

FOOTPRINTS

March April 2021

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

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From the President's Stump

What a fun night we had for our first Club Night of 2021! I'm pretty sure the new members outnumbered the rest of us and it was a real pleasure to meet such a diverse group of people, all of whom share a common bond – to get out and enjoy the outdoors any way they can - by hiking, camping, canoeing, cycling, snow shoeing and skiing.

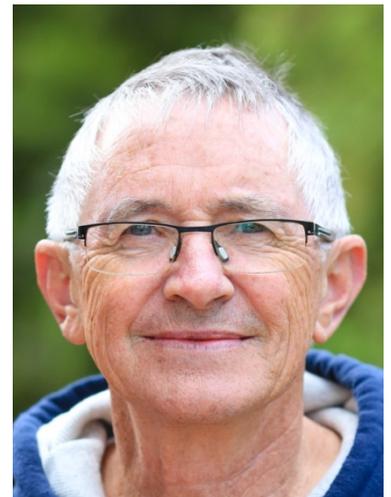
Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the gathering, apart from everyone's story about their favourite walk, was the way our current members welcomed the 'newbies', made them feel 'at home' and showed them that we are not just 'into bushwalking', but that we are also a very social and fun-loving bunch who don't take ourselves too seriously.

I hope that we can offer more of the same social gatherings over the next 12 months as a way to connect with all members and to forge new friendships. Whether that happens or not will depend on our new committee that will be decided at the May 4th Annual General Meeting, which is the perfect segue to remind you all that we'd love you to nominate for a position on committee and have your say in the future of the Border Bushwalking Club.

Please don't wait to be asked! If you feel you have something to offer the Club, can spare a few hours a couple of times a month and would like to do a bit more than just rock up for a weekend walk, then get someone to nominate you. Don't leave it up to that other member called 'Someone Else' to do it! A Nomination form is attached to the cover email advising of this issue.

And finally, a comment on the call out from Simon below for members to fill roles for the 2022 Federation Walk, 'Events Team'. It would be great if we can fill these roles as soon as possible so that we can get on with the organisation of this important event to be based in Bright in November 2022. (The 2021 Federation Walk will be held in the Gippsland Foothills and Southern Alps and based at the Licola Wilderness Village and will be held from 12th November to 15th November. For more information go to <https://www.fedwalks.org.au/>)

I look forward to catching up with you on an activity sometime soon. Ian



New members; a warm welcome to the following.

- Alice Smith,
- Nicole Jen
- Kerry Alexander
- Gillian & Frank O'Brien.

Federation Walk 2022

In 2019 Border Bushwalking Club nominated itself to host the 2021 Federation Walk and our nomination was accepted by Bushwalking Victoria. However, as a result of Covid-19 the club will now host the Federation Walk over the weekend of November 12-13, 2022, based in the North East Victorian town of Bright. The Border Bushwalking Club last hosted the Federation Walk in 2006.

A brief history of the Federation Walk

The first Federation Walk was first held in October 1935 and was organised by the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club who were foundation members of the clubs which formed the 'Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs,' now known as Bushwalking Victoria (BWV). The aims of the Federation Walk are to 'Unite all Victorian walking clubs for the protection and advancement of mutual interests to promote the pastime of bushwalking and encourage good fellowship among affiliated bodies.'

Today the Federation Walk has become an annual festival of walks conducted by host clubs in selected geographic locations across Victoria. The event is usually conducted over 2 or 3 days during November and involves up to 20 different walks per day, varying from Grade 1 Easy to Grade 5 Hard, activities can also include bike riding and canoeing. In 2019 the walks were held in the Otway ranges around Lorne and Apollo Bay and this year the walks will be held in Licola.

2022 Federation Walk will be hosted by BBC

Initial planning for the Federation Walk has included inviting Bushwalking Clubs from our region to co-host the event with our club. Early discussions with the Alpine Shire and Indigo Shires have taken place and arrangements to meet with Local Indigenous Groups, Parks Victoria and other stakeholders are also underway.

The Border Bushwalking Club committee would like to encourage and extend an invitation to interested members to join the 'Events Team'. The following roles need to be filled.

