

FOOTPRINTS

September 2021

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

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Sandy & David B.

September Club Night, "If only I could"Postponed, yet again

Unfortunately, your committee has reluctantly decided to postpone yet again the club night we had planned for both August and September.

Will we tempt fate for a third occasion? Not sure; this will be discussed at our next committee meeting.

We all need things to look forward to in this time of lockdowns. Unfortunately, getting together with your club members is proving to be elusive.

At least some outdoor activities did occur in August and others are planned for September, check the trip reports below and the website events listing for updates as we all now know they change regularly.



The last reminder for payment of fees for the June 2021 to May 2022

Those members whose fees are unpaid by the end of September will be deleted from our mailing list on the assumption you no longer are interested in belonging to our club. We understand; interests change particularly in this current 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**

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

From the President's delegated stump...This is not a coup

Relax everyone and panic not! There has not been a cunning plot amongst your committee (or any other group of members for that matter) to usurp our fearless leader and install a revolutionary government. It is merely that Ian wants a bit of a break and I, in my wisdom, (or total lack of it) agreed to write this month's from the president's stump on his behalf.

Having agreed to this, it gave me cause to ponder on my perceived changes that have occurred within the club since I last took a really active interest some five or so years ago.

And there have been a number of significant administrative changes. The procedure for enrolling in an activity has become more formalised, as has the method of advertising club activities. We used to list all activities in 'Footprints' and accept a far looser method of enrolling. The obvious drawbacks to the "old" system where that activity leaders had less of an idea of the intended participants ability to cope with the activity to the possible detriment of all concerned.

I was slightly taken aback but hugely impressed with the lengths taken by one of our leaders to deliver a detailed risk assessment on a recent walk I attended. I appreciate the duty of care ramifications involved here and it seems to me the club has nailed it.

Oh the joys of computers and the internet.

When I first joined, the committee devoted an evening each month to mail out hard copies of 'Footprints'. Slowly but irrevocably, the number of hard copies dwindled as more and more of our members became computer literate. Now, hard copies are a thing of the past. Not only that, members can now access back copies via our web site.

When I was treasurer, the big percentage of club subscriptions were still collected, in cash, on club nights. Direct debit had been introduced but was not widely used. I wonder what the percentage is now.

Zoom and Skype meetings (fancy that!) have allowed your committee to function during the lockdowns. It is not that long ago this would have been impossible.

But not everything has changed

On a recent walk I was able to engage in the same easy banter as I had on countless earlier activities. There was still the generous exchange of information about the observed flora and fauna, still the incessant debate about who had the best gear and still the welcoming attitude towards new and somewhat lapsed members. Above all, there is still the feeling of belonging to something worth while

It seems to the writer that our club has changed what needed to be changed but retained those intangible values that make us what we are.

Dick Wellard

New members; a warm welcome to the following.

- Luke Crossman
- Julie-Ann Mills



Trip Reports

Chiltern National Park.

An enthusiastic group of walkers set off from the Honeyeater Picnic ground in the Chiltern National Park to begin the White Box Walk.

Under the guidance of our plant guru and Chiltern history buff Ira, we enjoyed a very leisurely stroll as we regularly stopped to observe a variety of plant life, learn some of the history of the gold mining methods, listen to and watch birds and just generally appreciate the magnificent environment we were in.

It was fun to spot orchids and learn of which wild flowers are beginning to show and will be in abundance in a few more weeks.

