

# FOOTPRINTS

## June 2021

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

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**Ira:** Meeting Suppers & Social Convener, **Dick:** Equipment Officer, and general committee members  
**Sandy & David**

## New Member Nights Tuesday June 1

Despite all the challenges of COVID, record numbers of new members have joined in the last twelve months. To help you all gain the most from your membership, whether new or current members, come along to the New Members Night to.

- Learn about booking activities, what questions leaders will ask and what do the levels really mean
- Understand how to hire gear from the club to try before you buy; tents, jackets plus much more
- Meet the leaders, put a face to the names
- Explore our website and links to other worthwhile sites
- Enjoy a Pizza before moving into small groups
- Visit our activity "stations" to understand what each has to offer and what equipment is necessary
  - Day Walks
  - Overnight Walks
  - Multi Day Walks
  - Canoeing
  - Cycling
  - X-Country Skiing & Snowshoeing

The Meeting location is Senior Citizens Meeting Room, at the rear of Cube Complex, Hovell Street, Wodonga (Havelock Street end of the car park).



## From the President's stump

Our Annual General Meeting was a well attended affair and all business was dispatched with quickly.

The presentation by Liz and Brad Nilbett that followed left us all in awe and admiration of their unique achievement in riding a massive 4250 kms across the top of Australia!

We have welcomed two new members to committee- Nola Houghton and David Butler and thank them both for their willingness to jump on board. We also welcomed back two former committee members in Dick Wellard and David Graf, both of whom will bring much experience and expertise to the committee.

We now have an enthusiastic committee ready to guide the Club for another twelve months, and I am very much look forward to working with them.



There wasn't an excess of nominations necessitating elections, which is a good indicator that members are happy with the way the Club is being managed and administered. Our comprehensive and diverse activities program is undoubtedly one reason for this and is a credit to retiring Activities Coordinator, Bernadette and to our Leaders.

The new committee and their roles are as follows:

- President: Ian Trevaskis
- Vice President: Ralph Simpfendorfer
- Secretary: Vanessa Crosby
- Treasurer: Eve Durham
- Activities Coordinator: David Graf
- Footprints Editor: Ralph Simpfendorfer
- Social Activities: Ira Robinson
- Membership Secretary: Nola Houghton
- Equipment Officer: Dick Wellard
- Historian: Sandy Kaitler
- Ex-Officio: Pauline McLaughlin (Publicity),
- Eileen Clark (Walks Recorder)

One of our first actions as a new committee was to plan for the **New Members Night** that will be happening on **Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**. We have attracted around 40 new members over the past 12 months and as well as making them feel welcome to the club, we'd like to let them know all about the activities we offer and to answer any questions they may have.

This night is also for all 'veteran' members to get to meet the 'newbies', and to ensure they are too are "up to speed". I would encourage everyone to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you on a track, a bike path, a river, or a ski slope sometime in the near future.

Ian Trevaskis  
April 2021

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

- Allison Wilson
- Petra Henniger
- Timothy Toner
- Lidia Martinelli
- Alwyn Friedersdorff
- Neil & Kathy Offner

## Fees for the June 2021 to May 2022 are now due

The committee have decided not to raise the fees for the third year in a row and this fee structure was approved at the recent AGM referred to in Ian's Report.

For new members who joined after January 2021, no further payment is required for this period.

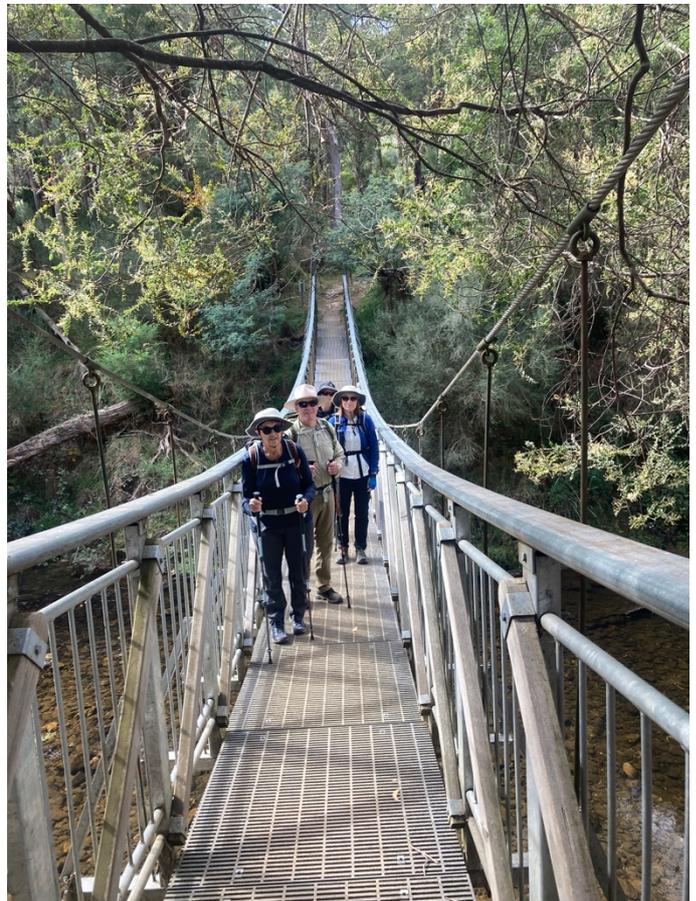
You can pay by direct debit to Border Bushwalking Club Inc. at Hume Bank; BSB 640 000, Account No 111104448 including your name in the description field for our identification.

