

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.

Agenda for 2022 Annual General Meeting

To be held at the Criterion Hotel, SALE on Wednesday 13 July at 7.00pm
Preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm

1. President's Welcome:

Helmet opened the meeting and spoke about the recent 57th birthday walk at Ben Cruachan Mountain. He welcomed Mark Gykgraff and thanked him for his offer to chair the elections. He also thanked committee members for their contributions during the year, both those who are continuing and will be outgoing.

1.1. Attendance:

Committee Members:

Joe van Beek, Ken Free, Robyn Kercher, Helmut Tracksdorf, Jack Winterbottom, Monica Scicluna, Elizabeth Davis, Jim Stranger

Club Members:

Klara Jones, Frank Jones, Jodie Wigg, Judy van Beek, Graeme Frith, Liz Frith, Chris Free, Kerry Knight, Lyn Tomlin, Wil Streckfuss, Gary Watts, Lyn Watts, Clare Snell

1.2. Apologies-

Michael Dowe, Geoff Mattingley, Rob Paterson, John Cox, Noel Burrows, John Martin, Oliver and Carolyn Raymond, Trevor Clues, Peter and Nicki Jennings, Andrew Stevenson, John and Dorothy Hanlon, George Boyd, Denise Stranger, Angela Roughy

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 14th July 2021

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 14th of July 2021 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Monica Scicluna

Seconded: Joe van Beek

Carried

3. General Business

There was no General Business

4. Presentation of Reports- All reports are attached at the end of the minutes

4.1. President: Helmet Tracksdorf presented his report to the meeting

Motion: That the President's report be accepted.

Moved: Ken Free

Seconded: Robyn Kercher

Carried

4.2. Treasurer

Monica Scicluna circulated copies of her report and summarised the key points.

Motion: That the Financial Statement for 2020-21 financial year and Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Ken Free

Seconded: Helmut Tracksdorf

Carried

4.3. Tracks and Conservation:

The Tracks and Conservation Coordinator Joe van Beek read his report.

Motion: That the Tracks and Conservation Report be accepted.

Moved: Helmut Tracksdorf

Seconded: Monica Scicluna

Carried

4.4. Walks Coordinator

In Geoff Mattingley's absence, the Walks Coordinator Report will be attached to the end of the minutes, including the need for walks to be led.

Motion: That the Walks Coordinator's Report be accepted.

Moved: Helmut Tracksdorf

Seconded: Elizabeth Davis

Carried

4.5. Newsletter Editor

Jack Winterbottom's report discussed that there had been no difficulties or discrepancies with the newsletter, and that 2021-22 had been successful for the bi-monthly publication.

Moved: Helmut Tracksdorf

Seconded: Monica Scicluna

Carried

4.6. Publicity Reporter:

Jim Stranger reported he had regularly had items published in local newspaper and media outlets, and offered his ongoing support for the new publicity officer.

Moved: Kerry Knights

Seconded: Judy van Beek

Carried

4.7. Membership Secretary:

Ken Free reported on the membership numbers for the past year, and they can be analysed in his attached report.

Moved: Helmut Tracksdorf

Seconded: Monica Scicluna

Carried

4.8 Facebook Page Editor:

In Angela's absence Helmut read her report and thanked Angela for her excellent work for the club through the Facebook page.

Moved: Robyn Kercher

Seconded: Judy van Beek

Carried

Life Membership Awards: Monica Scicluna and Joe van Beek.

Congratulations go to Monica Scicluna and Joe van Beek for their many achievements and contributions to the club over many years. The life memberships were presented by Helmut Tracksdorf with the summary of achievements for Joe written by him, and the achievements of Monica recent by Ken Free. Ken also presented beautiful handmade serving trays to each of the life membership recipients and certificates of congratulations. The trays have engraved plaques which highlight their life membership of the club.

5. Appointment of an impartial Club member to chair election proceedings.

- **Mark Dykgraaf – CEO Central Gippsland Health Services**

6. Vacating of all office holder and ordinary committee member positions.

7. Election and Appointment of Office Holders

7.1. President:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of President

Nomination: Peter Jennings

Nominated by: Helmut Tracksdorf

Seconded: Elizabeth Davies

Nomination accepted

7.2. Vice President:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Vice President

Nomination: Elizabeth Davies

Nominated by: Helmut Tracksdorf

Seconded: Monica Scicluna

Nomination accepted

7.3. Treasurer:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Treasurer

Nomination: Monica Scicluna

Nominated by: Judy van Beek

Seconded: Jack Winterbottom

Nomination accepted

7.4. Secretary:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Secretary

Nomination: Robyn Kercher
Nominated by: Kerry Knights
Nomination accepted

Seconded: Ken Free

7.5. Membership Secretary:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Membership Secretary

Nomination: Ken Free
Nominated by: Jodie Wigg
Nomination accepted

Seconded: Robyn Kercher

7.6. Publicity Officer:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Publicity Officer

Nomination: Kerry Knights
Nominated by: Robyn Kercher
Nomination accepted

Seconded: Helmut Tracksdorf

7.7. Newsletter Editor:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Newsletter Editor

Nomination: Jack Winterbottom
Nominated by: Robyn Kercher
Nomination accepted

Seconded: Jim Stranger

7.8. Tracks and Huts Coordinator:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Tracks and Huts Coordinator

Nomination: Joe van Beek
Nominated by: Jack Winterbottom
Nomination accepted

Seconded: Monica Scicluna

7.9. Walks Coordinator:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Walks Coordinator

Nomination: Geoff Mattingly
Nominated by: Jack Winterbottom
Nomination accepted

Seconded: Joe van Beek

7.10. Facebook page editor:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Facebook page editor

Nomination: Jodie Wigg

Nominated by: Helmut Tracksdorf

Nomination accepted

Seconded: Robyn Kercher

8. Appointment of Up To Five Ordinary Members

Nomination: John Cox

Nominated by: Helmut Tracksdorf

Nomination accepted

Seconded: Robyn Kercher

Nomination: Robert Patterson

Nominated by: Helmut Tracksdorf

Nomination accepted

Seconded: Robyn Kercher

Nomination: Clair Snell

Nominated by: Helmut Tracksdorf

Nomination accepted

Seconded: Robyn Kercher

Nomination: Janine Muir

Nominated by: Helmut Tracksdorf

Nomination accepted

Seconded: Robyn Kercher

9. Guest Speaker Presentation

Helmut Tracksdorf presented a slide show of the Grampians Gariwald Peaks Trail from Mount Zero trailhead to Halls Gap which he completed in 2019. The scenic and majestic vistas and rugged trail inspired club members for a future outing, perhaps we will be able to use the new facilities there which have been developed by Parks Vic.

10. Meeting Close

Joe van Beek thanked Helmut Tracksdorf for his contribution as president of the club during the past two years. Outgoing office bearers and committee members were also thanked for their contributions. The meeting closed at 8:55.

Reports



Ben Cruachan Walking Club President's Report for 2021/2022

Looking back over the past 12 months it's interesting to see how the year has panned out. With covid lockdowns and restrictions now effectively behind us, the pandemic has had a significant impact on the smooth running of our club. Not

only have walks been cancelled but events such as FEDWALKS was deferred for 2 years. In addition, a lot of the goals we were seeking to achieve have not been completed. Dare I say they will become a job for the new Committee!

I would like to think that from here on in, things will surely improve BUT unfortunately the situation in Ukraine, although a long way away from here, has the potential to impact our activities via the rising costs of living – especially fuel prices which may restrict or at least hinder our ability to travel long distances.

Nevertheless, as a walking club we can be thankful that we are able to get on with life and continue to enjoy the great outdoors and the camaraderie that comes with it.

We have enjoyed some success over the last 12 months, thanks in part to the FEDWALKS subcommittee which did a fantastic job in organizing FEDWALKS 2021. After deferral of the event, it eventually went ahead in March 2022 with in excess of 200 participants taking part. From all accounts it was a great success. Thanks must go to the organising committee for that success.

After the 2021 AGM, we set several goals including:

- Completing a comprehensive walks program
- Fine tuning and improving the clubs Website
- Organising Club Shirts – polo tops
- Continuing to maintain the MMWT maintenance schedule
- Promoting an annual BCWC activity – such as Wilsons Prom

We did manage to organise club polo tops thanks to Denise Stranger but we have struggled to complete some of the other tasks for a variety of reasons.

Nevertheless, they remain as ongoing issues that the new committee will undoubtedly address.

Our walks program is a key feature of our club and needs to be populated with more walks and associated activities. Geoff Mattingley our walks co-ordinator has clearly indicated how the number of walks and leaders has dropped off when compared to the previous year. We are not sure why this has occurred but suspect it may relate to concerns about the pandemic and gathering in large groups – although that is just a theory!

I am confident the walks program will recover from its temporary setback and that more walks will be added to next year's program. Although walk leaders remain the key to any walks program.

With a total membership of around 150 members, the club is in a good position both financially and physically to deliver on its core principles of:

- Bringing together likeminded people who enjoy bushwalking
- Encouraging a wider appreciation of flora & fauna
- Promoting walking tours
- Encouraging social activity among its members.

Since the launch, of our MMWT guidebook back in Nov 2020, more than 750 books have been sold and it would be fair to say the profile of MMWT as a new long-distance walking track has been firmly established. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Joe van Beek for his efforts in promoting MMWT and organising track maintenance activities on behalf of the club.

Hopefully you are all aware that I intend stepping down as your President at the 2022 AGM. If not, that means you are not reading the Clubs Newsletter!

Before stepping down, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who lead our walks and make visitors welcome. Without them the club would not exist!

I would also like to thank the Committee members for their support and encouragement during my tenure. The role of President does come with responsibilities and hopefully I have been able to fulfill them on behalf of you all.

My approach has been somewhat casual, some would say TOO CASUAL but my main aim has been to ensure that club members were not being put off with admin and protocol issues that can plague organisations in today's BRAVE NEW WORLD.

The Committee has been both constructive and patient in seeking to improve the running of our club. As mentioned earlier, while we did not achieve all we planned for in the last 12 months, I am positive a lot will be achieved in the next 12 months with the groundwork that has been established.

In summary we have:

- Managed to organise a successful FEDWALKS 2021
- Promoted MMWT to a new level.
- Maintained a program of bushwalks, thanks to Geoff and walk leaders.
- Assisted in track maintenance efforts, thanks to Joe.
- Held a series of successful club nights.
- Welcomed 27 new members and hosted many visitors on walks.
- Continued to produce our bi-monthly Newsletter, thanks to Jack.
- Expanded our Facebook footprint with 374 members thanks to Angela.
- Established a subcommittee to review and enhance the existing BCWC website, thanks to John.
- Consolidated our financial position.

I look forward to working with the new Committee and although I missed out on celebrating the 57th Anniversary of the club only three weeks ago, I am certainly looking forward to celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the BCWC in 2025!

Which I will put in my diary "NOW" to ensure I don't miss that celebration!!!!

On that note, I wish the new committee good luck.

Helmut Tracksdorf
BCWC President

Treasurers Report

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2022

OPENING BALANCE AT AT 30TH JUNE 2021		11427.33
	SUB BALANCE CLUB	7418.50
	SUB BALANCE MMWT	4008.83
ADD RECEIPTS	2021	2022
Membership	5613.00	4664.00
Visitor Fees	352.00	230.00
Interest	2.25	2.82
Refund Wilson Promontory 2020		909.00
Polo Shirts		932.50
Misc Deposit (W Chambers)		340.00
Fed Walk Booklet Sale		10.00
McMillan Walk (Dec. 2022)		1400.00
McMillan Donation		83.00
McMillan Markers Sale		40.00
McMillan Book Sales	3518.95	1936.00

McMillan Book Sales (adj Chapman)		556.50
DELWP Grant Printing McMillan Guide Book	2500.00	
Donation Printing McMillan Guide Book	401.00	
Lost Radio Contribution (P & N Jennings)	209.00	
First Aid Re-imburement BWV	490.00	
CPR Participants Contribution	150.00	
Wellington Shire Fed Walk Grant	10000.00	
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TOTAL RECEIPTS	23236.20	11103.82
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		22531.15
LESS EXPENDITURE		
BWV Affiliation Fees & Insurance	2041.38	3672.75
Website Upgrade gb		253.00
Wilson Prom 2022	909.00	913.20
PO Box Rental	41.00	44.00
Club T-Shirts		1052.50
Bereavement Gift (Helmut)		55.00
Misc Refund (W Chambers)		313.00
J & D Stranger (Polo Tops)		60.00
BCWC Barbecue 2022		165.30
Equipment PLB & Radios	571.84	
Radio Contribution Refund	209.00	
McMillan Guide Book (J Chapman)	2882.50	
McMillan Guide Book (Sales Adjustment)	81.72	
McMillan Guide Book (Postage)	81.90	
Consumer Affairs (Certificate Change)	185.10	
Postage	9.15	
Stationery	15.31	
Supplies & Meals (guest speakers)	34.90	
BCWC Flyers	236.50	
First Aid Course (Kemp Aquatic)	480.00	
Refund of membership Life Member (O Raymond)	48.00	
Easy Jomla (hosting domain fee)	38.50	
Wellington Fed Walk Grant transfer to BCWC no 2 a/c	10000.00	
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE	17865.80	6528.75
NET PROFIT		4575.07
CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 30TH JUNE 2022		16002.40
	SUB BALANCE CLUB	9378.07
	SUB BALANCE MMWT	6624.33

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INCORPORATED

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30TH JUNE 2022

CASH BOOK

Opening balance as at 30th June 2021	11427.33
Add Deposits	11103.82
Total Income	22531.15
Less Expenditure	6528.75
Balance as at 30th June 2022	16002.40
	SUB BALANCE CLUB 9378.07
	SUB BALANCE MMWT 6624.33

BANK STATEMENT

Balance as per Bank Statement 30th June 2021	11427.33
Less Unpresented cheque	165.30
Closing Balance as at 30th June 2022	16167.70

Tracks and Conservation

Tracks and Conservation Report to 2022 Annual General Meeting

Walking Track Maintenance

The contribution to walking track maintenance by the club has been through BTAC activities. This is mainly because the Co-ordinator is also a BTAC project leader and it has been convenient to utilise BTAC's access to ParkConnect and BTAC's tool trailer. Projects undertaken include:

- Realigning and clearing the Australian Alpine Walking Track for 10km NW of Taylors Crossing was completed in two sessions in October and November 2021. (116)
- In January 2022 tracks were checked and cleared in preparation for FedWalks. (117)
- McMillans Walking Track was cleared from Talbotville to Pioneer Racecourse in March 2022. The blackberry growth after the March 2019 fires had become impenetrable. (27)

Figures in brackets are the BCWC on the job manhours (260 in total contributed by 8 members). They do not include travel time or time spent in preparation and administration.

