

FOOTPRINTS

October 2021

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

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October Club Night, still just dreaming and so postponed, yet again

Unfortunately, your committee has had to postpone our October club night.

Whilst border restrictions and lockdowns come and go with just a few hours' notice and our hall is closed indefinitely, we are not able to advise dates for any further club nights at this stage

Last year we were able to have a COVID restricted Christmas BBQ at the Hovel Park in Albury beside the Murray River. Watch this space as your committee looks at options for December.



The scheduled date is December 7 and we will do everything we can to provide an opportunity for all the members to gather together at least once before Christmas.

From the President's delegated stump...from the Activities Coordinator

I started my second stint as activities coordinator following May's AGM, 2021

So what does the activities coordinator do? Hmm... this isn't actually written down in the club rules, member's handbook or policies.

My view is that, in addition to having general oversight of the activities schedule, the activities coordinator is to take a leadership role in ensuring that club members can safely participate in activities, including through supporting leaders and risk management.

The club has policies to ensure consistent and safe management of the club activities and where appropriate ensure that all regulatory and legislative requirements are met.



When a leader submits an activity, it goes to the activities coordinator to approve before it's published on the website. The purpose of this is to provide a check that the activity is within the leader's capability to lead, and they have considered any significant risks or other club policy requirements.

Unfortunately, the current 'COVID times' have added another layer around being on top of whether activities can go ahead under the prevailing restrictions. From both a participant safety and club reputational perspective we need to ensure we're acting in accordance with both the letter and the spirit of the rules.

Regarding supporting activity leaders, the club provides formal support such as navigational, first aid and leader training days. Although sadly the leader training scheduled for September has been postponed.

However, the other side of supporting leaders is the mentoring aspect.

Personally, my first walk with the club was from Pretty Valley to Weston's hut led by Bruce Key in January 2013. From there I did my first overnighter (Mt Feathertop led by Deb), and eventually led my first walk to Weston's hut in March 2015 with Bernadette as my co-leader/mentor.

If there are any members who would like to lead an activity (whether 'big' or 'small') but are hesitant to jump in, please contact me via activities@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au and either I or another activity leader will get in touch with you. We would be happy to talk you through both the formalities (how to submit an activity, risk acknowledgement etc.) and support / co-lead with you on activities until you are comfortable.

David

Trip Reports

My Favourite Side tracks on Nail Can Hill

This walk was scheduled for July 18th and had a strict limit of 10. By the time bookings had closed I had 14 booked in. Maths? Meh! Of course, COVID, once again, had other thoughts and Victorian restrictions meant that only 6 of us actually walked.

After lots of rain and with more to come, we had picked a lovely winter's day.

The Unemployment track is a walkers' dedicated footpad which makes a pleasant contrast to the many fire trails on Nail Can. It became clear as we rose speedily up to the ridge that there were no slouchers on this walk.

After a period of navigating the Ridge trail we went down Corby, Cooper and Guy's Trails for a short break at the bottom; a favourite place of mine where I've been known to relax with a good book.

What goes down must come up but soon we were rewarded with Reedy Dam and the lookout for our lunch spot.



On the return trip, we went off track beside Florence Track for a short time to explore beyond the trail.

It was a very pleasant day in my own backyard. It was lovely to share the trails that I access regularly without the need to get in a car. I hope I can introduce to those who had to miss out soon.

Bernadette

And apologies from the editor: this report should have been included in the previous issue



Warby Range Walk

This walk was organised after the Glen Creek Walk could not go ahead due to covid restrictions on private property.

Ten participants met, eager to get out after lockdown, and head up the Salisbury Falls track. The Salisbury falls could be just seen and heard as we climbed steps, and crossed a bridge, with a good view to the valley below. This part of the walk, up a narrow, rocky valley, had a lovely scattering of wildflowers which Ira was able to name for us. Later in the day Ira also spotted an orchid that just may be a new species, and if so, of course should be called the Ira Orchid



The air was cold but the sun shone, and the walk continued to the top of Mt Warby and down to Wenhams Campsite , with only a few campers present. We continued on Friends track, which followed a small , meandering creek, a few boardwalks and bridge, and then into a forest of wattles before heading to Kwat Kwat lookout for lunch.

The views were spectacular, and massive flocks of cockatoos kept us entertained in the distance.

From Friends track we did a loop back to the Salisbury Falls track via the Alpine Views track, where the name says it all! This walk was varied in the tracks underfoot, and surrounding bush, with a few short steep sections, but generally just undulating. While some of the tracks are open to mountain bikes, none were seen.

Good news recently, with international recognition for the Warby Range. Below is from Parks Victoria.



National park earns international recognition Thursday 26 August, 2021

Warby-Ovens National Park near Wangaratta in Victoria's north east, 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.

