

FOOTPRINTS

November 2021

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

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Sandy, David B., Alwyn & Wendy

End of Year BBC Christmas Event; Tuesday December 7

The committee is inviting you to join them for a BYO EVERYTHING picnic at Browns Lagoon Garden, South Albury on Tuesday, December 7 from 5:30 pm onwards. We are planning on still operating under the “no sharing of food guideline” so unfortunately we will not be able to indulge in the usual amazing array of salads and desserts members have shared in the past. However, this may change. The committee will discuss the possibility of the return of sharing and still be within the Covid guidelines

An update will follow closer to the December 7.

We will set up near Harrys Hut so that those who prefer a barbecue will be able to access the barbecues and those who want refrigeration for your drinks, Harrys Hut will be open for our use.

There are fixed tables at the barbecue, but you may prefer to bring your own as it is a public area and there could be other people using it also.



Browns Lagoon Gardens is accessed by the Olive Street entrance at the end of Nurigong Street South Albury.

Finally, your opportunity to also share your thoughts on where you plan to walk now things are opening up again.

Also confirming there is no Club Night in November due to COVID restrictions.



From the President's delegated stump...two new committee members that Ian would like to introduce

Alwyn Friedersdorff

One beautiful spring day I joined my first wandering along the White Box trails with the Border Bushwalking club, such a friendly and interesting group of people, each of whom I felt I had known for years! At the end of the day it was suggested that I should join the committee. So here I am!

Why?

Born in NZ, so an early hill climber and skier and trained as a primary school teacher. I married an Aussie so moved across the Tasman and taught and worked with people with special needs, interacting closely with their families who also had needs, and was instrumental in developing an appropriate housing option for them. To do this, I completed a Post Graduate Course in Housing Management & Policy (Swinburne 2002) Fourteen years in local government gave me opportunities to serve my community and understand their needs.



I have volunteered in Fiji and Java and have been a political voice for older people and for women's issues, serving on three National Boards. As President of the National Rural Women's Coalition I attended the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN in New York dubbed as 'Australia's voice for rural and remote women' by our Federal Member for Women.(2018 and this year by Zoom) So I bring a variety of skills. However, I will not dominate as I have also learned the art of diplomacy!

Wendy Enever

I have been a member of Border Bushwalking Club for a number of years. My first day hike to Mt. Bogong via the Eskdale Spur many, many years ago began my love of bush walking. 'The Big Walk' is my favourite local walk, whilst the Larapinta Trail is my favourite all time walk (thus far). I am currently preparing for the End to End Great Ocean Walk scheduled for next year.

I share my time between my property in the Mitta Valley and my home in Wodonga where I will eventually retire. My hobbies include gardening, photography, reading, patchwork and eating chocolate. My favourite cuisine: Italian, especially a good Tiramisu; favourite movie: Shawshank Redemption; favourite book: now that would be like being asked to choose a favourite child; favourite music: very eclectic taste from classical to rock and roll but no thanks to country and western, hip hop, etc.



I have served on many committees as a member and executive positions. The Border Bushwalking Club is an excellent club and I feel proud and privileged to be a member.

I am looking forward to working with the committee and club members. I look forward to sharing many walks with you. I have lost a loved one to Squamous Cell Carcinoma so I will be the one covered from head to toe for sun protection.

New member; a warm welcome to

Maree Wesley

COVID Update from David

Firstly, unfortunately the differing (and regularly changing) state rules has been a real pebble in the boot the past 6-18 months.

Where are we now – meeting our minimum legal obligations

At the October committee meeting, the committee resolved to hold off on creating a formal/blanket club COVID policy mandating full vaccinations to attend activities, but to rather continue to follow the rules in place in the state an activity takes place at the time of the activity.

The risk acknowledgement form has been updated to provide a declaration/acceptance by participants that they are compliant with the state rules applicable to the activity.



I have summarised the current COVID settings below (as at 23/10). If you are not certain as to how they apply to the activity you are leading or participating in, contact me at activities@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

The above being said...

At the time of the last committee meeting, Victoria has not yet started to limit access to venues and activities based on vaccination status. It was not clear whether a club such as us could choose to mandate double vaccinations in the absence of a state directive.

This position has moved over the past few weeks and we are aware that a number of clubs have now introduced such policies.

The committee will revisit the issue of mandating double vaccinations at the November committee meeting and advise the decision in the December newsletter (or earlier via email if necessary).

In the meantime, some of our own leaders have advised that they only wish to allow double-vaccinated participants on their activities. The committee has been corresponding and support allowing this.

Club members/participants have the option to book into an activity, or not. That is, they have a choice. If we do not allow activity leaders to also choose whether they are comfortable going ahead with non-vaccinated participants (they will note this on the walk description), we impose a double standard by removing their choice. In practice those leaders will simply stop leading activities, rather than publishing a walk and then crossing their fingers and hoping they don't subsequently receive a participant booking they aren't comfortable with.

For those who would like more detail, the following extracts from the government websites are included below

Please feel free to provide your feedback to a committee member.

New South Wales - <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/rules>

From Monday 18 October 2021 restrictions have eased further after NSW hit the 80% (aged 16 and over) double-dose vaccination target.

