

FOOTPRINTS

September 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/>

Next Club night: Tuesday 3 September 2024,

'What to take on a walk ... and everything else you need to know'

Designed mainly for beginners and newcomers to the Club, this talk will provide all the answers about the activities of the Border Bushwalking Club. Come along if you have recently joined, think you might join or just want to learn more about being ready for and booking into a bushwalk.

It will be held at our usual venue, the Wodonga Senior Citizens Rooms, behind The Cube in Hovell Street. Doors open at 7 pm with pizza for early birds, and the meeting will start at 7.30 pm. You'll learn how to book in for an activity, Eileen and Ian will show the gear they take on a day walk or an overnight trip, and we'll outline the other activities available like bike rides, canoeing and snow trips. The new, improved, revised Members' Handbook will be launched, and there will be time for questions and discussion. Everyone is welcome!!

Welcome to new members

A warm welcome to Leanne O'Toole, Craig and Bec Quinlivan. We hope you will enjoy many activities with the Club.

From the President's—Activities Co-ordinator's Stump



Well, it seems the President was stumped this month, so you get to hear from me, the Activities Coordinator. As I write, I am enjoying the days lengthening, the wattle starting to bloom and the sunny days getting a degree or two warmer. All signs that Winter will soon end and it's time to get ready for Spring and Summer walking. There are many things to do to be ready.

We are not the only ones to get excited at this change. Our wriggly friends also start to get active. Whilst it is extremely rare that a walker would be bitten, it's best to be prepared. We ask that each participant carry one **snake bandage** and no, these are not for injured snakes. If someone were to be bitten we would need up to three bandages so we have sufficient to immobilise the limb until help was available. These compression bandages are available at chemists and online.

Some even have markings that help you to see the correct tension, which could be helpful in a stressful situation. If you are not sure about first aid in this situation there are some great clips on YouTube.

As the snow melts, skiers grieve but walkers look forward to our beautiful High Country walks. We are so lucky to have Falls Creek, Mt Hotham, Mt Bogong and Mt Buffalo in our backyard. These are beautiful places but must also be respected for their remote environments and changeable weather. It is very important to be prepared with the correct clothing and gear. A good rain jacket, designed for outdoor activities, is essential no matter what the forecast looks like. Clothing needs to be layered, wicking and quick drying. Sufficient water and/or a means of water purification are also important. Things like gaiters and overpants also add to comfort and safety.

If all this sounds confusing or overwhelming to you here are some suggestions:

- Check out our **hire gear** at Adventure Gear in Dean Street. It can help you to get set up especially for overnight trips. You can also get great advice from the staff here.
- Come to our **New Members night on September 3rd**. Details are on p. 1 and our website. Here you will see and hear about how to prepare for a walk.
- Come on some walks before we hit the High Country. This will ensure you are fit and ready and you can get lots of knowledge by chatting to the leader and other participants. Sometimes they even offer to lend you some gear.

I look forward to seeing you soon on a walk in our amazing local environment.

Bernadette

Activities Coordinator.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS?

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

MIDWEEK SHORT WALKS HAVE BEEN POPULAR THIS WINTER. MOST MEMBERS WOULD HAVE A SHORT WALK CLOSE TO HOME THAT THEY COULD ADD. YOU WILL BE SUPPORTED BY AN EXPERIENCED LEADER IF YOU LET THEM OR BERNADETTE KNOW OF YOUR IDEA.

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.

