

it

Quarterly Magazine
Canberra Bushwalking
Club



February 2024
Volume 60, Issue 1

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



Rock scrambling on Mount Lot
Lonely Tarns and Mount Sarah Jane behind

Photo by Ian Turland

CBC Committee 2022-23

President: Noelia Pinto

president@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Treasurer: Melinda Brouwer

treasurer@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Walks Secretary: John Evans

walksec@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Assistant Walks Secretary: Garry Boxsell

awalksec@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

General Secretary: Marlene Eggert

gensec@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Membership Secretary: Andrea Coombas

membsec@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Social Secretary: Ana Vrancic

socsec@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Editor: Meg McKone

editor@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Web Manager: Keith Thomas

webmanager@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Training and Safety Officer: Diana Terry

training@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Conservation Officer: Michael Clisby

conservation@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Publisher: Terrylea Reynolds

publisher@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

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 1 May 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

CONTENTS

CBC Committee 2022-23	2
Guidelines for Contributions	2
Contribution Guidelines	3
ACT Public Holidays; CBC Crossword	4
President's Point of View	5
Walks Waffle	7
Membership Secretary's Report	12
Editor's Effusions	13
Conservation Report	14
The Greek Island of Naxos	17
The Great South West (Test) Walk	21
Two bushwalks in Tasmania	27
The 4th Reclaim the Lagoon Weekend	35
Leadership Discussion Report	37
CBC Social Media	39
Equipment Hire	40
Bulletin Board	41

Contribution Guidelines

Continued from page [2](#)

Please follow these Detailed Guidelines when making a contribution

- The most acceptable text software is Word. Please *do not* use Publisher, or send via Google.
- Please ensure your articles have been thoroughly edited and spell-checked, and use only basic formatting (paragraphs and headings, if needed. No boxes.)
- 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 1 May 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.

ACT Public Holidays; CBC Crossword

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

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

King's Birthday: Monday 10 June 2024

Labour Day: Monday 7 October 2024

Christmas Day: Wednesday 25 December 2024

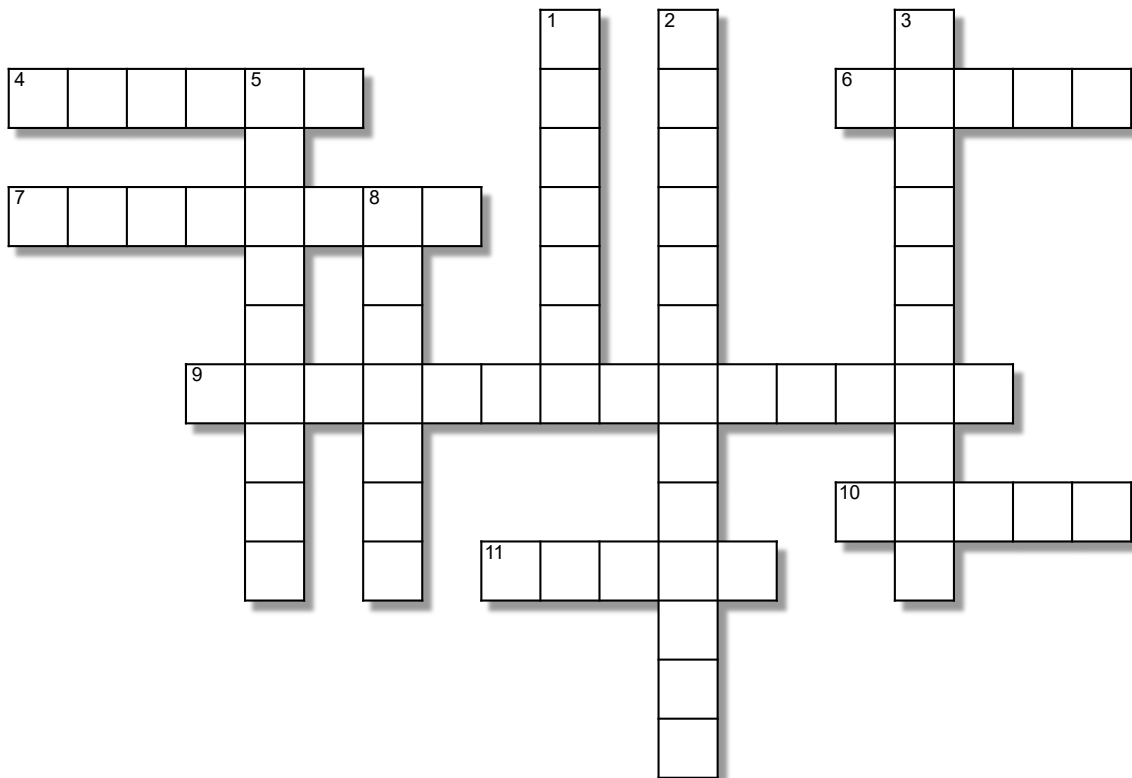
Boxing Day: Thursday 26 December 2024.

New Year's Day: Wednesday 1 January 2025

Australia Day: Monday 27 January 2025

CBC Crossword

Check your knowledge!



ACROSS

- 4 The longest river in Australia
- 6 Irish name for Patrick
- 7 Second highest mountain in Australia
- 9 Scientific name for cough bush (8, 6)
- 10 Type of pea used in hummus
- 11 Name of CBC's new software system

DOWN

- 1 Local aboriginal name for the mountains southwest of Canberra
- 2 Floral emblem of the ACT (5, 8)
- 3 The amount of weight in a hiker's backpack minus consumables like food, water and fuel (4, 6)
- 5 Country which is home to the most carnivorous plants in the world
- 8 Smallest frog in Australia

Answer on page 12

from Terrylea Reynolds

And just like that, not only is it 2024, but we are already in our second month into the year!

It was a strong start to the summer, with a great variety of walks organised. Unfortunately, the rain came, and there were a few cancellations, but hopefully it will be smooth sailing for the foreseeable future. Over the last couple of months, we have had:

- * Sub-24-hour overnight bushwalks;
- * Part-day walks
- * Full-day walks
- * Multi-day walks
- * Dawn walks
- * Evening walks
- * Wednesday walks
- * Lagoon walks
- * A Tasmanian walk
- * Kosciuszko walks
- * Family walks and swimming



Twin Falls below Corang Lagoon on 6 January 2024. *Photo by Noelia*

And then we have had other activities such as:

- * The ever-popular Christmas party
- * Smartphone navigation
- * Compass navigation
- * Leadership training
- * Sunset paddling and canoeing
- * Snake awareness training
- * Canyoning and Liloing
- * Our annual BBQ at Black Mountain Peninsula
- * River crossing training



CBC BBQ at Black Mountain Peninsula on 31 January 2024. *Photo by Noelia*

What a wonderful and extensive variety of walks and activities!

None of this would be possible, of course, without the hard work and generosity of members who give up their time to organise and lead walks for the Club, and without John Evans' tireless effort in co-ordinating it all. We have a great list of activities for the coming year, including our monthly Club meetings and monthly speakers. Be sure to check Bilby on an on-going basis, as we are constantly adding to the program.

Next time you attend an activity, be sure to make your appreciation towards your leader felt. Not only do our leaders have to work out where to plan their activity, they often do a 'reccie' if they have not been there for some time, they research the planned route, they compile the information to input into Bilby and then deal with the queries of prospective attendees. They avidly check weather forecasts, especially for high country walks or overnight walks, and of course they must manage their 'flock' during the course of the activity so that everyone returns safe and sound.

