

Brindabella Bushwalking Club October 2024



I LIKE TO GO BUSH! *Lou Alaimo, Secretary*



Issue 87

"I like to be able to go bush, let go of all that's unnecessary, disappear into it, find somewhere else. Perhaps that's the art of bushwalking". John Blay, "Wild Nature".

Following the discovery of a piece titled "Walking" by an American Henry David Thoreau in the 1850s I went searching for some contemporary writing set in Australia. I am now reading John Blay's book which I highly recommend. Some of Thoreau's observations on walking struck a chord with me. It begins: "I wish to speak a word for Nature, for absolute freedom and wildness, as contrasted with freedom and culture merely civil – to regard man as an inhabitant or part and parcel of Nature, rather than a member of society."



Wed Sept 4th interclub walk
A delightful scenic walk for 25 walkers to Sherwood Daffodils

I joined the Club early last year after a torrid introduction with a climb to Mt Domain via Fishing Gap, Snowy Corner and a Mountain Creek trail descent. I was physically unprepared but I knew what a M/H walk was thereafter. What struck me was the welcome and support given me by the leader and the group and so it remains after many BBC Wed walks. I'd lived in the country for 23 years with open space and sky and the need to return to the suburbs was a challenging prospect. But I found the BBC and it is like finding gold, so many thanks to all my walking companions over the last 20 months.

There are many gems in Thoreau's "Walking" and hard to select a favourite but I conclude with:

"I, who cannot stay in my chamber for a single day without acquiring some rust,... think that I cannot preserve my health and spirits, unless I spend ... hourssauntering through the woods and over the hills and fields,..."

"When we walk, we naturally go to the fields and woods: what would become of us, if we walked only in a garden or a mall?"

"I am alarmed when it happens that I have walked a mile into the woods bodily, without getting there in spirit.it sometimes happens that I cannot easily shake off the village. I am not where my body is, I am out of my senses. In my walks I would fain return to my senses."

"When I go out of the house for a walk....and submit myself to my instinct to decide for me, I find, strange and whimsical as it may seem,

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Editor - Peter Ford

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

[Email here](#)

that I finally and inevitably settle southwest,it always settles between west and south-southwest." - THAT'S OUR NAMADGI!!

"Ben Jonson exclaims,-- "How near to good is what is fair!

I would say,-- "How near to good is what is WILD!"

Happy sauntering my fellow BBCers!



AV1 Dolomites – 3rd – 13th September 2024

Deborah and Bill Gibson

I can't help but reflect on this trip with mixed feelings – the walk itself was fantastic, fabulous scenery and challenging, interesting walking, but the accidents that befell two of our group, including Luisa, our walk leader, who had put so much effort into planning for the trip, put a dent in our enjoyment. However, at the time of preparing this trip report, Jenny is back home with her broken wrist well on the mend, and the news from Luisa is very positive, with the prognosis being for a full recovery. I now share her love for the region, and hope to be back with her in the Dolomites in a couple of years.

Day 1: Lago di Braies to Rifugio Sennes – 12km +990m -350m

Our first day, while initially cool, heated up quite quickly and was, at a top temperature of 25, the hottest day by far on our 9-day walk. After a quick coffee at our drop off point at Lago di Braies, a very pretty lake with ice green water, teeming with rowboats, and looking all the world like a small Lake Louise, we walked around the shoreline for about 2km, before starting the long, hot 992 metre climb up to the top of the pass, Forcella Sora Forno. The rocky surface and heat made for slow-going, but as we gained elevation the views both back down to the lake, and up into the rocky outcrops of the northern section of the Dolomites, were spectacular. Named after the French naturalist who was the first to study and describe the mineral 'dolomite' which dominates the region, the geology of the Dolomites is stunning. The light-coloured 'dolomitic' limestone of the mountains has been shaped by erosion into spectacular jagged ridges, rocky pinnacles

and steep rock faces, with deep valleys between and a myriad of scree slopes.