Parks Victoria and DELWP along with contractors have done considerable work on both the AAWT and McMillans Walking Track using Fire Recovery and Remote Track Upkeep project funds.

McMillans Walking Track

The track is becoming better known and used. Also the Land Managers are taking a more proactive role in the maintenance of the track.

Don Fuchs' 10 page article on McMillans Walking Track featured in the January/February 2022 edition of Australia Geographic. His video has had over 1,200 views. The McMillans Walking Track Facebook page has almost 600 followers. Joe did online presentations about the track to YHA and Bayside bushwalking clubs. McMillans Walking Track was the subject of the FedWalks2021 guest speaker's (Beau Miles) presentation. He ran the track in 80 hours (the fastest known time). Over 750 copies of the guide book have been sold. BCWC have over \$6,000 in the bank for MMWT maintenance.

McTk2022 the BCWC end-to-end walk of McMillans Walking Track is fully booked.

Conservation

No specific conservation activities have been undertaken during the year. Editions of Conservation Matters, the Conservation Regulator's quarterly newsletter have been circulated to members which help to increase members awareness of conservation issues. A watch is being maintained on Engage Victoria for consultations that may be of interest to BCWC members.

Joe van Beek

Fed Walks Report

BCWC was instrumental in organising FedWalks2021 with Joe van Beek as Organising Committee Convenor, Jack Winterbottom as Walks Co-ordinator and Heather Alexander as Treasurer. Four members of SBWC made up the rest of the committee. Originally to be held in November 2020 as FedWalks2020 it was finally held on 25-28 March 2022 having been postponed twice due to Covid19.

The event was a great success by all accounts. The great weather being a big contributor to the success. The sponsorship from the Wellington Shire made it a good value for money event.

210 attendees from 32 clubs, 33 from BCWC

41 walk leaders from 12 clubs, 16 from BCWC

32 walks in total, 21 different ones. 15 day walks on Saturday, 14 day walks on Sunday and 3 overnight walks Sunday to Monday. Two of these supported by the Macalister 4WD club.

The walk up the Crinoline was the most popular walk on the Saturday (20 walkers) and the Bryces Gorge Circuit day walk (20 walkers) was the most popular on the Sunday. Mt Howitt was overall the most popular with a total of 35 walkers over the two days.

The welcomes on Friday night were well received. The guest speaker on Saturday night, Beau Miles, provided an interesting account of his McMillan Walking Track adventures with an end to end in 80 hours. The Taste of Gippsland seemed to go down a treat on Sunday evening.

The post event survey of participants was overwhelmingly positive.

Illustrated Stories from FedWalks2021 were told at the Wednesday 11 May club social night at the Wan Loy restaurant in Traralgon.

The event made a modest profit which is shared between BWV, SBWC and BCWC. The benefit to BCWC's account is \$61 (TBC).

Monica Scicluna

Walk Coordinator Report

Walks Co-Ordinator Report to 2022 Annual General Meeting - Commentary

Unfortunately, our figures for Number of Walks and total participants are well down on last year. A total of 12 walks were cancelled for reasons including lockdowns, illness of leader, and lack of starters. The detail is in the accompanying list of walks completed during the club year.

This year is no different to previous ones in the difficulty of keeping the Walks Program filled. At

present we only have walks scheduled up to mid-December, still with gaps. in the program. It is up to members to volunteer to lead!

Geoff Mattingley

Publicity Report

Since taking on the role of Publicity Officer two years ago I have submitted monthly news items to news outlets within the club's member catchment area. In addition to this I have represented BCWC wherever and whenever it has been appropriate to promote our club and its activities.

I have found the role rewarding and have enjoyed interacting with other committee members but will not be nominating for re-election at our July AGM. I wish our new Publicity Officer well and offer whatever support I can during transition.

Jim Stranger.

Membership Secretary's Report

BCWC Annual General Meeting 13 July 2022

As at 11 July 2022, the total membership is 156.

Comprising: 86 female

70 male

The total of 156 includes 64 members who haven't renewed their membership, as of 11 July 2021.

9 of the total are designated "non-walkers".

In addition, there are 9 long-term members who receive the newsletter only.

Ken Free

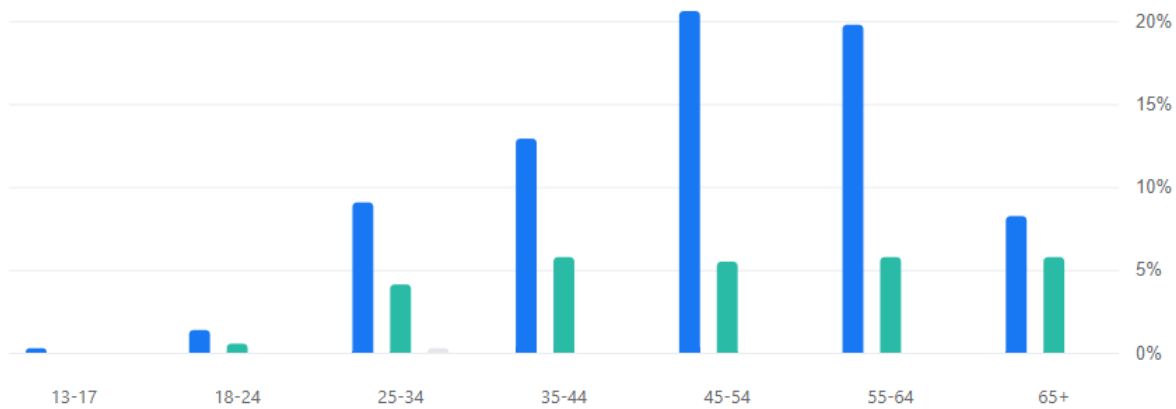
FACEBOOK REPORT 2022

Our Facebook group page had 247 members at the start of July 2021 and to date now stands at 375 – an increase of 128. Federation Walks created a lot of interest in the page with membership increasing significantly around that time.

The bulk of members are made up of women aged between 45 – 64 as seen in the graph below. Saturday is the most popular post day which is hardly surprising as it is also the day most club walks fall on. There have been 19 posts over the last 3 months. Hopefully this is something that can be increased which will continue to create interest in the group.

Age and gender ⓘ

72% Female 27% Male 0% Custom



For interest's sake, below is a list of top cities that members have as their FB hometown.

Top cities

Melbourne, VIC, Australia	82
Sale, VIC, Australia	55
Traralgon, VIC, Australia	35
Bairnsdale, VIC, Australia	23
Maffra, VIC, Australia	15
Stratford, VIC, Australia	11
Lakes Entrance, VIC, Australia	9
Wy Yung, VIC, Australia	8
Paynesville, VIC, Australia	8
Longford, VIC, Australia	8

Thank you everyone for your support and I wish the incoming committee all the best and look forward to transitioning over the Facebook group page to the newly elected member.

Angela Roughley

BCWC LIFE MEMBERSHIP

JOE van BEEK

BACKGROUND

Joe joined the Ben Cruachan Walking Club in April 2007.

Having spent a lifetime of TRAMPING around NZ Joe evidently wanted to spend some time getting to appreciate how it compared to HIKING in Aus.

Back in 2007 – Joe was still working full time and it was only when he retired from working that he was able to spend more time with the club and joined the Committee in 2015 – The clubs 50th Anniversary year.

In August 2016 Joe was appointed as Vice President under Monica and took on the role of President of BCWC in the following year – 2017. During Joe's 3-year tenure as President he was able to significantly raise the profile of the BCWC and establish numerous contacts with personnel from PV & DELWP.

Joe became interested in McMillans Track, when he participated in track maintenance activities with the club and became aware of BCWC's association with McMillans Track.

Looking back through the club Newsletters, I came across the following report:

"On the 10 December 2014, Michael Dowe, Ken Free, Philip Davis and Joe van Beek attended a meeting with Bushwalking Victoria representatives to discuss the future of McMillan's Track. There was considerable discussion about funding options and strategies for track marking, clearing and promotion. Another meeting was scheduled for Monday 15 December 2014 at Bairnsdale with representatives from the various DEPI districts that the McMillan's Track passes through. Joe van Beek, Ken Free and Marjorie Kanagaratnam represented the club at this meeting.

This suggests Joe's interest in McMillans Track probably started well before 2014

One cannot talk about McMillans Track without mentioning John Smith an early member of BCWC who pioneered the rediscovery of the track in the late 1970's and early 1980's who I'm sure was an inspiration for Joe in getting the track re-established after its official opening in 1986.

Unfortunately, due to lack of interest and usage the track had once again become heavily overgrown. Joe began promoting the track to club members by introducing reconnaissance walks and track maintenance activities along heavily overgrown sections of the track.

Joe had the opportunity to meet John Smith in early 2018 and talk about McMillans track before John passed away in 2019 at the age of 90. I am sure this was a real honour for Joe.

Back in 2015 – During the clubs 50th Anniversary Year - Joe led a small group of Members on his first end to end walk of McMillans Track. I had the pleasure of joining Joe on this walk and can vividly recall how difficult some sections of the track were because of the regrowth that had occurred. By the time, Joe led his second end to end walk back in 2017 – the track had been significantly cleared and upgraded thanks to the numerous track maintenance activities organised by Joe.

In 2018, the idea of a Guide Book was mooted and after some ongoing discussions a small working group comprising Joe, Martin Norris and myself began working on a guide book. It soon became clear we needed additional expertise on board, so Joe contacted John & Monica Chapman (who are renowned for their hiking guidebooks) and was able to convince them to come onboard.

In 2019 working on the guide and fine tuning it in early 2020 were able to officially launch the 1st Edition of MMWT Guidebook in Nov 2020. This was a major achievement for the BCWC and thanks must go to Joe for the time and effort he put into putting the guide together and getting it published. To date we have sold in excess of 750 copies of the guide.

FEDWALKS 2014 & 2021

Joe has been an active participant in co-ordinating FEDWALK activities for the club both in 2014 at Rawson near Erica and more recently this year at Licola. This years event was a real test of endurance not only for Joe but for all the other members of the organising committee due to the event being deferred two years in a row due to Covid.

Nevertheless, the result once again proved Joe was a very capable organiser and the recent FEDWALKS 2021 proved an outstanding success.

He has been actively pursuing issues around track maintenance and assisting not only our club but Bushwalking Victoria via his involvement in BTAC (Bush Tracks & Conservation) in helping to maintain tracks all over Victoria on behalf of ALL bushwalkers.

On Behalf of all the members of the BCWC

Congratulations for a job well done.

BCWC LIFE MEMBERSHIP

MONICA SCICLUNA

BACKGROUND

Monica joined the Ben Cruachan Walking Club in September 1999.

She became a member of the Management Committee soon after and from day 1 was keen to contribute by organising social events and leading day walks.

She was Treasurer from 2005 to 2014 and again from 2019 to present.

She was President in 2014 for 2 years and did a great job of leading the club during a period when most of the club's communications with members and the general public moved online to the club's website.

After stepping down from the President's position, she was an ordinary member of the Committee for 2 years.

For many years, Monica assisted Wil Streckfuss in organising the club's annual weekend at Wilson's Promontory. In 2014, Monica took over the organising/leadership role from Wil and has done a great job of organising this event ever since.

Monica regularly leads club walks and is acknowledged and respected as a competent leader who looks after everyone on her walks. Monica seamlessly works to fill in gaps in the club walking program. She has led the most walks for the year several times. She also led walks on the recent BCWC hosted Fed Walks. She is the books sales area representative for the McMillans walking track book for Sale.

