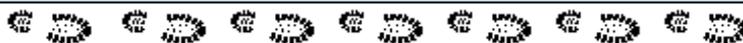




FOOTPRINTS

May 2018

Newsletter of the Border Bushwalking Club Inc.
affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria



COMMITTEE

President
Vice President
Treasurer & Website
Secretary

Ian Trevaskis 0425 782 983
Ralph
David
Sue S

president@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
vicepres@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
treasurer@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
secretary@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

General Committee: Bernadette: **Activities Coordinator**, Sandy: **Committee Support**, Liz: **Newsletter Editor**, Ira: **Meeting Suppers & Social Convener**, Chris: **Equipment Officer**, Marie: **Membership & Data Base Manager**

CLUB NIGHT 7:30 TUESDAY MAY 1st

A.G.M. FOLLOWED BY...

Hola Amigos Bienvenido a "Adventuras en Sudamericas"

Last year Sasho, Catherine and Marie adventured in South America. They will present some highlights of their trips, from the Attacama Desert in Chile to Uyuni Salt Flats in Bolivia, the Inca trail and Colca Canyon in Peru, Isle de Sol and down to Patagonia. Ciao Chiccos! Hasta pronto!



Where : Senior Citizens, Meeting Room, Civic Centre Complex, Hovell Street, Wodonga. **Visitors** are always welcome at meetings and supper is served afterwards. **Club Nights** are regularly held on the **first Tuesday** of the month (except December and January) at 7:30pm. The room is opened half an hour before the start so that members may socialise. www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Leigh Blackmore

Robyn Styles

We trust that you will enjoy all that the Club and its members have to offer.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOOTPRINTS.

Your contributions are keenly sought. If you have been on a club trip please send a short, or indeed long, reports to the editor. **Photos** of outings are also greatly appreciated. **Please try to send photos as small files.**

Send to: newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

Deadline for next Footprints is 24/4/18

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT May 2018

It gives me much pleasure to present my annual President's Report for the year 2017-18 and in doing so to once again draw your attention to the hard work done behind the scenes by a dedicated and devoted committee. If you have the chance, I urge you to take the time to personally thank them for making the past year such an enjoyable and successful one for our Club in every way.

Our Club was founded 40 years ago following a suggestion by Ms Helen Black that Albury-Wodonga should have a bushwalking club. The rest, as they say, is history and in March we celebrated this significant milestone with a weekend of socialising, reminiscing and walking and cycling in and around Beechworth. For those who were unable to attend - you missed something truly special and memorable!

During our celebrations I asked those amongst the 60 plus present to indicate by a show of hands if they were currently, or had ever been, on Committee. It was rewarding to see the huge show of hands and to be able to recognise the efforts of all those, both past and present, who have ensured our organisation has continued to prosper.

The past 12 months have certainly been busy with our 40th Anniversary celebrations; the current changeover to a new and revamped website which we hope will be more user-friendly and attractive; our New Members Night which saw perhaps the biggest turn out to a Club Night in recent times; the diverse and captivating presentations organised for our monthly get-togethers; and perhaps best of all, a very full Activities Program that has catered for all interests and skill levels and has included a full suite of outdoor activities. Such a program would not be possible without our legendary Leaders, to whom we should be eternally grateful!

I refer to the Members Handbook as a reminder of what our Club is on about... *"The Border Bushwalking Club, despite its name, is really a bushwalking club, a canoeing club, a cycling club, a cross country skiing club and a social club, all in one organisation. It is an organisation which functions simply, efficiently, at low cost, and yet provides a source of enrichment to the lives of its members."*

In closing I would like to thank the Committee for their continued positive support and direction and, with one exception, for putting their hands up and volunteering to serve for another year. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to our retiring Treasurer, David Graf, who has ensured the Club's finances remain strong and viable and who has kindly offered to continue in an ex-Officio capacity as our webmaster.

"Like any other organization, what you get out of it depends on what you put into it. You can choose to be a passive member, or you can participate in a wide variety of activities." I would add to this introduction in the Members Handbook that "you can enrich your life even more by becoming actively involved as a Committee Member and a Leader."

One final thought from Finis Mitchel ... *"We don't stop hiking because we grow old – we grow old because we stop hiking."*

Ian Trevaskis
President

In case you missed it, our President is now writing a regular monthly column titled 'Out and About' for the Border Mail, appearing on the first Saturday of each month. The column is designed to get people interested in the outdoors while subtly promoting BBC.

THANK YOU LEADERS

A **BIG "Thank You"** to all our members who lead activities. We are very grateful for your efforts.



TRIP REPORTS

Mollinson's Galleries Mount Buffalo NP.

Eight of us set off from the reservoir near the Mt McLeod track on an overcast morning. Ron suggested we take the short cut by crossing the reservoir wall and walking around the reservoir to meet the track. This was achieved without a hassle and we proceeded to enjoy walking through some lovely forested bushland in perfect hiking conditions. Side trips were made to Og, Gog and Magog, and Eagle Point, both impressive granite rock formations so typical and unique in Mount Buffalo NP.

Unfortunately Eileen slipped and fell when we were negotiating a tricky section across some rocks. Fortunately she wasn't badly injured so it was decided to stop and have lunch and after lunch six of us made the short trip to the galleries where we marvelled at the huge rock formations, especially the massive rock that looked like the hide of an elephant with its 'wrinkles'.

