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# Brindabella Bushwalking Club



Following from Vice-President Robyn's message last month, as Walks Officer it's now my turn to describe my role. Without meaning to blow my trumpet, the Walks Officer role is critical to the functioning of the club, and my key responsibility, with the invaluable efforts of walks sub-committee members, is to prepare the 6-monthly program. Each May and November is a hectic time, the main job being to find leaders willing to plan and lead almost 50 walks, to schedule these walks to suit the season and each leader's availability, and to (mostly) ensure each weekend there is one Easy and one Medium (or Hard) walk alternating across Saturdays and Sundays. It's quite a juggling act. The program also contains the roster of Wednesday walks and leaders. And, as well preparing the program, the Walks Officer deals with issues that arise, such as leaders being unable to lead their scheduled walks.

I also respond to ad-hoc questions from new and not-so-new members. Questions such as:

- *There is no start time specified – when does the walk start?* For weekend walks, if not specified, the default start time is 9am.
- *Why is the specified start time so early?* Leaders decide on the start time. It may be earlier for safety reasons, especially in winter. If it's a long drive or a more difficult walk, we still aim to be home before dark. Or, in summer, it's earlier to avoid the heat.
- *When should I be at the meeting point?* You need to be there at least 10 minutes beforehand the specified start time, to allow time for signing the acknowledgement form and for car-sharing to be arranged. The leader will not wait for latecomers even if they phone to say they'll be late - this is unfair to those who arrive on time.

Regarding start times, Wednesday walks are different. Easy (short - 2 hour) Wednesday walks, which are all run by BBC, commonly start at the civilised time of 9.30am. For the joint-club walks, the Easy/Medium and Medium/Hard walks, start time is usually 8.30am, historically chosen so walks finish earlier on weekdays. But again, times vary according to the leader but you must still

**Leigh Hermann**

**Walks Officer**

**Issue 86**



*Saturday 24 August walk to Punchbowl Creek waterfalls and White Horse Rocks*

arrive 10 minutes early. Remember, too, that BBC leads these walks on only 2 Wednesdays of the month – the first and the third. On other Wednesdays they are led by Canberra Bushwalking Club or the National Parks Association, and we have no control over these walks.

The answers to most questions are found in the Walks Program preamble. If you haven't received the Program by email, you'll find it on the club website. I encourage everyone, new and old, to read the program in full. Please do. It's a living document and you may be surprised at what you learn.

Until next time, happy walking.



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## 4 August 2024

The following members were elected to the Committee:



*Bill Gibson*



*Vice-President*



*Walks Officer  
Leigh Hermann*



*Treasurer  
Luisa Dal Molin*



*Secretary  
Lou Alaimo*



*Membership  
Secretary  
Jane Melanie*



*Social Convenor  
Elaine Atkinson*



*Training &  
Development  
Ian Tucker*



*Facebook  
Heather McLoughlin*



*Website  
Peter Dalton*



*Newsletter  
Peter Ford*

The President mentioned that, during the year, three members had joined the committee to fill vacancies: Luisa Dal Molin as Treasurer, Leigh Hermann as Walks Officer and Robyn Gallagher as Vice-President and thanked them for offering their services. He also reported on progress with the 'Tidbinbilla Skyline Project' to develop a walking trail from Fishing Gap to Camels Hump, via Mt Domain, Mt Tidbinbilla, The Pimple, Tidbinbilla Peak and Johns Peak. It will be a Grade 5 track with 2 or 3 exit points and completion is expected by the end of next year.

Under the procedure that we adopted last year, outstanding contributions to the club by Julie Pettit and Robyn Kelly were recognised through their appointment as Life Members (*see report next page*).

Our Walks Officer, Leigh Hermann, presented a detailed chart of walks and activities undertaken throughout the year including the 8 day walk over the entire length of the Canberra Centenary Trail. Leigh noted that John Clune, a long standing and valued leader who has planned and led numerous trips away over the years, has retired from leading BBC walks. She thanked John for his dedication and leadership over many years in planning and leading so many wonderful and interesting overseas and local trips away. It was gratifying that some newer members were now taking on this role.

As outgoing Membership Secretary, Davinia Wells reported that there were now 437 adult members and 14 child members. Peter Dalton, as Webmaster, reported that Mary Lindsay's updated club history is now on the website under 'Resources for Members'.