Additional volunteers that deserve special mention are those that help organise our social activities and communications, such as Ana Vrancic, Marlene Eggert, Keith Thomas, Joe Carmona, Terrylea Reynolds, and Meg McKone.

Other issues that Club members may be interested to know about include:

- * The Tidbinbilla Skyline Project - this has been progressing, moving into ecological surveys this month, followed by cultural surveys after that. Construction is expected to begin next financial year. Importantly, if you are walking in that area, please do NOT remove the pink flagging tape. This is needed to help guide contractors involved in the project.

- * Federal Inquiry into Red Imported Fire Ants in Australia - we have recently made a submission. According to the Invasive Species Council, a fire ant invasion would devastate our native wildlife and would restrict people's access to open space such as parks and reserves, as the ants are aggressive with a painful and dangerous sting. The Invasive Species Council says that early action to eradicate the problem is the most cost-effective solution. Thank you to those involved with the submission, especially Michael Clisby.

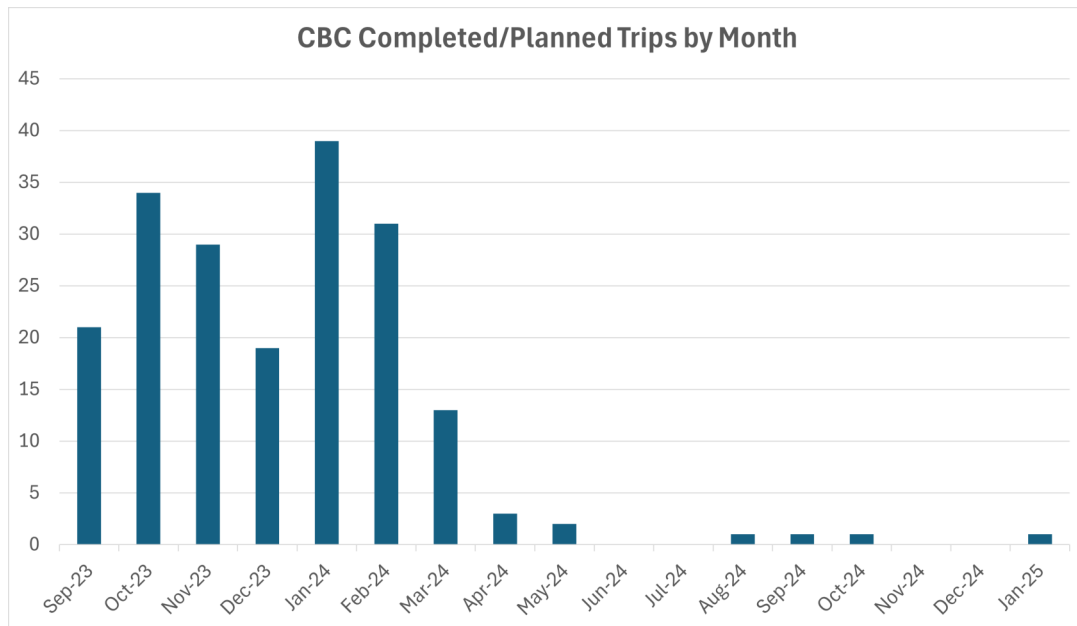
- * New Reserve Management Plan for Namadgi National Park - Dr Karen Ikin, Assistant Director at Parks Planning and Policy, is currently collaborating with the Namadgi rangers and internal working group to identify key natural, social and cultural values that will be the focus of the plan. Once those are drafted, they will start meeting with external experts and stakeholders to refine and confirm the values before beginning work on drafting the plan. The timeframe is likely to extend beyond the end of the year.

- * Mount Kosciuszko Summit Walk - work is continuing with planned closures between the Charlotte Pass turning circle and Rawson Pass in February to facilitate major trail repair works following numerous recent rainfall events.

- * And finally, large sections of the Kosciuszko National Park will be closed for up to seven months this year as the NSW Government ramps up its program of aerial shooting of wild horses and other feral animals. Be sure to check the affected areas before heading out in that direction.

Happy walking everyone! **Noelia**

I trust you are enjoying your walking, with a wide range of activities to choose from. The activity program is strong, thanks to your walk leaders.



During November, December and January, activities were led by Jenny Arnold, Jeff Bennetts, Monika Binder, Garry Boxsell, Mike Bremers, David Briese, Peter Conroy, Andrea Coomblas, Luisa Dal Molin, John Danaro, Gerald Dodgson, Allan Donnelly, Roger Edwards, Marlene Eggert, Linda Groom, Laeli Hogan, Jenny Horsfield, Rob Horsfield, Richard Hurley, John Kelly, Diana Kirby, Craig Lilley, Di McDean, Andrew Meers, Quentin Moran, Dick Morton, Sal Ozgul, Mark Peirce, Noelia Pinto, David Poland, Terrylea Reynolds, Andrew Struik, Sandra Teffer, Diana Terry, Lorraine Tomlins, Ian Turland, Ana Vrancic, John Evans.

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

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.



Joint CBC/CMW walk to Mount Kaputar NP in May 2023 *Photo by Meg McKone*

New leaders continue to emerge and Richard Hurley and Craig Lilley have led their first walks.



Richard Hurley joined CBC in 2017 and has completed over 130 activities.

“I’ve always been a keen walker, but it wasn’t until I joined the club that I realised how much fantastic bushwalking country there was right on my doorstep. I particularly enjoy the social side, spending time with like-minded people, and having the opportunity to explore areas that I probably wouldn’t visit on my own.

“Some of my best recent memories include visiting Mt Ginini in the snow, a multi day trip exploring the Genoa River, and walking Hadrian’s Wall under Terrylea’s able leadership.

“I’m looking forward to leading my first walk in early January—time to start giving back.”



Craig Lilley has been a CBC since December 2022 and has participated in nearly 30 Club activities. He gained his corroborree frog pin by completing the Club’s Navigation Course in 2023.

“I enjoy hikes around the local area in Namadgi and taking in the quiet views attempting to get some fitness. I recently completed a CBC three day hike to Gungarlin Trig and Kidmans Hut in the Jagungal Wilderness.”

Craig is always looking for new adventures and challenging himself and others to explore the great Aussie landscapes close by.

If you’d like to **become a walk leader**, contact the Walks Secretary. You will be supported by training, work with a co-leader/mentor, provided with help on trip planning and ideas on places to go.

Leaders receive a monthly **Leaders’ Letter** containing items of interest. If you’re an emerging leader, or a member who would just like to be informed, access them on the CBC website [here](#).

The **Fortnightly Email of Upcoming Activities** is widely accepted and leads to a flurry of bookings. Many activities book out quickly, so it’s worth having a look through [Bilby](#) regularly.

[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 four participants.

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 NP, led by Monika (3rd from left)

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 where 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!

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 caveats**. Large sections of Kosciuszko National Park will be closed in March (Southern) and April to October (Northern), including the AAWT. Further detail can be found [here](#). Map of Southern section [here](#) and Northern section [here](#).



