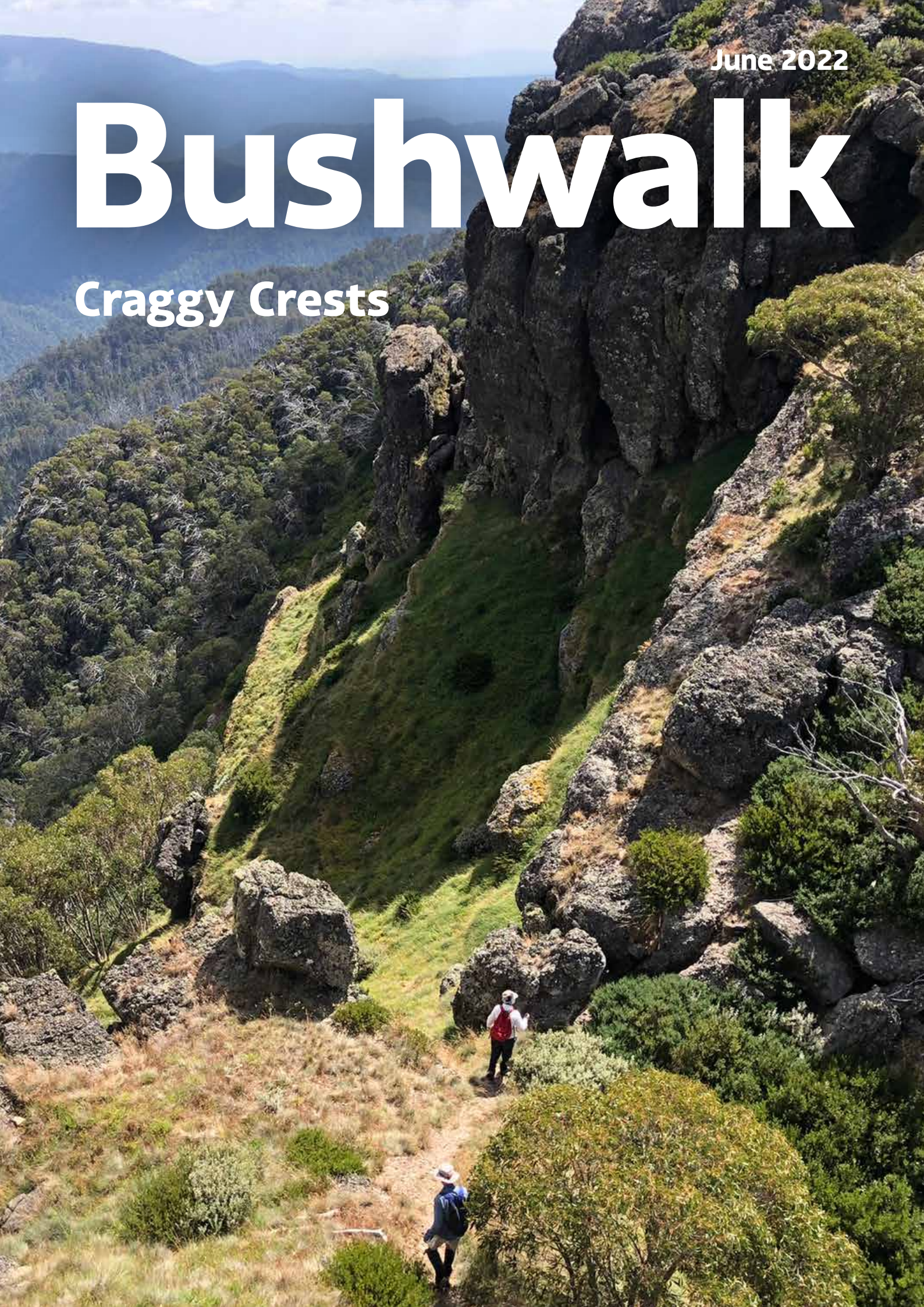


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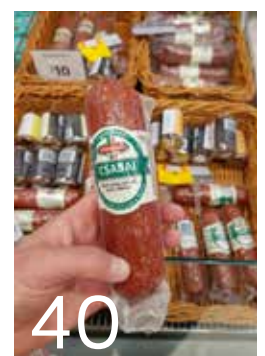
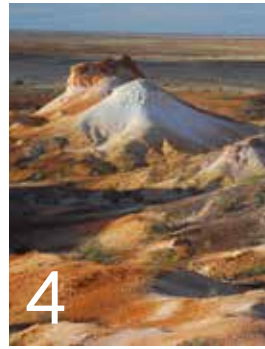
Bushwalk

Craggy Crests



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**Always Was,
Always Will Be Aboriginal Land**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and Owners of this vast land on which we live and explore. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present and thank them for their stewardship of this great south land.

Editor's Letter



Hi

I hope this edition finds you well and you are planning your next adventure.

When it comes to form versus function, I am a function guy, but Eva can tackle both. I love the work she has done in this new design and layout for the magazine, I hope you like it too. It gives me space to breathe and more importantly it helps showcase our amazing authors and photographers even better. Thanks Eva.

This magazine is all about our community of bushwalkers inspiring bushwalkers. So if you have had an experience that you think will be helpful to share with others, please reach out. Not all articles need to be long, Stephen is standing by to help make your article sing.

In this edition, Ian takes us to desert country (SA), Jill guides us up Mount Cobbler (Victoria) and Phoebe takes us on a tour of Hartz NP (Tasmania). There are our photo competition winners. Glenn explains the shocking impact of the latest management plan on bushwalking in the Grampians (Gariwerd) NP (Victoria). We then explore if national parks are enough when it comes to conservation before Sonya takes us on a deep dive on how cured meats can make your bushwalk yummy. A cracker of an edition.

Stay safe and happy walking.

Matt :)

Matt McClelland (aka Wildwalks)
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Cover image
Mount Cobbler
Jill Allen



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Please send any articles, suggestions or advertising enquires to Eva. We would love you to be part of the magazine. Read our [Writer's Guide](#) to get started, and we are here to help.

Declaration

The opinions stated in articles are those of the authors and not of those involved in the production of this edition. If you are worried about transparency or any editorial aspect please either write to me or raise the issue on Bushwalk.com. The bushwalking community is a small world and paths often cross. To improve transparency I thought it would be helpful to list my main associations within the outdoor community.

I operate Bushwalk.com, Wildwalks.com and Overlandtrack.com, a number of other smaller websites (and related apps) and have written several walking guide books, published by Woodslane. I contract to National Parks Association NSW and I am a member of the Walking Volunteers. I have had contracts with state and local government departments regarding bushwalking and related matters. I have also partnered with a large number of other organisations in environmental campaigns. Any commercial advertising or sponsorship will be clear in the magazine.

Warning

Like all outdoor pursuits, the activities described in this publication may be dangerous. Undertaking them may result in loss, serious injury or death. The information in this publication is without any warranty on accuracy or completeness. There may be significant omissions and errors. People who are interested in walking in the areas concerned should make their own enquiries, and not rely fully on the information in this publication.

The publisher, editor, authors or any other entity or person will not be held responsible for any loss, injury, claim or liability of any kind resulting from people using information in this publication.

Please consider joining a walking club or undertaking formal training in other ways to ensure you are well prepared for any activities you are planning. Please report any errors or omissions to the editor or in the forum at Bushwalk magazine.

Breaking Away in SA

Text and photos
Ian Smith

I'd been tipped off by Alwyn Simple, one of Australia's greatest bird photographers, to go and see The Breakaways. So I asked a local council worker where they were. He gave me almost complete instructions but I finished in a dead end at someone's opal mine instead.



Kalaya (emu) panorama



View from lower levels

Mmm, time to hit the local tourist office and what a bunch of information the enthusiastic lady turned out to have. Suddenly I had days to fill up at Coober Pedy.

