

FOOTPRINTS

December 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 Neil
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 and be one of the first to congratulate the recipient.



From the President's Stump



Trish and I recently returned from five weeks of hiking in Portugal and Spain where we experienced some awesome scenery, met some interesting hikers from all over the world and indulged in lots of tasty tapas. The weather was generally kind, except for a few days of heavy rain and wild winds. Fortunately, we were in southern Spain so didn't suffer the fate of those caught in the flash floods in and around Valencia, a reminder that sudden and unexpected weather events can strike anytime, anywhere.

Now that we are moving into summer, we can expect to be caught out by the inevitable summer thunderstorm, so I thought it an opportune time to remind ourselves what to do in the event of a thunderstorm while out hiking. The following information is provided on the Bushwalking Victoria website.

Thunderstorms

Viewed from a sheltered location, a thunderstorm is dramatic and spectacular. However, a thunderstorm can be very dangerous for bushwalkers caught in the wrong place. Exposed locations such as mountain ridges and coastlines can get particularly severe storms, as the topography contributes to the energy of the storm.

Thunderstorms can produce chaotic strong winds, torrential rain and on occasions very large hail, and even tornadoes, as well as thunder and lightning. Thunderstorms are dynamic and what may appear to be a minor storm approaching can worsen rapidly.

Strong winds with torrential rain or hail can make walking progress very difficult or impossible. Trees can lose limbs or be uprooted by the wind. Lightning strikes can be fatal. Torrential rain will produce sheet flooding of the ground surface and very dangerous flash floods in water courses, creeks and rivers. If camping, tents can be flooded, damaged or demolished and be at risk from falling trees.

The signs of developing thunderstorms are hard to miss - the growth of towering anvil-shaped cumulonimbus clouds and the sound of distant thunder, usually in the afternoon. The base of the clouds may become grey or black. The weather will most likely be warm and humid.

Responding to an approaching thunderstorm

- **Get off or away from exposed locations** such as a ridge, open slope or coast (lightning, wind). A motor vehicle or a building can be a good refuge, if it can be reached in time.
- **Get out of a gorge** or narrow river valley. A gorge with limited escape options is a particularly dangerous place to be if thunderstorms are about. Violent flash flooding can develop rapidly.
- **Get away from large or fire damaged trees** (tree and branch fall, lightning strike) to low lying, open areas not threatened by possible tree fall.
- **Delay putting up tents** in a sheltered location until the storm has passed and surface flooding has subsided, uncomfortable as that may be.

I look forward to catching up with you at our Annual Christmas Party and hearing your "caught in a thunderstorm" story!

Ian

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 30 Nov:	Mt Hotham and Mt Loch	Grade 2 Easy–Medium
W/E 30/11–1/12	Falls Creek: Ryders Yards Beginners overnight	Grade 2 Easy–Medium
Tuesday 3 Dec:	Albury: End of year social evening	Ungraded
Saturday 7 Dec:	North Razorback–Mt Feathertop (Fully booked, wait list only)	Grade 4 Medium–Hard
7–11 Dec:	Mt Buffalo: Lake Catani Various (Fully booked, wait list only)	Ungraded
Sunday 15 Dec:	Cycle: Porepunkah to Harrietville	Grade 2 Easy–Medium
Tuesday 17 Dec:	Wodonga: Mahers Hill morning walk	Grade 3 Medium
W/E 21–22 Dec:	Falls Creek: Youngs Hut	Grade 4 Medium–Hard
W/E 3–5 Jan:	Falls Creek: Edmonson & Roper Huts	Grade 3 Medium
W/E 10–12 Jan:	Dinner Plain: JB Plain Car camp, Various	Ungraded

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 is not a Club event, 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)

Now on Sunday 1 December

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 place 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](#)

STOP PRESS: Mt Buffalo Working Bee, 11–13 January 2025. Details on last page.

Message from the Editor:

I'm delighted to say that Neil Aird has offered to become the next Editor for *Footprints*. He'll be taking the reins in 2025, and I've asked him for a short introduction (below). I know you will all support him by sending articles, trip reports and photos.

Meanwhile, I extend my thanks to all who have contributed to *Footprints* over the past 18 months: Ian for his always thought-provoking President's Ponderings, Bernadette for reminding us of upcoming walks, the scribes and poets who penned trip reports and the photographers who illustrated them, and all the committee members who contribute to the Club in so many ways.

Thank you also for your good wishes about my health. I'm happy to say the issue is slowly resolving and I hope to make it up to the High Plains this summer. Mt Bogong will have to wait! Eileen



Leaders please note: The Club's website is currently being updated, so until further notice please continue to send all reports and photos to me, and I will pass them on to Neil. I am continuing in my role as statistician, so please keep send lists of participants on each activity to me and the others as you have done this year. Thank you. Eileen.

Introducing Neil Aird



I have been a member of the Border Bushwalking Club since 2019 but to my shame have not had an active involvement to date. I am retired and my wife and I have lived in Wodonga since 2017. Prior to that, we raised our three children in Glenrowan (now adults and married, one with three grandchildren). My career was in education, teaching and management in various situations; remote first nations communities, secondary schools and adult/TAFE education. When we moved to Wodonga I worked at Business Wodonga before retiring in 2021.

