

# FOOTPRINTS

## September 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 Sept. 6, New Members Night plus buy, sell and swap

Despite all the challenges of COVID, record numbers of new members have joined in the past two years. To help you all gain the most from your membership, whether new or current members, come along to the New Members Night to.

- Learn about booking activities, what questions leaders will ask and what do the levels really mean
- Understand how to hire gear from the club to try before you buy; tents, jackets plus much more
- Meet the leaders, put a face to the names
- Explore our website and links to other worthwhile sites
- Enjoy a Pizza before moving into small groups
- Visit our activity "stations" to understand what each has to offer and what equipment is necessary
  - Day Walks
  - Overnight & Multi Day Walks
  - Cycling
  - X-Country Skiing & Snowshoeing

*Bring along your unwanted gear to swap or sell. Alternatively buy someone's gear that they no longer have a use for; always a good night for bargain hunters or new comers on a limited budget. Rock bottom process for quality gear.*

The Meeting location is Senior Citizens Meeting Room, at the rear of Cube Complex, Hovell Street, Wodonga (Havelock Street end of the car park).

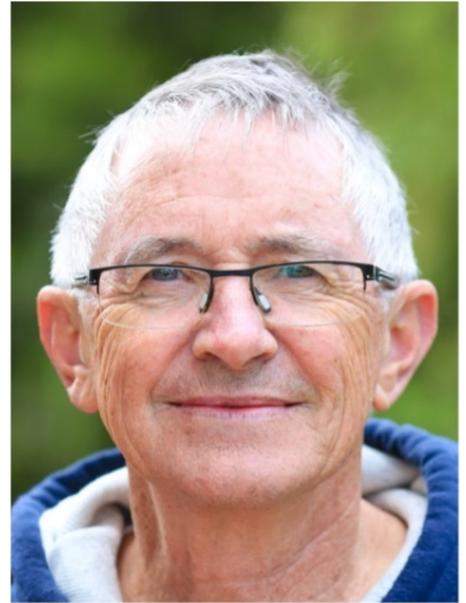
### New and returning members; a warm welcome to

- Alicia Gleeson
- and welcome back to Cindy & Rick Pickering

## From the President's stump

Hiking and bushwalking for the novice can be a bit challenging. There's the whole question of what gear will I need? How far will I have to walk? Is there an ample supply of water? Will I need thermals and wet weather gear? At some point the question of toileting will have to be addressed.

In large National Parks you will often find flushing toilets at the Visitor Centres but once you're out on the track you may only have access to a Long Drop where you will at least have the luxury of some privacy and a comfortable seat on which to do your business.



A couple of things to keep in mind when using the Long Drop ...

- Close the lid when you've finished – it keeps the flies out and the smell in.
- The only waste that should go in this toilet is human waste and toilet paper.
- Be very, very careful with your phone. (No fun if you have to retrieve it!)

If you don't have the luxury of a Long Drop on your hike, you should:

- Choose a site that is well away from water - at least 100 metres away to minimise toilet waste ending up in the drinking water. (If in a group, choose a designated area rather than digging holes all over the place.)
- Go off trail and be discrete. I can guarantee if you take a toilet break on the edge of the track a random stranger will suddenly appear!
- Leave your pack on the side of the track so that others know where you are.

### Number Ones

- If peeing standing up, then pee downwind otherwise you will get wet.
- Never pee on an electric fence!
- Ladies, if squatting to pee, look at where you are about to squat.
- Pee on flat ground or slightly downhill so your pee doesn't run into your footwear.

### Number Twos

1. Dig a '[cathole](#)' around 200 mm deep by 200 mm long. Dig it well in advance of needing it – hard rocky ground will mean it might take you quite a while to dig your hole - the last thing you want is to go in a hurry and have nowhere to bury your waste.
2. Squat in a stable position and aim as best you can - a learnt skill.
3. Cover the waste but don't bury anything else but the toilet paper and waste.
4. Clean yourself properly. In lieu of toilet paper (pun intended) you may have to resort to leaves, grass or even stones (preferably smooth!).
5. Backfill the hole and ensure that the soil is well compacted, and the waste is well covered.
6. Clean your hands thoroughly.

### Toilet kit

So, along with your wet weather gear, map and compass, water bottle and other essentials you also need to pack a lightweight trowel, more toilet paper than you think you will need and sealed in a zip lock bag, and a container of hand sanitiser. (Avoid sanitised wipes unless you are prepared to pack them out).

I look forward to enjoying your company on a walk or a hike sometime in the near future.

Ian

## Trip reports

### Chiltern Forrest

A chilly August morning saw 10 members gather at the Honeyeater Picnic area in the Chiltern Forest, all keen to brave the elements and enjoy the first signs of spring as the Golden Wattle flashed some of its brightness and patches of brilliant blue Hardenbergia entwined its way across the forest floor.

