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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



Noelia Pinto climbing Orla Perc in the Polish High Tatras on Terrylea Reynolds' trip to Europe
Photo by Monika Binder

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 will be 7 February 2024, 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:

committee@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Website:

www.canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Facebook contributions:

facebookadmin@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

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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 *do not* use Publisher.
- Please ensure your articles have been thoroughly edited and spell-checked.
- 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.
- 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 7 February 2024, 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.

Christmas Party, January BBQ, Public Holidays

Christmas Party

Come along and join your fellow Club members for our traditional backyard Christmas Party.

Venue: 7 Church Lane, Queanbeyan.

Date: 7th December, at 6.00pm.

Park: in the church car park across the lane from the party address.

Please bring: a folding chair, cutlery, cup, plate, all your own food and drinks, stories to share.

A **BBQ** will be provided so you can cook up your own selection.

Jumble Sale: Running out of space in your bushwalking cupboard? Bring along any of the camping gear that you no longer need to sell, or you can donate the funds to the Club. Please write clearly your name and the price and place it with the other gear when you arrive.

January Club BBQ

The annual CBC BBQ - our traditional January Meeting - is on Wednesday 17 January at 6pm at Black Mountain Peninsula. Simply turn up with your own food and drink, meet your bush walking friends, share your recent trips and enjoy. If BBQs are disabled because of fire danger, or the forecast weather hampers BBQ activity (possible late afternoon / evening thunderstorms), bring a picnic dinner. There are some shelters available.

We will meet at the circle at the end of the Garryowen Drive. Follow the CBC signs on Garryowen Drive.

No booking is required. Family and friends are welcome.

ACT Public Holidays

Why not take advantage of the long weekends to run some extended overnight walks?

Christmas Day: Monday 25 December 2023

Boxing Day: Tuesday 26 December 2023

New Year's Day: Monday 1 January 2024

Australia Day: Friday 26 January 2024

Canberra Day: Monday 11 March 2024

Easter: Friday 29 March – Monday 1 April 2024

ANZAC Day: Thursday 25 April 2024

Reconciliation Day: Monday 27 May 2024

Kings Birthday: Monday 10 June 2024

Labour Day: Monday 11 October 2024

Christmas Day: Wednesday 25 December 2024

Boxing Day: Thursday 26 December 2024.

Election Results for Canberra Bushwalking Club Committee 2023/2024

The returning officer for 2023 was Phillip Starr.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
President	Noelia Pinto
Treasurer	Melinda Brouwer
Walks Secretary	John Evans
Assistant Walks Sec	Garry Boxsell
Membership Secretary	Andrea Coombas
Conservation Officer	Michael Clisby
General Secretary	Marlene Eggert
Social Secretary	Ana Vrancic
Training & Safety Officer	Diana Terry
Editor	Meg McKone
Publisher	Terrylea Reynolds
Web Manager	Keith Thomas

The appointment of the new Committee was confirmed by the meeting.

What a Year!

This is my last year as President. As you may be aware the Club's constitution only allows for the President to remain in this position for a maximum of two years. I have enjoyed the role and its challenges immensely but it's now time to let someone else take over the reins – or should I say put on the President's boots!

I'd like to share some of the highlights of what has been a very busy and exciting year for our Club:

- Introduction of Bilby, the Club's new activity and membership management software system. Andrew Meers is stepping down from his role this year after many years keeping our website strong and guiding us through the transition to our new Bilby system. His hours and hours of dedication have been remarkable and we all owe him a big thank you.
- Some fabulous trips again led by our wonderful leaders and some new leaders stepping up to the challenge. An enormous thank you to you all. Our outgoing Walks Secretary, Quentin Moran, is moving on to other things after tonight and has put so much time into ensuring that the activity program is always full of lots of activities. He's also spent a large amount of time updating the Leaders' Guidelines to reflect the new Bilby system. We're all very grateful to you Quentin. We're very fortunate to have John Evans taking on this role. If you've met John (and who hasn't?) you'll know that he'll do a sterling job as our new Walks Secretary. Thank you John for stepping into these big boots.
- Our Assistant Walks Secretary, Keith Thomas, is also moving onto greener pastures taking on the critical role of Club Webmaster from Andrew. Keith has provided many years of assistance in his former role including number crunching and statistical reporting for the Club on all our activities - not to mention backfilling for the Walks Secretary during his/her absences. Welcome Keith to your new role as Webmaster and while Keith is moving on he's not leaving the important role of Assistant Walks Secretary vacant. I'm pleased to say that we're fortunate to have Garry Boxsell as the Club's new Assistant Walks Secretary
- The Club has excellent relationships with the community, including that of key stakeholders such as ACT Parks & Conservation. Some examples included us working in partnership with Senator Pocock leading a walk for members of the public to highlight the threats to Bluett's Block from neighbouring housing developments. We also led a couple of walks at the request of ACT Archives during ACT Heritage Week to showcase some of the field survey notes used by the early border surveyors. These were also open to the public enabling ACT Archives to raise their profile and us to showcase some wonderful areas in the ACT where bushwalking with the Club can take you. We also worked closely with the ABC and the Canberra Times in several articles and interviews highlighting the importance of safety when bushwalking. This was particularly important around the two tragic incidents at Gibraltar Falls.
- Our family and toddlers' walks continue to be run providing encouragement to the new generation of bushwalkers. This is a strong and popular initiative by Linda Groom, who although not a Committee Member, continues to give of her time to help the Club and promote all things bushwalking.

- There's been some interesting highlights on walks too this year – including walks in pyjamas, torch-light walks on Black Mountain and, of course, the RUUp4it series of hill and peak bagging challenges run by John Evans which have been responsible for helping the community to discover places far and wide!
- Our Membership continues to remain at strong levels with a healthy turnover of members and lots of younger folk joining the Club – many from less formal groups like ACT Hikers and meet up. A lot of our membership strength is down to the efforts by our leaders encouraging guests to join the Club and to Andrea Coombas, our Membership Secretary, who regularly contacts many prospective members to help them through the joining process. We're very fortunate indeed to have Andrea in this role and even more fortunate that she's staying on. A huge thanks Andrea.
- On the financial side of things, you'll all be glad to hear that our finances are strong and this is in no small part due to our eagle-eyed Treasurer, Melinda Brouwer, who ensures we work within our agreed budget, that all financial transactions are audited and that we comply with the ACT Audit Office and the financial regulations required under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and subsequent amendments. Melinda has agreed to continue to keep an eye on our finances next year and we're very grateful.
- This year the Committee will also be saying a fond farewell and a big thank you to our General Secretary, Jenny Stewart (who sadly is stepping down this year after many years of service on the Committee). Jenny has been pivotal in ensuring that all official Club correspondence and records are kept on the Club's Committee Google Shared Drive and that Committee meetings are documented and held in the proper fashion. Transparency and an audit trail is important in all that we do. We gladly welcome Marlene Eggert as our new General Secretary.
- The Committee will also be saying a very fond farewell to Cynthia Brehney our hard-working Conservation Officer. The Club is very active on the conservation and environmental front and Cynthia has been instrumental in coordinating several submissions on our behalf, the most recent of which was to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications on Feral Horses in the Australian Alps. Other submissions have included the Club's views on the development of areas near Bluett's Block, the proposed private crematorium at Callum Brae and access to Corang Lagoon. We'll all miss you Cynthia. A huge welcome and thank you to Michael Clisby our new Conservation Officer.
- We again had a solid year of Training & Safety activities with river crossing training, snake awareness and navigation courses. Thank you to Diana Terry, our Training & Safety Officer, Allan Donnelly, Rob & Jenny Horsfield and Linda Groom. Our strong record in safety has enabled us to run our activities over 62 years without any deaths on a Club trip. We also have very few medical extractions. This makes us the envy of many clubs and ensures our insurance payments are also kept to a minimum. I'm pleased to report that Diana has generously agreed to stay on in her role as Club Training and Safety Officer.

