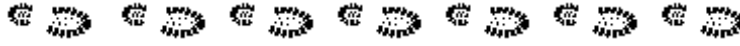




FOOTPRINTS

December 2018

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



COMMITTEE

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Ian Trevaskis 0425 782 983
Ralph
Rick
Sue S

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

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



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Browns Lagoon Tuesday December 4th
6:00 for a 6:30 start

Members need to notify their attendance by
Friday, 30th of November to Ira Robinson,
roboira@yahoo.com.au

Members with surnames beginning **A to M** please bring a salad to share. Those with surnames beginning **N to Z** please bring a dessert or fruit platter to share. Everyone to bring their own drinks, plates, cutlery, glasses, chairs and insect repellent. Meat, veggie burgers, sauce, bread, tea and coffee are provided. Please indicate if you are vegetarian or have other special dietary requirements when notifying of your attendance.

RSVP REQUIRED

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Graham and Narelle Ashford
Ian Klinberg

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 22/1/19

A huge thank you to all those who submit material.



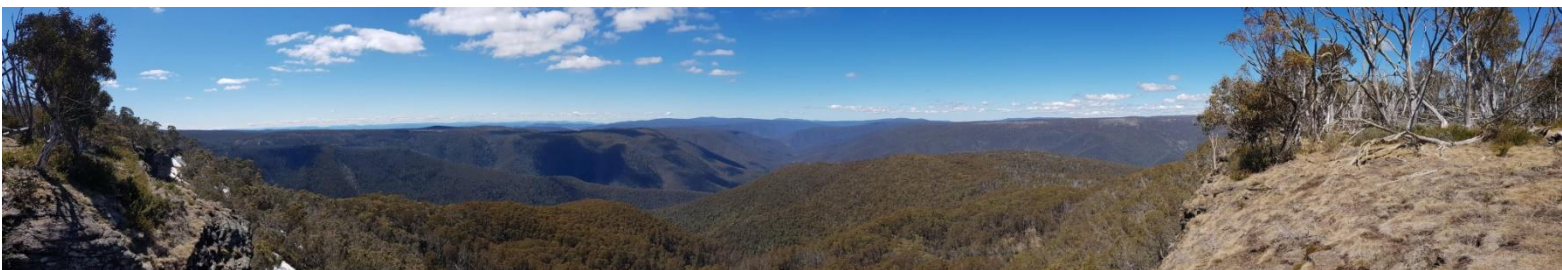
The Committee would like to wish all members a very Happy and Safe Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.
We look forward to seeing you on a track, a rail trail or a waterway in 2019.



TRIP REPORTS

Mt Tabletop

Given that heaps of snow fell on the mountains over winter, it might have been a bit optimistic to plan a walk out to Mt Tabletop the week after the snow season finished, especially after we saw how much snow was still on the Razorback and around the Spargo's Hut area. But Dinner Plain has a different aspect and is lower than Hotham so I felt confident that it would work out fine. And it did. As we were getting ready, we chatted to a small group of keen cross-country skiers who were about to head off for a day on what they called 'perfect spring snow.' The walk to Mt Tabletop is an easy 10kms return and is very pretty. After crossing JB Plain the track wanders down along a snow gum covered ridge then crosses a few creeks. There were quite a few trees down and as we crossed the grassy plain it was necessary to get the map and compass to make sure we had taken the right track, through the pick up sticks of branches and trunks that lay on the ground and covered track markers on trees. The plateau/summit of Mt Tabletop is reached by a short gentle climb and in around two hours we were looking not only at a beautiful copperhead snake but also across the Dargo River Valley to Dinner Plain. Tania had the co-ordinates of a geocache and we decided to see if we could find it on the rocky outcrop where the co-ordinates took us. Despite our best efforts, oodles of biting ants and getting within one metre of the cache, we couldn't find it. We didn't rush lunch because the views were fantastic. Walking back was easy and we got to the cars without much effort. If you've walked with me you know how my walks finish and this one was no exception. I couldn't have asked for better weather, bluer skies or more easygoing people to spend the day with. Deb



Fitzgerald and Kelly huts

The sun was warm, but not too hot. The wind was there, but not a lot. I lie; it was very windy as five of us emerged from the car at Langford Gap, but it abated as we walked away, giving us ideal weather for walking and admiring distant views. We took the Alpine Walking Track up through the forest, noting several small fallen trees and the leader helpfully located the boggy spot by planting her boot firmly in it, mud up to the ankle.

