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Quarterly Magazine
Canberra Bushwalking
Club



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Canberra Bushwalking Club Inc
GPO Box 160, Canberra ACT 2601
www.canberrabushwalkingclub.org



Descending Mt Yulludunida, Mt Kaputar N.P., NSW *Photo by Kerri-Ann Smith*

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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 will be 8 November 2023, though earlier would be appreciated.

Please follow the **Detailed Guidelines** on page **3** when making a contribution.

All members of the committee can be contacted in one email to:
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Contribution Guidelines

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Please follow these Detailed Guidelines when making a contribution

- The most acceptable text software is Word.
- Please make sure any photos have captions and the photographer's name. If a photo is not yours, make sure you have permission to use it.
- Please ensure your articles have been thoroughly edited and spell-checked.
- Photos should be high resolution, though I would appreciate it if you could straighten seriously oblique horizons.
- Please specify the topic of your contribution in the Subject line of your email, and send only one article / contribution per email. (More than one photo can be sent in an email, depending on the file size.)
- The deadline for contributions to the next Quarterly Magazine will be 8 November 2023, though earlier would be appreciated.
- If you are considering writing a walk report, please check with the Editor first so that we don't end up with more than one article describing the same walk.

Welcome to New Members

A warm welcome to our new members (to 19 August) who have joined CBC since the February edition.

Apologies to those who should have received their welcome in the May edition (my fault for missing the deadline).

Adrian Gurra	Alice Quinn	Allen Stotz
Andrew Cupit	Anita Robertson	Anna Hutchens
Bjorn Gaston	Cathrine Stephenson	Ceilidh Armer
Chloris Pickens	Cole Neering	Conor Laenen
Dearne Weaver	Dianne McDean	Graeme McDean
Harriet Foster	Helen Osborn	Jacqui Martyn
Jeanette Barker	Jenny Cupit	Jessica McAuley
Jingjing Pan	Joanne Tilbrook	John Fantini
Julian Hamon	Katie Motson	Kirk Hone
Luigi Alaimo	Maggie Dunn	Marley Velting
Megan Liu	Matthew Fenwick	Michael Clisby
Michael Mennile	Michael Zisman	Rebecca Mills
Rebecca Worner	Rupert Dowdeswell	Sarah Byrne
Shannon Homes	Susan Brown	Tina Best
Steve Rohan-Jones	Yanping Yu	Yuan Tian

Zoe Sugarman

Total membership dropped a little over the Christmas and New Year period and then remained steady to the end of April, when it was 400. We've had a healthy number of new members since then, and current membership (as of 19 August) is 418.

Andrea Coombas

Membership Secretary

Lapsed Member Survey

On 10 May 2023 CBC sent a survey by email to 113 people whose membership had lapsed in the preceding 12 months, asking them for their reasons for not renewing, with the option to provide comment.

Twenty seven people responded, plus four who did not complete the survey but instead emailed me to say they wanted to renew.

Of the 27, the majority (17) did not renew because of health, they no longer lived in the Canberra region, or lack of time. Of the remaining 10:

- Two said they did not receive their renewal reminder (we confirmed reminders were sent).
- Three thought the walks were too hard.
- One had problems with Zealous (pre-Bilby system) and two with renewing or registering in Bilby.
- One wanted alerts of upcoming walks (check out the May monthly update for how to set up reminders for you to check).
- One said walks booked out too quickly, they didn't find out about bookings quickly enough and didn't like Bilby (last used Bilby in the early days).

I contacted these 10 respondents and five renewed with help or more information .

The issues of whether walks are too hard and them booking out quickly are tricky to manage. Whether a walk is easy or hard is very much dependent on individual perception and demand can be hard to predict. Members who volunteer to lead walks and the Walks Secretary put in a lot of effort to offer a variety of walks that cater for a range of abilities and experience.

That they are doing a great job is reflected in many of the comments received.

The committee decided the survey didn't identify issues we need to act on, but the survey will be repeated November 2023 to get the views of lapsed members from the preceding six months.

A sample of comments received:

Although I have not renewed my membership I look back on my active time in the Club with much fondness along with admiration for how the Club has adapted. Huge improvement in the website and a real contribution to pressing environmental issues.

Our decision not to renew should not be seen as a criticism of CBC. We discontinued because of health problems.

Now too orientated to the 'tiger walkers'. Not my reason to walk.

Very limited time with other commitments - member of Brindabella BC which suits me better for easy local walks mid-week or weekend

Live too far away to join your walks which always look so inviting.

It is a great Club and I continue to recommend it for younger folk.

I very much enjoyed the walks I participate in; however I can no longer do long walks. Apart from which I have moved to Brisbane.

Really enjoyed the walks I did do and was looking forward to doing more. However moved back to Adelaide to work.

We have done some of Linda's fantastic walks, but always forget to check the website for new upcoming events.

Current members are welcome to provide feedback on Club activities and processes or make suggestions any time by emailing committee@canberrabushwalkingclub.org.

Feedback and questions about Bilby are also encouraged and should be sent to bilby@canberrabushwalkingclub.org



Members and guests, young and older, at "The Bakery", near Booroomba Rocks.

Photo by Meg McKone

The Warrumbungles were Flavour of the Month last May, and we have two articles attesting to their desirability as a bushwalking destination. Neither Robert Walters nor I knew the other was writing an article on their trip, but Robert's augments mine by describing two nights camping on the Grand High Tops, and mine continues on to other interesting national parks in the Central West of NSW. David Poland had programmed an off-track walk in the Warrumbungles but the poor weather forecast led him to swap it for five day walk in a beautiful but seldom visited part of the Budawangs.

Most of us will be aware of the fine conservation work being done at Mulligans Flat and Goorooyarroo. Jenny Horsfield has kindly given us an excerpt from her forthcoming book describing the background and work of Adrian Manning, who has spent two decades working to restore these woodlands and their locally extinct native species, culminating in the recent release of Eastern Bettongs (extinct on the mainland) in The Sanctuary.

Andrew Meers, our Web Manager, has written to explain the development and introduction of Bilby, the system used by CBC to manage our Club membership and activities. The Bilby Coaches have provided tips to help with making bookings and communicating with leaders.

In this issue I'd especially like to thank our Walks Secretary, Quentin Moran, who will be retiring from the Committee at the AGM. Quentin has written many pages of instructions for leaders helping them navigate Bilby's peculiarities of language and layout, and answered their queries with unfailing patience.

If you have any matters concerning our Club or bushwalking in general that you would like to share with your fellow members, you can write a letter to the Editor, with your name attached.



Ascending the rocky summit of Mt Yulludunida, Mt Kaputar NP ...*Photo by Kerri-Ann Smith*

Bilby - development of the CBC activity and membership system

Overview

Bilby is the system used by CBC to manage our Club membership and activities. It was launched in October 2022 to replace the previous system. Changing systems is never easy and it's taken a lot of work by many of your fellow Club members to get to this stage. Now that the workload has reduced a bit there has been time to reflect and attempt to answer some of the questions that members have been asking. This article briefly covers how Bilby was chosen, the relationship between CBC and Bilby, and what it costs the Club.

Development

Bilby was developed by and is owned by Jeremy Rojo. Jeremy does not work for CBC but provides Bilby as a membership and activity management service which the Club has chosen to use. Bilby was the final product of an exhaustive process initially aimed at fixing the previous system.

After a two stage search for a developer there was only one suitably skilled person available who met our requirements. Jeremy was selected and started work in August 2020 on the first phase of the redevelopment project. This covered an assessment of the existing system and advice on how best to fix the identified issues.

During the assessment it became clear that continuing to fix the existing system wasn't a good investment of time and money. Jeremy offered to develop a new system for the same fixed cost of \$7500 as already agreed and the committee accepted this offer. Payment of \$2500 was made to Jeremy for his completion of the first project milestone, the assessment work.

Towards the end of development, the option to run Bilby as a subscription service became available. This meant that the Club would pay ongoing fees to access Bilby rather than pay the balance owing and take on full responsibility for running Bilby.

The CBC Executive Committee considered both options carefully and chose to access Bilby as a subscription service rather than taking on full responsibility for operating and maintaining it. The Committee considered that the expertise and time required to run a critical IT system had become too onerous for a volunteer committee. Security of member data and reliability of the system were important factors in the decision. The risks of running a system without up to date knowledge and expertise were deemed too high.

The whole project involved more than two years of extensive work by many of the Executive Committee (EC), other Club members and Jeremy. The briefings and decisions made along the way are documented in the EC minutes and related documents.

Relationship

Bilby was developed with significant input from CBC, and the Club's Blue Sky specifications document (2016/17) was used to provide a starting list of required features. The design also took account of input from other clubs as well as the findings of the Bushwalking NSW Voices report (2022) on the cultural and leadership context of bushwalking clubs.

