



FOOTPRINTS

May 2019

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



COMMITTEE

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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 MAY 7TH

AGM followed by an armchair journey of the



Recently a group of our club members walked the amazing Great Ocean Walk. Illustrious leader Ron will guide us on an armchair journey of this spectacular and let's say, eventful walk. Come along and do it in air conditioned comfort with a cup of coffee. See Ira's trip report below for more information.



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:

Alan Blackman **Celesta van der Paal**

Jacqueline Sutherland

Connie Constas

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 22/5/19

A huge thank you to all those who submit material.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

May 2018

It gives me much pleasure to present my annual President's Report for the year 2018-19.

The past twelve months have continued to see the Club grow and prosper through the efforts and commitment of a hard-working committee, supported by an enthusiastic and involved membership. (Please don't hesitate to let your committee know they are appreciated!)

We are now into our forty-first year and as usual it has been a year of many new developments and initiatives. Late last year the President and Secretary of Bush Walking Victoria (BWV) accepted our invitation to speak at a committee meeting. Mick and Colin made the long trek to Albury and spent the evening with the committee outlining how BWV supports and lobbies on our behalf, while we made it clear that we would like to see more support for regional bushwalking clubs. A spin-off from this meeting was our very successful Leaders Training Day held in Wodonga in March and hosted by BWV's Training Coordinator, Judy Hunter. The day has generated much enthusiasm and interest amongst a number of newer members now keen to begin leading walks. Our Activities Coordinator, Bernadette Cromarty, has organised a follow-up navigation skills training day scheduled with some of the participants and led by member John Hillard. The committee has plans for future leadership and navigation training to take place.

Cementing firm links with BWV also means President Colin Macdonald will be attending our Club Night in August, offering a chance for members to hear more about the work of BWV and to express any concerns or questions they may have on the night.

Our Activities Program is a major strength of the Club and would not be possible without the hard work of Bernadette and her increasing pool of Leaders, both experienced and "newbies". Bernadette's report highlights the depth and variety of activities we offer to satisfy a range of interests. Together with training opportunities, the Committee is encouraging new Leaders by offering a number of experienced mentors to guide them.

Rick Pickering's Treasurer's Report indicates the Club remains in a sound financial position and has recommended that Club fees remain as they are.

Our Club Nights offer an assortment of presenters and have generally been very well attended. Not only do they offer an opportunity to hear about some magical trips to wonderful places, these nights are just as important from a social aspect, allowing members the chance to socialise and catch up with others in an informal and friendly atmosphere. I encourage all members to keep that first Tuesday of the month free.

My thanks and appreciation is extended to the Committee for their continued hard work and commitment; and to retiring members, Sue Simpfordorfer, Cindy Pickering and Rick Pickering. Also, many thanks to our two ex-officio members - Eileen Clarke who has been acting as our Walks Recorder and Pauline McLaughlin who continues to promote Club activities in the media.

I look forward to enjoying more of the great outdoors over the next twelve months and to your company and fellowship on a track somewhere.

Ian Trevaskis

TRIP REPORTS

Blair's Hut Overnighter

Everyone has their favourite weather site. In the days before our hike there was much discussion about which site "is the best, and would be the most accurate." Whilst the opponents agreed to disagree on that point, they did agree that even though Saturday wasn't going to be a blue-sky day, Sunday was looking good and given our destination had a hut with a fireplace, our overnight hike to Blair's Hut would go ahead. The snow arrived right on time, and by the time we geared up and set off, everything had turned white. When we turned off the Fainter Fire trail, it was just about a white out, so with almost zero visibility we turned to our navigation skills and followed a compass bearing first to the Green Tree and then to Pole 333. Tania checked the Geocache, and then we simply followed the pole line down to Weston's Hut for lunch. It was all downhill after lunch to Blairs Hut and we were able to set up tents before the rain (which both weather sites had predicted) arrived. No use having a fireplace and no fire, and once Mick had that roaring it was warm and cosy, just like home. That peace was soon interrupted as 15 Year 9 boys, and 2 staff, from Yarrawonga P – 12 arrived on day 2 of their 5-day journey of self-discovery. They came bearing gifts, a bag of blackberries and an offer of chocolate and stayed just long enough to dry out a bit and get warm, before being taken back to their tents in the damp, cold night. Poached eggs and