We paused for morning tea at the top of the hill then headed across towards the huts until, oh no, what's that? The track was covered by a large snow patch. We carefully picked our way across it, not wanting to slip and slide to the bottom, and we had just regained our composure when we were confronted by more of the same.

Having overcome those obstacles, we made our way to Fitzgerald hut for an inspection, and then Kelly hut where we had lunch and carried out running repairs to John's pack. We headed down Kelly Track and turned off to the aqueduct for the walk back to the car. At one point, we saw a puddle teeming with thousands of tiny tadpoles and we wondered how many of them would make it to adulthood before the puddle dried up.

This walk is about 16 km but with all the climbing early in the day and the return trip virtually flat, it is not too taxing. We had spectacular views and admired the purple *Hovea*, yellow *Kunzea* and other wildflowers just coming into bloom.

Eileen.



The Fainters

This walk had been cancelled earlier in the year due to predicted wild, significant weather. The rescheduled weekend weather looked perfect, the only concern being the presence of a large snow drift blocking the road the week before. With contingency plans in place, four of us were able to drive to Pretty Valley Pondage Friday afternoon, after finding the snow well receded.

Despite an easy 5 km walk, a fire in the Tawonga Hut was very welcome. With a brief hail shower that evening, the night was so cold that the hail was still visible in the morning along with sheets of ice on the tents. But the day was sunny, and we headed up the track, navigating trickles of water and stopping to observe frogs, a bird's nest, and spectacular views. We headed up Fainter South first, where our intrepid president showed his skiing prowess, then onto Fainter North, enjoying a magnificent 360 degree panorama of Feathertop, Buffalo, Bogong, Kiewa and Ovens valleys, while eating lunch. With a rather bitter breeze blowing, we didn't linger too long, but by the time we had retraced our steps back to camp, it was warm enough for the brave males to wash in the creek, then challenge us to a game of '500'. Needless to say their cleanliness and confidence did not give them the necessary skills and the fabulous females won the game hands down quickly and easily.

Thank you Bernadette, Ian and Leigh for making it such a great weekend. Pauline



YOUNG'S HUT OVERNIGHT ...err make that Edmondson's Hut November 3/4

Unfortunately due to the Pretty Valley Road being "closed" we were unable to proceed with the planned trip out to 'our' hut so turned left instead of right and hiked out to Edmondson Hut, below the towering massif of Mount Nelse.

As we donned packs at Watchbed Creek a young couple were doing the same except their packs had an added extra – telemark skis. They assured us they weren't crazy and that there was plenty of snow on Mount Nelse. We nodded, "Of course" while exchanging knowing winks and watched as they strode off up Big River Fire Track.

We duly followed, but at a much slower pace, enjoying the perfect weather and breathing in the clean mountain air. Soon some of us were breathing that clean mountain air in rather quicker as we slowly ascended the track, passing the turn off to Johnston Hut before dropping down into the grove where the hut awaited our arrival.

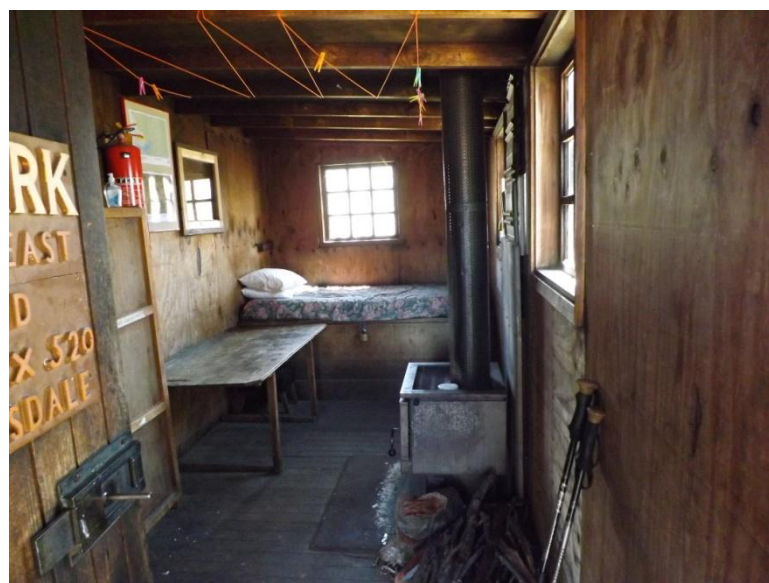
After setting up tents and brewing up a cuppa we decided to walk out to Johnston Hut as there was plenty of the day left. When we reached the Big River Fire Track we stopped to watch the skiers gracefully carving up the east slope of Nelse with perfect linked turns before slogging their way back up to the top for another run.

