

BRINDABELLA BUSHWALKING CLUB

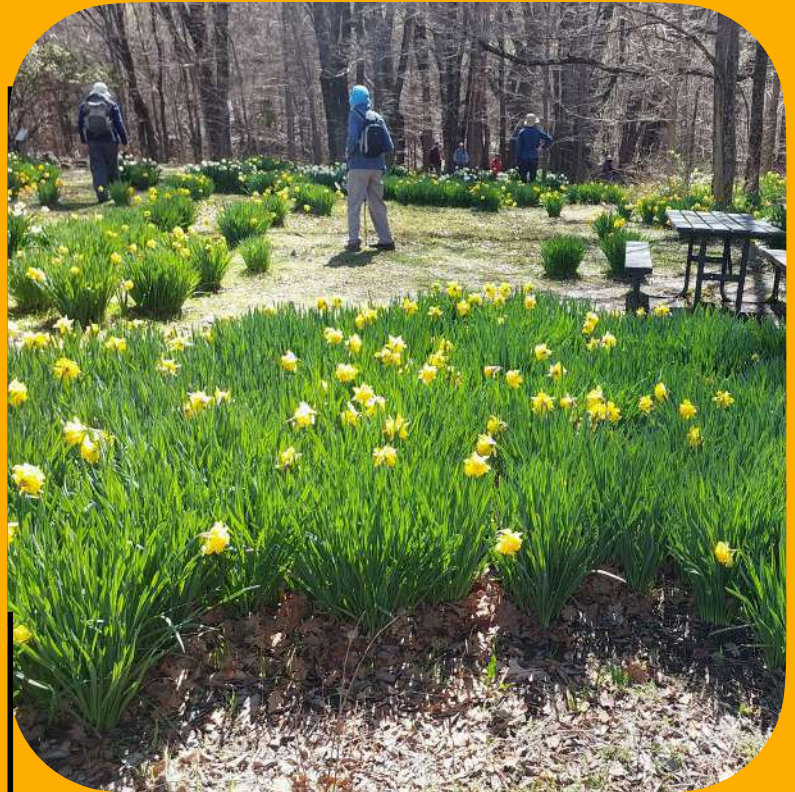
October 2023



BBC



From the President



As is reported in detail later in the Newsletter, the clubs' recently held AGM was both well attended and well received. The meeting was an important one with the revised club constitution being unanimously accepted.

All committee and subcommittee roles were filled. However, for some of the committee members, after having spent many years and countless hours performing the roles, it is time for them to spend their time on other interests or family matters. So, if anyone is interested in helping the committee in the future, please let me know and we can arrange a 'no obligation' awareness of what various roles entail.

To those members who have taken on roles within the executive committee, I thank them for their support and active involvement in the club.

Sat 9 September: 15 walkers enjoyed a magical day walking to Sherwood Homestead (long gone) in Coree. After a 280 mt climb up Mt Dowling we enjoyed morning tea at the top, with great views around us. Crossing Uriarra Creek didn't present any problems. After viewing the grave site, we walked to the site of the old homestead for a magical treat. The rare Rip Van Winkle daffodils (over 150 years old) didn't disappoint.

Deborah and I have just returned from hiking in Europe and the UK where we experienced some magnificent environments, met enthusiastic walkers from all over around the globe and overall had a wonderful time. It just makes one want to do more!

Now that spring is with us and even although some hot days have occurred and many very hot days are ahead of us, this is a time when conditions for walking are still glorious. The return of blue skies and mildly warm days have been most welcome and without doubt helps lift one's spirit. So, take the opportunity to get out into our wonderful countryside.

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

Contributions welcome

Articles (of any length) and photos (also jokes)

Send to

editor@brindabellabushwalking.org.au



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SA BUSHWALKERS VISIT CANBERRA

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN Bushwalkers will be visiting Canberra this week and have kindly invited our members to join their walks. David Wardle has liaised with the SA organiser, Karen Baker, and the walks program is set out in the following pages. Note the different levels. Karen writes as follows:

Here's our walk schedules. I've included start times and meeting points. Any of BBC are welcome to join us at the meeting points. We will discuss the next days walks at the end of each walk and at our happy hour 5-6 each evening at both Cottermouth and Alivio. If members have any questions re walks please contact me Karen Baker 0422288776 at Cottermouth (reception might be a bit patchy) or Peter at Alivio on 0413808334 to confirm details.

