



Snowgum woodlands on the AAWT - Baw Baw Plateau

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF BUSHWALKING

ISSUE 178 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - FEBRUARY 2015



***2015 represents a major milestone in the history of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club. Fifty years ago a group of likeminded individuals decided to form a bush walking club whilst standing on the top of that well known peak north of Maffra - Ben Cruachan.***

***Therefore this year represents BCWC's Golden Jubilee anniversary with lots of activities and walks planned to assist members and guests celebrate this very special occasion. Check out page 4 to see how it all began and what's in store!***

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



**Club Postal Address — PO Box 70, Maffra 3860 — Incorporation No A0004849G**

[www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com](http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com)

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~ President's Report	3	<b>2015</b> represents BCWC's Golden Jubilee year. The club was founded on 27 June 1965 by a group of like-minded members of Sale Field Naturalists who, with friends, decided they like bushwalking a lot and the Field Nats weren't doing enough of it and were too slow [as you would be observing all the flora and fauna surrounding you].
~ Club News	4	Thus, this year is the fiftieth anniversary of that event. Therefore we have a few things planned to celebrate the occasion.
~ Bushwalking Victoria News	5	<b>Fifty Walks for Fifty Years.</b> The walks program has been supercharged to provide more than 50 walks during the calendar year. They vary from extended, hard, overnight, weekend walks to mid-week, easier, shorter, day walks usually on a Wednesday. There is something for everyone. Make sure you consult the Walks Preview section of the newsletter and the website at <a href="http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com">www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com</a> . It can be one way that club members can get involved and help the club have a successful celebration year.
~ Walk Reports	6 - 13	<b>Mid-year Anniversary Shindig.</b> We plan a weekend celebration, probably on the last weekend in June, involving a dinner on the Saturday night at a venue to be decided and a walk up/drive up Ben Cruachan on the Sunday for a BBQ lunch.
~ Walk Previews	14 - 17	<b>McMillan Walking Track end-to-end walk.</b> This 11-day walk is planned for late October/early November.
~ Wild shot	18	<b>McMillan Walking Track 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.</b> Although McMillan finished the track in early 1865, we will probably celebrate later in the year.
~ Book preview	19	<b>Logo.</b> A special Golden Jubilee logo has been commissioned for use this year.
~ Membership details	20	With lots of things planned for our Golden Jubilee year, we look forward to sharing the experience and hope you can join in the celebrations.

## CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

**NEXT MEETINGS: 11TH FEBRUARY, 8:00PM, MAFFRA VET CENTRE.**

**11TH MARCH, 8:00PM, WAN LOY CHINESE RESTAURANT TRARALGON, (MEAL 6:00PM)**

## **Welcome to our Newest Members:**

***Susan Roberts ( Bairnsdale), Ken Grandy (Lakes Entrance)  
& Stephen Fletcher (Maffra)***

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# Presidential Ramblings - Andrew Stevenson

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BCWC PRESIDENT'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2015

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2015 - a year which will be challenging, yet rewarding, as this year marks a number of milestones relevant to the Club.

Firstly it is the Clubs Fiftieth Birthday Year! We will celebrate by having a "Fifty Walks for 50 Years" theme, a formal dinner and a cutting of a cake atop Ben Cruachan.

Check out the beginnings of our club on page 4.

Jack Winterbottom is organising the walks calendar for this years walks so contact him with your favourite walks (iconic or otherwise) which you are prepared to lead.

This year also marks the 150th Anniversary of the completion of the McMillan's Track which linked the Victorian Goldfields. Rumours abound that a walk of all or part of the track will occur this year to mark the event. Stay tuned.

And finally, this year is our Club's turn to host the Combined Gippsland Clubs Weekend.

If you are able to offer any help in organising any of these events please contact myself or any other member of the Committee - many hands make light work.

See you on the track,

*Andrew Stevenson*



**I really liked Andrew's Scroggin!**

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# Club News

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## BCWC Committee Meeting

The first meeting for 2015 is scheduled on **Wednesday 11th February** at the Maffra Vet Centre commencing 8:00pm. The vet centre is located at 10 Johnson Str. Maffra. Members & guests are welcome.



## Golden Jubilee Year How did it all begin?

In 1965 a discussion between Ron Kemp and Peter Turner about the inadequacy of the Field Naturalists Club in providing any actual bushwalking, led to the formation of a walking club. It was decided to hold a meeting of a small number of like minded people to discuss such a club. The meeting was held in May of that year at Peter Turner's home. Present were: R. Kemp, P. Turner, C. Lanigan, B. Rumpff, B. Wyatt and G. Mullins.

At this meeting it was decided to form a loose knit club with the object of getting out into the bush.

R. Kemp was elected Secretary/Treasurer. The first trip was to Ben Cruachan where the first ground meeting took place. It was then at Trig Point that Lanigan moved and R. Kemp seconded the motion that the provisional name of the club be the "**BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB**" and that the club be formed as from June 27, 1965.

Since these humble beginnings, the club has grown and developed into a significant force in establishing and maintaining tracks within the Gippsland region. Over the years members have shared many wonderful experiences and a great sense of camaraderie whilst walking and exploring the great outdoors.

### FOUNDATION MEMBERS

<b>PETER TURNER</b>	<b>CLIVE LANIGAN</b>
<b>RON KEMP</b>	<b>BOB RUMPF</b>
<b>GEOFF MULLINS</b>	<b>BILL WYATT</b>

These members were provisional committee members: R. Kemp- Secretary. Others present; Hank Myer, Joe Shields, John Clark, John Ayres, Phillip Lanigan, Stan Nizilek, Lindsay Scullin, Morris Clark, Jock Woolan & Rowley.

This strong show of interest in the club indicated that something more than a loose knit body would have to be formed and therefore it was decided to seek assistance in doing so, from the Melbourne Walking Club.

A track clearing weekend was held in October, working on the Sentinel Track and the Tali Karng track, Clive Lanigan and Bob Rumpff were leaders.

At a subsequent meeting in October of that year, Geoff Mullins was elected president! Membership fees were 5/- (50 Cents) and qualifications for membership were:

- no age limit
- both sexes to be admitted
- membership to be approved at a general meeting.

So from these humble beginnings, the club has continued and judging by the increased numbers on the recent walks, its future looks good.

## McMillan Track

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. The meeting identified a number of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and threats in respect of the Track and there was considerable discussion about funding options and strategies for track marking, clearing and promotion.

A 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.

## New Zealand's Te Araroa Trail

On the 2nd January, 2015, Joe van Beek, commenced a walk of over 600 kilometres along New Zealand's Te Araroa Trail, which takes in spectacular landscapes from beaches to volcanoes to forests. Opened in 2011, the whole track stretches for 3000km but Joe in his wisdom has decided to "keep it short"

For those interested in tracking Joe's progress, he is carrying a SPOT Tracker and you can follow his progress at: <http://share.findmespot.com/shared/faces/viewspots.jsp?qlId=0F9kLdBJXJxKj9qK4TGJaulZF1IOV7E11>

## Combined Gippsland Clubs 2015 Event

This year is Ben Cruachan Walking Club's turn to host the Combined Gippsland Clubs weekend. It is proposed to hold the event in November 2015. Details will be discussed at our next club meeting on the 11th February, 2015.

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# Bushwalking Victoria News

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## Australian Alpine Track Clearing

### Rock shelter to Talbot Peak

Bushwalking clubs and individuals are invited to join local Parks Victoria staff, Friends of Baw Baw National Park and the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club over a four day track clearing activity on the Baw Baw Plateau (Baw Baw National Park) between Friday 20 March and Monday 23 March 2015.

The activity will focus on clearing the Australian Alps Walking Track between the Rock Shelter and Talbot Peak. This will further enhance walking opportunities in Baw Baw National Park following the completion of track works in the remote Mt Whitelaw area of the park in 2012.

For further information or to register your interest in the activity, contact the Parks Victoria La-trobe Ranger in Charge, Andy Gillham, on 5172 2186, mobile 0428 333 464 or email [agillham@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:agillham@parks.vic.gov.au).

## DEPI

### Name Change

DEPI is now Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. As at 1 January 2015, Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) has been broken up. Environment has been moved to the new the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). DELWP is tasked with creating liveable, inclusive and sustainable communities.

The DEPI website still exists and can be accessed via the DELWP website.

## Bushwalking Victoria

### Facebook

BWV is now on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/bushwalkingvictoria>.

Office Manager, Patsy Scales has been given responsibility for managing and maintaining Bushwalking Victoria's Facebook page and has been posting content of specific interest to bushwalkers, as well as covering activities Bushwalking Victoria undertakes such as Bush Tracks and Conservation track clearing, annual Federation walk event, leadership forum and leadership training.

Individual members and members of our affiliate and associate members clubs are encouraged to check out the home page and 'Like Us'.

Also welcome are images from club walks, and news and information on club/member activities to be shared on our page.

Help Bushwalking Victoria to get a total of 500 'Likes' on their Facebook page.



HOW CAN I LIKE YOU, IF YOU'RE NOT ON FACEBOOK!

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# WALK REPORTS

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## Loch Sport National Park

**DATE: Wednesday 26th November**

**LEADER: Monica Scicluna**

**REPORT: Monica Scicluna**

Five members turned up at Loch Sport arriving at the national park about 9:30am. Our first walk was a two and half hour walk along Dolomite Track, where we meandered around to Oil Bore Landing. Here we stopped for a snack and a view of the pelicans at Pelican Point. We didn't get to the end of the point but went along the Tea Tree walking track back to the car. On the way back we were encircled by lots of butterflies, which was just amazing.

From there we headed to Point Wilson picnic area for lunch, where Chris, Ken, Bev & myself headed to the jetty to view more pelicans. After taking lots of photos we headed out along Balfour's Swamp track where Ken spotted six or eight dolphins playing, while travelling up & down the lake. The dolphins are called Burranan dolphins and can only be found in Port Phillip Bay and the Gippsland lakes.

After a fantastic view of Lake King from Balfour Hill, we went along Murphy's hill track and Bartons track from where we could obtain a view of Lake Killarney. We returned to the carpark via Lake Victoria track where Joe was waiting for us. We were lucky to spot an echidna not far from the car so we tried to get some more photos. We saw lots of Eucalyptus, Banksia woodlands and coastal heath.

We had a fantastic day, thanks to all for a great day.

## Morwell National Park

**DATE: Saturday 29th November**

**LEADER: Monica Scicluna**

**REPORT: Judy van Beek**

On 29 November a small group of Ben Cruachan bush walkers, ably led by Monica Scicluna, spent time in Morwell National Park.



Group having lunch at Kerry Rd picnic spot

The first part of the day was spent exploring the Stringybark Ridge Track. Walkers had eyes out for orchids but the spring ones had mostly gone and the summer ones were not yet in flower. To everyone's delight a koala and joey was spotted mid walk along Stringybark Ridge. The bush looked delightfully fresh and green.



Koala spotted on the track

Walkers gathered back at the Kerry Road picnic spot for a very early lunch, enjoyed in the shade of the large eucalypts. Foster's Gully Nature Walk was undertaken in the early afternoon, with walkers hoping to spot the rare butterfly orchid, native to the Park. It proved elusive but some were found.



Rare butterfly orchid

The walk, graded as easy, gave people time to enjoy the environment and look for botanical specimens. After a cold drink and chat back at the cars, people left with plenty of time to return to vote in the State Election. The weather was superb- blue skies and a balmy 28oC. No doubt everyone agreed with our leader Monica's verdict: "it was a fantastic walk - I loved it"

# Bryce's Gorge Alpine NP

**DATE: Sat 13th - Sun 14th December 2014**

**LEADER: Helmut Tracksdorf**

**REPORT: Sue Roberts**

The weekend walk into Bryce's Gorge was described as a beginner's overnight walk and as such was very successful. It allowed newer members of the club to try out some of their equipment and learn some of the weight saving / time saving ways of the more seasoned hikers.

After an early departure five members from Bairnsdale met up with the other four walkers at 8.30am in Heyfield. Following the usual formalities we set off in a convoy of three cars for a two hour drive towards Licola and beyond. Along the way we stopped briefly at Bennison Lookout for a clear view of the surrounding hills and mountains, with each peak being clearly identified for us on the information board at the lookout.

After a quick early lunch at Bryce's Gorge car park we were keen to get walking. We set off along a narrow walking track, basically following Pieman's Creek across the grassy plain toward Bryce's Gorge. A few of us took a while to find our "pack weight walking legs" (my description), and found that walking poles helped with balance!

The walk was however relatively easy and we soon arrived at the Pieman Falls viewing platform. We were greeted with the spectacular sight of Pieman Falls following good rains. The falls were fast flowing and had the longest free fall drop I had ever seen. It was difficult to visually assess the distance of the drop. My subsequent research established that Pieman Fall's drops approximately 230meters from the top of Bryce's Gorge before it flows into the Conglomerate River.



**Taking in the view at Pieman falls**

We then continued on around the cliff tops to Conglomerate Falls. Again we were rewarded with an amazing view of a full and fast flowing waterfall. The beauty of Conglomerate Falls is almost indescribable and I will let Helmut's photos do the talking.



**Group at Conglomerate Falls lookout**

We set up our overnight camp with some of the more adventurous hikers choosing to sleep close to the edge of the cliff top. But not this intrepid explorer who likes to maintain a respectable distance away from any unprotected cliff edge!!



**Living on the edge**

Following a quick cuppa six of the group decided to hike up the hill for a view across the valley towards Feathertop and Mount Hotham. Armed with map and compass we spent the next hour negotiating creek crossing and fallen debris of the natural bush as we ascended to the hilltop marked 1494 in height. We were rewarded with yet another spectacular view of the Australian Alps.

Then it was back down the hill, over the creek, and back to camp in time for all the usual evening camping activities; refreshments, a variety of meal styles, discussion, tall tales and true! Gradually everyone retired to their tents for the night. The clear night sky was awash with stars; a brilliant sight.

On Sunday, following a leisurely breakfast, we crossed the fast flowing Conglomerate Creek at the top of Conglomerate Falls, climbed up a steep rise, walked along the narrow escarpment and then scrambled down the steep hill to the base of the falls. Every vista of the falls was magnificent and we all chose our own space to sit and reflect.



**Group at base of Conglomerate Falls**

- The wide variety of flowering Alpine plants (yellow billy buttons, pink trigger plants, Violets, white snow and yellow daisies, orchids and numerous grasses),
- The stunning mix of colours of the cliff faces around Bryce’s Gorge, ranging from light to dark greys, browns, pinks and greens.
- Catching my only trout - and eating it for tea! Getting to know a few more club members, exploring around Bryce’s gorge and Helmut’s enthusiasm.
- The waterfalls, especially Piemans, and the camp-site at Bryce’s Gorge – a great place to relax and take in the views. Conglomerate creek water is about as pure as you can get, the night sky was awesome, and you can see so many more stars when out in the bush.
- It was great to walk with a group of like-minded individuals; the weather was superb and showed off the waterfalls to their best effect.
- I got to sleep 10 feet from a cliff with a waterfall whispering sweet nothings in my ear!
- Meditating at the base of Conglomerate waterfall.

Scenery shots taken on this walk can be viewed online at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/116892533@N02/sets/72157649378018348/>

## Golden Walk # 01 Trapyard Hill

**DATE: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015**

**LEADER: Jack Winterbottom**

**REPORT: Piero Baglioni**

By mid-morning we were packed up and ready for the walk back to the car park via Guy’s Hut. We followed Conglomerate Creek upstream passing through Black Sallee woodlands, across open plains to a junction with the Wonnangatta Track, and finally through a grove of Snow gums to Guy’s Hut. This hut, was built in 1940, is an excellent example of bush architecture.

The East Gippsland contingent met at Marjorie’s house at the crisp hour of 0730 for the drive to Maffra where we joined Ken, Michael and Jack for the drive to Licola and then MacFarlane’s Saddle –the start of the walk.

The track headed off through recovering snowgum trees. It is incredible that trees burnt so badly in the 1998 Caledonia Fire are recovering so well. The result of this is thick undergrowth growing head high. After a short 600 metre stroll along the Tali Karng Track, we



**Group at Guys hut**

We concluded the walk back at Bryce’s Gorge car park and said goodbye to Piero and Rose who had decided to drive further north to do another couple of hours walking. Apparently they were just warmed up!! The rest of us had a leisurely lunch before the long journey back home.

Hikers were asked to contribute their walk highlight, and provided the following feedback for the report:



**On the track with Trapyard Hill in the background**



turned northward and followed a disused 4WD track descending toward the Moroka River.

We reached a saddle shortly after, following the next best thing to pink tape I have yet experienced – pink baling twine – and then climbed the short distance to the summit of Trapyard Hill where, after admiring the magnificent 360 degree panorama from Snowy Bluff to the Wellington plateau, we had a well deserved lunch.



View from Trapyard Hill

We retraced our footsteps and arrived back at the cars at around 2pm. We then drove via Moroka Road to the Pinnacles, where a fire spotting tower has been built on a spectacular ridge. Again the views to the Wonnangatta Valley and beyond were breathtaking.

Jack discovered that the fire spotter on duty was a friend of his and a lively catch up ensued. I sometimes wonder whether there is anyone he doesn't know!

We returned to the cars and drove down Marathon Road to Valencia Creek and Maffra.



Leafy Daisy & Golden Everlasting flower spotted enroute



Taking a well earned rest on top of Trapyard Hill

What a fantastic way to start the New Year and kick off the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee year. Thanks Jack for organizing a very enjoyable day.

## Golden Walk # 02 Mt Feathertop

**DATE:** Sat 10<sup>th</sup> - Sun 11<sup>th</sup> January 2015

**LEADER:** Jack Winterbottom

**REPORT:** Andrew Norman

Come for a walk said Jack. Mt Feathertop he said. Last time we did this walk, it rained for 2 days straight. Perhaps this time will be different. This walk was postponed 1 week (owing to a day of Total Fire Ban), so hopes were high. Every time I've walked Mt Feathertop, it has rained. What a contrast in weather from one week to the next.



Setting off from Diamantina Hut

Arriving in the rain, we set off from Diamantina Hut walking in the rain, arriving at Federation hut, in the rain. Owing to the weather, and low cloud, we decided a walk to the top of Feathertop would only provide views of low cloud; and acted accordingly. (stayed put!)



Taking shelter at Federation Hut

We pitched our tents, and chatted to a nice group of kids who had occupied Federation Hut. We showed them how to light the fire, after one of their group had decided to walk back down, drive to Bright, buy kin-

ding...yes, kindling, and then walk back to the Hut!

Overnight, the wind picked up, and we now understand how correct placement of tents and the addition of extra pegs and guy ropes help tents withstand gale force winds!. Packing up, we discovered it is possible for Carbon Fibre poles to snap in wind gusts.



**Mt Feathertop as seen from little Feathertop**

The walk down, via Bungalow Spur, was in fine conditions, and given that it was all downhill, incredibly easy (Or so we thought, until the legs reminded us of constant downhill walking).

Thanks Jack for a great walk. Next time, please organise for less rain!

## **Golden Walk # 03** **Maffra Town walk**

**DATE: Sun 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**LEADER: Andrew Stevenson**

**REPORT: Chris Marshall**

Ten participants set out to enjoy a leisurely walk around the park, main street and wetlands of Maffra. The first point of interest was the Port of Maffra where we were a little disappointed to find no cruise boats but made do with an inspection of the kayak launching ramp instead.

We then walked alongside the Macalister River which is kept artificially full at this time of year due to the water management practices of farm irrigation. We passed a tree with unusual large green seedpods, identified by our expert horticulturist as a "big fruiting thing". The group continued towards the main street past the Murray Goulburn factory and the Motor Museum, we (mostly Jack) spied Straw-necked Ibis, Little Corellas, Magpie-larks and Rainbow Lorikeets.

Upon hitting the main drag we passed Kevin, well known around town for clocking up over 232,000 kilometres in 20 or so years on his pushbike. We walked along the historic main street, inhaled the coffee at the cafe, said hello to the mosaic town dog on a chain, and continued down past the Macalister Hotel to Burnies Bend where a Sacred Kingfisher was spotted amongst the black wattles and eucalypt trees.



**Maffra's Mosaic Dog**

Then on to the lookout over the wetlands where (read this and weep bird lovers who did not attend) we saw Brown Thornbills, Red-browed Finches, Grey Teal, Hoary-headed Grebe, White Ibis, Pied Cormorant, Welcome Swallows, Intermediate Egrets, Purple-fronted Swamphens, a Golden Whistler, Blue Wrens, Kookaburras and fruit bats. I was reliably informed that if we waited long enough we would see a Toucan and a partridge in a pear tree but we were a little short of time and had to press onwards.

On the way back we walked along the Malcolm Watt memorial pathway, which has a special connection to BCWC and some of us enjoyed testing out the new playground equipment.

The Beet Museum was our last stop before lunch where Carol Kitchen treated us to a short film and informative talk about the history of the sugar beet industry in the Maffra/Briagolong area. Participants then spent some time looking through the museum. It is open on the first Sunday of each month (except January) from 10am -2pm or by appointment for large groups.

We were joined by Ken and Chris for a BBQ lunch in the park but due to the glacial pace of the council BBQ it may be preferable to enjoy the \$10 roast meal at the Macalister Hotel next year.

Thanks to Andrew for organising the walk and providing the snakes (edible variety).



**A couple of big kids in the local park**

## Golden Walk # 04 Morwell NP

**DATE:** Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January

**LEADER:** Wil Streckfuss

**REPORT:** Jack Winterbottom

Five club members arrived at Fosters Gully car park for a cuppa and a good ol' chat. Once finished, we headed off on the Fosters Gully loop walk. It took us through a temperate rainforest gully then we looped up a hill into dry sclerophyll forest of Messmate and dogwood.



**Group at Fosters Gully**

The atmosphere was crystal clear and the rain from the previous night/day made for a sure footing underneath our shoes. The bush was beautiful. We failed to see either a snake or a koala [as seen on almost every previous visit here] but the bush flora was pristine. The avian highlight was a Rufous Fantail once we had returned to the cars for lunch. A note on Bev's car's windscreen signaled a potential new member; a lady who had arrived with us but did her own jog around but wanted to join a bushwalking club.

After lunch we drove a few kilometres to the Billy Creek section of the NP. Here is one part of the Grand Strzelecki Trail. We followed the creek for three kilometres or so upstream to the site of a weir, which used to supply Morwell with water from 1912 to 1954 when the Moondarra Reservoir was built. The track following the creek was just beautiful, through thickets of manna gums, up and down spurs coming into the creek bed and crossing the creek over several wooden bridges. We had magnificent views of another Rufous Fantail [not seen often]. We finished up with afternoon tea back at the cars and ventured home.

Thanks to Will for organizing a superb day.



**Jessie inspecting a stump**



**Lady Hyacinth Orchid spotted on the track**

## Golden Walk # 05 The Sentinels & Gable End

**DATE:** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January

**LEADER:** Helmut Tracksdorf

**REPORT:** Piero Baglioni

The day started as any other in beautiful East Gippsland with the sun clinging to the night dew trapped by the recently woven spiders web....and then the alarm went off. Piero had overslept (as usual) and broke the world record in packing for this much anticipated hike to the high country in the Alpine National Park.

Helmut arrived on queue and together with Karl (his son) we all drove to Stratford, where we collected Mal and then onto Heyfield where Andrew was waiting.

After a quick car shuffle, we took to the road once more, arriving at McFarlane saddle for an early lunch. The car park was brimming with all forms of walkers, ranging from a group of scouts to 4 uni students out for a weekend hike.

We then played "dodge the 4WD" on the way to Millers hut. We arrived at Millers hut at about 3.00 pm and after exploring its interior and taking the compulsory "group photo", we proceeded on to the head of Nigorthorak Creek and set up our base camp for the weekend. It was interesting that almost every walker that strolled by commented on what a lovely spot we had chosen to camp. In response we all stood in formation with arms crossed and fangs bared, protecting our territory.



**Group shot at Millers Hut**

We all pitched in collecting wood and water before settling in for the night with a nice bottle of port and fruit cake for dessert (thanks Helmut) and proceeded to solve the problems of the world and marvel at the array of twinkling stars in the clearest blue black sky I have seen for some time.

Everyone eventually drifted off to bed. Before we knew it, the sun had risen over the horizon and was streaming into the tent. We packed our day packs and left the camp site for a day walk to The Sentinels and Gable End.

Piero had injured his knee at some stage the day before and was finding it difficult to walk the downhill sections of the track – luckily most of the morning was spent going up hill. We eventually reached the Sentinels and after a brisk rock hop found ourselves perched on the edge of the massif, looking down on the turquoise blue waters of Lake Tali Karng way down below. We could see a group of swimmers, some of whom were achieving this feat with the aid of noodles...good effort!



**Karl, Andrew, Helmut and Mal at start of Wellington Plain  
(Mt Wellington in the background)**

We left the car park and proceeded out onto the Wellington Plain which is dominated by Mt Wellington itself. We followed the track until we reached the Mt Wellington turnoff and cut across to a 4WD track that crosses the summit of Mt Wellington (1634m). After admiring the 360 degree views from the enormous rock cairn.



**Standing on top of Mt Wellington cairn (1634m)**



**View of Tali Karng from The Sentinels**



Looking towards the Razorback and Ben Cruachan from Gable End



Gable End Trig point

Looking towards Gable End from The Sentinels

Karl, Mal, Andrew & Piero

We retraced our steps to a track junction and followed the ridge to Gable End, which is marked by a trig point cairn.

After scouting around we had lunch on the edge of another cliff and were rewarded with excellent views of Ben Cruachan, Lake Glenmaggie and even the Loy Yang power stations in the Valley. Helmut thought he could even see the East Gippsland Lakes.

We retraced our steps back to base camp and settled in for tea, a few tall yarns and more port, followed by kit kats and some more world problem solving...well at least we tried!

The following morning proved to be quite cool and the group succumbed to lighting the fire once again. A leisurely breakfast followed and after breaking camp, left for McFarlane's saddle at about 9.00 am. We explored the route leading to Spion Kopje, but decided to traverse this track on another occasion as Piero's knee was still giving him grief.

We arrived back at the McFarlane Saddle car park at about 1.00 pm, stopping at Licola for lunch and then the long drive back to Heyfield and eventually Eagle Point.

Thanks to Helmut for organising another memorable and thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

# WALK PREVIEWS

## Walk Gradings

Distance	Hills	Track
<b>S</b> – Short < 10 km	<b>1 – 3</b> Easy Suitable for beginners	<b>1 – 3</b> Graded open terrain Well formed tracks/paths
<b>M</b> – Medium 10-15 km	<b>4 – 7</b> Medium Reasonable fitness required	<b>4 – 7</b> Bush, minor scrub Some rock hopping, scrambling
<b>L</b> – Long 15-20 km	<b>8 – 10</b> Hard Strenuous. Fit walkers only	<b>8 – 10</b> Bush, thick scrub, Rock hopping, Scrambling, Creek crossings, Use of hands
<b>X</b> – Extra Long >20 km		

### Den of Nargun

#### Mitchell River NP

**DATE: Sunday 8th FEB.**

**GRADE: S-3-3** (5km, some short steep sections)

**MEET:** Stratford @ 9:00am

**CONTACT:** Monica Scicluna Ph: 5144 6713

Or Email: [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com).

This walk is in the Mitchell River National Park. It is a loop walk about 5km. The track has some short steep sections, rough surfaces and steps. We will visit the den which is considered a special place for women of the Gurnai tribe and is found on Woolshed Creek. From there we will follow the track to Deadcock Den, downstream of Woolshed Creek, about 200m from where it joins the Mitchell River. We will have lunch on the side of the Mitchell River.

### King Billy circuit

#### Alpine National Park

**DATE: Tue 10th - Thu 12th FEB.**

**LEADER: Oliver Raymond / Mob: 0411 420 345**

[oliverraymond@wideband.net.au](mailto:oliverraymond@wideband.net.au)

**GRADE: X-7-4**

**DISTANCE:** ~ 23km (over 3 days)

**MEET:** HEYFIELD INFO CENTRE. SAT: 11:00AM

This walk starts at the Mt Howitt carpark NW of Ar-buckle Junction. We will follow a well defined track across the Howitt Plains which has superb vistas, plenty of wildflowers, ascents and descents. Contact Oliver for details.

### Sale Wetlands Walk

**DATE: Wednesday 11th FEB.**

**GRADE: M-3-3** (~12km)

**MEET:** Swing Bridge @ 10:00am

**CONTACT:** Wil Streckfuss - Ph: 5144 2183

We follow the Flooding Creek Track that is level almost the whole way. There is always a variety of water- and other birds around to admire. Also further down the track near the river there are whistling kites and swamp harriers about with their nests high in the trees. And even during the driest part of summer there is a lot of greenery about, which makes this an ideal and easy hike.

