

# Brindabella Bushwalking Club



August 2024

Issue 85

## From the Vice-President

*Many thanks to Bill Gibson for his regular contributions entitled 'From the President'.*

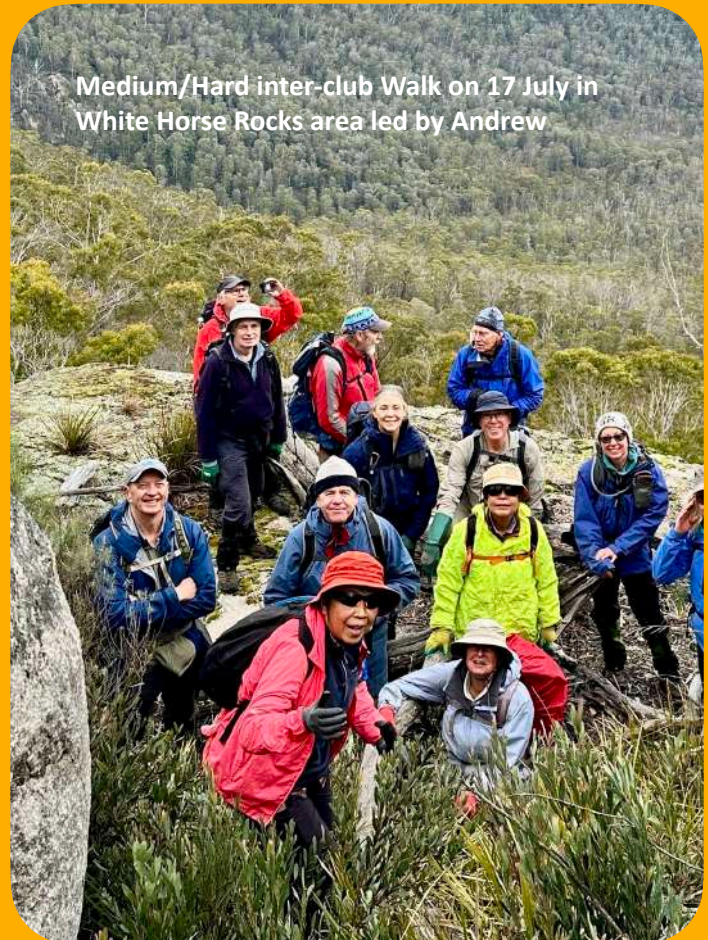
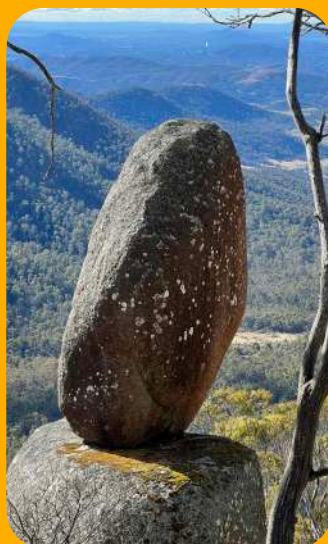
To give our president Bill a break from thinking up a theme for each monthly report, the committee members volunteered to write an article each for the report over the year. That way you can meet all of us and perhaps hear about some unexpected topics.

I have been a BBC member, walk leader and walks committee member over the last 10 years, but it's only my second year as a committee member. The duties of VP are quite easy: filling in for the President where he can't be present (almost never) and contributing to committee decisions. What has surprised me most is the amount and variety of correspondence the committee receives: from other bushwalking clubs and related organisations, from government agencies, charities, and occasionally individuals with an issue to air. Often there is a request for comment, sometimes an invitation to attend an event, and sometimes a demand for a solution to a problem.

Now, wearing my walks leader hat, comes my chance to air one of my concerns. If you need to leave a walk early, that can be accommodated. But it's so much easier if you discuss it with the leader at the start (assuming that it's planned), and you remind the leader when you depart. Leaders have a high level of commitment to their group, even if we joke about the acceptability of a 10% loss of participants on a walk. Someone just leaving the group, or passing up a message through the chain of walkers, causes me a lot of worry. It's a bonus if you text me you made it home!

Hope to see you on one of my walks.