After our long climb, we walked along the pass for a while before stopping at Rif Biella for lunch. This I believe, was where Phillip Hope had his first of what ended up being nearly a dozen apple strudels he partook of on the walk. Quite the connoisseur, he had them with thick, thin and flaky pastry; with apple alone, and apple with raisins or berries; with and without cinnamon; and with cream, custard or more often both. It was also at Rif Biella that while sitting on a bench along the wall, we, being Australians, scoffed at the panic that a small snake appeared to be causing ... until it came directly for us. Fastest we moved all day! Good move though as it was a European viper, probably the only venomous snake in the region.

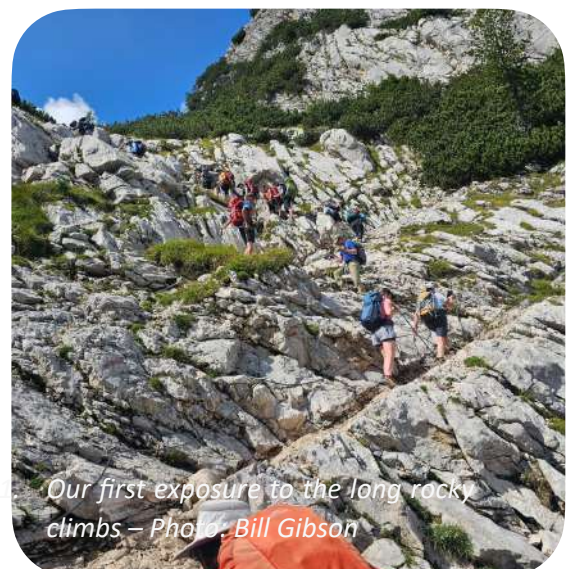
The rifugio was pretty busy that day, as indeed the track had been, we assume because of its easy access to day walkers, so lunch here was an extended affair. Afterwards we walked on a generally declining slope down to Rif Sennes, our overnight accommodation.



Lago di Braies – Photo: Bill Gibson



The AV1 GROUP



Our first exposure to the long rocky climbs – Photo: Bill Gibson

Day 2: Rif Sennes to Rif Lavarella – 11km +650m -780m

This was a shorter day, with, thankfully, slightly more down than up, although it rained heavily shortly before we arrived at the rifugio, so we arrived wet and cold. Things improved though in the early evening, when we were entertained off the balcony by a number of marmots, who seemed not at all concerned about being up close to humans. And on the topic of animals, an interesting feature of the walk was the number of people on the track with their dogs. Initially we thought it was only the day walkers taking



their dogs, but at Rif Lavarella we realised that was not always the case. While not allowed inside most of the rifugios, we saw several dogs whose bed for the night was just outside.

The marmots came out at dusk – Luisa Dal Molin



A bed with a view: Photo - Jenny Gallagher

Day 3: Rifugio Lavarella to Rifugio Lagazuoi – 12km +1000m -790m

The weather outlook for today was very iffy – with a forecast of rain during the morning followed by electrical storms in the mountains mid-afternoon, so a majority of the group took the alternate route. This involved a short 3.5km walk out which we did in light rain, followed by catching a sequence of three buses to the start of Passo di Falzarego. While there was a little too much waiting around for buses, the bus route through the valleys and small towns with their neat Alpine stone houses and myriads of flower-filled window boxes, offered a very different perspective on the region in comparison to the ruggedness of the high mountains. Arriving at Passo di Falzarego in the afternoon we had two interesting options to tackle the four kilometre

(670m elevation) climb up to our rifugio – the popular cable car, or walking up through the old WW1 tunnels which had been built by the Italians in their attempt to wrest control of the summit from the Austro-Hungarian troops in WW1. Bill, Luisa and I chose the tunnels which was quite an experience. After a false start walking most of the way up the scree switchback hill towards the tunnel approach, we realised that the hire place for the recommended helmets was actually back down where we had started, and that the opportunity to have our backpacks taken up by the cable car also required us to retrace our steps.

