

FOOTPRINTS

“Very Challenging Times”- September 2020

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

President	Ian Trevaskis 0425 782 983	president@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Membership, Data base	Marie	membership@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Treasurer	Eve	treasurer@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Secretary	Vanessa	secretary@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Newsletter Editor, VP	Ralph	newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Activities Coordinator	Bernadette	activities@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

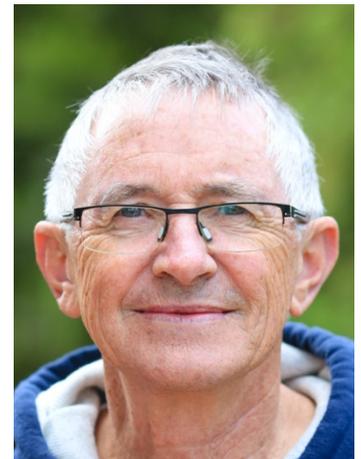
Ira: Meeting Suppers & Social Convener, **Ken:** Equipment Officer & Policy, and general committee members **Sandy, Glen & Simon**

From the President's Stump

I hope this finds all our members keeping safe and well and managing to find a time and place to spend in the great outdoors despite the current restrictions that now affect our lives.

Some information to come out of our most recent Committee meeting that members need to be aware of ...

Committee has agreed that when necessary two persons may share a vehicle provided the following procedures are adhered to: the journey is **no longer than 30 minutes**; both occupants are to **wear approved face masks**; **sanitisation of all touch points** is to be carried out before and after conveying passengers; and, passengers are to be **seated in the rear** of the vehicle, on the opposite side to the driver. This should assist when there is limited parking space at the start of an activity.



Future Club Nights were discussed at some length, with consideration given to members' feedback. Thanks to all of those who provided their input. It has been decided to cut back on the number of Club Nights held each year. Please refer to full details below. Note that Club Nights will only resume when the gathering of people is legally allowed.

With the current restrictions in place, a number of Leaders have been providing shorter, closer to home day walks which have proved quite popular. We should all be thankful that Leaders continue to provide such opportunities for our members. Some of these walks have been 'oversubscribed' resulting in people being put on a waiting list. We'd like to see everyone able to join a walk, so we're asking leaders to nominate, or have in mind, a second Leader in the event that more than 10 people wish to participate. This means the second Leader would lead the same walk, on the same day, at the same location, but would begin the walk with his or her group some 15 minutes later.

We will continue to rely on the generosity of our Leaders to offer as many opportunities to get into the outdoors and hope that our Victorian members will soon be able to resume group outdoor activities.

I look forward to catching up with you on an activity sometime in the near future. Ian

BBC Future Club Nights

All Club Nights will be held at the Senior Citizen's Hall, Wodonga on the first Tuesday of the month, **with the exception of the November Club Night** which will be held on the **second Tuesday of November**, and the March Club Night and the Annual Christmas Party, both of which will be held at an outside venue.

FEBRUARY:	The "F" word – a selection from - food for hikes, looking after your feet, fitness for activities, favourite walks, forward planning, featured guest speaker
MARCH:	Social Get-Together , e.g. A picnic/barbecue evening at Norieul Park.
MAY:	Annual General Meeting followed by preview of winter activities – cross country skiing, snowshoeing, winter walks, Howman's Gap weekend
JULY:	' Oh, the Places I've Been! ' member presentations, accompanied by home-made soups and breads
SEPTEMBER:	Leaders' Briefing followed by New Members Night and ' Meet the Leaders '. Includes ' Buy, Sell and Swap ' gear
NOVEMBER:	Summer theme – upcoming activities, summer safety, Canoeing and Multi-day walks
DECEMBER:	Annual Christmas Party and End-of-Year Celebrations

If warranted, we may advertise an additional Club Night.

The Committee shall organise Club Nights and the President will host Club Nights.

