

FOOTPRINTS

October 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
Vice President	Alwyn
Membership Database	Sandy
Treasurer	Wendy
Secretary	Dick
Newsletter Editor	Eileen
Activities Coordinator	Bernadette
Meeting Suppers & Social Convener:	Ira; Equipment Officer: Tim; Policy: Alwyn.

Communication breakdown!

At present, the Club email addresses are not working. To contact us, please use the Contact page on the Club's website <https://borderbushwalkingclub.com.au/contact/>

New Editor Needed Urgently!

Unfortunately, I have to resign as Editor of *Footprints*. I have a health issue which, while not serious, causes considerable pain and loss of mobility. As a result, I am completely exhausted from the pain and endless round of medical appointments. What's worse, I can't go on walks, meet you all, and experience our great outdoors. While there is hope it will be fixed sometime, I just need to simplify my life at present and cut back on my various roles. So, can **YOU** be our next Editor? Each issue takes a few hours a month to compile from material submitted by members. It is put together in MS Word and saved as a PDF before being sent to the Web Manger for uploading. The Editor is also a member of the Club's committee, although may choose not to attend meetings. I'm happy to provide further information. If you are interested, send me an SMS on 0412 042 195 and I will call you back. Thank you. Eileen.

Next Club night: Tuesday 3 December 2024, End of Year Celebration

This will be held at Brown's Lagoon, Olive Street, South Albury. More details next month but save the date now!

From the Secretary's Keyboard



To give our revered leader a bit of a spell, I have been volunteered to submit a few pearls of wisdom this month.

Whilst most of us understand that there is a committee in place to administer the club, I wonder if many members fully understand exactly the committee is responsible for. So here goes, a short journey around the respective roles/responsibilities of your committee.

Our constitution calls for a maximum of 12 committee members, and we currently identify 10 separate roles/responsibilities that need our attention. These are President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activities Co Ordinator, Policy Administrator, Membership Officer, Footprints Editor, Equipment Manager, Social Activities Member and Website Manager. Currently, our Website Manager operates in an "Off committee" capacity.

Here's a quick tour around the personalities and responsibilities of your committee.

- **President.** Ian Trevaskis The glue that holds us all together and the public face of our club. Runs our meetings, holds the casting vote (which to my knowledge, he has never had to use), is a signatory for club bank account. Responsible for club Tim Tam quality control.
- **Secretary.** Dick Wellard. Produces and distributes the agenda and the minutes for our meetings, first point of contact for website generated enquiries. Is a signatory for club bank account.
- **Treasurer.** Wendy Enever. Compiles and maintains club financial records. Verifies and remits club invoices. Compiles and presents Club annual financial statement. Is a signatory for club bank account.
- **Activities coordinator.** Bernadette Cromarty. Ensures all proposed club activities fall within club guidelines and policies. Approves all activities and ensures they are posted to the website. Bernadette is a life member of the club.
- **Policy administrator.** Alwyn Friedersdorff. Responsible for the cyclic review of our existing policies. Recommends to the committee any updates or improvements as required. Ensures all or policies are in keeping with our club philosophy and any external regulations we need to observe. Alwyn is also the Club Vice President.
- **Membership Officer.** Sandy K. Maintains nominal roll of all club members including status (family or single member). Recommends to committee removal of lapsed financial members from roll. Notifies committee of new members and arranges for welcome messages in *Footprints*.
- **Footprints editor.** Eileen Clark (retiring). Produces and edits *Footprints* (Club monthly newsletter). Sets deadlines for submission of articles. Maintains a watching brief on submitted articles and issues timely reminders to contributors. Eileen is a life member of the club
- **Equipment manager.** Tim Knight. Maintains a register of all club equipment available for hire. Regularly inspects equipment for wear and tear. Advises committee on withdrawal and disposal of equipment no longer suitable for hire. Liaises with equipment holder (Adventure Camping in Dean Street) and collects and banks hire fees.

- **Social activities member.** Ira Robinson. Arranges, purchases and presents catering requirements for Club nights and special events. Coordinates major catering requirements for club. Books venues. Ensures President has a supply of Tim Tams.
- **Members without portfolio.** Currently vacant. Up to two members without specific responsibilities who contribute in whatever ways are needed.

In addition to their specific roles, all committee members strive to conduct club business in a cooperative, and collegiate manner. Consensus is the norm, rarely is there a need to put matters to a vote.

Our ever-present dilemma, however, is that committee membership is not for life. There is always a need for fresh faces, ideas and enthusiasm. Please consider if you may be able to assist. All positions will be declared vacant prior to our May AGM and nominations called for.



Presidential Plea

With the imminent retirement of our *'Footprints'* editor, Eileen Clark, who kept us informed and up-to-date with all the Club happenings and news, we are now actively seeking a member who can take over one of the most important roles in the Club. *'Footprints'* is distributed via our website every month and most, if not all of the copy is contributed, which means the editor's job is merely to collate and organise such information into a readable format for the enjoyment of members and others. *'Footprints'* has been an invaluable mainstay of the BBC for over 40 years and is our primary source of communication to members and others.

