



Canberra Bushwalking Club

Exploring the bush since 1961

it

Quarterly Magazine



Come join us in the great outdoors

May 2025 – Volume 61 – Number 2

Contents

From the President	3
Visiting Valentine Hut photos	3
Leaders' Page	4
Membership Secretary report	5
Progress in the campaign to remove feral horses from Kosciuszko National Park	6
Vale Gabrielle Wright	7
Solitary Island Coast walk with Dave Abela	8
The Lycian Way	9-10
The Great Victorian High-Country Expedition	11-12
Why we should offset our air travel greenhouse gas emissions.....	13
Following CBC Facebook	13-16

From Acting Editor

Hi there

When I put my hand up for the Acting Editor role, I didn't expect it would take me so long to pull everything together — and still, I've likely missed something! It's given me a whole new appreciation for Meg McKone and the many hours (days? weeks?) she must have spent editing previous editions. How many editions has she produced over the years? Have I ever even sent her a thank-you note after receiving each new issue of it Magazine? If not — thank you, Meg! And thank you to everyone who has contributed articles and photos over the years keep it alive!

I'd also like to extend sincere thanks to our friend Sabine from NPA ACT. As the designer of the NPA ACT Bulletin, she's generously shared her experience and knowledge, guiding me along the way. If you notice some similarities between this edition of it and the Bulletin, that may be me trying to follow in Sabine's footsteps.

From Social Secretary to Publisher to Acting Editor... What am I trying to achieve? Simply, to make some change. When walking in the bush, we follow a map. Should we now switch to GPS? The bush and wilderness have always been bushwalkers' and adventurers' heaven—a place to escape. Should it be developed for housing, or luxury huts for easier access? Or should we consider how we travel to offset our greenhouse gas emissions? (See Greg's article on page 13).

Change is never easy. But even small efforts can make difference. Maybe now it is your turn to take on the next edition of it Magazine—and make it even better?

If we can't find someone to take it on, we'll need to think creatively about how we can still share our news, trip reports, and photos with members. That's the heart of what this Magazine is about. But now, we also have Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, our Website, and even Blogs. The Club is already using Facebook to share stories with members and the public (see article on page 13).

Maybe it's time to make some changes to it Magazine? Please share your thoughts—I'd love to hear them. Together, maybe we can work out a better way forward.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the reading.

Warm regards, Ana



The **it Magazine** is currently published quarterly, including trip reports, articles, photos, recipes and activity details. It also has a Bulletin Board where club members can list non-Club walks and make other short announcements.

Guidelines for magazine contributions can be found at the CBC website:

<https://canberrabushwalkingclub.org/about-us/magazine-and-publications/>

What do you think of the it Magazine?

The editor and the Committee would love to hear from readers on what they like or do not like about the *magazine*, and any comment on the articles.

Please send your **email to**

editor@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Contributions of articles (up to 750 words), drawings and photos are also welcome.

Deadline for contributions to the next issue is **1 August 2025**.

Disclaimer:
Articles by contributors
may not necessarily reflect
the Club or the Committee opinion
or objectives

This issue was prepared by Ana Vrancic

Reviewed by: The Committee

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Calling for new Editor or join the Editorial team

We are looking for someone with the ideas and skills to be part of the editorial team (or team leader) managing and publishing it Magazine.

The time you will spend on this job will vary and you will be fully supported by the Club Committee. If you are interested, please email to:

editor@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Cover photos

Front: *The Lycian Way, the western Taurus Mountains*

By Ian Turland (see p. 9)

***We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land
on which we live, learn and work, and pay our respects to the
First Nations peoples and their Elders, past, present and emerging***

From the President

It's been a few months now since I stepped into this role, and I may even be starting to get a feel for it, after the initial surprise at the variety of issues, concerns and opportunities that arise. I'm grateful for the support of a hard working committee, and following is a brief summary of three priorities the Committee is currently working on:

A new CBC Constitution:

A vote by members at a General Meeting held 16 April 2025 resulted in a new CBC Constitution. This significant milestone brings to a conclusion a large and long term project for the committee, with the new Constitution coming into effect on 17 April 2025. The committee will now revise the Standing Resolutions (which will be put to a member vote later) and consider a suggestion for associate membership that was put forward at the meeting. This will all take time; your patience is much appreciated.



A changing quarterly magazine:

Shortly after finalising the February 'it', Meg McKone decided to step aside as Editor, after approximately 2 and a half years of providing a bumper edition every quarter....thank you Meg. Ana Vrancic put her hand up to coordinate this May edition, and under her lead and trademark enthusiasm, we're trialling not just a new look 'it', using different software, but also a new way of gathering content. There will be a steep learning curve, and I expect the magazine will evolve over multiple editions as we continue to learn and adapt.

