



FOOTPRINTS

December 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.

CHRISTMAS PARTY
Browns Lagoon Tuesday December 3rd
6:00 for a 6:30 start

For catering purposes, please advise Ira of your attendance by **Tuesday, 26th November** at roboira@yahoo.com.au

Members with surnames beginning **A to M** please bring a dessert or fruit platter to share. Those with surnames beginning **N to Z** please bring a salad. Everyone to bring their own drinks, plates, cutlery, glasses, chairs and insect repellent. Meat, veggie burgers, sauce, bread, tea and coffee are provided. Please indicate if you are vegetarian or have other special dietary requirements when notifying of your attendance. Browns Lagoon is located on the corner of Ebdon and David streets.

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. **Where** : Senior Citizens, Meeting Room, Civic Centre Complex, Hovell Street, Wodonga www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

Robyn Calvert

Richard Wallace

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 22/1/20

A huge thank you to all those who submit material.



The Committee would like to wish all members a very Happy and Safe Christmas and a New Year full of many wonderful adventures in the great outdoors.

We look forward to seeing you on a track, a rail trail, a waterway or a ski slope in 2020, and at our annual Christmas Party!



TRIP REPORTS

Wednesday Wanders

Week One we wandered to Wonga
Admiring the sculptures on the way
Magpies swooping, wattles blooming
A typical early spring day

Next week we wandered to Sumsion
Humming a happy tune
Past Porta and Gateway Island
It was over much too soon

Week Three we arrived at Beechworth
To find it covered by frost
But the leader's good navigation
Meant there was no risk of getting lost

Week Four in Wodonga, oh dear, it's Grade Three!
Huon Hill was a test for me
I puffed as I climbed and to make matters worse
The track was hidden by Patterson's Curse

Week Five came around,
Eastern Hill was on show
But alas, too much work,
I could not go

Week Six, getting warmer, with Spring near it's end
North to Thurgoona we decided to wend
To walk Hume and Hovell but to our dismay
A big new estate was in the way
But wait, logos painted on the ground
Helped us find our way around

Too soon our walk was at an end
We said goodbye to every friend
We hoped we'd meet again quite soon
And I got home just before noon.

Eileen



Mt Nelse and Edmonson Hut

It was a balmy zero degrees when four of us met in Mt Beauty at 8.30 am but the sun was almost shining and we decided to ignore the gloomy prognostications of the meteorologists who had got things so badly wrong the week before. As we reached Falls Creek, the snow on the ground prompted a slight change of plan and we started the walk at Watchbed Creek rather than Heathy Spur.

After hunting for the new Intentions Book (cunningly hidden on the inside of a noticeboard) and checking that everyone had lots of warm clothes, we headed off into the wind, picking our way through the ice on the frozen puddles. As we climbed higher the ice gave way to snow across most of the track, and we could see that Mt Nelse was completely covered in snow. This meant that the small path leading to the summit was hidden, but we stomped through the snow-covered bushes and around rocks, eventually finding the trig marker and remarking that, unusually, the wind had stopped blowing. However, I could see a big bank of fog rolling in and suggested that we get off the summit as quickly as possible,

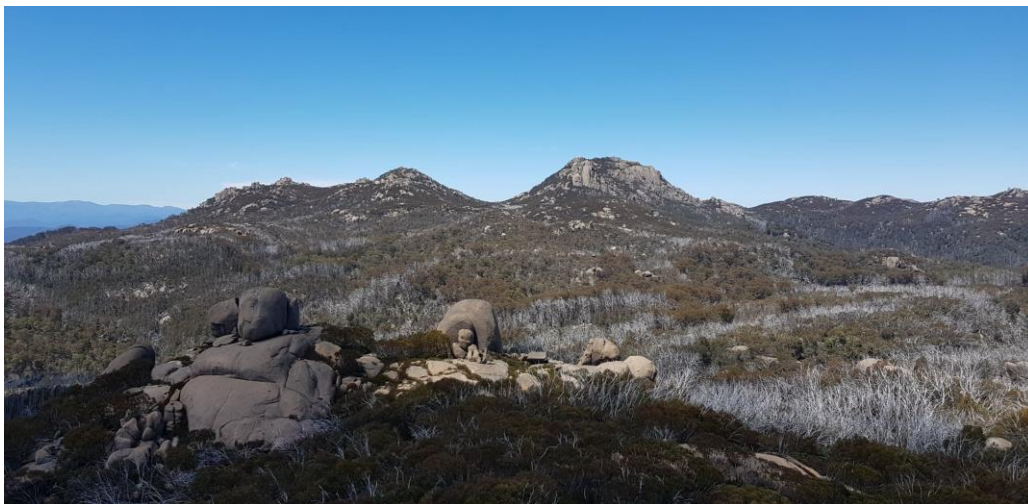
just as the wind, fog and snow hit us. It wasn't complete whiteout conditions but very chilly as we struggled to put on our waterproofs in the wind.