The annual Navigation and Leadership Course aimed at providing new and prospective leaders with necessary navigational skills was attended this year by ten participants and comprised a one-day introductory course on daylight terrestrial navigation training (map craft, compass, GPS etc) and the duties and responsibilities of a Walks Leader. This was followed up by training in a bush setting conducted in two groups by experienced leaders, Bob Chittenden and Bill Gibson.

I was at lunch with an old friend & pointed at two elderly ladies across the room and said "That will be us in 10 years". She said "That's a mirror".

General business items listed on the agenda covered catering for walkers with a disability, late arrivals for walks and options for expenditure of surplus funds.

As reported in the August Newsletter, the first two of these, had also been discussed at the Committee meeting that preceded the AGM. The complexities of the first issue were recognised and some further suggestions were put forward by members.

There was general consensus about the action already taken on the late arrivals issue and the club's policy will be restated in the next Walks and Social Program.

In response to the expenditure issue, ideas included subsidising social activities, purchasing location devices, various aspects of training innovations and donations forwards bushwalking related causes.

In response to the latter proposal, some Committee members noted that historically, the Club has taken the view that donations have always been considered to be a matter for individual action rather than one suitable for club policy.

Under 'Other Matters' there was a curious echo of the Club's origins as the Family Bushwalking Club in a suggestion from the floor raising the possibility of establishing walks to cater for children. In discussion, the history of such walks was related and it was suggested that the Club could arrange a special event to gauge interest.

All these matters will be further considered by the Committee at its next meeting.

## Honorary Life Members



*Julie Pettit*



*Robyn Kelly*

Congratulations to Julie Pettit and Robyn Kelly for their recognition at the AGM as Honorary Life Members. Their appointment was made in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Club and followed the process decided at the previous AGM which is set out on our website [here](#).

In addition to their longstanding service, it was noted that:

- As Secretary for 13 years, Julie has guided incoming Presidents and other committee members in the execution of their duties and is known as a meticulous record keeper. She has developed foolproof templates for all kinds of meetings. Julie played a big part in the recent overhaul of the club's constitution, ensuring it gave us the most appropriate 'set of rules' while remaining consistent with ACT law. This required a good knowledge of the unwritten practices and principles that characterise the club and careful attention to the detail of the requirements of legislation.
- Robyn has served as the club's president, secretary/treasurer and social convenor and has led countless walks during that time. Her main contribution to our success, though, has been through her management of the Easy Wednesday Walks program since 2010 and her encouragement, inspiration and mentoring of many new leaders. These are the Club's best-attended walks and their popularity has continued to grow to the point that they are now held every week.



## 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)

# AUGUST WALKS

Leigh Hermann, Walks Officer

Weather was fine and no walks were cancelled in August. However, a recurrent theme from the more difficult, off-track walks was the increasing density of the scrub in areas burnt in 2020. Leaders' feedback included "lots of scrub and fallen trees", "near-impenetrable scrub", "walk had to be shortened", "scrub worse than just a few months ago", "another walk to be upgraded to a 10", "wouldn't do this walk again". Off-track leaders should take note of this when planning future walks.

## Weekend Walks

3/08/2024	Cotter Gap from Orroral	13
4/08/2024	Mt Pleasant/Campbell	14
10/08/2024	Inner south leafy suburbs	12
11/08/2024	Slabs SW of Booroomba Rocks	9
17/08/2024	Civic to Woden	5
18/08/2024	Deadmans Hill Circuit	6
25/08/2024	Bango NR	15
31/08/2024	Lowden Tower and Trig	TBA

## Easy Wednesday walks

7/08/2024	The Pinnacle, lesser tracks	27
14/08/2024	Percival Hill Loop	16
21/08/2024	Curtin Loop	31
28/08/2024	Ginnindera Ck to Goodwin Hill	24

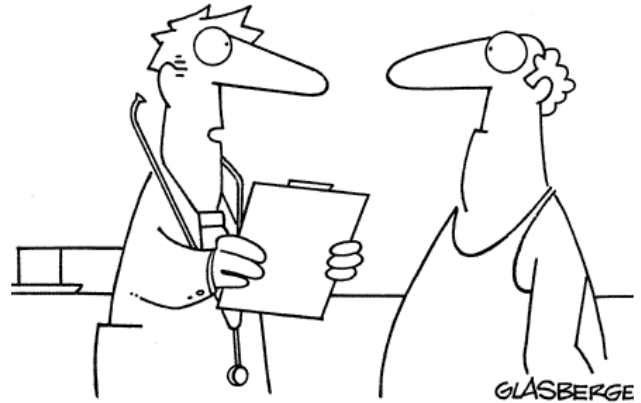
## Easy/Medium and Medium/Hard walks

7/08/2024	Honeysuckle Circuit	16
7/08/2024	Cuumbeun Nature Reserve	22
21/08/2024	Apollo Rock	15
21/08/2024	Mulligans Flat to Hall	16



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Grilled Chicken



"The handle on your recliner does not qualify as an exercise machine."