The little Helmet orchid was peeping through along the pathway and the projected rainy day turned out to be a perfectly dry walking day. The forest was full of happy bird calls and Alison named them for us. It was also full of enthusiastic chatter as our group contentedly wound their way along the trail with a good pace set by Alwyn.

The 8.5 km White Box trail took us past many holes and mullock heaps of the Golden Bar gold mining days where 289 kilograms of gold was extracted. After such a wet winter, quite a few fallen trees blocked the pathway, but not seriously.

In the space of three hours we had returned to the picnic base to enjoy our lunch and following this, to then pace ourselves up the steeper tracks to Skeleton Hill where the views across the region always impress.

We always wonder how this name came about so a Google result follows:

*And how did the name Skeleton come about - apparently in the late 1840s when the land was part of William Fury Baker's Eldorado run, one of his shepherds and his flock of sheep went missing. A search found the sheep a few days later but not the shepherd. It was a long time later that the shepherds body was found - a skeleton of bleached bones; hence the area where his remains were found became known as Skeleton Gully.*

We ended our very pleasant day of walking by indulging in a coffee at the Chiltern Bakery. Thanks to Ira for another great day out in our amazing world of wandering! Alwyn



## Mt Buffalo Snowshoe

This was to be the first of (at least) two snowshoes. This one being to walk from Mt Buffalo chalet to View Point and then Lake Catani for lunch, and the second one two weeks later to walk up to the Horn from the Cresta Chalet carpark.

Alas when we got to the Mt Buffalo Chalet it was clear that there was no snow on the path we were meant to be snowshoeing along! So, we crossed our fingers and headed toward Cresta – which is a bit higher up on the Buffalo plateau.



Fortunately, while there were some bare patches of road, there was enough snow for everyone to put their snowshoes on and give it a go. We walked up to the horn carpark, had a bite to eat and then went up to the lookout before lunch and back to the cars. Unfortunately, I then had to cancel the second snowshoe as there wasn't enough snow to make it worthwhile. At least we got one good day out! David



Photos from Borderskieters recent ski at Falls Creek



## How to get on board with Borderskieters

Our cross-country skiing and Snowshoeing activities do not always 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 Borderskieters 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.

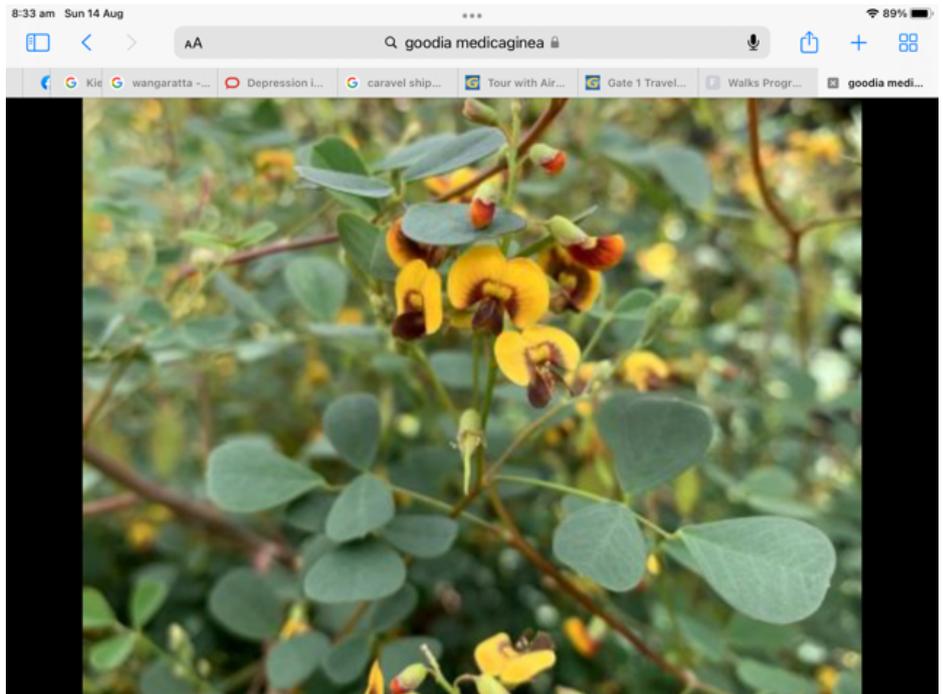
## There is more to walking than just walking

One can see all manner of things in the bush as we walk but this was not just another yellow pea flower plant.

While doing the recent Chiltern White Box walk with the club, I was keeping an eye out for introduced weedy species such as olives, wheel cactus and cootamundra wattles which the Friends of the Park are removing.

