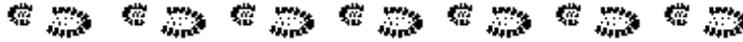




FOOTPRINTS

November 2018

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



COMMITTEE

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Vice President
Treasurer
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General Committee: **Bernadette:** Activities Coordinator, **Liz:** Newsletter Editor, **Ira:** Meeting Suppers & Social Convener, **Chris:** Equipment Officer, **Marie:** Membership & Data Base Manager, **Sandy, Vanessa, Cindy.**

CLUB NIGHT 7:30 TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6TH

OH, THE PLACES WE'VE BEEN!

Our next club night is a "Show and Tell" of favourite hikes or other outdoor activities our members have participated in this year. Members who have emailed photos to Ralph will give a tiny explanation of why/how these photos mean something special to them. It's always inspiring and interesting to see where others have been and what took their fancy.

and...

BUY, SWAP AND SELL.

Sell or swap old gear, buy pre loved gear. Bushwalking gear can be expensive so come and find a bargain.

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:

Kellie and Darren Stephens

John Whale

Mike Gardiner

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, report 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 22/11/18

A huge thank you to all those who submit material.

SAVE THE DATE CHRISTMAS BREAK UP

Our December 4th Christmas break up will be at Browns Lagoon in Albury. Meat will be provided and vegie burgers for vegetarians. More information regarding this event will be in the December edition of Footprints.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S STUMP

It seems to creep up on me every year and this year was no exception. Recently Trish informed me that there were only 8 weeks until Christmas. I hadn't realised the year was already galloping towards the finish line. (Note Melbourne Cup theme here!) And what a busy year it has been for Border Bushwalking Club.

The year has seen a veritable smorgasbord of activities curated by Bernadette and led by our brilliant Leaders. These have included day walks, easy overnight hikes, canoeing on the Murray, bike rides and extended pack carries. Then there have been our monthly Club Night speakers and of course, our very successful 40th Anniversary party.

To celebrate the year and get you in the festive mood leading up to Christmas we invite ALL members, families and friends to join us at Brown's Lagoon on Tuesday 4th December for our annual barbeque and presentation of the coveted Best Club Person Award by last year's worthy recipient, David Graf. This is a great chance to catch up with members, relive some of those memorable hikes and enjoy some delicious food. Make sure you mark it in diary or calendar and be sure to let Ira know you'll be attending.

At our recent Committee meeting we discussed future Club Nights, especially in relation to the low numbers attending some of these. As a result it has been decided that while we will continue with a Club Night on the first Tuesday of the month (except December and January), we need to add a bit of flare and variety. Early next year we are planning a Club Night away from the usual haunt at the Senior Citizen's Hall. This one will involve a pleasant evening stroll in the Albury-Wodonga area followed by a BBQ. Committee is also considering some other options for Club Nights, apart from guest speakers. More details will be forthcoming.

Following approaches to Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) I am pleased to announce that Judy Hunter from BWV will be conducting a free one day Leadership Training course for members on **SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd 2019** at a venue in Wodonga. The course is open to any aspiring Leaders or members who would like to have a go at leading a walk. It is also an opportunity for current Leaders to refresh and update their skills. Topics covered will include *Qualities of a Leader, Walk Planning, Conducting the Walk, Navigation, and Critical Incident Management*. We will be inviting members from other local Victorian clubs to take part and hope our own members make the most of this opportunity.

Our Equipment Officer, Chris Gay has reviewed and updated the Club's First Aid Kits which are provided to BBC Leaders when leading an activity. He would like to remind Leaders that it is advisable to also borrow a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) whenever travelling to remote areas and/or on longer trips and in areas where there is unreliable or no mobile coverage. Both the First Aid Kits and PLBs are available at no charge from *Adventure Gear Albury* and can only be borrowed by Leaders. Ian

Reminder to Leaders: Please send Acknowledgement of Risk forms to Marie, preferably by email at: mariemaguire@bigpond.com or to PO Box 931 Albury 2640

