

FOOTPRINTS

“Emerging from Isolation”- June 2020

*Newsletter of the Border Bushwalking Club Inc
Affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria*

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From the President's Stump

At last! Despite the ongoing pandemic and its associated risks and restrictions we can now get back out in the bush and enjoy some much-needed hiking and indulge in some other outdoor pursuits.

There are caveats though that mean carpooling is still a no-no and so we will continue to limit our events to no more than 10 people per activity. Overnight camping is back on the agenda provided there are no shared facilities.

It has been pleasing to see that the Activities Program is already beginning to 'fill out', with walks at Mt Buffalo, Bright, Lavington, The Rock, Mt Beauty, the Murray River, North's Lookout, and Clover Dam either already held, or due to happen over the next few weeks. There's even been a cycling event to Porepunkah (see Trip Reports).

That these have occurred is because we have a dedicated and committed core group of leaders who are willing to sacrifice some time and effort to plan and organize these activities for all of us.

Next time you are on a walk, a cycle, a snow shoe, or whatever, please remember to make a point of thanking your leader. Why, you might even show your appreciation by shouting her or him a coffee afterwards!

I look forward to catching up with you on a track, a bike trail, or a ski slope in the near future. In the meantime, continue to be vigilant, keep on social distancing and don't forget to wash your hands!

Ian



Club Nights; still suspended until further notice

Trip Reports...Yes, events have started again

3 Bright Hills

After 8 weeks without a club walk many members were very excited that finally a group of 10 could walk together with a number of adjustments to our usual procedures.

3 Bright Hills was a perfect start as there are many places to leave the walk safely if needed but some decent hills to challenge those who wanted them.

After 3 people were turned away I listed the walk as full so I didn't spend all my time on the phone. Sorry if you missed out.

After a socially distanced briefing the group split into 2 groups to avoid overcrowding the Apex lookout carpark and the narrow Gorge track.

A socially distanced briefing under a wonderful Autumnal tree.

Nola led 1 group up Apex lookout whilst the others strolled along the canyon and rail trail. The group re-formed at the base of Valley View walk and up we went. From here we got some great views of Bogong and Feathertop with snow.

After 1 (or 2) hills it was time for lunch at the reservoirs and then up again to Huggins Lookout.

At this point 1 group smugly strolled the last part of the walk; their hills achieved, whilst the other tackled Apex lookout.

We all agreed that it was a great day with perfect weather and it was lovely to get out of our regular, limited environment.

There were some fun guys as promised.

Thanks to Nola for taking on co-leadership in her own playground of the Bright area.

Bernadette



Mt McLeod Mystery Hike

The leader of this hike cleverly fooled the nine walkers who turned up at the entrance to Mt Buffalo NP early Saturday morning. It was a classic subterfuge that many of us failed to recognise.

After a brief, socially distanced gathering, nine vehicles wended their way up the mountain to the Parks Depot where the walkers had been instructed to regroup. Of course, this ruse by our clever leader worked perfectly. The gate to the reservoir was locked which meant we would need to trudge an extra 3 kms just to reach the start of the Mt McLeod Fire Trail and trudge another extra 3kms back to the cars at the end of the day.

Our crafty leader innocently suggested that perhaps we might prefer a more scenic walk out to the Back Wall. There was instant and unanimous agreement, so we all piled back into our vehicles and drove on to the Cresta carpark. The mutterings by one elderly member that there was a possibility the track may be closed due to the bushfires was ignored until we'd all donned our gear, locked our cars and crossed the road to the start of the track and discovered ... you guessed it ... a notice to the effect that the track was closed!



But our wily leader was playing a game, and at this point suggested a walk out to Mac's Point would be the perfect alternative. We all cheered and applauded our leader's magnificence, shed our packs, climbed back into our vehicles

and drove down the mountain to the roadside park opposite Lake Catani.