Navigation Training:

Many members have learnt new or refreshed old navigation skills via Rob and Jenny Horsfield's Navigation Refresher, which has been an annual fixture on the program for many years. Rob and Jenny of course can't keep running this activity forever, although they can help this year, and the committee is currently working on who and how we will continue their legacy.

As always, all suggestions, feedback, and offers of assistance from members are gratefully received.

All the best
Andrea

Visiting Valentine Hut

During February and March 2025 David D led two weekend club trips to Valentine Hut. The trip report will be available in the next edition.



Photos from top middle clockwise:
Insect
Horse Camp Hut
Duck Creek Valley in the cloud
Camp site near Valentine Hut
Threatening Weather
Valentine Hut
Duck Valley Clouds



Meeting New Leader: Inga

Inga arrived in Australia from Germany in 2010 and fell in love with the Australian bush straight away. The vastness, the smells, the animals, the colours, are what make Australia so special.

Her relatives in Wagga Wagga took her for her first day-walks and a few years later she found friends in Sydney who introduced her to multi-day hiking. On a walk to Bonnum Pic, she learnt what "bush-bashing" means and what off track walking is. It was initially a little scary, but she had a great friend and leader who took her on many more adventures after that.

In 2024 Inga finally joined the CBC to share the joy of bushwalking in this region with fellow walkers from Canberra.

For Inga it is important to follow the leave no trace principles and hike as sustainable as possible trying to combine lightweight hiking with less single use plastics. There is so much to learn from one another and Inga is



looking forward to meeting more amazing people through leading, co-leading and participating in many more walks.

Inga's first led walk was to Nursery Swamp in March.

Activity Program

Our activity program continues to be strong, with an amazing number and variety of trips on offer.

Your volunteer leaders who led activities over recent months were:

Dave A, Jenny A, Bruce B, Monika B, Garry B, Robin C, Michael C, John D, Gerald D, Inga D, David D, Philip G, Linda G, Kirk H, Jenny H, Richard H, Damara K, John K, Diana K, Stephen M, Di Mcd, Dick M, Beat O, Sal O, Mark P, Noelia P, Terrylea R, Jannette S, Phillip S, Andrew S, Sandra T, Keith T, Ian T, Tim W, John E.

We currently have 94 leaders, although many are not active.

Bilby Help and Support

If you would like help or support with Bilby, use the Help & Support link in your My Account view. Selected members of the CBC Committee will be notified of your issue.

Club

Help & Support

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What can we help with?

Your message

(Up to 2000 characters)

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve Skyline Trail

Construction is underway of the trail between Fishing Gap and Johns Peak. It will be opened in October 2025 when the Reserve will have longer daylight savings opening hours. Recent Club walks in the area report a very natural trail, sympathetic to the environment.



Wednesday Walks Coordinator - the baton is handed on

John Danaro has been our Wednesday Walks Coordinator for a number of years. Wednesday Walks are scheduled every Wednesday, with an Easy-Medium walk and a Medium-Hard walk. Leaders are drawn from BBC, NPA ACT and CBC. Details are circulated via an email distribution list (not maintained by CBC). As well as organising CBC leader contributions twice a year, John each week faithfully enters the walk details into Bilby once they are known. This is a wonderful service to CBC members.

Thank you John for your huge contribution to the Club!

The baton is now changing and from the **beginning of June** Henry Gardner will take on the role. Henry is highly regarded in Canberra walking clubs.

You can continue to contact the CBC Wednesday Walks Coordinator via wednesday.walks@canberrabushwalkingclub.org

Welcoming Guests to CBC – Walk Leader Gerald Dodgson extraordinaire

First impressions are telling. They set expectations. Can you remember the first Club walk you went on? Where did you go and who was the leader? Was the location new to you? Did you feel welcomed? Have you gone on to enjoy other trips? Maybe one day you could facilitate something similar for others by becoming a walk leader.

Gerald Dodgson is a very experienced walker, having led multiple trips in New Zealand. One of his favourite local destinations is Bimberi Peak, the highest hill in the ACT.

In the recent daylight savings season and beyond, Gerald has turned his hand to leading morning and evening walks in the Mt Majura – Mt Ainslie area. Many were designed to improve participants' fitness. The walks have proved a boon to guests.

Forty-three guests have experienced Gerald's walks since late October last year and a good number of them have gone on to join CBC as members.

Thank you, Gerald, for your welcoming style. CBC membership is growing strongly thanks to leaders like you. Thank you to all leaders who make guests feel welcome, particularly on their first walk with CBC.