Johnston Hut was looking perfect in its setting amongst the trees and we spent some time there before returning to Edmondson Hut. Eileen, who had accompanied the four of us for a day walk bid farewell and shortly after David arrived.

The two skiers took up our earlier invitation and dropped in for a chat and a cuppa before heading back to their car.

The evening was spent in pleasant company by the fire before we adjourned to our tents and an undisturbed sleep. It was

with some reluctance we departed next morning, but at least we had managed to do an overnigher, even it wasn't to Young's. Ian.



RYDER'S YARDS OVERNIGHTER November 17/18

This is the perfect spot to hike to if doing an overnight hike for the first time. With a well defined, easy walking track from the Cope Hut car park that doesn't have any steep ups or downs, plenty of level grassy campsites around the huts, a plentiful water supply from the nearby aqueduct and a picturesque vista from the front of Ryder's Hut; this place has it all.

It was a shame that no 'first-timers' joined the four of us for the two hour hike out to the huts on a perfect weekend. The walk out was uneventful and after we'd set up camp we decided to visit the 'falls' shown on the map to be to the south west of the yards.

We followed the viaduct track for about a kilometre before heading down and across the head of a steep valley. After some serious bush bashing we managed to reach the High Plains Creek and followed it back upstream a short distance to some rather impressive falls.

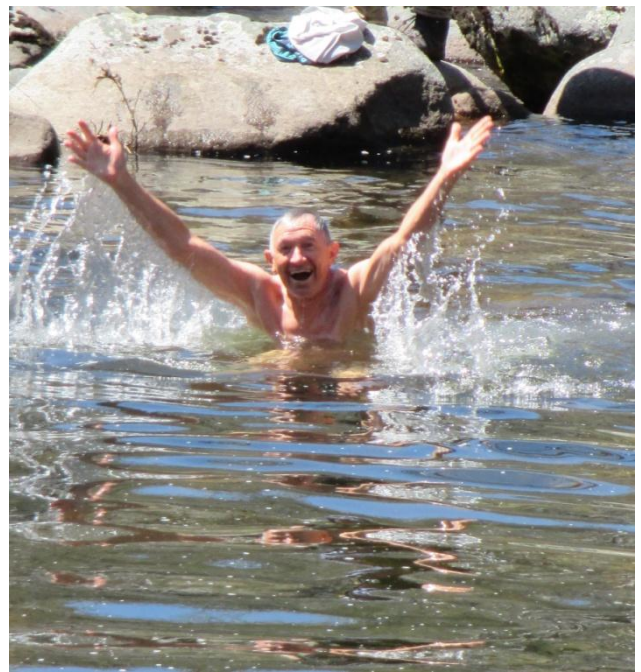
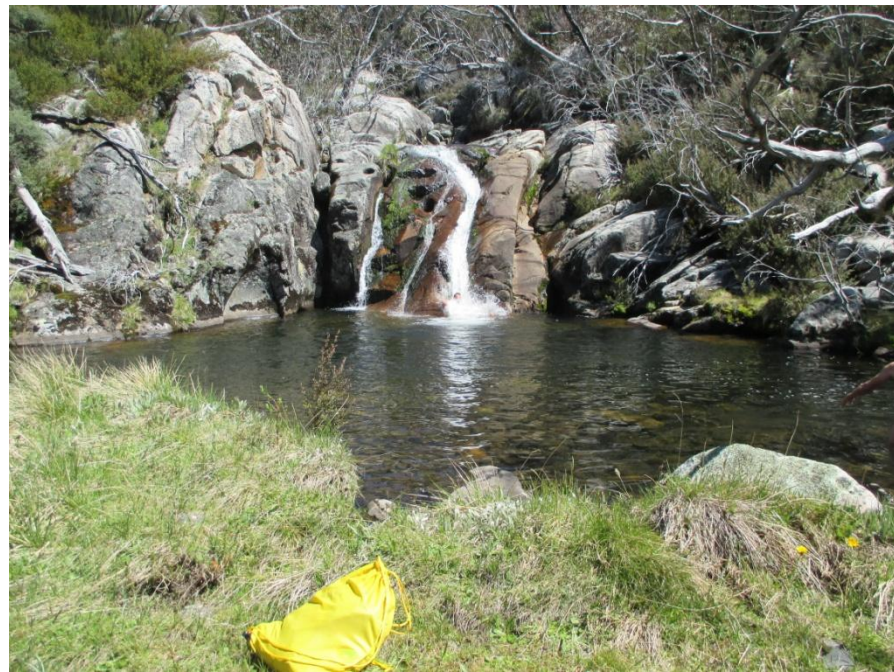
Being quite a warm day, a couple of us decided the rock pool at the base of the waterfall was just too inviting. What followed was a sight Ira refused to witness, as two naked bodies thrashed about in the water; one of them even performing a dare-devil stunt on the 'water slide'.