- Walks Coordinator**-manage walks, maps, help with leader briefings
- Marketing Coordinator** – Help with walks booklet, promotional material, communication
- Catering Coordinator** – Organise morning and afternoon tea, dinner etc.
- Admin /treasurer** – organise and oversee budgets, meetings, insurance, etc.
- IT coordinator** – organise website info, booking systems, communication to participants, etc.
- BWV Board Liaison and logistics coordinator**- organise venues, parking transport, safety, etc. (This position has been filled by Simon Mullumby).

If you are interested in being involved in this event, please contact Simon Mullumby on mobile 0418575956 or via preferred email simon@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Editors Explanation of date of this issue

This issue has been called March/April to correct a mistake made in naming the first issue this year as January instead of February. My apologies. You were all too kind to point out my error and so I have now caught up with the correct title.

Trip Reports

Feathertop Full Moon walk. Trees, Hills, Sunset, Moonrise and Sunrise.

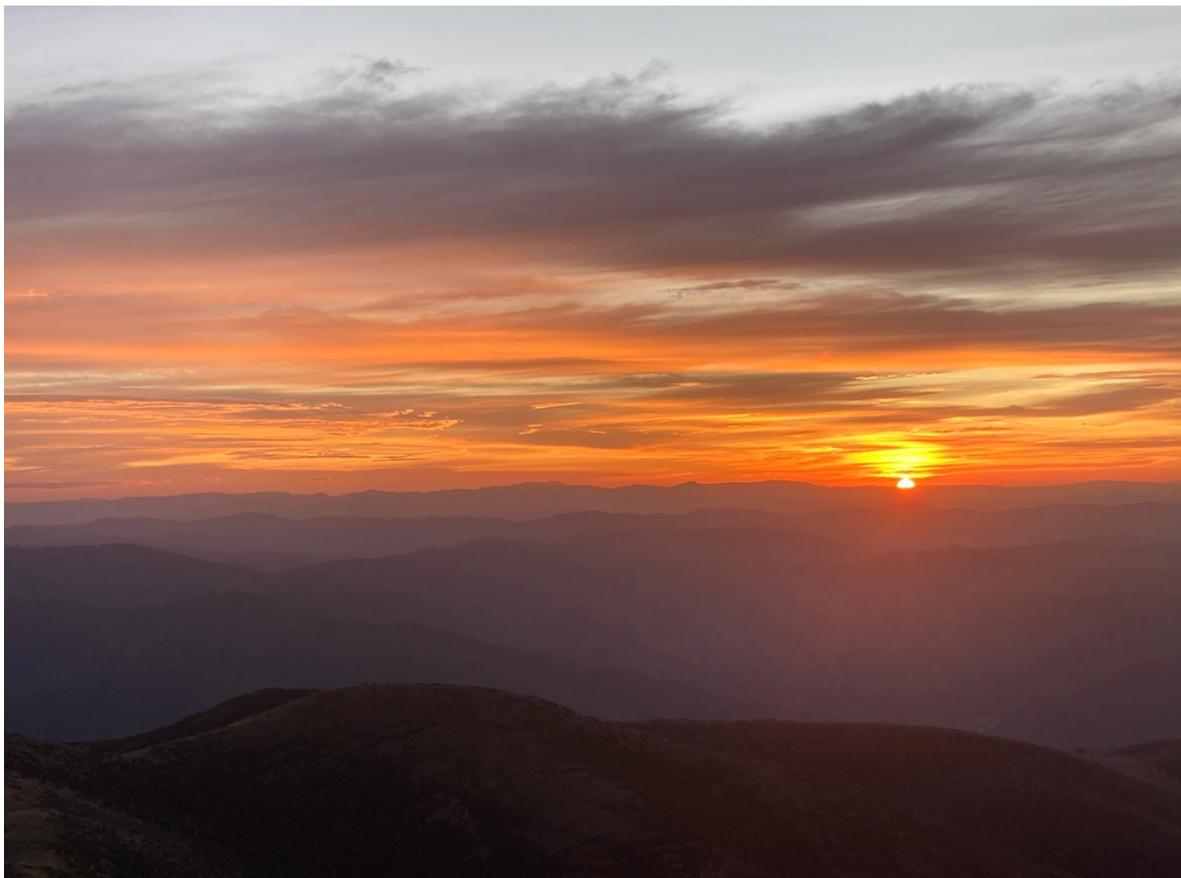
In late February the full moon occurred on a Saturday night. It was a perfect opportunity to have another try at a walk I love. For this walk to have a chance of succeeding it needs to be a full moon, in the warmer months, on the weekend, and moonrise can't be too late after sunset.

