

# FOOTPRINTS

## March 2020

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

### 7:30 TUESDAY MARCH 3rd



## NEW MEMBERS NIGHT & BUY, SWAP OR SELL.

Border Bushwalking club invites to this club night all those who may be considering activities of the outdoors as a new hobby as well as those who already enjoy such pursuits and would like to do so with a like minded group of adventurers. At this meeting, current members will provide information regarding the variety of activities we undertake, the equipment we use and how we use it, the equipment we have for hire, how to pack for day and overnight activities.

We do day and multi day bushwalks, kayaking, cross country skiing and snow shoeing, local, interstate and even international walking. We even do a little bird watching.

**AND it's our annual 'BUY, SWAP OR SELL' meeting so what an opportunity to pick up some great used gear at bargain prices!!! SO BRING ALONG ANY EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE THAT YOU ARE KEEN TO SEE RE HOUSED (those boots half a size too small, the superseded tent etc.)**

**SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?**



**Visitors** are always welcome at meetings and supper is served afterwards. **Club Nights** are regularly held on the **first Tuesday** of the month (except November, 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](http://www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au)

## WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

**Rex Little**

**Luke Ellis**

**Matilda Terry**

We trust that you will enjoy all that the Club and its members have to offer.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S STUMP

Ever since I was a teenager, I have enjoyed exploring the bush, camping in some remote, out of the way place, summiting a mountain, or just chilling out around the campfire.

I shudder when I think back to those days and recall the sort of gear I packed (or didn't) in a borrowed A-frame backpack. From the bulky sleeping bag and the thin strip of foam that was my bed for the night, to the cans of mixed vegetables, baked beans, spaghetti, strawberry jam and smoked oysters, and maybe even a bottle of cheap red - a necessary treat when far from civilization. Cooking paraphernalia usually consisted of a tin plate and tin mug, a small frying pan and a battered and blackened billy that I swung in a full circle three times to sink the tea leaves to the bottom so I could pour my tea without filling my mug with tea leaves.

My hiking apparel was pretty rudimentary too - a pair of jeans, a checked flannel shirt, a pair of cheap, ill-fitting boots bought at an army disposal store, a 'waterproof' jacket (that wasn't) and a knitted beanie. Too bad if we struck really sh\*\* weather - we could only hope there was a hut nearby in which to seek shelter and dry out.

Happily, things have changed since those heady, carefree days of my youth. I'm no longer the ignorant, ill-prepared, under-resourced hiker who staggers along a bush track under a massive load, wishing I'd never left the comforts of home. Salvation came when I joined the Border Bushwalking Club and took part in day walks, overnight hikes and multi-day trips.

Walking with others more experienced in the ways of bushwalking meant I could check out the gear they carried, the clothes they wore and the cooking systems they used. I could pick their brains about the pros and cons of various tents and sleeping bags. I could note what foods they packed and how they cooked them. Best of all, I found every one of them more than happy to share their knowledge and expertise on all things relating to bushwalking - from the advantages of trekking poles to how not to get lost in a white-out.

Our annual 'New Members' Night' is fast approaching and it's that time of the year when our experienced members present an informative and instructive 'Show and Tell' about what to wear and what to carry for local day walks, High Country hikes, overnight hikes and extended hikes. They will also explain how to book into an activity, the responsibilities of leaders and participants; and will showcase some of the other activities we offer, including cycling, canoeing, snow shoeing and skiing, volunteer work with Parks Victoria, and the occasional overseas trip.

This is a great opportunity for you to cajole, convince or just drag along your family and friends to hear about all the brilliant activities our Club has to offer when it comes to exploring the great outdoors. So, don't rock up to the March Club Night on your lonesome, bring a friend!

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



## TRIP REPORTS

### Scratching the Itch.

This Summer has been one of many trials with the bushfires and heatwave conditions impacting on all of us in different ways. Those of us who lived in 'safe' areas were looking for ways to support our less fortunate peers and finding it hard to imagine what fire fighters, like our President, Ian and those who were at risk were going through.

What we all experienced was smoke and those itchy eyes that went with it, making it difficult to step outside.

When the rain came, the smoke went away and some areas of the Alpine National Park reopened, I found that the itch mysteriously moved. Suddenly my feet were itching and my diary and maps were produced to find answers to where and when can I scratch that itch.



