

FOOTPRINTS

April 2024

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.

President	Ian Trevaskis 0425 782 983	president@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Vice President	Alwyn	president@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Membership, Data base	Sandy	membership@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Treasurer	Geraldine	treasurer@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Secretary	Dick	secretary@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Newsletter Editor	Eileen	newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Activities Coordinator	Bernadette	activities@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

Ira: Meeting Suppers & Social Convener; Wendy; Equipment Officer; Alwyn: Policy; General member: Tim.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting for the Border Bushwalking Club

The Annual General Meeting for our club will be held on Tuesday 7 May 2024 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 so you can catch up with friends over light refreshments and the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Annual reports will be available in the next issue of *Footprints*.

And the winner is.....

No, it's not the Oscars but nomination time is here again for our Club.

As detailed in last month's *Footprints*, we are calling for nominations for new Life Members, people who have given outstanding service to the Club over many years. Nominations must be on the approved form and submitted by email to Vice President Alwyn alwynyard@bigpond.com by 5pm on Tuesday 2nd April 2024. **[Note change of date]** You can read the selection criteria in the March issue of *Footprints* and download a Word copy of the nomination form from the Club website at <https://borderbushwalkingclub.com.au/newsletter/> (log in needed).

It's also time for **nominations to the Committee**. All positions on the Committee are declared vacant at the Annual General Meeting. Some serving members have indicated they are willing to do another term, but any Club member can nominate for any position. Contested elections are a sign of a healthy democracy, so think about nominating yourself or someone else. The jobs are not onerous and monthly committee meetings are a blend of business and socialising. A not-too-serious description of the various Committee roles can be found on p. 3 and a nomination form is attached to the end of this issue.

From the President's Stump



I'm pleased to announce, if you aren't already aware, that our Border Bushwalking Club Facebook page is now live and operational! This is a Page for members to share their BBC adventures with others via photos and a brief description of the activity. It's also a place to acknowledge and celebrate the Great Outdoors we live in. Please be aware that is **NOT** a place to share posts from private and public pages, businesses and You Tube channels. Self-promotion and commercial advertising is **NOT** permitted. Big Thanks are due to Suzanne Fisher who volunteered to set up and to manage the page for us. (Suzanne has also recently taken on the role of BBC Website Manager, for which we are most thankful.)

'Move in May' is an initiative being promoted by Wodonga Council to encourage the community to get active and they have invited organisations to become involved. At our most recent committee meeting we decided we would take up their offer as we believe it will provide us with an opportunity to promote our Club and showcase what we do. It might also increase participation in our activities, as well

as contribute to the local community becoming more active and create community connections. As a result, Alwyn is offering to lead an easy guided walk on **TUESDAY, MAY 21st** commencing at 10:00am. This is what she will be offering, and we hope as many of our members (and their friends) will "make the move".

Willow Park, The Heckendorf Legacy

Meet at the car park just off Pearce Street for an easy walk through parts of Willow Park and into Clyde Cameron reserve as we find out about the Border Bushwalking Club and explore the history and natural delights of this part of Wodonga. We will see two very ancient trees; we will hear about the settlement and development of the area and enjoy a sociable end if you bring your own snacks and drinks. Approx. 2 hours in duration.

KISS (Keep It Short and Simple)

Now that the weather is becoming a little milder, we are hoping a few more members might step forward and offer some easy walks in the Albury-Wodonga area. These could be something as simple as a 'Sunrise Walk' starting at sunrise, meandering along the riverside, and finishing at a local café for breakfast; or perhaps an easy evening walk of an hour or so and finishing at a local watering hole for a couple of sherbets. The idea is to keep it short, easy, and social. Remember, we have Leaders who are willing to assist, all we need are some members to get on board and cater for those members who are either 'time poor' or not quite up to a full-on, long day walk involving travel out of the immediate area.

I look forward to catching up with you on a trail, a river or a bike track in the near future.

Ian

New members

We extend a warm welcome to new members Craig Norton, Nola and Trevor O'Connell, Rod Paton (a member from years ago), Sandra Moon, Liz Munchan, Sharon Benson and David Walsh.

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.

As we enter Autumn and it cools down we are looking for walks that are closer to home in addition to our Alpine walks. Do you have a favourite walk to add? An experienced leader will help you.