I noticed a plant that looked different to any I had seen on many past walks in the forest.

A quest to identify it began. Plant ID apps gave various possibilities but none really seemed to fit. On enquiring with the Friends group I



was given a lead and referred to [vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au) - the Victorian royal botanic gardens website.

The plant is *Goodia medicaginea*. A native and classified as endangered. According to vicflora it occurs sporadically with the nearest being in Killawarra forest on the northern end of the Warby range at Wangaratta. The website map however shows several in other places in the Chiltern Mount Pilot park which were GPSed a number of years ago.

This particular plant, actually a mature one with a number of seedlings, has now been GPSed and its particulars submitted to vicflora and ALA ( atlas of living Australia) to be included in their data.

This exercise proved to be a very interesting way to fill time on wet grey non walking days.

Vicflora and ALA are fascinating sites where you can get help identify living things found in the bush. It all adds to the adventure that is bushwalking.

Thanks Ira

## Federation Walks Weekend 2022, October 1 & 2

Every year Bushwalking Clubs across Victoria come together for a weekend of walks. This weekend is hosted by club(s) from different locations/areas of the state.

FedWalks2022 will be held in the Warby Ranges and Wangaratta Region and is jointly organised this year by Warby Ranges Bushwalking Club, Benalla Bushwalking Club and Border Bushwalking Club. The event is scheduled to be held on 1st and 2nd of October 2022.

**Bookings opened on Saturday 6th August.** The booking link is on the BBC Walks Program page – [Walks Program – Federation Walks \(fedwalks.org.au\)](https://www.fedwalks.org.au)

**Five BBC members are leading walks/bike rides**, as well as members from Benalla Bushwalking Club, Warby Ranges Club and even a few from Melbourne based clubs. The walks are of varying grades and there is something for everyone. The Warby Ranges in springtime is a mass of wildflowers including many species of orchids (some rare and endangered). It would be great to see some BBC members enjoying these activities.

### WHERE

FedWalks2022 will be held in the Warby Ranges and the Wangaratta Region. The base for the event will be at the Wangaratta showgrounds. There will also be some walks and bike rides in the Beechworth and Wagunyah areas.

### WHEN

The event will be held on the 1st and 2nd of October 2022 (with registrations and Saturday walk briefings on Friday evening 30 September 2022)

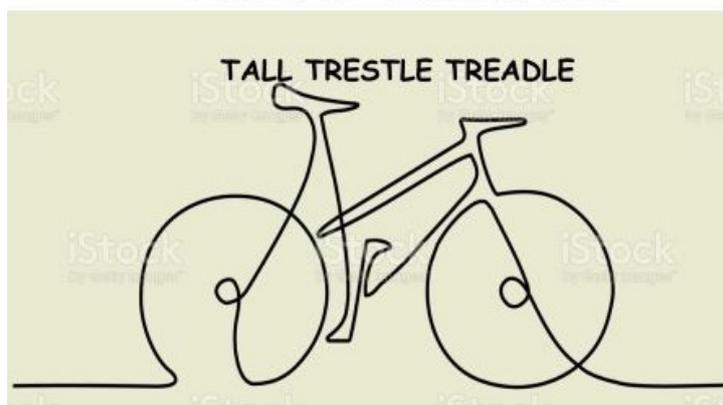
### WHO

An organising committee has been established with representatives from the following Bushwalking Victoria affiliated clubs: Benalla Bushwalking Club, Border Bushwalkers and Warby Range Bushwalking club.

## A notice from our local High Country Trails group

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022



We are planning for the 2022 Tall Trestle Treadle, a fully supported ride from Shelley to Tallangatta.

Cost \$95

Are you ready for the challenge???

Details to follow soon

[www.highcountryrailtrail.org.au](http://www.highcountryrailtrail.org.au)

## Drought, bushfires and beetles: The climate-related trifecta threatening Australia's iconic snow gums

If you are interested to understand more about what is happening to those magnificent snow gums we walk through so often in our part of the world, the following link is an very good article



[https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2022-08-17/snow-gums-drought-bushfires-beetles-affecting-aussie-icn/101314218?utm\\_campaign=abc\\_news\\_web&utm\\_content=mail&utm\\_medium=content\\_shared&utm\\_source=abc\\_news\\_web](https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2022-08-17/snow-gums-drought-bushfires-beetles-affecting-aussie-icn/101314218?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=mail&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web)

## Services included in your BBC membership include.

A range of gear is available from the club to hire at a very minimal rate

7. Sleeping bags
8. Back-packs
9. Hiking poles
10. Waterproof jackets
11. 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 quite 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 September 24, 2022.***