

# FOOTPRINTS

## *"Almost open again"- November 2020*

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

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

### From the President's Stump

I trust this finds you well and managing to get out and about and enjoy the warmer weather, now that Winter has finally departed. I know the past months have been quite difficult for many of us due to the health restrictions in force, but it now looks like we can start to make forays further afield and re-connect with other members.

For the past couple of months, I've been doing lots of cycling on the local rail trail and have led a couple of longer Club trips to Bright and Myrtleford. Whilst riding I have been reminded that with the warmer weather, our reptilian friends have awoken from their slumbers and are beginning to make their presence felt. I've had to hit the brakes a few times when the stick lying across the trail has begun to move!

Snakes, by their very nature are generally shy creatures and will seek cover at the approach of us humans. This is why, despite all my years of bushwalking, I can count on my fingers and toes the number of snakes I have seen. The few snakes I have encountered have often been sleeping in the sunshine and I've had to wake them by stamping my boots or by throwing a few well aimed stones. Once awake, they usually sniff the air before slithering off into the bush to safety. Which is a timely reminder to remember to stash at least one, preferably two, snake bandages in your backpack. By carrying two compression bandages, one can be applied above the bite and the other below the bite.

Keep a regular check on our 'Events' page on the BBC website as there are more and more events being advertised, with a number of them now happily venturing up into the mountains. These include easy overnight trips to Ryders Yards and the Fainters, to more challenging overnight trips to Mount Jagungal, Mount Feathertop and Young's Hut.

There are also some easier day walks, and we welcome back our popular 'Canoeing After Work' led by Sasho. This is a great way to unwind at the end of the day with a gentle float down the Murray River for a couple of hours. (Note that the day has been changed to every Tuesday evening and there is a small cost involved.)

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

Ian



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

- Cecilia Burke & Rodney Campbell
- Katrina Copeland
- Linda Carter

## The BBC Christmas BBQ; another COVID 19 casualty or “watch this space”

As most members would know, the club usually holds an end of year Christmas party / barbecue the evening of the first Tuesday in December. The committee discussed this in the last meeting and it was felt that with current restrictions and uncertainty regarding what changes may come into play in NSW and VIC before December, it was decided not to go ahead with our usual format for this event.

A function where the club provided barbecue meats and attendees brought salad or desert to share doesn't fit with the “no sharing of food” guidelines we currently operate under not to mention physical distancing and limited numbers permitted at a gathering.

The barbecue has always been a well attended and significant social event on our club calendar and the committee is keen to still hold a gathering. We are investigating several possibilities that would meet the COVID requirements come December. A BYO Picnic in an open space is one of the ideas being considered.

At this stage it is a matter of keeping the date free and “watch this space” for further information as the guidelines are revised.....pencil in **Tuesday December 1.**

Ira

## Virtual AGM 2020 results

Thanks for your responses to the AGM email. A total of 34 members responded, well above our quorum and all in the positive to the three motions that were proposed. The fees were approved at the same level as last year, all offices bearers were re-elected and the financial report was accepted.

## Car Pooling advise

If you missed the email earlier this month rather than your committee providing regular updates in this constantly changing environment, the committee has decided that effective immediately we will refer you to the two state websites for your guidance on car pooling arrangements.

The sites are;

Regional Victoria; <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/travel-regional-victoria-third-step-covid-19#can-i-have-passengers-in-my-car>

NSW; <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/travel-and-transport-advice>

Each person needs to feel that they are not at risk or presenting a risk to others because of their individual circumstances. For this reason, the decision to car pool, according to the guidelines, must be a personal one and individuals are welcome to make their own travel arrangements.

