

it

Quarterly Magazine
Canberra Bushwalking
Club



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Canberra Bushwalking Club Inc
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Crossing Ormiston Pound, Tjoritja NP. *Photo by Kerri-Ann Smith*

CONTENTS

CBC Committee 2022-23	3
Guidelines for Contributions	3
President's Pontifications	4
Editor's Effusions	6
Conservation Report	7
Membership Matters	8
Walks Secretary's Report.....	9
Walking the Tidbinbilla Range Skyline	10
Tjoritja: The Western End of the Chewings Range	12
Tjoritja: Mount Conway area to Standley Chasm	20
The South Coast Walk Stage 3	23
Save Corang Lagoon	26
Interview with a New Leader	29
Guidelines for Contributions	31
Night Walking.....	32
26 Peaks/Trigs in 26 Weeks	34
On Distant Hills	35
Equipment Exchange, Sale and Hire	36

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members since the last magazine (and as at 9 February):

Aycha Morris

Craig Lilley

Joe Lu

Karen Neill

Rose Fry

Tony Ashton

During the same period, over 30 people registered in Bilby and became CBC guests. Wouldn't it be great if we can find ways to get more of these guests to become members? Please see the separate article on page 8 of this edition for ways we can all help guests feel wanted and more likely to become members.

Overall our membership count remains steady. We have 405 members as at 9 February, two less than at the beginning of this year.

Andrea Coombas, Membership Secretary

CBC Committee 2022-23

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Guidelines for Contributions

Members' contributions are welcomed – articles, poems, recipes, photos, artworks and other items related to bushwalking, conservation and allied activities. Articles may be up to approximately 2,500 words in length, although most will probably be considerably shorter. Those describing long trips, especially if they are exploratory or unusual in some way, may need to be longer in order to be useful to readers interested in the areas described.

Please send all contributions to:
contributions@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

If you would like a short message to be published in the Monthly Update, please mark it as **URGENT**.

Disclaimer: Any opinions expressed by individual authors do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Committee or members of CBC.

Deadline for contributions to the next Quarterly Magazine (except for Committee Reports) will be 17 May 2023.

Please follow the **Detailed Guidelines** on page [31](#) when making a contribution.

All members of the committee can be contacted in one email to:
committee@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Website:
www.canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Facebook contributions:
facebookadmin@canberrabushwalkingClub.org

Well, goodness. Here we go again. The year is already a couple of months gone. I hope by the time you read this you've had the opportunity to get out and about and enjoy our wonderful country. The activities program has been jam packed with walks of all types – evening sunset strolls, day walks, multi-day pack walks, river crossing training, a worn boot bash and much more. No time to lose, right?

One of the most popular events each year is the annual Christmas party as it's a chance for members, old and new, to catch up with each other in a relaxed fun environment. With over 400 members in the Club, and with many of us doing different walks on different days, plus leading such busy lives, it's not surprising that we don't always manage to catch up with our favourite walking buddy. 2022's annual Christmas party was generously hosted by Janet Duncan at her home in Waramanga on what turned out to be a beautiful warm December evening. The rain that threatened held off until early the next morning giving everyone time to relax, chat and have fun out in the open. Janet's garden was the envy of many there!

Rob and Jenny Horsfield brought along a vast array of Club, and donated, pre-loved equipment looking for a new home at bargain prices. And bargains aplenty there were with items on sale from other members as well in what will surely become the bumper annual Christmas 'jumble sale'. One lucky member scored a very nice, hardly used, ultralight Thermarest sleeping mat, complete with a blow-up bag, all for the bargain basement price of \$50. Those of you who have one of these know how good they are and that this was certainly a savvy purchase.

A huge thank-you once again to Janet for opening her home to the 60 or so members who came along and who helped eat the three wonderful pavlovas provided by the Club for dessert. A thank you also to Ana Vrancic & Tilly Tan our 'tag-team' Social Secretaries who helped to organise the event and, of course, I can't finish up without thanking those who brought along wonderful fresh berries to decorate the pavs (thank you Mike Morris), who brought along Christmas lights to help decorate the backyard for the event (thank you Quentin) and a host of others who made the evening so special. The Club doesn't run on autopilot. It relies on the goodwill and time of volunteers to make these events happen so it's fabulous that we have so many generous members who are willing to put in a few hours to make for the benefit of others.



Deep conversations at the Club Christmas BBQ in Janet's beautiful garden.

Terrylea Reynolds

Speaking of volunteers, do you have time perhaps to write up a report on a walk you went on with the Club, or to turn your talents to a 'bush' poem, or dazzle us all with your camp recipes, give us your views in a letter to the editor, or show off your photographic expertise? Remember that our *it* Magazine Editor, Meg, is always keen to receive contributions. This is the second edition of it (no pun intended) being a quarterly magazine and we hope you are enjoying reading it. The move to a quarterly edition allows us to bring you a high-quality magazine packed with interesting articles. Have something to contribute? You can send your contributions to Meg at contributions@canberrabushwalkingClub.org. Remember too, if you'd like a short message to be published in the Club's Monthly Update, please mark it as **URGENT**. [Guidelines for contributions](#) can be found on the Club's website and in this Magazine.

'Till next time - happy and safe walking everyone.

Terrylea, President



Chat, good cheer and cheap gear at the Club Christmas BBQ. *Photo by Terrylea Reynolds*

We have a bumper edition for our second Quarterly *it* Magazine, ranging from off-track exploring and re-visiting old haunts in Tjoritja to pounding the sands of another section of NSW's South East coastline.

Along the way, we stop at Namadgi to walk the Tidbinbilla Skyline and wear pyjamas (or not) for some night time bushwalking, and perhaps bag a peak or two, if we're up 4 it.

If you've ever wondered what's going through a new leader's head, you'll get an insight from Terrylea's interview with Ana. Perhaps you'll be inspired to lead a walk yourself if you haven't already done so.

We also consider conservation matters surrounding Corang Lagoon and the huts in the Alpine area which were destroyed in the 2019 fires. And the evocative poem "On distant hills" will surely resonate with anyone who has lain in their cramped tent craving for the rain to stop.

A big thank you this time to our Assistant Walks Secretary and Computer Expert Extraordinaire, Keith Thomas, who got his head around the Publisher program in a day and sent me pages of helpful notes and an improved template to follow, and other refinements.

In the meantime, please keep those wonderful contributions rolling in for the next edition. They're due in by 17 May.

Meg McKone, Editor



Laeli Hogan and Richard Hurley stop to admire a deep pool on the Genoa River,
North East Forests NP, NSW. *Photo by Meg McKone*

Replacement of huts in Namadgi National Park

Max and Bert Oldfield's Hut and Demanding Hut in the Booth Range in Namadgi National Park were included on the ACT Heritage Register but were destroyed by fire in 2020. Professional reports, collaboration with the Kosciuszko Huts Association and advice has been received by the ACT Government in relation to the protection of cultural heritage values with regard to these huts.



In the 1940s Demanding Hut was built from sawn timber and clad in corrugated iron by Cotter and Simpson at Mount Clear. Subject to public approval, it is proposed to rebuild this hut as an enclosed structure resembling the original hut, about 30m from its original site.