- Another fabulous initiative from your Committee this year has been the move from the production of the Club's magazine *it* from a monthly to quarterly basis allowing the production of a much higher-calibre magazine. You'll have noticed that you are also now receiving short monthly updates in between the magazine's issues to keep you up to date on important matters. I'd like to say 'thank you' to our Editor Meg McKone for taking on this role. I know how much hard work she has done in grappling with and learning a new software package, Publisher, to produce what is a fine, high-quality publication. Your contributions are always welcomed by Meg so keep them coming please. Meg will also be staying on in this role and we're very grateful indeed.
- The Committee has many more fabulous volunteers who work behind the scenes but whose contributions are equally as important. These include Ana Vrancic, our Social Secretary who has ensured we've had another super year of interesting and varied presentations at the Hall in Hughes, and of course Greg Buckman who ensures that our newsletters are submitted to ACT Heritage Library. Both Ana and Greg have agreed to stay on in their roles for another year. Thank you both!
- Enjoying our Facebook posts? Much of this is down to Joe Carmona. While not a Committee position, the role of Facebook Coordinator is a vital one. The Club has a strong and lively social media presence thanks to Joe who ensures that all your trip reports and magnificent photos 'go live'. Thank you Joe.
- I could go on and on but I know it's time for me to finish up – so I'd just like to say thank you once again to everyone who has supported me these past two years. The Canberra Bushwalking Club is held in high regard by the community and this is because you all play such a valuable role – as committee members, volunteers and members. Keep up the good work. My very best wishes to our incoming Committee of 2024 and I know you'll give them your full support.



Terrylea Reynolds handing over the President's baton to Noelia Pinto in the High Tatras, Poland

Terrylea Reynolds

Yuma!

Let me start off by saying how humbling it is to be assuming this position, after the indefatigable Terrylea. I can only hope that I can adequately fill the President's boots; she has done such a terrific job! And I would also like to thank the other Committee Members that have just stepped down for all of their hard work, and welcome and thank the new Committee Members for stepping forward and running (or rather, walking!) with the baton.

I am pleased to say that the new Committee has wasted no time and has gotten right into things:

- We have had a meet and greet with the new manager at Namadgi, Simon Stratford, and have invited him to come along and talk to us all at one of our Club meetings next year.
- We were also invited to provide initial input on the proposed Tidbinbilla Range Trail and met with Ali Mungoven and her team at the Depot. Our input will be ongoing, especially during the planning stage, and there may be opportunity in the future to do some voluntary maintenance on a section of the new track.
- We are also quite busily putting together a comprehensive walking and training schedule for the year ahead, so make sure to check out Bilby for new activities periodically.
- One particular activity that deserves special mention is the Bushwalking NSW Leadership Training program which we have signed up to, and which is available to all CBC members. This is a program that is suitable for all leaders, irrespective of how much experience you have, and is self paced.
- We are considering putting in a submission for the review of the Hume and Hovell track.

And don't forget our Christmas party, now being held on Thursday evening, 7 December 2023.

As always, if you have any feedback, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to lead such a marvellous Club. I can only hope that I give the role the justice it deserves.

Happy Walking!

Noelia Pinto,

Nov 2023



Noelia on the Greek Island of Amorgos *Photo by Meg McKone*

The past year

A lot changed for the Membership Secretary role between the AGM of September 2022 and the AGM of September 2023, largely because of the implementation of Bilby. There is now a higher level of automation, and no more system bugs that had been, amongst other things, preventing some applications and renewals. The reactive work of fixing and working around system problems has disappeared, enabling more proactive work to be undertaken, such as sending emails with information about how to join to guests who have completed their first walk, and surveying lapsed members to gather information about why they did not renew.

There was much less change to how many members the Club has. Over the year our total membership had its ups and downs, but we finished with virtually no change from the 2022 AGM to the 2023 AGM. On the day Bilby launched (17 October 2022) we had 419 members and at the time of the 2023 AGM we had 420 members.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members who have joined since our August newsletter (19 August) until 11 November:

Cate Setterfield	Cathy Lavis
Chithral Kodagoda	Claudia Cresswell
David Campbell	Hannelore Duczek
Jennifer Price	Julienne McKay
Mike Lavis	Natalie O'Toole
Paul Finch	Ryan Breen
Sonja Risa	Tam Goddard
Jacque Bowden	Oliver Thearle
Rob Day	

Budgeted Receipts and Payments 2022-2024

Operating Account

	2022-23 Budget	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Budget
Opening Bank balance		\$20,006.53	\$21,312
Receipts			
Membership subscriptions	\$16,500	\$15,604.64	\$16,800
Bank interest	\$0	\$0.00	\$0
Other revenue	\$500	\$59.60	\$500
Total Receipts	\$17,000	\$15,664.24	\$17,300
Payments			
Meetings and Xmas party	\$2,000	\$2,143.68	\$2,000
Post box rental	\$250	\$240.00	\$250
Postage & stationery	\$320	\$65.75	\$320
Bushwalking NSW affiliation fee	\$3,000	\$3,167.45	\$3,500
Public liability insurance	\$2,000	\$2,120.20	\$2,500
Registrar general	\$50	\$0.00	\$50
Training and safety	\$2,000	\$300.00	\$500
Publicity	\$1,000	\$59.00	\$1300
Other expenses (Greg Buckley,	\$50	\$179.00	\$450
Recognition of leaders	\$300	\$413.10	\$650
Donations	\$1,000	\$946.00	\$1,000
Bilby and Web management	\$8,000	\$3,285.59	\$4,000
Repair and maintenance	\$100	\$0.00	\$100
Conservation	\$750	\$140.00	\$750
Honorarium for auditor	\$100	\$100.00	\$150
Capital Outlays			
New laptop/AV	\$2,000	\$0.00	\$1,000
New projector	\$2,500	\$1,199.00	\$0
Total payments		\$14,358.77	\$18,520
Opening Balance + Receipts		\$35,670.77	
Closing Bank Balance		\$21,312.00	

Summary of all accounts

	Operating	Reserve	Term	PayPal	Stripe
Opening balance	\$20,006.53	\$12,995.91	\$8,419.99	\$1,778.36	\$0.00
Receipts		\$132.09	\$21.05	\$3,603.00	\$11,525.00
Sub-Total		\$13,128.00	\$8,441.04	\$5,381.36	\$11,525.00
Expenditure		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,086.26	\$10,062.50
Closing balance	\$21,312.00	\$13,128.00	\$8,441.04	\$295.10	\$1,462.50