What followed was a brilliantly led walk out to Mac's Point, as we cheerfully negotiated the overgrown track, at times losing it all together. Thankfully, our patient and selfless leader was there to guide us and encourage us not to despair.

At Mac's Point the wind was howling through the tree tops so we sheltered in the lee of the rocks and enjoyed a leisurely lunch before walking back to our cars through meadows of mountain milkwort and welcome patches of warming sunshine.



Some may consider the walk a complete fiasco, but our leader was obviously playing a clever game and had wisely realised the original hike to Mt McLeod would be beyond the capabilities of some of the frail and elderly in the group. In the end this was a most enjoyable and satisfying way to spend a Saturday at Mt Buffalo, led so ably by such a wise and selfless leader.

A Walker



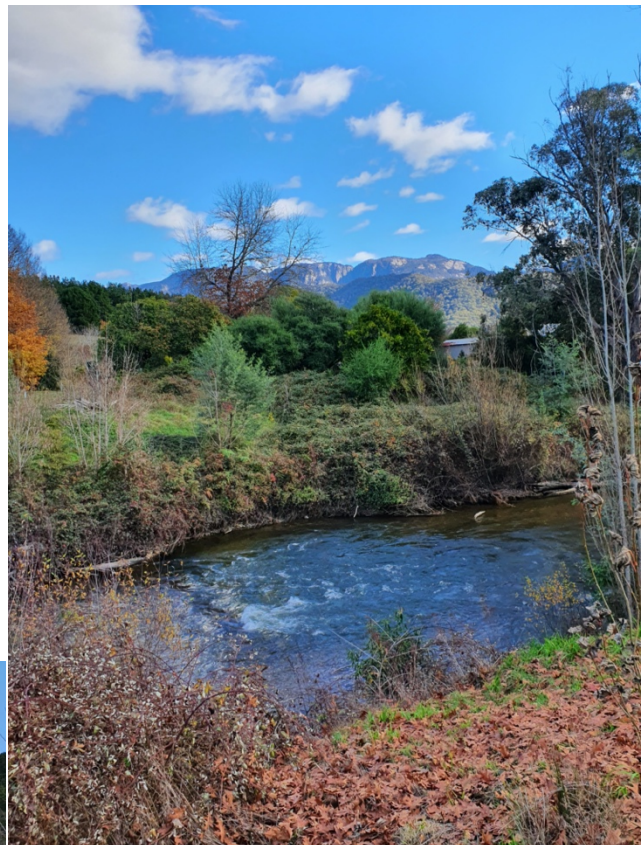
Myrtleford to Porepunkah Bike Ride

Five hearty souls braved a somewhat chilly morning to meet in Myrtleford to ride the 'Murray to the Mountains' Rail Trail to Porepunkah.

The cycling was easy and the pace was leisurely, allowing plenty of time to chat, to admire the scenery and to just chill out. As the day warmed up so did the cyclists who were soon removing layers and stuffing them in packs and panniers.

At the former Eurobin railway station we stopped for a break and a chat with some other cyclists, two of whom were riding the increasingly common electric bikes. Back on the trail we cycled past open farmlands, nut orchards and berry farms with the awesome backdrop of Mt Buffalo National Park.

By the time we reached Porepunkah, the sun was shining in a clear blue sky which meant more shedding of layers. Sausage rolls and pies, along with coffees, were purchased from the nearby Puncak Pantry and we sat in



the newly constructed picnic area and soaked up the sun while enjoying lunch. We weren't the only ones who'd thought a Sunday bike ride would be a good idea - there were other groups of cyclists also picnicking nearby.

After lunch a gentle tail wind accompanied us back to Myrtleford where we arrived in the late afternoon. Thanks to Trish, Helen, Eve and Phil for the company and for sharing a most enjoyable day. Ian



Membership Fees are now due for the period June 2020 to May 2021.