Sunday 24 th March	Porepunkah to Harrietville: Cycle ride	Grade 3 Medium
Saturday 30 th March	Falls Creek: Wild Horse Creek	Grade 3 Medium
Weekend 6–7 April	Falls Creek: Tawonga Huts Gourmet Weekend	Grade 3 Medium
W/E 12–14 April	Falls Creek: Spion Kopje/Edmonson Hut	Grade 3 Medium
W/E 13–14 April	Kosciuszko NP: Wheeler's Hut	Grade 3 Medium
Sunday 21 st April	Mt Buffalo bits: Short walks, do as many as you wish	Grade 3 Medium
Sunday 5 th May	Albury: Nail Can Hill and River stroll	Grade 3 Medium

Who does what on the Committee?

The following descriptions are more or less true and may help you decide whether to nominate yourself or someone else for a Committee position at the AGM.

President (Ian)

Leads the Club with a firm but kind hand, making sure we don't get lost along the tangled pathways of rules and regulations. The President usually chairs meetings, sees that our Club remains inclusive, welcoming and friendly, and ensures we meet the objectives of the constitution. He is pro-active when it comes to issues affecting the Club and encourages members to lead activities in a safe, competent and friendly manner. To do all this, you need the wisdom of Solomon and a strong sense of humour.

Vice-President (Alwyn)

This is the easiest job on the Committee provided the President never takes a holiday, sick leave or other period of absence. Since this is unlikely, it is helpful if the VP has a crystal ball to ensure that they will be present when the President is absent. In our Club, there is no expectation that the VP will automatically be promoted to President at some time.

Secretary (Dick)

The Time Lord of the Committee who turns hours into minutes when recording decisions made at Committee meetings. The Secretary also attends to correspondence and enquiries and maintains contact with Committee members. Key attributes include the ability to find pearls of wisdom among the dross of animated discussion at meetings, and a good sense of dates so that meeting notices are sent out in timely fashion.

Treasurer (Geraldine)

If you can count up to 20 without taking your socks off, this is the job for you. The Treasurer maintains our accounts, authorises payments and prepares financial reports for meetings with details of cheques and balances, incomings and outgoings. This requires a neat and logical mind and the ability to navigate a spreadsheet without using GPS.

Membership Secretary (Sandi)

This is the Keeper of the Records, charged with ensuring that members' details remain SECURED, PROTECTED and kept PRIVATE. The Membership Secretary processes new membership applications, sends out welcome letters and checks that forms are correctly filled in. While once this involved a mountain of paper and the destruction of several forests, now it is all done on computer and so the ability to use same is an essential attribute.

Activities Co-ordinator (Bernadette)

Keeps us on our toes, saddles, skis, canoes and anything else. The Activities Co-ordinator oversees the program and liaises with leaders to ensure that planned activities are run safely. This is done by checking and approving planned activities before they appear on the Club's website. The AC regularly reviews Club protocols and policies related to activities to ensure we are following best practice and encourages new leaders by arranging mentors. To do all this, you need a good knowledge of the places we visit, the aforementioned wisdom of Solomon and an operational crystal ball.

Equipment Officer (Wendy)

Do you know the differences between a tent, a teepee and a Trangia? Then think about becoming Equipment Officer. The Club has a selection of equipment for hire and the Equipment Officer ensures this is in good condition and also makes recommendations for replacements or new items.

Social Convenor (Ira)

Many members reckon this is the most important job of all. The Social Convenor ensures we have venues for meetings and appropriate refreshments to enhance our sociability. This requires the organisational skills of a Field-Marshal and the uncanny ability to know how many sausages to order for the Christmas Party when you have no idea how many people are coming. Another responsibility is ensuring the President always has a packet of Tim Tams that never runs out.

Newsletter Editor (Eileen)

If you've read this far you'll have a good idea of what the newsletter editor does. Eleven times a year I must compile a stunning publication packed with news, information and trip reports. You be the judge! The editor has the choice of being on the Committee or sitting outside it and getting the required information in other ways.

Website Manager (Suzanne)

Is responsible for all the back office stuff needed to maintain the Club's website and, from this month, our Facebook page. It is a highly skilled position and hence is chosen by selection rather than election. The website manager also has the choice of being on the Committee or sitting outside it.