The answer: Heaphy Spur to Edmonson's Hut on a Tuesday. It seems I wasn't the only one experiencing this itch transference as 6 of us enjoyed a perfect day back in our Summer playground, with only 4 days notice.

On our return walk we met Kevin, a very helpful Ranger, who told us of their efforts to check tracks and get them open again. He even showed us maps of where there were still hotspots.

Thanks to our fire fighters, rangers, volunteers and those who care for our beautiful land.

Now, to get that itch to move to my palm. I've heard it brings money. Bernadette.

### Messing About in Boats.

"...there is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply **messing about in boats**. Simply **messing...** about in **boats** — or with **boats**." Mole from Wind in the Willows.

Each week, during Daylight Savings, on a Wednesday afternoon Sasho, ably assisted by Catherine, or is it Catherine, ably assisted by Sasho, help club members and visitors to experience the joy of messing about in the boats of Dave, the canoe guy.

This is a very relaxing pastime that makes a Summer afternoon feel like a dream.

The current does **most** of the work giving participants the chance to dream, observe, chat or just mess about. Most trips are under 2 hours but time seems suspended.

Thanks to Dave for taking these photos and sharing them with me.

And thanks to Sasho and Catherine who put so much work into this each Summer. Bernadette.



### Overnight canoe trip – Howlong to Corowa

Can't think of a better place to escape the heat than the river and 13 others agreed. After meeting and picking up the canoe trailer, 10 of us headed for Memorial Park, Howlong, where we were to meet the rest of the group. Car shuffle done, we hopped into our canoes just after 10am on Saturday and headed off downstream. It was hot and it wasn't long before we were having a break to eat and swim. Back into the kayaks we continued, aided by a nice current, which allowed us to relax and enjoy the river. Right on lunchtime we found some picnic tables on a bend in the river and more swimming and eating took place. Thanks to Graham's great scouting we didn't miss the turn off into Murphy's Creek. The creek added to the adventure being narrower and quicker. There were more snags and one canoe did manage to sort themselves out after getting caught on a snag. It didn't take us long to get to our cars at our overnight campsite at Police Paddocks. As soon as the hot work of setting up camp was done, everyone slid (it was very slippery mud) into the river to keep cool. Beer o'clock came around, followed by more swimming and then dinnertime. It hadn't cooled down so before bedtime we all got back in to float downstream. It was a hot night and not much sleeping took place until it cooled down around 5am. Breakfast was followed by another car shuffle and right on time we got onto the river at 9am on Sunday. A cool change had arrived. It was 20 degrees cooler!!!! And a lot windier. We continued down stream (despite what it looks like in the photo) into a strong headwind, which had people hugging the banks, for shelter. The closer we got to Corowa the wider and shallower the river got. Our exit point was John Foord Bridge and we got there in time to pack the trailer, get changed and head into Corowa for lunch. Thanks to everyone that came on the weekend. A special thanks to Beth and Peter S. and Mick S. for sharing the towing of the canoe trailer. Events like this are not possible without members willing to make them work. Deb



## Nail Can Hill

What a start to 2020; a thought that possibly the walking season may not happen.

Not to be as BBC's intrepid Activities coordinator went over and above with her responsibilities, offered an incentive to leave the couch, good book and the Australian Open to walk Nail Can Hill.

With an 8.00 am start at the Pemberton Street entrance seven walkers stretched their muscles on the climb to the main trail. Our objective was Reedy Dam for morning tea.

As expected, Nail Can is tinder dry and the native flowers and grasses are exhausted. However, it's a continual wonder to me that there is always something else on offer. Wonderful views and Reedy Dam's small microclimate was in fine shape and teeming with life.

Good company and good walking, it sure shook of the cobwebs and on return the couch looked very dull.

Thanks to Bernadette for rattling the Nail Can. Sue



## FEATHERTOP SUNSET February 8/9

Ten of us began the trek up Bungalow Spur to camp at Federation Hut and enjoy the sunset and moonrise from the summit of Mount Feathertop. Unfortunately, one of our group was finding the going a bit tough so our Leader, Bernadette, decided it was prudent to return. After appointing Ian as the 'defacto leader' (some reckoned he was the 'defective leader'), Bernadette returned to Harrietville with one hapless hiker, while the rest of us struggled on up the mountainside in the heat and high humidity.

