upcoming navigation course that Bill Gibson is going to run later in the year with help from Bob Chittenden.

The club likes to make sure leaders have adequate skills when they run a walk trip. Navigation is a critical skill needed by walkers, especially if the track is vague or the route is off track. It is vitally important if you are relying on electronic devices and battery life is failing.

This follows on from a successful first aid course run in March.

The club also has documents on our website on:

Rules for walkers,

Safety on walks,

Enjoying bushwalking, and

Map Reading Guide.

It has been a very long autumn but the cold will hit us soon.

Happy walking

Wayne Holgate

President



“Walking: the most ancient exercise and still the best modern exercise.” – Carrie Latet

## 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)

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## BBC Website

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

# Vale Margaret Raptis

It was an incredible shock for BBC friends of **Margaret Raptis**, to hear of her passing recently.

Margaret has been a regular walker with the Easy Wednesday walking group and many of us enjoyed her company and friendship. Before retiring, she was a high school teacher.

Margaret lived in Tuggeranong and we all enjoyed the drive out to the views of the blue Brindabellas when we visited her at home.

She came to Canberra from the country and was a proud country girl. Margaret often proudly spoke about her family, about her siblings, her children and grandchildren. They were a special part of her life, especially after she lost her husband.

Margaret was a keen gardener and a member of the Canberra horticultural community. She was a talented artist, and, as we saw in our BBC Stitching group, an accomplished and creative 'stitcher'. Her family were always the lucky recipients of her stitching projects.

In the last few months, Margaret was concerned about the aging problems of her much loved dog. Maybe being a country girl, her love of animals had always been a strong part of her life ... certainly, her dog was an important member of her household. Brindabella Bushwalking Club will miss Margaret and we all send our love and sympathy to her family.

The details for the funeral are:

11:00am Thursday 7th May at Holy Family Catholic Church, Bugden Ave, Gowrie.

The burial will be at Woden Cemetery and wake to follow.



## 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 9 May	Glenburn and Burbong Heritage Circuit	13.5	Easy (7)	Terrylea Reynolds
Sun 10 May	Tidbinbilla Ridge from the North	17	Hard (13)	Steve Glaznieks
Sat 16 May	Western Foreshore Googong Dam	13	Medium (8)	Kathy Handel
Sun 17 May	Devils Gap	16	Medium (11)	Margaret Power
Sat 23 May	Tin Hut Dam to Wells Inlet, Googong	14	Medium (8)	Leigh Hermann
Sun 24 May	London Bridge to Washpen Crossing	9	Easy (7)	Jane Melanie
Sat 30 May	Yankee Hat Art	12	Easy (7)	Peter Dalton
Sun 31 May	Glendale Dry Stone Walls	13	Medium (10)	Robin Cayzer

## Art Exhibition

Paintings of the areas we walk in,  
by BBC Member Trevor Willson



## PATHS LESS TAKEN

TREVOR WILLSON

Braidwood Regional Art Group Gallery (BRAG) invites you to  
*Paths Less Taken*,  
an exhibition by Canberra landscape painter Trevor Willson

Opening 6pm, Friday 8th May 2026

Exhibition dates: May 8 – 11; 16 – 17. BRAG Gallery, 45 Wallace St, Braidwood NSW

## *My early bushwalking experiences*

In his youth my Dad was a keen walker. Growing up in Sydney, the Blue Mountains were on his doorstep, and in the late 1920s / early 1930s it was trains that got people places. He and his brothers would hop on a train to the Blue Mountains, start walking from one station and return from another (no need for car shuffles!). More than once they caught the train to Moss Vale, found a bed at the Railway Station for 5/- (shillings), walked to Fitzroy Falls and down into Kangaroo Valley (another night at the local pub), the next day climbing Cambewarra Mountain before descending to the train at Bomaderry. Quite a distance! If they camped, the gear was primitive – Dad would talk of having to find a hip-hole for sleeping. And according to the attached photo (Dad is 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right) the footwear and clothing were fairly rudimentary.



Dad had given up bushwalking by the time we moved to Brisbane – I was a baby at the time – but we often visited Binna Burra in Lamington National Park for day walks. When he started at Queensland University in the 1960s, my older brother Warwick remembered how much he enjoyed these walks, so he joined the University of Queensland Bushwalking Club (UQBWC). From then Warwick hardly ever seemed to be around on the weekends, coming home Sunday nights reeking of camp-fire smoke. I recall him making packs for club members to borrow – 6 of them – with wooden frames, canvas body and leather straps. I have no idea how comfortable or durable they were, but they certainly weren't in use when I joined the club.