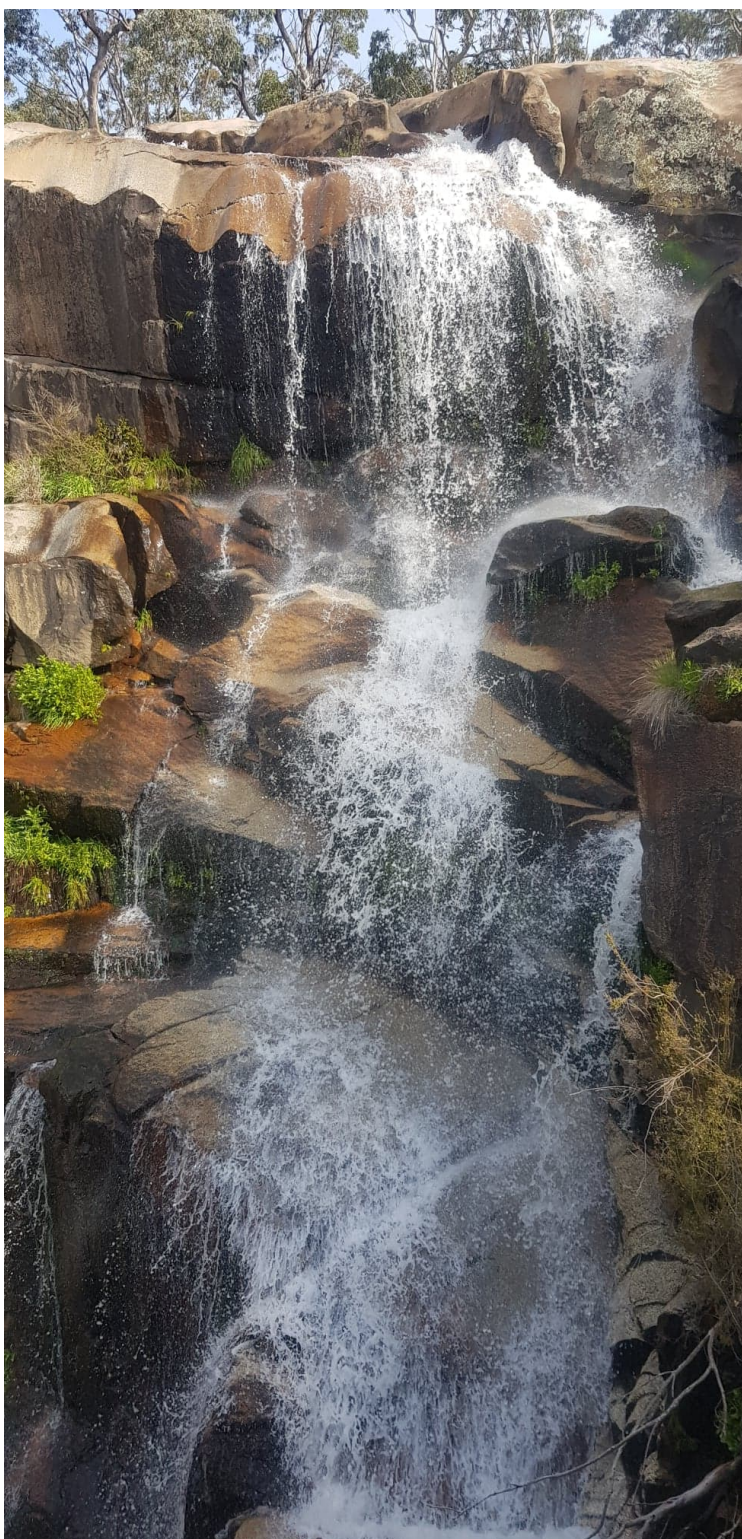


## Trip Reports

### After the fires – 7 days camping and walking in Namadgi National Park

There was so much snow on the road between Tumut and Adaminaby, that the snow clearing machines were hard at work, as we headed to Mt Clear Campground, the most southern and remote campground in Namadgi National Park. But as soon as we headed down from Kiandra, the snow thinned and the sun came out.

Namadgi NP makes up about 40% of the ACT, and it is a varied terrain that was so severely burnt in the recent bushfires, that the central 1/3 of the park is still closed. The southern section of the park is usually cold, and the 3 days we spent there were



no exception.

Each day that we walked was very different from the one before. The extended Settlers Track/4 huts walk wound through open valleys and cleared rolling hills, past the sites of long forgotten homesteads, and more intact settlers huts, giving us an idea of what a hard life the original settlers would have had.



The Mt Clear/Border Track took us in the opposite direction, through bush that will take years to recover from the fires. We found Sam's dunny, then climbed the lower spur of Mt Clear that gave us access to the aptly named Border Track, that follows the NSW/ACT border giving us views to the snow covered Main Range. Then before packing up on Tuesday we followed the Naas Valley and the Australian Bicentennial Track to Demanding Hut, which had been destroyed by the fires.

Woods Reserve is in the northern part of the park and had hot showers!!! From this side of the park we visited Gibraltar Falls, Square Rock, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and The Australian Deep Space Centre. Our final walk to Mt Gingera via Stockyard Spur (580m climb in first 2km) and Pryors Hut was in sunshine and blue skies.



