

# FOOTPRINTS

## “Emerging from Isolation”- July 2020

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

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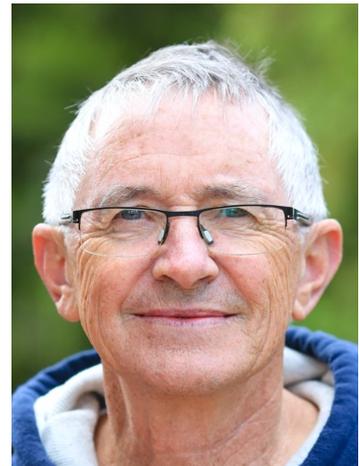
### From the President's Stump

Despite the current COVID-19 restrictions still in place, it's pleasing to note that this has not stopped our Leaders from offering members a number of walks ranging from easy day walks close to Albury-Wodonga, to more challenging excursions further afield.

The latest bulletin from Bushwalking Victoria (see link) advises that while restrictions remain in place, we need to remember that groups must be limited to no more than **10** and that the usual social distancing and disinfection controls need to be adhered to.

Unfortunately, for those of us who are keen cross country skiers, there isn't any immediate likelihood that we will be able to get out into the back country just yet. The fact that there has been very little snow has meant the ski season has been pushed back yet again.

At our recent Committee meeting, held via Skype, we discussed the future of Club Nights, especially in consideration of the amount of time and effort it takes for the committee to organise these monthly get-togethers and the numbers of members attending. I believe there are some Club Nights that are 'givens' – the AGM, the New Members Night, and the annual Christmas Party, for instance, but we are now asking members for their thoughts so that we may make some informed decisions about these occasions. I would urge all members to take the time to respond to the questions we have so that our next meeting we can make an appropriate and considered decision.



I look forward to seeing you on a track (and hopefully on a ski trail) sometime soon.

Ian

## Club Nights; your input is requested on The Forum



The last few months of isolation have allowed us all to question many activities; working from home, participating in virtual meetings, group exercising though ZOOM, Facetime with the grandchildren and on goes the list.

BBC Club Nights have been suspended and now your committee have decided it's appropriate to revisit the need for monthly club nights, in a venue, with a speaker.

Clubs nights take significant time for your committee members to organise, to find speakers that appeal to a wide range of members and finally to fund from your fees. Participation can be as low as 15 from a membership of well over 100 to a high of 40 on new members night.

We seek you input

- Should we cease them all together with the exception of the AGM which we have a legal responsibility to hold?
- Could we halve the number of meetings?
- Should they all be in a hall with speakers or perhaps some in a pub or beside the river in twilight?
- Is the social side more important than the speaker and so are their better alternatives?
- Could we have virtual meetings?
- Could we only have them when a great topic or speaker presents themselves?
- Or do we continue on with our current format?

**We are looking for you input prior to the next committee meeting on July 14 and ask that you use the Forum on the BBC website to add your thoughts.**

Please have your say. Whilst we have all joined primarily to walk, ski, ride etc, no doubt meetings have their role to play. However, there are many options that are available today

## Trip Reports...Yes, they are certainly back on

### Tallangatta Lookout – Lockhart's Gap Crossover

Two groups of walkers recently completed the annual crossover walk in perfect conditions. The group of six, starting from Lockhart's Gap, was ably led by David Graf, who stepped in at the last minute to replace Bernadette who was a late withdrawal. Ian led the other six walkers from the Tallangatta Lookout, and all managed the gut-busting two kilometer hike up a very steep track to the ridge line.

Fine leadership by David ensured we all managed to take the correct turn off to Lockhart's Gap track (thanks to a new signpost; see photo) This easily missed junction has apparently presented a significant challenge to past cross over participants.

Ian's group met David's group sometime later, the latter group just finishing their lunch. After a brief chat and the handing over of car keys, David's group resumed walking while Ian's group settled down on the recently vacated logs to have their own lunch.



Both groups arrived at their destination at about the same time and while David's group relaxed at the Lookout, Ian's group drove their vehicles back to the Lookout where some of us remained to enjoy a late afternoon tea.

Another successful crossover walk with some splendid vistas across the hills, and some entertainment provided by the resident lyrebirds along the track. Hopefully next year we will be able to adjourn to the Trevaskis home for the usual sumptuous afternoon tea by the fire.

A Walker



## Tramway Walk



After lunch was a scramble down two embankments as the tramway sleepers were not consistently spaced, and we were soon at the end of the track.

