

FOOTPRINTS

February 2023

*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

Walking with Altitude; First Club Night for 2023; Tuesday February 7

Come and be inspired or just dream of future holidays. Four of our members share highlights from their recent walking holidays in serious mountains.

Bernadette and Charles will be sharing their experience of The Pennine Way completed last July/August. This 400km+ walk runs from Edale, near Sheffield UK to Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish Border district. The walk was first proposed in 1935 and was officially opened in 1965.

It covers the Peaks District, Yorkshires Dales and Northumberland National Parks, including dramatic mountain scenery, gentle valleys and wild moors.

Pete and Vanessa will be talking about "the Tour du Mont Blanc" through France, Italy and Switzerland. And some walks in Montenegro.

Doors open at 7:00 pm to catch up with friends and the meeting kicks off at 7:30 pm. Venue is the Senior Citizens, Meeting Room, at the rear of Cube Complex, Hovell Street, Wodonga (Havelock Street end of car park).



From the President's Stump

Happy New Year! and welcome back everyone to what I hope is a year full of fun and exciting adventures in the great outdoors.

Our current Activities Program offers a range of activities to suit all tastes and abilities. These include challenging multi-day treks, a canoe/camping trip, a hike up the magnificent Mount Feathertop, visiting some huts in Kosciuszko NP, a beginners overnighter to Ryders Yards, a check in at Youngs Hut ('our' hut), the much anticipated gourmet weekend at Tawonga Huts, and the annual Falls to Hotham crossover walk. So check out what's on the program and book in for your adventure!

Our annual Christmas Get-Together at the Westmont Village was a huge success and we must thank Alison and Dick Wellard for organising the venue and to Westmont itself for allowing us the use of their facilities.



BORDER BUSHWALKING CLUB CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR 2022

PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

Pauline Scott

Pauline has been an active participant in BBC activities for many years. When Bushwalking Vic offered a Leadership and Navigation training course to our club, Pauline was keen to participate and has since lead many walks.

We have enjoyed some great overnights in Kosciuszko NP, Bogong and Alpine National Parks. During the pandemic era, she organised walks for the Victorians through the Warby Ranges, Baranduda Range and her backyard. Glen Creek Loop when the Covid rules permitted us to do so.

Pauline plans events thoroughly and ensures that all participants are aware of the challenges, risks, carpooling, costs, etc. Whilst on the tracks, she is forthright and responsible. She is able to lead from the front, back or anywhere in between!

Always friendly, lots of conversations and many laughs. In risky situations, she is competent and able to deal with the issue and provide support when needed.

Pauline your contribution to the club is valued and appreciated.
On behalf of the BBC, thank you.

Sandy Kaitler
6th December 2022

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the presentation of the Best Club Person award to Pauline Scott by last year's recipient, Sandy Kaitler.

Pauline joins the fourteen others since 2006 who have been awarded this prestigious award in recognition of their services and commitment to the Border Bushwalking Club. Congratulations Pauline!

Our Annual General Meeting is drawing nearer (May) and we will have a number of vacancies for members to nominate to join the committee. We will be seeking an editor for 'Footprints', a Treasurer, and an Activities Coordinator so if you have an interest in taking on one of these roles and would like to know more about the role, please contact me for a chat.

I hope to see you on a track, a bike trail, or in the water sometime soon.

Ian

Trip Reports

Trip report JB Plain Weekend.....Words and photos by Ira, Pauline, Eve, Ron, Nola, Dick, Alison, and Bernadette.

The JB Plain car camp could fast become an iconic annual event for Border Bushwalking Club.

When the first walk for the weekend is just a short climb to the summit of Mount Higginbotham for a spectacular sunset, we know it is going to be a special time. No sundowners needed!



We had the campsite at JB Plains to ourselves, but while setting up this large mob of horse riders stopped to talk as they passed by. They were from Mansfield and remembered meeting our illustrious leader at Ryder's hut some time back. The next day we followed the hoof prints (and manure), all the way to Mount Tabletop.



Ron and Dick kindly offered to order and return with our pizzas. Little did we know that they had an ulterior motive...a pint of beer each to be enjoyed while our pizzas were cooking.

Of course being in a remote location, the price of a pint was quite a bit more than anticipated!



Pauline would be feeling hot and sweaty after walking the 10 km to Mt Tabletop on a difficult track. On top of that she had hiked up Mt Higginbotham to view the sunset on the Friday night. The temperature was warm (25 C) so quite sweat inducing!' She was unable to wait to get home to wash her hair

Managed to get myself in a photograph with the help of a tripod what a great bunch of walkers.