We are seeking a member, old or new, who has access to a computer, has some basic IT skills and has a few hours free each month to take on this important role. If you are the least bit interested, please contact me or Eileen Clark for more information and details.

On another note, I would like to draw members' attention to the fact that we currently have vacancies for **three** members on the Club's committee. If you would like to become a bit more involved and proactive in the Club, please consider joining the committee. We have a dinner meeting once a month at a local hotel and meetings generally run for an hour or so.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ian

Welcome to new members

A warm welcome to Sean Ardern, Donna Green & Jack Heasman, and Tanya House. We hope you will enjoy many activities with the Club.



WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS?

Here is your chance to give back to the Club by leading a short walk.

For details of any activity please click on **events** in our club website <http://borderbushwalkingclub.com.au/>
You will also find the leader's phone number here. **Please ring them to discuss the walk and to book in.**

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

Sunday 29 Sept:	Mt Buffalo: short and sharp	Grade 3 Medium
Tuesday 01 Oct:	Albury: Another view of Nail Can Hill	Grade 3 Medium
Sunday 13 Oct:	Albury: Spring on Nail Can Hill	Grade 3 Medium
Tuesday 15 Oct:	Albury: Nail Can Hill North	Grade 3 Medium
Saturday 19 Oct:	Bonegilla: Mahers Hill	Grade 3 Medium
W/E 19–20 Oct:	Mitta Mitta: Mt Wills	Grade 3 Medium
Saturday 9 Nov:	Cycle: Yackandandah/Beechworth	Grade 3 Medium

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

7–11 December 2024	Mt Buffalo	Ungraded
18–19 January 2025	Canoeing weekend	Ungraded
15–21 February 2025	Tasmania: Mt Field National Park	Grade 3 Medium



Working Bee

Bushwalking Victoria have frequent working bees with Parks Victoria to maintain walking tracks. One coming up soon may be of interest to our members:

24–27 October, Alpine National Park, Mt Jaithmathang

The aim of this work is to define and clear a walking track from Mt Jaithmathang to the Fainter Fire Trail. Full details shown at the end of *Footprints*. Note that you have to register on Parks Victoria website, and that a Working With Children Check is needed UNLESS this is your first time volunteering with Parks Victoria.

Reports

Newcomers' Club Night

Ian, Dick and Eileen shared over 100 years of bushwalking experience at a well-attended meeting. Club members mingled with novices and those interested in going on a bushwalk to hear about how the club operates. Eileen spoke first, explaining how to find details of events on the Club website <https://borderbushwalkingclub.com.au/events/> and what the grading system means. She emphasised the importance of talking to the leader when booking in, to ensure that all the necessary information is understood, and that the participant has the right gear.

Eileen then talked about what to wear and take on a day walk. Starting with the bare essentials (underwear) she showed how to 'layer' clothes so garments can be added or removed as the temperature changes during the day. Denim jeans are an absolute no-no given how long they take to dry, drawing heat from the body. Every person should also carry a small personal first aid kit, with blister plasters, band aids, any personal medications and a snake bandage. At least one litre of water and plenty of food will ensure good hydration and energy throughout the day. Much of the stuff that people need on a walk they will already have, while other gear can be borrowed or hired to start. When you are ready to invest \$\$ in buying gear, footwear is the most important (and hardest to borrow), followed by good wet weather gear and a comfortable daypack. For beginners, it is worth visiting a specialist shop and taking the advice of the expert salespeople who will ensure your purchases are suitable for you.

After Eileen had gone on far too long, Dick spoke about other activities we offer. These include cycle trips where electric bikes are welcome, but pedal power sets the pace. Most cycle trips make use of the wonderful rail trails in the area, many of which have pubs located near former stations on the route, providing a good excuse for refreshment stops. The Club also runs canoe trips occasionally in the summer, and cross-country ski trips in winter if there is sufficient snow.

The highlight of the evening was Ian revealing the contents of the pack that he takes on weekend and multi-day walks. Once again, safety was the main concern, followed by comfort, and as he picked each item out of his pack, we could see the thought and experience that had gone into how it was chosen and where each item was packed. For Ian, the micro coffee machine, tiny umbrella and folding chair were worth their weight for the comfort they provided, while the tent, sleeping mat and sleeping bag were essentials, of course.

To finish the evening, Ian launched the new version of the Members' Handbook that contains everything you need to know about Club procedures, including lists of recommended gear. This is available in the Members' section of the Club website (log in required).

Equipment hire

The Border Bushwalking Club has a range of hiking and camping equipment available for hire. If you are new to hiking and camping and not sure what gear you would like to purchase, hiring equipment is an ideal opportunity to trial gear. Equipment is stored and managed at Adventure Gear Albury, 479 Dean Street Albury, and the staff are happy to assist in selecting the equipment you require. A selection of tents, sleeping mats, backpacks, wet weather jackets and walking poles are available. Gear is hired at a very reasonable rate, based on a daily hire period, paid in cash at the time of hire. Gear should be returned in a clean and dry condition ready for the next hire period. Any faults and concerns with equipment should be directed to me via the 'Contact Form' email found on the BBC's website. A full list of equipment available is on the BBC website in the members' area.

