

FOOTPRINTS

December 2022

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

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End of Year BBC Christmas Event; Tuesday December 6,*New Location Westmont Village, Baranduda*

Our end of year barbecue planned for Wonga Wetlands; Albury has been relocated following closure of the Wetlands due to flooding.

The club committee will provide meat, bread, tea and coffee. We are again able to share food so members with surnames starting with A to M are requested to bring a salad. Members N to Z could you please bring a dessert. BYO cold drinks.

FOR CATERING purposes please book in with
Ira roboira@yahoo.com.au before Tuesday November 29.

There are plenty of tables and chairs but please bring all your eating and drinking equipment. Also consider naming your items as there are always pieces left behind. As we know, mosquitoes are in abundance so also come prepared for them!

The BBQ will be ready for 6pm.

Alison's bird walk prior to the BBQ has also been cancelled.

Directions

The function is to be held at the outdoor BBQ area adjacent to the Ray Snell Centre, Westmont Village Baranduda

- Enter Westmont Main Entrance from Baranduda Blvd into Chamomile Drive
- Address is 265 Baranduda Blvd. for your GPS or just the north side of Boyes Rd
- Proceed along Chamomile Drive approx. 200 meters to Ray Snell Centre on right.
- Ray Snell Centre is opposite main administrative building and Homestead (Nursing Home)
- There is a flagpole flying national flag immediately in front of the BBQ area.
- There will be ample parking in the admin building car park.



From the President's Stump

As the year draws to a close and just when it appears as if things might return to some sort of normality, Mother Nature has thrown up yet another challenge for us in the shape of water, and lots of it!

With the rain has come flooding, saturated and unstable ground, muddy and slippery tracks, bridges washed out, trees falling over and landslips. The landslide on the Bogong High Plains Road will have an immediate and long-term impact on our walks program as access to the High Plains beyond Falls Creek is predicted to not be possible until late February-early March 2023.

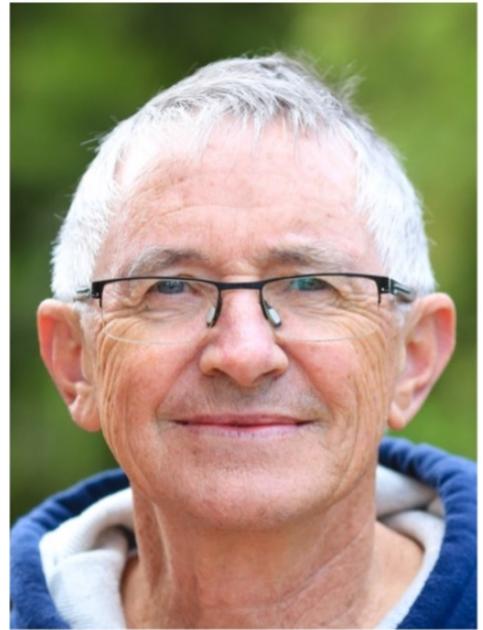
Please take some time to open the link and read more about this:

[Bogong high Plains Road Landslide](#)

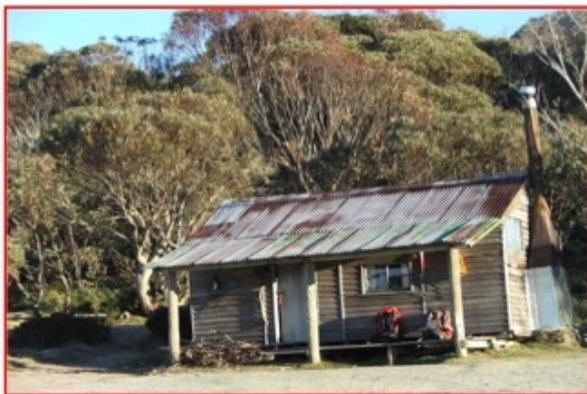
Our current Activities Program lists five walks proposed on the High Plains between December and March that may have to be abandoned if the road remains closed to traffic.

Thankfully we can all still get up into the mountains by participating in events at Mount Buffalo (Camp and Sing weekend), and Mount Hotham (JB Plain car camp and Mt Loch sunset). There's also an opportunity to visit "our" hut (Youngs Hut) via Mount Hotham and Paling Spur.

We can all only hope that the wet weather abates, and the clean-up crews can clear the spoil and reopen the road so that we can continue to enjoy the glory of the High Plains in summer.



*On behalf of the Committee we would like to wish all
our members a very Safe and Happy Christmas*



and lots of adventures in the Outdoors in 2023.

In the meantime, we can all look forward to our annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 6th (see details elsewhere).

Again, the rain has impacted this important social event and the committee has relocated it to Westmont Baranduda. I hope as many members as possible make an effort to join us as we reflect on the year past and make plans for the year ahead.

And, of course we will learn who is the recipient of this year's 'Best Club Person Award'.

I hope to catch up with you on a track or a bike path in the near future.

Ian

Falls Creek road closure; more details of impact on club activities

Most club members will be aware by now that a landslide above Bogong Village has necessitated a road closure between Mt Beauty and Falls Creek. Ian refers to this in his thoughts in "The Stump".

The latest estimated timeline is that the road closure will be until 10 March 2023.

There is still access to Falls Creek via the 'back way' Mitta Mitta and Glen Valley. Google advises that this will take around three and a half hours from Wodonga.

As the area surrounding Falls Creek has not been closed off, the BBC Committee will not limit club walks taking place in this area.



However, the Falls Creek resort notes that response times for emergency service in Falls Creek are currently greatly delayed as they need to come from Omeo, which is 2 hours away. In my view, this isn't too different to many of our other walks which would also take several hours for emergency services to attend if a helicopter is not available.