General member(s) (Tim)

This is the member without portfolio, or the odd job man who does a bit of everything as the need arises. Drawing on his vast experience of this and other Committees, Tim has put together some thoughts about what makes a good Committee member:

- Some experience in working with or in groups of people is useful. Committee work is often about cooperation and compromise, and of course conflict resolution!
- It's not necessary for all BBC Committee members to be expert bushwalkers, but the ability to listen to and take on board opinions of those that are is important.

- Obviously, a keen interest in seeing the Club prosper is important, ie be a keen Club member.
- Committee members should also be capable of creative thinking. Leading a club through difficult times sometimes requires 'different' approaches
- People with wide and varied connections within the local community are very useful people to have on committees as often potential roadblocks can be overcome, doors opened, etc.
- Some experience in applying for and managing grants may be useful, depending on our financial position going forward

Trip reports

Overland Track, Tasmania



The Overland Track is Australia's #1 alpine walk. As we made our way from Cradle Mountain in the north to Lake St Clair in the south, the track wound 65 kms (plus side trips) through the Cradle Mountain—Lake St Clair National Park in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage area, a landscape carved by glaciers. We walked through rainforests, eucalypt forests, moorlands of button grass and alpine meadows.

Staying at Waldheim Cabins the night before allowed us to start early and have the track to ourselves. The track is well marked and easy to follow as it climbs gently towards Marion's Lookout. The ascent to Marion's Lookout is a short but steep climb that takes you up to the exposed plateau, most of which is above 1000m. With the low cloud gone, the 360-degree views from Marion's Lookout down to Dove and Crater lakes, and across to Cradle Mountain and Barn Bluff were pretty specky. At Kitchen Hut, some of the group decided to give summiting Cradle Mt a go while others opted to walk on to the new Waterfall Valley Hut. By late afternoon everyone had arrived at the hut





and both Cradle Mt and Barn Bluff had been summited. It had been a big day and the very comfy new hut was greatly appreciated.

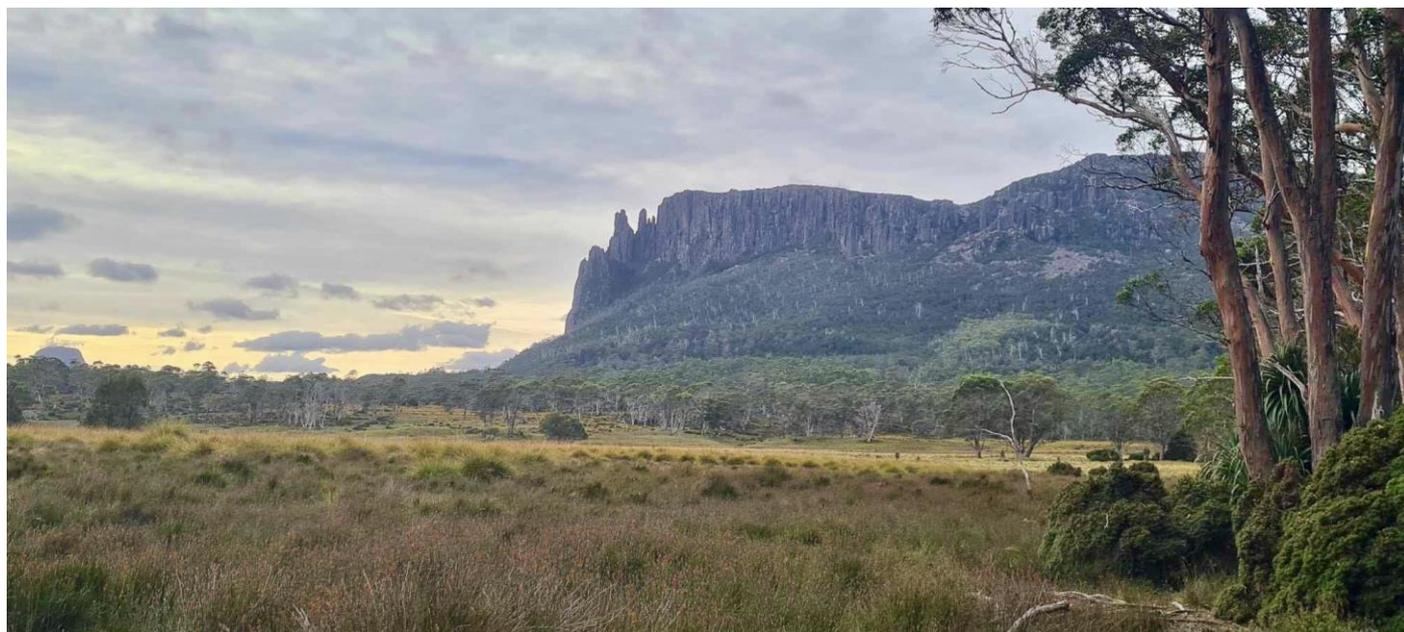
On paper our 2nd day was shorter and for five of the six it was. Unfortunately, a forgotten food bag meant walking the section from the hut to Lake Wills turn off three times instead of once. Lesson learnt, check, double check and check again. Again, when we arrived at Windemere Hut we decided to enjoy another night in the beautiful purpose-built huts and a swim in the cold lake soon washed away the days sweat.