Federation Hut was a welcome sight late in the afternoon and we sought out tent sites that might offer some protection from the gusting winds that were sweeping across the ridge below the hut.

Dinner was partaken at an earlier than usual hour for most of us, as the hut began to fill with new arrivals that had come up Bungalow Spur, or had taken the easier route across the Razorback.

With full bellies and plenty of warm gear, we set off in the evening to conquer Feathertop in increasingly windy conditions. An hour and a half later most of us had summited, while a couple in the group decided to hunker down lower and shelter from the gale force winds that were threatening to blow us off the mountain.

Despite the low cloud bank scudding just above our heads we were treated to a superb sunset, made all the more dramatic by the vista of thick cumulonimbus clouds on the horizon. The moon, however, remained unsighted!

It was dark by the time we arrived back at the hut, which was now offering standing room only, so after a quick cuppa it was off to bed and for most of us, a sleepless night listening to the wind roar and howl up the mountain, thrashing the trees and making a concerted effort to demolish our tents. Added to the fury, was the infrequent lashings of rain, which thankfully cleared up by morning.

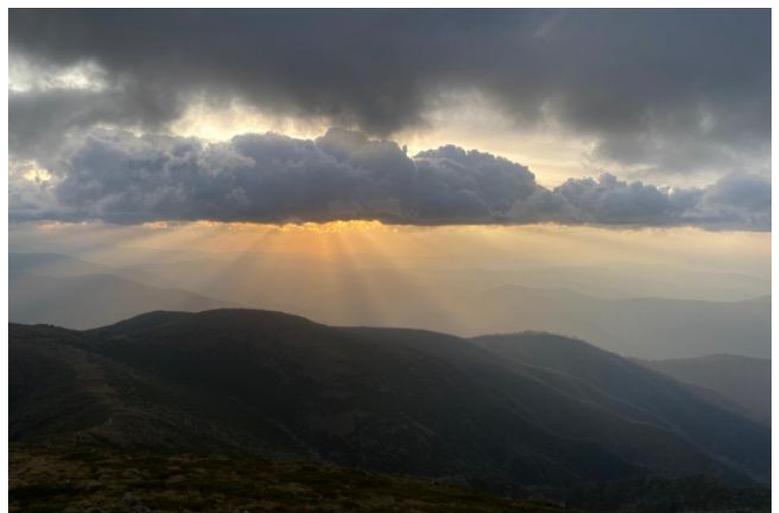
Taking down and packing up a tent in a roaring gale is a skill that takes years to perfect. I for one am yet to perfect it, but I did manage the task without having to chase a flapping fly across the landscape.

We left the mountain reasonably early and were soon divesting ourselves of the thermals and jackets as we moved down into the trees and out of the wind. The walk back to the start was not without incident. Leading from behind I came

around a bend to discover a frail, elderly woman sprawled amongst the rocks and not moving. I was about to prod her with my pole and tell her to get a move on, and that she was blocking the track, when she burst into hysterical laughter! Assuring me she had not in fact hit her head, I helped her to her feet and we continued on after the others. (I kept a close watch on her, for as I had my suspicions!)

The rather large alpine copperhead on the edge of the track was determined not to be hurried along, so our progress was briefly interrupted before we continued merrily down the mountainside and back to the waiting cars where Bernadette and our fellow hiker were waiting to greet us.

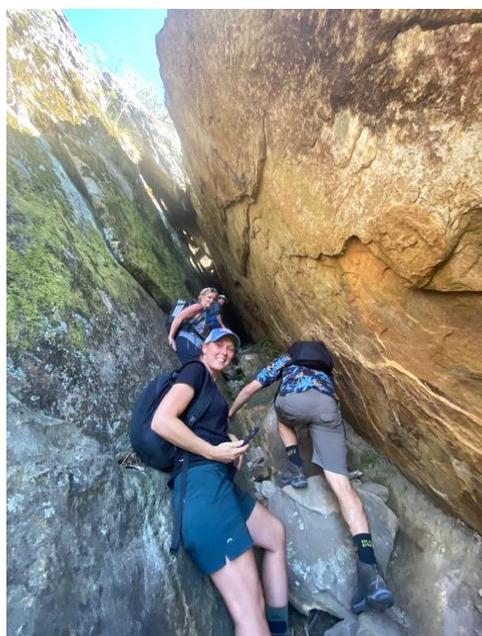
Before dispersing we adjourned to the Riverdeck Café in Bright where an enjoyable lunch was had while we recounted our night of living dangerously. Ian.



