

FOOTPRINTS

“Challenging Times”- August 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 it's pleasing to note that we still have a range of interesting and varied walks happening on both sides of the border. These range from easy days walks to longer and more challenging hikes further afield. Hopefully, restrictions will be eased sooner rather than later so we can all join in without worrying about leaving 'the bubble'.

It would be great if members could take some time to check out what's on the Activities Program and seriously consider adding a walk of their own. If you haven't led a walk, please remember that there are experienced leaders available to mentor and co-lead if you feel that would be easier for you.

A sub-group of the Committee has recently met to consider future options for Club Nights and we hope to be able to advise you in the next edition of 'Footprints' of what the revised format will look like. Once again, thank you to those members who gave us feedback on this issue.

At our last Committee meeting the purchase of two new Mont jackets at considerable expense, was approved and these will form an essential part of the Club's hire gear available from 'Adventure Travel', Albury. Our Equipment Officer, Ken, continues to review and check the condition of hire gear as we believe any gear that is hired out should be of the highest quality and standard, especially when such equipment is often hired by 'first-timers'. We want to ensure they have an enjoyable experience and not have to endure an uncomfortable tent, a cold sleeping bag, or a leaky jacket.

And finally, don't forget to visit the Member's Forum on the website under 'Members' where you can add your photos and/or thoughts on all things related to the outdoors.

Look forward to catching up with you on a track, a bike path or a ski slope in the near future.....**Ian.**



New members; a warm welcome to the following;

- Kimberly Gigliotti
- Phil Jamieson

Trip Reports...from both Dan and Gladys's side of the Murray

Mt Beauty June 2020

How things change! The post-Covid 19 way of doing things means leaders no longer have to sweat over calculators trying to work out petrol money; instead, they have to find parking spots that can accommodate up to 10 cars.

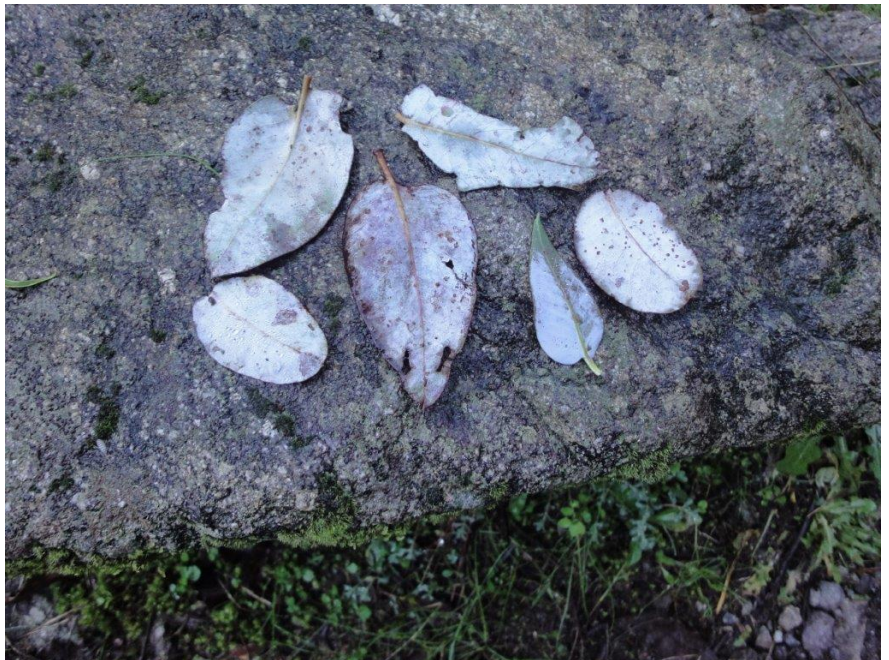
So, we met at the Big Hill mountain bike park in Mt Beauty on a cold, clear morning (no, to be honest, it was freezing). We soon warmed up once we set off, following the Survey Track past the golf course and up to Cranky Charlie. This is a steady climb that gets the blood flowing and provides views across the timbered valley to Mt Bogong.

We paused for morning tea, socially distanced of course, each of us in a sunny spot, then crossed the road and headed up the West Kiewa logging road to the start of the Pole Track. Next, we had a scramble up some steep short tracks designed for MTB riders and which were showing signs of erosion after the plentiful rains this autumn, eventually coming out on the summit of Mt Beauty itself, nothing spectacular but at least we can say we've been there.