Sunrise near Cascade Hut, an area badly damaged by feral horses *Photo by Meg McKone*

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 Secretary

Welcome to our new members who have joined since our last newsletter (12 November 2023):

Nicole McNaughton

Monica Hunter

Stephen Gee

Wahyu Sutiyono

Robert Griffin

Blair Teffer

Alice Summers

Rosanna Ricafort

Gordana Radulovic

Inga Doemland

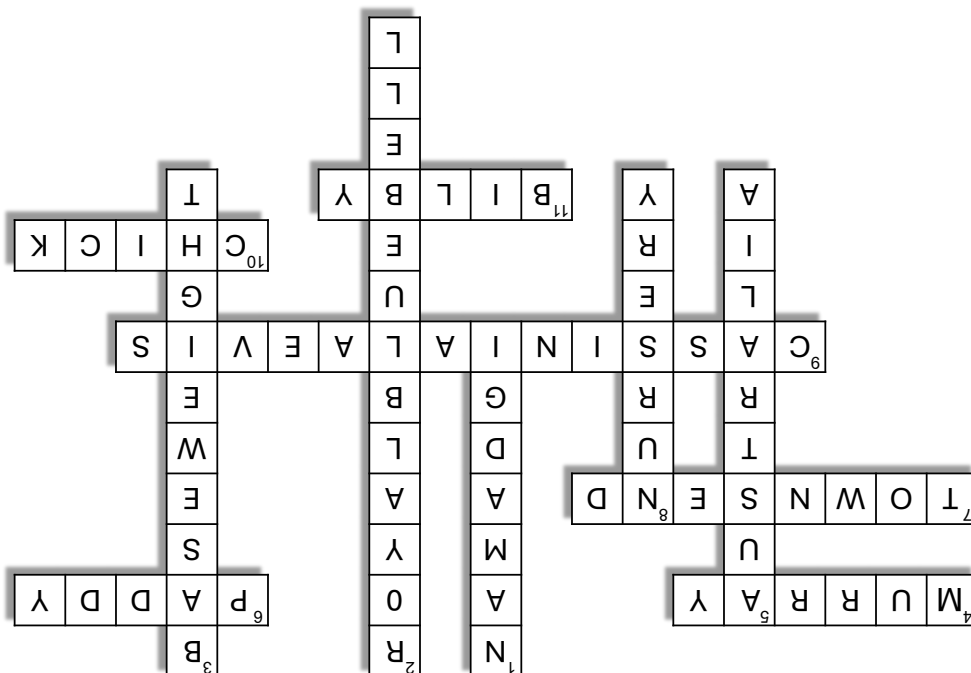
Anne-Marie Orloff

Iva Orloff

The number of members has shifted little over the past 12 months, currently hovering a little over 400, where it was at the same time last year.

CBC Crossword

Check your knowledge!



While reading an article in the Guardian about habituation, “our brain’s tendency to respond less and less to things that are constant, that don’t change”, I realised that my weekend walk to the Shoalhaven River from Long Point was a great example of how to use this concept for maximum bushwalking enjoyment. The 600 metre descent was hot and sweaty and, having put up our tents, it was such a relief to swim and have lunch, in whichever order we preferred. There was time for a snooze, after which we decided we’d better get off our backs and make the effort to walk up to the Bungonia River junction, which was enjoyable in its variety of riverine scenery and energetic route finding round small cliffs and through piles of flood debris. Our return to Barbers Creek for a long drink and cool soak was especially appreciated, followed by a leisurely dinner and interesting conversation until it was time for bed. Then, next day, the long, hot ascent back to the cars had us feeling well-exercised and really put us in the mood for a yummy lunch at Marulan’s Meridian Café, and the continuing conversation.

You’ll find plenty of variety too in the trips described in this edition of our *it* Magazine, ranging from the stunning Greek Island of Naxos, to coastal walking in all weathers in southern Victoria, to a walk to Corang Lagoon to raise awareness of its vulnerability, to some of Tasmania’s most rugged and beautiful bushwalking on the Mount Anne Circuit and Mount Gould and The Labyrinth. It would be hard to become bored with bushwalking with all this and more variety on offer!

And don’t forget the conservation aspect—so vital if our environment is to be cared for and we are to continue to have wild and beautiful places to explore.



Kerri-Ann and Meg in a field of *Leptospermum* blooms, December 2023, following David Poland’s pink tags around the private property at Corang Lagoon. *Photo by Lyn Finch with K-A’s camera.*

Respecting Indigenous rock art is everyone's responsibility.

All Indigenous places and objects have cultural value for Indigenous people as part of their history and heritage. This includes scarred trees, rock art sites, burials, grinding groves, stone quarries, ochre quarries, wooden artefacts and sacred landscapes.

As keen bushwalkers, we are highly likely to come across any of these during our walks.

If you find what you think is an Indigenous heritage object (or place), do not move it, do not do anything that will impact it, note if it is under threat (e.g. machinery vandalism), alert ACT Heritage by emailing heritage@act.gov.au. Under the Act, all Indigenous heritage discoveries must be reported within five working days.

Concerning any rock art that you may come across, I would ask that you do not use your photos on any social media (other than of very public sites such as Yankee Hat), nor are you to provide any co-ordinates/gps tracks on our website or Facebook page of the location of any of these sites.

If you think that it is an unknown site, please contact ACT Heritage at the email address above.

You will find further information by clicking [here](#).

Eastern Bettongs (*Bettongia gaimardi*)

Last August 2023, in Volume 59, Issue 3, Jenny Horsfield wrote an excellent and informative article on the background of the wildlife sanctuary at Mulligans Flat and Goorooyaroo. In it, she touched on the reintroduction of a locally extinct macropod called the Eastern Bettong.

Being a volunteer at Mulligans Flat over the past three years, I thought I'd provide you with some interesting facts and figures about these unique and amazing creatures!

The average length of an Eastern Bettong is 65 centimetres from nose to tail. They weigh up to 2 kilograms with most weighing around 1.5 kilograms.

Once common on the Australian mainland, they became extinct by the early 20 century due to habitat loss, bounty hunting as "rat kangaroos" and predation by foxes.

Fortunately, there are no foxes in Tasmania and around 20,000 to 50,000 live in the northeastern half of Tasmania! They are not commonly seen as they are nocturnal!

In the right conditions, bettongs are continuous breeders. Female bettongs will normally have about 2 or 3 babies per year. When a baby is born it will stay in the mother's pouch for 105 days. They are then weaned after another 40-60 days. Bettongs become mature at 12 months old and live for around 6 years in the wild.

The good news is that in 2012, some Eastern Bettongs were brought to the predator proof nature reserve at Mulligans Flat. Their population believed to be between 150 to 200 adults.

Eastern Bettongs fill a unique niche in the dry woodland ecosystem. They act as ecosystem engineers. That is, they are constantly digging soil looking for native truffles, their favourite food. As they dig their shallow troughs, they spread fungal spores across the box gum grassy woodlands. It is believed that these fungi have a symbiotic relation with gum trees. They also assist with water retention in the root systems as well as improved water infiltration.

Eastern bettongs have semi prehensile tails!!!

They use their tails to carry nesting materials, such as grass, to create their nests in grass tussocks or under logs. As they are nocturnal, they sleep in their nests during the day. Bettongs can have up to 43 nests!! Their home range is around 65-135 hectares.

If I have piqued your interest in Eastern Bettongs, I suggest that you visit Mulligans Flat. It is open to the public 24 hours a day and they offer excellent twilight tours. You can obtain more information at:

<https://www.wildbark.org/tours-1>

Red Imported Fire Ant

Our Club's submissions to decision makers and influencers on various conservation issues are of great import as they represent the views of over 400 members.

The Club has just made a submission to a Senate Committee on the Red Imported Fire Ant. Ours is one of 50 submissions from a broad cross-section of interested stakeholders.