In her time as a club member and in the many responsible roles she has performed, Monica has approached each task with gusto and is generally the first to put up her hand when something needs to be done. She has for many years been the go-to person when we want a venue booked for a social event and readily volunteers to assist others on the Management Committee with administrative matters. If all of us put in the same amount of time and energy, we'd be laughing (as they say).

In summary, Monica's contribution to the Ben Cruachan Walking Club by way of leading walks, organising social events and performing a number of committee roles over many years has been outstanding.

On Behalf of all the members of the BCWC

Congratulations for a job well done.

Date	Walk	Leader	Walk Type			Attendance		
			Day	Base Camp	Pack Carry	Mem	Vis	Total
2021								
Sat 3 July	Cobbannah Creek	Marian	*			6	2	8
Sat 10 July	Port Albert	Monica	*			9		9
Fri 16 - 18 Jul	Mt Erica snow o/night CANCELLED	Helmut						
Sat 24 July	Holey Plains CANCELLED	Ken						
Sat 31 July	Roaring Mag CANCELLED	Helmut						
Sat 7 Aug	Mitchelldale River Wa CANCELLED	Jodie						
Sat 14 Aug	Blue Pool, Track 96	Monica	*			7	2	9
Sat 14 Aug	Snow Shoe Shuffle	Joe	*			8		8
Sat 4 Sep	Noojee Waterfalls CANCELLED	Ken						
Sun 19 Sep	Dermody's - Avon Channel	Becky	*			15	5	20
Sat 25 Sep	Wirilda track - combined clubs	Joe, Jim +	*					
Sat 2 Oct	Den of Nargun	Monica	*			8		8
Fri 8-10 Oct	Mt Feathertop	Helmut			*	8		8
Sat 9 Oct	Tambo Bluff, Nyerimilang	Trevor C	*			7	1	8
Sun 17 Oct	Balook - Cyathea Falls	Peter J	*			10	3	13
Sat 23 Oct	Noojee Waterfalls	Ken	*			7		7
22 - 24 Oct 2021	Wilsons Prom Lodge CANCELLED	Monica						
Sat 30 Oct	Wellington Plain (was Mt Howitt)	Peter J		*		10	2	12
Sat 30 Oct	Arbuckle Junction - Thomastown	Monica + Robyn	*			10	3	13
Sat 6 Nov	Mitchelldale River Walk	Jodie		*		14	2	16
Sat 13 - 19 Nov	Grampians - Mt Difficult Range CANCELLED	Helmut						
Sat 20 Nov	Mt Hedrick	Geoff	*			7	2	9
Fri 26 - 27 Nov	Hells Window	Oliver			*	4		4
Thu 9 -13 Dec	Mt Bogong, high country huts CANCELLED	Becky						
2022								
Sat 22 - 23 Jan	Crolls Gorge - Wellington R	Helmut		*		7	4	11
Sat 29 Jan	Raymond Creek Falls/Snowy River	Trevor C	*			8	3	11
Fri 4 - 6 Feb	Cape Liptrap - Waratah Bay	Helmut		*		8	1	9
Sat 12 Feb	Raymond Island	Robyn	*			7		7
Sat 19 - 20 Feb	Bryces Gorge overnight	Oliver/Evan			*	7	1	8
Sat 26 - 27 Feb	Mt Howitt	Peter J		*		9		9
Sat 5 Mar	Den of Nargun	Monica		*		3		3
Fri 25- Sun 28 Mar	Federation Walks - Licola	Joe						
Sat 2 Apr	Mt Taylor CANCELLED	Geoff						
Sat 9 Apr	Lake Tyers	Trevor C	*			5		5

Fri 15 - 18 Apr	Easter 4-day Alpine Adventure	Sue W			*	5		5
Sat 16 April	Deptford/Slaughter Track CANCELLED	Trevor C						
Wed 20 - 23 April	Kosciusko, Ramshead Range DEFERRED	Helmut/ John M						
Sat 23 - 25 Apr	Mitchelldale Camp CANCELLED	Jodie						
Sun 24 May	Mitchelldale River Walk CANCELLED	Geoff						
Sat 30 Apr	Morwell - Yallourn Walking Track	Jim S	*			5	1	6
Sun 8 May	Balook - Macks Creek	Peter J	*			8		8
Sat 14 May	Dargo R, Wonnangatta R junction	Liz	*			12		12
Sun 22 May	Jack Smith Lake, 90 Mile Beach	Peter J	*			9	3	12
Sat 28 May	Tambo Bluff, Nyerimilang	Trevor C	*			6		6
Sat 11 Jun	Fungi Walk - combined with Strzelecki	Judy v B	*			6	2	8
Sat 18 Jun	Angusvale - Jurgensen Point	Angela	*			12		12
Sat 25 Jun	Ben Cruachan summit/Magog	Helmut/Joe	*			26		26
		Totals:	23	6	4	273	37	310
		Last Year	37	2	6	384	79	463

Leader leading most walks: Peter J with 5; Monica with 4 + 1 as co-leader; Trevor C with 4

Walk with most participants: Ben Cruachan (club birthday) 25 Jun 2022 - leader: Joe

Average number of participants on a walk: 13.5

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC.

Minutes for Management Committee Meeting

Held on Wednesday 9th February 2022

at 7:00pm

preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm

Maffra Community Sports Club

1. **President's Welcome:** Helmut welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2022 and expressed hope for a year without disruption from the pandemic.

1.1. **Attendance:** H Tracksdorf, M Scicluna, J Muir, J Wigg, J van Beek, M Dowe, P Jennings, E Davis, G Mattingley, A Stevenson, K Free, P Baglioni, R Kercher

1.2. **Apologies:** J Stranger, J Winterbottom, A Roughly, J Cox, R Paterson, L Tomlin

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

2.1. **Confirmation** Moved: H Tracksdorf
Seconded: J van Beek
Carried

2.2. **Matters Arising** Wilderness First Aid to be handled in General Business

3. **Correspondence:** Carried

4. Reports:

4.1. President

Helmut reported that activities had wound down over Christmas and New Year and one walk at Mount Bogong was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Walks successfully completed Include:

- Crolls Gorge on the Wellington River led by Helmut Tracksdorf
- Raymond Creek Falls near Orbost led by Trevor Clues
- Cape Liptrap led by Helmut Tracksdorf

Upcoming walks include:

- Raymond Island to be led by Robyn Kercher
 - Bryces Gorge circuit to be led by Oliver Raymond and Evan Jones
 - Mount Howitt to be led by Peter Jennings
 - Echo bend camp located in Mitchell River National Park led by Monica Scicluna.
- Expressions of interest being sought.

Helmut thanked members of our club who participated with Joe van Beek and BTAC & Parks Vic to clear tracks in the Wellington River area in preparation for Fed Walks in March.

He circulated a copy of the Australian Geographic Magazine January-February 2022 edition which included an article about McMillan's walking track.

He advised we can be confident that Fed Walks 2021 will go ahead as scheduled in March.

With gaps still existing in the walks program, he invited members to step up to the plate and choose a time where they could nominate and lead a walk. Geoff Mattingley would then incorporate the walk into our program.

John Cox has managed to fix a few glitches in the club website but there is more work to be completed soon.

Jack Winterbottom is set to publish the February newsletter shortly so please ensure all walk reports and previews have been submitted so they can be included.

4.2. Treasurer

Monica Scicluna presented the treasurers report.

Moved: M Scicluna

Seconded: K Free

4.3. Tracks and Conservation

- **McMillans Track**

McMillan Guide book is selling faster than estimated and there was a reconciliation with the Chapmans as of December the 31st. It is anticipated that there will be good book sales at Fed Walks.

McMillans Walking Track; Book Sales:

	Club	Chapmans	Total
Up to 31/3/21	214	225	439
1/4/21 to 31/12/21	88	181	269
Total to end 2021	302	406	708

Joe circulated a photo of the founding members of BCWC on the summit of Ben Cruachan which has been posted on the Facebook page.

Tracks and Conservation:

Track Maintenance priorities:

1. Brewery Creek Track to Wongungarra River (2km) to be cleared as a BTAC activity Labour Day Weekend in March (11-12/3)
2. Black River to Champion Spur Track (3km). DELWP may do with contractors during March, if not will make it a club maintenance activity later in the year.

McMillan's End-to-end walk in Dec 22. Will be seeking registrations of interest soon. Already have interest from 5 people. John Kellas will be support crew. Limited to 12 walkers.

- **BTAC**

Had successful track clearing event from, 25 Jan to 1 Feb in preparation for FedWalks, based at Muttonwood Camp on the Wellington River. 22 volunteers contributed more than 600 volunteer hours. 27km of walking track cleared on 9 different tracks. see attached report submitted for newsletter.

BTAC Program for 2022. I spoke to the items on the attached program.

FedWalk2021:

FedWalks2021 should proceed as planned 25 - 28 March.

If some planned burns proceed at the time some walks may be impacted by smoke.

Next meeting of the organising committee is Thursday 10 Feb

Still looking for a co-leader for 1 walk.

There are a few leader vacancies to be filled.

Would like more participants for the Bryces Gorge overnight walk. Will be inspirational and fun.

Wilderness 1st Aid.

Have contacted Debbie and Jo and asked them to nominate a date for us to work around but have had no response as at: 9th Feb.

4.4. Newsletter Editor

In Jacks absence Helmut advised the February newsletter should be published before the end of this month.

4.5. Publicity

Since our last meeting upcoming walks were promoted monthly to the usual outlets (Latrobe Valley Express, Gippsland Times, Bairnsdale Advertiser and Yallourn North Connection).

It was difficult to promote our February walks despite a full and varied walk program. Walk leaders had either requested that walks not be advertised or had not yet provided walk details to the Walks Coordinator for listing on the website. Could a request be made to walk leaders to provide walk details as far as possible in advance of their walk.

After some general discussion it was decided to leave walks on the calendar in a different colour to indicate they were completed to show viewers several previously completed walks.

4.6. Facebook

The Facebook page is running well and there are no current issues.

4.7. Membership

Ken Free reported latest membership numbers are as follows:

142 members with 2 pending

79 Males, 63 Females, 9 non-walking, 7 dual, 9 Newsletter only.

Helmut asked if there were any protocols with respect to nominating a life member. Some Discussion about criteria for such membership category was discussed.

5. Walks Program

5.1 Current Status

Looking for a walk on March 19.

Joe asked if he could join the Walks subcommittee after Fedwalks (April) to assist getting the walks program together. His offer to assist was accepted.

5.2 FEDWALKS 2021

Fed Walks will be going ahead on the 25th to the 28th of March. Leaders are organised and walks are in place. There are around 220 participants. Due to covid concerns meals such as dinner will be in shifts, but breakfast and lunch are not sit down so there will not be restrictions. It will be BYO chair, particularly needed for listening to the speaker. Emails are going out to walk leaders soon.

6. Management of BCWC Website

6.2 Current Status

John Cox is working on making some adjustments. Committee meeting Minutes have not been appearing on the website and Ken Free has volunteered to rectify this.

7. General Business:

7.1

Wilderness first aid still awaiting a final date.

7.2

There was general discussion about receipts and forms in the acceptance of risk for visitors.

7.3

Insurance: Bushwalking Australia need an annual return for insurance to be produced by the secretary. Geoff will check on the requirements.

There was discussion about where forms are lodged, and these are lodged with the secretary. There are forms in the pink and blue bags.

Vaccinations: Our club has decided that walkers must be vaccinated in line with government policy.

Club night in Sale: Michael Dowe will ask Sue Wesson to send in a preview for the website.

Next Club Night: **Scheduled for 9th March 2022**
Guest Speaker Sue Wesson – Hiking in Bhutan
@ 7:00 pm preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm Criterion Hotel Sale

Next Committee Meeting: **13th April 2022**
Maffra Community Sports Club
@ 7:00 pm preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm

Incoming Emails

Joe van Beek	Information re Mc Millan's Walking Track
Conservation Regulator	Conservation Matters Newsletter
Ken Free	Minutes notes
Bushwalking Victoria	Merry Christmas, and Update from Board
Jack Clayfield	Membership
Lotsafreshair	How to Navigate book available Caro Ryan
Susan Hale	Membership
Central Gippsland Visitor Centre	More Brochures Please
Gordon Bedford	re Mc Millan's Walking Track query
Yallourn North News	Article deadline
Trudi, Dean Clarke	Membership
Friends of the Earth	Fire Plan Notification

Joe van Beek	Maintenance Priorities for McMillans Walking Track
Joe van Beek	McMillans Walking Track from Brewery Creek Track down to the Wongungarra River
Joe van Beek	Re equipment maintenance and ownership
Helmut Tracksdorf	Risk management approach regarding Vaccination
Elizabeth Davies	Risk management approach regarding Vaccination
Angela Roughly	Risk management approach regarding Vaccination
Ken Free	Risk management approach regarding Vaccination
Robyn Kercher	Risk management approach regarding Vaccination
Kerry Knights	Risk management approach regarding Vaccination
Monica Scicluna	Risk management approach regarding Vaccination
Joe van Beek	Risk management approach regarding Vaccination
Jim Stranger	Risk management approach regarding Vaccination
Robyn Shingles	Re BWV Minutes
BWV	Mountain Bikes Yarra Ranges
Belle Deakin	Membership
BWV	Bushwalking News
Evan Chesterfield	Snowy Bluff Images
Kerry Knights	Raymond Falls Images
Peter Maffei	SBWC Newsletter
Nick Bean	re Mc Millan's Walking Track query
Helmut Tracksdorf	Re Snowy Bluff Images
Monica Scicluna	Re meeting
Consumer Affairs	Reminder of overdue Statement!!