The walk from Windemere Hut to Pelion Hut is the longest day on the track (not including side trips). We were making good time as we got to the Forth Valley lookout, however rising fog meant no views, so we kept walking. The track wound through pine and beech forests as it descended to Frog Flats where we had lunch. After a short climb we were on the ridge that contoured around Mt Pelion West before reaching Pelion Hut.

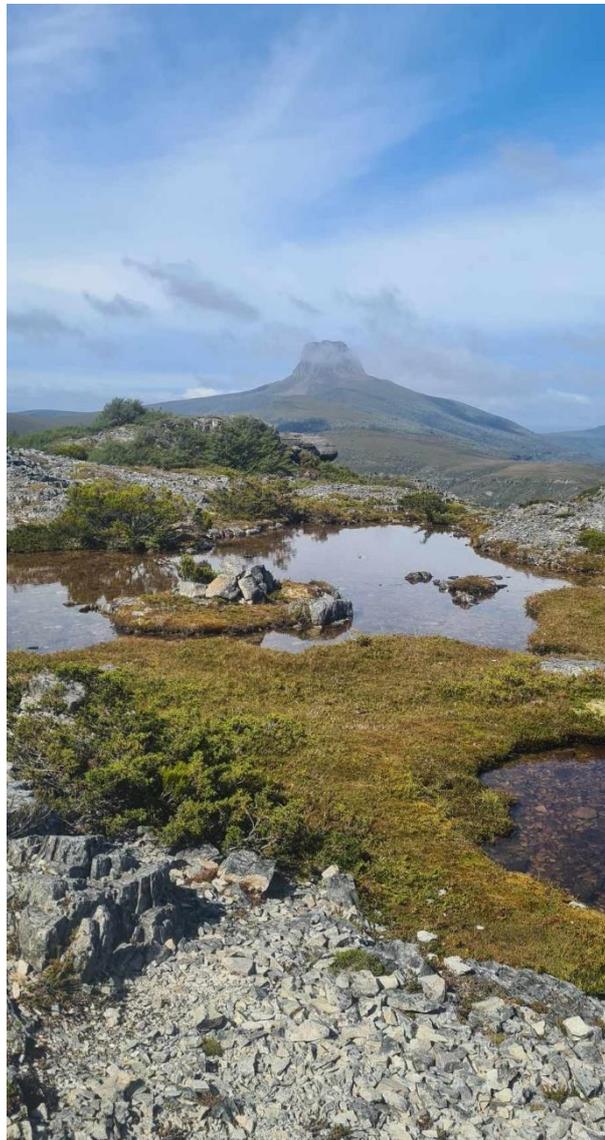
Mt Ossa 1617m, Pelion East 1433m and Mt Doris 1340m were all climbed on our 4th day. Around 2500 steps take you from Pelion Gap up to The Japanese Gardens on Mt Doris. The track then continues up onto a saddle before the real scramble to the summit of Mt Ossa. We spent another comfy night in Kia Ora Hut, the last of the new huts.