PayPal comprises:

Deposits to Operating account	\$4,750.02
Fees	\$121.59
Mis-spent (refunded to general account)	\$20.70
Mailchimp	\$193.95
Total	\$5,086.26

Stripe comprises:

Deposits to Operating account	\$9,334.62
Fees	\$727.88
Total	\$10,062.50

Reconciliation

Opening Bank Balance

Operating account	\$20,006.53
Cash Reserve Account	\$12,995.91
Term Deposit	\$8,419.99
PayPal	\$1,778.36
Stripe	\$0.00
Total	\$43,200.79

Closing Bank Balance

Operating account	\$21,312.00
Cash Reserve Account	\$13,128.00
Term Deposit	\$8,441.04
PayPal	\$295.10
Stripe	\$1,462.50
Total	\$44,638.64

Bank Reconciliation – operating account only

Opening balance	\$20,006.53
Add receipts	\$15,664.24
Sub-Total	\$35,670.77
Less Payments	\$14,358.77
Closing Balance	\$21,312.00

Financial Motions, AGM 2023

Financial Statements 2022–2024

That the Club adopt the Income and Expenditure Statement for 2022–2023 and the Budget for 2023-2024 as presented at the meeting.

Motion carried

Transport rate

That the transport rate be kept at 45c per kilometre (per car).

Motion carried

Members' subscriptions 2023–2024

That the subscriptions for the 2023–2024 year remain at \$40 per member.

Motion carried

Appointment of Reviewer

That David Holt be appointed Honorary Reviewer in line with Clause 6.6 of the CBC Constitution.

Motion carried

Outgoing Web Manager's Report

Andrew Meers

Andrew gave more detail on the successful introduction of Bilby. Frequent updates had added useful features to the initial design. A second club, from Ipswich, was now a Bilby user. As a subscription service, Bilby improved security, reliability and reduced committee workload.

Andrew was asked what would happen at the end of Bilby's first 3 year term. He said it was a good question. However, he was confident the service would continue in a satisfactory way.

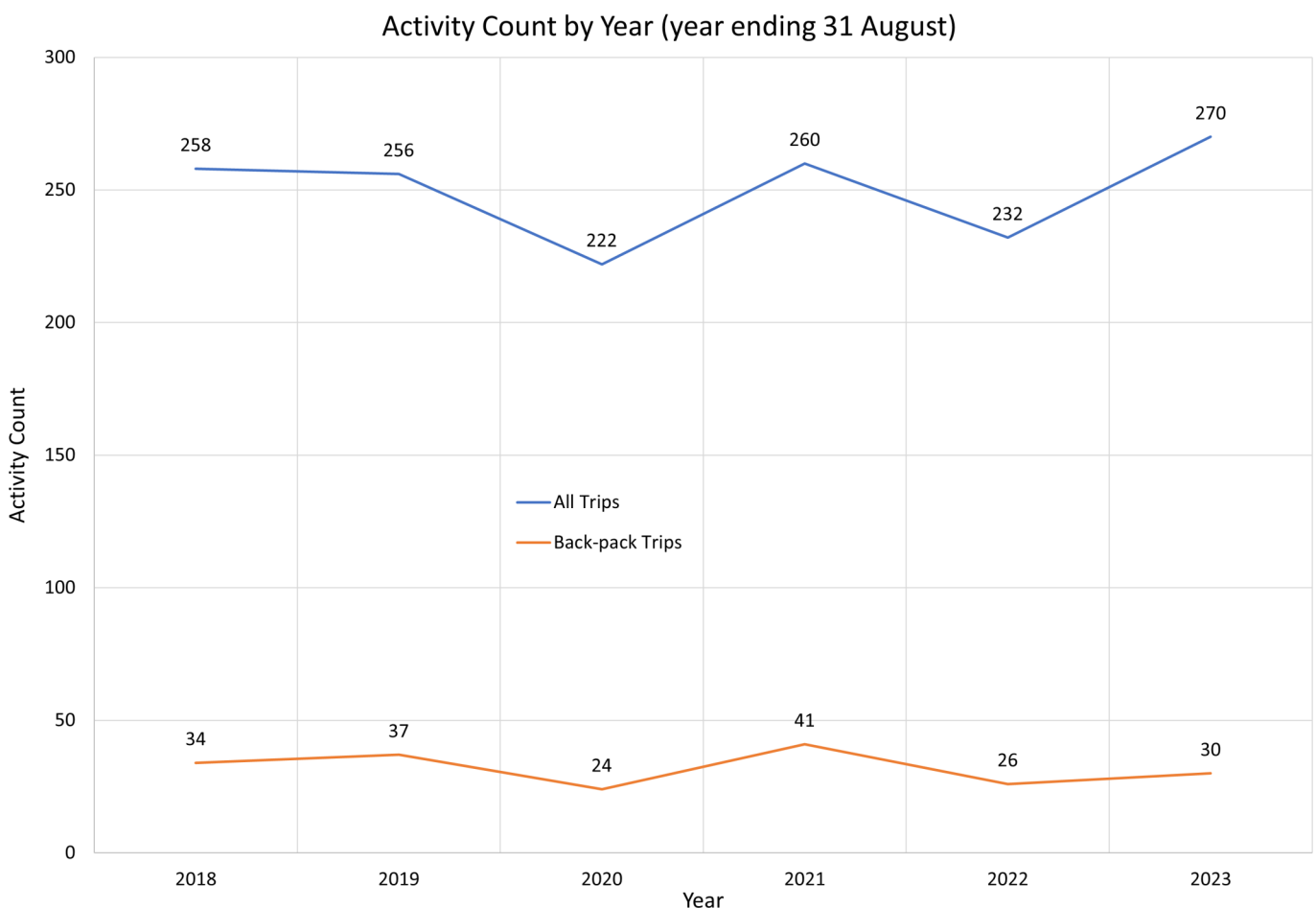
First, a few statistics.

Number of Activities

Numbers quoted are based on the 12-month period from 1 September to 31 August. Only trips that are completed during that period appear in these statistics, so Terrylea's European trip does not appear because, even though it started before 31 August, it was not completed by that date. It will appear in next year's statistics. Meetings or purely social events are not included. Only training activities or trips where there is physical activity required are included.

There were 270 trips (activities) through the year. As you can see from the graph there is a significant increase in the number of trips over that for the same period last year, but the long-term trend is relatively flat. This trend seems to be due to the trip supply rather than the trip demand. Looking further into the statistics, 106 trips were fully subscribed or over-subscribed. This suggests that more trips are required and the best way to do this is for more people to become leaders and offer trips. If you are interested in helping the Club by leading trips, please discuss this with incoming Walks Secretary.