coffee/hot chocolate is our traditional Sunday overnight hike breakfast. This was fuel for our hike back up to the High Plains via Red Robin Battery and Cobungra Gap. Once again both weather sites had accurately predicted that Sunday would be a good day, and it wasn't long before thermals and wet weather gear was being removed for the climb out. The snow line was quite distinct, but soon it became obvious that there had also been rain up high. Once we hit the pole line the snow all but disappeared, to be replaced by water running everywhere. As we set off to return to the cars from Pole 333 via the Green Tree, one last white out swept across the plains, giving us another great opportunity to use our navigational skills. Deb



Young's Hut

At the outset, I am happy to say that five walkers started this walk and five finished it. Nothing unusual, you say, just what we would hope for? Indeed, but for two of us our previous trip to Young's Hut eleven months ago had turned out very differently. Keep reading to find out why!

Weatherwise, this walk was one with the lot. It was raining when we met in Mt Beauty, thick fog in Falls Creek and clear but with a howling wind at Pretty Valley, where we started the walk. Later in the day the sun came out, and there was even one loud thunderclap (well, I heard it even if no one else did). We donned beanies, fleeces and gloves and headed across the causeway and into the wind on the Fainter Fire Trail, puffing our way up to the highest point. We decided against taking the short cut via the green tree because it was still a bit foggy, the ground was very wet and collectively we weren't convinced that it saves much time, so we walked almost to Tawonga Huts and took the track up to pole 333 where we paused for morning tea.



From there we made good time into Young's Hut which was bathed in sunshine and we realised how warm it was when you were out of the wind. The hut is nestled at the head of a valley and is well sheltered, but we knew that once we climbed back onto the ridge, we would get blasted by the wind again. After a good lunch we set off for the return trip, stopping briefly at pole 276 (or thereabouts, our memories were hazy on details) where on a similar walk last May one of our number had become too ill to continue and had to be evacuated. We offered a brief vote of thanks for helicopters and paramedics and continued to pole 333 for a quick afternoon tea. On the return trip we met several other groups of walkers out for the weekend.

After a brief discussion we decided to take the short cut cross country to return to the cars, mainly to avoid the long uphill slog if we followed the track. John skilfully navigated a very quick and easy route that took us past what looked like a strange collection of cairns from a distance, but which turned out to be group of feral horses who stood and watched us pass by. Then it was a short walk along the Fire Trail back to the car and home. If you want to read more about last year's trip, there is a report in the June 2018 issue of Footprints.

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TAWONGA HUTS 'GOURMET WEEKEND'

Six of us ventured out to Tawonga Huts early in April to gobs on of lots of yummy foodstuffs as part of the annual 'Gourmet Weekend'.

Our first stop was the memorial cairn before the descent to the Huts where we spent a considerable amount of time helping Tania search for in vain for a hidden geocache before moving on.

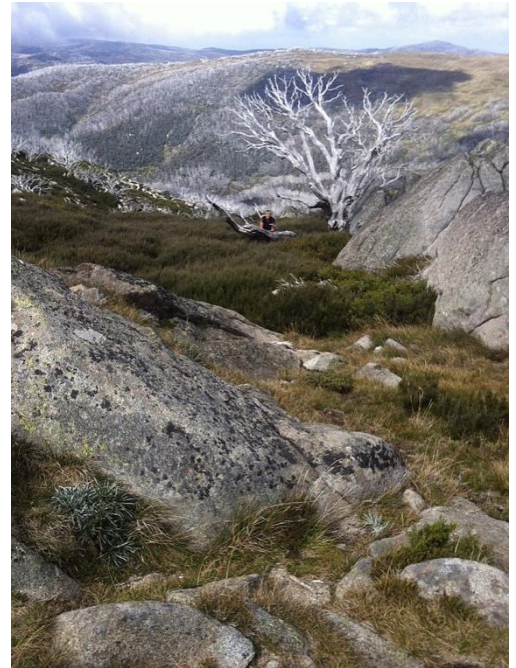
Fortunately we had the Huts to ourselves and after we'd pitched tents and luxuriated in the sunshine we headed up to Mt Jiamathang where Tania informed us another geocache awaited. The views from the summit were indeed splendid (as they always are) and while we spread out like lizards on the rocks, Tania ferreted around in the undergrowth, again without any luck.