Andrea Coomblas
Membership Secretary



Membership Secretary Report

CBC membership continues to grow. At the time of writing (21 May 2025) CBC has 455 members. The Club has grown by over 40 members in the last 12 months, and by 20 since the beginning of 2025.

How we welcome guests on their first walks is so important to our membership – for an inspiring example see the article 'Welcoming Guests to CBC'.

A warm welcome to the following members who joined since I reported for the February 'it':

John B, Benedict C, Mark P, Andrew S, Jack P, Paul F, Janine L, Carla H, Peter T, Jennifer M, Michael C, Trevor W, Thu L, Yvette B, Michael T, Rachelle L, Keith H, Jaime P.

Honorary Life Membership for Keith Thomas

I am pleased to advise all members that at a general meeting on 19 March 2025 attendees voted unanimously to award Keith Thomas Honorary Life Membership (HLM) of CBC. HLM is for exceptional service, which Keith has provided over many years.

Keith joined CBC in September 1978. His HLM was awarded for services to the Club as an active walker and leader, particularly of adventurous and challenging multi-day trips, 22 years of Committee service and the willingness to share his navigation and mapping skills with others. Keith maintains historical and continuous Club trip metrics.

Congratulations Keith for this well-deserved recognition.

Progress in the campaign to remove feral horses from Kosciuszko National Park

by Linda Groom

The campaign to remove feral horses from Kosciuszko National Park, long supported by CBC, has made solid progress. Several CBC members were among the volunteers who helped boost the campaign in the last 12 months, by taking on the interesting task of 'petition tabling'. That involved standing at a small folding table in a public place, such as an open-air market or a national park track head or junction, and asking passing members of the public to sign a petition to repeal the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act (KWHH).

CBC members made up the majority of petition-tablers on Australia Day, when they collected a record 422 signatures in a few hours at Rawson Pass, with barely time to draw breath.

For those readers of IT who may be new to this issue, the KWHH Act was passed by the NSW Parliament in 2018. It was sponsored by the then Deputy Premier, John Barilaro. This law has many bad features but the main one is its statement that retention of a substantial number of feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park should 'prevail' over every other planned action in the Park, including actions to help protect native plants and animals on the path to extinction.

In March, the petition to the NSW Parliament to repeal the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act was handed over to Dr Joe McGirr, MLA for Wagga Wagga, who will present it to the NSW Legislative Assembly in May. The petition reached 11,300 signatures. Under NSW Parliament rules, any paper petition over 10,000 signatures triggers a formal debate in Parliament.

The petition was formally handed over to Dr McGirr at a ceremony at NSW Parliament House on 27th March. The occasion was notable for the evident multi-party support for the petition. Speakers included Dr McGirr (Independent), Trish Doyle and Steve Whan (Labor), James Griffin (Liberal) and Sue Higginson (Greens). This range of



Volunteer Wahyu and Greg

support provides hope, though not a guarantee, that the bill to repeal the KWHH Act will pass through both houses of the NSW Parliament.

Any CBC members interested in attending the petition debate in the NSW Parliament should contact the writer of this article - lindagroom@invasives.org.au Attendance at the debate is a great way to demonstrate support, and an intriguing opportunity to witness democracy in action.

I would also welcome anecdotal reports from CBC

members who are in Kosciuszko National Park in the coming months – of the presence or absence of feral horses, and of signs of recovery or of continuing damage. The NSW Government's 2024 culling program has produced welcome early signs of recovery in some places, but not in others.



Vale to Gabrielle Wright (30 March 1947 — 19 March 2025)

A memoir by Janet Duncan

It is with great sadness that I share with members of the Canberra Bushwalking Club that Gabrielle passed away on 19 March 2025, after several years of living with cancer.

Gabrielle and Tim first met on a Club ski trip to Selwyn in the winter of 1977. As Tim likes to joke, the Club back then was a bit like a dating site. Their meeting clearly went well — they were married the following year, on 9 December 1978. Together they raised two children: a son, Adrian, who now lives in the US with his family, and a daughter, Edwina, who lives with her family in Canberra.

Throughout their marriage, Gabrielle and Tim remained devoted to one another, while maintaining their individual faiths — Gabrielle as a Catholic, and Tim as an Anglican.

They shared many adventures through the Club — from skiing at Selwyn to joining the annual Crossover Walk from Orroral Valley. They even attempted the Australian Alps Walking Track, although Tim admits there were times when he carried both packs! Gabrielle also led cycling trips and guided many medium and easy walks around Canberra.

She was an active member of the Club committee, serving as Editor for several years before stepping down due to her health. Her final walk with the Club, despite her illness, was to Bushfold Flats in 2023, led by Terrylea.