SCHEDULE OF WALKS FOR A GRADE – RASA CANBERRA CAMP – OCTOBER 2023

A WALKS

Walk No/Day	Walk	Walk Distance	Description	Drive Km (Ret)	Map(s)	Grid Start	Grid Dest or Fin	Leader
A1 Sat 7 October	FOUR PEAKS, MT PAINTER, BLACK MOUNTAIN, MT AINSLIE, MT MAJURA	23 KM	After dropping a car/s at Mt Majura we head SW to the suburb of Cook, and climb our first peak Mt Painter at 742 mt with views to Black Mtn, the lakes and open grassland to the south and west. Through Aranda Bushland and onto our next peak 812 mt Black Mountain passing by the landmark Telstra Tower. Down the eastern side via the Bushland Nature walk. Continuing east we walk through ANU to Commonwealth Park and Floriade. A short walk by Lake Burley Griffin to Anzac Parade past the memorials lining both sides heading to the Australian War Memorial before climbing up the Kokoda track to Mt Ainslie at 830 m for expansive views over Canberra. Then following the Centenary trail towards Mt Majura at 893 m with views to the airport and Majura Valley before heading down Watson to the cars. Drive back to camp via Mt Painter to pick up the cars. Meeting time Mt Painter at 0815	CCM 56 km AL 14 km	332 Antill St Hackett Mount Majura Walking and riding trail carpark			
A2 Sun 8 October	WALK IN THE HILLS	18.5 kms	Start at the eastern end Callemonda Rise in O'Malley by the water tank. Walk straight ahead to a fence and gate, keep to this track (do not turn Rt) until reaching a junction near a creek line (Centennial track marker with red circle under). Turn right and follow the track right around. Follow track down to start of Isaacs Ridge. Walk along Ridge down to road, cross at water tank, head for Waniassa Trig. At the bottom turn right, cross under the road and head for Farrer Ridge then Isaacs Pines to starting point. Meeting time 0830 Callemonda Rise in O'Malley	CCM 35 kms AL 36 km	Rooftop's Namadgi ACT South Activities Map	06 919 60 860	06 919 60 860	
A3 Mon 9 October	MURRUMBIDGEE RIVER CORRIDOR – PINE IS TO COTTERMOUTH CAMP +/- CASUARINA SANDS	22KM+/- 2km	From Pine Island North on the Murrumbidgee River we follow the marked trail through bush above the River, then through open grazing land and then on a fire trail alongside the River to the turnoff to the Cottermouth Campsite or continue a further 2 km to Casuarina Sands. We will need to take the drivers back to Pine Is to collect the cars OR A travel with B to start point tba. Meeting time at Pine Is North 0815	CCM 50 km AL 50 km	Rooftop's Namadgi ACT South Activities Map and Park Brochure	828 812	06778 60887 Or 0678 609	
A4 Tues 10 October	REST DAY							
A5 Wed 11 October	BULLEN RANGE	18.5 kms	CAR SHUTTLE. Take car(s) to Murray's Corner, cross the creek, then park. Drive car(s) to Moiwera Pines on Tidbinbilla Road. Start walking up hill to trig. Continue on fire track until you get to a T junction, turn left then turn right at the next fire trail and walk along this track until you get to a gate on the mountain top, climb over the gate, turn right and walk down hill on the track towards Bullen Road. At the Bullen Road sign turn left and walk down to the cars(s). Do not walk straight ahead from the gate; it is very, very steep! Meeting time at Moiwera pines 0830	CCM 46 kms AL 88 km	Rooftop's Namadgi ACT South Activities Map	MC 06 837 60 738	Moi P 0676.5 60 89	
A6 Thurs 12 October	NAMADGI VISITORS CENTRE TO BOOROOMBA ROCKS XOVER (WITH B's)	19 kms (A), 14 kms (B)	The A & B+walkers will leave from the Namadgi Visitors Centre and climb up the Alpine Walking Track. They will take a detour to Mt Tennent on a fire trail(optional), returning downhill part way to pick up the Alpine Walking Track again and then on to Booroomba Rocks(optional) The B walkers will walk the reverse starting at Booroomba Rocks but there will be no detour to Mt Tennent. Climb/descent 560m. CAR SWAP TO BE ARRANGED WITH B's or AB+ vs B walk A/B/B+ Meeting time Namadji 0815; Booroomba Rocks 0830	CCM 80 kms AL74km (AB+), CCM120 kmsAL 114km (B)	Rooftop's Namadgi ACT South Activities Map	06 871 60 659	06 86 60 64	



