

FOOTPRINTS

June 2022

*Newsletter of the Border Bushwalking Club Inc A5665
Affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria*

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Ira: Meeting Suppers & Social Convener, David B: Equipment Officer, Alwyn: Policy and general committee members; Sandy & Wendy

Next Club Night, Tuesday July 5, The Places I have Been.... plus soup

Are you looking for some inspiration on where to enjoy a well-earned break or even your first break for a long time? Join us in July to hear and/or share your adventures over the last two years, any adventure, big or small.

This night has traditionally been very popular over the years; snow fields in South America, high peaks in New Zealand, the Coast to Coast of the UK or more likely this past year some adventures closer to home.

As its mid-winter the committee are organising soup for everyone to warm you up whilst we share places we have been.

If you can share your adventure, please email 5 photos to Paul on paul.schirmer@westnet.com.au by July 1

New members; a warm welcome to

- Anna Murphy
- Stephen & Kathryn Coughlan
- Stuart Mason
- Jon Behrens
- Craig Johnson
- Olga Juskiw

From the President's stump

Thank you to all those members who came along to our recent Annual General Meeting. We only just managed a quorum, so your attendance was very much appreciated.

As you would have noted from my comments in the previous newsletter, your committee is pretty much the same again, apart from us farewelling Vanessa and welcoming back Paul.

While it's nice to know that our members are more than satisfied with the way the club is being managed, I would hope that amongst our 150+ members there are some of you who might like to step up and take a more 'hands on' role in the running of the club in the future. Some of our current committee members have been on committee for several years and might like to take a breather.

The 2022-23 committee and roles are as follows ...

Executive:

President: Ian Trevaskis

Vice President: Ralph Simpfendorfer

Secretary: Dick Wellard

Treasurer: Eve Durham

General:

Activities Coordinator: David Graf

Footprints Editor/Web Master: Ralph Simpfendorfer

Social Activities: Ira Robinson

Membership Secretary: Nola Houghton

Equipment Officer: David Butler

Archives/Assistant Secretary: Sandy Kaitler

Policies: Alwyn Friedersdorff

All Rounders: Wendy Enever and Paul Schirmer

Ex-Officio:

Publicity: Pauline McLaughlin

Activities Recorder/Statistics: Eileen Clark

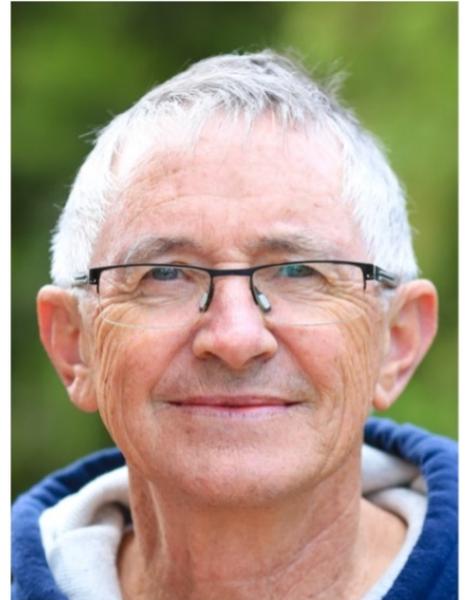
I am looking forward to working with a wonderful group of people who I am sure will continue to promote and support our club.

Please keep yourself informed of club activities and events by checking in to the website regularly and by making an effort to attend our Club Nights. Our Activities Coordinator, David has put some interesting offers on the program which I hope members will support.

Our next Club Night, on Tuesday July 5th is an opportunity for you to share with others some of the memorable places you've been in the past two years while enjoying some hot soups and crusty breads.

I look forward to catching up with you at the Club Night or on a bush track or a ski slope.

Ian



Lead with me

I've had numerous people observe to me (as activities coordinator) recently that there 'isn't much on the program at the moment'. My response has been along the lines of 'yeah but many of our regular leaders are catching up on travel delayed due to COVID'.

