

FOOTPRINTS

November 2023

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

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which we travel and meet. We respect their elders past and present.

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Christmas Party: Tuesday 5 December

The Club's Christmas party will be held on Tuesday 5 December at Brown's Lagoon, Olive Street, South Albury, starting at 5.30 pm. There will be all the usual frivolities and this year's Club Champion will be announced. The Club will provide a barbecue with a selection of meats and veggie burgers and members are asked to bring the trimmings:

If your surname starts with the letters A to M: Please bring a salad

If your surname starts with the letters N to Z: Please bring a dessert

You must tell us that you are coming so we have enough food for all, so please email catering supremo Ira roboira@yahoo.com.au **before 29 November**. Please tell Ira if you have special dietary needs.



From the (Vice)-President's Stump

While our fearless President is wandering the ancient trails of Portugal, it falls to me to add some notes to this newsletter! I have been following the intrepid pair on Facebook and can report that they are safely through the Duoro Valley, a port wine region and one of the most beautiful landscapes in Portugal with a history of more than two thousand years of wine production. Next, they climbed mountain trails covering 12 to 22 kilometres a day in 30 degrees heat to end up in the stone winding streets and stone houses of Lindoso up in northern Portugal near the Spanish border. And they do seem to be drinking more water than wine!



As for us, we have had a smorgasbord of refreshing springtime walks with the highlight of course being our perfect day out on the magnificent private property of Mr Roger Paterson in the Mount Table Top area to celebrate our 45 years of Border Bushwalking events. If you haven't read Eileen Clark's amazing compilation of the Memorable Trip Reports from 1978 to 2023, then find it on our website under Members – Club Documents and Forms and enjoy the past fun!

But as I write there are 22 walks planned by a variety of volunteer leaders from now until early in 2024, so be sure to sign up to as many as you can. Leaders do a lot of careful planning before they propose a walk, so it is up to us to support their effort.

Soon it will be time to take a short break over the Christmas season, so **Save the Date** for our club social get together to be held on December 5 at Brown's Lagoon. In the meantime, keep walking and talking, fill your lungs with the healthy air of our local lanes and mountain byways and keep active to ensure a longer healthier life!

Alwyn Friedersdorff

Welcome to new members:

We welcome Rachel Buchan, Susan Perry, Jessica Hunt and Ralph Hales to the Club.



WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE NEXT SIX 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.

Tuesday 24 th Oct	Yackandandah: Spring walk	Gr 2 Easy Medium
Saturday 28 th Oct	Falls Creek: Pretty Valley circuit	Gr 3 Medium
Weekend 3 rd –5 th Nov	Falls Creek: The Fainters	Gr 3 Medium
Sunday 5 th Nov	Albury: Riverside exploration	Gr 3 Medium
Saturday 11 th Nov	Falls Creek: Kelly and Fitzgerald Huts	Gr 3 Medium
Sunday 12 th Nov	Bike ride: Porepunkah to Harrierville	Gr3 Medium (64km)
Weekend 18–19 Nov	Kosciuszko NP: Blue Waterholes	Gr 4 Medium Hard
Sunday 19 th Nov	Falls to Hotham crossover day walk	Gr 4 Medium Hard
Saturday Nov 25 th	Bike ride: Wodonga to Tallangatta by the lake	Ungraded (46km)
Weekend 2–3 Dec	Falls Creek: Ryders Yard Beginners camp	Gr 2 Easy Medium
9–10 Dec	Mt Hotham: Youngs Hut via Paling Spur	Gr 4 Medium Hard
Sunday 10 th Dec	Mt Hotham: The Huts Walk	Gr 4 Medium Hard

YOU'LL NEED TO PLAN IN ADVANCE FOR THESE ONES:

15–17 Dec	Mt Buffalo: Lake Catani Camp, walk and paddle	Ungraded
12–14 Jan	Mt Hotham: JB Plain car camp	Ungraded
20–21 Jan	A weekend canoeing on the Mitta River	Ungraded
20–21 Jan	Falls Creek: Youngs Hut	Gr 3 Medium
28 Jan–2 Feb	Kosciuszko NP: more huts and stuff	Gr 4 Medium Hard
24 Feb–2 Mar	Tasmania Overland Track. FULLY BOOKED	Gr 4 Medium Hard

45th Anniversary Party



And what a party it was! About 50 members, from founders to newest recruits, gathered at Peregrines at Table Top to celebrate and reminisce. The weather was perfect and the setting was delightful, with lush lawns and shady trees. Vice-President Alwyn Friedersdorff welcomed members, many of whom arrived early to go on one of the walks. The Wildflower walk was about 5 km and graded easy, and the Wildflower walk with Sugar Loaf extension was about 7 km and somewhat harder but with spectacular views. We all came together for a leisurely lunch, followed of course by the cutting of not one but two cakes by four life members, after a brief speech by Warwick McLachlan. Thanks are due to those who made the day possible: Roger Paterson, owner of Peregrines, for allowing us to use it; Paul Schirmer who initiated the day but sadly, was not well enough to participate; Sandy Kaitler for doing a mountain of work behind the scenes; and Ira Robinson who organised the cakes and much more. I'll let the pictures tell the rest of the story.