Below is the gist of the submission:

As you may be aware, the arrival of the Red Imported Fire Ant in Australia represents an extremely serious threat to the environment, agriculture and our use of public lands such as national parks and playing fields.

CBC members thrive in the great outdoors of Australia, enjoying plenty of exercise, social time, superior mental and physical health, and less loneliness. We would be devastated to lose access to public lands such as national parks if these places were infested with Red Imported Fire Ants.

According to the Invasive Species Council, a fire ant invasion will be much worse than the cane toad.

It would devastate our native wildlife and cause billions of dollars in lost agricultural production every year. Experience from countries like the USA, where Red Imported Fire Ants have been present since last century, indicates that access to open space areas such as parks and reserves as well as family backyards will also be restricted as the ants are aggressive with a painful sting.

This is now happening on sports fields, farms and beaches in Queensland, and we were dismayed to read that the outbreak has now spread to the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

As well all the other threats that the Red Imported Fire Ant poses in Australia, we consider that our capacity to use and enjoy the wonderful public lands in Australia will be marginalised if the Red Imported Fire Ant is not eradicated.



Left, secondary infection following red fire ant stings, *Photo: Texas Department of Agriculture.*
Right, pustules resulting from fire ant stings. *Photo: Murray S. Blum, The University of Georgia.*

UPDATE! In order to combat the threat of Red Imported Fire Ants, on 15 February 2024, the ACT Government announced new mandatory importation restrictions of some agricultural products from known infested areas. The notice is effective immediately. For more information, please click [here](#).

Inkweed:

As keen bushwalkers, Club members are constantly exploring on and offtrack areas across the ACT. As such, you may come across a poisonous weed called Inkweed (*Phytolacca octandra*). It is a perennial herb or small shrub with smooth succulent stems growing to 2 metres and is often found as a weed of waste places, creek banks and roadsides.

All parts of the plant are poisonous. Symptoms from ingestion may include headache, burning in the mouth, abdominal cramping, vomiting and diarrhoea. The acid sap can cause skin irritation.





Peter Dodds, Jacqui Rosier, Jenny Gallagher, Noelia Pinto, Judy Zhu and Terrylea Reynolds on the rocky summit of Mount Zas (Zeus), the highest point on Naxos. *Photo by Terrylea Reynolds*

On the first October 2023, 12 Canberra Bushwalking Club members arrive in Chora, the capital of Naxos. This will be our base for four nights allowing for three full days of walking. It is the fourth sector of an extended overseas trip organised by Terrylea Reynolds. Naxos is one of 220 islands and inlets that make up the Cyclades chain in the Aegean Sea. It is the largest and most mountainous island in the Cyclades.



Nightlife in Chora on a quiet backstreet.

Photo by Terrylea Reynolds

As we sail into Naxos harbour, we see the unfinished Temple of Apollo, dating back to 530BC, which looks across at Chora. Our accommodation in Chora is at the Hotel Xenia which is close to the sea. Not long after we book in, the clothes lines are filled with our washed clothes. The temperature is hot and dry, for Naxos has not received any rain for six months. We have the afternoon to explore and we find delightful arcaded lanes, post Byzantine churches, gift shops, restaurants and ice creameries.

Day 2: Today we are visiting the hillside village of Potamia and the marble hills. We catch taxis to the village, explore the cobblestone alleys and find a coffee cafe. We continue through the village and follow a path that will eventually lead us back to Chora. But we have side trips, the first of which is to the quarry where we view the unfinished figure of a young man—the Melanes Kouros Statue, near an old abandoned village. The statue, lying on its back, dates to the 7th century. At six metres long it has never been moved. 700 metres away lies the Kouros

of Flerio, another unfinished statue reaching almost six metres. It is believed that the sculptures were probably damaged during the creation process and left.



Above: The ancient marble quarries of Naxos cut deep scars in the hillsides. The quality of the marble was highly valued by the Ancient Greeks and some quarries are still in operation today

Photo by Meg McKone

Below: The Kouros of Flerio—an unfinished statue left *in situ*

Photo by Terrylea Reynolds





Above: Ruins of the archaic temple at Yiroulas

Left: Exploring the well-kept streets of the village of Melanes. *Photos by Meg McKone*

As we descend into the village of Melanes for lunch we visit the Jesuit Monastery of Kalamitsia. Now closed up, it was used as a meditation place for monks. We enjoy lunch at a cafe in Melanes. By afternoon the temperature has increased to a warm 28 degrees and we're happy to finish the walk by 3pm.

Day 3: The temperature is around the mid 20s with a warm wind. Only six of us meet at 9am to climb Mt Zeus (Zas), the highest mountain in the Cyclades at 1001metres. We catch taxis to the village of Filoti and follow the track which leads us to the top of Mount Zeus and are rewarded with great views. On the descent we detour to visit Zeus Cave. Legend states that it is the cave where the infant Zeus was protected from his child-devouring father Cronus Zeus later became the ruler of Olympus, so the Naxiots named both the mountain and the cave after him.

Day 4: A free day with many options - touring some of the island by bus, exploring Chora, shopping or swimming and relaxing, or a walk back to Potamia. Three of us decide to walk to Potamia and approach the town from the south, passing a man with his donkey. We have a memorable lunch in the village, where we're joined by all the village cats. The cook comes out and disperses them by spraying them with a water bottle. We all gather for a meal that night to farewell those not going on to Amorgos.

Day 5: Our stay on Naxos is at an end so we bid farewell as we make our way to the port to catch the ferry to Amorgas, the next and final leg of our amazing trip.



Clockwise from above: The busy port of Chora, backed by the town *Meg McKone*; Bougainvillea in a village lane *Terrylea Reynolds*; The Temple of Apollo lay beyond a wave-washed causeway *Meg McKone*; a typical church backed by a terraced hillside and marble quarries in the hills *Meg McKone*.



Laeli beach walking in wind and rain along Discovery Bay *Photo by Terrylea Reynolds*

Though it's billed as Victoria's best long-distance hike, I confess to being more than slightly embarrassed at not having heard of this walk before. Embarrassed? Why? Being born in Victoria and having lived and grown up there for over 25 years, I was surprised that I hadn't heard of it. Perhaps it's because I'm from south-east Victoria whereas this walk is in south-west Victoria, in fact quite close to South Australia. It's also noted for being remarkably flat (more on this later), predominantly accessible to hikers only, meaning no cars and few people. Sounded just perfect.

With 14 campsites along the route and the town of Nelson approximately halfway, this walk can be done as a series of day walks, dipping in and out at various points along the way, or as a circuit – which is what my walking partner, Laeli, and I chose. Having done our research, we decided to do the walk anti-clockwise from Portland to Nelson and back again, aiming to have a westerly wind at our backs when we walked the long stretches of beach along Discovery Bay and around the two capes of Bridgewater and Nelson. The other reason to tackle this route anti-clockwise is that the spectacular cliffs and headlands are encountered at the end and make a wonderful finale to the walk. Most people take between 9-15 days to complete the circuit, but we chose to do it over 15 without any rest days in between.

The walk takes you through Gunditjmarra Country, the traditional owners of the land bounded by the Boreas (aka Glenelg), Wannon and Hopkins Rivers and includes lands of 59 clans. It is often likened to a 'symphony in four movements' with each movement consisting of forest, river, beaches, and capes.