CBC is currently the only user of Bilby but there may be other clubs and organisations deciding to use it once its presence is more widely known. As one of potentially many users of Bilby, CBC can make suggestions for improvements but is not in a position to insist that they be implemented. Jeremy considers our input and observes user behaviour before making informed decisions on any enhancements.

While Bilby is designed to meet most of CBC's needs it's also designed to be relevant to other similar clubs. Over time it's hoped to have other groups using it so that enough income is generated to cover the operational and development costs. The amount that CBC currently pays does not cover the basic operating costs let alone any return to Jeremy as its owner.

The relationship between CBC and Jeremy as the Bilby owner is detailed in a Memorandum of Understanding which covers the expectations of both parties. There is a commitment to keep Bilby running for a minimum of 3 years. If it isn't viable by then and Jeremy decides to cease supporting it, CBC will need to investigate alternative options.

Costs

The budget for the project to fix the previous system was \$7500 with 3 payment milestones established. Only 1/3 of the payment was ever made to Jeremy. After the first milestone was met, the project changed from fixing the existing system to building a new one. Before further payments became due it was decided to operate Bilby as a subscription service. As a subscriber, rather than an owner, CBC was no longer liable for the development costs of the system.

As a subscriber to Bilby, CBC now pays the agreed fees which are listed at <https://mybilby.com/pricing/>

These fees are:

1. An annual licence fee of \$1740 - based on membership numbers.
2. A transaction fee of \$1.50 - deducted from each \$40 membership payment (2.5% + \$0.50 per transaction).

Based on the current membership of approximately 400, the total fees paid for Bilby are \$2340 per annum. This works out to \$5.85 per member per annum for our subscription to Bilby.

Our online payment service provider, Stripe, also charges a fee of 2.5% which is an additional \$1 per \$40 payment. This is lower than the fees charged by PayPal, our previous online payment service provider.

From every membership payment of \$40 we end up with \$37.50 after all fees. The balance is automatically transferred from Stripe to the CBC bank account and is used for the Club's operating expenses which include Bushwalking NSW affiliation, public liability insurance, website hosting, hall hire and many other costs.

Andrew Meers

CBC Web Manager

To see what's on our Program, select "Activities" from the "What's On" menu at the CBC website <https://canberrabushwalkingclub.org/> 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.

By the time you read this I will be touring England prior to joining Terrylea and other Club members to walk Hadrian's Wall path. I'm looking forward to it. Best thing the Romans ever did for us - leave a few walls around to gawk at. Then I'm off to do the Portuguese Camino - I just hope I and the other pelegrinos don't fry along "the way". John Evans and Keith Thomas will fill in as Walk Secs till the AGM when a new Walk Sec will take over.

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteer leaders who have put some fantastic walks on the program in the past year. In particular our most prolific leader John Evans stands out. Not only has he led a lot of walks but he has assisted many leaders in using Bilby - as I have! I hope your shoulder continues to improve John.

We certainly had a great variety of walks in the period. We had walks in the Canberra Nature Park, Namadgi NP, the Budawangs (Morton NP), Kosciusko NP and even the south coast - just to name a few areas. The reopening of the Orroral Valley, Namadgi NP to vehicle traffic was most welcome and facilitated many walks in this area. Our walks ranged from morning and evening walks to full day to multi day. (I went on Meg's trip to the Warrumbungles, the Pilliga and Mt Kaputar back in May and everyone found it most enjoyable and had a great time.) The Club has participated fully in the Joint Club Wednesday Walks program together with the NPA and BBC. We can thank the venerable John Danaro, CBC Wednesday Walks Coordinator for all that work. Wonderful these "John" people aren't they? A new development in the period - two heritage festival activities put on by myself and Mr Evans in conjunction with ACT Archives: some border walks open to the public with historical commentary. Statistically speaking, we reached a high in January of 27 activities with a participation rate of 254. Most months since have had between 130 and 190 participants.

I must thank our hard working trainers: Rob and Jenny Horsfield have continued to conduct navigation courses for new leaders - a vital training program for the Cub. In addition the techno wiz Peter Conroy continues to assist members in using smart phones for navigation. This was provided both online and in the field (Peter helped me load several maps for my European trip). Thanks also to Joe Carmona for maintaining our Facebook page. On behalf of the Club thank you all.

The booking and membership system, Bilby, was introduced in October last year and has undergone continuous development. Most leaders have taken it to it quite well. It is robust and has useful features such as Message Board that we didn't have before. Lest I be accused of bias however, some may say it's overly complicated and some of the terminology is a bit strange for bushwalking. The security regarding contact details of participants being released to leaders was a serious issue for many leaders. I'm pleased to say that things have improved over time as more members release vital contact information. In addition the increase of the character limit in Message Board from 500 to 2000 has greatly increased its usefulness and in many instances can replace email. However the booking status terminology has gone from meaningful terms like Approved and Declined to terms not really suited to a bushwalking club - like Valid and Void - whatever they mean. On the other hand we have a good deal financially and good maintenance support. The bottom line is that we don't own Bilby. I have not been involved with relations with the owner but as I understand it, we can make suggestions for change but it's the owner's decision as to whether alterations fit their business model.

To our wonderful leaders: At the time of writing we are short of walks owing to injuries and the weather, so if you haven't led a walk for while please put one on. Where to conduct a walk? Well as I always 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 these sorts of walks and they are easier to organise. Something different with a bit of flair will help your walks to be popular. 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 - this definitely applies to new leaders. If you would like start your leadership career please email walksec@canberrabushwalkingclub.org to discuss your first walk.

John Danaro has also asked for additional walk leaders for the Joint Club Wednesday Walks. So if you have done one of Rob and Jen's navigation courses and want to put that into practice, please consider leading a Wednesday or another walk. Contact John at wednesday.walks@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Cheers and happy walking

Quentin (has left the building)



Quentin having some well earned "time off" beneath Mount Exmouth, the highest peak in the Warrumbungles. *Photo by Meg McKone*

What's happened in response to your feedback?

CBC started using Bilby October 2022. From the start there was a standing invitation to provide feedback to bilby@canberrabushwalkingclub.org, and an explicit request for feedback was included in the May monthly update when Bilby reached the six month mark.

General feedback

Before getting into specific feedback and changes, here is a representative sample of general comments received since the May request:

I'm new to using Bilby. I had heard many negative comments but I have found it user-friendly and transparent once I grasped the principles and terms used.

It's good that the system has the flexibility to evolve and incorporate changes.

I suggest that a desirable addition would be the popular 'short notice walks'

(long term member and leader)

The Bilby booking process is simple and effective for participants. But organising a walk is much more onerous and requires acquisition of skills and acceptance of a high level of responsibility - whatever systems are in place. It would be good if Bilby made the leader's task of gathering information from intending participants - which currently causes considerable frustration - as easy as possible.

(long term member and leader)

Personally I had no trouble using the old booking system so the big +ve seems to be much less work for the committee which is a good thing.

(long term member)

I'm loving Bilby, especially the Message Board. Love how it's very visible what other walkers have messaged/asked coz sometimes their messages are the same question you were just about to ask the leader. Also nice to see who else is going to be joining you

(joined just before CBC started using Bilby)

The system - as I've mentioned to you previously - is really terrific, so intuitive and easy to navigate. It's the best one I've been exposed to among the various walking clubs.

(new member, joined CBC post Bilby)

Your specific feedback and Bilby changes

From the beginning, and as the comments above show, members were more satisfied with Bilby than Activity Owners, who sent us most of the feedback and change requests.

Default Privacy Settings and Hidden Info

This has been a significant issue for Activity Owners. Bilby default privacy settings meant guest and member names, email addresses, contact, emergency contact and other details from their profile often weren't visible to Activity Owners.

Good News - From 20 July 2023 each club or organisation that uses Bilby can set their own default privacy settings. CBC will set the default so that name, contact, email, and emergency contact will be 'Visible to any Activity Owner'. This will apply to all new users created on or after 20 July.

Users with genuine concerns about sharing personal information can override the default setting.

Communication

Two problems:

- Bilby did not tell would-be walkers when their booking was accepted by the Activity Owner.
- Activity Owners, because default privacy settings hid contact information from them, found it very difficult to gather the information they needed to communicate with would-be walkers and organise logistics with approved walkers.

In February 2023 Bilby changed so a Bilby notification (email) is automatically sent to:

- Members and guests when their Booking status changes.
- Members, guests, and Activity Owners when a Note is added to a Booking (of any status), enabling two way communication between the Activity Owner and interested or participating members and guests.
- Approved participants when a message is put on the Activity Message Board (MB), and if the @mention button is used to select participants so Bilby knows who to send the email to.
- While this is mostly used by Activity Owners to communicate logistics to all participants, any approved participant can put a message on the MB.
- Messages on the MB are visible to all approved participants.
- Messages added without selecting participants via the @message button do not trigger an email but are visible to all approved participants.