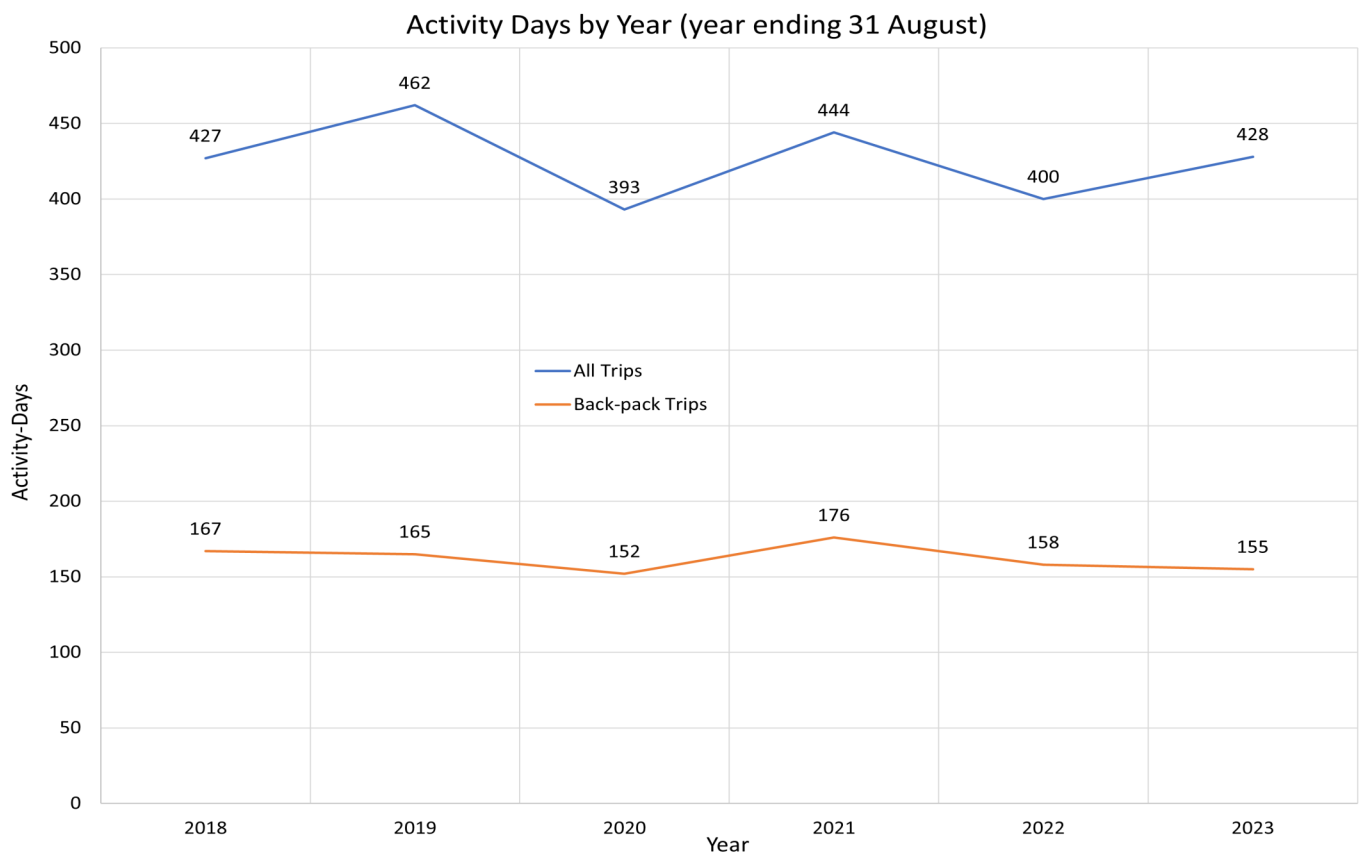
Backpacking trips are defined here as trips where you carry all your equipment and food for the duration of the trip. So it is not limited just to walking trips, but includes canoeing, bikepacking, skiing, etc.



The general trend for backpacking continues as a slow decline in the number of events as well as the number of participants. This is due, in part, to a reduction in the number of trips offered, but also because more than 50% of backpacking trips are over-subscribed. Most backpacking leaders do not like large trips because of safety and logistics issues. Clearly, more backpacking leaders are required.

Activity-Days

When you look at Activity-Days, the trends are similar. There is a bit more variation, partly because of overseas trips, which have a significant effect on activity-days because these trips are typically two weeks or more and one trip is a significant proportion of the total annual number of Activity-Days.



Walk Leader Appreciation – New Leaders

We have 89 people that have been approved as leaders. Of those, 59 led activities for the Club this year. During the year 6 members led their first activity.

Andrea Coombas
Dick Morton

Luisa Dal Molin
Noelia Pinto

Sandra Teffer
Stephen Joske

In particular, I would like to mention Dick Morton and Noelia Pinto who each led multiple walks after becoming a leader. Dick has led eight day-walks since then and Noelia led the 2022 Worn Boot Bash, which was only her second walk as leader, and has since gone on to lead another four walks including one over-night walk.

Walk Leader Appreciation – Active Leaders

Leaders who have led 5 days or more of activities are shown in the following list. Meg McKone led a quite remarkable 46 days over 6 trips. John Evans was only a couple of days behind at 44 days, but with 43 trips. Linda Groom, Monika Binder, David Briese and Jeff Bennetts each led more than 20 days this year.

Leader's Name (activity count/activity-day count)

Meg McKone (6/46)	Peter Conroy (9/13)	Terrylea Reynolds (4/7)
John Evans (43/44)	John Danaro (8/12)	Ana Vrancic (6/6)
Linda Groom (22/28)	Rob Horsfield (11/11)	Jennifer Arnold (6/6)
Monika Binder (5/24)	Jenny Horsfield (4/11)	Marlene Eggert (6/6)
David Briese (3/22)	Keith Thomas (2/10)	Phillip Starr (6/6)
Jeff Bennetts (13/20)	Ian Wright (9/9)	David Poland (2/6)
Andrew Struik (17/17)	Garry Boxsell (5/9)	Gerald Dodgson (5/5)
Ian Turland (2/17)	Dick Morton (8/8)	Quentin Moran (5/5)
Janet Duncan (5/14)	Salih Ozgul (8/8)	Noelia Pinto (4/5)

This list is ordered by activity-day count.

Although I have highlighted a few leaders that have provided exceptional service to the Club, all leaders are recognised for their contribution. Without this the Club would not exist.

Greg Buckley Award 2022-23

The Greg Buckley Award is presented each year in memory of Greg, a Club member who sadly perished on a trip in Nepal in 1990. It is awarded for not only outstanding contribution to the Club's walking program, but also for contribution to the Club as a whole.

This year's awardee joined CBC in 2017 and has participated in over 120 activities. She is an emerging walk leader, having led her first walk in July this year. She has been a Committee member since 2020 and is standing for re-election in 2023-24.

She is an extraordinary agent for change, being part of the team driving the introduction and enhancement of Bilby, particularly the membership management features, and as a Bilby coach.

Congratulations to Andrea Coombas, the 2023 CBC Greg Buckley awardee.

Other Notable Events

John Evans is to be congratulated for his innovative approach to get us out and about by managing the 'Are You Up For It' challenge, which saw 186 members and guests take up this personal challenge and top hills for great views. You can find the results on the CBC website under [What's on? > Archived Special Events](#).

Keith Thomas—Acting Walks Secretary

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 Walks Secretaries until the AGM when a new Walks Secretary 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, John Evans, the leader of the greatest number of trips. 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. Meg McKone, the leader of the greatest number of trip days, also stands out.