TRIP REPORTS

YHA Melbourne and BBC Intraclub Weekend

Social media is a great way for people to connect. This is exactly how the YHA/BBC Intraclub Weekend came about. After months of planning, the weekend became a reality when 15 YHA Melbourne Bushwalking club members (the club has 3,000 members) travelled up the Hume Freeway, for 3 days of walking in the Upper Murray. The weather was perfect for walking, with clear skies, just a little bit of breeze and temperatures in the mid to high teens. Each morning we left at 7am to travel via Lake Hume to Walwa, Mt Lawson State Park or Granya. Each afternoon we travelled back the same way but with a detour to Granya Pub for the traditional hot chips and cold drinks. This bit the visitors really liked! Whilst Friday's walk to Pine Mountain was the shortest (11kms), it was definitely the most challenging of all 3 walks. There are no flat bits on this walk, just lots of ups, downs and rock scrambling. The dryness of the bush this year, made the track quite slippery, gravelly and dusty. Some rock scrambles required teamwork to get everyone up safely. There are no views on the summit, so we walked out to an exposed rock ledge for views across to The Main Range and Mt Kosciusko still with her winter coat on. When we returned to the cars 7 hours later, our Melbourne visitors were beginning to understand what walking in our backyard involved. A combined dinner at The Star Hotel was a good way to end the day and relax. But it wasn't a late night, because we were meeting at 7am for Saturday's walk to Flaggy Creek Gorge. The Flaggy Creek Gorge Track walk starts with 1.5kms straight uphill to a view point over the Murray River. Then it's 5.5kms of a bit flat, a bit down, a bit up, repeated till the final descent into the Gorge, where we had lunch. Even though the bush is dry, there were quite a few wildflowers out and lots of evidence of wild dogs and deer. The return walk was a little quicker with hot chips and cold drinks at Granya Pub motivating people. So with 2 walks down and 1 to go, our visitors were beginning to get mountain legs. Sunday morning came around pretty quickly, and most people were happy that the drive to Mt Granya was only short, compared to the previous days. As we started the walk to the summit, via The Scout Hall and Granya Falls, "Don't any of their bushwalks start flat?" comment was overheard. When we hit the 4X4 track you could see the relief on faces. But as those

who have done this walk know, it's short lived because all too soon, you head back into the bush for a very long 1.8km/410m climb to the summit. Just before the summit there were great views over Georges Creek to the south and once again the Main Range to the east. By now I was well and truly over out and back walks on slippery tracks, and when I suggested returning via a variety of vehicle tracks (some open, some closed) for the descent everyone was happy. This was much quicker and got us back to Cotton Tree Creek campground about 1pm. After a quick gear change the Melbourne people left for their trip back down the Hume and we headed back to Granya Pub, where the guy behind the bar asked me if "I wanted the same as yesterday?"

Everyone agreed that this was a really good weekend and ideas for the next one were hatched. Deb





Walk and Gawk. Chiltern Mt. Pilot National Park.

While I enjoy a good workout with pack on back, trudging up hills and looking forward to that yummy dehydrated meal, a good old walk and gawk takes a lot to beat. Our bird watcher extraordinaire Chris, ably pointed out the birds, told us what kind they were and gave little snippets of fascinating information such as the bird that cuckoo proofs its nest with a false entry. Due to the dry year and perhaps being a couple of weeks too late, wildflowers weren't prolific as they usually are but Ira found an assortment and told us what they were. Friends of Chiltern National Park member Mick Webster showed us some of the park's hidden treasures, such as the luminous fungi location and brought along a ladder so we could look in nesting boxes where we saw evidence of little mammals making their homes. After a very slow and casual wander we fired up the barbie and sat around chatting and sharing food. It was great to be joined on the day by some of our long time members who prefer a gentle pace these days. I will be back in June at night to see the luminous fungi. A very enjoyable day with plenty of new faces. Thanks for coming. Ed.





This photo of the luminous fungi was taken by Neville Bartlett. This is how it looks at night in June. The photo is from the Friends of Chiltern website gallery & appears in Footprints with Neville's kind permission.

