



FOOTPRINTS

April 2019

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



COMMITTEE

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Membership Enquiries
Treasurer
Secretary

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

CLUB NIGHT

7:30 TUESDAY APRIL 2ND

GEOLOGY OF THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

Come along and listen to ex local Ted Minty discuss the sites of geological significance and ice age heritage on the Bogong High Plains. Learn about the structural genesis of the area, evidence of early gold mining along fainter Ridge, brown coal and fossils near High Plains Creek and evidence of glaciation and much, much more.



Where : Senior Citizens, Meeting Room, Civic Centre Complex, Hovell Street, Wodonga

Visitors are always welcome at me tings 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:

Paul Foley

Wendy Westacott

David Kirby

Marlene Pearce Kirby

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 22/4/19

A huge thank you to all those who submit material.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S STUMP

Years ago I did my first serious overnight hike. I'd been invited by a friend, a strapping mountain of a man, to assist with the annual 'Bogong Conquestathon' on the Labour Day weekend. (Crazy people actually run up and down Mount Bogong, while others take a more casual stroll to the summit and back.)

The plan was to hike up the Staircase Spur, camp overnight below the summit of Victoria's highest mountain and next day to act as marshals to ensure the runners and walkers found their way across the ridge for the descent on the Eskdale Spur.

It was a stinking hot day with not a breath of wind and as I labored and sweated my way towards the top I remarked to my friend that I wasn't sure his insistence that I pack plenty of warm clothing and wet weather gear was sound advice. He just marched on ahead of me with a knowing look on his face. Swiping rivers of sweat from my eyes I had to wonder why the hell I was carrying all this extra weight when there wasn't a cloud in the sky.

When I finally shrugged off my pack and collapsed near the summit I was sure my friend had a sadistic streak. I was so buggered from carting all that gear to the top I had to enlist his help to put up my tent. After dinner I crawled into my sleeping bag and promptly fell asleep. I was woken at dawn by a strange and unusual noise. At first I thought it was rain, but when I pulled back the tent flap I was gob smacked. It was snowing heavily and the summit was soon transformed into a strange new world of whiteness. That's when I realised I was shivering; the temperature had plummeted below zero.

I rummaged through my pack and dragged out long johns, a thermal top, down filled mittens, a beanie, an extra pair of socks, a fleece top and my rain jacket. As I struggled in the confines of the tent to don warm clothes I silently thanked my friend who had so prophetically stated before we set off the previous day that no matter what the forecast, when hiking in the mountains always expect the worst weather-wise.

I've followed that advice for over 30 years now. No matter what the forecast and no matter what the season, my pack always contains thermals, a fleece, gloves, beanie, over pants and a rain jacket. Keep that in mind when next you venture up into the mountains. Ian

TRIP REPORTS

Long Spur/Cleve Cole Hut Overnighter.

Mulhauser track ends at a very nice camp site which would be our starting point for our overnighter to Cleve Cole Hut. After a quick snack we were soon climbing up Mulhauser Spur track to where it meets the AAWT. Once on top of the ridge we followed the track along the Long Spur. Bosseide Hill saw us enjoying the views with our lunch. A short walk from there and we were at the hut. After setting up our tents, some of us continued on to enjoy a very windy view of Mt Bogong. With packs loaded and a very sunny Sunday morning we started our journey back down the Long Spur to the cars. Lunch was at a very busy Mitta pub. Mick.





A Reflective Walk 27/2/19

Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk began with a lively debate about the flood markings and dates on Noreuil Park Totem Pole, forward alongside the river, over Padman's, past Kermit Boat Ramp a favourite swimming spot for local dogs and on to the beginning of the sculpture trail. It was a perfect, still morning, Horseshoe Lagoon shimmering with superb reflections and there was plenty of birdlife. We missed you Chris Gay. Cameras out one with a very serious lens. A circular walk around the lagoon, then returning to the River Deck cafe for coffee. I cannot calculate what took the most time, walking or coffee. Either way it was a reflective morning. Inspiring how a sewerage farm can become a perfect habitat for all. Sue



Spion Kopje Overnighter

What a meticulously planned trip to the point I almost believed our intrepid leader, Bernadette, had something to do with the perfect weather. This trip report is written through the eyes of a first time walker to Spion Kopje.