I've had an interest in hiking and the outdoors throughout my life, becoming much more active in recent years. Memorable walks include an overnight hike to the top of Mount Kinabalu, Borneo, seven days hiking the South Coast

Track Tasmania and completing parts of the Great South West Walk. I love walking in our high country and hike up there whenever I get the chance.

When not walking I am loving my grandchildren, cooking, travelling, renovating our house in Wodonga and in future I plan to spend more time on developing our garden.

I am looking forward to taking over from Eileen and I will do my best to continue her great work.

Trip Reports

Munderoo Logbook to Lankeys Creek – Hume and Hovell Track



What better way for BBC members to celebrate the 200 years bicentenary of the Hume and Hovell expedition than to walk a short section of the 426 km track that stretches from Yass to Albury. The 15km day walk through the Munderoo State Forest took us from Blue Hills Road to the Munderoo Logbook. Recording our names in the logbook, we have now become part of H & H history. This was a new section of the track for me, so having directional markers every few hundred metres and distance markers every 5km indicating how far it is to the end of the track made navigating a breeze. At one stage thanks to the marker, we knew that we were 130km from Albury. Everybody agreed that we are so lucky to have this track in our “backyard.” With summer just around the corner, and our mountain walks calling, it won’t be until the weather cools down that we return to follow in the footsteps of Hamilton and William. Deb





From Yack to Beechworth by Bike

Recently two of us made the most of a bright sunny day to challenge the quads with a long 32km uphill ride to historic Beechworth. Two others accompanied us on their e-bikes and let their quads take it easy.

It was a surprisingly tougher ride than I had expected and as Iona and Ron on their e-bikes disappeared into the distance, Monique and I battled on up the long and winding road until we finally burst out onto some even ground near Beechworth and could catch our

breath.

Lunch at my favourite café across from the Bakery included toasties, raisin bread, sponge cake and coffee and tea (from a real teapot!). Courtesy of Monique, we imbibed in some impromptu wine tasting before snapping on the helmets, pulling on the gloves and setting off for a long and luxurious downhill run back to Yack, farewelling birthday boy Ron at the roundabout.

Back at Yack we rehydrated at the Star Hotel with some well-earned refreshments. Overall, a very satisfying day's outing.

Ian



New members

A warm welcome to: Ian Prunell, Monique Bennett, Iona James and family, Chris Wolmarans and Craig Holroyd.



Talking point: Bushwalkers urged not to use sticks as hiking poles

Bushwalkers are being urged not to use sticks as walking aids in a Queensland park, with rangers worried how visitors picking up sticks is impacting the natural environment. Carnarvon National Park ranger in charge Lindie Pasma has suggested visitors to the park instead use specialised hiking poles sold at camping and hiking stores, reports 9 News.

"Specialised hiking poles can be purchased from most camping and hiking stores for as little as \$30," she said. "Hiking poles not only reduce the need for hikers to remove sticks from the natural environment, but they are also useful for reducing the impact on walker's legs, knees and ankles, can be a valuable safety device, and can be used over and over again."

Pasma said the number of sticks being taken from the park and left at walking track exits had significantly increased since April.

"In April alone, rangers collected 146 walking sticks that had been left at Crossing 1 exit. This is only a small portion of walking sticks being picked up daily by visitors to help them across creek crossings or steep sections of the walk.

"Visitors might think it's only one stick, but it can have a very large, accumulated effect over time."

She explained the sticks are habitat for insects, lizards, birds, fungi and moss.

(This piece first appeared in *Great Walks* online newsletter, 7 Sept 2023)



The pile of walking sticks collected at Freycinet National Park. Pic: ABC

Editor's note

To reduce the risk of erosion, hiking poles should always have a rubber foot on each pole. And NEVER, NEVER be tempted to use old cross-country skiing poles instead. Their sharp points for cutting into snow do considerable damage to fragile soils and plants when there is no snow around.

Want to try out hiking poles (or other gear)?

The Border Bushwalking Club has hiking poles and 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 hiking 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)

Photo credits this issue

Thanks to Deb, Monique and Ira.

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: 21 January 2025

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

BTAC Activity 11 - 13 January 2025

Mt Buffalo

Track(s):	Various walking tracks on Mt Buffalo
Area/Park:	Mt Buffalo National Park
Project Leader/Contact:	Mike Grant Phone: 0459088853, Email: mikegrant1@bigpond.com
Where to meet:	Lake Catani Campground off Mount Buffalo Tourist Road
Working hours:	Track maintenance activities will occur on Sunday and Monday starting at 8am. It is expected most work will take place on Sunday, there may be a carry over to Monday morning to complete the tasks.
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'll provide:	Parks Victoria and BTAC will provide all track maintenance equipment and PPE. Parks Victoria will provide a BBQ dinner on Sunday evening. A campfire with a hot plate and tripod will be available.
Please bring:	Camping gear and provisions for all meals apart from Sunday evening BBQ. 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. Please note that camp sites are small and limited. There is no space for camper trailers, so bring your hiking tents and travel light. SEE NOTE BELOW
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:	Arrive at the campsite from 3pm Saturday 11 January, as suits participants. Ranger briefing and induction will be held at 4pm.
Finish time:	By Monday 13 January 3pm.
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.

NOTE: Camp sites reserved for eight people only; other volunteers who live locally are welcome for one or more days but must register.

Please register on [ParkConnect](#) by 20 December
If wanting to join after 20 December, first contact the Project Leader