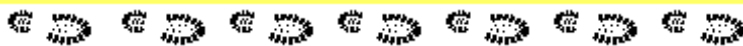


FOOTPRINTS

March 2019

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**: Memberships & Data Base Manager, **Sandy, Vanessa, Cindy**.



CLUB NIGHT

7:30 TUESDAY MARCH 6TH

NEW MEMBERS NIGHT



Border Bushwalking club invites to this club night all those who may be considering activities of the outdoors as a new hobby as well as those who already enjoy such pursuits and would like to do so with a like minded group of adventurers. At this meeting, current members will provide information regarding the variety of activities we undertake, the equipment we use and how we use it, the equipment we have for hire, how to pack for day and overnight activities.

We do day and multi day bushwalks, kayaking, cross country skiing and snow shoeing, local, interstate and even international walking. We even do a little bird watching

All this followed by supper.

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?



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:

Andrea Gilbert Jacqueline Jones

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 and acknowledge photographer.**

Send to: newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

Deadline for next Footprints is 22/3/19

A huge thank you to all those who submit material.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S STUMP

At our February Committee meeting our guest was Judy Charlton from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Judy spoke to us about the 'Future of Our Forests' project being undertaken by the Victorian Government and provided us with an overview of the intended program.

The government is seeking to reform forest management and modernise the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements currently in place. The government has committed nearly \$40 million over four years to deliver greater community value for our forests.

As bushwalkers most of us are in the forest nearly every weekend and we undoubtedly hold varying opinions on how governments should manage these places that bring us so much pleasure and enjoyment. I'm sure, like me, you shudder when you see photos or television footage of the destruction wrought by bushfires; of the mess and carnage when coupes are harvested; of the damage and destruction caused by feral animals such as deer and brumbies; and you probably wish some of those tracks you hike along weren't so overgrown and strewn with fallen trees.

Well, you can have your say and let the government know what your vision is for the forests by visiting the website at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/future-of-our-forests> where you will be able to share your views on how you'd like to see our forests managed. This public consultation process ends at midnight on **March 31st**. A summary report of responses to the survey will be published before the end of April.

I encourage all members to take some time before the deadline to visit the website and make your opinions known.

*

Our New Member's Night will be happening again on Tuesday, March 5th. We hope to see lots and lots of new faces on the night. Why not extend an invitation to some of your friends and neighbours, or workplace colleagues to come along and see and hear what the Border Bushwalking Club is all about?

Ian

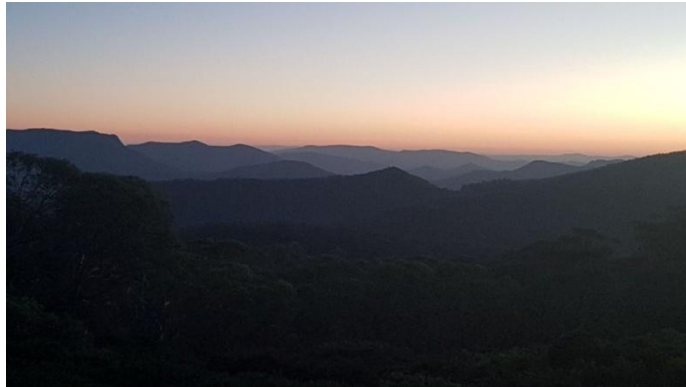
TRIP REPORTS

Mt Buller to Mt Stirling Overnighter.

After a week of ridiculous temperatures, it was nice to get into the mountains where it would be cooler. Jeff, Pam, Mick, Tania nor myself had been to Mt Buller, Mt Stirling or hiked to Bluff Spur hut, so it would be a new area for us all. Mt Buller is mountain bike heaven and bike tracks that criss-cross the two mountains are really well marked. It was a bit of a hot, dusty slog going up Mt Stirling. Conflicting information on maps made it a real team effort and the march flies didn't give us long to look at the map. Hiking tracks aren't as well marked but we managed to work it out, and get to our campsite by lunchtime. Phone calls during the week confirmed that while the tank at Bluff Spur hut was empty, there was water available close by and this was a bonus. Saturday afternoon was spent walking to GGS Hut and then up to the summit of Mt Stirling, where it was cooler and march fly free. The views across to Mt Cobbler, Mt Speculation, Mt Buggery, The Crosscut Saw, Mt Howitt, The Bluff and more were breathtakingly beautiful. Sunset that night was quickly followed by the full moon rising. We were packed up and on the track early on Sunday as we all wanted to avoid the heat.