Aware that the forecast for the afternoon indicated possible thunderstorms and observing the ever-darkening skies to the west, we began our return journey in the hope the distant rumblings might bypass us. Not to be. Soon we were clad in rainwear trudging along the track as the rain bucketed down and overhead lightning illuminated the forest as the sky was ripped apart by great rending crashes of thunder. Eventually the storm moved on and the rain petered out and by the time we reached the cars the rain had stopped. This is a walk that is always a pleasure to do and is easily achieved in a day. Ian



Ropers Hut

Six of us set off on a fine but breezy Easter Saturday. The day was brilliantly clear and the views impressive as we made our way up the Big River Fire Trail from Watchbed Creek towards Mt Nelse. We paused for morning tea before continuing on to Warby Corner, where we noticed a camera mounted on one of the snow poles. We decided this was DeerCam, used for monitoring the feral deer that are being culled because they are doing so much damage to the fragile environment. After checking that we were not wearing antlers left over from Christmas, we posed for the camera and continued on, following the pole line to Ropers Hut. We left behind the views of Feathertop, McKay and Buffalo and now the skyline was dominated by Mt Bogong until we dropped down into the snowgums and the clearing where the hut is located.

During lunch, the Easter Bunny distributed Easter eggs while some people tried to persuade an attractive little critter to pose for a photograph. Then it was time to pack up and head back the way we came, now with the wind at our backs rather than in our faces. The walk is 10 km in each direction, on a good track and with some ups and downs but nothing too steep. On a fine day the views make the effort worthwhile. Eileen.



Lockhart's Gap Crossover.

With military precision and detailed logistical planning the Annual Lockhart's Gap Crossover was successfully accomplished on a fine Saturday in early April when 9 club members walked the 18kms one way or the other. While 'Team Cromarty' was setting off from the Lockhart's Gap end, 'Team Trevaskis' was striding out from the Tallangatta Lookout end.

The walking was pleasant and not too arduous, despite some steep ascent and descents along the way. The lyrebirds must have hibernated or moved to another locale as we were not entertained by the usual repertoire of birdsongs and calls coming from the bush.

Both teams met about halfway and opted for an early lunch before exchanging car keys and departing ways and arrived at their respective end points within minutes of each other. It was then off with the packs, load the cars and head to *Café Trevaski* where a delicious afternoon tea was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to Trish for her baking and cooking, and to 'Team Cromarty' for breaking with tradition and not getting themselves lost! Ian



UP and DOWN by BIKE

Two of us ignored the thumping heat on a recent Sunday afternoon and rode the 16kms from the former Everton Railway Station up the long steady climbs to Beechworth township where we sought shelter at 'The Provendor' for a well earned lunch and refreshments. An hour later, fuelled up and refreshed, we clipped on our helmets and joyfully freewheeled our way back down the hills to the station. This ride often appears on the calendar of events and although intimidating to some is doable if completed in stages. The rewards include fine dining in Beechworth and an easy and speedy cycle downhill. Hopefully next time it appears in 'Activities' you'll sign up. Ian



Willing Worker on Wednesday Wander

For most of us, walking is a leisure activity, an antidote to the stresses of daily toil, but Wednesday's Bungambrawartha Creek trail walk was just another working day for Bella the wonder dog as she guided her blind owner, Jenny, along the way. With 35° forecast, four of us plus Bella met early in Noreuil Park and drove to Lavington to start the walk. The first part of the trail passes through parkland and provides easy walking on a broad path, so conversation flowed thick and fast. We stopped for morning tea at the 'Turtle Crossing', where a big statue of a turtle reminded us of the fauna that used to live in the creek, which was completely dry today.

Suitably refreshed, we continued on southward where the track winds its way behind Albury landmarks such as the cemetery, netball courts and High School, and past a community garden before finishing up at the Botanic Gardens. Bella was rewarded with another big drink and a rest in the shade while we chatted before taking Jenny home. Two walkers reclaimed their cars and I retraced our steps back to the start of the walk to collect my car. By now, it was very warm and I was glad we had started early on our very pleasant wander. The trail is virtually flat all the way and off road except for one short section along a quiet street, but with several roads to cross. Eileen.



Kiandra to Canberra

On Good Friday Sandy, Ian, Pete, David, John and I headed off to Kiandra to start a six day walk to Canberra (Thawra). We hired a mini bus and John K was the coach captain.

The first few days were reasonably flat and easy and we were lulled into false sense of security: This sector of the AAWT was going to be easy!

After a night at Witzes Hut with Paul, the cyclist, we headed off for Ghost Gully and over the Murrumbidgee River. We were serenaded by choppers carrying out mud from Snowy.2 Feasibility Study. The chosen camp-site was accessible by 4WD and being the Easter break, it was crowded with glampers. The decision was made to press on to Hainsworth Hut, via the old telegraph poles. The extra bit of walking was filled in with bursts of telephone songs and the gradual piecing together of the lyrics of Jim Croce's 'Operator.'

On day three we headed off to the beautiful Blue Waterholes where we met an Alpine Copperhead sharing our spot by the water. John's promise of coffee and ice-creams at the van was apparently related to the date: April 1st. Some ventured to the spectacular caves while others rested. That night we were visited by many brumbies and in the

morning a kangaroo decided to share Pete's breakfast.

Ian impressed us all the next day by being first ready; a one off event. Just as well he was ready as we had a long day with a lot of climb ahead. We learnt a few lessons about checking in as a group and that water isn't always as advertised but about 26km and 800 metres of height gain later we set up camp in the dark, ate quickly and rested our exhausted bodies.