But the hard truth is that all our leaders are volunteers, as are the committee, and we all have other things in our lives. Also, there isn't a secret leadership initiation ritual, and you don't need to have been a teacher, manager, or whatever to be 'qualified' to lead a walk.

We keep writing in the president's reports, activities reports etc. to contact me if you might be interested in leading and we'll support you through the process (with a couple of 'successes'), but I thought we might try something different, and a little bribery.

I have added five placeholders to the program (for a start). I won't lead these – you will. Instead, I will co-lead, or be a silent observer – whatever you want.

- 13 August
- 3 September
- 24 September
- 15 October
- 29 October

I will work with you before, during and after the activity, to go through and explain all the steps involved, provide any assistance, feedback etc., - whatever you need to feel comfortable being an activity leader.

If you think one walk is enough, then great. If you need more then that's fine too. If the spots book up, I'm sure there will be other experienced leaders who would be happy to help out.

So if there's a walk you've been thinking about, then great our starting point will be the description and uploading it. If you don't have any ideas, that's fine too – we can discuss what kind of walks you like and know, and then decide on what to go with. Then it'll be a case of working (together) through the planning process, uploading, taking bookings, what leaders should do and think about during activities, and then any post-activity follow up if needed (e.g. hopefully not, but maybe an incident report). Again, I will hold your hand all through the process.

I'm happy to go with easy walks, hard walks, or in-between (although I don't ski – so I'd need to bring in another leader for that!).

Oh yeah – the bribery. I will bring a cake to each for the group for morning tea/lunch. Cake not pavlova. I was going to say not a packet mix either, although some of the packet mixes nowadays look quite impressive so it'll be a good one if it is. I'm clearly not up to Nigella's standard, and no guarantees (we'll blame the oven...), but you may be surprised.

If the spots aren't taken, I might substitute in another walk or bike ride. But there wouldn't be cake.

I'm away over June, but in the mean-time have a think if you would like to give it a go, and then contact me over July/August (0432 632 142 after 7pm, activities@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au).

David – Activities coordinator



Save the date..... Leaders Training Saturday, September 17, 2022

Judy from Bushwalking Victoria will again be joining us for a day of training in Wodonga.

It is a full day and includes things such as walk planning, safety and navigation.

This will be relevant for not just current/potential Leaders, but also for anyone who wants to brush up on bushwalking skills and stay safe, wants to give more to the club or wants to understand more about what leaders are doing behind the scenes.

Please put it in your calendars now rather than wait and risk other things 'coming up'.

David

How to get on board with Borderskiers

Our cross-country skiing and Snowshoeing activities do not appear on the events listing.

Unfortunately snow and weather cannot be accurately predicted a few weeks out.

We have an alternative system that Ian outlined at the May Club Night.

First if you are interested you need to download WhatsApp. It's pretty straight forward if you are not already using the App.

Next send Marie a text message on 0431 210087. Make sure you include your name in the message.

Marie will then send you an invitation link to join the Borderskiers message group.

Just follow the link to join; and you're in. You will receive a message each time a snow event is planned with updates if plans change. If all else fails ring Marie on above number.

Thanks, and congratulations to Eileen

The committee would like to thank Eileen for providing an excellent presentation to the Albury and District Historical Society earlier this month on the history of the Border Bushwalking Club.

Eileen is more than qualified to represent us having held almost every position on the committee over many years including President, Secretary, Activities coordinator as well as having lead walks for most of the almost 40 years of her membership of the club.



Trip reports

Kellys Caves

On Sunday 15 May, 14 club members and a visitor joined me for a walk out to Kellys caves at Beechworth. Apparently, the Kelly gang used to hang out here in the 1870s (gold rush times) and keep watch over the valley below.

Having been watching the weather forecast closely all week, we had a lovely slightly overcast day with no rain. After meeting in Beechworth, we did a convey out to the starting point for the 14km walk.