So, yes, seven years later I followed in Warwick's footsteps and joined UQBWC.

First thing was to get some boots, so on Warwick's advice I got strong leather boots for the grand sum of \$20. To wear them in I soaked them in water then trudged over the hills of Coorparoo. But my legs ached so much from the weight I ditched the boots and decided to wear sneakers (not wise – I lost a toenail as a result). My pack was borrowed from my sister-in-law and my Paddy Pallin down sleeping bag (which I still have) had been left behind by a cousin who went teaching in Canada

My first weekend pack walk was to Mt Barney, an iconic destination for Brisbane bushwalkers, south of the city, and certainly not the walk for a beginner. My main memory is that we didn't reach our destination because we headed up the wrong ridge and had to spend the night at a small saddle. Everyone else quickly grabbed the best spots and I was left trying to sleep half-sliding down a hill.

The second walk was to Lost World, part of SE Queensland's Scenic Rim near Christmas Creek. The first morning was a huge climb. I've no idea of the elevation – I knew nothing of stats in those days – but I must have been very slow as someone carried my water for me. And at the top I was given the best Mintie I've ever tasted.

My last walk was to Running Creek in Lamington NP. To get to the Friday night campsite we walked through the railway Border Tunnel (aka the Border Loop). But, sod's law, a train came. Someone must have shouted 'get down', and I remember quickly dropping into the ditch beside the tracks before the train roared through. I often wonder what passengers would have thought if they'd known people were lying in the tunnel beside the train. My other memory of that trip was spending the day walking along the creek thigh-deep (it was probably only knee-deep), making camp after dark, and then having to pull off all the leeches.

Being Queensland, we walked in shorts (no gaiters) so I'd get home scratched to smithereens. Nor did anyone carry a tent and I struggled to sleep in the open on hard ground. If it rained someone would string up a groundsheet between the trees and we'd all huddle under. I remember two of the leaders had legs like tree-stumps and wielded machetes to cut their way through the rainforest and lawyer vine. I was always the slowest (I was very unfit in those days); they'd stop and wait for me but as soon as I joined the group they'd be off again. So unfair – the others had a rest but I didn't get one.

So, after all this, I decided it was all too hard and, apart from a rather pleasant weekend with friends in the Budawangs, many years passed before I even thought about pack-walking again. I did, however, enjoy sessions of abseiling down the cliffs at Brisbane's Kangaroo Point, and this stood me in good stead a few years later when caving the Yorkshire Dales (but that's another story).

*Leigh Hermann*



*Photo: David Henson*

Ed Note: These packs were the height of design and much envied by the rest of us in the early days

## Park closures from Monday 11 May to Friday 12 June

[Thermal assisted aerial control program]

Specific dates are:

- Bullen Range Nature Reserve: 25 May - 7 June
- Gigerline Nature Reserve: 25 May - 7 June
- Rob Roy Nature Reserve (South): 25 May - 7 June
- Stony Creek Nature Reserve 25 May - 7 June
- Molonglo River Reserve: 25 May – 29 May
- Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve – 13 May – 14 May
- Namadgi National Park (West) – 18 May – 29 May
- Namadgi National Park (Naas – East) – 15 May – 22 May
- Namadgi National Park (North) – 9 June – 12 June
- Lower Cotter Catchment – 9 June – 12 June
- Googong Foreshore – 11 May – 15 May

The Australian Alps walking track will be closed from the Mt Tennant summit to the NSW border in Murrays Gap from Friday 15 May to Friday 29 May. The Mt Tennent Summit Track from the Namadgi Visitor Centre will remain open throughout the program.

The Murrumbidgee Discovery trail will be closed from Pine Island to Casuarina Sands, which includes a section of the Centenary trail between Kambah Pool and Pine Island, during this period.

The complete details and maps are [here on the PCS website](#)



## The Percys of the ACT



*Summit of Mt Gudgenby*

The Percys (or Percies) are a list of 68 peaks (presently) of over 1000 m AMSL in elevation in the Australian Capital Territory.

