

# FOOTPRINTS

## April 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

## **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. See photo on right.

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



## **Notice of the Annual General Meeting for the Border Bushwalking Club**

The Annual General meeting for our club will be held on Tuesday May 2 at the Senior Citizens, Meeting Room, at the rear of Cube Complex, Hovell Street, Wodonga (Havelock Street end of car park). Doors open at 7:00 pm to catch up with friends and the meeting kicks off at 7:30 pm.

Annual reports will be available in the next issue of Footprints. A nomination Form for the committee is attached to this email and also at the end of this issue.

## From the President's Stump

Actually, it's from the Secretary's branch, given our fearless leader is somewhere along the Great Southwest Walk, hopefully dry, warm and comfortable.

To continue along Ian's theme in the last edition of Footprints, I thought we might make an uninvited foray into the innermost workings of that secretive, hostile, controlling group, the dreaded committee!

Why? I hear you ask. Well why not. They are after all your committee, charged with the task of sorting out all the administrative detail that allows our club function and get on with our reason for being, the pursuit of Bushwalking and associated activities.

Many years ago, our club decided to separate the functions of administration from all other club activities, instigating a policy whereby the committee would meet in isolation, apart from general meetings or club nights. The reasoning behind this decision appears to be lost in time but I think we can assume it was made in an effort to streamline the important but often boring administrative requirements. And over the years it has worked.

It is, of course, predicated on the democratic requirement that all club members be eligible to sit in committee and that elections be held annually. And so, BBC committees are formed, disbanded, and reformed ad infinitum.

The current committee consists of 12 members. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month except December. The meetings usually take the form of a dinner meeting at either the Birrale Hotel in Wodonga or Soden's Hotel in Albury (No interstate rivalry here). Meetings go from 6PM to about 9PM, the first hour to enjoy a meal and a drink together. Occasionally, we meet at a member's house but with all 12 members attending this can become a bit crowded.

We follow a set agenda that has proved over time, best suits our needs. The agenda is circulated to all members by the Secretary about 7 days prior to the meeting.

Did I mention a secretive, hostile, controlling group? Not really. Meetings are conducted in a laid back, friendly, collegiate manner with only one thought in mind. What's best for the club.

There are, sometimes, differences of opinion which are universally resolved in an orderly fashion. The Secretary keeps detailed minutes which are circulated to all committee members within about 7 days post meeting.

So, why this diatribe, I must confess to a hidden agenda. My aim is to reinforce Ian's earlier remarks about the need for fresh blood on the committee. As previously mentioned, a significant number of committee members are not seeking reelection. Their time has come, their job well done. They need and deserve a rest.

The club, however, just can't function without a viable committee. We will always manage to bumble through somehow, but we really do need some fresh faces.

I urge you to give the matter serious thought and complete the attached nomination form.

Dick Wellard  
Secretary.



## Trip Reports

### Up NW Spur and down Bungalow Spur, Mt Feathertop

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March was a bit warmer than we had hoped for, so we had an early start for our walk up Tom Keen/NW Spur Track.

The trailhead is just behind the trout farm 4km from Harrierville and while you start climbing almost straight away the first few kilometres were gentle compared to what lay ahead. After the second crossing of Stoney Creek, we really began to gain elevation and at the top of (what's known as) The Wall we stopped for our first smoko break.

From here the track straightens up but continues to climb, through what is now after the past few wet years, quite thick bush. The overcast skies kept the sun off us, but it was still warm and with little breeze, it seemed like forever before we got to MUMC Hut for lunch.

At this point we were only just over 7km into our 21km walk and still had a fair bit of track to cover