The committee have decided not to raise the fees this year despite the club continuing to operate with a small loss. Our fee structure would normally be presented at the AGM in May for approval however this has not been possible. It may be some time before groups of 25 people can meet as required by our club rules for an AGM. In the interim the fees are as last year and subject to approval by a delayed AGM.

You can pay by direct debit to Border Bushwalking Club Inc. at Hume Bank; BSB 640 000, Account No 111104448 including your name in the description field for our identification.

If anyone is under financial pressure as a result of the current situation, please email Eve or Vanessa at the addresses at the top of the Newsletter to discuss a solution.

- **Single Member \$45, Concession \$35**
- **Family \$80, Concession \$65**
- **Extra Family Member \$10**

Members Forum

Our recently established Members Forum on the Website (in the Members drop down listing) has attracted lots of interest with posts being added daily. Your committee have decided that it is well worth continuing beyond COVID isolation; if there ever will be an end to the virus.

As explained in our last Footprints, a new topic will be added to the Events each week and so the next two virtual events are:

- Home Sweet Home; wombat holes, termite mounds, tents, huts, ant nests, spider webs, birds nests, anything that is home to a living creature
- Food, glorious Food; my favourite bushwalking lunch, dinner, treat. What I like to eat after a long walk. A recipe, a photo or both.

Member Profiles

Bruce Key; Life Member and past President

Where do you live? Wodonga

Where else have you lived? Melbourne, many towns in Victoria for short periods, Ethiopia and The Philippines

When and how did you first become involved in bushwalking? Tried to join the Cubs at age 10 but could not get in. However, I read Scouting for Boys which enthused me. One of my early adventures when I was 15 was to ride my bike with a mate from Melbourne to Colac, then via Ballarat to home. I learnt that when big thunderstorms come it doesn't pay to have a leaky tent.



Tell us about your first walk with BBC. It was an overnighter near Corryong. We lost a member who walked off the track for a call of nature, and then turned in the wrong direction when returning to the track. On another walk (not with the BBC) we walked all day and ended up where we started which was not our intention. To this day, I always keep a check on the navigation.

What roles have you had within the club? Can't remember accurately, but at least Footprints editor, navigation trainer, walks leader, president and delegate for Bush Search and Rescue.

What do you love most about walking or other club activities? Like everyone else, I love the outdoors. On overnight walks I love chatting at night. I also love the sense of security engendered by the cooperation within the group to ensure the welfare of the group rather than any individual.

What the club activity that stands out in your memory? Why? Possibly a week-long trip to the Kowmung River area in the Blue Mountains. We had some sort of drama every day. By the end of the week our fearless leader (Albert) had a broken arm and Rae had a badly gashed leg. As we walked out in the dark the police helicopter let down a policeman on a winch. He satisfied himself that we could look after ourselves and with a cheery wave had himself pulled up. This trip was many years ago, and we were a bit affronted when we were later described in the Border Mail as "a group of elderly bushwalkers".

Which walk do you most wish you could do now? Although the years are catching up, I have not yet accepted that there is any walk that I can't do. My optimism might be misplaced though.

What are you doing to make the most of our current situation? I still walk up Federation Hill every morning and then I use the day to catch up with ~~all~~ some of the things that Joy has on her to-do list.

What's something new that you've done or learned since we've been required to stay at home more? It isn't new, but tasks expand to fit the time available. I have also learnt a lot about meeting via Zoom.

Tell us one thing about you that most people wouldn't know. I can neither speak nor write Chinese.

Bernadette Cromarty; Activities Coordinator

Where do you live? Albury

Where else have you lived? Horsham, Ballarat, Wagga (all inland places, strange in Australia)

When and how did you first become involved in bushwalking? In my late 30s I decided I needed to get fit and started walking. A block became two blocks, the flat became a hill, the hill became a mountain and the rest is history.

Tell us about your first walk with BBC. I can't actually remember my first official walk but I do remember thinking that everyone knew each other and were friends. I quickly learnt that everyone is super friendly and, even if people are friends outside of the club, everyone is welcomed and included in club walks. I love that about this club.