As well as enabling communication between Activity Owners and walkers, without the Activity Owner needing to know email addresses or phone numbers, using Booking Notes and the MB means if ownership of an Activity must change then all prior communications will be visible to the new Activity Owner.

What Activities are coming up, or a "what's new" alert

A few members have requested regular reminders on what Activities are coming up, and we are currently considering how this can be done, and whether the benefits will be worth the cost and effort to implement.

The May monthly update included instructions on how to set up a reminder in your phone to prompt you to check the latest Activities.

Another request has been for an alert as new Activities are added to the program because many walks

quickly book out. An ongoing challenge for CBC is having enough members willing to lead enough walks to keep up with demand, and an alert will not address this issue, and when there are more than enough walks will potentially create a lot of email traffic.

Cloning Activities

An early request was for Activity Owners to be able to reuse Activities, so leaders who repeated walks could post them as a new Activity, and edit as required with minimal effort. The ability to clone an Activity was implemented June 2023.

Access to old 'it' publications

This was requested by a couple of members but is not a Bilby issue. CBC publications are accessed via the CBC website, and Bilby is not part of the CBC website. On any Bilby screen, at the top there is a link to the CBC website. On any CBC website screen, at the top there is a link to Bilby via Activities - What's On.

When CBC has the capacity, access to old *it publications* will be restored.

Membership List

Two members have told us they would like changes to the Membership List (accessed via Members at the top of any Bilby screen) so:

- Searches of members are done by real name instead of user name, and
- Members are listed in alphabetical order instead of by when they joined.

Before deciding whether to pursue this further, we need to hear from more members. Do you use the Membership List? Would you use it if it was easier to find a member?

Bilby terminology

A few Activity Leaders have told us:

- They don't like some Bilby terminology, especially the terms Valid and Void for booking statuses, that they are not meaningful and are confusing in the context of bushwalking.
- They would like to see the return of Waitlisted as a booking status.

Bilby is not just for bushwalking clubs; it is designed to cater for clubs and organisations that offer many kinds of activities, so its terminology will be more generic and won't precisely fit conventional bushwalking terminology.

Overall, the evidence is that Activity Leaders, once they understand (even if they don't like) Bilby terminology, are successfully managing their Activities.

Dashboard

This new development is for the benefit of Member Officers, Activity Officers, and Receipt Officers. On 20 July 2023 lots of information was added to the dashboards, designed to help administrators such as the Walks Secretary, Membership Secretary and other committee members manage work on hand, as well as monitor trends and undertake planning and proactive work.

What's next?

When CBC first subscribed to Bilby the committee knew further development was required. The instability of the old system (Zealous) meant that at any time the Club could find itself with no booking and management system at all, so the committee decided to subscribe to that earlier version of Bilby (see separate article on the development of Bilby).

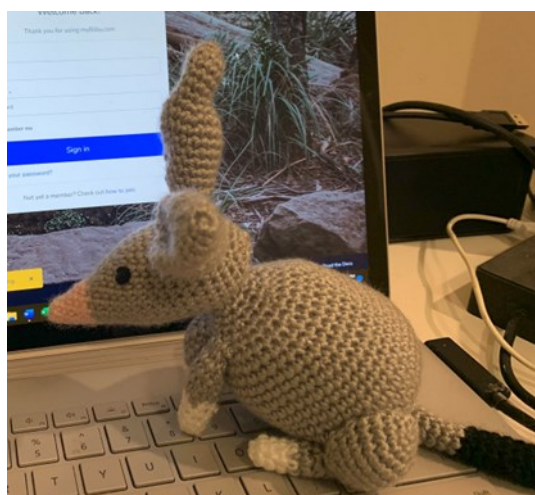
There's been lots of development in Bilby since, and many of our concerns and problems have been addressed. Thank you to those members who did provide feedback, it was very influential when identifying needs and priorities.

What happens next is up to the software developer who owns Bilby.

We encourage you to continue to tell us about problems, questions, and suggestions for improvement by emailing bilby@canberrabushwalkingclub.org While we can't make any promises, we will advocate for change if there's evidence many members want it and/or it will improve how CBC activities and membership are managed.

CBC Bilby Coaches

Andrea Coombas, Andrew Meers, John Evans



Hand-crafted Bilby presented by CBC to Jeremy, the Bilby system developer.

The Warrumbungles, The Pilliga and Mount Kaputar

Meg McKone

29 April – 14 May, 2023

Joint Coast and Mountain Walkers and Canberra Bushwalking Club party: Meg McKone (leader), Frank McKone, Kerri-Ann Smith, Michael Bentley, Lyn Finch, Terrylea Reynolds, Laeli Hogan, Quentin Moran, Felicity Chapman, Alan Dixon, Marion Davies, Paul McCann, Chris Smith.

THE WARRUMBUNGLES:

The view south east from Mt Exmouth. *Photo by Meg McKone*

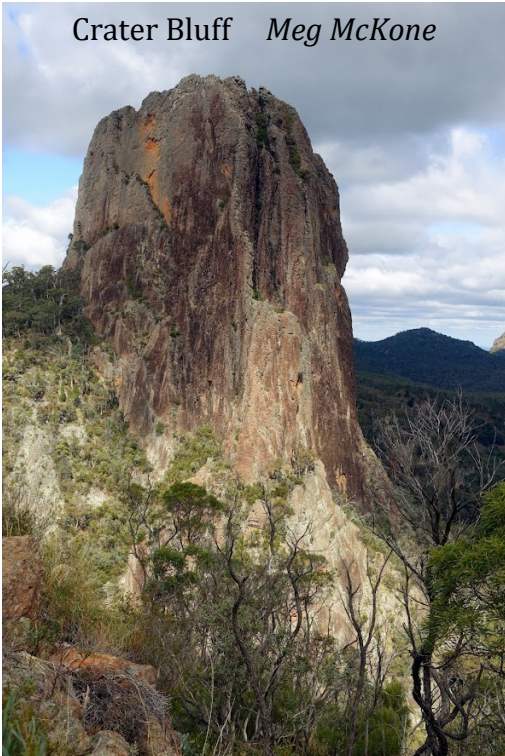


Drive across the low hills and plains of Central Western NSW towards the service and now tourist town of Coonabarabran and suddenly you will notice a line of jumbled blue peaks piercing the western horizon. They are the Warrumbungles, the Crooked Mountains of the Gamilaraay and other nations, the remains of explosive volcanic action when this part Australia passed over a hot spot in the Earth's crust 17 to 14 million years ago on its long journey north to collide with Asia.

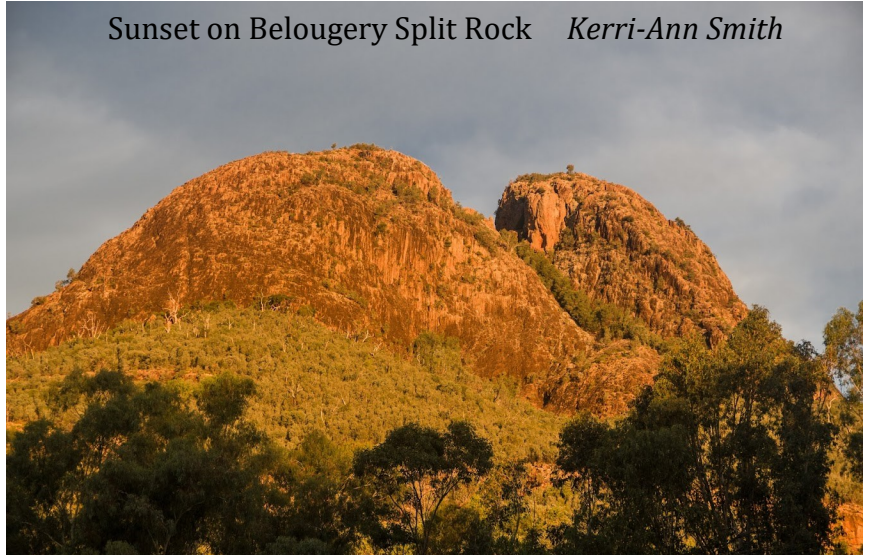
On this particular day, however, all we saw was low cloud and sporadic showers as we drove into Camp Wambelong, our car-camping base for the next six days. Next morning the ground was still very wet, so we changed our plans from climbing Beloungery Split Rock with its slippery scramble to the summit to an introductory ramble through nearby Burbie Canyon, a little sandstone gorge which somehow missed out on the volcanic activity and was full of ferns and venerable old Kurrajongs.