Tim and Gabrielle were a devoted couple, and Tim has shared some fond memories of their life together:

"We walked the Kokoda Track in 2004, and she took a liking to our carrier, Jacob Pep, from Efogi Village. His wife made Gabrielle a billum — a traditional PNG bag used for shopping and carrying things.

Luckily for me, Gabrielle was an Anglophile and thoroughly enjoyed our trips to England. She met my relatives there, and they absolutely adored her — she was more popular with them than I was!

She was also a very proud Australian and loved this country's bushland and coastlines. She was always

happy for me to head out with my Rural Fire Service colleagues and help protect the bush."

For many years, a small group of us from the Club — including Gabrielle — have enjoyed swimming laps together at Tuggeranong Pool. After our swim, we'd sit and chat over a cup of tea. Below are some cherished memories shared by two friends:

"I met Gabrielle approximately 10 years ago, and her lovely husband, Tim when I first started bushwalking. They took me gently under their wings providing lots of advice. Later, I would also meet up with Gabrielle when swimming - with other lovely people from the Canberra Bushies. I fondly recall her amazing smile. In fact, I can't ever recall a time when I didn't see the lovely Gabrielle beaming. She has left an indelible imprint on my soul and reminded me of the importance of being gentle to all.

Rest in peace sweet woman."

—Terrylea Reynolds

"Tim and Gabrielle Wright were always an integral part of the CBC community, often attending Wednesday meetings and with a wide circle of supportive friends. I knew her best through her regular attendance at the Tuggeranong Pool where a few CBC friends 'did laps' to keep up our fitness but also to have a lovely social network. Our little group also had the occasional movie outing together which Gabrielle joined. These events and meetings sadly stopped as Gabrielle battled increasing debility and pain. She was at all times a gentle and kind friend with a glowing smile and a fortitude in facing her condition. Gabrielle especially enjoyed walks with the late Stan Marks.

Rest in peace dear friend,"

— Jenny Horsfield

I echo these thoughts.



Solitary Islands Coastal Walk with Dave Abela

The Solitary Islands Coastal Walk is a superb four-day walk along the Coffs Harbour coastline. Seven of us made the trek up north and were rewarded with perfect, mild, and sunny weather—which was pretty lucky, because the locals were saying that in the weeks leading up to our trip, it was grey and wet almost every day. The walk started from the headland at Red Rock, north of Coffs, and traversed many isolated beaches, headlands, rock platforms, estuaries, and small holiday villages. The seven Solitary Islands are quite scattered and distant, but they were visible and with us on each of our walking days.

We walked with our daypacks and stayed in seaside cabins overnight, which was ideal for this kind of walk as it made the walking nice and easy. The total distance of the walk is about 67 km, which gave an average walking distance of under 20 km each day. This allowed lots of time to stop for a swim or grab a coffee at one of the many cafes we passed along the way. Besides

the amazing isolated beaches and elevated vistas from the headlands, we also spotted dolphins, sea eagles, many seabirds, and kangaroos. The afternoons were leisurely, and some of us even had time to go kayak paddling!

The final day saw us walking to Sawtell, which is an absolutely gorgeous coastal village south of Coffs Harbour. It has a superb surf beach, rock pool, a large tidal estuary and river, as well as another one only about a kilometre to the north. Both are excellent for watercraft and swimming. The



main street of Sawtell also has an incredible centreline of grand old Moreton Bay fig trees, which shade the whole town centre. A truly memorable walk and one that I would love to redo at some time in the future!

The walkers are Dave A (leader), Quentin M, Laeli H, Dagmara K, Sandra T, Anne H, and Kim H.

(Photos by Dave A.)



The Lycian Way:

walking Türkiye's premium long-distance trail

By Ian Turland



Looking back to Fethiye, starting point

The Lycian Way is a 540km trail running along, or near, a stretch of Türkiye's Mediterranean coast. On 1 March 2025, five CBC members – Cynthia Burton, Sonja Weinberg, Felicity Chapman, Rose Fry and I – commenced walking the Lycian Way from Fethiye on Türkiye's 'Turquoise Coast'. Five weeks later, we finished our hike at the village of Hisarçandır, 35km by road from the major resort city of Antalya.

The Lycian Way was Türkiye's first long-distance trail. It was developed by British expatriate Kate Clow and opened in 1999. It follows ancient paths, Roman roads, and mule trails, connecting historical sites and offering impressive coastal views. The Lycian Way often features in lists of 'top treks of the world' and attracts walkers from around the globe.

Apparently, an estimated 20,000 people walk on the Lycian Way each year. The overwhelming majority of these do only a segment of the trail – a few days, a week, maybe a couple of weeks. But there were others like us who were doing the whole thing. It should perhaps be noted, however, that the 'whole thing' is a little subjective: there are different permutations for parts of the trail and more than one possible end-point. Starting in Fethiye, meant we added a day at the beginning to the 'official' trail. Despite the walk's relative popularity, for most of the way we shared the trail with comparatively few other walkers.