Max and Bert Oldfield built this hut in 1967 to support cattle grazing in their Booth Range lease on Mount Clear. The proposal, subject to public approval, is to erect an open structure about 35m south of the site of the original hut to provide a slow combustion stove and shelter for interpretive material and wet bushwalkers. This proposal is consistent with the Namadgi National Park Plan of Management and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Burra Charter and the Heritage Council advice.

Looking after our guests

Imagine you are on your first or second walk as a guest of the Club. You didn't know anyone in the Club before you decided to give us a go, but you've enjoyed the one or two walks you've done, met lots of friendly people, and are thinking you'd like to join. You check the website and find out you need to have been on a qualifying walk and have existing members nominate and second you - the qualifying walk part is easy, you've already been on a walk, but **how do you manage to get a nominator and seconder?**

You can't remember the names of most of the people you've chatted to, and if you do remember it is only their first name. It's hard to ask someone you barely know to nominate you for membership, and then another person to second the nomination. What if you can't get the information before you've completed your third walk? (Once a guest has completed three walks, they need to be a member to be able to do more.).

This is a common and quite daunting situation for some of our guests. We're a Club, we want and need new members, and the easier we can make it, the better for guests and for the Club. This is where our hospitality can make an enormous difference.

Leaders - you have a lot to think about and keep track of while leading a walk; it's a huge responsibility. However, if you do get the opportunity to talk to your guest walkers about the membership requirements, and help them get the names of a nominator (maybe that could be you) and a seconder, the guest will feel wanted by the Club and much more likely to apply for membership.

Members - if you're chatting to someone who is not a member, ask them if they need help with becoming a member. If you are comfortable to do so, offer to nominate or second them. If you're not sure about what is needed or whether to nominate, suggest they chat to the walk leader.

That face-to-face-time with guests while they are out in the fresh air enjoying a CBC walk is the best time to help them become members. If a guest finishes a walk knowing the names of their nominator and seconder, it's almost guaranteed they will apply for membership. If they've been on a couple of walks but are still shy about asking for a nominator and seconder, then there is a good chance we have lost a potential member. Or I'll get a membership application without these details, which then begins the unfriendly and difficult process of getting the information by email.

If as a member or leader you're not sure about the membership requirements, you can always email, or tell the guest to email membsec@canberrabushwalkingclub.org.

Andrea Coombas, Membership Secretary



Happy bushwalkers on Janet's Wilsons Promontory trip, 2021. *Photo by Meg McKone*

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteer leaders who have met the challenge of the new Bilby booking system and the wet weather and put on some marvellous activities since mid October when Bilby was introduced. There are just too many to mention but I must make special note of John Evans who has been incredibly prolific lately and has put on at least eight activities already this year with another three coming up. As for all you other lovely leaders, you know who you are! Walking is our Club's core business and you create and support our Program. Give them all a big cheer everyone!

Bilby has already had one set of enhancements introduced and as I write another set has just come online. These enhancements will make it much easier for leaders and participants to communicate. From the first round participants are now notified by email of any status change to their bookings. Now more options have been added which include a Message Board system and various enhancements to the leaders' module.

In January we had 37 activities completed so the year is off to a good start. A great summer initiative, the Tuesday evening walks was started in this period and co-ordinated by Jeff Bennetts. Thanks to leaders Ana Vrancic, Gerald Dodgson, John Evans (gawd there he is again), Diana Kirby, Jeff Bennetts and myself who all put on one or more of these popular walks which will continue till the 7th March while the evening light lasts.

There is also the ongoing RU⁴it challenge where you bag 26 peaks in 26 weeks. For more information select "Are You Up for It" from the "What's On" menu on the website:- <https://canberrabushwalkingclub.org/>

Recently CBC President Terrylea led a community walk in the Bluetts Block area off the Uriarra road near Molonglo township. This was attended by our new Senator David Pocock as well as Rainer Rehwinkel from the Friends of Grasslands and Alice Wells from the Friends of Bluetts Block group plus about 30 other people including myself. This area is under threat from developers. Rainer and Alice gave informative talks en route in regard to the native plants and trees that we saw along the way.

There are some great walks on the program: Select "Activities" from the "What's On" menu at the CBC website and this will take you to Bilby and the current Activities Program (I'd suggest you create a Bookmark in your browser for Bilby at this point.) See you on the track.

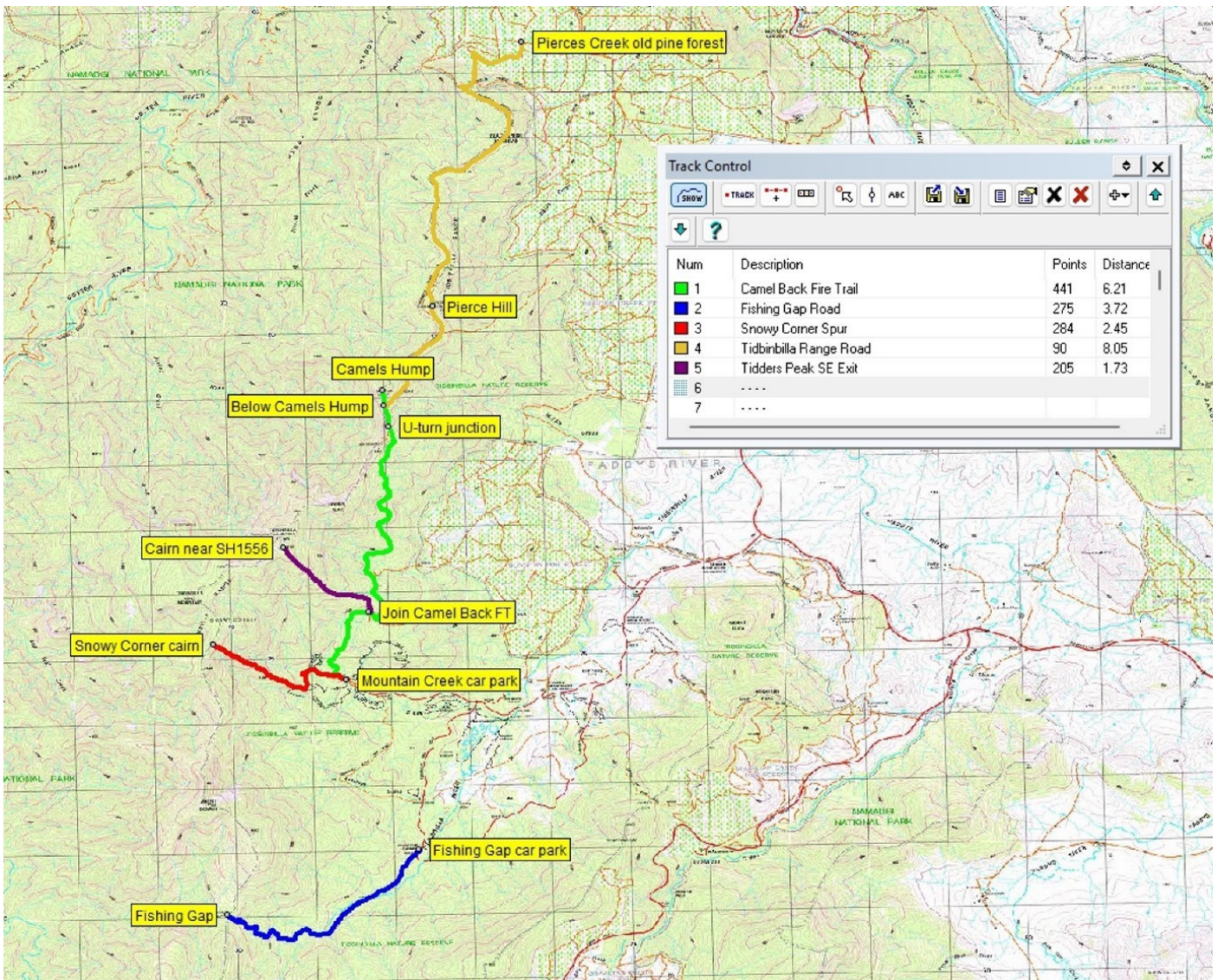
For leaders: if you haven't led a walk for while please put one on. Where to conduct a walk? Well I say "go to what you know". Put a walk on that you do regularly in your neighbourhood e.g. your local part of the Canberra Nature Park. There's a lot of demand for those sort of walks and they are easier to organise. How do I put a walk on Bilby? Just follow my Instructions on the CBC website:- <https://canberrabushwalkingclub.org/> Hover your mouse pointer over the "For Leaders" menu and select "Getting Started as a Leader on Bilby". For returning leaders a basic walk as described above is recommended to ease back into leadership.