If you **are fully vaccinated**:

- you can participate in an outdoor sport and exercise gathering of **up to 50 people**
- you can participate in an outdoor gathering of up to 50 people, for example, for outdoor recreation such as a picnic.
- you can travel in a vehicle with people you do not live with.

If you **are not** fully vaccinated:

- you can participate in a gathering for sport or exercise **with one other person** or with your household.
- you can gather with one other person or with your household.
- you can only travel in a vehicle with people you live with.

So... until 1 December 2021, unvaccinated club members are effectively unable to participate in our club activities if they take place in NSW (unless it's a recce with only one other person, that's been notified to me). The leader must ask, and you will be required to confirm and acknowledge in the risk acknowledgement form. The club has ways and means of responding to club members should they not conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

Restrictions are expected to ease further from 1 December 2021. For all NSW citizens, regardless of your vaccination status:

- Community sports permitted for all staff, spectators and participants.
- Carpooling permitted for all.

Victoria - <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-live-information-regional-victoria>

- Physical recreation facilities (such as gyms) and community recreation facilities can open with density limits and up to 30 people indoors and 100 people outdoors, if everyone present is [fully vaccinated](#).
 - **If vaccination status isn't being checked, a cap of 20 people applies.**
 - [In practice, we wouldn't ordinarily have activities with more than 20 people so I'm taking this as meaning we don't need to check for VIC activities with up to 20 participants.]
- You can see friends and family outdoors in a public place in a group of up to 20 people, including dependants. We strongly recommend that the people aged 12 and over who you are gathering with are [fully vaccinated](#).
 - This aligns to the above about max of 20 people if you don't know vaccination status...
- **Face masks are mandatory indoors and outdoors** for people aged 12 and over, except if a lawful exception applies.

But see also... Do I have to wear a face mask while exercising?

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks>

You do not need to wear a face mask when exercising if you are out of breath or puffing. You must carry a face mask with you at all times unless [you have a lawful reason not to](#).

- No mention of car pooling that I can see – so we'll keep the status quo of leaders can't require it, but can allow it if participants are comfortable. Face masks would be required as not exercising.

Trip reports

Three Bike Rides led by Ian

October is the perfect month for bike riding – the weather is not quite as chilly, the days are getting longer and the countryside is looking fresh and colourful. All these positives are balanced by the unfortunate negative regarding a particular, black and white bird that becomes a frightening winged missile intent on harassing cyclists.

Despite the magpies, a number of Club members and visitors have ventured forth on our treadlies to enjoy the many superb vistas in our unique neck of the woods – a nice change to be rolling along on two wheels instead of plodding along on two feet!

Early in the month nine bikers rode the rail trail from Ludlow's Reserve to Tallangatta in perfect weather. We made a short visit to the bakery before riding down to the beautifully landscaped foreshore where we enjoyed a pleasant lunch before riding back to Ludlow's.

A week later a full complement of ten riders met at the Happy Valley Hotel in Ovens for the annual 'Pub to Pub' ride. Once again, the weather was nice to us and we enjoyed a cruisy ride to Bright and then on to the Wandiligong Pub where we partook of some liquid refreshments before riding back to Bright for lunch.



The ride from Bright back to Ovens was a tad harder due to a fresh head wind, but it meant we all felt the cold beers at the Happy Valley Pub were a fitting reward for a day's hard "work".

The third ride was almost a replay of the previous week, the difference being that this time we started at Myrtleford and some of the bikers shortened their ride by starting and finishing at Eurobin. Once again there was perfect weather, the conversations were deep and intense, the breeze was at our backs and the beer was cold at the Wandi Pub.





Wodonga Views

Now this was the two hills, take three
And we gathered together with glee
The bubble had finally burst
And we said we will give it our worst

We met as a group from two states
Some newbies and others, old mates

Underfoot it was sometimes quite boggy
And the summit of Mahers, it was foggy
But the views took on sepia tones
And were captured on cameras and phones

After lunch at the very high river
The sun it appeared, just a sliver

I said 'Huon's not nearly so steep'
A promise I just couldn't keep

But we climbed 'til the bends
And we all became friends

We decided the fun of all walking
Is best coupled with laughter and talking.

Bernadette



A Picture is worth a thousand words from Nail Can in Spring;
a 9,000 word trip report from Bernadette



Two Bike Rides led by David

Earlier this year I bought myself a cheap mountain bike as I had an inkling it could be fun to trundle along some of the forest trails and quieter gravel roads in the local area. In the absence of being able to travel away, I subsequently took a week of work and went exploring each day. And I was right – the bike means the freedom to explore 4wd tracks without worrying so much about how far it'll be to back-track if it is impassable a few km in, and to cover more of the great local scenery in a day.

This past weekend I was happy to share some of these tracks with club members.

