

# Brindabella Bushwalking Club



## April 2024

I previously committed to provide an outline of what being on the clubs Executive Committee entails, as a number of our executive committee members will not be re-applying for positions at our next AGM. I will start with my role as President, continuing with other roles in subsequent columns. I would be happy to chat with anyone who is considering nominating for any of these roles to further expand on what is involved.

As President, my responsibilities include:

- Spokesperson for and to represent the club as necessary in various forums.
- Ensure that the executive committee meets a minimum of three times each year, typically October, February and June. Chair these meetings as well as at our Annual General Meeting.
- Liaise with other bushwalking clubs, local government and parks services representatives to discuss matters which are relevant to our bushwalking members e.g. proposed amendments to existing tracks or the establishment of new walking tracks. This may also involve the preparation of submissions, to entities which are reviewing policies/procedures in support of bushwalking experiences.
- Engage with club members, as necessary, to clarify/explain club matters, executive committee decisions or club policy.

I find that these responsibilities are not overly time-consuming, there are peaks and troughs of intensity, just like being on a walk!

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



2 March - Tidbinbilla - exploring tall forests and wet gullies on four trails from a start at Hanging Rock

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*Editor - Peter Ford*

Contributions welcome [here](#)

## Murramarang South Coast Walk

20 -22 March

*Wayne Holgate*



The Murramarang South Coast Walk has only been formally open for about a year. I organised the walk as two separate day walks with a base at Murramarang NRMA resort. The two issues were the need to organise car shuttles for transport and to make sure the tide was low in the middle of the day. The two days were:

1. Pretty Beach to Murramarang
2. Murramarang to Maloneys Beach

When the program was published, the trip filled up in two days as I kept the number to 16 for transport reasons. With a lot of interest and 14 on the waiting list, maybe later in the year it will be on the program again. If it is, get in early!



Start of the Walk

## Pretty Beach to Murramarang (18km)

ON the first day the weather was beautiful with temps 20-24° C. After driving to Pretty Beach and taking the obligatory photo next to the sign, we were ready to hit the sand. There were four major beaches to walk along, interspersed with lovely coastal forests. The first two relatively short beaches were linked with a rock platform to cross, which is why I needed to time the start for low tide at around lunch time. Although there were no big climbs, the many 20-30m climbs and descents all added up.

We were wandering through forests, down sandstone steps, along a small section of beach or rock platform and then up steps back into the forest. It was so beautiful.

From Pebbly Beach the track goes along the beach and rock platforms to Depot Beach and then up, zigzagging over Burrawang Mountain, with great views of the beach we would walk for the rest of the day. We weren't sure if Lake Durras was open to the sea, but we could see it was closed. So down the hill and onto the beach to finish the day with approximately 6km of beach walk. As it was low tide the beach was very firm. Some of us walked without boots, some with sandals and some kept their boots on. We all felt that the beach walking added 1-2 km of effort to the walk, but it was still fantastic. We finished off the day with a meal out at Murramarang restaurant.



We stopped at Oaky Beach campsite for lunch. This is a well laid out designated camping area with a couple of lace monitors to entertain us.

Then onto North Head lookout and the trig before wandering down to North Head Beach. From here we crossed a couple of beaches and headlands before coming to the giant stairway that completed this enjoyable walk.

## Murramarang to Maloneys Beach (16km)

Day two was another beautiful day. After transporting the cars to the end of the walk we were ready to start. Up onto the headland to a view of Wasp Island, then through forests on the headlands between many beaches, including Emily Miller Beach, Dark Beach, Myrtle Beach, Richmond Beach, Oaky Beach, and North Head Beach.

These headlands had different types of forests, each linked by new sandstone steps to the beaches. The track contoured closely to the cliff line so everywhere we enjoyed views of the cliffs and water, generally walking in shade.