So much for the afternoon's entertainment! We returned to camp late in the afternoon and after brewing our cuppas dragged some chairs outside and sat gazing over the valley while contemplating what the rest of the world was missing out on. A wonderful weekend of great company and fun times. Hopefully our next overnigher for beginners might include few more beginners! Ian



FOOTPRINTS DECEMBER 2018





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.

The Black Allen Line, Cobberas. Author & Leader - Rick Armstrong

The Black Allan Line is a boundary marked by surveyors in 1870. It runs from the source of the Murray south easterly until it meets the coast at Cape Howe. I decided to lead a three day walk , and with a party of four walkers and 2 support vehicles arrived at Omeo on Friday night ready for adventure the next day. The adventure started 15km into the trip, when a tyre blew out on one of the cars. This meant no spare. Alright I can live with that, I thought. The vehicle still has 4 good wheels going round and round.

On day 1, the walkers enjoyed good weather, locating the first stone cairn at Forest Hill without much trouble. Trouble was brewing quietly somewhere else. We found the other two stone cairns easily that first day and were collected by our support crew and taken back to base camp for a meal and a good rest. On day 2 the walkers had a steep climb up the Berrima track and rambled on to a four metre high stone cairn, complete with original 1870 centre pole and four timber posts making up the pyramid shape. The Black Allan Line angles across several flat ridges covered with chest high scrub here and despite earnest attempts, we were unable to locate several of the marks this day. We were however compensated with plenty of wildlife spotting including brumbies, kangaroos, wallabies, goannas, emus and lyrebirds.

After our pleasant day, the last thing we expected was to arrive at our pickup point, find no support crew to pick us up and when we finally did return to base camp find the Nissan Patrol up on jacks with two wheels lying on the ground. Yep, another tyre had blown and our vehicle was immobile.

Day 3 saw two of us walking 16km to get help at Suggan Buggan, population four! The roadside assistance operator nearly fell off the phone when we told him where we were and expected assistance! We waited all day for the agent to get to us with 1 wheel for car and 1 wheel as spare. At 7.30pm we decided that one of us would try making calls in Suggan Buggan and the other would go back to base camp to inform the crew what was happening, or rather not happening!

When the agent finally did reach Suggan Buggan, one of us guiding him to base camp, things went from unfortunate to comical, when his vehicle developed engine problems. He refused to go any further and one of the two spares he was carrying for us had bounced out of the back and into the bush.

That only meant day three was quickly becoming day four to complete this misadventure!

At dawn we walked once again to Suggan Buggan, finding the missing wheel on the way and then coercing a local to return to our camp with the wheel on board. This brought some relief to the anxious crew and when they finally emerged from the bush that afternoon it also brought relief to the policeman from Buchan and all the other police stations within 150km radius that had been alerted by family members and concerned Suggan Bugganites.

Needless to say, I was totally 'tyred out' from leading this trip!

NOTICES

LEADERSHIP TRAINING - AN INVITATION

An invitation is extended to any and all BBC members to come along to a Leadership Training day to be held on **SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd 2019**, from 8:45am to 5:00pm.

Aspiring and current leaders are encouraged to attend this special day we have organised with the assistance of Bush Walking Victoria (BWV) and which will be presented by Judy Hunter, Training Coordinator, BWV.

Topics covered include: *Walk Planning, Research and Reconnaissance*
Risk Management/Safety and Legal Issues
Conducting the Walk
Navigation
Critical Incident Management

The cost is **FREE** and morning and afternoon tea is provided.

At the end of the day participants will be issued with a Leader's Handbook.

Please note that there are limited places available (20) and we will be inviting members from other local bushwalking clubs.

(Each participant must be a member of an affiliated club or an individual member of BWV, otherwise they will need to sign a temporary membership form of Border Bushwalking Club.)

