

FOOTPRINTS

June 2023

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

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Ira: Meeting Suppers & Social Convener, Wendy; Equipment Office, Alwyn: Policy, general member: Tim

Next Club Night, Tuesday, July 3

“Oh, the places we have been” plus a soup supper.

An annual tradition of our club is for members to show and talk about 6 pictures in 6 minutes of the places they have enjoyed over the past 12 or so months. Whether it be walking, skiing, riding, paddling, touring or whatever has been your highlight, your six minutes may well inspire a fellow club member to try a new adventure, explore a new part of Australia or the world for that matter.

Your pictures can be from a club activity, a private activity or part of an organised tour.

Please send your 6 pictures in full resolution to Ralph at newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au. He will add them all to one PowerPoint presentation for us to enjoy on the night. Avoids mucking about with techo. stuff on the night.

Soup Supper

The committee is looking for volunteers to provide soup and and/or rolls. Can you help? Contact Ira on 0429 059 376 if you can help.

On the night you will need to provide your own mug and spoon however you are welcome to taste as many of the soups as you feel like.

As usual we will be meeting at 7:30 pm in the Senior Citizens Room, rear of the Cube Complex, Hovel Street Wodonga, Havelock St. end of car park. Doors open at 7:00pm.



From the President's Stump

Thank you to all those members who made the effort to attend our recent Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately, we did not have the numbers to constitute a quorum, however the meeting went ahead as per the set agenda and we followed up by asking all members via email to endorse the night's proceedings.

As a result, the new committee has resolved to conduct future AGMs in a similar manner. We call it a 'hybrid' meeting and it has the benefit of not having to call a second meeting.

My plea in the previous newsletter wasn't in vain and we're pleased to welcome two new members onto the 2023/24 committee – Geraldine Bohan and Tim Knight, and to welcome back Bernadette Cromarty. Thank you for putting your hands up!

And a big thank you to our returning committee members who have made sure that the Club will have a dedicated, committed, and experienced management team over the next 12 months.



Having said that, we still have room for **four** more committee members to join the team, so if you've given it more thought and feel you have something to offer and would like to become more involved in the running of the Club, please let me know (04 257 82 983)

We are also desperately seeking someone prepared to put together our monthly 'Footprints'. Ralph Simpfendorfer has kindly offered to produce the next two editions, but after that we'll need a replacement. If this is something that interests you, please contact Ralph (04 183 18 804) and he can fill you in on what it involves. It's not an onerous task and Ralph reckons if he can manage it, anyone can!

The committee has agreed this position does not have to be a committee position which would mean no meetings to attend and the committee would 'feed' information to the editor. Please give this some serious consideration as our newsletter is a vital organ of our Club.

The 2023-24 committee and roles are as follows ...

Executive:

President: Ian Trevaskis

Vice President: Alwyn Friedersdorff

Secretary: Dick Wellard

Treasurer: Geraldine Bohan

Membership Secretary: Sandy Kaitler

Equipment Officer: Wendy Enever

Policies: Alwyn Friedersdorff

All Rounder: Tim Knight

General:

Activities Coordinator: Bernadette Cromarty

Footprints Editor: **vacant**

Social Activities: Ira Robinson

Ex-Officio:

Publicity: Pauline McLaughlin

Activities Recorder/Statistics: Eileen Clark

Webpage Manager: Ralph Simpfendorfer

I look forward to working with the new committee who I am sure will continue to promote and support our club and its members. Please keep yourself informed of club activities and events by checking in to the website regularly as there are new events being added all the time.

Our next Club Night, on Tuesday July 4th is an opportunity for you to share with others some of the memorable places you've been recently while enjoying some delicious hot soups and crusty breads.

I look forward to catching up with you at the Club Night or on a bush track, a ski slope or a bike track. **Ian**

Meet the first of our new committee members, Tim Knight

I moved to Albury in 2001 with my family from Sydney when a job opportunity came up. My wife Lisa and I were both keen on a 'tree change' so we jumped at the chance to move.

We thoroughly enjoy living in this part of the world and I have now lived in Albury longer than anywhere else.

Now that our kids are grown, and I have retired, I have more time to become involved in other activities. I have always been interested in the natural environment and enjoy walking.

I am keen to learn more about the local environment and meet like minded people, so joining the bushwalking club was an obvious thing to do.