Twelve people signed up for this experience but, alas, due to injuries and other life events only six managed to come on the day.

Early in the week the weather was looking unsuitable but as the week progressed the forecast aligned perfectly with what I had ordered.



As a break from tradition we walked along the Razorback rather than Bungalow Spur. The long line of cars at the start gave us cause to wonder whether there would be room at Federation Hut but as the day progressed we realised that many of these cars belonged to day walkers. The day moved from cloudy and cool to sunny and pleasantly warm. A perfect day to take in the stunning views surrounding us on The Razorback.





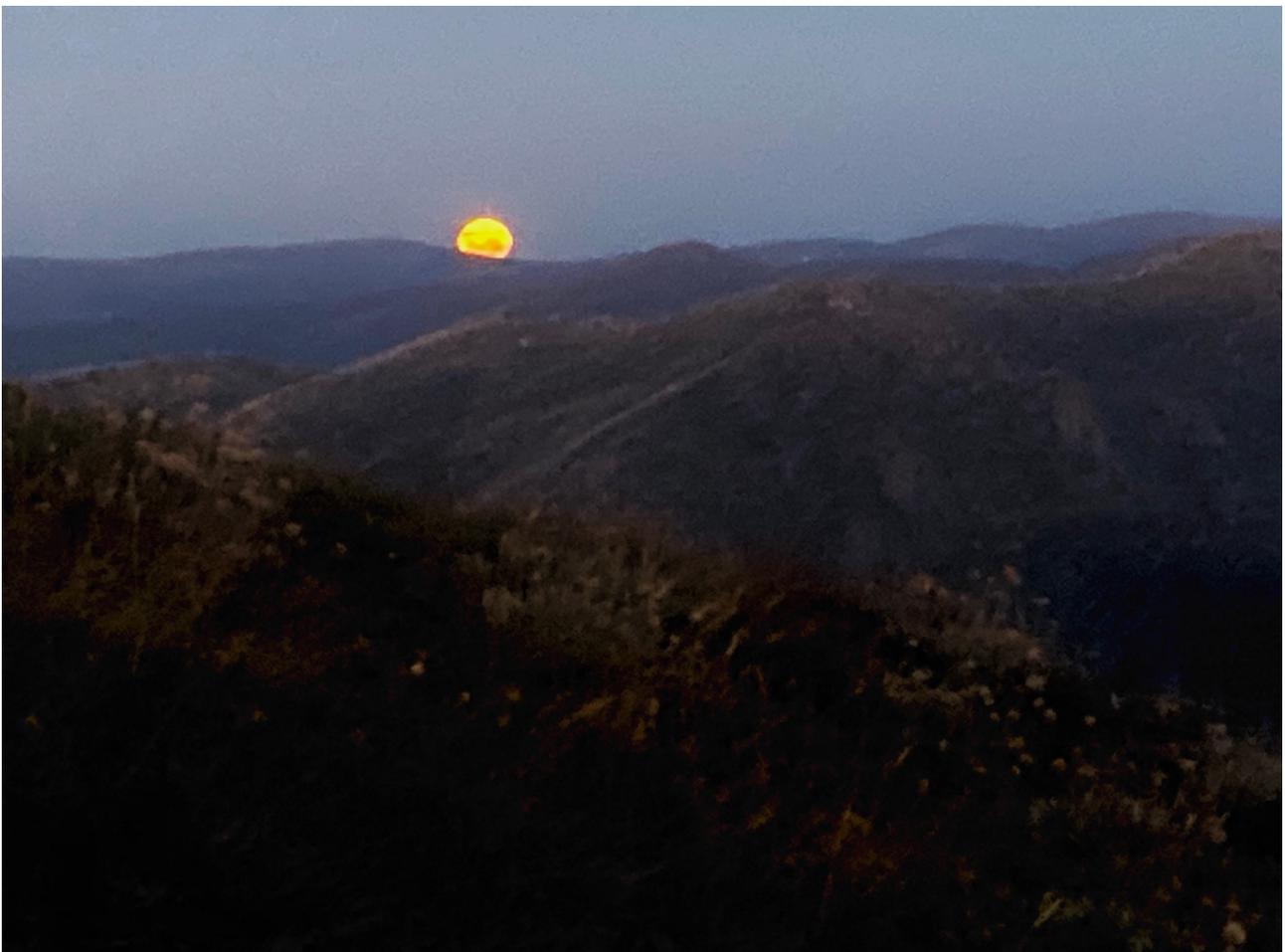
We were only the second group to arrive at the hut so we selected choice spots, set up, ate early and donning our much lighter packs, we headed up the hill.