This is what it looked like in October.

BIKE BY THE LAKE

Five of us enjoyed the perfect day to cycle by Lake Hume from Ludlow's Reserve to Tallangatta. Meredith met us at Huon but had to abandon her plans to join us due to a dodgy valve on her back tyre.

The cycling was slow and easy and we took a break at the Sandy Creek Bridge before cycling the final 12 kms to Tallangatta where lots of yummy food awaited at 'Teddy's Joint'. As usual the food was delish and we were in no hurry to head back. After a long leisurely lunch we plonked our helmets on and waved goodbye to Tallangatta. The return trip was without incident, apart from a large black snake making an appearance as well as an echidna waddling along the trail. Thanks for joining me on this scenic ride beside the shores of the lake. Ian



Punk bike rider.



Mt Nelse and Edmonson's Hut

This is a classic walk, an ideal opening to the summer walking season on the Bogong High Plains. Five of us were greeted by sunny but very windy weather as we emerged from the car, donned our boots and shouldered our packs. The Bogong High Plains Road was still closed so we had to unshoulder our packs and wriggle under the barrier to walk across the dam wall to the start of the Heathy Spur track. There were snow patches all around and very soon we found our way blocked by snow. We negotiated a couple of these blockages before deciding to take the alternative route via the road to Watchbed Creek. It was very pleasant walking along beside the lake with no traffic. All around we could hear water trickling through the bush from snow melt. As we started up the fire trail from Watchbed Creek we noticed there had been a change in traffic

arrangements. A new barrier has been erected about 100 metres from the road with a sign stating, 'Management Vehicles Only', and it is no longer possible to drive 1 km up the fire trail and park at the gate. Given the congestion seen near the gate at busy periods this is certainly a good move.

We paused at the top of the hill for a breezy morning tea before continuing to the summit of Mt Nelse. From here we had great views to the Main Range of the Snowy Mountains in NSW, still with considerable snow cover, and in the opposite direction to Bogong, Feathertop and beyond, all with snow on the sheltered side. After retrieving hats blown off in the wind, we retraced our steps to the fire trail then went cross country to Edmonson's Hut for lunch, which thankfully provided shelter from the gale.

We returned to the cars by the same route, noticing that early wildflowers were already out despite the snow. Once again, we unshouldered packs and wriggled under the barrier, which somehow seemed lower than on the outward journey! There was just time for a quick stretch before heading home. Eileen.



Harrington Track

Harrington track commenced as an easy, undulating foot track, following the Indi (Murray) river. Sometimes we were looking down at rapids and rocky escarpments, but we enjoyed morning tea by a sandy beach down by the rapid flowing water. There were many stops to take photos of the multitude of flowers and wildlife and two short downfalls of rain with a little thunder and lightning, to add even more interest to the day. The sun was out by the time we reached the campsite, which was flat, grassy, and had 4 benches to sit on while enjoying an evening campfire. Nearby was a memorial stating this was where Jack Riley, The Man From Snowy River, died.

The next day had two river crossings so boots off and through the icy water, then we turned off Harrington's track on to Surveyors Creek track, a 4WD road that just kept going steadily up. And up. We saw the Snowy Mountains in the distance, still sprinkled with snow. After lunch we turned onto Barlow Break track, which was a steady, steep, down, down, down. And then more down.

But we all made it and enjoyed it. The only downside was we had stopped at a bakery in Corryong for drinks and pastries on the Saturday morning. We were racing to get down before it closed Sunday afternoon but didn't make it. Luckily another coffee, chocolate and ice cream shop was open, a great reward for a great walk. Thank you Paul for leading us. Pauline.





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 has no date attached but is recorded in the 25 years of the club handbook so it's an oldie.

Canoe Trip Mitchell River National Park . Leader (& Author) Rick Armstrong

Four club members including me planned to paddle from Waterford to Iguana Creek over two days. We arranged for a local to leave our car at the exit point. As we had agreed to travel light I was amazed to find that our "minimal" equipment comprised five drums and four stuff bags in our two canoes.