It was still early when we got back to the ute and after a much appreciated cool drink, thank you Mick, we decided to drive up through the village and walk a short 500 metres to the Mt Buller summit. A swim in the Delatite river at Mirimbah was followed by burgers in Mansfield, before heading back to Benalla, where we had left a car. Another great weekend. Deb





North Razorback to Mt Feathertop.

We were lucky on this trip with three 4WDs available as there were 11 of us, including two new members Ken and Meredith, who set off from Bright to start the walk. The 4x4 road up to the start was a little bit rougher than our last trip but it wasn't long before our packs were on, some quick pics taken and we headed off through the trees along the track. Once the trees disappeared it was a case of going up and up following the footpad through the fog with a gusty wind all the way to Mt Feathertop Summit. With no view, the group split into two with one going to MUMC and the other heading back down to the cars. Deb headed back with one group and I headed to the MUMC hut with the other, which we made for lunch. We looked across at the opposite ridge at the others having their lunch at the same time. While having lunch it gave everyone a bird's eye view of Mt Feathertop and the return climb up to the summit and back down again, we would be making for the second time. Once we were back up at the summit it was a slow steady descent and a hot sweaty walk back through the tree canopy to the cars. As usual the views were spectacular and Ovens Pub for chips and drinks was a great way to finish. Thanks to Bruce and Ken for helping out with the 4WDs. Mick.





Beat the Heat Walks.

February 9th, the hottest day of the year, right? Well it was all those years that we celebrated my mother's birthday on this date. The ideal activity was an early morning walk followed by breakfast and a swim.

What a great way to break a long heat wave and bring on the coolest day of the Summer.

A little adjustment in response to the weather saw us sleep in an extra hour and a total of 12 walkers tackled the Nail Can Hill option or the river alternative.

There was lots of chatter over tea, coffee and cherry cake when the two groups met but I was the only one who braved a swim. The river actually felt like a warm bath on such a cool day but the effect of the wind was bracing.

A very pleasant morning was had by all, if not quite according to the original vision. Bernadette.



Ryder's Hut Yards.

Our party of 5 rendezvoused at Mt Beauty Saturday morning and headed up the mountain. As we chased loose items of clothing across Cope Hut car park, we realised the forecast of strong winds was spot on!

As we headed out along the AAWT a very strong crosswind meant unintentional side steps off the track as we were blown off balance. Nevertheless, we made good time to Cope Saddle Hut where we hunkered down on the leeward side for a break. The sky was starting to look even more ominous so we set off again with a sense of purpose along the aqueduct to Ryder's.

Tents were erected just in time and then the rain started. We headed into the hut. Apart from a couple of short breaks, the wind and driving rain continued for the rest of the afternoon. It put a stop to our planned walk to the nearby waterfall. Instead leader Ian lit us a fire and we gathered around it talking, eating and doing the puzzles in the newspaper. Very convivial!

The rain stopped just on dark, the sky cleared and by morning there was a good frost on the ground and frozen zips on the tents. After a leisurely pack up we retraced our steps in beautiful sunshine, visited the picturesque Cope Hut and then headed back down to Mt. Beauty for lunch.

Thanks to Ian and co-walkers Rosemary, Tania and Sandy for a great first overnight hike with BBC. I learnt heaps about gear, reducing weight, rehydrating food, scorpions and more.

And we all learnt what tasseography is! Ian.



Young's Hut Overnighter

Six of us ventured out across the High Plains for an overnight stay at “our” hut and what a fabulous weekend it proved to be!

The weather was perfect and the company was superb. We drove up to Pretty Valley Pondage, unloaded the cars and headed up the Fainter Fire Track before cutting across country to Pole 333 where we took a break and bathed in the peace and quiet.