## An overnight walk along the Hume and Hovell Track

*Louisa Dal Molin*

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Hamilton Hume and William Hovell's expedition to find new grazing land south of Sydney, and to solve the mystery of where New South Wales' western rivers flowed. It was in 1824 that the two explorers set off from Appin, south-west of Sydney, along with six other expedition members. The group of eight trekked 1,900km over four months, travelling as far south as Corio Bay on the Victorian Coast, and back again.



*Brindabella's from the start of the walk*

The achievements of the expedition are recognised through the names of places and localities along the route. It is, however, important to also recognise the profound and long-lasting adverse impact on the local Indigenous peoples that flowed from this and similar explorations.

The Hume and Hovell Track follows part of the route taken by the expedition, traversing a total of 426km. The Track, which commences at Cooma Cottage in Yass, winds through a variety of topographies, vegetation types and many historical points of interest. It passes through the Kosciuszko and Woomargama National Parks, through the townships of Yass, Wee Jasper and Albury, and runs near several other towns, winding it's way down as far as the "Hovell tree" in Albury.



*A number of fence crossings*

The 200 year anniversary of the original expedition seemed an opportune time to offer a BBC overnight pack walk along part of the track. The walk would depart from the Fitzpatrick Track Head campsite near Wee Jasper and follow the Track over the summit of Mt Wee Jasper, and on to the Log Bridge campsite, a distance of 13km with a climb of 900 or so metres. The return trip on the following day would be much the same in reverse. This, of course, offered an opportunity for a small group of us to undertake a 'reccie' of the proposed walk - any excuse for a long walk and a night out under the stars!

We were four in total, a little smaller than Hume and Hovell's group, but we started off in high spirits, just several days before Christmas. We departed from Canberra early on the first day of walking with the intention of undertaking most of the first day's walk before the heat and humidity really set in.

A short walk heading north-west from the Fitzpatrick Track Head campground, brought us to Wee Jasper Road. From this point, we headed south along a single track, through native forests and across several streams, all the while following the Hume and Hovell Track signs. We were amazed at the kaleidoscopes of butterflies which flew off in all directions as we wound our way to the base of Mt Wee Jasper.



*Kaleidoscopes of butterflies at this point*

We eventually found ourselves walking on forestry fire trails and alongside pine plantations, all the while continuing our climb up towards the top of Mt Wee Jasper. Closer to the summit itself, the route narrowed to a single track traversing the last 300 or so metres to the top of the mountain. By this time, two of the party decided to take a short detour, thereby avoiding the last of the climb (in my defence it was very hot and humid, and probably not the best day for a 900m+ climb). It ended up being a wise choice as the views from the top were obscured by mist and rain. I have climbed Mt Wee Jasper a couple of times in the past and I did get some amazing views on my first venture up there; and I froze

the second time I climbed the summit. Mt Wee Jasper seems to create its own weather system which specialises in producing cold, wet and misty conditions!

Our intrepid group of four met up again on the other side of the mountain. From there, it was another 3.5km or so to the Log Bridge campsite, initially along more fire trails winding through pine plantations. We were very relieved to eventually re-enter native forest for the last section of the Track; the coolness and filtered light of the forest was most welcome after the heat of the exposed fire trails. From here the Track winds its way alongside Pheasant Creek and finally crosses over to Log Bridge creek and our campsite.



*Looking back to Mt Wee Jasper*

For anyone who hasn't been to the Log Bridge campsite or who hasn't visited the area more recently, it now features an open wooden shelter comprising a platform and bench for cooking. The two wooden tables and benches are still there, along with a pit toilet. The creek was running freely during our visit, which was not surprising given all the rain we had towards the end of last year.

Our return walk back to the car followed the same route with the exception that, this time, we all elected to bypass the climb up to the summit of Mt Wee Jasper. Having reached the car, we all felt exhausted but also invigorated by our accomplishments under quite challenging weather conditions.