### The Crinoline

**DATE: Saturday 21st FEB**

**GRADE: S-8-7** (APPROX 9KM)

**MEET:** Glenmaggie Cemetery @ 8:00am

**LEADER: Jack Winterbottom** Mob:0408 411 079, or [jack@wbm.id.au](mailto:jack@wbm.id.au)

The Crinoline (or Mt Ligar) offers one of the best hard day walks in this area. Most people who are familiar with the Tamboritha Road know the Crinoline as the rocky monolith, shaped like an old fashioned hooped dress (crinoline), seen as you head north from Licola on the bitumen. After a 2 to 3 hour walk up to the top, you will be rewarded with magnificent views plus the opportunity to explore the rocky Crinoline "close up". The ascent is from the MGS camp and is HARD; 700 metres up in 4 kms. Be prepared for an extremely steep climb. Return will be via Smith Street and the McMillan Track through Lyrebird Gully. Alpine area so full gear needs carrying as well as all water. Great views.

## Wingan Inlet—Car camp

**DATE: Sat 28th FEB - 1st MAR**

**GRADE:** Various

**LEADER: Oliver Raymond -**  
[oliverraymond@wideband.net.au](mailto:oliverraymond@wideband.net.au)

**TIME & MEETING PLACE:** TBC

Wingan Inlet is located within the Croajingolong National Park about 47km southeast of Cann River. The campground has 24 designated sites [camping fees apply] with BBQ and toilet facilities. The sites are set amongst tall bloodwood trees providing shade within easy walk of beach and boardwalk. The camp is for relaxing walks and getting to know the area.

The following camping fees apply:

Price per site including one vehicle: \$21.20 per night.

Extra vehicles: \$6.90 per night.

Based on a maximum occupancy of 4 people per site, the individual cost could be as low as approx: \$5.50 per person per night plus extra vehicle costs.

In order to avoid additional vehicle costs it would be great if we could establish the number of people attending and work out a car-pooling arrangement. Please contact Oliver on:

[oliverraymond@wideband.net.au](mailto:oliverraymond@wideband.net.au) as soon as possible to let him know whether you are coming.

The walks will include:

**Gale Hill track** to the sea then back to the campground (L/9/4)

**Rame Head** return (S/4/4)

**Elusive Lake** (S/4/4)

**Red River** (M/7/7) -- possibly

We will split the group according to fitness so that you can pick an easy walk or a hard one each day.

## Lighthouse to Lighthouse walk

### Ben Boyd National Park—NSW

**DATE: Sat 7th, Sun 8th & Mon 9th MAR 2015**

**GRADE: X-5-7**

**LEADER:** Piero Baglioni— 0408 446 299  
or [pbaglioni@bigpond.com](mailto:pbaglioni@bigpond.com)

**DISTANCE:** ~ 31km (over 2 days)

**MEET:** MACCAS CARPARK BAIRNSDALE ON SAT: 9:00AM

This walk takes in the southern section of Ben Boyd National park and hugs the spectacular coast line from the Ben Boyd Tower to the Green Cape lighthouse.

The views are stunning and ever-changing – from heathland to forest, tea tree groves to Banksia woodlands, and sheltered coves to towering red-rock platforms. Plus, with so many seafront vantage points, you can spot seals, seabirds and whales.

We will camp about half way at Saltwater creek, giving those who do not wish to carry all their gear the opportunity to take day packs.

The campsite at Saltwater creek is very popular, especially during public holidays and needs to be booked with plenty of notice. This has been done so if you haven't booked by now you have probably missed out.

If you are interested in this exciting walk, Please contact Piero **ASAP**.

## Bruthen—Plane crash circuit

**DATE: Wednesday 18th MAR.**

**GRADE: S-3-3** (7km)

**LEADER: Marian Matchan: 5152 3287 / 0448 523 287**  
or: [matcho01@bigpond.com](mailto:matcho01@bigpond.com)

**MEET: Rotunda in Bruthen @ 0930HRS**

This Bruthen walk takes us in the vicinity of the crash site of the RAAF Avon-Sabre fighter jet that crashed in 1958. We amble along winding forest paths descending into lush gullies, and along steep inclines. This is a relaxing walk through forests of Box Ironbark, wild flowers and what could be called the fungi capital of East Gippsland. We will return to our vehicles at a picnic area for an early lunch.

## Golden Beach Walk

**DATE: Wednesday 25 MAR**

**GRADE: S-3-1** (6km all along the beach)

**MEET: Longford Hall @ 9 am**

**LEADER: Chris Marshall – 0499 780 399**

We will continue from Longford through Glomar Beach to the Flamingo Beach car park (if a car shuffle is necessary) then on to Trinculo Wreck car park near Golden Beach where the walk will commence along the sandy sea edge. Lunch will be at Flamingo beach. There is the option to extend the walk back to the starting point if anyone is interested.

You will need to carry all water for the day, sunscreen, insect repellent, raincoat, lunch and a secure hat as it can be windy on the shoreline.

## Mt Tassie Loop

### Grand Strzelecki Track

**DATE: Sunday 29th MAR 2015**

**GRADE: L-8-6** (~ 18km)

**MEET: MacDonalds Carpark Traralgon @ 8:00 am**

**LEADER: Andrew Stevenson – 0417 972 831**

O r : [awstevenson@hotmail.com](mailto:awstevenson@hotmail.com)

This loop section of the Grand Strzelecki Track starts at Balook and passes through the Merrimans Creek catchment area before it links up with the Duff Sawmill Heritage Trail. Lunch will be had at the lookout on Mt Tassie - the highest peak in the Strzelecki Ranges at 720m above sea level. The lookout offers 360 degree views of Latrobe Valley and the Great Dividing Range beyond, Longford and the Ninety Mile Beach, Wilson's Promontory and Corner Inlet and Traralgon Creek and the ranges impacted by the 2009 fire. The walk passes through Mountain Ash and tree ferns in Bulga Park, Blackwood forest and plantation plots before returning to Balook. Coffee and cake at the Lyrebird Cafe after the walk is compulsory!

## Mt Bogong Circuit

**DATE: Friday 3rd - Mon 6th APR**

**GRADE: X-8-6** (~ 60km)

**MEET: TBA**

**LEADER: Jack Winterbottom – 0408 411 079**

O r : [jack@wbm.id.au](mailto:jack@wbm.id.au)

There are quite a few permutations for walking on the Bogong High Plains. If you are interested, please give me a ring and we can discuss possibilities. One example route which Frank Hiscock led several years ago was ...

*After travelling up past Omeo on Thursday night, this extended walk over the Easter break starts from Shannonvale and goes up onto the Bogong High Plains, dips down to the Big River then up to Mt Bogong itself on day 3 finally coming off the plateau via the Long Spur to the Big River Saddle.*

Whatever route is chosen, this walk will be for experienced and relatively fit walkers. It traverses the highest part of Victoria – the “roof of Victoria” @ 1986 metres – and is liable to unfriendly alpine weather at any time of the year. Full kit needs carrying including adequate clothing [thermals, beanie, gloves etc] and equipment. It is a fuel stove area.

That said, the views and a meal at the Blue Duck are fabulous. A car shuffle will need to be set up at the start.

Contact Jack to confirm your interest.

## Eastern Beach to Lake Tyers Walk

**DATE: Sat 11th APR**

**GRADE: M-5-5** (~ 8km)

**MEET: Stratford @ 8:00am or Lakes Entrance - Eastern Beach Carpark @ 9:15am**

**LEADER: Anna Janca – 0419 178 445 & Ken Free  
On 5144 1195**

The walk will commence at Eastern Beach (just east of Lakes Entrance). We will start with a short walk along the top end of Cunningham arm to enjoy the marsh area, water birds and view back to Lakes Entrance. We will then join and walk along this section of Ninety Mile Beach to Lake Bunga. After more beach walking, we'll scramble around the rocks and explore rock pools of Red Bluff. We'll then take the path to the lookout at the top of Red Bluff and pick up a track through coastal scrub which will take us to the Lake Tyers Beach village. The final section of the walk follows the shoreline of Lake Tyers with great views across the lake. Those interested in retracing their steps a short distance will find the 'watering hole' of the Waterwheel Tavern. Depending on high tide times, this walk may need to be done in reverse to enable safe walking around Red Bluff. This will be confirmed closer to the date. A 20 minute round trip car shuffle will be necessary between Lake Tyers Beach and Eastern Beach – Lakes Entrance. Alternatively, those who wish to have a further 9kms leg stretch can walk back to Lakes Entrance via farmland hills and gully, and see Australia's first oil bore.

## East Gippsland Rail Trail

### Bruthen to Mississippi Ck Quarry

**DATE: Sun 12th APR**

**GRADE: X-6-3** (~ 26km)

**MEET: Stratford @ 8:00am or Bruthen @ 9:15am**

**LEADER: Philip Davis – 0447 447 525 / 5144 7525  
[philipriversdavis@bigpond.com](mailto:philipriversdavis@bigpond.com)**

We will start our walk at the junction of the East Gippsland Rail Trail and the Bruthen-Nowa Nowa Road at the intersection with the Tambo Upper Road.

The trail climbs gently east through the Colquhoun State Forest until meeting the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail. There we will leave the rail trail and walk south through open forest descending an escarpment, crossing the Mississippi Creek and following some gently undulating terrain until arriving at the Mississippi Creek Quarry.

This is fine spot for lunch and to reflect on the exertions of our forebears when extracting the stone for constructing the permanent entrance to the Gippsland Lakes and buildings in Melbourne. We will then retrace our steps.



## Mt Tamboritha to Breakfast Creek

**DATE: Sat 18th APR**

**GRADE: M-7-7** (~ 14km)

**MEET: Maffra @ 8:00am**

**LEADER: Michael Dowe – 5147 3075 (AH)**

**0427 523 647 (BH)**

Here we explore a section of McMillan's Track and enjoy some great views.

The walk starts at Tamboritha Saddle. From here, it's north and east to Mt Tamboritha and McMillan's Track. The walk then follows McMillan's Track to Breakfast Creek. The Track is not in great shape so much of the walk is effectively 'off track' and there are a couple of steep sections.

Participants will need gear to suit alpine conditions and carry water. We will also have to do a car shuffle.

and will set up camp alongside a gently burbling brook. During the night we may be entertained (as we were last year) by the amazing call of a female Barking Owl, which sounds like a demented woman screaming, and is extremely eerie in the depths of an alpine night.

Next morning we will set off along an old fire access jeep track along a ridge. The track is very overgrown and at times is hard to find, and it finally peters out about 2 km from Mt. Darling. We then need to rock hop along the ridge until we arrive at the cairn and a magnificent rock that juts out over a view of the Wonangatta valley. We will have lunch there and then return to our camp for the night.

In the morning we will return to our vehicles and drive home. The walk has been organised over the long weekend so that those of us still working can participate in what is a 3 day walk.

Contact Joe van Beek at: [jjvb@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jjvb@bigpond.net.au)

if you consider yourself fit and able to take part in overnight walks and are interested in coming.

## Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail

**DATE: Sun 3rd MAY**

**GRADE: L-5-3** (~ 15km)

**MEET: Stratford @ 8:00am or Bairnsdale Maccas @ 9:00am**

**LEADER: Philip Davis – 5144 7525 / 0447 447 525**

[philipriversdavis@bigpond.com](mailto:philipriversdavis@bigpond.com)

This walk will bookend the earlier walk to the Mississippi Creek Quarry from the rail trail to the north.

The old tramway is a fascinating endeavour of early engineering and remnants of a bygone era can still be seen along this winding walk through lush bush.

Several bridges give access to the course of the flowing creek which attracts and retains native flora and fauna along this strip of rich forest.

This is, without doubt, one of the most enjoyable day walks in our region. Lunch will, again, be taken at the Quarry before our return to the Log Crossing Picnic Area.

## Petersons Lookout

**DATE: Wed 22nd APR**

**GRADE: S-3-3**

**MEET: Tyers Kindergarten carpark @ 9:00am**

**LEADER: Jim Stranger – 5191 8312**

[strangers1@westnet.com.au](mailto:strangers1@westnet.com.au)

This is a short return walk to Petersons Lookout which is perched high above the Tyers River within the Tyers Gorge. We will also visit a rocky crag at the northern end of the gorge as well as an old timber mill site before returning to our vehicles

## Mt Darling

**DATE: Fri / Sat / Sun (24th - 26th APR)**

**(Anzac Day weekend)**

**GRADE: L-8-8** (Involves some rock scrambling)

**MEET: TBA**

**LEADER: Joe van Beek – 5176 5302**

We will gather at a location mutually suitable to all walkers. From there we will car pool and head for Dimmick's Lookout, just past the Snowy Plains Airstrip. After an early lunch, we will walk down an old logging road through dense regrowth and finally arrive at a delightful Alpine Meadow (O.K., a frost hollow)

## **WILD shot of the Month**

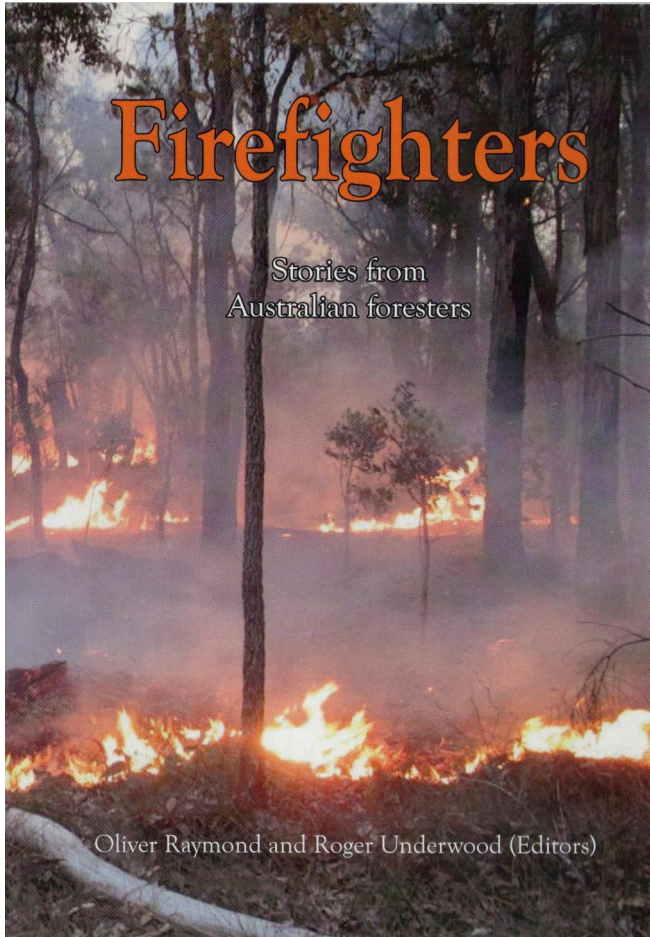
Oliver Raymond standing on the precipice of no return at Pieman Falls (Don't tell Caroline)  
checking if his camera settings are OK before capturing this scene.

Due to unseasonal heavy rains, Pieman Falls was a spectacular sight this Summer!



## BOOK SALE

### FIREFIGHTERS—Stories from Australian Foresters



## FIREFIGHTERS

Stories from Australian foresters

*Adventure, adversity, courage,  
triumph, humour.....*

These are the essences of the bushfire experiences of Australia's foresters.

Oliver Raymond and Roger Underwood have been to every corner of Australia to capture the stories in this anthology. From remote ranges in the Kimberley to the Tasmanian wilderness, from Queensland rainforests to the karri country of the south-west, from the Adelaide Hills to the Riverina, we see our foresters at work, doing what they do best, confronting forest fires in one of the world's most bushfire prone countries.

*You can order a copy by returning the form attached  
and enclosing a cheque or postal order.*

Oliver Raymond & Roger Underwood have Co-edited a book that may be of interest to members. Oliver advises that he will personally hand deliver to any member who buys a copy.

The cost is \$35. (If you ask nicely he may even sign it!)

Please contact Oliver at: [oliverraymond@wideband.net.au](mailto:oliverraymond@wideband.net.au) if you would like to purchase a copy.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN  
BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB ACTIVITIES

To be completed by new and renewing members — see subscription form on the back

In voluntarily participating in any activities of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club, I am aware that my participation in these activities may expose me to risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss or damage to my property. Those risks may include, but are not limited to, slippery and/or uneven rocks, rocks being dislodged, cliffs, exposure to weather and white out conditions, falling, hypothermia and hyperthermia.

To minimize these risks I have endeavored to ensure that-

- (1) These activities are within my capabilities.
- (2) I am carrying food, water and equipment appropriate for these activities.
- (3) I have advised the activity leader if I am taking any medication or have any physical or any other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity.

NAME:

TELEPHONE:

ADDRESS:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during any activity and accept the instructions of the leader of the activity.

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC, PO Box 70, MAFFRA VIC 3860

**Membership Application / Renewal**



Name: .....

Postal Address: .....

Email Address: .....

Phone: .....

Membership Type (circle) Family or Single

Date: ...../...../2015

Month of Joining	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Full Months until 30 April</b>	0	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Single Membership</b>	\$42	\$39	\$36	\$33	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9
<b>Family Membership</b>	\$54	\$50	\$46	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$26	\$22	\$18	\$14	\$10

Please fill out the details on the reverse side of this form also—thanks.

**EFT:BSB 013713: A/C 278934713: Ben Cruachan Walking Club: Surname as identifier please, notify Treasurer by email**



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

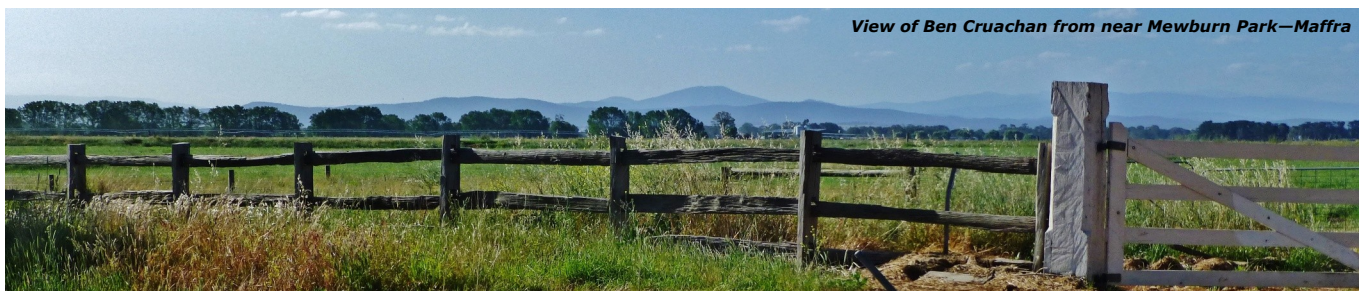
ISSUE 179 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - APRIL 2015



***Robin Dobson, Jack Winterbottom, Norm Hall, Oliver Raymond & Helmut Tracksdorf (Photographer) enjoyed a fantastic cut lunch at Licola courtesy of Robin who managed to secure a tray of club sandwiches for participants of the King Billy circuit walk. What better way to start a hike than by indulging in such a culinary delight. However with the bar being set so high, the participants will find it hard to go back to their usual bread and scrape on future hikes. Check out the full report on page 7.***

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.

*View of Ben Cruachan from near Mewburn Park—Maffra*



**Club Postal Address — PO Box 70, Maffra 3860 — Incorporation No A0004849G**  
[www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com](http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com)

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2014 / 2015

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Andrew Stevenson</b>	<b>5147 2225</b>
<b>FIRST VICE PRES:</b>	<b>Margaret Beckett</b>	<b>5148 2237</b>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	<i>Currently Vacant</i>	
<b>TREASURER:</b>	<b>Monica Scicluna</b>	<b>5144 6713</b>
<b>PUBLICITY:</b>	<b>Piero Baglioni</b>	<b>5156 7034</b>
	<a href="mailto:pbaglioni@bigpond.com">pbaglioni@bigpond.com</a>	
<b>NEWSLETTER:</b>	<b>Helmut Tracksdorf</b>	<b>5156 6763</b>
	<a href="mailto:helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com">helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com</a>	
<b>TRACKS &amp; HUTS:</b>	<b>Michael Dowe</b>	<b>5147 3075</b>
<b>WALKS CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	<b>Jack Winterbottom</b>	<b>5143 0903</b>
	<a href="mailto:jackwin27@gmail.com">jackwin27@gmail.com</a>	
<b>WEBSITE:</b>	<b>Jack Winterbottom</b>	<b>5143 0903</b>
	<a href="mailto:jackwin27@gmail.com">jackwin27@gmail.com</a>	

**CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**NEXT MEETINGS: 8TH APRIL, 8:00PM, MAFFRA VET CENTRE.**

**13TH MAY, 8:00PM, BAIRNSDALE RSL CLUB, (MEAL @ 6:00PM)**

*Welcome to our Newest Members:*

*Trisha Marston (Riverslea), Peter Wallace (Nicholson), Ken Grandy (Lakes Entrance),  
 Stephen Fletcher (Maffra), Jackie Whiting (Lakes Entrance), Peter & Nicki Jennings  
 (Giffard West)*

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## Presidential Ramblings - Andrew Stevenson

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### BCWC PRESIDENT'S REPORT APRIL 2015

*It is , with a degree of sadness that I must inform you that our hard working Secretary, Ken Free, has resigned from his position due to unforeseen personal reasons.*

*Ken has been Club Secretary for nearly 4 years and in that time has organised club business to a very high standard. His hard work and dedication behind the scenes has not always appeared obvious to members but he has, almost single-handedly, kept the club running. I have certainly valued his professionalism and efficiency in his position and also his counsel in dealing with sometimes tricky issues. On behalf of the Club I offer him a huge THANKYOU for his service and wish him a positive and speedy outcome. We hope to see you back on the track in the near future Ken.*

*It is great to see so many of you taking part in our extensive '50 walks for 50 years' program. Keep it up!*

*This is a big year for our Club as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary and planning is proceeding at pace for our birthday dinner at Duart in late June and a BBQ lunch the following day atop Ben Cruachan. We also celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the McMillan Track and host the Combined Gippisland Clubs weekend in November.*

*Volunteers are desperately needed to help organise these events so approach myself or any other committee member if you can lend a hand.*

*It is great to see some of our newer members leading walks and for a first time walk, I have to say I was very impressed with Piero Baglioni's and Rose DeLeeuw's 3 day expedition to Ben Boyd National Park in southern NSW. The organisation, scenery, weather and company were all perfect. Well done you two - can't wait to see what you put on the program next.*

*This is our last newsletter before the Annual General Meeting in June so it is time to start thinking about what you can do for the club and maybe nominate for a position on the 2015/16 Committee. This is my fourth term as your President and I will not be nominating for a further term. It has been a great privilege giving something back to the club and members who have given me so much pleasure over the years but it is time for me to step down and let someone else take over the reins.*

*See you on the track,*

*Andrew Stevenson*



**THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'M GOING ON A HIKE WITH YOU!**

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# Club News

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## BCWC Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 8th April** at the Maffra Vet Centre commencing 8:00pm. The vet centre is located at 10 Johnson Str. Maffra. Members & guests are welcome.

## ANNUAL FEES ARE NOW DUE

April is not only the time to celebrate Easter, It's also the time to celebrate being a member of The BCWC.

Annual Membership fees are now due, so if you would like to remain connected and join in the fun of bushwalking please renew your Membership ASAP. Monica our capable Treasurer would certainly appreciate seeing those renewals roll in SOONER rather than LATER.

Family Membership is \$54 pa and Single Membership is \$42 pa. Fees can be paid by cheque or EFT. Details of how to complete your payment are displayed on Page 21 of this Newsletter.

## RESIGNATION

As mentioned in Presidential Ramblings, our outstanding and capable Secretary for the last 4 years - Ken Free, has tendered his resignation as Secretary of the club for personal reasons. Ken will undergo some medical treatment over the coming months and as such will not be able to carry out his normal duties with as much dedication as usual.

During Ken's time as Secretary and under Andrew's leadership, a lot has been achieved for the club. We have doubled the membership number from a low of around 36; we've established good relationships with media outlets especially ABC Radio; we have a great program of walks with many different leaders and a great participation rate; our relationships with DEPI, Parks Victoria, Bushwalking Victoria and other Gippsland clubs have never been better; and there is a great feeling of camaraderie.

For this the Club owes Ken a debt of gratitude - *"Thanks Ken - On a Job well Done"*

As a result the Club is now looking for a VOLUNTEER to carry out this role until our next annual elections in June 2015. IF you can assist (on an interim basis for the next couple of months) in this all important role, please contact the club President: Andrew Stevenson.

## New Zealand's Te Araroa Trail

As reported in our last Newsletter (FEB), on the 2nd January, 2015, Joe van Beek, commenced a walk of over 600 kilometres along New Zealand's Te Araroa Trail. This walk takes in the best of both the North & South Island scenery which many of you would appreciate is simply spectacular. Joe finished his walk at Arrowtown on the 14th February.



Joe van Beek at the completion of his 44 day walk

Although Joe returned to Traralgon mid February, he is already back in NZ to help look after his grandchildren, while his daughter Jackie is filming in Arrowtown. He will also stay on to celebrate his brother's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and will not be back until Mid May.

We look forward to catching up with Joe upon his return to the "West Island" so that we can hear about the highlights of his adventure.

## 50 walks in the 50th year

The club has adopted Jack Winterbottom's **"50 walks in the 50th year"** walks program. Oliver Raymond will hand over responsibility of the Walks Co-ordination role to Jack for the remainder of the 2015 calendar year. There is a great deal of choice in the walks on offer and a good cross section of walk ratings to suit all levels and abilities. Check out the Calendar of Events for what's coming up in the next couple of months.



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# Bushwalking Victoria News

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## Walking & Talking with the Bushwalking Victoria President - Tony Walker

Most clubs are now well into the swing of their 2015 bushwalking activities. But since we are still near the start of the year I'd like to make a few requests to all Bushwalking Victoria affiliated clubs.

During 2015 consider doing four things:

- Think seriously about where you want your club to be in 5-10 years time. The bushwalking environment is changing and so is our society. I would encourage all clubs to think about where they will get new members, how they can broaden their appeal and how they should relate to their local community.
- Consider getting more involved with Bushwalking Victoria. Bushwalking Victoria does all it can to further the cause of bushwalking in Victoria and, given we have a much smaller budget than many of our peer groups, we probably punch above our weight. But there are many clubs and club members who have skills and knowledge we could all benefit from. This need not involve becoming a board member as your skills may be of help in one of our key projects.
- Adopt a track. We would like to see more clubs involved. Parks Victoria needs all the help it can get to keep tracks and trails in good condition. Many of our regional clubs already do a very good job in their local areas, but some metropolitan clubs could do more. Your Bushwalking Victoria board contact would be happy to explain what is involved.
- Keep your Bushwalking Victoria board member contact informed of initiatives your club is taking and issues you encounter. Bushwalking Victoria will help where it can.

## "Tip Sheets"

### On BWV Website

There are a number of ways in which a bushwalking club can get publicity and make itself well known in its community that does not involve a significant expenditure of money. To help clubs with this, the board of Bushwalking Victoria has developed three short papers:

- **Engaging with the media** how get publicity for your club and for local bushwalking issues
- **Influencing decision makers** how to build relationships with members of parliament, local government and land managers
- **Membership and recruitment** how to recruit new members and retaining existing ones.

As promised last month, these sheets are now available on the Bushwalking Victoria website at: <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/club-development.html>

## Bushfires & Planned Burns

Before setting off on a bushwalk, it is advisable to check the location of bushfires, other emergencies and planned burns. With Parks Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) manages fire on Victoria's 7.6 million hectares of public land (about one third of the state). Visit the Fire and Emergencies page of the DELWP website at: <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/fire-and-emergencies> for the latest information about:

- [Current Warnings, bushfires and incidents](#)
- [Planned burns now and the next 10 days](#)
- [Managing bushfire risk](#)
- [Closures of parks and forests.](#)

The web pages include pertinent and comprehensive information that will help our understanding of fire danger and its control.