We found a quick route down to the 4WD track and continued through the bushes to Edmonson Hut, where there was a large group from Wodonga on a day trip. The hut was surrounded by snow, watched over by a friendly snowman. We had lunch and took many photos then headed back to the car, with snow continuing to fall even though the ice under foot had melted, turning the track to muddy slush. Our good gear kept us toasty warm and reminded us that walkers need to be prepared for all weathers in the High Country. This wasn't the spring sunshine walk I had planned, but we all agreed it was a great day out. Eileen.



Deb and Micks Excellent Adventure on Buffalo.

We'd walked nearly 17kms. We'd crossed The Long Plain that was in full flower, been up Mt Dunn for our first break and Eagles Point for lunch. It had been a hot, long day, with more ups than downs and the novelty of getting over or under the incredible number of fallen trees had long worn off. When we got to the Mollisons Gallery turn off, all the information that we had told us there was only 3kms to go. The information also told us that the first 2km would be overgrown with blackberries and the track difficult to locate. As soon as we started on this section it was obvious that a lot of work had been done because it was quite easy to make our way downhill. That is until we came across the "Mother of all fallen trees." This tree was gigantic and as it fell it took others with it. In front of us lay carnage that had wiped out all traces of the track. Initially we tried to continue downhill following the fallen mess. But this was hard. Then we went around it to the left, then to the right. This was harder. Mick went off scouting for the track, while we continued through the maze. Finally, he got low enough to clear the debris and re join the track. So now we had a point to move to. With legs that were bloodied and bull ant bites thrown in the mix, we finally started to move again at a pace. Our little tree adventure may only have been around 400m but it took nearly an hour to navigate through/over/under the mess. We pulled into camp at 6:20pm, tired and hungry. We were up with the birds and left camp just before 8am. The long slow climb back up to the plateau, got us warmed up and we had our first break at Macs Point. We walked past Wild Dog Plains, Split Rocks, Giants Causeway, Stanley and Drillhole Rocks. Then when we were back to Long Plain and heading to our next stop at Lake Catani. The cars were a welcome site. But even better was the cold beer and the hot chips at Happy Valley Pub. It had been an adventurous 35kms, including climbing and descending about 1300m over the 2 days. Deb.



NOTICES.



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.



Just letting you know that volunteer recruitment is still open for the 2019/2020 season of the Falls Creek Volunteer Hawkweed Surveys. Session 2, 3 and 4 are fully booked out with over **80** volunteers recruited already, so get in quickly to reserve your place on Session 1, 5 or 6. I can also include you on our waitlist for the booked-out sessions and will contact you if we have any cancellations. Here are the dates again with the information flyer attached:

- Session 1: Monday 9th – Friday 13th December 2019 - 2 places available**
- Session 2: Monday 16th – Friday 20th December 2019 - Fully booked out**
- Session 3: Monday 6th – Friday 10th January 2020 - Fully booked out**
- Session 4: Monday 13th – Friday 17th January 2020 - Fully booked out**
- Session 5: Monday 3rd – Friday 7th February 2020 - 9 places available**
- Session 6: Monday 10th – Friday 14th February 2020 - 6 places available**

BORDER BUSHWALKING CLUB ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

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

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

Alpine National Park Deer Control

In 2015, Parks Victoria commenced a deer control trial to investigate whether ground shooting could mitigate the impacts of deer on alpine peatlands and, if so, what are the most efficient and effective techniques. The trial involved three stages: (i) pre-control monitoring; (ii) three years of deer control; and (iii) post-control monitoring. Each of these stages is now complete on the Bogong High Plains and the data collected will be analysed over the next twelve months. The results will be used to provide future directions for ongoing deer control in the park.

Deer control will continue on the Bogong High Plains in 2019/2020 while the data is being analysed. The control area will be expanded to include the whole of the Bogong High Plains (see attached map). This will allow Parks Victoria to reduce deer impacts across a broader area and help identify focus areas for future control programs.

Parks Victoria will, once again, engage a contractor, as well as partner with the Australian Deer Association (ADA) and the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) to implement deer control.

The contractor and members of the ADA and SSAA have significant experience in deer control and will observe state and national codes of practice and standard operating procedures to ensure that best practices in animal welfare are observed.

The park will not be closed while deer control operations are being undertaken, although some localised access restrictions may be applied depending on circumstances. Signs will be placed at major access points advising that deer control operations will be undertaken in the park during 2019/2020.

All personnel involved in each operation will be working under the supervision of Parks Victoria staff. They will be readily identifiable and will act in accordance with all legal requirements to ensure the safe use of firearms.

The next contract deer control operation will run from the 8th to the 20th December 2020.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact Sean (Mick) Keenan (Ranger Team Leader, Mt Beauty) on 03 8427 2552, 0418 596 537 or sean.keenan@parks.vic.gov.au.

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
Eileen



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.

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.*