Lisa and I joined to club about three years ago and are looking forward to many walks in the future.



New members; a warm welcome to

- Leanne Lowe
- Helen Terris

It's time to renew your membership

Yet again, the AGM voted that membership fees should not be increased for 2023-4. It is still just \$45 and \$35 (Concession) for single; \$80 and \$65(C) for a family of 2.

You will need to complete the online risk acknowledgement to renew your club membership. This was introduced last year for the first time to save filling out a risk form for every activity. To refresh your memory, below are the instructions from last year

Go to www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

From the top menu, select 'Members' and then 'Online membership renewal'.

You should see a login option on the right of your screen. Login.

If you have forgotten your password, select 'forgot password' and enter your login name or email.

You will be emailed a password reset – this might have gone to your junk email folder.

If you have forgotten your username, select 'forgot password', enter your email address, and your username will be on the email that you receive. Then do the prior step if you've also forgotten your password.

Once you have logged in you will see the risk acknowledgement information.

Read the risk acknowledgement and tick the box to confirm you have read and acknowledge the risk acknowledgement statement.

Transfer your membership fee using the club's bank account details as shown and tick the box confirming this (or n/a – I am a life member).

Your membership has now been renewed. If there have been any issues with the form or payment going through, this will become apparent if/when you receive a reminder email to renew [this 'exception' process is less work for our membership officer than emailing to confirm every membership

Trip Reports

Gourmet Weekend Tawonga Huts

There was movement at Mt Beauty for the word had passed around
That the road up to Falls Creek had opened up
And the cooks were doing gourmet with the recipes they'd found
So five of us drove up to walk and sup

All the best available members from their houses near and far
Had packed their gear and food on Friday night
For our members, they like walking where the wild bush huts there are
And sharing food and wine is their delight

There was Eve who'd never made it to our gourmet do before
And Wendy who feared climbing with full pack
Though few could match her pace as off she tore
And Pauline who supported from the back

David who's renowned for a pav from years ago
Proved that he's a versatile young man
And Bernadette who led the gang, and told them where to go
She led alone- as we had lost I-an

The day walkers they floated as they had some lighter packs
As they didn't have our yummy food and wine
And as they climbed they gloated that they had much lighter sacks
But decided that their walk back would be fine



The walks they were such fun and we visited 2 huts
Through rain and hail, we dreamed of pleasant sun
But we cheered with fire and friendship, oh and some cheese and nuts
And everyone declared it so much fun

There were purple hats and ties and bling with earrings bright
That made the evening special and formal
The food and wine together made it such a special night
It certainly wasn't dehydrated normal

We had casserole and salad and some lovely homemade bread
And delicious brownie capped off our great night
So now we were all drowsy as we were so well fed
So, we headed off to bed and said goodnight

The night was cold and foggy but we got some sleep at last
And a fire in the morning cheered the bunch
Then we sprinted to our cars, our speed it was quite fast
It was nice to end in a café for our lunch.



Tawonga Huts Day Walk

At last! The Bogong High Plains road was partially reopened on 29 April after the landslip at Bogong Village. Undeterred by weather reports of cold, rain and snow, five gourmets headed up the road for the Club's traditional Gourmet Weekend at Tawonga Huts, accompanied by three gourmettes going just for the day.

We craned our necks to take in the massive size of the landslip and hoped it had finished as we crept along beside it at the regulation 40 kph, but there was little traffic on the road.

From Falls Creek village we bumped and bounced to Pretty Valley pondage, along the road that clearly hadn't seen any maintenance in a long time. To our amazement, we found no one else there when we arrived. We did find mist, fog and 4° but not a breath of wind, so once we got walking, we soon warmed up.

It was a slow walk into Tawonga Huts given that the gourmets were carrying so much food with them. The fog obscured the hills we were walking up, and most of the views, but we stopped every now and again just to take in the silence and the delight at being up there again after so long.

On arrival at the huts, the gourmets spread out to select spots to pitch their tents while the gourmettes provided advice, assistance and collected firewood. By now the mist was lifting and the sun made a few brief appearances as we ate lunch and heard about the planned feast. We salivated at the description of nutritious nibbles, sumptuous starters, satisfying sides, decadent desserts and the main event, *osso bucco* (minus the *os*) with enough garlic in the garnish to scare off the most determined vampire (so that's why their tents were so far apart!).

