

FOOTPRINTS

October 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

End of Year BBC Christmas Event; Tuesday December 6

New Location - Wonga Wetlands

Optional Bird Walk – join Alison, one of our experienced birders for a walk around the Wetlands before the BBQ, one of this region's best locations for migratory and wetland birds.

More details in the next edition of Footprints

Photo; November 2021 Wonga Wetlands



New and returning members; a warm welcome to

- Tahja Schramm
- Andrew and Kerrie Evans
- Ross Williams
- Karen Hoelscher
- Amy Lusher
- Stephen Firns

From the President's stump

Although I was unable to make the New Members Nights, I have been told it was a great success. The number of people joining since that date listed above is most encouraging. Look forward to meeting when I return to the track.

Our Vice President who covered for me on the night has summarised below his introductory remarks for those, like me were unable to make it.

The BBC's primary focus are our events; however, the club offers much than these

- Singing & Walking Weekends, Moon rising over Hotham camping, Gourmet weekends at Tawonga Huts, Birding at Wonga Wetlands
- Social evenings such as our Annual Christmas BBQ, this year at Wonga Wetlands with a bird walk as a prelude led by a keen birder
- Sharing of Adventure Holidays; a network for ideas; recent discussions have included
 - West Highland Way in Scotland,
 - Offa's Dyke England and Wales
 - Jatbula and Larapinta in Northern Territory
 - Walking the Song lines with the First Nations from Broome in WA
 - Three Capes in Tasmania
- Your membership covers membership of Bushwalking Victoria and insurance. More than 50% of the membership fee goes to these two expenses
 - BWV is the Voice of Walkers e.g., Falls to Hotham Crossing input
 - Track maintenance
 - Search and rescue
 - A monthly newsletter to update on new walking tracks in Victoria plus much more
- Training in leading activities and First Aid
 - In September, BWV will conduct a full day walking leadership training
- Participating in the annual Federation Walks event for walkers from all over Victoria, scheduled for this weekend. Our club have been involved in the organisation of over 20 optional walks and the provision of leaders for some of these events

The balance of the night was devoted to various committee member explaining each of our activities, day walks, overnight walks, long distance walks, bike riding, cross country skiing, snow shoeing and when possible, canoeing

Thanks, Ralph, for covering for me on the night and providing the above

Ian



Trip reports

May Day Hills

On Sunday Sep 11th a group of 7 met outside Mayday Hills in Beechworth for a wander with Eileen. It was a chilly morning but we rugged up and explored the historic area with Eileen providing us with some great information and engaging anecdotes.

Eileen has been part of a research team that has interviewed many staff of the mental health facility that opened in 1862 and finally closed in 1995.

We learnt a lot about the different eras of treatment as well as many of the staff and residents that had passed through the facility over the years.

As we walked through the beautifully manicured grounds Eileen was able to share many anecdotes, some cheerful and uplifting and some sad and concerning.

As part of her involvement Eileen worked with Beechworth Cemetery Trust to organise appropriate official headstones for five men who had seen active service in World War One and later died in the asylum but whose service had not been recognised.



She traced families of two men who were able to see relatives finally given the respect that they deserved.

I thoroughly enjoyed our short walk and learnt so much through Eileen's very personal anecdotes. I really appreciated her respect for the stories of a variety of individuals who have spent time at the facility.

The stories of the staff, who often had family groups across and through generations working at Mayday Hills were also very enlightening and entertaining.

Eileen has a wealth of knowledge and could answer any question that we put to her as we wandered the magnificent grounds and through the grand buildings.

Thank you Eileen, for this wonderful opportunity to learn so much about an amazing part of our local history whilst soaking up the environment.

Bernadette



Mount Sugarloaf

It was great to have a real mix of people on this walk. Amongst the 11 were a life member, a new member on their first club walk, a visitor and eight other members who have been around for varying lengths of time.

As we expect with BBC walks it didn't take long before the group were mingling and sharing their stories.

One of the main topics of conversation was "Where exactly is Mt Sugarloaf?" One person expected to be going to a destination near Wymah, another had googled it and found something near Newcastle and of course, there was also Rio de Janeiro to consider.



Fortunately, as the leader, I knew and we headed out to Woolshed Rd. as I had written in the events program, by the way.

It was an absolutely glorious day and enjoyed by all. Highlights were the great story that Chris shared with us at lunch time, the spotting of some green hooded orchards and the koalas that were all named Caramello.

The other pleasant surprise was that the advertised 16kms turned out to be 15kms but, given that most people had no idea where the walk was, I'm gathering they hadn't read the description anyway.

Bernadette

Wodonga Views

The day was bright with the sun
And 10 folk were up for the fun
We climbed up Mahers without fear
With views of mountains and thevweir.

With the Kiewa a river in flood
We watched it flow as we munched on our food
With old friends and new there was talk
Then to our cars, to head back to out walk

Huon was muddy and wet
But to summit our minds they were set
The risks didn't mention charging cattle
And our nerves they surely did rattle

We agreed the day was the best
And then headed home for a rest



Bernadette

PS
No humans were harmed in this event.

The said cow did not have horns like those in the photo.



From Bushwalking Victoria – Update on The Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail

A new coastal trail will enable walkers to experience a 90-kilometre walk which traverses breathtaking and culturally significant Gadubanud Country between Fairhaven and Grey River. The trail – the Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail – will provide a 7-day, 6-night hike, as well as day walks and shorter walks. When complete, it will link the Surf Coast Walk and Great Ocean Walk, resulting in uninterrupted track stretching from Torquay to the Twelve Apostles.

The Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail Master Plan was released recently, and the [Engage Victoria site](#) has been updated with next steps, the project video and the Master Plan. The plan was shaped by over 12 months of community and stakeholder consultation. Over 3,000 responses were received, focussing on design principles and trail alignment; environmental excellence; suspension bridges; lookouts; accessibility; camping and car parks.

The trail's guiding principles ensure that the trail respects and promotes the rich cultural heritage and natural values of the area; existing tracks will be utilised where possible. In places, the preferred trail alignment has moved further inland, incorporating more of the Great Otway National Park. This [short video](#) explains how the Master Plan was developed. Significant funding has been invested by the Victorian Government; construction is expected to begin next year.



Image: Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail Project

Services included in your BBC membership include.

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

1. Sleeping bags
2. Back-packs
3. Hiking poles
4. Waterproof jackets
5. 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 October 24, 2022.