Just 200m downstream we encountered an innocuous looking rapid but with the baggage in my low slung canoe the waves swamped us and we had our first swim in the freezing cold water. This was to set the pattern for the day, as soon as we got into any sort of waves we filled up and sunk. At lunch time we discovered that some of the drums were leaking and that quite a bit of our gear was wet so we made an early camp to dry off our gear and tents.

On day 2 we came to some long difficult rapids which we portaged around through thick scrub. After several spills and portages it was obvious that our day would be long so we decided to forego lunch. In one spill we lost a bag containing many hundred dollars worth of gear, we were too busy trying to save ourselves, the canoe and paddles. Fortunately we recovered it further downstream. Progress was slow but we did have the occasional opportunity to admire the spectacular sandstone cliffs that soared above us. The country around was completely wild dense scrub without tracks therefore the only way out was to continue downstream.

By late afternoon we were still hopeful of making it to the finish point, but another spill, swim and lengthy portage made that impossible. On a steep bank we flattened out a small area with our paddles and made camp for the night. Our resources included plenty of food, one dry sleeping bag and a set of dry cloths each with the help of a fire. We used the single sleeping bag as a doona and two of us slept till 2am while the others huddled around the fire, then we swapped over. Greg's main concern was a smoke and he spent an hour or two trying to dry his tobacco and cigarette papers over the fire.

We were concerned about our partners back home as we had promised to be home on Sunday night so we set off bright and early the next morning. After a few spills and more portaging my canoe got smashed against a rock making it unpaddleable. This left 2 options, either leave the canoe behind and thrash out over steep scrub covered ridges, or swim it out; we chose the latter. The water was freezing cold and we had to leave the water every 10 minutes or so to warm up to avoid the risk of hypothermia. This meant progress was very slow.

About midday we reached the exit point and started a very steep climb up a foot track to a car park. Near the top we met some walkers who informed us the police had set up a search and rescue mission to look for us. Sheepishly I wandered up to the command caravan, knocked on the door and told the police "I think you blokes are looking for us."



NOTICES

Melbourne Bushwalkers is offering a First Aid Training day on Saturday, 24 November 2018 at [Premium Health](#) in [Gardenvale](#). They have kindly made places available to members from other clubs who would like to attend. The cost is \$127.50 per participant. Bushwalking Victoria offers a \$25 rebate per participant after they have completed the course. The form is attached if members of your club will be attending and wish to submit a reimbursement form. **Please register before 14 November 2018.** Details of the course can be found at https://mbw.org.au/mbw_activities/2018112402

Anyone interested can register their interest by email to firstaid@mbw.org.au

Kind regards

Izolde Bensch
Office Manager

Telephone: (03) 9846 1132

Email: admin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Web: www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

No Images? [Click here](#)



Deer have become Victoria's cane toads. With a population of around 1 million deer in the state, and probably growing by 400,000 a year, they are now poised to take over the nation.

Six species of deer are already seriously trashing our national parks and conservation reserves such as the Grampians, Alpine, Mount Buffalo, Mitchell River and Croajingolong national parks, as well as rainforest valleys and other threatened ecosystems throughout the state. They're invading farms and front gardens, and a clear danger on our roads.

The Victorian Government has developed a *Draft Deer Management Strategy*, but it has been heavily influenced by a deer hunting fraternity keen to protect deer populations as a recreational resource.

The government, and our land management agencies, aren't responding with the urgency this situation requires.

They may not act strongly enough if they don't hear from you by next Monday 29 October.

You can help by filling in a few boxes in the online survey on the draft strategy website (it will only take a few minutes): engage.vic.gov.au/draft-victorian-deer-management-strategy

If you prefer you can make a more substantial emailed submission.

You might find the following suggested responses useful, but feel free to use your own words and add more points.

Part 1: Overall support. We suggest you give the draft strategy just **two out of five stars** because:

- While it clearly acknowledges the scale of the problem, it doesn't aim for real solutions.
- There is too much emphasis on the contribution recreational hunters might make, and on 'maintaining a hunting resource'.