Most of the walking tracks in the Warrumbungle National Park are contained within a fairly small but spectacular area. There is a long circuit which climbs to many of the high points in the Park and can be completed in a day, though most people will want to break it up into two or three sections with time to appreciate the dramatic views. The circuit starts at the Pincham carpark, a few kilometres from Camp Wambelong, and climbs up past the Breadknife to Lughs Throne, around the Grand High Tops, past the turnoff to Bluff Mountain, along Dows High Tops and then the Western High Tops, past Mt Exmouth and down a service road to Camp Wambelong.

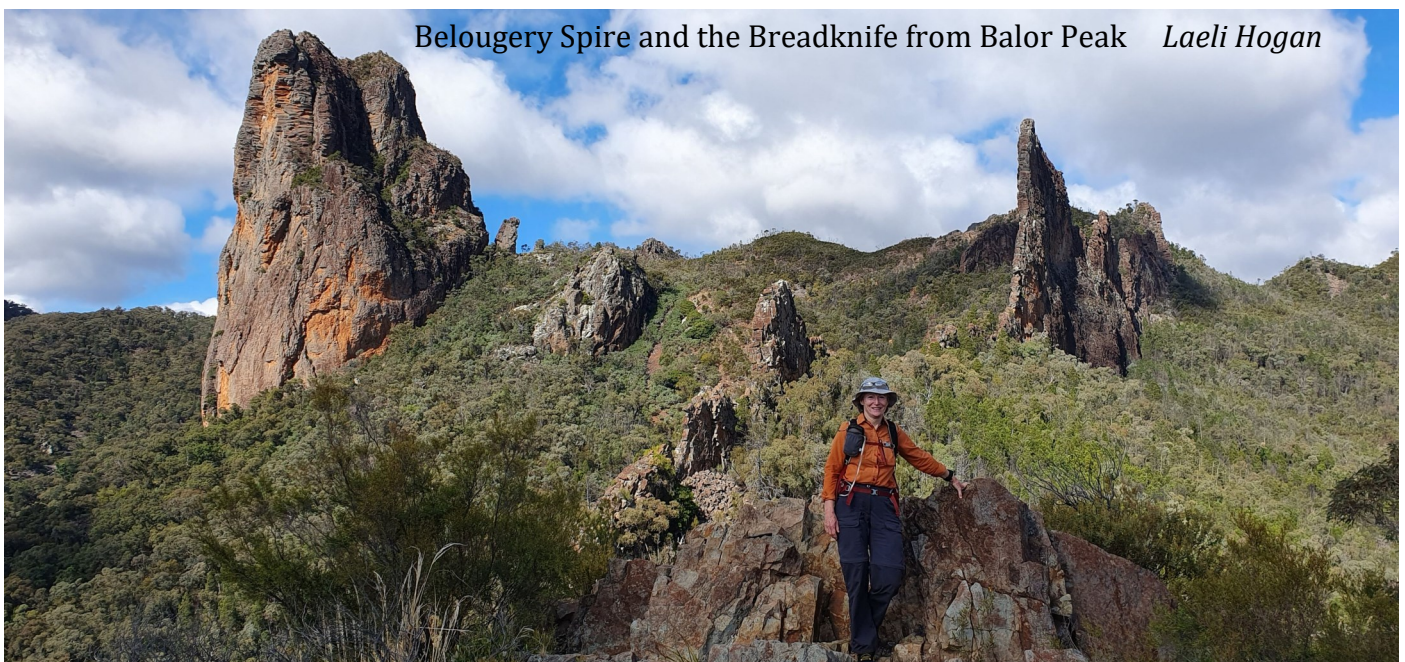
Having decided on the Grand High Tops for our first day of serious walking, we left cars at the huge Pincham carpark, constructed in recent years to accommodate the overwhelming number of visitors during holiday periods, and set off up the well-built track. Along the way, a short turnoff to Spirey View gave

Crater Bluff Meg McKone

us a taste of the peaks to come. We continued past Hurleys Camp, a good choice for rock climbers keen to try out their skills on Beloungery Spire and Crater Bluff, and Balor Hut, built in 1967 when improvements were being made to the track.

Sunset on Beloungery Split Rock Kerri-Ann Smith

Puffing along on my own, I was surprised to hear a call from the north west when I expected everyone to be up to the south. Some of the party had climbed Balor Peak and I joined them, delighted to have good views of all the Warrumbungles climbs I'd done in my younger days – Rib and Gully on Crater Bluff (1965 and 1966), The Breadknife (1966) and Doctor Darks Chimney on Beloungery Spire (early 1990's). As track work was still in progress on the more commonly used eastern side of The Breadknife, we were directed round the western side where the route of our 1966 Breadknife climb, though exposed, didn't look quite so daunting with lots of rocky protuberances for hand and foot holds. Then, after admiring the expansive views from Lughs Throne and completing the attractive ridgeline of the Grand High Tops, we descended West Spirey Creek back to our cars, and those who felt in need of a cleanup drove on to Camp Blackman (a huge campground with powered and unpowered sites amongst the trees) for a hot shower.

Beloungery Spire and the Breadknife from Balor Peak Laeli Hogan

Bluff Mountain *Meg McKone*

Our next big day was to climb Mt Exmouth, at 1206 metres the highest peak in the park. From our campsite we walked directly up the Burbie Spur Trail, past Burbie Camp, an extensive, grassy space with water literally on tap from a local spring. From Danu Saddle a track takes off to Wambelong Trig at the Exmouth summit, crossing a scree slope and passing beneath volcanic cliffs with grass trees adorning the slopes below. When you reach the saddle on the top ridge, make sure you turn right. I turned left to what looked like the highest point, and would have missed out on the true summit if Felicity hadn't responded to my coo-ee. The view is amazing of course, with Tonduron Spire and the magnificent 250 metre northern face of Bluff Mountain (1203 metres) in full view. Off to the west the plains stretch away to a horizon as flat as the ocean.

View east from Mt Exmouth *Meg McKone*

By this stage, most of the party had succumbed to the chilly winds and descended. Our remaining little group did the side-trip out to Cathedral Arch (more uphill!) and descended via West Spirey Creek again, reaching our cars around 5pm. Terrylea's phone told us we'd climbed 1,000 metres and walked nearly 20 kilometres.

From the heights, it's obvious that most of the park is untracked and there are many interesting peaks in addition to those on the main drag. But water is scarce and I think the planners have done a good job in keeping most visitors to well built, well signposted tracks. Talking to the Rangers at the informative Visitors' Centre, we found that they would be very helpful towards any bushwalkers wishing to walk off-track. Walkers who want to bush camp need to book these sites in advance. There is water at Camp Pincham, Hurleys Camp, Balor Hut and Burbie Camp, but it's necessary to carry water for the camps along the High Tops, at Dows Lookout, Ogma Saddle and Danu Saddle.

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We still had plenty to do in the remaining days. Frank and I had to get repairs on our vehicle in Coona. There are lots of other shorter walks to good view points, such as Fans Horizon and Goulds Circuit. A short walk to Tara Cave takes you to an overhang with Aboriginal axe-grinding grooves. Some of us visited Siding Springs Observatory, and we spent an evening at a private observatory near Barradine acquainting ourselves with close-ups of the heavens through two enormous telescopes. We finished with an exciting rock scramble up Beloungery Split Rock.

Throughout our visit, we saw numerous references to the spring flowering season as a prime time to visit, and I realised that I'd always gone in Autumn. Next time.....!

THE PILLIGA

The Pilliga is a huge area of Jurassic sandstone between Coonabarabran and Narrabri lightly eroded into shallow valleys and covered in *Callitris* pines and eucalypt forests and woodlands. Since colonisation, it has suffered a series of droughts, fires, timber getting, followed by more droughts, fires and on and on. Today it is under threat of being fracked. Sign boards indicate the wealth of flowers and birds native to the area – another reason to visit in the Spring.

After shopping in Coona, we set off for the Visitors' Centre in Baradine and thence along dirt roads to the Sculptures in the Scrub campsite (a line of beautiful secluded clearings beneath shady trees) in Timmallalie National Park for a more relaxed three days. Nearby, several groups of remarkable sculptures made by local Aboriginal artists line the top of Dandry Gorge. We spent literally hours examining the sculptures, made from stainless steel, ceramics, and carved stone and wood. A quote from William Bates, sculptor of *Connections*, a stone carving of the links between Earth, Stars and the Rainbow Serpent, tells us, "When I finish that sculpture, it's not mine, it belongs to the community", a touching gift. At the end of the sculptures, we dropped down into the shallow sandstone gorge and completed the circuit back to camp along the lightly wooded banks of the creek. Other interesting places to visit are the Sandstone Caves, the Salt Caves and the Pilliga Pottery with its excellent café/restaurant, campground, accommodation and nearby walks.