The five of us had high expectations for the walk. And we were not disappointed. We had a rich set of cultural experiences and interactions. As well as the natural environment, we passed through towns, villages and rural areas and for many of our nights we stayed in small, family-run guesthouses ('pansiyons'). We enjoyed meeting local people and eating Turkish foods. And there was certainly no shortage of historical sites along the way: Lycian, Roman and Byzantine. Some were well-developed tourist attractions, while others were scattered relics in isolated locations. On a break from walking, we spent an enjoyable half-day kayaking among the semi-sunken ruins of Kekova.

As for the landscapes we walked through, I would say the Lycian Way exceeded our expectations. On fine weather days – and we had a lot of these – the coastal waters of the Turquoise Coast were, indeed, stunningly turquoise. Offshore islands, peninsulas and headlands, along with mountains, cliffsides and rock formations, all added to a very attractive environment. As did the forests and wildflowers. The final days of the walk, as we approached Antalya, featured magnificent vistas of the rugged western Taurus Mountains.

It is difficult to say what the 'best' time of year to hike the Lycian Way is. We walked it in March to early-April which is earlier than most people who do it. We had a lot of glorious spring weather but the nights got pretty cold when we were inland from the coast and at higher elevations. For a couple of our nights camping, it was quite uncomfortably cold. On the other hand, several nights spent 'wild camping' on the coast were among our highlights, with beautiful locations and mild temperatures. We had our wettest weather at the end of the trek, further into the season.

Some less positive aspects? Pathways with copious loose, small rocks were a hazard – we had several tumbles in the party, with resultant injuries (fortunately, not too serious); 'assertive' dogs to manage at times; and unsightly expanses of plastic greenhouses in some of the rural areas. Overall though, the Lycian Way delivered a very varied and rewarding mix of sights and experiences.

There is so much more I could write on our 34 days on the Lycian Way, but I will save most of my comments for a presentation at the Club's social meeting on 16 July. I hope you can join me then.

*(*Editor: Ian will give a presentation of Lycian Way Walk on Wednesday 16 July 2025 at 16 Parkinson St, Weston. Details about the presentation can be found in the CBC Bilby Activity Program. More photos of this walk are in this Magazine.)*



The Turquoise Coast near Oludeniz



Breakfast preparations at guesthouse in Bel



Camping at Delikkemer Roman aqueduct



Land feature near Saribelen village



Ancient Lycian sarcophagi at Kekova sunken city



The Great Victorian High- Country Expedition

By Terrylea Reynolds

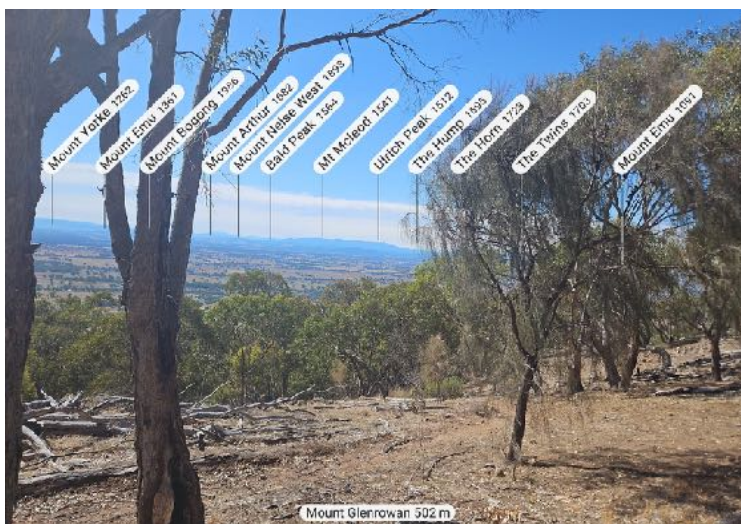
Having been born in Victoria, as well as having spent most of my formative years there, when this trip was advertised by Leader Mark Peirce, I couldn't resist. Nor could nine others it seems, for ten of us ventured forth early in February 'expedition ready'! This was to be no ordinary expedition though. None of us needed to take sleds loaded with months of food supplies to get us through long mountain days, nor would we need to pack ice axes, mountaineering gloves or down suits. Our Leader promised that this was to be an expedition consisting of a variety of walks, excellent swimming opportunities and a taste of everything in the region (including the occasional visit to a winery). Now that's my kind of expedition!