Located between the Victorian Alps and Murray Valley on Yorta Yorta Country, [Warby-Ovens National Park](#) protects three distinct landscapes - the granite hills and woodlands of the Warby Range, the Box-Ironbark Forest of Killawarra, and the River Red Gum forests and wetlands of the heritage-listed lower Ovens River.

These provide a sanctuary for native plants and animals like the migratory Swift Parrot and the endangered Carpet Python. The national park is a haven for nature lovers and offers a wide range of recreational, educational and social opportunities including bushwalking, birdwatching, cycling, camping and canoeing.



So we walked in an Internationally acclaimed park, and had a great day of walking.

Thanks to all who came, and sorry for those who were unable to join us due to covid restrictions.

Pauline



Trip reports..... down memory lane

With lockdowns restricting our activities this past month, we are trolling through the archives to recall some of the most talked about activities from the past. This month Ian has provided an edited version of his article that appeared in Great Walks Magazine, describing the club walk he and 12 other club members enjoyed a few years ago. And Ron provides us with the history of our club's support for Youngs Hut, Bogong Alpine Area over the years.

Youngs Hut

This is a brief history of the Border Bushwalking Club's involvement with the maintenance of Young's Hut.

Back in 1984 a group of Club members were relaxing in Young's Hut. Back then it was a draughty unlined hut where the wind blew through gaps in the weatherboards. They realised that if nothing was done the hut wouldn't last much longer so a decision was made for the Club to take on the maintenance of the hut.

The first few working bees involved lining the hut with pieces of plywood - old tea chest pieces, and some insulation to help keep the draughts at bay.



Next, two small windows were installed above the fireplace for some extra light. A veranda roof came next to help protect the hut from the weather. I believe Parks Victoria assisted by delivering materials, mainly pine logs and tin for the veranda roof. Yes, curtains were made and hung way back then. New curtains were made recently. Old Members often tell the story of Ray Henderson carrying out the front step on his shoulders. Get out and see for yourself!

In the 1990's, I became involved in looking after the hut. With the help of some keen volunteers, a new floor bearer was installed. This involved lifting the hut by using a large pole as a fulcrum.

Next came the installation of the front decking. In hindsight, we should have gone the full length of the hut. We carried out nearly 90 kilos of timber for constructing the veranda decking, and some lining for the interior walls. The following year, we managed to fix up the chimney as the rear tin was rusted out.

Nearly 18 years ago the hut nearly burnt down due to burning logs falling onto the timber floor and setting it on fire. Luckily it was put out before any further damage. It was then decided a wood heater was needed for safety and to preserve wood supplies. Again, Parks Victoria came to our help, this time by helicoptering the heater out to the hut, saving us a long trip up the hill with a heavy, heavy wood heater. Installing the heater entailed carrying out some 80 kilos of premix concert for a new hearth. Again Club Members came in droves and we now have a smoke free and safer hut.





Roof repair came next mainly due to the roofing expertise of Chris Gay. On the western side, a new window frame was constructed and painted, thanks to Troy Gabriel

About 6 years ago a decision was made to replace most of the weatherboards as deterioration was setting in fast. This took nearly 18 months to organise. Blue gum weatherboards had to be cut and profiled to match the original boards, and the timber had to be seasoned for six months. The Victorian High Country Huts Association arranged all the timber cutting and profiling and ended up paying the full cost of around \$2000. Without their assistance this would never have been achieved by the club alone. How do you get so many pieces of

timber out to Youngs in the middle of winter? By skidoo of course, thanks again to Park Vic for delivering and stacking the boards inside the hut.

That was the easy bit, taking down the old timber and replacing the new timber required a tremendous effort. Lochie Gales, with his knowledge of hut restoration, and his team of hut restorers from the Victorian High Country Huts Association, plus some Club Members, lead the charge for this task. Getting the tools and equipment out to the Hut required half a dozen or so people pushing two wheelbarrows full to the hilt with tools, ladders and equipment from the fire track some 6 km cross country along the pole lines arriving at Young's Hut at 11 pm at night. The job took all weekend plus a day a couple of weeks later. Thanks to all those involved in this task.



Some old memories from Ray Henderson

I would like to let you know a few extra things that happened in the early days.

The first lot of materials were recovered from the upgrading of the Hume Building Society in Albury & I think they were carted to the site by Parks Vic.

I know at the time we arrived it had been snowing with some of us on skies & others walking. The materials had been covered with snow & were found by one of the party putting a foot through a window that had been delivered.