We certainly had a great variety of walks in the last 12 months. We had walks in the Canberra Nature Park, Namadgi NP, the Budawangs (Morton NP), Kosciusko NP and even the South Coast - to name just 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 and 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 me 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 Club. 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. We have a good deal financially and good maintenance support, but the bottom line is that we don't own Bilby. I have not been involved in communications with the owner but, as I understand it, we can make suggestions for change although it's the owner's decision as to whether to implement them subject to them fitting 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. Open the 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 to 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 Jenny's navigation courses and want to put that into practice, please consider leading a Wednesday walk. Contact John Danaro at wednesday.walks@canberrabushwalkingclub.org.

Cheers and happy walking

Quentin (has left the building)



A day walk led by Jenny Arnold in the Pinnacle Nature Reserve behind Hawker and Weetangera

Photo by Meg McKone

A large proportion of this edition of the Quarterly *it* Magazine is necessarily taken up with the Annual Reports from the AGM last September. Briefly, it shows that our finances are healthy, our membership has remained steady, the Club is continuing to offer a variety of bushwalks, and steps are being taken to increase our leadership team and upgrade their skills. However, there is a need for more backpacking trips, so if you're a competent overnight walker who has never led a trip, why not give it a go?

We also have some walks reports. While, alas, I'm no longer up to trips such as the Worn Boot Bash, I was one of the 16 or so members fortunate enough to attend Terrylea's five week trip in the UK and Europe, encompassing a wide variety of landscapes and cultures in England, the High Tatras and the Greek Islands. You can read about Hadrian's Wall and the Polish Tatras in this edition of the Magazine, and articles have been promised for the Slovakian Tatras and the Islands of Naxos and Amorgos in the future.

In the midst of environmental degradation all over the world, we've recently had good news for the future of two of our local National Parks. At long last, after decades of effort by the conservation movement, it seems that aerial culling will be allowed to make a dent in the exponential increase of feral horses in Kosciuszko NP. And The NSW Government has ruled out increasing the height of Warragamba Dam, thus saving damaging inroads of the stored water into the Blue Mountains World Heritage area.

Bruce Barnett's presentation of his trip to the Bungle Bungles (Purnululu) reminded me of what I've always loved most about bushwalking—exploring remote places with the chance of finding something truly spectacular. We need to keep our wild places intact and healthy, and respect the First Nations people who cared for them over millenia.



Green Wattle Creek, in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, would have been one of the many valleys periodically flooded by raising Warragamba Dam. *Photo by Meg McKone*

Meet your new Walk Leaders:



Stephen Marchant joined CBC in 2010 and has participated in nearly 100 Club trips since 2017. In addition, he has walked in Nepal and Mongolia, and on many solo walks (accompanied by his inReach device). He particularly enjoys the Main Range. Stephen's first-led trip was on 21-23 October to the Gungarlin trig plateau in northern KNP.

Laeli Hogan joined CBC in 2021 and has participated in nearly 40 Club activities. She has a strong preference for multi-day walks, "I love nothing more than to load up my pack and disappear into the wild places for days on end". The Budawangans are a favourite destination. She has also completed the Great Ocean Walk, the five day Carnarvon Gorge Great Walk, a 100km section of the AAWT, ascended the iconic Hannells Spur and walked west-east over Mt Bartle Frere. She completed CBC navigation training days in 2022 and participates in Rogaine competitions to practice those skills. Laeli's first-led walk was on Sunday 15 October in wildflower-packed country east of Murrumbateman.



Di McDean joined the Club in May 2023 and is already paying something back! "I enjoy bushwalking but not too hard core. I love multi-day walks with my better half, the most recent one being the new Murramarang South Coast Walk in June this year. My retirement dream is to 'walk the world' but that is a few years off so we are doing what we can in the meantime. My best memory of walking with my family is the ten peaks in Kosciusko with my then 12 and 13 year olds reaching the 10th peak on Xmas day 2007. The family challenge is getting our 5 year old granddaughter to love hiking as much as we do." Di's first-led walk will be scheduled very soon.



Jenny Arnold: “I have been a CBC Member since 2007, with varying levels of participation over the years. The Club has been a wonderful avenue to meet some amazing people, form friendships and explore wonderful places within and around Canberra. My partner and I have both been members for a quite a long time, so we thought it was about time to give something back to the Club. Also, a little bit of prompting and encouragement from others, led to becoming a leader for the Club. I really enjoy exploring the local nature reserves - combining off trail in open woodlands, smaller tracks and some fire trail for easy walking. I think

the best thing about walk leading is being able to share hidden gems on our doorstep and see the joy that nature brings everyone.

The hardest thing, is that personally, I am a reserved and a fairly quiet person, so when being a leader I need to be more extroverted which is challenging. All of the leaders within the Club have been very supportive. ,It has been invaluable to have chats with other leaders about their experiences, and how they may have dealt with different situations or seek advice. Also, on many occasions I have had questions about Bilby and from the 'coaches' got fantastic help very quickly. Now I find Bilby very easy to use.”

Daylight Savings Thursday Evening Walks:

There’s an evening walk, usually starting at 6.30pm, every Thursday from November to the end of February. Perfect to unwind after work or walk off holiday cheer. Some are no bookings required—check out the details in [Bilby](#) and rock up. Thanks to Jeff Bennetts for coordinating and to the leaders for putting them on. Just bring a torch and a happy face.

Heaps of Trips for you to Enjoy!

The weather and increased daylight hours have brought out a good number of walks to choose from. Visit the [Activity list in Bilby](#) and book on! More trips mean more choice and smaller, more manageable party sizes.

Many thanks to Jenny Arnold, John Danaro, Marlene Eggert, Linda Groom, Jenny Horsfield, Rob Horsfield, Sal Ozgul, Ter-rylea Reynolds, Phillip Starr, Ian Wright, John Evans for leading trips in September and Jenny Arnold, Peter Conroy, Luisa Dal Molin, John Danaro, Allan Donnelly, Marlene Eggert, Linda Groom, Laeli Hogan, Rob Horsfield, Stephen Marchant, Dick Morton, Lauren Ogden, Sal Ozgul, Noelia Pinto, Terrylea Reynolds, Phillip Starr, Keith Thomas, Ana Vrancic, Ian Wright, John Evans for leading trips in October.

Walk Leader Navigation and Leadership Training:

Huge thanks to a pair of our Club's living legends, Rob and Jenny Horsfield, for running the annual Navigation Refresher course every year since 2003. Attendances varied from 12 on the first night covering map and compass basics to five navigators completing the tough weekend exercise near Sentry Box Mountain.

Five members attended a day trip which focussed on meshing CBC and Bilby procedures with trip leadership and 16 members attended a BushwalkingNSW leadership session and subsequent web based training course (*see below*).

Our activity leaders are volunteers and are seeking to equip themselves in the best possible way to provide safe and interesting trips for us to enjoy.

Bushwalking NSW Leadership Training — available to ALL CBC Members:

Our peak organisation, Bushwalking NSW, has produced an online, self-paced, individual registration Leadership course. It is available to **ALL** CBC members **NOW** by registering for the Bilby activity [here](#). Only 2-3 hours of your time. You'll be surprised by the issues covered. They may well have application in other areas of life. (It's currently scheduled in Bilby on 30 November, just because a date had to be chosen to keep it in the list of current activities, but it's an online course available to ALL, NOW.)