Part 2: Establishing different management zones for deer:

- Any zoning system must start by recognising the existing national and state parks and other conservation reserves as 'Asset Protection Zones' where deer are removed or greatly reduced in number. The draft falls far short of that objective.
- Listed threatened ecosystems, such as rainforests, should also be given the highest level of protection.
- No management zone should be dedicated to maintaining deer populations.

Part 3 Goal 1: Enhance deer management through partnerships:

- Government agencies have clear responsibility to manage threats, and must be an essential element of any 'partnership'. A serious ramp-up of Government funding is required.
- Professional pest controllers should be employed as a significant part of management programs.
- Research into a deliverable bait and possible biological or genetic controls is essential.

Photo credits this issue:

Deb
Eileen
Pauline
Neville Bartlett
Liz
Ian



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>



PHOTOS IN FOOTPRINTS.

Often on walks there will be photos taken of participants. If you **DO NOT** wish your photograph to be taken, it is **YOUR** responsibility to inform fellow walkers.

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

Wednesday after Work Kayaking

Leader: Sasho

Phone: 0418 228924

Meeting Place: Noreuil Park boat ramp

There's no better way to relax after work than to float along a lazy river with the sun warming your skin and a paddle in your hands keeping an eye out for platypus, kangaroos coming down to drink and spotting many species of birds. The cost is \$15 that includes kayak, paddles, life jacket and transport. The participants must be able to swim 25m.

Wednesdays from now until
the end of Daylight Saving.

Time: 5pm until 7:30/8pm.

Ungraded

Falls Creek Young's Hut day walk

Bushwalking

Leader: Eileen

Phone: 0412042195

Bookings by: Wednesday, October 31st

We'll accompany Ian's overnights on their way in to Youngs Hut from Pretty Valley in the morning, then return after lunch. The walk is about 8 km in each direction with some climbing and the top part is very exposed. Hopefully we will have great views and no dramas!

Saturday, November 3rd

Grade 3

Young's Hut Overnight

Overnight camping

Leader: Ian

Phone: 0425782983

Bookings by: Tuesday, October 30th

My last visit to "our" hut was just before Winter set in, so this will be an opportunity to see how she has fared in our absence. Young's Hut is a rustic former SEC survey hut that our club maintains in conjunction with Parks Victoria. The walk will start from Pretty Valley Pondage, follow the Fainters Fire Trail for a few kms before heading cross country to Pole 333, past Mt Jim on the track leading to the hut, a distance of approx 20kms. Return journey is via the same route with a possible side trip to Mt Jim. We should have great views to Mt Hotham, the Razorback and Mt Feathertop and may see some brumbies. Walk is both on and off track, with a couple of short steep climbs, and is very exposed across the top.

(I would appreciate someone to organise hikers coming from Albury/Wodonga)

Saturday, November 3rd -

Sunday, November 4th

Grade 3

Mt. Buffalo - Mt. Dunn - Eagle point circuit

Bushwalking

Leaders: Rick & Cindy

Phone: 0410425335 after 6pm

Bookings by: Wednesday, October 31st

We start this walk at the picnic area at the end of the unsealed Reservoir Road, which leaves Mount Buffalo Road. Our first destination is to Mount Dunn (1485m). I hope there will be snow on the ground to add a bit of magic to

Sunday, November 4th

Grade 3

16 kms

this scenic walk. Mount Dunn offers 360 views of the surrounding Mountain.

Our second destination is Eagle Point and yes, I have had the pleasure of watching Wedge-tailed Eagles soaring high above on the thermals.

This loop walk is about 16 km, all on track.

The Fainters

Bushwalking Overnight camping

Leader: Pauline S.

Phone: 02 60271 834

Bookings by: Monday, November 5th

Although this is an overnight walk, we only have to carry our overnight packs about 5 kms to the Tawonga Huts from Pretty Valley.

We will be leaving Wodonga Friday afternoon, giving us ample time to walk to the huts and set up camp. Saturday we head to the Fainters, North and South, where we will have lunch with magnificent views, before heading back to camp. This day's walk will be about 18 kms long, mostly on track, except where the tracks are barely discernible, heading to the peaks. Sunday morning we pack up and plan to be in Mt Beauty for lunch before heading home.