We had many fun times and enjoyed many drinks after the days work. I do recall Jim Poyner trying to ride a pack horse after a couple of drinks & us all drinking Bailey's Iris Cream which had been bought in by Dorothy Reidy. (Dorothy made the curtains)
On another trip I carted up a load of materials in the trailer only to discover that the fiberglass for the sky lights had disappeared never to be seen again. It had slipped out under the ropes. I do recall carting in the door step from Pretty Valley on my old pack Cheers Ray



On going maintenance on a Yearly basis keeps the Hut in reasonable condition for our grand children to enjoy The last working bee was to re oil weatherboards.

Ron Hammond



Swimming to the Twelve Apostles; The Club's Great Ocean Walk March 2016

The Great Ocean Road has long been regarded as one of the world's most scenic coastal drives as it winds its way along Victoria's coastline past sweeping beaches, rugged headlands and towering cliffs. While tourists from all over the world make the drive between Aireys Inlet and the Twelve Apostles, many aren't aware there's a much better, albeit slower route; a route that traverses cliff tops and beaches and allows travellers time to experience more than a mere glimpse through a coach window or a brief stop at some overcrowded lookout.

The Great Ocean Walk (GOW) opened in 2006 and extends around 100 kms from Apollo Bay to the Twelve Apostles with seven dedicated campsites for registered walkers at Elliot Ridge, Blanket Bay, Cape Otway, Aire River, Johanna Beach, Ryans Den and Devils Kitchen. Each site has camping pads, rainwater tanks, spacious shelters and composting toilets.

One of the beauties of this walk is that you don't have to be a hardened bushwalker to enjoy its many delights. It's been designed to provide a number of access points so if an eight day trek is out of the question, shorter sections can be sampled and if your pockets are deep enough there are options to hire gear, to be dropped off and picked up by local B and B providers, or to join a guided walk. We opted to hold onto our hard-earned cash and to spend eight days lapping up the breathtaking coastal views, strolling through ancient forests and attempting to swim our way to the Twelve Apostles.

A short walk takes us out of Apollo Bay and soon we're walking with the ocean on our left and rural farmland on our right. It's warming up so after an hour we hit the nearest beach for a refreshing dip followed by some nifty rock scrambling around Storm Point to Three Creeks Beach where we strip off, find a deliciously cool rock pool and dunk our sweaty bodies. After a leisurely lunch we head inland through shady coastal forests, slog our way up the track and by mid afternoon we're at the Elliot Ridge campsite.

After a night filled with the screeches of nocturnal creatures we head off early following a wide, undulating management road through towering forests of Mountain Ash until we descend onto the beach at Blanket Bay. After lunch the afternoon alternates between lazing on the beach and swimming.



We reluctantly farewell our slice of Paradise next morning and begin the gentle climb to Point Lewis Lookout, continue through coastal forests and make the steep descent into the Parker River Inlet where we cool our feet in the river before tackling the 300 stone steps out of the inlet. It's not long before our heaving bodies are crying out for another swim.

When Crayfish Bay looms into sight we can barely contain our excitement as we discard packs and clothes. The water is crystal clear, the sun is a golden orb overhead and we wouldn't be dead for quids. We spend an agreeable hour on the beach before continuing on and soon the Cape Otway Light Station bobs up on the horizon and a little later we're trudging through tea tree to our next campsite.



Just beyond our campsite lies the cemetery where we stop next morning to read the inscriptions on the headstones of light keeper's children and shipwrecked sailors before marching along the wide sandy track and across a wind-sculptured landscape of sand dunes, coastal scrub and sheer cliffs. We skip the side trip down to Rainbow Falls, and instead we imagine ourselves submerged in the serene waters of the Aire River and lo and behold, a couple of hours later we're doing just that!



From Aire River the track winds along the cliff tops, providing sweeping views of rugged headlands and open beaches where massive breakers march in from the Southern Ocean. After Castle Cove we walk through woodland and grass trees before stumbling onto the eastern end of Johanna Beach. Our gaze doesn't leave the sea as we trudge across the sand and as soon as we reach the end of the beach we're once again stripping off and running wildly into the surf.



We wake to the sound of crashing surf next morning and soon we're back on the track anticipating our next swimming hole. My notebook's scribbled entry for Day 6 reads "road walking sucks" which just about sums up the next two and a half hours as we drag ourselves up and down the gravel road until we reach Milanesia Beach. The rock pools here are so divine we have another dip after lunch before pulling on our boots and tackling the staircase-like climbs and plunges that eventually lead us to Ryans Den where, from the lookout above our campsite, we can see Cape Otway and the lighthouse in the distance.

The weather is decidedly cooler next day, a day that is probably the wildest and most challenging section of the track. With a strong southerly chopping up the sea we stride through forested gullies, reaching The Gable Lookout around eleven. Perched on one of the highest sea cliffs in mainland Australia we admire Moonlight Head and the reefs below before pushing on towards Wreck Beach.