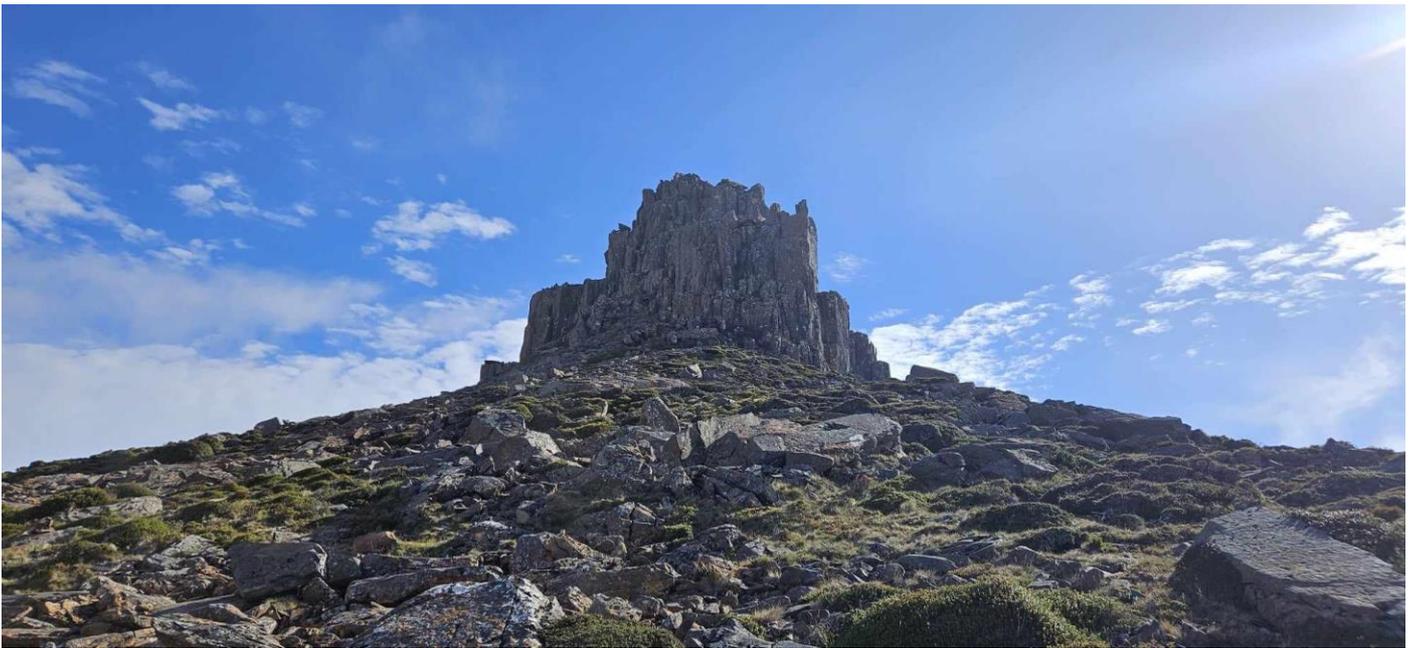
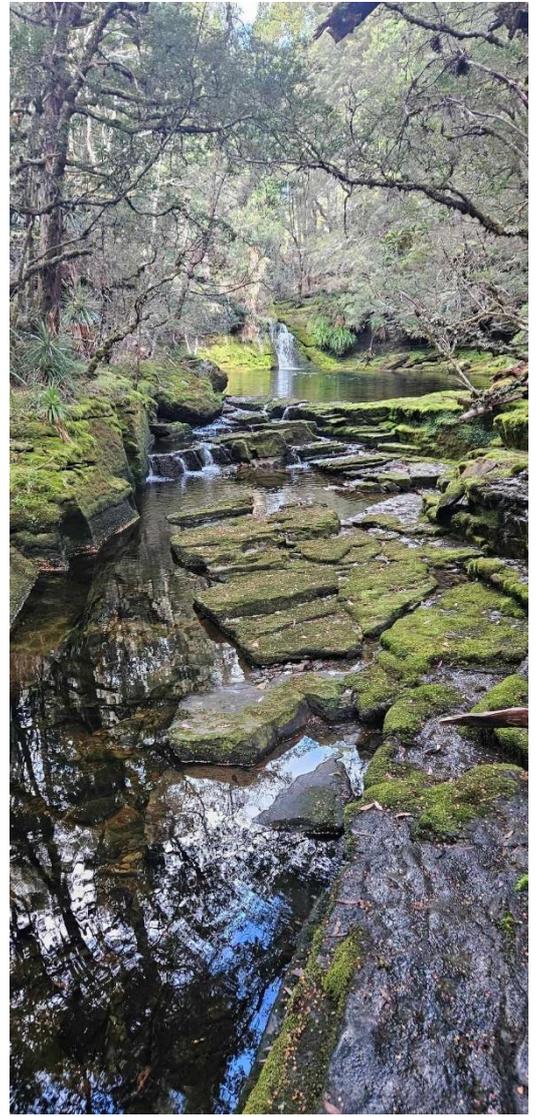
We double hutted on our last day, to avoid a very early start. Let's just say everyone was very happy by the time Narcissus Hut was reached. All that was left now was for our ferry ride back to civilisation on Friday morning. It had been a great week with perfect weather.