Now a key reason for undertaking this reccie was to 'suss out' the condition of the Track before taking interested BBC members on this walk in early March of this year. Unfortunately we again expected very hot weather on the scheduled weekend and so I reluctantly decided to cancel the trip. I am keen to go back and explore a longer section



*Log Bridge campsite shelter*

The Hume and Hovell Team which looks after the Track has been undertaking a lot of repair work on the Track, particularly along the section between Fitzpatrick Track Head and the summit of Mt Wee Jasper. This work is expected to continue right through to the Log Bridge campsite. During our visit there in December, the last kilometre or so of the track which runs alongside Pheasant creek was quite overgrown and at risk of being taken over by blackberry bushes. Log Bridge campsite was also becoming overgrown with weeds. Despite this, it remains a beautiful and quiet campsite, with no other campers on the night we stayed there; this may have also been a reflection of our foolhardiness in undertaking this walk a couple of days before Christmas and during a heat wave!.



*A lift back to the cars?*

## Social News

### Sunday 3 March - a day in Yass

Thirty-two club members enjoyed a day in the country. There was something for everyone.

Sheree led a very interesting walk (20 walkers) to the historic cemetery to visit the grave of the explorer Hamilton Hume and his wife and to follow some of the Munnagai Yerribi trail to Yass Gorge and Weir. A BIG thank you Sheree for a great walk and sharing your knowledge of the area.



Twelve of us met at Tootsies (old art deco service station) for morning coffee before heading off on our own adventures – Railway Museum, Heritage Town Walk, retail therapy, Tyger Gallery or loop walk around the river. Tootsies is worth a visit – full of funk and colourful mosaics.





Lunch at Riverside Park on the banks of the Yass River was a great spot for lunch.

Some members visited Cooma Cottage (home of explorer Hamilton Hume) on the way home.

We have now explored a few of our local country towns and Braidwood is next year.

#### Upcoming Events:

**Saturday 20 April 10am: Autumn Picnic Weston Park**

This annual event (thanking the octogenarians and nonagenarians for their contribution to our great club) has become a club tradition.

Coordinator: Wendy Thompson (0439 026 751). Details in the program and email closer to the date.

If you enjoyed Sunday's walk or wish you had gone, the following event might be of interest.

**Sat 13 & 20 April: 1:30pm - 4pm. "Yass Graveside Yarns"**

connect with the fascinating stories of early Yass Valley residents, such as explorer Hamilton Hume, pastoralist AB Triggs and victims of the evil William Munday.

Share their triumphs, secrets and scandals while strolling amongst the headstones, then enjoy a delicious Devonshire Tea in the grounds of historic Cliftonwood overlooking the Yass River. Conducted by volunteers from the Yass & District Historical Society. Bookings open 14 March online at [www.yasshistory.org.au](http://www.yasshistory.org.au)



Above: **Monday 11 March:** Canberra Day Picnic, Yarralumla Bay

Nineteen club members enjoyed a relaxing lunchtime picnic at peaceful Yarralumla Bay.

*Elaine Atkinson  
Social Convenor*

## HOW THE NEWSLETTER IS PUT TOGETHER

**Ever wondered how the newsletter is put together?**  
Here's how it's done.

First, the **articles**. Most of these need to be specifically requested but it's always a welcome surprise when one arrives unexpectedly. Priority usually goes to reports of trips away but, on some occasions, explanatory material of the committee's decisions or recommendations may need to elbow their way in front. Length of each newsletter is flexible but I generally aim for about 7 pages. Articles that are not 'time sensitive' may need to be held over for a future edition.

A menu button helpfully titled 'Arrange' allows the editor to choose whether one or two columns would be more suitable and the decision can be changed at any time.

I've chosen Calibri as a font and '11' as the standard size.

**Photos** usually arrive separately but are sometimes embedded in a particular article. Where the author supplies a caption, it can be added to the photo by selecting the 'text' button' on the drop down menu. Depending on the format, it may be possible to edit the photo and to change the size in such a way that the text of the article is automatically rearranged around it.