Clockwise from main: Sandstone Caves *Terrylea Reynolds*; Wallaby drinking, Emus *Meg McKone*



At Laird Lookout on the Kaputar Plateau Walk.....*Photo by Meg McKone*



MOUNT KAPUTAR

Leaving The Pilliga behind, we continued north to Narrabri. Nearby is the spectacular Nandewar Range and Mt Kaputar National Park, where volcanic eruptions 21 to 17 million years ago left high mountains, vertiginous cliffs and long, flat plateaus now dissected by deep valleys. It's a slow drive up the narrow, winding road to the Dawsons Spring Campsite, nestled close under the 1,489 metre summit. This makes for a very cold campsite, somewhat ameliorated by hot showers and beautiful alpine forest. We didn't do so well on the firewood front – the wood Quentin bought from a supermarket, and the "kindling" Frank and I got from Bunnings, was not keen to combust. Laeli, who had brought a fire-pit and wood from home, had the warmest campfire. Nevertheless, the local kangaroos, who we were instructed not to feed, found something delicious amongst the ashes, and even went as far as raiding Laeli's larder.

You can drive to the top of Mt Kaputar, but being bushwalkers we walked up the well constructed track from the campground. The lookout overlooks a long, deep valley leading to Killarney Gap, with a long, rugged, trackless ridge and more mountains on the northern side. This area would be interesting to explore, though I don't know where water might be available. But we had plenty of walks to do on the southern side of the mountain over the next four days; walks around the plateau tops (the Bundabulla Circuit with the Lindsay Tops Walk, and the Kaputar Plateau Walk) through tall forests and over swampy rock platforms to lookouts with far reaching views over the southern section of the Park, and climbs to some of the peaks (The Governor, Mt Coryah and Mt Yulludunida). The cold weather dissuaded us from

The Governor, Mt Kaputar NP *Meg McKone*



View south from the Bundabulla Circuit
Meg McKone



Above: Lunchtime on Mt Coryah *Laeli Hogan;*Below left: The party at Rangers Lookout *Kerri-Ann Smith;*Below right: The Birthday Girls *Meg McKone.*

our planned overnighter to Scutts Hut and Kurrawonga Falls, but some of the party did it in a day, adding in the Kaputar Plateau Walk.

We had two birthday girls on the trip, Felicity and Lyn, whose birthdays were on Tuesday and Thursday, so we picked the middle Wednesday for a special afternoon tea and discovered that iced supermarket cakes are really quite delicious.

Our most exciting day involved two quite long climbs. In the morning we tackled Mt Coryah, traversing its high, grass-tree covered ledge beneath the summit cliffs before we reached the top for lunch. Then we drove down the road for the steep climb to the base of the rocky summit of Mt Yulludunida. Here the track stops at a sign telling climbers to find their own way to the top. By the time I reached the rest of the party, some were having second thoughts about the final climb after watching a couple dithering around trying to find the best route, but I hadn't dragged myself up all these steps to stop here. So we continued diagonally up to the ridgeline over lumpy volcanic rock riven by potentially ankle-breaking fissures to the final steep pitch which verged on rock-climbing, albeit on good rock with lots of reliable handholds. The view was well worth the effort, with a long, cliffed tail veering away to the south and unclimbable fortresses towering over the surrounding ridges and plateaus. On the way down we saw some rare plants,





including the tubular green flowers of the recently identified *Leionema viridiflorum*, endemic to trachyte outcrops in the Warrumbungles and Nandewars.

After four nights at over 1,000 metres, the cold was really getting to us, so most of the group departed for warmer climes down in Narrabri. This was a good base for driving to Sawn Rocks and Waa Gorge. Sawn Rocks look like exactly that – a cliff of sharp-edged basalt hexagons and pentagons. In the creek bed below were some fallen columns which so much resembled piles of cut timber that at first I thought they really were. Then Frank and I drove on to the start of the Waa Gorge Track, but we hadn't gone far when it started to rain, so, heeding the warning of slippery rocks, we retreated. Terrylea and Laeli were ahead of us and their photos showed what a spectacular gorge it is.

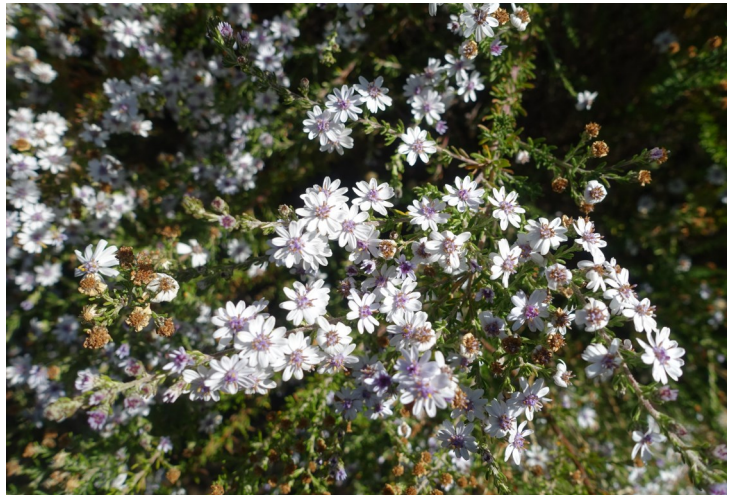
We met up again for a farewell meal at the local Thai restaurant. I've used the word spectacular more than once in this article, for that is just what this country is, especially for walkers from south east Australia where the peaks tend to be rounded or bumps on plateaus. Next time I go, it will be in the Spring to experience the wild-flower season.

Above: amongst the grass trees on the ledge below Mt Coryah *Kerri-Ann Smith;*

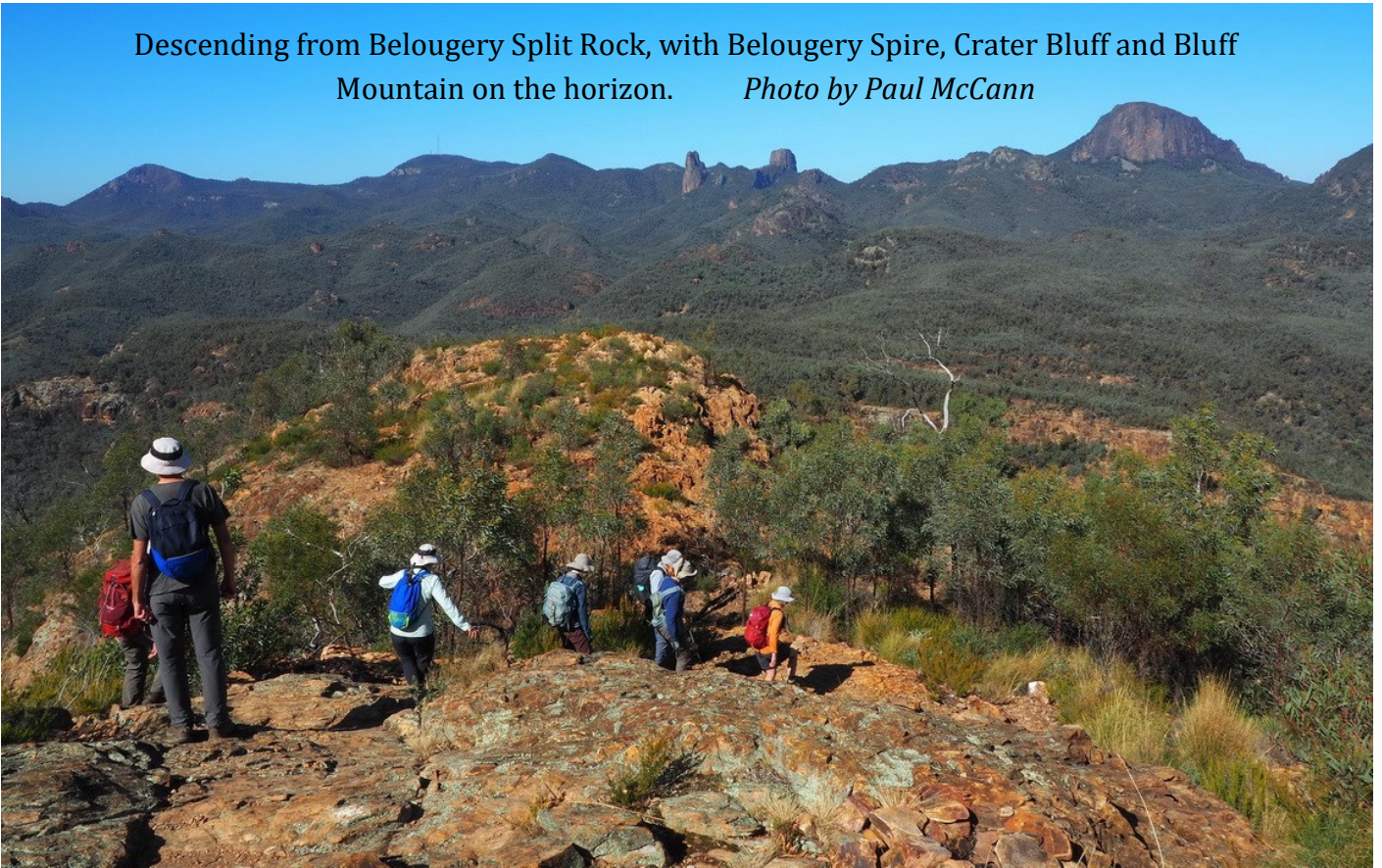
Below: The southern ridgeline of Mt Yulludunida *Meg McKone*



Anticlockwise from bottom: Kurrawonga Falls near Scutts Hut *Meg McKone*; the rare *Leionema viridiflorum* *Meg McKone*; unidentified flowers in Mt Kaputar NP *Laeli Hogan*; fallen basalt columns at Sawn Rocks resemble a pile of felled tree trunks *Terrylea Reynolds*.