Deb.



(See more of Deb's stunning photos on the next pages)





Frying Pan Spur the not-quite-so-hard way

Frying Pan Spur trig point sits at the northern end of Falls Creek. At 1740 metres above sea level, it provides splendid views over the mountains and the upper Kiewa Valley. The traditional route to the top starts opposite Howman's Gap and climbs steeply along a rough track through forest before breaking out into open country. Having done this once, I had no wish to repeat the experience and so worked out an alternative route that was, hopefully, easier. Even so, we still had 500 metres of climbing, although along different, less steep tracks.

Seven of us, including new members Trevor and Nola, set off from Howman's Gap on a still, clear day that was already getting warm. We climbed steadily up the Packhorse Track that runs parallel with the road though shady forest. The smells and sounds of the bush were all around us and we had great views to the summit of Spion Kopje towering above us. We stopped for obligatory photos at Falls Creek Falls before emerging onto the Gully car park in Falls Creek. From here, we made a short detour to the public toilets near the supermarket, then sat in the shade for morning tea before summoning energy for the climb ahead.

The next section was up the village staircase that links the various levels of the resort. Estimates varied among those who were counting, but we settled on a rough average of 309 steps climbed. After a pause to calm down the heart rate, we continued up along a path to the big Bogong Moth mural on the water tank. Another short climb and a quick scramble brought us to a cycle track that runs close to the Pretty Valley Road and under the Eagle chair lift. This was a gentle ascent along a clearly marked path with a few hairpin bends for interest.

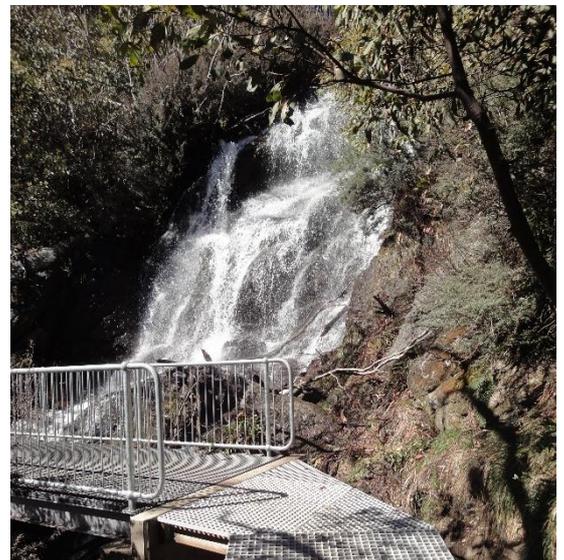
By now we were out of the trees and feeling the warmth of the day as we made our way past the point known as the Summit and onto the Frying Pan spur track that leads to the trig point.

This was our lunch stop. The views were spectacular even though thin wisps of mist occasionally blew across (or perhaps it was smoke from the bushfire near Ballarat, carried on the westerly breeze).

We retraced our steps for a short distance until we reached a track junction with the Home and Away track, which we followed down towards the village. This was quite steep and a bit rocky in places but was easy to see and comes out on the aqueduct near a place called the Wishing Well. From here, it should have been a quick trip down to the main road, but I was persuaded to follow another track which, yes, took us down but in a series of large zigs and zags which were probably fun for bike riders, but they added considerable distance for us. Then all we had to do was cross the road to locate the top of the Packhorse Track and follow it back to Howman's.

Everyone was pretty weary by the time we got back to the cars. It had been a warm, even hot, day, and the leader (me) had somewhat underestimated the length of the walk, which turned out to be 20 km. However, no-one lynched me and we decided it had been a very good day. Even though we were on cycle (MTB) tracks for much of the way we met very few riders, although I would not choose this route in busy periods like Christmas and Easter.