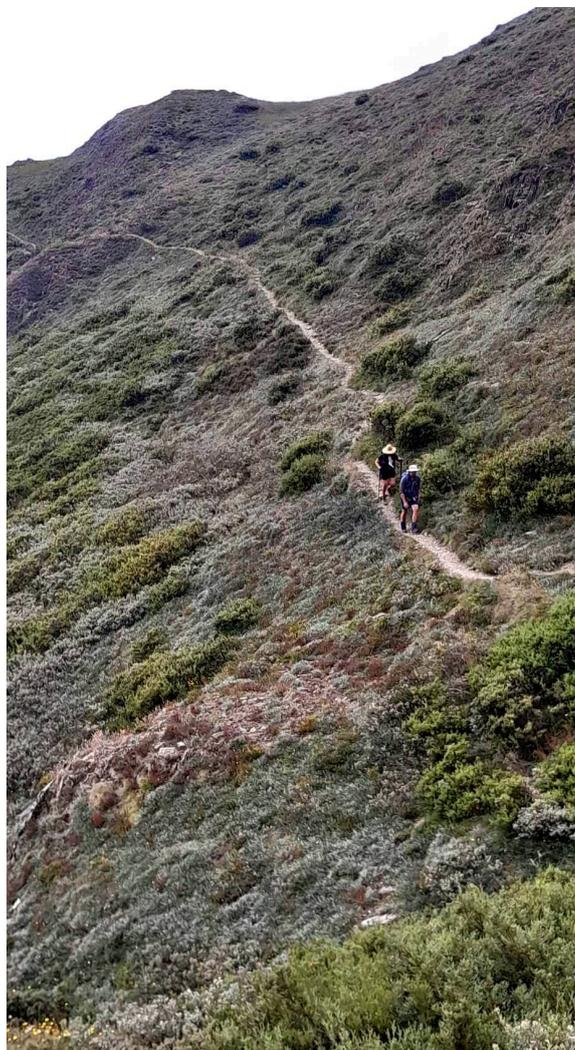


before Harrierville.

The spring on the NW Spur track was our next stop, and as we knew the tank at Federation Hut was empty, we refilled our water bladders. By the time we got to Federation Hut we had walked 10.5km, exactly half, of our 21km day and gained 1640m in elevation.

Now for the final 10.5km descent down Bungalow Spur and it was all downhill. When we got to the bottom of Bungalow Spur we'd had a big day but a good day.

Mick

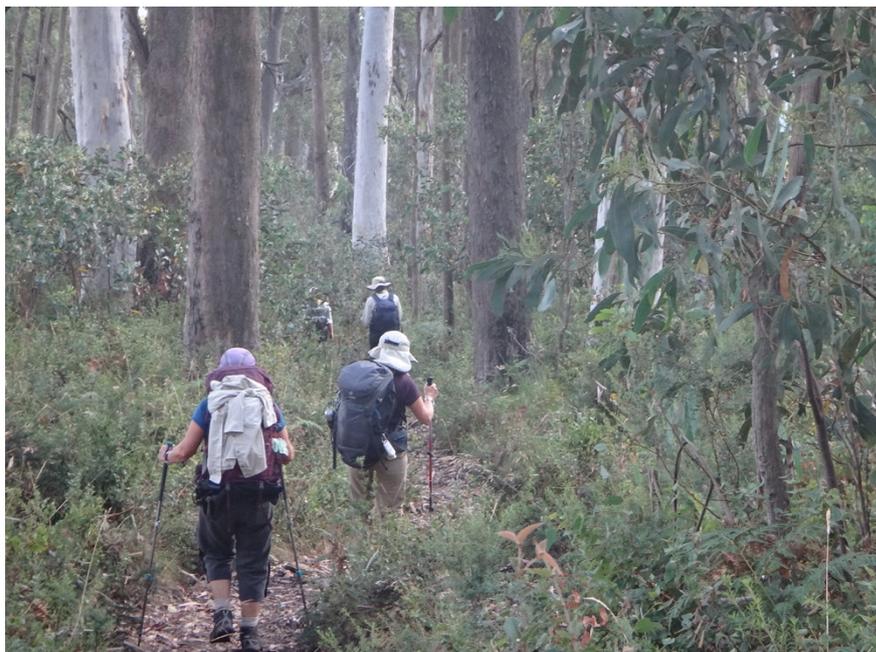


## What was the point?

On Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> we headed up Bungalow Spur. Mt Feathertop

We found no Bungalows on the spur. There were no wombats at Wombat Gap and no feathers on Mount Feathertop. We looked over to the Razorback and saw no razors or even backs.

On the way down, Tobias was nowhere to be found at or near, Tobias Gap. We could find no pictures at Picture Point, or even points.



By then we were wondering; what was the point?

The point, of course was a great walk with fantastic company in an iconic part of Victoria's High Country.

Mission accomplished!.....Bernadette



## Mt Beauty sip, shop and stroll

With the road to Falls Creek closed indefinitely because of a landslip, this walk was planned to bring a bit of love and maybe some cash to the traders in Mt Beauty and Tawonga South, who have been doing it really tough over summer. It turned out to be a day of fun and laughter with an unexpected bonus.

Nine members and visitors met in the shade of the verandah of Tawonga South post office, under the watchful eye of the dog-in-residence.

We walked a few metres to our first stop, a café where we sat under colourful umbrellas for introductions, coffee or a late breakfast. After planning our campaign and synchronising our watches, it was time for the next part of the day, shopping at the Mt Beauty market. As the group dispersed in all directions, I wondered whether I would ever gather them all together again!