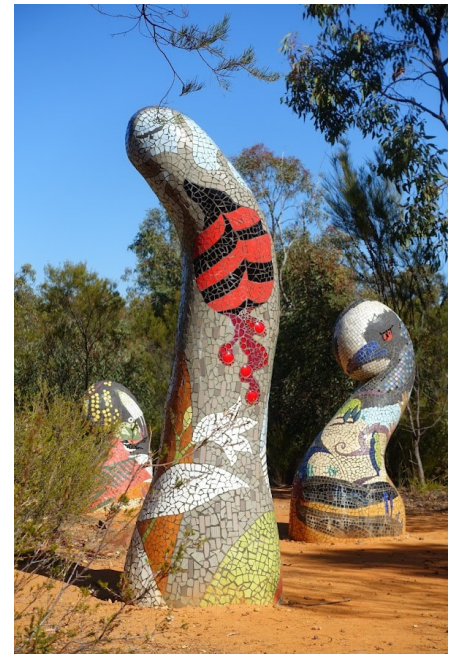
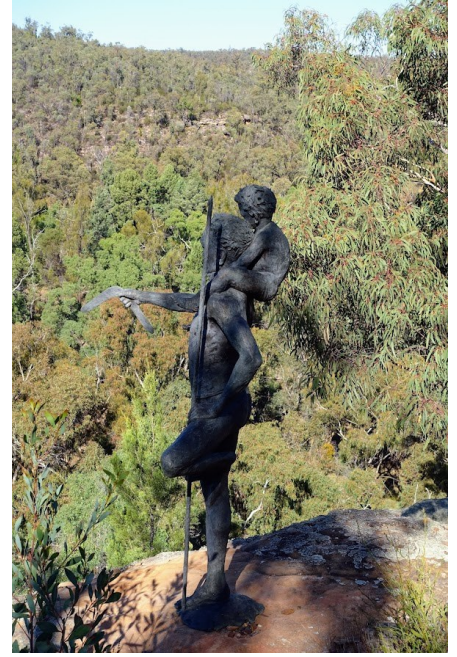


Descending from Beloungery Split Rock, with Beloungery Spire, Crater Bluff and Bluff Mountain on the horizon. *Photo by Paul McCann*



Sawn Rocks *Photo by Meg McKone*





Route: Back Range Ck, Picture Canyon, Wrights Canyon, Bulee Brook Cascades X2, Bainbrig Ck, Thirty Sharpening Grooves, Bulee Gap.

CBC Party: David Poland (leader), Joe Carmona, Melinda Brouwer, Rebecca Worner



Too cold for a swim!

For some it was their first off-track bushwalk, for others just another one in a list of many, but all four of us enjoyed the challenges and surprises of this exploratory trip. Although three of us had covered small sections of this terrain before, none of us seemed to remember any detail so we had to rely on Rebecca's recent introduction to navigation training to negotiate our way through a complex series of pagodas, saddles and canyons.

Finding Picture Canyon was the first task as we did not really know where it was on the map. Others have found it in three hours but we took all day! The going was scrubby and slow, averaging less than 1km/hr. A good plan seemed to be to navigate our way to the most

complex set of squiggles on the map. It worked. We not only stumbled across Picture Canyon (we nearly missed it by ten metres!) but discovered its upstream little brother and downstream little sister.

Eschewing a small overhang, we opted instead to take advantage of the calm, windless weather to camp on a flat rocky outcrop. Do we dare admit that we stopped at 2.30 pm? Well, it was a breathtaking campsite! Stunning views of the beehive-like landscape were framed by tent door openings and the winter evening was warmed by a small wood fire. Unfortunately the full moon rarely showed her face but the cloud cover kept us warm.

Next day saw a slow ramble amongst rocky and scrubby creek bends. We managed 800m (as the crow flies) in four hours, but we did do several side explores. Lunch required an expansive view so we decided to climb out of the



Wright's Canyon



Rebecca (left) and Joe (above) negotiating the Dragons Tooth Slot.

canyon (with plenty of bottled pristine water) and survey the scene from above. An easy afternoon jaunt across the tops felt like a brand new Tesla and we soon came across the headwaters of the now named Wrights Canyon (thanks Ian for showing me this pretty little gem in 2021). My! The vegetation has grown since that visit just two years ago. The giant curving grey cliffs of the canyon are almost hidden now. Once again we chose an exposed pagoda top with views for our night's sleep. A sharp, short down-pour tried to dampen our spirits but somehow we soon got a small wood fire going to boil endless cups of tea in David's blackened, battered billy that was too big for Melinda's spondonicles.

Joe assured us that a southern exit would be better than my preferred gutless northern Wave Cave back up plan. And he was right! Although I doubted it for a while as our pace slowed to a crawl of 400m an hour over and under boulders. Quite a feat for our first time off-track walker! Eventually we emerged from a slot we named Dragons Tooth for the giant rock hanging between two slots, and out onto Bulee Creek.

The going was tough until we realised that yes, the sand really was less green on the other side of the creek. After a struggle and some deliberations, we fortunately gave up plans to visit Wavelet Cave and instead stumbled across a small riverside overhang and the two Bulee Brook Cascades. (we hadn't known they were there). Finally the vegetation improved and so did our spirits, only to be strained by more boulders ahead and a steep, scrubby climb. After a bit more bush-bashing we emerged at a very small clearing (2m x 2m) with a smooth water worn rock. To our surprise, there at our feet lay some thirty Aboriginal sharpening grooves, reminders that for thousands of years others had also enjoyed and passed over this land. It is sad to think how many of their stories and experiences have been lost over the last century.

At one point a little earlier Melinda had decided to challenge us all by dropping her phone randomly along the route. A half hour search by eight beady eyes surprisingly managed to locate it! Needles can be found in haystacks!



A short slog out along a ridge and a very steep climb back to our second car and our walk finished just in time on dusk. On the first and second days we had only walked for about four hours each day, but we certainly made up for it on the third.

One of the best walks I have done. I loved the fact that we didn't really know where we were going to go, that we didn't know what we would see and that we had virtually no pre-existing information. It was a good old fashioned adventure. I was attracted to the area because the map looked interesting and it was! It was

all a surprise, notwithstanding the fact that originally we had planned to visit the Warrumbungles, bad weather up north forcing a late postponement.