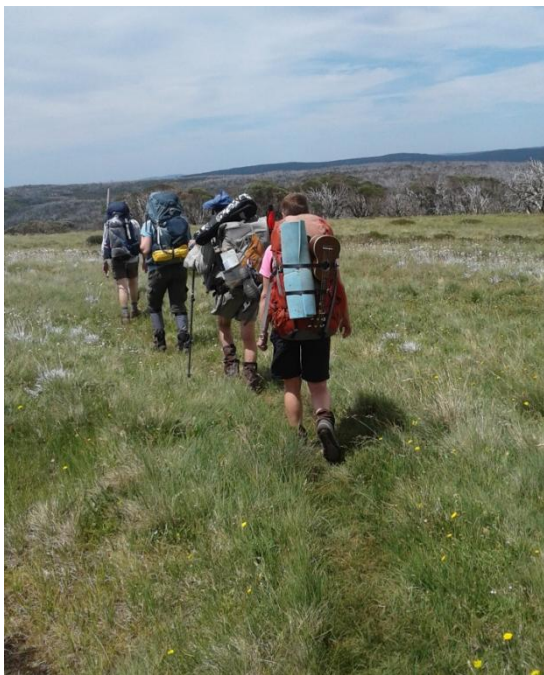
The hut was reached around midday and after setting up our tents and brewing a cuppa we lounged around the hut enjoying the sun and the silence. Some even resorted to having a ‘nanna nap’. Later in the afternoon five of us tramped down the valley to visit the waterfalls. Unfortunately, due to lots of heavy undergrowth and regrowth we were unable to find the usual track so did some solid bush bashing until we reached the top falls.

Although not as spectacular as the ones further down the valley there was a nice little pool at the bottom of the falls and some smooth slabs of rock on which we could perch. So it was off with the stinky hike clothes as we took turns to sit under the cascading water and cooled off.

Refreshed and invigorated we returned to the hut. Leanne had brought her ukulele and Ron had packed a few more for us and we spent the next couple of hours of daylight sitting on the verandah while Leanne taught us some basic chords and we all strummed away and sang along from the songbook she’d brought.

A small mob of brumbies, including three foals, wandered down to join us, undoubtedly attracted by the mellifluous melodies wafting across the hills. As the sun sank over the hills behind the hut we adjourned inside to dine.

Next morning we packed up, cleaned up the hut and bid it a fond farewell until next time. The walk back across the High Plains was rather windy and we stopped again at Pole 333 for a break before tramping across to the Fainters Fire Track and back to the cars. Our weekend adventure ended with a delicious lunch at Mt Beauty. Ian



NOTICES



**YOU
CAN
HELP
THIS
DAMAGE
BE
RECTIFIED.**



EVER GO ON WALKS AND SEE DAMAGE THAT NEEDS ATTENDING TO?

From time to time while doing our outdoor thing we see things that concern us. Things like feral cat sightings, missing or damaged signage, logs across tracks, vandalism etc. so we are asking **YOU** to note such occurrences and report them to the **leader of your activity**. They will forward the particulars to our ever reliable Eileen Clarke, who will subsequently inform the relevant authorities. Thanks Eileen.

Volunteers Needed!

[View this email in your browser](#)



Volunteers and Project Leader needed Please!

AAWT between Mt Wills Hut & Omeo Highway

8-11 March 2019



Contact Details

Phone | 03 9846 1132

Address | PO Box 1007, Templestowe 3108

Email (BTAC) | btac@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Email (office) | admin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