New members; a warm welcome to the following;

- Iona, Jasmine & Kiara McJames
- Jula Ryder
- Carolyn Moxey

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

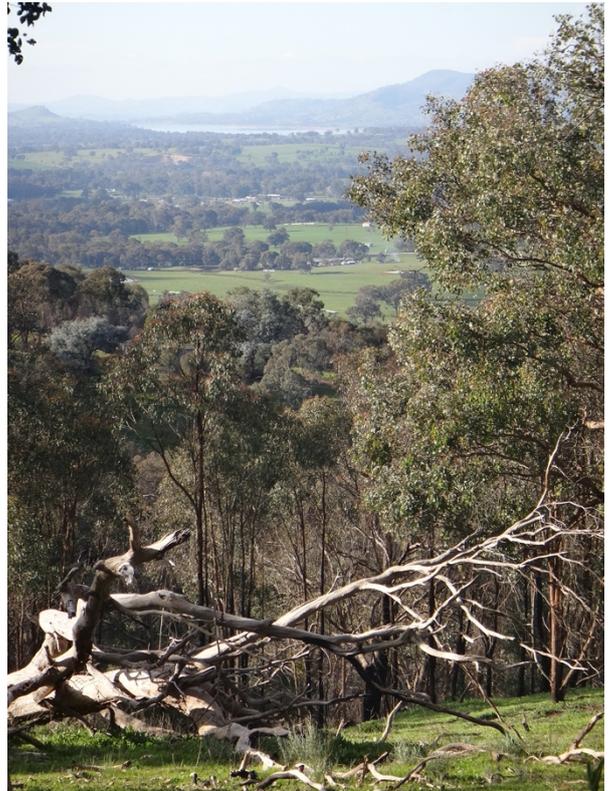
Baranduda Ridge Walk or the First and Last Victorian Walk for August 2020

Saturday the first of August was the typical frosty morning that became a warm, sunny day, perfect for a steep climb up Ridge lane. Being in the Border Bubble, but on the Victorian side, we had our maximum Covid restrictive numbers of ten, with everyone, except the leader, arriving earlier than the early meeting time, all eager to climb.

There were great views of the Hume weir and valley to be seen, as we stopped for breath and looked behind. With wallabies bouncing around ahead, we made it to the top and stopped for morning tea.

It was then a steep and slippery descent, with one unfortunate fall resulting in some skin loss, but the clothing was unharmed! At this point we were now looking at the other side of the range, towards Leneva, with green paddocks and full dams. We spent some time spotting the various hills around Wodonga, such as Federation, Bears, and MacFarlanes.

Lunch was had at a leisurely pace, before an even steeper ascent back to the top of the range. Despite being winter, bare arms embraced the warm sun, as we struggled upwards with our full bellies, stopping more than once to catch our breath and admire the views.



A sharp eye spotted some plants with enclosures and tags, but after a climb up an embankment, only found the tags stated they were endangered, but not what they were. So we'll have to go back in Spring....

We finally arrived back at the cars in dribs and drabs, with Rex carrying an armful of rubbish he'd picked up, well done Rex !

Thank you to all that came, it was an enjoyable day.

Unfortunately, we found out a day later that this would be the only walk for the Victorian walkers in August, as we are once again in Stage 3 lockdown.

I hope everyone is able to do some kind of walking in their home vicinity, and stay safe and well.

To those on the 'other side', enjoy NSW walking, and Nail Can Hill.

We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when....🎵

Pauline

In the footsteps of Hume and Hovell

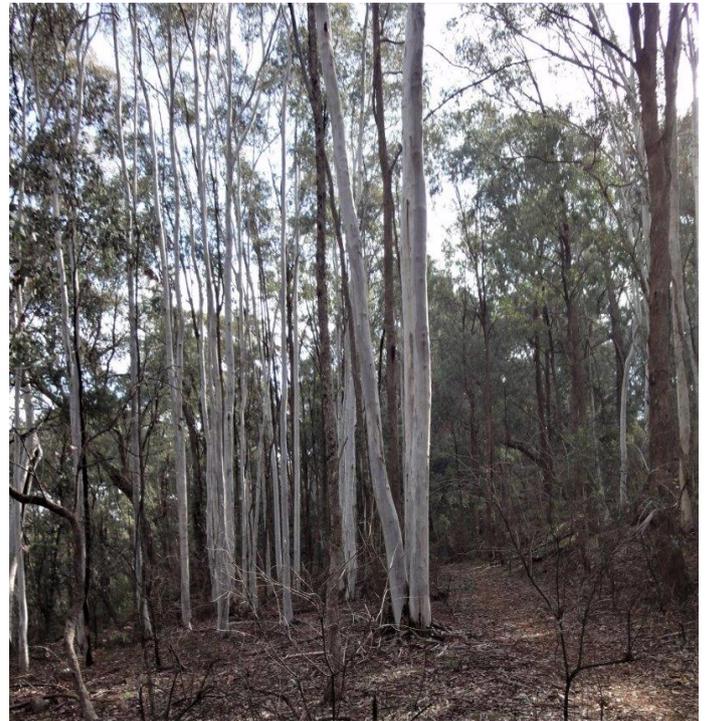
The Hume and Hovell track runs for about 440 km between Yass and Albury. It covers a variety of countryside from the River Murray to the foothills of the Snowy Mountains, and we've recently done three walks along parts of it.

