

FOOTPRINTS

August 2023

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

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Next Club Night, Tuesday, September 5: double-header! New members' night

The next Club night is our annual new members' night, where new members and anyone who is interested can come along and learn about the club and how walks operate. There will be descriptions of the various activities the Club offers, the grading system, details of how to book for an activity, and demonstrations of the gear you need to take on a walk. Experienced members will be on hand to share their ideas and answer all your questions. With spring just around the corner, it's the ideal time for members new and old to brush up on what's needed and get ready for a great summer of walking.



The meeting will start 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 7:00 pm for introductions, socialising and a cuppa.

Leaders' refresher meeting

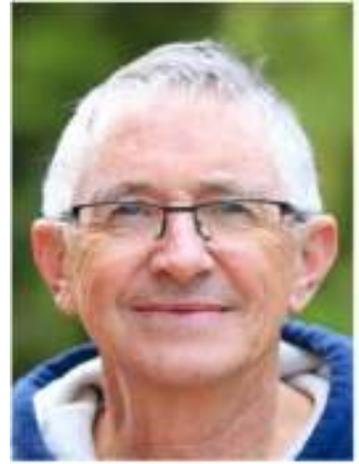
Current and wannabe leaders are asked to come along at **6.30 pm** on club night for a short refresher on policies and procedures. Bushfires, Covid and road closures have played havoc with activities over the last few years but now's the time to make sure all leaders are singing from the same hymn sheet, as the saying goes. Afterwards, we hope you will all stay on to meet new members and share your valuable experiences with them. To encourage this, there will be pizza for those who missed dinner (and the others, of course)!

Vale Les Sobey

Life Member Les Sobey passed away on 16 July 2023 after a short illness. He was one of the earliest members of the Club, serving as President in 1981. He also opened the first specialised outdoor equipment shop in Albury, the *Outdoor Experience*, known, used and loved by many members. We extend our deepest sympathies to Les's wife Chris(tina), herself a Life Member, their children and grandchildren. A celebration of Les's life will be held at Glenmorus Gardens, Lavington, on Friday 28 July at 1pm. All members are invited to attend. We will publish a tribute to Les in next month's *Footprints*.

From the President's Stump

Although our July Club Night attracted less than 20 members, those that braved a typical winter night's weather enjoyed 'visiting' some memorable places as presented by Alwyn, Sandy, Ian, Eileen and Chris. Some of the destinations we were taken to included Japan, the southern Victorian coast, the Grampians, and way beyond the Black Stump. The highlight of the evening for all of us, apart from the super delicious soups provided by the committee, was a four day overnight walk between Bethanga and Tallangatta that Chris Sobey shared with us. Following a little-used back road skirting Lake Hume, Chris and her trusty shopping trolley, 'Piglet' took us on a magical and at times whimsical journey reminding us that we don't have to travel far or spend big bucks to delight in an unforgettable experience.



Winter won't last forever, and our Activities Program is filling fast with a range and diversity of activities, so I thought it an opportune time to rehash a piece I wrote back in 2017 titled '**Bushwalkers Behaving Badly**' as a reminder for all of us.

When I lead a walk or am lucky enough to be led on a walk, there are several things I take for granted until I realise that not everyone in the group is up to speed with the unofficial bushwalking etiquette that most of us follow when out on the track. Here are ten reminders for all of us, whether we're new to the game or old hands...

