



FOOTPRINTS

September 2019

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



COMMITTEE

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General Committee, **Ralph:** Vice President, **Bernadette:** Activities Coordinator, **Liz:** Newsletter Editor, **Ira:** Meeting Suppers & Social Convener, **Chris:** Equipment Officer, **Marie:** Membership & Data Base Manager, **Ken:** Policy and **Sandy**

Club Night: New Zealand Walking

7:30 Tuesday September 3

Three presentations by four experienced local and overseas walkers from Border Bushwalking. Settle in for some armchair travel and why not bring a guest and do a some dreaming about your next adventure.

Marie; Travers - Sabine Circuit, a 5/6 day walk in Nelson Lakes National Park, South Island. A region travel guides describe as “enchanted alpine landscape of rugged peaks, forests and stunning glacial lakes”. It will be a treat to hear Marie’s first-hand account.

Bernadette; The Heaphy Track, South Island. Classified as one of the nine great NZ walks by the Department of Conservation. Bernadette will also slow the pace and give us an overview on how easy it is to drive, see a sign and do a short walk in NZ.

Cindy and Rick; Milford Sound, South Island. Take a boat ride across a lake to begin this iconic walk ending at the Milford Sound in the Fiord National Park, a World Heritage site.

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.

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Ella Smith, Stephen George, Pauline Bennett

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 23/9/19

A huge thank you to all those who submit material.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S STUMP

The days are beginning to lengthen, the magpies are sharpening their beaks in eager anticipation of spearing a few skulls, the bees are gorging on the Manchurian Pear blossoms at the front of the house, and despite a chill in the morning air, there's nothing better than finding a sheltered nook on the back deck and soaking up some sunshine.

I have a sneaky suspicion that Spring is about to be sprung!

This can mean only one thing – more hikes, more bike rides, more getting outside! Of course, the skiers and snoshoe-ers amongst us will be making the most of the spring snow and hoping for a few more dustings on the mountains before the season finally winds down. This year I managed to join a lovely bunch of people for the annual Weekend at Howman's Gap (see report elsewhere). Once again this was organised brilliantly by Sue Cardwell and we enjoyed excellent snow conditions and undertook a range of snow play activities, including a 25km tour out to Cope Hut, skiing across untouched trails and virgin snow.

With Spring about to arrive with a rush, now is a good time to seriously consider organising and leading a walk or two, (or even a bike ride). There are a number of current Leaders more than willing to act as mentors and are only too happy to act as co-leaders if you are feeling a little apprehensive or uncertain. Just contact Bernadette Cromarty for some assistance. It would be a real bonus, and a vindication of the time and energy spent by the Committee, if the members who took part in the Leadership Course we ran in March, now follow it up by leading an activity or two.

Speaking of Courses, it is pleasing to note that the free First Aid Course we obtained a grant for, and which will be run early in September, has been fully subscribed. This will mean Leaders and others participating in activities will have the know-how to act quickly and confidently in the case of a mishap on an activity.

Finally, thank you to all those who came along to the August Club Night to meet and hear the president of Bush Walking Victoria speak.

Don't forget to mark the September 3rd Club Night in your diaries when you can hear about and view some fabulous hikes across the ditch.

Look forward to seeing you on a track, a ski slope or a bike path soon.