Call in to Adventure Gear and have a chat to the friendly staff for all your equipment needs, whether it be hiring or buying at the special BBC club discounted rate. Happy Hiking.

Tim (Equipment Officer)

Equipment for all seasons at Falls Creek



Spring gales



Summer heat



Bluebird days



Autumn frost



Winter snow

Woomargama Hume and Hovell Track (by Alwyn)

In the steps of Hume and Hovell, fourteen Border Bushwalking club members departed the Wambariga “Yambla View” Lookout on a downhill wander along the track that was taken almost 200 years ago to the month, by those intrepid explorers. Unlike the explorers, we were a friendly mob, not looking for new grazing land, but rather, appreciating the very unique forested land of predominantly quite tall trees of Stringy Bark and the powdery white barked Brittle Gum. A very pretty contrast! We appreciated that Hume and Hovell chose this route because it was an ancient track used by our native people so the footprints of the past gave us greater significance.



We walked down for a considerable way before a steep pinch climb up onto a ridge that had quite steep drops on either side and of course down we went into a pretty green valley fed by Spring Creek, a great spot for morning tea before going onwards and upwards for another hour to reach the crest of the hill where a Parks Log Book was interesting to read and was added to by us.



We stopped for lunch here and then followed a 4 wheel drive track back to our start point. The way was still high and low but of a little easier to traverse with some interesting views. We only covered about ten kilometres, but the way was interspersed with some tall stories and some personal stories by our entertaining leader Chris and of course we finished up in the Woomargama Pub in the swamp to end a great day's hiking, with yet another Chris Sobey funny story.



At the Newcomers' Club night, there was some discussion about when to call a leader to book in for an activity. The following may (or may not) clarify the issue. Eileen.

Shall I ring before seven? She might be asleep
A rude awakening might make her weep

I try at eight. She's out on her walk
She's puffing so much I can't hear her talk

At nine and at ten, she might be at work
I don't want to feel like I'm making her shirk

I try at noon and there's no reply
My phone bill is running dangerously high

I'll use SMS to ask 'yes' or 'no'
So she can tell me where to go

Oh no, she's rung back and I missed the call
Will I ever book in for this trip at all?

Now it's late in the day, I'll call her at six
Once more there's no answer, I can't take a trick

When I call her at seven, the answer's surprising
'How can I talk when the soufflé is rising?'

At eight and at nine I can't get through
I really don't know what else I can do

My final effort, it's a quarter to ten
It's late, I know, but she might answer then

'The trip's fully booked, you should have called sooner
And please don't ring when I'm under the doona!'

Photo credits this issue

Thanks to all those whose photos appear in this issue, whose names I failed to record!

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 October 2024

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



Bushwalking Victoria

Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation

Mt Jaithmathang, Alpine National Park 24 - 27 October 2024

Below are the details of the October BTAC activity which involves working with Parks Victoria to define and clear a walking track from Mt Jaithmathang to the Fainter Fire Trail.

Check out [BTAC - Bushwalking Victoria](#) to see what other activities are coming up.

Track(s):	Approximately 3 km of a route from Mt Jaithmathang (say “he ate my tongue”), north along the ridge, then over Little Plain to join Fainter Fire Trail, which is currently not well defined in places.
Area/Park:	Alpine National Park
Project Leader/Contact:	John Green 0438 201370 Email: johnngreen2@optusnet.com.au
Where to meet:	Falls Creek village: details to follow later. ~4.5 hours drive from Melbourne. From there, we will proceed in 4-wheel drive vehicles to our camp at Tawonga Huts.
Working hours:	Track maintenance activities will occur on Friday and Saturday and possibly, a half day 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.
Transport:	Provide your own transport to Falls Creek or arrange to share a ride.
Accommodation:	Camping at Tawonga Huts. There is a ‘long-drop’ toilet on-site. Water can be obtained from the adjacent Tawonga Hut Creek but should be treated before drinking.
We’ll provide:	Parks Victoria and BTAC will provide all track maintenance equipment and PPE. Parks Victoria will provide a BBQ meal on one night.
Please bring:	Camping gear and provisions for all meals apart from Saturday evening BBQ. Please bring drinking water. A day backpack to carry lunch, energy snacks, water, raincoat, warm top, emergency contact, and medical information form, small first aid kit, etc. Sturdy work footwear and gaiters. 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 define and clear the route along the ridge. This will involve brush cutting, hedge trimmer operation, chain saw operation and the use of hand tools for vegetation trimming and clean up. We may also do some maintenance work on the huts.
Meeting time:	1:30pm Thursday 24th October. If not able to make this time, please contact the project leader to make alternative arrangements.

Finish time:	1pm Sunday 27th October, or as it suits participants.
WWCC:	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 Park Connect [Sign in · ParkConnect](#) by 18 October, or if registering after this date, first contact Project Leader.