Cheers and happy walking

Quentin Moran, Walks Secretary



Approaching the Heavitree Range, Tjoritja N.P. *Photo by Scott Bartley*



With access to the Orroral Valley still restricted to an e-bike or a long walk over from Honeysuckle Creek or down Smokers Trail, the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve provides some fine local walking. It's a short drive on sealed roads, entry can be gained at 7.30am, and in daylight savings, one can walk till 8pm.

The crest of the Tidbinbilla Range has a number of excellent routes. Apart from the Camelback Fire Trail, there are some established footpads and ample opportunity for off-track walking.

The topography, geology and views are wonderful!

(see next page)

Below: Walkers on the shale knoll.



Top right: Camels Hump from smoko on Johns Peak

Bottom right: Lovely going after the drop off from Tidbinbilla Mountain

Why not pop up and have a look yourself? If you'd like some ideas, follow [this link](#) and suss out the access routes and places to visit.

You won't be sorry.

john evans

Joint Canberra Bushwalking Club and Coast and Mountain Walkers of NSW Party: Meg McKone (MM) (leader), Kerri-Ann Smith (KAS), Philip Gatenby (PG), Jan Gatenby (JG), Lynette Finch, Jacqui Rosier, Scott Bartley (SB), Jasveen Kaur (JK), Ute Foster

(Photographs contributed by party members are identified by their initials, as shown above.)

After the debacle of last year's attempt to lead this walk, travel to Alice Springs this time went remarkably smoothly, with flights on time, luggage on the same planes as owners, pick up at the airport by our trusty driver Dave of Alice Silver Passenger Services, and finally dinner for us all at Sporties. Even the weather looked pretty good, and I had news of water in locations convenient for our planned routes.

WALK 1: THE WESTERN END OF THE CHEWINGS RANGE (29 July - 5 August, 2022)

Following the upper track from the road head at Ormiston Gorge into Ormiston Pound, we had a clear view of where we were heading for the first day and a half – diagonally off-track across the Pound itself to the far corner, then up what appeared to be an impossibly steep gully through cliffs onto the saddle between the Red Wall and Corner Peak. As soon as we left the track, the uneven ground, strewn with rocks and spinifex, slowed us down considerably. It was a relief to reach the bed of the main creek entering the Pound from the east where we lunched beneath a river red gum which hid a tuneful songster. It was easier going in the creek bed where we passed several pools which had been topped up by recent rain. Just past the junction of the creek draining our corner, we found a good place to camp on sandbanks with water nearby. It was wonderful to slough off memories of Covid lockdowns with cooking and conversation around a warm fire, and views of sunset colours on the ranges, followed by a starry sky.



The party about to set out from Ormiston Gorge: Philip Gatenby, Scott Bartley, Jacqui Rosier, Meg McKone, Ute Foster, Jan Gatenby, Lynette Finch, Jasveen Kaur, Kerri-Ann Smith. *Photo by KAS*



Left: Approaching the Tiara and the Red Wall. Photo by JK

Below: Nearing the top of the Red Wall. Photo by JG



I awoke early to streaky red clouds in the east forming a window for the bright orb of Venus Rising. A broad, flat ridge covered with blooming dwarf wattles provided easy walking for over two kilometres directly from the junction towards the corner. After crossing a couple of low ridges, we were confronted by “The Tiara” (good name, Scott!), a pinnacle topped with an arc of rock. I found traversing around the steep, rocky side was slow and tiring, and we were running out of time, so Scott, helped by Philip and Jas, took my pack up the gully to the saddle at the end of the Red Wall.

From here the views were breathtaking in their variety and scope. The great rearing wave of The Red Wall hovered over the Pound as if threatening to engulf its calm expanse. Behind it, a secondary wave bordered a long valley, beyond which lay the plains to the north and, on the skyline, the major peaks of the western end of Tjoritja – Mounts Sonder, Razorback and Zeil. Realising that I wouldn’t get up Corner Peak and back before dark, Ute and I waited while the others climbed this anchor point between The Red Wall and the North-South Ridge which joins the latter to the Mount Giles massif.

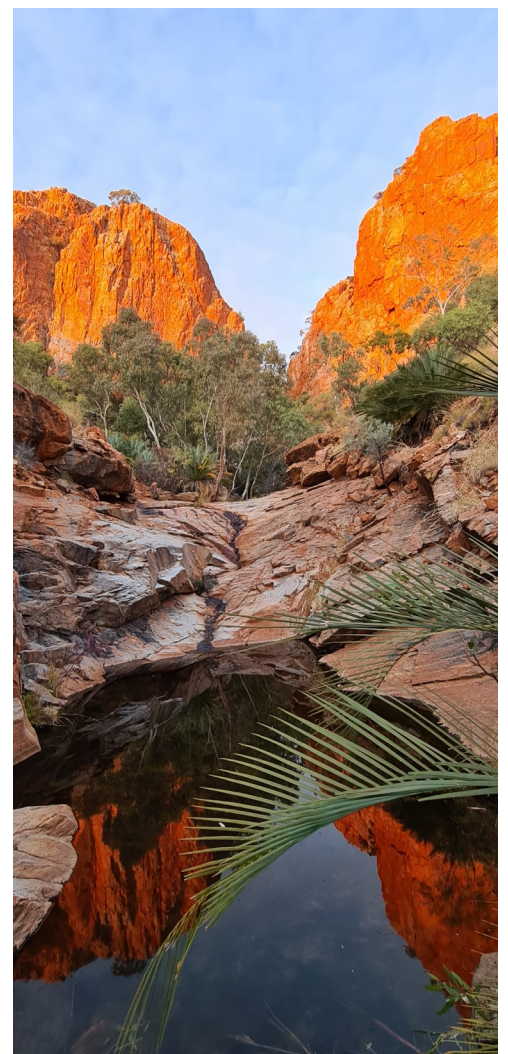


The view from Corner Peak: Ormiston Gorge, the Red Wall, and Mounts Sonder and Razorback.