Ian

TRIP REPORTS

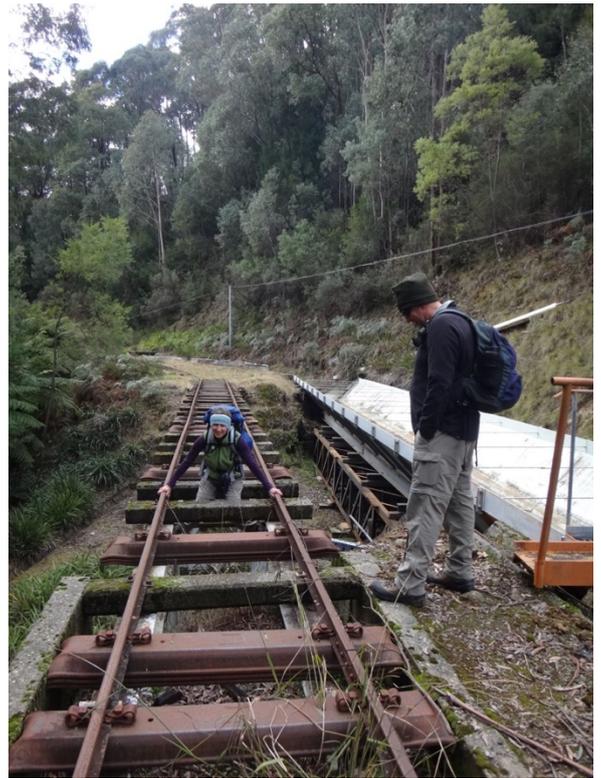
Tramway Walk

The Tramway Walk finally found a good walking weather day , and so we headed up the mountain, about 10 minutes from Mt Beauty. After climbing stairs to an "authorized personal only" shed, we had a good view of Clover dam, then managed to rock hop over the East branch of the Kiewa River, then ambled uphill to the Tramway. While walking along the track we were given interesting information about much of the infrastructure from John, (yes he does walk), and upon finding a tramway trolley the group tried their best to get it moving, but to no avail. On reaching Greene creek we attempted to go upstream to look for my missing water bottle and hidden waterfalls, only to be stopped by heavy overgrowth, and lots of water.

After lunch we had two gullies to navigate, but Sandy noted the tramway sleepers were close enough to walk over, until half way across.....Oh well , some like a challenge, though may be worth a burnt boot award ? (no-one was hurt in the taking of this photo)

At the end of the Tramway we were once again on a dirt road, but were glad for a bridge over the river this side of Clover dam, as we stopped in awe of the massive amounts of water flowing and pounding over the rocks. An added extra was then a walk around the original workers village, now an arboretum, then back to the cars. Of course we finished the day at the Mt Beauty bakery - thanks to Leanne, Sandy , John and Steve for such an entertaining day.

Pauline



Ski Tour 28 July

Four of us had a wonderful day touring up on Heathy Spur initially soft spring like snow but progressively firmer as we climbed. Out on the plateau some really good gliding. Great downhill run with some fancy turns off Heathy down into The Park then up & down into the more sheltered bowl beside Marum Point for lunch & some more fancy turns before a gentle run back along Paul's Trail & softer snow. The fifth member of our group was off skating.

Cool wind with some wind chill & the sun came & went all day. Great visibility later in the day with the usual superb panoramas. We definitely need a good snow fall soon....

Sue



Ski Tour 3 August

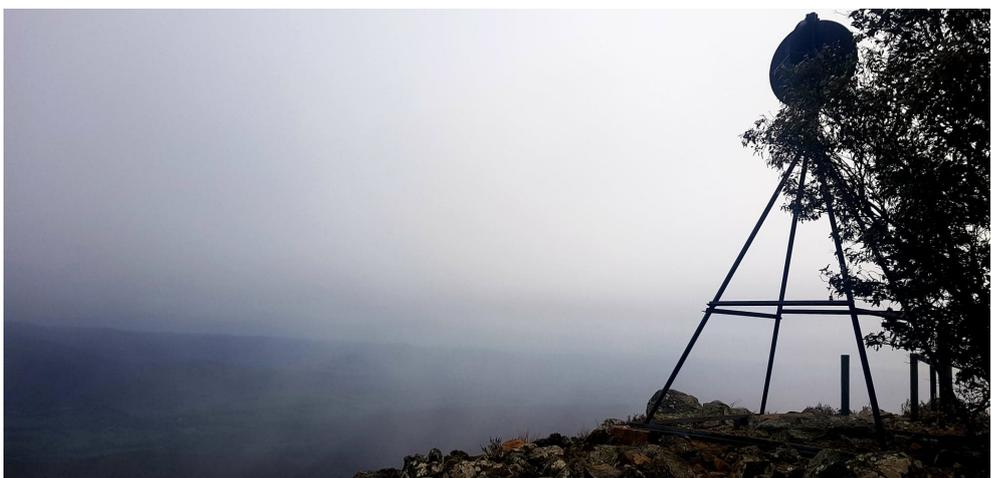
Magnificent sunny day with a gentle sou'wester blowing, just right for a tour down to Pretty Valley, Damsite Hill & up around Mt McKay. Vistas that went forever with thick cloud down in the valleys. Hard fast snow in the morning & softening after lunch. Snow rapidly disappearing so skiers please do the snow dance or something – already bare patches on road from Windy Corner. Great lunch spot lying back on snow grass watching the Melbourne bound jets' 'ski trails' between snow gums, listening to a few crows & the wind in the trees. How many enjoyed this tour? Just moi...
Sue