BBC member David Dedenczuk assembled the list in 2015, seeking input from John Evans and John has kindly published the list on his [Blog](#). Since their inception, the Percys have become well-known, even featuring on the international website [peakbagger.com](http://peakbagger.com)

The Percys are named for Percy Lampriere Sheaffe (1883 – 1963), who was an early surveyor in the ACT. According to the Mouat Tree website – ‘Sheaffe was a Queensland-born surveyor who was aged 26 when he began the border survey at Mt. Coree in 1910. He surveyed about 180 kilometres of the 306-kilometre border and later reflected that he regarded the job the highlight of his career. Sheaffe’s wife Katie accompanied him for some of the time.’ [The Surveyors | The Mouat Tree](#)

The idea for the Percys List comes from several sources – these being the Hobart Walking Club’s (HWC) Tasmanian Peak Baggers’ list, the Tasmanian list of Abels peaks and the Munros in Great Britain. Of these lists, it is the HWC list that has had the strongest influence on the development of the Percys. As a young bushwalker in Tasmania, I and many other bushwalkers took great pleasure in trying to reach the summits of the hundreds of peaks listed on the HWC list. In more recent years the Abels came into being, with its clever idea of assigning a name to the list of 158 peaks, in much the same way that Munros (and other lists of peaks around the world) are named.

The HWC list sets out a light-hearted points system for the peaks on its list, and I have (with permission) adopted the same for the Percys. To each peak points between 1 and 4 have been given, according to notability, walking distance, walking elevation required, type of terrain and tracks, height of peak, and proximity to other peaks.

Percys range from the relatively genteel hill climbs (such as Rob Roy) to challenging technical climbs (such as the Belfry), to peaks that require an overnight trip (e.g. Mt Scabby). The Percys are a uniquely challenging set of peaks. Many are reachable by tracks, but many are untracked, and are defended by tracts of scrub regenerating after recent fires. Many, too, are granitic tor-tops, having on their upper parts and summits, great slabs, spires and tors of foot- and hand-hold free granite.



*The Belfry—Legoland*

So, how do these granitic Percys compare with peaks in other jurisdictions? I'm only familiar with a few of the Munros, but I recall that the granite summits of the easier ones I went to were quite manageable. The nearest Tasmanian HWC list equivalents for the white granitic peaks of Namadgi are the pink granite peaks of Freycinet National Park. At least one Tasmanian bushwalker has been known to have carried an aluminium extension ladder to the top of [Mt Mayson](#). There are many similar, or even more challenging, Percys in the 'granite wonderland' that is Namadgi (*Doug Finlayson ACT geology*).

This brings us to the issue of safety. While the rules of the Percys set out that 'the top must be reached, I stress that personal safety and common-sense must take priority. No walker should take any risks in climbing granite tors for the mere sake of reaching the top and 'claiming' the Percy. The absolute tops of many Percys are best left to trained rock climbers who have the skills and equipment to safely reach the top. As Tyrone Thomas wrote of Federation Peak – 'life is precious'! All walkers should remember that it is enough to visit the vicinity of the summit. I remember, with some admiration, the partner of a hard-bitten Tasmanian peakbagger who, in accompanying that person to the mountain-top, always stopped 10 m short of the summit.

I encourage all BBC members to familiarise themselves with the Percys List and to visit as many as possible. No one yet in modern times has climbed all 68 Percys – will you be the first?

*David Dedenczuk*

# Carry-On Luggage only or Checked Bags?

(Traveller Magazine)

## The argument for checked-in luggage:

Amy Cooper

I come with baggage. I do not "pack like a pro".

There are two tribes in modern travel: those who check a bag, and those who check to see who's sashaying past the carousel with everything in an abbreviated zero-gravity backpack made from an astronaut's jockstrap.

Meet the carry-on crusader: minimum luggage, maximum moral superiority. See them breeze by the baggage drop with the serenity of one who has hacked life itself, resplendent in wrinkle-resistant neutrals that repel both moisture and joy. Cringe as they eye your 80-litre hardshell the way a vegan greets surf n' turf.

Their messiahs haunt social media, preaching curation, optimisation and capsule wardrobes. They're sleek. They're smug. And I've sometimes felt a flicker of envy ... until it's actually time to fly. Thanks to the carry-on crowd, it can take longer to board a flight than the duration of the flight itself. At every overhead locker, it's reverse childbirth; an agony of shoving, straining and grunting, with the hapless cabin crew like midwives trying to force bloated bag-babies into where they just cannot fit.