Once kitted out, we again climbed up to the start of the tunnels – walking around a narrow steep and partly collapsed cliff, with chains for security, to get to the tunnel entry. Then it was hundreds and hundreds of very deep, steep and slippery steps, and occasionally ladders in the dark, with just our head torches, interspersed with various short forays down side tunnels to see former sleeping quarters, machine gun posts and lookouts. The helmets were a blessing – each of us banged our heads at least a half dozen times. Luisa was quicker on the ascent than Bill and me, so went ahead to retrieve our backpacks from the cable car office before they shut. Thank goodness she did, because Bill and I got lost in the maze of tunnels and side paths, and went up and down some sections several times, not finding the upper exit into the fresh air and sunlight for a good hour after Luisa had exited. Then it was a short, but still tough walk, up a few switchbacks along former WW1 trenches to the cable car platform, and only a couple of minutes beyond that to our rifugio. I have never been quite so pleased to pay for a shower as I was that day, after a good two and a half



Inside the tunnels

hours in the dark, cold, tunnels. The climb was worth it though – not just for the experience of the tunnels, but also for the location of the rifugio – perched right on top of the mountain, and with such commanding views. Rifugio Lagazuoi, at 2750 meters, was in fact the highest point on our trip.



*Rifugio Lagazuoi –
note arrows. Photo:
Luisa Dal Molin*

Day 4: Rifugio Lagazuoi to Rifugio Croda da Lago - 15km +830m -900m

Luisa, Bill and I opted not to walk down the tunnels again the next morning, but Phil and Zabeta who had not done it the day prior, chose to, so we split into two groups. Luisa walked down the pass and waited for the tunnellers at the bottom, while Bill took leadership of the rest of the group which took the faster option of the cable car, thus skipping a 2 hour walk down. From the base of Passo di Falzarego we initially walked along some meandering, mildly undulating tracks, before tackling the rocky and challenging climb up to Forcello Nuvolau - some serious rock scrambling involved! On reaching the top, we were relieved to see Rifugio Cinque Torri, where we had agreed to meet up with the other group, only about a kilometre down the hill. After having just done some pretty hefty rock scrambling, it was on a relatively mild slope, not dissimilar to a typical Canberra fire trail, where Jenny took a bit of a slide, but fell awkwardly hitting her wrist on a large rock, and, as we subsequently learned, fracturing it.

Being a nurse, she took control of directing the first aid which Alana administered capably, and we remained there waiting for Luisa's group, who were somewhat delayed because they also had had difficulty finding how to get out of the tunnels! Once they arrived, Luisa accompanied Jenny to the hospital in Cortina for X-rays and a subsequent plaster, while Bill took over as leader. While we had started the day intending to do a longer, more scenic route than the normal AV1 route, we decided to revert to the normal, shorter route which had us spend more time at lower altitudes, with pleasant walking through forested areas and farming country. It was a sensible decision as the group were all worn out upon finishing the last set of steep climbs up to our accommodation.

Day 5: Rifugio Croda da Lago to Rifugio Staulanza 11km +430m -770m

The walk alternated between some lightly forested areas and then significant scree with boulders ranging from small pebbles to boulders 2-4m in size. We made good time on this although in the forested areas it was becoming very muddy and slippery, but as we found out on later days this was, in comparison, still very good under foot. Phil stopped to pat some of the cattle on the way as they were quite accustomed to humans. When we reached Rif Staulanza quite early, Luisa and Phil went off on a 2.4km +450m sidewalk while the rest of the group had lunch and relaxed. It was on this sidewalk that Luisa fell and injured her back. The severity of the injury was not fully apparent until the next day when it was decided that Luisa should seek medical attention. We subsequently discovered that she had fractured a vertebra! This required surgery in Treviso, but as previously reported she expects to make a full recovery.

