

# ***FOOTPRINTS***

## ***March 2023 PM edition***

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

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### **A Club Night at Hovell Tree Park, Woodfired Oven Picnic Area, Albury. Tuesday, April 4, 6:00 pm**

Come along with your picnic, BBQ, drinks, everything, and be prepared to join in a social gathering and “wafflefest”.

Plenty of tables and chairs for us to utilise by the side of the Murray River.

Admire the excellent new riverside landscaping that is nearing completion including a new canoe launching facility.

Plenty of parking in Hume St or the Albury swim centre car park.



### **New members; a warm welcome to**

- Angela O’Shaughnessy
- Robyn Scott
- Maria Martinez

## From the President's Stump

In about two months' time one of the Club's most important activities takes place.

It's an activity that features every year on our Events Calendar and is an event that every member should be aware of; an event every member should go out of his or her way to attend.

You won't need your hike boots, backpack, walking poles or a cut lunch. In fact, tea and coffee are provided for free, along with yummy treats, including my favourite - Tim Tams!

It's not an activity that necessitates a high level of fitness or bushcraft; even couch potatoes are welcome! It is usually a relatively short activity and there is next to nigh possibility that you will suffer from dehydration or hypothermia, or be bitten by a snake or be crushed to death by a falling tree limb. It's 'Risk Free'!

There is absolutely no limit to the number of participants that may take part in this activity, in fact, the more the merrier, and as an extra bonus you do not have to book ahead to take part – you just have to turn up!

The Club's Annual General Meeting happens every year in May and guess what? It's happening again this year and we want as many members as possible to rock up and be part of it. But more importantly, we would dearly love to be able to say a big "Thank You" to our incumbent committee members for a job well done and to then relieve them of their duties.

As you are aware, your committee works damn hard behind the scenes to ensure the BBC continues to provide members with an outstanding service, a diversity of activities with a truly social and friendly bunch of people. Now it's time for many of our committee members to pull off their boots and put their feet up.

This is an appeal to **YOU**, to not only consider taking a more active role in the running of the Club, but to go one step further and actually put your hand up and nominate for a position on the 2023/24 BBC Committee.

I know it sounds a bit cliched, but our Club needs **YOU**!

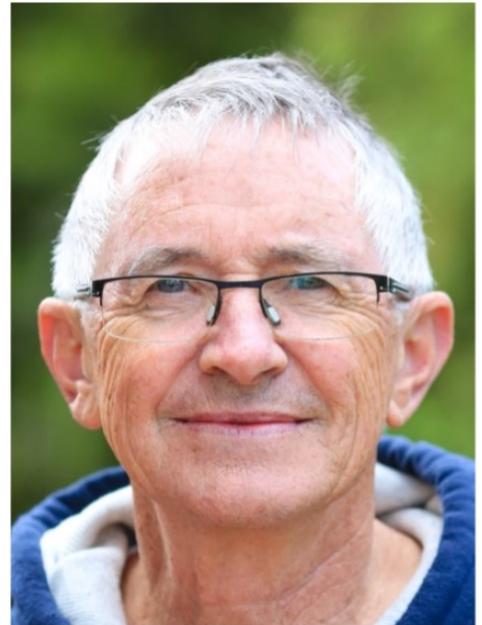
We need **YOU** to give up an hour or so once a month to attend a meeting. We need **YOU** to commit to just a few hours each month to assist with the general operation of the Club – as Treasurer, 'Footprints' editor, Activities Coordinator, or one of the many other roles on committee.

They're not onerous tasks and there is no prerequisite that expects you to have a university degree or a PhD. What they do require is that you want to see the Club continue to grow and prosper as a leading outdoor adventure club and that you want to be part of leading it.

A club without a complete and functioning committee is something I'm sure we all would hate to see, but unless **YOU** get involved it could well be what we are in store for. Think about it ... and act.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and to seeing your hand raised.

Ian



## Trip Reports

### Kosciusko Huts, aka Hut Bagging in Kosci

Lucky for some, not so lucky for others. Bernadette had a full dance card months before this trip, with more on a waiting list.

Gradually people needed to exit - none due to the weather, despite 140ml.s coming down the night before the trip!

Luckily for the five of us that could go, the rain cleared as we departed Guthega power station at lunchtime on Monday.



Bernadette had timed this walk perfectly! Also, immediately after the long weekend & at the end of school holidays, so we had the area to ourselves for most of the trip.

We reached hut No.1, Whites River, Monday afternoon.

On Tuesday morning we strolled up to Schlink Hilton (No. 2), set up our tents & enjoyed a very leisurely morning tea.

We headed round to Valentine Hut (No 3) for lunch.

On Wednesday we headed for home, visiting an unnamed S.M.A. hut (No 4) at the start of the aqueduct, continuing onto Horse Camp Hut (No 5). Across the valley we were able to spy

Disappointment Spur Hut (No 6?... but who is counting!).

All the huts we visited were in remarkably good condition, being well maintained with the assistance of the Kosciusko Huts Association.





