

FOOTPRINTS

November 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 Vacant
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/>

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

The club is winding up 2024 with a barbecue on Tuesday 3 December at Brown's Lagoon, Olive Street, South Albury commencing at 5:30.

The committee will provide barbecue meats and a veggie option for those who request it. Members whose surnames start with N to Z are asked to bring a salad to share, and those whose surnames start with A to M to bring a dessert.

For catering purposes, **please email Ira at roboira@yahoo.com.au before November 30** if you plan to attend, and if you require a veggie option.

BYO cold drinks, mosquito repellent and eating equipment. There are fixed tables and benches, but you may choose to bring your own.

The Club Member of the Year will be announced during the evening, so be there to be one of the first to congratulate the recipient.



From the President's Stump



While lunching with some American and Canadians recently we got to talking about the dangers facing hikers who venture into the Australian bush. Our companions remarked on how brave us Aussies must be to risk our lives when the bush is fairly teeming with deadly snakes and venomous spiders, not to mention the crocs and dingoes.

We nodded wisely while sipping our chardonnays and assured them that we take such potentially dangerous perils in our stride before I pointed out that the least known and most fearsome predator of all that lurks in the Australian bush is the infamous *Thylarctos plummetus*, otherwise known as the Drop Bear, a creature described on the Australian Museum website as being “around the size of a leopard or very large dog with coarse orange fur...” who “...hunts ground dwelling animals from above, waiting for hours to make a surprise kill. The initial impact often stuns the prey, allowing it to be bitten on the neck and quickly subdued.”

An in-depth expose in a 2013 *Australian Geographic* article sheds more light on this furry predator, claiming that “While Drop Bears do not specifically target human beings, there have been several cases where bushwalkers have fallen victim to Drop Bear attacks, resulting in serious lacerations and even death.”

Our companions appeared decidedly anxious when I informed them that according to experts at the University of Tasmania, Drop Bears are less likely to attack people with Australian accents and that recent research indicates they appear to deliberately target people with foreign accents more often than those who are Australian born. Dr Volker Janssen, a university research associate, states “It has been confirmed that foreigners are much more likely to be dropped on than Australians” and attributes this selective behaviour to a number of factors, the most significant of which relates to Australian people’s taste for Vegemite. He suggests that bushwalkers can defend themselves from these nasty unprovoked attacks by wearing forks in their hair and by smearing Vegemite behind their ears or under their armpits.

Our friends abruptly and rather rudely excused themselves and sprinted off down the street before I had time to regale them with tales of surfers being bitten in half by Great White sharks. It was some time later, as we drove past the local supermarket that we spied them wheeling a trolley full of jars of Vegemite that we understood their sudden and unexpected departure.

So please dear members, when next you are out in the bush, remember “Look Up – And Live”.

(More detailed information about Drop Bears can be found at <https://australianmuseum.net.au/drop-bear> and <http://www.australiangeographic.com.au/news/2013/04/drop-bears-target-tourists,-study-says/>)

Ian

POSTSCRIPT: In light of the above, I have negotiated a bulk purchase of Vegemite at a heavily discounted price. Members may collect a jar or two at the next Club Night.

POST SCRIPT 2: Talking of the dangers in the bush prompts me to remind all members that with the warmer weather and summer fast approaching it is recommended that hikers carry a suitable Snake Bite bandage in their pack - just in case. (The bandage might also be useful in the case of a Drop Bear attack to help stem the flow of blood).



New Editor Needed Urgently!

Unfortunately, I have to resign as Editor of *Footprints*. 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.

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



Free Camping in Victoria

From 1 December 2024 to 30 June 2025, campers will have free access to 131 camping grounds across every national park and state forest in Victoria. Sites must still be booked and there is a limit on the number of sites that can be booked in one transaction. Fees will still be charged for roofed accommodation and for remote sites along the Grampians Peaks Trail. Fees already paid in advance will be refunded (eventually). Further information at [Booking Information \(parks.vic.gov.au\)](https://parks.vic.gov.au)

WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS?

Here is your chance to give back to the Club Fill in a gap on the program with your favourite walk. An experienced leader will assist you in planning and conducting your activity.

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.

Saturday 2 Nov:	Mundaroo to Lankey's Creek Hume & Hovell track	Grade 3 Medium
Saturday 9 Nov:	Cycle: Yackandandah/Beechworth	Grade 3 Medium
Saturday 16 Nov:	Falls Creek: Pretty Valley circuit	Grade 3 Medium
W/E 23–24 Nov:	Falls Creek: The Fainters	Grade 4 Medium–Hard
Saturday 23 Nov:	Cycle: Pub to Pub Wandiligong	Grade 2 Easy–Medium
W/E 30/11–1/12	Falls Creek: Ryders Yards Beginners overnight	Grade 2 Easy–Medium
Saturday 7 Dec:	North Razorback–Mt Feathertop	Grade 4 Medium–Hard
7–11 Dec:	Mt Buffalo: Lake Catani Various	Ungraded
Sunday 15 Dec:	Cycle: Porepunkah to Harrietville	Grade 2 Easy–Medium