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# WALK REPORTS

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## Golden Jubilee Walk # 06 Mt Howitt - Wild Flower walk

**DATE:** Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015

**LEADER:** Jack Winterbottom

**REPORT:** Photo Collage only

**Walkers:** Rob & Josie Paterson, Christine Marshall, Eileen Laidlaw & Jack Winterbottom



The walkers decided they would submit photos for the editor to do a collage. The above picture is the end result. Flower descriptions are as follows:

1. Orange Everlastings
2. Scaly Buttons
3. Mountain Beard Heath
4. Mueller's Snow Gentian
5. Mauve Leek Orchid

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 07 Mitchell River NP Den of Nargun

**DATE:** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February

**LEADER:** Corinne Kleine

**REPORT:** Ken Free

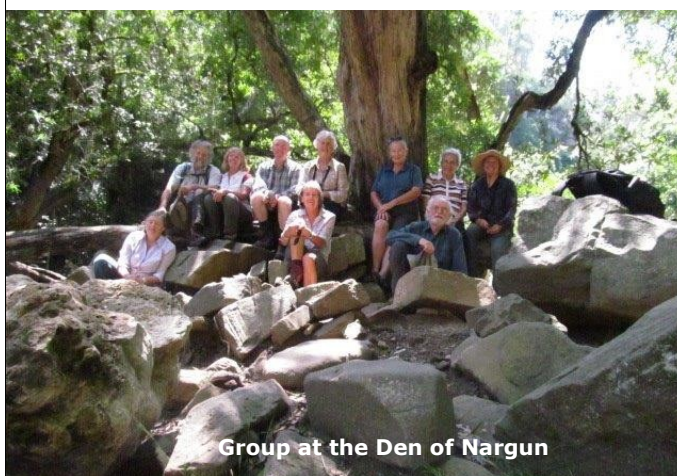
**Walkers:** Corinne, Josie, Roger, Teresa, Neil, Bev, Marian, Wil, Jessie and Ken

On a glorious February morning, 7 members and 3 visitors assembled in the car park adjacent to the

Den of Nargun Picnic Area. The weather predictions were for a hottish day, so after consultation with the assembled walkers, Corinne proposed an anti-clockwise circuit whereby we would take in the Bluff Lookout and exposed downhill walk to the Mitchell River before the day became too hot and then proceed to the Den of Nargun for lunch.



After taking in the sights and sounds of the Mitchell River we wound our way around the northern side of Woolshed Creek before dropping into Deadcock Den where we ooh'd and aah'd at the lush surroundings. We then proceeded along the track that paralleled the creek before crossing it and heading towards the Den of Nargun. We stopped about 100 metres short of the Den and under a shading canopy of trees and vines enjoyed a very pleasant lunch break.



At the Den of Nargun we did a bit of exploring, had the customary group photographs and then steadily wound our way uphill to the car park. This was a great short walk with plenty of interest for everyone and as usual, fantastic company.

Thank you Corinne for a great walk.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 08 Mt Howitt—King Billy Circuit

**DATE:** Tues 10<sup>th</sup>—Thur 12<sup>th</sup> February

**LEADER:** Oliver Raymond

**REPORT:** Jack Winterbottom

**Walkers:** Oliver Raymond, Robin Dobson, Norm Hall, Helmut Tracksdorf, Jack Winterbottom

All map references are eastings and northings on the Howitt-Selwyn map, 8223-N, Grid Zone 55 using datum AGD66.

Oliver and Norm from the West, Jack, Helmut and Robin from the East. We assembled in Licola for lunch; undoubtedly and inarguably the finest fare ever to grace a BCWC luncheon table courtesy of a conference over estimating the numbers of attendees the previous day. Club sandwiches of various culinary combinations were relished and chocolate thingies for dessert. What a way to start a walk.

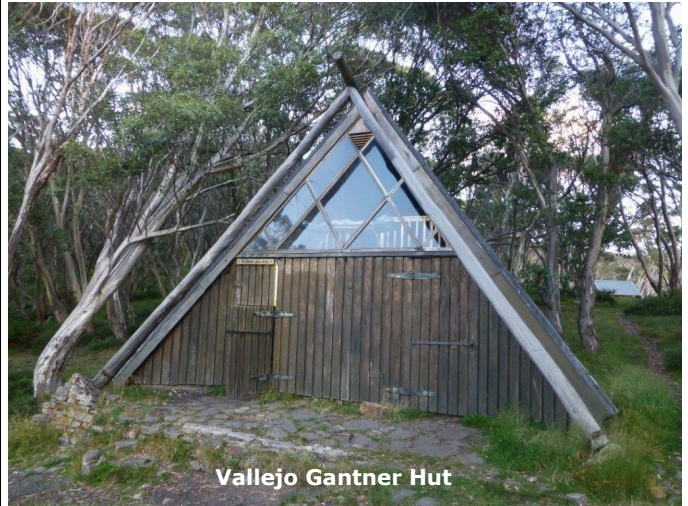
Once we had reached the Howitt car park [715821], with the mandatory stop at Bennison Lookout and watching DELWP crew practise their fire-retardant-replenishing techniques on a aircraft at full throttle at the Snowy Plains airstrip [DSE equivalent to using live ammunition] and a car located at the Macalister River further on, we set off with full packs and high spirits along the grassy track to Vallejo Gantner hut [705858] – our campsite for the night. The 4.5 km



Group resting en routé to VJ Hut

didn't take much more than an hour so tents were up and dinner eaten well before sunset. Helmut's nuclear fusion stove ably heated the water that we all required for tea. Whilst four of us had elected to erect tents for the night, Helmut initially decided to use a metal bed frame from inside the hut to sleep outside but then became daunted by the potential harm that might befall him from possums and dingoes [which we heard howling deep in the Terrible Hollow] so chickened out and took the entire ensemble and placed it on the first floor of the hut next to the picture window. This was not before providing entertainment by carting it to several spots round the camp-

site to assess the respective views. He will tell you that the hut was a much better place to sleep but the morning revealed that a large huntsman spider and a hot hut kept him awake for most of the night!!



Vallejo Gantner Hut

It was a mild night with no dew so an early rise and breakfast meant we were away by 7.30am. Our first stop was within 150 metres at Macalister Spring where we filled water bottles, just in case the water at our Day-2 camp did not materialise. We descended to the saddle between the hut and Mt Howitt. The early morning sun on the Crosscut Saw was a magical sight with Mt Speculation in the distance, Mt Cobbler and Mt Koonika in the distance behind and Catherine Saddle, Mt Despair, The Razor and the Viking off to the right [east] with the Terrible Hollow and the headwaters of the Wonnangatta River between us and them. Mt Howitt was alive with colour. Orange Everlastings and the most superb display of Mueller's Snow Gentians I have ever seen, even better than on the Mt Howitt walk 10 days earlier. The Trigger Plants and Billy Buttons had done their dash. We rested atop Mt Howitt [686855] to take in the 360° vista [oh, and check our phones for messages and weather forecasts with Mt Buller being just a few kilometres away, even if on the other side of the Howqua River valley].

Once done, we descended to the saddle between Howitt and Big Hill which isn't that big. We skirted around to the south of its summit [681842] then on to a delightful saddle between there and Mt Magdala. Here we stopped for a break [670840], just past the first Alpine Copperhead for the day – well spotted Helmut. Pressing on, we started the ascent of Mt Magdala stopping about one third of the way up at Hells Window [666839]. Mt Magdala has a relatively gentle slope to the south but a very sharp, almost vertical drop-off to the north and we were walking up the edge. Hells Window is a breach of the edge, about 8 metres wide, with a marvellous view of the Howqua River valley and the ridge of Mt Buller running up to the Crosscut Saw and further peaks beyond. It should be named Heavens Window. Our fearless leader's intention was to descend through and down the 80° slope from Hells Window to a track that by-passes Mt Magdala itself, but the less fearless followers successfully argued [mutinied] that the views from the top of Magdala would be better so we did that. The views



Group at Hells Window or Heavens Window?

are pretty specky indeed [662838].

We also saw a Peregrine Falcon and a pair of Nankeen Kestrels aero batting spectacularly in search of their lunch and using the breeze blowing up the ridge to great effect.

We descended quite steeply to the west from Magdala with our destination, King Billies [KB] Number 1 and 2, in plain sight across the valley. We went down from 1725m to 1480m then up again to KB 1. Helmut spotted the second Alpine Copperhead, a bigger specimen this time but we quietly passed by chuffing our way slowly up the slope to Bluff Track where our campsite was to be [642828]. We got there for lunch at about 12.30pm. An old jeep track, now a walking track, descended from this northern end of KB 1 to a water point that Oliver was sure had water. The water did take some finding indeed but was eventually located 50metres down from a soak [646828]. There were three white plastic stickers hanging from trees to show the way – not easy to see. We improved the water trail with some blue hayband we had found. Once we were all back together, we set up camp in a delightful clearing on the side of Bluff Track. What to do next?

Helmut and Robin set off to walk to Lovicks Hut about 3 km to the west. They took rain gear as dark clouds rolling in from the south were confirming the forecast of 80% chance of thunderstorms. It did rain a slight bit, maybe less than a millimetre, but the thunder and lightning were all around us. Helmut and Robin returned having ...

Got to Picture Point with its fantastic views.

Were "forced" to eat homemade biscuits by a group of 4WD campers and

Spotted smoke from a fire started by a lightning strike in the valley south of the King Billies ridgeline.



Robin at Picture Point

Within a short time of their return to our camp, we heard light planes in the air around us in the vicinity of the fire and imagined the aircraft we had seen at Snowy Plains airstrip the day before getting a GPS fix on the fire and dousing the blazing trunk with foam. We had tea, powered by Helmut's shellite chuffer, chatted away with laughter for a while, sipped some medicinal port and then retired to bed by 8pm with the promise of a late rise in the morning.

When we arose at daybreak the next morning, our tents were dry. Robin spotted a most amazing sight. Mist was rising from the Wonnangatta Valley, driven by a slight easterly airflow and spilling out of the Terrible Hollow between Mt Speculation and Mt Buggery like a waterfall into the Howqua Valley.



Early morning mist flowing into the Howqua valley

Our fast was broken and we were soon on our way following Bluff Track to the south. Two kilometres saw us at the intersection of Brocks Road and the AAWT onto KB 2 where we turned left [actually straight ahead; 648809] onto King Billy Track that took us 7 kilometres downhill to King Billy Creek and our car. We loaded up, selected L4 and quietly motored up the old logging road back to the Howitt car park and, once we had lunched, headed off home. Jack had been asked to check the condition of Kellys Lane, so his carload of tourists took a sharp-ish right off the Howitt Road and along to Kelly Hut then later to the newer McMichael Hut before re-joining Tamboritha Road.



Kelly hut

Thank you Oliver for a great walk in great company with lots of adventure and fantastic views.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 09 Mt Ligar - The Crinoline

**DATE:** Saturday 21st February

**LEADER:** Jack Winterbottom

**REPORT:** Helmut Tracksdorf

**Walkers:** Piero Baglioni, Michael Dowe, Helmut Tracksdorf, Jack Winterbottom

Four members turned up bright and early at Michaels place in Maffra to attend this reconnaissance walk of Mt Ligar. Upon arriving at the starting point at the MGS campsite near Breakfast Creek we parked the car and got ourselves organised. This walker was expecting to hike up a well defined track but No! Lo and behold after donning our packs Jack headed straight up the nearest spur, with no track in sight!

It was clear that this was no stroll in the Park because we had to scrub bash our way up a very steep spur which only flattened out for a short time before the real slope began. At least we could see our destination, the skirts (cliffs) of the Crinoline looming above us on our right.



Jack, Michael & Piero taking in the views

After cresting the ridgeline (exhausted) we finally intersected the main walking track which leads to the summit itself. The views and cliffs ahead presented us with spectacular sights. The weather was perfect and we had great views all around. Within half an hour of hitting the track we were on top of Mt Ligar also known as The Crinoline, and taking in the 360° views.

This was the perfect spot for lunch so we settled down within the shade of some trees and ate our sandwiches and spent time recuperating. After lunch we leisurely made our way back down, this time following the designated track all the way down to Smith Street and then McMillans track. Jack had requested we bring along some secateurs so that we could do some track clearing work on McMillans track. So we all pitched in and cleared sections of the track as we continued down along McMillans.



Plaque marking the reopening of McMillans Track

Finally arriving back at the MGS campsite where Jack had parked his vehicle.

Near the camp there is a plaque which highlights the re-opening of McMillans track in 1988. It also mentions the efforts of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club in conjunction with Dept of Conservation Forests and Lands in assisting with the reopening of the track.

All in all a great walk albeit an alternative approach was used to reach the summit. Thanks Jack for another interesting stroll in the park!

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 10 Wingan Inlet Rame Head

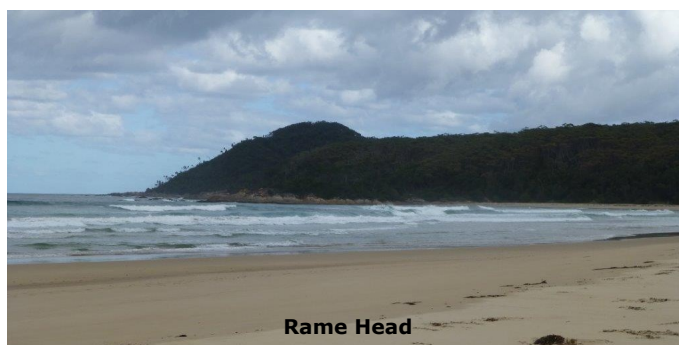
**DATE:** Saturday 28th Feb - Sunday 1st March

**LEADER:** Oliver Raymond

**REPORTS:** Marjorie Kanagaratnam & Anna Janca

**Walkers:** Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Anna Janca, Oliver & Carolyn Raymond, Marian Matchan, Susan & Michael Davis, Jackie Whiting & Robin Dobson

While the others walked (and swam!) to Red River, Carolyn led Marian and Marjorie to Rame Head. The path wound pleasantly to Fly Cove, named by Bass & Flinders when they sheltered their ship, the Fly, here during a south-westerly storm. For us it was warm, calm and humid. Seagulls wheeled over giant kelp that assailed us with a rotten aroma, strewn over the southern end of the beach.



Rame Head

Steps led steeply up into a wonderland of vegetation – huge old banksias, tall eucalypts, lianas, strappy-leaved purple orchids and delicate maiden-hair ferns. Mushrooms poked up through the sandy soil and sprouted on tree trunks – orange, red, mauve and cream. As we neared the top, there were sweeping views either side of the cape: Thurra River and Point Hicks to the south and, close by in the other direction, The Skerries, home to a group of seals who bark and roar like demented fans at a football match.



**Seals on The Skerries**

On our return, we saw a big black snake enjoying the sun at inlet's edge, a lyrebird hen crossed the path and three goannas were cavorting around the camp.

Sunday was raining. We packed up camp and headed to Elusive Lake, a perched lake of warm, tannin-filled, fresh water, got to the cars dripping wet, drove to Bruthen Bakery for hot victuals, then home. Thank you Carolyn & Oliver for leading a great weekend.

## Wingan Inlet Red River

On Saturday morning, the happy campers split into 2 groups, with the gluttons for punishment wanting to tackle the Red River walk. Led by Oliver, 6 of us set off along the boardwalk under the magnificent paper barks, then along the water's edge among the reeds and oysters, to our crossing point. Staying away from the narrow inlet, where the outgoing tide is a gusher, we crossed at a wider area back from the inlet with sandbars to break the wade.

We started across. Well the tide was not as low as we had hoped. Soon the day packs were carried above our heads. Then luckily, we had a few tall people in our group who carried the packs across, whilst the shorties swam about 10 metres. What an adventure, and a cool off on a warm day.



**Anna wading across Wingan Inlet**

The walk and boulder hopping along the beach to Easby Creek, and then Red River – named for its colour from the tannin – was magnificent. A highlight, but somewhat sad, was a lonely fairy penguin on the beach. Just standing there looking lost.



**Lost Fairy penguin?**

We lunched at Red River, then returned along the beach. The tide was lower on the return and we waded slightly more up-stream, so not such an adventure. But, hot, so we all ended the walk with a dip. A magnificent day. Thank you Oliver.



**Group at Red River**

## Wingan Campsite



**Great campsite at Wingan Inlet**



**Members & guests relaxing at camp**

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 11 Genoa Peak walk

**DATE:** Saturday 7th March

**LEADER:** Piero Baglioni

**REPORT:** Nicki Jennings

**Walkers:** Rose de Leeuw, Piero Baglioni, Andrew Stevenson, Joe & Monica Scicluna, Jack Winterbottom, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Anna Janca, Oliver Raymond, Marian Matchan, Helmut Tracksdorf, Corinne Kleine, Christine Marshall, Peter & Nicki Jennings, Michelle van Aarde

On our way to Ben Boyd National Park to do the Light to Light Walk we ventured off the Princes HWY for a short but worthwhile walk up Genoa Peak (450 m above sea level). The 1.5km track passed through dense casuarina forest and the ground was covered in a soft mat of leaf litter which made ideal habit for the resident lyre birds. Much to our delight, the birds were seen on the way up and down. Scattered eucalypts and banksia also helped make for a shaded track. Nearing the peak we climbed amongst lichen covered granite boulders home to large, skink-like lizards and



Group at lookout below summit of Genoa Peak



Genoa Streaked Rock orchid plant which usually flowers in Sep/Oct

rock orchids.

The last steep climb to the summit was aided by sturdy ladders and a viewing platform with 360 degrees panoramic views. To the northeast we could see Mallacoota Inlet over 40 km away. In the east the sea stretched out beyond the surrounding Croajingolong National Park. Mount Imlay was an imposing mountain to the northwest rising above a vast area of forest and mountains. The view was awe inspiring as we lunched amongst the boulders and enjoyed each other's company in anticipation of our next two days of walking.



Oliver striking the pose on the Summit of Genoa Peak

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 12 Light to Light walk

### Ben Boyd National Park

**DATE:** Sat 7th - Mon 9th March

**LEADER:** Piero Baglioni

**REPORT:** Michelle van Aarde

**Walkers:** Rose de Leeuw, Piero Baglioni, Andrew Stevenson, Joe & Monica Scicluna, Jack Winterbottom, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Anna Janca, Oliver Raymond, Marian Matchan, Corinne Kleine, Helmut Tracksdorf, Philip & Elizabeth Davis, Christine Marshall, Jim Stranger, Peter & Nicki Jennings, Michelle van Aarde

The Light to Light walk hugs the coastline between historic Boyds Tower near Eden and the Green Cape Light station. It is one of the best walks on the far south coast of NSW. 30.9km of stunning views and ever changing landscape, from heathland to forest, tea tree groves to banksia woodlands and sheltered coves to towering red-rock platforms.

Arriving at Maccas car park at 8.30am, I anxiously awaited the arrival of 18 other walkers whom I had never met and Oliver!... who kindly offered to give me a lift. I must have looked like a lost puppy but soon others appeared and the introductions started. Armed with cups of coffee our fearless leader Piero gathered the group for the welcome talk, after which, Oliver and I made for his car and a head start as we had Anna to pick up in Nowa Nowa.

We reached our all-important coffee stop, Cann River a tad behind the rest of the group who cheerfully waved us on as they drove by. With further instructions given out we were on our way again, this time to Genoa Peak, a lovely detour to break for lunch while taking in the spectacular views of Mallacoota Inlet and the Wilderness Coast. Nicki Jennings has provided a separate report of the Genoa Peak Walk. Refer Golden Jubilee walk No 11 in this Newsletter.

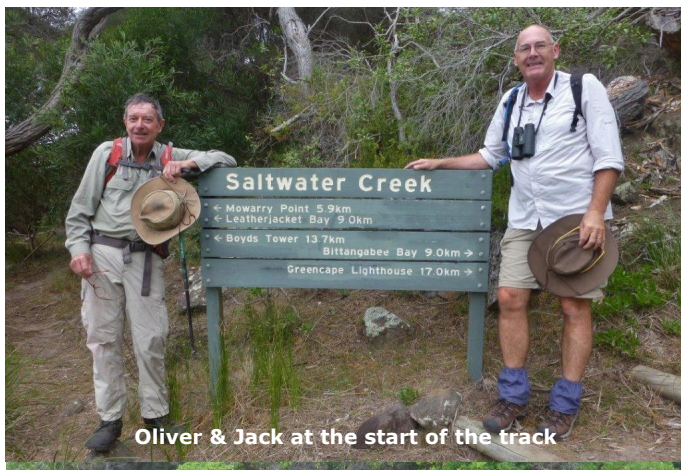
We reached Saltwater Creek camp site late afternoon, with enough daylight left to take in the fresh air, admire local inhabitants such as Kangaroo's, goanna's, possums, rodents and assorted bird life that only Jack can remember. We all pitch our tents in readiness for the evening meal. Camp Piero certainly outdid the lot of us at meal time with Helmut making cordon bleu burgers and Rose preparing 5 star breakfasts with all the trimmings. Well done guys, the aroma drew the group in out of curiosity.



**Kangaroo stew anyone?**

Once again Piero called a group meeting to discuss the 'car shuffle'! Ben Boyd to camp, camp to Green Cape, Green Cape to Ben Boyd, camp to Ben Boyd.....1 hour later or was that the morning after....lost track at this point, Piero took charge again and decided to start out from the camp site and walk towards Green Cape Lighthouse, undertaking the longest leg first. We all settle down for the night, well some of us did, others had possums snuggled by their feet to keep them awake!

Rise and shine, breakfast, car shuffle and we are on our way. Camp to Green Cape Lighthouse, 17.7km and the mood is joyful and vibrant. I have never known anyone to walk in a dress but Marjorie certainly showed us how it is done in colourful style.



**Oliver & Jack at the start of the track**



**The rest of the group reflecting on which way to proceed!**

The track meanders through ever changing vegetation and landscape, beach, grasslands, heath, scrub, rocky outcrops, boulders and each time we got to a headland we would see the lighthouse which seemed so close yet so far in reality. Time became a non-entity as we took in the breathtaking vistas, the smallest flowers or strangest formation, each and every one of us appreciating our own little uniqueness about the walk. Only our bodies and hunger pains dictated a little stop for morning tea and an opportunity for everyone to re-group. We parked ourselves on a rock platform and observed the crashing waves as we all trickled in.

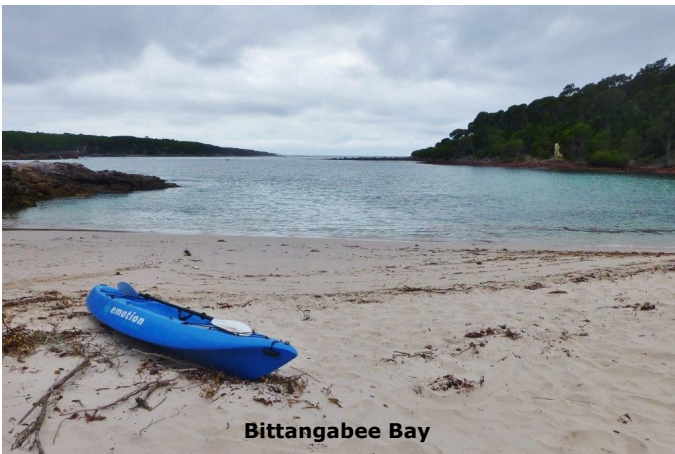


**Morning tea on the rock platform**



By this time our trusted walk leader had summed up the group, the pace and ability of each member and strategically allowed the group to naturally break up into three parts, making sure each part was looked after and assigned Oliver to act as tail end Charlie to make sure no one got left behind. And behind each great leader there is a great partner, in this case, Rose, need I say more? We continued on our merry way briefly stopping to take in sights and sounds along the way like ocean views at Black cliffs and the ruins of Imlay House. Imlay House was to be a station for the Imlay family to extend their grazing and whaling in the area and the ruins still show the foundation of the incomplete house built in 1844.

Bittangabee Bay, lunch time check point and little dip in the ocean for some. It is a well-protected Bay from high winds and swells, perfect for a nap or cuppa from Helmut's "Rock Shelf Beach Café".



**Bittangabee Bay**

I must say, Piero did his homework on this walk as he pointed out all the historic points of interest along the way, like the Storehouse ruins, built in 1881 to store materials that assisted in the construction of the lighthouse, visible from Bittangabee Bay Beach. Pulpit Rock was in the mix but I think we missed the turn off. Helmut ventured down another track that provided similar rock formations and views. Not to be forgotten, the Ly-ee-moon Graveyard in memory of 71 men, women and children who lost their lives at sea during the night of 31<sup>st</sup> May 1886.

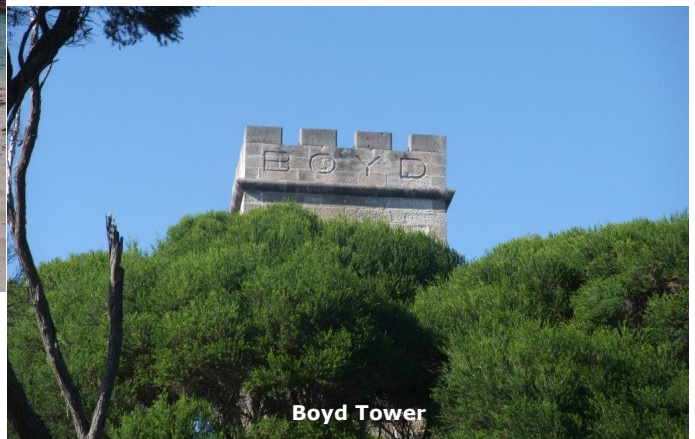
After a long and pleasant walk in perfect conditions, we arrive at Green Cape Lighthouse, a majestic 29 metre high octagon-shaped lighthouse, the Telegraph Station, Lookout and Keepers Cottage, all still operational today. The area was named Disaster Bay due to the many shipwrecks and events that occurred in the area during the 1800's.



**Green Cape Lighthouse Station**

First in, first out....make sure there are five per vehicle and head back to camp to freshen up, make tea and gather around the camp fire to enjoy a beverage or two and tell tales of the day. They all told me that there was an Goanna around virtually every corner; well I still don't believe them. Helmut tells tales of dancing Lyrebirds and Oliver insists he whistles Advance Australia Fair to them – what is that all about? Jack and Joe continue to have healthy religious debate, while Anna and Elizabeth exchange Samphire plant recipes. Phil dreams of doing the full Spanish Camino Walk and Jim, well Jim just dreams. Marshmallows and wine a plenty, we all agreed that the vast diversity of the walk was a unanimous highlight.

6am, Day three, Oliver has broken camp with Michelle and Anna not far behind. Boyds Tower, starting point for the second leg of the walk, 13.2km. Boyds Tower was commissioned by Benjamin Boyd and originally designed as a lighthouse, later turned into a Whale spotting tower in 1847 providing a vantage point over Twofold Bay. Boyd was declared bankrupt soon after completing the tower.



**Boyd Tower**

This leg of the walk provided spectacular coastal cliffs and secluded little bays as we walked through fairy tale forests of melaleuca trees and crossed running creeks. Not a cloud about as we meandered our way down to Leather Jacket Bay for a relaxed lunch under the trees or on the beach. Helmut found a private little swimming spot for Joe and myself while Jack ventured off to do some more bird spotting, I am not sure if I was hearing the real thing or just a noise from his i-phone?

We all pack up for the final trek to camp, passing Red Cliffs along the way, silt deposit rock formations com-

ing from volcanic eruptions a long time ago. We reach Saltwater Creek camp site shortly before 1pm, and start the pack up. As I had already packed everything, I got to stand around and watch Piero and Rose break camp, including El Presidente, Andrew's tent, while he sat back once again. I was quite perplexed with this arrangement and eventually asked why Andrew is being served upon hand and foot, the answer was very simple, because he is the nominated driver! So next time someone wants to cook my food and pitch my tent for me, I will drive, Okay!

Oliver and Anna arrived and it was time to go, quick good-bye's while others took a last dip in the ocean before heading off themselves.

Thank you Piero for organising a thoroughly enjoyable week end, well done on your first walk as leader.

And on a personal note, thank you to everyone who made me feel most welcome on my first walk with the Club.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 13 Cobbannah Creek Mitchell River NP

**DATE:** Tuesday 24th March

**LEADER:** Rob & Josie Paterson

**REPORT:** Ken Free

**Walkers:** Rob, Josie, Piero, Rose, Helmut, Maureen and Ken.

On an overcast Autumn morning we met on the Dargo Road at the turnoff to Billy Goat Bend and, after positioning vehicles at our walk's end point, we proceeded to an old logging road running off Billy Goat Bend Road for the start of the walk. We followed the now heavily overgrown logging road until it petered out and we walked through open forest down a ridge to Cobbannah Creek whereupon we walked a short distance upstream to take in the tranquil atmosphere. As Rob reminded us often during the day: "not many people ever come here".

The walk downstream was both adventurous with plenty of rock-hopping and enthralling - around every bend were amazing rock formations and a diverse collection of vegetation and birdlife. On both sides of the creek, steep rocky outcrops towered above us.