The first 6km went easily along a 4wd track between forest and farmland. Things then got a bit more interesting. We turned off into the bush and it started well following



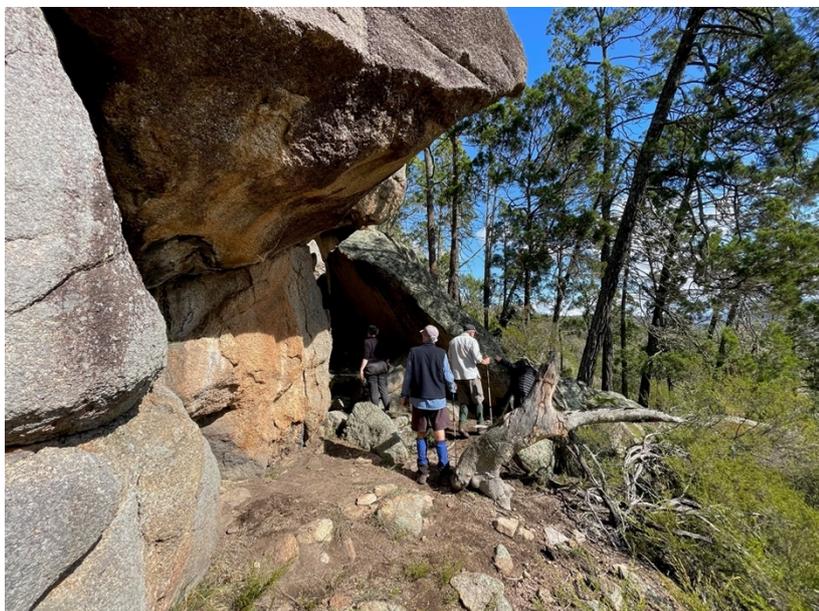
some footpads. Alas they kept going 'across' and eventually I had to call it and so we left the footpads to start going 'down' to the caves.

In the absence of a good route (just some sporadic cairns if you get lucky and find them), Kellys caves can be either really easy or 'less easy' to find. Unfortunately we hit some thick scrub, and then downed trees, and then a steep descent pushing through scrub and over branches.

Eventually we got to a point I felt was 'above' the caves but I couldn't see an easy safe way down so the group set up for lunch while I went for an explore. Mission successful and route found!

Following lunch we found the caves quite easily and had some time to look around. We then headed back up to the main track via a different, steeper but less scrubby, route.

Thanks to everyone for coming along and making it an enjoyable day. David

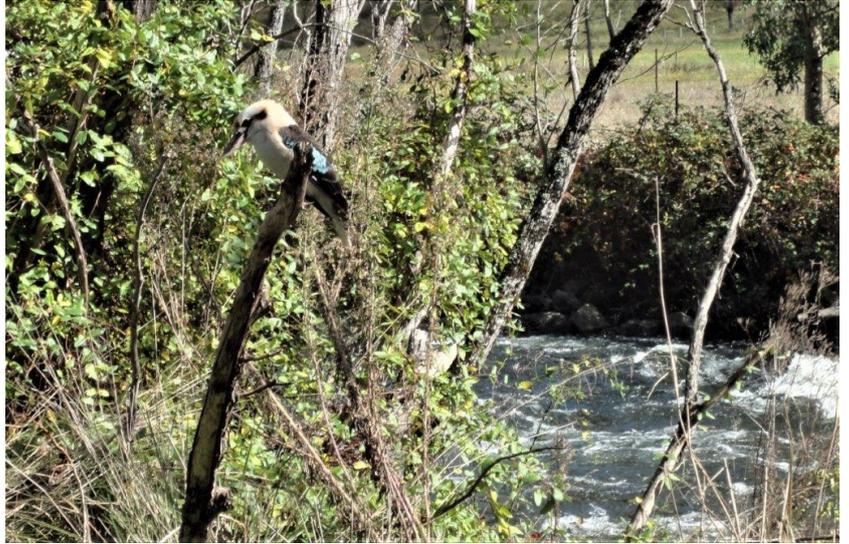


Mt Beauty: Three easy walks

Once again, the weather forecast predicted gloom and doom. It was raining at 6am, at 7am, and at 8am, but by 9am the sun was shining and it shone for the rest of the day, so that six of us could enjoy walking, talking and a picnic lunch beside the river, all while admiring the colourful autumn foliage on the trees around us.