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

18–19 January 2025	Canoeing weekend	Ungraded
15–21 February 2025	Tasmania: Mt Field National Park (Fully booked, wait list only)	Grade 3 Medium

The following are not Club events, but you might like to take part:

Hume & Hovell Table Top Mountain Charity Walk

Sunday 17 November, Peregrine's, Table Top (20 mins drive north of Albury)

On 14 November 1824, the Hume and Hovell expedition were the first Europeans to climb Mulyan yar Gunyah, or Table Top mountain. To celebrate this, there will be a charity walk (6 km) and walkers will be asked to carry a small stone to create a marker cairn on the summit. Money raised will go to the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Trust. Entry fee \$25 per car. For more details, directions and indemnity forms see [\(12\) Table Top Mountain Charity Walk | Facebook](#)

Bushwalking Victoria Working Bee

22–24 November, Mount Samaria State Park (near Benalla)

Varied jobs doing track clearing etc. Camping available or come for a day.

Full details on last page.

Trip Reports

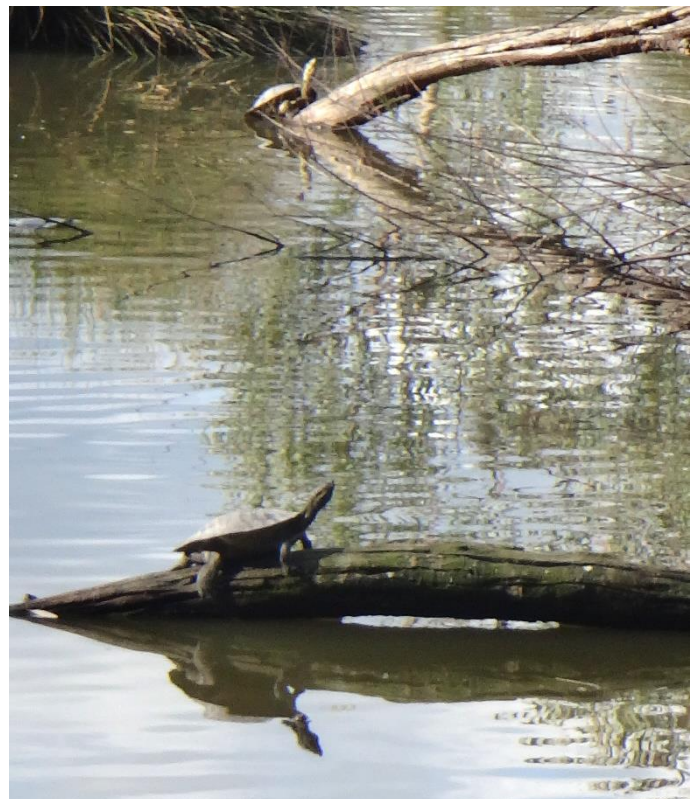
Memorial walk for Sue Simpfendorfer

The memorial walk for Sue Simpfendorfer had 18 participants, on a day that fluctuated between warm and sunny, cool and overcast, reflecting our thoughts as we enjoyed the 5 km stroll around the Yindymarra riverside path in West Albury. It was easy to see why this was a favourite walk of Sue's, with the many birds and wildlife (snake and turtles), reflections on the water, and of course the many varied sculptures.

After the walk, we sat in a circle on the river bank to enjoy a long afternoon tea with many scrumptious homemade goodies and lots of pleasant conversation.

We will always remember our wonderful member Sue.

Pauline S.





Mt Buffalo Short and Sharp



Always anxious to return to the high country after snow melt, Bernadette first scheduled a manageable series of short and sharp walks given likely conditions in mid-September. Alas, nature said 'It's too early', and so at the end of September, 13 hardly souls packed all their wet weather and cold gear to run the gauntlet on rain forecast for mid-afternoon.

The sun crept out on the Horn and so despite biting wind, we all managed to climb Buffalo's highest point. The intense colours of the surrounding mountain ranges made it all worthwhile, contrasting with the snow on the Mt Buller area.

Next it was to the Hump via The Cathedral. It was encouraging to see so many families out walking given the conditions. Perhaps school

holidays and a long weekend helped. Our next port of call was the Old Galleries, a most impressive rock formation even given Buffalo's high standard. The halfway point on the circuit provided an ideal shelter from the elements to dwell awhile, with filtered sunshine, and out of the wind.

Deciding to be cautious with our lunch location given the approaching very dark clouds, we stopped off at the picnic area at The Gorge Day visitor area. To our surprise we found the car park almost full. Keep the tourists coming to appreciate our magnificent mountains!