Emails sent to all members

Committee	Minutes of the Committee Meeting from December
SBWC	Newsletter (oops)
BCWC	Newsletter
SBWC	Newsletter
Secretary	Meeting Notification
Secretary	Meeting Notification

BTAC	Tracks activity at Grant coming up
Secretary	Agenda

Emails to other parties

BWV	Re Minutes
Ken Free	Various Memberships
Ken Free	Re Membership list and past members
Ken Free	Re-stock of Brochures
Committee	Risk management approach regarding Vaccination
Evan Chesterfield	Mc Millan's Walking Track
Sale Senior Citizens	Re club activities

Financial Statement

Financial Statement

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC.

Minutes for Management Committee Meeting

Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 7:00pm
Maffra Community Sports Club

1. President's Welcome:

1.1. Attendance: H Tracksdorf, M Scicluna, J van Beek, E Chesterfield, R Patterson, J Patterson, P Jennings, E Davis, J Winterbottom, A Stevenson, P Baglioni, J Stranger, R Kercher

1.2. Apologies: A Roughley, J Cox, G Mattingley, K Free, M Dowe

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

2.1. Confirmation: M Scicluna, J Winterbottom

2.2. Matters Arising: Wilderness First Aid to be discussed in General Business

3. Correspondence: Noted that information re Mc Millan's is outgoing mail See list below.

4. Reports:

4.1. President

Well, we can all breathe a sigh of relief, especially the members of the FEDWALKS 2021 organising committee. After 2 years of covid related delays we were able to run the event and from all accounts it appears to have been an outstanding success. As mentioned in the February 2022 newsletter, thanks must go to OUR members on the organising Committee - Joe, Jack and Heather who have done an outstanding job under what can only be described as difficult circumstances.

No doubt they will be seeking counselling over the coming months to assist in their recovery from the ordeal.

We will all be able to relive the moment at next month's Club night where individual walk reports and photos will be presented for club members. It should prove an interesting and enjoyable night.

As a result of FEDWALKS the number of club walks carried was less than normal, however,

In February:

Robyn led a walk on Raymond Island which spotted more than 30 koalas

Oliver and Evan led an overnight walk to Bryces Gorge – always a popular spot.

Peter & Nicki Jennings lead a walk to Mt Howitt back which proved a hit

In March:

Monica led a walk into the Den of Nargun, another popular walk but wet this time around

Then numerous members attended the variety of walks on offer during FEDWALKS 2021 based at Licola.

In April:

Trevor Clues led a cliff top walk out at Lake Tyers which proved most enjoyable for all those who attended.

Unfortunately, due to wet weather Robyn's Mt Taylor walk was cancelled.

April/May Walks and activities

Saturday 16 April 2022	Nicholson River	Deptford/Slaughter Track	S-3-3
Friday 15th - Monday 18th April	Alpine National Park	Easter 4 day Alpine Adventure	See preview
Wednesday 20 - Sunday 24 April 2022	Kosciusko National Park	Kosciusko, Ramshead Range RESCHEDULED	Oct/Nov? 2022
Saturday 23 - Monday 25 April 2022	Mitchell River National Park	Mitchelldale Car Camp	
Saturday 30 April 2022	Latrobe Valley	Morwell - Yallourn Walking Track	S-2-2
May 2022	Bunyip State Park	Track Construction	BTAC
Sunday 8 May 2022	Tarra - Bulga National Park	Balook - Mack's Creek	M-6-6
Saturday 1 May 2022	Traralgon	Social evening- stories from Fedwalks	
Wednesday 14 May 2022	near Dargo	Dargo & Wonnangatta Rivers junction, Granite Creek Goldfields	S-4-3

Geoff Mattingley advises there are still plenty of gaps in our Walks Program, so please feel free to nominate a walk you may wish to lead. Check out the Walks Program and pick a weekend or weekday and nominate a walk that you would be willing to lead.

Helmut Tracksdorf
President BCWC

4.2 Treasurer

Treasurer Monica Scicluna

Financial Statement for 31st March 2022

Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Total Account Balance @ 31st January 2022 11468.54

Club 5905.21
MMWT 5563.33

Income :

Membership

Shepherd, Bull, Wilkins, Chesterfield, Humphreys,

Dodds, Collis & Garth 226.00

Visitors Fee 25.00

McMillan Book Sales 936.00

McMillan Markers 40.00

McMillan Donation 5.00

Sale of T-Shirts 60.00
_____ 1292.00

Sub Total Income: 12760.54

Expenditure:

W. Chambers (refund of subs overpayment)	313.00	
Aust Post (PO Box Rental)	44.00	
	<u> </u>	357.00
 Total Account Balance @ 31st March 2022		 12403.54
	Club	5859.21
	MMWT	6544.33

4.3 Tracks and Conservation

McMillans Walking Track Joe van Beek

- March 11-14 BTAC team cleared the badly overgrown section of track from Brewery Creek Track to the Wongungarra River.
- DELWP/PV have contractor working on McMillans Walking Track with fire recovery money. Have completed Mayford to Lankey Plain and now working on White Timber Spur.
- 10 page article about MMWT in Australia Geographic.
- The club has sold 55 copies of MMWT guidebook so far this year, 14 at FedWalks2021.

BTAC

- Activity Scheduled for 1 to 4 April on Baw Baw was cancelled by Parks Victoria due to poor weather forecast. To be rescheduled.
- The October and November 2021 project on the AAWT near Taylors crossing featured in News from the Alps.
- Upcoming Projects:

3-5 May 2022	Bunyip State Park	Tree Fern Walking Track - Rock Step installation	Parks Victoria	Andy Mushgrove	Peter Maffei
4-5 June 2022	Grampians National Park	Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group to advise	Parks Victoria / GWTSG	David Whitham	Jim Harker
Jun-22	Great Otways National Park	Tracks and dates to be nominated	Parks Victoria	James Gorman	Ed Butler
Jul-22					
Aug-22					
23-25 Sept 2022	Croajingolong National Park	Tracks and dates to be nominated	Parks Victoria	Robyn Korn	Mike Grant?
Oct-22	Macalister State Park	AAWT, Mount Sunday area	DELWP	Patrick St John	Patrick Platt?
Nov-22	Howqua Hills	Ranger to nominate	Parks Victoria	Nigel Watts	Bob Edwards
2-4 Dec 2022	Alpine National Park	AAWT, Long Spur	Parks Victoria	Kevin Cosgriff	John Green

- Next Committee meeting 29 April

Conservation:

- Robyn recently distributed the latest newsletter from the Conservation Regulator, Victoria to all members.
- Joe, is keeping his eye on Engage Victoria for public consultation on conservation issues relevant to the club.

4.4 Newsletter Editor Jack Winterbottom

Newsletter will be published in the coming week and distributed to members. Joe and Jack will collaborate on Federation Walks articles for the newsletter.

4.5 Publicity Jim Stranger

Since our last committee meeting upcoming walks were promoted where requested and sent to the usual outlets. My next article, which will be forwarded mid-April, will include a report on the success of Fed Walks with acknowledgement of the support of Wellington Shire.

4.6 Facebook Angela Roughley

The club Facebook page is going well thank you to all who contribute photographs and who like posts by members and followers.

4.7 Membership, Ken Free

Attached is the current (as of 10 April 2022) BCWC Membership Register. Since our February meeting we have 6 new members listed below, which appear in red font on the Register.

Evan Chesterfield

Dan Collis

Gemma & Peter Dodds

Colin Garth

Megan Humphries

He reported that interestingly, Gemma and Peter Dodds live in Googong NSW which is about 15 kms south east of Canberra City.

5. Walks Program Geoff Mattingley

5.1 Current Status

3 day walks

1 base camp

1 pack carry.

1 day walk was cancelled due to both lack of starters and bad weather forecast.

Once Easter is over Geoff intends to arrange another meeting of the walks planning group - there are still plenty of gaps in the program.

The meeting discussed the possibility that Geoff has suggested of using the Wangaratta Ski Lodge perhaps in late spring or early summer. There also was discussion of the Rovers chalet walk base camp in the Baw Baw National Park.

5.2 FedWalks 2021 Joe van Beek

Finally held on 25-28 March, a great success by all accounts. The great weather being a big contributor to the success. The sponsorship from the Wellington Shire made it a good value for money event.

210 attendees from 32 clubs, 33 from BCWC

41 walk leaders from 12 clubs, 16 from BCWC

32 walks in total, 21 different ones. 15 day walks on Saturday, 14 day walks on Sunday and 3 overnight walks Sunday to Monday. Two of these supported by the Macalister 4WD club.

The walk up the Crinoline was the most popular walk on the Saturday (20 walkers) and the Bryces Gorge Circuit day walk (20 walkers) was the most popular on the Sunday. Mt Howitt was overall the most popular with a total of 35 walkers over the two days.

The welcomes on Friday night were well received. The guest speaker on Saturday night, Beau Miles, provided an interesting account of his McMillan Walking Track adventures with an end to end in 80 hours. The Taste of Gippsland seemed to go down a treat on Sunday evening.

Illustrated Stories from FedWalks2021 will be told at the Wednesday 11 May club social night at the Wan Loy restaurant in Traralgon.

6. Management of Website John Cox

6.1 Current Status Report Below

The questions below are a draft which can be created using a programme such as Survey Monkey and can be modified in consultation with committee members or a subcommittee. It is hoped that this subcommittee will meet by mid-May, and get a survey out to members. There was discussion about purchasing a Microsoft programme to change items on the website to PDF format.

Motion: That John Cox be asked to create a survey to be modified in consultation with committee members and this be completed by mid-May 2022.

Moved: J Winterbottom

Seconded: P Baglioni.

1. General Business:

7.1 Insurance

Forms are to be lodged

7.2 Wilderness First Aid

Joe is working on a date

Next Club Night: **Scheduled for 11th May 2022 Stories from Fed Walks**
@ 7:00 pm preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm Wan Loy Chinese Restaurant

Next Committee Meeting: **8th June 2022**
Maffra Community Sports Club
@ 7:00 pm preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm

Incoming Emails

M Humphreys	Membership information
K Free	Membership enquiry
K Free	Current Membership list
Consumer Affairs	Lodgement of Annual Statement
J van Beek	Re Annual Statement
K Waddell	Re Assistance with Annual Statement
J Winterbottom	Re Assistance with Annual Statement
Y Curtain	Membership
C Garth	Membership
D Collis	Membership
Strzelecki Bush Walking Club	Newsletter
Joe van Beek	Information re Mc Millan's Walking Track
BWV	Insurance Renewal
Easy Joomla	Website charges
Conservation Matters	Newsletter
J van Beek	Information re Mc Millan's Walking Track
O Raymond	Fed Walks
G Mattingly	Replacement Walk
C Ryan	How to Navigate Book
J van Beek	Information re Mc Millan's Walking Track
Strzelecki Bush Walking Club	Newsletter

Emails sent to all members

Committee	Minutes of the Committee Meeting from February
BCWC	Newsletter March
Strzelecki Bush Walking Club	Newsletter
Conservation Matters	Newsletter April
Strzelecki Bush Walking Club	Newsletter
Fed Walks Committee	Fed Walks
Secretary	Meeting Notification
Secretary	Meeting Notification
BCWC	Newsletter April
Secretary	Meeting Notification
Secretary	Meeting Notification
Secretary	Agenda

Emails to other parties

Ken Free	Various Memberships
Ken Free	Re Membership list and past members
J van Beek, J Winterbottom, K Waddell	Annual Statement
Committee	Walks
Evan Chesterfield	Mc Millan's Walking Track
Conservation Matters	Survey
H Tracksdorf	Return to Sport

Website Report

Following on from Helmut's 'review' a couple of months ago, I have worked through and fixed up broken and/or incomplete links.

The *Newsletter* section has been re-organised, with previous years' being put on a new page. (Oddly enough, listed as [Previous Years' Newsletters.](#))

Suggestions

- All documents put on the website to be in PDF format. I will investigate some options – there are a few 'free' programs around that will do the job but there are advantages to buying the Adobe Acrobat Pro version as it enables the creation of 'fillable' forms etc. (Currently I can get the Adobe product for \$225 per year – education edition.)
- Rework several menus, removing redundant headings eg *GUIDELINES AND FORMS*. Remove menu items: *WALKS & SAFETY*, *ADMIN & RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS*.
- Remove redundant menu items under USEFUL INFO & LINKS.
- We need a proper filename convention. Every file should be in the format *Date Filename.pdf*. Date in American Format eg *220417 Walk Report.pdf*. This means that all files would then be listed in chronological order, making them significantly easier to find/work with.
- It is my opinion that listing filenames with underscores looks 'unprofessional'. Listings should look like *220415 BCWC Newsletter.pdf* not *220415_BCWC_Newsletter.pdf*. No other website that I know of uses underscores in links.