Friday, November 9th -

Sunday, November 11th

Grade 3

Falls Creek. Kelly's and Fitzgerald's Huts.

Bushwalking

Leader: Eileen

Phone: 0412042195

Bookings by: Wednesday, November 7th

Starting from Langfords Gap we follow the aqueduct for a short distance before climbing up through alpine forest where hopefully early wildflowers will be blooming. We pause at the top for morning tea before making our way to Fitzgerald's and then Kelly's huts, both of which have an interesting history. After lunch we return along the aqueduct to the cars. All on track, about 16 km, some climbing in the morning but nearly all flat in the afternoon.

Saturday, November 10th

Grade 3

Ryder's Yards Overnight

Leader: Ian

Phone: 0425782983

Bookings by: Monday, November 12th

This walk is suitable for those who have not previously completed an overnight walk. The walk follows the Australian Alps Walking Track and begins with a visit to Cope Hut before setting off across the Bogong High Plains via Cope Saddle Hut (former SEC hut), up Mt Bundora to Pole 380 then cross country to the aqueduct and along the track to Ryder's Yards. We'll camp here overnight before returning along the same route the next day. There will be plenty of scope for a bit of extra wandering if time, energy and enthusiasm warrants. This is an ideal opportunity to hone up on cross country navigational skills and an opportunity for those who would like to experience an easy overnighter.

Saturday, November 17th -

Sunday, November 18th

Grade 3

14kms

Bluff Hut/Ritchies Hut

Bushwalking and Overnight Car Camping

Leaders: Mick Sheedy

Phone: 0437101009

Deb: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Tuesday, November 20th

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.

Friday, November 23rd -

Sunday, November 25th

2018

Grade 4

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.

Mt. Buffalo The Big Walk

Sunday, November 25th

Grade 4

Bushwalking

22 kms or 14kms

Leaders: Rick & Cindy

Phone: 0410425335 after 6pm

Bookings by: Wednesday, November 21st

The Big Walk (22 kms return) is one of Mount Buffalo's great walks and a wonderful way to enjoy the spectacular views of the Australian Alps while passing through several vegetation zones. There is an option to join this walk at Rollasons Falls (14 kms return).

Falls Creek Hidden Waterfall

Saturday, December 1st

Grade 3

Bushwalking

14 kms approx.

Leader: Eileen

Phone: 0412042195

Bookings by: Wednesday, November 28th

This is a repeat of a walk a few of us did early in the year. Starting from Cope Hut we take the Alpine Walking Track to Cope Saddle then along the aqueduct to Ryders Yards for morning tea. Then it's back to the aqueduct for a short distance until we turn off along a faint track for about 2 km to the waterfall located in a rocky gorge. Return by the same route. The walk is about 14 km and relatively flat.

Falls Creek Ropers Lookout - Two options

Saturday, December 15th

Grade 3

Bushwalking

Leader: Eileen

Phone: 0412042195

Bookings by: Wednesday, December 12th

Ropers Lookout is the rocky knoll from where we get spectacular views over Falls Creek and the High Plains. It is reached by a short sharp climb from the end of the dam wall but can be made into a day walk which is all on tracks. Option 1: We start from Howmans Gap and follow the delightful Packhorse Track up to Falls Creek. After pausing to admire Falls Creek Falls, we make our way through the village, walk over (or under) the dam wall then up Ropers Lookout for lunch, returning by roughly the same route. Distance 20 km. Option 2: Drive to Falls Creek and join the walk there. Distance 13 km with less climbing. Please nominate your preferred option when booking in.

The Three Tracks pre Christmas walk

Saturday, December 22nd

Grade 3

Leader: Mick Sheedy

22kms approx.

