

FOOTPRINTS

August 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

August Club Night, “If only I could”Tuesday August 3

Come and enjoy a cup of hot soup and share your plans for walking post COVID.

For some years now in the middle of winter, your committee provides soup, (fill our own bowl in these COVID times) and share stories around a chosen theme. This year with COVID still with us, we have chosen to ask everyone to give us a brief view of where you plan to walk “if only you could”. And hopefully in the not too distant future, you will walk there.

Perhaps it is climbing Mt Bogong, carrying a pack along the Larrapinta Trail, walking the West Highland Way in Scotland or just your favourite walk in our own Alpine region.



New members; a warm welcome to the following.

- Sharon O’Toole.
- Russell and Julie Holliday,
- Christopher Yianakelis.
- Belinda Gladstone
- Margaret Lennon
- Zibet Szacs vay,
- Naomi Seymour,
- Maureen Mew
- Louise Leary

From the President's stump

What a marvellous turnout for our recent New Members' Night! Almost 40 people in attendance at the Senior Citizen's Hall, the majority of whom were new members, or those interested in joining the club and becoming active participants in the many and varied activities we have to offer.

The evening kicked off with a clear and comprehensive presentation by David Graf, explaining the ins and outs of the website and how to go about booking in for an activity.

One of David's most important points was the obligation for those intending to book in for an activity is to make sure they call the leader personally to discuss the event. (A text message is NOT an acceptable means of booking in for an activity.)

After David's presentation, Dick Wellard provided an overview of the Hire Gear we have available. The Club has invested a substantial amount of money in essential gear such as tents, sleeping bags, back packs, first aid kits and PLBs, all of which is available for hire at very reasonable costs. This means members can 'try before they buy'.

Our intrepid Leaders were introduced to the audience. These are the men and women who are the mainstays of our Club and not only give freely of their time to plan and organise the fantastic activities on our events calendar, but also provide a certain degree of expertise and knowledge when it comes to outdoor activities. (Please remember to give your Leader a pat on the back and a big 'Thank You' after your walk, cycle, ski, or paddle. You might even buy them a coffee afterwards!)

The bulk of the evening provided an opportunity for new and prospective members to talk with Leaders about day walks, extended/multi-day walks, cycling, skiing and snow shoeing and to learn about the typical requirements for each activity. Our 'social secretary', Ira, made sure there was plenty of tasty pizza available while attendees moved around the various stations.

The evening was not only a showcase of our many activities and a learning opportunity for all those attending, but also provided an opportunity for us to extend a warm and friendly welcome to our 'newbies'. Congratulations to all those who contributed and thank you to all those who came out on a winter's night to show their enthusiasm and interest.

Finally, I have enclosed below a copy of a letter from Bush Walking Victoria I received last week announcing the opening of bookings for this years Fed Walks. Part of your fees go to funding BWV and one of their many activities is an annual walking weekend that brings together walkers from all the clubs throughout Victoria. The walks are for all levels and this year Licola is the location.

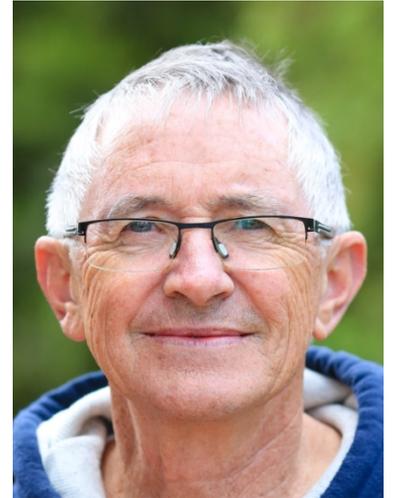
Ian

Fees are now overdue for the June 2021 to May 2022

The committee have decided not to raise the fees for the third year in a row and this fee structure is listed below. 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**



Reminder – Bushwalking Etiquette

Hi all, a friendly reminder of club bushwalking and booking etiquette as I have had a few discussions with activity leaders about this lately.David – Activities Coordinator