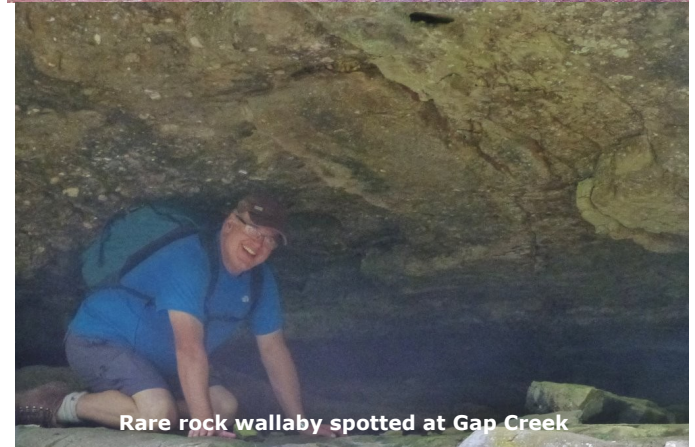
**Group at Gorge on Cobbannah Ck**



**Logjam on Cobbannah Creek!**



**Lunch stop near Gap Creek**



**Rare rock wallaby spotted at Gap Creek**

On reaching the point at which Gap Creek flowed into Cobbannah Creek, we paused for a very relaxing lunch break on a shelf of red rock and thought for a couple of seconds about the poor souls stuck somewhere behind a desk. After lunch we proceeded up Gap Creek which meanders through a steeply-sided and lush gully in an approximately northerly direction, our rock hopping accompanied by the sounds of all manner of birdlife, including black cockatoos. After 2 or 3 kilometres we reached a spot where a ridge ran off to our right in a north-easterly direction towards the spot where we had left a couple of cars earlier in the day. We bush-bashed our way through some tangled undergrowth for around 100 metres before breaking out into open forest and a steady up-hill climb to Mitchell Road, thence a short trudge to the cars.

What a magnificent bushwalk: mostly off-track into a seldom-visited area with stunning scenery, birdlife and

vegetation, mild weather with no rain, great leaders and great company. And as a bonus, on our drive out along Mitchell Road, Hawkeye Helmut spotted a red-bellied black snake sunning itself in 15 degree heat! (so much for my theory that all the snakes would be hibernating by now).



Thank you Rob and Josie for a fabulous walk.

fighter that crashed in 1958 so walkers would know that they had passed in the vicinity. But we did see the Explosive Magazine site to the side of the track as we trekked thru the forest on paths with tall straight trees to our left and right, there was a few very steep inclines along the way that got the blood circulating.

We had a relaxing lunch back at the carpark, where a few tales and stories were told of pasted experiences.

Robin, Josie & Marian then continued onto Log Crossing in the forest from Forestech at Kalimna, were they walked along the rail trail for only a kilometer or so and returned to the car park. The full walk along this trail is on our walk calendar to be done later on this year.

Great day, so thanks to everyone for attending.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 14 Bruthen Plane Crash Loop

**DATE:** Wednesday 18th March

**LEADER:** Marian Matchan

**REPORT:** George

**Walkers:** Rob, Josie, Robin, Marian, Marjorie, Trevor, Peter, Tricia and Jackie.

On a lovely sunny day, 9 enthusiastic walkers set off to tackle the Plane Crash Loop just North of Bruthen. It was nice to see a couple of new walkers, Peter & Tricia, and Jackie on her second walk with us.



**The Group getting ready to tackle the loop**

What a difference in the vegetation from our last walk thru this area in May 2014. It was noticeable that conditions were a lot dryer, the ferny gullies were not as lush and didn't have the trickle of water at the bottom of the gullies. There was no sign of wild flowers or fungi and there was plenty of dry bark and twigs covering the ground.

It would be nice if there was some sort of signage as to where the crash site of the RAAF Avon-Sabre

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 15 Golden Beach

**DATE:** Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March

**LEADER:** Jack Winterbottom

**REPORT:** Christine Marshall

**Walkers:** Marian, Chris, Kath & Anju.

After meeting at Longford Hall, four walkers set out for Golden Beach. Marian, Chris and two first time walkers with BCW Kath and Anju. We started at the Trinculo wreck where the top ribs of the wreck are still just visible above the sand and walked to Flamingo Beach, 6K along the shore line.



**Anju, Kath & Marian**

The weather was great, no wind which was very unusual and the sun came out as we started. Sand, surf and conversation made this an enjoyable stroll. Lunch was eaten sitting on the sand before returning to Longford.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 16

### Mt Tassie Loop

### Grand Strzelecki Track

**DATE:** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

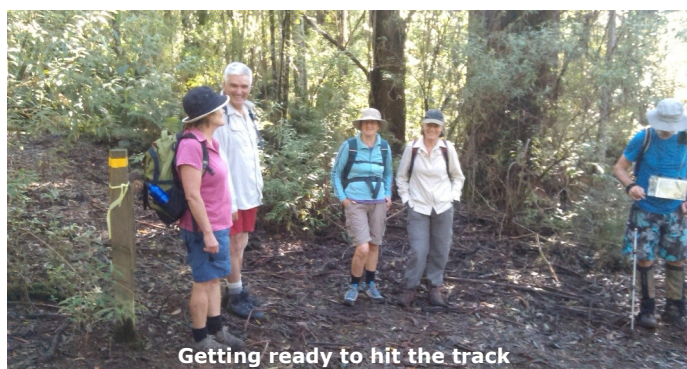
**LEADER:** Andrew Stevenson

**REPORT:** Piero Baglioni

**Walkers:** Piero Baglioni, Rose deLeeuw, Jacki Whiting, Col Gibson, Peter & Nicki Jennings, Monica Scicluna, Chris Marshall and Andrew Stevenson.

Six walkers met at the ungodly hour of 0800 in the McDonalds carpark in Traralgon for the start of this epic adventure to Balook and the trek to Mt Tassie via the Duff Sawmill Heritage trail.

After leaving the cars that were deemed unfit to make the gruelling climb to Balook behind in Traralgon, the two Subaru XV's sprinted nimbly through the twisting turns, reaching the car park at 0850. Here, three other walkers joined the group. After a brief collection of visitors' fees and registration forms, the walk began in brilliant sunshine, following the Tara Bulga road, then crossing to join the Telecom track and the Duff Sawmill Heritage trail.



Getting ready to hit the track

This morning those with previous experience with the damp conditions on the track ensured that all other walkers would be suitably impressed by the number and size of the leeches to be found on the walk. Of course, they did not disappoint and Peter even managed to train a few to perform tricks on demand.



Peter demonstrating how easy it is to train a leech!

The heritage Trail includes good examples of the current forest mosaic landscape in the Eastern Strzelecki ranges following the extensive disturbance that occurred in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries as a result of

clearing and logging. It includes the remnants of old growth eucalypts, regenerating rainforest and examples of commercial timber plantation. The track leads slightly uphill to the stumps of two once enormous eucalypts –a reminder of what the forest must have looked like before human intervention.

It becomes exposed and the landscape changes to low scrub and native grasses, following the contours of the hillside till it reaches the summit. –on this occasion in brilliant sunshine with 360 views to the Latrobe Valley, Wilsons Promontory, The Great Dividing Range, the 90 Mile Beach and the Strzelecki Ranges.

At some point during the traverse Piero received a call from Chris, who with Monica, had tried to blaze a new route to the top, cutting in from the main road a little early. After realising that this was the hard way to reach the summit, they returned to the usual route and were with the rest of the group shortly thereafter.

Lunch beckoned just below the summit at the picnic tables followed by the short downhill stretch to the Balook road where the group crossed over, following the contour downhill through extensive fern gullies and even a small waterfall. Eventually the track began to climb, reaching the intersection of the Telecom track and the Duff Sawmill trail 6 km later.



Lunch below the towers

A short time later we all found ourselves seated for cake and drinks at the Balook café where, after a pleasant hour's conversation with the new owners (who seem to be Dutch judging by the accent, or Danish judging by the pastries, or Swiss judging by the flags flying from the café...), we returned to the cars for the drive home.

Thanks to Andy for organising a perfect day and a delightful walk.

# WALK PREVIEWS

## Walk Gradings

Distance	Hills	Track
<b>S</b> – Short < 10 km	<b>1 – 3</b> Easy Suitable for beginners	<b>1 – 3</b> Graded open terrain Well formed tracks/paths
<b>M</b> – Medium 10-15 km	<b>4 – 7</b> Medium Reasonable fitness required	<b>4 – 7</b> Bush, minor scrub Some rock hopping, scrambling
<b>L</b> – Long 15-20 km	<b>8 – 10</b> Hard Strenuous. Fit walkers only	<b>8 – 10</b> Bush, thick scrub, Rock hopping, Scrambling, Creek crossings, Use of hands
<b>X</b> – Extra Long >20 km		

### Mt Bogong Circuit

**DATE: Friday 3rd - Mon 6th APR**

**GRADE: X-8-6** (~ 60km)

**MEET: TBA**

**LEADER: Jack Winterbottom – 0408 411 079**

**Or: [jack@wbm.id.au](mailto:jack@wbm.id.au)**

There are quite a few permutations for walking on the Bogong High Plains. If you are interested, please give me a ring and we can discuss possibilities. One example route which Frank Hiscock led several years ago was ...

*After travelling up past Omeo on Thursday night, this extended walk over the Easter break starts from Shannonvale and goes up onto the Bogong High Plains, dips down to the Big River then up to Mt Bogong itself on day 3 finally coming off the plateau via the Long Spur to the Big River Saddle.*

Whatever route is chosen, this walk will be for experienced and relatively fit walkers. It traverses the highest part of Victoria – the “roof of Victoria” @ 1986 metres – and is liable to unfriendly alpine weather at any time of the year. Full kit needs carrying including adequate clothing [thermals, beanie, gloves etc] and equipment. It is a fuel stove area.

That said, the views and a meal at the Blue Duck are fabulous. A car shuffle will need to be set up at the start.

Contact Jack on 0408 411 079 to confirm your interest.

### Eastern Beach to Lake Tyers Walk

**DATE: Sat 11th APR**

**GRADE: M-5-5** (~ 8km)

**MEET: Stratford @ 8:00am or Lakes Entrance - Eastern Beach Carpark @ 9:15am**

**LEADER: Anna Janca – 0419 178 445 & Ken Free**

**On 5144 1195**

The walk will commence at Eastern Beach (just east of Lakes Entrance). We will start with a short walk along the top end of Cunningham arm to enjoy the marsh area, water birds and view back to Lakes Entrance. We will then join and walk along this section of Ninety Mile Beach to Lake Bunga. After more beach walking, we'll scramble around the rocks and explore rock pools of Red Bluff. We'll then take the path to the lookout at the top of Red Bluff and pick up a track through coastal scrub which will take us to the Lake Tyers Beach village. The final section of the walk follows the shoreline of Lake Tyers with great views across the lake. Those interested in retracing their steps a short distance will find the 'watering hole' of the Waterwheel Tavern. Depending on high tide times, this walk may need to be done in reverse to enable safe walking around Red Bluff. This will be confirmed closer to the date. A 20 minute round trip car shuffle will be necessary between Lake Tyers Beach and Eastern Beach – Lakes Entrance. Alternatively, those who wish to have a further 9kms leg stretch can walk back to Lakes Entrance via farmland hills and gully, and see Australia's first oil bore.

## East Gippsland Rail Trail Bruthen to Mississippi Ck Quarry

**DATE: Sun 12th APR**

**GRADE: X-6-3** (~ 26km)

**MEET: Stratford @ 8:00am or Bruthen @ 9:15am**

**LEADER: Philip Davis – 0447 447 525 / 5144 7525**

[philpriversdavis@bigpond.com](mailto:philpriversdavis@bigpond.com)

We will start our walk at the junction of the East Gippsland Rail Trail and the Bruthen-Nowa Nowa Road at the intersection with the Tambo Upper Road.

The trail climbs gently east through the Colquhoun State Forest until meeting the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail. There we will leave the rail trail and walk south through open forest descending an escarpment, crossing the Mississippi Creek and following some gently undulating terrain until arriving at the Mississippi Creek Quarry.

This is fine spot for lunch and to reflect on the exertions of our forebears when extracting the stone for constructing the permanent entrance to the Gippsland Lakes and buildings in Melbourne. We will then retrace our steps.

## Mt Tamboritha to Breakfast Creek

**DATE: Sat 18th APR**

**GRADE: M-7-7** (~ 14km)

**MEET: Maffra @ 8:00am**

**LEADER: Michael Dowe – 5147 3075 (AH)**

**0427 523 647 (BH)**

Here we explore a section of McMillan's Track and enjoy some great views. The walk starts at Tamboritha Saddle. From here, it's north and east to Mt Tamboritha and McMillan's Track. The walk then follows McMillan's Track to Breakfast Creek. The Track is not in great shape so much of the walk is effectively 'off track' and there are a couple of steep sections.

Participants will need gear to suit alpine conditions and carry water. We will also have to do a car shuffle.

## Petersons Lookout

**DATE: Wed 22nd APR**

**GRADE: S-3-3**

**MEET: Tyers Kindergarten carpark @ 9:00am**

**LEADER: Jim Stranger – 5191 8312**

[strangers1@westnet.com.au](mailto:strangers1@westnet.com.au)

This is a short return walk to Petersons Lookout which is perched high above the Tyers River within the Tyers Gorge. We will also visit a rocky crag at the northern end of the gorge as well as an old timber mill site before returning to our vehicles. Contact Jim to register your interest.

## Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail

**DATE: Sun 3rd MAY**

**GRADE: L-5-3** (~ 15km)

**MEET: Stratford @ 8:00am or Bairnsdale Maccas @ 9:00am**

**LEADER: Philip Davis – 5144 7525 / 0447 447 525**

[philpriversdavis@bigpond.com](mailto:philpriversdavis@bigpond.com)

This walk will bookend the earlier walk to the Mississippi Creek Quarry from the rail trail to the north.

The old tramway is a fascinating endeavour of early engineering and remnants of a bygone era can still be seen along this winding walk through lush bush.

Several bridges give access to the course of the flowing creek which attracts and retains native flora and fauna along this strip of rich forest.

This is, without doubt, one of the most enjoyable day walks in our region. Lunch will, again, be taken at the Quarry before our return to the Log Crossing Picnic Area.

## The Lakes National Park

**DATE: Wed 13th MAY**

**GRADE: S-1-1 (Easy)**

**MEET: Longford Hall @ 9:00am**

**LEADER: Wil Streckfuss – 5144 2183**

[wil.str@bigpond.com](mailto:wil.str@bigpond.com)

We drive to Loch Sport, where we park our cars near the Ranger's office. Just on time to have a cup of coffee!

Our first walk will be the Dolomite Track, an easy undulating track with varied coastal vegetation.

After we have completed this walk we drive the cars to the far end of the park, Point Wilson, where we have our lunch. Here the kangaroos and wallabies roam around and seem quite accustomed to human visitors! After lunch a delightful coastal walk and if time permits on the way back we'll visit the lookout tower and do the short Nature walk, which will give us excellent views over Lake Reeve.

## Mt St Gwinear to Mt Erica Carpark Baw Baw NP

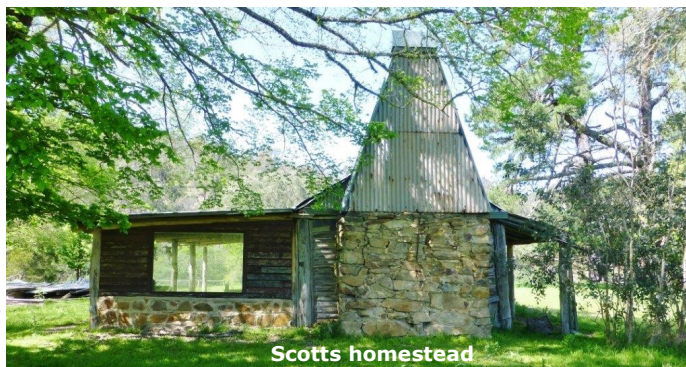
**DATE: Sat 16th MAY**

**GRADE: L-8-5**

**MEET: Tyers Kindergarten Car Park @ 8:00am**

**LEADER: Philip Davis – 5144 7525 / 0447 447 525**

[philipriversdavis@bigpond.com](mailto:philipriversdavis@bigpond.com)



Scotts homestead

This walk is of about 6 hours walking duration . It commences at the St Gwinear Car Park having dropped off vehicles for the end of the day car shuffle.

Starting with a gentle uphill climb for about 4 km, then joining the Australian Alps Walking Track at the Rock Shelter which was the point from which recent volunteer track clearing commenced. From there, the track undulates through Snow Gums with one patch of Myrtle Beach. There are some long climbs in several places.

We pass the ruins of Talbot Hut originally one of two huts built on the Baw Baw plateau in the early part of the 20th century when bushwalking was undergoing a boom period. These huts were on the walking track from Warburton to Walhalla serviced by Victorian Railways at either end. Unfortunately both huts were destroyed by the 1939 Black Friday Bush Fires. The trees we walk through are all regrowth from that fire.

After we pass Mt Erica we descend steeply to Mushroom Rocks which is a group of very large granite boulders. We pass through changing vegetation, Snow Gums to Alpine Ash to Shining Gum then Mountain Ash and Silver Wattle.

The walk is graded hard and is above the snow line so be prepared for cold weather.

## Scott's Farm - aka Mitchelldale Mitchell River NP

**DATE: Sat 30th MAY**

**GRADE: M-6-4** (~ 10kms)

**MEET: Stratford @ 8:00am or Beverleys Rd @ 8:45am**

**LEADER: Ken Free – 5144 1195 or:**

[freestyle2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:freestyle2@optusnet.com.au)

This loop walk will start at the Angusvale access road high on the ridge which overlooks the Angusvale camping area. We will follow a steeply descending old vehicle track to Bull Point on the Mitchell River and then turn west to follow the river upstream to the sight of what was once Scott's Farm, now known as Mitchelldale. There is much to explore here with old farm buildings, a remnant orchard and a number of trees probably planted when the sight was first

cleared for farming. We will then follow the old farm road uphill back to our starting point. There are a few steep pinches but the spectacular views over the river valley make it all worthwhile.

## Mt Darling

*NB: The date of this walk has been changed from ANZAC weekend to Queens Birthday Weekend.*

**DATE: Sat / Sun / Mon (6th - 8th JUN)**

**(Queens Birthday weekend)**

**GRADE: L-8-8** (Involves some rock scrambling)

**MEET: TBA**

**LEADER: Joe van Beek – 5176 5302**

We will gather at a location mutually suitable to all walkers. From there we will car pool and head for Dimmick's Lookout, just past the Snowy Plains Air-strip. After an early lunch, we will walk down an old logging road through dense regrowth and finally arrive at a delightful Alpine Meadow (O.K., a frost hollow) and will set up camp. Next morning we will set off along an old fire access jeep track along a ridge. The track is very overgrown and at times is hard to find, and it finally peters out about 2 km from Mt. Darling. We then need to scramble along the ridge until we arrive at a magnificent rock that juts out and provides a panoramic view of the Wonnangatta valley.

We will have lunch there and then return to our camp for the night. In the morning we will return to our vehicles and drive home. The walk has been organised over the long weekend so that those still working can participate in what is a 3 day walk. Contact Joe van Beek at: [joevanbeek@bigpond.com](mailto:joevanbeek@bigpond.com) if you consider yourself fit and are interested to take part in this challenging overnight walk. We will need to be prepared for winter alpine conditions, possibly even snow.

if you consider yourself fit and able to take part in overnight walks and are interested in coming.

Contact Joe van Beek at: [jjvb@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jjvb@bigpond.net.au)

## **Safety Tip of the Month**

**(Courtesy of Maroondah Bushwalking Club)**

### **Walking Poles - Potentially Lethal Weapons on Bushwalks.**

Did you know that some bushwalkers carry lethal weapons whilst Bushwalking?

These lethal weapons are more commonly known as “Walking Poles”

In the hands of most bushwalkers they are considered safe and supportive, BUT Walking Poles can become lethal weapons in the hands of walkers.

When on the track it is not uncommon to occasionally stumble or trip.

IF you are using Walking Poles on these occasions, the common reaction is to throw your arms out to regain your balance. Nothing wrong with that EXCEPT, if someone else is in close proximity they may end up with a pole where it hurts!

It is the responsibility of the walker behind (and the pole user) to remain at a safe distance (at least 3 metres) from the walker in front, and in scrub which may spring back after the walker has pushed through.

Concentrate on the whereabouts of the tips of your poles. If you cannot trust yourself, then put a rubber stopper over the titanium point to assist. (available in walking shops).

The following photo is not a pretty sight but might help to get “the point” through!

The damage to this eye was caused by a walking pole that was “flung up” unexpectedly during an outdoor adventure.

So take care out there and be mindful of keeping a safe distance from any walker with poles.



*Ouch!*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN  
BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB ACTIVITIES

To be completed by new and renewing members — see subscription form on the back

In voluntarily participating in any activities of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club, I am aware that my participation in these activities may expose me to risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss or damage to my property. Those risks may include, but are not limited to, slippery and/or uneven rocks, rocks being dislodged, cliffs, exposure to weather and white out conditions, falling, hypothermia and hyperthermia.

To minimize these risks I have endeavored to ensure that-

- (1) These activities are within my capabilities.
- (2) I am carrying food, water and equipment appropriate for these activities.
- (3) I have advised the activity leader if I am taking any medication or have any physical or any other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity.

I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during any activity and accept the instructions of the leader of the activity. I have read and understand these requirements. I have considered the risks before choosing to sign this acknowledgement of risk. I still wish to join these activities. I accept that in signing this form I will take responsibility for my own actions. This form must be lodged with the club treasurer or secretary when paying annual subscription.

NAME:	TELEPHONE:
ADDRESS:	
SIGNATURE:	DATE:

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC, PO Box 70, MAFFRA VIC 3860



Name: .....

Postal Address: .....

Email Address: .....

Phone: .....

Membership Type (circle) Family or Single

Month of Joining	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Full Months until 30 April</b>	0	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Single Membership</b>	\$42	\$39	\$36	\$33	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9
<b>Family Membership</b>	\$54	\$50	\$46	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$26	\$22	\$18	\$14	\$10

Please fill out the details on the reverse side of this form also—thanks.

**EFT:BSB 013713: A/C 278934713: Ben Cruachan Walking Club: Surname as identifier please, notify Treasurer by email**

[joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com)

## EMERGENCY CONTACT AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

This information is for emergency use only and is to be carried in your pack at all times in a sealed plastic envelope. It is your responsibility to update the information if there is a change in details.

NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE HOME:

MOBILE:

### Medical Information

MEDICAL CONDITION/S: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT MEDICATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

ALLERGIES: \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE CURRENT IMMUNIZATION AGAINST — TETANUS Y / N — HEPATITIS A Y / N — HEPATITIS B Y / N

MEDICARE NUMBER:

AMBULANCE COVER Y / N

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND NAME:

### Emergency Contact

NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE HOME:

MOBILE:

RELATIONSHIP:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

**Privacy Statement:** The information contained on this form is for emergency use only and will be used if you are ill or injured whilst participating in an activity of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club. The information will only be accessed by the walk leader or their delegate and given to the relevant medical or emergency services personnel upon request.



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 180 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - JUNE 2015



Photo: Vicki Fraser

***Strutting their boots on the boardwalk at the old Quarry site in the Colquhoun State Forest were 10 members and 1 visitor who were all capably led by Philip Davis along a section of the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail. The GLDT, also known as the Mississippi Creek Trail connects the East Gippsland rail trail to Lakes Entrance, much of it running through the Colquhoun State Forest. It follows the route of a former tramway used to transport granite from the quarry to Lakes Entrance. Check out the full report on page 8.***

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.

View of Ben Cruachan from Tinamba - Seaton Rd



**Club Postal Address — PO Box 70, Maffra 3860 — Incorporation No A0004849G**  
[www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com](http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com)

## IN THIS ISSUE

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## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2015 / 2016**

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Monica Scicluna</b>	<b>5144 6713</b>
<b>VICE PRES:</b>	<b>Margaret Beckett</b>	<b>5148 2237</b>
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	<b>Anna Janca</b>	<b>0419 178 445</b>
<b>TREASURER:</b>	<b>Jack Winterbottom</b>	<b>5143 0903</b>
<b>PUBLICITY:</b>	<b>Piero Baglioni</b>	<b>5156 7034</b>
	<a href="mailto:pbaglioni@bigpond.com">pbaglioni@bigpond.com</a>	
<b>NEWSLETTER:</b>	<b>Helmut Tracksdorf</b>	<b>5156 6763</b>
	<a href="mailto:helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com">helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com</a>	
<b>WALKS CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	<b>Marian Matchan</b>	<b>0448 523 287</b>
	<a href="mailto:matcho01@bigpond.com">matcho01@bigpond.com</a>	
<b>TRACKS &amp; HUTS:</b>	<b>Michael Dowe</b>	<b>5147 3075</b>
<b>ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b>		
	<b>Joe van Beek</b>	<b>5176 5302</b>
	<b>Trish Marston</b>	<b>0409 656 332</b>
	<b>Chris Lockwood</b>	<b>5145 6549</b>
	<b>Chris Marshall</b>	<b>0499 780 399</b>
	<b>2 vacancy's remain</b>	

**CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH (EXCL JANUARY)**

**NEXT MEETINGS: 8TH JULY, 8:00PM, MAFFRA VET CENTRE.**

**12TH AUGUST, 8:00PM, MAFFRA VET CENTRE**

*Welcome to our Newest Member/s:*

*Vicki & Warwick Fraser (Raymond Island), Sue Hides (Sale), Neil & Dianne Reid (Traralgon)*

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# Presidential Ramblings

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## **BCWC PRESIDENT'S REPORT JUNE 2015**

*The results of our AGM are in and as your newly elected President I would like to convey my appreciation to Andrew and Ken in their roles as President and Secretary, they both have done an outstanding job and it will be very hard to fill their shoes. To all the other committee members who have decided not to re stand, thanks to you also.*

*To our new committee I hope we can continue to provide a happy and efficient walking group. We still have vacancies for ordinary members so if you would like to be part of our exciting team please let me know.*

*We have been very busy organising our 50th Anniversary dinner and Sunday walk up Ben Cruachan So please RSVP and make payments by the 19th June so you can celebrate this important historical event. For full details refer to page 14.*

*If you would like to lead a walk, we still have vacancies on the program, contact Jack or our new Walks Co-ordinator Marian.*

*We will again be having our Xmas in July at Heyfield, check out the preview on page 15. I hope to see you there. Otherwise;*

*See you on the track,*

*Monica Scieluna*



**SO IT'S THE MACALISTER, FOLLOWED BY THE  
TINAMBA AND THEN ONTO THE HEYFIELD PUB,  
RIGHT!**

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# Club News

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## BCWC Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 8th July** at the Maffra Vet Centre commencing 8:00pm. The vet centre is located at 10 Johnson Str. Maffra. Members & guests are welcome.

## AGM

The AGM has been run and won with the results displayed on Page 2. Check out your new committee members and office holders who will represent your interests over the next 12 months. We still have 2 vacant positions for Ordinary Office members, so if you wish to take an active part in the running of your club, please put your hand up.

Special mention must go to Andrew Stevenson & Ken Free who have capably carried out their duties as President & Secretary over many years and have now stepped aside from their positions to allow others to assume the mantle.

## Membership Fees Overdue?

Please note, annual membership fees were due in April 2015. It is presumed that existing members who have not renewed their membership for the 2015/16 year by 30th June 2015, no longer wish to participate in club activities. Therefore their name will be removed from the distribution and membership list. As result the June 2015 Newsletter will be the last Newsletter they receive.

If you would like to continue your membership please renew before the deadline. Payment can be arranged by Cheque or EFT, using the renewal form on page 17.

Members who have renewed their membership please ensure that a signed copy of the Acknowledgement of Risk form has forwarded to the treasurer. This form is a compulsory requirement for the club to have on file. IF you have not signed and forwarded a copy, Please complete the form on Page 17 and forward ASAP.

If you wish to cease membership but continue receiving the newsletter an annual fee of \$20 will apply for the Newsletter.

## Golden Jubilee Celebrations

### Anniversary Dinner

Sat 27th June

Our 50th Anniversary celebrations are well underway with one of the highlights being a dinner to be held at Duart Homestead. Anna Janca has been busy issuing the invites and co-ordinating the responses. Check out the preview on Page 14 for this once in a lifetime event.

Ron Kemp who was a foundation member of BCWC and Tony Walker, President of Bushwalking Victoria will be in attendance.

NB: Payment is required by 19th June if you wish to attend.

## Golden Jubilee Celebrations

### BBQ Ben Cruachan Summit

Sun 28th June

It seems only fitting that we should reconvene on top of Ben Cruachan 50 years after the Clubs foundation. Come RHS (Rain, Hail or Shine) we will celebrate on top of Ben Cruachan with a BBQ lunch.

BYO Meat and the rest will be provided. Check out the full details on Page 14.

When the club celebrates its Centenary, you will able to say "I was there, back in 2015".