What roles have you had within the club? Leader, Equipment Officer, Activities Coordinator, slowest coming down the hill.

What do you love most about walking or other club activities? I love that I can do something that is good for my physical and mental health while meeting interesting people. I love the wonderful areas that we have at our doorstep.

What is the club activity that stands out in your memory? Why? The section of the AAWT from Taylors Crossing to Dead Horse Gap. From John's original proposal of 7 days it became 9; my longest pack walk. The first 6 nights were wild camping and I think the title of Ian's article in Great Walks, Nov 18, says it all: "5 Go Mad on a Bushwalking". We laughed a lot.

Which walk do you most wish you could do now? I find myself craving a stroll to our hut; Young's Hut. It hadn't opened after the fires so I was already missing it. Maybe not the waterfall at the moment though.

What are you doing to make the most of our current situation? Using Nail Can Hill's many tracks as well as the river track (I'm so lucky living between the two). Online film club, yoga, dinner parties and book club; reading and catching up on jobs and projects.

What's something new that you've done or learned since we've been required to stay at home more? Online gatherings. I'd used Skype and messenger but only to talk and only to one person at a time. I've also learned not to experiment with sourdough when flour is hard to come by

Tell us one thing about you that most people wouldn't know. I'm an introvert. I know I behave like an extravert when I'm with people, but I need lots of time alone. Lucky me at present.

Annual Reports for the 2020 AGM to be held later in the year

President's Report

It gives me much pleasure to present my Annual Report to members.

The times they are a' changing and we now live in a world that had been turned on its head by the appearance and spread of the corona virus. This has affected all of us in many different ways and as bushwalkers and lovers of wide open spaces and adventures in the outdoors it has meant we have had to rein in our enthusiasm and desire to head off into the mountains and to sit together around an open fire in a remote cattleman's hut and enjoy each other's company and camaraderie.

But, we have coped. The committee was quick to establish some ground rules and to take on the advice of both the government and Bushwalking Victoria to ensure we have maintained a duty of care to our members. Now, as restrictions begin to ease, we need to be cognisant of the fact that we must not be complacent or drop our guard.

To keep members "in the loop" the committee has established a Member's Forum on our website which has offered members an opportunity during lockdown to keep in touch and to share and enjoy, (albeit viscerally), some outdoor experiences. I would encourage members to continue to make use of this added feature.

Over the past twelve months our Activities Coordinator, Bernadette has continued to grow and develop a smorgasbord of activities to suit all member's tastes and skill levels. These activities have been supported by the generosity of our Leaders who Special congratulations to Sandy Kaitler who was named 'Club Member of the Year' at our end-of year breakup, and a big thank-you to Sue Cardwell for organising another highly successful skiing weekend at Howman's Gap

Unfortunately, due to restrictions at the time, our AGM has been deferred until we can all gather together safely. The Committee has continued to meet remotely and has decided that membership fees will remain unchanged, despite our earlier intention to make a slight increase. Until we can conduct formal elections an Interim Committee has been formed and we have welcomed two new members to that committee – Glenn and Simon. We have farewelled

have given of their time and their expertise to provide members with a range of experiences, from bushwalking and camping to cross country skiing, canoeing and cycling. Thank you to all our Leaders and as I do every year, I issue a plea to members to seriously consider leading an activity of their own in the next 12 months. There are leaders available who are only too happy to act as mentors.

Some pleasing initiatives we have introduced over the past 12 months have included the provision of further leadership skills development in the form of two navigation training days, organised by Bernadette and ably led by member John Hillard and supported by BWV. With a community grant from Wodonga City Council we were also able to conduct a First Aid training course in September for leaders and others. Our Vice President, Ralph has worked tirelessly on upgrading and streamlining our website to make sure it is user friendly for members. Liz kept us all updated and informed of Club activities and happenings through a vibrant and entertaining monthly edition of *Footprints* and Sasho ran his ever popular evening paddles on the Might Murray.