We started walking from Portland through the township, alongside farmland, and soon found ourselves amongst the stunning, inland tall forests of Cobboboonee National Park and Cobboboonee Forest Park. This area is the western-most extent of any wet sclerophyll forests in Australia and home to many threatened species including Powerful Owls, Yellow-bellied Gliders, and Long-nosed Potoroos. Sadly, we didn't see any of these but noises at camp during the night suggested they may have been around. It is also home to an abundance of Messmate Stringybark, Manna Gum, Swamp Gum and Cherry Ballart and we were delighted to see so many koalas enjoying this spectacular habitat. Emus also appeared out of nowhere with us discovering that the fruit of the Cherry Ballart is one of their favourites and explains why it was so hard to find this fruit on the lower reaches of the tree. These large birds are common in the area



Koala on Mt Richmond

north and west of Portland and their tell-tale scats full of seeds alerted us to their presence. We were lucky enough to spot four along the route. A highlight of this section was Laeli spotting a very colourful Crested Shrike-tit – a bird I'd not seen before. This section of the walk was also noteworthy for our first encounter with a Tiger Snake – one of several we would see before we'd finished.

From there it was onto our second symphony movement – the beautiful and tranquil Glenelg River in Lower Glenelg National Park passing the mysterious 'Inkpot' along the way. The Inkpot, as it is affectionately known by the locals, is a small dark lake thought to have been formed when either a cave collapsed or from ingress of water through limestone. It is just like a pot of ink being darkly coloured by decaying leaves and bark. For Laeli and I it was a good rest spot as it was right beside a wide-open fire trail which meant we could sit down avoiding any leeches. The alternative route from Fitzroy Camp (Cobboboonee) to Moleside Camp was open and so we were able to cross the low bridge which can be dangerous at high river levels, although this is rare. We continued to follow the well-marked route along plastic mesh boardwalks, duckboards, well-trodden footpads, cleared walking tracks and fire trails with the forest changing now to include Silver Banksias, small Grasstrees, Wiry Speargrass, Kangaroo Heath, Western



The Glenelg River

The Great South West (Test) Walk *continued* Terrylea Reynolds

Peppermints, Smoke Bush and Prickly Tea-trees. Arriving at Moleside Camp was an absolute delight as the campsite is right alongside the Glenelg River with promises of a potential spotting of Platypus. Whilst we didn't see any we did enjoy the opportunity to have a swim at the small jetty – our first chance to have more than a birdbath to date. As we progressed along the Glenelg, there were more opportunities for a swim. We also enjoyed the cheeky Eastern Yellow Robins and Superb Fairywrens which were well acquainted with the campgrounds and the possibility of picking up some easy crumbs. It was our final day along this section that the weather changed. After seven days of perfect walking weather, thoroughly enjoying the tall forests, majestic views of the river and its spectacular limestone cliffs, we arrived at Nelson on the eighth day, wet and bedraggled and thoroughly glad that we'd booked ourselves into Nelson Cottage for the night so we could dry off, have a good meal, wash, enjoy a comfy bed and collect our supplies for the next seven days of our walk back to Portland. At the start of our trip, we'd driven from Portland to Nelson (approximately 60 kms) and left a box of supplies (including a change of clothes and a couple of pre-paid Australia Post satchels) at the cottage. That night while we were tucked up snugly in the cottage a serious electrical storm raged outside, and we were very glad not to be in our tents – as much as we love them!

Setting off the next morning, we started the third movement in the symphony – we were leaving the hinterland and heading for the wild and remote beaches of Discovery Bay with its numerous Gunditjmara shell middens, shipwreck tales, fresh sea air and long stretches of sand inhabited by coastal birds including Gannets, Sea Eagles, Cormorants, Gulls, Sanderlings, and the vulnerable Hooded Plover (aka 'Hoodies'). It's fair to say that we were both a bit apprehensive about this section as beach walking can be difficult. This section also requires you to pay particular attention to your starting times each day to ensure you catch the low tide as there are some stretches of narrow beach which may send you up to walk on the dunes. We'd checked the tides and so set off early on these days but hadn't expected the winds to have swung from their typical south-westerly direction to the south-east so early in the walking season. But we were walking in Victoria after all, where the weather is notoriously changeable. Alas, we found ourselves walking headlong into 'marine-gale alert' winds, often accompanied by hours of rain, and sometimes on softish and more steeply angled sand, making these two days particularly challenging. Highlight for this section? We encountered an enormous tiger snake – we weren't sure if it was pregnant or had just eaten – either way we were happy for it to make its way happily off the side of the track allowing us to continue safely.

Sand Dune along Discovery Bay





Shades of blue at Cape Bridgewater

Our fourth, and final, symphony, was up next – magnificent clifftop walking, dramatic capes and breathtakingly sapphire blue bays – as well as the much-heralded Bridgewater Bay Café which we'd heard provided fabulous lunches and even better coffee. But there was still more to see before we got the chance to test out this legendary place. Seal colonies, a blowhole (which wasn't blowing) and a Petrified Forest which, as it turns out wasn't made of trees

after all but are limestone solution pipes, were wonders along this section. We were surprised to encounter a couple of Lowland Copperheads within 50 metres of each other as we headed along the coastal path towards the café. These snakes were out during a brief let up of rain, a reminder to be alert in all conditions. The Bridgewater Bay Café was up next, together with the chance to shelter and dry out from the rain. We tarried a bit longer in the café, hoping the wind-driven rain would abate – it didn't. We were very tempted to find accommodation in the village, but pressed onto the next camp. The rain finally let up as we got into camp, but alas, the winds did not. Even though we were staying at campsites that were noted as being sheltered, the change in wind direction meant the sites ended up as wind funnels. At both the Springs and Mallee campsites we spent the night being buffeted by winds of approximately 45 kmph with occasional gusts of 80 kmph. Nothing to do but double peg our tents, add extra guy lines, ensure our tents were taut and hang in there. Pitching a tent in coastal sandy soil in strong winds brings its own challenges and we were getting by on about three or maybe four hours of sleep for a couple of these nights.

From there, the walk to Cape Nelson was memorable with the rain finally letting up and even though it was still very windy. We took welcome shelter beside an old set of shipping containers which had been washed up on the sand and then it was a tough climb up a long, 75m steep sand dune which consisted of chain and slat steps. This was the steepest vertical climb on the entire walk. Lunch at the Cape Nelson lighthouse was a bonus as we weren't sure if this was open. It was there that we met other walkers doing a supported version of the trip, chatted, and exchanged tales, over a hearty Indian vegetable curry.

But we had to keep going and having rounded Cape Nelson after spending the night at Mallee Camp, it wasn't long before we were walking through undulating shrubland accompanied by Rufous Bristlebirds hopping in front of us along the track. A chance encounter with a very unhappy Tiger Snake which flattened its neck as we came into sight kept us alert. We let it move back into the heath only to find it re-emerge 2 metres in front of us with its neck flattened again, ready to strike. Content to take our time and let it move on, we waited till it did just that and we were able to continue. Truly beautiful snakes, they rightly deserve respect and a wide berth.



One of several Tiger Snakes

Soon we found ourselves walking through tunnels of Moonah and Soap Mallee bush and a delightful 'Enchanted Forest' which had been partially decorated in red (for Halloween by the locals we presumed). Then it was quickly back to reality as

The Great South West (Test) Walk *continued* Terrylea Reynolds

we walked right next to a couple of enormous wind turbines, remarking at their loud whooshing sound, and imagining that it wouldn't be much fun to live too close to them. The large Portland Aluminium Smelter soon loomed ahead as we left the Bower Spinach and Seaberry Saltbush behind us and soon hit asphalt and spied the Bahloo Café in Portland. As we walked through town several locals cheered and congratulated us on the walk with the Mini-tourist Tram Guide announcing to their passengers "You should give these two ladies a cheer, they have just completed the GSWW ...". This encouragement (not to mention a well-earned lunch and exceptional coffee at the Café) gave us just the boost we needed for the last couple of kilometres back to where we'd left the car 15 days earlier.