## Xmas in July

Sat 26th July

Yes its also coming up to that time of year when we celebrate Christmas in July. Although it may be cold and wet (like last year) it will be warm and inviting inside the Heyfield Hotel. Check out the Preview on Page 15 for full details.

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# Bushwalking Victoria News

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## AGM

Invitations to Join BWV for their AGM at Templestowe Valley PS on June 13 were issued to all Bushwalking clubs earlier. We love to see as many clubs as possible represented and taking part in the lively discussions in such an Open Forum. The outcome of the AGM and new office bearers will be advised in BWV next Newsletter to be issued in July.

## Victorian Government

Under the new Victorian Government, the decision has been made to separate active recreation from sport for administrative purposes. Recreations such as bushwalking, will henceforth come under the Minister of Health rather than the Minister of Sport. This is a potentially positive development – as bushwalking has never fitted comfortably into any conventional definition of sport. It gives BWV an opportunity to emphasise the beneficial health and wellbeing aspects of bushwalking, and fits very well with our new project of promoting bushwalking to a wider public.

## Cattle in the High Country

As many will be already aware, the Victorian Government has legislated to terminate the 'scientific' evaluation of high country cattle grazing. I believe most bushwalkers will support this decision – many of us have seen the damage wreaked by cattle in such areas as Pretty Valley (near Falls Creek). Bushwalking Victoria has made it very clear at every opportunity that we do not wish to see a return of cattle grazing in any of our National Parks.

## Federation Walks Weekend

2015

This year the Federation walks weekend will be held in the Daylesford and Hepburn Springs spa country and nearby goldfields on the weekend of Saturday, 24th and Sunday 25th October 2015.

The event is being hosted by Bayside Bushwalking Club and the Great Dividing Trail Association.

Bookings open on the 15th June 2015.

Avoid disappointment by booking early.

For more information please refer to the BWV website at:

<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/>

## Why Bushwalking is good for you!

The movie "Wild" starring Reese Witherspoon essentially highlights what an epic journey of discovery and clearing of the mind, Bushwalking can be.

Bushwalking Victoria, is the peak bushwalking body for Victorian Bushwalkers and has a membership of 61 bushwalking clubs across the State as well as 400 individual members.

Why do we love to Bushwalk?

1. Adventure is good for the soul
2. Bushwalking is great for fitness
3. It's affordable
4. It's perfect for stress relief
5. Nature is beautiful
6. You'll never travel the same again
7. In short, its good fun

Check out the following links that confirm why walking is healthy and a favourite pastime:

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com>

<http://www.theguardian.com>

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# WALK REPORTS

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## Golden Jubilee Walk # 17 Eastern Beach Lakes Entrance to Lake Tyers

**DATE:** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April

**LEADER:** Anna Janca

**REPORT:** Maureen Hickling

A group of 18 walkers met at the Eastern Beach car park. After a car shuffle to leave cars at Lake Tyers, we walked through the swampy sedge land around the end of Cunningham Arm with good views back towards Lakes Entrance. Some sampled the samphire which is now being produced commercially at Corringle.

Then, onto the beach with surf and golden sands. Along beach we stopped to inspect the original entrance to the lakes, where big seas have recently come close to breaching the low barrier between beach and Golf Course. We continued our beach walk with the sound of the surf, and the odd wave sending us scurrying up the beach.



Walkers on the Beach

At picturesque Lake Bunga, with families fishing and picnicking, we stopped for morning tea. Some remembered when local schools went to Bunga Arm for swimming lessons, in the days before the Swimming Pools at Lakes and Bairnsdale.

Gulls and oyster catchers flew by as we pushed on to reach Red Bluff before the tide got too high. Shells and pebbles of many colours were scattered along the shoreline. Careful rock-hopping saw us all safely around the headland.

Leaving the beach, we climbed up the path to the clifftops, stopping at the memorial plaques to remember the two young surfers lost there over the years. Great views were to be had from the lookout at the top. Our path led through the ti-tree with glimpses of

interesting houses and a pair of sea eagles overhead.

We headed back down to the beach past the camping area and then followed the track along to the boat ramp with wonderful views across Lake Tyers. One Spartan in the group braved the cold surf for a dip before lunch.

With big appetites after our walk, most opted for a delicious lunch on the sunny deck of the Waterwheel Tavern.

Many thanks to Anna for her careful planning and monitoring of our large group. A most enjoyable walk!

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 18 Bruthen - Colquhoun Forest Mississippi Creek Quarry

**DATE:** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April

**LEADER:** Philip Davis

**REPORT:** Marian Matchan

**Walkers:** Philip Davis, Marian Matchan, Helmut Tracksdorf

What a great day Philip, Helmut and Marian had, the weather was perfect. We started out just East of Bruthen along the East Gippsland Rail Trail, with lovely views back across the farm land and billabongs in the Bruthen valley.

The trail climbed gently through the Colquhoun Forest then headed south on the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail. The vegetation showing displays of tall stringy bark and magnificent big eucalyptus trees. The forest floor was often very clear with just fallen bark coverings but at times featuring very lush fresh ferns. We crossed the Mississippi creek several times before arriving at the abandoned Mississippi Creek quarry for lunch. We chatted as we walked and I must say



Philip, Marian & Helmut at the abandoned Quarry



solved a few of the economic and behavioral problems in the world today.

The light railway was opened in 1910 and carried the granite along the 13kms tramline from the Mississippi Creek quarry to North Arm Inlet in Lakes Entrance until the 1930's. The coarse grained granite rock is speckled with warm pink colorings.

After lunch and an inspection of the area we headed back along the same forest tracks. Philip's heart missed a beat as he nearly stepped on a rather big tiger snake that was sunning itself beside the track. After the walk we returned to Bruthen for refreshments and to rest our weary legs.

Thanks to Philip for organizing our interesting day out and we look forward to walking the other end of the Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail in a fortnight's time.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 19 Mt Tamboritha to Breakfast Ck

**DATE:** Sat 18th April

**LEADER:** Michael Dowe

**REPORT:** Piero Baglioni

**Walkers:** Michael Dowe, Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Andrew Stevenson, Peter and Nicki Jennings, Frankie, Trish Marston

The weather forecast for Saturday had already predicted an unseasonal dump of rain for central Victoria –but when was the last time the bureau got a forecast right, we asked ourselves? So it was with some concern that we woke on Saturday to the patter of rain on the shingles. Oh well, cant be wrong all the time!

The drive to Maffra was mainly viewed through the windscreen wipers and apart from the 5 minutes of clarity when we met the other walkers at the DELWP, the remainder of the drive to Breakfast creek, which is also coincidentally the start of the climb to Mt Ligar, was also wet and gloomy. A car shuffle to Mt Tamboritha saddle and we were on our way. It was quite strange to carry the wet weather gear on the outside rather than the inside of our packs.

The track initially heads up a 4WD access track for 2 km through tall stands of alpine ash to the McMillan track turn off, which is marked by a post. This leads further uphill on a reasonably well defined track to the summit of Mt Tamboritha, which stands at 1509 m. The summit is marked by a cairn and as there were no views to speak of, we continued to Little Tamboritha, slightly less imposing at 1468 m.

At this point, much to our surprise, the rain which had followed us doggedly began to ease and eventually stopped. It was interesting how everyone was competing to produce the most energy rich tit bit to chew on in these cold conditions.

The ill defined track continued for a further 2 km through alpine terrain to reach a saddle, where a tree had very obligingly fallen to provide a seat for lunch.



Rose, Piero , Andrew and others enjoying lunch

The 100 m climb of the small hill following the saddle was gained with a full belly, resulting in quite a few bellows and groans on reaching the summit. The track then heads downhill and follows a ridge line for 2.5 kms –with, we could not believe it –the first views of the surrounding country for the day.



First views for the day

At some point along this ridge Piero decided to see if he would qualify for a job at cirque du soleil, and after slipping on a wet rock, did a double summersault with a half pike to land with his cheek on the rocks elder sibling. Luckily his glasses took the brunt of the impact and as a result, will be at the panel beaters for quite an extensive period. The moral to this story is that if you have recently bought new boots because the old ones were tread less, you should WEAR THEM!

Many band aids later, the group continued down the ridge line until the route becomes extremely steep and drops from 600 to 300 m in the space of a km. Most of this is performed by leaning slightly backward and letting the posterior do the work. Eventually we reached the breakfast creek car park once again and after retrieving the cars, we proceeded home, content in the fact that we had the opportunity to explore a seldom walked track in conditions which revealed yet another side to the high country.

Thanks Michael for a fantastic day and to the other members of the group for providing a great atmosphere to walk in.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 20 Petersons Lookout

**DATE:** Wednesday 22nd April

**LEADER:** Jim Stranger

**REPORT:** Jim Stranger

**Walkers:** *Bev Beard, Bev Aucote, Jim Stranger and visitor Dianne Reid.*

Four walkers met in Tyers before a short drive to the beginning of the walk which is situated in the 1400 hectare Tyers Park, just north of the Latrobe Valley. We began by looking at the site of an old timber mill, the only evidence of which was a huge pile of sawdust and a sawpit. There are a couple of such sites in the park. Much of the park was logged mid last century but has regenerated well.

We ambled along to the lookout with its two platforms and magnificent outlook over the gorge down to the Tyers River. The lookout featured on a recent Gippsland promotional ad along with icons such as the Lakes, the Prom and Walhalla - recognition at last! Peregrine falcons have nested in the conglomerate cliffs which form the gorge, but have not been seen for a couple of years.

We then walked to the other end of the gorge where we enjoyed interesting rock formations and extensive views up the river valley and beyond. At this point, the raincoats came out but were packed away promptly as we climbed back up to the main track, the car and home.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 21 Gippsland Lakes Discovery Trail Colquhoun State Forest

**DATE:** Sunday 3rd May

**LEADER:** Philip Davis

**REPORTS:** Vicki Fraser

**Walkers:** *Elizabeth & Philip Davis, Piero Baglioni & Rose deLeeuw, Glenda & Kevin Hine, Trish Marston, Bev Beard, Marian Matchan, Vicki Fraser, Bridget Serurier*

Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May a glorious sunny morning.

After the introductions and the delegation of the report to the new member & first time walker—me, we hit the trail.

The track follows the old tramway along the edge of the Mississippi Creek towards the old granite quarry approximately 7.5 kms away. Fabulous interpretive signs provided information on the history, flora and fauna of the area.

*"The tramway was constructed in the early 1900s and used until the mid-1930s to move granite from the Mississippi Creek quarry to Lakes Entrance. The granite was used to build a new permanent entrance to the Gippsland Lakes. The original timber pylons had been severely damaged by the marine toredo worm. The granite was also used in the construction of the Masonic Club building at 164 Flinders Street Melbourne."*

Occasionally remnants of the tram line were visible as well as huge granite boulders which evidently dismounted the tram whilst in transit.

The recent rain and mild weather was conducive to a huge variety of fungi as well as ferns, large clumps of serrated sedges all shaded by tall eucalypts (Mountain Grey Gum, Manna Gum, Blue Box and Gippsland Blue Box) .



Whilst we didn't see many animals (probably because we were busy chatting and laughing) we did see evidence of their presence including lyrebird scratchings and sounds, beautiful whip bird calls, wombat holes, a bower bird's bower and feeding scars on a eucalyptus tree made by sugar gliders.

We stopped at the quarry for lunch and then returned along the same track, noticing a few more things along the way including limestone rocks containing fossilised shells and more fungi. This walk was approximately 15 kms in length, with a well-defined level track.

Overall it was a spectacular scenic walk, with interesting people guided by a fabulous, enthusiastic and informative leader, thank you Philip.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 22 Loch Sport—Lakes NP

**DATE:** Wednesday 13th May

**LEADER:** Wil Streckfuss

**REPORT:** Elizabeth Davis

**Walkers:** *Kath Johnson, Nicki Jennings, Elizabeth Davis & Wil Streckfuss*

With a threatening sky, bitter wind and terrible forecast, four optimists met at the National Park office at

the eastern end of Loch Sport. After a quick coffee and an equally quick inspection of the rather aged and dusty display in the Park office, we set out on the intriguingly named Dolomite Swamp Track. The track is in excellent condition and skirted eastward around the currently very full swamp. We emerged from the beautiful and sheltered melaleuca tunnels at an old oil boring site on the edge of a very rough Lake Victoria, giving us views across to Wattle Point and Goon Nure farming country.



Photo: Nicki Jennings

**Elizabeth taking in the views at Lake Victoria**

We turned west and followed the much more exposed track along the lake edge, encountering some steep eroded drops into the lake, and arrived back at the township.

Wil led us on a 30 minute drive due east to Sperm Whale Head where we had our picnic lunch at an excellent shelter shed with views over the white caps to Birrells Point and Paynesville. The picnic area marks the position of the old Barton homestead, and is evidenced by two beautiful old spreading Maritime Pines.

After lunch, we headed back west and stopped at the Lake Reeve Nature Trail and Lookout. With the help of a discarded old copy of the Trail notes we found, and our resident Naturalist Nicki, we were able to identify some interesting botanical specimens on this track such as the rare *Thryptomene Micrantha*, which was just coming into flower, a 300yr old Forest Red Gum, and a dead but very rare for this area, grass tree.

Thanks to the indefatigable Wil for leading us on a much more interesting and healthy day than sitting at home hugging the heater!

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 23 St Gwinear to Mt Erica

**DATE: Saturday 16th May**

**LEADER: Philip Davis**

**REPORT: Maureen Hickling**

**9 Walkers**

With a promising weather forecast, our group met and car pooled from Tyers. Patches of snow beside the road soon gave us a glimpse of what was to come.

Leaving cars at Mt Erica car park, we proceeded to Mt St Gwinear car park for morning tea before heading up the track with the snow cover increasing higher up. On top we were rewarded with blue sky, no wind and the orange and green of the snow gums looking picturesque in the snow. The clear day gave us great views from the lookout past Mt St Gwinear.



**Group resting atop St Gwinear**

We met several other groups out enjoying the magic conditions, including a group from the Strezlecki Club heading to Baw Baw for the night and two walkers who were setting out to walk most of the AWT.

In the shaded areas ice made the going challenging and our leader, as self-designated ice breaker, had several slips and falls. With the slower pace needed, we realised we needed to keep on the move to walk out before dusk.

After a break at the track junction we continued through snow, interspersed with mud and slush, and soon few had dry feet. The snow gums on the slopes were tall and dense, but on the ridges were shorter and very attractive. A small section of track which hadn't been cleared made us very appreciative of all the track clearing work that has been done up there recently.

With our thoughts turning to food, our leader coaxed us on. At last we came to a lovely little stream to replenish our water bottles before heading down to the old Talbot Hut site for lunch. The Talbot Hut burnt down in the '39 fires and only the chimney remains. We were interested to hear of the history of the site and how the hut was part of a very popular walk developed by Vic Railways early last century when the popularity of bushwalking was at its height.

After lunch, with the greater part of the walk behind us, we paused at the memorial Cairn to Geoff Watt (father of cyclist Kathy Watt), an accomplished athlete and marathon runner, who perished on the mountain when out training back in '69; a reminder of how easily one can be caught out by quickly changing alpine conditions.

The track headed down, fairly steeply in places, through a wonderful diversity of forest species, including silver wattles and green correas with lyrebirds calling nearby. We paused to admire the amazing Mushroom Rocks.



**Taking a break at Mushroom Rocks**

At last we arrived at the cars and headed off to complete our car shuffle. We felt so fortunate to have seen the Baw Baws under snow, with blue skies and no wind.

Many thanks to Phillip for his planning and 'icebreaking' and for leading us through in daylight and without mishap. Also thanks to the group for making it such an enjoyable day.

## **Golden Jubilee Walk # 24** **Scotts farm aka Mitchelldale** **Mitchell River NP**

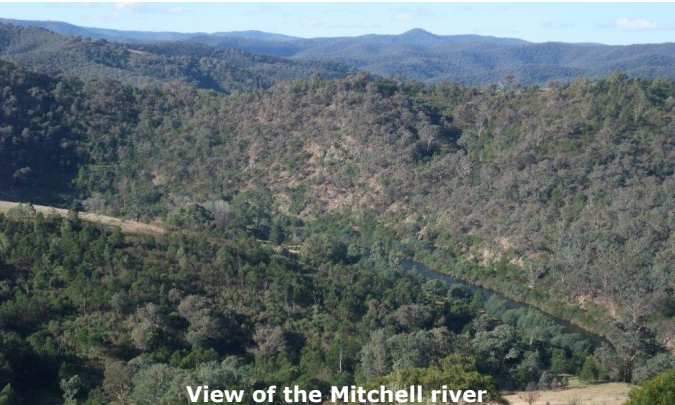
**DATE:** Saturday 30th May

**LEADER:** Ken Free

**REPORT:** Anna Janca

**Walkers:** Sue Hides, Bev Aucote, Kevin Hine, Graeme Bills, Kate Bills, Jackie Whiting, Vicki Fraser, Glenda Hine, Marian Matchan, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Leigh Smith, John Smith, Astrid Rose, Bridget Serrurier, Chris Marshall, Libby Balderstone, Frankie MacLennan, Peter Jennings, Nicki Jennings, Elizabeth Davis, Phillip Davis, Trish Marston

Since Ken arranged the clear blue sky and sunny autumn day, 26 of us turned out at the Beverley Road meeting point for this less known section of the Mitchell River National Park. Our convoy made its



**View of the Mitchell river**

way past the Angus Vale turnoff, to a point high on the ridge where we left cars and continued on foot along an old 4WD track. With magnificent views, to our right down into Angusvale, and to our left, across to our destination, the Mitchell River, and the mountains in the distance, we made our way down the ridge to the river.

Ah!! Morning tea on the rocky beach of Bull Point. Then on we went, battling the scrubby, ill-defined trail along the river, heading for Sheep Yard Point and Scotts Farm. Arriving at a clearing where we thought Scotts Farm was - but wasn't - a couple of search parties, headed off: one up the ridge, and one down. Yea!!! found it was the cry, and phew!!! from the rest of us - it was downhill!!

A short walk past the scrub and there it was. Peering through the windows of the timber farmhouse, we could see some of the furniture, and tins of food still there.



**Exploring Scotts Homestead**

During lunch we explored the out buildings, and through the Pool Paddock to the Mitchell River. Great swimming holes, both there and along our trail. But not today - better on a warm summer's day walk. Strengthened with lunch, we headed up, and up, and up, the ridge along the old farm access road. Close to the end, a few chose a less steep but slightly longer track, whilst the masochists left the old farm access road, and scrambled up to the old 4WD track we had started on. We then back tracked the short distance (still up hill) to our cars. This time we didn't miss Max's grave with prime position looking down to Angusvale. (We speculated that Max was a 15 year old dog.) Arriving at the cars in jubilation, we were treated with a vision. I will leave it for readers to speculate as to what??? Thank you Ken for a great day.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 25 Reconnaissance of McMillan's Track (East) With apologies to Darling

**DATE:** Sat 6<sup>th</sup> – Mon 8<sup>th</sup> June

**LEADER & REPORT:** Joe van Beek

**Walkers:** Michael Dowe & Joe van Beek

A trip to Mt Darling was scheduled for Queen's Birthday Weekend but because of winter weather, only two showing interest and a desire to get onto McMillan's Track, we opted to do some reconnaissance of the eastern part of McMillan's Track topping out at 1100metres rather than 1600.

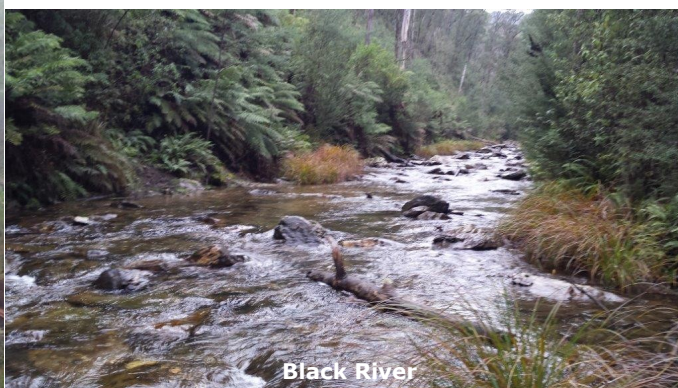


Michael at the start of the walk

...we took the wrong track! The track we followed was a carefully constructed benched track with a very uniform and gentle gradient but petered out in a stream where we found the remains of an abandoned wagon. We didn't look for the diggings or shafts, but the track would have had rails in the past to get pay load to the battery.

A scramble up hoping to intercept and recognise McMillan's Track was fruitless until we hit a marker on a ridge after about 1.5km of scrambling through bush. We managed to follow the track for about a kilometre before losing it. We then bush bashed up to the junction of McMillan's Track with Champion Spur Track (1107m) where we set up camp in the fading light and damp fog.

Sunday morning we set off down Champion Spur Track and then on to the even steeper Champion Spur 5 Track to where it ended some 800metres from and 120 metres above the Black River crossing. A path with a few markers traverses a rocky ridge and a knoll and then descends down a spur to the river crossing.



Black River

We left our vehicle at the base of Bald Hill and started by climbing to the top of Johnston Hill (1098m). Then we followed Abbott Link Track down to Stander Creek. We crossed the creek near the site of the Leichardt Gold Battery. Some machinery parts remain. See photo. We scrambled up the bank to luck onto a marker and a track. On the way back we realised that there were in fact two tracks meeting at this point...

It took us a while to establish what was actually McMillan's track on the north bank of the river but once we were convinced we were also delighted with the gentle contouring gradient and the ease with which we could follow the track through the attractive bush. Some log falls hampered our progress as we gained altitude up towards Lazarinis Spur Track. We stopped for lunch and turned around about 2km before Lazarinis Spur. We retraced our foot steps to our camp and arrived with enough time before dark to set a small fire from the rather damp materials available.



Remains of Leichardt Gold battery

Monday morning we made an effort to locate the track from where it was marked at our camp site but found very little evidence of it and soon lost the trail. Maybe we could have looked harder...after all we did have the GPS trail followed by the last party from the club to do McMillan's Track end to end in 2009. Their notes say that they were "temporarily positionally challenged" on this section of the track and that it was overgrown and washed away in sections. We can only conclude that it has got worse. A bush bash took us back to where we did recognise the track but we lost it again before getting down to the river where we discover a marker missed on the way up and some remanent of a track. After a snack we made the climb up Abbott Link Track and back to our vehicle.

Over the weekend we covered some 19 kilometres of

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 26 Traralgon to Glengarry Rail trail Walk

**DATE:** Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Jun

**LEADER:** Jim Stranger

**REPORT:** Monica Scicluna



**Michael enjoying a snack on McMillan track**

**Walkers:** Joe & Judy van Beek, Monica & Joe Scicluna, Jim & Denise Stranger, plus one!

the track and although much of it is on steep 4WD tracks (maintained by others) our enthusiasm for keeping McMillan's Track in useable condition remains strong as it is an environmentally friendly means of access to remote historical sites and some(near) pristine environments otherwise not readily accessible.

Our expedition identified the need for improved marking of this portion of the track. Many markers that we did find had the paint burnt off. Track clearance and some maintenance on the track from Black River to Lazarinis Spur is desirable soon, before the regrowth gets too thick. This section was last cleared in 2011.

Seven keen walkers met at Burnett Rd Traralgon to start our walk into Glengarry. It was a beautiful crisp morning but the sun was shining. We crossed the La-trobe River flood plain and a few recently constructed bridges, the views of the farms and mountains in the distance were amazing.

We arrived at the Glengarry bakery about 11am where we sat and had coffee and cake, this was very relaxing on a perfect day with a great group of walkers.



**View down the Track!**

Before any clearance, maintenance or marking can be done on McMillan's track from Champion Spur down to Stander Creek the actual track itself needs to be re-discovered.



**Doing it tough at the Glengarry Bakery**

We then headed back to the cars, this time we had views of the power station, also got to see a lovely hawk. We took a couple of group photos and thanks to Jim and Denise we all had a fantastic day.



**End of another enjoyable walk**

# WALK PREVIEWS

## Walk Gradings

Distance	Hills	Track
<b>S</b> – Short < 10 km	<b>1 – 3</b> Easy Suitable for beginners	<b>1 – 3</b> Graded open terrain Well formed tracks/paths
<b>M</b> – Medium 10-15 km	<b>4 – 7</b> Medium Reasonable fitness required	<b>4 – 7</b> Bush, minor scrub Some rock hopping, scrambling
<b>L</b> – Long 15-20 km	<b>8 – 10</b> Hard Strenuous. Fit walkers only	<b>8 – 10</b> Bush, thick scrub, Rock hopping, Scrambling, Creek crossings, Use of hands
<b>X</b> – Extra Long >20 km		

### Scrubby Creek Mitchell River NP

**DATE: Sat 20th June**

**GRADE: S-6-8** (~ 6kms)

**MEET: Stratford @ 8:00am or Lindenow (opposite hotel @ 8:45am**

**LEADER: Ken Free – 5144 1195 or:**

[freestyle2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:freestyle2@optusnet.com.au)

Located on the eastern side of the Mitchell River, this loop walk will start at the junction of Adam Track and Scrubby Creek Track. We will follow Scrubby Creek Track (an old forestry track) to its end where we will scrub-bash our way downhill to the Mitchell River at a point approximately 1.5 kms downstream from where Woolshed Creek (the Den of Nargun creek) enters the River. From here we will follow the River downstream until we reach the spot where Scrubby Creek enters the River. We will follow Scrubby Creek upstream through glorious warm temperate rainforest gullies with overhanging rocky bluffs. After a lunchbreak in these delightful surroundings we will scrub-bash our way uphill to pick up the Scrubby Creek Track and return to our vehicles. Although this is a short walk, it will involve rock-hopping, scrub bashing through at times thick regrowth and probably wet boots. This is a walk for those who are fit, with a spirit of adventure and who are not afraid of clinging onto rocky outcrops while trying to get a footing on slippery slimy rocks along the creek bed.

### Golden Jubilee Dinner Duart Homestead, Maffra

**DATE: Saturday 27th June, 2015**

**GRADE: S-4-1** (< 1Km)

**MEET: Duart Homestead, Maffra @ 6:00pm**

[Refer to Page 14 for details of this event](#)

### Golden Jubilee Celebration Ben Cruachan Summit

**DATE: Sunday 28th June, 2015**

**GRADE: S-1-1** (< 2Km)

**MEET: Newry Recreation Reserve @ 10:30am**

**(Cnr Boisdale-Newry Rd & 3 Chain Rd nxt to Golf Club)**

[Refer to Page 14 for details of this event](#)

### Sale Wetlands Walk

**Date: Saturday 4th July**

**Grade: M-3-3 (Easy ~ 12 kms)**

**Meet: Swing Bridge @ 10 am**

**Contact: Wil Streckfuss – 5144 2183**

We follow the Flooding Creek Track that is level almost the whole way. There is always a variety of water- and other birds around to admire. Also further down the track near the river there are whistling kites and swamp harriers about with their nests high in the trees. And even during the driest part of summer there is a lot of greenery about, which makes this an ideal and easy hike.

Also on a Saturday afternoon the Swing Bridge opens at 2.30 pm. which is a little ceremony.

Contact: Wil Streckfuss – Ph 5144 2183.

# Walk Preview – Golden Jubilee Celebrations

**Date:** **Saturday 27 June 2015 - Dinner**

**Grade:** S-4-1

**Location:** Duart Homestead, 20 McLean Street, Maffra - Drinks at 6 pm for dinner at 6.30pm.

**Cost:** \$50 per person includes meal & souvenir mug. (Drinks at bar prices.)

**PAYMENT IN ADVANCE BY JUNE 19 REQUIRED PLEASE**

EFT: BSB: 013713 A/c 278934713 Please include surname as identifier

Cheque payable to 'Ben Cruachan Walking Club' posted to PO Box 70, Maffra 3860

**Leader:** **Andrew Stevenson - RSVP by 19 June 2015**

(03) 5147 2225 or 0417 972 831 or [awstevenson@hotmail.com](mailto:awstevenson@hotmail.com)

*Meet at 6 pm at Duart Homestead. After welcomes and placing of memorabilia on the display table, we will walk the short distance to the bar, and then meander our way around friends and displays ending at your seat in the dining room for dinner at 6.30 pm.*

## Main Course

Chicken breast stuffed with roasted capsicum, goat feta and pesto sauce (GF)

Or

Oven baked barramundi on kipfler potatoes, with avocado lime salsa (GF)

## Ben Cruachan Walking Club - This Is Your Life

With various people, including a founding member, remembering BCWC's life story

## Dessert

Flourless chocolate fudge cake with berries & white chocolate (GF)

Or

Hot apple crumble pie with vanilla bean ice cream.