I have lost count of how many times I've done this walk and many of them have ended in storms, thick fog, extreme wind and other conditions not entirely suitable for the full glory of sunset and moonrise. This walk was perfect. The sunset and moonrise were both exquisite and the temperature, whilst cool was quite bearable with the correct layering of clothes.

The camp area had filled up but most did not venture up in the evening so we had a very serene experience.

I was so taken by it that I'm going to try again in December. If I get sufficient numbers we could do a Bungalow Spur/ Razor back crossover. Keep an eye on the program although I should warn you that our President's reflection as we sipped on cold drinks at the end was: "really all walks are the same; trees and hills."

Bernadette



Cascade and Tin Mine Huts, Kosciuszko National Park



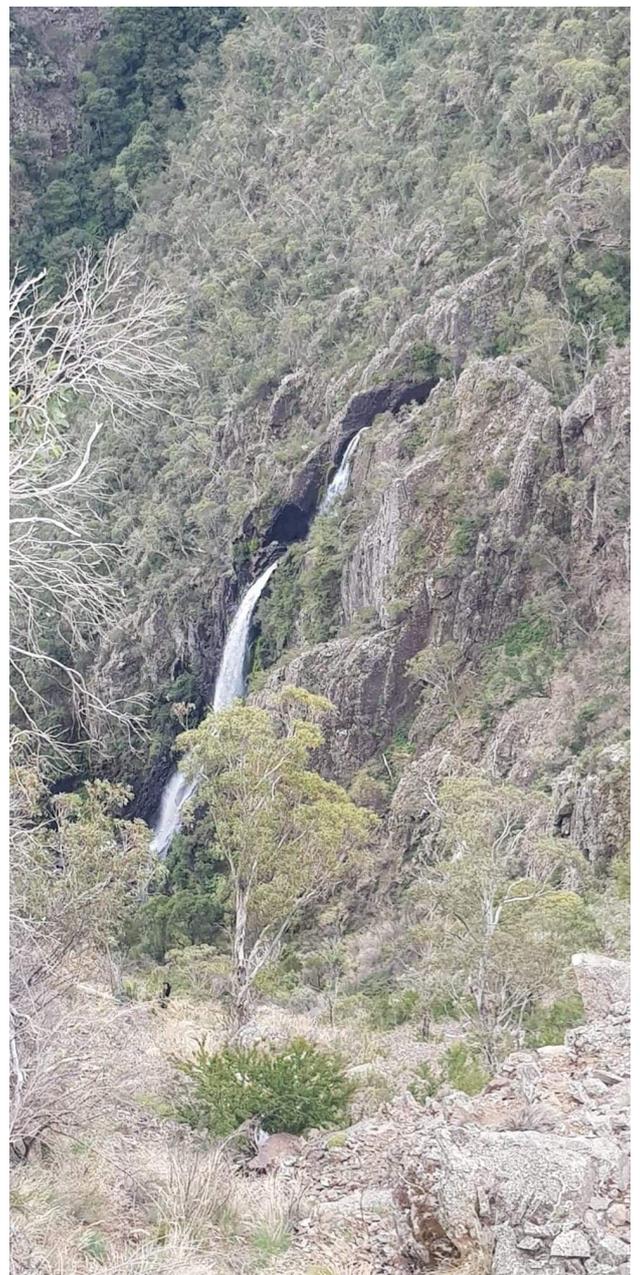
Our 4 days in The Pilot Wilderness area of KNP, and my first to the area, lived up to my expectations. Starting at Dead Horse Gap, we followed the Cascade Hut trail to Cascade Hut and onto Tin Mine Hut, before returning the same way.

The walk followed management trails, with the continual changes of vegetation, including flax Mountain Ash, snow gums and wildflowers reflecting the ascents and descents (1640m) along the way.

Whilst we were remote, we were not alone, sharing the track with walkers, bike riders, a baby brown and a couple of alpine copperhead snakes. We saw rosellas, yellow tailed black cockatoos and silver eyes and way too many brumbies, who have fouled and destroyed waterways.