On the first walk, we followed the riverside track that starts just near the little suspension bridge as you come into Mt Beauty from Tawonga South. This is a sealed path that winds along beside the river for about 2 km, with views up to Mt Bogong.

At numerous spots along the way we saw fly fishers hard at work, many standing thigh-deep in the fast-flowing stream, and we found out that they were taking part in a fishing competition, strictly catch and release with monitors on hand to record catches. We paused for morning tea at Pebble Beach, where someone had constructed a yarning circle from larger pebbles for us to sit on.



Next, it was a quick circuit of the pondage, the big lake that the township is built around. Mt Beauty is not unlike a miniature Canberra in that it was a planned town, built in the early 1950s by the Electricity Commission to house workers on the hydro scheme. The walk took us past most of the civic features of the town, including the library with its new mural, the sports ground full of junior netballers, and the neighbourhood house from where a café operates most weekdays.

From there, it was back to the car park to collect lunch and walk across to the picnic ground beside the river, where we had a leisurely lunch.

Then it was a short drive to the start of the third walk, the Gorge Walk, where the west branch of the Kiewa River cuts through towering rocks. This walk starts beside the car park opposite the Information Centre and after skirting the electricity paraphernalia cuts up through the trees and down to a suspension bridge over the river. From there we followed a footpath beside the river, admiring the huge rock faces and perilously perched boulders above us. The footpath finishes at the adit, where an information board explains its function. You can walk on further in the riverbed itself right into the deepest part of the gorge, but we chose not to do so and returned to the cars by a slightly different route.

We all agreed it had been a thoroughly enjoyable day. We walked about 10 km at a gentle pace, definitely at the easy end of the walks grading scale.

Eileen





FedWalks a Great Success!

Bushwalking Victoria's popular Federation Walks event finally came to fruition in Licola on 25–28 March. It was an overwhelming success, with over 200 participants enjoying a wonderful weekend of walks in perfect weather in this remote part of Gippsland. Originally planned for November 2020, the event had to be rescheduled twice due to COVID restrictions.

Participants from 32 member clubs selected from a smorgasbord of walks, with the 'classics' – the Crinoline, Kellys Hut, Mt Howitt and Bryces Gorge – proving popular. Special overnight walks included Lake Tali Karng, Wonnangatta Valley and Bryces Gorge, with the Macalister 4WD club assisting with logistics support. An experienced team of activity leaders guided the groups and shared their local knowledge of the area.

Mike Dower, Area Chief Ranger, welcomed participants to Gippsland's Foothills and Southern Alps, and Councillor Carmel Ripper welcomed walkers to the Wellington Shire on Friday evening. Entertainment was provided by guest speaker Beau Miles, a Gippsland local, on Saturday evening and by local singer Courtney Jane on Sunday afternoon. The Licola Lions Village accommodated all attendees and provided excellent facilities in a spectacular location.

A wonderful time was enjoyed by all. Praise goes to the organising committee, members of the Ben Cruachan and Strzelecki clubs, for their diligence and persistence in delivering a successful event. Thanks also to the Wellington Shire for their generous support.



The 2022 event is scheduled for 1–2 October and will be based in Wangaratta.

An opportunity to volunteer in our local walking areas

Parklands Albury Wodonga are organising a Wild Orchid Planting Project. For details on the event go to; <https://events.humanitix.com/wild-orchid-planting-project>

Event Date: Saturday 9th July

Join our rewilding planting days and help bring endangered orchid species back from the brink of extinction.

After hand collection of seed and careful propagation by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, we are assisting Murray Local Land Services for the next two weeks to plant thousands of delicate orchid seedlings back into protected areas in the region.

All hands are welcome to help get these seedlings into the ground.

Parkland are coordinating local volunteers and organising carpooling to the planting sites. Please [register here](#) to join the planting crew and receive further details of the planting days.

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.](#)

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.

They appreciate members coming in during a quiet time a few days early. You can then book any items for collection on the day before use. This avoids potentially arriving during a busy time when they are with customers looking to buy products.

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, 2022.