All up, we'd walked 262 kms (via Tarragal Camp) with our longest day being approximately 22 kms and our shortest about 11 kms. The walk is exceptionally well maintained and it's almost impossible to get lost as the red arrows are at all junctions clearly pointing you in the right direction. Every campsite has a two-sided shelter with a table, a firepit with bbq plate (except for Mallee Camp), hooks for hanging clothes and food, toilets (sometimes even with toilet paper) and tank water. All rubbish must be packed out. Impressively, much of the work on the track was completed by Portland High School Year 10 students and was the result of a project by a former Principal with a vision in mind. What a super idea with the school kids having the chance to learn about geography, geology, construction, biology, ecology, forestry etc and with each of the 14 sections being maintained by a team of locals the GSWW 'team' are to be congratulated.



Laeli relaxing at Sapling Creek Jetty

You may have noticed that I cheekily entitled this contribution the Great South 'Test' Walk. Laeli and I did this walk quite literally to test ourselves, our gear, and our planning as a prelude to our planned end-to-end Bibbulman Track walk next year. We're so pleased we did. We've learned that walks described as 'Medium' and 'Easy' are probably written with fit 25-year-olds in mind. Weather, pack weights, how many rest days you've had (or not) all take their toll and can easily turn a medium day into a difficult day. We were pleased with our pack weights. We now know that it's much easier to patch a Dyneema tent than a silnylon tent, made notes to take a variety of tent stakes (plus several spares) and that having extra guy rope is invaluable. Neither of us are morning people but we both do have good tent take-down routines

which worked well. For the Bibbulman we intend to pack spare pack liners then pack a couple more acknowledging that the lightweight ones can tear/split if you're not careful. I need to make sure my pack is big enough so that I don't have to squeeze things in as that was how I split one of my lightweight pack liners. Lightweight products are excellent, but you do have to work with them and acknowledge that this lightness comes at a cost. For me, Hydralite (or its equivalent) is a Godsend. Laeli's clever, ultra-light stick-burner is an excellent little invention but naturally you still need a gas (or alternative) back-up. The weather isn't always kind and finding suitable dry sticks not always possible. Finally, we also learned that BushMan seems to be the only product (that we know of) that keeps leeches at bay, to go easy on our bodies on multi-day pack walks, to take a complete rest day every six days and pack that all-important sense of humour.

*By Terrylea Reynolds (with gratitude to Laeli for her suggested edits and good memory)
Photos by Terrylea Reynolds*



We're finished!

Participants: Ian Turland (leader), Melinda Brouwer, Stephen Marchant, David Poland, Daniel Parsons, Felicity Chapman; and (Mt Gould-Labyrinth only) Robin Collins

When: December 2023

The Mount Anne Circuit:

Tasmania's Mt Anne Circuit has a well-earned reputation for being a very scenic walk, though also involving some exposure, particularly if summiting Mt Anne itself. It's a walk I have wanted to do for a long time and I was further spurred into putting it on the Club's walks program by a presentation on Mt Anne (as well as on the Western Arthurs) given by Greg Buckman and Gary Boxsell at the April 2023 social meeting.

So it was that a group of six of us set off from the Condominium Creek trailhead in the afternoon of 9 December to start the walk. A band of rain had petered out a couple of hours before and, lucky for us, the next rain front did not arrive until four days later, a couple of hours after we had exited the walk at Red Tape Creek. Exquisite timing!

I had driven off the Spirit of Tasmania ferry in Devonport the day before, collected Felicity, who had flown to Launceston from Queensland, driven to Hobart Airport to meet the rest of the group (Melinda, Stephen, David and Daniel) as well as collect a compact-sized rental car – our second vehicle – and then on to Maydena, where we had booked a cottage. The cottage was very welcome with rain setting in and it put us in relatively close proximity to the start of the walk.



Mt Anne towers over the Shelf Camp.....*Photo by Ian Turland*



Descending Mt Anne *Ian Turland*

It's a sustained ascent from Condominium Creek to High Camp Hut, with expanding views over Lake Pedder and the ranges behind. We arrived at the hut after a couple of hours. Most of us chose to pitch our tents. The hut is small and there were two young hikers ensconced there already, drying their clothes after a wet descent from Mt Anne the previous day. They told us they did not climb to the actual summit. Although they were experienced boulderers, they felt they didn't have the requisite rock-climbing skills to undertake the climb.

This was a new perspective for me. I knew that there were issues with exposure but I hadn't thought they were too much of an obstacle. I had quizzed my brother about this. He did the Mt Anne Circuit a few decades ago and thought it was not particularly intimidating. As he is my identical twin, I considered him to be a suitable benchmark for me: if he could do it, so could I (even if, strictly-speaking, the comparison was with a much younger me).

We set off towards Mt Anne the following morning, stopping on Mt Eliza for morning tea and excellent views over Lake Judd and beyond. The side-excursion to Mt Anne involved a fair bit of rock scrambling. That's fine – rock scrambling is fun. When we met people coming the other way, I asked them about going to the summit. Invariably they said they had made decisions not to proceed to the summit because of the apparent risk.

We arrived at the crux point, where there is a need to traverse a downward-sloping rock platform and, more seriously, ascend a more exposed cleft in the rocks. This was where most people had elected to stop. While Melinda and Stephen decided they would stay at the bottom of this section, the rest of us continued up to the platform area. David proceeded to the cleft and tested it for safety. But that is not how it looked from where we were. It looked like he was hesitating to do the up-climb and we could hear him saying things like: "there's not much in the way of hand-holds". In that moment, I decided I would not proceed. Daniel made the same decision. Felicity moved across to the cleft and, with David's assistance, climbed to its top. The two of them disappeared from sight.

I later had some regrets about not climbing to the summit. After descending to rejoin us, Felicity assured Daniel and me that we could certainly have done it, although apparently there were more exposed sections (but with better handholds). And she and David said the views from the top were impressive. On the other hand, I consoled myself that one shouldn't be too hard on oneself over decisions taken for safety reasons. Objectively, too, there were risks. Another hiker we later met told us that someone had taken a fall near the Mt Anne summit a few weeks earlier and sustained significant injuries.



Heading to Mount Anne. Lots Wife is the pinnacle on the left *Photo by Ian Turland*

We returned to our packs and descended to Shelf Camp. This campsite is comprised of a series of rock slabs with water available from tarns. It's very exposed to winds, depending on their direction, and we spent a long time securing our tents to rocks, etc. The blustery wind was a negative but the spectacular view of Mt Anne was a definite positive.



Descending into the Notch *Felicity Chapman*

There was a lot of low cloud when we set off the following morning, which was frustrating because clearly there were potentially some great views around us. We arrived at The Notch, a feature on the approach to Mt Lot. The Notch has a reputation for being a difficult section but, aside from slowing us up for quite a time while we hauled our packs up on a handline, it presented no problems for us.

The cloud had lifted by the time we were through The Notch. The views from the summit of Mt Lot were fantastic and we stopped for a leisurely lunch. We could see Mt Anne, Lot's Wife (an impressive pinnacle) and Lonely Tarns where we would camp that night. Further in the distance were Federation Peak, the Western Arthurs and other ranges.