When we arrived back at the Huts we discovered a group of uni students had arrived and had set up camp nearby. They were quickly informed we had 'booked' the hut for the night, but they were welcome to join us for the sing-along later. This year's theme was "Aussie! Aussie! Aussie!" and after pre-dinner nibbles and a rather luscious red we hoed into pumpkin soup, quiche, Vegemite sausages (yep, there are such things!) and finished with lamingtons, marshmallow snowballs and Kit Kats.

With full bellies and a warming fire we took turns reciting the Aussie poems we had brought along and then Leanne tuned up her ukulele and we all joined a rollicking sing-along of a number of Aussie songs. Later in the night we stumbled off to our tents still humming "I Still Call Australia Home".

Next day we walked over to Weston's Hut for a squizz, as some of our party hadn't been there, and then it was back to the cars and down to Mt Beauty for a late afternoon tea.

A fun-filled weekend with great company, lots of laughs and the usual glorious views. Ian



Wildhorse Creek

It's good that Wildhorse Creek is often overlooked as a day walk, because when you go, you can expect to be the only ones there. And so on a day perfect for walking, Vanessa, Peter, Nola, Tania, Jeff and myself set off for a wander before winter. As expected we didn't see anyone else, not even at Fitzgerald's Hut. But that was all about to change. When we got to Kelly's Hut, where we were going to stop for a snack, there were people and horses and lots of horse poo! The group from Bogong Horseback Adventures were as unimpressed with us dropping in on them as we were with the mounds of fresh poo around the hut. We chatted politely, ate our snacks and left, knowing that this group who were headed down Track 107 towards Big River would soon pass us. About halfway down to Wildhorse Creek the sound of wild dogs howling was loud and clear and relatively close. Lunch was right on the creek, and not long after we had started to eat, the horses barged through. Our return trip back up Track 107 was a bit slower than our descent. Back at Kelly's Hut we had a quick break before heading to Langford East Aqueduct which would take us to Marrum Point Track and back onto the management track and back to our cars. Deb





Mt Buffalo Back Wall and Dickson's Falls

Once again, this walk met all our expectations; last year beautiful weather, this year misty rain however both with magnificent views offering different experiences.

Eleven walkers headed up the mountain and set off in light rain with coats coming off not too far into the walk. Our only disappointment was the strong winds and misty rain that met us at the wall.

In the words of our participants; spectacular mountains delineated by fog; fabulous walk; after months of walking in sunshine, it was lovely to see the clouds settling in the valley and experience light rain as we walked; two beautiful walks, fantastic leader and scenery; sunshine, where did it go, a variety of weather; magnificent, another champion led walk.

The Back Wall Team



Unfinished business : finished ...or is it? The Great Ocean Walk.

Our club has a somewhat checkered history with the Great Ocean Walk (GOW). I am unsure if we have had a group complete it intact. It was aborted once due to bad weather and 3 years ago Ron choose a hospital stay in lieu of tent and camp mat, or was it the hospital food over dehydrated?

Determined to complete his "unfinished business" he rounded up 6 others - Ken, Pam, Vanessa, Celesta, Connie and myself to take the challenge with him. He planned a leisurely, stress free 9 days to walk the 106 kms. Easy! How many started at Apollo Bay and how many finished at the Apostles?? And whose car died and was abandoned on the side of the Princes Hwy east of Colac?

