

# FOOTPRINTS

## July 2023

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

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### 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](mailto:newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au). He will add them all to one PowerPoint presentation for us to enjoy on the night. Avoids mucking about with tech stuff on the night.

**Plus Soup Supper at interval**

**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

Now that winter has well and truly arrived, (it's been snowing steadily in the mountains with an average 61cm snow depth at Falls Creek and snowfalls forecast to continue), our forays into the mountains are a little less attractive unless you are a keen skier or snow-shoer.

Multi-day and overnight trips are usually put on hold until the warmer weather returns, but this means some of our leaders now offer walks at lower altitudes and usually of shorter duration.

A quick check of our Events program indicates over the next few months there are Easy and Medium walks happening at Baranduda, Clover Dam, Nail Can Hill, The Rock, Mount Glenrowan, and the Warby Range. Many of these walks are a bit closer to home and well below the snow line.

For those who are keen for some snow play, the "borderskiers" group will be heading up into the mountains for some cross-country skiing. Details of how to join this group are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

So, there's no need to go into hibernation since there's plenty happening over winter, even though the weather is a bit chilly, and you might be tempted to stay indoors. So chuck on some thermals, gloves and a beanie and enjoy some forays into the great outdoors.

Our next Club Night, on Tuesday July 3<sup>rd</sup> will be well worth attending as members share the many memorable places they have been in recent times. This is always an entertaining and informative night and while you hear about and see these memorable places we've been, you can enjoy some delicious warming soups provided by the committee. I hope as many members as possible will join us at the Senior Citizen's Hall.

Ian



## Meet the second of our new committee members, Geraldine Bohan

I was born and bred in the Albury Wodonga region and after studying and working in the area, I moved to Melbourne for 8 years. In 2020, during the pandemic, I returned home.

Late last year I joined the club, as I'm working from home and wanted a way to meet people, keep active and explore parts of the region I hadn't seen when I previously lived here.

I'm enjoying being back and appreciating all the area has to offer. Looking forward to more walks and perhaps some cycling and skiing down the track.

## New member; a warm welcome to

- Kerry Anne Keil



## What events are coming up in the next 6 weeks

For more details of the activity please click on **events** in our club website. You will also find the leader's phone number here. Please ring them to discuss the walk and to book in.

<http://borderbushwalkingclub.com.au/>

***Don't forget, events are often added to the website so check often or you may miss out.***

Sunday 2/7 **Tramway Walk** (near Bogong Village on the road to Falls Creek) Gr 2 Easy/ Medium

Saturday 8/7 **Nail Can Hill** (joint with Benalla Club) Gr2 Easy/Medium

Saturday 22/7 **The Rock** (off the Wagga Rd) Gr3 Medium

Saturday 19/8 **Mt Glenrowan** (Warby Ranges)  
Gr 2 Easy/Medium



There are a few free weekends here. Maybe you could add something. An experienced leader would help you. It doesn't have to be a hard or long walk.

## You'll need to plan in advance for these ones

18-19/11 **Blue Waterholes**, Kosciuszko NP Gr 4 Medium /Hard

15-17/12 **Lake Catani**. Camp, walk and paddle. Ungraded

20-21/1 **A weekend canoeing** on the Mitta Rv. Ungraded

28/1-2/2 **Kosciuszko more huts** and stuff Gr 4 Medium/Hard

24/2-2/3 **Overland Track** Gr 4 Medium/Hard

18/3-22/3 **Murramarang** (Bateman's Bay) Gr 3 Medium

Bernadette



## A reminder; It's time to renew your membership as its overdue

As detailed last month, 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](http://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.

## From Bushwalking Victoria

### Federation Walks 2023

The program for our Fed Walks event based at Trentham on the weekend of 20–21 October is coming together but we are still needing a number of volunteers willing to step up and lead a walk.

If you would like to become part of this event as a walk leader, please contact Col Purchase from the Essendon Bushwalking Club by email [colwilpurc@gmail.com](mailto:colwilpurc@gmail.com), or text 0407 879 751.

Keep up to date here: <http://www.fedwalks.org.au>



## Trip Reports

### Mt Sugarloaf

Sunday 18th of June had a variety of weather possibilities for our walk up, and down, (and up and down and...) Mount Sugarloaf. Our original group of 11 had dwindled to 7 due to work commitments, injuries etc and then suddenly on the day, we were 5.

It had begun to rain steadily in the early morning and we left home in rainy conditions but most indications were that it would clear. After a short car shuffle we started the walk in drizzle, relieved that the track was not too slippery at all.

The drizzle was light and intermittent until we sat down for morning tea when, of course, it rained. The good thing was that it was the final downpour and we even had bursts of sun for the rest of the day.



There were lots of interesting fungi to be seen as well as a few wallabies and kangaroos.

The lunch spot is glorious and my concern that we would miss the views was ill founded, although we almost missed the spot.

Another lovely day of fresh air, chatter and solving the world's problems, with the exception of Wordle.

Thanks to a fabulous group of ladies for a very pleasant day.

Bernadette

## Mountain Creek Tracks

Five of us met at the Mountain Creek Camping Ground in Tawonga on a cold, misty morning for an easy walk exploring some of the tracks that snake through the rainforest at the base of Mt Bogong.

We started with the Shady Gully path, a 500m very easy walk along a path shaded by tree ferns and tall timber beside a gurgling creek. It was dank and moist but very pleasant.