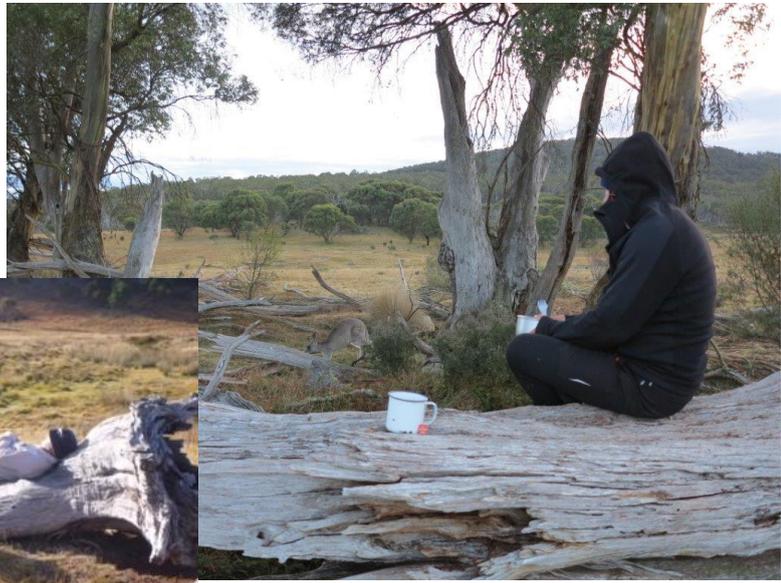
On day five we entered the ACT and enjoyed a day full of variety, ending at Honeysuckle Creek, a former NASA tracking station that was an important link in the Apollo missions of the 60's and 70's. That night possums took over the entertainment.

The tracks as we neared Canberra on the last day became more stepped and manicured. Some left earlier in order to summit Mt Tennant while others just pressed on. We were very pleased to see Rosemary and Jim ready to ferry us to our luxurious Canberra accommodation as we completed our walk.

Congratulations to John H, who over the past few years has completed the entire AAWT. Each sector has been completed with a different combination of companions (but always Fifi, his faithful camel). I estimate more than 20 people have shared a part of John's journey and I thank him for opening the opportunity to us all.

Thanks also to John K our ever faithful driver and Rosemary and Jim for ferrying us at the end of the walk. Bernadette.





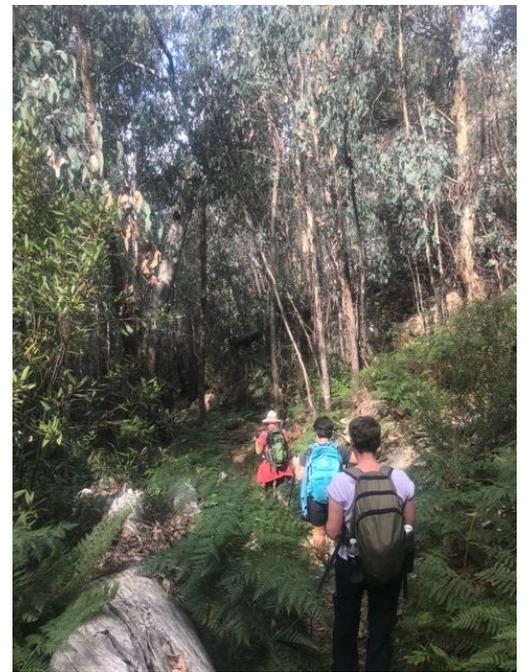
The Big Walk.

If you want to go on a walk with breath taking views across mountains and valleys, a walk that traverses wet forest, zig zags up rocks, passes crystal clear creeks then through alpine forest, a walk that never disappoints, then The Big Walk up Mt. Buffalo is for you. At 22 kms its a ripper of a walk, although must admit we settled for lunch just before reaching the chalet so we could sit and admire the sheer rock walls, other mountains and the Grand Old Dame herself. As I understand, if all the money that has been spent on feasibility studies had been spent on the Chalet itself, she would be back to her former glory.

Great company, great weather and a great afterwards at The Happy Valley Pub.

What more could you ask for? Thanks Deb. Ed.





And a Blast from the Past.

As part of our 40th anniversary celebrations, each month a report from the past will be featured. This month's article dates back to 2001 and is written by BBC Lifetime member Warwick McLaughlin. It explains how the extreme winter sport of *Scrubski* began.

REFLECTIONS ON A DAY SKI - Saturday 21 July 2001 - Falls Creek - Warwick McLachlan

It's a bit of a worry when the day trippers all bring torches. As their leader I regarded this as a bit of no-confidence. Charitably I thought maybe they hadn't unpacked their overnight backpacks because, after all, this trip was the substitute for the ski camp programmed for the Niggerheads on the Saturday and Sunday. However, during the week before, the snow had come, the snow had went, the sun come out and the whole idea of ski camping weekend was looking nuts and I said as much to the enrolees. I complained about the lack of snow, they said it didn't matter. I complained about the forecast of drizzle and showers, they said that didn't matter either. They were just the bunch of skiing desperates who wouldn't give a rats about crappy conditions and who probably thought quartzite was just snow that had got a bit lumpy.

So, the consolation prize was to be a ski out along the McKay Road to Pretty Valley to lunch at Tawonga Huts. The sun was shining, the thermals got stripped, the muscles got limbered and off we shuffled. But the Wicked Witch of Night Ice had the night before turned ever so slightly moist snow into evil stuff called slippery concrete, with groovy ruts, mini canyons, cutesy lumps, all of which makes skis with worn out patterns on their bottoms go downhill when going uphill which in turn induces untold rage, frustration and significant other negative emotions, whilst physically going nowhere. Taking off

the skis and walking provides a disconsolate but practical solution. Abusing the others for having the good sense to bring proper skis is no use because they have gotten too far ahead to hear.

But skiing generally is pleasurable - apart from the sunshine lunch atop Mt Jim and a snooze on the foam mat, one of those other pleasures is the drift of subjects around the group at morning tea, lunch and casual stop times. We covered the science of snow (a perennial favourite), the meaning of life (it is to serve, but not necessarily to be happy), the futility of self punishment (the downward spiral has no end), payola in the medical profession (but the only thing solicitors ever get are promotional Biro's, grizzle, grizzle), euthanasia (there is a bit about) and the incidence of giardia in Yackandandah. Probably it was the sunny day and the gentle pace that contributed to this gentle exploration of life's relevant mysteries.