On the first day we all drove down to Beechworth and checked into the Beechworth Holiday Park in time to do some shopping for food supplies. This holiday park is highly recommended for its beautiful, large, grassed camp sites and its lovely quiet location, just out of town. Some of us chose to glamp in the semi-circular shaped 'pods' while others set up in true camping style in tents. When the Victorian weather gods decided to test our fortitude and the heavens opened up on our second night there, the lightning lit up the sky and the thunder roared, those of us in the pods were pretty grateful. Everyone's tents held up well although one member of the party decided to decamp and spend the night in their car preferring the safety of rubber tyres on the ground over metallic tent poles. It was a pretty fierce night weather wise – but hey, that's Victoria.

Our first walk was a cruisy 8km 'work-up' walk on the White Box Track in the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park. Predominantly unburnt forest in an area replete with old quartz and gold mine diggings it gave us a taste for the Victorian woodland and its stands of Box, Ironbark, Red

Stringybark, Blakely's Redgum, Mugga Ironbark, Golden Wattle, Apple Box and Cherry Ballart which thrive on these cool slopes. With the promise of swimming on this trip we checked out the Cyanide Dam – and sensibly decided to give it a miss thinking that the name was a bit of a giveaway. We chose to admire the swamp wallabies around its edge instead. A walk up to the top of Mt Pilot and a visit to the Woolshed Falls followed with most of us then cooling off in the pool, and others taking lilos to the lake in town, given it had become so very hot and humid.

Day 2 saw us walk up Mount Glenrowan which was more challenging with steep, loose firetrail sections and a small rock scramble at the end to get us up out of the gully and back onto the main road near the car park. This walk



provided splendid views over the nearby Winton Wetlands, Lake Mokoan, Wangaratta and Chiltern right across to Mount Bogong. The wetlands, I decided, need a visit on their own one day when I return as they are the largest wetlands restoration project in the southern hemisphere. For a keen 'birder, such as myself, the opportunity to see birds of prey including Spotted Harriers and Peregrine Falcons is hard to resist.

Our next stop was a couple of days at Porepunkah (Bright Holiday Park) which was several kilometres out of town itself but nice and quiet also. Porepunkah was a good base from which we continued our series of walks in the Falls Creek, Dinner Plain and Mount Buffalo areas. The Heritage Huts (6km loop) at Falls Creek gave us a good sense of yesteryear with a visit enroute to Cope and Wallace Huts in the Bogong High Plains. Our walk followed a section of aqueduct and had us walking across lush grassy alpine meadows and amongst snow gums with the gentle slopes adorned with Shiny Everlastings, the occasional Billy Button, and Showy Podolepis. For those homesick for our usual tramping grounds of the ACT and NSW there were magnificent views towards the Kosciuszko ranges.

This latter walk has several sections of boardwalk to protect the alpine bog and passes through woodland consisting of Alpine Pepper, Black Sallee and Tea Tree with Bluebells, several varieties of Sedges, native grasses and wildflowers as the understorey. Lunch at the Precipice Plain Lookout, we all agreed, was spectacular, giving us a clear view of Mount Tabletop and the remote Dargo Valley. We didn't stay there as long as we'd have liked though as this viewpoint has no shade and we were all feeling the heat of the day.

For me, the walks around Mt Buffalo were the real highlight of this trip. The entire Victorian Alps are so different to the NSW Snowy Mountains with a vastness and thrusting up of mountains more dramatic and heavily forested. The drive up to Mt Buffalo, in particular, is stunning with the most extraordinary exposed cliffsides and granite peaks visible around every bend. At Mount Buffalo we combined several walks familiarising ourselves with the incredible granite tors, sweeping clifftop views over the Ovens and Buckland Valleys, and waterfalls from Pulpit Rock, Echo Point and Wilkinsons Lookout. Crystal Brook Falls is stupendous, plunging deep down from a rugged plateau and would be amazing after heavier rain. As it was, the falls were nowhere as thunderous on our visit as they must be after the annual snowmelt.

Lots of fun was had by us all on the Eastern Plateau Loop, which picked up many of Mount Buffalo's highlights including Lake Catani, The Monolith and the Chalwell Galleries. The galleries were named after the Stable Master at the Buffalo Chalet and are not dissimilar to Legoland in Namadgi National Park. They consist of a maze of large granite rocks with passages that entice you to scramble down and between, through narrow crevices, and down tricky rocks along a passageway not wide enough to allow you to keep your backpack on as you explore. The remains of lyrebird nests were visible around the boulders and plenty of moss was growing under smaller rocky outcrops. Lake Catani provided us with an opportunity to admire the healthy thick mats of Sphagnum Moss and spot some brown trout. The streams and lake support Eastern Water-Rats and Mountain Galaxias

although we weren't lucky enough to spy these on our visit. An Australian Darter and several Pacific Black Ducks were spotted on the lake and Gray Currawongs, White-eared Honeyeaters and White-throated Treecreepers were heard. Sightings of Eastern Spinebills, Crimson Rosellas, Gang Gangs, Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoos and White-browed Scrub Wrens filled out the feathered varieties for the day.