A short walk to the road, and a visit to the Arboretum, before back to our cars and a welcome drink back at Mt Beauty bakery.

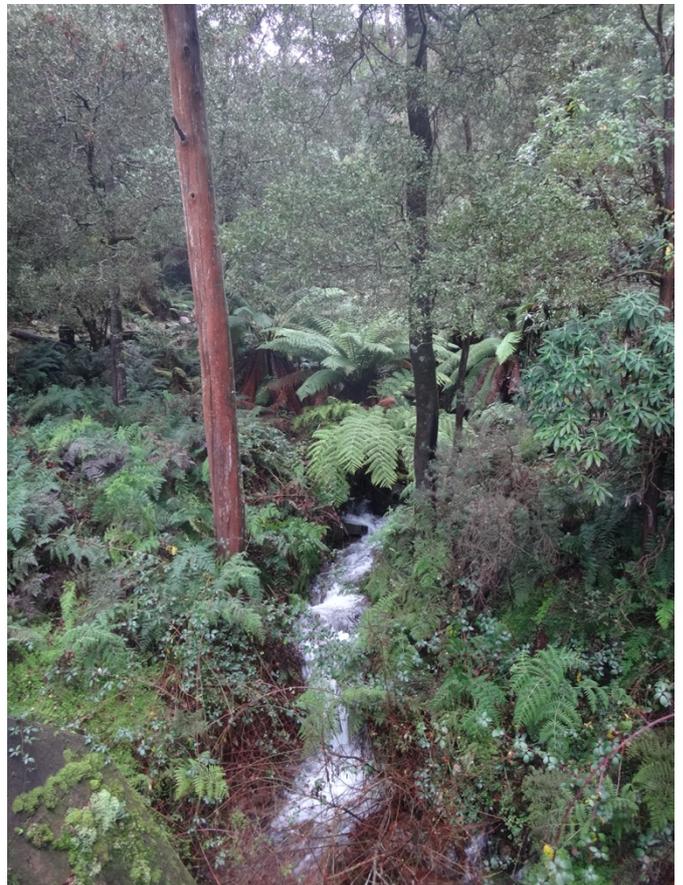
Thank you to those that were able to join me, and apologies to those that couldn't make the change of date. May consider a repeat walk in Spring to see the flowers.

Pauline

With 35 ml of rain predicted for Saturday, we walked the Tramway on the Friday, with not a drop of rain in sight.

Clover dam was full, but no water was being released so our river crossing was quite a dry one. A gentle ascent on track had us observing prolific large bushes that Simon was later able to identify as a 'dusty daisy bush', and so a visit in spring to see its flowers may yet happen.

On arriving at the tramway, morning tea was had and then a photo opportunity in an abandoned tramway vehicle. Then a very pleasant walk along the tramway and aqueduct, observing the flowing creeks and bits of machinery as part of the aqueduct complex.



## Strange Border Effect

The Rock, or Kengal, is one of the few NSW walks that our club does. With the NSW mountains a bit further than the Victorian ones for club members we mostly walk in Victoria.

8 people had signed up for the walk on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> but 4 of these suddenly found that they couldn't make it 2 days before; and they were the 4 Victorians. As we are not car-pooling this was easy to manage but did create a mystery. In these days of different restrictions had Dan contacted them and said that we Northerners are not to be trusted?

The hardy NSW participants rocked up and found a car park more crowded than ever. We created our own little car park and picnic area and had a lovely physically distanced lunch before heading up the Yerong track.