We even managed to fit in some walking. Pauline is enjoying the view from Mount Tabletop.



Bernadette with her luxury camping items: dressing gown, banana lounge and wineglass.



The ideal breakfast while camping.

Exploring the Waterfalls on Whiterock Creek



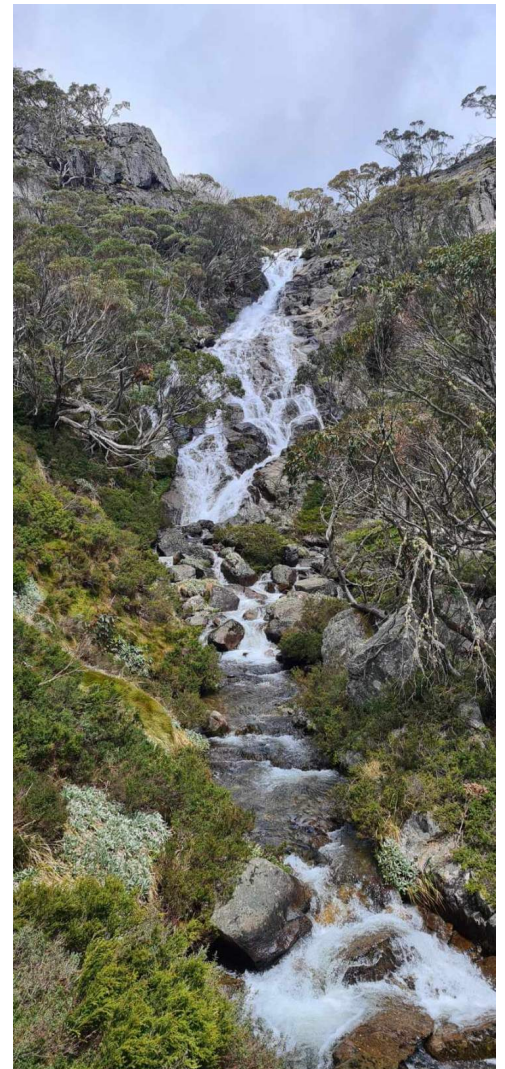
Whiterock Creek and its many falls, drop down from an area very familiar to many BBC members, near Ropers Hut and Big River Fire Trail, to Big River.

With the Bogong High Plains Road closed due to a landslide, we took the Omeo Highway and camped at Buckety Plains on Friday night, before starting our walk from Watchbed Creek, early Saturday morning. Following the Big River Firetrail we arrived at Ropers Hut, well before lunchtime, giving us plenty of time to set up our tents before heading offtrack to explore Whiterock Creek and its falls.

This area is above the tree line, so our walk was across an open, rocky, undulating area, before dropping steeply down to Whiterock Creek. With lots of rain over spring and some late snow a few weeks before, Whiterock Creek was really flowing. There were more waterfalls than we expected, some easier to get to than others. We'd been to 5 waterfalls, by the time we got back to Ropers Hut, later that afternoon.

On Sunday we returned to the cars at Watchbed Creek and headed home via Mitta Mitta.