Four founding members still going strong: Chris Sobey, Marg Hough, Warwick McLachlan and Ray Henderson

45 years' walking takes its toll







Trip Reports

Warby Range

September 17th was a perfect day for walking. The sun was out and a slight breeze kept the temperature comfortable. Although four participants had to cancel, we had still had an eager group of nine who enjoyed the walk up the narrow gorge on the Salisbury Falls track, with wildflowers abundant and views marvellous. We were lucky to have Ira who could spot an orchid in the grass, like a bird spotting a worm, and give us the common and Latin name.

After stopping at the bridge for the obligatory group photo we continued up the gorge then onto the next stop, morning tea in the forest. From there it was up to Mt Warby, with some views visible, then onto Wenham's camp, where there was, surprisingly, no one camping. As we followed the Friends' track the flora and fauna continued to change, with many wattles blooming here.



Lunch was at Kwat Kwat lookout, where the view over the valley is always great to see, and as we were leaving we had another group arrive, just about the only other walkers we saw all day. The walk back via Alpine Views track had a few steep but short stretches, with another change in the surrounds, then back down Salisbury Falls track and our cars. It was a very relaxed and enjoyable day, thanks to all who came. Pauline.

Mt Beauty: Survey and Pole tracks

Six of us met in Mt Beauty on an unseasonably warm September morning. We crossed the road and had a close encounter of the cute kind with a Border Collie puppy before heading up the Survey Track at a gentle pace. Spring was definitely in the air with many different wildflowers in bloom, and we were fortunate to have Ira with us to find and identify them. Her knowledge was encyclopaedic, and she was able to locate and identify eleven different types of native orchid, some of which were in full flower while others were a few days away from blooming. Ira also showed talents of a different kind when she surpassed the world speed record for Horizontal-to-Vertical Self Elevation (with double somersault and tuck) when she slipped on some gravel and landed in a humongous ants' nest full of marauding ants. No blood was shed but it took her some time to remove the pesky crawlers from her person.

The weather was definitely hot by the time we reached the end of the Survey Track at Cranky Charlie. We crossed the road and headed for the Pole Track which leads back to Mt Beauty. We decided to abandon the planned 'lunch on the log' that is usually a feature of this walk and headed straight down and onto the Gorge Track, which took us down to a shady picnic table beside the river. After a leisurely lunch we headed back to the cars after a shortish but very enjoyable walk. Eileen.

Warby Range: Loggers Lane



We're lucky to have the Warby–Ovens National Park so close to us. It protects three diverse ecosystems and includes some of the state's most significant bushland. Eight of us enjoyed this walk through a new area in a different part of the park. The wildflowers were still out, and we were able to identify most of them. The Warby Ranges Grevillea (*Grevillea Alpina*) with its bright orangey red claw-like flowers was spectacular. The standout feature in the bush is the huge *Xanthorrhoea* (grass trees) many of them with their young flowering spikes low enough for some of us to sample Xanthorrhoea honey for the first time. The Warbys are just sensational in spring. Deb.



Falls Creek: Mt Nelse and Edmonson Hut

Three of us set off up Heathy Spur into the teeth of a gale and we were soon shrouded in low cloud. Luckily we could still see our feet as we picked our way up the footpath that in many places was more like a small stream, thanks to all the rain in the previous week. But, as Billy Connolly once said, there's no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothes, and we were well equipped for the challenge, with thermals, fleeces and sturdy waterproofs. There were occasional moments when the cloud lifted and we had the views we hoped for, including the big snow patch on the side of Mt Nelse. Meanwhile, close up, we enjoyed the start of wildflower season with yellow *Kunzea* already in bloom.



In view of the wind and low visibility we abandoned plans to go to the summit of Mt Nelse and instead headed directly to Edmonson Hut, where we enjoyed a leisurely lunch and were entertained by brilliant flame robins perched on nearby trees. By consensus we decided to return to the start by heading

down the fire trail to Watchbed Creek and then along the High Plains Road beside the dam. This made for easier walking and with only one car sighted, traffic was not a problem. The walk showed us that you can have a good time in inclement weather if you are well prepared with the right gear and a sense of fun!