Our monthly Club Nights have provided members with a range of interesting speakers and we've been able to enjoy seeing and hearing about some amazing adventures in Iran, New Zealand, and Japan as well as hosting a visit from Bushwalking Victoria's president, Colin McDonald. Our Show and Tell, New Member's Night, Oh, The Places I've Been! and our Annual Christmas Party were all popular and well attended. Liz Nilbett and Chris Gay and extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to them both for their time and commitment on Committee.

In closing, I would like to thank members for their understanding in these difficult times and to encourage you all to continue to support your Committee and to participate in as many activities as you possibly can.

Ian

Activities Report

It seems strange to be writing a report that reflects activity prior to the big event that stopped all activity: Covid 19, but that belongs in next year's report.

2019-2020 presented its own challenges with extreme heat and fires in the long Summer period.

When the club could be active, it was. The statistics, which are faithfully, quietly and accurately collected and compiled by Eileen are attached. Thanks Eileen.

We had 21 leaders over the year including 2 new leaders, Simon and Leanne. Those who have led a number of activities have received individual thank yous but my thanks go to everyone who thinks of what others might enjoy and does the extra work involved in planning and conducting an activity.

Our Leaders' Training Day way back in March 2019 was a great success and led to some navigation training days later. Thanks to Judy from BWV, our club member John and Michelle from BWV (who stepped in when John was isolating after an overseas

trip). (Technically the second day falls into next years' report). It is great to see members developing skills and confidence in the bush.

Thanks again to Sasho and Catherine for the after work canoeing on the river trips. I finally got around to joining this Summer and was always disappointed when numbers were insufficient to run. It's a very relaxing activity and I encourage members to get involved.

Thanks also to our 'snow people' Sue, Helen and Ron and Ian, our faithful bike riding leader.

As a club we rely on you to put on the activities you would like to do. All new leaders are given experienced mentors and support so please think about how you can contribute. Most people put on a favourite, local activity to start off and then gain confidence.

Bernadette

Equipment Report

The following reports income* and activities for the 12 months ending May 2020

Firstly, thanks to Chris Gaye on his management of the Equipment Hire portfolio. As the responsible committee member for the current years equipment hire, I am very interested in any procedure /policy suggestions.

Secondly thanks to Adventure Gear (Dean St Albury) for managing the rentals

The details of equipment rental are detailed below;

item	# rentals	# days	Rental \$
dehydrator	X3	n/a	9
tents	-	7	48
packs	1	5	46
stoves	1	2	4
jackets	2	4	8
Snowshoes	7	8	80
Safety equipment	3	6	Nil
Walking poles	4	7	35

Paddling gear	season	Return at end	nil
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Note *Income may have minor errors due to difficulty in clear registration of hire date. For 2020/2021 documentation has been highlighted to indicate the start of 2020/2021 reporting period

The committee is actively looking at replacing old wet weather gear with a decision at June 2020 meeting. During 2020/2021 it is planned to potentially reduce some areas of hire gear based on usage. Initial data shows preference for tents, packs, walking poles wet weather gear and snowshoes (depending on snow season and Ron Hammond's availability) and the popular canoeing activity in season. The safety equipment and first aid kits for leaders at no cost is a key priority.