Answers available at May club night when Ron presents our photos of what is a spectacular walk. Let's just say there is still "unfinished business" for BBC and the GOW!

As is often the case when walking you pickup people along the way. Our group collected 2 single walkers. Greg was only with us 3 days as he was completing the walk more quickly than us. He was good company and it was Vanessa who quickly worked out that he was the Greg of the *Hiking Fiasco* blog. We wondered if we will appear in one of his entertaining blogs in the future. Our other adoptee was Dana who gained 2 "hiking mums" in Celesta and Connie. This young 20 something was on her first walk and very keen to learn from us experienced "oldies". By day 3 she had been convinced to discard the foil wrapped potatoes she was going to cook in the coals each night(her research said fires were allowed!) and the 9 cans of baked beans. Fortunately we had spare light weight food to share and a serious raid of Ken's

food drop at Aire River provisioned her for the rest of the walk. She was inspirational in her determination not to abort and with support, especially from her adopted “mums”, she experienced that great sense of achievement on finishing and we hope she continues to bushwalk.

This was a very enjoyable, interesting and memorable walk made successful by Ron’s past experiences, group cohesion and members knowledge, especially medical.

The GOW rightly deserves its status as one of Victoria’s iconic walks. It is certainly GREAT with deserted beaches, crashing waves, cliffs, various vegetation types, a waterfall, wildlife, carefully planned camp grounds including toilets with the best views, ship wrecks, a light house to climb and of course the apostles at the end.

But don’t take my word...come to May club night and see the photos. Ira.



NOTICES

REMINDER: MAY MEETING IS OUR AGM.

BORDER BUSHWALKING CLUB TREASURER'S REPORT for Annual General Meeting Tuesday 7th May 2019

This report covers our annual "trading period" 1st March 2018 to 28th February 2019.

Assets and liabilities

As of 28 February 2019, our liquid financial assets are as follows:

- Held in interest term deposit \$12000.00
- Held in current account \$ 1276.87
- Total \$13276.87

Income and expenditure:

The period ended with a deficit of \$778.97 (the income includes \$267.30 interest from our term deposit).

Key points include:

- Membership income was the highest since 2013-14, reflecting the increase in fees that was made in the 2018-19 year;
- Bushwalking Victoria's affiliation fees, which includes our insurance premium for members and non-members on Club walks was \$3508, which is similar to the levels of previous years;
- Website development has now been completed and cost \$1092 this year, which builds on the \$575 paid last year;
- Payments of \$480 (\$330 of which was printing costs) were made for the 40th anniversary weekend.

Comments on overall financial position:

Our revenue exceeded our recurrent expenditure, and while our overall position was a loss, it arose because of more than \$1500 of one-off expenses.

Our term deposit as at 28 /2/19 was \$12000. This is a significant financial reserve for the Club. (In March our term deposit was reduced by \$500 to fund the purchase of a new Mont 'Moondance' tent for our equipment hire.)

Membership fees:

The committee proposes that the membership fee structure for the 2019-20 membership year remains at the current levels.

Rick Pickering,
Treasurer

	INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DISSECTION 2018/19																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
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Equipment report for AGM 2019

We have hired the following equipment since last AGM 2018.

- Tent- T5 MSR "Hubba" 2 person- 3 season- 4 hires (up 1 from 2018)
- Tent- T4 Mountain Design "Pass"- 1 person-3 season- 2 hires (up 1 from 2018)
- Pack- P3 "Mac Pac Esprit Ladies 65 ltr"- 1 hire (up 1 from 2018)
- Sleeping bag- SL1 Mont "Evo Light" - 16 hires (up 15 from 2018)
- Sleeping mats- "Therma Rest"-1 hire (same as 2018)
- First Aid- FA1- 12 hires (up 11 from 2018)
- PLB- EP3 "Ocean Signal/Rescue me"- 10 hires (up 10 from 2018)
- Walking poles- "Black Diamond" trekking poles- 2 hires (down 1 from 2018)
- Dehydrator- D1- 1 hire (same as 2018)

Since the last AGM we have reviewed the number and suitability of our packs. The decision was made and we decommissioned and disposed of packs. Leaving 3 packs for hire.