The first was a Wednesday wander, following the track as it winds round Thurgoona. Three of us met under the flagpoles at the entrance to Charles Sturt University on a brilliant winter's day. We followed the track north past the community garden and across open bushland, noting that since the walk last spring there had been a major revegetation project in several places, with the tiny plants protected by white 'sleeves'.

The track crosses Table Top Road north of the Kinross pub and enters a new housing estate, with track logos painted on the pavement. We hastened through this part and headed back into bushland, following the well-marked path through the Eight Mile Reserve until it reaches the road at Kywanna. This was our turnaround point, so we stopped for morning tea and headed back the way we came.



The next walk was an all-day affair on the following Saturday. Five walkers (3 Ps and 2 Cs) met at the car park where the track crosses Tunnel Road in Woomargama. Our plan was to walk as far as we wanted northward, stop for lunch then return by a similar route. Much of the walk is



on a 4WD road called Tin Mines Track, with a couple of deviations and numerous logging tracks, but posts with the Hume and Hovell logo allowed us to keep on the correct route.

We paused briefly at the well-appointed Samuel Bollard Campsite and continued through tall timber and some of the noisiest kookaburras and cockatoos I have ever heard. The wattles were coming into flower and in many places, we admired groups of tall, straight, white gum trees.

The gentle hills gave way to steeper hills, one of which led down to an attractive gully with interesting looking pools. The next rise was steep, and at this point we decided it was

time for a socially-distanced lunch, sitting on a convenient fallen tree (unless you had one of those fancy folding chairs that are spreading round the Club faster than you can say Corona virus).

We retraced our steps after lunch until we were nearly back at the car park, deviating where the H and H track follows a nature walk created by the local 'Friends' group in memory of a volunteer. This loops back to the car park and has some very interesting rock formations. The weather had been kind to us, and we all decided this had been a very good day.

Two weeks later three of us were back at Tunnel Road on a moist, misty morning. This time we were heading along H& H in the opposite direction, towards Albury.

After a short bitumen bash along Tunnel Road we turned onto Hanel's Track then, very soon, onto a



footpath that we followed for the rest of the day. It was not always easy to see, but there were occasional marker posts and we were never geographically embarrassed. First, the footpath wound up and down, round, over and between big boulders, surrounded by callitris pine trees. Then we turned a corner and the vegetation changed to open eucalypt forest. Chris S was with us and she was able to recognise the many birds we saw and heard, pointing out little greenhood orchids in flower and stinking pennywort (good for arthritis).

The track was mainly flat, and we noticed we were walking along a narrow ridge with steep drop offs on either side. Then we started descending quickly as the track swung round in

a U-turn down to a lush green gully. We scrambled down the muddy banks of a creek, complete with frogs and water plants, crossed it and stopped for lunch on the other side.

We decided this was the turn-around point, given how far we had descended, so after a good break we crossed the creek again and headed up, up, up to the ridge. We noticed more of the striking white trees like those I'd seen on the last walk, except these were much bigger. The trunks are straight and tall, with no branches until a pom-pom of branches and leaves right on the very top.

We also noticed piles of bark at the base of each tree, so presumably the tree sheds its bark at the start of winter. Just to be different (there's one in every family) a smaller tree was coiled like a corkscrew. When we reached Tunnel Road we crossed over and followed the nature trail back to the car park. This was definitely the better of the two walks from Tunnel Road, especially for nature lovers.