My final memory concerns an exposition in the afternoon of that Australian snowfield ritual called Scrubski. This is not named after a town near Leningrad but refers to a technique only found in the appendix of obscure Ski Training manuals. Fortunately we had ideal conditions once we left Mount Jim after lunch and tried to ski along the Alpine Walking Track back towards Pretty Valley. What we needed and what we got were sections of Low Alpine Scrub poking through Thin Crusty Snow so the terrain looks like a green and white mottled patchwork quilt. Such areas are usually described in the manual as "shit snow" but are ideal for Scrubski. I found an ideal downhill patch for Scrubski leading towards a creek feeding into Pretty Valley dam. As you would realise, the coefficient of friction for sliding skis varies between snow and Low Alpine Scrub. On the snow part, one stands upright, proud and erect - this lasts for a metre or two and then one jerks forward when the top of the Low Alpine Scrub is skied over, possibly frightening the tiny animals sheltering underneath and certainly frightening the big animal on the skis. The upper body thereafter pendulums back and forth as progress down the slope is made and the skier looks like an epileptic Japanese businessman constantly bowing and bouncing backwards in imaginary greeting to his superiors. When the ski tips catch underneath low branches, the Japanese businessman prostrates himself in full obeisance to powers beyond his control and understanding. The word "Stupidity" begins to float into the skier's consciousness at this time, unless he has hit his head on something hard like a tree root or ski tip. Several minutes and 300 metres of Scrubski that Saturday afternoon reminded me why I don't do it very often. Fortunately, all this occurred out of sight of my companions who had taken off their skis and walked to a lower point of the creek. Clearly they had not read the same Ski Training manual as I had.

We finished at 5.30 pm just as the Wicked Witch of Night Ice was arriving and thanked our lucky stars we had not endured 2 days of thin snow, rutted tracks and Scrubski. One day soon it might just snow and Scrubski will become just another slightly painful memory of a semi pleasurable sun shiny July ski day.

NOTICES

CLUB NIGHTS provide a great opportunity for new comers to meet old hands, to hear about walks from all over the world, listen to guest speakers covering a range of topics from how to use technology in the bush to the restoration of the alpine huts. Unfortunately our club nights are not drawing the number of attendees that we'd like. Out of respect for the speakers we organise, greater attendance would be appreciated. In light of low attendances the Committee is about to review the frequency of Club Nights heading into the future. Please note our next meeting is our A.G.M. and a quorum of 25 voting members is required.

Friends of Nail Can Hill are having a special walk in memory of Hans Kaspers.

On May 20, we will organise a bush walk in memory of Hans Kaspers who died earlier this year. Hans was one of Friends of Nail Can Hill's main contact persons, and his enthusiasm for the hill is sorely missed. Details of the event will be provided later. For more details use the email address below.

mimitchell@csu.edu.au

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on Tuesday May 2nd, 2017

- 1. Welcome:** Meeting opened at 7.35 pm and welcomed members.
- 2. Attendance:** There were 28 members present, as per attendance sheet. Quorum reached. Apologies received

Rosemary McConnell & Cindy Marsh.

3. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting – May 3rd, 2016 attached to May 2017 Footprints Newsletter.

Motion by Ian Trevaskis: That the previous AGM Minutes circulated to members is accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Seconded by Eileen Clark. Accepted. Motion carried.

3.1 Business Arising - Nil

4. President's Report – attached to May 2017 Footprints Newsletter.

Motion: That the President's report attached to the May newsletter be accepted. Accepted by all. Motion carried.

5. Treasurer's Report – attached to April 2017 Footprints Newsletter.

Motion by David Graf: That the Treasurer's report be accepted as a true and accurate record of BBC accounts. Seconded by Ian Trevaskis. Accepted by all. Motion carried.

5.1 Fees for the forthcoming year

It is the recommendation of the committee that there be no increase in membership fees for the 2017 – 18 year.

Motion: That there is no increase in membership fees for the 2017-2018 membership year.

Accepted by all. Motion carried.

6. Activity coordinator's Report – attached to April 2017 Footprints Newsletter.

7. Equipment Officer's Report – Thanks to Adventure Gear Albury for storing our gear. Report to be in June Footprints.

8. Election of 2015 - 2016 Committee

All nominees were declared successful and returned, namely: -

President – Ian Trevaskis
Vice President – Paul Schirmer
Secretary – Jan Lonergan
Treasurer – David Graf

Ordinary committee members are Sandy Kaitler, Ira Robinson, Liz Nilbett, Bernadette Cromarty, Marie Maguire and Chris Gay.

Ian thanked retiring committee members Rosemary McConnell and Warwick McLachlan.

9 Management of Accounts

Motion by Marie Maguire. Seconded by Ron Hammond. That the signatories to the club account held at Hume Building Society are as follows and that any two of the aforesaid signatories are to sign.

- President – Ian Trevaskis

- Vice President – Paul Schirmer
- Treasurer – David Graf
- Secretary – Jan Lonergan

Accepted by all. Motion carried.

10 General Business

Nil

Meeting closed @ 7.45 pm

ACTIVITIES REPORT 2017-18

Bushwalking is our core business and our goal is to be active. There is no doubt the club has been very active in the past year. We have been doing day walks on weekends and weekdays, weekend walks, extended walks, bike rides, skiing, snowshoeing and canoeing.

Eileen, has once again, gathered statistics of our events and her report has been sent separately as an attachment. In addition to this data Sasho and Cindy have led canoeing each week over the Summer months. There were 14 weeks of this activity with 104 participants all up. Eileen's main reflection was that the number of leaders has reduced for the year. I am hoping that my push for 40 leaders to celebrate our 40th anniversary will improve this situation as it is not wise to rely on so few to sustain a varied and full program.