| | |
|--|--|
| Track: | AAWT between Mt Wills Hut & Omeo Highway |
| Area/Park: | Alpine National Park |
| Project Leader/Contact: (name and number) | Joe van Beek: Email: joevanbeek@bigpond.com Phone: 0411749799 or 03 51765302 |
| Where to meet: | We will meet at the Omeo Historic Park beside Parks Victoria Office Main Street (Great Alpine Road) in Omeo at 12pm for lunch and leave at approximately 1.30pm for Mt Wills. |
| Track length: | 6km |
| Working hours: | Set-up Fri Work Sat & Sun Pack-up Mon |
| Skills needed: | Jobs include chain sawing, brush cutting, clearing of debris, cut and paint of blackberries and replacing/adding markers. |
| Transport: | Own transport. Vehicles that are AWD (Subaru) or 4WD should be able to travel along the maintenance track to the hut. If not, the vehicle can be left at the Tallangatta Ski Club. |
| Accommodation: | We will be camping at Mt Wills Hut. |
| We'll provide: | The Saturday evening meal will be a BBQ compliments of Parks Victoria |
| Please bring: | You will need to be self sufficient for camping and all other meals. You will need a day pack for your lunch, water, snacks, rain coat, etc. |
| Scope of work: | There will be a variety of work to be undertaken requiring a range of skills and experiences. This section was worked on two years ago but a considerable amount of timber has fallen across the track in the meantime. If time, resources and logistics permit, some work may be carried out on the section of the AAWT between Macs Creek Track and Limestone Creek Track. |
| Meeting time: | 8 March at 12:00 |
| Finish time: | 11 March at 12:00 |

Thank you for your generosity to the bushwalking community!

YHA Bushwalking: New Program!

Greetings bushwalkers! Attached is the Autumn 2019 program.

Highlights in the next program includes

- The usual selection of weekend day walks around Victoria
- Accommodated trips visiting Tarra Bulga NP, Lake Eildon & Wilsons Prom
- Base camp visiting Mt Samaria
- Pack carries visiting the Australian Alps, Grampians and the Great Southwest Walk.

Saturday March 16 - Special Event - Rock Climbing at Mt Arapalies

Craig has a couple of spots left for a weekend he is running at Mt Arapalies (near Horsham) on March 16th

This event is aimed at beginners. Professional instructors from Grampians Mountain Adventure Company (grampiansadventure.com.au) have been hired and we have negotiated a discounted price of \$120 (normal price is \$160).

The weekend will be rounded out with a hike around Arapiles on the Sunday.

Accommodation is own arrangements. Some people are staying at Horsham, and some are staying at Natimuk. Others are camping.

For info please contact Craig Beer cbeerdrinkbeer@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events

The website program is now populated for next month and we will keep this up until the new website is launched.

Please note the Sunday walk meeting locations and times.

Sat 16 Feb - Cape Woolamai Coastal Walk Plus Sand Boarding (BYO board) 8km E

Leader: Jennifer Peterson jenpetersen99@gmail.com 0418 376 644

Sun 17 Feb - Warrandyte State Park & orchard visit if time permits

Meet at Flagstaff at 8.45am

Leader: Jan Huang janhmz@yahoo.com.au 0413 803 668

Weekend 23-24 Feb - Pack Carry Alpine National Park - Formal Dinner walk

Leader: Stephen Smith stephenmsmith@bigpond.com 9387 6481

Saturday 23 Feb - Big Pats Creek - Starlings Gap - Mississippi Fireline (22km)

Leader: Sonya Radywyl sonya.radywyl@gmail.com 0412 475 124

Sun 24 Feb - Gunnamatta to Cape Schank

Meet at Frankston Train Station at 9.15am

Leader: Lisa Van der Veer easily@hotmail.com 0426 471 184

Fri 1 Mar - Twilight walk - Studley Park (dinner afterward) Meet at Collingwood Station 6:30pm

Leader: Andrew Francis andrewfrancis236@gmail.com 0421 693 645

Sat 2 Mar - Bunyip State Park Southern Circuit 16km M

Leader: Erryn Stephens erryn.stephens@gmail.com 0438 018 509

Sun 3 Mar - Aireys Inlet Beaches and Cliff Tops 11km E-M

Leader: Rachel Weddle racheljweddle@gmail.com 0476 300 311

YHA Bushwalking

ClubWeb <http://www.yhabush.org.au/>

Walks program & bookings <http://www.yhabush.org.au/walksprogram..php>

Meetup <https://www.meetup.com/YHA-Bushwalking-Club-Victoria/>



Want to learn how to use your smartphone for navigation, anywhere, anytime?