SCHEDULE OF WALKS FOR B GRADE – RASA CANBERRA CAMP – OCTOBER 2023

Walk No/ Day	Walk	Walk Dist	Description	Drive Km (Retn)	Map(s)/ GOOGLE PLUS CODE	Grid Start	Grid Dest or Fin
B1 Sat 7 October	LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN LOOP INC FLORIADE INC ANZAC PARADE	14.5 km	Starting at the National Library Carpark walking anti clockwise views to Old Parliament House and to Anzac Pde and War Memorial across the lake, pass High Court, Sculpture Garden, over Kings Ave Bridge cross under pedestrian tunnel to Anzac Parade with memorials from Australia's war time history, pass through War Memorial grounds and enter Kokoda track, occ steep and steps to Mt Ainslie Summit for excellent views over Canberra and surrounds Return via opp side of Anzac Pde back over Parkes Way and to Commonwealth Park and Floriade. To Regatta point and across Commonwealth Bridge and back to Library Car Park Meeting time 0830 at Nat Lib Carpark	CCM 36 km 16 km AI	P43H+69W	0693. 5 6092. 0	0693. 5 6092. 0
B2 Sun 8 October	WALK IN THE HILLS (ISAACS and FARRER RIDGES)	13.8 kms	We start in <u>Callemonda Rise</u> in O'Malley by the water tank and follow Isaacs Ridge and then take a trail down to Long Gully Lane where we cross near a water tank and head for <u>Wanniassa Trig</u> . At the bottom we turn right and cross under <u>Yamba Drive</u> and head for Farrer Ridge then through the Isaacs Pines to the starting point. The suburb of O'Malley contains residences of many overseas embassies. Meeting time 0830 at Callemonda Rise	CCM 35 kms AL 36 km	Rooftop's Namadgi ACT South Activities Map	920 858	920 858
B3 Mon 9 October	MURRUMBID GEE RIVER CORRIDOR – KAMBAH POOL TO COTTERMOU TH CAMP	13 kms +/- 2 km	From <u>Kambah Pool</u> on the <u>Murrumbidgee River</u> we follow the marked trail through bush above the <u>River</u> , then through open grazing land and then on a fire trail alongside the River to the turnoff to the Cottermouth Campsite+/- Casuarina Sands. We will need to take the drivers back to <u>Kambah Pool</u> to collect the cars. Possible 2 groups and key swap tbc Meeting time 0830 Kambah Pools (leave CCM at 0745) other half of group 0815 for some to drop A's at Pine Is. Start at 0830 from CCM. Alivio group timings tba	CCM48 kms AL44km	Rooftop's Namadgi ACT South Activities Map and Park Brochure	828 812	778 887
B4 Tues 10 October	REST DAY						
B5 Wed 11 October	BULLEN RANGE AND CALVARY HOMESTEAD RUINS	14.5 kms	Car Shuttle/ car swap. Take car(s) to the Tidbinbilla Tracking Station and then drive to the start of the walk at <u>Miowera Pines</u> on Tidbinbilla Road. Walk up to <u>Barnes Trig</u> , then downhill onto a fire trail on the ridge line. At the marked place on the map, go west down an old fire trail to the site of the former Calvary Homestead. Return to the ridgetop fire trail and follow the trail as marked on the map to the Tidbinbilla Tracking Station Meeting time 0815 possible 2 groups check terrain	Trackin gCCM8 0 kms AL86 MP CCM56 km AL68	Rooftop's Namadgi ACT South Activities Map	838 739	801 804
B6 Thurs 12 October	BOOROOMBA ROCKS TO NAMADGI VISITORS CENTRE XOVER (With A's)	14 kms (B) 19 kms (A)	The A & B+walkers will leave from the Namadgi Visitors Centre and climb up the Alpine Walking Track. They will take a detour to Mt Tennent on a fire trail (optional), returning downhill part way to pick up the Alpine Walking Track again and then on to <u>Booroomba Rocks</u> (optional) The B walkers will walk the reverse starting at <u>Booroomba Rocks</u> but there will be no detour to Mt Tennent. Climb/descent 560m. CAR SWAP TO BE ARRANGED WITH B's or AB+ vs B walk A/B/B+ Meeting time Namadji 0815; Booroomba Rocks 0830	CCM 80 kmsAL7 4km (AB+), CCM12 0 kms AL 114k(B)	Rooftop's Namadgi ACT South Activities Map	806- 621	873- 661
B7 Friday 13 October	TIDBINBILLA NATURE RESERVE AND GIBRALTAR ROCKS	13.6 kms	From the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve Visitors Centre we follow a series of trails which will lead us through bush to the site of the former visitors centre then a climb to Gibraltar Rocks and return to the Visitors Centre. Great views from Gibraltar Rocks. Meeting time 0830 ? anticlockwise loop	CCM40 kmsAL8 6 km	Rooftop's Namadgi ACT South Activities Map and Park Brochure	764 764	764 764