Mt Samaria State Park

One of the things you can be sure of when walking in winter is the lack of crowds. And our walk in Mt Samaria confirmed that, over the day we only saw 2 other people who were also making the most of a very cold, foggy but not too wet day. Views on our first summit of Mt Samaria were fogged in, so we headed towards Wild Dog Falls. Despite it being a dry winter this area of the park is always green and mossy and the track down, was very slippery and with lots of big fallen trees. After a break at the falls, that were indeed falling, we followed a much less used track up and out of the gorge to Wileman Track. The park is full of reminders of logging that once took place throughout there, and the old kilns provided a sheltered spot for lunch. Then the fun began as we followed Lightning Track up to the ridgeline and Mt Samaria Track, descended back almost to the road, before climbing back up to the summit for the second time, and a view. The total ascent over this section was 740m of the 960m we climbed over the walk. It's a great walk for winter, lots of ups and downs, great views when the weather is in your favour and a very pretty area full of tall, straight trees and mosses.

Deb



Powder

Powder & more powder snow & still coming down. 3 of us had an exploratory touring trip the western end of Heathy Spur in deep powder between the timber with some downhill runs that got a bit tricky with the variable light conditions & snow drifts. It was like skiing on silk. Saw no-one – a great way to recharge the soul. The sun tried to break through all day. There were patches of blue sky & the wind was an almost gentle sou'wester. Snowing lightly most of the day with large flakes coming down mid-afternoon. Rather chaotic coming up the road as all vehicles had to put chains on approx. 10 km out from Falls.

Sue



Chiltern Forest Walk South

As the season's heaviest snow fall continued to dump at the higher elevations, seven hearty walkers braved a 1 degree start in the Chiltern Forest with high hopes for the sun to emerge during the day.

Birds entertained us as we walked at a brisk pace ever hopeful of spotting the Regent Honey Eater. To our disappointment all we managed was to bump into two other parties also hoping for a glimpse of this endangered species that had been sighted along our track the previous weekend.

The sun emerged, the wattles sparkled in the morning dew and layers of clothing were regularly discarded. Lunch was enjoyed at one of the two old gold mining sites we visited. For our entertainment a flame robin and red hooded robin danced around us whilst we relaxed in the weak sun light.

Finally, a coffee at the Chiltern Bakery finish off the day. Thanks, Ira, for a most enjoyable day in one of your favourite locations.

Ralph



Mt Jack

There was no fog in Dederang, just blue sky's and sunshine when we started our walk. It's a big climb up to Mt Jack. The first steady climb (750m) got us warmed up and shorts and t-shirts outnumbered thermals and long pants. It was great to sit in the sun for a short break and we could have stayed there longer but there was still 16km to go and another 400m to climb. Pretty soon after we'd commented that if we'd been there the previous week we'd probably have been deep in snow, the snow appeared as did lots of big fallen trees. It must have been wild up there last week. Passing Mt Jack summit, we got to our lunch spot well before time, and given that it was covered in snow, decided to look for somewhere in the sun. We started our descent, through even deeper snow, till we eventually descended enough to be out of the snow, then found enough logs sunshine to sit in. After lunch we continued downhill, climbing over some big trees that were across the track, crossing 4 creeks, passing the turn off that we had taken that morning, opening and shutting 6 gates as there were now black angus in the paddocks that were empty in the morning and finally getting to the car with plenty of time for a detour to the Dederang Store. Deb



Chiltern Bird Walk, Wander and BBQ

We walk for various reasons. Apart from all the usual, how often do we think about the place names of where we go? The delightful 7k gently undulating bush Tuan track is named after the tuans (brush-tailed phascogales) carnivorous nocturnal mammals which live in tree hollows in the area.

Bartley's block, a birding hot spot on the international map, was once the site of a gold rush era brewery and cordial factory operated by Benjamin Bartley from 1861 to 1913. Bits of broken bottles, ruins of building foundations, old fruit trees and 2 wells remain while the bush and wildlife absorb the site back into the forest.

Depot road has a cleared picnic BBQ area but did you know this was the site or depot for burying the night soil of Chiltern's residents before the town got sewerage and flushing toilets? Here we enjoyed our lunch!

Oh..and the hills around Chiltern reminded someone of the Chiltern Hills, England.

On this overcast day Chris lead 8 members, new and old, visitors, a 7year old and Bella a guide dog with her handler in search of birds.....

For the 3 walkers of the Tuan Track the bush provided a few early wildflowers...alpina grevillia, hovea, hibbertia, early nancy, speedwell, honey myrtle, heath, various wattles, dwarf greenhoods and pleasantly surprising, large patches of nodding greenhoods after recent rain with the promise of carpets of chocolate lilies later in spring.

Coffee at the tavern and home by 2.

Chris and Ira thank the eclectic group who came for their support and enjoyable company

Bird walk

Chris says academia is not his forte' so in answer to a series of questions the guru provides answers below.