## Cathedral Ranges Weekend.

On Saturday, 6 of us met at Neds Gully Carpark at 10am to do our first walk of the weekend. The footbridge was out, so we had a cool dip in the river to cross and access Neds Gully Track. It was warm and very humid as we followed the track that climbed firstly up to Neds Saddle. Not long after leaving the saddle, we took the Little Cathedral Track up to Little Cathedral Peak, where we had lunch with views. From here we followed The Cathedral Circuit Track, which first went up and over, Cathedral North and then onto Cathedral Peak. By now we were all drenched in sweat and wishing for the storms that had been predicted but never arrived. We passed a lady with a really big pack and wondered how she managed on the steep track from Cathedral Peak back down to the saddle. A lyrebird doing his thing totally ignored us all as we watched and photographed him before continuing back down to Neds Gully, crossing the river and arriving back at the cars. Back at camp everyone headed for the river, before snacks, tea and then an early bed, because Sunday was going to be a big adventure. Right on 7:30am, Sunday morning we headed up Tweed Spur track before turning onto Messmate track, that would wind its way up to Sugarloaf Saddle day visitors car park. It's here that the decision about which one of the Grade 5 track alternatives had to be made. We decided on the track that would take us to Sugarloaf Peak via Wells Cave and then onto the Razorback and finally the Farmyard, before descending back to Cooks Mill campground. Its hard to really describe what exposed, vertical rock scrambling, squeezing and climbing through Wells Caves and finally popping out on Sugarloaf Peak was like, except than to say that it took us 75 minutes to go 550m, and it was a great team effort. We had a break on the peak, tried to cool down in the hot humid conditions and then set off along the Razorback. The rock scrambling continued along this appropriately named ridge. At times the track went over the peaks, at times it went round and other times who knows where it went. We were happy to leave the rocks behind when we got to the Farmyard. Whilst the descent was steep and stepped it wasn't long before we were in the river again back at Cooks Mill Campground. Thanks to everyone for making this a weekend of new and great adventures and especially to Mick for pulling us through. Deb.





## NOTICES.

### NAVIGATION TRAINING

March 21st and/or possibly 22nd.

Come along if you are just beginning to try these skills or if you are very experienced (or anywhere in between)  
This is a great chance to brush up on or consolidate navigation skills.

See 'events' for more details and how to book in.

### Parks Victoria wishes to advise of the upcoming deer control work in the Alpine National Park.

The next operation will start on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February and run until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March (17 nights) with a short rest break in the middle. The focus of the work will be the unburnt areas on the Bogong High Plains.

Please note that the work will be undertaken by contractors. They will start in the late afternoon/early evening and continue until just after midnight, or later depending on results. The contractor may use an All-Terrain Vehicle along fire trails to access parts of the control area.

### FOR SALE

SOARTD hooded rain jacket, breathable fabric, blue, men's medium size (100 cm chest)

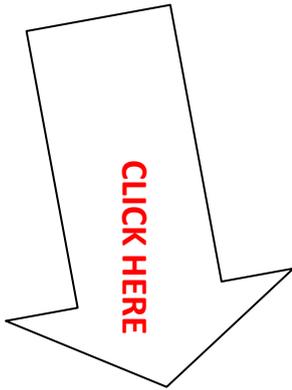
<https://www.soartd.com/collections/pullovers-jackets/products/global-storm-hooded-jacket>

Never worn. Will sell for \$120.

LOWE Cholatse 35 litre day pack, adjustable back size, several pockets, optional dual compartments, hydration compatible, rain cover. Only used a few times. Will sell for \$100.

Phone/text for more details or inspect at March meeting. Eileen, 0412 042 195

An interesting story from Radio National. To listen to or read the report put mouse over the words "The History Listen" at the top of the photo of Guide Alice.



## Guide Alice and the 'sleeping buffalo' that stole her heart

ABC Radio National  
By Miyuki Jokiranta for The History Listen

Posted 29 Jan 2020, 7:00am



### [BORDER BUSHWALKING CLUB ACTIVITIES CALENDAR](#)

[Please click on the following events website for the latest events on offer from BBC](#)

## 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:

Dave  
Bernadette  
Ian  
Deb  
Leanne  
Sue  
Tania



### 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.*