Participants will need to bring or buy lunch (there are cafes nearby) pens, pencils, note paper and a compass (preferably Silva).

At this stage the venue is yet to be decided but we are hoping it will be at the Wodonga Senior Citizen's Hall, Wodonga (where we have our Club Nights)

If you wish to register for this event you need to contact the Club Secretary, Sue Simpfendorfer, at 0417590535 or email to secretary@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

We hope all Leaders and aspiring Leaders will make an effort to attend this event.



Walking since 1939


YHA BUSHWALKING CLUB

Summer Program 2018 (December - February)



THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WALKS UP OUR WAY. CHECK OUT THE LINKS BELOW.

They too are celebrating a milestone...in 2019 YHA bushwalking club will be 80. The second link shows the walks done in 1969.

 **YHA Bushwalking Vic 2018 Summer Program.pdf**
612K [View as HTML](#) [Scan and download](#)

 **YHA Bushwalking Program 1969 Jan-June.pdf**
231K [View as HTML](#) [Scan and download](#)

Join the 2018/2019 Falls Creek Hawkweed Volunteer Program

Native to Europe, hawkweeds have recently become naturalised on mainland Australia. Hawkweeds are highly invasive and spread quickly via runners and roots forming dense mats inhibiting and outcompeting native vegetation. Hawkweeds can cause major environmental damage in alpine & sub-alpine areas, and are considered a significant threat to the Victorian Alps if not eradicated early.

Volunteers contribute to the eradication effort by conducting line surveys in the Alpine National Park. Participating in volunteer surveys is a great way to help protect the Victorian Alps from this dangerous weed, as well as a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the magnificent alpine environment during the green summer months.



King devil
hawkweed



Orange
hawkweed



Mouse-ear
hawkweed

What is involved?

Volunteers will be required for one week and need to make their own way to Falls Creek and arrive between 1pm to 3pm on the Monday of the session start date, with an Induction at 4pm on Monday. There is no experience required, all training is provided. Volunteers will just need lots of enthusiasm, a moderate fitness level, a good eye for detail and persistence to survey for at least 5 hours per day walking through sometimes challenging terrain.

What is provided?

There is no cost for being a volunteer on this project. Shared bunk style accommodation has kindly been provided by Falls Creek Resort Management. Transport will be provided to and from the survey areas each day. Parks Victoria will provide standard condiments, hot drink provisions and a group dinner on the last night.

What will participants need to bring?

Volunteers need to provide their own hiking boots, gloves, sun glasses, wet weather gear, long pants and shirts, water bottle, sunscreen, broad brim hat, bedding, food for breakfast, lunch, dinner, cold drinks, fruit and snacks.

The dates for the 2018/2019 Season are:

- Session 1: Monday 10th – Friday 14th December 2018
- Session 2: Monday 17th – Friday 21st December 2018
- Session 3: Monday 7th – Friday 11th January 2019
- Session 4: Monday 14th – Friday 18th January 2019
- Session 5: Monday 4th – Friday 8th February 2019
- Session 6: Monday 11th – Saturday 16th February 2019

How to join:

If you would like to join, you will first need to register as a volunteer at www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au
Once registered, login to apply for [upcoming programs](#) and select the Hawkweed Eradication Session you would like to join.

To express your interest or for more information please contact the Hawkweed Team, Parks Victoria.

P: 13 19 63 | E: Hawkweed@parks.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria
Phone 13 19 63
www.parks.vic.gov.au



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

Photo credits this issue:

Deb
Eileen
Pauline
Tania
Chris
Ian
Ron



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

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.

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 Ryder's 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.

Everton to Beechworth and Return Bike ride

Saturday, December 1st

Ungraded

Bike Riding

Leader: Ian

Phone: 0425782983

Bookings by: Friday, November 30th

We will meet at the former Everton Railway Station and bust a gut cycling a piddly 16kms uphill on the rail trail to Beechworth where we will find somewhere to have lunch, eg Bridge Road Brewery, Beechworth Pantry, Beechworth Provender. After a long leisurely lunch we will free wheel back to Everton.

Participants will need a bike that works, eg two wheels, handlebars, brakes, (good brakes!) and a puncture repair kit and spare tube.

Rock in the Morning **Sunday, December 9th** **Grade 3**

Bushwalking

Leader: Bernadette

Phone: 0419241687

Bookings by: Wednesday, December 5th

I am planning to walk up The Rock and then have lunch at the picnic table in the carpark. The Rock (or the lion of the plains) is located near the town of the same name about an hour north of Albury on the Wagga road.