*Robyn Gallagher*



**AGM**  
**THIS SUNDAY 4 AUGUST - SEE INSIDE**

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*Editor - Peter Ford*

**CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME**

[Email here](#)

# COMMITTEE NEWS

**The BBC Committee met on 8 July to consider some important issues and prepare for the AGM, which will be held on Sunday, 4 August at 2 pm in the hall of St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hackett (corner Phillip Ave. and Antill St. )**

Reports made by all office holders reflect a very busy program of walks, trips away and social activities over the year.

## Administrative arrangements

Refreshments will be provided by the club for members attending the AGM.

## Committee vacancies

After relatively few changes in recent years, this AGM will be asked to elect new occupants for the positions of Secretary, Membership Secretary and Training & Development Officer. After three years service, Bill Gibson would also like to relinquish the role of President if a suitable replacement can be found.

## Membership

The Membership Secretary reported that our current membership stood at 426 (410 adults and 14 children). The number who had joined since July 2023 was 69. New members since then are: **Bronwyn Beechey, Tony and Karen Chamberlain, Anna-May Connell, Pam Cowen, Friona Hooton, Alison Killen and Maureen Gardener (Welcome all!)**

Members as at end of July      **434**

## Nominations for Honorary Life Membership

In accordance with the procedure approved at the last AGM, the committee has considered and recommended the endorsement of two nominations for honorary life membership.

## Need for walks to leave on time

Some people just have a lot of trouble in arriving on time. When, shortly before a walk is due to start, the leader or convenor receives a call requesting a delay, it's just not fair to other walkers or to the leader. That is especially so if acceding to the request means further waiting around on a cold and windy morning. For this reason, the committee has approved a policy that all walks should depart at the time advertised. In effect, it's *'that train has left the station'* approach.

## Participation by walkers with a disability

Another matter put before the committee was the need for a policy on participation in walks by people with a disability. This is an issue that has arisen from time to time and been dealt with on an *ad hoc* basis with particular regard to safety considerations and the difficulty of the walk in question. There is already a clear duty imposed on all participants to notify the leader of any problems (*'I will... advise the leader of any physical or other limitation...'*).

Arriving at any 'one size fits all' policy was regarded as raising a number of complex issues such as the following:

- the range of disabilities in question;
- safety requirements in different circumstances;
- burdens on leaders;
- application of insurance cover to any claim against the club or leader;
- the views of the person with a disability; and
- particular conditions that may need to be imposed.

It was agreed that consideration of these highly variable matters requires a case by case approach. Once the nature of the disability is understood, it should be clear whether there is any difficulty in approving the person's participation and whether any conditions should be imposed.

## Change of name to include 'Adventure'?

The Committee also discussed a suggestion made by Bushwalking NSW that, in order to attract more young members, clubs should consider changing their names by including 'and Adventure' after 'Bushwalking'. While the Committee was open to considering measures to attract more young members, this particular suggestion was generally regarded as not appropriate for the BBC.

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"Always obey your parents when they are present." · "Always respect your superiors; if you have any."