Apart from the limited reorganisation listed above, I haven't done much work on the website, mostly because I don't have any clear idea of what we are trying to achieve with our site. Accordingly, I think we should conduct a survey of members to ascertain what features they would like to see and then use that as a basis to guide the redevelopment.

I have attached a list of some possible questions to ask. If anyone has any further suggestions for questions to add, please feel free to include them.

John C

**BCWC
Website Review**

Some possible questions to be put to members to ascertain a future direction for the club's website. Questions will be emailed to all members with an option to complete it online (through Survey Monkey). Just out of interest, do we have many members who don't use email?

1. Do you currently use the website?
Yes/No

2. How often?
Weekly

Monthly
Less than monthly

3. What sections do you use?
Upcoming Walks
McMillans Walking Track
Guidelines and Forms
Useful Info and Links
Newsletters
Walk Previews, Plans and Reports Archive
Committee
Photo Gallery

Do you think the website should be used to:

Attract new members?	Yes/No/ Undecided
List new walks and events?	
Provide access to club Forms and Documents?	
Provide access to Newsletters?	
Provide contact information for Club Office Bearers?	
Provide access to Committee Meeting Minutes?	
Provide Access to Walk Previews etc?	
Other	?

Do you think any of these would be useful to have available?

Online Member database (Only available to club members after logging in.)
Scale 1 - 10

Online Walks Booking (Participants can book onto a walk online. Email booking confirmations are sent and the Leader is also notified via email.)
Scale 1 - 10

A Walks Library
Scale 1 - 10

(If they chose to, Leaders/Club Members would be able to write-up their walk and upload it to the website. This would then become a resource for other Club Members. The advantage of this is that it would enable almost anyone to lead a particular walk in future. In the long term, a Walks Library would become a very valuable resource for the club. A sample, taken from the Maroondah club website, is attached. This shows a 'GPS' walk.)

Are there any other features that you would like to see on our site?

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC.

Minutes for Management Committee Meeting

Wednesday 8th June 2022 @ 7:00pm
Maffra Community Sports club

1. President's Welcome:

- 1.1 Attendance: H Tracksdorf, J Van Beek, E Davis, P Baglioni, J Stranger, A Roughley, G Mattingley,
- 1.2 Apologies: M Scicluna, J Cox, K Free, M Dowe, J Winterbottom, R Kercher, R Patterson.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting:

- 2.1 Confirmation of Previous Minutes: Moved: J Van Beek; Seconded: P Baglioni
- 2.2 Matters Arising: J Van Beek made mention of the next social night and looking for someone to be guest speaker. Review of Federation Walks went well. Still looking for suitable date for Wilderness First Aid course.

3. Correspondence: Tabled – see below and open for comment.

J Stranger - commented that he had been approached by the Maroondah Bushwalking club re having a base camp in Traralgon and walking from there. Jim met with members to discuss. Also looking at Paynesville and possibly Yarram as potential alternatives. BCWC will be notified of outcome.

J Van Beek – Commented about correspondence from Wilderness Safety asking BCWC to generate a link to their webpage on our webpage. J Van Beek recommended against link. Committee agreed.

4: Reports:

- 4.1 Presidents – Presented by H Tracksdorf.

Approaching the end of another financial year with two items to address. Membership fees and the AGM. Discussion regarding membership fees. Recommended to stay the same given current cost of living pressures. Committee in agreeance. Mention of next month's AGM – 13 July in Sale. Helmut encouraged current committee members to approach other members with a hope of getting new faces on the committee. Invitation to members to attend the AGM to go in the next newsletter. General discussion regarding possible candidates/succession planning. Currently undertaking a review of the BCWC website with a view to upgrading it. J Cox undertaking a survey via Survey Monkey. Helmut will send a reminder to go to members regarding completion of the survey. Lastly, Helmut advised the committee that he did not intend to seek re-election as President after the AGM and thanked everyone for their support. General discussion regarding possible candidates for various positions on committee.

- 4.2 Treasurer – M Scicluna was an apology. The report was tabled for discussion. Refer below.
Moved: J Van Beek; Seconded: G Mattingley

- 4.3 Tracks and Conservation – presented by J Van Beek
Nothing new to report on McMillans Walking Track. Awaiting on a progress report back from both DELWP & Parks Vic regarding what they achieved with the \$35K Fire Recovery Grant that they received. Joe reported on various other track works and informed committee that he had

offered to replace Peter Maffei as convenor on BTAC. Change will take place at the Bushwalking Victoria AGM.

- 4.4 Newsletter – J Winterbottom was an apology. Helmut reminded everyone to forward relevant items to Jack as soon as possible for inclusion in the upcoming Newsletter. Nomination forms for committee candidates to be attached to the newsletter.
 - 4.5 Publicity – Presented by J Stranger.
 - 4.6 Facebook – Presented by A Roughley.
 - 4.7 Membership – K Free was an apology. H Tracksdorf presented the membership report. Total membership 149. 83 women, 66 men. 9 are non-walkers. 7 are dual members. 9 long term members receive the newsletter only.
- 5. Walks Program** – Presented by G Mattingley - general discussion around the lack of walks on the calendar with many either cancelled or deferred. Lack of leaders identified as a possible issue. Discussion around holding another Walks Program Meeting (date TBA). Leadership training was mentioned by J. Van Beek – perhaps time to undertake again (nothing for past 6 years?). J. Van Beek to give this consideration.
- 6. Management of Website** – J Cox was an apology. Survey Monkey has been sent to all members. Place notice in newsletter to remind members to complete survey and hopefully get a good response. Committee agreed to wait for the survey to run its course which will provide J Cox with some direction based on member feedback and committee discussion. To be carried over. Issues raised by K Free regarding the website will be held over until after the completion of the survey.
- 7. General Business:**
- 7.1 Confirmation of Membership fees
Already discussed and confirmed to remain the same.
 - 7.2 Ben Cruachan Anniversary – Sat 25th June
With regard to the logistics surrounding this event. The preview talks about having a BBQ on top which will be weather dependent. We will wait till closer to event to decide with regard to that otherwise it will be a BYO. H Tracksdorf and J Van Beek to do a recce.
 - 7.3 Insurance renewal – Chubb Form
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K Free recommendation discussed. G Mattingley mentioned current system "clunky". Committee agreed to ask J Cox to include a google renewal form in website

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J Van Beek questioned the relevance of member logins.

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H Tracksdorf reiterated that K Free's points involve the website and have been taken on board to be discussed further upon completion of the website survey and when J Cox is available.

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As per 7.8.2

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Discussed AGM. J Van Beek expressed he is happy to continue in his role. H Tracksdorf keen to see new faces and calls for nominations. Check that the venue has been booked (H Tracksdorf) to check with M Scicluna)

Next committee meeting scheduled for 10th August.

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M Hale	Enquiry re Mc Millan's Walk
BWV	May Bushwalking News
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E Davis	Website survey
G Mattingly	Website survey
A Roughley	Website survey
P Baglioni	Website survey
M Scicluna	Website survey
J Strangers	Website survey
J Cox	Website survey
K Free	Website survey
R Kercher	Website survey
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Out-going Emails

To All Members

Secretary Committee	Meeting Club Night Wan Loy
BWV	Update
Strzelecki Bushwalking Club	Newsletter
Premier Film Screening	Mine Field Film- re Kalbar
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BWV	Bushwalking News
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Jarvis, MacLennan, Judge, Shephard & Richard 489.00

Visitor Fee 25.00

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@ 7:00 pm preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm Criterion Hotel Sale

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Items for BCWC Management Committee meeting on 8 June 2022

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It was suggested that there was no need to keep the duplicate copies.

I undertook to raise the issue with Robyn Shingles, Secretary Bushwalking Victoria, to ascertain whether our club was obligated to retain copies of Acknowledgement of Risks forms.

Robyn confirmed that, as a condition of our insurance cover, we must ensure that all visitors on our club walks sign an Acknowledgement of Risks form and we should keep copies for a reasonable period of time, bearing in mind that an insurance claim may be lodged at some time after the walk.

I also checked on any legal requirements and found the following: In Victoria, time limits for personal injury claims are covered under the [Limitation of Actions Act 1958](#) which stipulates that a personal injury claim must be brought within three years of the discovery of the injury or within 12 years from the date of the act (or omission) which caused the injury, whichever expires first. So theoretically, we should keep copies of signed Acknowledgement of Risks forms for up to 12 years.

Based on this advice, I recommend that we continue with our current practice of using the books of Acknowledgement of Risks forms and retaining the duplicates.

(As Robyn Shingles said: "If it's not broken, don't fix it.")

It's not a particularly onerous task to store a few books of Acknowledgement of Risks forms and we would look pretty incompetent and/or unprofessional if we were unable to produce copies of forms when and if required and our only defence was that we threw them out because we didn't think they were necessary.

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While talking to Robyn Shingles, I took the opportunity to discuss the renewal process at Strzelecki Bushwalking Club. Robyn, who is the SBWC President, advised that their members can renew online using a Google form and tick a box to confirm that they have read and understand the Acknowledgement of Risks. Payments are not made via their website; members use online banking facilities to transfer the fee to the SBWC bank account. The alternative of incorporating a payment system on the website was considered an expensive option for a relatively small club.

Perhaps the online Google renewal form is something we should investigate.

3. Archive of Walk Previews

At the BCWC Management Committee meeting on 9 February 2022, Janine Muir asked why Walk Previews, which she and others found useful, were not being archived on the website.

Our Walks Co-ordinator, Geoff Mattingley, seemed to suggest that he had decided that 'old' Walk Previews were not any use to anyone so he had decided not to archive them.

A number of people at that meeting disagreed with Geoff's logic and decision, myself among them. For a club member, like Janine Muir, who wants to lead a particular walk the previous Walk Preview provides a great starting point: it includes a description of the walk, the walk length, elapsed time, grading, meeting time and place, and importantly the leader's name and contact details. The potential walk leader is able to discuss the walk in more detail with the previous walk leader and by checking walk reports in old newsletters (which are consistently archived on the website!) can perhaps glean more information.

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As elected Office Holders of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club, we undertake to do all the tasks or jobs included in the role we have taken on; none of us has the luxury of deciding not to do particular parts of our role.

I respectfully recommend that the Management Committee confirm that archiving of Walk Previews is a task that must be undertaken by the Walks Co-ordinator.

4. Website – Frequency of Member Logins

In the context of the current Website Survey, I thought it would be useful to take a look at how often our members login to the website. The following data is from the 'backend' of the website.

We currently have 98 memberships which may be Single, Family or Dual; the total number of individuals is currently 149. A Family membership may for example include 2 parents and 3 children giving a total of 5 individuals for 1 membership. Website login details apply to the 1 membership, not each individual family member. (I hope that makes sense!)

So, out of 98 memberships, 39 have never logged in to the website.

15 have logged in during 2022.

26 last logged in during 2021.

6 last logged in during 2020.

4 last logged in during 2019.

2 last logged in during 2018.

2 last logged in during 2017.

3 last logged in during 2016.

1 last logged in during 2015.

5. Website – Online Booking System

John Cox has proposed an online booking system for club walks with the claim that it would “expedite much of the Leader’s task of organising an event”.

As a walk leader, I strongly oppose such a proposition. Far from “expediting much of the Leader’s task of organising an event”, online booking would add a bureaucratic layer to what is currently a simple and straightforward system of registering for a walk: you simply telephone or email the walk leader.

Having led many walks during the last 30 years, my experience tells me that it is important for leaders to have direct communication with walk participants, either via email or preferably telephone. If I don’t know the person, I can have a conversation about the length and difficulty of the walk, the person’s experience and level of fitness and so on. In some cases it has resulted in us (the participant and me) agreeing that perhaps an alternative easier walk might be more suitable.

To my mind, an online booking system gets in the way of good communication by placing technology between the walk leader and walk participants.

Besides, what is the problem with our current system of registering for walks that needs fixing?

6. Website – Document Format & File Names

At the Management Committee meeting on 13 April 2022, John Cox made a number of suggestions: “All documents put on the website to be in PDF format.”

There are some practical implications of this suggestion: When the website was set up in 2015, pages with text and some documents were deliberately written in MS Word so that members with administrative access to the website would be able to easily amend areas of their responsibility. For example, in my case as Membership Secretary, when it was decided to have Dual Memberships I was able to easily amend the text on the membership page of the website in a matter of minutes.

Documents such as Walk Preview Pro-forma are written in MS Word with formatting such that the ‘boxes’ on the form can be expanded to accommodate a longer walk description, longer leader’s name etc.

MS Word has the facility to save a document in PDF format, so there is no need to purchase Adobe Acrobat software. If we did go down that path, would we purchase a copy for all members with administrative access to the website? If not, what happens when the only person with the software is out of town?

“Every file should be in the format *Date Filename.pdf*. Date in American Format eg *220417 Walk Report.pdf*.”

Personally, I prefer filenames to be simple and obvious. For example, all Walk Previews should tell you what it is (Walk Preview) where it is (Mitchelldale River Walk) and the date in language that we normally use, not American IT speak (7 August 2021) as in WALK PREVIEW - MITCHELLDALE RIVER WALK - 7 AUGUST 2021.