Phone: 0437101009

Deb: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Tuesday, December 12th

After meeting at Mt Beauty we will head up to the Bogong village to start our walk. The first track starts with a short steep climb up the Black Possum Spur track to Mt Author before going down to Bogong Creek Saddle. Bogong Fire track will start us off on our second track which makes its way underneath Mt Bogongs West Peak to where our last track following Roper Spur track to which we will then follow back to our cars. There will be a small car shuffle at the start and finish of our walk and the walk is approximately 22ks

Kosciusko National Park

Wednesday, December 26th

Grade 4

Overnight camping

- Monday, December 31st.

medium - hard

Leader: Deb

Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Monday, November 26th

All of Australia's 10 highest peaks are located within the Kosciuszko National Park. The hiking route generally follows the Main Range Track and Summit Road, with the actual summiting of many of the peaks requiring a

detour from marked walking tracks and instead going cross-country along unmarked or non-existent trails. The plan is to leave Albury on Boxing Day and drive to Charlottes Pass, where we will stay for the night. The following morning (Dec 27th) we will head off across the Snowy River for our 4 day/3 night hike. Whilst the Main Range Track is not excessively steep, most days involve uphill and downhill sections.

We will possibly camp for 2 nights somewhere in Wilkinsons Valley, west of Muellers Pass. This will allow us to ditch our big packs on Day 2 and follow a track behind Muellers Peak that leads all the way to the Abbott Range. Wilkinsons Valley is probably the most popular of all the camping sites in the National Park, but not crowded. There are apparently plenty of flat camp sites. There are also many small creeks which can replenish water supplies.

On day 3 we will head off to our highest peak, Mt Kosciuszko and then, we will make our way to North Rams Head, where we intend to camp the night.

On day 4, we will head across to the summit walking track, Mt Stilwell and back to Charlottes Pass, our accomodation and dinner.

On Day 5, New Years Eve, we will leave after breakfast and drive back to Albury.

All up about 55kms on and off track. The views in KNP and along the Main Range Track are endless. This is a very exposed area so if bad weather is forecasted, I will be postponing this hike. A back up navigator would also be useful, just in case I have the map upside down!

The Grey Hills Track Loop

Saturday, January 5th

Grade 4

Leader: Mick Sheedy

22kms approximately

Phone: 0437101009

Deb: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Wednesday, January 2nd

Lake Guy at Bogong Village is where we will commence our walk climbing up Black Possum Spur to Mt Arthur.

From here we join The Grey Hills track, this track could be over grown or uneven and may not be well defined.

Hopefully we should get good views of Mt Bogong as we walk along the ridge to where we meet Spion Kopje Fire Track. We then have a short walk to Spion Kopje and should enjoy great 360 degree views before descending back down Spion Kopje fire track to Lake Guy to our cars. All up the walk will be approx 22kms

Falls Creek Day walk

Saturday, January 12th

Grade 3

Bushwalking

Leader: Eileen

SAVE THE DATE. DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

Phone: 0412042195

Bookings by: unspecified

Mt. Buller to Mt. Stirling Overnighter

Saturday, January 19th -

Grade 4

Leader: Mick Sheedy

Sunday, January 20th

23 kms approx.

Phone: 0437101009

Deb: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Friday, January 11th 2019

We will be leaving Albury early on Saturday morning and driving to Mt Buller. After leaving cars near Tip Corner we will follow the unsealed Cornhill Road, which leads to Cornhill Track. Following Corn Hill Track we will descend to Howqua Gap Hut, before heading up to the summit of Mt Stirling (1,747m) on Howqua Gap Trail. From the open grassy summit we'll get views of the Crosscut Saw, Mount Buller and Mount Buffalo. The walk from Buller to Stirling is 8km one way/16km return.

After setting up tents at Bluff Spur Hut (just off the summit of Stirling), we will have lunch, then there will be an option to walk to Craig's Hut in the afternoon (7km return).

After packing up on Sunday morning we will make the return trip to Mt Buller and the cars.

All up (from Buller to Stirling and Craigs Hut, on Saturday and returning to cars on Sunday) about 23km over the two days, all on well marked tracks, with a few steep short climbs/descents.