- **Single Member \$45, Concession \$35**
- **Family \$80, Concession \$65**
- **Extra Family Member \$10**

## Trip Reports

### Chose you own adventure – Bright

What a title for a walk. Bernadette led this walk, and the photo includes some of the adventurers.



## Biking the rail trails

Over the past few months, I've put a number of bike rides on the program along the rail trails. We started with the easiest from Myrtleford to Bright, then went uphill from Everton to Beechworth, from Wodonga to Tallangatta, and finishing up with Everton over Taylors gap to Myrtleford (all rides were 'out and back'/return).

The rail trails really show how fortunate we are to have such great scenery so close to home, plus we got to see the changing of the seasons from late summer through to the autumn colour in the vineyards.



Thank you to everyone who came along!

David

Top right is Everton to Beechworth and the below is Everton to Myrtleford.





Both top pictures on the Myrtleford to Bright ride and below Wodonga to Tallangatta ride.



## Blue Rag Range

I've been meaning to do this walk for years, but I've not been free to book in when Deb's led it, or it's been cancelled due to bad weather forecasts. It is also one of those walks that's hard to schedule – the walk is all on an exposed ridgeline so the weather can't be too hot / early in the season or too cold / late.

Fortunately, this year everything worked, and we ended up with the perfect day for it – a bit cloudy so it wasn't too hot, but no wind or rain.

The walk is 14km return, with over 650m elevation gain, and is all either up or down – there's very little consistent flat.

The seven of us enjoyed the great views out either side of the range, but we were all struck by how little regrowth there has been subsequent to the fires. The ground was still quite visible under the dead tree stumps on the sides of the ridgelines.

Throughout the day we also frequently stopped and moved off the track as it is extremely popular with 4wds due to the expansive views.

Overall, it was good to finally do this walk, with great company, and I'd recommend that everyone tries to do it once to see the views. But I'll probably skip it for a couple of years now as up close it was a bit dry, dusty, rocky, and burnt, and there are so many more pleasant walks in the alpine region.



## David



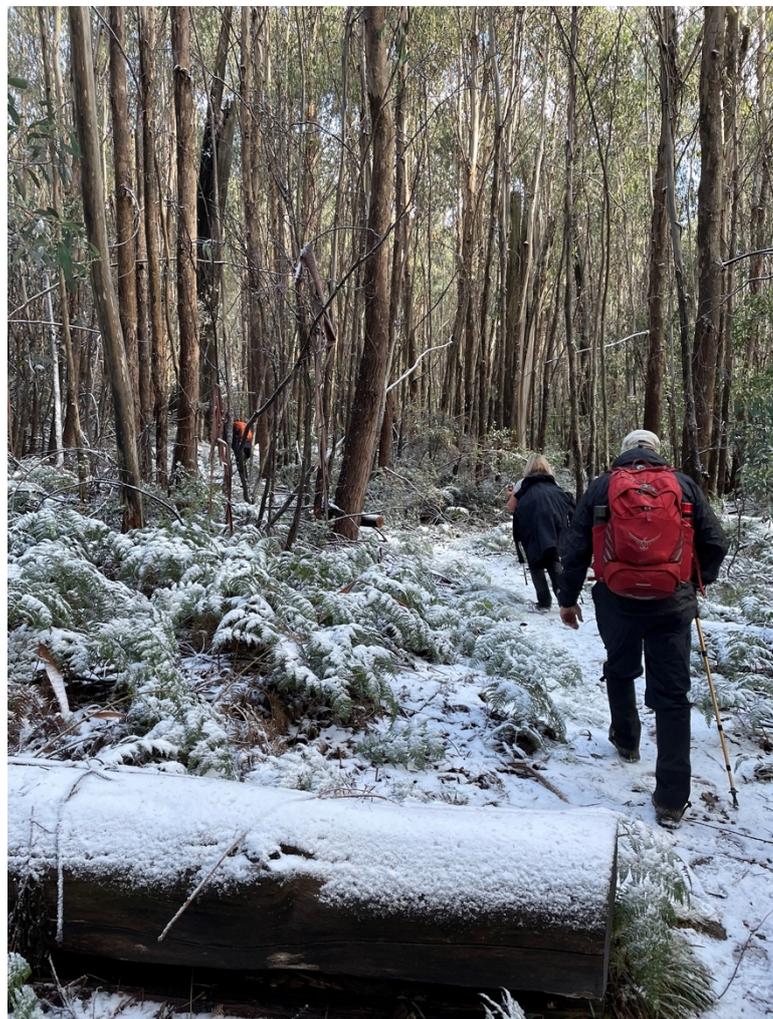
## Buffalo Views

The weather forecast in the leadup to this walk didn't look good. Over 80% of chance of a not-inconsequential amount of rain, falling as snow above 700m. Given the walk was to start at the 'rocky bit' below Mackey's lookout, which is about 900m elevation, I was hoping the rain would fall as snow and we could proceed as planned. Otherwise the plan was to turn back at the chalet.

Fortunately the rain stopped as we parked the cars at the start point. It stayed a bit cloudy all day, but it wasn't particularly cold (the jumpers came off on the uphill sections!).



We slowly made our way over the slippery rock section and then started to encounter snow on the ground not far after Mackeys. This got thicker as we got closer to the chalet and had morning tea in the shelter. We proceeded down past the underground river, up and out to the View point, and then had lunch in the shelter at Lake Catani.



We then headed back to the chalet and down to the cars, finishing just before 4pm. It was great to have nine walkers, including a visitor (Natasha), join me for the day.

David

## 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 June 24, 2021.***