The next morning I was on my way out on the road to Oodnadatta, a fabled journey for many 4WDers. But I had to turn off just before the famous Dingo Fence, which is longer than the Great Wall of China but slightly less noticeable.

If I thought I'd seen barren country before, I was sadly mistaken. When the first pictures came back from Mars, the people around here couldn't get excited. They have exactly the same scene right in their own backyards; a flat arid wasteland of pebbles. In fact, they've put comparison pictures up at a couple of venues in case you doubt it.

The Breakaways are a striking and unique example of arid scenery. From the flat-topped mesas to the stony gibber desert, remnants of millions of years provide a wealth of geological interests and breathtaking views. Looking out over the Breakaways, it is hard to believe that over 70 million years ago a vast

inland sea covered the area. The region is rich in Aboriginal and European history. It is home to a hardy group of native fauna and flora, which have successfully adapted to one of the world's harshest environments. Definitely one of Outback South Australia's best-kept secrets.



Map of Victoria

In the distance you can see the range of hills that you have to pay \$2.20 per person to view (payable at the tourist office); a worn plateau that beckons you onward, such is its contrast to the surrounding land. I imagined it would be simply that. How wrong was I.

Even the first set of prominences have colour, but it's merely the overture to the main symphony. The stark hues are staggering. From chalky whites to sulphur yellows to iron oxide reds, the colours blaze in the midday sun. Castle Mountain is a stunner. Even months later I can't get that dazzling sulphur yellow out of my mind.

The Aborigines (Antakirinja and Mutuntjarra people) called it Papa (two dogs); one yellow and one white. This reminds me that the area was initially called Umoona (long life). Today's name comes from the fact it seems to have broken away from the Stuart Range.

It's a photographer's wet dream, yet you get barely a fraction of what's on offer passing by in your vehicle. This is a place where you can find much satisfaction simply strolling around the formation.

“

This is a place where you can find much satisfaction simply strolling around the formation.

No snakes, no wait-a-while vines, no leeches, no spinifex (okay, maybe just a teensy bit). Just small pebbles and tiny gullies where streams run the few times it rains in these parts. The undulating terrain affords different perspectives every 10 metres or so, thus the senses are never jaded but find constant arousal.



Pupa (Two Dog) Mountain or Castle - Salt and Pepper



Looking north from the lookout

It took me some time to reach the main lookout, where the view of Kalaya (emu) was the main focus. My hour had become all morning. Then I returned to my motorhome, downloaded the panoramas at the main lookout, and emailed them off.

“

Other than Italy in autumn
I've never seen so many
colours in such a small area.

Just as well really, because in the afternoon I went to another spot, plunged off the cliff into the valley floor and took twice as many. The vista was magically different around every turn. The shapes seen from another entrancing angle, the colours changing in

intensity. I realised then why I had never heard of the place. Because if you never left the road, it is "worth a look", and that's about it. But if you walk among The Breakaways, it's something else again. Other than Italy in autumn, I've never seen so many colours in such a small area.

My favourite butte was Ungkata (water dragon lizard). Though smaller, it stands out amongst the crowd. Its barren slopes rising to a rugged prominence that somehow continually catch your eye.

Movie buffs would recognise some of the scenes from Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, Ground Zero and Mad Max – Beyond Thunderdome movies. The picture makers were looking for something different, akin to the American buttes, and here they found it. However, they're considerably less in height. It was also the scene of the INXS music video "Falling Down a Mountain".



Pupa Mountain from a different angle

Other buttes not that far away tempted me also, but the realities of allocated time didn't allow their exploration. Perhaps next time I thought as I watched a peregrine falcon float in and alighted on a prominent outcrop. I pondered the fragility of its existence, seeking prey here where your only hope was the occasionally lizard; spending hours perched near its eyrie contemplating the countryside, ever alert to the slightest movement.

Sunrises and sunsets can be special here when the sun's filtered rays send their fingers to highlight the more exposed ridges. You might get a classic red outback sky to sign off the day, something I waited for, but it didn't happen.

The Breakaways – put it alongside the Great Barrier Reef and Uluru; just make sure you get out of your car.



Highlighting different ochre colours

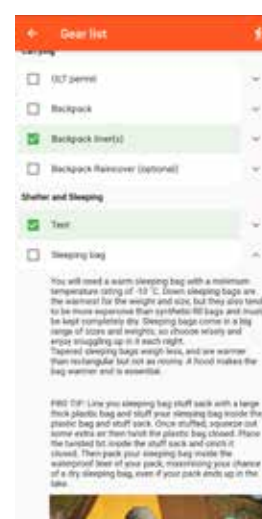


Overland Track

Thrive on track.

All the normal features you would expect like offline topographic maps, terrain profiles, photos and tracknotes to help you navigate on track, but also lots of information to help you prepare.

Use the packing and planning checklists to make sure you are well prepared. Information on country, flora, fauna and geology. Learn helpful bushcraft skills, information on good gear selection, menu and food planning and refresh your first aid knowledge. If you are not wanting the app but want some of the information online for free, checkout out the [Overland Track on Bushwalk](#).



Mount Cobbler Circuit

Text and photos
Jill Allen

In February 2022, 12 hikers from the Melbourne Bushwalkers had a relaxed three day hike to Mount Cobbler and Lake Cobbler. Although the walk could easily be done in two days, taking three days allows more leisurely exploration of Mount Cobbler, the lake and the falls.



View from the summit



A steep descent from the ridge before climbing to the summit



At the summit of Mount Cobbler

Day 1: King River, Mount Cobbler, 10 km

On Friday night we camped near King River Hut beside the King River. The next morning we left the cars on the Speculation Road. We climbed the quite steep but not overly difficult Muesli Spur to the plateau and re-joined the Spec Road for a short distance to the Lake Cobbler Track which we followed for a short distance before picking up an unmarked trail to the base of the summit, arriving early afternoon. After setting up our tents, we headed up to the summit of Cobbler, roughly 1.5 kilometres from our camp. Walking through the tree line and then out onto a rocky ridge, you think you are nearly there, only to find there is a very steep drop back down before climbing back up steeply to the final summit of this distinctive peak. The Mount Cobbler profile can be recognised from many parts of the Victorian Alps. Unsurprisingly, the view from Cobbler's 1628 metre summit is terrific, particularly if you have a beautiful clear day as we did.