We had made good time so it was too early for lunch at the usual spot, and we continued on down to the gorge, crossing over on the little suspension bridge and noting there was hardly any water in the river. We also noticed that, at this time of the year, the sun barely penetrates into the gorge and instead of being bathed in sunshine, the picnic table was still covered in frost (at midday). So, it was a quick lunch then back to the cars after an exhilarating walk.

Eileen

Apologies from the Editor. This trip report should have been included in last month's Footprints however it was overlooked. Thanks for your understanding Eileen.



Mt Buffalo

This walk was originally meant to be a circuit of Black Possum spur above Bogong Village, but got changed when Ian pointed out tyre chains are required above Mt Beauty. I'm really glad it changed as it was a fantastic day up at Mt Buffalo.

We started at the bottom at 8:30am and finished just on 5pm. There were 7 walkers including myself.

Heading up followed the usual script initially – huffing and puffing up the first steep bit to the turn at the 4WD track, and then relaxing until the 'rocky' section where we had morning tea.



At this stage we could see some snow above, but there was no sign of it yet.

As we got closer to Mackays lookout, there started to be a bit of 'white' on the ground and tree branches, before it quickly became the real deal with a good couple of inches. From here on up it was a real winter wonderland. The snow was nice and powdery (not slushy), and not deep enough to invoke the 'post hole' feeling.

We had lunch in the day shelter and had a look at the chalet before starting back down the mountain. Unfortunately one of our group took a slip at the



'rocky' section and twisted their ankle quite badly, but after a quick break (which it was time for anyway), they determinedly made it the whole way down and back to the cars without a grumble.

The rain started on the north side of Porepunkah and continued the whole drive back to town.

David



Kelly Cave Hike

In perfect weather conditions ten of us drove out of Beechworth to the start of this walk. Following detailed instructions from David, who was unable to lead the walk due to being a NSW resident, we set off along the CFA track for around 5 kms before taking a left turn into the bush and following an ill-defined track.

After around two hours, and with the help of Simon and Sasho, who were carrying their GPS devices, we scrambled between a jumble of rocks and located the cave.

The term 'cave' proved to be a bit of a misnomer, as it is more like a long tunnel with no real head room and a rocky floor. Morning tea was taken in front of the 'cave' with Ira making sure she didn't tread on the President's nuts!

We took a more direct route up some steep rock faces back to the track and then back to the cars where we had lunch

After lunch we followed Neioffs Road downhill until we reached a side track that led to a mountain bike track that wended its way down through the bush until we reached an open vantage point where we could view Barry Falls below.

After the obligatory photos, we traipsed further downhill to Rambler's Track which led us back to the main road and from there it was just a matter of a long uphill trek back to the cars. All-in-all, a very pleasant and satisfying hike.

A.Walker



A Saturday stroll



With the ever-changing rules and recommendations, I decided, at very short notice, to try a Sunday stroll in my neighbourhood. On Saturday July 18th we did a circuit that encompassed the hill and the river. We are blessed in Albury to have such a variety of environments right in town.

It was only 8km but one of the major features was 3 toilets enroute, 4 if you count the fact that we ended back at the first one. What a luxury!

The conversations were as brisk as the walk and included the viewing of a 'dinosaur egg' that had been found locally.

Afternoon tea on the river bank was a pleasant way to end the day.

Nail Can Across the Top

My last trip report explained how we rocked The Rock. This time we nailed Nail Can. I've decided not to put Mt Disappointment on this year.

10 walked from Jindera Gap to the Botanic Gardens. 4 left and 2 joined for the return walk. It was sunny, pleasant and uneventful; the best kind of walk.



Murraguldrrie State Forrest

On a wet weekend I gathered a band of 6 to walk 13km in Murraguldrrie State Forrest. Initially there were 9 but 2 had to withdraw due to the border closure and 1 was awaiting COVID testing results; thankfully negative.

Murraguldrrie is located in the middle of the imaginary triangle formed by Holbrook, Tarcutta and Tumbarumba so I frequently checked the forecasts for all 3 and was able to tell the walkers that the weather would be much better there, with a shower around lunch time and the real rain not starting until we were close to being back at our cars.

Each walker was able to follow my directions and arrived at the start point on time for a prompt start.

Whilst it was lovely to be walking somewhere different, in a year where our movements have been so restricted, the clouds meant that the views of the Main Range are being saved for another day.

One walker was experiencing some difficulties, so our walk was cut short by 3km by taking the short cut. All walkers, once again, showed how to band together and ensuring a safe and happy end to the day.