Certainly we have had plenty of opportunities for members with only three weekends lacking any event. One of these was Christmas weekend and the other two were in the depths of Winter. Having stated that, there was not one week for the whole year where the calendar was blank, as there were mid week activities on those three weeks.

Thanks to Eileen for so carefully compiling our statistics and to all leaders, especially Eileen, Deb and Sasho for putting on so many activities. My plea is that all members consider adding your name to Eileen's list; without leaders we have no events.

See you on the track,
Bernadette

40 ACTIVITIES 40 LEADERS UPDATE

At the start of the year I put forward a dream for activities in our 40th anniversary year: 40 activities, 40 leaders. We kicked off the year with 11 leaders already putting forward fantastic activities.

Since then 5 more people have put on a variety of activities for our enjoyment:

Thanks to John, Louise, Paul, Liz and Chris. That brings out tally to 16 by the end of February.

Thanks to these great people.

That makes it look like my goal will be easily achieved but without some new, or lapsed, leaders putting their hands up it, becomes the same old fantastic leaders putting on more activities.

Is there a favourite walk, ride, paddle, snow shoe, ski or (pub) crawl that you'd like to share with club members?

I can help you put it on the program and lots of people are happy to co-lead or mentor you. We'd especially love some shorter, easier activities. Maybe something you do often in your local area?

40.40.40.40.40.40.40.40.DREAMING.40.40.40.40.40.40.40.40

REGENT HONEYEATER PROJECT PLANTINGS

The Regent Honeyeater Project has an exciting list of sites to plant this year as we continue to into our 23rd year of rehabilitation and landscape connection.

Over that time we have recorded an increase in the number of Grey-crowned Babbler (50 to 116) who operate in family groups and can be counted; a much wider range for the Brush-tailed Phascogale in nesting boxes; sightings in the Lurg Bird Search of rarer birds in the listed Victorian temperate-woodland bird community such as Diamond Firetail, Painted Honeyeater and many others. The Regent Honeyeater itself remains listed as Critically Endangered and rarely seen. We appreciate the help we have been given over the years and with Ray now in retirement we are continuing in his footsteps as we link the Lurg Hills to Winton Wetlands and the Chesney Hills.

Due to a strict cut-off date for the completion of a 5 year funding cycle (we have applied for the next 5 year round) we need to have most of out planting completed and reported before the end of this financial year and with that in mind have set the dates for the planting weekends as:

PLANTING WEEKENDS:

12/13 May
26/27 May
9/10 June
23/24 June

then later:
4/5 August
18/19 August
then 3 weeks till
8/9 September



If you can join us for any of the early weekends that will be greatly appreciated and return an email with your expressions of interest. The weather here over May and June can be glorious as autumn morphs into winter and with changing climate we are committed to planting much earlier to avoid the drying spring tendency and then the risk of needing to hand water plants over a long, hot summer.

The nest box inspection weekends that are usually carried out in autumn will be on hold again this year as we deal with the urgency around getting plants into the ground and OH&S issues around ladder heights. We will resume these inspections in the near future.

Please note that:

*there are more weekends than usual as we have a lot to do, but also I am committed to calling a weekend off if the 4 day forecast shows inclement weather expected, so book in early with the knowledge that you will not be committing to a wet day.

*we will be able to provide the same free accommodation as in the past (mattresses at the Guide and Scout Hall in Benalla) and as in the past will provide an evening meal on the Saturday and an on site lunch on Sunday before heading home, both at no charge.

* as we get closer to the dates we will confirm other activities which will also be happening over the planting weekends (talks, bush dance etc)

Andie Guerin
Regent Honeyeater Project Coordinator

Making connections @borderbushwalkingclub

Did you know the BBC now has an instagram account? Instagram is a photo-sharing application (google it, ask a teenager or David for a demo). We're hoping that by posting some photos of our activities, and tagging them with place-names/locations, we might be able to make some connections with other people who also walk where we do.

So if you participate on a club activity and have a great photo, send it to:

webadmin@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

Bushwalking with Older People

I am writing to you to raise an issue that is becoming more significant for bushwalking clubs: bushwalking for older people. As people are walking longer, which is a good thing, they are more likely to be impacted by a number of health issues related to old age. These health issues in older bushwalkers can create risks for both bushwalking clubs and their walks.

We ask that all clubs consider this issue and have appropriate processes in place to manage these risks. We would strongly encourage you and your club leaders to read the attached discussion paper, discuss these issues, and ensure that you have the appropriate processes in place.

If you would like more information on this topic, please contact Colin Macdonald at colin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au who will be able to direct you to appropriate sources.

WANT TO GO ON A WALK BUT NEED SOME GEAR?

We hire:

- Tents
- Sleeping bags
- Back-packs
- Hiking poles
- Waterproof jackets
- We even have a dehydrator if you want to prepare your own meals (or dry your excess Summer produce)
- And lots more...



WANT TO LEAD A WALK BUT WORRIED ABOUT SAFETY?

We have the following equipment available for free for any club walk:

- First aid kits
- GPS
- PBLs

Where do I get the gear?