Bushwalking Victoria working bee: Mt Buffalo 8–10 December

See flyer on last page.

Friends of Chiltern National Park

The Friends of Chiltern National Park are again running spring wildflower walks and everyone is welcome. Walks last for a couple of hours. Participants meet at 9 am at the park near the swimming pool on Main Street, Chiltern. Final walk for this year is Saturday 5th November to Mt Pilot.

For Sale

LOWE Cholatse 35 litre day pack, adjustable back size, several pockets, optional dual compartments, hydration compatible, rain cover. Only used a few times. \$100.

Women's boots, Asolo, never worn outdoors, size 9 or thereabouts. \$250.

Contact Eileen at newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au phone 0412 042 195.



Greg Sharp has a Mountain Designs 'Ridge' hiking tent in excellent condition; however, the poles are a different story! If anyone would like it, he is willing to give it away at NO COST! Contact Greg at sharps5@aapt.net.au or phone 0417 110815

Photo credits this issue:

Deb, Eileen, Pauline, Wendy

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.

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. 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:** the cost factor is currently **\$0.50**.

In response to requests, here is an example of how the policy works. **Participants** are all people undertaking the activity who wish to car pool, including leader, drivers and passengers. Those who do not wish to car pool should tell the leader when booking in. **Designated drivers** are the drivers of vehicle used in the car pool.

Leader uses Google Maps or prior knowledge to get accurate estimate of the distance to be travelled from agreed meeting place (e.g. Bunnings, Wodonga) to the start of the walk and doubles this for the round trip. This distance is **multiplied** by number of cars needed and current cost factor rate:

Distance x number of cars used x cost factor

The calculated number is then **divided** by the number of participants to give an amount in dollars and cents. Round to nearest dollar and collect this amount from each **participant**. Divide this amount equally between **drivers**.

Example:

Seven people book in for a walk at Falls Creek starting and finishing at Cope Hut car park. They meet at Bunnings in Wodonga. The distance to start of walk is 122 km, making it 244 km for round trip. Two cars are needed.

Distance x number of cars x cost factor: $244 \times 2 \times 0.50 = \244

Divide by number of participants (7) = \$34.86. Round up to \$35.00

Leader collects \$35.00 from each participant including drivers (\$245.00)

Two cars were used, leader gives \$122.50 to each driver.

We run a cash economy. To help leaders, participants should bring notes/coins in small denominations.

\$

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: 15 November 2023

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

BTAC Activity
Mt Buffalo National Park
8 - 10 December 2023

This activity involves working with Parks Victoria to maintain walking tracks on Mt Buffalo. The activity is limited to 16 volunteers.

When:	Friday 8 - Sunday 10 December 2023
Track:	Various walking tracks on Mt Buffalo
Area/Park:	Mt Buffalo National Park
Project Leader:	Mike Grant Phone: 0459 088 853 Email: mikegrant1@bigpond.com
Where to meet:	Lake Catani Campground off Mount Buffalo Tourist Road
Working hours:	Track maintenance activities will occur on Saturday and Sunday starting at 8am.
Skills needed:	Good level of fitness. Chainsaw operators, brush cutting, hedge trimming, use of hand tools, manual lifting. There is a wide range of tasks. No previous track maintenance experience is required.
Transport:	Provide your own transport to the Lake Catani Campground or arrange to share a ride. Access to the camp site is open to 2WD
Accommodation:	Camping at Lake Catani Campground. Parks Victoria have set sites aside
We will provide:	Parks Victoria and BTAC will provide all track maintenance equipment and PPE. Parks Victoria will provide a BBQ dinner on Saturday evening. A campfire with a hot plate and tripod will be available.
Please bring:	Camping gear and provisions for all meals apart from Saturday evening BBQ. A day backpack to carry lunch, energy snacks, water, raincoat, warm top, emergency contact, and medical information form, small first aid kit, hand sanitiser, etc. Sturdy work footwear. This activity is in the high country where the weather can change rapidly. Come prepared for all seasons.
Scope of work:	We will be working as volunteers to Parks Victoria to do track maintenance work. Maintenance work will involve brush cutting, hedge trimmer operation, chain saw operation, erecting markers and the use of hand tools for vegetation trimming, drainage work and clean up.
Meeting time:	From 3pm Friday 8 December, as it suits participants.
Finish time:	By Sunday 3pm
	It is a requirement of Parks Victoria that all volunteers after their first volunteering activity have a Working With Children Check and load it up on ParkConnect as evidence.

Please register on ParkConnect by 1 December