It is a short steep climb with great views from the top.

The walk is 7 km altogether.

Ring after 4pm or see me at the Christmas party.

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.

Johnston Hut **Saturday, December 15th -** **Grade 2**

Overnight camping

Sunday, December 16th

Leader: Ian

Phone: 0425782983

Bookings by: Wednesday, December 12th

Johnston Hut is sited in a beautiful little spot south east of Mount Nelse and provides grassy shaded camping spots beside the rustic hut where we can cook our meals. There's even ample outdoor seating around a huge fire pit! This hike is ideal for those wishing to do their first overnighter (others are quite welcome to join us). It is a short 5 km walk up the Big River Fire Track before turning off to the hut and because we will get there early there are options to take a stroll down to Edmondson Hut for a squizz or to just relax beneath the trees and chill out. Sound idyllic?

Members should not be put off if they feel they do not have the necessary gear – tents, packs, etc can be hired from Adventure Gear, Albury or we can arrange a loan of just about anything, except a pack horse!

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 Meullers 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!

4 Huts at Falls Creek **Saturday, January 5th** **Grade 3**

Bushwalking

Leader: Bernadette

Phone: 0419241687

Bookings by: Wednesday, January 2nd

This walk encompasses Kelly, Fitzgerald, Edmonson and Johnston Huts, all out from Rocky Valley Dam at Falls Creek. It is about 18km with no big descents or ascents (but a few gentle ones)

A great way to see some high country history

The Grey Hills Track Loop **Saturday, January 5th** **Grade 4**
22kms approximately

Leader: Mick Sheedy

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

Jagungal Circuit **Thursday, January 10th -** **Grade 4**
Bushwalking **Sunday, January 13th**

Leader: Bernadette

Phone: 0419241687

Co-leader: Pauline

Bookings by: Thursday, January 3rd

This walk is in the Kosciuszko National Park.

We will leave late on Thursday to start this circuit at the Round Mountain Trackhead.

Thurs: 1 1/2 km walk to Round Mountain Hut.

Fri: 13km to Derschkos Hut.

Sat: 5km to O'Keefes Hut with an ascent of Mt Jagungal without full packs as an extra.

Sun: 15km to back to the cars.

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.

Ryder's Yards **Saturday, January 19th -** **Grade 1**
Overnight camping and Swim **Sunday, January 20th**

Leader: Ian

Phone: 0425782983

Bookings by: Wednesday, December 12th

After my last trip to Ryder's Yards I want to return – it was that good! This walk is an easy 6kms out to the huts at the yards, all on track and is eminently suitable for first time overnights. The walk follows the Australian Alps Walking Track from Cope Hut, passes Cope Saddle Hut and then along a track beside the viaduct. Last time it took us two hours walking at a very leisurely pace.

There are plenty of level grassy places to pitch your tent, an ample water supply and a very comfortable hut where we can cook our meals and socialise. If it's hot (or not) we can take a short walk and a bit of a bush bash down to some secret falls where there is a beautiful swimming hole. I suggest you bring your bathers!

If you are worried that you may not be properly equipped, remember you can hire gear from Adventure Gear, Albury or we can rustle up whatever you might need from other members. I hope as many 'first timers' as possible can join me for this little adventure!

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.

Spion Kopje Overnighter **Friday, March 8th - Sunday,** **Grade 3**
Bushwalking **March 10th**

Leader: Bernadette

Phone: 0419241687

Bookings by: Sunday, March 3rd

Spion Kopje is one of my favourite places in the Falls Creek area as it has such great views. We have done it many times as a day walk but there is now a gate at Watchbed Creek which means it would be a very long day walk.

I'm proposing that we walk 5 km out to Edmonson's Hut on Friday night and then walk to Spion Kopje and back to the tents with day packs on the Saturday. Saturday's walk would be around 19km.

On Sunday we will walk back to the cars and be down off the hill by lunch time.

Great Ocean Walk **Monday, March 25th -** **Grade 3 - 4**
Multiple night camping **Sunday, March 31st 2019**

Leader: Ron Hammond

Phone: 60 401 233

Bookings by: ASAP

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

Overnight camping

Pine mountain and Rocky Knob

Bushwalking

Leader: Deb

Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: Monday, March 18th

Thursday, March 28th -

Sunday, March 31st.

Grade 4

Roughly 36km all up over the 3 days and except for about 500m all on track.

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.