One more stop before the rain, a walk to the Monolith; always an impressive site and enjoyable walk. Even the recent storm damage from fallen trees had been very recently cleared for our walk. Thank you, Parks. And then as we returned to the cars the rain finally arrived, so it was back home for us. Thank you Bernadette, well planned, both the walks and the weather. Ralph

Wildflower walk, Nail Can Hill, 13 October 2024

A glorious, sunny day saw nine members seeking wildflowers on Nail Can Hill. This year didn't feel quite like walking through the garden that other years have turned on but was still very satisfying. Thanks to Ira for sharing her amazing knowledge and to Russell and Leanne for your photos. I'll let the pictures do the talking. Bernadette





Mt Wills overnight



A group of members and visitors, experienced and inexperienced overnight hikers, enjoyed a great weekend at Mt Wills. As a newbie to overnight hikes, I was understandably nervous and excited about what was to come for this walk, booking and preparing weeks beforehand for the hike. After making it to the start of the trail and once everyone was acquainted with each other with some light-hearted comments, we started the trek. Immediately, everyone split off into different groups of walking speed as people chatted and laughed

as the group leaders made sure to stay with the slowest walkers to ensure they weren't left behind and alone. I've always considered myself a fast walker, but the weight on my back and the steep hills declared otherwise, leaving me in a comfortable limbo where there was no-one in front of me, and no-one behind me.



The walk could be classed into three different sections. Starting off in a forest, the walk consisted of mild hills and winding flats, overshadowed by massive trees. A real sight where you couldn't see far, and plenty of shade. The second was possibly the hardest area with harsh uphill climbs and zero flat areas, an unexpected but fun challenge that my legs hated. And finally, my favourite part of the walk, was the peak. The best way I could explain it was how alien it was. Green grass gave way to yellow bushes, and tall trees seamlessly transitioned into gnarled wind-whipped trees.

The views were undoubtedly the best part though, when we finally made it to the campsite. I couldn't possibly do justice to what I saw from the mountaintop. The best way to explain was that I saw ... everything. I could see for miles around, nothing but trees, mountains, valleys, flats, hills, and everything in between. If it wasn't for the wind, I could've sat on that boulder for hours. Speaking of the wind, bring a good jacket and earplugs just in case, as it was incredibly windy. I was shocked that I managed to get some sleep, as little as it was.

Of course, the views weren't the only amazing things on that mountain because I had great company. From either watching the mild bickering between the leaders on whether or not there was a fire-tower, (It wasn't, it was an electromagnetic thing apparently), to learning random tidbits from other hikers about their lives – I was even given a map! Honestly, even though I left the mountain with sleep deprivation, a mild sunburn, hatred for wind and a healthy dose of fear of sharp cliffs, it was a really fun experience. 10/10, would go again. Geoff, I'm sorry I forgot to give you back your hat. Jack Heasman, first time overnight hiker.

More pictures from Mt Wills



Want to go on a hike like this one but don't have the gear?

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)

There is another overnight hike suitable for beginners on the weekend of 30 November–1 December at Falls Creek, Ryders Yards, Grade 2 Easy–Medium, leader Ian Trevaskis. See program for more details.

Photo credits this issue

Thanks to Alwyn, Bernadette, Deb, Leanne, Pauline S, Russell



Not an easy walk! Lake District, England

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: 14 November 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

**BTAC Activity
Mount Samaria State Park
22 - 25 November 2024**

BTAC volunteers will work with Parks Victoria to clear tracks in the Mount Samaria State Park situated between Mansfield and Benalla.

Track(s):	Wileman Track and summit loop tracks
Area/Park:	Mount Samaria State Park
Project Leader/Contact:	Bob Edwards 0487 235 592 Email: bob.edwards18@yahoo.ca
Where to meet:	Wild Dog Creek Falls Camp Site accessed from Mt Samaria Road, from 3:00pm on Friday 22 November.
Working hours:	Track maintenance activities will occur on Saturday and Sunday starting at 8:00am each day. Actual hours to suit individuals. On Monday we will pack up camp and travel home.
Skills needed:	Good level of fitness. There is a wide range of tasks. No previous track maintenance experience is required. But experience with chainsaw operation, brush cutting, hedge trimming and use of hand tools, would be welcome. There is plenty of work for chainsaw operators.
Transport:	Arrange your own transport to the meeting point. Car-pooling is encouraged. The Wild Dog Creek Falls Camp Site is 130km NE of Melbourne and 28km South of Benalla.
Accommodation:	Camping at the Wild Dog Creek Falls Camp Site. Facilities include a toilet and fire place. It is recommended that you bring your own potable water.
We'll provide:	Parks Victoria and BTAC will provide all track maintenance equipment and PPE. Parks Victoria will provide a BBQ meal for Saturday night.
Please bring:	Camping gear and provisions for all other meals. 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.
Scope of work:	We will be working as volunteers to Parks Victoria to do walking track maintenance work which may involve brush cutting, hedge trimmer operation, chain saw operation, the use of hand tools for vegetation trimming, clean up and drainage or step clearing and odd jobs.
Meeting time:	From 3pm on Friday 22 November.
Finish time:	By 4.00pm on Sunday 24 November.
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 [ParkConnect](#) by 15 November
If wanting to join after 15 November, first contact the Project Leader