Mark Twain



# TIDBINBILLA SKYLINE TRILOGY

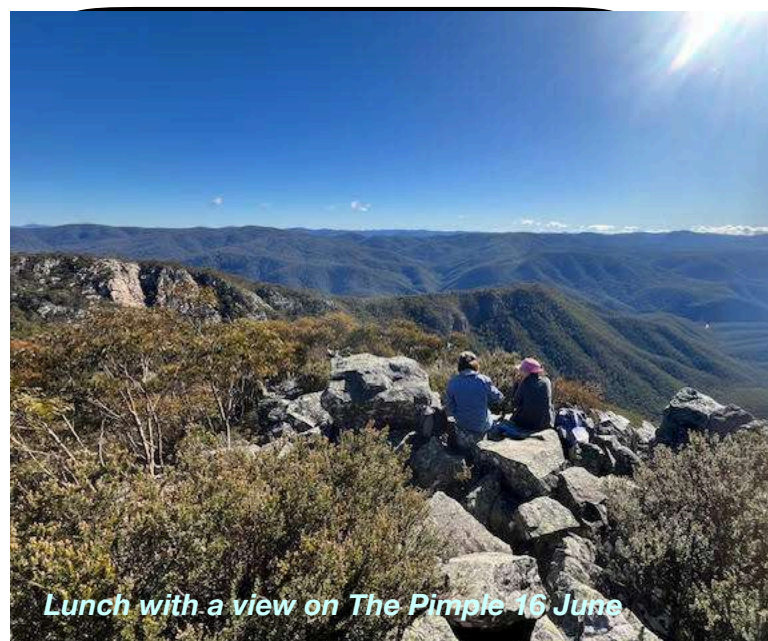
*Andrew Cupit*

A small group of BBC members walked the Tidbinbilla Skyline ridge over three separate walks during June. The track has now been taped by the Tidbinbilla rangers. While still being a challenge, it is much easier to follow and provides marvellous views of Canberra, Namadgi National Park and the Brindabella range.

On Sunday 2nd June, seven walkers completed the first part of the Tidbinbilla Skyline Trilogy from Fishing Gap across Mt Domain to Snowy Corner, and down to finish at Mountain Creek carpark. The weather turned out to be a perfect winters day and the group were rewarded with fantastic views back towards Canberra, across the Cotter River valley and the Tidbinbilla nature reserve. Distance of 12kms with 850m elevation.

On Sunday 16th June nine walkers completed the second part of the Tidbinbilla skyline trilogy. They started at Mountain Creek carpark and up Mt Tidbinbilla via Snowy Corner. The group then headed north along the ridge and west to the Pimple for spectacular views and lunch. The group had a surprise encounter with a group from the Canberra Bushwalkers Club on the approach to the Pimple. The group then returned to the ridge, onto Tidbinbilla Peak and back down to the carpark. Distance of 11kms with 900m elevation. A perfect winters day walk with a frosty cold start but then beautiful crystal-clear skies and virtually no wind. Perfect views all around!

On Sunday 30th June the group completed part three the Tidbinbilla skyline trilogy. Eleven brave walkers headed off from Mountain Creek Carpark up the fire trail to Camels Hump. They had morning tea in gloomy weather with limited visibility. The group continued along the ridge to Johns Peak, then onto Tidbinbilla Peak and back down to the carpark. Snow greeted the group at lunch on the ridge and got quite heavy by the time they reached Tidbinbilla peak. They headed down







because of the cold, but then blue skies and the sun came out. An interesting and challenging walk with at least three seasons in one day. The group was rewarded with home cooked biscuits and brownies at the carpark. Distance 12km with 850m elevation. Four people completed all three of the Tidbinbilla skyline (trilogy) walks over the month, Deb MacKay, Prue Deacon and Leigh Hermann (with Andrew Cupit, walk leader).



Once the track is improved further, the three walks could be completed in a day with a car shuffle between Fishing Gap carpark and Mountain Creek carpark. But it would be a long day and best done in late spring or summer, to ensure you have enough time!

***Top Left: The Group on Mt. Tidbinbilla 16 June***

***Top Right: Snow storm on Tidbinbilla Peak 30 June***

***Above: Four completed the Trilogy 30 June***

Easy Wednesday walk July 10. 28 walkers (including Colleen's 3 grandchildren, who led us all behind - great work kids) enjoyed an 8 km walk in the Molonglo River Corridor and around the base of Barrer Hill.

Photos by Jocelyn and Heathers (see [Facebook Page](#))





# JULY WALKS

Leigh Hermann

This is the first of (what I hope to be!) a regular section in the monthly Newsletter. I trust you find it interesting. All feedback is welcome. July's weather, as one would expect, proved to be a mixture of good and bad. Some glorious clear sunny days, some fog and a couple of atrocious days. President Bill managed to score the latter. (See p.9 for details).

See our [Facebook Page](#) for photos and comments.

The tables below show the number of walkers for each walk.