Following lengthy discussion over lunch, the gourmets decided on their afternoon side trip and accompanied the gourmettes for part of the walk out. Then we parted company, leaving them to head to Pole 333 while we went back to the pondage.

The mist had lifted but not far from the cars there was a light shower of rain, just to show us what the weather could do. Then it was time to head back home. The long delay at the landslip did not worry us as we were so happy to have been walking on the High Plains again.

Thanks to my companions for the day, especially Nola for driving us in her very new and comfortable car, and Lionel for the photos.

Eileen



ANZAC Day, Lazy walk and paddle

ANZAC DAY was a perfect Autumnal day and 11 people accompanied by 4 dogs met to enjoy a wonderful gathering. We had a leisurely walk up Reform hill, on the edge of Myrtleford, although our front marker, Timmy was keen for an increase in pace.

Bernadette was thrilled that she qualifies to sit on the 'over 65's' seat.



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 24th February 2024, return to Melbourne on Saturday 2nd March 2024.

Bookings open on 1st 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.



How to get on board with Borderskiers

Our cross-country skiing and Snowshoeing activities do not appear on the events listing.

Unfortunately snow and weather cannot be accurately predicted a few weeks out and so we have an alternative system.

First if you are interested you need to download WhatsApp. It's pretty straight forward if you are not already using the App.

Next send Marie a text message on 0431 210087. Make sure you include your name in the message. Marie will then send you an invitation link to join the Borderskiers message group.



Just follow the link to join; and you're in. You will receive a message each time a snow event is planned with updates if plans change. If all else fails ring Marie on above number.

When to Push that Button! From Bushwalking Victoria

A PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) should only be activated in a situation of grave and imminent danger; a life threatening situation. (The Bushwalking Manual)

Sensible advice indeed but where the line in the sand is for this decision is a little subjective. There have been instances where people have become disorientated or caught out after dark, thought the situation dangerous and have set off their PLB. Perhaps inconvenience more than imminent danger was the reality. Maybe a sense of panic or just inexperience made them reach such a decision.

There is the other end of the scale when pushing on further into a deteriorating situation, or not understanding the seriousness of an illness or injury, could complicate a rescue or possibly lead to a fatality due to a delay to seek help. Finding that 'unsweet' spot is the challenge.

Owen reached a decision to activate his device on a solo journey on the Australian Alps Walking Track in late 2022. This played out on the Long Spur between Mount Bogong and Mount Wills. Read the full story [HERE](#)

Your club makes donations of equipment

As David reported in his Equipment Report for the AGM, with the advent of Covid and its impact, the BBC Committee completed a review of the Hire Equipment, with a commitment to hygiene concerns highlighted by the Covid virus. Based on the review, the committee withdrew Sleeping Bags and Liners from our clubs Hire Equipment.

On the list of equipment to be removed from service was three Trangia stoves. Eve had a request from Yackandandah scouts for stoves and so these have been now passed on to the group

Wendy has organised for the sleeping bags to be donated to Uniting Care. In response the following:

25/05/2023

Border Bushwalking Club
Wodonga

Dear BBC Committee ,

I would like to sincerely thank you for supporting Uniting Vic.Tas and the ABC Goulburn Murray Radio annual , "Winter Blanket Appeal". Your generous donation of sleeping bags will be used for people accessing our emergency relief service in Wodonga provides practical support for people experiencing crisis in your local community.

For many, managing to put food on the table and providing basic needs can be difficult, due to many different reasons. Sadly, with affordable housing at an all-time low and the cost of living on the rise, the demand for our services continues to increase. Every day, we dig deeper to provide urgent support when people need it most.

Your kind thought for others has helped ensure that individuals and families who would otherwise have struggled to stay warm and sheltered have now received the basics they needed to get through a difficult time. For people struggling to make ends meet, on the edge of homelessness, experiencing family violence or recovering from the impact of alcohol and other drugs, the right help at the right time makes all the difference.

Thank you again for helping to create a brighter future for the people we work with.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Byrne
Emergency Relief Coordinator, Uniting

Services included in your BBC membership include.

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

1. Back-packs
2. Hiking poles
3. Waterproof jackets
4. 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 and Wendy for all your equipment needs whether it be hiring or buying at the special BBC club discounted rate.

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 June 24, 2023.