Tuesday 3 Sept :	Albury: Spring into Tuesday	Grade 3 Medium
Tuesday 3 Sept:	Club night	Easy
Sunday 8 Sept:	Woomargama: Hune & Hovell Track	Grade 3 Medium
Saturday 14 Sept:	Mt Buffalo: Short and sharp	Grade 3 Medium
Sunday 22 Sept:	Albury: Memorial walk (see below)	Grade 1 Easy
Sunday 13 Oct:	Albury: Spring on Nail Can Hill	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

Sue Simpfendorfer Memorial Walk

Sunday afternoon, 8 September



Sue was a much-loved club member, and we are going to do one of her favourite walks in memory of her. Starting at the Kremur St boat ramp in West Albury we will follow the Yindyamarra sculpture walk in a leisurely manner before sharing afternoon tea back at the boat ramp. The walk is around 5 km in length and flat. Bring a chair, a thermos and something to share for afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome. Sue was intensely interested in people and loved Club walks where new members, old hands and visitors mingled and shared stories. Late bookings are fine but book when you know if you can join us.

\$

LAST CHANCE to renew your membership

Yet again, the AGM voted that membership fees should not be increased for 2024–5. It is still just \$45 and \$35 (Concession) for single; \$80 and \$65(C) for a family of two.

You will need to complete the online risk acknowledgement to renew your club membership. This saves filling out a risk form for every activity. Here’s what you have to do to renew your membership:

Go to www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

From the top menu, select ‘Members’ and then ‘Online membership renewal’.

You should see a login option on the right of your screen. Login.

If you have forgotten your password, select ‘forgot password’ and enter your login name or email.

You will be emailed a password reset – this might go to your junk email folder.

If you have forgotten your username, select ‘forgot password’, enter your email address, and your username will be on the email that you receive. Then do the previous step if you’ve also forgotten your password.

Once you have logged in you will see the risk acknowledgement information.

Read the risk acknowledgement and tick the box to confirm you have read and acknowledge the risk acknowledgement statement.

Transfer your membership fee using the club’s bank account details as shown and tick the box confirming this (or n/a – I am a life member).

Your membership has now been renewed. If there have been any issues with the form or payment going Through, this will become apparent if/when you receive a reminder email to renew [this ‘exception’ process is less work for our membership officer than emailing to confirm every membership].

If you joined for the first time since 1 January 2024, you do not need to pay more money but please tick the acknowledgement of risk statement again.

NB Life members: You must tick the acknowledgement of risk statement each year.

If you have not renewed by 31 August you will cease to be a member!!!



Bushwalking Victoria provides a number of services for Clubs and members, paid for by a substantial portion of your annual membership fees. One such service is insurance while on Club activities, including personal accident, public and associations liability cover. This DOES NOT include ambulance cover and members are strongly advised to obtain this.

Members of affiliated Clubs can also obtain discounts on purchases from some shops in Melbourne. For full details, please contact Dick at secretary@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au Meanwhile, don’t forget that members are offered discounted rates on purchases from *Adventure Gear*, 479 Dean Street, Albury. Call in to see Gino or Wendy to discuss your needs.

Trip reports

Wodonga Waterways Walk

Well, I think I now prefer to call it the Fifteen Bridges Walk – nine over, six under! But it was a real treat on a cool and sometimes sunny winter's day after a threatening wild thunderstorm the night before.



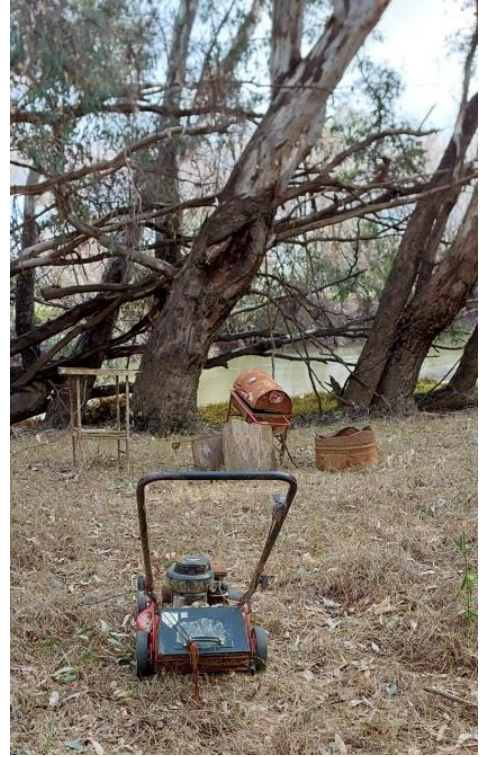
Twelve enthusiastic walkers left from the Gateway Island car park and covered more than 12kms on the River Red Gum Trail as we wound our way along the old railway line track to find the Wodonga Creek and then traverse its length until it met the mighty Murray which we then followed back to our start point. No hilly bits and a track well formed and easy to follow.