Eileen



Falls Creek: Introduction to the High Plains

Another Goldilocks day, warm but not hot, no wind and no flies, meant that we saw the High Plains at their best. Our first stop was the short walk along the Packhorse Track from the car park down to Falls Creek Falls before the short drive over the dam wall to the start of the Roper Lookout track. The first part of this walk follows the aqueduct through the trees, before climbing quite steeply up roughly hewn steps to the summit, from where we looked out over Falls Creek and the surrounding impressive scenery. We took morning tea here before returning to the cars.



On the drive round to Wallace's hut we had good view of Rocky Valley dam, not very full at present. We hit a small problem at the start of Wallace track where the carpark was full (even the no parking area) so we had some tricky manoeuvring to park beside the road. From there, it was about a 500m walk down to the hut where we had lunch sitting in the shade of grand old snow gums.

After lunch we set off on the Wallace Heritage Circuit, a 5 km loop that passes the Rover Lodge and Cope hut and which has interpretation boards to point out the key features of the area. The walk is all on formed track and has only one small climb. Then it was back to the cars and coffee in Falls Creek. Eileen.

Pub to Pub by bike

Eight of us enjoyed a 65kms return bike ride recently that started from the Happy Valley Hotel in Ovens, followed the sealed 'Murray to the Mountains' Rail Trail through Porepunkah and Bright to the charming village of Wandiligong at the foothills of the mountains. The rail trail was fairly bustling with cyclists which meant a lot of the time was spent riding in single file and there were lots of warning calls of 'Bikers Up' and 'Bikers Back'.



A brief toilet stop was made at the former Eurobin Railway Station before we pedalled on to Porepunkah, arriving there late in the morning and from there it was a short 6kms to Bright. After Bright we cycled past Mystic Mountain Bike Park where there were heaps of mountain bikers enjoying the perfect weather as were the paragliders who were making the most of the thermals. We arrived at the Wandiligong Pub shortly after midday, found ourselves a table in the shade and refuelled with a leisurely lunch while rehydrating with the obligatory refreshments.

The return trip was pretty cruisy, and after a short stop to watch the paragliders soaring high in the heavens and gliding down to make perfect landings we pushed on, some harder than others who had the advantage of some electronic assistance. Back at Ovens we stowed the bikes and debriefed at the pub over a welcome ale.

Overall, a very pleasant day's outing with a lovely bunch of people. Ian



Bushwalking Victoria's FedWalk weekend, to which all Clubs are invited, will be held on 11–13 October 2024 at Tidal River, Wilson's Promontory. Bookings are not open yet, but the planning team would like to get a feel of numbers for attendance, Friday/Saturday meals, and whether people will be interested in extending their stay to include Sunday night. They have prepared a short questionnaire to assist them in their task and invite all potential attendees to complete it. The questionnaire can be found at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdhZw69GvScIOlaviTQFxydJ00WgytkguhbNbUDf9kbgE44Cg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Safety Issue: Numbers on walk

The Committee wishes to remind leaders and members that there must be a minimum of **FOUR** people on a Club walk or other activity, as stated in the Risk Management policy. If there are fewer than four and those people wish to proceed after assessing the possible risks, then the activity **will not be recognised** as an official Club activity for insurance and other purposes.

Photo credits this issue

Andrew, Bernadette, Deb, Eileen, Ian.

Services included in your BBC membership include:

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

1. Back-packs
2. Hiking poles
3. Tents
4. Waterproof jackets
5. We even have a dehydrator if you want to prepare your own meals

Safety equipment available free of charge for leaders of club activities:

- First aid kits
- GPS
- PLBs

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

The Club encourages members to car pool for travel to the start of walks to reduce costs, encourage sociability and minimise our carbon footprint. 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 **\$0.30**.

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 0.30 = \146.40

Divide by number of participants (7) = \$20.91. Round up to \$21.00

Leader collects \$21.00 from each participant including drivers (\$147.00)

Two cars were used, leader gives \$73.50 to each driver.

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

\$

Cut off date for input to the next issue of Footprints: 15 April 2024

Contributions to *Footprints* can be sent to newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

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

NOMINATION FORM
for the 2024 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
or deliver to the Secretary before the commencement of the Annual General Meeting on 7 May
2024