Cascade Hut and Tin Mine Huts are both in good condition and with water close by make for really comfortable camping. We were able to wash each night and have a fire – thanks Mick and Simon, to sit around and relax, with a few others who camped with us, at both huts, under a bright full moon.

It was whilst chatting to a group completing a section of the AAWT, that we found out how to get to the highest waterfall (120m) in KNP, and the next morning, on the way out a side trip, following their instructions, was successful and the views of the falls from the high cliffs were stunning!



We enjoyed our time in on the Cascade Trail and I am keen to return to Kosciusko again.

Nicole



Frying Pan Spur the easier way

A sunny autumn day with a cool night and no wind meant this was an ideal day for ... a fuel reduction burn. Yes, by Saturday morning Mt Beauty was covered in smoke and as we drove up the hill and the smoke merged with low cloud it became obvious that we would not get the promised views.

Never mind, it would still be a good walk. Four of us left Howmans Gap in a stiff breeze that did little to disperse the fog, even when it turned into a strong wind as we walked up Road 24 towards the McKay Portal. This was morning tea stop and we sat where the huge pipe emerges from under the hills, carrying water from Pretty Valley down to McKay power station.



Suitably refreshed, we continued up towards the Pretty Valley Road into the teeth of a gale. When we reached the turn off for the Summit track that leads to the path for Frying Pan trig point, we decided enough was enough.

The views were non-existent and the thought of trying to eat lunch in such a windy spot was not appealing. Instead, we continued past Eagle Rock before taking one of the gentle home runs down to the village, past the huge 'Big Fella' bogong moth painting on the water tank. We took the steps down to the main road and headed for the day shelter by the post office, where we had a leisurely lunch while sprawled on the soft sofas there.



The final part of the walk along Packhorse track started very noisily because a helicopter landed on and then took off from the Gully car park where the track starts. However, it was soon gone, and we were left with the sounds of the bush. We stopped briefly for photos at Falls Creek Falls and greatly enjoyed walking along this delightful and well-made bush track. We were sheltered from the wind and the sun even came out briefly.

All too soon we were back at the cars after walking about 16 km. Even without reaching our objective we decided this was a

relatively easy route and we will try again to get to the Frying Pan trig point.

Eileen

Everton to Beechworth bike ride

Will it rain?

The question as an activity leader is at what point do you call off an activity? How bad does the weather radar have to look?

Luckily this bike ride was comparatively short – an hour and a half up the hill, and an hour to roll back down. So I figured to chance it.

Driving from Albury down to Everton the skies were overcast, but not a drop of rain. But on meeting the other riders, two of them from Yarrawonga and Finley advised they'd been driving in rain for the past hour. Oh well – hopefully it stays to the west then.

Our group of five started up the hill and made it to the half-way road crossing. So far, so good.

But then as we started on the next long stretch the clouds let go.

By the time we were in Beechworth it was raining steadily. It was only 11am, so we decided to continue with the 'town loop' before lunch.

The town loop goes from the old Beechworth railway station, along the edge of Lake Sambell, beside the golf course to the cemetery, and then the 'gorge loop' past the powder magazine, over the bridge and back around into town.

We then made our way into town for pies and coffees.

Fortunately, it stopped raining during lunch and the downhill was windy but dry.

Overall, it was still a pleasant ride and lunch. I really enjoyed the gorge part of the ride – it wasn't as steep as I'd thought it might be, and the gravel section was slow riding in the rain, but was quite doable without needing mountain bikes.

David



Two ways to Mt Howitt



Our walk to West Peak of Mt Howitt, had 2 routes, the harder route up Helicopter Spur and the not as hard route up Howitt Spur via The Howitt Feeder Track. Both walks started from our base at Upper Howqua Campsite and descended the Feeder track together.

As with most walks Helicopter Spur starts with a big climb. There are 3 rock ledges to negotiate before heading up to Bluff Track, and as you pick a path up to the top, the rock formations are pretty impressive. From Bluff Track it's a short walk to where you meet the AAWT and continue walking towards the West Peak of Mt Howitt.

Making your way across to Mt Magdala, Hells Windows and Big Hill you soon forget how much you have climbed up and down, because the views across the Howqua Valley to Mt Cobbler, The Cross Cut Saw and Mt Buller all set amongst the clouds made the effort well worth it.