Police have confirmed that the man who tragically fell from the roof of an 18th floor Nightclub Was not a bouncer

## Some BBC Recollections

*Robyn Kelly*

*Following her appointment as a Life Member, I invited Robyn to write on her experiences in the BBC. Ed.*

In 1991 I joined the Family Bushwalkers as it was called in those days. Out for a walk one Sunday with Walking for Pleasure I met a member of the FBI who suggested I join. The next week I did my first weekend walk with the club and so began a long association with the club and weekends of bushwalking. Over the years thanks to the club and the dedicated leaders I went to many places, places I had never been or in some cases never heard of. As I was still working, I walked most weekends and on occasions took leave to go on car camps and trips away. There were trips to the Grampians, Blue Mountains, Tasmania, Warrumbungles and there were the very popular Country to Coast trips away.

After I had been in the club a few years I started leading walks. Navigation not being one of my better skills I used to check the walks out beforehand and leave pink ribbons in the bush as a guide. The first walk I led was the Daffodil Walk from Blue Range Hut. When I led the walk, it was through lovely bush and a large pine forest. After the fires this all changed, and the walk now goes from Mountain Creek Road and parts of the original walk are overgrown with blackberries. One of my favourite walks which I led several times was to the Cascades. A lovely walk, up the Nursery Swamp track and taking a footpad down to Rendezvous Creek and a few kms along to the Cascades.

I joined the committee and over the years had various roles Secretary/Treasurer, President and Social Convenor. The earlier days in the club were not as organised or up to date as now. I remember doing the finances and recording the membership details in the ledger, a large book with lots of columns. Fortunately, I had a background in finance so looking after the club finances was not a chore. Programs were delivered by hand, given out at the Christmas party and bulk mailed. Thank God for the internet.

Later the club went on overseas walking holidays. John Clune organised many of these trips and Allan and I had wonderful times in Slovenia, Montenegro, Italy, The Dolomites, Sicily and Malta. All fun trips with a great group of people.

Bushwalking is not without a few hazards and a bit of risk taking but you make it back to the cars (sometimes in the dark) but usually in one piece. These are the trips you remember and talk about. On one of my first walks we were walking along a fire trail, it had been a long day, and we were tired. I suggested to the leader we could take a short cut through a grassy area to save a bit of time. Without missing a step, he said if you want to do battle with the copperheads go ahead. I stayed on the track and learnt a valuable lesson, trust the leader. One incident that stayed with me was an encounter with a goanna. Sitting on a log at Corrang Lagoon eating my lunch and admiring the view, a large goanna approached and was headed for my lunch. I threw the lunch and far as I could and made a hasty retreat to the group. On another occasion checking out a walk near Captains Flat two of us encountered a large pig and piglet. Fortunately, we stopped, and the pigs kept going.

Before I retired bushwalking was something I looked forward to every weekend as an escape from work. Once retired, bushwalking became a Wednesday activity as well. In 2010 I took over coordinating the easy Wednesday walks after the co-ordinator became ill. In the early days the numbers were small but over the years the numbers have grown.

Although not as young and fit as I once was, I still enjoy bushwalking and the companionship the club has to offer.



# Donating to support management of invasive species

*Kathy Handel*

At the AGM, there was a discussion on how to spend some of the club's money. One suggestion was to make a donation to the Reclaim Kosci campaign, to help remove feral horses from Kosciuszko National Park. This suggestion was rejected as the club has a tradition of not donating to causes. However, it was suggested that members might wish to make their own donations and that it would be helpful to have an article in the newsletter on how and why to make a donation.

Reclaim Kosci is a consortium of individuals and organisations that love Kosciuszko National Park and seek to protect it from the impacts of feral horses. The aim of Reclaim Kosci is to repeal the NSW government's Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act, which gives more protection to horses than to native flora and fauna. Although the current horse management plan allows culling, the Act ensures that 3000 horses will be retained in certain areas of the park. Volunteers are presently organising a petition to have the Act repealed.