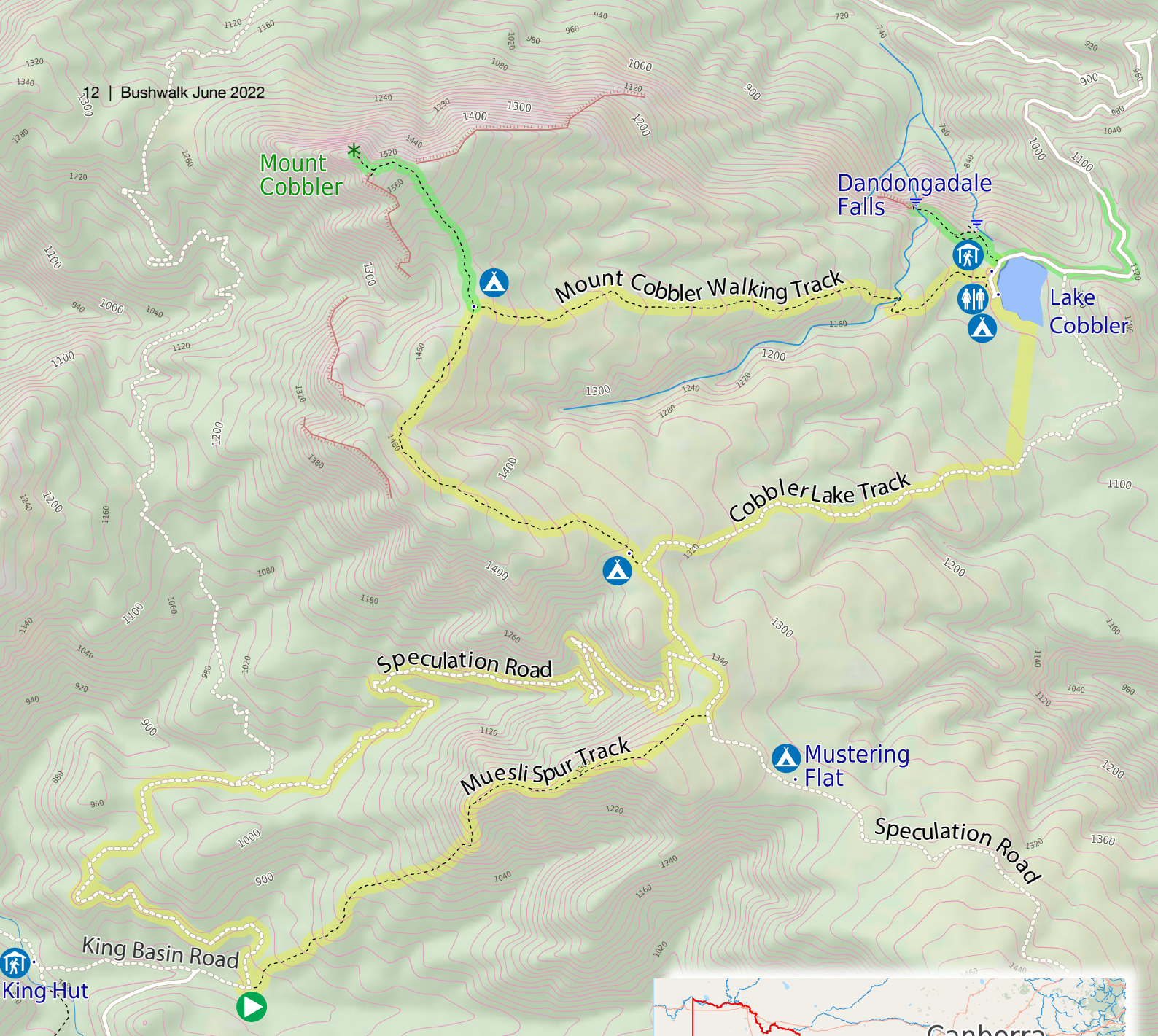
We took our time on the summit and enjoyed the 360 degree views, trying to identify the surrounding mountains. It was finally time to

head back to our camp, collecting water en route from the beginnings of the Rose River. This was a bit of bush bashing fun as we pushed through thick scrub to find a water source - a crystal clear pool of water, then a bush bash back to find the track again.

Day 2: Cobbler Camp, Lake Cobbler, Dandongadale Falls, 8 km

Sunday morning had a chilled start at 9 am. We headed down the track to Lake Cobbler, crossing the Dandongadale River on the way. This small lake was created in the 1960s by damming a swamp in a tributary of the river. After passing the lake, the river then continues to plunge off the edge of the Cobbler Plateau, creating the Dandongadale Falls. These are Victoria's highest waterfall with a 255 metre drop.

We set up camp on the shores of the lake, then headed off to see the falls. Again the track is not marked but can be easily found using a map or GPS. The only way to see the falls is to lie down on the cliff edge and look over the huge drop to see the falls plummeting down. Some of our group crossed the river and explored the high cliff above the falls. We then walked about 1.5 kilometres down



Mount Clobber Circuit



0 km 0.5 1 2 km



Road, four-wheel drive track, walking track (treed)



Main track, side trip, alternate route



Cliff, major contour line, minor contour line (20 metre interval)



Lake, river, waterfall or creek



Start of the walk



Hut



Campsite



Picnic shelter



Toilet



Bushwalk.com notes and maps on [webpage](#), [GPX](#) and [PDF](#)

This map is © [Bushwalk.com](#) and is created using data © [OpenStreetMap](#) contributors

the road on the opposite side of the valley, which gave us a view of the falls from a distance. Our final walk for the day was a circumnavigation of the lake. As it was a Sunday, the four-wheel drivers had all left for the day, and we had the lake to ourselves for the night. It was quite beautiful and peaceful.

Looking at the falls from the top



Stunning morning at Lake Cobbler

Day 3: Lake Cobbler, King River, 13 km

The following morning was superb, sun shining, blue sky and the lake was covered in morning mist.

After packing up our tents, we then headed across the country from the back of the lake to re-join Cobbler Lake Track and Speculation Road for the long trip back down to the cars. This completed the circuit. Although it was a long and boring road walk, it was still pleasant being mostly downhill with some good views of the surrounding peaks and valleys.

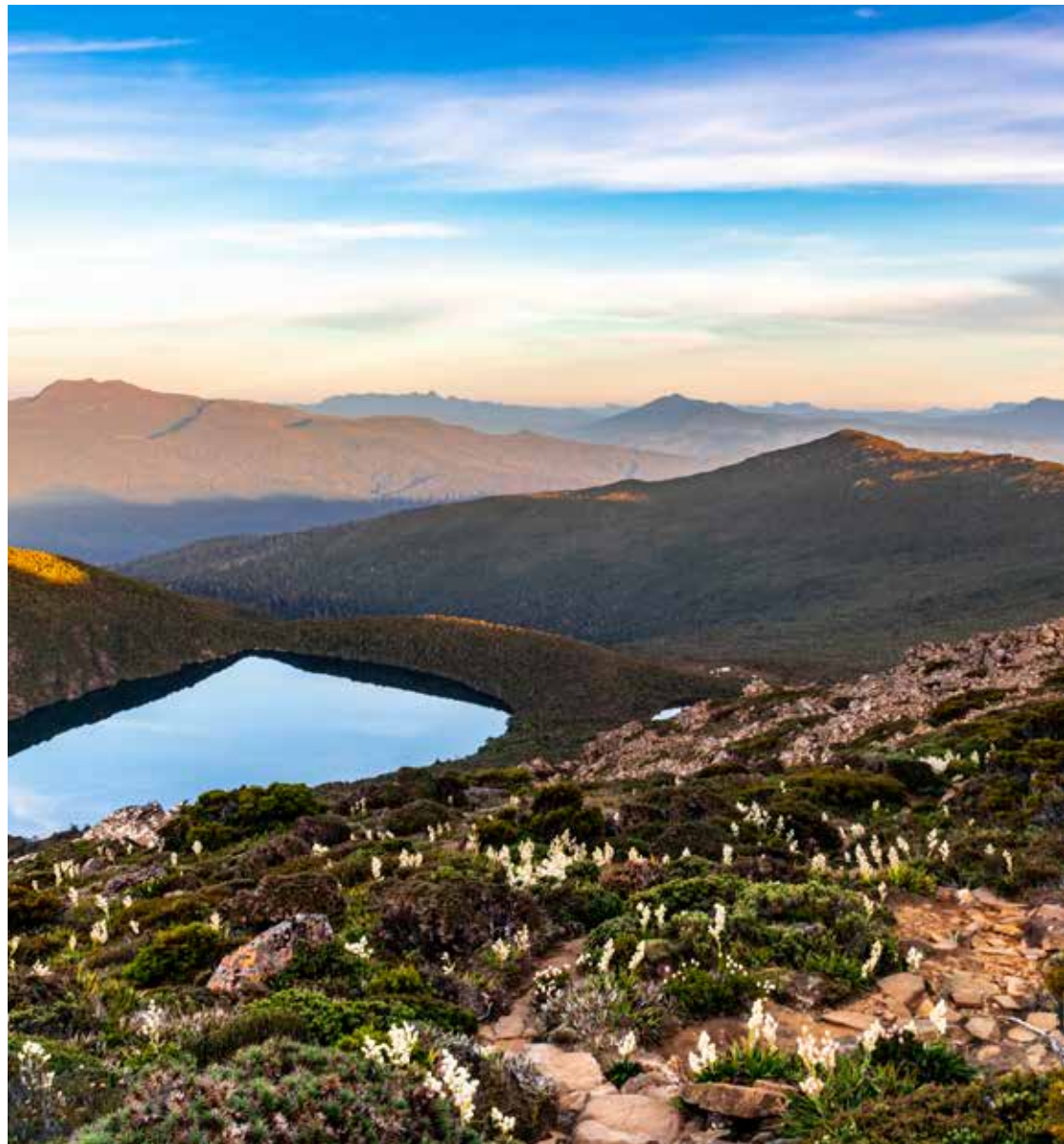


On the high cliff above the falls

At Home in the Hartz

Text and photos
Phoebe Roberts

The [Hartz Mountain National Park](#) is by far my most visited national park in Tasmania and for many good reasons. The Hartz is part of Tasmania's Wilderness World Heritage Area, so it's easy to see why such a place could be put at the top of the list for many a hiker. There's a lot to see: ancient glacial lakes, rugged dolerite peaks, a huge variety of alpine plants often in flower at various times during the year, and a sneak peek into the breathtaking Southwest National Park.