There will be no quick decisions and the committee welcome suggestions for other potential hire equipment not presently catered for

Ken Tooley Email:kenny52.kt@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

Assets and Liabilities

- Cash at Bank – Current Account \$ 1,694.67
- Cash at Bank – Term Deposit \$11,755.85
- Total Assets \$13,450.52

Income and Expenditure

Key points include:

- ### Comments on overall financial position

Membership Fees

Evelyn Durham

Treasurer

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE DISSECTION 2019/20

INCOME	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total Yr 19/20
Member's Fees	\$ 250.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 2,005.00	\$ 790.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 265.00	\$ 205.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 135.00	\$ 176.00	\$ 5,021.00
Temp Mbr's Fees	\$ 50.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 400.00
Equipment Hire	\$ 2.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91.00
Club Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations	\$ -	\$ 120.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 120.00
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,560.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,560.00
Interest Current Acc.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.70
Interest Term Deposit	\$ 78.90	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72.96	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58.74	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 255.85
Total Income for month:	\$ 380.90	\$ 175.00	\$ 2,105.00	\$ 2,437.06	\$ 500.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 383.74	\$ 495.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 53.85	\$ 195.00	\$ 226.00	\$ 7,456.55

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total Yr 19/20
Affiliation fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40.00	\$ 65.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105.00
BWV Affiliation (incl. pers insurance & public liability)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,594.09	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,594.09
Club Room Hire	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Consumer Affairs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
PO Box Hire	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Postage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Printing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Website - non-discretionary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Recurrent expenditure:													\$ 4,199.09

DISCRETIONARY EXPENDITURE	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total Yr 19/20
Advertising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
BWV AGM attendance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 497.60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 497.60

Christmas Party	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
40th anniversary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Club Nights	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Club Suppers	\$ -	\$ 113.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113.30
Computer	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73.95
Gifts to Members	\$ -	\$ 17.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17.95
Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equipment Purchase	\$ 534.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 534.99
First Aid Course	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 203.00	\$ 1,210.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,413.00
Leaders Night	\$ 88.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 108.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 196.65
Leadership Training Member	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Reimbursement	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Website	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 450.00
Youngs Hut	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61.37	\$ -	\$ 61.37

Total expenditure for month:	\$ 1,148.44	\$ 581.25	\$ 34.95	\$ -	\$ 497.60	\$ 39.00	\$ 3,945.29	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 61.37	\$ -	\$ 3,583.81
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Total expenditure: \$ 7,782.90

Net Cash In (Out): \$ (326.35)

Balance 01/03/19	13,776.87
Cash Movement	(326.35)
Balance 29/02/20	13,450.52

Comprising:	
Cheque Account	1,694.67
Investment Account	11,755.85
	13,450.52

Difference	-
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Parks Victoria wins court case

Nature won last Friday when Australia's federal court dismissed heritage claims for feral horses in Victoria's Alpine National Park.

The Australian Brumby Alliance (ABA) took Parks Victoria to court, claiming the removal of feral horses would lower the heritage-listed values of the Alpine National Park. However, Justice Michael O'Brien clearly spelt out that Parks Victoria is obliged by state, federal and international law to deal with feral animals in national parks and dismissed the heritage claims of the ABA.

Effective feral horse control in the Alpine National Park had been delayed for the last year and a half while the Federal Court made a decision.

This decision allows Parks Victoria to now continue to manage the park for the benefit of its natural and Indigenous heritage by fully implementing its feral horse management plan. Parks Victoria can now resume its long-term trapping and rehoming program, now more urgent since the summer bushfires, and will introduce ground-shooting to control horses in high conservation areas.



Intact vegetation within exclusion plots is a stark contrast to the damaged plains. Photo: Parks Victoria.

[Invasive Species Council response >>](#)

Services included in your BBC membership include;

A range of gear is available from the club to hire at a very minimal rate

- Sleeping bags
- Back-packs
- Hiking poles
- Waterproof jackets
- We even have a dehydrator if you want to prepare your own meals

Safety equipment is available free of charge for leaders of club activities

- First aid kits
- GPS
- PBLs

All of the above is stored and managed by **Adventure Gear, 479 Dean Street, Albury.**

Adventure Gear has now reopened. Call in and have a chat to Gino and Kell for all your equipment needs whether it be hiring or buying at the special BBC club discounted rate.

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*

Cut off date for input to the next issue of Footprints June 12.