Sounds simple! But there were at least two segments of this walk that were quite new to me and others, simply because we did not think that one could go that way. The River Red Gums flaunted their many branches in gay abandon, supported each other after stormy days and are showing their age magnificently!



Art forms, intended or not, were also appreciated, and we enjoyed a sunshine filled lunch at the confluence of Wodonga Creek and the Mighty Murray. The many information boards provided informative indigenous relevance and historical reference but it was our knowledgeable leader who always alerted us to many other interest points and ensured that our tea break and lunch break were places of pleasant respite that made the day one of good fellowship, good physical benefit and good additional knowledge building experiences. These three things are what Border Bushwalking is really about! Alwyn



Tallangatta Lockhart's Gap Crossover

Nine Club members took part in the annual Lockhart's Gap Crossover Walk recently in perfect hiking weather. Five hikers led by Bernadette (the B Team) started from Lockhart's Gap, and four hikers led by Ian (the A Team) started from the Tallangatta Lookout.

This is by no means an easy walk in the woods with lots of steep ascents and equally steep descents as the first timers soon discovered. Thankfully the day was quite mild and there was not a breath of wind as both groups made their way along the fire maintenance track.

We had the track to ourselves for the whole five and half hours of walking and talking, with some occasional sightings of wallabies, kangaroos, rosellas, galahs, robins, and gang gangs.

The two groups eventually met which was the cue to stop, find a spot to sit in the sun and partake of lunch before continuing. While the fast-finishing B-Team cooled their heels at the Tallangatta Lookout, the A Team meandered on, stopping often to admire the distant snow-capped mountains of Bogong and Feathertop.

The A Team then drove back to the Lookout and joined the others and enjoyed a scrumptious afternoon tea while reliving another most enjoyable and memorable walk.
Ian





Tuesday winter walks

These days should really be called Sunny Day Walks. We seem to have perfect weather every time. The Winter walks are ending and will now become Spring walks. As the weather warms up we may continue with walks starting earlier to beat the heat. Keep your eye on the program or feel free to add a walk. Bernadette

On McFarlands Hill, Wodonga



Warby Ranges Mt Killawarra

The Mt Killawarra section of The Warby Ovens NP is a mix of box-ironbark woodlands and open grassed areas with granite boulders. The day was an offtrack wander, first to the summit of Mt Killawarra and then down to the creek for smoko. It was a bit early in the season for masses of wildflowers to be out, but we could see that in a few weeks and some sunshine they'd soon be popping.

Following a game trail, we crossed the creek and wandered up the other side. We found a few buttercups, pale sundews, and sticky everlasting daisies in sunny spots as we made our way to the top of the Ridge. Here we came across lots of *Cordyceps gunni*, a parasitic fungi that feeds off insect larvae.

Following an old maintenance track we headed back to the trig point on Mt Killawarra. Despite seeing lots very recent echidna scratchings, sadly we didn't find one. From the summit following a different game trail we headed down into a dry gully for lunch. It was then a short walk back to the cars. Mick





Photo credits this issue

Alwyn, Bernadette, Eileen, Ian, Mick, and Ralph.

Equipment hire

Would you like to go on a hike but don't have all the gear? Are you aware that 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. For Leaders of BBC walks, PLBs, First Aid Kits and a defibrillator 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)

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: 17 September 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