ADVENTURE GEAR, DEAN ST ALBURY



Bushwalking Victoria

Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation

Bushwalking Tracks Maintenance Program April - December 2018

BTAC PROGRAM 2018

Proposed Dates	Park	Project	PV or DELWP
7 - 8 April	Tanjil State Forest	East Tyers Walking Track	DELWP
20 - 22 Apr 2108	Wilson Promontory	Lighthouse South East Track	PV
5-6 May 2018	Grampians	Tracks to be advised	PV
10 - 11 May 2018	Bunyip State Forest	Button Grass & Mortimer Tracks	PV
19 - 20 May 2018	Alpine National Park	Howqua area	PV
9 - 11 June Queens Birthday Weekend	Hattah - Kulkyn	Hattah Lakes area	PV
11 - 12 August 2018	Briagalong State Forest	Track No 96	DELWP
13 - 16 September 2018	Otways National Park	Tracks to be advised	PV
29 - 30 September 2018	Croajingolong	Sandpatch wilderness area	PV
6 - 7 October 2018	Lake Eildon	Spur Track area	PV
3 - 6 Nov 2018 Cup Weekend	Errinundara National Park	Bendoc area	PV
24 - 25 November 2018	Cathedral Range	Nth-Sth Cathedral Circuit	PV
1 - 2 December 2018	Alpine National Park	Howqua area	PV

Interested members can e-mail David Miller at davidmiller3199@gmail.com for further information.

Current volunteers or anyone interested in becoming a BTAC (Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation) volunteer, can also e-mail David at davidmiller3199@gmail.com for more information on the planned projects.

Photo credits this issue:

Sandy
Ian
David
Pauline S



Bernadette

Tania
Eileen

EVER WONDER WHERE TO GO WALKING?

Bushwalking Victoria has this fabulous walk directory with detailed information on about 200 walks in Victoria.

Check it out by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/walks-directory>



Simpson Desert

If you have ever wanted to drive the Desert Country and experience the wilderness of a different kind then consider this trip. David Findlay is organizing a Ute trip to support motorbike riders. They will leave and return from Corowa NSW on Saturday 7th July with an expected return by Saturday 21st July.

For those who are interested in self-drive tag along then you are also welcome to contact us.

For all enquiries please contact David Findlay on [0447 526 916](tel:0447526916)

Please note this is not a club trip and not covered by our insurance.

ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

LEADERS reserve the right to change the activity route on the day depending on prevailing conditions and altered circumstances. A walk leader can refuse permission for any person to take part in his/her activity. A list of trip participants must be prepared and the non-member fee (currently \$5) should be collected before the start of the trip. This is a requirement of our insurance policy. Without this list participants may not be covered by insurance.

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSONS (ECPS): Leaders must leave trip details, including a list of participants and their contact numbers with a family member, or if none available, with an ECP. In the event of a delay, the ECP will contact families and decide on the next course of action.

PARTICIPANTS (members and visitors) must check with the leader that their fitness and experience suit the walk. **Follow the leader's instructions at all times. Pay own ambulance costs – insurance is recommended (but accidents are rare).**

BOOKINGS: If you intend participating in any of the activities listed below **you are required to personally speak to** the Leader **no later** than the **Wednesday** prior to a **day** activity or **7 days** prior to an **overnight** activity or unless otherwise indicated. SMS bookings are not appropriate. **Please be aware that leaders have the right to decide the size of the group they will accept for their activities. Activities may become fully subscribed before the general cut-off date. By contacting the leader early you may avoid missing out.**

FIRST AID KITS: are to be taken by leaders on each walk.

BIVY BAGS: The club has bivy bags available for activities where extreme cold may be an issue.

GRADING

Grade 1

(Easy) Opportunity for large number of participants, including those with reduced ability to walk/cycle on well-marked and even formed tracks. **Formed tracks** may have a few steps. Should not be steep. Suitable for beginners. Distance should not exceed about 10km.

Grade 2

(Easy-Medium) Easy activity, mostly on tracks of low gradient. Opportunity to walk/cycle easily in natural environments on well-marked tracks. Tracks should not be steep. Distance should not exceed about 15km.

Grade 3

(Medium) Medium activity with some hilly sections and/or rougher terrain. Opportunity to walk/cycle on defined and distinct tracks with some steep sections requiring a moderate level of fitness. Suitable for fit beginners. Distance should not exceed about 20km.

Grade 4

(Medium-Hard) Steeper, rougher terrain and may have off-track sections (no more than one quarter of the walk) or a longer distance track walk. Opportunity to explore and discover relatively undisturbed natural environments mostly along defined and distinct tracks. Tracks can be steep. There may be short sections of rock scrambling involved. Leaders should have map reading abilities and/or ability to use a compass. Distance depending on circumstances. Not suitable for most beginners.

Grade 5

(Hard) Off-track or difficult terrain. Opportunity for walkers with advanced outdoor knowledge and skills to find their own way along often indistinct tracks or off track in remote locations. May include steep sections of unmodified surfaces. There may be rock scrambling, creek walking and crossing involved. Distance should not

exceed 30km, but may be short and difficult. Not suitable for beginners.

Grade 6

(Very Hard) Strenuous off-track walk or very long distance. Opportunity for highly experienced walkers to exploratory remote and challenging natural areas without reliance on managed tracks. Terrain may be steep, uneven and no track. There may be rock scrambling, creek walking and crossing involved. Distance covered is unlimited, but may be short and difficult. Only for experienced walkers and not suitable for beginners.

Exploratory Is unknown to leader and while every effort has been made to grade the activity appropriately, there may be some unexpected aspects which may increase the difficulty of the walk.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Falls Creek Westons Hut

Saturday, April 28th

Grade 3

Bushwalking

Leader: Eileen

Phone: 0412042195

Bookings by: Wednesday, April 25th

This walk starts at Pretty Valley and follows tracks towards Westons Hut, rebuilt after the 2003 fires. It is sited among snow gums in a sheltered valley. On the way back, we might call in on the 'gourmets' at Tawonga huts. The walk is about 15 km long, on tracks but with quite a bit of up and down.

Tawonga Hut Gourmet Weekend

Saturday, April 28th -

Grade 3

Bushwalking

Sunday, April 29th

Leader: Ian

Phone: 0425782983

Leader: Bernadette

Phone: 0419241687

Bookings by: Saturday, April 21st

It's on again!