“listing filenames with underscores looks ‘unprofessional’. Listings should look like 220415 BCWC Newsletter.pdf not 220415_BCWC_Newsletter.pdf.”

I agree that underscores have no place in file names.

As above, all newsletter files should be in the format: NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2022. Simple!

If the website is intended as a communication tool for mere mortals, not IT geeks, everything about it should be simple and easily understood by anyone who uses the website, in my humble opinion.

Ken Free

BCWC Membership Secretary

5 June 2022

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC.

Minutes for Management Committee Meeting

Wednesday 8th June 2022 @ 7:00pm
Maffra Community Sports club

1. President's Welcome:

- 1.1 Attendance: H Tracksdorf, J Van Beek, E Davis, P Baglioni, J Stranger, A Roughley, G Mattingley,
- 1.2 Apologies: M Scicluna, J Cox, K Free, M Dowe, J Winterbottom, R Kercher, R Patterson.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting:

- 2.1 Confirmation of Previous Minutes: Moved: J Van Beek; Seconded: P Baglioni
- 2.2 Matters Arising: J Van Beek made mention of the next social night and looking for someone to be guest speaker. Review of Federation Walks went well. Still looking for suitable date for Wilderness First Aid course.

3. Correspondence: Tabled – see below and open for comment.

J Stranger - commented that he had been approached by the Maroondah Bushwalking club re having a base camp in Traralgon and walking from there. Jim met with members to discuss. Also looking at Paynesville and possibly Yarram as potential alternatives. BCWC will be notified of outcome.

J Van Beek – Commented about correspondence from Wilderness Safety asking BCWC to generate a link to their webpage on our webpage. J Van Beek recommended against link. Committee agreed.

4: Reports:

- 4.1 Presidents – Presented by H Tracksdorf.

Approaching the end of another financial year with two items to address. Membership fees and the AGM. Discussion regarding membership fees. Recommended to stay the same given current cost of living pressures. Committee in agreeance. Mention of next month's AGM – 13 July in Sale. Helmut encouraged current committee members to approach other members with a hope of getting new faces on the committee. Invitation to members to attend the AGM to go in the next newsletter. General discussion regarding possible candidates/succession planning. Currently undertaking a review of the BCWC website with a view to upgrading it. J Cox undertaking a survey via Survey Monkey. Helmut will send a reminder to go to members regarding completion of the survey. Lastly, Helmut advised the committee that he did not intend to seek re-election as President after the AGM and thanked everyone for their support. General discussion regarding possible candidates for various positions on committee.

- 4.2 Treasurer – M Scicluna was an apology. The report was tabled for discussion. Refer below.
Moved: J Van Beek; Seconded: G Mattingley

- 4.3 Tracks and Conservation – presented by J Van Beek
Nothing new to report on McMillans Walking Track. Awaiting on a progress report back from both DELWP & Parks Vic regarding what they achieved with the \$35K Fire Recovery Grant that they received. Joe reported on various other track works and informed committee that he had

offered to replace Peter Maffei as convenor on BTAC. Change will take place at the Bushwalking Victoria AGM.

- 4.4 Newsletter – J Winterbottom was an apology. Helmut reminded everyone to forward relevant items to Jack as soon as possible for inclusion in the upcoming Newsletter. Nomination forms for committee candidates to be attached to the newsletter.
 - 4.5 Publicity – Presented by J Stranger.
 - 4.6 Facebook – Presented by A Roughley.
 - 4.7 Membership – K Free was an apology. H Tracksdorf presented the membership report. Total membership 149. 83 women, 66 men. 9 are non-walkers. 7 are dual members. 9 long term members receive the newsletter only.
- 5. Walks Program** – Presented by G Mattingley - general discussion around the lack of walks on the calendar with many either cancelled or deferred. Lack of leaders identified as a possible issue. Discussion around holding another Walks Program Meeting (date TBA). Leadership training was mentioned by J. Van Beek – perhaps time to undertake again (nothing for past 6 years?). J. Van Beek to give this consideration.
- 6. Management of Website** – J Cox was an apology. Survey Monkey has been sent to all members. Place notice in newsletter to remind members to complete survey and hopefully get a good response. Committee agreed to wait for the survey to run its course which will provide J Cox with some direction based on member feedback and committee discussion. To be carried over. Issues raised by K Free regarding the website will be held over until after the completion of the survey.
- 7. General Business:**
- 7.1 Confirmation of Membership fees
Already discussed and confirmed to remain the same.
 - 7.2 Ben Cruachan Anniversary – Sat 25th June
With regard to the logistics surrounding this event. The preview talks about having a BBQ on top which will be weather dependent. We will wait till closer to event to decide with regard to that otherwise it will be a BYO. H Tracksdorf and J Van Beek to do a recce.
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15 have logged in during 2022.

26 last logged in during 2021.

6 last logged in during 2020.

4 last logged in during 2019.

2 last logged in during 2018.

2 last logged in during 2017.

3 last logged in during 2016.

1 last logged in during 2015.

5. Website – Online Booking System

John Cox has proposed an online booking system for club walks with the claim that it would “expedite much of the Leader’s task of organising an event”.

As a walk leader, I strongly oppose such a proposition. Far from “expediting much of the Leader’s task of organising an event”, online booking would add a bureaucratic layer to what is currently a simple and straightforward system of registering for a walk: you simply telephone or email the walk leader.

Having led many walks during the last 30 years, my experience tells me that it is important for leaders to have direct communication with walk participants, either via email or preferably telephone. If I don’t know the person, I can have a conversation about the length and difficulty of the walk, the person’s experience and level of fitness and so on. In some cases it has resulted in us (the participant and me) agreeing that perhaps an alternative easier walk might be more suitable.

To my mind, an online booking system gets in the way of good communication by placing technology between the walk leader and walk participants.

Besides, what is the problem with our current system of registering for walks that needs fixing?

6. Website – Document Format & File Names

At the Management Committee meeting on 13 April 2022, John Cox made a number of suggestions: “All documents put on the website to be in PDF format.”

There are some practical implications of this suggestion: When the website was set up in 2015, pages with text and some documents were deliberately written in MS Word so that members with administrative access to the website would be able to easily amend areas of their responsibility. For example, in my case as Membership Secretary, when it was decided to have Dual Memberships I was able to easily amend the text on the membership page of the website in a matter of minutes.

Documents such as Walk Preview Pro-forma are written in MS Word with formatting such that the ‘boxes’ on the form can be expanded to accommodate a longer walk description, longer leader’s name etc.

MS Word has the facility to save a document in PDF format, so there is no need to purchase Adobe Acrobat software. If we did go down that path, would we purchase a copy for all members with administrative access to the website? If not, what happens when the only person with the software is out of town?

“Every file should be in the format *Date Filename.pdf* . Date in American Format eg *220417 Walk Report.pdf*.”

Personally, I prefer filenames to be simple and obvious. For example, all Walk Previews should tell you what it is (Walk Preview) where it is (Mitchelldale River Walk) and the date in language that we normally use, not American IT speak (7 August 2021) as in WALK PREVIEW - MITCHELLDALE RIVER WALK - 7 AUGUST 2021.

“listing filenames with underscores looks ‘unprofessional’. Listings should look like 220415 BCWC Newsletter.pdf not 220415_BCWC_Newsletter.pdf.”

I agree that underscores have no place in file names.

As above, all newsletter files should be in the format: NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2022. Simple!

If the website is intended as a communication tool for mere mortals, not IT geeks, everything about it should be simple and easily understood by anyone who uses the website, in my humble opinion.

Ken Free

BCWC Membership Secretary

5 June 2022

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC.

Minutes for Management Committee Meeting

Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 7:00 pm
Maffra Sports Centre

1. **President's Welcome:** President Peter welcomed committee members and guests and called the meeting to order, noting his report will be discussed in the course of the meeting.

1.1. **Attendance:** K Knights, J Cox, P Jennings, J Wigg, J Muir, K Free, R Kercher C Snell, M Scicluna, G Fisk, G Mattingley, R Patterson, E Davis, J van Beek.

1.2. **Apologies:** J Winterbottom, L Tomlin

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

2.1. Confirmation

- Joe van Beek and Geoff Mattingley should both appear as apologies. Having Covid is a valid reason for an apology.
- Several places where there is mention of 'McMillans' it is incorrectly spelt as 'McMillon's'. Looks like a system override.
- In the last para of 7.3 'hyperthermia' should read 'hypothermia'.

Moved: G Mattingley

Seconded: J van Beek

That the minutes be confirmed with the agreed amendments

Carried

2.2. Matters Arising

These were moved to general business.

3. Correspondence: Attached See Below Correspondence Table

Logging at Mt Bogong: C Walker from Friends of the Earth wrote to us regarding logging coups in the Mt Bogong and Mt Wills area, very close to the AAWT. It was decided to pass his email on to all members and note BTAC is also against this logging which does not give a great enough buffer from the AAWT. This will give members the opportunity to review the information.

Conservation Regulator: It was noted by M Young that the Conservation Matters newsletter that is passed on to members, by the conservation regulator has been admonished for its lack of regulating the activities of Vic Forests. The publication was discussed, and we will continue to circulate it as it has other relevant articles that members have found interesting.

BWV Website update: To be attended to

Norman Williams' funeral: Norman Williams, life member of the club passed away at 101 years, and had been a keen member of the club up to his 80th year. Monica will attend the funeral with flowers and take notes for our newsletter.

4. Reports:

4.1. President - Peter: attached

4.2. Treasurer - Monica: attached

Moved: M Scicluna Seconded: G Mattingley

That the Treasurer's report be received.

Carried

4.3. Tracks and Conservation

4.3.1 McMillans Track - Joe

4.3.1 Next scheduled maintenance activity

4.3.2 BTAC - Joe

Joe reported there are vacancies on the October Mt Sunday track maintenance, 21-24 October, and the November activity is in the Howqua Hills, Stanley Spur to Mt Thorn on the 11th to the 14th. Priorities will be set for maintenance next year and will be advertised on the BTAC website. December the 2nd to 4th will be in the Alpine National Park on the AAWT Long Spur.

4.4. Newsletter Editor - Jack

The report was that the newsletter will be out soon. Jack and the team were thanked for their work on the booklet for Fed Walks, Martin Norris and Robyn Shingles for the maps and booking system (Strzelecki) and BCWC walk leaders.

4.5. Publicity - Kerry

Kerry is regularly writing articles and sending photos for local newspapers, and members have noticed these particularly in the papers West of Bairnsdale. Can everyone please keep Kerry in the loop with walks and things that might be of interest. Thanks to walk leaders who get reports in promptly.

4.6. Facebook Page - Jodie

Membership is up 17, with 396 members in total, and 26 posts in the last 60 days. Jodie is keeping up with posts and thanks those who post photos and comments.

4.7. BCWC Membership - Ken

We have 132 members in total, 68 female and 64 male, 7 dual members, 9 non-walkers, and 9 newsletter only.

5. Walks Program

5.1 Development of Walks Program - Geoff

Geoff reported there is a need for walks next year and those who filled the calendar this year were thanked. There was discussion about the archiving of walks, and this is underway. Geoff proposed a walk meeting. On leadership, BWV have previously run training, and John and Joe will contact them regarding possible future dates. There may be the opportunity to join with Strzelecki BWC. Geoff will continue to work on this.

Joe is assisting YHA Club with the joint walk on the AAWT.

5.2 FEDWALKS report - Joe

Joe reported on the success of the recent 2022 Fed Walks.

There was also an update on the 2021 Fed Walks hosted by Strzelecki and Ben Cruachan, with a profit of \$170 going to the clubs, and some spare books available, some to be gifted to organisations who assisted with the success of the event, and some for sale at \$10.

6. Meetings Program

6.1 Committee Meetings

December 14, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting Maffra Community Sports Club

February 8, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting Maffra Community Sports Club

April 12, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting Maffra Community Sports Club

6.2 Club Nights

Traralgon, Wan Loy November 9, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting Speaker Sonia Sanchez Confirmed. Monica will book and take the RSVPs.

Bairnsdale Club March 8th, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting speaker not confirmed yet

Sale Criterion May 10, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting, speaker not confirmed yet

There was some discussion around potential speakers. Gary Watts has suggested Heather Phillipson – Peter to follow up.

6.3 Other Social Events

Christmas Celebration- details on Walks Calendar, now to be held 18th of December at the Criterion in Sale.

7. Management of Website report from John attached

7.1 Domain name

Both names, BCWC and Ben Cruachan Walking Club are registered in the new .au domain.

The committee discussed the merits of an on-line booking system and data base of members, but the consensus was it would not benefit the club at this stage. There was discussion of the survey sample size and beneficial improvements of the website.

There was discussion around how to improve the walks library and enhance the archive area including walk previews, the newsletter, and the type of file that should be used.

From now the archives will be gradually put into word and over time Geoff and John will work on this project.

John was thanked for his work on the website and survey.

8. General Business:

8.1 Wilderness First Aid Course

The date available by our educators were not suitable to the needs of the club due to many members already booked up that weekend with walks such as the McMillans End to End. A new date will be sought for next year.