Book on the activity and you'll receive an email to enable you to register and complete this no cost course.

It's a fun and breezy course of seven modules. There are text bits to read, short videos to watch, and scenario questions to (privately) answer. We are encouraged to do the course in short bites and think about issues posed in between. Seventeen members are currently doing the course.

Tidbinbilla Skyline Track:

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve Rangers have engaged with our Club (and others) as stakeholders, to forecast the establishment of a Grade 5 track from Fishing Gap in the south to meet the already established track to Tidbinbilla Peak in the north. Exit routes from Snowy Corner down to the Lyrebird Track, and from just south of Tidbinbilla Peak down to join the Camelback Fire Trail, will be included. The route to the Pimple is also included. Work should be completed by mid 2025.

Rangers ask that any tapes or other markers in these areas be left where they are.

The track will provide access for fire protection and response, minimise environmental impacts from currently cleared informal tracks, and reduce search and rescue incidents. And, of course, provide walking opportunities with enormous views from the crest of the Tidbinbilla Range. Many groups and individuals, as well as bushwalking clubs, enjoy walking in this area.



Hi everyone! I thought I'd take the opportunity to briefly introduce myself to you and what I hope to achieve.

Honesty disclosure: I've never had a role like this in all my life, so it will be a bit a learning journey for me! Prior to retiring in early 2020, the only bushwalking I'd done were the standard ones up in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney!

When the pandemic hit and my gym closed, I started walking around my local area (Turner) for exercise and one thing led to another, so here I am in the CBC!

In between, I developed a love for the local bush and for conservation. I am currently a Visitor Host at Wildbark, Mulligans Flat.

I am looking forward to receiving members' input of what you think I should be involved in.

Don't hesitate to contact me on conservation@canberrabushwalkingclub.org.

Michael

Track upgrades in Kosciuszko National Park:

We are pleased to advise the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is progressing with upgrades at the spectacular Mount Kosciuszko Summit walk in Kosciuszko National Park, to repair flood damage, make the track more resilient to future weather events and improve accessibility to the popular Mount Kosciuszko summit.

To enable the completion of the works, visitors are advised to expect delays and diversions on the walk and at the Mount Kosciuszko summit until mid-April 2024. The upgrades will be delivered in stages outside peak visitation times.

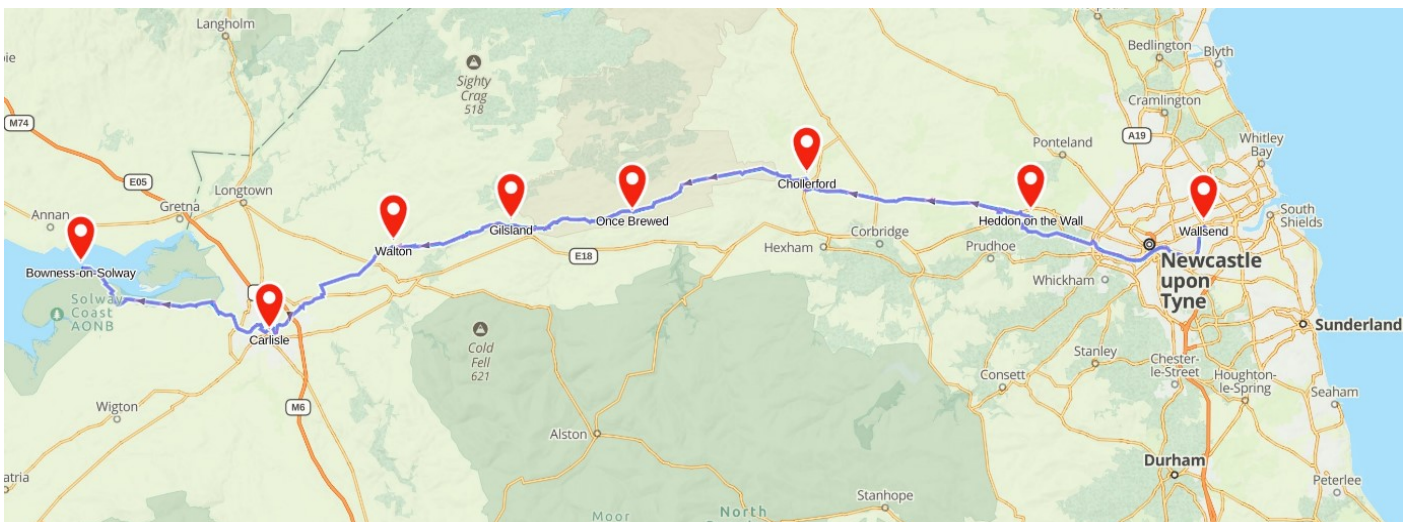
NPWS Alpine Queanbeyan

In September/October, 2023, Terrylea Reynolds led a party of approximately 16 Club members (people came and went during the different stages of the trip) to four separate countries in Europe lasting five weeks—England, Poland, Slovakia and two Greek Islands. Here Robert Walters describes our eight day trek across England, following the route of Hadrian's Wall.

Our party of 16 met up over dinner on 6 September at the County Hotel in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Next morning we started our walk, which totalled 8 days with a rest day after day 3. Our accommodation was all sorted out for us by our tour operator, The Natural Adventure Company. We stayed in hotels on a bed and breakfast basis. Some of our hotels offered dinner at an additional cost but generally we all met up at one accommodation or another or ate out somewhere near to where we were staying. We only needed to carry day packs as our luggage was transported from hotel to hotel by the tour operator. Terrylea, our walk leader, did all the organising for us, including lining up the tour operator.

Hadrian's Wall was a Roman defensive fortification extending across northern England from Wallsend in the east (a few kilometres east of Newcastle-upon-Tyne) to Bowness-on-Solway in the west. It was built by the Roman army on the orders of Emperor Hadrian following his visit to Britain in AD 122 and it took six years to complete most of the wall. Small forts (milecastles) were incorporated approximately every Roman mile (around 1.5km).

The Hadrian's Wall Path generally runs very close to the wall. It is 135 km in length and was opened in 2003. The middle sections of our walk were the most interesting, being in the countryside and having the best Roman Wall remains.



The Hadrian's Wall Path from Wallsend to Bowness on Solway

Day 1: Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Newburn 14 km

We began our walk from Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The Path took us along the River Tyne most of the way to our destination, the Keelman Lodge in Newburn. (Accommodation availability meant we were not able to stay at Heddon-on-the-Wall, 5 km further on.)

After arriving at Newburn, a number of us did a 5km round-trip walk to the small town of Throckley (to the north of Newburn).

Day 2: Newburn to Chollerford 33 km

This was our longest day's walk. Heddon-on-the Wall was an interesting stopover. It has the longest stretch of the original wall. The trail onto Chollerford follows the original path of the Wall, alongside Military Road. We all stayed at The George Hotel by the River North Tyne.