Bushwalking Victoria would like to invite your club to attend a workshop on how to use your smartphone for Navigation (GPS owners could use this course to practise their skills with their device).

In this workshop, we will look at how GPS satellite navigation works – the theory, practicalities, advantages and limitations.

We will discuss a variety of smartphone mapping/navigation apps, including Avenza, [maps.me](https://www.maps.me) and Terra Map.

- **Date: Saturday, 18th May, 9am – 3pm**
- Location: Outdoor Activity Hub Conference Room.
Address: Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimmons Lane, Templestowe. (Melways 33 G1)
- What to bring: BYO lunch, smartphone (or GPS device), ruler, pencil, pens, wet weather gear.
Morning tea will be provided.
- Detailed course notes, activity sheets and map will be supplied.

Clubs are asked to nominate a maximum of two participants so that more clubs get a chance to attend. If spaces remain available, then an extra participant is welcome. Maximum number 16.

IMPORTANT: After registration, participants will be sent detailed instructions on phone setup. Preparation and pre-reading must be completed before the workshop. Participants must already be familiar with basic map/compass navigation and be conversant with their own electronic device e.g. be able to update software and install new apps.

Registration and enquiries to : training@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Participants are asked to provide the make and model of their smartphone (or GPS) at registration.

Registration closes on Friday, 12 April.

We look forward to seeing you then!

TRAVEL COSTS

As an environmentally friendly club we encourage car-pooling. Leaders will organise cars to travel to the start of the walk.

Travel costs will be based on a rate per km advertised each month in Footprints and each driver will be compensated equally. The leader will calculate the amount that each passenger needs to contribute, collect this and divide it amongst the drivers.



Where passengers wish to join enroute and there is a spare space in a car, the leader will determine a fair portion of the total cost as their contribution. If there is no spare seat they will be asked to drive themselves. If they are not prepared to drive an extra car will leave from the starting point and all participants will contribute equally to the total cost.

BUSHWALKING TRACKS AND CONSERVATION – 2019 PROGRAM



| Start Date | Finish Date | Project | Land Manager | Ranger in Charge | Project Leader or Club |
|------------|-------------------|--|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Flexible on dates | Track marking, Bogong High Plains Alpine National Park | PV | Kevin Cosgriff | Border Bushwalking Club |
| 7/03/2019 | 10/03/2019 | AAWT Philack Saddle Baw Baw National Park | PV | Kirsten Phelan | Strzelecki Bushwalking Club |
| 9/03/2019 | 11/03/2019 | AAWT Mt Wills Alpine National Park | PV | Thomas Grounds | TBA |
| 6/04/2019 | 7/04/2019 | East Tyers Walking Track Tanjil Tyres State Forest | DELWP | David Vaskes | Peter Maffei |
| 25/04/2019 | 28/04/2019 | Mt Howit - Guys Hut – Wonnangatta Alpine National Park | PV | Richie Southerton | Joe van Beek |
| 4/05/2019 | 5/05/2019 | Grampian National Park | PV | Ronda McNeilly | VMTC and MBW |
| 11/05/2019 | 12/05/2019 | Howqua Area Alpine National Park | PV | Nigel Watts | TBA |
| 8/06/2019 | 10/06/2019 | Hattah Kulkyne National Park | PV | Shane Southerton | TBA |
| 31/08/2019 | 1/09/2019 | Great Otways N P | PV | Kieran Lieuthe | Ed Butler |
| 21/09/2019 | 22/09/2019 | Lady Walker Track – reopening Warburton State Forest | DELWP | Monica Main | Melbourne Womens Walking Club |
| 26/09/2019 | 29/09/2019 | Croajingolong National Park | PV | Robyn Korn | Mike Grant |
| 5/10/2019 | 6/10/2019 | Cathedral Range State Park | PV | Natalie Brida | TBA |
| 23/11/2019 | 24/11/2019 | Howqua Area - Alpine National Park | PV | Nigel Watts | TBA |

How to... treat blisters

This is an article from Great Walks January 2018 edition.



29 January 2018

Even the smallest blister can ruin a perfectly good bushwalk – if you let it.