The closer you got to Mt Howitt for the lunch meetup, it became clear that there was going to be no views today, it was a white out and the cool gusty weather made sure of that.

Our lunch meetup worked out perfectly and as we sat behind rocks hiding from the wind, with the clouds giving us little glimpses of the view we came to see, the chat was about the 2 different ways we took to get to West Peak for lunch. Sitting there we had a birds' eye view looking over the Howqua Feeder Arm path, the track everyone would descend together.

Whilst this track was not as rugged and exposed as the Helicopter Spur route, it was quite steep and slippery and became steeper and quite rocky 2km from the summit. Climbing this route, you look straight across to the Helicopter Spur route and the impressive rock formations.



Making our way off West Peak, we started the long climb down to the river flats. Here the track criss-crosses the river many times before ending back at camp. The next morning on our way home we had a quick side trip to Craigs Hut, which is up high and has spectacular views.

Mick

Navigation Training Day

During 2020 we were unable to have a Leader's Training Day due to COVID restrictions but there were still requests for the practical navigation that would usually follow the theory presented on the day.

A group of 9 assembled at Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park on the morning of March 13th. John ran through some theory to assist this group of varied knowledge and experience and then they were on their way. After the day, I asked if people could write a sentence or two to construct a trip report. Below are the responses I received.

It seems that the participants can navigate but not count sentences.

Today's walk was all about PASTA we were told, something that Bernadette had devised, we were told?? Well my day started with Perfect weather, then continued with Astounding information from John on the use of a compass and map, followed up with lots of Smiles from the walkers and all Triumphant in their tasks!! A truly Awesome day!!! Thank you Bernadette and John for arranging this for us, I really appreciate it!!

Kerryn

Yes, Kerryn, it's true Bernadette did devise the PASTA acronym, at John's request.

1. An excellent presentation of elementary navigation principles was given by John after introductions and before the walk began.
2. The instruction was expertly followed up on the walk with each of the walkers having to lead the group by compass bearing to the next way point.

If we tended to stray off the required line John was at hand to carefully suggest a small deviation to the right or left might be appropriate.

3. I was very impressed that John had gone out previously on the proposed course to mark each of the six way points with a flag and a bottle hanging from a tree containing a prize for the navigator who was leading us on that leg of the course.

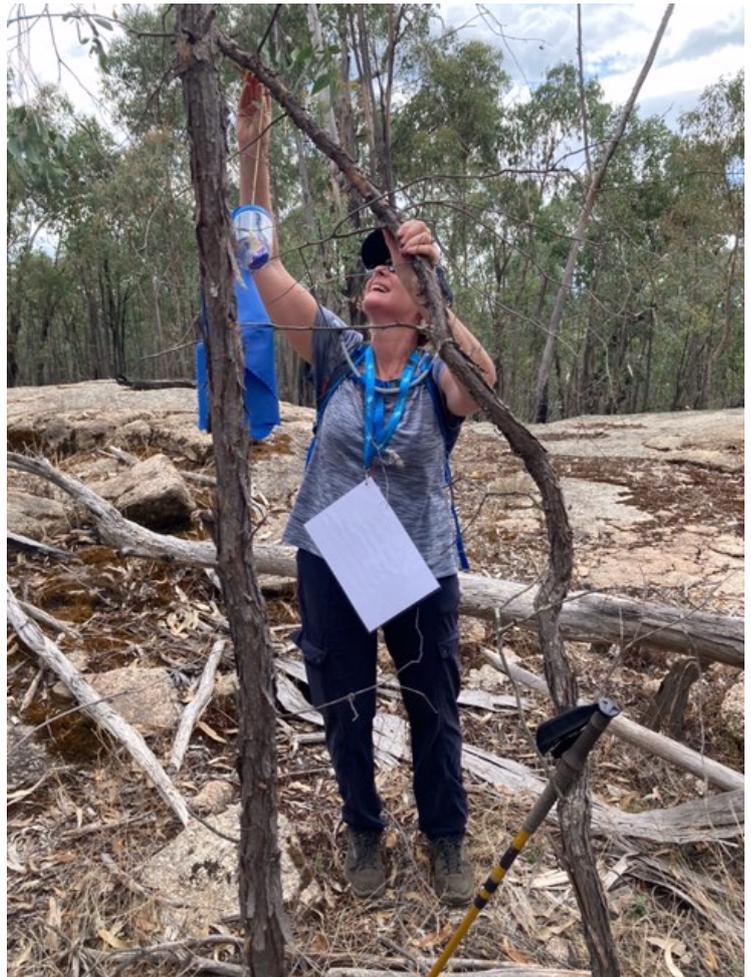
4. The terrain we were walking on was relatively flat, although the way points were often on the top of a small knoll. However, the walking was done straight through the bush, around trees, over fallen branches whilst trying to avoid whippy, mostly dead saplings that slowed progress somewhat. A well-used kangaroo pathway was seldom found for us to utilise.