About to set off from the Keelman Lodge



The Roman Wall at Heddon on the Wall



A bridge over the North Tyne

Day 3: Chollerford to Once Brewed 22 km

After around 2km out of Chollerford, we entered Northumberland National Park, which has the best-preserved stretches of Hadrian's Wall and a number of historical sites. We passed Black Carts Turret (a small tower, including a well-preserved stretch of the Wall), the Temple of Mithras (a temple to the god Mithras) and Sewingshields (one of the milecastles on Hadrian's Wall).

The highlight was Knag Burn Gate and the nearby Housesteads Roman Fort – the best-preserved fort on Hadrian's Wall, built around AD 124. Within the fort are the remains of all the main buildings found in an auxiliary fort. Apart from the headquarters, the commanding officer's house, granaries, a hospital and barrack blocks, the fort had a bathhouse and one of the best-preserved stone latrines in Roman Britain.

We stopped for the night at the village of Once Brewed, with some of us staying in the Twice Brewed Inn and others at Vallum Lodge. We all had dinner at Twice Brewed.



The latrine, Housesteads Roman fort



Milecastle 39 (Castle Nick) and Crag Lough



Milecastle 42 (Cawfields)

Day 4: Rest day at Once Brewed

We had a bit of rain this day but that didn't stop some of us going to the Roman Vindolanda Fort and Museum. The Museum is perhaps best known for the Vindolanda Tablets, the oldest surviving handwritten documents in Britain – delicate, wafer thin slivers of wood covered in spidery ink writing.



The extensive ruins of the Vindolanda Fort and Town

Photo by Meg McKone

Day 5: Once Brewed to Gilsland 18 km

After walking back to where we left the Path at the end of Day 3, near the Steel Rigg Car park, we climbed to the trig point on the top of Winshield Crag, the highest point on Hadrian's Wall (345m). We stopped off at Cawfields Milecastle and then past the ruins of Thirlwall Castle – built in the 12th century, and later strengthened using stones from nearby Hadrian's Wall – before crossing the Cumbria/Northumberland border and into Gilsland.



Thirlwall Castle



Climbing up to Winshield Crag
Photo by Meg McKone

Day 6: Gilsland to Walton 20 km

The day's walk wasn't so interesting, with not so many remains of the Wall but we passed through some lovely countryside and could see the mountains in the Lake District to the south-west of us. From Walton, we walked on to our accommodation in Brampton, 5km to the south.



Countryside near Birdswald Roman Fort



Moot Hall in Brampton



Day 7: Walton to Carlisle 18 km

We followed the River Eden along part of the Path through to Carlisle. The highlight in Carlisle was Carlisle Castle. The city was originally surrounded by the Wall, but now only the castle remains. We all met up for dinner at a popular Greek restaurant near to our lodgings.

Carlisle Castle



Day 8: Carlisle to Bowness-on-Solway 25 km

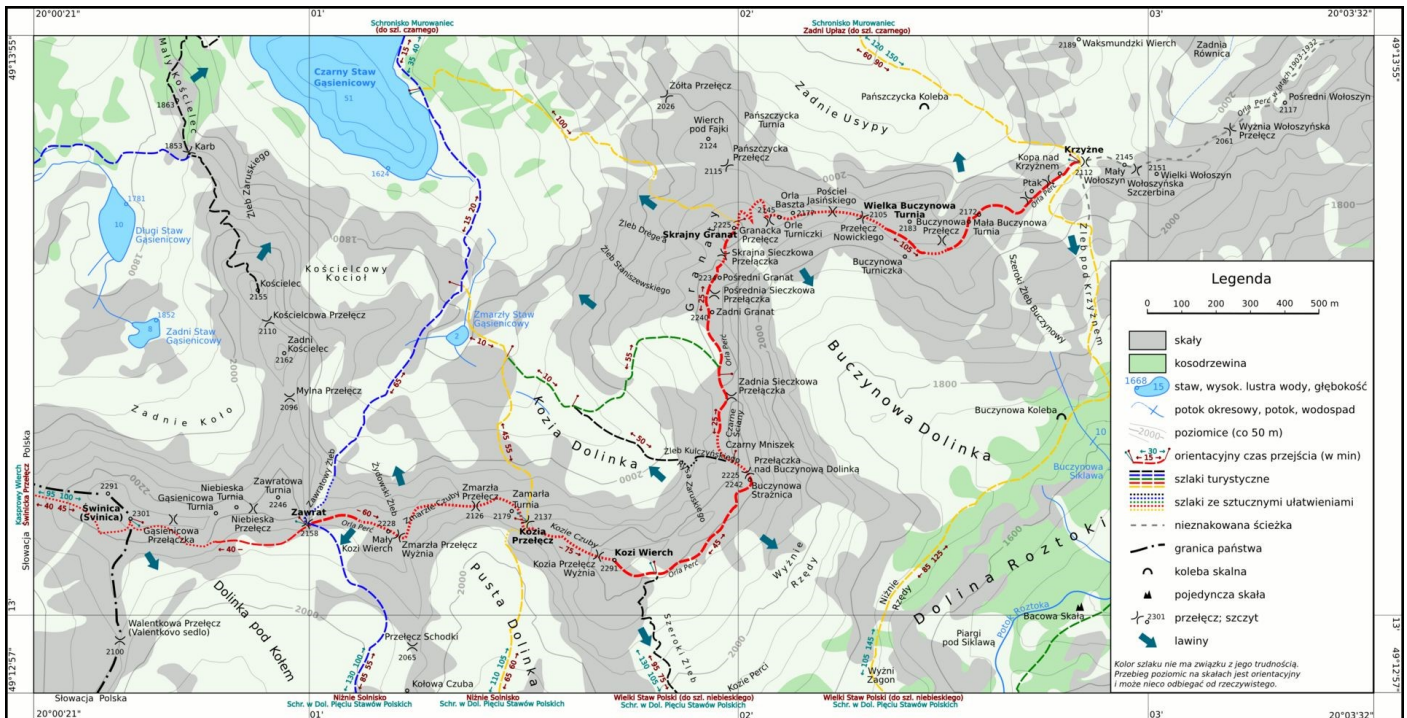
The Path follows the River Eden out of the city towards the Solway Firth, the estuary of the River Eden and the River Esk. We continued alongside the estuary and finally reached Bowness-on-Solway and the official start/end of Hadrian's Path! We had a celebratory dinner at The Inn at the Bush in nearby Kirkbride, where some of us were staying.

The River Esk, with Scotland on the other side



At the official end of the Hadrian's Wall Path

All photos by Robert Walters unless otherwise stated



The Orla Perc (or the Eagle's Path) is a walking path in the Polish Tatras with a high degree of exposure (see attached map). It is considered one of the most difficult and dangerous of the paths in the Tatras (an equivalent to a highly exposed rock scramble). It is located in the centre of the High Tatras and has a total length of around 4.5km. The highest point is Kozia Wierch at 2291m. Since it was fully established in 1911, at least 100 people have lost their lives on the route. It's not technically a via Ferrata but it has cables and chains which you can clip onto with a lanyard/harness for safety.