Photo by SB

We began our descent to the Mini-Pound on the eastern side of the North-South Ridge in the late afternoon. It was already becoming obvious that we had little chance of reaching the pool (if it existed) at GR 817 870 when Jacqui tripped and fell, gashing her head, then rolling further with damage to her sternum and knees. Jas, our young doctor, was quickly on the scene. By the time Jacqui was patched up and we all reached the bottom the light was fading. Fortunately there was enough clear, flat ground for us all to camp. Despite a dry night, we had enough water to survive reasonably comfortably on a restricted diet.

Nothing could dampen Jacqui's enthusiasm or suppress her smile. In the morning she was up and ready to continue, despite the pain of her injuries. Following the creek, we reached the pools that had been refreshed by the recent rain, much to the satisfaction of numerous birds, then continued on to the mouth of the Canyon of Defiance. Along with patches on the upper ridges, a large area close to the canyon had been burnt out, presumably by prescribed burns, but the camping area in the gorge was untouched and verdant. Although an old river red gum in the middle of the creekbed had long since died, its progeny had sprung up to provide shade and shelter for our tents. I was struggling with my beautiful new Plex Solo super lightweight tent from Z Packs when Kerri-Ann and Lyn came over to help me. We sorted it out in a mere three quarters of an hour.



Left: Sunrise on the north side of the Chewings Range; the Canyon of Defiance campsite. *Photos by MM*

Right: Sunrise at the spring below the Canyon of Defiance. *Photo by SB*



Above: On the ridge before dropping down to Ribuck Ramp. *Photo by JG*

Left: The top of the descent down Ribuck Ramp into Alexas Reach. *Photo by MM*



Back in 1992 I'd led a party of CBC members to explore The Canyon of Defiance (the name suggested by Frank Rigby), which I'd first seen from the top of the Chewings Range in 1980. After two days of trying different routes, we found a way into what was later called Megs Reach, a slot canyon burrowing deep into the mountain, that ended in an unclimbable rock wall. It was obvious that the canyon continued on above, and on a later trip Pat Miethke and I climbed higher up the ridge hoping to find a way in, without success. Then a few years ago I received an email from Roger Browne, from the Sydney Bushwalkers. He had read some of my articles and he and walking companion Alexa had gained access to the upper canyon by descending from the ridge shown above and traversing over to a saddle from which a steep gully (Ribuck Ramp) provided the desired access.

Full of hope, we climbed up the spur on the eastern side of the canyon, peering over into Felicitous Canyon and its steep ramp heading up onto our ridge. This had been explored by my truncated but adventurous party of three in 2021 (Felicity, Ian and Roger), when the South Australian lockdown had prevented me from flying to Alice. According to Roger, the penultimate saddle before a cliff was the jumping off point for Alexas Reach, and we fortified ourselves with morning tea before we began the descent. My heart sank as I gazed at the spinifex slope disappearing over a bump beneath me and pondered the changes in attitude wrought by the physical deterioration of passing years. Thirty years ago I was filled with adventurous anticipation; now I was thinking, “Why the hell am I here?” Though Portals Canyon, with its swims through slot canons, serried pools and exposed climbs on glowing red cliffs is perhaps more varied and prettier than Defiance, there is something magnificent about the raw ruggedness of this canyon’s jagged spurs that inspires awe in a way no other location in Tjoritja can match.

But enough of musings and emotions, it was time to act. Viewed from another angle, I could see a doable gully and spur leading to the saddle that must be at the top of Ribuck Ramp, so down we went, sliding through spinifex and clambering down rocks until we were at the saddle and peering down the Ramp, which wasn’t so bad after all. Some steep dirt scattered with loose rocks, some patches of scrub, and then a long rock rib which provided firm hand and footholds, and we were down.



Left: A pool in Alexas Reach.



Right: The bottom of Ribuck Ramp. *Photos by MM*

Alexas Reach, with its high rock walls and white creekbed threading along the bottom, resembles an extended Standley Chasm. Unfortunately, it was an intermittently cloudy day, so we weren't treated to the full glory of glowing red rock reflecting the sun's rays, but we greatly enjoyed the interesting rock scrambles and unexpected pools of clear water. Some of us stopped for lunch at Roger's Turnaround Blockup while the more energetic contingent continued up further. Unless we had continued the route pioneered by Roger up the whole of the canyon and out to the crest of the Chewings Range, the only exit route was to retrace our steps. A view into the continuation of the canyon downstream just past Ribuck Ramp revealed a double drop, impassable without abseil gear, ending at the top of Megs Reach.

I was ready for a rest day poking around our beautiful campsite and Ute and Lyn were hankering after some birdwatching at the nearby rock pools. The rest of the party set off for Megs Reach where they either braved or bridged the cold water of the Chockstone Pool and made it to the Bowl of Pebbles, from which they could gaze upwards to Alexas Reach. Then they climbed the Toblerone and ascended Rockfall Canyon before returning to camp with some hilarious photos. Meanwhile, I ambled upstream past lush vegetation and pristine pools to check out Crisis Rock. Yes, it was still there, despite the crack which threatens to detach it from the parent rock. There was a lot of debris in the pool below, a testament to the power of recent floods which had also closed up the hole behind a large chockstone that for a short period had allowed a quick passage through to Megs Reach.



Left: Sheer rock walls in Alexas Reach. *MM.*



Right: Scott takes a leap in Megs Reach. *JG*



Left: Climbing out of Pats Canyon. *Photo by KAS*



Right: A smoky view over the Canyon of Defiance along the top of the Chewings Range. *Photo by MM*

Our climb to the top of the Chewings Range via Pats Canyon was short but time-consuming, with our hottest day tempered by strong gusts of wind. Jan exercised her mind by calculating that the average age of the party was 63, ranging from 78 to 25. From the ridgeline between Defiance and Pats Canyons, we had excellent views of our entry routes into Megs and Alexas Reaches, which from here looked next to impossible. We collected water for overnight from a pool fairly high up Pats, then ascended the steep rocks (covered with debris from a recent rockfall) and scree slope to Termite Saddle (whose termite mounds had suffered a sharp decline) and on to the Dog Leg summit. What I've learned over many decades of bushwalking is that nothing stays the same.

Last time I'd camped up here on the top of the Range (2015) there was only one cleared campsite; now there were enough for the whole party, probably cleared by Geoff Jones' recent CMW party (much appreciated!). I've heard that camping on top of the Chewings Range will be banned in future due to possible damage to rare flora. Kerri-Ann and I selected a spot on the eastern (lee) side of the hill and were protected from the strong wind. Unfortunately, a smoke haze from a fire east of Standley Chasm hung over the horizon, casting a pall over the amazing views as far as Mt Zeil in the west and the peaks at the head of Hugh Gorge in the east.

Making our way along the narrow ridgeline of the Chewings Range in the rain, with the chasm of the Canyon of Defiance on our left.