Eileen

My favourite side tracks on Nail Can Hill by Bernadette

A delight to have four guests, one being a past member joining “Four Nail Canners” to walk Bernadette’s favourite side tracks. We immediately began the favourites with the Unemployment Track a beautiful natural bush track and maybe the best on Nail Can.

Ups and downs on the main trail, down Coopers and Guys into a lovely valley with a mound for morning tea. Inspiring to find our leader often brings a book to read in this quiet spot unofficially named Offas Dyke. Uphill retracing our steps along Guys track, around Reedy Dam which was full to the brim and onto the lookout for a bracing lunch. Chilly conditions however the view is fabulous and occasional glimpses of BBC’s beloved snow-capped mountains well worth it.

Spring flowers are appearing and on checking the free book published by Parklands Albury Wodonga called “Along the Bush Tracks” covering our hilltop bush lands, at least twelve varieties were spotted.



A really good walk; I haven’t mentioned all Bernadette’s favourite side tracks so maybe it will be listed again. Sue



Art Deco walk; Albury

A walk with a difference to explore Albury's Art Deco houses. There are more than 40 houses built between 1929 and 1952 in the Art Deco style all within walking distance around central Albury. Our walk was adapted to a walking route from a bus tour by the Albury & District Historical Society by local historian Jan Hunter.

Ten hardy walkers met at Albury Cricket Ground Bilson Park for a three hour 13 km Art Deco walk. It was a delight to have two guests join us.

The walk itself roughly forms three circles; North Albury, Forest Hill and an assortment.

The houses ranged from a "renovator's dream"; Marie's observation, Miranda mentioning she had been inside one of the houses and was promptly given a



grilling, David B a dark horse who not only has a passion for Art Deco but was also very knowable particularly on building techniques and style and finally Bernadette's contribution of local knowledge from growing up in the area.

Jan, the local historian, saw us pass her home, observing a "very unusual group (very orderly) pass by"; yes, that's the BBC for you! Well done guys.

Eileen farewelled us at the end to continue her walk home as she is walking for Beyond Blue

Stayin' Wild challenge finishing on the 31st. She's on target.

If interested email Ralph for the Walking Map and notes.



Member Profiles

Chris Sobey; life member

My name's Christina (Chris) Sobey, and I live with my husband Les in our family home in West Albury.

I was one of 7 children living up near Kkuringai Chase in northern Sydney, and during the winter months we'd go on picnics into the bush. In the late winter the boronias and flannel flowers were a special delight, and Mum would pick a few and put them in a vase with young gum tips. And so grew my initial love of "the bush"

Arriving for work in Albury in 1974 I well remember a long solo walk I did from Mt Wills out across the ranges to Yankee Crossing (now under water), up to the Corryong/Benambrabra road where I had to wait for lifts back to Albury. That was before the Club.

When in 1978 the Club was formed, I put my hand up to be Secretary under Bob Fisher. I continued in this role for a few years till I met and married Les who had recently started The Outdoor Experience, and three children came along.

That first Club walk up Tabletop is well remembered, various chaps carrying ladders to get us over the farm fences! And the rain.....!

During those early Club years our shop held the hire gear which I repaired and maintained, having an industrial sewing machine to mend packs and tents.

Hence our Life Member awards.

Despite my many early solo walks I guess that, as in any organisation, it's the meeting of like-minded people that adds value to the interest. The satisfaction of gaining a high point, a well-earned rest after that long climb, the calls of the bush birds, the smell of campfire smoke, the some-time adventures (as per the Kowmung River walk of Albert's!), trying to melt snow for the lunchtime billy of tea, hearing the "gabble" of Aboriginal voices when I was a little bit lost. That's what I love about bushwalking!

The first walk I tentatively led in those early days was from Wheelers Hut (off the Corryong/Benambrabra road), up a 4WD track to Pinnibar and down again to Tom Groggin via Mt. Hermit. That involved a long car shuffle from ColacColac to Tom Groggin, with a 4WD being left at Wheelers to be brought back to Corryong by a fisherman friend. They were very experienced walkers with me and I learnt a lot, which made me yearn for better leadership knowledge. Hence my 2-year stint to do the Victorian Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Leadership Certificate in the early 1990s, helped by Club members who "suffered" with me!