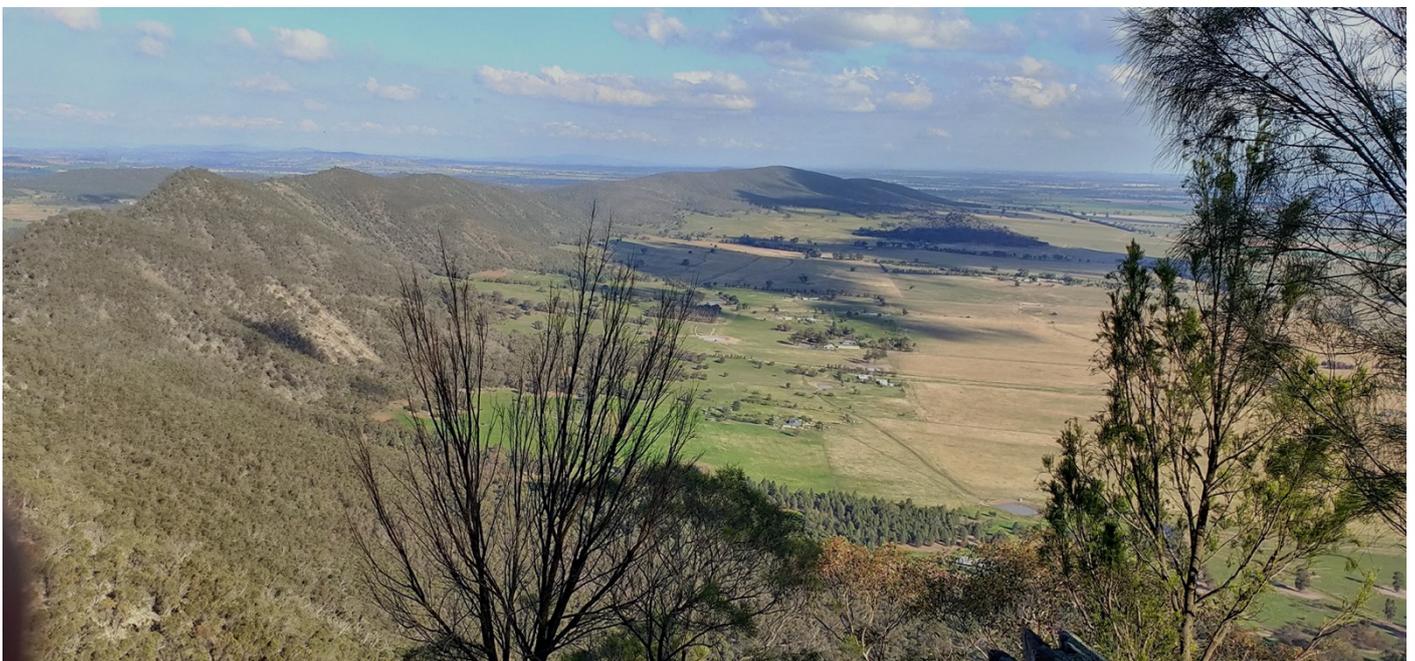
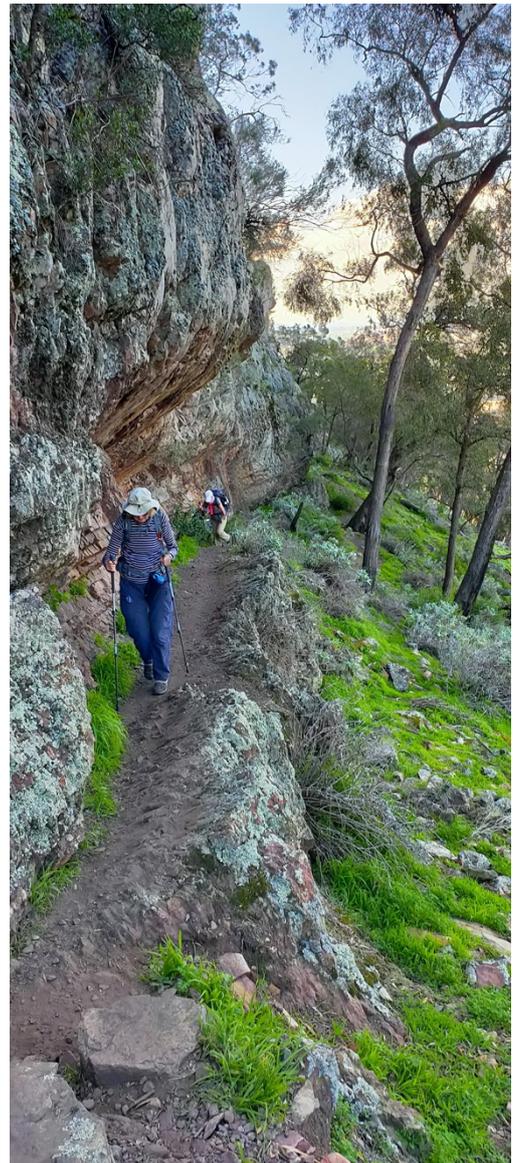
Whilst this walk is short, compared to most we do, it offers stunning views and surroundings, especially on this perfect late Autumnal day.

We met a number of people walking but the numbers did not seem to match the many cars. Had any Victorians mysteriously disappeared in a Miranda like way, never to be seen again?

We totally rocked it although Ron decided to rock AND roll.

As a select group of NSWelshers we discussed all things Gladys although we felt sad that the Dan clan were not with us.