The drive up to Mount Buffalo from Porepunkah is windy and steep requiring the driver to take great care but affording the passengers dramatic views across an area formed by volcanic activity and erosion leaving stunning, enormous, granite formations. Whilst the forest consists of many types of trees (including Alpine Ash and Snow Gum) it is home to over 550 species of native plants including the Buffalo Sallee, the Buffalo Sallow Wattle and Fern-leaf Heath Myrtle – all unique and found nowhere else on Earth.

The drive home was to include an exploration of Mount Granya, which is in the Upper Murray, and was meant to reward us with summit views, a seasonal waterfall and log hut built by the Scouts in 1937. Poor signposting on this track had us walking far longer than we'd anticipated, encountering trail-bike riders enroute, and not making it to the top after all on our own two feet. Knowing that most of us still had a long drive back to Canberra, and after a late start allowing packing up of tents etc, we decided that this track is probably not worth revisiting. The area is predominantly fire trails, dry forest with few views along the way and the waterfall only flows after significant rain. Moreover, the hut was covered in not particularly attractive graffiti and nowhere near as wonderful as the historic cattleman's grazing huts we'd seen earlier in our trip. A couple of us did drive up to the top before we left though but found that the views were not particularly stellar as they were blocked out by tall tree growth. Our leader decided that, on the next 'Expedition' to the Victorian High Country, he'd choose to explore Cudgewa Bluff Falls instead with its promise of fern gullies, Blue-Gum forest and large cascades as well as panoramic views from Campbells Lookout across the rocky

escarpment below to the eastern rim of the Burrowa Pine National Park. A more difficult walk and best undertaken after rain it will just have to wait for another day.

Many thanks to Mark Peirce, our Leader, for putting together an itinerary that allowed all of us to explore the newer pastures of Victoria, enjoy plenty of exercise, have some leisure time on those hot afternoons and visit the delights of Beechworth, Yackandandah, Tallangatta, Bright and Porepunkah. Another fabulous Canberra Bushwalking Club trip.
(Photos by Terryale Reynolds)



Why we should offset our air travel greenhouse gas emissions

By Greg Buckman

Who doesn't enjoy a trip overseas to a wonderful, exotic location? Even better, if you are a bushwalker, that it's combined with some great hiking. And, at the moment, the Canberra Bushwalking Club is offering quite a few fantastic overseas walking opportunities. However, when we fly, we should be mindful of the greenhouse gas emissions our flight is responsible for. Globally, aviation accounts for about four per cent of worldwide emissions but the fraction is set to increase because emission reductions in aviation are happening much slower than they are in other sectors. Between 1990 and 2019, global aviation demand quadrupled which meant that, after improvements in energy efficiency, aviation emissions doubled over the period. And the effect of aviation emissions doesn't stop when fuel fumes leave the plane: because they change the mix of key gases in the atmosphere—like ozone, methane, water vapour and sulfur aerosols—each tonne of carbon dioxide of emissions from an aeroplane has a greater per-unit global warming impact than, say, the equivalent amount of emissions from a coal fired power station.

As we all know, Australia is a long way from many favoured travel destinations like Europe and North America and, unsurprisingly, our aviation emissions reflect that: in 2018, our country's per capita emissions were 763kg of carbon dioxide equivalent, roughly twice that of France (295kg) or the United Kingdom (445kg) and over ten times that of Brazil (71kg). A return long-distance flight to somewhere like Europe can increase your personal annual greenhouse emissions by around 30 per cent.

So what's the solution? We should all enjoy our overseas trips still but we need to be selective about when we fly and, when we do, it's a good idea to offset our flight's emissions. Offsetting doesn't cost a lot of money but can make a big contribution to fighting global warming. A long overseas return flight, for instance, can be offset for \$90 to \$100 while a short one costs about half that. Airlines and many independent companies provide offsets: a quick Google search will find an option for you. If for no other reason, if we want to keep visiting great bushwalking destinations, we need to be aware of the effect our greenhouse gas emissions are having on them.

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CBC's most viewed recent Facebook posts

For over a decade now, the Canberra Bushwalking Club has managed an active Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CanberraBushwalkingClub/>).

These days it has over 9,000 followers and many of our Facebook posts attract more than 20,000 views, it's the main way we communicate with people who aren't members of the Club. Through Facebook we bring them news of our latest walks as well as information on popular walking Australian tracks, Kosciuszko and Namadgi huts, major local peaks and much, much more.