Photo by JG



By the time we woke, clouds had moved in from the west. As we set off it started to rain with mist descending over the top of the ridge and the wind slapping my wet map case into my face. “Oh no”, I thought, “Not a repeat of our 2014 horror descent from Mt Giles in the mist!” But the mist lifted and the showers were intermittent, fortunately pausing as we passed the top of the Canyon of Defiance to allow clear views into its spectacular chasm and treating us to the sight of a perfect rainbow with its pot of gold in the Alice Valley. We had morning tea at the Upper Giles Spring and lunch at the Lower, where the waterfall was flowing well and the creek was cascading over the rocks in its bed. We collected water for overnight in the Alice Valley just in case there was none at GR 857 798. Jan’s and Scott’s phones enabled us to pick up the old road, which even though badly overgrown saved us a lot of time. The creek junction a few hundred metres north of the waterhole was sandy and expansive – a good place to camp, and Scott fetched us more water from the pool upstream. I’d been sleeping out most nights, and woke to find my sleeping bag and gear wet with dew. We spent some time drying out tents and gear, then pushed on for the final day to the Ochre Pits.

If you’re walking through Inarlanga Pass and hoping to end up at the Ochre Pits – beware! One of us missed the unsignposted turnoff and ended up at the Serpentine Chalet road head, causing us all some consternation until they arrived hot and panting back at the Ochre Pits. There Dave, our driver, had laid out a feast of fresh food and drinks. I fanged into thick slices of the most delicious tomato – I must have needed the Vitamin C. I’d been developing a nasty cold and considered returning to Alice, but since all accommodation there was booked and the thought of spending six days in my semi-transparent tent in a crowded tourist park out of town was not appealing, I decided to continue. Michael had arrived in their van to pick up Kerri-Ann who unfortunately had to leave us, and brought ice-creams to complete our dietary bliss. Then we drove on to start our next walk.



A perfect rainbow over the Alice Valley. *Photo by JG*

WALK 2: Mount Conway area to Standley Chasm (5 - 10 August)

Completely enclosed by Brinkley Bluff, Mount Conway and the ridges to the east of Stuart Pass lies a grassy valley that provides access to some interesting country towards the eastern end of the Chewings Range. The question was, how to get there? After consulting Bruce Barnett and Monika Binder, I planned to follow their route from the previous year and walk east from Stuart Pass, but had great difficulty finding a transport company that would take me off the tar without costing a bomb, or even offer anything other than the Larapinta Trail road heads to a set timetable. So I went back to the map and determined to walk in from Namatjira Drive to the south – a longer distance but easier going.

So, after picking us up from the Ochre Pits at the end of our first walk, our driver Dave dropped us off on Namatjira Drive at a creek about five kilometres east of the Hugh River crossing. We set off up a dirt road in fading light and soon found a suitable campsite on the sands beside the creek. Once again we had a cold, dewy night. Next morning we found a large, shallow pool occupying the gap in the Heavitree Range, with room to walk around the edge without wetting our feet. Then the road curved off in the wrong direction as we were confronted by the four kilometre long cliffed southern ridge of Mt Conway, so we headed east northeast to the little gorge between the pointed peak 793 metres and Conway's western end. The entrance was barred by a pool which required an interesting scramble to pass, and we camped in the creekbed not far upstream for two nights.

Ute and I had a rest day while the others climbed to Mount Conway's grassy summit (1135 metres), descending via the steep eastern spur, then whizzed up and down various other nearby peaks. Though it was great to sleep in, have a chat and relax in the shade of a fine old river red gum, reading and listening to beautiful birdsong, it was very disappointing to miss out on climbing Mount Conway.

A few kilometres ahead lay the prettiest part of this area. A gap between vertical red cliffs provided a gateway into a geographically complex area, where the creekbed, lined with sandy banks and beautiful river red gums, cut through three lines of ridges, with tributaries carving valleys into the surrounding hills.



Sunset at our campsite beneath Mount Conway. *Photo by SB*

Stopped by a deep waterhole half way through, we took a high route around on the western side and descended above Bruce and Monikas Pool where they had camped the previous year. It would be a lovely place to spend more time, but we had other plans. Now we were in the grassy valley and walked another two kilometres upstream to a shallow gorge beneath Peak 925 metres where Roger had found water last year. We set up camp on a sandy section of the creek bed and between rocks for two nights so that we could explore Gerry's Canyon, which cut up into the high ridgeline to the east.



Approaching Bruce and Monikas Pool. *MM*



At the summit of Mt Conway: Jan, Jacqui, Philip, Lyn, Jas. *SB*

Soon after we'd left camp that morning, I'd tripped and fallen heavily, bashing my knees on the rocky ground, and by the time we reached camp one knee had swollen to twice its normal size. Jas gave it a professional check, said nothing was broken and prescribed elevation, compression and anti-inflammatories. I'd had to take off my knee guard which was by now painfully tight, but fortunately I'd thrown in an elastic stocking at the last minute. By the next morning I could scarcely walk and envied the others as they set off for Gerry's Canyon. However, when they returned in the early afternoon with photos, I wasn't so sure. It had involved steep and exposed climbs up the canyon, then similar gymnastics on the descent down the gorge next door. My indefatigable party hadn't finished for the day either. Jan and Philip headed off downstream for a swim in B and M's pool and others climbed the local hill. Jas returned at dinner time with sunset shots.

The showers that had been forecast for the next afternoon came overnight instead. I was sleeping out on a narrow patch of sand between two large hunks of bedrock with no chance of putting up my tent, so I crawled into it like a bivvie bag. Apart from being a bit concerned about suffocating, I found it worked quite well. Next morning was our last day and we had to follow the creek to its head above the Larapinta Trail, then take the track back to Standley Chasm. The fitter members of the party took a lot of weight out of my pack (thank you!) and off we went through different types of scenery, past the interesting-looking gorges in the ridge just south of Brinkley Bluff (no time to check these out), the bedrock pools and scrambles in the upper creek where we wondered if we'd get through the cliffline, then lunch at the saddle watching runners and walkers making their way down off the long ridge which heads east from Brinkley Bluff. Then a drag up and down along the Larapinta (I'd thought that all the ups were over!), finishing with three foot-bruising kilometres along the river stones to at last reach Standley Chasm.

Dave met us with drinks and soon we were back in Alice, luxuriating in warm showers for the first time in 13 days. We had dinner at Sporties and said our goodbyes, and I bade a silent farewell to long, off-track walks in Tjoritja, the wonderful West MacDonnells.



Clockwise from left: Descending the gorge east of Gerrys Canyon; Jas in Gerrys Canyon; Ascending the creek to the saddle above the Larapinta Trail; Descending Mount Conway. *Photos by JG*



Après le Déluge Stage 3 of the Great South Coast Walk: Huskisson to South Durras

The Great South Coast Walk is a 600km route following the coast from Bundeena in Royal National Park to Mallacoota in Victoria. It was conceived and initially walked in 2004 by David and Pennie Briese, and is described in their inspiring and informative website, gang-gang.net. While not yet an ‘official’ walk, knowledge of the route has been promoted by the material on the gang-gang website.

David has been leading a series of stages of the walk to ‘road test’ it with a group from the Club, as reported in a presentation by Alan Laird at the October 2022 social meeting. In that talk, Alan described the experiences of walking Stage 1 (Bundeena to Gerroa, undertaken February 2021) and Stage 2 (Gerroa to Huskisson, April 2022). Stage 2 was to have finished at Ulladulla but a ‘rain-bomb’, as David has described it, which raised water levels to difficult, if not dangerous, heights, thwarted our hopes of walking beyond Huskisson at that time.