Bernadette



## A River Stroll away from the Crowds

This walk was the brainchild of Bernadette. A two state walk on both sides of the Murray River, perhaps a first for the BBC. Numbers grew beyond the maximum of ten hence two separate walks on each side of the border. The VIC Firsts and NSW Firsts met at Noreuil Park for our briefing yes with appropriate social distancing.

Perfect walking weather and perfect organisation, to the point that both groups met for lunch at roughly the same time, socially distanced and completed the end of the two loop walks at the same time.



Vic First's route was via the Botanic Gardens, up Monument Hill to the War Memorial. The War Memorial renovation is almost complete and is looking wonderful. Bush tracks, the river and small sandy beaches, bats in trees and the historic ruins of Patman's farm and the history of the nine families who lived there where explored.

Along this section the VIC and NSW teams certainly made vocal contact across the river, prior to rejoining for lunch.

NSW First's route was along the bike path over and under Union Bridge into Victoria. A lovely bush track follows the river towards a point opposite the Kremur



Street boat ramp. There was lots of interest along this walk; the Bhutanese and African vegetable garden, Ira sharing her knowledge of the garden and Pauline Scott having booked to have a lunch there. This is what you miss in isolation, a pinch of idea, a spoon of information and a dash of stimulation; what a recipe.

The vegetation and large remnant trees are fabulous along the rarely walked Victorian riverbank. It's also interesting to look at Noreuil Park from the other side.

The track runs out at a billabong maybe part of Wodonga Creek where it joins the river. Just around the corner is a magnificent canoe tree, certainly not missed by both state teams

Thanks Bernadette; Sue



## 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

Thanks for all your contribution over the past month. This month we ask for:

- Your ideas on the future of Club nights
- Your photos for “The skies the limit”. Let’s share photos of clouds, sunsets, sunrises that our outdoor activities enable us to enjoy.

Just to refresh your memory the forum provides an informal way for members to communicate.

At times it may be used by the committee to communicate or seek input but members would always be notified by email or Footprints initially if this was the case. Club nights are an example.

Members may wish to use the forum to share that recipe that was discussed on your walk, ask advice on a piece of equipment, ask for help in putting on a walk or share other ideas that are related to our common interest. You may also like to post a few photos of a recent club activity but don’t forget that our Footprints editor would love them too.

We ask that you do not use the forum to promote commercial interests or political views. Also where members wish to raise concerns or present ideas to committee, this should be done through direct contact with a member of the committee, rather than the forum.

If you wish to organise a walk or gain support for a walk this should be done through ‘events’ and Footprints, again not through the forum.

## New members; a warm welcome to the following;

- Amanda Pyle & Monique Henderson,
- Elizabeth Pascoe
- Robert Petzke
- Simone Mulder
- Steve Bell & Ava Bell

## Member Profiles

### Warwick McLachlan; Life Member, past President, Newsletter Editor etc.

Below we have reproduced Warwick's input for Footprints, December 2002.

He has submitted this again in 2020 adding that little has changed beyond his membership of the BBC. He has now been a member for 42 years.

Congratulations Warwick.

Is there anyone else that equals this record?



Name: <i>Warwick McLachlan</i>	Current position and role: <i>Newsletter Editor, lightning rod for complaints, cause of resignations and otherwise all-round funster.</i>
Years in BBC: <i>24, ie: foundation member, life member and will be an after life member as Paradise is a heavenly version of the Snowy Mountains in winter (before greenhouse warming).</i>	How I got started in bushwalking: <i>my dad took me on short walks in the northern suburbs of Sydney; later a lovely bloke said he could get further into wilderness by carrying his house on his back; I bought a haversack like his, built like a bedstead and me and my blisters and my love of wind and space have kept my spirits singing ever since.</i>
My favourite bushwalking place: <i>Each have their beauty or beastliness – the Labyrinth off Pine Valley in Tasmania, for its prehistoric and intimate space, the Budawangs for its prickly scrub and of course the wonderful Snowy Mountains in winter where the extremes of happiness and difficulties are there for the asking (whether I like it or not!)</i>	My best bushwalking memory.- <i>not enough space to do any of them justice. It's the memorable ones - losing and finding my way, being frightened, angry, relieved, pissed off with my companions, joyful in their company. Certainly, the Western Arthurs in 1983, any ski trip with Geoff Payne/ Marg Hough, the Labyrinth in Tassie 1 month after Hamish's death, skiing by torchlight, peels of laughter after a great telemark is pulled off. Shit, it's all wonderful – the blisters, the pain, the uncertainty, the Cup A Soup on a cold night, Joanne's 2 hour soliloquy, Helen's rat, Geoff's helping hand across the Tooma river, Rob's</i>