Two hours into your three-day bushwalk on a rugged trail you feel a slight rubbing on one of your heels but ignore it. You only see the extent of the rubbing when you take off your boots at lunchtime find a large swollen blister beneath the sock. Your walk just got a whole lot harder.

They say there are only two certainties in life – death and taxes. But I reckon there's a third – blisters. You see, every single one of us will experience blisters sometime in our lives so what are they and what should we do about them?

A blister occurs when a layer of fluid forms between the upper layers of your skin to protect the skin below, cushioning it from whatever damage is occurring and allowing the lower area to heal.

For bushwalkers the likely cause of a blister is friction. This can be exacerbated by dirt, which causes friction; moisture; which softens the skin and can make seams or socks swell and rub; and heat. Poor boot fit can also be a cause.

As usual, prevention is far better than any cure. The classic faux pas which will lead to blisters is not wearing in new boots. This is more likely to be a problem if the boot has a tougher exterior such as leather, but can cause problems in any boot. There is no quick fix when wearing in new boots: gradually increase the amount of time you spend in them and work up to the types of terrain you'll be covering. This will ensure your foot is prepared for the tough grind ahead.

On the trail, if your feet get wet, try to clean and dry them as soon as practical, putting on a pair of dry socks if possible. Wearing two pairs of socks can reduce the friction between sock and shoe and wicking socks or foot powder will help reduce moisture for those with sweaty feet or in humid areas. Finally, if you suspect you might have some problems, pre-emptively tape the areas concerned.

If you can feel a hot spot on your feet, stop immediately. Clean and dry the area, then apply anything which will reduce the heat and friction. Sports strapping tape is cheap, lightweight and potentially useful for other things on the trail and so a good option. However, blister band aids or even duct tape can suffice. Lubricants such as petroleum jelly will bring immediate relief but can lose their effectiveness as they melt.

If a blister has developed and is hurting, you might consider draining the blister (not to be mistaken with popping it which is a no-no). Apply a sterilised needle to the side and base of the blister and allow it to drain. The Australian Army has anecdotal stories of a piece of thread passed through the entrance and exit of the blister holes to act as a wick for draining, but don't leave it in too long as this can also attract bacteria.

Don't remove the dead skin as it will continue to help protect the new skin underneath. Try to keep it clean, give it air and reduce the pressure on the area as much as possible. As we've already said, don't pop blood blisters and if you see pus, it will need further treatment.

http://www.greatwalks.com.au/how-to/how-to-treat-blisters?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20202218&utm_content=Newsletter%20-%20202218+CID_804bea924ae7dc883fdeadc10eb03c05&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20more#hvYo2J7MxmA6EGgX.03

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
Bernadette
Mick
Ian
Tania
Liz



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

There Goes Summer

Leader: Deb

Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm

Bookings by: unspecified

It's been a memorable summer. Let's give it an appropriate send off. This easy walk along the East Albury Ridge will give us great views across the Murray Valley, and up into the mountains of the last sunset of summer. Bring some nibbles and drinks and we can sit and watch from our vantage point. Please bring a head torch just in case. Approx 7km return.

Thursday February 28th

Grade 2

Easy - Medium

7kms approximately

Hotham to Falls Creek (Pretty Valley Pondage)

Crossover.

Bushwalking

Leader: Ralph

Phone: 0417590535

Leader: Bernadette

Phone: 0419241687

Bookings by: Wednesday, February 27th

Join us on the very popular annual crossover event. We head out from both the start and finish of the walk and exchange car keys when we meet half way.

The only decision you need to make about this walk is which direction to do it in. Both groups cover the same route, both groups will puff as they ascend and move swiftly as they descend and both groups will have amazing views and great company.

Ralph will be leading the group from Pretty Valley Pondage to Hotham and Bernadette will co-lead, taking the group in the other direction. When we meet half way, we will stop for a yarn perhaps for lunch depending on time, exchange car keys and continue on.

This walk is approximately 19km and all on well worn tracks.

Sunday, March 3rd

Grade 3

Approx. 19kms

Spion Kopje Overnighter

Bushwalking/Overnight camping

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. Saturdays walk would be around 19km.