It was a steep descent off Mt Lot along the knife-edged Lightning Ridge, before we entered a forested area and then down to the Lonely Tarns.



There is a campsite on the largest of these, Judds Charm, with tent platforms but we figured that, with other walkers ahead of us and being a sizable party, we would instead camp near Lake Picone, which has areas suitable for camping. It was a beautiful site, and nice to have it all to ourselves.

We enjoyed more beautiful landscapes the following day, including an off-track side-trip to ascend Mt Sarah Jane, which again afforded magnificent views. A steep descent took us down to Anne

River, which we crossed on a new bridge to walk into Lake Judd. There is a campsite on the lake at the Anne River outflow and we had the benefit of swims in the lake and prepared our dinners on a rocky beach while we admired views of Mt Eliza and Eliza Bluff across the lake.

Dark clouds were gathering to the southwest as we walked out to the Red Tape Creek trailhead the following morning. We drove to the small town of Westerway, where we had a pleasant lunch. As we finished our meal, drops of rain started. The rain had quite definitely arrived by the time we reached Cynthia Bay, on the southern shore of Lake St Clair. Fortunately, we had rooms booked at the Drumlin Bunkhouse there.



Clockwise from top: Judds Charm and Mt Lot *Ian Turland*; Dinner at Lake Judd *Ian Turland*;
View of the drowned Lake Pedder from Mount Sarah Jane *Felicity Chapman*.



Mount Gould and The Labyrinth

On the Gould Plateau *Photo by Felicity Chapman*

The genesis of the second walk was the expansive view from Mt Spurling on the Travellers Range, which I visited as part of a 2022 CBC trip to Tasmania led by Linda Groom. It included views towards Mt Gould, leading some in the party to reflect on the 2020 “Ten Tasmanian Peaks” CBC trip which had included an ascent of Mt Gould and camping on Gould Plateau. It sounded appealing and, by searching different accounts on the internet of walks done in the area, I settled on an extended, more-or-less circular route that included Mt Gould, The Guardians, The Minotaur, The Labyrinth and Pine Valley. It would be a mixture of established tracks, cairned footpads and off-track walking.

The rain, however, led to a change in plans. Not only was there the front already upon us, set to continue the following day, but also another front forecast after that, with only one clear day in between. Tasma-



The beautiful, mossy rainforest of Pine Valley *Photo by Felicity Chapman*

nia - beautiful one day but probably wet the next! We decided to reverse the direction of our walk, heading firstly to Pine Valley, where we would have access to a hut to help get us through the inclement weather.

We took the ferry from Cynthia Bay up Lake St Clair to Narcissus Hut and commenced up the Overland Track, with lots of walkers coming the other way on their final stretch of the Overland Track. We then diverged up the trail to Pine Valley. The rain came and went.

We had been joined for this section of the trip by Robin, a skiing friend of mine who had moved from Canberra to northern Tasmania. At one point, Robin turned to me and asked whether he had something on his eye. I reported to him that it was a leech, sitting on the eyelid, up against his eyeball. Perhaps reflecting his medical experience, David quickly flicked the leech out from Robin's eye and Robin suffered no significant injury from his close leech encounter.

The rain was pretty incessant during the later part of the afternoon and into the evening, and the shelter of the hut was very welcome. There were a number of other walkers there but it was not overly-crowded.

As per the forecast, the rain stopped the following day and we did a day excursion up to The Labyrinth and on to Walled Mountain. The plethora of small lakes on The Labyrinth and views of the surrounding peaks, including spectacularly rugged Mt Geryon and The Acropolis, were stunning. From the top of Walled Mountain, accessible on a faint footpad, we had extensive views over the Du Cane Range peaks and further afield.

And then more rain the next day. It eased off during the afternoon and we tried our luck with ascending The Acropolis but low cloud and strong wind gusts turned us back at a plateau about half way up. Still,



Lunch in The Labyrinth, backed by The Acropolis *Photo by Felicity Chapman*



Scoparia flowers below The Acropolis *Photo by Ian Turland*

we were rewarded with beautiful rainforest and wildflowers, making it well worthwhile leaving the comfort of the hut for a couple of hours.

The weather forecasts indicated we had about one and a half days of clear weather before yet another front would come through, so the following morning we resumed our intended route. We walked back up towards The Labyrinth, leaving the track near the Parthenon, and took a cairned footpad towards The Minotaur.

It was a stiff climb up to The Minotaur and when we got there,

clouds obscured our views in most directions but it was rather atmospheric and, dropping down a little from the summit, we were rewarded with good views across to The Guardians and down to Lake Marion.

After the saddle between The Minotaur and Mt Gould, there was no track or markers that we could discern and we made our own route around the eastern side of Mt Gould. We had abandoned our intention of a side-trip to camp on The Guardians. (Maybe another trip?)

Once we had made substantial progress around Mt Gould, the clouds were sufficiently higher and thinner for me to declare to the group that this was our best, and maybe last, chance to climb to the summit.

Four of us chose to do so and, dropping our packs, we ascended a scree slope and scrambled up and over rocks, bringing us to the summit for yet more excellent views.

On returning to our packs, we resumed our way around the mountain. It was slow progress through the vegetation but we finally reached a rough track that took us down to and across the plateau. We arrived early-evening at a small lake and tarn that provided a beautiful campsite where the others had already set up their tents. It had been a long 12-hour day but very rewarding.



On Mount Gould *Photo by Ian Turland*



We had a leisurely start to the next day before setting off on the track that took us down from the plateau and on to Narcissus Hut. By the time we arrived there, drops of rain were starting to fall – the front was arriving a little earlier than expected.

We had finished a day earlier than originally planned but, with more rain on the way, we were pleased to find there was (just enough) space for us on that afternoon's ferry back to Cynthia Bay. We only learnt this when the boat arrived at the Narcissus jetty, having been told when radioing from

Mt Gould and The Minotaur from The Labyrinth *Ian Turland*

Narcissus Hut that there would be insufficient room for us on the boat. It was an insane rush (dismantling an already-assembled tent, frantically stuffing things into packs, etc.) to get to the boat before it departed. But we made it – a brief frenetic episode amidst the peaceful tempo of the rest of the trip.

After good weather on the Mt Anne Circuit, rain had greatly re-shaped our second walk. But both walks were very rewarding experiences and reminders of the great bushwalking Tasmania offers.



Mount Gould and The Guardians *photo by Ian Turland*



Forty people lined the road at the start at Black Bobs Creek

The fourth **Reclaim the Lagoon** weekend went very well with about 40 people in five different parties taking part. Canberra Bushwalking Club took part with two groups.

One was a day walk of nine people led by Noelia. They completed the Black Bobs Creek to Wog Wog circuit in about eight hours. The second group (of 12) led by David took overnight backpacks covering the 21km in a leisurely two days, via the new legal Smilers Creek route and visiting the aptly named Lookout Wilderness (North and South). This route is now quite a pad and easy to follow. A legal campsite was found and there was plenty of time for swimming and exploring at Twin Falls, Corang Cascades and Corang Lagoon.

On the second day, rather than returning the same way, they skirted the long new property boundary by a newly taped route before a cool refreshing lunch at the headwaters of the Goodsell Gorge. A side trip to the Pagoda Logic Towers and the newly dubbed Edge of Reason Lookout provided a grand finale before finishing at Wog Wog Campground. It was then just a short seven km car shuttle back to Black Bobs Creek.