At 75 I think I've left it too late, but a walk I'd give my eye teeth to do is following the Murray from Tom Groggin upstream to Cowombat Flat, thence up to Dead Horse Gap. There was a track up above the titree in the days of the mine, now no more; it's been rejuvenated from Tom Groggin downstream. Paul Schirmer took us on a section of it last year. What was interesting to me on that walk was discovering the little native herb I use so successfully for my arthritis, growing prolifically along the track in many places. And its name? Stinking Pennywort!!! But give me ample time, companions and plenty of porridge and pork crackling, and I reckon I could do it. No stress in hurrying - just a couple of weeks of tranquil, scenic plodding.

But for now? I've become a carer for husband Les (now in his 90s), and we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary recently. Not too bad, I reckon, considering he didn't start the mighty marathon of marriage till he was 50! I'm so glad our home is on a big block, giving me ample room to grow veggies, experiment with compost mixes and garden generally, while knitting endless blankets for Wraps with Love (that go to refugee camps around the world), crocheting around handkerchiefs for a bit of refined pleasure, watching world orchestras on YouTube, and attending U3A classes for social interaction. The days of pipe bands, motorbike trips to distant places are behind me now, with grandchildren in the mix. It's time to slow down and bring up the memories of an adventurous life.

To the people of the little tents - I salute you!!



David G.; past activities coordinator, walks leader, treasurer & web designer

When and how did you first become involved in bushwalking/skiing etc.?

I first started bushwalking when I'd go for a drive to get out of Albury back in uni days – I'd see tracks and wonder what was there. One was Mt Bogong. One day I decided to go climb it. I ran into the BBC, led by Bernadette, pretty close to the bottom, and then ended up walking with them the rest of the day. But I didn't join the club (or walk with them again) for another year because I was worried if they climbed Bogong (or similar) every weekend, it was well above my capability.

Tell us about your first activity with BBC:

My first 'official' walk was out to Weston's hut, led by Bruce Key in March 2013.

What roles have you had within the club?

I have previously been in the club property role, activities, treasurer, and worked with CoxTech to upgrade to the current website.

What do you love most about walking or other club activities? I think walking is a great way to appreciate different landscapes, and get out of town. And being part of the club, and led by our more experienced leaders, has meant I've been able to go places I probably wouldn't have been confident to myself.

What the club activity that stands out in your memory? Why? I've had the opportunity to do some really incredible walks including Mustang (Nepal) with Deb and Larapinta led by Marie. One of my recent favourites was leading Buffalo a few months back – just above Mackeys lookout we walked into the most perfect soft powdery snow for the rest of the way up to the chalet.

Which activity do you most wish you could do now? I would really love to go do an overnighter out to Tawonga, Ropers or Federation huts once the snow melts.

What are you doing to make the most of our current situation? Most weekends I've been doing a return walk across Nail Can. The 'main straight/ridge' isn't that interesting, but it's still great exercise and will keep me 'hill fit' for when restrictions ease eventually.

What's something new that you've done or learned since we've been required to stay at home more? I've had to adapt to working from home. And my garden is getting a lot of attention.



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/>

Bushwalking Victoria Board Meeting

I was recently invited, along with some other Club presidents, to attend the monthly BWV virtual Board Meeting and thought members might be interested in some of the discussion that took place during the meeting.

- **'Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing'**. This project, to construct a series of lodges between Mt Hotham and Falls Creek, is apparently back on the table which means BWV will once again be mounting a campaign to protest the project. (You may recall, BBC made a submission a few years ago that outlined our concerns about such a proposal.)
- **BWV Manual** The new manual is almost complete following a lot of work by a number of people and BWV is encouraging people to take a look at what has been done so far and offer any feedback they feel is appropriate. The link to this site is: <https://bushwalkingmanual.org.au/>
- **BWV Strategic Plan**. This was discussed at some length, including the 'draft activities timeline'. This document outlines a number of objectives and goals to be achieved over the next 4 years, some of which will be of direct benefit to BBC.
- **Board Vacancies**. There are a number of upcoming vacancies on the Board and nominations open on September 1st for interested persons. BWV encourages members to consider joining the Board and have an impact on future directions for bushwalking and associated activities in Victoria.
- **BWV Leadership Forum and AGM**. This is slated to be held on November 14th and may need to be held on-line. A process and procedure is being developed if this is the case.

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 September 25.