Hartz Lake at sunrise with the *Milligania densiflora* in flower



The soft pastel colours of the sunset



Our spot for the night

Have you ever visited a track enough that it soon becomes like your second home? Well, for me it's the Hartz, and I've lost count of how many times I've taken the 40 minute drive down to this spectacular pocket of Tasmania. I often visit after work to cook dinner at Lake Esperance listening to the birds and watching while the sun goes down.

In April 2021 whilst on a hike up at the Tarn Shelf with my Dad and younger brother to visit the change of the Fagus (*Nothofagus gunnii*) I fractured my knee, so hiking, unfortunately, was on the backburner for a long recovery. The injury forced me to stop bushwalking for months, so I started [Pink Robin Exploring](#), also on [Instagram](#).

Hartz – the recovery trip

The injury meant that 2021 was quiet, so we were keen to get back in the outdoors every chance we could get. At the end of 2021 there was a gentle start with a few shorter day walks. In 2022 there was an enjoyable day hike to Mount Snowy in the Hartz Mountain NP with my Dad, where I spied a good looking spot to spend the night for any future adventures. Arriving home full of excitement

after a long awaited day amongst the mountains, it wasn't long before a plan was hatched to explore the camp spot.

My husband had recently recovered from meniscus surgery, and we decided that a short trip up to the Hartz for the night would be the best medicine. The good weather forecast and a free weekend made this an easy choice. It was a great opportunity to test out our knees to gauge where we were with the recovery in the hope of catching the sunrise at the peak.

Day 1

This was no big undertaking. It's only a short easy walk to the tarns up at Hartz, especially after all the track works over the last couple of years. But it was a good little tester for both our bodies and to help find that centre of gravity with full packs once again.

The emotions were running high that weekend with us being back out in our tents, sleeping amongst the mountains. Incredible weather and amazing surroundings left us feeling so appreciative of what we have.

Our sublime camp spot had a perfect seat to enjoy the soft pastel colours of the sunset. A warm breeze, a cold beer, the excitement of being back outdoors and the quiet of the mountains meant that there wasn't much to say, so we both soaked it all up and let it fill our hearts.

How we missed the quiet.

Our plan to summit the peak the next day and enjoy the sunrise on Hartz Pass, meant waking up at 5 am. But for now, it was the end of a great day as we slipped into our tents, eager for what tomorrow would bring.

Day 2 – the summit

As I unzipped my tent, still half asleep, I felt the gentle warm breeze of a hot day to come. My eyes adjusted to the darkness, and it wasn't long before I locked my sights on the horizon set ablaze with the promise of a sunrise not to be missed.

With a holler to Mat to get his butt out of his tent, I chucked on my boots and I was up and at 'em, camera in hand.

Not five minutes had passed, and just as we got our heads together to set off for Hartz Pass, we heard footsteps coming along the track - two dedicated women up early for the sunrise. We could hear the anticipation and excitement in their voices, knowing they'd made the right decision with an early wake up for the sunrise.

With the birds starting to wake to cheer us on, it was truly a beautiful place to wake up. But with time ticking and the sun rising, the race was on for us to climb up to Hartz Pass in the hope we would be there for the golden hour.

After a short climb to the pass we were blown away as we watched the sun slowly begin to crest the horizon casting long shadows. Wherever the light touched was transformed



The Southwest at sunrise



A breathtaking way to begin the year.

into a rosy hue. We made it for the golden hour, and it was warming our souls.

With the surrounding mountains and valleys being set aglow, it felt as though time stood still while we soaked in the first moments of this new day. One filled with happiness, adventure and hope.

It had been just over a year since we stood atop Hartz, back when we did the Mount Snowy and Hartz Peak circuit, so there was an air of excitement for us both to visit our old dolerite friend. While the incline and the rock hopping were a bit challenging, our knees didn't mind it too much.

With not a breath of wind, Hartz Lake below looked like glass, and the reflections were just magical. As we pushed on and summited it was a euphoric feeling. We were the first to enjoy that view for the day. The gateway of new adventures to begin again. A mountain top I had longed to be on once again and the chance to just sit and be in the moment.

After a blissful two hours sitting on the summit enjoying our surroundings and giving the Canon a workout we decided that with the day set for 30 degree temperatures, the idea of descending, having to pack up and walk out in the middle of a summers' day heat wasn't ideal. So after cooking up some breakfast and a few deep sighs of happiness, we got our feet moving to make our way down. As we descended we passed a couple of blokes who had spent the night near Hartz Lake.

We all had a chuckle discussing just how much of a scrub bash it is getting to the lake, especially with full packs. It would have made for a huge effort in yesterday's heat! Despite that, they seemed to have had a good time, and that's all that mattered.

Finally, we were down at Ladies Tarn, and at 10 am, we were already sweating bullets. So off the clothes came and in we got for an amazingly refreshing dip in the crystal clear waters. Swimming with the Anaspides



Richea Pandanifolia

(*Anaspides tasmaniae*), tiny little mountain shrimps that survive in many a frozen tarn in Tasmanian alpine areas.

What an extraordinary sight it was. Being at eye level with the tarn looking up to the craggy peaks towering above, and being surrounded by a plethora of Pandani trees (*Richea pandanifolia*), the worlds tallest heath plant found only in the alpine areas of Tasmania. With their distinct shape with long serrated leaves, you will be left feeling like you are surrounded by beings from another planet.

Returning to the car we were both thankful for the delightful weekend we had just experienced. It was great to know we would be home before long looking back on the memories of this wondrous island we call home.

As always with our deep love of the outdoors comes deep respect and the importance of keeping our wild places pure and as we found them. Following the leave no trace principles is incredibly important. And please, if you wish to visit our beautiful national parks, give them the respect they deserve and they will share their beauty with you.



Jason, Phoebe and Mat at the Walls of Jerusalem

“ Phoebe moved from South Australia to Tasmania in 2003 and soon learnt to appreciate the raw beauty that Tassie has on offer. Phoebe works for a Huon Valley real estate office and is forever looking forward to time out of the office and planning new adventures. Her father was a tour guide, and his love of the outdoors is now with her. Over time, day walks morphed into extended trips, which she loves. With a husband and father just as keen for the outdoors, a love for researching her adventures and an abundance of Tasmanian places to explore, life is interesting, with challenges and excitement.

In the News

Wilderness photography exhibition at Cradle Mountain

From 21 May to 18 September 2022 the [Cradle Mountain Wilderness Gallery](#) is having an exhibition of Tasmanian women photographers.

Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park Centenary

On 16 May 2022 it was [100 years](#) since Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park was proclaimed as a protected area.

The youngest Australian to climb Mount Everest

Gabby Kanizay aged 19 has climbed Mount Everest, [the youngest Australian](#) to do so.