The market is held on the first Saturday of each month, under the trees in the park near the swimming pool. There was a variety of stalls, several crafts, vintage wares, clothes and books. 'Mr Blades' was in attendance to sharpen anyone's wits. We wandered around for an hour then met up again for part three of the day, the stroll round Mt Beauty pondage. This is an artificial lake which is much prettier than the name sounds. It has a much-used walking track right around it. We strolled along at a dignified pace that allowed conversation to flow.

We watched as a small plane took off from the airport and then we came to the bonus of the day. A dragon boat festival was in full swing with several clubs taking part in competitions and static displays in front of a large crowd. A Chinese youth club from Melbourne delighted us with an energetic dragon dance through the crowd and down to the water's edge. Their ever-increasing speed and athleticism as the dragon wound up and down and into a tight spiral amazed us.

Eventually we decided we'd better move on to lunch, so as to get to the pub ahead of the dancers and paddlers. The pub has a large garden with tables and umbrellas to keep the hot sun off our delicate skins. The menu was typical pub grub; we each ordered something and steaming plates heaped with food were soon delivered.



Over lunch, conversation flowed thick and fast, including discussions on the sex lives of zucchini and Wollemi pines, ways to deter fruit flies and a lesson on how to harvest cotton (we await a report from the member who may be undertaking this task).

After a leisurely lunch, it was time to move on to the last part

of the day, a walk into the gorge where the West Kiewa river flows. It is not a long walk but some decided they needed to get home, so four of us did the walk. It is on a good track and well signposted, and we followed the track past the adit and into the gorge proper, where towering rocks and cool water form a popular swimming hole. This is only accessible when water levels are low. Then it was back to the cars and time to head off.

We had had a great time catching up with old friends and meeting new ones as we sipped, shopped and strolled around Mt Beauty.

Eileen



## Overland Track 2024

The Overland Track is Australia's best known alpine multiday walking track.

Beginning at Cradle Mountain and finishing at Lake St Clair, the 65km, 6-day trek, winds through the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

It's been quite a while since the BBC Events calendar has included an Overland Track trip. But that's changed because we have put this multiday hike on the BBC events calendar for 2024.

Dates are; depart Melbourne on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024, return to Melbourne on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.



Bookings open on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 for the next hiking season and due to the popularity of the walk bookings need to be made as soon as they open.

If you are interested in coming and would like more information about the trip, contact either Mick 0437 101 009 or Deb 0410 047 884 asap. Maximum number for this activity is 6 people.

See BBC events calendar for some more details.

## Looking for a Traveling Companion?

Our members enjoy exploring some of the most exciting, challenging or simply the most beautiful regions of our planet. Unfortunately, we do not always have friends or partners who share the same dreams, level of fitness or sense of adventure to travel with.

Your committee discussed the idea of encouraging would be travellers who are looking for like-minded travellers to share their intended plans, possible dates, possible tracks, countries etc in Footprints. The goal is to explore if others are also looking for someone to travel with and has similar interests.



This has been happening over many years informally within the club; members asking around of others potential interest. One recent example was Eileen emailing all the people she thought may be interested in walking Offa's Dyke Path, the 280 km path between England and Wales.

Bernadette and Charles joined her on than most successful journey. With over 140 members, it's hard to meet everybody.

Footprints can bridge that gap and potentially find someone to share your adventure.

Just send your thoughts with some key details plus a photo to inspire people and we can include it in Footprints. The address is [newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au](mailto:newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au)

NOMINATION FORM  
for the 2023 ELECTION of OFFICE BEARERS  
of the BORDER BUSHWALKING CLUB INC. A5665

NAME of NOMINEE: .....

POSITION (Please CIRCLE): President, Vice President, Secretary,  
Treasurer, General Committee

PROPOSED BY: .....

SIGNATURE OF PROPOSER: .....

SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE: .....

DATE: .....

Return to the Secretary, Border Bushwalking Club Inc at [secretary@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au](mailto:secretary@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au)  
or deliver to the Secretary before the commencement of the Annual General Meeting on May 2,  
2023

## Update from Bushwalking Victoria

### E-Bikes Insurance;



Bushwalking Australia (BA) advise that the cover provided under our group insurance scheme **does not include cover** for members using E-Bikes on club activities as they are a motorised vehicle.

While BA is looking at the issue further, E-Bikers are advised to consider private insurance, or the insurance offered through some of the cycling organizations.

### 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 April 14, 2023.**

**Early day required for AGM Annual Reports**