The birds were reluctant to show themselves however his knowledge on bird song, flight patterns, and habitat was invaluable. Bird spotting may not be your thing, but a few hours with Chris will enhanced your enjoyment of just not walking through the bush but being part of it. Sue

Tree creepers always work their way upwards in their foraging.

Sitella's work down a tree when foraging.

The Honey Eater that has the white flash on the neck is a "White Plumed Honeyeater"

Also saw "Grey Fantail", "Fairy Wrens" and heard some others- "Grey Shrike Thrush"

Generally the birds song before rain is for a lot of species...not a specific species.

Thank you so much for doing the report. Academia is not my forte' so I really appreciate your help."

Chris



Howmans Gap August 16 - 18

The usual 3 day convivial weekend was spent at Howmans Gap with an almost perfect day for skiing on the Saturday with glorious sunshine, light breeze, never ending panoramas over the High Plains, surrounding peaks & Rocky Valley Dam with almost perfect reflections of the snow covered hills. Packed powder with an early morning crust – wonderful for touring out on the High Plains with one group up to Ropers Lookout, then across Heathy Spur to Watchbed Creek while another group was out to Cope Hut. Other areas skied were Sun Valley, Pretty Valley & low areas of Rocky Knobs. The going was a bit soft & heavy on the Sunday & a top up of fresh snow would be welcome. Friday morning we met up for coffee & homemade cake at Windy Corner while we planned our day with not such good weather prospects & an early retreat to the comfort of Howmans. A warming gluhwein was enjoyed each evening in our ‘private’ dining room at Howmans – was the old games room & now reserved for those consuming alcohol with their meals & no under 18s. Quite peaceful compared to the main dining room with over 60 schoolchildren. A welcome innovation. Thanks to everyone for helping to make the weekend so enjoyable – what a great bunch you are!

Sue



Mount Stanley

The sun was shining and 9 people ranging from a first timer to a Life Member gather to walk down and up and down and up Mt Stanley.

The track was varied and interesting, as was the conversation.

If a picture tells a thousand words here is a trip report of over 4,000 word trip report.

Bernadette



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

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

NOTICES

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria (BSAR)

BSAR is a dedicated volunteer search and rescue service in the state of Victoria. They participate in land-based search and rescue for persons lost in bush and alpine areas under the direction of the Victoria Police.

Searchers include experienced bushwalkers, backcountry and cross-country skiers and mountaineers who have had specialist search and rescue training

The Border bushwalking Club have had numerous members participate over the past 40 years. However, there are currently no active participants.

Are you interested?

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria is open to members of Bushwalking Victoria clubs and Bushwalking Victoria Individual Members who meet the experience and age entry requirements listed below. The entry requirements basically ensure that members are competent and experienced bushwalkers, ready to receive specific training in search and rescue techniques. As a prospective member you need to:

- be an experienced overnight bushwalker or ski tourer
- have successfully completed an extended walk of at least four days or more
- have had snow walking or snow camping experience
- be a competent off-track navigator
- be fully equipped for overnight walking
- be sufficiently fit for prolonged heavy scrub bashing in difficult terrain
- be at least 18 years of age

If you are interested, you can have a chat to Bruce Key (0437 922 777) who retired from active searching a couple of years ago but is still the club delegate to BSAR. Alternatively, have a word to Marie on 0431 210 087 who has also been a member.

Planning ahead for Tuesday October 1 Club Night

We are again planning to include in October a regular favourite "Oh The Places We Have Been".

All members are invited to share 5 photos from their travels over the past 12 months and talk to them briefly so we can all share your enjoyment and perhaps inspire us to include these in our bucket list. Advice on where to send your photos will be coming soon. In the meantime, send them to ralphsimpfendorfer@me.com

Did you know.....

The Albury-Wodonga Repair Cafe operates out of the Sustainability Activity Centre (SAC) on The Causeway, the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 1pm?

Repair Cafes divert items from landfill by assisting people to repair rather than toss away.

September 7th features a **demonstration** on downhill SKIS and SNOWBOARD maintenance. Bookings essential - see eventbrite.com.au

October 5th features assistance with repairs to selected CAMPING EQUIPMENT including chairs and torches.

After a winter recess, BIKE repairs and maintenance will be back from September onwards.

This is a free service provided by volunteers.

Visit the **Albury Wodonga Repair Cafe Facebook** page or ecoportal.net.au to see what's happening each month.

Ira

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:

Andrea
Deb
Sue C
Sue S
Pauline
Sandy



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.

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.