One group (not CBC) also completed the Corang Peak / Corang Arch / Many Rock Ribs Circuit as an extension on their second day. The walk commemorated the loss of the south bank of the Corang River. It was owned by the NSW Government but unfortunately was sold in 2011 without public consultation. Hardly anyone even realised it had been sold until suddenly in 2018 a fence was erected by new owners across the 1960s historic walking track pioneered by Colin Watson and others.

[Editor's Note: David has conducted painstaking historical research to follow the fate of the 600 acre parcel of public land known as Lot 105. This included the adjoining Corang River being declared a Crown Reserve with sale prohibited in 1918; Lot 105 being leased in 1941 under strict conditions prohibiting subdivision and timber removal; being assessed as wilderness in 1995; sold in 2011; resold in 2015 and 2018 without NPWS being consulted or even told about the sales. Readers interested in the full story can contact David for a copy.]



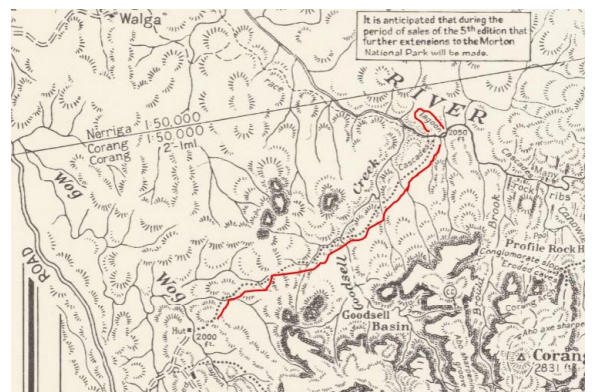
Twin Falls and the Corang Cascades are publicly owned (for now) but still not actually protected as National Park *Photo by Kenton Lawson*

Many worry that a repeat of Cockpit Swamp may take place if not under this ownership then perhaps under the next. What guarantees are there that this once publicly owned land will not have its zoning restrictions (such as no subdivision and no logging) changed?

A new circular walking route has been established and hundreds of walkers are returning to the Lagoon again—this time skirting the private property. However, the future of this easily accessible, historically visited wilderness is at risk. Not by a big corporate but by a Government failing to undertake its legislated duty of care. But there is one thing that may just save Corang—if the public keeps asking questions. And the most important question—Will NPWS be prepared to buy Lot 105 back again if or when it comes up for sale. **For more information or to express your support please join the 660 others on the fb group – Keep Corang Open.** *Photos by David Poland unless otherwise indicated.*



Right: 1971 CMW Budawangs Map showing the old route to the Lagoon.



Aboriginal people travelled across the Lagoon area for thousands of years. Bushwalkers can still see their stone tool sharpening grooves.



Corang Lagoon before the sale. It's no longer legal to take a picture from here.

**“Enriching the Team Spirit and Nature Connection of Leaders and Participants within
Canberra Bushwalking Club”
Evaluation of Discussion held 4/2/2024**

Our Membership Secretary reports that, at the time of writing, 60 Club members have completed or are doing this online course.

In order to give participating members a chance to discuss the course, we held a three-hour meeting at Uriarra East picnic area, under the dense shade of the casuarinas, a lovely, cool, green spot on this 30+ degree day. Eleven members attended, including me (the organiser and discussion leader).

Most of the discussion was taken up with the team spirit aspects of the course and especially issues encountered during difficult incidents on trips, whether caused by poor leadership planning or decisions, or uncooperative behaviour by members of the party, or circumstances such as bad weather or accidents. One attendee told a heartening tale of an accident in a remote area where everyone bogged in to help without being asked and what a positive bonding effect it had on the whole group, and especially the injured person.

After morning tea, we had a briefer discussion on the nature connection aspects of the course. One person found it a bit too “spiritual”. Perhaps the general idea was that despite people appreciating having time to enjoy nature, it wouldn’t be appropriate to have this as the major focus of all walks.

A few other issues were raised and answered where possible:

- *What insurance does the Club hold? (General Liability through Bushwalking NSW).
- *Why doesn’t Bilby make some much-needed improvements?
- *What else can the Club do to help new members who are unfamiliar with bushwalking?

Attendees completed a brief, anonymous evaluation at the end.

The results on a five point scale ranging from **1) Waste of Time** to **5) Very Useful** were as follows:

Point 4: Four people

Point 4-5: one person

Point 5: Five people

Participants identified themselves as follows:

Are you already a Leader?: 9 No; 1 Yes. (However, the discussion revealed that several had led walks for other organisations, or with a group of friends.

Are you interested in becoming a leader? 9 Yes; 1 Yes, perhaps.

Attendees commented anonymously as follows:

- *Thank you, was good to talk about leadership.

- *Good discussion, great to hear different experiences paired with course content. [*Writing difficult to read*] Survey of interest in day, multi-day, easy to [?] to help and mitigate supply and demand of trips. Limiting new members to public day and [?] only. Members only to intermediate day walks – multi-day walks.
- *Nice to hear everyone’s experiences with different leadership scenarios. It could be nice to have a bit more of a guided discussion about the leadership course. Lovely chat overall and I learnt about different aspects of leadership with real scenarios.
- *Good idea to have open discussion like this. Sharing concerns between prospective leaders is helpful for airing issues we may have uncertainties about.
- *Very useful, sharing stories and experiences with others – how to deal with difficult behaviour etc. Through this session I learnt a lot and would take home and raise with the Committee: 1) beginners’ introduction; 2) beginners’ buddy program.
- *Thanks for running this, Meg. Great to get some Club insights and know that my apprehensions and experiences as a leader aren’t unique to me.
- *Really great, helpful discussion. I learnt a lot, and now have more confidence to proceed on my path to leadership.
- *Very encouraging, great exchange of ideas. I probably won’t be a leader, but gained a lot of insights from this meeting. Well organised, thanks so much , Meg.

My take-away impression is that people really appreciated the chance to talk about the psychological and social aspects of leading walks, which are often ignored in leadership courses. They were glad to find out that they are not the only ones having apprehensions in this space, and now feel more confident about leading, or at least have a better appreciation of the leader’s task.

I hope this is just the beginning of a discussion that will ripple out more widely in the Club. Thank you, Bushwalking NSW, for producing this excellent program.



Keeping together off-track in Ormiston Pound, Tjoritja NP. *Photo by Jan Gatenby*



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*

Bulletin Board

The Bulletin Board is for members to advertise (at no cost) goods for sale, private trips or other personal bushwalking-related matters. The Club is not involved in, takes no responsibility for, and does not endorse, the activities or goods advertised here. Hence, if people participate in any activities advertised here, they do so as private individuals, not as members of the Club, and will not be covered by the Club's insurance.

Walking for Heart Health:



As enthusiastic bushwalkers we all walk for our heart health, along with many other benefits.

Five members are also walking for the heart health of others, by participating in Coastrek Canberra. Coastrek is an Australia wide event organised by Wild Women on Top to raise money for the Heart Foundation

On 15 March 2024 the CBC Coastrek Team - Sandra Teffer, Blair Teffer, Janette Schwarz, Andrea Coombas, accompanied by our number one cheerleader Cynthia Burton - will walk a 30km loop around Lake Burley Griffin and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands.

If you'd like to donate and support the Heart Foundation, please go to the [CBC Coastrek Team page](#).

All donations, any amount, will be much appreciated (and of course be tax deductible).

Thank you!

Sandra, Blair, Janette, Andrea, Cynthia