We departed mid afternoon on Friday enabling us to walk the 5km to Edmonson's Hut, arriving in daylight to set up tents and enjoy dinner with a mountain sunset backdrop. The highlight of this section was the unimpeded dramatic view of Mt Bogong.

We set off next morning again in perfect walking weather for roughly a 20 km return trip. Although nearly all the wild flowers had faded, the yellow everlastings were still putting on an impressive display. Wonderful varieties of beetles plying their trade and Nola's keen eyes spotted a small White Lipped snake sunning its self on the track.

On our way, we passed an unnamed hill. It never takes long before someone starts a discussion on naming it or for that matter discussing anything slightly off beat and humorous. No, it wasn't Spion Kopje, Bernadette pointed out the metal trig point on the correct Spion Kopje, our destination.

What a lunch spot, spectacular uninterrupted panoramic views of the High Plains. Then back to Edmonson's Hut to relax

and enjoy the sun. Ira and a pretty green lizard bonded very well participating in this activity. An easy morning's walk back to Washbed carpark. The Three Peak bike ride was on and the road to Falls Creek was closed at 12.30. Did I say a meticulously planned trip, yep, we were well within our limited time options to drive back to Mt Beauty. Thanks Bernadette from all for a perfect walk. Sue



Falls Creek Working Bee

How many bushwalkers does it take to change a sign? One to lever off the old sign, one to hold the new sign in place, one to screw it in, one to take photos, one to supervise, five to carry the tools: two battery operated screwdrivers, two manual screwdrivers (plain and Phillips head), four hammers, assorted screws, and three dozen new signs (there's nothing worse than not having the right tool). So we were well laden when five of us set off from Watchbed Creek and headed up the Big River Fire Trail towards Mt Nelse. The sun shone brightly and we sweated heavily as we grunted up the hill, but then a southerly breeze came across to cool us, bringing with it much smoke from the bushfires around Dargo. We stopped briefly for morning tea near Edmonson Hut then continued on to Warby Corner. Here we replaced the 'Australian Alps National Park' sign and the yellow direction arrows on the little post. Then it was time for lunch. By now the wind had turned a bit cooler and clouds were moving in so we did not linger. We turned around and headed back the way we had come, replacing the signs at each track intersection and picking up rubbish (orange peel does not rot!). Back at the car park we sorted out which tools belonged to whom, paid petrol money to the driver and headed back to Mt Beauty for a well earned cup of coffee. Thanks to the workers on the day: Deb, Tania, Coco and Ron. Eileen Clark, supervisor.



A Novices View of the Falls Creek Walk 16th March 2019

What a wonderful introductory walk for us to participate in after joining the Border Bushwalking Club in December 2018.

The initial phone call to Eileen produced a clear, concise list of what to take and where we were to walk. Commencing with the rendezvous at Wodonga Bunning's car park with Bernadette and prompt departure as all were on time and well prepared for the day. Eileen, our leader, met us at Mt Beauty and full introductions and reorganisation of passengers into cars took place. A pleasant drive to Falls Creek and then a rest stop at Eileen's choice of facility prepared the group for the short drive to Heathy Spur car park. Some donned additional clothing as the temperature was a little cooler than in Wodonga and we were all checked off the list and undertook the short walk up to the Ropers Lookout for an overall view of Falls Creek and Rocky Valley dam. Eileen gave a short talk on the use of the dam and hydro electric scheme which produces the stream that flows into the Mitta River and then the Hume Dam. Some clouds covered the south west hill tops as we looked over the dam and a crisp little breeze played about the group on the sunny morning and made a very pleasant start to the day.



This part of the walk had a flat start then a moderate climb up a winding overgrown, eroded path but with well made rock steps. The steps made a few hearts pump a bit faster and the sheltered morning tea spot was appreciated for a little rest.

A 4km return journey took about 1hr 20min including morning tea and information stops returning us to the car park. A short drive to the Wallace Heritage Trail car park allowed us to reassess clothing being worn.