And

Tea or coffee

**Date:** **Sunday 28 June 2015 – Ben Cruachan Summit BBQ**

**Grade:** S-1-1

**Meet:** 10.30 am Newry Recreation Reserve.

(cnr Boisdale – Newry Rd & Three Chain Rd – next to golf club)

*We will drive 20km along Millers Road to the base of Ben Cruachan, then either walk or drive 2 km to the summit by the 4WD track or the spur. Transport will be provided for those who do not have a 4WD and need a ride. We have plan B if weather does not allow this – but the meeting place and time will not change.*

**Cost:** NO COST - BYO meat, drinks, cup and eating utensils.

BCWC will provide coleslaw, potato salad, sauce, bread, tea, coffee, milk, sugar, plates

**Leader:** **Andrew Stevenson - RSVP by 19 June**

(03) 5147 2225 or 0417 972 831 or [awstevenson@hotmail.com](mailto:awstevenson@hotmail.com)

If you require [local accommodation](#) or a place to park your campervan or tent, email [anna-janca@bigpond.com](mailto:anna-janca@bigpond.com) who will match you up with local BCWC members who are happy to make a place available.



## Newlands Arm Walk

**Date: Wednesday 8th July**

**Grade: M-2-2 (well defined track)**

**Meet: Stratford Park @ 9:00 am**

**Contact: Wil Streckfuss – 5144 2183**

This walk follows the shore line at Newland's Arm near Paynesville and is a very pleasant stroll for those wanting to view a quite cul de sac of the Gippsland Lakes. There should be an abundance of bird life and if time permits we can visit Paynesville for a coffee to wrap up the day. Or alternatively take the ferry and count the many koala's at Raymond Island.

## XMAS in July

**Date: Sunday 26th July**

**Venue: Commercial Hotel Heyfield**

**Time: 12 Noon**

**Cost: \$30:00 per Person**

**RSVP: Wednesday 22nd July**

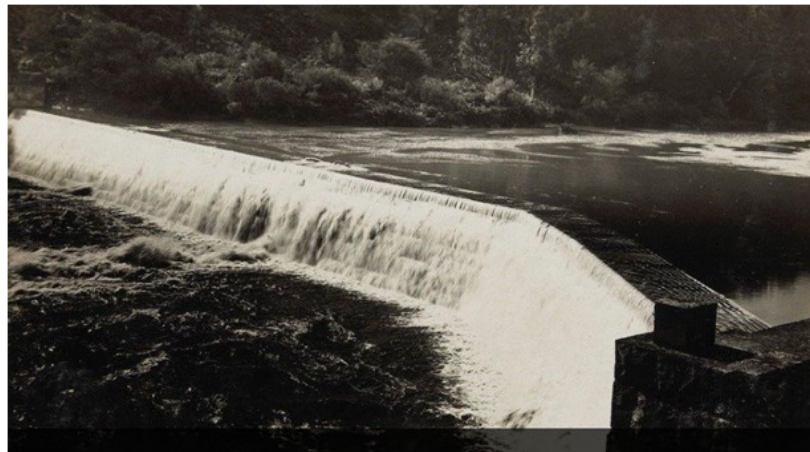
**Monica on 5144 6713 or email**

[joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com).

Hope to see you all for a great lunch and get together. If you can wear something relating to xmas. that would make it more festive. Please tether your rein-deers outside!

## PHOTO'S of the MONTH (Mitchell River Weir)

Then



and now



*Thanks to Ken Free for the historical photographs from Victoria State Library and to Mulga Bill for the more recent photo of The Mitchell River Weir. Completed in 1893 the Weir was damaged by floods later that same year and never repaired.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN  
BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB ACTIVITIES

To be completed by new and renewing members — see subscription form on the back

In voluntarily participating in any activities of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club, I am aware that my participation in these activities may expose me to risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss or damage to my property. Those risks may include, but are not limited to, slippery and/or uneven rocks, rocks being dislodged, cliffs, exposure to weather and white out conditions, falling, hypothermia and hyperthermia.

To minimize these risks I have endeavored to ensure that-

- (1) These activities are within my capabilities.
- (2) I am carrying food, water and equipment appropriate for these activities.
- (3) I have advised the activity leader if I am taking any medication or have any physical or any other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity.

I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during any activity and accept the instructions of the leader of the activity. I have read and understand these requirements. I have considered the risks before choosing to sign this acknowledgement of risk. I still wish to join these activities. I accept that in signing this form I will take responsibility for my own actions. This form must be lodged with the club treasurer or secretary when paying annual subscription.

NAME:	TELEPHONE:
ADDRESS:	
SIGNATURE:	DATE:

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC, PO Box 70, MAFFRA VIC 3860



Name: .....

Postal Address: .....

Email Address: .....

Phone: .....

Membership Type (circle) Family or Single

Month of Joining	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Single Membership</b>	\$42	\$39	\$36	\$33	\$30	\$27	\$24	\$21	\$18	\$15	\$12	\$9
<b>Family Membership</b>	\$54	\$50	\$46	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$26	\$22	\$18	\$14	\$10
<b>Newsletter Only</b>	\$20	Due on 1st April										

**2015/16 Membership Application / Renewal**

Please fill out the details on the reverse side of this form — thank you.

**EFT:BSB 013713: A/C 278934713: Ben Cruachan Walking Club:**

**When making payment please use Surname as the identifier and notify the Treasurer by email at: [jack@wbm.id.au](mailto:jack@wbm.id.au)**

## EMERGENCY CONTACT AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

This information is for emergency use only and is to be carried in your pack at all times in a sealed plastic envelope. It is your responsibility to update the information if there is a change in details.

NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE HOME:

MOBILE:

### Medical Information

MEDICAL CONDITION/S: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT MEDICATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

ALLERGIES: \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU HAVE CURRENT IMMUNIZATION AGAINST — TETANUS Y / N — HEPATITIS A Y / N — HEPATITIS B Y / N

MEDICARE NUMBER:

AMBULANCE COVER Y / N

PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND NAME:

### Emergency Contact

NAME:

HOME ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE HOME:

MOBILE:

RELATIONSHIP:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

**Privacy Statement:** The information contained on this form is for emergency use only and will be used if you are ill or injured whilst participating in an activity organized by the Ben Cruachan Walking Club. The information will only be accessed by the walk leader or their delegate and given to the relevant medical or emergency services personnel upon request.



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

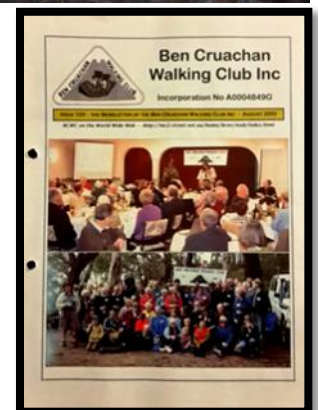
(50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION)

ISSUE 181 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - AUG 2015



Past & present members gather together for a group photo on top of Ben Cruachan

Photo: Jack Winterbottom



**Past and present members of BCWC gathered together to celebrate the clubs 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner at Duart Homestead on a Saturday night followed by a BBQ lunch on top of Ben Cruachan on Sunday. Special guests included Tony Walker, President of Bushwalking Victoria and Ron Kemp, one of our original foundation members who was inaugurated as a life member during the celebrations. Stephen Dwyer hosted a "This Is Your Life" segment at the dinner which allowed past members to share their memories with current club members. Check out the report on page 4 and photos on page 15.**

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



View North from the top of Ben Cruachan

Photo: Helmut Tracksdorf

**Club Postal Address — PO Box 70, Maffra 3860 — Incorporation No A0004849G**

[www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com](http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com)

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*BCWC - Celebrating 50 years of Bushwalking*

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2015 / 2016**

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~ Club News	4	<b>VICE PRES:</b>	<b>Margaret Beckett</b>	<b>5148 2237</b>
~ Bushwalking Victoria News	5	<b>SECRETARY:</b>	<b>Anna Janca</b>	<b>0419 178 445</b>
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		<b>NEWSLETTER:</b>	<b>Helmut Tracksdorf</b>	<b>5156 6763</b>
			<a href="mailto:helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com">helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com</a>	
		<b>WALKS CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	<b>Marian Matchan</b>	<b>0448 523 287</b>
			<a href="mailto:matcho01@bigpond.com">matcho01@bigpond.com</a>	
		<b>TRACKS &amp; HUTS:</b>	<b>Michael Dowe</b>	<b>5147 3075</b>
		<b>ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b>		
			<b>Joe van Beek</b>	<b>5176 5302</b>
			<b>Trish Marston</b>	<b>0409 656 332</b>
			<b>Chris Lockwood</b>	<b>5145 6549</b>
			<b>Chris Marshall</b>	<b>0499 780 399</b>
			<b>2 vacancies remain</b>	

**CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY 2ND MONTH (EXCL JANUARY)**

**NEXT MEETINGS: 12TH AUGUST, 7:30PM, MAFFRA VET CENTRE.**

**14TH OCTOBER, 7:30PM, BAIRNSDALE RSL (PRECEDED BY MEAL AT 6:00PM)**

***Welcome to our Newest Members:***

***Kate & Graeme Bills (Paynesville), Sue Davis (Bairnsdale), Dean & Trudi Clark (Bairnsdale)  
Hazel Martin (Sale), Heather Alexander (Longford), Jan Garner & Norm Mifsud (Johnsonville)  
Graeme Pilkington (Sale), Jo Huggins***

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# Presidential Ramblings

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## **BCWC PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 2015**

*I conducted my first meeting as president on July 8<sup>th</sup>, all went well with lots of matters to be discussed and decided on. It was decided to trial bi-monthly meetings, so please take note of dates and venues. We hope to have two meetings in Traralgon, Maffra and Bairnsdale.*

*Our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a great success with 62 attending the dinner at Duart, and approximately 70 having lunch on Ben Cruachan. We were blessed with a fabulous day weather wise, the sun shone and the views were spectacular.*

*Tony Walker President of Bush Walking Victoria attended both events and was impressed with how we managed the weekend so successfully.*

*A special thanks to Jack, Andrew, Anna and Veronica for all their organising skills.*

*Also to Gwenda Husson for making three beautiful fruit cakes for our event.*

*We will be having a walk program meeting to plan walks into next year, this will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October in Maffra. Please check the previews page for times.*

*See you on the track,*

*Monica Scieluna*



**"WHEN DID I FIRST START RAMBLING?  
WELL IT'S A LONG STORY....."**

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# Club News

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## BCWC Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 12th August** at the Maffra Vet Centre commencing at the **new time slot of 7:30pm**. The vet centre is located at 10 Johnson Str. Maffra. Members & guests are welcome.

## Revised Meetings Schedule

Please note that there will be a 6 month trial of Committee meetings starting at the earlier time slot of 7.30 pm and being held bimonthly rather than monthly. So please make sure you check the meeting schedule forwarded to members via email on the 13th July, as dates and meeting locations have changed.

## Golden Jubilee Celebrations Anniversary Dinner & BBQ on Ben Cruachan Summit

By all accounts the Anniversary dinner at Duart homestead went well with members and guests enjoying an excellent meal topped off with lashings of laughter and a look back at some great memories. Jack Winterbottom did a fantastic job with his film & slide show with interviews of past members such as John Smith ("Smithy") who was duly awarded an Order Of Australia medal for his submissions and commitment to the re-opening of McMillans track.



**Smithy during his interview with Jack  
(wearing Jewellers glasses to read his notes)**

Special guest, Tony Walker, the President of Bushwalking Victoria also spoke to the group, highlighting his direct association with the original Ben Cruachan back home in his native Scotland. We say "Croak-en" the Scots say "Krew-er-shan" (The Ed says "Crew-shan") And never the twain shall meet!

Stephen Dwyer had the group in stitches with his hosting of the BCWC "This is your life" segment and will no doubt be nominated for a Logie, for his performance. Ron Kemp one of our original foundation members was inducted as a life member of the club and it was also a privilege to have so many past members attending, such as Helene (Hele) Dennis, the 1st woman who joined BCWC back in '68, Sophie

Black, Manfred Jagielka, Ron Anderson, Ron Kemp, and many more. It was also good to see Mattie Lanigan wife of one of our foundation members (Clive) also in attendance, and looking sprightly as ever at 93.

The BBQ on top of Ben Crauchan got off to a great start with Helmut directing vehicles off on the wrong road. Understandable as he had never been here before! Fortunately this was quickly rectified and with most people choosing to walk up the 4WD track, eventually everyone arrived on top, on time, for lunch.

Jack Winterbottom had reced the summit a day earlier and set up the BBQ trailer which meant we had all the mod cons to provide a decent bash. Thanks must go to the organising committee for all their hard work and efforts to make the whole weekend such a success. After lunch we were able to take in the views from the summit of Ben Cruachan (refer page 2) and enjoy the perfect weather conditions that prevailed. At the end of the day we all gathered together under the BCWC banner for a group photo which officially brought an end to our 50th Anniversary proceedings. Check out the photo collage on page 15.

Thanks to the organising committee (Anna, Veronica, Andrew & Jack), to Gwenda Husson for her anniversary cakes and to all the other people who helped make the occasion such a memorable event.

## 2015 /2016 WALKS PROGRAM

On Sunday, 4 October, 2015, the club will hold a walk in Maffra followed by lunch and meeting at the Macalister Hotel. The meeting is to plan the walks program for 2016. A 'walk preview' will be prepared inviting all members to attend.

Joe Van Beek will be leading an end to end walk of McMillan Track to celebrate its' 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary from 30 October to 13 November.

The combined Gippsland walking clubs weekend is to be held over the weekend of 7 & 8 November, 2015 to coincide with the McMillan Track walk. BCWC is hosting the weekend and a working group needs to be convened to make this happen. Jack and Joe will be part of the working group, however, as they will be on the McMillan Track walk, it will be necessary for others to organise the weekend. The Sambain Chalet has been booked for the weekend, and a holding deposit needs to be paid.

## WEST COAST TRAIL

At the time of going to print, Piero Baglioni & Rose de Leeuw are walking the famous West Coast Trail located on Vancouver Island, Canada. We wish them well and hope they manage to avoid the bears that commonly inhabit the area. Give me snakes any day! Looks like we may need to organise a "slide" night upon their return



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# Bushwalking Victoria News

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## 2014/15 Annual Report

The Bushwalking Victoria Annual Report has now been published on the website at:

 <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/annual-report.html>

As the full report is a substantial document Bushwalking Victoria has produced a 2 page summary, available at:

 [2014\\_2015 Annual Report Overview.pdf](#)

## Grampians Peaks Trail

### Stage 1

The official opening of the GPT took place in May at the Mt Rosea carpark and was attended by the Premier with other dignitaries and guests. Stage 1 of the trail was the construction of a three-day, two-night, 36km loop walk around Halls Gap, from the Mount Rosea camping area to the Bugiga campsite and then Borough Huts.

If you haven't visited the Grampians, then you haven't experienced some of Victoria's best hiking country. Put it on your bucket list!

## FEDWALK Weekend 2015

Registration for FEDWALK 2015 opened on **Monday 15th June**. The event is being hosted by Bayside Bushwalking Club and the Great Dividing Trail Association.

There are 20 walks to choose from each day in the Daylesford, Hepburn Springs and Goldfields area. Walk sheets and maps are available on the Federation Walks website at:

<http://www.fedwalks.org.au/2015-walks.html>

Please note that registrations close on **Tuesday 15th September**, so book early in order to avoid disappointment.

## Tread Softly

*Tread Softly* is the second public brochure produced in the last 12 months by the Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) committee with Bushwalking Victoria's new branding. The first publication was *Make Tracks for Conservation*, which was first issued November last year and reissued in February this year to promote BTAC volunteer activities to clubs and make the public aware of these activities.

The new edition of *Tread Softly* (May 2015) is a code of practice to conserve the natural environment in protected areas. It's not about the comfort of and enjoyment by bushwalkers. Nor is it about the structures and artefacts in the areas we walk in, respecting land managers or treating other users with consideration, all of which are very important, but belong in a broader code of bushwalking etiquette.

A copy of *Tread Softly* can be found at:

<http://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/brochures.html>

## Communication for Bushwalkers



BWV produces a range of brochures & pamphlets to keep bushwalkers informed.

The following manual has been prepared to allow bushwalkers in Victoria to make an informed choice on communication systems suitable for their use in the bush.

Check out the following link:

[http://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/files/Communications\\_for\\_Bushwalkers.pdf](http://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/files/Communications_for_Bushwalkers.pdf)

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# WALK REPORTS

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## Golden Jubilee Walk # 26

### Roaring Mag Falls Mitchell River NP

**DATE:** Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June

**LEADER:** Helmut Tracksdorf

**REPORT:** Piero Baglioni

**Walkers:** *Marian Matchan, Jenny Green, Sue Hides, Ken Free, Jenny Wolswinkel, Jackie Whiting, Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Monica Scicluna, Corinne Kleine, Trish Marston, Anna Janca, Helmut Tracksdorf*

On a chilly winter's morning, 13 hardy souls arrived at the revised meeting point of Lindenow. For those that had travelled the scant 30 km from Eagle Point, it was breath taking to emerge from thick fog to brilliant sunshine.

The usual formalities ensued, visitors were introduced, monies changed hands, and Helmut did his best tour guide impersonation, giving everyone a detailed description of the day's walk. The drive to the start of the walk is along a well formed dirt track following some spectacular ridges and some equally less spectacular logging coups.

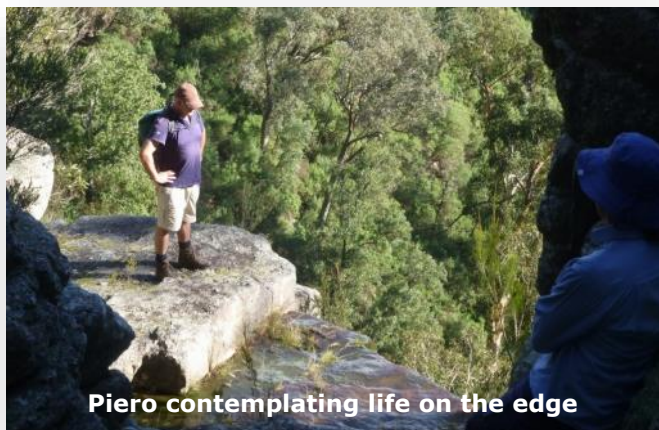
The walkers assembled at Roaring mag track and after a leisurely stroll arrived at the second water point, where what was previously a bush bash to the escarpment embracing Roaring Mag creek, is now a stroll following a more or less defined pad with pink ribbons tied to trees at convenient intervals to show the way.

Helmut's explorative nature led us to the further end of the escarpment to see if we could spot a route to the bottom of the chasm (look out for this on a future walks program). Everyone climbed back to the top of the ridge overlooking the falls where we had morning tea. Unfortunately Mag was quiet on this particular day with only a whisper of water flowing over the edge.



Morning tea at Roaring Mag

The group moved on through two gullies on a well cleared and defined track until the creek was reached. There was very little water as expected but it did give the hardy few an opportunity to climb to the edge of the head of the falls allowing spectacular views to the Mitchell river.



Piero contemplating life on the edge

After climbing out of the creek, the group assembled above the chasm on the opposite side to where morning tea had been taken an hour previously and everyone settled on rocks gently heated by the sun to have lunch. The walk resumed up the ridge, again following the pink ribbons, sometimes having to cut the route through thick dogwood. Luckily it is not in flower at this time of year. The group soon reached Sandy Creek Tk and followed this back to the main road and the cars. As a side trip we decided to continue along the road to explore the 2 sisters and then drove back to Adam's track where we had views of the Mitchell weir from the eastern side of the river.



Group above Mitchell Weir

The group then drove back to Lindenow, stopping to pick up some wood which had conveniently fallen off someone's trailer and after saying good bye, drove home. Thanks to Helmut for organising such beautiful weather in winter and for going that extra mile to value add a walk which has become a favourite on the BCWC calendar.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 27

### Scrubby Creek Mitchell River NP

**DATE:** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June

**LEADER:** Ken Free

**REPORT:** Peter Jennings

**Walkers:** *Kevin Lakeman, Trish Marston, Chris Marshall, Nicki & Peter Jennings, Graeme & Kate Bills, Rob & Josie Paterson, Jackie Whiting, Marian Matchan, Rhonda Roberts, Anna Janca, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Susan Davis, Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Helmut Tracksdorf, Ken Free.*

Near the winter solstice it can be very dark and cold at 6am and so it was as Nicki and I rose, breakfasted and headed off to Stratford for the first rendezvous; then on to Lindenow to collect the rest of the team of 19. Once assembled, a convoy headed off to Mitchell River National Park and by 10am we were underway with a short walk down a forestry track to the Mitchell River.

Eventually the track ran out and we bush-bashed down to the river following a trail previously marked by Ken, Marian and Marjorie. The recent rains had made the going a little slippery and it was no surprise to see the Mitchell swollen as it came into view; there was a consensus that rafting or kayaking would be a hoot; but we were on the lookout (or listen-out) for a different kind of hoot – that of the Sooty Owl that inhabits this area.

A short trek downstream, at times under dripping, conglomerate cliffs brought us to a pretty waterfall near the mouth of Scrubby Creek and the beginning of the 'real' adventure; but before we start, let's have morning tea! Muesli bars, chocolate bars, scroggin, fruit, juice, water and hot tea (yes, Chris had a thermos) all consumed.

Ken and Piero led off with a scramble over the head of a fallen tree across the creek. By the time tail-end Charlottes (Marian and Marjorie) got to cross, it was a well worn thoroughfare – some have it easy don't they!

We trekked, scrambled, slid, shimmied and walked up a wonderful little gorge with more of those conglomerate cliffs and dripping overhangs; rocks covered with a lush carpet of moss; under trees laden with dangling vines and lichen; through ferns and all variety of fungi; a pristine, ancient environment with no sign of modern intervention..... except the cow bone found by Helmut; or was it a dinosaur bone? And oops! the 2-way radio that was plucked from the water and became a no-way radio.



**Helmut showing Marian & Marjorie the dinosaur? bone**

A grassy clearing beside the creek was an ideal spot for lunch; some bodies were steaming in the still, cold air and seats in the sun were much sought after. Ken took the mandatory group photo and it was off, up the hill to re-join the forestry track then a short walk back to the cars. Plans were made for coffee at the Lindenow Café where we debriefed and gave the proprietors their best Saturday afternoon trade in years.



**Group photos and view of Scrubby Creek**

Many thanks to Rob, Ken (The Sheik), Marian and Marjorie for suggesting, organising and reconnoitring a walk accurately described in the Preview as:

*A walk for those who are fit, with a spirit of adventure and who are not afraid of clinging onto rocky outcrops while trying to get a footing on slippery slimy rocks along the creek bed.*

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 28 Sale Wetlands

**DATE:** Sat 4th July

**LEADER:** Wil Streckfuss

**REPORT:** Carolyn Raymond

**Walkers:** Oliver & Carolyn Raymond, Monica Scicluna, Anna Janca, Ken Free, Marian Matchan, Jack Winterbottom, Jackie Whiting, Heather Alexander, Kevin Lakeman, Wil Streckfuss

On a cool cloudy morning 11 walkers met at the Swing Bridge, just out of Longford. We welcomed two possible new members who were very enthusiastic about being out in the bush walking together.

We followed the river down towards Lake Wellington and then branched off, walking along a bank between Flooding Creek and the sale Common. The Common has many pools and water ways. There were small groups of swans and ducks feeding. Beyond Flooding Creek the river runs on towards Lake Wellington. We kept stopping to look at the magnificent old red gums, gnarled and amazingly patterned by shredded bark.



*One of the many magnificent red gums*

We walked along a walk-way into a bird hide which had been largely destroyed by vandals lighting fires. The track then took us across a board walk which took us over a swamp, so we could see the plant life from above. Lunch was at the start of the section of the track recently rebuilt. This was in no small part due to the generosity of John Leslie a local business man.

This part of the track is now accessible for everyone, including those on scooters. We returned to the Swing Bridge walking through extensive wetlands. We saw many different types of water birds, some in great numbers. There were swans, many sorts of ducks, swamp hens and the occasional bird of prey. Jack Winterbottom was monitoring the numbers of birds, and at times it was in the hundreds.

Wil has led this walk several times before. It is always a delight to walk along these paths, threading your way between the many bodies of water that make up the wetlands. Thank you Wil. You are an inspiration to us all.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 29 Newlands Arm

**DATE:** Wednesday 8th July

**LEADER:** Wil Streckfuss

**REPORT:** Ken Free

**Walkers:** Wil Streckfuss, Kath Johnson, Helmut Tracksdorf, Noel Burrows and Ken Free

On a sunny winter's day well suited for a relaxing walk by the lakeside, 5 of us met at the boat ramp at Newlands Arm. We were joined by 2 ladies from Bairnsdale who had heard about the club's walks and had come along to have a 'look see'. They left us part way through the walk but may be interested in future walks.

While Noel and Helmut organised a car shuffle, the rest of us took a short walk around Dawson's Cove to the point where we had great views across the water to Paynesville, seemingly only a stone's throw away.

Once we had our full compliment of walkers we headed off along the foreshore track and marvelled at the millpond appearance of the lake intermittently broken by arrivals and departures of pelicans, swans, ducks and seagulls. Noel, our resident Newland's Arm guide, gave us an informative talk on the construction and ongoing maintenance of the walking track which is essentially a community initiative with some support from council for facilities like picnic tables. The eventual aim is to extend the walking track so that it will be possible to follow the shoreline all the way to Paynesville.

After a pleasant lunch stop at a picnic area complete with recently refurbished toilet, we ambled on to the end of the Arm where Forge Creek enters and Helmut's car was patiently waiting to transport us back to our starting point at Dawson's Cove.



*The group at Forge Creek, Newlands Arm*

We finished the day in grand fashion with afternoon tea on the deck at Noel and Janice Burrows stunning home with equally stunning garden. Every walk should end this way!

Thanks Wil for a very relaxing mid-week walk.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 30 Corner Creek—Pearsons Point

### Avon-Mt Hedrick Scenic Reserve

**DATE:** Saturday 11th July

**LEADER:** Jack Winterbottom

**REPORT:** Marian Matchan

**Walkers:** Jack Winterbottom, Helmut Tracksdorf, Anna Janca, Susan Davis, Stephen Fletcher, Oliver Raymond, Kevin Lakeman, Graham Pilkington, Michael Dowe, Marian Matchan

The weather was superb as 9 walkers headed for Pearson's Point. We started off along an old 4WD track, passing massive silver top gums, red box, blue gums and white stringy trees until we came across Corner Creek. A lovely little stone filled creek trickling over mossy rocks surrounded by small ferns overlooked by massive rock formations.



For the next couple of kms the track zig zagged across the creek at least a dozen times as we ambled along the damp gully filled with ferns and moss before we turned and headed through the, at times, thick bush with regrowth of small wattle trees returning from a fire that hit the area some years earlier. We saw evidence of Sambar deer in the area and heard an array of birds like the very noisy Gang Gang and Sulphur crested Cockatoos. We spotted other more timid bird-life like Brown Thornbills, Kookaburra and Eastern Rosellas along the way.

As we reached our lunch spot at Pearson's Point the bush opened up to a rocky lookout and we began to get magnificent views looking across to Lake

Glenmaggie and the Macalister irrigation district. We could see Ben Cruachan, Gable End, Mt Wellington, Mt Usefull and Mt Hedrick. After lunch we began our journey back to the cars along a 4 WD track. The weather began to deteriorate and we had to reach for our rain-coats, but fortunately this was only a passing shower and we soon discarded them. Shortly thereafter we were back at the cars at our starting point. Overall we had covered 9.3kms.

It was then all back to Maffra for coffee and a chat. It was nice to have Stephen & Graham join our regular group of walkers. A big thankyou to Jack for organizing this walk.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 31 Billy Goat Bend to Angusvale Mitchell River NP

**DATE:** Saturday 18th July

**LEADER:** Ken Free

**REPORT:** Helmut Tracksdorf (The Ed)

**Walkers:** Corinne Kleine, Nicki & Peter Jennings, Jo Huggins, Trish Marston, Ann & Frankie MacLennan, Chris Marshall, Ken Free, Jan Garder, Dean & Trudie Clark, Jack Winterbottom, Gayle Biddenback, Leigh & Rhonda Roberts, Helmut Tracksdorf, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Susan Davis, Anna Janca.

According to the preview the plan was to walk from Billy Goat Bend to Angusvale which is about 12kms. So how did it come to pass that we barely walked 2km and found ourselves up a creek without a paddle, although a kayak and a paddle would have come in handy on this walk!