The tenth person that walked around the globe

Tom Turcich and his dog [Savannah](#) have taken seven years to walk 45,000 kilometres through more than 30 countries around the world.

Vale Melva Truchanas

Melva was one of the greatest members of the [Lake Pedder restoration campaign](#) and supported the cause for more than 50 years.

Trails WA website refreshed

On 5 May 2022 Trails WA launched a [new-look website](#) with downloadable maps of over 800 walks all over the state.

A Plus Market - a plus-size initiative

A solution for plus-size people who wanted to go bushwalking but couldn't find [suitable clothes](#) so far.

VicForests under investigation for potential Privacy Act breach

In [December 2021](#) [Bushwalk](#) reported on VicForests, illegal logging and spying. The Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner said it was investigating whether [VicForests breached](#) the state's Privacy and Data Protection Act 10 years ago.

Drones are helping map Huon pines, Tasmania's ancient giant trees

A team of Tasmania scientists has [found a way](#) to spot the "fingerprint" of Huon Pine among other tree and plant species, based on the way it reflects light.

The Bloody Long Walk events

5 June	Sunshine Coast
19 June	Brisbane
26 June	Wollongong
31 July	Sydney North

Join this [35 kilometre walking challenge](#) for a [good cause](#) in city near you.

The Kokoda Challenge

18-19 June	Sunshine Coast
16-17 July	Gold Coast

If walking the whole weekend (day and night) is your thing, [Australia's toughest team challenge](#) could be for you.

Coastrek

15 July	Brisbane
---------	----------

Teams of four women can go on [Australia's premier charity hiking event](#).

Photo Gallery

Photos
Bushwalk.com photographers



Check this and
other entries at
Bushwalk.com
Photo competitions



The drowned land
Andrew Smith

Landscapes

June 2021

Winner
Burn-off colour
North-north-west

One spot I always stop at when driving the Scotts Peak Road is the Edgar Lookout. The views are especially good when enhanced by late evening or early morning light. And, sometimes, a little judicious scrub clearance by the authorities can also add to the beauty. Makes it easier to ramble around, too.



Sunrise at the lake
landsmith



Cascading
John Walker



Rocky top
Brian Eglinton

Non-landscapes

June 2021

Winner
Musk lorikeets
landsmith

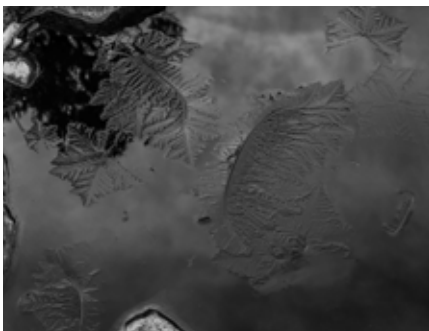
I hadn't seen musk lorikeets in some time and I just chanced upon them while riding the Budgewoi Lake Loop Trail. They were obviously part human and didn't fly away immediately, allowing me to get this shot.



Winter Banksias
John Walker



Horse Head
Brian Eglinton



Winter fractals
North-north-west



Tasmania

June 2021

Winner
Getting Wedged
North-north-west

A Southwest Abel with a good track that's an easy day walk is something of a rarity. So is good weather down there. Putting the two together makes for some unforgettable moments.



Western Creek
Teak

Other States

June 2021

Winner
Kaiser Stuhl
Brian Eglinton

The very long Heysen Trail in South Australia passes over a wooded and rocky edge to the Adelaide Hills before it drops into the Barossa Valley. This German connection led to the name of the Conservation Park we passed through. We found this marvellous rocky area of Yackas when exploring off the main track for the rock outcrops used for bouldering.



Sunrise, Lake Munmorah
landsmith



River gauge spillway
John Walker



Wanganderry sunset
Tom Brennan

Landscapes

July 2021

Winner

Glimpses of another world

North-north-west

Morning fog and a thick blanket of snow can make even the most familiar places seem new and exciting. What is to be found beyond the double veil?



Red sky in the morning,
shepherd's warning
Osik



Light Range
Brian Eglinton



Traversing the local river
gorge
John Walker

Non-landscapes

July 2021

Winner
Pardalottes
Brian Eglinton

These little birds are often heard with their double chirps, but are harder to see due to their small size and working the tops of tall trees. On this section of the Heysen Trail we passed a tree where a lot of them were flitting around, so I was able to get a couple of Striated Pardalotes perched together.



Aquatic company
Osik



The Yeti
North-north-west



Blueberry Ash
(*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*)
John Walker

Tasmania

July 2021

Winner
Snowy summit
North-north-west

Snowy by name and,
midwinter, snowy by nature.
A grand place to explore; just
be careful on those icy rocks.



Whitewater wall
on a winter's day
Osik

Other States

July 2021

Winner
Evening light on Lake Cargelligo
Osik

It's only short, but traversing the shores of Lake Cargelligo gives ample opportunity to spot a huge variety of birds and a chance to catch a beautiful sunset or two.



Babbage Falls
Crollsurf



Sunset from Marschalls Hut
Brian Eglinton



Giant's marbles
John Walker

Scrambling Banned in Grampians NP?

Glenn Tempest

Just before Christmas 2021, Parks Victoria finally released the [Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan](#). Unfortunately in Parks Victoria's haste to ban rock climbing across significant areas of the park they also appear to have banned scrambling and in doing so they have effectively closed three of the best adventure walks/scrambles in Victoria. Two of these walks are described in our popular walking guide [Daywalks Around Victoria](#) (the Stapylton Amphitheatre walk, Hollow Mountain to Mount Stapylton; and the Fortress summit walk).



Bushwalkers scrambling on the Stapylton Amphitheatre walk linking Hollow Mountain with Mt Stapylton. This is one of the most spectacular day walks in Victoria

Hiking or Climbing?

In the USA in the 1930s, the Sierra Club developed five classes to describe the difficulty of various routes. The following have been adapted from the Sierra Club's modern classification to describe hiking and climbing in Gariwerd.

Class 1 - Walking with a low chance of injury.

Class 2 - Simple scrambling with the possibility of occasional use of the hands. Little potential danger is encountered.

All designated hiking trails in Gariwerd fall into one of these two classes. Simple scrambling (class 2) off-track is considered hiking.

Class 3 - Scrambling with increased exposure. Handholds are necessary. Falls could easily be fatal.

This class is considered hiking where it is required on a designated hiking trail. The use of ropes may be used to ascend or descend a route on a designated hiking trail.

Class 3 scrambling off-track, where handholds are necessary and a fall could result in serious injury or death, is considered rock climbing, whether ropes and other safety equipment is used or not, and subject to the provisions covering rock climbing.

Class 4 - Simple climbing with exposure. A rope is often used. Natural protection can be easily found. Falls may be fatal.

Class 5 - Technical roped climbing. Belaying and other protection hardware is used for safety. Unroped falls can result in severe injury or death.

Classes 4 and 5 are considered to be rock climbing.

At [Open Spaces](#) we had concerned readers contacting us and asking for clarification. It's no secret that Parks Victoria have closed a significant number of walking trails in the Grampians (possibly to funnel walkers onto their newly constructed [Grampians Peaks Trail](#) and to simplify management responsibilities and costs), but to have banned visitors to the Grampians National Park from undertaking any scrambling – an innocuous and common pastime for many outdoor enthusiasts – seemed to be too draconian even for them. Furthermore, there had been no hint of initiating such measures within the *Greater Gariwerd Landscape Draft Management Plan* nor in the public consultation process that preceded it. Back in 2019 and again in early 2021 Parks Victoria had even given us assurances that such adventure walking trails were open (although not officially recognised). Even as recently as March 2021 Jason Borg (Regional Director, Western Region) had continued to express support

for these walks and even the use of safety ropes, safety harnesses and safety helmets both inside or outside of what Parks Victoria call Special Protection Areas (SPAs). To clarify, although the majority of averagely fit and able bushwalkers find these scrambling routes (such as the ridge-line linking Hollow Mountain to Mount Stapylton) to be both enjoyable, easy and straightforward, some walkers (especially those less agile within clubs or school groups) use safety ropes to provide a bit more security.