The next part of the walk brought us to a great lunch stop at Wallace Hut (cattlemen's hut built 1889), a well maintained heritage listed site. It was good to have a sit and get to chat to the others in the group. We proceeded beside the Langford aqueduct that takes water to the storage dam from the hillside catchment and

eventually came to the Rover's Hut. This is owned by the Scouts and youngsters are able to stay and use the well set up kitchen, bed bunks, tow rope up the hill and storage of outdoor activity equipment to enable experiences in the National Park and alpine area in relative comfort. Continued walking led us onto the home stretch of the circuit passing Cope Hut built in 1929 for skiers and onto a conservation pathway through grassland, parallel with the road where we viewed Maisie's plots. A scientific experiment commenced in 1945 by Maisie Fawcett, that gave cattlemen of the High Plains demonstrable proof of the damage hard hoofed animals caused in the fragile alpine region.

By this time we had all found our walking legs and the last little hill that led us back to the car park was tougher for some than for others.

This introductory walk proved to be a very well organised activity. Leader

Eileen and Walk tail- Bernadette, both fit and brisk walkers, were intuitively tuned to the needs of the group. All seemed to be happy to walk and rest at the pace of the slower walkers. Some needing more rests than others, the photo taking of scenery, insects and points of interest all taking a little more time than flat out walking would have taken.

Our knowledgeable and a motivated educator and environmentally sensitive leader Eileen, introduced us to the history of the alpine area. We were given information about the landform and vegetation growth as it related to airflow, temperature, water availability and waters passage through the landscape. We were advised of the importance of the research undertaken by a female researcher into the impact of hard hoofed animals on the fragile alpine environment and encouraged to consider the potential for volunteering as a guide, signage repairer and noxious weed removalist in the national park.

Last of all we witnessed the workings of the "secret formula" for payment of car drivers by passengers. A wonderful day out. Thanks to all who were in the group.

Narelle and Graham Ashford.



NOTICES

INSURANCE COVER PROVIDED BY BUSHWALKING VICTORIA.

Please check out this web link to see what you are covered for.

<http://www.bushwalkingaustralia.org/insurance/accident-insurance>

AMBULANCE COVER: IT IS ADVISABLE YOU ALSO CHECK OUT WHAT YOUR AMBULANCE COVER ACTUALLY COVERS. MEMBERS WHO ONLY HAVE AMBULANCE COVER WITH PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE MAY NEED TO CHECK THE LEVEL AND EXTENT OF SUCH COVER IS SUFFICIENT FOR REMOTE AREAS.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY

Under the expert guidance of Judy Hunter from Bush Walking Victoria, sixteen current and potential Leaders took part in our very first 'Day Walk Leader Training' day at the Senior Citizen's Hall in Wodonga. Judy is the Training Coordinator from BWV and was ably assisted by member John Hillard and our Activities Coordinator, Bernadette Cromarty. A member of the Bayside Walking Club in Melbourne, Judy has been leading walks for 24 years and proved to be a wealth of knowledge.

The day consisted of sessions on walk preparation, risk management, conducting the walk, navigation, and incident management. All participants agreed the day was an outstanding success in improving their knowledge and competence, and more importantly, their confidence, in leading day walks for the Club.

As a result of the day, the Committee will be organising some follow-up action and we will be actively seeking to implement a number of new ideas that will assist and encourage members who have yet to lead a walk to do so.

Congratulations to all who attended the day and we look forward to your future involvement as leaders within the Club.

Ian

For those who recently attended the How to Lead a Walk session, the following website will provide information as discussed.

<http://www.ga.gov.au/oracle/geomag/agrfform.jsp>

This site will provide the current Magnetic Declination for use with most maps.



ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DO THE LEADERSHIP COURSE.

Bushwalking Victoria will be hosting day walk leader training for our affiliated member clubs in April. The details are as follows:

Course Name: Day Walk Leader Training

Date: 13 and 14 April 2019 (the course runs over two days)

Time: 08:45 - 16:00

Venue: Outdoor Activity Hub Conference Room, Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe, VIC (venue details attached)

Course topics include: Leadership skills, previewing a walk, paperwork, risk management, leading the walk, navigation, incident management.

Please bring: Lunch and a bushwalking compass (preferably Silva brand).