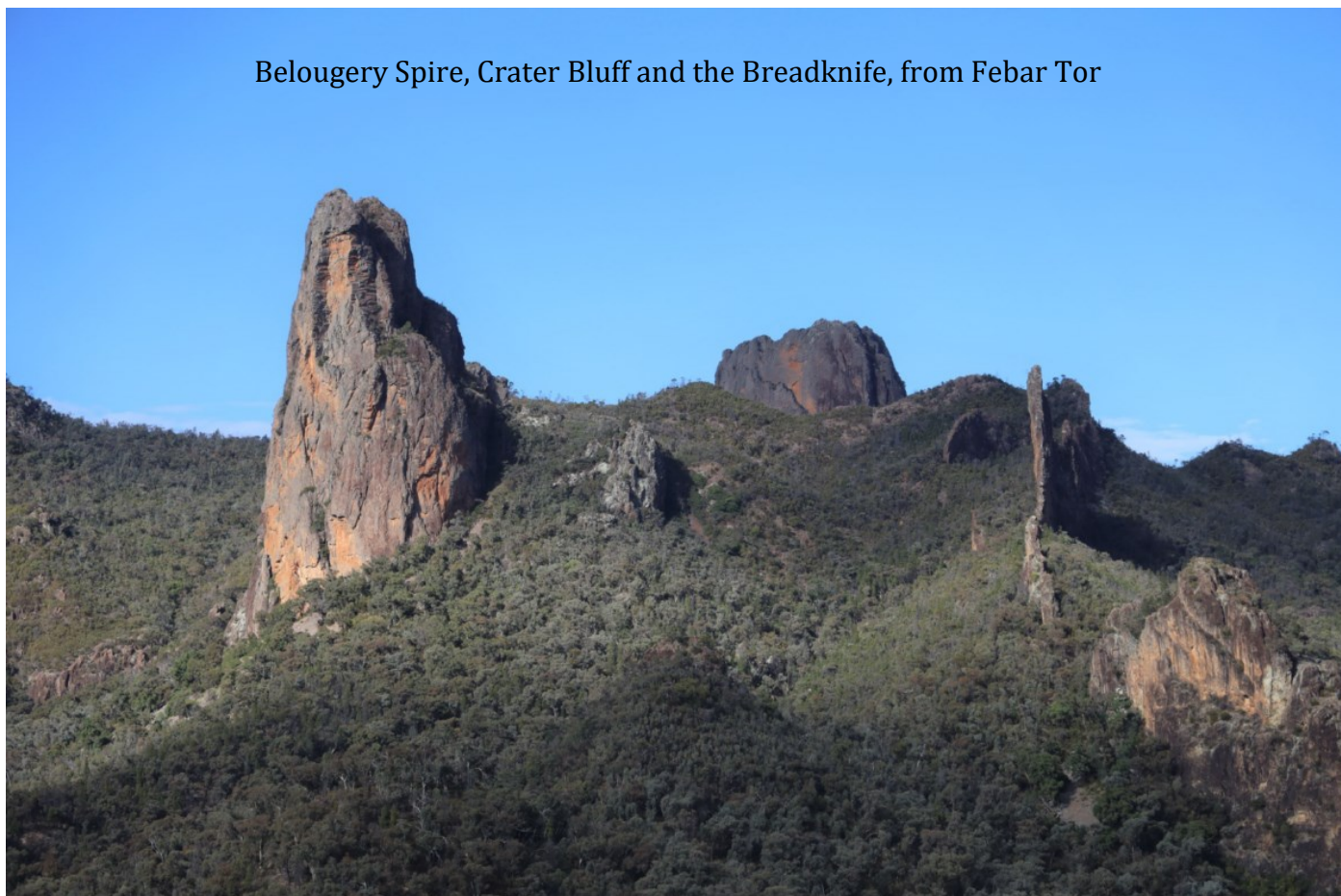
Thanks everyone for a great trip. David



Above: Unnamed Falls

Below: Campsite with a view. *All photos by David Poland*

Beloungery Spire, Crater Bluff and the Breadknife, from Febar Tor

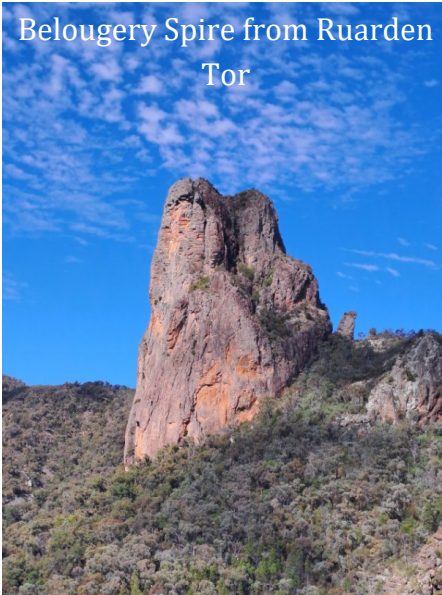


Back in late May / early June, after doing a CBC walk in the Tarlo River NP, Ana V. and I drove on up to the Warrumbungles NP, ahead of our scheduled three day CBC pack walk there based around the Breadknife and Grand High Tops Circuit, to be led by David Poland. We had read about the Warrumbungles' volcanic origins but what we got to see was way beyond our expectations. Meg McKone's article here on her Warrumbungles, Pilliga and Nandewars trip in May attests to that. Unfortunately, the weather forecast turned out to be not so good and so our CBC walk was cancelled. We had already done a few shorter walks (including Fans Horizon and Split Rock), and decided to do the Breadknife and Grand High Tops Circuit while the weather was still holding out. This was the highlight of our trip. While Meg's walks covered a lot of ground, including the Grand High Tops Circuit, we had the luxury of doing it as a 3-day pack walk. We set out from the Camp Pincham Carpark. After 1.3km, we turned off onto Goulds Circuit, which took us to Febar Tor and Macha Tor lookouts, with beautiful views of Beloungery Spire, Crater Bluff, the Breadknife and Bluff Mountain.

Back on the main track, we headed to Spirey View Lookout for some majestic closer-up views. After a long, steep climb up a metal Staircase to Balor Hut, we climbed the Ruarden Tor for views to the now nearby Beloungery Spire and Breadknife.

From Balor Hut, we had to carry an extra 7kg of water some 2 km to Dows Hut campground, at the foot of Bluff Mountain, as we knew there was no water tank at the campground, nor at the Oigma Gap campground where we would be the following night. On the way, we left our gear by the track and headed up to the Grand High Tops Lookout for some beautiful 360° views. As we knew, Dows Hut campground had no facilities, but it was a lovely natural setting. And just 100m from the campground.

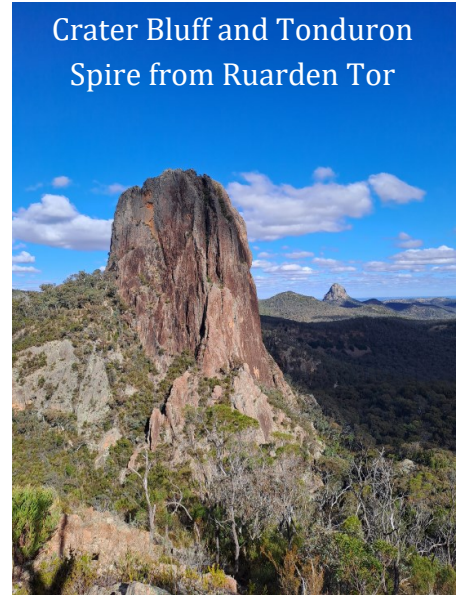
Beloungery Spire from Ruarden Tor



The Breadknife from Ruarden Tor



Crater Bluff and Tonduron Spire from Ruarden Tor



We were rewarded with a lovely sunset on Beloungery Spire. I also got to see a lovely sunrise the next morning as well as the first rays of sun on Bluff Mountain, from the nearby Dows Lookout.

We did an early morning climb of Bluff Mountain. We had lovely 360° views from the summit, including east to Beloungery Spire and the Breadknife, south to Tonduron Spire, and west-northwest to Mt Exmouth. We returned to Dows Camp to pack up our gear before continuing on to Ogma Gap campground, at the junction of the Breadknife and Grand High Tops Circuit and the track up Mt Exmouth. Another remote campground with nice surroundings.

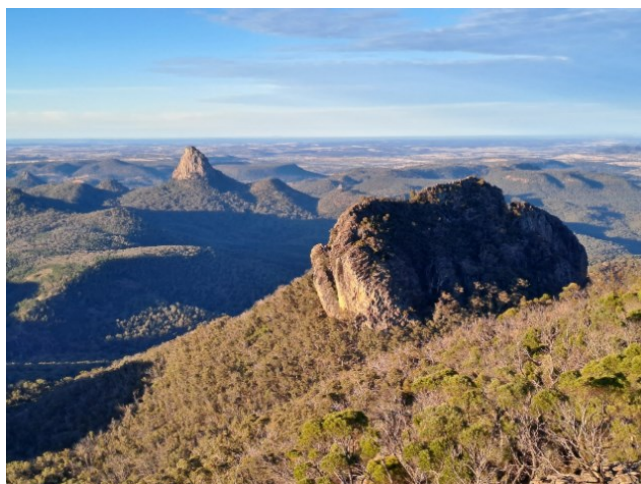
We left our packs at the campground before setting off to climb Mt Exmouth (1,206m – the tallest mountain in the Warrumbungles). We started off on the Grand High Tops Track, with a side-trip to Cathedral Arch. We then passed Danu Camp, at the junction of the Mount Exmouth Track and the Burbie Trail, from where the real climb began. Again, magnificent 360° views from the summit. It was a full day out and it was getting dark when we got back to the Ogma Gap campground.

The following morning, we completed the Circuit via the West Spirey Creek Track back to the Camp Pincham Carpark.