Mick

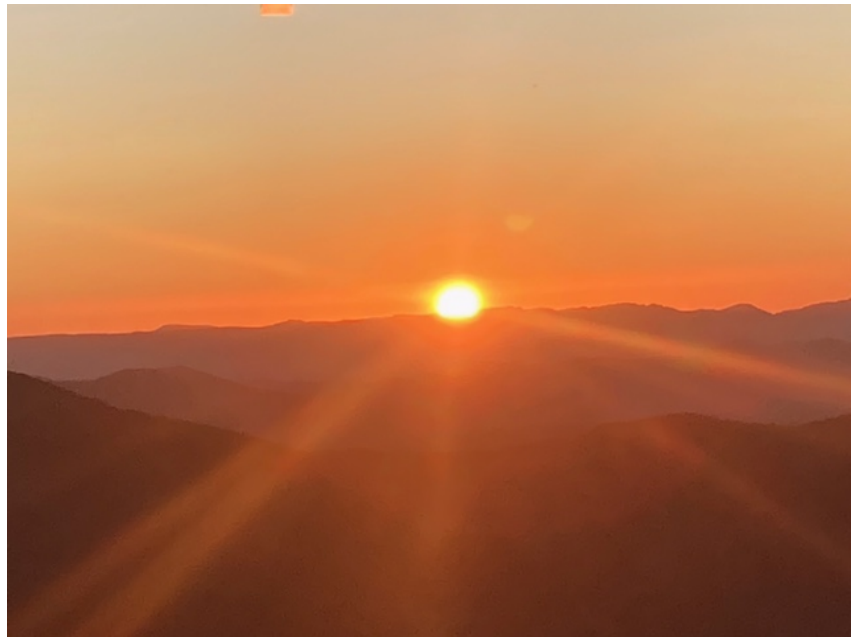


Mount Loch Sunset

On Sat January 8th a group of 6 set up camp at JB plain and then headed down to Silver Brumby Hut to enjoy the perfect weather in this idyllic setting.

The briefing before this walk was unique. The group were all experienced club members and had walked with me many times so reading from the card seemed ho hum. The suggestion was made that we go around the circle and each member add to their memory of the club requirements. They passed with flying colours only missing the 'buy the leader a drink' clause.

We were reluctant to leave the hut possibly because we knew we had an uphill walk but



we knew that this was just the entree and we needed to prepare for the main course; Mt Loch at sunset.

Mt Loch didn't disappoint and we were all captivated by the changing colours that illuminated the layers of landscape. A brilliant sunset over we set off by torchlight back to the cars.

The group were an amazing group who supported each other throughout the trip. Thanks to all for supporting me and each other.

Bernadette



Mt Beauty

There were four of us on the last walk of 2022. We made an early start in view of the hot weather forecast and the day started out humid and overcast after rain the day before. We took the Survey Track past the golf course. This goes roughly parallel with the Falls Creek road and we noted how quiet it was without traffic on the road, which is closed because of a landslide at Bogong village.

We wound our way through the trees on this delightful foot track to Crankie Charlie corner where we paused for morning tea.

Mental note to self: do not stop here again, the ants are ferocious!

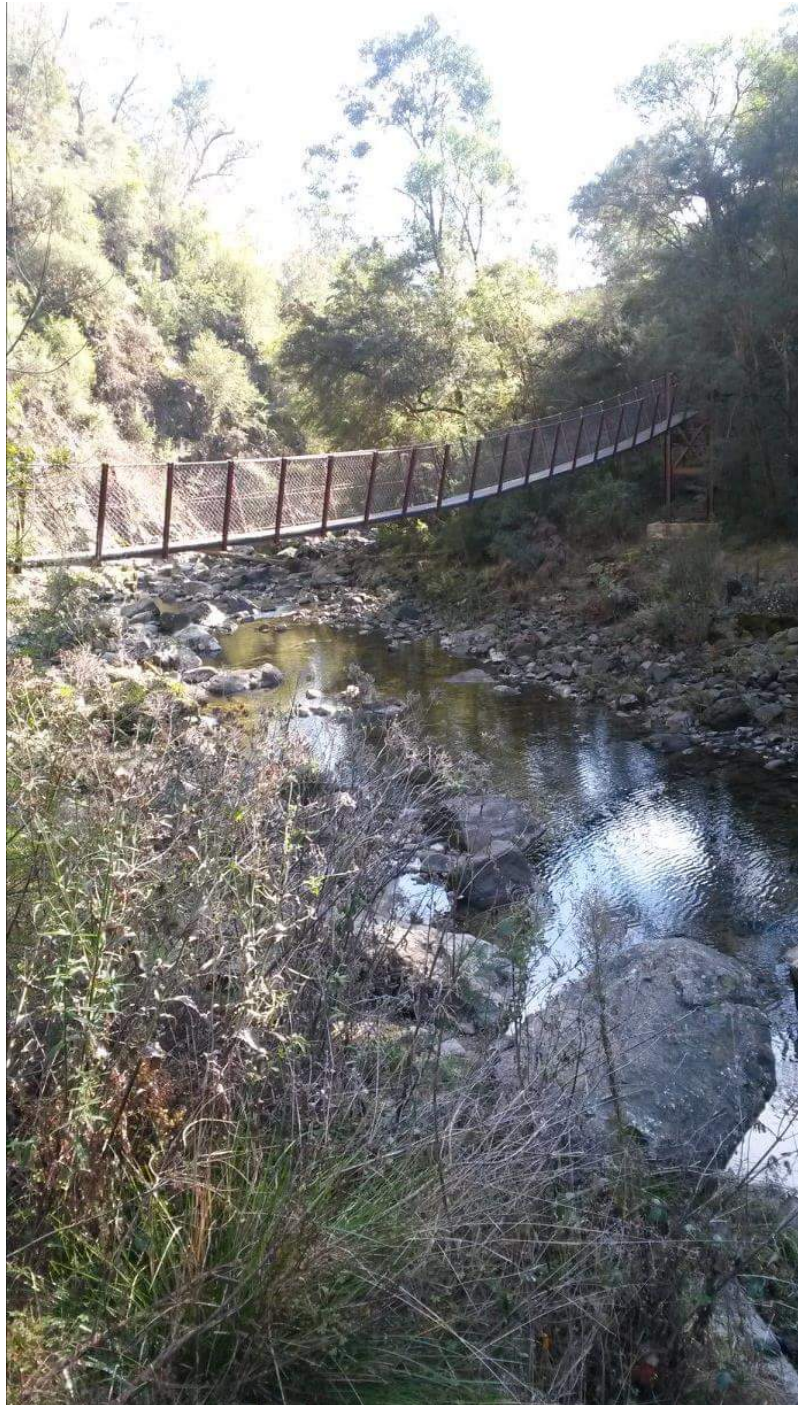
After a quick bite and drink we crossed the road and headed up the gravel road to the Pole Track which leads back to Mt Beauty. By now the clouds had cleared and the sun was shining and it was hot.. we deviated from the Pole Track to wind our way up to the summit of Mt Beauty (595 m) but with trees all around the views were limited.