Day 6: Rifugio Staulanza to Rifugio Tissi 13km +1100m -540m

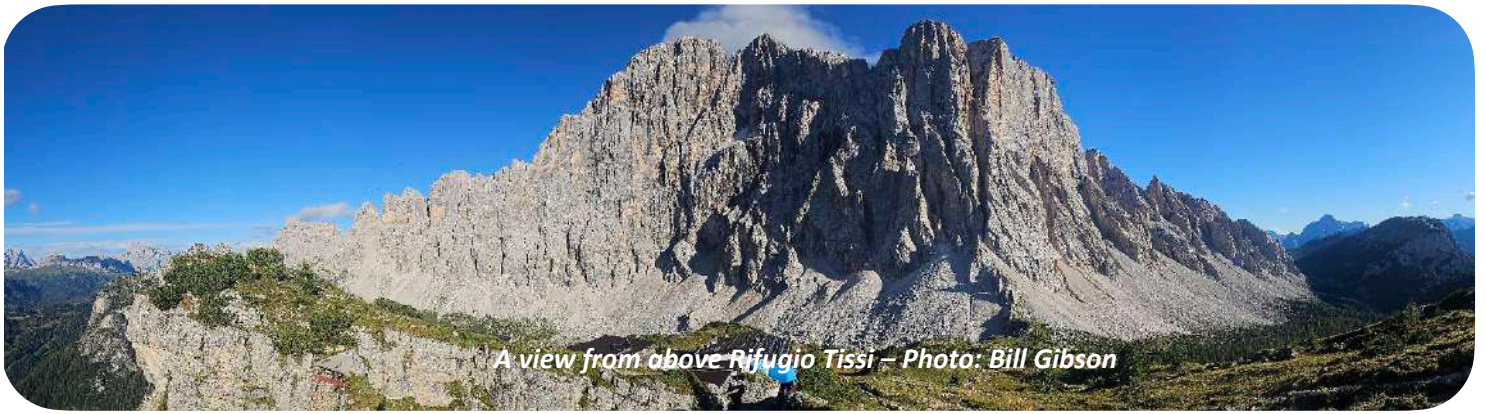
This was a hard day involving much walking up and across huge and steep scree areas - literally kilometres of scree. The track was not always clear and at times very narrow and dropped off rapidly, but we followed Phil, our 'mountain goat', and coped. The last section up to Rif Tissi was even steeper and rougher under foot, but we took our time and all arrived without incident, although as we walked up, we heard at least two rock avalanches occur, luckily not within striking distance. Like Lagazuoi, Rifugio Tissi was perched atop a peak, and the views of the surrounding mountains were amongst the best on the trip, with someone describing them as looking like they came out of "Star Wars".



*Navigating the
long scree slopes
- Photo: Bill
Gibson*

Day 7 Rifugio Tissi to Rifugio Bruto Carestiatto - 16km +800m -1220m

Although a longer distance and non-trivial ascent and descent elevations, the gradients were easier and the track was good underfoot. The scenery started to lose some of the brutality of the landscape that we had seen around Rif Tissi. This was because we were starting to



A view from above Rifugio Tissi – Photo: Bill Gibson

walk out of the highest points of the walk. As we wandered down one slope, Phil in front again, a herd of chamois hurtled across our path and down the mountain, disappearing into the forest a couple of hundred metres below even before some of the group had time to catch sight of them. As we approached our rifugio, one of our companions mentioned that ‘Bruto’ translates to ‘Ugly’, but Rifugio Bruto Carestiato looked very welcoming when we arrived after a long day. As we were getting ready for bed a most magnificent electrical storm occurred inside a huge cloud formation sitting atop one of the peaks. Dozens of lightning bolts lit up the inside of the cloud like a flashbulb, but did not appear to breach its perimeter. A magnificent way to end the day.

Day 8 Rifugio Bruto Carestiato to Rifugio Sommariva al Pramperet - 15km +810m -790m

The walk between Forcella Dagarei and Forcella del Moschesin was hard as it again involved crossing hundreds of metres of scree slopes with very narrow unstable scree and steep drop offs. However, the group managed well and having heard rumours about a 36-bed dormitory at one of the last rifugios, were pleasantly surprised to arrive at ours to find it was not it! Although a little rustic, the room we had was just for our group and had reasonable space to store packs other than on our feet. Also, the dinner menu varied slightly from the last few remote huts, which was a pleasant change, as was the roaring fire. The weather started to deteriorate into the evening and so we were pleased to receive advice from Mont Trekking, who we had arranged our trip through, suggesting a modified walk for our final day.

Day 9: Pramperet to Forno di Zoldo 11km -1140m +110m

The forecast was for constant rain, and snow above 2000 metres, so the alternative route involved an easier walk and closer pickup than the original 15km, 1700 metre decent that had been planned. We made a prompt start given the bad weather, and walked steadily down-hill on

footpads (first half) and forestry trails (the balance), both being very slippery at times. While it rained the entire time, we still arrived at the end point with plenty of time for coffee and pizza before being picked up and driven back to Belluno. The ride back was straightforward, although our driver had to do a quick turnaround to get the rain trousers which Bill had left neatly on the seat in front of the pizza parlour. Jenny joined us in Belluno for an early dinner at a nearby restaurant where we all excitedly ate ‘real food’ again. While we had certainly been fed amply at the rifugios, there hadn’t been a lot of variety in the food – so it was particularly nice for the vegetarians to have something other than vegetable soup and eggs or cheese with potatoes as a meal.