A serious traveller, like a girl guide, is always prepared: rainwear, reef shoes that fit, spare bathers while the soggy ones dry - and a touch of fabulous for Cinderella moments, because I'm not about to show up at Mayfair's Cuckoo Club dressed as Bob Irwin. Despite what the lightweights tell you, no shoe "transitions seamlessly" from hiking to dinner unless it's been flung through the restaurant window.

I carry spares because life's too short for laundry on the road. I want to embrace travel's surprises, romance and detours, and have a little something for them all in my sartorial artillery.

Admittedly it's gone astray occasionally, but I console myself at the empty carousel knowing I'll have everything I need again in a couple of days.

Meantime, I can sample the spartan joys of #carryononly - before I give up and go shopping.



## The argument for carry-on only:

Mal Chenu:

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a woman in possession of a plane ticket must be in want of a bigger suitcase. Yeah, yeah, I know. But seriously? You have one head and two feet. How can you possibly need eight hats and twelve pairs of shoes?

Now, before you go cancelling me, or dobbing me in to *Media Watch*, anyone of any gender who has been on any holiday knows you need fewer clothes and more money.

So why pack like you're moving out after a divorce? Do you really need that fifth white T-shirt? That fourth bathing suit? That third jacket? That second pair of joggers? That tiara?

Amy may have to plan for last-minute invitations to Royal galas, or masquerade balls at RuPaul's place, and pack accordingly, but most of us don't.

Rather than "be prepared" or "better safe than sorry", I prefer to engage "smug mode" on arrival and breeze out of the airport like a minimalist ninja, past the throng of luggage lingerers waiting for their giant suitcases to drop.

Packing light comes in many forms, but nothing says "wanderlust" like a backpack. Modern backpacks and smaller cases are highly efficient. They contain more hidden areas than the Epstein files, and the expensive ones offer zip-up portals that lead to other dimensions in space-time.

And if you can't fit everything, you can probably buy it for the cost of the excess baggage charge. (Well, maybe not the tiara ...)

Heavy packers' issues continue beyond the check-in and the moment the "Heavy - Will Cause Hernia" tag is added to their baggage. Light packers enjoy savings and freedom and our smaller bags don't get beaten up by pissed-off baggage handlers with new hernias.

Meanwhile, Amy is over there bouncing on her suitcase trying to squeeze in 14 packing cubes, those final few cardigans and the backup shoes for her backup shoes, and wishing she'd bought a Tardis rather than a Samsonite.

When you unpack this argument, less is more.

## Walk Statistics for April

### **March - April**

These stats include walks from late March.

#### **Weekend Walks**

21-Mar-26	The A to Z of Border Markers	6
22-Mar-26	Glendale to Caloola	8
28-Mar-26	Mt Rogers	11
29-Mar-26	Blue Gum Hill Rock Slabs	4
29-Mar-26	Short weekend walk - Mount Pleasant	10
04-Apr-26	Gungahlin and Percival Hills	9
05-Apr-26	Hill above Snake Rock	0
06-Apr-26	Lake BG walk and coffee	15
11-Apr-26	Short weekend walk - Mt Majura from MacKenzie St	8
12-Apr-26	Orroral Heritage Walk	8
18-Apr-26	Berrebangalo Property Walk	21
19-Apr-26	Tuggeranong Siding, Border Railway Loop, Melrose NR	4
25-Apr-26	ANU Lindsay Pryor walk + Arboretum	9
26-Apr-26	Pheasant & Boboyan Hills	8
26-Apr-26	Short weekend walk - ANU Sculpture Walk 3	n/a

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

25-Mar-26	EM - Mount Reedy and Kowen Escarpment	16
01-Apr-26	EM - Googong Dam Western Foreshores	6
01-Apr-26	EM - Mts Taylor and Arawang	22
01-Apr-26	MH - Boboyan Hill Rocks	9
15-Apr-26	EM - Tidbinbilla Circuit from Dalsetta	21
15-Apr-26	EM - Scrivener Dam to Aranda Bushland and Black Mt NR	22
15-Apr-26	MH - Unnamed Creek Mt Tennant	CNCL'd

#### **Wednesday Easy walks**

25-Mar-26	Red Hill Ramble	17
01-Apr-26	Weston Park Ramble	26
08-Apr-26	Back door to the Arboretum and Loop of Barrer Hill	31
15-Apr-26	Cooleman Ridge South	22
22-Apr-26	Jerrabomberra Wetlands	25
29-Apr-26	Lake Ginninderra	19



## First aid fact sheet

# Hypothermia



- DO NOT rub affected areas.
- DO NOT use radiant heat such as fire or electric heaters.
- DO NOT give alcohol.