Valentine Hut was looking particularly gorgeous with a fresh coat of red & white paint, love hearts as usual. Thank you to KHA & NSW parks for maintaining all these huts.

Our group was particularly cheerful & easy going (& talkative!).

We all quickly settled into enjoying being out in the mountains and on a bushwalk, in perfect weather. As we did not need to rush, time stretched out, and we returned to the cars much refreshed. And reminded of the great pleasure of overnight trips.

Thanks Bernadette for the planning, organising & leading.

Marie



## A perfect weekend canoeing on the Mitta Mitta River



Down the Mitta Mitta River we glide, with Deb and Mick as our trusted guides. The water rushing, the sun so bright. A perfect weekend, what a delight!

Our canoes cutting through the stream, with each stroke we're living the dream. The beauty of nature all around, a sense of peace and freedom we found.

We stopped to rest and picnic, to bask in all it's might, sharing each other's company was such a delight!

Eddy in the mighty Mitta Mitta river, rotating boats, what a quiver! Round and round we spin and turn with laughter and screams, a sight to learn! The power of the river, the force of the flow, the thrill of the ride, we'll never let go. Eddy, the vortex, the spinning sensation, a playful game of nature's creation.

Deb and Mick, with expertise and care, ensured our adventure was beyond compare! Through rapids and bends we found our way, their knowledge and friendship on full display! So thank you, Deb and Mick, for our fantastic weekend away.

### Team Eddy!

Interesting fact: The Mitta Mitta River is 204km long. We paddled one quarter of its length over the weekend.





## The story of a story

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, a group of BBC members walked up Mt Sugarloaf to enjoy the Winter sunshine and the wonderful lunchtime views. While we were resting over lunch and soaking up the precious rays of warmth Chris was heard to say “would anyone like to hear a story I wrote not long ago? It’s about something that happened to me on a walk years ago. I came across the newspaper report recently and thought I should write about it.”

Of course, we all wanted to hear the story but I will admit that when I saw her pull out a wad of paper, closely typed I wondered whether we would get back in daylight.

Chris began to tell us a tale of needing to get away and going on a solo exploratory walk. The group were spellbound as Chris’ unique and captivating style enhanced a story that contained a few, not quite by the book, decisions. The story is hers to tell but I will recount her insistence that she found the recue party and not the other way around.

We all felt that this story needed to reach a wider audience. Footprints was discussed but we thought it should go even further. I thought of a walking magazine and, as our president Ian has articles published in Great Walks regularly, I passed the article onto him for his advice. As it was typed but not saved Ian retyped it and sent it away.

Of course, they loved it but photos would be needed if they were to publish. One grainy old photo from the newspaper would not suffice. On a slim chance, I rang the Border Mail with a very vague idea of the year and possible month. I was amazed at how quickly they found some photos and were able to give us the exact date. Chris’ memory of these facts was not quite right but close. There were copyright requirements with the newspaper so Ian decided to create our own visuals in case Great Walks were not in a position to meet these.

Chris erected the original tent in her backyard and Ian and I visited for a photo shoot. Then Ian produced a map of the area and, with Chris, marked in the route.

Now it was ready for publication and Chris was offered a fee. She was elated.

**If you want to read this amazing story, get a copy of the April/May edition of Great Walks. I promise you will be entertained and those of you who know our Life Member, Chris, will hear her voice throughout this humorous and cautionary tale.**

Bernadette



## Update from Bushwalking Victoria



### BTAC in action on the AAWT

Walkers, skiers and horse riders using the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) will be pleased with the improved track along The Long Spur linking Mt Bogong and Mt Wills. Sixteen BTAC volunteers supported by two Parks Victoria Rangers cleared logs and densely encroaching vegetation, contributing 550 volunteer hours over the weekend. Read more [HERE](#)

*"There was a good feeling of camaraderie among the group, all working together so efficiently to see such a length of track cleared to such a high standard". John Green, Project Leader*

### Wilson's Promontory Revitalisation Project



The Victorian Government is investing \$23M to revitalise Wilsons Promontory NP. It will become Victoria's largest conservation sanctuary and have improved visitor experiences.

The current proposed scope for the Wilsons Prom Revitalisation includes:

- an **exclusion fence** across the Yanakie Isthmus – together with conservation programs, the fence is designed to stop destructive introduced species, helping make the national park a [sanctuary](#) where native animals and plants can thrive
- an upgrade of the **visitor area at Tidal River** with improved toilets, seats, shelter and a renewed visitor centre
- additional **cabin-style accommodation** outside the northern park boundary, and at Tidal River
- upgrades to the **Wildlife Walk** to make it all-abilities accessible
- a new **Telegraph Saddle trail** to connect Tidal River and Mt Oberon.

Parks Victoria is doing feasibility studies, assessments and talking to the community about their ideas and preferences. The draft designs for the visitor area at Tidal River are now available and open for public comment.

## 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 March 24, 2023.***