All photos by Robert Walters

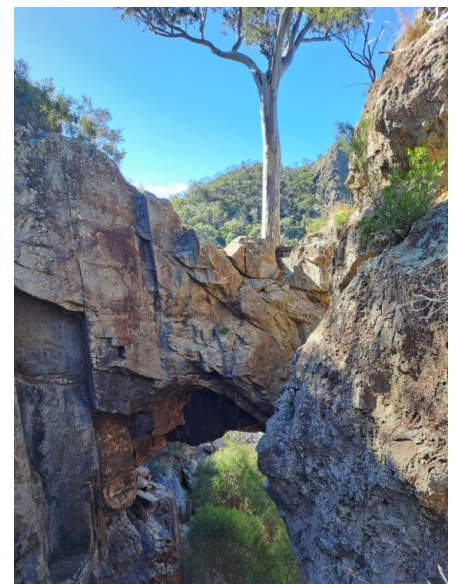
Right:

Tonduron Spire from the summit of Bluff Mountain.



Far Right:

Cathedral Arch





Most CBC members would be familiar with the open grasslands and woodlands of Mulligans Flat and Goorooyaroo, and many have perhaps walked the Centenary Trail which skirts the northern boundary of these reserves. Not so many people know about the ground-breaking research that has been going on here for two decades under the direction of Professor Adrian Manning: the reintroduction of locally extinct fauna.

Adrian grew up in Hexham in

Northumberland, a rural market town in the Scottish-English border country near Hadrian's Wall, a landscape with a history of settlement going back to long before Roman times. If the human past was always evident in these landscapes, so was the natural world. At the village primary school the teacher would get the children to 'put on their wellies and we'll go out and collect acorns'. Older children might exchange news, not about people they'd met, but about an unusual observation they'd made in nature. Family, neighbours, grandparents...Adrian recalled that 'they were all *observant* people...' He remarked, '*I wouldn't underestimate the childhood experience of scientists...many of them start as natural historians as children...*'

In the early 1990s Adrian went to the University of Edinburgh to study physical geography, a degree where he was also able to include the study of forestry, botany, ecology, zoology and related interests. There were inspiring lecturers, especially Philip Ashmole, who with his wife Myrtle and colleagues, held a visionary *Restoring Border Woodlands* conference in 1993. They hoped to use scientific knowledge and the passion of local communities to restore – to 'rewild' – some of the original upland woodlands in the border country, long disappeared since before Roman times. The vision of these committed people eventually led to the creation of Carrifran Wildwood and the journey of the Borders Forest Trust to ownership of this special woodland on 1 January 2000. Since those years Adrian has stayed closely in touch with the Ashmoles and their work of ecological restoration.

These bold visions of broad landscape restoration were ideas that Adrian took with him when he left for New Zealand in 1996. There, he worked for New Zealand Aerial Mapping and travelled extensively in his job. Both the mountain wilderness and the tamed and grazed farming land taught him a lot about the weight of human settlement on the landscape in that country. Many areas were degraded, 'more than people think...but their work on creating sanctuaries was twenty years ahead of Australia at the time' Adrian comments. He also saw, again, the importance of community involvement in local conservation projects.

In 2000 Adrian applied to do a PhD at ANU under Professor David Lindenmayer, who was able to obtain funding for research into the threatened Superb Parrot, a bird of the woodlands and forests of inland eastern NSW, an area heavily marked by historic land clearing and development.

Canberra at the beginning of the new millennium was an ideal place to address the challenge of ecological restoration. It was home to respected scientific institutions, expert technical knowledge and committed and educated communities of volunteers. The times were ripe for change, with both Commonwealth and ACT legislation in place to protect and manage the grassy ecosystems that defined the capital city's landscape.

ACT Government funding for the 'Mulligans Flat Goorooyarroo Woodland Experiment' was the stimulus for the start, as Adrian saw it, of a new version of large-scale ecological restoration. Systematic surveys being taken of birds, small mammals, reptiles and invertebrates in these reserves showed that numbers of some species were lower than expected or non-existent, and intervention treatments were designed to provide some of the conditions that would benefit these species.



Grassy Woodland at Mulligans Flat *Photo by Jenny Arnold*

The treatments which were then begun were three-fold: the introduction of woody debris to provide protective habitat; the exclusion of kangaroos to protect grasslands from over grazing; and use of fire (in Goorooyarroo only) to maintain grassy ecosystems. The distribution of woody debris (large tree trunks, in reality) and the construction of kangaroo-exclusion fences took place in 2007/8. A positive response from invertebrates and reptiles was soon recorded, and vegetation surveys in the spring of 2011 showed that ground layer vegetation was showing signs of recovery.

These events coincided with the planning and design of the proposed predator-proof fence, which would provide the conditions for the intended return of locally extinct species. The Eastern Bettong – totally absent from mainland Australia for over 100 years – was chosen as the first and top priority for the project. The Bettong digs soil to find fungi, a process that can improve soil conditions, encourage water filtration and spread beneficial fungal spores.

There were many challenges in the initial construction of the fence, including siting it to avoid hollow-bearing trees and rock outcrops. An early test was when heavy rains in 2009 piled woody debris against the fence and breached its integrity. This led to a re-design of how the fence crossed significant drainage lines. Other design issues that had to be resolved included the number of gates (more than initially



Dam at Mulligans Flat *Photo by Jenny Arnold*

planned as they were required by ACT Emergency Services in the event of fire), and possible interference with wildlife movement. The fence was completed in 2009 and in 2018 was extended to include Goorooyarroo, thus extending the reserved area to several times its initial size.

Many aspects of the Sanctuary were novel and even unsettling for people: a two metre high predator-proof fence easily visible from the edge of Forde; construction of kangaroo exclusion fences within the sanctuary; regular reserve closures and the confronting sounds of gunshot as part of feral animal control, mainly rabbits; cat containment within the suburban environment; and the regular comings and goings of rangers and researchers at any hour of day and night. In the end the sale of land in Forde reflected the value of the new sanctuary, with some of the most expensive and sought after blocks of land in Gungahlin.

The predator-proof fence has been in place for fourteen years now and in that time a number of threatened species have been introduced to the Sanctuary and are breeding successfully. These include Eastern Bettongs, Eastern Quolls and Bush Stone-curlews. In the longer term it is hoped that native fauna might be returned to life outside the fox-proof fence. With the expansion of the Sanctuary into Goorooyarroo new possibilities have opened for species reintroduction, including 'training' populations to withstand pressures they will face beyond the fence. Meanwhile, animals bred here are shared with other sanctuaries to seed new populations and safeguard the species.

Over the years the Sanctuary has become the centre for ground-breaking research into areas concerned with reintroduction biology and managing ecosystems: truly a long-term, large-scale and visionary conservation project.



This place is Ngunnawal country, and a key element in the Sanctuary's long-term vision for the future is to enable the strengthening of Ngunnawal people's connection to Country. That includes valuing their knowledge and cultural practices and supporting their social, spiritual and economic participation at Mulligans Flat.

An Eastern Bettong being released at Mulligans Flat
Bettong photos by Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary



Have you been left stranded at a walk meeting point when no one has turned up?

It may be because you have not exposed your Contact (mobile phone number) to the walk leader and the trip has had to be cancelled at the very last moment.

Do check via your Bilby My Account > Contact (the link in the left hand menu) that your number is entered. If not, complete the mandatory Contact field and Update Contact. Next, check that the walk leader can see this. Go to Preferences and ensure that the privacy level for Contact is 'Visible to any activity owner'. If any change needs to be made, don't forget to scroll down and click Update.

Your Bilby Coaches

Andrea Coombas, Andrew Meers, John Evans



Have you checked out CBC's social media posts recently? You'll find them on the [CBC Facebook page](#).

They're a great way to show the wonderful places we visit and perhaps encourage people to join the Club. You can even share posts to your personal Facebook page to let family and friends know what you're up to.

If you are a walk leader, or have a walker who has a camera/phone, and would like to share your trip in this way, just check with party members during your pre-walk briefing that everyone is happy to be included in photos.

Write up a short and appealing description and email it to facebookadmin@canberrabushwalkingclub.org, along with a small selection of attached photos. Provide captions for the photos and indicate the order in which they are to be posted.

Simple, and with a great result.

john evans
a/g CBC FB admin

CBC: Excess gear for sale, cheap, August 2023:

Packs:

1 day pack \$5; 6 overnight packs (small, med, large) \$15; 3 antiques \$10

Sleeping bags:

2 2/3 season \$20; 1 Arctic \$20

Tents:

1 x 1-person \$20; 2 x 2-person \$20

Stoves:

Antique white spirit \$20; Gas \$10

Assorted:

Ponchos \$3; Beanies \$2; 1 antique japara \$5

1 Thermarest \$10

4 Aluminium dishes: \$2; 2 Small billies, \$2

Phone Rob 6231 4535 to arrange an inspection

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