The Long Spur/Cleve Cole Hut

Saturday, February, 23rd -

Grade 4

Leader: Mick Sheedy

Sunday, February 24th

19kms approximately

Phone: 0437101009

Deb: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Monday, February 18th 2019

After meeting up in Wodonga we'll head off to Mitta Mitta, from here we drive up the Omeo Hwy to where it meets the Snowy Log Rd. Snowy Log Rd meets the Malhauser Rd and onto Malhauser Camp where we will leave the vehicles. We then have a short steep walk up to the AAWT. We turn right and follow the AAWT which passes Maddisons Hut ruins until we reach our stay at Cleve Cole Hut. Hopefully we make the hut for lunch.

After lunch there are the options of either relaxing or walking to the summit of Mt Bogong/ West Peak.

Another option is to visit Howman Falls.

The reports that I have read say that Snowy Log /Malhauser Rds are medium 4wd tracks.

Great Ocean Walk **Monday, March 25th -** **Grade 3 - 4**
Multiple night camping **Sunday, March 31st 2019**
Leader: Ron Hammond
Phone: 0437101009
Deb: 0410047884 before 8pm
Bookings by: *closed*

Great Ocean Walk –March 25th to 31st March plus a day or too each side. one direction, eight days, long-distance walk, 100km Website: www.greatoceanwalk.com.au

The Great Ocean Walk is a one-way walk starting from the Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centre through the Great Otway and Port Campbell National Parks to finish at the iconic Twelve Apostles near Princetown.

Tali Karng **Thursday, March 28th -** **Grade 4**
Overnight camping **Sunday, March 31st.** **Roughly 36km all up over the**
Pine mountain and Rocky Knob **3 days and except for about**
Bushwalking **500m all on track.**
Leader: Deb
Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm
Bookings by: Monday, March 18th

Tali Karng is a hidden lake deep in the mountains of Gippsland, fed by snowmelt waters of the Wellington Plains.

The lake is believed to have been formed about 1500 years ago when a massive rock slide collapsed into the valley damming the waters of Nigothoruk Creek above Wellington River. The water runs underground from the lake to emerge as the Wellington River 150m below in the Valley of Destruction. The easiest route to Lake Tali Karng begins at McFarlane Saddle Carpark on the Moroka Road, 60 km from Licola.

Thursday 28th March/Day 1: Big drive of approx. 7hrs to McFarlane Saddle Hut. Camp overnight.

Friday 29th March/Day 2: Follow Wellington Plain Track to intersection with Moroka Gap Walking Track (6km). Then follow the Moroka Gap walking track to the intersection with Mt Wellington Track (1km). Leave big packs there and walk (easy walk) the 1km to summit of Mt Wellington – for smoko. Return to packs (1km) and continue south on Mt Wellington Track to Taylor Lookout and then onto Millers Hut (4km). Continue along the Millers Hut Track for 2km to Nyimba Hut and set up camp for 2 nights. Approx 15km

Saturday 30th March/Day 3: **Option 1:** Take Gillios tk to Lake Tali Karng. The last bit of this track is very steep. Allow 5hrs for return walk and 1.5hrs for walk around lake to Snowden Falls, if possible. Return to camp for night. Approx 9km

Option 2: Take Gillios tk to Lake Tali Karng. The last bit of this track is very steep. After walking (if possible) to Snowden Falls, return to camp via Echo Point Track which climbs a little less steeply than Gillios Track, for 1km to meet Riggall Spur Track. Follow Riggall Spur Track back to camp. Approx 9.5km

Sunday 31st March/Day 4: Pack up and leave early and walk west from Nyimba Hut past Wellington Plains Tk to junction with Spion Kopje Tk. Head north following Spion Kopje Tk to rocky summit. The track is faint in places but follows the ridgeline north to a saddle. Turn east here (rest of Spion Kopje Tk is overgrown) over grassy plains for approx. 500m (no track) till you hit the Wellington Plains Tk just to the south west of Moroka Gap Tk. Keep following Wellington Plains Tk north to McFarlanes Saddle Hut. Approx 3hrs/11km. Drive home.

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.*