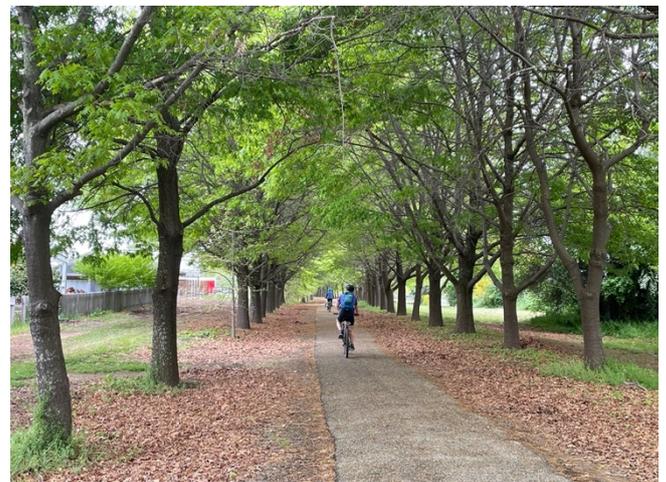
The first day was from Beechworth to Stanley and back. We took some quiet tracks through the historic park, past Lake Kerrford and Fletchers dam, we went into the magic forest, wound through Stanley and rode alongside the orchards, before heading back home.



The second day started with a bit of an uphill on a quiet road through farmland, but fortunately the hill wasn't as bad as I remembered (last time I had faced it at the end of the day so prudently chose to start with the hill this time). We then wound past the old Beechworth tannery, headed out toward Everton before turning back toward Eldorado with a fast descent off the Beechworth plateau down to Woolshed road.

We then followed Woolshed road back to the cars, stopping along the way to read the series of plaques dotted along the roadside about the history from the 1850's gold rush.

Thanks to those who came along for the ride and made them both great days.



Call to update your website information

We have made some improvements to the website.

Club members with family memberships can now add a second email so your husband/wife/partner can also receive club communications.

Alternatively, you can go incognito and complete the new drop-down box and say 'no' to receiving future club email communications (except for the annual membership renewal reminder).

David our activities coordinator would also appreciate it if all leaders, or prospective leaders, could go in and 'tick the box' beside 'leader' (or 'untick' it) so he knows who does/doesn't want to receive any leader-specific communications.

To do the above, simply log into the website, click on 'Border bushwalking club' on the top-left of screen, and then 'dashboard', and then 'profile' on the left. Scroll half-way down the page (sorry) and you'll see the relevant fields.

Optional second email	<input type="text" value="bushwalking@gmail.com"/>
Do you wish to receive email notifications?	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Leader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

An update from John H. on walking from Bogong to Ropers Hut

The chain that assists walkers to cross the Big River at the bottom of T-Spur on Mt Bogong has gone.

I passed through yesterday and the only part of the chain that is left are the turns around the log on the true right bank. The river is fairly high at the moment, so it is marginal to cross without it.

New sculptures added to the Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk, Albury

A series of new sculptures have been added to the 5.5 Km walk around Horseshoe Lagoon, Albury. Start from the Kremur Road Boat Ramp entrance to check them out in this beautiful weather. Alternatively continue for the 15 Km walk and take in Wonga Wetlands.



From Parks Vic; Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park sites reopening for November long weekend

Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park will start to reopen on 29 October, almost two years on from being devastated during the Black Summer bushfires.

The bushfires of December 2019 and January 2020 burned 95 per cent of the park, destroyed almost all the visitor facilities and left major safety issues in their wake, including unstable slopes and hazardous trees.

Located in the scenic Upper Murray, the national park protects two picturesque mountains with very different micro-climates and vegetation home to a wide variety of native species. Popular with local people, the park received more than 10,000 visitors a year prior to closure. Ranger Team Leader Scott Thomson points out that *“we’re also seeing life return to the park, with many of the trees and plants the park is renowned for re-emerging, including Black Cypress Pine, Phantom Wattle and Pine Mountain Grevillea.”*

Ahead of Melbourne Cup Day, the road to the popular Cudgewa Bluff Falls will reopen, giving visitors the chance to see the waterfall strongly flowing thanks to winter and spring rains. Foot access below and around the falls will still be restricted until new access steps can be installed.



Most of the vehicle tracks in the park will also be open and accessible from Friday, except for the Pine Mountain Track, where road reconstruction works are about to begin.

The return of visitors to the park is a milestone event for local park staff. *“We are really pleased to reopen Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park to the public following the devastating impact of the bushfires – we know how special this place is for local people”* says Scott. The reopening will be staged to ensure visitors can safely access more of the park as reconstruction work progresses. At this stage, the main visitor areas at Bluff Creek, Blue Gum camp and Hinces Creek will remain closed while burnt bollards, picnic tables and toilets are replaced ahead of the Christmas holidays.

Walking tracks remain closed for the time being while hazardous trees are made safe and destroyed infrastructure is replaced, but some of the most popular walks, including Bluff Creek Nature Trail, the Lookouts Walking Track and Pine Mountain Trail are expected to reopen by Christmas.

While Parks Victoria has carried out extensive safety works to treat hazardous trees and other risks, visitors heading to Burrowa-Pine Mountain must remain vigilant, obey signage and stay out of closed areas.

Please refer to the Parks Victoria website for up to date information relating to closures and change of conditions – www.parks.vic.gov.au

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, Wendy and Peter 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 November 23 2021.