Snowy Flats post

On Sunday 5th of January, Richard M. led a walk that ticked all the summer walking boxes: going early, going high, going near water, and aiming to be home for afternoon tea. The party of 10 managed to escape Canberra's heat wave as the top of the Stockyard Spur was at least ten degrees cooler, and quite a few shades greener, than the parched city landscapes. Leaving the Stockyard Spur fire trail, the party descended to Snowy Flats creek through a lovely open forest with abundant wildflowers. The creek's gentle cascades provided for a beautiful and relaxing lunch spot and there was ample time to explore a small waterfall below the cascades (or to have a snooze on a comfy warm rock) before heading back up to the trail and down to the Corin Dam car park. A perfect outing for a hot day - it really is a different world out there....

Nadgee Nature Reserve post

One of the jewels amongst the reserves near Canberra is Nadgee Nature Reserve: a 20,671ha coastal protected area that lies between Wonboyn Lake to its north and the Victorian

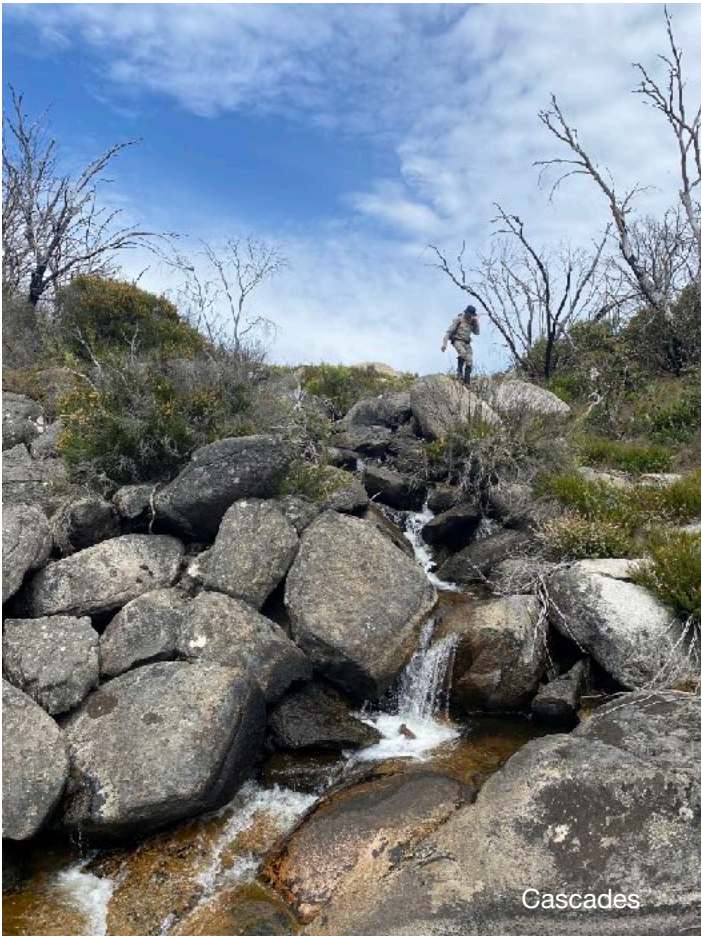


border, and beyond it, Croajingalong National Park, to its south. Together, the Nadgee and Croajingalong reserves make up the largest undisturbed coastal area in south-east Australia. Over 90% of the Nadgee Nature Reserve is a wilderness area (originally declared in the mid 1990s) which creates a wonderful sense of isolation in the reserve. It is the only coastal wilderness area in New South Wales. It has diverse landscapes including coastal ranges and plains, estuaries, beaches and dunes. Its dunes include some of the best and least disturbed parallel dune systems along the NSW coast. The reserve has a wide variety of plant species including forest, coastal scrub, heathlands and wetlands some of which do not occur further south. It also has many Aboriginal sites including middens hidden along its coast. The one European historic structure in the reserve, Harry's Hut, harks back to the time when its northern part was a farm.

Nadgee Nature Reserve is visited fairly often by the Canberra Bushwalking Club including two visits in 2024. The through walk between Wonboyn and Malacoota is becoming very popular with walkers. An area not to be missed. Photos: Bruce, Monika, Scott, Janice, Greg.

(Source provided by Greg Buckman, photos are on the following page.)

Following CBC Facebook - Photo Gallery



Cascades



Waterfall below the cascades



Snowy Flats creek



Walking along Cape Howe Dunes (2024)



Nadgee - Seal spotting 2024



Little Creek beach (2024)



View from Osprey Lookout (2019)

For information on CBC activities, please visit our
website: www.canberrabushwalkingclub.org and follow us:
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