Schedule of Walks for C Grade - RASA Canberra Camp October 2023

Walk No/Day	Walk	Walk Distance	Description	Drive Return km	Start GOOGLE PLUS CODE	Rooftops Namadgi Map Grid Start	Rooftops Namadgi Map Grid End	Leader
C1 Sat 7 October	LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN LOOP INC FLORIADE INC ANZAC PARADE Refer Lake Burley Griffin brochure Walk Start Nat Lib Carpark	10 km	Starting at the National Library Carpark walking anti clockwise views to Old Parliament House and to Anzac Pde and War Memorial across the lake, pass High Court, Sculpture Garden, over Kings Ave Bridge cross over the overpass/ pedestrian tunnel to Anzac Parade with memorials from Australia's war time history, +/- time at War Memorial Return via opp side of Anzac Pde back over Parkes Way and to Commonwealth Park and Floriade. To Regatta point and across Commonwealth Bridge and back to Library Car Park Meeting time 0900 at Nat Lib Carpark	CCM 36 km AL 16 km	P43H+2V3	0693.5 6092.0	0693.5 6092.0	Peter
C2 Sun 8 October	SHEAFFES HILL AND ISAACS RIDGE Walk Start Callemonda Rise, O'Malley	8 kms + 3.5 extra optional	Go through the gate and take the track to the left, and then pick up a track to the right going through an open gate. Slowly walk up the hill keeping to the left. At the top we go on a track past transmitting towers where the views are excellent, both over Canberra and for the country on the left. At the bottom of the track turn right and go gently down through a pine forest. At the bottom of this track turn right on to a track that runs above the houses and through more pine trees taking us back to the reservoir and the cars. Meeting time walk start 0915	CCM 35 km AL 36 km	J4W6+PM5	0692.0 6085.8	0692.0 6085.8	
C3 Mon 9 October	KAMBAH POOL TO PINE ISLAND NORTH Walk meeting Kambah Pool	9.2 kms	Car Shuttle; A walk along the <u>Murrumbidgee</u> River corridor from <u>Kambah</u> Pool, south to Red Rocks Gorge and on to Pine Island North. Good views of <u>Murrumbidgee</u> river from look out. Meeting time 0900 at Kambah Pool; shuttle to Pine Is North	CCM 46 km AL 50 km	H3C7+6G	0682.5 6081.3	0686.5 6077.8	
C4 Tues 10 October	REST DAY							
C5 Wed Oct 11	SQUARE ROCK Walk start Square Rock Walk carpark	9.5 kms	Walk up the marked trail from the Corin Road to a view point overlooking the Brindabellas. A side trip to a view point overlooking <u>Orroral</u> Valley will be taken on the way. Return by the same route. 100m climb/descent. Meeting time walk start 0915	CCM 74 km AL 106 km	FWH5+RPC	0672.8 6067.5	0672.8 6067.5	Steph
C6 Thurs 12 October	HONEYSUCKLE SPACE STATION SITE TO BOOROOMBA ROCKS Walk start Honeysuckle Creek Space Sta	11.6 kms	The walk to <u>Booroomba</u> Rocks is a breathtaking hike in Namadgi National Park. Starting from Honeysuckle Space Station Site on Apollo Rd, follow the Australian Alps Walking track to <u>Booroomba</u> Rocks car park. The trail takes you through towering forests and up to the massive granite cliffs. Although there are some steep sections, the stunning views from the top make it well worth the effort. Many consider these to be the best views from the Brindabella Ranges. Meeting time walk start 0915	CCM 100 km AL 108 km	CX8G+R2	0680.6 6062.2	0683.6 6060.8	Peter
C7 Friday 13 October	TIDBINBILLA NATURE RESERVE - GIBRALTAR ROCKS Walk start Dalsetta carpark	6 kms - steep/ 10.5 km	Walk up the <u>well marked</u> track to Gibraltar Rocks where the views are spectacular. Then return down to Eliza Saddle. At this point you can choose which way to go, depending on how you feel – either on the track to the Visitors Centre or down to <u>Dalsetta</u> car park. Meeting time walk start 0915	CCM 46 km AL 90 km	<u>Dalsetta</u> HW2H+C5 <u>Tidb</u> Visitor centre HW5V+V2	0676.5 6076.5	0676.5 6075.5	Stewart