So now we have some unfinished business: to complete the whole walk on a lovely Spring day. The ball's in your courts Gladys, Dan, COVID and BOM.

By the way, we had a shower at lunch time but the real rain started after we had completed the walk!



Bernadette

Not Nail Can; the Other Hill

Yes, there is another; Eastern Hill.

Six Sunday walkers met at the East Albury Tennis Courts and proceeded to Eastern Hill via an NBN box in Schubach Street. Why, because our leader wanted to share a picture and history of his grandparents depicted on the box. The leader gave them no choice, however, was very chuffed with their interest. Thanks guys.

Up and along Eastern Hill. The view over the river, Albury and Wodonga is always a treat, although unfortunately Mt Bogong was hidden by cloud. It was great to see a good number of people out walking and happy dogs. Kind 'a sad though looking towards Victoria and thinking of when we can share our walks together again.

Along past the iconic Murray river and lagoon gums, and a beautiful lone pelican sunning itself, possibly having a rest from the mob upstream at Horseshoe Lagoon. How good is it to each have our own rock for a social distancing morning tea break.

Past swishy houses at Doctors Point and uphill to re-joined Eastern Hill and return.

Sue



Nail Can Hill North

This was designed as a Wednesday wander; long enough to provide good exercise while short enough to fit into a weekday.

After many changes of personnel, four of us met at Jindera Gap on a cold, clear morning. It was good to welcome back three members who had not walked with the Club for a long time. This is really my favourite section of Nail Can, providing interesting views on the steep climb up to the trig point.

This was the first 'Murray' I had conquered since devising the list, so a photo was essential. From here we could see across the northern and eastern parts of the city to Lake Hume.



After a short break, we continued, walking down now on the broad resurfaced track that is better than some roads in Albury. We had morning tea at the picnic table, then soon after, came across a sign advising of a Slow Gate ahead. In vain, we looked for the Fast Gate, thinking this was more our style, then found the Slow Gate lying down on the job anyway.

We took the Bakes Track down to Centaur Road. This is less used than the Ridge Track and provides delightful sheltered walking through the trees, with occasional kangaroos popping across to see us.

At the Centaur Road junction, we decided we had gone far enough, and turned round to head back up to the cars along the Ridge Track.

Lunch was taken along the way, the Slow Gate was still asleep, and the views were still great. We decided that we had been lucky to strike a good clear day after all the fog in Albury this winter.



Eileen



Member Profiles

Ian Trevaskis

Where do you live? Tallangatta - The Town That Moved.

Where else have you lived? Geelong (birthplace), Ocean Grove, Oregon, Colorado

When and how did you first become involved in bushwalking? I used to 'go bush' with my mates when a teenager. Rode our bikes, piled with camping gear and cans of food to the You Yangs where we'd camp for a week in the school holidays. Was a member of the Geelong Field Naturalists Club (that's "naturalist" NOT "naturist") which meant many weekends spent somewhere in the bush.

Tell us about your first walk with BBC It was so memorable I can't remember it, but I'm sure I had a cracker of a time.

What roles have you had within the club? 'Footprints' editor, committee member, President

What do you love most about walking or other club activities? Visiting remote wilderness areas with like-minded people and giving them all a hard time.

What the club activity that stands out in your memory? Why? The Club's 40th Anniversary celebrations, which brought together a wide range of people intent on celebrating the occasion, socialising and reminiscing. It was a truly fabulous weekend. Can't wait for the next one!

Which walk do you most wish you could do now? The South West Coast Path - Westward Ho! to Penzance along the coast of Devon and Cornwall. Trish and I walked that 300 km section in 2011 and were blown away by the scenery, the tiny hidden hamlets and smuggler's coves, not to mention the food and the ales.



What are you doing to make the most of our current situation? Having finally finished writing a new Young Adult novel - *Of Boys and Boats*, due for release soon – working on the next novel set in Beechworth in 1857.

What's something new that you've done or learned since we've been required to stay at home more? I've learned I'm actually a rather nice person to spend lots of time with!

Tell us one thing about you that most people wouldn't know. I am a Life Member of the 13th Beach-Barwon Heads Surf Life Saving Club where I was Club Captain and President for a number of years back in the 70's and 80's.

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.

You can subscribe to your own copy of Bushwalking Victoria monthly newsletter on the home page of their website.
<https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/>

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

If you are one of the few who have not paid your fees, you are close to the cut off time for 2021 membership; no more Footprints, no more updates from Ian, no access to the members section of the website, members forum etc and we will miss you.

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 \$1**

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 August 25.