You can read our full blog relating to this matter and Parks Victoria's detailed responses at [Grampians National Park: Safety Ropes, Bushwalking and Special Protection Areas](#).

With the the release of the *Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan* Parks Victoria included the following table (page 99) which was added without any consultation with either the bushwalking or rock climbing communities.



The Fortress, one of the most attractive isolated rock summits in Australia and an historic bushwalking destination.

New grading system

It is difficult to know why Parks Victoria decided to hastily adapt the North American [Yosemite Decimal System](#) (YDS), which is what Parks Victoria refers to as the Sierra Club's "modern classification", to divide hiking and rock climbing into five general classes. According to [Wikipedia](#), "the exact definition of the (YDS) classes is somewhat controversial, and updated versions of these classifications have been proposed". In fact, the Sierra Club (which is California based) have now [reviewed the YDS ratings system](#) and have new "Scrambler" definitions "to distinguish them from the closely related but not identical YDS ratings". There is also the question of where and exactly how does the North American YDS actually fit in with the widely accepted [Australian Walking Track Grading System](#) (of which Parks Victoria has endorsed) or with the long established Australian and New Zealand Ewbank rock climbing grading system.

However the real issue is with how Parks Victoria have used the Class 3 definition, which equates to "scrambling with increased

exposure, where handholds are necessary and falls could be easily be fatal". Parks Victoria has decided that class 3 scrambling is to be regarded as "hiking" but only if it occurs on a designated hiking trail. And this is where things get really strange. According to Parks Victoria if class 3 scrambling occurs on a *non-designated* hiking trail (such as on the Hollow Mountain to Mt Stapylton traverse or to reach the summit of the Fortress) then it is to be considered rock climbing "whether ropes or other safety equipment is used or not". What this effectively means is that although this stops all those pesky rockclimbers in their tracks it also puts an end to what many experienced walkers take for granted as part of their normal outdoor experience – scrambling. There must be literally thousands of established walking routes around Australia and throughout the world that involve sections of so-called class 3 scrambling. Surely Parks Victoria cannot be serious in banning something so innocuous as scrambling. So, we decided to clarify the situation by contacting Parks Victoria. Almost a month later we finally received the following reply.

18 February 2022

Mr Glenn Tempest

Via email: osp@osp.com

Dear Mr Tempest

Clarification of scrambling in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park

Thank you for your email of 2 February 2022 to Parks Victoria requesting clarification around scrambling in Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park.

In reference to scrambling off a designated trail, the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan determines that any class 3 off-designated track scrambling is considered as rock-climbing, irrespective of the equipment being carried or whether it is conducted inside or outside of a Special Protection Area. As such class 3 off-designated track scrambling is not permitted outside of designated climbing areas.

The carrying of safety equipment throughout Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park is permitted with consideration given to the definitions of hiking versus rock climbing as stated in the Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan. A rope may be used to assist hikers on a designated trail. However, the use of additional equipment outside of a designated climbing area is not permitted.

Any off-track hiking within a Special Protection Area, regardless of the classification, requires permission to be sought from Parks Victoria.

In respect to the Fortress and the Stapylton Amphitheatre walk as described in your correspondence, off track hiking is permitted. Employing safety equipment off track will define the activity as climbing rather than hiking and therefore is not permitted. Off-track hiking in the Chimney Pots area, being within a Special Protection area, will also require permission from Parks Victoria.

Should a hiker wish to seek approval to walk off track in any Special Protection Area, they are required to document this request in writing including details of when, who and why they need to walk in this area and submit their request to the District Manager. The District Manager's email address is Jamey.staples@parks.vic.gov.au.

I hope this clarifies your concerns. If you have any further questions, please forward them to Jamey Staples, District Manager at Jamey.staples@parks.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Jason Borg

Parks Victoria

Regional Director, Western Region

To say we were confused is an understatement. The first paragraph states that “class 3 off-designated track scrambling is not permitted outside of designated climbing areas”, and the third paragraph states that “in respect to the Fortress and the Stapylton Amphitheatre walk as described in your correspondence, off track hiking is permitted”. As both the Fortress summit and the Stapylton Amphitheatre walks are indisputably classed by their own adapted YDS system as class 3 this means that these paragraphs are contradictory.

The rest of the letter told us that unlike 12 months previously, safety equipment can no longer be used by bushwalkers unless they are on a Parks Victoria designated walking trail. Again, very odd. Also, the walking and scrambling route to the top of the Chimney Pots is no longer allowed as it is now located in a Special Protection Area, yet this is again strange as there is a designated walking trail loop around the entire Chimney Pots, up against the cliffs. Apparently you can apply to walk and scramble to the top of the Chimney Pots but only after applicants “document this request in writing including details of when, who and why they need to walk in this area”. If it sounds like a ban and looks like a ban then it’s probably a ban!

This letter from Jason Borg left us more confused than ever. I therefore emailed Jason again to point out the contradictions and soon received an email back, not from Jason Borg but from Will Cox, the acting Area Chief Ranger for the Grampians National Park. Will Cox and I exchanged a couple of confusing emails in which he finally stated

that “Parks Victoria will be conducting a review of these hiking tracks along with many other tracks throughout the park through its implementation of the *Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan*. As you can appreciate, I can’t pre-empt any outcomes of this process”. I summarised the conversation with, “So if I understand you correctly walkers can walk these trails until further notice?”. Will Cox didn’t reply so I took this to be a reasonable assumption of the situation as it stands.

So there you have it. The *Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan* has been released and scrambling may or may not be banned in the Grampians National Park. From what I can ascertain, this plan, even though it has been released, is exactly that, still a plan. Apparently Parks Victoria has communicated in writing that a set-aside will be posted on its website. However, if the plan is enacted as is, without changes, then class 3 scrambling will be banned and bushwalkers could be facing large fines for doing what many walkers around Australia and the world take for granted.

To be fair, Parks Victoria appear to have painted themselves into a complicated bureaucratic corner over their hasty attempts to initiate sweeping rock climbing bans across the Grampians and in doing so have unfortunately caught up bushwalkers in the process. If our email conversations with Parks Victoria are anything to go by then it is obvious they are struggling with a complicated, poorly thought out and ultimately contradictory strategy.



Mount Thackeray, Grampians National Park
Max Holt

Key points

1. Parks Victoria are in the process of banning class 3 scrambling in the Grampians National Park.
2. Bushwalkers are potentially facing large fines should they be caught on class 3 scrambling on non-designated hiking trails.
3. According to Parks Victoria their class 3 definition is that ascending a given section of rock (whether it is 5 metres in length or 100 metres in length), whether with or without “ropes and other safety equipment” is “scrambling” if that section of rock is on a “designated hiking trail”; however, ascending that identical section of rock (whether with or without ropes and other safety equipment) is regarded as “rockclimbing” if it is not on a designated hiking trail. In other words, simply by designating a trail or by removing its designation, an ascent (whether with or without ropes and safety equipment) can be assessed as either class 3 scrambling or rockclimbing according to Parks Victoria’s whim.

If you wish to have an input regarding the future of walking and scrambling trails in the Grampians National Park, please consider writing to Parks Victoria. It would also help if you encouraged your bushwalking club to do likewise. If enough people voice their opinions then maybe Parks Victoria will be forced into revisiting this issue and come up with a less draconian solution, a solution that will benefit both Parks Victoria and bushwalkers alike.

The following contacts include [Bushwalking Victoria](#) (who represent all bushwalkers in the state) and relevant Parks Victoria representatives.