- 1. DON'T BE LATE** Make sure you turn up at the appointed meeting place on time so that the others aren't waiting around. A late start can mean a late finish which is no fun if you forgot to pack your head torch and have to stumble around in the dark on the way back to the cars.
- 2. BE READY TO GO** Just because you arrived well before the appointed time, doesn't mean you should then proceed to hold everyone up while you eat breakfast, change your clothes or Facebook all your friends to let them know you are about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime.
- 3. DOUBLE CHECK YOU HAVE EVERYTHING** You don't want to have to admit to the Leader when you stop for lunch that you left yours sitting on the bench at home, or that you forgot your water bottle; or be asking to borrow someone's tea bag, or their toilet paper, or if anyone has a spare pair of gloves or a rain jacket, or ...
- 4. MAKE SURE YOU'RE UP TO IT** Don't kid yourself (and the Leader) that sure, you can manage a five-day pack walk in the mountains, after all you have been walking around the block every night after work. Check the walk grading, look at a topographical map of where the walk is being held (that's the map with all the little lines on it), and if you're not sure, ask. Don't ruin everyone else's trip just because you have a big ego.
- 5. LEAVE A MARKER** When nature calls and you have to duck into the bushes for a quick whizz, let someone know and make sure you leave your pack on the track so that when the Leader sends out a search party because you've slipped on a rock and are now lying unconscious in the undergrowth they'll know where to start looking.
- 6. RIGHT OF WAY** Don't forget that the walkers grunting and gasping up the mountainside have the right of way over the walkers cheerfully strolling down the mountainside. It's always polite to step off the track to let the poor buggers get by if there isn't a lot of room. (You might even offer them a hand up).
- 7. INTERSECTIONS** These can cause a lot of confusion and heartache, especially if you head off in the wrong direction. If you get there before everyone else because all those evening walks around the block have made you super-fit and you're out to prove that you can manage even if you are carrying a 30kg pack, **STOP!** The accepted code of conduct is to **WAIT** until everyone in the group has arrived (including the Leader) before proceeding.
- 8. FIVE MINUTES 'TIL BLAST OFF!** According to some, the most important aspect of bushwalking etiquette is the Five-Minute Warning. You've stopped somewhere on the track for morning tea and you're wondering... Do I have time to set up the stove and boil the billy for a cuppa, can I unroll my mat and have a little lie down and catch up on my emails, is there enough time to walk up to that ridge behind us and take a

few panoramic photos? A good Leader will establish the length of the break and provide a five-minute warning from when the walk is due to resume.

9. SILENCE IS GOLDEN *Sometimes it's rather nice to walk without a constant chatter happening around us. Sometimes we like to appreciate the silence of wild places; to listen to the lyrebirds showing off their repertoire of bird calls; to hear the wind rustling through the leaves of the mountain ash; to hear the soft patter of rain on our jacket hood. So don't forget to take a deep breath and let the stillness embrace you, rather than filling every second with your scintillating insights.*

10. APPLAUDE THE LEADER *At the end of the walk it's quite alright to give the Leader a standing ovation, a slap on the back, a warm handshake or help them unload their pack; better still shout them a coffee and cake on the way home to show your gratitude for organising the whole experience and getting you and your 30 kg pack home safe and sound.*

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

It's MORE THAN time to renew your membership!

Memberships are now **OVERDUE**. 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 saves filling out a risk form for every activity. To refresh your memory, here are the instructions:

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 go 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 (BSB 640-000, account no. 1111044480) 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].

If you choose not to renew due to changed circumstances, you're welcome to participate as a visitor and pay \$5 per activity.

Upcoming events

WHAT'S 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 added to the website frequently so check often or you may miss out.

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| Wednesday July 26 th | Gateway Lakes Albury-Wodonga Gr 1 |
| Saturday August 12 th | Lockharts Gap Crossover Gr 3 |
| Saturday August 19 th | Mt Glenrowan (Warby Ranges) Gr 2 Easy/Medium |
| Saturday Sep 9 th | Nail Can Choose your own Adventure. Gr 3 or 4 |
| Sunday Sep 17 th | Warby Range Walk Gr 3 |

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:

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| 7 Oct | 45th Anniversary Celebrations See below. |
| 18-19 Nov | Blue Waterholes , Kosciuszko NP Gr 4 Medium /Hard |
| 15-17 Dec | Lake Catani. Camp, walk and paddle. Ungraded |
| 20-21 Jan | A weekend canoeing on the Mitta Rv. Ungraded |
| 28 Jan-2 Feb | Kosciusko more huts and stuff Gr 4 Medium/Hard |
| 18-22 Mar | Murramarang (Bateman's Bay) Gr 3 Medium |

What's your 'go-to' walk?

These are the walks we do every week as part of our health and fitness routine. They are normally close to home and take a couple of hours. You know the walk well, so have you thought about putting the walk on the program to share with other members? Activities co-ordinator Bernadette activities@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au can arrange a mentor for you to guide you through what you need to do as leader. The walk can be mid-week or weekend, half day or whole day. We might be able to link two shorter walks together. Examples of walks include Eastern Hill, Mungabareena, Huon Hill, Maher's Hill, the riverside trails, Federation Hill, etc. We often get asked to put shorter and easier walks on the program but to do this, we need more people willing to lead them.

New members: a warm welcome to

- Natarsha Onley
- Lynda Waters

45th Anniversary Party – Save the date!



When and where was this photo taken? Are you in it??