### Signs and symptoms

#### Mild

- feeling cold
- shivering
- clumsiness and slurred speech
- apathy and irrational behaviour

#### Severe

- shivering ceases
- difficult to find pulse
- slow heart rate
- loss of consciousness

### What to do

- 1 Follow DRSABCD.
- 2 Move the patient to a warm, dry place.
- 3 Help the patient to lie down in a comfortable position. Handle the patient as gently as possible, avoiding excess activity and movement.
- 4 Remove any wet clothing from the patient.
- 5 Place the patient between blankets or in a sleeping bag, and wrap them in an emergency blanket.
- 6 Cover the patient's head to maintain body heat.
- 7 Give the patient warm drinks if they are conscious. Do not give alcohol.
- 8 Place hot water bottles, heat packs and other sources of external heat directly on the patient's neck, armpits and groin.  
Be careful to avoid burns.  
Body-to-body contact can be used if other means of rewarming are not available.
- 9 If hypothermia is severe, call **Triple Zero (000)** for an ambulance.
- 10 Stay with the patient until medical aid arrives.

My life is a constant battle between wanting to correct grammar and wanting to have friends.

FB/RAMBLINMA

Son: Dad, what's the best thing about Switzerland?

Me: I don't know, but the flag's a big plus . .

## SOCIAL NEWS MAY 2026

### 6 April 2026 (Easter Monday) – 5 km walk Lake Burley Griffin Loop and coffee National Library

15 walkers (2 more for coffee) weren't deterred by the drizzly weather (did get heavier). We walked anticlockwise. The warm seat at "Within Without" was a surprise treat. Coffee at Bookplate, NLA warmed us up after the walk. Thanks Nancie for providing Easter eggs. As usual happy faces and lots of talking.

Elaine (Social Convenor)

### Potluck Dinner 2026

I think that quality wins over quantity every time and our recent Potluck dinner proved that assumption. Although our numbers were down on last year we were not wanting in quality in the company, the food and the presentation. It was so pleasing to note that so many people were prepared to help out on the night with setting up tables and chairs, serving food and drinks, clearing tables, preparing the dishwasher and taking laundry home to wash. A huge thank you is especially owed to Julie Pettit who spent many hours prior to the event, liaising with staff from St Margaret's to ensure the smooth running of the IT system for our guest speaker and to ensure that the hall was ready for our use.

There was a wonderful variety of foods for the main meal and dessert and delicious pastries made to accompany the pre-dinner drinks. It is amazing how many of our walkers have such fine culinary expertise!

It was obvious by the chatter around each table that everyone was enjoying themselves.

I was excited to be able to engage the Coordinator of Capital Nordic Walking to give a presentation on the night. I was converted to employing Nordic Walking techniques seven years ago and I have personally witnessed the benefits in my walking/hiking life.

The Potluck dinners are a wonderful way to meet other BBC bushwalkers or catch up with those you haven't seen for a while. There is already a strong bond between all those who participate in the event, a love of hiking and the enjoyment of bushland environments. For my part I love reminiscing about trips and walks I have shared with fellow members locally as well as in other parts of Australia and overseas.

Davinia Wells



# Lake Burley Griffin walk and coffee at the National Library—6 April





Out of the drizzle and into the snacks



## FAMOUS TOPICS IN ART HISTORY:



## HERCULES ATTEMPTING TO GIVE HIS CAT A PILL



**Human:** We have a colour named after you.

**Salmon:** Really? Is it silvery blue like my shiny skin?

**Human:** No, uh.....

**Salmon:** Wait, why is it pink?

**Human:** .....

**Salmon:** WHY IS IT PINK?



I asked a supermarket market worker where they kept the tinned peaches. He said, "I'll see," and walked away. I asked another and he also said, "I'll see," and walked away.

In the end I gave up and found them myself, in Aisle C.