5. The navigators of each leg also had the job of clearing cobwebs from the desired path, either with their walking pole or if missed seeing them, whilst concentrating on the compass, by walking straight through them.

6. We were walking albeit fairly slowly at times, because of the thick vegetation, from 9:30am to 1:30pm with a break for morning tea and small breaks at each of the way points to realign our compasses to the next way point.

Thankyou Bernadette and John for providing an excellent educational and enjoyable morning for us.

Graham.



Many thanks to John and Bernadette, what a wonderful experience you've provided for novice navigators. I feel a lot more confident after this second round and might do a bit on my own over the coming months... the PASTA acronym is genius for remembering the navigating process too (someone should pass it on to BWV)!

Leanne.

By the way Leanne, PASTA is already being used by BWV. It is in their training manual.

I have been interested in basic navigation for a while, but I had only read books and watched YouTube clips. I really appreciated the opportunity to put this into practice. John explained concepts clearly and gave very practical tips to each participant as we took turns to lead the group. The PASTA acronym certainly helped me remember the order needed. The navigation course was very valuable with the added bonus of enjoying the sweet fruit of the rare Eucalyptus Candibarus trees.

Nicole



There is a BWV training day being conducted locally on September 11th so keep the date free to learn or revise lots of bushwalking skills. Information will be in the club's events calendar.

Bernadette

Changes to the 2021 Cross Country skiing arrangements

If you are new to the club and want to join in cross country skiing activities, read on as Warwick explains our cross country skiing activities are not listed in the events schedule on the website

Sic Transit Yahoo Borderskiers – Arise Facebook Borderskiers

Alas and alack, in December 2020 Yahoo ceased hosting Groups in its system and Borderskiers became a nonentity.

Borderskiers started in 2002 as a chat room, hosted by Yahoo, for Border Bushwalking Club members who enjoyed cross-country skiing. It became an easy way of organising ski trips at short notice, (as was often the case as skiing is very dependent on rapidly changing snow conditions).

The chat group also meant that the general membership wasn't inundated with cross-country ski messages organising trips of no interest to non-skiers.

It would be good to have a messaging system in place before the 2021 season. Yahoo closed its Groups without notice, and I do not have a current list of Borderskiers members. Hence this note to the BBC membership.

As a new chat room, I have created a Borderskiers private group in Facebook. Attached is a PDF of the front page of the group. I have nailed down the Security settings as hard as possible. A major problem with Facebook is I can only invite members who have a Facebook membership. Those folk without membership would need to enrol and that may be a decision they would not wish to make.

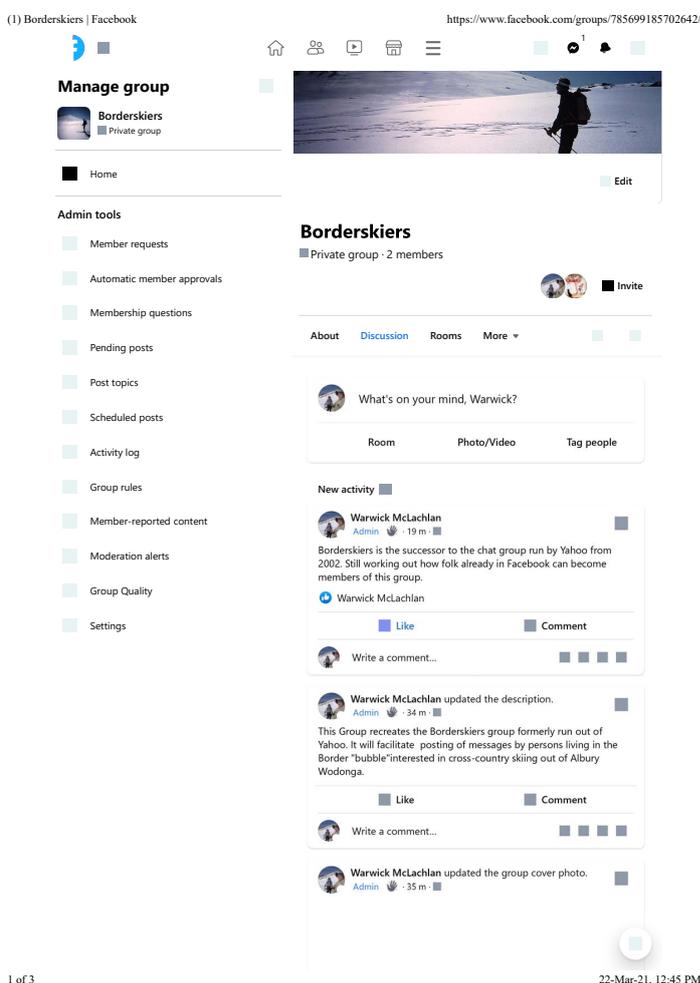
Therefore, may I get any alternatives that do not involve Facebook but which achieve an email chat group for the above purposes.