Jason Borg, Parks Victoria Regional Director, Western Region

Jason.Borg@parks.vic.gov.au

Will Cox, Acting Area Chief Ranger, Grampians National Park, Parks Victoria
will.cox@parks.vic.gov.au

Stuart Hughes, Director of Park Planning and Policy, Parks Victoria
stuart.hughes@parks.vic.gov.au

Matthew Jackson, Chief Executive Officer of Parks Victoria
ceo@parks.vic.gov.au

Bushwalking Victoria
admin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Lily D’Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
lily.dambrosio@parliament.vic.gov.au

In the meantime I’d recommend that bushwalkers consult with [Parks Victoria](#) before undertaking any of the walks discussed here. Parks Victoria can be contacted on 13 1963 or via email at info@parks.vic.gov.au.

I’d like to also thank Parks Victoria for addressing our concerns.

| This article first appeared on [Open Spaces](#).



National Parks Are Not Enough

Text

Stephen Kearney

April Reside

Rebecca Louise Nelson

James Watson

Rebecca Spindler

Vanessa Adams

Over the last decade, the area protected for nature in Australia has shot up by almost half. Our national reserve system now [covers 20%](#) of the country.





Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp National Park, NSW
Source: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

That's a positive step for the thousands of species teetering on the edge of extinction. But it's only a step.

What we desperately need to help these species fully recover is to protect them across their range. And that means we have to get better at protecting them on private land.

Our [recent research](#) shows this clearly. We found almost half (48%) of all of our threatened species' distributions occur on private freehold land, even though only 29% of Australia is owned in this way.

By contrast, leasehold land – largely inland cattle grazing properties – covers a whopping 38% of the continent but overlaps with only 6% of threatened species' distributions. And in our protected reserves? An average of 35% of species' distribution.

Why do we need more? Aren't our protected areas enough?

When most of us think of saving species, we think of national parks and other safe refuges.

This is the best known strategy, and efforts to expand our network are laudable. New additions include the [Narriearra Caryapundy Swamp National Park](#) in northwest New South Wales, [Dryandra Woodland National Park](#) in Western Australia, and several [Indigenous Protected Areas](#) around Australia, which will ensure greater protection for some species.

But relying on reserves is simply not enough. From the air, Australia is a patchwork quilt of farms, suburbs and fragmented forests. For many species, it has become difficult to find food sources and mates.

Since European colonisation began, we have lost at least [100 species](#), including three species [since 2009](#).

Almost 2,000 [plant](#) and [animal](#) species are threatened with extinction, with dozens of [reptile](#), [frog](#), [butterfly](#), [fish](#) and [bird](#) and [mammal](#) species set to be lost forever without a step change in [resourcing and conservation effort](#).

What we do on our properties matters to nature

Freehold land is home to almost half our threatened species. Species like the [pygmy blue-tongue lizard](#) (*Tiliqua adelaidensis*) and [giant Gippsland earthworm](#) (*Megascolides australis*) occur almost entirely on privately owned lands.

By contrast, leasehold land overlaps with only 6% of species' distributions. Though that might sound low, species like the highly photogenic [Carpentarian rock-rat](#) (*Zyzomys palatalis*) rely entirely on leased land.

What about the 1.4% of Australia set aside for logging in state forests? These, too, provide the main habitat for threatened species such as [Simson's stag beetle](#) (*Hoplogonus simsoni*), which has over two-thirds of its distribution in state forests in Tasmania's northwest. Similarly, the [Colquhoun Grevillea](#) (*Grevillea celata*) is known only from a state forest in Victoria's Gippsland region.

Even defence lands – covering less than 1% of Australia – are the only home some species have. Take the [Cape Range remipede](#) (*Kumonga exleyi*), known only from an air force bombing range near Exmouth, Western Australia, or the [Byfield Matchstick shrub](#) (*Comesperma oblongatum*), which survives in Queensland's highly biodiverse Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area.

The Indigenous estate across Australia intersects with almost all of these tenure types, and also has critical importance for half of Australian threatened species distributions as shown by [previous research](#).

We need all hands on deck to keep our threatened species persisting

It is late in the day to save Australia's threatened species, as climate change multiplies the challenges they face. If we are to have any real chance at turning the tide, we must do much more.

To staunch the heartbreaking flow of species into extinction means we have to actively manage [multiple threats](#) to their existence across many different types of land tenure.

Logging of native forest and some methods of intensive farming continue to endanger [many threatened species](#), particularly those which rely on these land types for their survival.

Over 380 threatened species have part of their range in land set aside for logging. It should be no surprise that logging is a [key threat](#) for 64 of these endangered species.

How can we achieve better conservation outside protected areas?

Many landholders are acutely aware of the species they share the land with, and are already taking action to protect them. One key method is the use of land partnerships, in which landowners and custodians work with conservationists.

Take Sue and Tom Shephard, who run a large [cattle property on Cape York](#). Their station is home to some of the last remaining [golden-shouldered parrots](#) (*Psephotus chrysopterygius*). The Shephards are working to bring the species back from the brink through careful management of [grazing, fire and feral animals](#).



Colquhoun Grevillea (*Grevillea celata*)
Melburnian

Similarly, the work of hundreds of [rice growers](#) is helping save the endangered [Australian bittern](#) (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). Every year, up to a third of the remaining population descends on New South Wales rice fields to breed. Rice farmers are accommodating these birds by ensuring there is early permanent water, reducing predator numbers and boosting their habitat.

We're seeing successes even on defence force land. The Yampi Sound Training Area in the Kimberley is a biodiversity hotspot. A [partnership](#) between the Department of Defence and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy is helping protect these species alongside defence force use. This model could be rolled out across other areas of defence land.

What's stopping more people taking action?

While many landowners may want to help, [financial](#) constraints, a lack of [knowledge](#) or concerns over implications for [resale of the land](#) can be barriers.

If we want to encourage more landowners to directly conserve species on their land, we must begin by understanding what they want. Only then can we design initiatives to help these species, as well as [benefit and engage](#) landowners.

What does this look like? Picture financial incentives to join conservation programs. Or workshops where landowners can see

the very real benefit to their own land by reducing erosion, keeping rabbit numbers under control, protecting waterways from silt or water-sucking introduced trees, or reducing wind and dust through setting aside land for trees.

If a farmer or landowner can clearly see the benefit for wildlife and for their own use, they are much more likely to take part.

Incentives don't [have to be](#) financially based, either. If landowners understand what works and feel capable of action after training, and have technical support and assistance to draw on, they're more likely to start down the path of making their land more friendly to threatened species.

If we really want to protect our species, we must do more to bring in Australia's farmers, landowners and other custodians of land. We cannot rely on protected areas alone. We need to make the land safer for our species most at risk, wherever they occur.

“

... the work of hundreds of [rice growers](#) is helping save the endangered [Australian bittern](#) ...

Stephen Kearney

PhD student, The University of Queensland

April Reside

Lecturer, The University of Queensland

James Watson

Professor, The University of Queensland

Rebecca Louise Nelson

Associate Professor in Law, The University of Melbourne

Rebecca Spindler

Adjunct Professor, UNSW Sydney

Vanessa Adams

Senior Lecturer, Discipline of Geography and Spatial Sciences, University of Tasmania

CSIRO's **Josie Carwardine** and **Anthea Coggan** contributed to this research.

This article first appeared in [The Conversation](#) on 11 February 2022.

Cured and Fermented Meats

Text
Sonya Muhlsimmer

Have you ever gone into a deli and seen all those sticks of salami or sausages hanging there in the window and ever wondered how does that ever last without spoiling, or what is that white stuff on the outside of the salami? Or you're planning a long, long walk and you want to take some meat, but will it last the journey and which one is best?