Schedule of Walks for D Grade - RASA Canberra Camp October 2023
Starting times and walks need to be confirmed the night before. Call Karen Baker 0422288776

Walk No/ Day	Walk	Walk Distance	Description	Drive Return km	Map(s)	Notes
D1 Sat 7 October	BRIDGE TO BRIDGE LAKE BURLEY GRIFFIN INC FLORIADE	5 KM +	Park at National Library or Questacon. We will walk this loop in a clockwise direction, familiarising ourselves with the building and lingering briefly at Floriade	CCM 36 km 16 km A1	Brochure	
D2 Sun 8 October	ISAACS RIDGE	6.5 kms	Park on Buntine Cr. and complete the loop through the pine plantation and nature reserve. Head north from Buntine Crs up to views over Woden then follow trail south to Isaac ridge and back to cars	CCM 40 km AL 40 km	Brochure	Needs a survey to avoid "steep sections on loose gravel"
D3 Mon 9 October	PINE ISLAND SOUTH TO POINT HUT CROSSING LOOP	5.5 kms	Park at Pine Island South. About 1/2 way along the car parking area, there is a small gate with a path leading uphill and a track which takes you behind the suburb of Bonythron. Follow this track (which leads to the edge of Woodcock Drive) down to Point Hut Crossing. There are tables and chairs and a toilet at Point Hut. At the bottom of the grass there is a wide track to the right that develops into a path along the Murrumbidgee. This path takes you back to the cars.	CCM 46 kms AL 50 km	Rooftops Namadgi, <u>Murrumbidgee</u>	
D4 Tues 10 October	Rest Day					
D5 Wed 11 October	ARBORETUM	5 kms	Visit the Cork Oak Plantation, the Himalayan Cedar Forest, Dairy Farmers Hill etc. Park at Village Centre (pay parking).	CCM36 kms AL 16 km	Brochure	Need to check walks to be included.
D6 Thurs 12 October	LAKE TUGGERANONG CIRCUIT	6.5 kms	Probably park at Tuggeranong Town Park (pay parking)???. This is an easy walk of 6.5km, mostly flat with some shade.	CCM 40 kms AL 44 km	Brochure	Suggest parking learn to ride centre eastern side (parking free)
D7 Fri 13 OCT	TIDBINBILLA NATURE RESERVE	3 kms 2.1 kms	From Tidbinbilla Visitors Centre follow the <u>Birrigai</u> Time Trail Circuit passing the <u>Birrigai</u> rock shelter. (3 kms). Return to the cars and drive into the Nature Reserve, passing by <u>Sheedys</u> and turn right on to the circuit, and drive along until you reach the carpark for the Sanctuary Loop on the left. This is a 2.1 km circuit with interpretive signs along the way.	CCM 42 kms AL 86 km	Rooftops Namadgi and Brochure	
Option 1	SCULPTURE WALK	Own Choice	We make our way to the National Museum of Australia . From the car park we will cross Lawson Crescent into the Sculpture Park. A booklet about the exhibits will be provided. Walk until you have had enough, there are probably too many exhibits to see in one visit.	CCM40 kms AL 17 KM	Brochure	
Option 2	DIPLOMATIC CANBERRA	6 kms	From Lennox Gardens walk past a selection of Embassies - China, Great Britain, Brazil, Finland, Mexico, France, USA, Belgium, Myanmar, Spain, Greece, etc.	CCM 36 kms AL 17km	Brochure	



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Sunday 10 September

Our Annual General Meeting this year was attended by 38 members and the provision of tea and sandwiches at its conclusion was well received.

Prue Deacon and David Wardle have retired from the Committee after serving for three years as Vice-President and Walks Officer respectively. Robyn Gallagher and Leigh Hermann have been elected to fill their places, Robyn as Vice-President and Leigh as Walks Officer.

Other Committee members have been re-elected although, after seven years service, Lana Burmester has indicated her wish to relinquish the role of Treasurer. The membership now stands as follows:

- President - Bill Gibson
- Vice-President - Robyn Gallagher
- Walks Officer - Leigh Hermann
- Treasurer - Lana Burmester
- Secretary - Julie Pettit
- Membership Secretary - Davinia Wells
- Social Convenor - Elaine Atkinson
- Training and Development Officer - Bob Chittenden
- Facebook - Heather McLoughlin
- General Committee - Peter Ford, Peter Dalton
- Public Officer - Julie Pettit

The proposed constitutional and rule changes including the Honorary Life Membership Nomination Process were adopted unanimously and reports of office holders were well received. The new Constitution and the updated Rules can be found on the [Resources for Members](#) page of our website.