Reclaim Kosci comes under the auspices of the Invasive Species Council (ISC), and donations to Reclaim Kosci go to the ISC.

The ISC was formed in 2002 to seek stronger laws, policies and programs to keep Australian biodiversity safe from weeds, feral animals and other invaders. Its work is funded by donations and grants from supporters. It does not receive any ongoing government grant.

Management of invasive species is a hot political issue. The ISC does the hard work of lobbying politicians and fronting up to the media. Their staff were called to the NSW Legislative Council inquiry into aerial shooting of horses in Kosciuszko (-that inquiry has not yet concluded). They are also currently pressuring governments to spend more on preventing the spread of red fire ants and pressuring the federal government to work harder to prevent the introduction of a new strain of bird flu that will have severe repercussions for our water birds and marine mammals.

To donate to the ISC, go to the web page: [invasives.org.au/donate/](https://invasives.org.au/donate/)

To donate specifically to Reclaim Kosci, go to [reclaimkosci.org.au/donate/](https://reclaimkosci.org.au/donate/)

Donations are tax deductible.



*Damage to stream north of Long Plain from feral horses 2019*

*Photo Kathy Handel*

## Walking with Rustic Trails

Trevor Willson

After a bit of back and forth Lyn and I decided that, yes, perhaps we *did* have one last trip to Europe in us.

Nothing too ambitious, but spending some time in France before the Olympics got underway. So we opted for a quiet week pottering around in each of Strasbourg and Lyon. That went well, and the sun shone every day out of cloudless skies.

It was our third week in France, before spending a few days in Switzerland, that might be of interest to our BBC friends – especially those who are no longer doing the harder walks which we were capable of ten years ago.

We were wanting to spend time in a small village in the French countryside and do some gentle walking with a local guide. And after some fairly extensive googling Lyn found a group we

hadn't before heard of which were offering the sort of thing we were after: *Rustic Trails* is run by an English couple, James and Lorna, who for quite some years now have been offering a variety of walking experiences in the Drome area, south-west of Grenoble. Their website lists the different options they provide, from the more challenging "Drome Explorer", to "Wine and Walking", "Wildlife and Flowers", and the easier "Classic Drome". And part of the experience is a full week's accommodation and meals in their small hotel, *La Maison Rose*, on the edge of the small village of Saillans, perched on the Drome River.

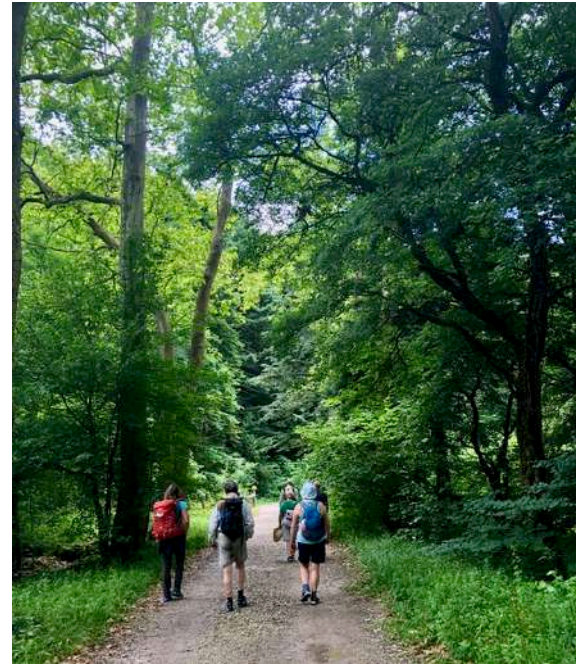
There are a maximum of eight guests, and just eight available seats in the mini-van which each morning drives you through the rolling hills and mountains to the start of the walk. Edith, the excellent young French guide who was with us for the week, is an expert not just in leading the walks, but in the local history, the flora and fauna, and the local industries, all of which she introduced us to. Having opted for the very easiest of the holidays on offer, after a walk of around two hours each morning we would enjoy the picnic lunch provided each day, and then spend some time wandering around a nearby village, visiting a lavender oil processing plant or a museum etc. Coffee or ice-cream (or both!) would usually end an easy and relaxing day.