This is an overnighter with a difference. We will walk less than 5km to Tawonga Huts (Falls Creek area) with full packs but they will be full of gourmet goodies as well as tents and other essential gear. Once we have set up camp and off loaded the goodies some may like to walk on to Mt Jaithmathang to work up an appetite for our special shared dinner accompanied by a few laughs and tall stories. The next day our packs will be much lighter as we head back, probably via Weston's Hut.

This walk is very suitable for those who have never done an overnighter before and your leaders will guide you regarding equipment needed and what we have for hire.

It's also a great walk for some more experienced walkers who would enjoy a more relaxed, social weekend.

Last year's theme was 'Mad Hatters'. This year's theme will be divulged when you book in! Ring Bernadette to book. The first to book get first choice of food to bring.

Razorback Crossover

Saturday, May 5th

Grade 3

Bushwalking

Leader: Deb

Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Wednesday, May 2nd

Take a walk on the one of the regions most recognisable features – The Razorback. This ultimate sky trail walk will have one group walking from Diamantina Hut, to the intersection with the Mt Feathertop track, where you can decide to summit or laze in the grass, before descending via Bungalow Spur to Harrierville. The other group will reverse the direction ascending Bungalow Spur first before tackling Mt Feathertop and the Razorback.

Pub to Pub by Bike **Sunday, May 6th** **Grade 3**
Bike Riding **65 kms**
Leader: Ian
Phone: 0425782983
Bookings by: Friday, December 1st

Meeting at the Happy Hotel, carpark, Ovens at 9.45 for a 10:00 start. The ride is all on the sealed Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail over generally flat terrain via Eurobin, Porepunkah and Bright to Wandiligong. We will lunch at the Wandiligong Pub before heading back to Happy Valley Pub. <http://www.happyvalleyhotel.com.au/>
(A condition of this ride is that participants MUST partake of refreshments at both the pubs) Cyclists need to have a roadworthy bike, spare tube and puncture repair kit.

Wild Horse Creek **Saturday, May 12th** **Grade 3**
Bushwalking
Leader: Deb
Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm
Bookings by: Wednesday, May 9th

Wild Horse Creek is a beautiful spot on Track 107 about 10kms from the carpark at Watchbed Creek, where this walk begins. We will initially follow a 4WD track before veering off and following the pole line and Kelly Track to Fitzgeralds and Kelly Hut. This part of the walk is fairly flat and has great views. At Kelly Hut we join Track 107 and descend to Wild Horse Creek, where we will have lunch. After the climb back up to Kelly Hut I would like to make return trip back to the cars via the Aquaduct Track but this will depend on a number of factors including the weather and finding the track. All up about 23km.

Falls Creek, Young's Hut Day Walk **Saturday, May 19th** **Grade 3**
Bushwalking **Approx. 20kms**
Leader: Eileen
Phone: 0412042195
Bookings by: Wednesday, May 16th

We'll join with Ian's overnights for a day trip to Young's Hut starting from near Cope Hut and following the Alpine Walking Track for much of the way. The route is exposed so good wet weather gear is a must, and a head torch would be handy given that the days are quite short in May. About 20 km in total.

Young's Hut Overnighter **Saturday, May 19th - Sunday** **Grade 3**
Bushwalking **May 20th** **Approx. 20kms**
Leader: Ian
Phone: 0425782983
Bookings by: Saturday, May 12th

This walk to Young's Hut is suitable for those who have not previously completed an overnight walk or for those who just want to visit an old friend! Those who are interested in doing a beginner's overnight walk, but are unsure, should contact the leaders for further information. Young's Hut is a rustic former SEC survey hut that our club maintains in conjunction with Parks Victoria. The walk starts at Cope Hut and follows the Alpine Walking Track to Cope Saddle, past the aqueduct and up a slight climb to Pole 333 where we turn left, pass Mt Jim and follow the track leading down to the hut. Return journey is via the same route. We should have great views and possibly see some brumbies. Walk is all on track, with nothing too steep, but is very exposed.

Back Wall/Dicksons Falls **Saturday, May 26th** **Grade 3**
Bushwalking **15kms**
Leader: Ralph Simpendorfer
Phone: 0418 318 804
Bookings by: Wednesday, May 23rd

The Back Wall of Mt Buffalo National Park heads off from the same point as the Dicksons Falls walk with the paths diverting after 500 metres.

The main walk can roughly be divided into three sections. First the pretty Cresta plain with interesting rock formation leading to the Devils Marbles Next you enter a treed area with a dense sub alpine growth where gaiters

are recommended. The final third opens up to the smooth boulders with numerous cairns to guide the way, This area will be difficult if the weather closes in. The view is most rewarding over the Buffalo River valley and on to the main divide in all directions.

On return to the main path we take an easy side trip to Dickson's Falls and nature walk, this time with a different view back to Mount Feathertop.

Banff Mountain film festival **Wednesday, May 30th** **ungraded**
Social

Leader: David

Phone: 0432632142 23rd

Not a club event, but for members interest [buy your own tickets – link below]:

The world's most prestigious mountain film festival is coming back to the Albury Entertainment Centre. The 2018 Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour showcases over 2 1/2 hours of the most enthralling mountain adventure films that will have you planning your next adventure before the credits roll.

Presented by World Expeditions, the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour will be screening in Albury for ONE NIGHT ONLY.

When: Wednesday 30 May, 7.00pm

Where: Albury Entertainment Centre, 525 Swift Street, Albury

Price: \$34 Adult, \$24 Child under 16, \$29.95 Group 10+ – Child under 2 free on knee

Tickets available from; <http://alburyentertainmentcentre.com.au/whats-on/banff-mountain-film-festival-2018>

Two Days on the Hume and Hovell Track **Saturday, June 2nd - Sunday** **Grade 3**
Bushwalking Overnight camping **June 3rd**

Leader: Deb

Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Wednesday, May 30th

Spend two days walking The Hume and Hovell Track from Henry Angel Trackhead, which is just out of Tumbarumba.