We did appreciate the interesting little seats and had more morning tea, this time without ants.

Suitably refreshed, we picked our way back down to the Pole Track to Mt Beauty and made a side trip to the Gorge, crossing the swing bridge and having lunch by the water before returning to the cars.

We finished the walk by 1 pm and it was definitely time to go home for a cold shower and a siesta!

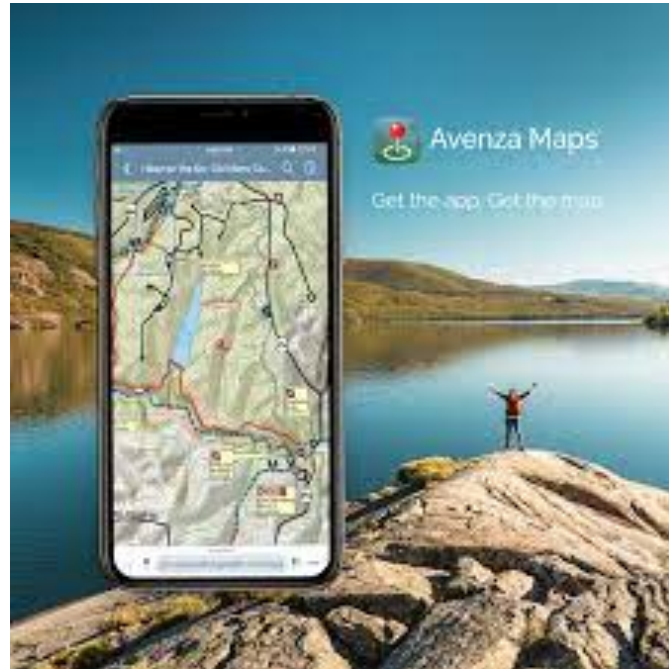
Eileen



Update from Bushwalking Victoria

Training 2023

Workshops: Using your Smartphone for Navigation



Westerfolds Park, Fitzsimmons Lane, Templestowe.

Sundays, March 12 or April 2, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

In this Workshop we will look at how GPS satellite navigation works – the theory, practicalities, advantages and limitations. We will discuss a variety of free smartphone mapping/navigation apps, including Avenza, [maps.me](https://www.maps.me), and Terra Map. An outdoor practical exercise will be included. Detailed notes, activity sheets and map will be supplied.

These workshops are open to all club members and Individual Bushwalking Victoria members.

Registration for the March 12 Workshop opens at 9.00am on Saturday February 4 via this [link](#).

Registration for the April 2 Workshop opens at 9.00am on Saturday February 18 via this [link](#).

When registering online, you will need to provide your Name, Mobile Number, Club or Individual BWV Member status and Make and Model of your Smartphone.

Enquiries: bushnavigationandmaps@iinet.net.au

*IMPORTANT: After registration, successful applicants will be provided with information on what to bring. They will also receive detailed instructions on phone setup. Preparation and pre-reading **MUST** be completed **BEFORE** the workshop. You must already be familiar with basic map/compass navigation and be conversant with your own smartphone e.g. be able to update software and install new apps.*

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 February 24, 2023.