One of many types of salami and processed meats at my deli
Sonya Muhlsimmer



Family tradition Italian style
Joe Zappavigna

Salami and chorizo are types of meat that have been cured and fermented and there is a wide variety available. Curing and fermenting meat is one of the oldest type of food preservation techniques around. This practice could easily date back to 3000 BC and was served as part of religious traditions. Back in the ancient days, the Roman army was also fed with this type of meat. As I said, there is a wide variety out there, just to name a few there are prosciutto, soppressata, pancetta, pastrami, chorizo, pepperoni, bacon and even blood sausages available. I am going to try to answer some, not all of your questions on the variety of cured and fermented meats readily available in the supermarket aisles.

What is the difference in fermented and cured meats?

Fermented meats use a good bacteria to kill off the bad bacteria, a microbiological process typical for salami and chorizo. Cured meats are based on the removal of water, curing draws out the moisture. Prosciutto, speck and pepperoni are types of cured meat. Meats can be cured or fermented or even both.

Firstly, what is fermentation?

Fermentation is a process in which bacteria, otherwise known as a starter culture, break down the carbohydrates present in foods. Salami is based on a lactic fermentation process and uses bacteria that produce lactic acid, creating a unique flavor profile and increases the shelf life. Wine, kombucha and yoghurt are also types of fermented products.

Then what is curing?

Curing is a food preservation method that removes moisture via osmosis, which is a net movement of water from a high water concentration to a region of lower water concentration. Curing removes the water from the meat, which is more saturated with liquid to the salt, the other side. In cured meats more water is drawn out of the meat and the salt absorbs it.

Curing uses a mixture of salt, smoke, nitrates, sugar and spices. There are two ways of curing meats, which is either a wet or dry method. For example, bacon is a type of cured meat that uses a brine and nitrate solution, otherwise known as a wet solution

and salami is a type of cured meat that uses a dry curing process using salt or smoke. Salt, smoke and nitrates draw out the moisture, thus curing the meat. Dry curing, can take up to five days, depending on the meat and weight; some say to sit the meat in the cure for one day per kilogram.

What is the shelf life of cured meats?

Basically, due to the lack of moisture some types of meat can last a long time. Moisture is what the harmful bacteria need to grow. Time wise however, it depends on what type and cut the meat is, or if it is sliced and how it was cured, or even who made it. There are some really good brands out there that could last for a few weeks or even months. The good guys at [Goose on the loose](#) supplied me with a range of cured meats for an expedition that lasted three months in the Australian Outback and the meat was perfect throughout the expedition. I have taken a 200 gram log of smoke- and heat-treated salami on multi-day hikes for up to 15 days with no problem at all. I will say this, if the meat is sliced it will not last as long. Here is a great article, [Tips about how to store salami](#).

What is the white stuff on the salami?

Well, it is mould, penicillin actually. Yep, that's right it is penicillin. I used to have a job in a deli years back and it was my job to oil the salami, to remove the mould just to make the salami look glossy. Don't worry, it is safe to eat except if you have an allergy to penicillin, in which case I recommend staying away from that salami.

What should I take on my trip?

Now, this is the million-dollar question. Let us look at the supermarket shelves.

Salami

I like the smoke- and heat-treated type of logs. But any salami has been treated in some way and generally has a good shelf life anyway. If you have a look at the fine print on the back of the pack, it states if it is smoke fermented or heat-treated. Salami and chorizo from the deli may not have any labels as they are not from a mass produced factory, so you will have to ask the deli for information. A smoke or heat-treated will last a while in the pack. I had a 200 gram log in my backpack for a 14 day hike in summer and it was fine.



Steve and Joe approving Joe's home-made salami at Disappointment Spur Hut, Kosciuszko NP
Steven Buchert

There are many brands and generally, salami will last a while out of the fridge due to the fermentation and curing process. The local delis may have unique styles, which are also shelf stable, and may even be covered in that white stuff. Go talk to them and ask their opinion. Primo have [Salami](#) with a shelf life of up to 56 days. The [Goose on the loose](#) product can last up to 12 months if you follow their guidelines, and again they lasted three months in the outback on an expedition.

The other type of salami log I love is when my friend has his annual Italian family tradition and makes a pile of salami, hangs it in his garage for a couple of weeks then gives it to his friends to enjoy. When we go

to aid in the drying process as well. He stores it in vacuum seal bags in the fridge however, traditionally salami was kept in ceramic jars filled with oil.

Twiggy sticks

Some brands are wood smoked which is great. These are pretty convenient and can come in a small handy pack or individually wrapped. Great for on the trail and according to Primo foods they have a shelf life of up to 42 days in normal conditions. They would be fine in the pack for a few days to a week.

“

... the word Salami comes from the word *sale*, meaning salt.



The packet describes the salami process. This says smoke fermented and heat treated, the best combination for a long preservation. Sonya Muhlsimmer

on our annual backcountry ski trip and are rationed with his salami, for a snack we have been known to heat it through on top of the fireplace in the hut. Although the salami has a shelf life potential of a few months, it only lasts a week because we enjoy it so much and eat it all.

My friend tells me that the word Salami comes from the word *sale*, meaning salt. Also, 250 grams of salt is used for every 10 kilograms of meat. He makes the salami in winter and the drying varies pending the temperature. He wipes the salami with wine if there is sign of mould growth and sometimes they use smoke

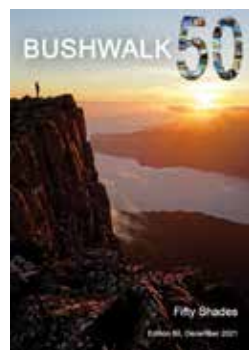
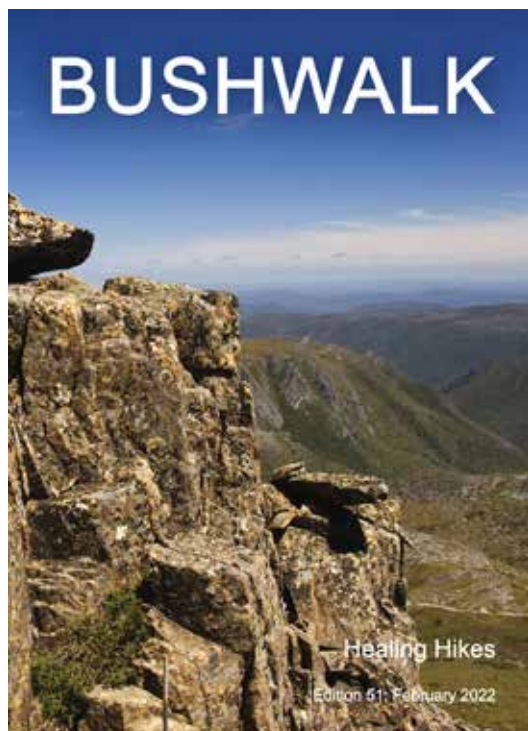
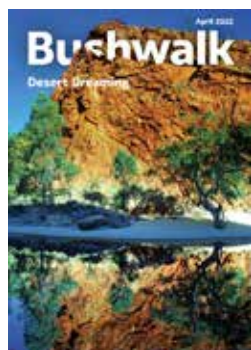
Chorizo

This type of Spanish or Mexican sausage is dry cured for up to a few weeks or months and either are fermented or not. Some need cooking and some brands are ready to eat. You just need to ask the deli or read the pack. They will say if it is ready to eat or not. In the fridge at home, it can last for a couple of weeks and depending on the quality of the chorizo, it could last a few months. I would say it would be fine for a few days in the pack.

Kransky

Is another type of sausage originated in Slovenia that is cured and fermented and the same as chorizo it can be ready to eat or not. Supermarkets have Primo kransky sausages ready to eat. Again, I would say it would be fine for a few days in the pack.

My father emigrated from Germany, so we had our fair share of salami, sausage and kransky growing up. There are literally hundreds of different German meats available. This article is just scraping the surface on what is available out there on the supermarket shelves and delis, however I hope you are a little more informed on the availability, types and shelf life of salami. Who knows, you may just want to start making your own.



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