Then we followed the main 4WD track that leads gently uphill heading towards the start of the Staircase, a main route up Mt Bogong. By now the sun was breaking through the mist and we were warming up. We read all the information and warning notices at the start of the Staircase and decided it was not for us, before retracing our steps to where the Peppermint track starts. This runs parallel to the 4WD track through different vegetation, principally peppermint gums.

We paused for a snack before following the track up and then down back to the cars where we were to have lunch. We noticed that there had been several new picnic tables installed, each with a metal plate at one corner so people's stoves don't scorch the table.

We watched as Ron boiled up a brew, then, with Mother's Day next day, we shared stories of women who had been significant in our lives: mothers, wives and daughters.

We heard how one mother's love of sloe gin led to family picnics at a place with a very rude name (for Australians at least) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effingham,\\_Surrey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effingham,_Surrey) and her foraging trips at the age of 95. There was the tale of how a 'Ten-Pound Pom' pursued his true love; the mother who welcomed her daughter back home when Covid lockdowns hit Melbourne; and the mother who has raised four very talented daughters.

Eileen; with apologies from the Editor for not including it last month

## Porepunkah to Harrietville and return by Bike

A 'last minute' event posted on our website (it pays to regularly check the Events) attracted 7 cyclists keen to make the 64km trip out and back. Numbers dropped to 4 over the week with work commitments, illness and family issues meaning some had to pull out.

Despite the cold weather we enjoyed the ride on the new section of the track from Bright to Harrietville where we lunched and warmed up with a coffee. The wind had picked up considerably so we decided Warwick should lead on his ebike as our windbreak, followed by Marie, then Ian and Rosemary bringing up the rear on her turbo-charged ebike.

The pace on the return trip, at over 25kms/hr was frenetic and soon warmed us up. Back at Porepunkah we adjourned to the Punkah Pub for a celebratory drink.

Ian



## Mt Buffalo; Short and Sharp

14 people put their names down for this walk on June 4th and all came. As it was such a big group Ian took on the role of co-leader. That way the group could be split into 2, avoiding bottlenecks at the top of some of the walks.

The Old Galleries and The Horn were tackled first and there were lots of oohs and aahs. After the 2 groups had completed both walks we walked The Cathedral and Hump as 1 group and then had lunch in the picnic area at the base of these wonders.

After lunch we split into 2 different groups and crossed over to walk up the Monolith and Lake View. These walks were exactly equal in length with both groups summiting at the same time and arriving at the carpark at the same time. The groups on the top of Lake View could see the Monolith people clearly but it was harder to spot the others as well. Mobile phone contact and lots of scanning were required.



It was a beautiful, sunny Winter day as, ordered and it was wonderful to share some of my favourite places with a fantastic group.

Thanks to Ian for taking on co-leading.

Definitely one to do again.

Bernadette



## Beechworth Mayday Hills Historical Walk

A light rain at 10 am saw 2 Life Members, 3 Committee members and 2 new members, (one of whom is already commandeered as our Treasurer) set off on a gentle walk that was hugely informative, often poignant, sometimes raising a laugh and other times causing us to question our own values.

Eileen was the ideal leader because of her volunteer experience with La Trobe University in furthering the preservation of memories around the old Asylum that was home to over 1200 patients and 500 staff from 1867 until 1998.

Her stories of staff members she had interviewed, of contact with family members over past patient lives, staff treatment and conditions, patient treatment...some who should not have been there, all worked to make the walk much more meaningful to us.



A cool 7 degrees, but we were all suitably clad; ■ with the winning mittens. The tortured curling of these branches, almost reminiscent of lives that once lived here, and despite the damp and mist, autumn colours are often enhanced and certainly gave us a glowing feeling.

I believe that more talk than walk was a great way to spend a wet Sunday, and this was cosily completed by a warming Café lunch together reinforcing the friendship of people who love to walk...and talk.

Words and pictures by Alwyn



## Wonga Wetlands

This walk was originally planned as the annual Lockhart's Gap Crossover but because of the heavy rain preceding the event it was decided to change the walk due to concerns about the state of the track.

We met at the Kremer Street boat ramp and walked along the Yindyamarra Sculpture Trail, a cruisy sealed path featuring a series of fifteen stunning contemporary Aboriginal sculptures, including the Reconciliation Shield, Tiddalick, Message Sticks, and Goanna.

After a pleasant 5-kilometre walk, we arrived at Wonga Wetlands and meandered along the paths, spotting various feathered inhabitants including a roost of Nankeen Night Herons and a pair of striking Mountain Ducks (sometimes called the Australian shelduck).

This proved to be a very pleasant day walk and afterwards some of us proceeded to nearby 'Frankie's' for a coffee. We are hopeful of rescheduled the Crossover sometime after winter, so make sure you check the website regularly so you don't miss out!



## ANZAC Day, Lazy walk and paddle Part 2

Last month we read of a most enjoyable ANZAC day walk. The following is Part 2 of that trip report that was unfortunately left off last month.

Feeling suitably sanctimonious after this display of exercise we proceeded to Lake Buffalo for a picnic lunch.

Five kayaks were then launched onto the lake. Marie and Bernadette displayed their inflatable kayaks and how they were assembled. They both enjoyed discussing the joy and independence they had discovered in their very potable kayaks.



It was an opportunity for people to try out different vessels, to chat, to read or to just sit.

Everyone agreed that it was a perfect day and we look forward to a similar gathering next Autumn.

Bernadette



## Its snowing in our mountains.....so 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.

## 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 July 24, 2023.**