We drop our packs and negotiate the 366 staircase steps down to the beach to watch the breakers rolling in before tackling the last three kilometres to the Devils Kitchen campsite. After pitching our tents we hasten down a steep track to the wonderfully wild and remote beach where the rusted anchors of the *Fiji* (1891) and *Marie Gabrielle* (1869) remain as reminders of the treacherous waters on this section of the coast.



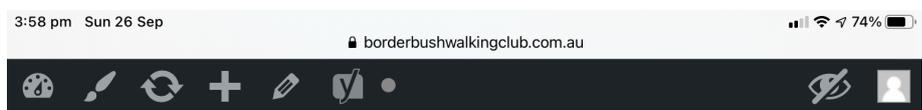
Inspiration for activities in our region

As Covid restriction turn on and off like a tap many of us scratch our heads looking for ideas of activities that are possible within the current guidelines, whether they be a limit on kilometres from home, numbers in group size, your family bubble members etc.

To provide some inspiration David has added a new dropdown menu on the web site under Events that list every event held going back to 2012.

Just click on Past Events and the events are listed in date order. Scroll though and click on any event to see the description provided by the leader at the time

For Those living in NSW and at times unable to enter Victoria and enjoy the high country, here is a walk that for some is an old favourite whilst many will not be familiar with.



- 03/12/2017 [Buffalo Bits](#)
- 02/12/2017 [Full Moon Walk - Ludlows Reserve to the Sandy Creek Bridge](#)
- 29/11/2017 [Eastern Hill/ Mungabareena](#)
- 28/11/2017 [East Ovens River Track](#)
- 18/11/2017 - 19/11/2017 [overnight on Mt McLeod](#)
- 18/11/2017 [Falls Creek Hidden Waterfall](#)
- 14/11/2017 [Budginigi Hill](#)
- 11/11/2017 [Falls Creek Mt Nelse & Edmonson's Hut](#)
- 08/11/2017 [Late Afternoon Canoeing on the Murray](#)
- 04/11/2017 [Mt Wills](#)
- 04/11/2017 - 05/11/2017 [Cascades Hut](#)
- 01/11/2017 [After work paddling](#)
- 31/10/2017 [Winton Wetlands](#)
- 28/10/2017 [Grandmothers Track - Koetong State Forest](#)
- 28/10/2017 - 05/11/2017 [AAWT: Taylors Crossing - Dead Horse Gap](#)
- 25/10/2017 [After work Paddling](#)
- 24/10/2017 [Sunrise on Eastern Hill](#)
- 22/10/2017 [MYRTLEFORD TO BRIGHT BY BIKE \(and return\) 62kms](#)
- 21/10/2017 [The Twins and Spargos Hut.](#)
- 18/10/2017 [After work paddling](#)
- 18/10/2017 [Weir Wander](#)
- 14/10/2017 [Falls Creek Ropers Lookout](#)
- 10/10/2017 [Baranduda Loop](#)
- 07/10/2017 [THREE BRIGHT HILLS](#)
- 06/10/2017 - 08/10/2017 [The Great Dividing Trail - Goldfields Track](#)
- 04/10/2017 [After work paddling](#)
- 30/09/2017 [Hume and Hovell track, Albury to Thurgoona](#)
- 29/09/2017 - 01/10/2017 [Snow camp weekend](#)
- 23/09/2017 [Circuit from Tawonga Gap](#)
- 19/09/2017 [Jindera Gap Loop](#)
- 16/09/2017 [Flaggy Creek Gorge](#)
- 10/09/2017 [MOUNT WELCOME](#)
- 09/09/2017 - 10/09/2017 [Snowcamp out of Falls Creek](#)
- 09/09/2017 [High Country Rail Trail Shelley to Koetong](#)
- 08/09/2017 [FRIDAY FITNESS AND FUN](#)
- 05/09/2017 [Club night](#)
- 02/09/2017 [THE ROCK](#)

The Rock NSW; track notes from David

The Rock (or Kengal) is located about an hour north of Albury. Drive down the main street of The Rock township and follow the signs. It's a couple of km out of town.

It rises about 300m above the plains.

The 'usual' walk is 6km out and return and is a solid climb but short and rewarding.

A couple of years ago a new track was opened – the Yugay track – which approaches the summit by first climbing the ridgeline to the north of the summit and crossing it, before deviating slightly down before joining the 'usual' track for the final push to the summit.



Be aware though that this alternative has a short scramble section where you will likely need to use your hands for balance, and it shouldn't be done in the wet, with small children etc.

Rather than doing either the 'usual' track, or the Yugay alternative, out and back, you could consider doing the Yugay track 'up', and then following the Yerong walking track 'down' back to the cars.

Ensure you take sufficient water and snake bandages on this walk.



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 has reopened 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 October 25 2021.