

FOOTPRINTS

February 2021

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

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Our First Club Night For 2021; Tuesday March 2,

You may recall from the previous Footprints we had hoped to be able to hold a club night in February in the Senior Citizen's Hall but unfortunately the hall committee notified us that it will not be available until further notice.

After some debate it was decided to start the year with a social gathering near the wood fired ovens in Hovell Tree Park Albury on Tuesday MARCH 2 starting at 6.30 with a BYO everything picnic/BBQ followed by an outdoor meeting at 7:00pm.

The topic for the evening is "My Favourite Walk" and members are invited to share theirs with us.

From the Vice President

With our President being super busy at the moment he has asked me to pen some thoughts this month.

Two thoughts stand out; the very encouraging list of new members that have joined recently and from the trip reports, they have participated in almost every event this month. Secondly, as new members were asked to write some of the reports, the glowing reference to our leaders is excellent news. Thank you for the feedback.

The Navigation course announced in last month's Footprints filled almost immediately with some on the waiting list. We are looking at the possibility of a second course later in the year. Watch this space.

Ian's letter during the month on joining this year's committee has already brought a response. Do we have some more to join this most enjoyable group of people organising your events?

Ralph

New members; a warm welcome to the following.

- Donna Carroll
- Debbie Hill
- Jacinta, Andrew & Kyra Bussau family
- Kerry Flanigan
- Lisa & Tim Knight
- Sandra Fogarty
- Neil Aird
- Richard Pfahlert
- Lisa and Tim Knight
- Andrea and David Palmer
- Sharon and Greg Pearl
- Ella Smith (rejoined)

Bushwalking Victoria Update

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.

The January newsletter is now available at <https://mailchi.mp/bushwalkingvictoria/bushwalking-news-jan-feb-subs?e=12de186b76>

Included is a request from Bushwalking Australia for a volunteer position needing to be filled and a new Cairn Hiking and Safety App among that may appeal to the those like to keep track of others on walks.

Eileen has provided a link to saving our Snow Gums from ANU

<https://www.saveoursnowgum.org/post/signs-of-dieback>



Trip Reports

Kelly Hut from Langford Gap

Steady rain on Friday meant I was up early on Saturday to check multiple weather forecasts and do a window test to decide whether the walk could go ahead. Luckily, by 6.30 am the rain had stopped although the clouds were still low. By the time we got to Falls Creek, there was very thick fog in the village, but this had dispersed somewhat by the time we reached Langford Gap, no doubt helped by the strong wind.

The low cloud persisted, joined by occasional drizzle, so it was definitely raincoat weather for the start of the walk along the sodden aqueduct track. We crossed the bridge and headed up the track through the snowgum forest, climbing over or under the odd fallen tree and pausing to admire the wildflowers still in bloom.



towards the aqueduct. One walker realised she had a painful ankle and decided it needed strapping. We took our packs off while she sat on a log to put on a bandage, then realised we were being attacked by an army of milit-ants. Soon we were all doing the one-legged slap dance as we tried to rid ourselves and our packs of the pesky critters.

To help the patient, I decided someone else should carry her pack and used my leader's delegatory powers to order one of the other walkers to take the load. He willingly obliged, being a close relative of the patient (by marriage) and an all-round good chap. I also decided that if the patient needed carrying, we would draw lots for the task! However, she was able to make her own way back to the cars. We had two new members on the walk, and we all agreed it had been an interesting and most enjoyable day. The patient undertook RICE therapy when she got home and was much improved next da

Once we reached the top, we decided to keep going rather than stop for a soggy morning tea, so we headed for Fitzgerald hut and had a snack there before going on to Kelly hut for lunch, when the sun came out. Over lunch, we had a vigorous discussion with a new member about what makes a good day pack.

Suitably refreshed and informed, and minus raincoats and sweaters, we headed down Kelly track



Eileen

Ryders Yards



Armed with a list of suggested equipment, I prepared for our first walk with Border Bushwalking Club on Feb 6-7 to Ryders Yards at Falls Creek. Given that we had approximately 50mm of rain on the Friday night and the forecast for Saturday morning was dubious, I would not have been surprised if our leader Ian Trevaskis had called it all off.

However, he either has an innate weather reading ability or just good luck, because we gathered at Cope's Hut carpark, in an unbelievable gale, but had not a drop of rain to dampen what was the first walk in very long time for most of the 8 participants.

The trek to Ryders Yards via Cope Saddle Hut was somewhat of a challenge, who would have thought walking in a straight line could be so difficult! But the gale managed to dislodge each of us from the narrow path on a regular basis. With snacks at this hut, we had the opportunity to converse with Eileen's day walking group before continuing along the aqueduct. We came across a rather well fed black snake that was happy to give way.

I particularly enjoyed the wildflowers, the button grass and the hues of the distant mountains.



Upon reaching Ryders yards and investigating the huts and campsite options, one tent was erected only to be dismantled again before the wind whipped it away. Inside for lunch, all manner of stoves appeared and we had a chance to get to know each other, discuss equipment and other adventures.

At this point Ian tried to bribe us with chocolate. In the middle of the afternoon, we adventured off to the "Secret Waterfall, it's location we have sworn not to divulge and enjoyed seeing the increased flow due to recent rain.



By late afternoon, the wind had died and up went the tents. The evening meal was held by the welcome log fire and then followed by an enjoyable game brought in by Ian to test our general knowledge.

Each of the group contributed to a pleasant evening and we learnt and benefitted from each other's stories, knowledge, skills and experiences and by checking out the gear and preferences of our fellow campers. We were amused by the Queenslander's river shoes with woolly socks and Ian's umbrella.