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

**Friday, March 8th - Sunday,
March 10th**

Grade 3

Introduction to Falls Creek

Bushwalking

Leader: Eileen

Phone: 0412042195

Bookings by: Wednesday, March 13th

Saturday, March 16th

Grade 2

This day is designed for beginners or those new to the area, but all are welcome. It comprises two or three shortish walks. We will drive to Falls Creek and walk up Roper's Lookout for a bird's eye view of the area. This walk is 2 km each way, flat at first then with a steady climb on a marked track with some steps. Next, we will drive to the start of the Wallace Hut Heritage Circuit, a 5.6 km loop that takes in some of the significant heritage and ecology of the High Plains. The walk is on a good track, flattish with one short climb. We will go at an easy pace and your leader, a trained tour guide, will explain some of the features of the area. If time permits, on the drive home we will stop briefly to explore Fainter Falls, about 700m off the main road.

Falls Creek Hammering **Sunday, March 17th** **Grade 3**
Leader: Eileen
Phone: 0412042195
Bookings by: Wednesday, March 13th

This will be a combination of walking and working somewhere on the Alpine Walking Track in the vicinity of Falls Creek. There is a need to replace several markers on signposts, so no great skill needed but it would help if some of you could bring a hammer. More details to follow.

Back Wall/Dickson's Falls, Mt. Buffalo **Saturday, March 23rd** **Grade 3**
Bushwalking
Leader: Ralph
Phone: 0417590535 before 8:30pm
Bookings by: Wednesday, March 20th.

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 or long pants 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.

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 **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.

Easiest Bogong Overnight and West Peak Day walk

Friday, March 29th - Sunday, March 31st Grade 4

Overnight camping

Leader: Pauline Scott

Phone: 02 60271 834

Nola Houghton

Participant numbers: 8

Bookings by: Friday, March 22nd

Leaving Friday early afternoon, we will drive to Camp Creek via Trappers Gap road. This becomes a 4WD track that is not officially graded but only 4WDs will be driven.

Leaving the cars at Camp Creek, we will walk 2.5kms up Eskdale Spur, gaining about 500metres. So – not so easy in elevation, but easy in distance ! We have all afternoon to plod to Michell’s hut, and I will be leading from behind.

Saturday morning we will be up early and take a slow pace, still going up, gaining 360 metres over 2kms to the top of Bogong. From here we hope to walk approximately another 2 kms to the West Peak, which I’ve been told is quite obvious, but with no marked track. All helpful advice will be welcomed.

Once Bogong has been conquered, we spend another night at Michell’s hut, before the slow walk down Sunday morning.

From memory campsites are limited at Michell’s hut, so consider sharing with a friend.

Tawonga huts Gourmet Weekend

Saturday, April 6th - Sunday, April 7th Grade 3

Overnight camping

Leader: Ian

Phone: 0425782983

Bookings by: Monday, April 1st

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 ‘Bring a Furry Friend’. This year’s theme will be divulged when you book in! The first to book get first choice of food to bring.

I would appreciate someone acting as a Co-Leader to organise the menu!

Wild Horse Creek**Saturday, April 13th****Grade 3****Leader: Deb****Approx. 23kms****Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm****Bookings by: Wednesday, April 10th**

Wild Horse Creek is on Track 107 about 10kms from the carpark at Watchbed Creek, where this walk begins. We will initially follow a management 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.

Baranduda Tower**Sunday, April 14th****Grade 5 Hard****Bushwalking****30kms****Leader: David G****Phone: 0432 632 142 after 8pm**

Starting from Ridge lane, this is a long walk with lots of up and downs as we follow the spine of the ridge to the tower and retrace our steps back. However it is all on good track. Around 1500m total altitude gain over the course of the day.

Morton National Park (The Budawangs)**Wednesday, April 17th - April****Grade 5****Bushwalking****22nd****Hard****Leader: Peter Smith-Allen****Phone: 0260271 980****Bookings by: Wednesday, April 3rd****Max. numbers: 8****Day 1. Wednesday 17th**

On Wednesday afternoon we will drive up the Hume Hwy to Goulburn, we will then head south east to the Shoal haven River where we will car camp for the night.