However, Leaders do need to take this into consideration for risk identification and mitigation – for example:

- maybe you should take the club's new defibrillator?
- whether any additional first aid supplies are appropriate?
- whether you should 'not go' if the forecast conditions are particularly conducive to bushfires (given one of the two ways off the mountain is closed off)?

In addition, the Falls Creek resort is asking anyone intending to visit/stay in the resort over the next two months to continue register their intention to visit via the [Visitor Registration Form](https://www.fallscreek.com.au/cancellation-of-events/).
<https://www.fallscreek.com.au/cancellation-of-events/>

While many of our club walks do not take place within the resort area, we recommend completing the form – this will ensure you are notified of any changes to conditions and assist them to know who is about up there.

David
Activities coordinator

New members; a warm welcome to

- Luana Maggenti
- Sandie Church
- Kim McInnes
- Richard McLean

Trip Reports

Porepukah to Harrietteville Bike Ride

On a Saturday when the forecast predicted thunderstorms, heavy rain and wild weather, six of us gathered at the former Eurobin Railway Station where it looked like we were going to cop the lot as the rain bucketed down! It wasn't long however before the sky cleared and we set off.

Not wanting to exhaust ourselves we took a break at the Rail Trail Café in Porepukah, and after coffees under the umbrella and a glance at the sky we threw caution to the wind, clipped on our helmets, crossed our fingers and pedalled off towards Bright.



There were a couple of stops on the way to briefly don jackets and a few more to take jackets off. The rail trail proved to quite busy with cyclists coming at us from both directions, but once through Bright we pretty much had the trail to ourselves.

The sun was shining when we pulled up at the Wandu Pub after a couple of hours of leisurely cycling. Cold beers, nachos, burgers and chips fuelled us up for the return trip which was without mishap and almost rain-free.

A most enjoyable day on the rail trail!

Ian

Buffalo Bits

Bernadette led these are four separate walks to give an idea of the variety on Mt Buffalo. The pictures below whet our appetite of more to come.

With an early publication date for this months Footprints following last weekend's walk we will have to wait until the next issue to enjoy the full trip report.



Eileen's response to Bernadette's wise advice (Nov. 2022 Footprints)

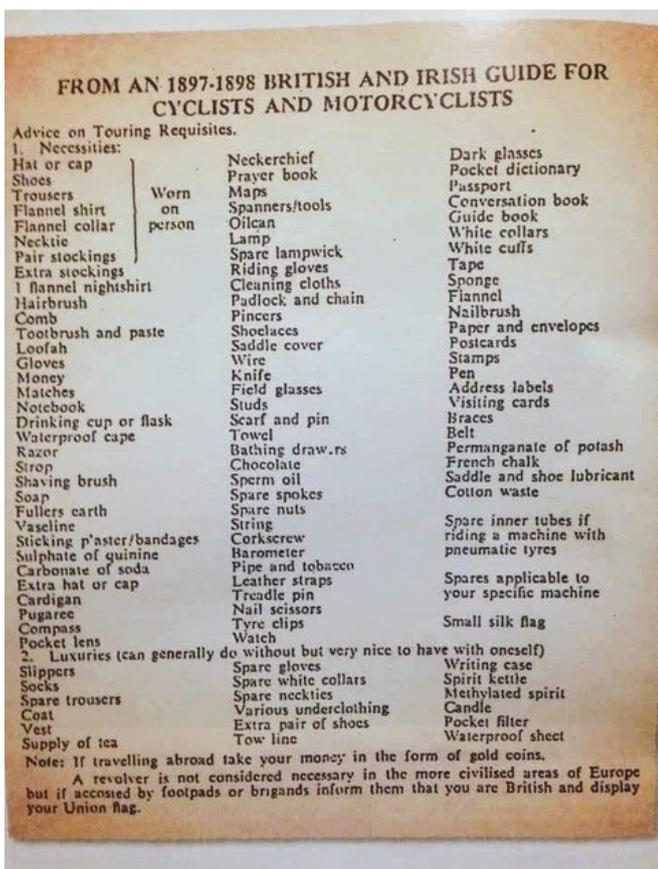
I loved the list of essentials for a trip. Remind me to buy a revolver and union flag next time I am in town, although I am well-supplied with underwear, which I note is an optional extra.

And what on earth is sperm oil, and how do you catch the little buggers to oil them? (no, don't tell me, I can guess, I'm a grown-up).

My father was an avid 'bikie' before the War until my arrival. I don't know if he used a list like yours. He and his brother did an extensive tour of Germany in about 1937 and saw the ferment that Hitler was creating.

Eileen

Bernadette's list reprinted below in case you missed it.



Update from Bushwalking Victoria

Warby Ranges FedWalks – a Great Team Effort!

The 2022 FedWalks event, held in North-East Victoria on 1–2 October, was a great success. Whilst the event was based in Wangaratta, about 200 participants enjoyed walks in three contrasting locations – the Warby Ranges, Mt Buffalo and Beechworth and surrounds.

Flooding rivers proved a challenge, with two walks needing to be cancelled; some rerouting of other walks was also required. Luckily, the weekend’s weather was wonderful and a sense of community was palpable. As Cecily Fletcher, the 2022 FedWalks Coordinator, said: “Beyond the statistics, the real measures of success were evident in the enthusiasm of participants gathering in the morning to head out on their walks; the warmth and friendliness evident as people returned with stories to tell; the relaxed banter around the tables at dinner; and the energy reserves found by those moved to dance to the entertainment on Saturday night!”

The dedication, persistence and hard work of the organising clubs, walk leaders and myriad volunteers must be applauded. Their efforts, along with support from key members of the 2021 FedWalks organising committee and Bushwalking Victoria, continue the wonderful Federation Walks legacy.



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 January 24, 2023.