And so, in October 2022, we resumed the walk, starting from where we had left off several months before. There were some changes in group composition, with not everyone who had done the first stages available to do this third stage. The group comprised David (leader), Pennie (driving the support vehicle), Philip and Jan Gatenby, Jacqui Rosier, and me – as the continuing participants – with Sonja Weinberg and my brother Phil from Melbourne joining for this section.

After taking a maxi-taxi from Ulladulla, where most of the cars were left, we commenced our walk along the cycleway/footpath through Huskisson and Vincentia, on to Hyams Beach, and through Jervis Bay National Park to our accommodation at Christians Minde on the eastern edge of Sussex Inlet. Christians Minde is an historic, privately-owned precinct in the National Park, established by a Danish family in the late-nineteenth century. The name means “in memory of Christian”, referring to Christian Sr and Jr, two members of the family. We enjoyed our stay in the now somewhat rustic accommodation, sipping a glass of wine on the deck while looking out to Sussex Inlet and beyond.



Christians Minde on Sussex Inlet. *Photo by Ian Turland*

The following morning, we were ferried by boat across the inlet and walked on to Berrara, Bendalong and Manyana, with some minor water crossings along the way. Lake Conjola presented a much wider water crossing but was not a problem and we were soon setting up our tents at the caravan park on the other side.

The next day, a long walk along Conjola and Buckley's Beaches was followed by a more challenging crossing of Narrawallee Inlet. Some of us found ourselves squelching through the mangroves on the far shore but we were all soon reunited and continued along our way to Mollymook and Ulladulla with an excursion on the meandering tracks at Ulladulla Head.

After a car shuffle the following day to place cars at South Durras, we had a day with lots of beach walking (Rennies, Racecourse, Burrill and Wairo Beaches), along with rock scrambling and rock-hopping around Lagoon Head, to Lake Tabourie, where we had some overnight rain. Fortunately, most of the time we experienced fine weather, despite the return of La Niña conditions and rain in the days preceding and following the walk.



One of many water crossings.



Stretching our legs on Wairo Beach.

A wade across Lake Tabourie the following morning took us to Tabourie Beach. On a mix of beaches, headlands and forest paths, we made our way to Bawley Point and on to Kioloa. Several more wades were necessary. Very scenic walking on the rock platforms and tracks at O'Hara Head and Snapper Point took us to the campground at Pretty Beach in Murramarang National Park.

On our final day, we followed the track to Durras Mountain where closure of the track due to a major upgrade underway necessitated taking a fire trail and the road to get to Pebbly Beach. Beach-walking and rock platforms took us to Depot Beach, from where we made our way to North Durras. A channel had been cut through the entrance to Lake Durras, presenting a more challenging crossing. However, with her local connections, Jacqui was able to arrange boat transportation across the lake to South Durras, where a final beach walk took us to our cars and refreshments at Murramarang Resort.

It was a very enjoyable walk. Rather civilised at times, one could say, with breaks for fresh coffee and Pennie ferrying our gear around to each night's campsite, but there were also the water crossings, rock scrambling/hopping and some fairly full days of walking – so not simply a leisurely stroll either. I'm looking forward to doing more of the route. Hopefully, the Great South Coast Walk, or sections of it, will be led and undertaken by others in the Club in the future so that broader numbers have the chance to enjoy what this walk has to offer.

Ian Turland
October 2022

Update: Stage 4 of the Great South Coast Walk was walked by members of the Club in Nov-Dec 2022 and Stage 5 in Jan-Feb 2023. Future articles in "it" will report on progress on the walk.



Great vistas from walking the headlands.

Photo by Ian Turland

Easy Public Access to Corang Lagoon

Easy access to Corang Lagoon Pool, visited by the public for generations, has been closed by nearby property owners.



Let's make this legal again

Become part of the story. Join: [Keep Corang Open](#) on facebook

12 CBC members and guests celebrated the 63rd anniversary of this historic walk on Jan 2nd by joining 27 others on the Third Reclaim Corang Lagoon Walk which accessed the lovely lagoon and the Twin Falls by the newly pioneered (and legal) northern circuit. Under the banner "Just Passing Through" they, like 30,000 walkers before them, are calling for this historic walk to be reopened for everyone to enjoy. We are but visitors to this planet and whether walkers or owners we are just passing through with obligations to our descendants to leave the land that we pass through better than we found it.

For many generations visitors have traversed the forest to the Corang Lagoon without restrictions as it was crown land. Then in 1942 the government changed it to a leasehold but this still allowed anyone access. But then in 2011 they sold it as freehold without consulting any of the estimated 500 people a year who visited this Lagoon or indeed any of the original First Nations owners. For some years no one was any the wiser as we all assumed it was still a lease and the owner was "pro-bushwalking" but then suddenly in 2018 a syndicate from Sydney purchased the 600 acre block, started erecting Keep Out signs and have refused to talk with walkers about the land.

This is a very worrying development as it suggests that there is some secret agenda or development planned for this core piece of wilderness in the heart of the Budawangs. The local council (Queanbeyan QPRS) has refused to communicate with concerned bushwalkers saying that they will only notify immediate neighbours of any development plans. Even NPWS has been slow to say anything.



“Save Corang Lagoon” and “Just Passing Through” banners at the Twin Falls, below Corang Lagoon

Photos Courtesy of “Keep Corang Open Facebook Community”

Recently a road has been bulldozed 5 km through virgin forest and two small buildings have been constructed. Fences have been erected with threatening signs on them. Of course all this has done is to increase the public’s awareness of this beautiful location and even more walkers are now trying to visit before the scene is changed for ever. Even the other nearby track known as the Wog Wog Scenic Rim Walking Trail could be adversely affected because at one point it lies just 20 metres or so from the park boundary. The wilderness experience could soon be affected by more fences, roads, sheds and even motor bike circuits.

Unfortunately, walkers wishing to visit Corang Lagoon now have to negotiate a much harder, longer and more dangerous route as the easy but historic original path has been fenced off. Many are calling on the NSW Government to step in and admit their error in failing to consult with users before selling this land. It is time, they feel, for the Government to resume this protrusion into the wilderness and incorporate it into the surrounding National Park.

Such a call is not without precedent. The nearby Corang Peak was also a cattle lease when in the 1970s it was resumed after a bushwalker campaign led by Colin Watson OAM, honorary life member of the Coast and Mountain Walkers and founder of the Budawang Committee, successfully got the land resumed. And near Nerriga access issues were settled by incorporating private land into the National Park.

Please help with this campaign to Save Corang Lagoon and the Goodsell Creek Catchment. You can

*Join the face book group “Keep Corang Open”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2625974677666254/>

* Write a short email to the NSW Environment Minister

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-environment-heritage#:~:text=James%20Griffin&text=Please%20refer%20to%20our%20correspondence%20policy%20for%20more%20information> asking for the Goodsell Creek Catchment to be resumed. Mention that the park boundary is only a few metres from the popular Wog Wog Scenic Rim Trail to Monolith Valley.



Above: Lunch above the lower Twin Falls pool.

Below: Swimming in the upper Twin Falls pool, only a few cascades below Corang Lagoon.

Can you please provide your name and how many years you've been with the Canberra Bushwalking Club?