8.2 BCWC Guest Speakers for Social Nights

There were some suggestions for speakers, and President Peter will look in to the suggestions made for March.

8.9 Any other General Business

Recently 101 year old life member of our club Norman Williams died, and his funeral will occur this week. The club will send a card and flowers and Monica and Wil will attend the funeral and write about his contribution for the next newsletter.

Incoming Emails August, September, October

H Tracksdorf	Meeting Schedule
N Royce	Membership Cards
J Cox	Newsletter Links
J Wigg	Re Mt Hedrick
S Sanchez	Birdlife Australia Shore Birds Project
Various Committee	Shore Birds Speaker
J Cox	Website Information, below
B Vallance	Gear for Sale
K Free	Correction for Financial report printed version
R Morris	Games Management Authority (GMA) re guest speaking
B Vallance	Thanks
Various	Membership renewal
P Jennings	Re General Business
M Scicluna	Walk preview
Various	Club and membership enquiries
Easy Web	Invoice
A Jameson	Walking in SA
K Knights	Newsletter
J Winterbottom	Newsletter problem resolved
M Scicluna	Social Night
H Tracksdorf	Social Night
BWV	Fed Walks Invitation
J van Beek	Re Minutes
H Tracksdorf	Hut Booking
H Tracksdorf	Social Night Speaker
R Morris	Social Night Speaker
O Raymond	Walk Preview
C Francioli	Walk Enquiry
R Morris	Social Night Speaker
M Scicluna	Social Night Speaker
E Jones	Membership (Membershi!)
YN Connection	Deadline

K Knights	YN Connection
P Maffei	Strzelecki Newsletter
R Scott	Combined Clubs Event
BWV	Falls to Hotham Crossing Project
J van Beek	Forwarded Trust for Nature Newsletter
Easy Web	Domain Names
Heart Support Australia	Larrapinta Track
BWV	Club Update re Fed Walks
K Free	Non Renewals
G Mc Phee	Objection to Falls to Hotham Crossing Project
BWV	Great Ocean Rd Trails Update
P Jennings	Possible Walks Call out
Various members	Re Walks Call out
BWV	October Bushwalking News
K Knights	Fuel Load
J Wigg	Fuel Load
K Knights	Walking Poles
Easy Web	Domain Names
C Walker	Logging in Mt Bogong
Conservation Regulator	Conservation Matters
P Jennings	Domain Names
BWV	Website Update
J Van Beek	Wilderness First Aid
M Young	Re Conservation Matters

Outgoing to all members

BCWC	Newsletter August
B Vallance	Gear for Sale
R Kercher	Meeting Minutes
R Kercher	Loch Sport Walks and Fed Walks
A Jameson	Walking in SA
Fed Walks	Invitation and Information
R Kercher	Social Night
BWV	Falls To Hotham Project
Trust For Nature	Nature News
BWV	Board update
BWV	Newsletter August
BWV	Newsletter September
M Scicluna	Wilson's Prom
M Scicluna	Walk 15 October
R Kercher	Meeting Invitation

Outgoing emails (to)

S Sanchez	Birdlife Australia Shore Birds Project Guest Speaker
G Mattingley	re Birdlife Australia Shore Birds Project Guest Speaker
H Tracksdorf	Source of the Murry 4WD
H Tracksdorf	Club Social Night
K Di Venosa	Re Walks
J Winterbottom	Re Newsletter for Kerry
K Free	Various Memberships
Committee	R Scott, combined Walks
E Lavendar	Moving Business
Committee	Domain Names

J Cox	Domain Names
S Sanchez	Birdlife Australia Shore Birds Project Guest Speaker
P Jennings	Re Agenda
M Young	Re Meeting, and Conservation Matters: see below

M Young

I just discovered that this Vic Gov. Agency has just been admonished by the Auditor General for not keeping adequate records in relation to its regulating/observing the activities of Vic Forests. Apparently their data/statistics were totally outdated or incorrect.

C Walker

If you know and love the VIC high country, then you will know the Long Spur area which links Mt Bogong with Mt Wills. Logging is scheduled for this area, and the coupes will run right across the Aust Alps Walking Track.

We are launching a social media campaign aimed at walkers/ trail runners who travel on the AAWT as it leaves Mt Bogong going east. We want people to know about logging that is planned for the area, and are hoping they will share how special these forests are and why they should be protected.

One of my big fears about this logging is that the planned coupes sit downhill from the incredible old growth snow gum forests of Mt Wills - any regrowth from logging will be very flammable for decades to come, and increase the risk of hot fire burning onto Mt Wills.

Financial Statement for 31st September 2022

Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Total Account Balance @ 31st July 2022 15059.19

Club 8372.86
MMWT 6686.33

Income:

Membership :

Downs, Wilson, Russell, Dodds, Camburn, Corkill, Humphreys,
Hickling, Young, McNaughton, Caithness, Taylor, Perry, Clark,
Jones, Kendall, Balderstone, Baldwin, Reid & Jones 1044.00

Visitor Fee : 10.00

McMillan Book Sales: 140.00

16253.19

Expenditure :

Nil

Total Account Balance @ 31st September 2022 16253.19

Club 9426.86
MMWT 6826.33

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

October 2022

I'd like to thank Ken who stepped in to chair the August meeting while Nicki and I (along with other club members Liz, Phil, Libby and Sue) were on the Burke and Wills expedition. We didn't do much walking on the expedition but after, in the West McDonnell Ranges, home of the Larapinta Trail, Nicki and I did some short walks in that spectacular part of the world then followed up with a circumnavigation of Uluru and two Kata Tjuta (Olgas) walks. Then, as many of you know, I caught Covid and during the dash home over two days in the ute, passed it on to Nicki 😊.

Since returning I have been in contact with John Cox regarding registration of domain names – I took the executive decision to register both bcwc.au and bencruachanwalkingclub.au. We can now take our time to make an informed decision about which we want to use.

I noted that there were some gaps in our walks calendar, particularly in November and December so called for some volunteers to fill them in – my thanks to Jim, Ken and Marian. I also listed a Mullungdung State Forest walk that has a bit of intrigue about it!

Geoff has started the 2023 calendar with two walks, thanks Oliver and VTMC, but there is much to be done. I would like to suggest that we revisit some of the walks from our Fedwalks – the walks booklet is a treasure trove of tried and tested walks.

Change of Domain Name

Our current domain name of Bencruachanwalkingclub.com.au is not strictly correct. With changes being made to name registrations in Australia, I recommended that we register and use the domain name BCWC.au. Our current name is registered until July 2025 and we can redirect it to the new name until then. Registration cost will be \$44 for two years – same as we're paying now.

Results of Website Survey

We had 28 respondents. Usage indicated that the walks program was by far the most used section, followed by Newsletters and Walk Previews.

What things do you think the website should be used for?

The mains responses were:

Provide Access to Walk Previews etc	100%
List New Walks and Events	89%
Attract New Members	69%
Provide Access to Newsletters	54%
Provide Access to Forms and Docs	54%

Would it be useful to have the member database online?

Average response of 3.6/5 or 72% supporting the idea.

Would it be useful to have an online booking system for events?

Average response of 3.8/5 or 76% supporting the idea.

Would it be useful to establish an (online) Walks Library?

Average response of 4.4/5 or 88% supporting the idea.

My interpretation of the responses indicates a fair degree of support for implementing the changes.

I made the following points in relation to these changes.

Online Member Database

- Online Member Database would need to be protected in a Member's Only Area, requiring Users to Log In.
- Information to be made available to others can be selective – I would suggest: Name; Phone Number; Email Address; Town (or 'Suburb').
- People could opt to keep their contact information Private if they wished.
- Estimated cost: approx. \$275 initial + \$50 per year + about \$30 per upgrade

The advantages of an online system are as follows:

- Data is independently backed-up.
- There is only one Member Database that can be used for a multitude of purposes.
- An online system enables Leaders (and Members) to easily contact each other when required.
- Members can Edit their profile themselves.

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC.

Agenda for Management Committee Meeting

To be held on Wednesday 8th December 2022
at 7:00pm 11 Fitzroy St Sale
preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm at Lakeside Bowls Club Sale

1. President's Welcome:

1.1. Attendance: P Jennings, E Davis, G Mattingley, M Scicluna, K Knights, R Kercher, J Cox, J van Beek, N Jennings (Host)

1.2. Apologies: J Winterbottom, C Snell, R Patterson, J Muir, J Wigg, K Free

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

2.1. Confirmation

Moved: G Mattingley Seconded: K Knights

Carried

2.2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

The file format for walk previews will be word on the club website.

Moved: G Mattingley Seconded: M Scicluna

Carried

3. Correspondence:

See List Below

Gippslandia- J van Beek and K Free to be suggested.

4. Reports:

4.1. President

Report as circulated

Thanks to speaker S Sanchez and H Philipson from the Rendere Trust secured as speaker for next club night, March the 8th. Peter will do a preview for calendar. The next social meeting will be moved to Sale at the Criterion from Bairnsdale, and the following one from Sale to Bairnsdale for the convenience of the speaker.

4.2. Treasurer

See Below

Moved: M Scicluna Seconded: R Kercher

Carried

4.3. Tracks and Conservation

- **McMillans Track**

The end-to-end walk led by Joe has been postponed until December 2023 due to hazardous weather and river conditions this year.

There was a recent fall at Mitchell River National Park, due to poor track condition. Peter and Ken will meet with the ranger to discuss maintenance.

- **BTAC**

See Below

Many thanks Joe for your report

4.4. Newsletter Editor

Newsletter is pending publication.

4.5. Publicity

See Below

Kerry also discussed that she would like more access to the walk reports. Reports are usually sent to the walk leader who checks them and passes them on to the newsletter editor. Could leaders also please send them CC to Kerry at kerryknights@aussiebb.com.au ?

Moved: K Knights Seconded: R Kercher

Carried

4.6. Facebook

See Below

Many thanks Jodie for your report

4.7. Membership

Now attached, see below.

Many thanks Ken for your report

There was some discussion about the need for reporting on male and female numbers, and this will be tabled for when Ken is present.

5. Walks Program

5.1 Current Status

The booking date for Wangaratta Ski Club Lodge at Mt St Bernard Friday 17 - Monday 20 February 2023 is confirmed. This will be \$28 per person, and booking details will be on the walks calendar. Various walks will be offered.

Geoff also encouraged further filling of the calendar by committee members.

Thanks for your report, Geoff

6. Management of Website

6.2 Current Status

See Below

Ken has uploaded all the missing minutes, and John will bundle each of the past years minutes into one file for ease of use.

John was wondering about our provision for walk reports in the Walk Previews section of the website, as they are not there, and at this stage we will carry on without them being attached. The meeting decided that John can consult with Enoch and make the decision of which update to choose, and we authorise him to do this.

Regarding security, as our service provider, Enoch will take charge of what our requirements are.

Thanks for your report, John

7. General Business:

7.1 Guest Speaker Confirmation Done

7.2 Leadership Training

Judy Hunter from BWV has advised that there are dates available in May if we want to run a Leadership Training Program in 2023. These are May 13th or 20th.

Happy to run this, and to invite other local clubs. Up to 20 people. Possibly book the Baptist Church in Sale John will communicate with Jack. Peter to liaise with SBWC regarding their possible involvement.

We will consider a navigation training program in July which Joe will look into.

Joe is still awaiting getting a date in the new year for the Wilderness First Aid training.

Next Committee Meeting:

February 8 2023 Maffra Community Sports Club

April 12 2023 Maffra Community Sports Club

Next Social Meeting:

1. Sale Criterion, March 8th, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting, speaker confirmed
2. Bairnsdale Club, May 10, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting speaker not confirmed yet

Meeting closed at 9:20

RESIDENT'S REPORT

December 2022

WALKS CALENDAR

My highest priority for this meeting will be the 2023 Walks Calendar which needs some populating. Could committee members give thought to leading or suggesting some walks.

My thanks also to Marian, Ken and Jim for putting on walks in November and December to fill some gaps.

CLUB NIGHT November 2022

Unfortunately I had a long standing commitment and was not able to attend the club night at Traralgon; my thanks to Jack for standing in as MC – he told me that numbers were perhaps down a little but that Dr Sonia Sanchez gave an excellent presentation about the Hooded Plover and the Eastern Ground Parrot. Our Jack Smith Lake and McLoughlins Beach walks are great opportunities for us to indulge in some citizen science and report sightings. I suspect that there will be a report in the next newsletter which Jack will be preparing for us as he basks in the sunshine on the Tiwi Islands!

CLUB NIGHT March 2023

At Gary Watt's suggestion I have arranged for Heather Phillipson as guest speaker at our March club night. The Phillipson family have an environmental philanthropic trust (The Rendere Trust <https://rendere.org.au/>) that supports various causes including Trust for Nature, Landcare Victoria, Land Covenantors Victoria and Team Kowari.