Contact me, Warwick McLachlan at mcla@bigpond.net.au with your views.

In the meantime anyone who wishes to join the Facebook page please do what is necessary to get a Facebook membership and seek an invite to join.

I am not a Facebook user of any substance so can't guide you through the process.

Warwick Lachlan



(1) Borderskiers | Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/groups/785699185702642/

Manage group

Borderskiers
Private group

Home

Admin tools

- Member requests
- Automatic member approvals
- Membership questions
- Pending posts
- Post topics
- Scheduled posts
- Activity log
- Group rules
- Member-reported content
- Moderation alerts
- Group Quality
- Settings

Borderskiers
Private group · 2 members

Invite

About Discussion Rooms More

What's on your mind, Warwick?

Room Photo/Video Tag people

New activity

Warwick McLachlan
Admin · 19 m ·

Borderskiers is the successor to the chat room run by Yahoo from 2002. Still working out how folk already in Facebook can become members of this group.

Warwick McLachlan

Like Comment

Write a comment...

Warwick McLachlan updated the description.
Admin · 34 m ·

This Group recreates the Borderskiers group formerly run out of Yahoo. It will facilitate posting of messages by persons living in the Border "bubble" interested in cross-country skiing out of Albury Wodonga.

Like Comment

Write a comment...

Warwick McLachlan updated the group cover photo.
Admin · 35 m ·

22-Mar-21, 12:45 PM

Bushwalking Victoria Workshop: Using Your Smartphone for Navigation

Sunday, 18 April 2021 from 09:00 - 15:00

Want to learn how to use your smartphone for navigation, anywhere, anytime?

Bushwalking Victoria is conducting a workshop on how to use your smartphone for navigation [on Sunday, 18 April](#) (GPS owners could use this course to practise their skills with their device).

In this workshop, we will look at how GPS satellite navigation works – the theory, practicalities, advantages and limitations.

We will discuss a variety of smartphone mapping/navigation apps, including Avenza, [maps.me](#) and Terra Map.

- Location: Outdoor Activity Hub Meeting Room.

Address: Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimmons Lane, Templestowe. (Melways 33 G1)

- What to bring: BYO lunch and snacks, smartphone (or GPS device), ruler, pencil, pens, wet weather gear, water bottle, cup/mug, mask.
 - Detailed course notes, activity sheets, and a map will be supplied.

IMPORTANT: After registration, participants will be sent detailed instructions on phone setup. **Preparation and pre-reading must be completed before the workshop.** Participants must already be familiar with basic map/compass navigation and be conversant with their own electronic device e.g. be able to update software and install new apps.

Please note that numbers are limited to 15 participants.

We will practise social distancing as much as possible; all participants will be required to bring a mask and wear it when requested.

Trainers reserve the right to cancel the courses if the Covid situation deteriorates.

Registration closes [on Thursday, 1 April](#). Registrants 16 and above will be placed on a waiting list in the event one of the 15 registered participants cancel prior to the workshop date.

A note from Ian

The following packs below to a neighbour who would like to get rid of them. They are probably suitable as day packs however I could not identify the capacity



- Deuter Backpack - new, \$100 (was \$180)
- Trek and Travel Backpack - used once, \$75 (was \$130)
- Contact Ian Trevaskis if interested - 0425782983



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 April 24, 2021.