My name is Ana and I joined the Club in July 2019. So I am relatively new to the Club.

Question – Could you please tell me a little about yourself? Maybe your working life and what got you interested in bushwalking?

After moving back to Canberra from Murrumbateman in 2018, I started bushwalking with Meetup groups. I did my first three-day bushwalk that year – the Six Foot track in the Blue Mountains. It was fun. I literally borrowed all the gear for that walk from a friend - very bulky and heavy (well, it was men's gear), but I really enjoyed the experience and so I decided to get my own gear.

I like outdoor activities and fresh air. I am not a gym person. I had tried it for one year but quit – it was not my cup of tea. In joining the Meetup groups, my intention was to meet people while bushwalking. A friend in a Meetup group introduced me to the Club. I still remember my first walk with the Club. It was led by Bruce and we went to Wild Cattle Creek. On that walk I saw for the first time some small cubes on the track – it was wombat poo.

The Club opened my eyes to the world of bushwalking. I didn't know there were so many interesting things to learn. My interests in bushwalking have gradually changed since joining the Club. I am not just participating or making friends, but immersing myself in planning (my own walks), navigating and exploring, and in the process, challenging myself. Is it so-called serious bushwalking?

Question – Did you do many bushwalks with the Club before you decided to have a go at leading?

I can't say 'many', probably once a month since joining. I enjoyed overnight walks with the Club, such as Nadgee, Wilson Promontory, Budawang... I got to know the Club legends, including Meg, Linda, Lorraine, Jeff, Terrylea, Philip and John. They can tackle any terrain, on-track and off-track without a map! So inspiring! The thought of ever leading a walk like them is a bit daunting. *[Ed: I'm a map-and-compass girl!]*



Ana at the Caloola Sandblow. *Photo by Robert Walters*

Question – How did you learn to navigate and become a leader? Did you maybe already have these skills from another source? Did you do the Club’s navigation course?

First time I heard of the navigation course was when I was on John Evans’ overnight walk, A Roam around the Southern Namadgi. We camped with Jenny and Rob's navigation group and climbed the Sentry Box the following day. I saw people in the group holding a map and a compass looking for something. I thought it was cool, but I didn't think I could do it.

But with more and more walks in the bush and using navigation apps on my phone, I started considering doing a navigation course to learn more than the apps on the phone. So I booked Jenny and Rob's navigation course, which was cancelled because of COVID. When the course was re-advertised on the Club website last year, I booked it straightaway. I really enjoyed it. It wasn't too hard to learn actually. I guess maybe Rob and Jenny as team leaders made map reading much easier.

I remember on the second session of the course we went out in the dark practising our navigation skills. I paired up with Gary (?). We didn't talk during the first half of the walk because we were busy counting our steps as a way of measuring the distance between the objectives. We were surprised to see Rob at the top of the hill. Later, Jenny told us that at one of the sessions a few years ago, someone from the group went in the wrong direction and almost into the Murrumbidgee River. From then on, Rob would go and climb to the top and wait for the groups. So you see how important it is to learn how to read a map correctly (laugh).

Question – What was the first walk you led and can you tell me a little about it? How many participants were on it? What made you choose this particular walk?

The first walk I led in the Club was Three Peaks on the 10th of July this year. The three peaks are: Tidbinbilla Mountain, Tidbinbilla Peak and Johns Peak. I did this walk back in 2020 led by Terrylea. The view from the peak looking over Tidbinbilla is mesmerising and I wanted to go back again. So I decided to lead this walk. Since I recorded this walk two years ago, I was confident to lead this walk even though it is quite long and there are some tricky bits. Well, it sounds like cheating, but having a cheat sheet as a backup is better than nothing.

Question – What was your experience of leading the first time? Were you nervous? How different it is to lead than to actually be a participant walker? Did things go as planned? What would you do differently? Did you learn anything about yourself? What was the hardest part?

A total of five participants including myself were on the walk. I knew all of them having been on walks with them before: Geoff, Richard, Jenny and Robert. I knew they are all capable of doing this long walk, so I wasn't nervous at all. I know Richard and Geoff are strong walkers, so I told them to go ahead at their pace if they'd like as long as they stop at the T-junctions, and both did.

When walking from Tidbinbilla Mountain to find a trail to Tidbinbilla Peak, we came to a tricky part as there is no prominent track to follow. So we just followed the slope descending to the lower range and found a footpad towards the peak.

I think I am more like an organiser than a leader – I had a planned route, got those who were interested in this walk together and allowed them to walk at their own pace and have fun.

Question – What advice would you give to any members who are thinking about having a go at leading but aren't yet quite confident enough?

I think you could ask Terrylea, President of the Club, Quentin, the Walks Secretary, or any walk leader you know to come along or as co-leader, I think they will be more than happy to be part of your walk. The Club leaders are very supportive. The more walks you lead, the more confidence you will build up.

Question – Do you have any suggestions for the Club to consider when teaching people how to navigate or in how to encourage more people to have a go at leading a walk now and then?

I think the Club could provide more structured walk leader training programs, not just navigation. Navigation is a key part of any walk, but as a walk leader there are more responsibilities involved. I am aware the Club has organised first aid training in the past and hope these will continue. A key skill is how to make sound judgements when accidents happen, including when to turn on a PLB, and how to proceed if fellow walkers find they are unable to complete a walk when we are in the middle of the track.

Last year the Club organised Snake Awareness Training which is really good. I also like the river training provided last year. I hope we can have more of this kind of training for the walk leaders.

Question – Any other comments?

Sharing accidents/incidents reports can also be useful for new leaders to learn from these and be prepared for emergencies.

Guidelines for Contributions*Continued from page [3](#)***Please follow these Detailed Guidelines when making a contribution**

- The most acceptable text software is Word.
- Please do not embed images in your text, but send them as attached files, preferably jpg.
- Please ensure your articles have been thoroughly edited and spell-checked.
- Please send photos with a caption and the name of the photographer. If a photo is not yours, make sure you have permission to use it.
- Photos should be high resolution, though I would appreciate it if you could straighten seriously oblique horizons.
- If you are sending a link, please include the web address.
- Please specify the topic of your contribution in the Subject line of your email.



Party suitably clad for their night walk. *Photo by Ian Wright*

Have you tried walking at night? Interested? It can be a wonderful experience, properly equipped and in a well-managed party.

A recent Club trip on 13-14 January, started at 6pm and finished at 3am the next morning. It covered the Canberra Centenary Trail through Goorooyarroo and Mulligans Flat Nature Reserves, then round the ACT's northern border to Hall.