Booking in

- Read the gradings before booking on any activity. The descriptions of the gradings can be found on the website by clicking on the 'events' button on the top menu and scrolling down to the end of the event list.
- Ensure you have the fitness, equipment, and experience to undertake the activity you have chosen – this is for the safety of the group as well. Check with the activity leader if unsure.
- Book in for activity by the due date listed on the activity description. If there is no final booking date listed, then you can assume the final booking day is the Wednesday leading up to the walk for day walks.
- It is the leader's right to list which days or times they prefer to take bookings – PLEASE CHECK if any preferred days/times are listed and have the courtesy to respect/follow this.
- SMS/text/email bookings are NOT appropriate, unless the leader has specifically advised you that they are happy to take these types of bookings from you.
- If you have to cancel, let the leader know ASAP, so they can advise anyone who might have tried to book in and been advised the activity was full (ie in case there's a waiting list).

On the day of the activity

- Get to the meeting place READY TO LEAVE (or start) at the provided time. Some leaders will leave without you if you are more than 5 minutes late. This is especially relevant with winter (shorter days) and/or longer walks/activities.
- Advise the leader if you have a medical consideration that they should be aware of.
- Remember, the leader is a volunteer but is responsible for the whole group. Everyone's co-operation makes the leader's job easier and the trip more enjoyable.
- Be a team member, not a rugged individualist. Stay with the group, rather than race ahead or fall behind. The whip is to be the last in the group. Should you be in front of the group, you must stop and wait at any track junction.
- If you need to go off the track make sure a trip member or the whip knows, and leave your pack on the side of the track where you go into the bush.
- Keep an eye out for anyone who needs assistance, even if it is just a rest.
- Leave the bush as clean or cleaner than you found it.

Trip Reports

Ridge Lane, Baranduda

A slight drizzle didn't damper our enthusiasm on a recent Sunday morning expedition up Ridge lane in Baranduda.

It did make for a slippery track though, but the marvellous mist cleared to show the enormous eucalypts and panoramas of previously hidden farms and valley views.

We all felt steepness of the first climb, at 420 metres ascent over 3kms, but a good workout made our cup of tea, or a mug of soup, most appreciated and enjoyable.



Thanks to the walkers for their consideration and participation, and not grumbling about the (more) hills.

Pauline

The Tramways Walk



As we parked our cars on the side of the road, the roar of water could be heard, to give us a hint of what we would find. Sure enough, as we walked down to the East Kiewa river, the steppingstones across it were covered in a torrent of water. Behind us the Clover dam spillway was overflowing, the sight being quite fantastic, noisy and wet.



Everyone agreed not to try and cross the river, although there were many interesting and humorous suggestions on how this could be achieved.

A trip up the stairs was done to look over the dam wall and then back to the cars.

We decided to walk to the Clover arboretum for morning tea, enjoying the sunshine in this old village site. We then

crossed the bridge at the upper end of the dam and river and headed up to the Tramways railhead. A quick look around some old machinery, and then along the track, admiring the many gullies of tree ferns and thick scrub.

We took a brief side trip up one of these gullies and noted how the water was diverted into a pipe, then the aqueduct, then out down the hillside.

There are not many views along the Tramway, but plenty of mountain ash, tree ferns, fungi and moss covering trees and rocks. Snow could be seen on distant hills, and while it was cold in the shade, the sunny spots were warm and welcomed. It was a sunny spot we had lunch in, (near the usual lunch spot if coming from the other end), and then retraced our steps.

The tramway is now quite overgrown but remains an interesting walk, and I'm so glad we were able to walk some of it. I thank my twelve fellow walkers for their understanding in the change of plans, and for their exuberance in participating.

Pauline



Beechworth Hills

This was a walk I found in a club newsletter from 2005.

After meeting in Wooragee we drove to Woolshed road toward Eldorado, left a car at the end point (Long range track) and continued to our starting point at Reedy creek road.