	<i>calm voice when I was lost. Heaps and heaps of the best memories.</i>
<i>My favourite bushwalking meal/snack/food</i> <i>Biting the heads off jelly babies used to fill several needs if I was tired and cranky, (I probably bit the heads off my companions as well; now fettuccine puttanesca with flavours that minus 5 degrees centigrade can't diminish keep me going to journey's end.</i>	<b>Who I would like to sit next to in the car on the way to a bushwalk:</b> <i>Someone who knows the way. Really. Every walker has their version of the meaning of life which to some extent they will share and I am interested in that. But if they can read the map -now that is really something! The Dalai Lama may know <u>his</u> way and the righteous path, but what good is he in a whiteout!!( I know the question is who I am sitting alongside but my mind is on the walk, not the conversation!)</i>
<b>My most extravagant equipment purchase.</b> I refuse to embarrass myself. Suffice to say I have contributed substantially to the superannuation funds of bushwalking store proprietors in Albury- Wodonga and most capital cities. Oh, alright - a very expensive sighting compass that I thought would improve my navigation but discovered it had no luminous dot and was hopeless in the dark when I needed it most!	<b>My most embarrassing bushwalking moment:</b> <i>Just before dusk in November 1982 looking into the Geehi valley from somewhere below Mt Townsend and having not the vaguest idea which Spur was Hannel's. Utterly defeated we camped literally on the side of a hill on top of the scrub; the floor of the tent was like a hammock, the snow collapsed one of the tents. I never want to be in that space ever again.</i>
<b>I would never go on a bushwalk without:</b> <i>Other people. I did a four day solo walk from Kiandra to Kosciusko years ago and fell upon other bushwalkers like a castaway being rescued. I learn from and share with others of my species the full on version of living that constitutes bushwalking for me. An old American Indian saying: Tthe most important thing in the world: -"It is people, it is people ,it is people."</i>	<b>Funniest thing taken on a bushwalk:</b> <i>an MSR stove that didn't work. Actually that's the stupidest.</i>
<b>When I'm not bushwalking I'm:</b> <i>convincing people to leave no loose ends when they finally close the door behind them in this life, finding increasingly diverse ways of being happy, trying to be human with the available resources at my disposal and loving life</i>	<b>Bushwalking tip for newcomers:</b> <i>take chances, trust your leader until he/she lets you down, learn navigation, love the smell of your companions and feel their warmth.</i>

## Bushwalking Victoria Newsletter

Our club is affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria. Part of your annual membership supports this group of volunteers working tirelessly to encourage bushwalking, influencing stakeholders, track maintenance, bush rescue, training etc.

Ian referred to their monthly newsletter. The link to this newsletter is <https://mailchi.mp/bushwalkingvictoria/june-newsletter-subs?e=12de186b76>. Check out the latest issue with articles on a new Peakfinder App, a reduction in the Overland Track fee this year, The Camino de Santiago Virtual Challenge, an update on Victorian Snow Country visits this year plus more. You can also subscribe as part of your membership of BBC if you prefer.

## Munros, Marilynns and Murrays: an idea from Eileen Clark

There's nothing a bushwalker likes more than a good hill to climb. Some of you may be familiar with the Munro list of peaks in Scotland over 3,000 ft (914.4 m), and their somewhat lower counterparts across the UK and Ireland, the Marilynns, over 490 ft (150 m).

Some walkers make it their lifetime aim to reach the summits of all of them. Travel restrictions have limited our ability to do that, so I'm suggesting we set up our own list for peak bagging in the local area, called, of course, the Murrays. I'm not putting a height limit on them but instead, they should be within Albury-Wodonga city limits. Here's my list:

- One Tree/Red Light Hill Lavington,
- Nail Can Hill Trig Point,
- Eastern Hill,
- McFarlanes Hill,
- Federation Hill,
- Huon Hill,
- Mahers Hill,
- Bears Hill,
- Baranduda Summit

I'm proposing that we try to walk all of these in the cooler months ahead, generally as mid-week walks because most of them are fairly short. I can lead them but would welcome co-leaders for some of the Wodonga ones that I don't know well.

Note also that Parklands Albury-Wodonga's 7 Summit Challenge is a virtual event this year and incorporates several of these. It is a fund raiser for track work, more details at <https://www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au/take-action/2018518162094.asp>

Thanks, Eileen

## 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 July 25.**