Winding the clock back, 20 hardy souls gathered at the Beverley Rd intersection around the designated time of 8:45am and after registrations, the handing out of maps and an introduction to bush etiquette by Ken we headed off at 9:20am to Billy Goat Bend in a convoy of 7 cars. After arriving at Billy Goat Bend at 9:50am we had to complete a car shuffle by driving all 7 vehicles around to Angusvale then returning with 2 vehicles. The shuffle took 1.5hrs to complete, meaning the morning was almost gone.

However, within 5 minutes we were off and on the track stopping within the 1<sup>st</sup> 100metres for a photo opportunity at the viewing platform with its spectacular view of the Mitchell River and the Amphitheatre.



A sign at the start of the track indicated Angusvale was 6hrs away! Which suggested we would be finishing the walk around 5:00pm

The walk heads off in a northerly direction and initially hugs the rim of the Amphitheatre which gives great views of the Mitchell river rapids below. The floor of the amphitheatre is strewn with large angular boulders that have tumbled down from the high cliffs above, over the millennia.

The track rapidly descends the heights of Billy Goat Bend and drops off into a small creek which is easily negotiated and then the track begins to zig zag its

way back up another spur which leads away from the river. One of our party stepped off the track for a photo opportunity, but unfortunately did not advise any of the other walkers. It was at this point that one of the golden rules of bushwalking was broken. Let someone know if and when you intend to leave the track!

This episode resulted in a 15minute delay while members commenced a quick search for the missing walker. Fortunately he turned up unexpectedly ahead of the group after taking a "shortcut" back to the main track. The individual concerned shall remain nameless but you may know him as The Ed! I can assure you he has learnt from his mistake and apologises for his "lapse of sanity"

During the car shuffle we crossed the headwaters of Cobbannah Creek and it was noted there was a significant amount of water in the creek. During the week prior to this walk, up to 100mm of rain had fallen across the region and there was a possibility that we would get wet feet crossing the creek where it connects with the Mitchell River, 2 km north of Billy Goat Bend.

Upon reaching Cobbannah Creek our worst fears were realised. The water level was definitely higher than anticipated and it was not wet feet that was the issue. It was whether we should swim across OR turn around! After scouting upstream to check if it was possible to cross, we came to the realisation that Cobbannah Creek was not going to let us pass today! It was too wide, too deep and too difficult on this occasion! Hence it was decided to have lunch on the banks of Cobbannah Creek which was bathed in sun.



Thereafter we slowly wandered back the way we came and took up the opportunity of admiring the views of Amphitheatre once again. Unfortunately most of our cars were at Angusvale, which meant most of the walkers had to wait for another 1.5 hrs before they could head home.

All in all we had only covered approx. 4km and the time of 2:30pm suggested the original 12km would have proved challenging. Nevertheless there was a sense that we had been given a glimpse of the challenge ahead and the great potential for adventure along the way.

Thanks to Ken for leading another great (albeit short) walk and for putting up with a jay walker in the group.

# WALK PREVIEWS

## Walk Gradings

Distance	Hills	Track
<b>S</b> – Short < 10 km	<b>1 – 3</b> Easy Suitable for beginners	<b>1 – 3</b> Graded open terrain Well formed tracks/paths
<b>M</b> – Medium 10-15 km	<b>4 – 7</b> Medium Reasonable fitness required	<b>4 – 7</b> Bush, minor scrub Some rock hopping, scrambling
<b>L</b> – Long 15-20 km	<b>8 – 10</b> Hard Strenuous. Fit walkers only	<b>8 – 10</b> Bush, thick scrub, Rock hopping, Scrambling, Creek crossings, Use of hands
<b>X</b> – Extra Long >20 km		

### NOOJEE TRESTLE BRIDGE

#### TOORONGA & AMPHITHEATRE FALLS

**DATE:** Saturday 1st August  
**MEET:** Traralgon, Macca's Carpark @ 8:00 am  
**GRADE:** **S – 3 – 3**  
**DISTANCE:** Various (total of ~ 10 kms)  
**LEADER:** Ken Free -- 5144 1195 or  
[freestyle2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:freestyle2@optusnet.com.au)

This collection of short walks will require a longish drive west from Traralgon to get to the start point. We turn off the highway near Warrigal and after a pleasant drive across lush rolling hills we'll pass through the sleepy village of Noojee before reaching the start of our walks to the Toorong and Amphitheatre Falls. The sign at the start of the Falls loop walk describes this area as one of the most beautiful and wettest parts of Victoria with mossy rocks, tree ferns and a lot of water! We will then drive a short distance to undertake the Noojee Trestle Bridge and Rail Trail walk, a pleasant 3 kilometre walk along the original railway route. For keen photographers the trestle bridge offers endless possibilities for spectacular and quirky shots with interesting structural details and perspectives. For lunch, we have the option of the Outpost Bistro near Noojee. Given time there are a range of other short walks in the area.



### RAIL TRAIL

#### TINAMBA TO HEYFIELD & RETURN

**DATE:** Wednesday 5th August  
**MEET:** Rail Trail at Tinamba @ 8:30 am  
**GRADE:** **L – 3 – 1** (well defined track)  
**DISTANCE:** ~ 20km  
**LEADER:** Chris Marshall - 0499 780 399

This is a long walk on the rail trail between Tinamba and Heyfield. The trail cuts through the country for approximately 2/3 of the way so it is more peaceful than other parts of the trail that run next to the road. The trail is well formed with no steep hills but it is around a 25 km round trip by car but as the trail cuts off a corner, it may end up somewhere just under 20 km. Pack a picnic lunch or pick up something at the cafe in Heyfield.

### WALHALLA RAIL TRAIL

**DATE:** Wednesday 12th August  
**MEET:** Behind Tyers Kindergarten @ 9:00 am  
**GRADE:** **S – 2 – 2** (Easy)  
**LEADER:** Wil Streckfuss - 5144 2183 or  
**Email:** [wil.str@bigpond.com](mailto:wil.str@bigpond.com)

We drive the road towards Rawson, but before that we turn right towards Walhalla.

We park the cars at the junction and there we do a car shuffle. We leave at least one car at the junction and also a car at the Thomson Valley Station.

At the end of the walk we drive to Walhalla to visit this historic town.

## WINTER WONDERLAND TALI KARNG VIA MAC SADDLE

**DATE:** Sat 15th - Sun 16th August  
**GRADE:** L - 8 - 3  
**MEET:** Heyfield info centre  
**TIME:** 8:00am  
**LEADER:** Veronica Dwyer - 0439 657 123

Please note this 2 day walk predominantly traverses sub alpine terrain which means weather conditions could change at short notice and cold nights are expected. Walkers will need to be well prepared for any eventuality including snow.

From McFarlanes saddle we head out across the wellington plains and if conditions are good MAY be able to continue thru to Tali Karng. If not then we will camp near Millers Hut. Please note this walk involves some steep pinches and requires walkers to be able bodied and fit. Especially on the return journey from Tali Karng. In the event of snow, this walk will be a winter wonderland with spectacular scenery to boot.

**NB:** This walk will be subject to a review of weather conditions

## RAIL TRAIL MIRBOO NORTH TO BOOLARRA

**DATE:** Wednesday 26th August  
**GRADE:** M - 1 - 1  
**MEET:** At start of Rail Trail where it intersects with Strzelecki Hwy, at Mirboo North  
**TIME:** 9:30am  
**LEADER:** Jim Stranger - 5191 8312

This one-way walk follows the rail trail through pleasant forested and farming country from Mirboo North to Boolarra.

## MITCHELL RIVER NP DEN OF NARGUN TO OLD WEIR SITE

**DATE:** Saturday 29th August  
**GRADE:** M - 6 - 3  
**DISTANCE:** ~ 10 kms  
**MEET:** Stratford @ 8:00am or Beverleys Rd @ 8:45am  
**LEADER:** Ken Free - 5144 1195

Starting at the Den of Nargun carpark, we will walk downstream on an old track for about 5 kilometres to the site of the ill-fated weir which was constructed in the 1800's and collapsed before its official opening. This is one of Victoria's great rivers and there'll be plenty of time to investigate native flora and seek out great photo opportunities, particularly for those interested in the quirky history of this place. Following lunch at this fascinating and peaceful place, we will return along the same track. The walk will be a total of 10 kilometres.



Anna, Rob, Josie & Marion on the weir wall

## MT HEDRICK - ROUND HILL

**DATE:** Saturday 5th September  
**GRADE:** M - 7 - 7  
**MEET:** Newry Recreation Reserve @ 9:30am  
**LEADER:** Jack Winterbottom - 0408 411 079  
Or email: [jack@wbm.id.au](mailto:jack@wbm.id.au)

This walk takes us through some pleasant, relatively lightly wooded countryside. After meeting, we shall motor up Rautman's Road to where we will leave our cars at the junction of the 4WD track to Pearson's Point. We shall walk down to Corner Creek, turn right and walk up the creek a few kms until the point at which we will bush bash up to the Mt Hedrick Track and have an early-ish lunch with the views of the Alps. After that, it is bush bashing all the way back to the cars via Round Hill - a distance of about 2.5 kms. Water will need to be carried and it is a fairly strenuous walk with three steep pitches and two short sections of [almost] impenetrable bush.

## HOLEY PLAINS STATE PARK

**DATE:** Saturday 16th September  
**GRADE:** S - 2 - 2  
**DISTANCE:** ~ 6 kms  
**MEET:** Rosedale @ 9:00am, in carpark near pedestrian crossing  
**LEADER:** Ken Free - 5144 1195  
Or email: [freestyle2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:freestyle2@optusnet.com.au)

The Holey Plains State Park is located between Rosedale and Sale south of the Princes Highway and has a labyrinth of walking tracks. We will undertake 3 or 4 walks of relatively short duration with the opportunity to see a wide variety of native plants and if we're lucky, some of the wallabies, emus and echidnas which inhabit the Park. The plant species include eucalypts, wattles, tea-trees, banksias, bush peas and around 25 species of orchids.



## MITCHELLEDALE EXPLORATION CAR CAMP WEEKEND

**DATE:** Friday 2nd/Sat 3rd/Sun 4th October  
**MEET:** At locked gate on Angusvale access road, at times arranged with leaders  
**GRADE:** S - 5 - 4 and S - 4 - 4  
**DISTANCE:** 7 kilometres & 6 kilometres  
**LEADERS:** Ken Free 5144 1195 or [freestyle2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:freestyle2@optusnet.com.au)  
Rob Paterson 5156 9442 or [robjp56@gmail.com](mailto:robjp56@gmail.com)



Parks Victoria has generously granted the Ben Cruachan Walking Club access to Mitchelldale on the Northern end of the Mitchell River National Park; an area identified on some topographical maps as "Scott's Farm". This is a once off opportunity to camp at and explore this unique property and is only available to financial members of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club. There are basic facilities available on site including a toilet, fire pit and good access to the river, there is no phone coverage at the camp site.

It is planned to camp over on the Friday and Saturday nights, with walks on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's walk will start at 10.00am allowing for participants who arrive on Saturday morning. The Sunday walk will start at 9.00am to allow for an early afternoon departure.

**Access to the property:** Access to the property will be from Friday afternoon and participants will need to make prior arrangements with the leaders to ensure that the access gate is re-locked. The vehicle access to the property is via an old farm road (approx 3.2 kms) which is not suitable for conventional vehicles; however late model Subaru Foresters and similar have sufficient ground clearance; 'serious' 4WD vehicles won't have a problem, although the track is rough and rutted in places. Please liaise with the leaders about carpooling arrangements if you don't have a suitable vehicle. It is not recommended to leave vehicles at the Angusvale Road as their security cannot be guaranteed.

**The Walks:** Saturday's walk will leave from the camp and follow a ridge-line west to the highest point on the property, then follow another ridge north down to the river. We will return to camp via an old vehicle track. Short 7 kms, grade 5 - 4.

Sunday's walk will leave from camp and follow some old tracks and return along several river-flats. Short 6 kms grade 4 - 4.

Great views are guaranteed for both walks!

## MAFFRA WETLANDS WALK & 2016 WALKS PROGRAM PLANNING

**DATE:** Sunday 11th October  
**GRADE:** S - 2 - 2  
**MEET:** Macalister Hotel @ 10:00am  
**LEADER:** Andrew Stevenson - (Walk)  
Marian Matchan (Meeting)

Join us for a pleasant walk along the Macalister River and the Maffra wetlands. The walk is on gravel track and duckboards, there will be birds aplenty so don't forget your camera. After the walk we will adjourn to the Macalister Hotel for lunch and then we will have a planning meeting for the 2016 walks program.

If you have a favorite walk or activity, why not put it on our program so that we can all share. If you can't get to the meeting give Marian your proposed walks beforehand on [matcho01@bigpond.com](mailto:matcho01@bigpond.com)

## WILSONS PROMONTORY WEEKEND

**DATE:** Friday 16th - Sunday 18th October  
**LEADER:** Monica Scicluna - 5144 6713  
Or 0439 614 544  
email: [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com)

We have booked a 12 sleeper lodge for the two nights. If this is full you can organise your own tent site or bring your own caravan also the prom has other accommodation the phone no. is 131963 or email: [info@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@parks.vic.gov.au).

We normally head off Friday morning and try to do a walk before we can get into the lodge at 4pm. On Saturday we will do a full day walk (this is to be decided), or some may decide to do a short walk or just relax. Sunday after packing up we will do a walk on the way out of the prom for those that are interested and then venture home.

Contact the leader if you would like to come as we may have vacancies in the lodge or decide on the alternatives.

# Historical Walk Report

## Ben Cruachan to Gog & Magog

### (Sept 1984)

#### WALK REPORT

The first two-day walk of the Ben Cruachan Walking club for 1984/85 was held on September 15/16. The walk was in the Ben Cruachan area and seven people participated.

A car shuffle was necessary, as the walk started at the top of Ben Cruachan and finished at the foot of a spur coming down from Magog.

Early morning views from the top of Ben Cruachan were spectacular, looking out over the mountains to the North and West. After taking in the views, the walk commenced by plunging into the scrub and following a spur running east from Ben Cruachan. This spur also gave the walkers lovely views of the mountains and also there were many wild flowers to be seen, magnificent after the recent rain.

The walk continued on to Little Ben and then down a steep spur, thick with undergrowth, to a small grassed clearing along a creek, which was a perfect camp site. Camp was made early and there was plenty of time for relaxing and chatting around the camp fire.

Next morning, after crossing the creek, the walkers headed up a spur towards a peak called Gog. After a two and a half hour climb, the top was reached and the party relaxed at the top, while being able to look out over the flats toward Maffra and Sale, and also back towards the mountains. After Gog, the next peak to be reached was Magog. Here everyone stopped for lunch, the party headed down a very scrubby spur to the road where the cars had been left, where there was time to relax before picking up the other car at the top of Ben Cruachan. Everyone then headed home after a very enjoyable weekend's walk.

Garry Medew.....Walk Leader.



This walk report submitted by Garry Medew was published in BCWC Newsletter No 2, issued back in 1984 (pictured left). Although the BCWC club was inaugurated in 1965, the publication of newsletters only commenced in 1984.

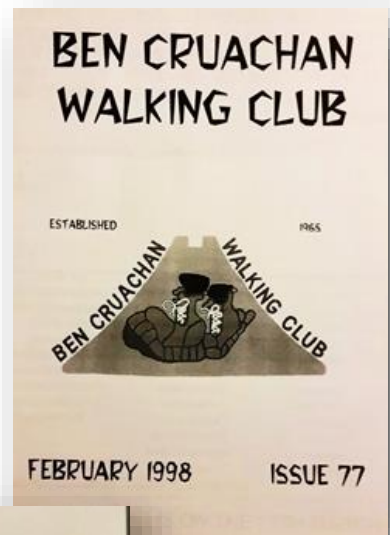
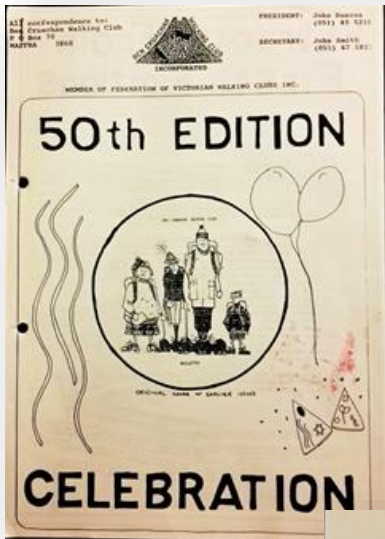
# Golden Jubilee Celebrations

## DUART HOMESTEAD



## BEN CRUACHAN





EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS BCWC NEWSLETTERS  
Including 40th Anniversary edition—Aug 2005(Centre)



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 182 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - OCT 2015



Dean, Trudi, Louise, Andrew, Trevor, Jo, Corinne and Carolyn at Toorong Falls (Photo: Ken Free)

***What better way to explore a rainforest than to tackle it on a cold and drizzly day? Ten adventurous walkers travelled in convoy to the small village of Noojee, nestled in the hills north of Warrigal to explore waterfalls and the historic Noojee Trestle Bridge. Recent rains meant the waterfalls were at their peak with plenty of water cascading down over large boulders into lush fern gullies. The wet weather certainly didn't dampen their adventurous spirit. Check out the full report and photos on page 6.***

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



Ben Cruachan at sunset as seen from Briagolong

Photo: Jessie Walker

**Club Postal Address — PO Box 70, Maffra 3860 — Incorporation No A0004849G**  
[www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com](http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com)

## IN THIS ISSUE

*BCWC - Celebrating 50 years of Bushwalking*

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2015 / 2016**

~ President's Report	3	<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Monica Scicluna</b>	<b>5144 6713</b>
			<a href="mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com">joe.monica@hotmail.com</a>	
		<b>VICE PRES:</b>	<b>Margaret Beckett</b>	<b>5148 2237</b>
~ Club News	4	<b>SECRETARY:</b>	<b>Anna Janca</b>	<b>0419 178 445</b>
			<a href="mailto:secbcwc@gmail.com">secbcwc@gmail.com</a>	
		<b>TREASURER:</b>	<b>Jack Winterbottom</b>	<b>5143 0903</b>
~ Bushwalking Victoria News	5	<b>PUBLICITY:</b>	<b>Piero Baglioni</b>	<b>5156 7034</b>
			<a href="mailto:pbaglioni@bigpond.com">pbaglioni@bigpond.com</a>	
		<b>NEWSLETTER:</b>	<b>Helmut Tracksdorf</b>	<b>5156 6763</b>
			<a href="mailto:helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com">helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com</a>	
~ Walk Reports	6 - 11	<b>WALKS CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	<b>Marian Matchan</b>	<b>0448 523 287</b>
			<a href="mailto:matcho01@bigpond.com">matcho01@bigpond.com</a>	
		<b>TRACKS &amp; HUTS:</b>	<b>Michael Dowe</b>	<b>5147 3075</b>
~ Walk Previews	12 - 14	<b>ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b>		
			<b>Joe van Beek</b>	<b>5176 5302</b>
			<b>Trish Marston</b>	<b>0409 656 332</b>
			<b>Chris Lockwood</b>	<b>5145 6549</b>
			<b>Chris Marshall</b>	<b>0499 780 399</b>

**CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH (EXCL JANUARY)**

**NEXT MEETING: 14TH OCTOBER, 7:30PM, THE BAIRNSDALE CLUB (PRECEDED BY MEAL AT 6:00PM)**

**9TH DECEMBER, 7:30PM, MAFFRA VET CENTRE, 10 JOHNSON STREET**

*Welcome to our Newest Member*  
*Julie Cattanach (Johnsonville)*

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# Presidential Ramblings

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**OCTOBER 2015**

*At our August meeting in Maffra the committee decided to buy two new 5 watt walkie talkies, so that the communication range between the walk leader and the tail end whip would be clearer.*

*Anna and her team have been very busy working on updating our website, this will be up and running soon. We look forward to seeing the new face of BCWC soon.*

*Congratulations to Philip Davis, who has been appointed secretary of BWV. Philip a former Victorian Upper House member for East Gippsland will be actively engaged in reviewing and improving Bushwalking Victoria's information management processes. As such he will be able to liaise between our club and BWV with any issues that we may have.*

*I would like to remind all members to carry their Emergency Contact & Medical Information form in their pack when walking. This is an important document and could prove invaluable during an emergency event.*

*Now that Spring has sprung, we have hats, badges and mugs for sale, so if you would like to purchase any items contact Jack Winterbottom. Consider it a Spring Sale!*

*The combined Gippsland Walking Club weekend is scheduled from the 6th – 8th November 2015, so if you are interested in coming don't leave your registrations to the last minute, you could miss out, a big thank you to Joe Van Beek and his team in organising this special occasion. Check out the Invitation on Page 4 and Preview on page 13.*

*We also wish Joe and his fellow walkers who are tackling the 220km of McMillan's track by walking from end to end from 30th October to 12th November a great and safe journey.*

*We will be having a CPR refresher course at my place in Fulham on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at a cost of \$60 per person. We are hoping to get \$25 per person back from BWV through a grant, but this not guaranteed. So if you are interested contact me.*

*We will also be having our annual Walks Program meeting to plan our walks into next year, this will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October in Maffra, please check the preview on Page 13 for times.*

*Hope to see you all at our Xmas lunch on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December. Preview page 14.*

*See you on the track, or at our next meeting in Bairnsdale.*

*Monica Scieluna*



**"WILLY HERE WILL BE OUR GUIDE, AND ACCORDING TO HIM, THIS SHORT WALK SHOULD TAKE ABOUT 3 MONTHS..."**

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# Club News

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## BCWC Committee Meeting

**Please note** the next Committee meeting will be on **October 14** in Bairnsdale. The usual venue, the RSL, is not available, so the meeting will be held at the **Bairnsdale Club, located at 68 Nicholson Street**, (off the mall, opposite Woolworths). They have a meeting room that is available at no cost. The booking is for **6 pm dinner, then 7.30** for the meeting. Members & guests welcome.

## 2015 /2016 WALKS PROGRAM

On Sunday, 4 October, 2015, the club will hold a walk in Maffra followed by lunch and meeting at the Macalister Hotel. The meeting is to plan the walks program for 2016. A 'walk preview' has been prepared inviting all members to attend. Check out the preview on page 13.

## Invitation

Ben Cruachan Walking Club is hosting the 2015 Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend on Friday 6 November to Sunday 8 November. This event will be an integral part of our commemoration of the 150th year since the establishment of McMillan's Track. The other part is an end-to-end walk of McMillan's Track from Friday 30th October to Thursday 12th November. Members are cordially invited to register for these events.

## Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' weekend (CGCW)

The Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend will be based at Sambain Chalet, 35km north of Licola, from Friday 6th November to Sunday 8th November. Accommodation within the Chalet is limited but alternatives are available. A program of walks includes joining the end-to-end McMillan's Track walkers for a couple of stages. On the Saturday night there will be a function to formally commemorate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of McMillan's Track.

## McMillan's Track End-to-End Walk

The end-to-end walk of McMillan's Track will be a supported walk, starting near Omeo on Friday 30th October and finishing at Woods Point on Thursday 12th November. There will be a core of end to end



*Plaque near Breakfast Creek commemorating the official opening of McMillan's Track as a walking track in March 1988*

walkers but people are welcome to join and leave the walk at any of the overnight camps or road crossings. The walkers will camp at Sambain Chalet on the Friday and Saturday nights of the CGCW and be party to the 150th anniversary commemoration of the track.

For full details, check out the email forwarded to members on the 18th September.

Please note both these events are being publicised to the 6 other walking clubs in the Gippsland region, and there are registration cut off dates. So please don't leave it to the last minute and risk missing out.

Look forward to your registration and participation.

## 1st Aid Training

Two opportunities are currently available:

- **CPR Refresher course - provided by BCWC**

Thursday 22 October, 2015, 7 - 9 pm. at Fulham. Cost - \$60 per person (a possible reimbursement of \$25). The trainer will be Margaret Whelan. Please register and pay by 14 October, 2015 with Monica Scicluna

- **1st Aid Certificate - provided by Melbourne Bushwalkers**

Melbourne Bushwalkers has organised a first aid course for members to be held on Saturday 17 October at Gardenvale. The course is equivalent to the old Level 2 first aid certificate. This is a higher level course than the previous one.

For full details of these courses please refer to the email forwarded to members on 25th August.



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# Bushwalking Victoria News

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## Reflections from BWV President

(Tony Walker)

Recently, I spent a few days walking on the Larapinta Trail in the Northern Territory. I was struck by the beauty and grandeur of the Central Australian scenery and the stark, dramatic landscapes that unfold as one walks there.

I have walked on the trails of many countries, and think that we have been guilty of selling ourselves short in terms of world-class long distance walks, that we have available. A trail like the Larapinta deserves to be a world renowned walking icon, but it isn't really well known overseas.

In Victoria we also have a number of world-class tracks (the Grampians Peaks Trail is potentially another), but successive governments and the bushwalking community have not always displayed the commitment of time and resources needed to maintain them in good condition and market them to the world. We should take lessons from both Tasmania and New Zealand on how to market Victoria as a top walking destination.

Bushwalking Victoria is working actively with Outdoors Victoria to define a priority list of investment opportunities for the outdoor sector, which includes a number of key walking tracks. We have also been able to make a strong case for a substantial increase in funding for maintenance for existing tracks. Once finalised, the list will be presented to the Victorian Government and Outdoor Victoria, and Bushwalking Victoria will actively lobby for its adoption. I will keep you updated on progress.

## Grant opportunities for Clubs

From time to time, Federal, State and local government grants are available to non-for-profit community groups. Bushwalking Victoria intends to monitor Federal and State grant opportunities and advise clubs of them through Bushwalking News Victoria. Club committees should also regularly view their local government's website or contact their local councillor or the council CEO to find out about local government grant opportunities.

## Bill to Preserve Victorian National Parks tabled

The Andrews Labor Government has put an amendment before Parliament to implement its election commitment to prevent large-scale private development in national parks by removing the ability to grant 99 year leases. The Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Lisa Neville, tabled the National Parks Amendment (No 99 Year Leases) Bill 2015 to limit the length of leases that may be granted over parks managed under the National Parks Act to a maximum of 21 years – except in three specific instances already in legislation.

The amendment recognises the importance of protecting the special environmental values of Victoria's national parks for nature-based recreation and tourism by keeping out large-scale developments that alienate areas of our parks from use by the general community for long periods.

The tabling of the amendment coincides with the release of the Valuing Victoria's Parks report, which provides world-leading information on the value of Victoria's parks to our communities and the economy.

View the Report Summary at:

[http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0017/313235/Valuing-Victorias-Parks-Summary.docx](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/word_doc/0017/313235/Valuing-Victorias-Parks-Summary.docx)

## Federation Walks weekend 2015

Fedwalks 2015 is approaching fast. Scheduled for the weekend of Saturday, 24 and Sunday, 25 October 2015, if you haven't booked by now its probably too late. Nevertheless for all the latest details, check out the dedicated website:

<http://www.fedwalks.org.au/>

This year the walks are being held around Daylesford, Hepburn Springs and the nearby goldfields.

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# WALK REPORTS

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## Golden Jubilee Walk # 33

### Noojee Trestle Bridge Tooronga & Amphitheatre Falls

**DATE:** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August

**LEADER:** Ken Free

**REPORT:** Ken Free & Jo Huggins

**Walkers:** *Corinne, Oliver, Carolyn, Trevor, Andrew, Louise, Trudi, Dean, Jo and Ken*

Eight of us met in the Macca's car park at Traralgon on what promised to be a cold and drizzly day: just what the doctor ordered for a walk in a damp rainforest. We travelled in convoy to the small village of Noojee, which is nestled in the hills north of Warrigal, and then availed ourselves of coffees and other more exotic brews while waiting for 2 more members who had travelled the backroads from Bairnsdale.

Refreshed and with raincoats at the ready we commenced our first walk a few kilometres out of town following a loop track through a forest of tall eucalypts with a dense understorey of tree ferns, wattles and numerous other shrubs. The sound of roaring water was ever present and it wasn't long before we sighted the magnificent Tooronga Falls crashing over monster boulders as it made its way down the lush gully. After obligatory photographs in the ever present drizzle we proceeded across a low ridge to the Amphitheatre Falls which boasted a very impressive viewing platform built over the water course providing great views both up stream to the falls and down stream to the tree fern lined gully.

Once back at the cars, we took a short drive to the historic Noojee trestle bridge which has carried many locomotives and has a chequered history including almost being totally destroyed by bushfire. After an



*Dean strolling across the historic trestle bridge*

amble across the bridge and yet more photographs, we adjourned to the Toolshed Bar & Bistro for a most enjoyable and relaxing lunch.

Following lunch, Corinne, Ken and Jo decided to walk off the delicious lunch and went on to the Ada Tree: claimed to be one of the tallest trees in Australia. An interesting drive through the bush on well maintained roads brought us to the start of the walk. We saw a group of very muddy young people coming from a maintenance track and decided to walk into the tree via this route. A very easy walk ensued. The 1.8 km track allows for disability access (prior arrangement needed for the gate to be raised). The tree itself was beautiful with a real sense of history to it.



