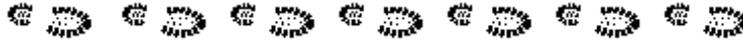




FOOTPRINTS

November 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:** our go- to girl.

CLUB NIGHT WITH A DIFFERENCE

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME AND VENUE

**A PICNIC/BBQ FOLLOWED BY A WALK AND TALK WITH WRENS
(Wodonga Retained Environment Network)**

6PM START for picnic at Baranduda

7PM START for walk and talk

In 1973 the Albury/Wodonga Development Corporation established a threatened species and habitat conservation strategy to create and maintain wildlife corridors to help preserve our native flora and fauna in the face of regional development. There are many WREN sites and they are a great place to walk and enjoy nature right at our doorstep. Join us for a walk and talk with Glenda, a key driver of this initiative.

If you can make it at 6pm we will have a picnic/BBQ at the picnic area behind the Baranduda Community Centre. BYO everything. If not picnicking, meet there at 7pm.

Park in Sage Crt near the shop and school and walk behind the community centre. There are free gas barbecues for use and a couple of tables with benches.

If it is too wet for this Glenda will give a slideshow presentation at the WODONGA Senior Citizens Hall at 7:30.



WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Don Calder
Marie Salinger

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 22/11/19
A huge thank you to all those who submit material.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S STUMP

Having recently returned from a long walk in Portugal and Spain, followed by a bit of cycling to give the feet a rest, it's nice to be back on home soil and to be looking forward to some more sedate forays into the nearby hills. It's also a time to catch up on what's been happening within the BBC during my extended absence.

Bernadette and John have run two very successful and highly instructional Navigation Courses up on the High Plains, with lots of positive feedback from participants, all of whom apparently now know quite a lot about PASTA!

Not only have Bernadette and John impressed those who took part in the courses, but Bushwalking Victoria's Leadership Trainer, Judy Hunter, has thanked them for their assistance in helping BWV with their own navigation course development:

Hi Bernadette and John,

Great work on PASTA! I have a course tomorrow afternoon so I will include it. Both the guys doing the course will be very impressed.

BWV has \$\$\$ to develop online training as well - it is in the early stages at present but that will be a big focus for the next few years.

I am so grateful to you and John for your assistance in the course development

Kind regards,

Judy.

Bernadette and John are already planning future courses to up skill our Leaders and others who want to make sure they aren't on the end of a Search and Rescue mission. Stay tuned.

*

A quick perusal of the Club's 'Events' page on our website reveals a virtual smorgasbord of activities on offer over the coming months. If you don't fancy traipsing through the bush, we do offer other outdoor alternatives that might pique your interest.

Sasho is once again running his popular after-work paddles on the Mighty Murray (a great way to spend a relaxing couple of hours), and I'm offering a couple of cruisy and very social bike rides on the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail.

If you do feel you need to exert a bit more energy, there are some challenging overnight walks happening at Mount Buffalo and Kosciuszko NP, or maybe you'd like to join a less strenuous day walk in the mountains now that the snow has retreated.

It would be remiss of me not to thank all our brilliant Leaders who offer us so many choices; we really are extremely lucky to have these people as part of our Club. It would also be timely for me to remind members that we have mentors available if you would like to dive in and lead an activity.

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

Ian



Old windmill on Portuguese Coastal Camino, Apulia, Portugal.

TRIP REPORTS

Pine Mountain 6 Oct 2019

Seven of us left Wodonga at 8am, (being the first day of daylight saving) and travelled via Tallangatta to the start of the track near Walwa. The last 4 km is barely trafficable by 2WD, especially after rain, so we all piled into one 4WD for that part. A bit squishy but ok.

The name Pine Mountain may conjure up images of *Pinus Radiata* plantations, but this Pine Mountain is named after native pines that are common in the forest through which the track passes. The walk is extremely pleasant because it passes through attractive forest and large granite outcrops. There are frequent views over the surrounding valleys. On this occasion there were quite a few wildflowers despite the very dry period that we have had. Most of us managed to go the extra 500 m past the Pine Mountain cairn to see the magnificent view over the Snowy Mountains. The entire trip is worth it just to see this view.

Like most the other occasions on which I have done this walk, we took about 7 hours including stops because there are frequent occasions scrambling up rocks or looking for the track. We nearly lost our leader at one point, but of course everyone had the mandatory whistle which helped re-unite the group.

It was 7 pm before we arrived back in Wodonga, but we agreed that Pine Mountain is one of the better walks in the fabulous area in which we live. Bruce.



Kiewa River to the Murray and Wodonga Creek

A beautiful spring morning greeted 4 gals and 4 guys for an easy Sunday walk along the banks of our local rivers. The birds were out in great variety to greet us along the track with lots of revegetation work very evident. Green and gold were the prominent colours with so many blossoms out to compliment the spring growth. The fast-flowing Kiewa river powered us along the confluence with the Murray were a break for morning tea was enjoyed. Then off to as far as we could go along the banks of the Murray and Wodonga creek until private property forces a U-turn back to the start. All told an excellent morning enjoyed by all. Ralph.



Woolshed Falls to Spring Creek Cascades Picnic

After a fresh and frosty start, five of us set off from Woolshed Falls near Beechworth, which was flowing well after rain the day before. Spring is the perfect time to head along the Reid's Creek walking trail, the grass and foliage was abundantly lush and made for really pleasant, mostly flat walking until we reached the rock steps up to Spring Creek Gorge. Morning tea by the Cascades was welcome after a sweat-inducing climb, and following some brief explorations, we headed back the same way to finish with a picnic lunch. We even managed to not be swooped by a feisty resident magpie – our pole brigade was formidable! As this was my first time leading, I was delighted to be walking in such good company – three exceptionally experienced walkers and one local visitor who is talking of coming along again. I'm even considering leading another walk! Many thanks to Bernadette for her wonderful encouragement and support as co-leader. Leanne.





