



John Evans <jevansact@gmail.com>

February 2024 Leaders Letter

1 message

CBC Walks Sec <walksec@canberrabushwalkingclub.org>
Reply-To: CBC Walks Sec <walksec@canberrabushwalkingclub.org>
To: jevansact@gmail.com

7 February 2024 at 07:35

[View this email in your browser](#)

[Check out all our Activities here](#)





View from Half Moon Peak | photo Jan Gatenby

FEBRUARY 2024 LEADERS LETTER

Yuma CBC Activity Leader

The **activity program** is strong, thanks to you walk leaders.



During January, activities were led by Jenny Arnold, Jeff Bennetts, Monika Binder, Garry Boxsell, Peter Conroy, Andrea Coomblas, John Danaro, Gerald Dodgson, Marlene Eggert, Linda Groom, Laeli Hogan, Rob Horsfield, Richard Hurley, Craig Lilley, Andrew Meers, Dick Morton, Sal Ozgul, Noelia Pinto, David Poland, Andrew Struik, Diana Terry, Lorraine Tomlins, Ana Vrancic, John Evans.

On the weekend 27-28 January, there were 8 activities to choose from.

There is a virtually insatiable appetite for all sorts of trips and some book out very quickly. With 84 leaders on our books, there's plenty of **opportunity for inactive leaders** to pop their boots back on.

Photos from some trips are published on the [CBC Facebook page](#). Check them out and be inspired!

A number of **emerging leaders** are in the pipeline. If you walk with someone who expresses interest, encourage them to contact the Walks Secretary. There is a simple process and they will

be supported by training, work with a co-leader/mentor, and provided with help on trip planning and ideas on places to go.

Not getting you **Bilby activities published in a timely manner?** Give the Walks Sec a hurry up by posting a note in the Administration tab of your activity. Don't forget to tag him with @John-Evans, selected from the @ Mention drop down.

The **2024 Training Plan** is off to a great start!

Snakes slithered between legs, canyons were abseiled and swum, and smart phones used for navigation.

River crossing training was conducted in early February, along with a meeting of participants who are doing the Bushwalking NSW online course.

The upcoming Birding activities are well and truly booked out. The Bushwalking NSW Leadership Training - 'Enriching the Team Spirit and Nature Connection of Leaders and Participants within Canberra Bushwalking Club' continues to attract participants. To date, 60 members have completed/are doing it. A Practical Map and Compass exercise is running multiple times in Callum Brae Nature Reserve, for groups of 4 participants.

Thank you to the experienced volunteer leaders who are facilitating these activities.

Leader Profile: Monika Binder, along with co-leaders, put on the Canyoning activity in January. Newer members may not know this 'tiger' leader, so here's the intel.



A CBC trip in May last year, in Morton National Park, led by Monika

How long have you been leading walks?

I started organising easy private bush walks and cycle trips in the Canberra region with a bunch of people I knew from the ACT branch of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society just after I moved to Canberra in 1983 for work. I was around 21 at the time.

How long have you been a CBC member?

I can't remember but it was probably sometime soon after I arrived in Canberra. I had first joined the National Parks Association of the ACT as I was very interested in national park issues at the time, especially the creation of Namadgi National Park. I became curious about the CBC after I met a bunch of grey-haired semi-naked bushwalkers in Ettrema on a hot summers day who said they were from the Club. I joined after that encounter.

What decided you to start leading walks?

I wanted to revisit areas that I was taken to by other people, and explore new areas, particularly in the Canberra region.

Where do you like to walk and how many trips have you led?

I like bushwalking in the Canberra region but I also like the Kosciuszko National Park and Victorian Alps for walking and backcountry skiing; and the Wollemi, Blue Mountains and Kanangra National Parks for walking and canyoning. I also like to walk in other parts of Australia too particularly WA, the NT and Tasmania.

I can't remember how many trips I've led - privately or with CBC or other clubs.

What's the best thing about walk leading?

The best thing is purely selfish - as a leader I get to meet similarly minded people I wouldn't otherwise have met; and I get to choose where to go, when and where to stop for a snack, or whatever. At a more altruistic level I enjoy supporting other members in the Club, especially women, to gain confidence in aspects of leading walks themselves and even testing and pushing past their limits.

What's the hardest thing?

By far and away group management especially when I have no prior experience walking with individuals and there's a diversity in their physical capabilities.

How are you supported by the club in walk leading?

The CBC booking platform Bilby is a great tool for leaders, the smart phone navigation sessions by Peter Conroy have been useful, and the website has various handy resources for leaders.

What could CBC do better in supporting you and other walk leaders?

The Club could put on an activity specifically for leaders where we can catch up face to face and learn from each other. This could be done through a day walk or a picnic.

Somewhat controversially, I think the Club could better support leaders with regard to including/managing neuro-diverse people (eg people with ADHD or autism) on their trips. Having people with atypical behaviours (eg OCD, lack of social awareness, difficulties with time awareness) adds to a leader's load on a trip and can tip them towards not including them on their trips.

How easy or difficult do you find using Bilby?

I've had plenty of support from CBC in addressing issues I've had with it. It's a great tool!

It's great to see **inter-club co-operation**. Of course, the joint club Wednesday Walks have been conducted for many years, but there is an increasing number of CBC activities advertised to

Brindabella Bushwalking Club and National Parks Association of the ACT members, and vice versa.

Closure of large sections of Kosciuszko National Park. [Guidelines for Leaders](#) includes reminding leaders to check with land managers whether the intended area for a trip has any **usage restrictions**. Large sections of Kosciuszko National Park will be closed in March (Southern) and April to October (Northern), including the AAWT. See the details [here](#).

Tidbinbilla Skyline Track Progress

Tidbinbilla Skyline Track Progress

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve Rangers report that the project is progressing. “We are just moving into ecological surveys next week, and cultural surveys after that. No construction will begin until next financial year”, they say.

It is asked that flagging tape not be removed from the route.

“We’ve already had it removed once and had to go up there and re-flag it all prior to the surveys. It’s very important it stays there because it helps to ensure that the ecological and cultural surveyors can follow exactly the route we need them to.”

The taping is necessary for a while and explanatory signs have been put up.



Let's assist them by letting them get on with the job and not removing any tapes.

Please **contact me** if I can assist you in any way.

john evans

0417436877

CBC Walks Sec

walksec@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

jevansact@gmail.com

Copyright © Canberra Bushwalking Club 2024

Our mailing address is:

GPO Box 160, Canberra, ACT 2601

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