Funds are adequate and it was agreed that there would be no need for a change to membership fees for the coming year. However, from the start of the next program there will only be an electronic copy offered. This will achieve some worthwhile savings. The rate for taking a passenger in your car also remains at 14 cents/kilometre/person.

Need information on any club matters?
Check out our website at
<https://www.brindabellabushwalking.org.au/>

The Walks Officer reported on the many walks offered during the year and provided the following comparative figures for 2022/23 with last year:

WALKS	PARTICIPANTS 2021/2022	PARTICIPANTS 2022/2023
Easy Walks	648	429
Medium and Hard Walks	484	365
Easy Wed. Walks	548	744
Easy/Medium Wed. Walks	189	344
Medium/Hard Wed. Walks	164	256
Walks on Trips Away	200	102
Walks on Social Activities	118	327
TOTAL	2171	2587

Membership continues to grow and the following figures were tabled by the Membership Secretary:

- Memberships - 367
- Adult members - 444
- Child members - 15
- Total members - **459**



Tankengine “bricks” - a geological curiosity

Doug Finlayson



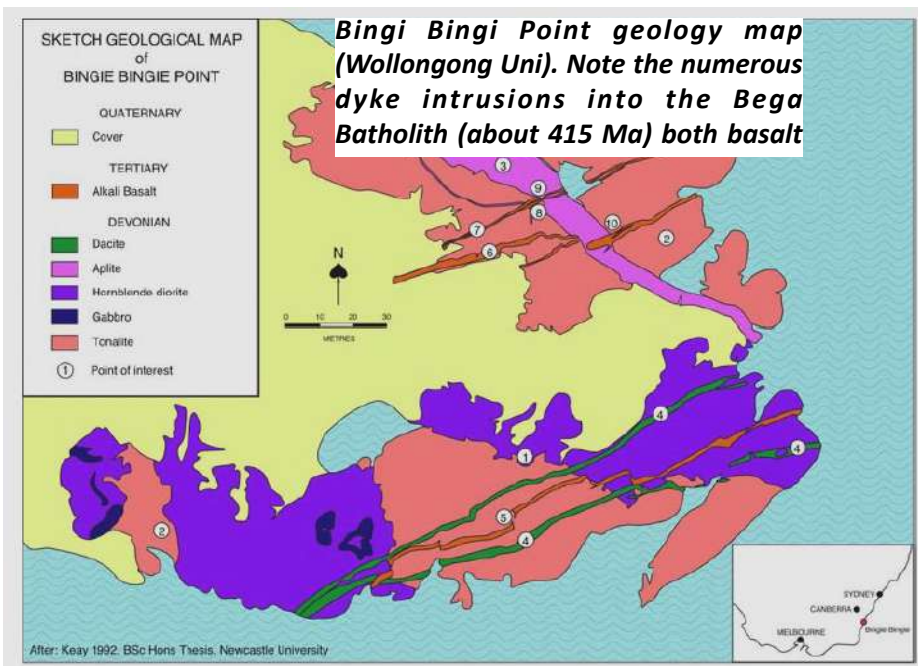
During the second week of August 2023, the author and his wife went on a walk along the Boboyan Fire Trail in Namadgi National Park to have a look at a strange rock outcrop called the “Tankengine Bricks”. Geologically this is granite country with the area around Namadgi Home- stead comprising mainly Shannons Flat Gran- odiorite (age about 425.4 Ma, Late Silurian). The off-track walking is quite hard in an area of many granite tors.

On the walk they came across a rock outcrop locally known as ‘Tankengine Bricks’. How did this strange rock outcrop form? It is a bit like another strange rock outcrop near Booboomba Rocks looking like loaves of bread.

To understand how these rock out- crops form one has to consider the processes involved in the emplace- ment of granite plutons as a partial melt from deep within the Earth at depths greater than 15-20 km that are injected towards the Earth’s sur- face along fracture zones that can go deep into the Earth’s mantle.



These partial melts are not always uniform in composition and may also have been intruded by later igneous partial melts with various compositions. There is also significant quantities of water circulating in the Earth’s crust at high temperatures and pressures that can bring to the surface, in a chemical form/solution, considera- ble quantities of minerals like lead, zonc, gold, silver and copper. One other thing to remember about granite partial melts is that they often solidified at greater than four km depth. Hence there is a lot of geological overburden that has been eroded over the last 400 million years, from this part of the Canberra region, most of it going into the rift that formed the Sydney Basin during Permo- Triassic geo- logical times.