It is my opinion that the increased hire of first aid kit hire and PLB is due to increased dialogue regarding this equipment availability and the critical need for such equipment. This was further brought to light by a presentation of Tania Eade-Smith and an incident that has increased many members awareness of its importance.

The dramatic increase in hire for the sleeping bags was due to an extended overseas hire and I believe the fact

that these are new light weight bags that are more suitable.

Recently we purchased a new tent asset T6- Mont Moondance 1.755kg fully packed weight including the footprint.



Activities report 2019

Once again, we have had an amazing year of walking, cycling, skiing, paddling, bird watching and socialising. We have been hampered by fires, rain, snow and whatever the elements throw at us but we have been out there as much as we can.

Our walking program continues to be varied with extended walks, weekend walks and day walks scattered throughout.

It is great to see new activities amongst our old favourites to create a balanced and interesting program.

Our New Members night was, once again, well attended and lots of information was shared by our more experienced members. Thanks to all who participated in a formal or informal way. Eileen followed this up with a great 'Introduction to the High Plains' walk. On this walk she used her knowledge as a parks volunteer to tell 9 newbies and 2 more experienced walkers a lot of interesting things about the area. I hope she will repeat this easy walk and I'd encourage people to go along and learn more of the history and geography of Falls Creek.

We also had our first Bushwalking Victoria Leadership Training day in our local area. This was attended by 17 club members and 3 visitors from other clubs. A great mix of inexperienced walkers, wishing to learn about leadership and safe practises, right through to very experienced leaders wishing to brush up and hone their skills, attended. With so many people learning about planning, assessing risks, dealing with unexpected events managing people and navigating we continue to develop a strong skills base in the club. It is hoped that the more experienced members will encourage the newer ones to have a try at leading as a result. Thanks to Judy Hunter, the wonderful presenter, John Hillard who assisted especially with the navigation component and Ian Trevaskis for coordinating with BWV to make the day happen. John is also going to do some follow up practical navigation.

Each year Eileen Clark very quietly and competently compiles data for us. Rather than reporting on this data I will include it with a note of thanks to all leaders and all enthusiastic participants. You are what makes our club such a great one. A special thanks to Eileen for her work in compiling this list.

Bernadette Cromarty
Activities Coordinator.

Border Bushwalking Club

Summary of activities, 01 March 2018 to 28 February 2019

Day activities–Walks

Total planned walks: 59

Total number cancelled: 11

(main reasons: adverse weather, no bookings)

Total no. of walkers: 340

Favourite areas:

Falls Creek	11 (+5 cancelled)
Mt Buffalo	7
Albury	5 (+1 cancelled)
Mt Beauty/Tawonga	4
Mt Hotham/Feathertop/Dinner Plain	4 (+1 cancelled)
Beechworth	4 (includes B/day w/e)

Other areas:

Benalla, Bogong Village, Chiltern, Cudgewa, Dederang, Glen Creek, Granya, Mansfield, Stanley, The Rock, Flaggy Creek, Warby Ranges, Wodonga, Lockhart's Gap,

Most active leaders (includes cancelled walks)

Eileen Clark	20 (also highest number of cancelled walks!)
Deb Kahn	12
Bernadette Cromarty	7

Other leaders:

Cindy Pickering, David Graf, Ian Trevaskis, Liz Nilbett, Mick Sheedy, Paul Schirmer, Pauline Scott, Pauline McLaughlin, Ralph Simpfendorfer, Sue Simpfendorfer

Co-leaders:

Mick Sheedy, Deb Kahn, Chris Gay

Day activities–Cycling

Rides: 7

Area: Beechworth, Myrtleford, Bright, Wandiligong, Everton, Tallangatta

Leader: Ian Trevaskis, Cindy Pickering

Total no. of cyclists: 34

Day activities–XC skiing

Trips planned: 11
Area: Falls Creek
Leader: Sue Cardwell, Helen Robinson, Marie Maguire
Number of participants: 44

Day activities–Snow shoeing

Trips planned: 2
Area: Mt Buffalo
Leader: Ron Hammond
Number of participants: 8

Day activities–Canoeing

Wednesday evenings, November to March, Albury, organised by Sasho Dillo and/or Cindy Marsh, numbers not available

Social events

Birthday party weekend

Intra club dinner Organiser Deb Kahn
Banff Film Festival Organiser David Graf
Mt Beauty Film Festival Organiser Eileen Clark

Weekend activities–Bushwalking/camping

Number planned: 20
Number cancelled: 5 (weather, illness)

Areas:

Falls Creek/Mt Bogong	9 (+4 cancelled)
Mansfield	3
Kosciuszko NP	2
Tumbarumba	1
Castlemaine	1

Leaders or co-leaders:

Peter Smith-Allen, Mick Sheedy, Louise Evans, Bernadette Cromarty, Pauline Scott, Ian Trevaskis, Deb Kahn, Pau Schirmer, Ron Hammond

Total number of participants: 82 + 4 ukeleles

Weekend activities–Social/skiing

One weekend at Howmans Gap, organised by Sue Cardwell, 14 participants

Extended trips

Three extended walks occurred:

Australian Alps Walking Track, Kiandra to Tharwa, leaders John Hillard and Bernadette Cromarty, 6 participants

Kosciuszko NP (Thredbo area), leader Deb Kahn, 4 participants

Kosciuszko NP (Jagungal circuit), leaders Bernadette Cromarty and Pauline Scott, 8 participants

Alpine National Park - aerial shooting trial May 2019 - PARK CLOSURE

Areas of the Alpine National Park to be closed for aerial deer control in May 2019

A significant expansion of deer populations in the Alpine National Park, and surrounding areas, has been observed over the past decade, with increased impacts on environmental, social and economic assets. Parks Victoria introduced a deer control trial, that includes both ground and aerial shooting, to try and address these issues.

The second stage of Parks Victoria's deer aerial shooting trial will be carried out over 3 to 4 weekdays between the 6th and 17th May 2019. The exact dates depend on the weather; an email to confirm the dates will be sent out once a final decision has been made.

The trial will be conducted in the Mt Bogong, Bogong High Plains and Mt Feathertop areas of the Alpine National Park (see attached map).

The areas of the park subject to shooting will be closed.

The Great Alpine Road and the Bogong High Plains Road, Wallace Hut and Mountain Creek Camping Area will remain open. Mt Buffalo National Park, Falls Creek and Mt Hotham Alpine Resorts and Dinner Plain will not be affected.

Please note: some areas of the Alpine National Park have been affected by fire and are currently closed. For up to date information visit www.parks.vic.gov.au.

Please see the attached for more information.

If you require further information or have any questions, please contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

TRAVEL COSTS

Travel costs this month: 35cents per kilometre.

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.



Dear members,

The four fires (M89 Mayford - Tuckalong, M97 Mt Darling - Cynthia Range, M91 Licola - Mt Margaret, as well M96 Hibernia Black Snake Creek) that have been burning within and around the Foothills and Southern Alps and Dargo areas are now all classed as contained or under control. This is a mammoth achievement that began on 28 Feb, and these fires have totaled 127, 909 hectares in footprint. However, there is still a lot of work to do to ensure the 4WD tracks within and around the fire footprint are safe in terms of hazardous trees, emergency stabilisation and rehabilitation.