## Weekend Walks

06 July	Mt Stromlo Summit 14
07 July	Orroral Valley Circuit 5
13 July	Mt Gingera from Corin Dam 4
14 July	Burley Griffin East Basin Circuit 12
20 July	Bushfold Hut Circuit (via Mt Tennant Fire Trail) CNCL
21 July	Bradleys Creek from Googong Dam 9
27 July	Burrinjuck, Hume and Hovell 13
28 July	Mt. Tennent replacing Four Huts Namadgi 7

## Wednesday Easy walks

03 July	Red Hill Circuit 25
10 July	Molonglo Corridor from RSPCA & Barrer Hill 29
17 July	Mt Painter 23
24 July	Urambi Hills 'large'
31 July	Farrer Ridge 29

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

3 July	Arboretum and Molonglo River Reserve 24
3 July	Nursery Hill 15
17 July	Strathnairn to Shepherds Lookout via 3 Loops 25
17 July	White Horse Rocks. 17

Free! Garmin eTrex H GPS.

Little used.

Peter 0413 378 684

**My wife yelled from upstairs and asked, "Do you ever get a shooting pain across your body, like someone's got a voodoo doll of you and they're stabbing it?"**

**I replied "No..."**

**She responded: "How about now?"**



## DINGOES AND NAMADGI



Recent genetic analysis by the University of NSW of captured wild dogs/Dingoes in Namadgi National Park has found that they are 100% pure Dingo, with no evidence of hybridisation with feral domestic dogs. However, it is still possible that wild dogs are part of the ecosystem at low levels in Namadgi National Park.

The study was carried out by the University of NSW. Dr Kylie Cairns, who led the study, said that previous DNA studies had overestimated the proportion of domestic ancestry in wild dingoes.

The results of the study raise a number of issues requiring further policy work. Currently Dingoes are not considered a native animal under the ACT Nature Conservation Act 2014 because wild dogs/Dingoes are a declared pest animal in the Pest Plants and Animals (Pest Animals) Declaration 2021. They are not currently afforded protection as a native species within the ACT.

The ACT Government points out that dingoes hold considerable cultural significance for Ngunnawal people. In Ngunnawal family groups, Dingoes were raised in the company of women and children to be an effective hunting aid, a living blanket and protection against invaders while men were away for hunting or ceremony.

Dingoes also hold a special place within the Aboriginal communities as their migration and footprints were tracked to find waterholes and pathways (songlines) across Country to food sources and neighbouring nation groups.

The ACT Government's initial response to the study suggests that the the policy work that is now required should determine how best to ensure that:

- Dingoes can be protected under the Nature Conservation Act 2014
- appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place to limit, as far as possible, the issue of stock losses on rural properties from attacks.

The advice on how to respond to encounters with dingoes remains unchanged as outlined below:

### Advice for Encounters

Incidents of wild dogs or Dingoes in Namadgi National Park interacting with people are rare. However, it is sensible to take precautions to discourage these animals from gradually becoming less fearful of humans.

If you encounter a wild dog or Dingo in Namadgi National Park:

- Do not approach the animal. You can use binoculars or your camera zoom if you would like to watch it from a distance.
- Never feed the animal, even indirectly. Lock up your food stores, packs and eskies, and take all your food scraps and rubbish with you.

If a wild dog or Dingo approaches you: face the animal, fold your arms, keep eye contact and calmly back away. Do not run or wave your arms. In the unlikely event of threatening behaviour, strike the animal with a stick or backpack. Once you are a safe distance away, report the incident to Access Canberra or the Namadgi Visitor Centre.

For further information, see [here](#)

*Editor's note: I have only seen dingoes in Namadgi National Park on two occasions. The first was in the company of others on a BBC walk when they chased a group of kangaroos across our path. The second was on a 'recce' with Truus for a walk when I climbed a rise and came upon a large number of them. I don't know who was more surprised. They stared at me and I stared back until they decided to go. On that occasion, they certainly looked more like the traditional picture of wild dogs than the classical image of dingoes above. If you have a dingo story please send it to me for the next issue.*

### Thought for the day

*If you're their leader they'll follow you, even if only out of idle curiosity.*

*Bob Chittenden*

*(Bob doesn't claim it's original)*

## SOCIAL NEWS

**Advance notice:** visit to historic Tuggeranong Homestead  
Thursday 26 September 10 -12.

Minimum nos 12 and maximum 25. Cost \$20, includes  
devonshire tea.

See Jenny Horsfield's note re the outing. RSVP would be  
to me [social@brindaballabushwalking.org.au](mailto:social@brindaballabushwalking.org.au)

I will email a reminder closer to the date.