Day 2. Thursday 18th Approx. 14.5 km

After a short drive to Wog Wog campground we leave the cars and start the walk following the Scenic rim walking track. We pass over Corang Peak and visit Corang Arch before descending to Burrumbeet Brook camping area, where we camp overnight in a cave.

Day 3. Friday 19th Approx. 15km

Today is a big day; we continue to follow the Scenic Rim walking track before joining the Monolith walking track. From here we follow an old foot pad up a very steep rock face in-between Mt Cole and Mt Owen. We head between Mt Cole and Owen before descending into once again a very steep gorge. We once again pick up the Monolith walking track and follow this until we descend into Cooyoyo Creek, where we camp for the night. **(There will be some very steep rock scrambling and short sections of rope climbing in this section, pack hauling will be required).**

Day 4. Saturday 20th Approx. 12km

After leaving our overnight packs at the top of Cooyoyo Creek track we head for the castle. **(This is once again not for the faint hearted and requires some very steep rock scrambling and short sections of rope climbing. Walkers may opt out for this section if they wish).** After the castle we pick up our packs and descend into the cool fern clad gorge of Monolith Valley and follow the track back to our overnight camp near the base of Mt Tarn.

Day 5. Sunday 21st Approx. 11km

This morning we back track to Canowie Creek where we leave the track and follow an old foot pad to the Corang River. We follow this until reaching a great swimming hole where we will camp for the night.

Day 6. Monday 22nd Approx. 9km

Following Corang Lagoon Walking Trail we pick up the scenic Rim trail and make our way back to the cars. We should be back at Wog Wog Camping ground around lunch time for our drive back home.

Buffalo Views.**Saturday, May 4th****Grade 4****Bushwalking****Leader: David G****Phone: 0432 632 142 after 8pm****Bookings by: Wednesday, May 1st**

We'll start walking from Mackey's lookout. It will save the bulk of the 'big walk' up the mountain while allowing us to walk up into that wonderful view across the gorge to the chalet. There is still a climb up to the chalet though, and the section of the walk past the chalet still has some climb in sections.

We'll then make our way past the underground river and take a side-trip up to 'View point', past Lake Catani, and then explore the Chalwell galleries circuit (note; the galleries circuit involves a little ladder-work and contortioning – you can wait this section out at Lake Catani if you'd prefer). We'll then return to the chalet and back down the way we came.

We'll start early, but you must bring a torch (and don't make dinner plans) – we could be pushing the dusk on the return down to the cars if we lose time at some stage.

**Winter Solstice- bushwalk around Beechworth
and Ghost tour****Saturday, June 22nd****Grade 2****Leader: David G****Phone: 0432 632 142 after 8pm****Bookings by: Friday, May 31st**

Following the drive from Wodonga (leaving 4pm) we'll get in the mood by starting our night at a suitably spooky location (feel free to come dressed for the occasion). From there we'll set off on our night's journey by following the gorge walk past the powder magazine. Bring some nibbles to share (and maybe a thermos) for a light dinner at the falls.

We'll then make our way into town in time for the Asylum ghost tour (90 minutes, \$35)

<https://www.asylumghosttours.com/> and then walk through town back to the cars.

We should be back in Wodonga by midnight.

Safety – be aware that we will be walking on a public road. You will need a head-torch and spare batteries. Toilets available at the beginning and end of the ghost tours. If rain, the asylum tour component will still go ahead, but we might book in for a meal somewhere instead of the walk.

The Cathedral Ranges**Friday, November 15th -****Grade 4****Bushwalking/Overnight hiking****Sunday, November 17th****Leader: Deb****Phone: 0410047884 before 8pm****Mick: 0437101009****Bookings by: Friday, November 8th**

Save this weekend and come and explore The Cathedral Range, which is a spectacular seven kilometre ridge of sharply upturned sedimentary rock, near Taggerty, Victoria.

We will be leaving from Albury/Wodonga Friday mid morning and basing ourselves, for 2 nights, at either Neds Gully or Cooks Mill Campgrounds (Park Victoria fees apply).

More information to follow

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