BWV will supply each participant with a course handbook, morning and afternoon tea.

The maximum number of attendees for the course is 20 due to the size of the venue.

We would like to give as many clubs as possible the opportunity to attend, so depending on demand, we ask to limit the number of persons attending from any one club to two participants. You can send through additional names to go on a waiting list and if we have additional spaces, we can offer the waiting list participants a place.

Country attendees will need to organise their own accommodation, please. (Options nearby include: [Quest Doncaster](#), [Beau Monde International](#), [Eltham Motor Inn](#), [Airbnb](#))

If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Judy Hunter at training@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au by 20 March 2019.

EARLY NOTICE & ADVICE OF NEW CRITERIA FOR HOWMANS

16 – 18 AUGUST 2019 - HOWMAN'S GAP SKI WEEKEND

As easy or as hard as you please

Leader: Sue Cardwell 02 6056 0501 or sumacard@outlook.com

Come & have a great 3 day weekend – skiing (downhill or cross country – skating or classic), snow shoeing, walking in the snow or lazing around.

Staying at YMCA Howman's Gap Alpine Centre just near the entry gate to Falls Creek. The cross country ski trails will be groomed for the Hoppet the following weekend.

Accommodation – 6-7 bunk bedrooms, single & communal bathrooms & disabled facilities. All meals included from Friday night dinner to Sunday packed lunch.

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

BYO bed linen/sleeping bag, towel, wine & nibbles for around the fire predinner.

Blankets & pillows supplied. Large drying rooms & guest fridges available.

2 nights accommodation & 6 meals will work out at \$187 per person

NEW CRITERIA FOR STAYING AT HOWMANS. ALL GUESTS HAVE TO HAVE A CURRENT WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK – can be from any state OR CURRENT VIT TO STAY IN THE ACCOMMODATION BLOCK WITH SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN.

You can apply on line as a volunteer & it is free. Check with me first re the details for the organisation on the form.

DEPOSIT OF \$50 PER PERSON TO ME REQUIRED BY 1 MAY 2019 to secure our booking.

REMINDER: MAY MEETING IS OUR AGM.

BBC Treasurer's report, 12 March 2019 for Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 7th.

- BBC financial year ended on 28 February. At that date the current account had \$1276.87, which allowed for the cheque for the hall hire of \$500, even though that cheque had not been presented. It reconciled with the Hume statement balance of \$1776.87 after allowing for that cheque.
- The balance of the current account at 11 March 2019 was \$1293.42. There were no outstanding accounts to pay as of 11/3/2019.
- The Term Deposit has a balance of \$12,000, and it matures on 21 March. Following tonight's decision by the Committee to purchase a new tent costing approx. \$600, I recommend that \$500 be transferred from the maturing Term Deposit to our current account, and the remaining \$11,500 be reinvested for 100 days at the special interest rate of 2.3%.
- The income and expenses for the financial year just ended are attached. Points you may wish to note are:
 - The increased membership fees for this year resulted in more membership income than in recent years, and was \$5158, the highest amount since 2013-14 when the Club split.
 - The BWV fees were similar to previous years and were \$3508.
 - The amount spent on the website was higher than in previous years and was \$1531.
 - The bottom line for the year is that expenses exceeded income by \$1046. This arose because of expenses associated with our website development and our 40th anniversary celebrations – both one-off expenditures. The shortfall was covered by a net transfer of approx. \$1600 from the Term Deposit.

Rick Pickering

	INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DISSECTION 2018/19																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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NOMINATION FORM for the 2019 ELECTION of OFFICE BEARERS of the BORDER BUSHWALKING CLUB INC.

NAME of NOMINEE : _____

POSITION (Please CIRCLE) : President Vice President Secretary Treasurer
General Committee

PROPOSED BY : _____

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE : _____ DATE : _____

Return to the Secretary, Border Bushwalking Club Inc. PO Box 857, WODONGA or hand
deliver to the Secretary before the commencement of the Annual General Meeting on
MAY 7th, 2019.

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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.

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
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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

Please click on the following events website for the latest events on offer from BBC

<https://borderbushwalkingclub.com.au/events/>

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.