What a terrific walking experience that Luisa had arranged for us, it was a shame that she and Jenny were unable to complete all of it as planned.

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

‘Never argue with an idiot. They will drag you down to their level and beat you with experience.’

Mark Twain

I don’t like that man. I must get to know him better.

Abraham Lincoln

Who is Pete and why do we keep doing things for his sake?

MURRAMARANG SOUTH COAST WALK (SECOND TIME)

Wayne Holgate



This the second time this year that I have organised and led the Murramarang South Coast Walk. We had two late withdrawals, so 13 walkers participated.

I organised the walk as two separate day walks with a base at the Murramarang NRMA resort. I made sure the tide was low in the middle of the day to cross the rock platforms as we rounded headlands. The two days were:

1. Pretty Beach to Murramarang 18km
2. Murramarang to Maloneys Beach 16km

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 linked with a rock platform to cross. 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. This is such a beautiful walk. NPWS were also doing some track pruning to allow for better track access.

From Pebbly Beach the track goes along the beach and rock platforms to Depot Beach and then we climbed up, zigzagging over Burrawang Mountain. There were great views of the beach we would walk for the rest of the day.



We noticed from the top that Lake Durras was closed to the sea. 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. Lovely first day.



Murramarang to Maloneys Beach (16km)

Day two was another beautiful day. Unfortunately, Wayhu and Helen dropped out of the second days walk to an injury to Wayhu.



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. Richmond Beach was a surprise as there was a sign up that stated that a whale had beached itself on the rocks so swimming was not recommended due to sightings of sharks feeding on the carcase. All that remained as a giant piece of jawbone.

This also led to sightings of whales breaching in the ocean. This occurred a few times and made the trip more enjoyable.

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.



crossed a couple of beaches and headlands before coming to the giant stairway that completed this enjoyable walk.

Nine of us had a delightful dinner at Murramarang to finish off this beautiful walk.



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 wondering down to North Head Beach. From here we



Photo by Leigh Hermann

Satellite Messaging

At the recent BBC AGM, there was discussion about whether the club should buy satellite messaging devices for use by members on multi-day walks or even day walks in areas beyond mobile phone coverage. The committee will consider the merits of this suggestion at its next meeting.

What is Satellite Messaging?

Satellite messaging is a communication method that bypasses traditional Mobile phone towers and utilises orbiting satellites to relay messages. This proves incredibly useful in remote areas where mobile coverage is non-existent. Instead of relying on land-based infrastructure, your message hitchhikes a ride on a satellite and beams back down to another satellite or a ground station, eventually reaching its destination. While current satellite messaging is limited to text-based communication, it offers a vital lifeline in situations where a phone signal is unavailable.

Available Options

Emergency Communication devices, typically Garmin brand, but also Zoleo and others – cost around \$400 and have a monthly fee of about \$30. These can send an SOS signal and/or preset messages (no voice), but there is a bit to learn before using one and they are best used in conjunction with a phone App. You can't simply hand one to a leader and expect they will be competent in its use.



iPhone 14, 15 and 16 – more information below. No additional cost.



Android 15: not yet available in Australia – more information below.



All phones via Elon Musk's SpaceX Starlink satellite system.

iPhones.

Apple's safety service Emergency SOS via satellite is available now for customers in Australia and New Zealand. Available on all iPhone 14 and newer models, the innovative technology enables users to message with emergency services while outside of mobile phone and Wi-Fi coverage.

Apple is now expanding the capabilities of its satellite messaging on the iPhone. They announced the update as part of the latest operating system here: [iOS 18 announcement on June 10](#).

They said this expansion uses the same technology as their existing Emergency SOS via satellite, but will now prompt users to connect to the nearest satellite right from the Messages app when they are out of reach of mobile phone service. This will allow users to send and receive texts over iMessage and SMS. We partially tested this on a recent club walk and it worked as advertised. The service is free for two years starting at the time of activation of an iPhone 14 or newer model.