Correspondence for Meeting December 2022

Incoming Emails

M Young	Thanks for communication re Conservation Matters
Easy Web	Invoice
Yallourn North Connections	Request for articles
M Scicluna	Domain name payment
K Free	Uploading Minutes
I Turland	Mc Millans Walking Track
L Leung	Mc Millans Walking Track
Heart Support Australia	Larapinta walk offer
C Walker	Report on lack of forest protection
D Smith	Membership
P Audet	Advice and help for navigation
T Leeson	Gippslandia
S Sanchez	On line training: Bird identification
M Scicluna	Change of venue

To All Members

Secretary Committee	Meeting Club Night Wan Loy
BWV	Update
Strzelecki Bushwalking Club	Newsletter
J Winterbottom	Newsletter
Secretary Committee	Minutes
BWV	Bushwalking News
R Kercher	Trecking
Strzelecki Bushwalking Club	Newsletter

To Other Parties

K Free	Membership numbers
BWV	Board update
S Sanchez	Speaking at Social Night
M Scicluna	Change of venue

Tracks and Conservation.

Report from Joe van Beek for BCWC December Committee Meeting

4.3 Tracks and Conservation Report

McMillans Walking Track

McTk2022 was cancelled due to the high likelihood of walkers and/or support vehicles not being able to get to some of the designated camping spots because of river, track and road conditions.

McTk2023 yet to be scheduled - likely to be December 2023.

I will make a plan to conduct a track condition assessment and to do the GPS data collection exercise for DELWP over the summer/autumn period. Two tasks planned to be done on McTk2022.

Track maintenance to be scheduled after the condition assessment.

Guide book sales are slow. I will do a reconciliation with the Chapmans as at 31 December 2022.

BTAC

The activity in the Croajingalong National Park 22 - 25 September went well.

The activities planned for Mount Sunday in October and Mount Thorn Track in November were cancelled due to weather and access issues.

The Activity on The Long Spur (AAWT between Mt Bogong and Mt Wills) at the beginning of the month was very successful, 16 volunteers and two Parks Rangers achieved the objective.

The next activity is in late January based at Muttonwood camp on the Wellington River with a number of tracks to be worked on, hopefully including the Clive Lanigan Track through the Valley of Destruction below Tali Tarn.

The Mt Sunday activity has been rescheduled for February.

BTAC meet on 1 Feb to firm up further activities. MMWT is on the list for April.

Conservation

An item of local interest is that the Victorian High Country Huts Association and Parks Victoria have been working on restoration works on Kellys Hut.

Wilderness First Aid Course

I will liaise with Debbie and Jo re a suitable date for the Wilderness First Aid Course in the new year.



The Long Spur team at Mulhauser Spur camp. Two BCWC members present: Joe and the photographer Patrick Platt.

Facebook Report - December 2022

by Jodie Wigg

Memberships:

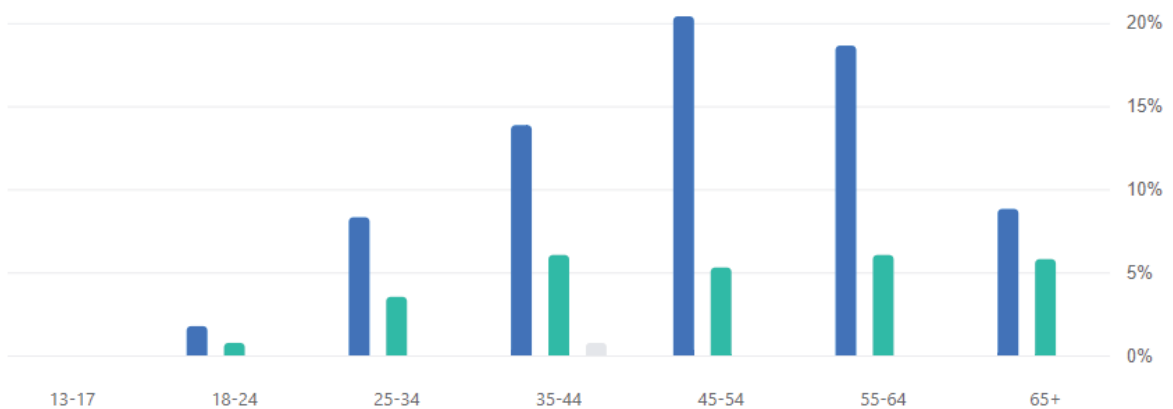
New member requests (last 60 days) = 10

Growth (last 60 days) = 2.54%

Total members = 404

Age and gender ⓘ

● 72% Female ● 27% Male ● 1% Custom



Engagement:

Posts (last 60 days) = 24

Comments (last 60 days) = 75

Reactions (last 60 days) = 792

Active members (last 60 days) = 341

All ⓘ

24 Posts ▲ 9%
75 Comments ▲ 70%
792 Reactions ▲ 55%

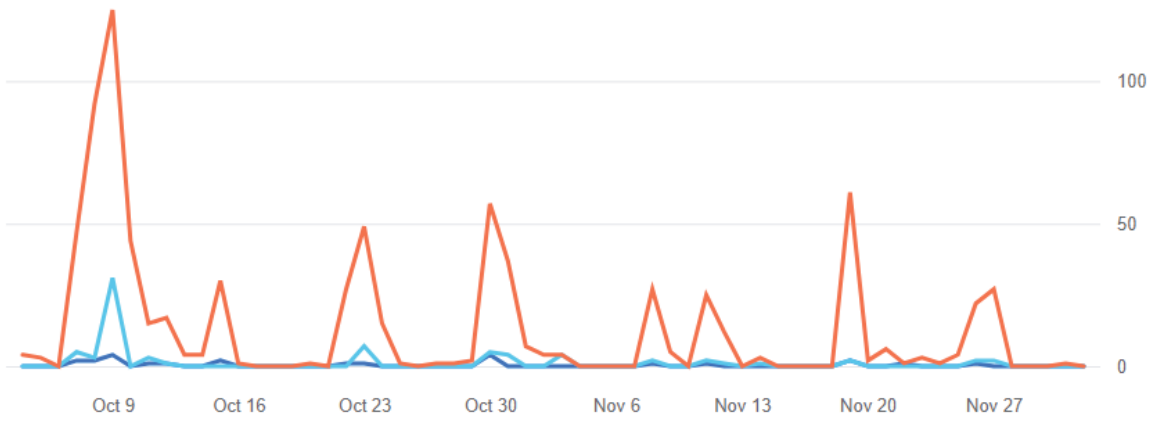
Oct 4, 2022 - Dec 2, 2022

Posts

Comments

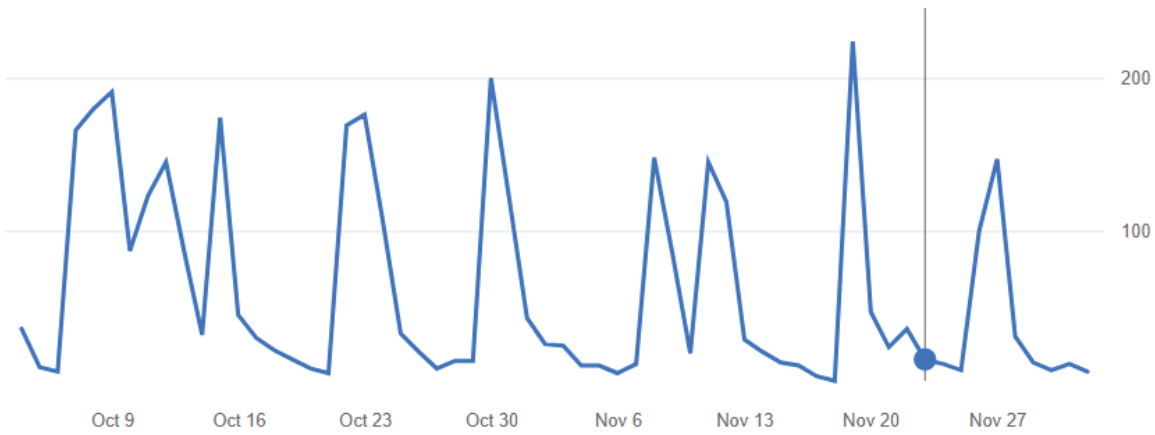
Reactions

All



341 active members ⓘ

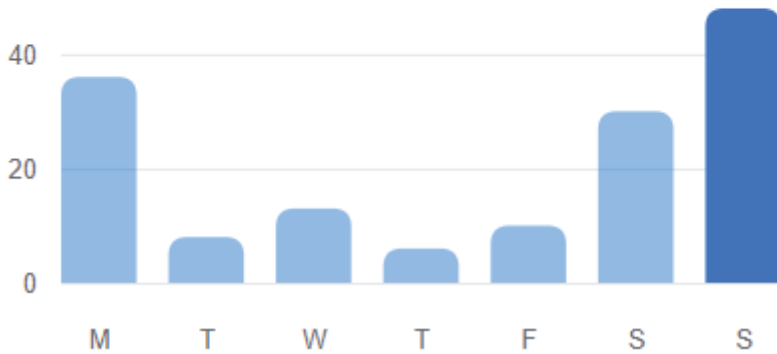
Oct 6, 2022 - Dec 4, 2022



Active Members Per Day (Oct 6 - Dec 4)

Popular days


























The average number of times members post, comment or react on a given day in the specified date range.



Top contributors

People who were most active on the community feed 28 days before the last update.

Last updated on Dec 3, 2022

1	 Joe Scicluna 	 2	 0	 3
2	 Sue Wielgosz Joined 4 years ago	 1	 0	 6
3	 Angela Roughley Joined 3 years ago	 0	 2	 9
4	 Hans Tracksdorf Joined 2 years ago	 0	 2	 5
5	 Daniel Shugg Joined a year ago	 0	 2	 2
6	 Allister Wade Joined 38 weeks ago	 0	 2	 0

Interesting statistics

Where do our Facebook members come from (according to their 'hometown' listed on Facebook)

Top countries	
Australia	395
Germany	2
Philippines	1
United Kingdom	1
Ireland	1

[See All](#)

Top cities	
Melbourne, VIC, Australia	100
Sale, VIC, Australia	53
Traralgon, VIC, Australia	39
Bairnsdale, VIC, Australia	22
Maffra, VIC, Australia	15

[See All](#)

Financial Statement for 30th November 2022

Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Total Account Balance @ 31st September 2022 16253.19

Club 9426.86
MMWT 6826.33

Income :

Membership :

Sharp, O'Neil & Smith 123.00

Visitor Fees : 15.00

Interest : .26

McMillan Trip : 1050.00

Prom 2022 re-imburement: 913.20

Sales - Fed Walk Booklet : 10.00 2111.46

Sub Total : 18364.65

Expenditure :

249565 Jens Flowers (Norms funeral) 60.00
249566 Web Design (Domain registration) 88.00

249567	BWV (Fed Walk Advance to be refunded)	4295.00	
249568	SBWC (Fed Walk profit to be refunded)	187.04	
249569	M Scicluna (Guest speakers meal)	24.90	4654.94

Total Account Balance @ 30th November 2022 13709.71

Club 6883.38
MMWT 6826.33

Website Report December 2022

Files can now be uploaded without requiring underscores in the filenames.

Newsletter and *Committee Meeting Minutes* have been sorted and links updated. We're missing the minutes for:

April and October 2020
August 2019

Does anyone have copies of these?

Who is responsible for uploading the minutes after meetings?

In the *Walk Previews* section, do we need to have Walk Reports? Re-organising the Newsletter files has disconnected all of these links!

Version of Joomla needs to be updated. (See attached: Easy Web Design Memo). Enoch is suggesting that we upgrade to Wordpress. Estimated cost would be around \$520.

I'm holding-off on reorganising other areas of the website until we decide what upgrade we're going to install. (Changing to Wordpress may require relinking all files.)

John C

PUBLICITY REPORT

December 2022

Kerry Knights

The role of Publicity person continues on with enthusiasm, with articles submitted every few weeks. The frequency of submission to local newspapers is dependant on recent Walk Reports being available to use for inspiration, along with upcoming walks being open to publicity.

Recent Walk Reports arrive on an ad hoc basis, which is problematic.

Regardless, there has been uptake by print media in the Wellington and Latrobe Valley. And it's always heartening to have copies of those articles forwarded.

The Bairnsdale print media is problematic. There remains solid challenges to having articles printed, and 'toppling' the domination of the (more than half page) 'Pew and Pulpit' section, and the Vintage Motor car club articles, seems a distant hope. Last article printed in Bairnsdale was the Snow Shoe Shuffle.

I see the value of articles being to advise potential members/guest walkers that the Club is active, and provides diverse opportunities to participate.

That said and done, it's 'onwards and upwards'.

Walks Co-ordinator's Report for December Committee meeting:

1. My email to all members on 29 October requesting members to lead walks resulted in:

President Peter setting the example with 5 walks for next year, complete with previews

Janine Muir offering 3 walks next year

Joe offering 2 walks

Everyone else - no response.

2. Several pack carry walks were cancelled due to either lack of starters, logistics issues, or track conditions.

3. So far we have 9 walks on next year's program (not counting combined walks or BTAC events).

Membership Secretary's Report

BCWC Management Committee Meeting 14 December 2022

As at 4 December 2022, the total membership is 136.

Comprising: 73 female
 63 male

8 of the total members are designated "non-walkers".

There are 4 Dual memberships (6 dual members).

In addition, there are 9 long-term members who receive the newsletter only.

Ken Free
Membership Secretary
4 December 2022