*Elaine Atkinson  
Social Convenor*



### A visit to Tuggeranong Homestead

Join us for a morning talk and guided walk by local  
historian and bushwalker Jenny Horsfield at the historic  
Tuggeranong Homestead, to be followed by the  
homestead's famous Devonshire tea.

The homestead is located on Johnson Drive opposite the  
Calwell shopping complex.

10am to 12 midday, Thursday 26 September. Cost \$20

Tuggeranong Homestead has local and national  
significance in our cultural and social history. It is the site  
of one of the earliest witnessed tribal gatherings in this  
part of the colony. It houses a convict-built stone barn;  
early C20th shearing sheds; a fine country homestead  
built in 1907 (though since then substantially extended  
and modified); a historic orchard and remnant Box  
Woodland. CEW Bean lived there from 1919-1925 writing  
the official war history, and our Federal electorate bears  
the name Bean in his honour.

Three of Jenny's books were inspired by her long  
connection to this place: 'Mary Cunningham. An  
Australian life'; 'Building a City' and 'Voices beyond the  
suburbs: the soldier settlers of Tuggeranong'

Jenny's forthcoming book, 'Our grassy landscapes and the  
people who care for them' has grown out of her  
involvement for many years in landcare projects on the  
property, This includes caring for the remnant Box  
Woodland and working with her community group MOTH  
on a long-running project to restore life and biodiversity  
to the old Tuggeranong Creek.

Jenny will talk about the history of the property then  
show people around the gardens and buildings and also  
the current creek restoration project. Morning tea will be  
served in the homestead afterwards. **Bookings essential:  
RSVP by Monday 23 September**





## Local Bushrangers

This is the first of an occasional series on bushrangers in the Canberra region. Garrett Cotter's story, as told in the book, 'Cotter' has already been covered in the March issue. This month's covers John Tennant and is based mainly on [Wikipedia](#), [Convicts, Bolters and Bushrangers](#) and other sources. Ed.

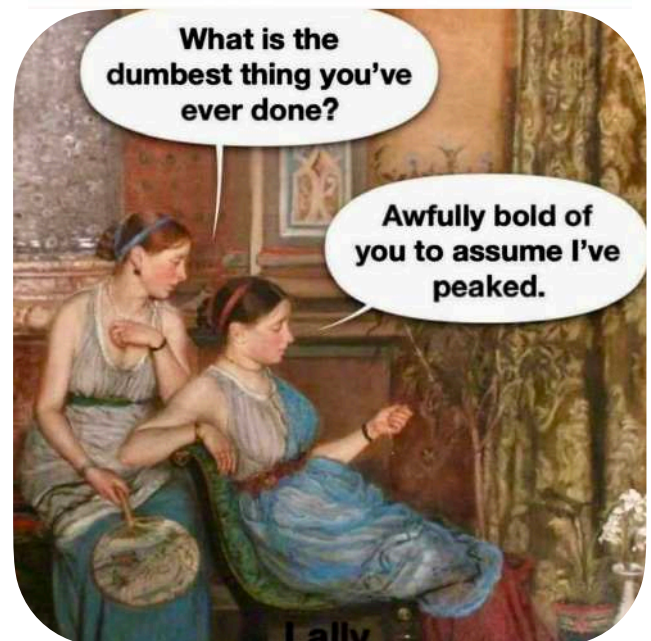
Mount Tennent in Namadgi National Park is named after local bushranger John Tennant (although over the years the spelling has changed). Tennant was transported from Belfast in 1823 for burglary and was assigned to work for Joshua John Moore who established Canberry, a property at Acton, about 1824. He was convicted for stealing £6 from Moore in 1826 and assigned to work in irons on a road gang as punishment.

According to local legend, Tennant escaped from the iron gang and turned to bushranging. The legend that he used Mount Tennent as his hideout is now [thought to be incorrect](#). In November 1827 he robbed the empty hut of the overseer at Duntroon station, James Ainslie (after whom the mountain is named).