It was a great week away, discovering a new area, that has so many more walks, that definitely need to be explored.

Deb





## Failed Fainters becomes Wandering Warby Wildflowers

It was with great disappointment, the day before we were to leave, we were told the road to Pretty Valley pondage would not open for another week.

Not wanting to loose the predicted sunny weather, a last minute trip was organised to discover tracks not travelled for many years, in the Warby Range.

The first section on Salisbury Falls track was a series of steps up a narrow gorge, with a trickle of water below. This soon became an undulating footpad with fields of wildflowers; pink, purple, white, red, with perfume from multiple bushes.

We were soon on Friends track, and the top of Mt Warby, where we had a 360 view between the trees, then continued on to the camping area, where there was surprisingly few people. Here the toilets were appreciated , and we then continued on Friends track, making sure not to take the tracks made by mountain bikes and animals.

Once again we were surprised to meet only two cyclists, and just a few walkers. We were all quite excited to see a large goanna up a tree, and later on a small snake. There was also a large interesting structure made from branches, that we decided not to enter, with covid distancing in mind.



Lunch was at Kwat Kwat look out, with expansive views overlooking Wangaratta and surrounds. Friends track led us to the Alpine Track, where we continued to have glimpses of the valley below, and noted the Grass Trees still plentiful.

Our loop walk finished back at the Salisbury track , where we meandered back down to the cars, very pleased to have enjoyed the warm weather, wonderful wildflowers, and wildlife . Thank you Sandy , Eve and Nola for joining me despite it not being the Fainters.

Pauline



## Weekend in North Kosciuszko National Park

The northern part of Kosciuszko has a lot to offer and is only 2 hours from Albury. Despite a less than ordinary weather forecast for the weekend, we decided to still go ahead with our plans. That's why we have wet weather gear, right?

After stopping in Adelong for coffee, we headed off to Log Bridge Creek Campground, where Ken had set up his camper trailer and spacious annex, just in case it did rain. We had the campground to ourselves and after putting up tents and having lunch, we set off on our walk to Blowering Cliffs falls.

The falls are accessed by a management track that then turns into a wellworn foot track that winds its way up through open forest to the falls. A bit of rock scrambling allowed us to admire the views from way up high. These falls form part of an imposing band of exposed rocks, with views over Blowering Dam and the Tumut River Valley.



Retracing our steps we got back to our campsite for happy hour just as the rain started. Thankful for Kens annex we stayed dry, as the rain got heavier. Saturday night was wild, and it was a great opportunity to see if your tent was really waterproof.

But by Sunday morning the rain had gone and the sun was shining for our walk to Waragong Sugarloaf. This walk is right on the border of the national park and the Bogong Peaks Wilderness area. It winds its way along Log Creek through the valley before climb to the summit of Warogong Sugarloaf for views across Blowering Dam, the Tumut Valley, granite cliffs and Bogong Peaks Wilderness.



After the rain on Saturday night the track was more like a river in places, but the grass trees and wildflowers in this section of the walk seemed to be thriving in the conditions and were spectacular. After admiring the views we retraced our steps and headed back down.

We had left our tents up to allow them to dry out and by the time we got back to the campsite, everything was dry and could be packed up easily.

Thanks to Cecilia, Rodney, Pam and Ken for exploring this new area with me. It was a great weekend.

Deb





## Member Profiles

### Ron Hammond

*Where do you live?* Albury

*Where else have you lived?*

Born in London and lived there for 24 Years before emigrating to Australia for 10 quid.

Went from Sydney to Melbourne, Tennant Creek, Brisbane, then New Zealand for about 6 months in the early 70s.

A short stay in Tassie then 18 years in Darwin before moving to Albury in 1990.

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

Been walking & camping all my life, but more seriously when we came down from Darwin and joined BBC back in 1990.

*Tell us about your first activity with BBC*

Dibbins Hut with our son Michael who walked bare foot all the way. Tough Territorians back then. Did that cause some controversy.

*What roles have you had within the club?*

Looking after Club equipment, Committee Member and started the Club website which was pretty basic back then.

*What do you love most about walking or other club activities?*

Good company and being in the outdoors.

*What is the club activity that stands out in your memory? Why?*

Too many great memories, Blue Mountains - see Bruce Key's report. Having a heart attack half way along The Great Ocean Walk.