The Border Bushwalking Club was formed at a public meeting in June 1987, and its first walk to Mt Table Top (just north of Albury) on 18 June 1978 attracted over 100 participants! To celebrate our 45th birthday, we will again gather at Mt Table Top on **Saturday 7 October**, and we hope many present and former members will join us. More details next month, but there will be car pooling from Albury and Wodonga, short walks, reminiscences and celebrations. Those attending will need to BYO food, drinks and chairs. Please pass this message on to any former members you know.

Thanks and farewell

Long-time member Denise Smith is hanging up her boots. She wrote:

‘This year I have decided not to continue my membership with the Border Bushwalking Club, I think my membership commenced about 1992, 30 or so years is a long time. Joining the club took me places I had never imagined, having been involved in the equestrian scene most of my life due to an absolute passion for horses. Carrying a pack and climbing to some amazing places certainly created a new passion. Thank you to the Club for extending my knowledge and giving me the thirst for adventure, and also the friendship of Club members. I hope the BBC will have many more years showing the way to members seeking adventures and its ability to take us beyond what we thought were our limits, and also keeping the northeast Victorian coffee shops busy.

Regards, Denise Smith.’

Thanks Denise. We wish you a long and happy retirement and hope to see you from time to time.

Car pooling policy

Traditionally, the Club has encouraged members to car pool for travel to the start of walks to reduce costs, encourage sociability and minimise our carbon footprint. This had to be suspended during the Covid pandemic but is now back in operation. Leaders of activities identify a meeting spot for members to meet and travel together from. Participants are expected to contribute to drivers’ costs, with all participants paying the same amount and each driver receiving an equal amount. The leader is responsible for calculating, collecting and distributing ‘petrol money’ using a formula that takes into account distance travelled, number of participants, number of cars, and a cost factor. **Leaders please note:** at its July meeting, the committee decided that the cost factor should be **\$0.50**. The policy in full, together with an example of the calculation, will be in the members’ section of the website. Members who do not wish to car pool should tell the leader when booking in.

Meet the Editor

I'm Eileen Clark and I've just taken over as Editor of *Footprints*. It's my second time in the role, having done it back in the days of typewriters and a Gestetner ink roller printer, so I've been on a bit of a learning curve with this edition. On behalf of members, I thank Ralph Simpfordorfer for his excellent work as editor for the past few years.

I joined the club about 40 years ago and was honoured to be made a Life Member in 2018. My main activity is day walks and my favourite area is the Bogong High Plains around Falls Creek, and I look forward to leading walks up there in the summer after all the disruptions of the past few years. I have also done multi-day walks in the United Kingdom, and in the picture, I'm warming up in a whisky distillery after two days of pouring rain in the north of Scotland!



Contributions to *Footprints* are always welcome and can be sent to newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

Trip Reports

Winter walk at Baranduda



A gentle winter walk in the foothills of Baranduda was attended by a full complement of 12 walkers on a lovely cloud free Sunday morning, starting off at Boyes Road to track along the peaceful Regional Parkland that is part of that amazing legacy of the Whitlam years when land was bought and set aside as part of the Development Corporation. It is still maintained by volunteer groups with assistance from the Wodonga Council, so we see useful signage and well-kept walk ways. The dried-off grove of very tall Fleabane towers over us along one part of the trail, and nature battles when deer scratch their itches against this young ironbark sapling. We covered a myriad of topics as we chattered our way for 7 kilometres, and that made the morning a sociable treat and proves the point that there is a place for such short easy walks and talks. We finished up in the shelter of Westmont Retirement Village for lunch and more chat. Thank you to Alison Wellard for leading such a pleasurable, easy winter walk.

(Report and photos from Dick Wellard)





Not the Clover Tramway

Pauline's Clover Tramway walk had to be postponed after advice that during winter all cars must carry chains from Mt Beauty even if they are not going as far as Falls Creek. Because it seemed a shame to waste such a gorgeous day, a few of us went on an impromptu walk in Mt Beauty, going up the Survey Track to Cranky Charlie, crossing the road and following the Pole Track back to Mt Beauty. We had stunning views of a sunlit Mt Bogong towering above the forest then a leisurely lunch in the sun after persuading a couple of wallabies to make room for us.

(Report and photo from Eileen)

August meeting



As Ian noted in his President's report, at the August Club night there were delicious soups made by committee members to warm us on a very wet night.

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: 22 August 2023