We will drive up Saturday morning, set up camp and then walk south from HAT along Burra Creek Gorge to the swing bridge over Tumbarumba Creek (approx 12km return). Followed by a quick trip to Paddy's River Falls (2km return walk 10km drive). Dinner in Tumbarumba Saturday night.

Sunday we will walk north from HAT to Junction Camp Ground – Junction of Burra and East Burra Creeks. (13km return).

All walking is with day packs on track.

The Big Walk **Sunday, June 3rd** **Grade4**
Bushwalking **22km**

Leader: David

Phone: 0432632142 after 8pm

Bookings by: Wednesday, May 30th

Unfortunately I couldn't make it on Deb's big walk in April, but it would be a pity to miss it for a whole season. The walk starts at the carpark at the Park entry, and climbs steadily to the Gorge, is approx. 22km return and all on well-formed walking tracks. Bring a thermos and winter gear, as it could be cool. It'll also be an early start, given the shorter days.

Nail Can Hill (out/or return) **Saturday, June 9th** **Grade 2**
Bushwalking

Leader: Bernadette

Phone: 0419241687

Bookings by: Wednesday, June 6th

Choose your own adventure!

We will start in the morning at Jindera Gap and walk to the Botanic Gardens for lunch. For some it will be the end of the walk, for others the start and others still the middle.

Confused? You can walk 15 kms one way or go both ways. You can chose which way you go but we will all meet at the Botanic Gardens at lunch time.

The grading is based on walking one way. Walking both ways increases the grading to 4, based on distance. As the logistics of getting transport organized for all options can get complicated early booking would be appreciated.

Howman's Gap Ski Weekend **Friday, August 17th - Sunday, Ungraded**

Leader: Sue Cardwell

August 19th

Phone: 02 6056 0501

Bookings by: Tuesday, May 1st.

3 day weekend of skiing – downhill or cross country (classical or skating), snow shoeing or walking in the snow. As easy or as hard as you please.

Staying at YMCA Howman's Gap Alpine Centre just near the entry gate to Falls Creek. Cost \$175 for 2 nights accommodation in bunk rooms & 6 meals.

\$50 deposit to secure booking. (11 members already booked)

BYO bed linen/sleeping bag, towel, wine & nibbles for pre-dinner.

Choice of travel departures Friday morning or evening depending on drivers.

YHA Melbourne & BBC Intra Club Walk -Dinner **Friday, September 28th** **Ungraded**

Leader: Deb

Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Friday, September 21st

Join us for dinner on Friday night. Not sure where yet, but it will be a great way to end a good days walking and talk about the walks coming up for Saturday and Sunday or the AFL Grand final.

YHA Melbourne & BBC Intra Club Walk **Friday, September 28th** **Grade 4**

Pine mountain and Rocky Knob

10km

Bushwalking

Leader: Deb

Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Wednesday, Sept. 26th

Pine Mountain is a gigantic rock monolith reputedly one and half times as large as Uluru. The walk to the top over imposing rock outcrops is rated as strenuous (grade 4) but offers panoramic views of the surrounding Murray River valleys.

YHA Melbourne & BBC Intra Club Walk **Saturday, September 29th** **Grade 3**

Flaggy Creek Gorge Walking Track

14km

Bushwalking

Leader: Deb

Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Wednesday, Sept. 26th

This is a rugged 14km (7-hour) return walk that provides access to the waterfalls and rock pools within Flaggy Creek George. Panoramic views over the Murray River are available from Valley View after 1.5km.

Section 1: Kurrajongs to Valley View (1.5km) – is a continuous climb through granite boulders. This section is a demanding climb with very few flat areas. On reaching Valley View there are views in both directions along the Murray River. Caution is required on this section as there are unguarded cliff edges.

YHA Melbourne & BBC Intra Club Walk **Sunday, September 30th** **Grade 3**

Mt. Granya Walking Track

10.4km

Leader: Deb

Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Wednesday, Sept. 26th

This walk through open forest links Cotton Tree Creek with Mt Granya Summit via Granya Falls.

Bluff Hut/Ritchies Hut
Bushwalking and Overnight Car Camping
Leaders: Mick Sheedy
Phone: 0437101009
Deb: 0410047884 before 8pm
Bookings by: Tuesday, November 20th

Friday, November 23rd -
Sunday, November 25th
2018

Grade 4

This is a two night car camp starting Friday night at 8 mile camp on the Howqua River. Saturday will start with an early drive up to the walking track to Bluff Hut. It's a short steep climb up the Bluff, but once up on top it has some of the best views. We'll be walking along the top of the Bluff cliffs to Bluff Hut for lunch then returning back down to the cars and back to our camp at 8 mile campsite. In total it's approximately 12 kms return trip.

Sunday mornings walk will commence from our base at 8 mile camp to Ritchies Hut. We will have a choice of a low track and a high track. Walking along the low track we follow the Howqua river to the hut. On the return trip back we will follow the high track back to cars. This should be a nice relaxing walk along the river of approx 12 kms return walk.

Numbers are dependent on 4wds available.

To the best knowledge of the leader this track is rated EASY. Drivers undertake this drive at own risk.

Description:

All wheel drive and High Range 4WD

Novice Drivers.

Mostly unsealed roads with no obstacles and minor gradients.

Can be low clearance with single range and road tyres.

May be difficult in wet conditions.

Disclaimer *All statements and opinions expressed in articles published in 'Footprints' are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Committee or members of the Border Bushwalking Club.*