The Big Walk 19 Oct 2019

In an email prior to the event, our fearless leader Bernadette said “The forecast looks cold, maybe a bit of light rain and even the possibility of snow at the top but I doubt it. Be ready for anything” and that proved to be prescient. Nine of us set off – Bernadette, Glenn, Simon, Eve, Sasho, Catherine, Tania, David and Bruce on a cool overcast morning to walk from the bottom of Mt Buffalo to the top and back. The views on the way were great as usual, there were plenty of rain showers falling over the mountains and that added some mystique to the views. By the time we reached the top the showers had overtaken us, and as we ate out lunch at the picnic tables below the carpark it was lightly snowing sago snow. On the way down we discovered that we had a certain amount of control over the weather. If the sun came out and we had to divest ourselves of some clothing, we could be sure that it would be raining again before we had gone fifty metres. Putting jackets on had the reverse effect – it would stop raining almost instantaneously. Despite the challenges of the weather it was a great day out and we all agreed that a little rain was preferable to doing the walk on a hot day. Thanks to Bernadette for choosing such a day. Bruce.



BIKE BY THE LAKE

Three of us braved wild winds and threatening rain to ride the scenic route from Ludlow's Reserve to Tallangatta via the rail trail. While Ron breezed along on his new electric bike, Phil and I struggled to keep up, especially when Ron put it into overdrive.

Lunch at 'Teddy's Joint' proved to be perfect timing on our part. While we enjoyed some sumptuous food we watched the rain pelt down outside and by the time we had finished the rain had cleared and the sun was back out.

The ride back to Ludlow's took a bit of an effort as two of us battled strong head winds, while the elderly gentleman accompanying us cockily zoomed into the distance!

A stop was made at Huon Reserve while said elderly gentleman searched unsuccessfully for a hidden geocache. (Perhaps it was his failing eyesight.) In the end Phil located the hidden treasure and we set off on the final leg of our journey.

This ride was another brilliant scenic and social event and was undoubtedly a much better choice than the ill-fated trip up Mount Buffalo held on the same day! Ian



Farewell Louise Evans (3 Sept 1946 – 6 Oct 2019)

Louise joined the Border Bushwalking Club in the early 80s, when she arrived in Albury. Over the years Louise participated enthusiastically in many club activities. She did many overnight and extended trips. Louise was a strong and adventurous walker. And a cheerful group member.

Louise loved plants in the wild as well as in her own garden. A visit to Louise's always resulted in departing with a selection of her seedlings, and plants she had grown from cuttings. Louise was also a great reader and well informed on current issues.

Louise had strong environmental beliefs and lived her life minimising her own "footprint" and use of resources. In this she was ahead of the times! She also had a wonderful independent streak and she was definitely her "own person" in the way she lived her life. We were very fortunate to have Louise as an active club member for more than thirty years. Marie.



Navigation Training Day

Saturday October 5th saw the long awaited part two of the Leadership Training Day held in March. Due to poor weather on the first day and the difficulty finding a date when the key people were in the country it took us 7 months to finally get there. The group were split into a morning group and an afternoon one in order to keep numbers small. After a quick revision session each group were given the task of finding waypoints in Chiltern Forrest. Each participant was assigned the role of finding one waypoint with others to remain alert in case the job suddenly became theirs.

John had put a lot of work into setting up the course, preparing maps and calmly helping each person to find their inner navigator. He even provided little treats hanging from trees at the waypoints as a reward for successful navigators.

Everyone agreed that their confidence and skills grew over the day and they look forward to a follow up day early next year. Bernadette.



FIRST AID COURSE SEPTEMBER 8 2019

Thanks to our wonderful President, our club received funding to provide First Aid Training to interested members. The training was provided by Indigo North Health.

About twelve of us participated on a Sunday and all gained some handy knowledge and became familiar with current practice. We will certainly feel more confident if a situation requiring first aid occurs on our walks. Thanks to the BBC for providing this opportunity. (And a yummy lunch). Ed.



**SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, December 3rd
CHRISTMAS PARTY at BROWNS LAGOON.**



SIGNIFICANT OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

We are creating a new addition to our website. It will be called, "Significant Outdoor Adventures". It is to enable members to read about adventures that are particularly challenging (and that most likely will occur outside our club activities). If you have done an amazing adventure, please write a report on it include pictures and send it to Ralph to put on the website. We can look forward to some stimulating reading. It's amazing how we can be inspired!



Join the 2019/2020 Falls Creek Hawkweed Volunteer Program

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

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



What is involved?

Volunteers will be required for one week, arriving on Monday between 1pm to 3pm in time for a 4pm induction, and departing Friday after lunch. Volunteers need to make their own way to and from Falls Creek. No experience is required, all training is provided. Volunteers will just need lots of enthusiasm, a moderate fitness level, a good eye for detail and persistence to survey for at least 5 hours per day walking through challenging terrain.

What is provided?

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

What will participants need to bring?

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

The dates for the 2019/2020 Season are:

Session 1: Monday 9th – Friday 13th December 2019
Session 2: Monday 16th – Friday 20th December 2019
Session 3: Monday 6th – Friday 10th January 2020
Session 4: Monday 13th – Friday 17th January 2020
Session 5: Monday 3rd – Friday 7th February 2020
Session 6: Monday 10th – Friday 14th February 2020

How to join:

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

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

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

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



Photo credits this issue:

David
Bernadette
Leanne
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Ralph
Tony
Marie
Ron
Bruce
Ian
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.

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.*