One day, after driving high up into the Vercors area and walking in a more Alpine landscape (from which, because of the very clear weather, we could see Mont Blanc) we spent a few hours in a large and very high-tech museum devoted to the story of the Resistance which was very prominent in this part of France – as many French movies over the years have portrayed. Each village we visited during the week had memorials to the many young men and women killed by the invading German army because they were suspected of working for the Maquis, the rural guerrilla bands of French underground supporters.





*Memorial plaque to young heroes of the resistance*



*Walking through the rich green density of Drome forests.*



*Rocky stream in the village of Saou*

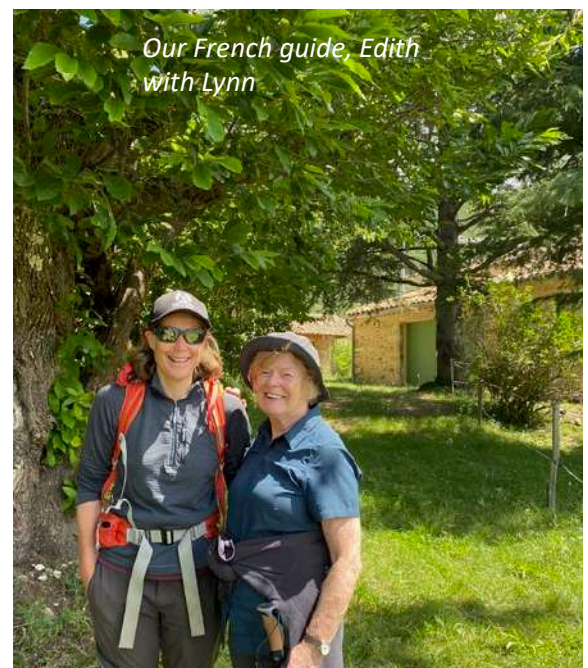
*Rustic Trails* offers the full package: we were picked up from Lyon for the 90 minute drive to Saillans (other guests were picked up from Valence TGV station), and delivered back to these points at the end of the week. And all meals for the week (except dinner on the “free” day, when we wandered off by ourselves) were provided. The four-course dinner each evening, with unlimited wines etc, was included – and, taken on the hotel terrace, was one of the highlights of the day. Other guests in our week were from Ireland and Scotland, and we were a very harmonious and congenial group. One couple were there for their fifth time, and had experienced each of the programs offered. Those from Scotland used the hotel swimming pool most days. (The Australians decided that even in the middle of a French summer the water was still a bit too cold!)

All up, our week in the Drome area with *Rustic Trails* exceeded our expectations and has provided us with some wonderful memories.

*(Sketches by Trevor. Ed.)*



*View from our hotel window across to Les trois becs (three beaks) mountain peaks*



*Our French guide, Edith with Lynn*



## SOCIAL NEWS

**Reminder:** Thursday 26 September - Tuggeranong Homestead (see p.7 of [August newsletter](#))  
RSVP [here](#) by 23 September

Thursday 17 October - Bundanoon train trip

Sunday 8 December - Christmas Party at Kathy and Keith's Wamboin

(Details of all to follow closer to the dates)

*Elaine Atkinson*  
Social Convenor

### How to tie your bootlaces

Invariably on walks, there'll be one or more instances of people having to stop and re-tie bootlaces that keep coming undone. This happens more with round than flat laces. If this has happened to you perhaps you may be able to find a remedy from [Ian's Shoelace Site](#), a website created by Ian Fleggen which offers a treasure trove of solutions.

In particular, Ian recommends adoption of a knot known as the *'Double Slip Knot'* which is a secure shoelace knot with a simple symmetrical method of tying. Cross two loops and pass them both through the 'hole' in the middle. This, it is claimed, 'is a shoelace knot that **won't come undone** on its own!'

Further advice is available from Ian and from other experts on YouTube. Just search for 'Double Slip Knot'.

*Ed.*

### FLINDERS RANGES TRIP May 2025

The BBC Flinders trip next year May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup> has been filled.

However due to sudden cancellations, or preference to do Camino (how could they!!) there are now vacancies to join in with the CBC trip May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup> 2025.

If you are interested please contact me , [janet.nd58@gmail.com](mailto:janet.nd58@gmail.com) Preferably with transport plus your own accommodation eg van or camping trailer, tent , ,although there are may be some cabins available

*Janet Duncan*



Contributions welcome - email [here](#)