How to use Emergency SOS via Satellite on an iPhone

The process is fairly simple. If you have a recent model iPhone, follow this link to find out more:
[Use Emergency SOS via satellite on your iPhone – Apple Support \(AU\)](#)

Android Phones

Google has created a new “Satellite Messaging” page in Android 15’s settings (the latest version of Android). The page tells users how they can send and receive text messages by satellite. Texts aren’t limited to emergency services, too, as the page explicitly notes that you can text anyone so long as your phone is connected to a satellite. A detailed description is here: [How Google’s Satellite eSOS Works During Emergencies on the Pixel 9 | WIRED](#). **Currently, this feature is available only in the US.**

The vice president of product management for Google Pixel phones, said that the feature was arriving to all 9 series users regardless of carrier.

Google has announced plans to also bring the feature to the [Pixel 8](#) and the [Pixel 7](#) through a software update, but it's not available for those devices yet. It should also become available in 2025 to other brands of android phones that are eligible for the software update (if you’ve got an older model, you probably won’t get it).

How Does Satellite Messaging Work with Android 15?

Android 15 integrates native support for satellite connectivity directly within the Operating System.

- Messaging apps like SMS/MMS and RCS will use this built-in functionality.
- When there is no mobile signal, your phone will automatically detect available satellite connections.
- You can then send and receive text messages through the satellite network.

Google says users can now look forward to staying connected and be able to seek help in remote locations or during emergencies. Some questions remain regarding hardware compatibility, carrier involvement, and cost structure (free for at least the first two years). It is also not clear when this feature will become available in Australia.

Elon Musk’s Promise



So far, Musk hasn’t provided more details. but the resulting service promises to be similar to Apple’s and Google’s Emergency SOS feature and it sounds like it will be available to both phone systems.

How You Can Help

While a reasonable amount of research has gone into developing this article, I am by no means an expert!

If you have an opinion, a comment or more knowledge that you believe will help the committee in their deliberations, please email secretary@brindabellabushwalking.org.au before the end of October. He will collate your input and provide this to committee members ahead of the committee meeting in November.

Peter Dalton

SOCIAL NEWS OCTOBER 2024

Thursday 24 September: Visit to Tuggeranong Homestead (1907)

23 people visited Tuggeranong Homestead in Richardson. Jenny Horsefield (local historian and bushwalker) and her offsider Rebecca spoke about the pioneer families who lived there and after a delicious Devonshire morning tea, we walked around the property and Jenny spoke about the future development of the site.

In 1992, a proposal to develop a medium-density housing estate on the historic Tuggeranong Homestead site was approved by the ACT government. A non-profit community lobby group, Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead (MOTH) was founded and it galvanised the community into action and successfully appealed against the proposal. Jenny is the chair of MOTH and if you're interested in joining her, she can be contacted on 6231 4535 or robhorsfield@bigpond.com

Thanks to wonderful work of MOTH, Tuggeranong Homestead and its heritage listed complex of building, artefacts and landscape features can be enjoyed by the public. More information re the history of the homestead and MOTH can be found in the following links:

[Tuggeranong Homestead](#)
[Minders of Tuggeranong Homestead](#)

Upcoming events (subject to weather) – email closer to the date

Monday 7 October (public holiday) walk (Stirling Ridge and Westlake) followed by picnic Yarralumla Bay, Alexandrina Drive, Yarralumla

Thursday 17 October train to Bundanoon. Morning coffee, walk and lunch. Unfortunately, the Erith Coal Mine walk is closed due to a landslide. We could still walk around the town admiring gardens and cute houses, walk to Gambells Rest in Moreton NP and lunch at the Bundanoon Club.

Elaine Atkinson
Social Convenor
0410 154 133



September Walks Report

Again, fine weather meant no walks were cancelled in September, however we really do need rain.

In addition to the walks below, there were 2 club trips away in September. A small group undertook the 9 day Alta Via 1 (AV1) in the Italian Dolomites, and another did the 36km Murrumarang South Coast walk (see report in this Newsletter).