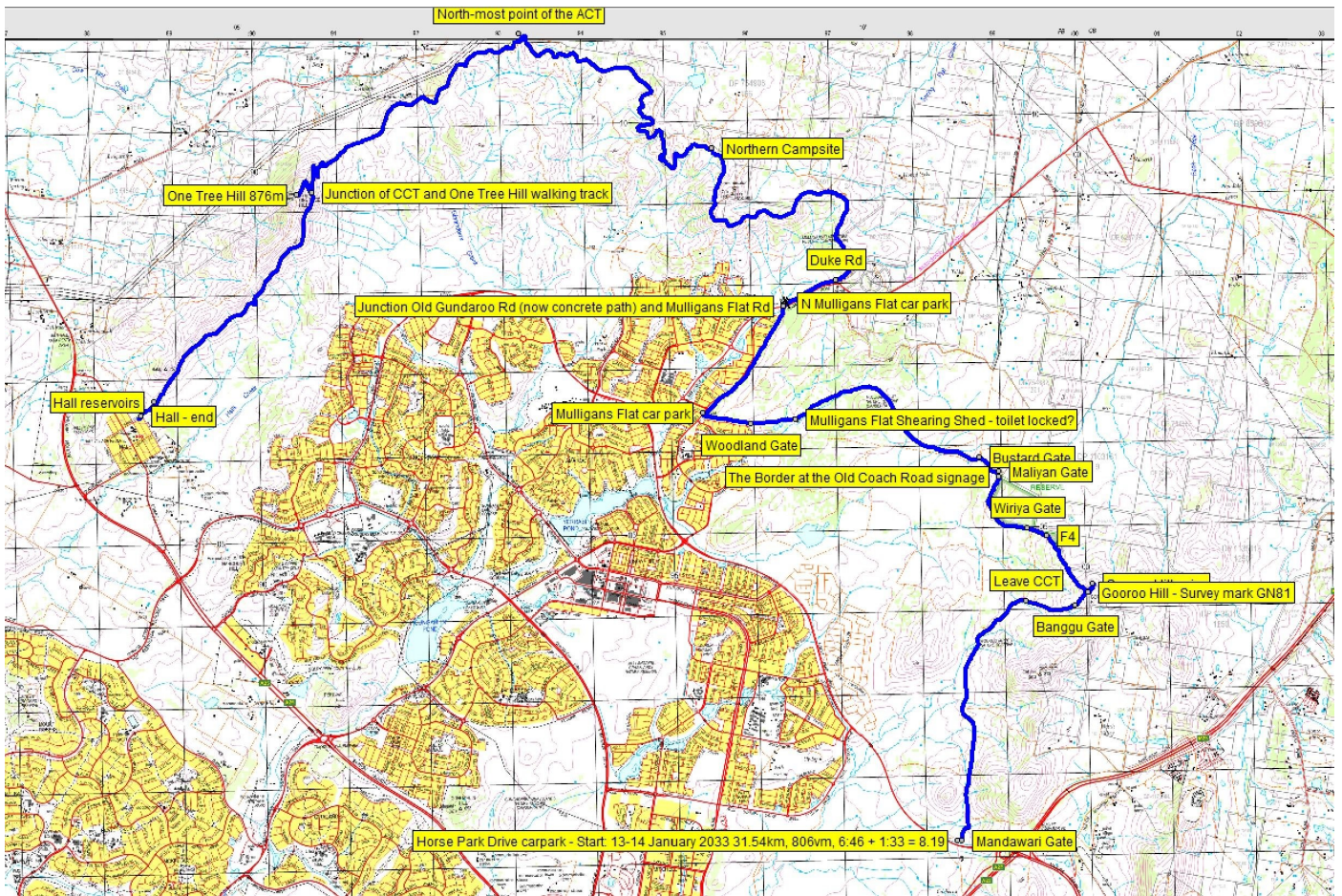
Once walkers were sucked in (whoops, had booked), they were required to wear pyjamas. Many complied – those who did not were suspected of sleeping naked.

Extra attention is required when selecting equipment. Footwear is important as night walking is usually on established routes such as hard fire trails. Of course, a powerful head torch is needed, with sufficient battery for a long burn. Some models include a small, rear-facing red light for followers to see. It's also notable how reflective strips on the back of packs and some walking shoes show up. A front-facing red light setting is great for helping to maintain night vision, particularly when your companions fix you directly with their light!

Party management strategies could include allocating 'buddy groups' of 3 or 4, so that at each regrouping point, the leader has additional help with counting numbers via "Are all your buddies here?" Of course, such groupings should not restrict conversation between all the different members of the group. Strict tail-end Charlie protocol must be used in the dark.

Such trips are fun, particularly when scheduled for a full moon. Nocturnal animals, insects and other flying things can be spotted and, when in season, the eyes of little spiders track-side glow like tiny jewels.

A trip report can be found [here](#).



Above: The track of John’s night walk—Horse Park Drive to Hall
Below: View over Canberra from east of Oak Hill. *Photo by Kirsty G*

[RU↑4it](#)

Have you had the chance since the start of the year to join a Club walk which includes a named hill or trig? The [RU↑4it](#) personal challenge is well underway, with members striving to bag hills/trigs beginning with every different letter of the alphabet.

Here are the latest walkers (at the time of writing), adding an A for Arawang trig to their list.



You can check your challenge results [here](#).

For budding walk leaders, why not use this opportunity to facilitate your first CBC-led walk? Of course, you'll need to contact the Walks Secretary first to find out what's required. Maybe a more experienced leader will be assigned to assist you. But there are plenty of named urban and urban fringe hills and trigs which make a fine half-day, day or evening walk.

And there are numerous tools available to assist you plan your first CBC-led walk. Try apps like [AllTrails](#), where you can use a track someone has already recorded. Or use websites such as [GPS Visualizer](#), where you can plan your own route by creating waypoints and tracks.

Have fun walking and working through the alphabet!

john evans



On distant hills the sun shines;
Not here;
Not on my tent
Rain bound, mist shrouded, wet.
I sit on soggy ground
Above me the mountain looms
Unseen
Between bursts of wet, wet rain
But in the distance
The far far distance
I saw, once, sun shining on distant hills.



In Jan 2015 I was at Hanging Lake , Federation Peak, stuck in a tent for four nights.
On one of those days Mt Wellington, Hobart, received 153 mm of rain. *David Poland*

Equipment Exchange, Sale and Hire

Club's Excess Gear for Sale (cheap):

Past members have generously donated gear to the Club, usually with the hope that it will continue in good service. Periodically we need to shed a surplus.

Items available are: Large packs \$20; small packs \$20; day packs \$5.00; 3-season sleeping bags \$10; inner sheets \$2.00; 2-man tents \$20; stoves (Whisperlite) \$20; cooking gear, water bottles, containers and stuff bags; 1: 25 000 maps AGD 84, GDA 94; mats, lilos, boots, miscellaneous.

Gear Broker:

Rob is able to facilitate gear sales and purchases among Club members with a degree of security.

Sales: Date, name, phone number, item for sale, asking price.

Purchases: Date, name, phone number, item sought.

Rob would contact potential sellers/purchasers, supplying the necessary details, after which the parties make their own arrangements.

Equipment Hire:

Please note that **\$20 deposit** is required for all items.

Tents: \$15 per weekend, \$40 per week:

2 person Olympus tent, 2-person Macpac tent, 1-person Microlite tent, 2-person snow tent.

Sleeping bags: \$10 per weekend, \$25 per week

Liner and mat: nil cost

Metho stove and fuel bottle: \$5 per weekend, \$15 per week

Snow shoes: \$10 per day, \$25 per week;

Climbing gear: \$10 per day or weekend per person

Pack: \$5 per weekend, \$15 per week

PLB, GPS: nil cost

Please note first overnight loan of gear gets a free loan.

Borrowers are requested to look after the gear and return it promptly.

Contact Rob on 6231 4535 or robhorsfield@bigpond.com