Another partial melt that can be brought up within a granite pluton is aplite, a partial melt of quartz, potassium feldspar and acid plagioclase in a variety of percentages. Aplite is usually fine-grained because it cools quickly before large crystals can grow. One expression sometimes used is that this is the “sludge” left in the mixing bowl once the granite partial melt has found an escape route towards the Earth’s upper crust. Quartz is also seen intruding into granite plutons, brought up in solution into the plutons by high pressure, high temperature water.

One place where a variety of intrusions into granite can be seen is at Bingi Bingi Point on the NSW South Coast just south of Moruya where the Bega Batholith reaches the Tasman Sea.



The person kneeling is photographing a dark coloured basaltic dyke. The other two are standing on a large, lighter coloured, cross-cutting alpine dyke.



At the Tankengine Bricks site (1st. Photo) a granite tor has been split vertically by freezing water and erosion over thousands, perhaps millions, of years and the author is standing on the horizontal slab that has peeled off with bricks still attached.



Tankengine Rock Sample



Just like any melted/semi liquid solid, when it cools and is subject to stress, it will tend to form regular patterns like the basalts of Fingal Head, northern NSW, the tessellated terrace of siltstone around the harbour at Ulladulla and at "The Bakery" aplite near Booroomba Rocks.



News from Austria: Our marvellous Austrian adventure led by John Clune and his able soulmate Liz, has come to an end. Reluctantly, we have to go on our separate ways, some to further biking adventures, others to more travel on that side of the world and some winging their way back to Australia. Thank you John, for organising everything so well for us, from picking the exceptional locations, the wonderful choice of accommodation, and all the different hikes and trails.

For more check out our [Facebook site](#)

How to Describe a Walk

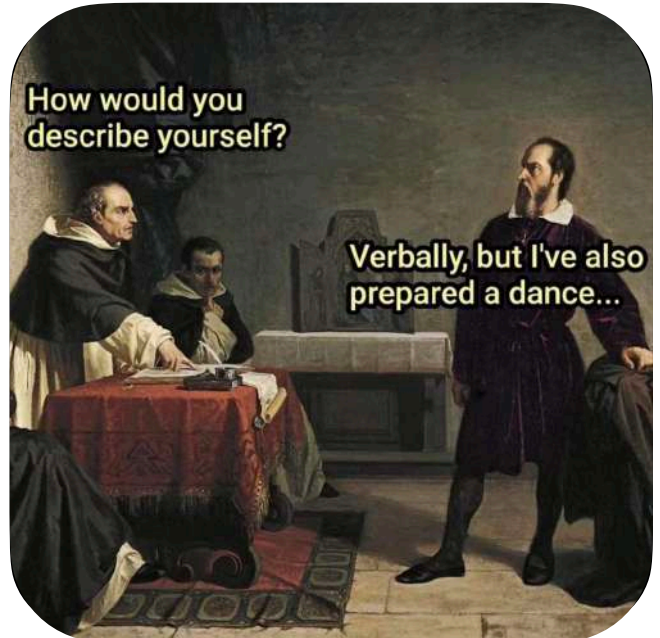
Are you a leader who is unsure how to describe a walk?
Are you ever surprised at others' descriptions?

Some variations in judgements are inevitable but help in standardisation is provided on our [website](#).

Pressing the 'Walks Description' button gives you some helpful tips and the following model for guidance:

Sat 10 Jul –BOOROOMBA ROCKS AND GORILLA ROCK –11km
Medium (10)

Leader: Joe Bloggs (0456 789101). We start from the Honeysuckle Campground and then along the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) to Booroomba Rocks car park for morning tea. We then go up the short, but steep, track to the lookout and across to the large south-western Booroomba slab for lunch. After lunch we head westerly through scrub for about 2km to Gorilla Rock. It is then around 1km south to the AAWT, through lighter bush, before heading back to Honeysuckle Campground. Long pants, gaiters and gloves are strongly recommended. Climb: 630m. Cars: 70km (\$8). Map: Corin Dam. Meet at **K** leaving at 8.30am (**K** is explained in the notes but you may prefer to use a street address.)