We followed Reedy Creek most of the way up, and it was a gradual ascent on well graded 4WD track. About halfway up we found what we suspect was a fire break on either side of the track for the remainder of the climb. The climb was about 300m, reaching 500m elevation onto the ridgeline of Old Coach road.

The walk down back to Woolshed Road was along Long range track, but was a fair bit rougher and steeper in places than the track up. The overall distance was about 14km all up and 360m total elevation gain.

Not far from the bottom, we realised we'd locked the keys for the car at the end in a car at the start, so two of our group rushed ahead.

Luckily the car shuffle was only about 2.5km, so it didn't take long to walk this extra distance.



Overall, the walk was a really nice easy grade-3 easy-medium, with pleasant vegetation either side of the 4WD track with the occasional views. I'd definitely consider putting this on the program again next winter and suspect there could be a number of other nice winter walks in this area.



I'd also like to thank the other walkers on this trip. Of the 11 walkers, most were visitors or new members, and it was a really easy walk to manage with lovely people.

David

FedWalks 2021

Bookings Open on 2 August!

Dear Ian,

Please distribute this notice from the FedWalks2021 organising committee to all your club members.

The combined Gippsland clubs are excited to host the Federation Walks Event for 2021 based at the **Licola Wilderness Village** from **12-15 November 2021**. This year the event will be a unique experience, with an extended weekend of activities for participants to make the most of traveling to this remote part of Gippsland.

Choose from a suite of walks that highlight the southern section of the Australian Alps, showcasing mountain tops, deep gorges, waterfalls, and expansive snow plains. The program includes a variety of walks to suit a range of abilities, including some overnight options.

Join us on an adventure in our very special "back yard" - Come and be inspired!

The Program

Friday:

Participants will arrive during the afternoon or early evening, check-in and explore the village, have a swim, or relax before dinner is served. Enjoy a catch-up with your fellow bushwalkers. (Meals will be available until 8:00pm for late arrivals).

Saturday:

It is likely to be an early start as you enjoy your breakfast and prepare your own lunch. You're sure to appreciate the scenery during the drive to the start of your walk – the views stretch forever! Our experienced leaders will guide you through the diverse landscapes of the region. On your return, you will have time to freshen up before the Saturday evening activities start. This is the BIG NIGHT with a group dinner and our fabulous guest speaker **Beau Miles** –Gippslander and backyard adventurer. With a string of successful short films under his belt, Beau's exploits are funny, authentic and insightful.

Sunday:

You will be keen to venture out on your second walk after breakfast. Some will be heading off on an overnight adventure, others on another exciting exploration of this unique area. On your return you will be treated to some tunes out on the grass with local musician Courtney Jane, with refreshments available for your “recovery session”, showcasing Gippsland food and wine.

Sunday night’s dinner will be a relaxed one and we anticipate an early and restful night.

Monday:

A final relaxed breakfast will be provided on Monday morning before you pack up at your leisure and head for home.

The all-inclusive package of \$260 includes shared cabin accommodation and all meals from Friday evening to Monday morning (limited space for tents is available for those who prefer to camp).

We look forward to welcoming you to this remote part of Gippsland, the “Middle of Everywhere”.

More information and the walks program is available on our website:

<https://fedwalks.org.au/>

A variety of walks is on offer ranging from Very Easy to Very Hard –

choose carefully as when it says challenging, it really is!

Fed Walks 2022

As Ian advised a couple of months back, the committee decided to no longer be considered as the host club for Fed Walks in November 2022. This weekend is to be held in the Victorian Alpine region. However, our members will still support the event as the time moves closer.

If you would like to be involved in the initial planning please contact Simon Mullumby, Bushwalking Victoria, Federation Walks Liaison- 2022, 0418 57 59 56, simon@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au.

Simon is looking for all the help he can get recognising your role will as an individual, rather than representing the BBC committee.

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 August, 24 2021.