Weekend Walks

31-Aug-24	Lowden Tower and Trig	6
1-Sep-24	Fadden and Farrer Ramble	10
7-Sep-24	Three Lookouts at Booroomba Rocks	6
8-Sep-24	Over Bullen Range to Kambah Pool	5
14-Sep-24	North Lyneham to Black Mountain	13
15-Sep-24	Nil Desperandum	14
21-Sep-24	Browns Trig & Bluets Block	15
22-Sep-24	Tinderry Nature Reserve	8
28-Sep-24	Strathnairn to Murrumbidgee & return	13
29-Sep-24	Mount Tennant at your own pace	8

Wednesday Easy walks

4-Sep-24	Chapman Nature Reserve	22
11-Sep-24	Stirling Ridge, Westlake and Yarralumla	30
18-Sep-24	Strathnairn - 2 loops	30
25-Sep-24	Mt Taylor Circuit	14

BBC led Easy/Medium and Medium/Hard walks

4-Sep-24	Sherwood Daffodils	25
4-Sep-24	Granite Formations near Smokers Trail	11
18-Sep-24	Pheasant and Boboyan Hills, Waterhole Hut	17
18-Sep-24	Hill 1481 (near Mt Gudgenby)	10

New Members 2024/25 July

Bronwyn Breechey
Tony and Karen Chamberlain
Anna May Connell
Pam Cowan
Fiona Hooton
Alison Killen
Maureen Gardner
Steve Glaznieks
Aditi Sathye

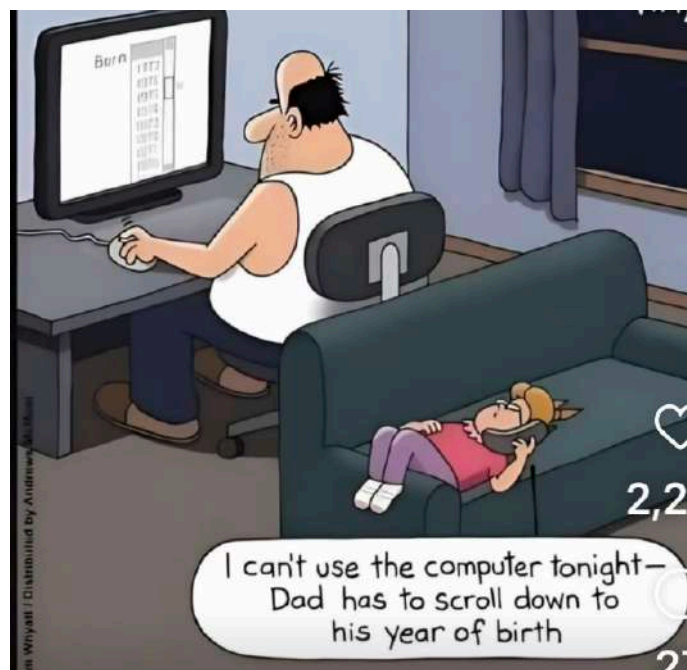
August

Harriet Foster
Tracey Squires
Anne Watson
Craig Lilley
Jayne Briton
Pat Hofman
Rosemary White
Rose Fry
Megan Shirlow/Bob Vickery
Janet Gratton
Patricia Stokes

September

Margaret Brodrick
Paul Fitzgerald
Glenn Stroud (returning)
Helen Cleugh
Judith Hiscox
Lynette Eversham
Anthony Choy; Tania Dalla Poza

Welcome and enjoy!



TIDBINBILLA OPEN DAY

28 SEPTEMBER 2024

Julie Pettit

BBC had a very successful day participating in the Open Day with many people stopping by our gazebo to chat about bushwalking and to take away our brochure. We spoke with well over 40 people -many of them younger folk keen to get more involved in walking and preferring to do so in a group with experienced leaders. There were numerous stalls representing many groups involved in environmental issues, safety, wildlife care, aboriginal culture and parks management as well as many food stalls providing a wide selection of snacks and lunchtime food. BBC was positioned alongside CBC and NPA so it was easy for people to investigate all the groups.



The picnic area was quite crowded with families out for the day, enjoying the sunshine and picnicking around the area while the many children were having a great time at the exciting playground.



I was worried at first watching my neighbor stack one small ladder on top of another one, but then I saw he had his knee pads on. You know, for safety.