*Which activity do you most wish you could do now?*

After having a heart attack any activity is a good activity.

*What are you doing to make the most of our current situation?*

Life is pretty normal in NSW apart from not seeing the grandkids in Victoria. Walks on Nail Can, a bike ride, trips to the coffee shop - just thankful we live in Australia.

*What's something new that you've done or learned since we've been required to stay at home more?*

Learned to enjoy life and be patient.

*Tell us one thing about you that most people wouldn't know.*

I run away to sea when I was sixteen and joined the Merchant Navy but only lasted six months.





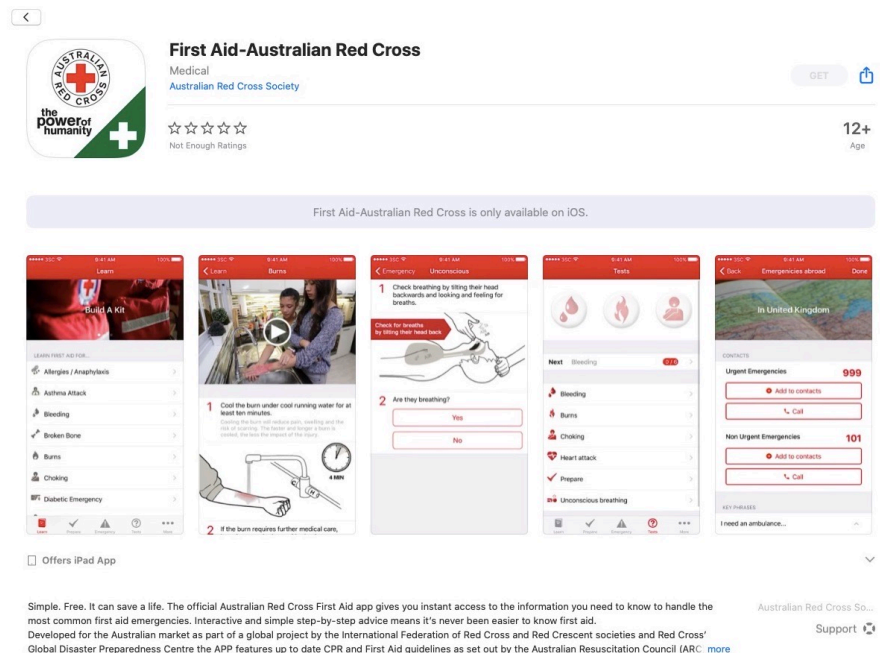
## Annual Leader's Briefing

Our annual leader's briefing serves two purposes; firstly to thank our leaders for giving club members so many opportunities to experience our great outdoors and secondly to go over the procedures required for planning and carrying out an activity.

Alas, the thank you on September 22<sup>nd</sup> could only be a verbal one this year as gathering for pizza and refreshments was not possible.

Leaders are just club ordinary members who take on extra responsibilities to share a favourite place with other members. As a result they need to keep track of different requirements and this has been made more complicated with the, always looming, COVID 19 this year. We rushed over a list of things and discussed a few new ideas in the 30 minutes that zoom allowed us.

Over the year leaders get many updates. The most recent one reminded them of the Emergency app and told them of the Red Cross First Aid app. If you have a smart phone I would highly recommend downloading these apps. Hopefully you'll never use them but they would be potentially life-saving if they are needed.



You may not be able to share pizza with you leader but don't forget to show your appreciation for all they have done for the club.

If you think you are ready to lead your first walk just contact me and you will be mentored through the process by an experienced leader who has done leadership training. Maybe start with your favourite local walk.

Thanks to all our leaders of walks, bike rides, snow activities and canoeing. We really do appreciate it.

Bernadette

Activities Coordinator.



## Members Forum on the website

This month's subject for the members forum is;

*Water, water everywhere.... a lovely paddle down the river or that walk that got a little wet*

This subject was added well before the heavy downpours we have experienced recently and so I am sure there are numerous stories you could add. Check out the forum. Thanks Ira, for your very wet backyard photo in lieu of a walk with Simon in the rain up Macfarlanes Hill

Would be great to hear from more members. Just type your post in the box at the top of the page. A photo always adds interest so click on the icon of a camera and you will be given the option of selecting your photo and then click Post Update. If you are not happy with your post, then cancel it and start again.

## 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 is open for business with slightly shorter hours.** 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 November 25.***