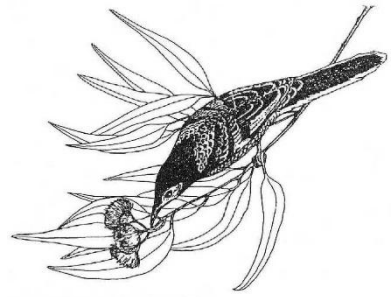
The Foothills and Southern Alps is largely still closed, except now access are permitted to the campsites north of Licola along the Wellington River (from Friday 5 April), on the Dargo High Plains Road (Thursday 4 April) and the Australian Alps Walking Track (Thursday 4 April). The road is now blocked at the end of the bitumen preventing access along the Tamboritha and Howitt Road and you are unable to access Tali Karng or the Crinoline or use Mt Margaret track. **The closure of the Foothills and Southern Alps will be maintained over the Easter holidays**, as there is still a large volume of heavy plant and firefighters in the area conducting emergency stabilisation and rehab work and ensuring that track access is improved and safe for park visitors.

- For information about Park closures, please see: https://parkweb.vic.gov.au/safety/fire-affected-areas/fap_alpine_national_park
- For a full list of closures, please see: <http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/#!/warning/8133/moreinfo>

If you any questions, please contact:

Conor Wilson | Parks Victoria
Ranger Team Leader | Dargo | Foothills and Southern Alps
M 0438 355 564 **E** conor.wilson@parks.vic.gov.au
Parks Victoria

Regent Honeyeater Project Planting Dates



www.regenthoneyeater.org.au

CAV Incorp: A0050192Z

ABN: 29 084 959 796

Hello Everyone,

How are you? It is exciting to announce that the Regent Honeyeater Project is now well funded for the next few years and that we can now advertise the dates for the planting weekends for this season.

So, we need your help for another season of People Power in Action!

In a similar vein to last year we will be starting planting in May and June to beat the end of financial year as well getting plants established well before the ever-unpredictable Spring.

The dates are:

May 4th & 5th

May 18th & 19th Deakin Uni already booked

June 1st & 2nd

June 8th and 9th

Then there will be a break for July and we will have some opportunity again in August:

As with last year we will be providing at no cost:

- Saturday evening meal
- Sunday lunch
- Accommodation at the Scout / Guide Halls in Benalla (mattresses supplied: BYO bedding) which will be available of Friday and Saturday nights
- We will also conduct a tour of an established site, probably late on Saturday.

Despite a severe drought the plants from last year are looking surprisingly well with very few losses and good growth due to a short but fortuitous downpour in December. Below is a photo taken a month ago at Humphries Hill (the low hill in Winton Wetlands we spent a lot of time on last season) of a White Box

(*Eucalyptus albens*) reaching the top of the 900mm guard in just over 6 months- and this is not the only one. The whole site looks excellent.

Some of the sites we have planned for this season are:

- Continuing the meandering corridor that will connect north to south across Winton Wetlands (which will connect Lurg to Chesney Vale)
- More of the scattered overstory planting associated with the above corridor
- Hand, niche direct seeding of understory
- Goudie Rd, Chesney Vale, west of McGann Hill road. If you have a look on Google earth this will fill a gap between McGann Hill Rd (which connects to Lake Mokoan Rd and Winton Wetlands) and the Katatmatite Creek Reserve (which is about 7km long) with various connections to Mt Meg Nature Conservation Reserve- so a very important gap to plant.
- Scattered overstory and understory in a newly fenced Ironbark remnant in Lurg
- Greens camp is a 20ha low Box/Ironbark hill similar to Humphries Hill in Winton Wetlands for planting in late Winter / early Spring.

Thank you for your support to date and we really hope you are able to join us again this year.

Andie Guerin

Coordinator

Regent Honeyeater Project Inc

White Box in a 900mm guard and just over 6 months old. Fantastic.



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.

TENT WANTED

Does anyone have a lightweight 2 person tent in good condition they no longer need and wish to sell? Vestibules would be great but not essential. Contact Liz on 0408702886.

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
Leanne
Ian
Chris
Pauline
Bernadette

Vanessa
Liz
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

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.*