When I nominated to join Terrylea's CBC group in Poland I thought it would be good to do the Orla Perc with a mountaineering guide. I found out about the Orla Perc during a trip I had done in the Tatras in 2017. So I booked a guide well before we were to arrive in Zakopane. I had nominated two days during the week in which to do it — if we had one day of bad weather, at least we had another day up our sleeve. I asked the group if there was any interest. In the end it was just Noelia and me who signed up.

Our guide Pavel contacted me a few days before we were to arrive in Zakopane for details about what we wanted to do, our fitness and what day would be best weather-wise. On the nominated day Noelia and I got up early and were picked up by Pavel in his car. Pavel provided all the safety gear that we needed for the day including a helmet, harness and lanyard (for clipping onto fixed cables). We set off on foot around 6:30am from Kuznice for Schronisko Murowaniec, arriving at the crowded Schronisko just in time for an early morning tea and loo stop.

As we left the Schronisko, Pavel was still gauging which way we would go. There was a very strong warm wind coming from the south, which concerned me as it was bound to be even stronger higher up the range. It concerned Pavel more as these types of winds have a tendency to gust abruptly. Given his local knowledge and experience, Pavel opted for going up to the Granity side and doing a section of the Orla Perc from there. The other option, from Zawrat to Swinca was ruled out due to Pavel's concerns about the gusts on the vertical sections. The other more popular option of Zawrat to Kozia Przelecz was not possible as it was closed due to track maintenance.



As we approached the Granity, the stepped yellow path gradually got steeper and more exposed. The views all around were fantastic. When we reached the first lot of chains, Pavel placed Noelia on belay with the rope he carried so that she could feel secure. I was able to continue up without protection. Having done rock climbing and abseiling in the past I was OK with the exposure. Eventually we hit the red path at Scrazny Granat. We made our way cautiously along the exposed ridge, clambering around and over boulders and using the chains. Finally, we sat on Zadny Granat for a snack and to take in the view. There were people around, but not many. I had a good look at the full Orla Perc ridgeline and considered that it'd be good to do the full route one day. After a while, we all agreed to head down the green route rather than the more difficult black path ahead.



It was a spectacular trip and Noelia and I both felt completely safe under the supervision of Pavel. Next time I'd be confident to do the rest of the Orla Perc with my parter Bruce using Via Ferrata gear and a light weight rope. However, I would stay at Murowaniec for a few days to take advantage of the shorter walk in from there.

All photos by Monika Binder



On the descent from Lucna Grez, 1653 metres *Photo by Meg McKone*

On 16th October, fifteen Canberra Bushwalking Club members arrived in Zakopane as our base for a week's walking in the Polish Tatras. It was the second sector of an extended overseas trip organised by the Club.

The Tatras are part of The Carpathian Mountain Range and The High Tatras (up to 2,655 metres) which were our objective, are 78 km in length with an average width of about 10 km. The area is home to the European Brown Bear which we did not see.

Walks were organised to suit the interests and abilities of the group by our walks and trip co-ordinator Terrylea Reynolds. Various modes of transport were able to be used such as private taxis, local buses, gondolas and even horse drawn carriages to get to our various starting points. We walked through breathtaking scenery including stunning beechwood and pine tree forests. All trails were easily accessible.

The group only experienced one rainy day, which we used to relax and explore Zakopane, the winter tourist capital of Poland. Our days otherwise were sunny and warm with an average temperature of 15 degrees making for enjoyable walking conditions.

Two walks that were especially enjoyed by the group were Giewont and The Valley of the Five Lakes Circuit.

Giewont was an incredible day involving over 950 metres ascent with chains to assist the climb to the top after traversing scree and some rock scrambling. This route passes by the convent of Klasztor Albertynek.

Nuns from here and monks from the nearby Monastery of Klasztor Alberty now follow this route to pay their respects at Giewont's summit cross. As we saw, they are very fit and fast! A full and albeit tiring day enjoyed by all.

As the name suggests, The Valley of the Five Lakes took us past some spectacular glacial lakes. A climb of over 700 metres was required to reach the lakes, followed by a scrambly descent over wet rocks in windy conditions. It was another fabulous day.

Other walks included a half day walk in the Dolina Koscielska and a full day of walk of 21kms from Siwa Polana to Grzes with an ascent of 750 metres to reach the border of Poland and Slovakia. We also walked Sarnia Skala which was a wonderful walk over a rocky ridge of dolomite limestone to reach a summit with panoramic views of Zakopane.

Our walks were made even more enjoyable by frequent stops at the Schronisko; conveniently located mountain refuges and accommodation huts that served refreshing beverages and wonderful apple pie.

The group thoroughly enjoyed exploring this area which most of us had not hiked in before.

After completing this part of our journey we were very excited to see what the Slovakian side of the Tatras had in store for us.

Our sincere thanks to Terrylea for planning, organising, coordinating and leading the walks.



Clockwise from left: Climbing towards Giewont Terrylea Reynolds; At the summit Judy Zhu; Crowds at the summit of Giewont, overlooking Zakopane Meg McKone



The path up the valley to Giewont *Photo by Meg McKone*



Chris Roper on the final chained climb up Giewont
Photo by Noelia Pinto



Noelia, Monika and Judy on the track from Giewont to Kopa Kondracka, one foot each in Poland and the other in Slovakia
Noelia's phone



The Valley of the Five Lakes

Photo by Meg McKone

Clockwise from left: Monika Binder on the rocky path up to Rakon *Noelia Pinto;*

Some of us saved ourselves a five kilometre road bash after descending from Lucna Grez by taking a pony cart back to the bus *Meg McKone;*

Jacqui and Meg off to dinner in Zaczopane after a hard day's walking *Noelia Pinto.*



The CBC annual WBB was recently held on Saturday 28 October 2023.

We started off with a brisk walk up Stockyard Spur, followed by an active recovery walk along the Mt Franklin firetrail. We then climbed Mt Ginini, and commenced our descent via Harry's Spur, before going off-track. Eventually we found ourselves at Little Ginini Mountain, where we had a bite to eat and searched for a border marker. Found it! Then we descended from Little Ginini Mountain, and came out at Pryor's Hut. The next stage was to walk across to the track that would take us up to Mt Gingera. After admiring the view, we decided to head off track again rather going down the conventional track, and eventually stumbled down on to the Mt Franklin firetrail, much to the surprise of two other random walkers who happened to be walking past at the time. We then made our way back down to Corin Dam.

We had perfect walking weather, which was just as well, as we were out there for over 11 hours. 30.21kms and ascent of 1,433m per Gaia.



Mount Ginini *Photo by Noelia Pinto*



Top of Harrys Spur *Garry Boxsell*



The border marker we sought
Noelia Pinto



On our way to Little Ginini Mountain
|Noelia Pinto



Garry and THE famous Mt Gingera tree. Proof that we were there! *Photo by Noelia Pinto*



Noelia and Joe enjoying a well-earned (alcohol-free) beverage and (fat-free) chippies at the end of the WBB
(photo by Garry Boxsell)



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.

Joe Carmona
CBC Facebook Admin

Equipment Hire:

Please note that **\$20 deposit** is required for all items. *First overnight loan of gear gets a free loan.*

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

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

Contact Rob on 6231 4535 or robhorsfield@bigpond.com



When it's cold, wet and misty, you need good gear. *Photo by Meg McKone*