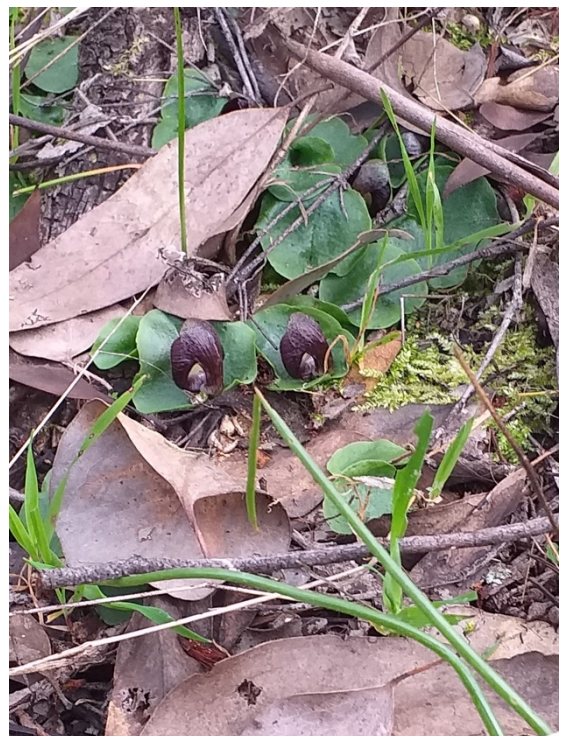


This walk usually takes a couple of hours but we just about doubled that time as we “oohed and ahhed” our way along it. I think we all learnt something and are keen to redo the walk mid spring.

Upon returning to the picnic ground we had lunch and about half of the group drove a short way to do the Skeleton Hill walk which goes through a very different environment. The other half, completely satisfied with the walk we’d done headed home.

It was a wonderful day and a really great group to walk with. Thanks Ira for such a brilliant walk.

Liz.





Cross Country Skiing Trip reports



Heathy Spur

A group of five finally made it out on to the Bogong High Plains in August after a few abortive starts courtesy of Covid. Very evident the lack of crowds & cars with Melbourne still in lockdown. Snow mass has dwindled but more than enough for a ski.

We headed for favourite haunts up on Heathy Spur. A fairly steady climb on an icy crust to well packed snow up top ideal for gliding & some fast downhill runs down into The Park near Hollonds Knob & the side of Marms Point. Lots of fancy turns were on display. Quite sunny with a cool breeze at times so plenty of sunscreen slapped on.

Panoramic views but heavy cloud obscured most of the Main Range. We hoped for a view while perched up on the rocks for lunch. Home along Paul's Track. A great day out – quite restorative for the soul long starved for a ski.





Edmundsons Hut

Another group of five headed out over Heathy to Edmundsons where a convivial time was spent chatting up the local constabulary who were doing a tour of the huts on skidoos.

Two of us opted to explore the eastern end of Heathy & around Hollonds Knob before we all met up again & headed for the timber on Marms Point for a late lunch. Then time to show off our turns but down Marms Point. Quite slow going compared to last week.

Snow conditions a little icy initially then soft spring snow. Sunny most of the day with a freshening wind. Could do with a good top up. Notable how many school groups camped up on Heathy - all regional schools making the most of the chance to get their time in the snow

Sue



Bushwalking Victoria Update

Part of your fees goes to supporting Bushwalking Victoria who produce an excellent monthly newsletter on all things that affect bushwalkers in Victoria

To sign up for direct digital delivery of the Bushwalking Victoria Newsletter please [click on this link](#) to sign-up: <http://eepurl.com/dG-X49>

Two articles in the recent issue impacts on our region

Yackandandah Creek State Forest Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Following engagement with Traditional Owners, the community, visitors, recreation groups and stakeholders, the plan recommends upgrades to existing campsites, improvements to the mountain bike trail, protection of historic sites, improved access, car parking, walking trails, and visitor information.

The plan was developed with state government funding of \$290,000 and will complement other major tourism-related projects in the Indigo Shire Council including the Beechworth to Yackandandah Rail Trail and the EPIC Mountain Bike Trail. [Click here for the draft plan.](#)

Warby-Ovens Park Earns International Recognition

Warby-Ovens National Park, located between the Victorian Alps and the Murray Valley, has become the first site in Victoria to be admitted to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas – a global standard for nature conservation recognising the best-managed sites on the planet.

The park was added to the Green List because of its outstanding natural values, including some of the best examples of Box-Ironbark Forest and Riverine Forest and Woodlands in Victoria, and world-class governance with input from Traditional Owners.

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 will reopen after lockdown Call in and have a chat to Gino and Wendy 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 September, 25 2021.