The cold night tested some campers' equipment, but the sunny, windless morning was a joy. We enjoyed a pleasant stroll out with many photo opportunities. After unloading the packs, we wandered to the nearby spectacularly equipped Cope hut and tent platforms set amongst unburnt snowgums.

The group reconvened at the Mt Beauty café for lunch and more stories and knowledge of special locations swapped. The majority of walkers were new members to the club and I don't think I would be off the mark if I said that we were very impressed with Ian's leadership. He was organised and competent, had a wealth of stories and advice and was just good fun. This group of rookies had a ball and I am sure you will be seeing more of us very soon.

Jacinta



Jagungal Circuit – Australia day long weekend

This circuit was a slight variation of one put on by Pete back in January 2016, extended to take in Mt Jagungal and cut off a night at Tin Mine hut.

After a Thursday-afternoon drive and car camp at the Geehi flats campground we drove up the hill and out to the Geehi reservoir. From here we went up to the Schlink (Hilton) hut, to Mt Gungarten and across the Kerries to Mawson's hut, cross-country over to Mt Jagungal and down to Derschko's hut, a short day back to Grey Mare hut, and then back down to the cars.



Rather than further repeat the trip itinerary, here are some pictures and some actual words Bernadette wrote about the trip while we were lazing the afternoon away at Grey Mare hut. (Ask Bernadette or Ian about the koala and camel references if you're unsure of them).

David

There was a koala named Kylie
With Ian she never was smiley
She decided to stay
And send Ian away
That Kylie, she really was wylie

David first mooted our trip
With ups, downs and places to dip
He led us all here
And we all gave a cheer
And tomorrow away we will skip

Pete and Ness, they both love to explore
And of food, well, they have a big store
They walk all day long
Then slip into sarongs
And the next day they say, 'let's do more'



Pam, well she says needs much more gear
It must always be useful and near
It's because she's female
Or that is her tale
But she carries it all with good cheer

John always tells us a good tale
Of sun, rain or snow and a gale
He's been everywhere
But he always takes care
To ensure he's safe home without fail

Now Sandy's our resident nurse
She ensures we don't leave in a hearse
She's always so calm
And administers balm
Without her things would be much worse



Mt Buffalo Circuit: Lake Catani, Macs Point, Og, Gog and Magog, Mt Dunn

Today I walked at Mt Buffalo for the very first time – and LOVED it!

From Lake Catani we started along the well-trodden Long Plain Track which meandered beside a pretty alpine creek. As we ventured towards Macs Point, I was pleased to see every intersection was well sign posted, as a couple of the tracks were not so clear and tested our agility as we scrambled over, or shuffled under, fallen trees.



Ron Hammond lead our group of five and frequently pulled out his well-loved topo map to show us where we were then, and where we were going next.

The scenery was ever changing through Snow Gum and Mountain Gum forests. Frequent beds of pretty wildflowers were radiant in the bright sunshine and Leanne commented, 'It looks like they are singing.' As we passed Wild Dog Plains and the varying vegetation, Leanne named a number of the wildflowers for me and pointed out some bush tucker.



If you have been to Buffalo, you have probably walked through the tall Alpine Ash forest and ooh-ed and aah-ed at the stunning view from Macs Point. Ron timed this well as an enjoyable stop for morning tea.

Rocky Creek Track led us north. Walking was enjoyable as Helen set a very comfortable pace.

Throughout the day we saw a number of spectacular rock formations and Ron was able to name each one. We

headed onwards and upwards to one of Buffalo's most striking granite peaks, Og, Gog and Magog. We enjoyed lunch in the shade overlooking our next destination, Mt Dunn.



Rather than walking along a fire trail, Ron lead us around the edge of The Reservoir, over spongy sphagnum moss and we crossed the dam wall, meeting up with another narrow trail. We gave way to a snake on the track and spotted more well used wombat holes.

A short, brisk walk up to Mt Dunn was a highlight for the newbies in the group! The fun ladder climb led to spectacular 360-degree views of the Mt Buffalo plateau. Truly an amazing landscape!

The walk back to our cars flew by as the group continued to chat and share stories. Richard, who is a fairly new member of the club was quick to sum up our day, 'This is the best walk I've done yet, a real cracker!'

Nicole

Canoeing the Upper Murray



Early predictions indicated that a lot of rain was on its way, but nobody was worried about getting wet, after all we were going to be on the river paddling. As the weekend got closer the forecast kept getting better, and by Friday we knew that we would be paddling on Saturday and Sunday in perfect conditions.

There was over 100mm of rain on Friday, in the catchment, and we launched our kayaks from Clarke Lagoon Reserve, on Saturday, into what looked like fast flowing chocolate milk. We let the river do all the work and only had dip our paddles into the water to keep the kayaks out of the willows, we didn't have to paddle at all. As we made our way downstream, towards our base at Walwa Caravan Park, platypus and a variety of birds were spotted.

We had lunch on the riverbank, under the shade of a giant river gum and by mid afternoon we were pulling our kayaks out of the water at the caravan park. Walwa Pub was very quiet until the 12 of us rocked up for tea.



After breakfast and a car shuffle on Sunday morning, we were back paddling. The river had risen at least another metre and the water was even browner, dirtier and faster. What I thought would take us 2 to 3 hours to paddle took less than 90minutes.

An early lunch booking at Jingellic Pub meant we didn't have too much time hanging round, and by 1pm most people were headed home.

It was another great adventure along the Murray and next year we'll do another leg heading down towards Lake Hume.

Deb



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 again. 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 March 24, 2021.