Connecting with Nature

In the introduction to his book, '[Connecting with Nature](#)', Dr. Les Higgins says: 'A connection with nature is one of the most desirable and valuable relationships we can have. It is a relationship that is good for us and good for nature. I know this from personal experience and from the evidence of thousands of studies. For us, it is a source of happiness, well-being and health. For nature, it is critical because nature connectedness motivates us to take care of the natural environment—and if ever there was a time when nature needed our care, it is now.'

Poets have also waxed lyrical over nature - think Dorothea MacKellar: 'My Country - A land of sweeping plains, Of ragged mountain ranges, Of droughts and flooding rains. ... The wide brown land for me!' or William Wordsworth: 'For I have learned To look on nature, not as in the hour Of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes The still sad music of humanity,... (Tintern Abbey), or Banjo Paterson: 'And the bush hath friends to meet him, and their kindly voices greet him In the murmur of the breezes and the river on its bars, And he sees the vision splendid of the sunlit plains extended, And at night the wondrous glory of the everlasting stars'. (Clancy of the Overflow).

Maybe it's why we go bushwalking.

Ed.



While walking recently on Capital Hill, near Parliament House, Truus and I disturbed this fella's nap.

Ed.

Looking for some travel ideas?

[This extract](#) from a NSW National Parks and Wildlife publication may give you some ideas.

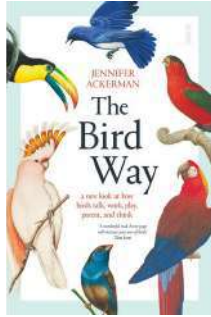


Ed.

**Recommended reading: *The Bird Way*:
A new look at how birds talk, work, play, parent,
and think**

by Jennifer Ackerman, 2020

Reviewer: Ann Villiers



We humans use many bird-related expressions to describe behaviour, many of them disrespectful.

Something worthless or unappealing is 'for the birds'. We use lame duck, henpecked, ugly duckling. People are hawks or doves, no spring chickens, proud as peacocks, sitting ducks, empty nesters, early birds, rare birds, or odd birds. The biggest slur is to refer to a 'bird brain', based on the idea that such a small brain couldn't possibly do much.

Bird brains are different from ours, but Jennifer Ackerman, an American author known for her ornithology books, gives us stories of birds with extraordinary abilities - technical, social, musical, artistic, spatial, inventive, adaptive. Birds display abilities that we once considered uniquely human: deception, manipulation, cheating, kidnapping, ingenious communication between species, cooperation culture and play.

Australian species crop up throughout the book, including lyrebirds, bowerbirds, and magpies. Australian birds occupy more ecological niches than birds anywhere on earth, and they are more intelligent than birds on other continents. Australia is where some fundamental aspects of bird being were born. Like song.

Ackerman engagingly summarises research and discoveries about bird behaviour. Mimicry, once dismissed as mindless behaviour, as reflected in the verb 'to parrot', is now more deeply understood. The author tells us that imitating a song or call requires vocal learning – "listening closely, memorizing, recalling, and practicing." Ackerman points out this physical and mental effort requires sophisticated and superb neural functions, and that lyrebirds excel at the task suggests "exceptional intelligence".

The book includes intriguing sections on the use of tools, play and parenting. Black kites, brown falcons and whistling kites, hunt in the vicinity of bushfires. They have been observed flying into active fires, picking up

smouldering sticks, and then dropping them in unburned brush or grass, spreading the flames to new areas, presumably to flush out prey.

Some birds repeatedly drop objects and listen for the sounds they make. Ravens and kea (a large NZ parrot), are considered the two most playful birds on the planet. Male bowerbirds use amazing ingenuity in constructing their bowers, but the author writes that we should be "equally astonished by the female's ability to judge them, how sensitive her perceptions must be, how refined her aesthetics and how sophisticated her powers of discrimination, to push males to such extremes of behavior, aesthetics, and intelligence, to win her favor."

We learn that nest building is anything but simple, requiring sophisticated cognitive abilities. Magpies' swooping behaviour is mentioned, along with their ability to recognise and remember human faces during their twenty years of life. (So, watch out this spring!) And those spectacular engineers, male brush turkeys, build enormous mounds to incubate eggs. Female brush turkeys make the most informed mate choice of any bird, doing some serious shopping around first.

Ackerman shows us that there is no one way to be a bird and that we humans are not as unique as we once thought. There are birds that can count and do simple maths, make their own tools, move to the beat of music, comprehend basic principles of physics, remember the past, and plan for the future.

See how clever kea are [here](#).

See Apollo the male Superb Lyrebird at Healesville Sanctuary sing his repertoire [here](#)

And learn more about bowerbird courtship [here](#).

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