Where the format allows editing, and it appears that the photo would benefit from altering the brightness, I sometimes download photos to my own computer where this is easy to do, before including it in the issue. Naturally, I then delete the photo from my collection.

My preference is to include all the photos that I receive but it is often necessary to make choices. In selecting photos to accompany the text, I generally favour those that show the faces of club members or illustrate what is said in the text.

### CBC ANNOUNCE NEW WALK CATEGORY

In the past few months it has been noticed the joint-clubs Medium/Hard Wednesday walks have become increasingly popular. In March, Andrew Cupit's McKeahnne Trig and Peter Dalton's Billy Range Circuit walks respectively attracted 29 and 23 walkers - a wonderful success for our BBC leaders - but also a challenge when off-track and a potential frustration for 'tiger' walkers who are keen to be fast. As a result Canberra Bushwalking Club has decided to trial an additional 'ad hoc' walk on Wednesdays. It is seen as similar to BBC's Easy Wednesday walks, but at the other end of the scale.

These walks will be 'extra hardMH walks', and subject to CBC conditions:

- They will be advertised via CBC's Bilby management system as 'Open to the Public' and thus available to BBC and NPA members and members of the public (that is, they will not be advertised to the Wednesday Walks email list).
- Walkers must register online via Bilby and be subject to the leader's vetting (that is, acceptance is not automatic).
- Numbers will be limited to 8.
- While a non-CBC member can make any number of booking requests, after three walks they will be encouraged to join CBC.

We don't expect this extra walk will have a significant impact on the current program of Medium/Hard walks, especially given its ad hoc nature, but may be of interest to some BBC members.



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Consolidated List

## July 2023

Sharon Clancy  
Mary Colreavy  
Ros Crago  
Elizabeth and Peter Daly  
Zdenka Grundelova

Joanne Murray

Cole Neering

Mark Reynolds

## August/September/October

Amand Bullock

Michael Clisby

Peter Eland

Gloria Grimes

Anne Hastings

Rebecca Higgins and Andrew Ryan

Kirk Hone

Helen Kinmonth

Helen Osborn

Michelle Loveday

Cathrine Stephenson

Sandra Teffer

Jacqueline Wilkinson

## November

Stephen and Cordelia Gee

Sally Goodspeed

Richard Lawrence

Lorraine Wuth

Cynthia Burton and Chris Roper

Galia Shy

Roger Brake

Els Wynen and David Vanzetti

HAVE FUN!

## January

Paul Burstinghaus

Barbara Lynn

Sharon Marshall

Anthony Mollett

Janet Salisbury

Meg Shirlow

Derek Synnott [returning]

Debra Roberston

## February

Annie Brink

Janet Farnan

Jacqueline Rosier

Wahyu Sutyono

Margueite Saw

## March

Jenny Armstrong

Leanne Cole

Susan Neild

Khuong Vuong

Kathryn Workman

Alain Menager

Karen Faunt

Vincenza Falzarano (returning)

## Cooler Days Arrive

The sudden arrival of cooler days in mid-March and the arrival of Autumn should mean much more pleasant conditions for bushwalking. After the difficult forecasts that leaders have had to contend with over summer, I expect that the drop in average temperature ranges will be very welcome.

*Ed.*



‘Australian history’, according to Mark Twain, lecturing in Australia in 1895 to raise some much needed cash,

*is almost always picturesque; indeed, it is so curious and strange, that it is itself the chiefest novelty the country has to offer, and so it pushes the other novelties into second and third place. It does not read like history, but like the most beautiful lies. And all of a fresh new sort, no mouldy old stale ones. It is full of surprises, and adventures, and incongruities, and contradictions, and incredibilities; but they are all true, they all happened.*

## FACEBOOK

Our Facebook Manager regularly posts photos, walk reports and information about upcoming activities. Please visit [here](#) and see what our members are planning or have recently been up to.

Please send your photos etc. to Heather at [facebook@brindabellabushwalking.org.au](mailto:facebook@brindabellabushwalking.org.au)