In July 1827 Tennant's gang raided Rose's outstation at the [Yass River](#), between [Murrumbateman](#) and [Gunning](#). Tennant was shot in the back by James Farrell. During his recuperation, he teamed up with a female bushranger, [Mrs Winter](#).<sup>[4]</sup> Tennant, Ricks and another man held up Pialligo station on 21 November 1827, robbing it of supplies and stowing them in a hollow tree. When collecting them, two days later they were surprised and almost captured by the [Pialligo](#) and Canberry overseers. After other robberies, they tortured James Farrell in late December 1827. Two members of his gang (Cain and Murphy) were caught near [Goulburn](#) and Tennant and Ricks were sighted near Canberry by [John Casey](#). The authorities were now closing in on him.<sup>[5]</sup>

The end came on 8 January the following year when the gang raided Moore's station at night. After the exchange of some shots and threats, the bushrangers rode off. In the morning, they were followed by a posse of settlers and police who, with the assistance of Aboriginal trackers, surprised the gang at their encampment near the Murrumbidgee River. Tennant and Ricks were wounded in an exchange of fire and subsequently arrested.

While John Gale's account of Tennant in *'Canberra, its history and legends'* is sympathetic, at Tennant's trial evidence brought against him of cruel treatment of Farrell was accepted by the Supreme Court of NSW. The Court's initial death sentences were later commuted to seven years on Norfolk Island. Tennant served his sentence and died in Sydney a year after his release.



## 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)



# Winter Driving

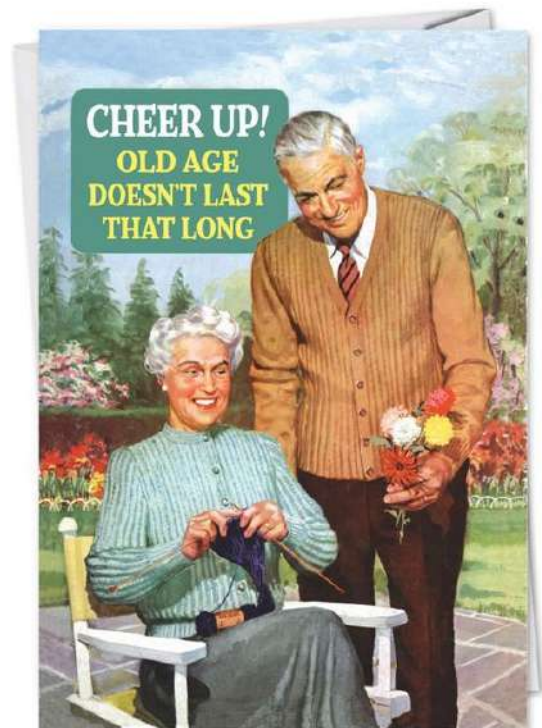
*President Bill was happy for me to use this wherever and whenever I thought appropriate. I thought it very suitable for August. Rather than continue to battle the elements, Bill changed the walk. Ed.*

I have spoken in the past about having a "Plan-B" for when a walk doesn't go as planned, but we had a recent experience where it was not unreasonable to be forgiven for not having a "Plan-B". I was leading a walk in the Southern Namadgi NP area along a series of tracks along which there are some beautifully restored huts. These huts are in slightly higher altitudes but also very picturesque valleys and hills, which has not been impacted by bushfires in a very long time, so a straightforward but rewarding walk was ahead of us.

We drove from the city, where it was sunny, clear and cool into Namadgi NP. As we drove it got colder and we encountered SNOW on the road. This was unexpected but still only a light cover. As we gained elevation the snow got much heavier and when we drove onto the gravel road for the last 12km of the drive we transitioned to snow and ice! We were ok as we had a large 4wd with off-road tyres, but we came across some vehicles which were having trouble with traction as they used highway tyres, so we stopped to help them turnaround on the ice rink! We also helped a motorbike rider whose bike kept slipping out from underneath him – high risk. At this point we agreed that it was prudent to turnaround and find an alternative walk, which we did.

Everyone, except for the drivers, in the party were thrilled with the adventure. Does this mean that I need to carry snow-chains in my pack 😊.

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



## Save the Date! CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Sunday 8 December**

from 12 noon

Kathy and Frank's property/ home, Womboin

More info closer to the date.

*Elaine Atkinson*