**Corinne admiring the Ada tree**

We decided to walk back via the signed track as it indicated that it was 1.5 kms as opposed to 1.8 kms. A very muddy walk followed through an area of bush which had a real magical quality to it. The light was dimming and there was a real feeling of peace. A lovely way to end a very enjoyable day.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 34

### Tinamba—Heyfield Rail Trail

**DATE:** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August

**LEADER & REPORT:** Chris Marshall

**Walkers:** Chris Marshall & Robin Dobson

The weather looked very threatening but in spite of this two very determined walkers set out from Tinamba for Heyfield with loaded packs looking forward to testing out the wet weather gear. The young cattle were most impressed and rushed to the fence to view the spectacle. The weather turned out to be not as bad as anticipated and the Cafe 3858 was reached in no time for a lovely morning tea of scones and coffee. We returned to the cars the same way both thankful we had decided to go. The double rainbow at the start must have been a sign. The walk ended up at 20k which was 2 k longer than anticipated.



*One of the highlights—a Double Rainbow*

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 35

### Mirboo North—Boolarra Rail Trail

**DATE:** Wednesday 26th August

**LEADER:** Jim Stranger

**REPORT:** Carolyn Raymond

**Walkers:** Oliver & Carolyn Raymond, Jim Stranger, Alex Husson & visitor Gary Fortington,

On a cold but dry Wednesday five walkers set off to walk the Mirboo North-Boolarra rail trail.

This beautiful walk is interesting both for the landscape it passes through and for the history of the area. The railway was built to take timber and farming products from the Strzelecki hills to the Latrobe Valley. It was also a way for people to travel to the Latrobe Valley at a time when few people had cars. Children travelled daily to school and people could

maintain contact between communities.

We left a car at Boolarra for a car shuffle the end of the walk. Then everyone met up at Mirboo North. It was great to have Alex Husson with us on his scooter. The gravel surface of the rail trail made this possible. The trail is very popular with local people, and there were several people walking their dogs along it and a few people on their push bikes.

The trail is quite a feat of engineering. It runs in an almost straight line through some beautiful regrowth eucalypt forest. This means that at times it is in a cutting and at other times on a high embankment. The wattles were out, giving us a riot of yellow.

The halfway mark is the old station of Darlimurla. There we met the "Wednesday Warriors", a group of retired volunteers who maintain the areas around the stations along the Rail Trail. They were full of the joy of life!

The trail continues and passes over two beautiful fern gullies. Both these were impacted by the fires, both now have substantial bridges from which you look down into the foliage below. Close to Boolarra the trail reaches farm land, where we could see newly born calves staying close to their mothers.

Unfortunately the batteries in Alex's scooter began to lose power despite being changed at the Darlimurla station. Our leader Jim Stranger and a guest walker, Gary Fortington, used muscle power to assist the batteries. We met Gwenda just short of Boolarra and were able to pack up Alex's scooter and complete the car shuffle.

It was wonderful to be able to have Alex with us to relive his time working in the bush. Thank you Jim Stranger for leading the walk.



*Start of the trail*

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 36

### Mitchell River NP Den of Nargun to Old Weir

**DATE:** Saturday 29th August

**LEADER:** Ken Free

**REPORT:** Jackie Whiting

**Walkers:** Julie, Trish, Elizabeth, Sue, Anna, Jackie and Ken.

After several days of heavy rain in East Gippsland Ken gave the all clear at 7am, the walk was going ahead. Meeting at Beverley's Road seven brave souls took the quick drive to the start at Den of Nargun picnic area. As the blue sky overhead gave everyone enthusiasm for a great day we set off looking down from the Bluff Lookout at the brown river below. We were keen to follow pink ribbons set on the rocky trail set by a reconnaissance group several months previously but this became a challenge at times as they were often hard to spot. It was whispered maybe someone had maliciously taken some down.



**Liz & Jackie at Bluff Lookout**

We took full advantage of the scenery spotting colourful fungi, our first hooded green orchid of the season and several Kurrajong trees amongst the other native eucalypts, wattles and plants. Approaching the weir we could hear the rush and noise of the river below. Climbing down to the camp site at the old weir it was marvelled what a challenge it must have presented to haul huge rocks to the site and build a weir wall. Ken gave us a short history of this accomplishment which actually lasted only a short time before being partly washed away by floods.

After the obligatory photo session we started our hike out but were again confused by the lack of pink ribbons until we unfortunately found ourselves misplaced and slightly lost. All the ladies had full confidence in Ken and once the compass was eventually consulted



**Group photo taken at the weir wall**

he led us on a trail of scrub bashing, scrambling over rocks and logs down a steep gully and up out the other side. Thankfully we headed out to a main track some hour or so later. Everyone felt our team had done really well but it was 4 o'clock and time to take the easier option – a hike out along the road. Not long passed before we recognised a land mark (a dropped scrunched up ball of tape?) and were back following the pink ribbons.

We made the steep climb back to the Den of Nargun picnic area having enjoyed a great day.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 37 Mt Hedrick—Round Hill

### Avon Scenic Reserve

**DATE:** Saturday 5th September

**LEADER:** Jack Winterbottom

**REPORT:** Trish Marston

**Walkers:** Jack, Anna, Ken, Piero, Rose, Jacki, Sue, Trish with guests Alan from Strzelecki Club and Claire, a visitor from the UK.

The day started clear with no rain. 10 walkers gathered at the Newry Rec Reserve to tackle this walk. We were soon heading along a dirt road, the first dirt road my new little car had ever seen! We soon arrived for the start of the walk at Corner Creek.

As we were getting ready to leave, our leader gave us the heads up to look for the local hazard – the Prickly Moses. We were lucky that it was in flower, so it was easier to spot than usual. However, you usually feel it, before you see it. Ouch! Off we set straight into the bush, we soon came across Corner Creek and a motorbike trail. Throughout the day, we would follow sections of these trails and then head straight into the scrub for some bush bashing. The impact from the motorbikes was minimal which was nice to observe.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 38

### The Sisters Mitchell River NP

**DATE:** Saturday 12th September

**LEADER:** Ken Free

**REPORT:** Susan Davis

**Walkers:** Ken, Rose, Piero, Jackie, Michelle, Susan, Michael, Anna, Trevor and Trish.

Ten walkers including a visitor and a new walker met at Lindenow hall carpark before heading off to 'The Sisters' in a State Forest North East of the Mitchell River National Park. We arrived at our starting point on the Merrijig Track and set off on our 4 Km walk to the South Sister, named by Ken our leader, for the purposes of our walk as the two peaks lack individual names.

We set off at a steady pace with frequent stops to check our bearings and breathe in our surroundings. We descended gently down the ridge line on an overgrown logging track and soon spotted a lean to erected by the dog trapper who works in the area. After admiring his handy work and carefully skirting around his used toilet paper we continued on, chatting amiably with each other and trying not to trip over on the loose bark and forest litter underfoot. Piero tied pink ribbon to strategically placed trees to guide future walks.

Evidence of the last fire in 2014 (?) was still visible by the sparsity of scrub, blackened tree trunks and the hundreds of tiny black wattle trees coming up on the path. Sarsaparilla, heath, emu bush, egg and bacon flowers and late blooming wattle provided spots of colour for us to enjoy.

Walk reconnaissance rookie Anna displayed some valuable map reading skills at a crucial point and we were soon heading along a second spur to the bottom of the short, steep rocky climb to the top of the Sister. As we climbed we could see the North sister and mountains rolling as far as the eye could see although the view would have been enhanced had we had a chainsaw handy!

Most of the morning was spent following the creek, with 2 different sightings of deer and several different bird calls. The writer doesn't know the name of the birds, but our leader knew them all, so we enjoyed excellent commentary about the different species and the local flora. Orchids were also spotted in several locations. Late morning we headed straight up the side of the mountain, to then have lunch on Mt Hedrick. Here the sun appeared on cue. The view was spectacular, with Ben Cruachan in the foreground, Baw Baw to the left and Gable End to the right.



**The view from Mt Hedrick**



**Piero pointing towards Ben Cruachan**

We were joined at lunch by a passer-by, an ex Reynard Rambler. It was interesting to hear about some of the previous adventures had by others, I hope to see the snow shoe tree

After lunch we went straight off track again, pushing our way through the scrub, the bush quickly swallowed the view of the lead group and lots of calls and cooee's were being sent out. We soon had gone down the valley and back up the other side to Round Hill. Before long we were heading back out to the cars. Most of the group stayed for a cuppa to finish off the day.

Thanks for a great day Jack, views, weather and company were superb.



**Group photo taken on top of the Sister**



**Rose relaxing under the trees**

At the top we found log seats and ate a relaxed lunch under the trees until pesky flying ants invaded us. After the usual photo we descended taking care not to skid on the loose rock. It was noted that conversation was continuous on the descent as opposed to the ascent. It was suggested the walk grading be changed from 'easy, medium, hard' to 'able to talk continuously' to 'no conversation possible'. One wag suggested that wouldn't work as a separate grading would be required for men and women.

We arrived in Lindenow in time for coffee but to our dismay the barista had closed early so goodbyes were said and another wonderful walk was concluded. Thanks Ken for leading another fantastic walk enjoyed by all.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 39

### Holey Plains State Park

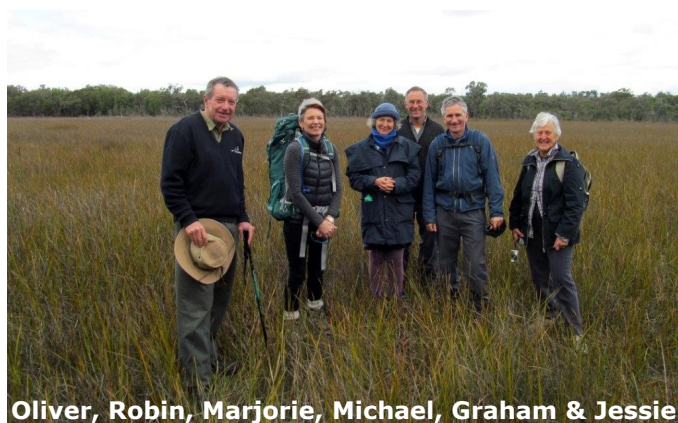
**DATE: Wednesday 16th September**

**LEADER: Ken Free**

**REPORT: Graham Pilkington**

**Walkers:** *Oliver, Jessie, Robin, Michael, Marjorie, Graham & Ken*

Seven of us entered the labyrinth of paths and tracks in this park, just south of Rosedale, on a cloudy dry day. Why is it called Holey Plains, you ask?



**Oliver, Robin, Marjorie, Michael, Graham & Jessie**

The first short walk to get the legs going had us circumnavigating Harrier Swamp through the unusual thick but low bush, a product of the sandy soil. We then parked on the summit of Holey Hill (218 m) and walked down the Long Swamp track. As we approached, the support group, the Kookaburras, were good but the main act at the reed filled swamp, Fredo and the Frogs, were unique. Think of a large band of digeridoos of differing notes supplemented by crickets, producing a throaty and high pitched rumble in the jungle.

On the walk back, we passed one old banksia with at least a thousand grey flower spikes clinging to its branches. Lunch was taken in the shadow of the fire tower, built single handed by Oliver in years gone by, and next was a stroll through a thick banksia forest nearby. Over the day, we had seen orchids, red, yellow and white wild flowers (I can provide the Latin names if required), emus, wallabies, kangaroos, and many echidna holes.



**Wallaby checking out the walkers**

Next we went by car in search of the mysterious Clear Water Lake, an attraction marked on the Parks Victoria map with toilets, tables and fireplaces, and the obsessive Ken was determined to find it in the pine forest maze of tracks, after many previous attempts. Once more he was disappointed, but the rest of us were not, as an enjoyable walk was had by all.

Why Holey Plains, you ask again? Named by the same PR company responsible for originally calling Sale, Flooding Creek, the reason was that in the 1840s, the Crooke family had a homestead to the north along the Latrobe river and the alluvial land there has many crab holes, although the sandy soil of the Park does not! You did ask.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 40

### Lonely Bay Lake Tyers Regional Park

**DATE:** Saturday 19th September

**LEADER:** Marjorie Kanagaratnam

**REPORT:** Ian Kitchenn

**Walkers:** *Rose & Piero, Jackie, Susan & Michael (visitor), Marion, Marjorie.*

From here on the track is adjacent to Lake Tyers with water views all the way to the picnic spot at Lonely Bay where lunch was taken.

With lunch consumed, a short investigative walk to the water's edge satisfied curiosity and then it was just half an hour walk back to the carpark. An ice-cream at Lakes Entrance topped the day off. Thanks to Marjorie for an enjoyable day.



**Signage at start of track**

The morning started with a light blanket of fog but by the appointed time of gathering at Lakes Entrance the day was looking perfect. Seven members and one visitor met and vehicles were organised for the short trip along the Princess Highway towards Nowa Nowa and the second turnoff for Burnt Bridge road. A few kilometres into the forest cars were left and we donned our packs and hit the trail for Lonely Bay. It wasn't long before we were engulfed by the sounds of silence, only broken by the noises of birds in the tree canopy above. Our progress was gently downhill until we took a short detour via the Fern Loop. It was along here that Marjorie was previously bailed up by two emus on her reconnoitre trip, but we had no such luck. Further along the track we emerged along the edge of Lake Tyers, where we paused to refresh over morning tea.



**View of Lonely Bay**



**Morning tea on the edge of Lake Tyers**

# WALK PREVIEWS

## Walk Gradings

Distance	Hills	Track
<b>S</b> – Short < 10 km	<b>1 – 3</b> Easy Suitable for beginners	<b>1 – 3</b> Graded open terrain Well formed tracks/paths
<b>M</b> – Medium 10-15 km	<b>4 – 7</b> Medium Reasonable fitness required	<b>4 – 7</b> Bush, minor scrub Some rock hopping, scrambling
<b>L</b> – Long 15-20 km	<b>8 – 10</b> Hard Strenuous. Fit walkers only	<b>8 – 10</b> Bush, thick scrub, Rock hopping, Scrambling, Creek crossings, Use of hands
<b>X</b> – Extra Long >20 km		

### MITCHELLDALE CAR CAMP WEEKEND

**DATE: Friday 2nd Oct to Sunday 4th October**

**MEET: At locked gate on Angusvale access road at times arranged with leaders.**

**GRADE: S – 5 - 4 and S – 4 - 4**

**DISTANCE: 7kms & 6kms**

**LEADERS: Ken Free - 5144 1195**

[freestyle2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:freestyle2@optusnet.com.au)

**Rob Paterson - 5156 9442**

[robjp56@gmail.com](mailto:robjp56@gmail.com)

Parks Victoria has generously granted Ben Cruachan Walking Club access to Mitchelldale on the Northern end of the Mitchell River National Park; an area identified on some topographical maps as "Scott's Farm". This is a once off opportunity to camp at and explore this unique property and is only available to financial members of the Club. There are basic facilities available on site including a toilet, fire pit and good access to the river, there is no phone coverage at the camp site.

It is planned to camp over on the Friday and Saturday nights, with walks on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday's walk will start at 10.00am allowing for participants who arrive on Saturday morning. The Sunday walk will start at 9.00am to allow for an early afternoon departure.

**Access to the property:** Access to the property will be from Friday afternoon and participants will need to make prior arrangements with the leaders to ensure that the access gate is re-locked. The vehicle access to the property is via an old farm road (approx 3.2 kms) which is not suitable for conventional vehicles; however late model Subaru Foresters and similar have sufficient ground clearance; 'serious' 4WD vehicles won't have a problem, although the track is rough and rutted in places. Please liaise with the leaders about carpooling arrangements if you don't have a suitable vehicle. It is not recommended to leave vehicles on the Angusvale Road as their security cannot be guaranteed.

**The Walks:** Saturday's walk will leave from the camp and follow a ridge-line west to the highest point on the property, then follow another ridge north down to the river. We will return to camp via an old vehicle track. Short 7 kms, grade 5 - 4.

Sunday's walk will leave from camp and follow some old tracks and return along several river-flats. Short 6 kms grade 4 - 4.

Great views are guaranteed for both walks and there will be no talk about Football! (Unless you're a Hawks or Eagles supporter).

### NYERIMILANG

**DATE: Wednesday 7th October**

**MEET: Stratford park at 9:00am**

**GRADE: S – 3 - 1**

**DISTANCE: 3 - 4 kms**

**LEADERS: Wil Streckfuss - 5144 2183**

A lovely drive through the hills to Nyerimilang Heritage Park. We will have a look at the historic homestead and also stop at the old farm, where there is some interesting vintage machinery in the shed,

It will be a leisurely walk through the parklands with great views of the Gippsland Lakes. There are lots of bellbirds and other wildlife. The first walk will be approx. 2 hours, then lunch and then another walk, plenty of choice!



**Nyerimilang Path**



## WIRILDA TRACK

**DATE: Saturday 10th October**  
**MEET Wirilda Environment Park Education Centre, 9am.**  
**GRADE: L - 6 - 6**  
**DISTANCE: 15km, 5-6 hrs.**  
**LEADER: Jim Stranger - 5191 8312**



The Wirilda Track walk is conducted annually in conjunction with the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club. The meeting point for the walk is the Wirilda Environment Park Education Centre. To get there, head north along Clarkes Road immediately west of where the Tyers River crosses the Moe-Glengarry Road. Take the next road to the right (around 300 metres) and follow it to the second house on the right (a further 200 metres). From the meeting point, which is also the finishing point, a thirty minute drive is required to get to the start of the walk at the Moondarra Dam wall. The Wirilda Track follows the Tyers River valley back to Wirilda Park. Scenery varies from dry, open forest to lush fern gullies and passes under the conglomerate cliffs of the Tyers Gorge. There are a few hills and a river crossing so spare footwear is advisable. Be sure to bring lunch, adequate water and a raincoat.

Joe van Beek will lead a 24 km circuit version of the walk if there is enough interest. This would start by walking up the pipeline access road to the Moondarra Dam and returns via the Wirilda Track. Duration; 6 hours. Contact Joe on 51765302, email [joevanbeek@bigpond.com](mailto:joevanbeek@bigpond.com) or check in on the day.

## MAFFRA WETLANDS WALK & 2016 WALKS PROGRAM PLANNING

**DATE: Sunday 11th October**  
**GRADE: S - 2 - 2**  
**MEET: Macalister Hotel @ 10:00am**  
**LEADER: Andrew Stevenson - (Walk)**  
**Marian Matchan (Meeting)**

Join us for a pleasant walk along the Macalister River and the Maffra wetlands. The walk is on gravel track and duckboards, there will be birds aplenty so don't forget your camera. After the walk we will adjourn to

the Macalister Hotel for lunch and then we will have a planning meeting for the 2016 walks program.

If you have a favorite walk or activity, why not put it on our program so that we can all share. If you can't get to the meeting forward Marian your proposed walk/s beforehand on [matcho01@bigpond.com](mailto:matcho01@bigpond.com)

## BLORES HILL

**DATE: Wednesday 14th October**  
**MEET: Tinamba Hotel @ 9:00 am**  
**GRADE: S - 2 - 2 (9km)**  
**LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 5144 6713 or**  
**Email: [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com)**

We will meet at the Tinamba Hotel where we will car pool to the base of Blores Hill. There are a few gentle up hill climbs and we will be walking mainly on mountain bike tracks. At the highest point there is a trig point with great views of the Macalister Valley and surrounding dairy farms. Come and enjoy a relaxing day out, not too far away.

## WILSONS PROMONTORY WEEKEND CAMP

**DATE: Friday 16th - Sunday 18th October**  
**LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 5144 6713**  
Or email: [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com)

We have booked a 12 sleeper lodge for the two nights. If this is full you can organise your own tent site or bring your own caravan also the prom has other accommodation the phone no.is 131963 or email: [info@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@parks.vic.gov.au).

We normally head off Friday morning and try to do a walk before we can get into the lodge at 4pm. On Saturday we will do a full day walk (this is to be decided), or some may decide to do a short walk or just relax. Sunday after packing up we will do a walk on the way out of the prom for those that are interested and then venture home. *NB: If you want to stay longer, check out the extended walk program - Lighthouse to Sealers on the next page.*

Contact the leader if you would like to come as we may have vacancies in the lodge or decide on the alternatives.

## WILSONS PROMONTORY LIGHTHOUSE TO SEALERS COVE

**DATE:** Sun 18th—Wed 21st October  
**GRADE:** L - 7 - 8  
**LEADER:** Anna Janca— 0419 178 445  
email: [annajanca@bigpond.com](mailto:annajanca@bigpond.com)  
**MEET:** George Robertson Lodge, Tidal River  
**TIME:** 8:00am

The plan is to dovetail a series of day hikes with the Clubs already scheduled Wilson's Prom weekend (refer page 13) If anyone is interested in joining this 3 night 4 day hike, call Anna to discuss. Walk preview below

Day 1. Drive from lodge to Telegraph Saddle car park. Walk from car park along the Telegraph Track management road through the Prom's undulating interior and walking track to Roaring Meg. Lunch and set up camp. With day pack only, walk to South point the most southerly point on the Australian mainland, and return. Overnight at Roaring Meg.

Day 2. Roaring Meg to Light Station via Telegraph and walking track. After exploring the Light Station follow the coastal track, enjoying the great views through diverse plant communities, to Little Waterloo Bay for overnight camp.

Day 3. Little Waterloo Bay to Refuge Cover with steep climbs and descents over rock faces and through woodland, rewarded by stunning views near Kersops Peak, then along the coastal track to Sealers Cove.

Day 4. Sealers Cove along boardwalk over Sealers Swamp, then uphill through beautiful forest to Windy Saddle, then steady downhill to Telegraph Saddle car park and drive home.

All camp sites have water (but treating recommended) and drop toilets (but BYO paper).

Cost: \$12.80 per campsite per night per person – Total \$38.40 per person.

## MT WORTH STATE PARK

**DATE:** Wednesday 11th November  
**MEET:** McDonalds Traralgon @ 9:00am  
**GRADE:** S - 2 - 2  
**LEADER:** Wil Streckfuss - 5144 2183

We drive on the Princes Highway until the turn off to the Park at Darnum and then proceed through the Strzelecki Ranges to the Picnic Area of the Park where our walk starts. The track is undulating, however there are no high mountains to climb!

## MITCHELL RIVER – BILLY GOAT BEND TO THE DEN OF NARGUN

**DATE:** Saturday 14 November 2015  
**MEET:** Stratford @ 8:00 am or Beverley's Road @ 8:45 am  
**GRADE:** M - 6 - 3  
**DISTANCE:** ~ 8 kms  
**LEADER:** Ken Free -- 5144 1195 or [free-style2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:free-style2@optusnet.com.au)

This walk will follow the Mitchell River from Billy Goat Bend and the Amphitheatre downstream to the Den of Nargun. This is one of the few un-dammed rivers in Victoria with great rapids and plenty to look at, including rocky bluffs on the Eastern shore and remnant rainforest gullies on the Western shore. The walk follows the Western side of the river on a well-made track which passes through numerous shady gullies. This area is known for its diversity of flora including the Xanthorrhoea Minor, a small version of the grass tree, which may be in flower at this time. Near the end of the walk we will visit the culturally significant Den of Nargun, a place shrouded in mystery and history especially for aboriginal people.

## LOCH SPORT

**DATE:** Wednesday 18 November  
**MEET:** Longford Hall @ 8:30 am  
**GRADE:** S - 2 - 2  
**DISTANCE:** ~ 6 kms  
**LEADER:** Monica Scicluna -- 5144 6713 or [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com)

We will meet at Longford hall, where we can car pool and leave for the national park about an hour away. We will have the usual cuppa at the start of the Dolomite walking track. From there we will head to Point Wilson for lunch and then another walk in this area. This is an easy day walk in one of Gippslands National Park.

## XMAS LUNCH

**DATE:** Sunday 6th December  
**VENUE:** Criterion Hotel Macalister Str SALE  
**TIME:** 12 Noon  
**COST:** \$20 pp (main meal + 1 beverage)  
**RSVP:** Tuesday 1st December  
Monica Scicluna -- 5144 6713 or [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com)

We have decided to try the Criterion this year for our xmas get together. If you can wear something relating to xmas. that would make it more festive.

They have 3 or 4 choices from a \$20 menu or you may wish to order a meal off the main menu or board. If you wish to have a desert, this will be extra.

Hope to see you all for a great lunch and get together.



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 184 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - DEC 2015

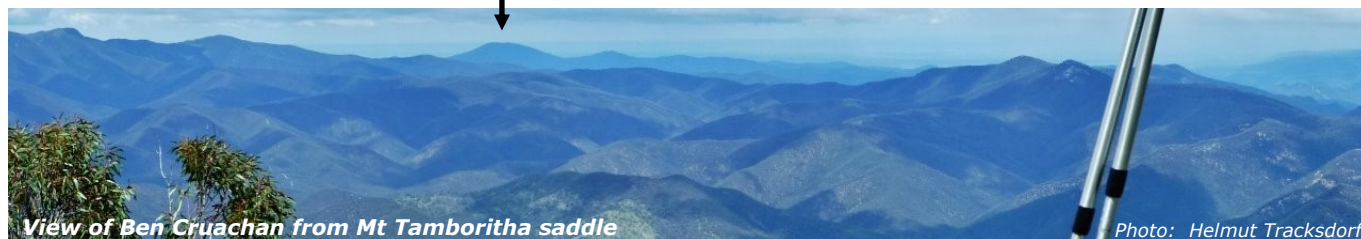


Photo: Helmut Tracksdorf

***This year the Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs Weekend was held at Sambain Chalet located in the Victorian High Country, North of Licola. The event was held in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of McMillan's Track. CGBC participants joined BCWC members to traverse sections of the 220km track. The Mt Tamboritha to Breakfast Creek section provided spectacular views of The Crinoline, The Sentinels and Gable End with an abundance of wildflowers on display. Here the combined group are gathered for a photo with Gable End in the background. Check out the full report in this months Supplement to the Newsletter. (Which will be issued shortly)***

*Back row: Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Michael Dowe, Peter Maffei, Joe van Beek, Janet Leman, Robyn Shingles, Anna Janca, Front row: Roz Spratt, Pat Williams, Helmut Tracksdorf.*

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



View of Ben Cruachan from Mt Tamboritha saddle

Photo: Helmut Tracksdorf

**Club Postal Address — PO Box 70, Maffra 3860 — Incorporation No A0004849G**  
[www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com](http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com)

## IN THIS ISSUE

*BCWC - Celebrating 50 years of Bushwalking*

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2015 / 2016**

~ President's Report	3	<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	<b>Monica Scicluna</b>	<b>5144 6713</b>
			<a href="mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com">joe.monica@hotmail.com</a>	
~ Club News	4	<b>VICE PRES:</b>	<b>Margaret Beckett</b>	<b>5148 2237</b>
		<b>SECRETARY:</b>	<b>Anna Janca</b>	<b>0419 178 445</b>
			<a href="mailto:secbcwc@gmail.com">secbcwc@gmail.com</a>	
~ Bushwalking Victoria News	5	<b>TREASURER:</b>	<b>Jack Winterbottom</b>	<b>5143 0903</b>
		<b>PUBLICITY:</b>	<b>Piero Baglioni</b>	<b>5156 7034</b>
			<a href="mailto:pbaglioni@bigpond.com">pbaglioni@bigpond.com</a>	
~ Walk Reports	6 - 17	<b>NEWSLETTER:</b>	<b>Helmut Tracksdorf</b>	<b>5156 6763</b>
			<a href="mailto:helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com">helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com</a>	
		<b>WALKS CO-ORDINATOR:</b>	<b>Marian Matchan</b>	<b>0448 523 287</b>
~ Walk Previews	18 - 20		<a href="mailto:matcho01@bigpond.com">matcho01@bigpond.com</a>	
		<b>TRACKS &amp; HUTS:</b>	<b>Michael Dowe</b>	<b>5147 3075</b>
		<b>ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b>		
			<b>Joe van Beek</b>	<b>5176 5302</b>
			<b>Trish Marston</b>	<b>0409 656 332</b>
			<b>Chris Lockwood</b>	<b>5145 6549</b>
			<b>Chris Marshall</b>	<b>0499 780 399</b>

**CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH**  
**NEXT MEETING: 9TH DECEMBER, 7:30PM, MAFFRA VET CENTRE, 10 JOHNSON STREET**

*Welcome to our Newest Member/s*

*Trevor & Liz Watt (Sale), Elizabeth Balderstone (Darriman), Mary Scicluna (Longford)*

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# Presidential Ramblings

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**DECEMBER 2015**

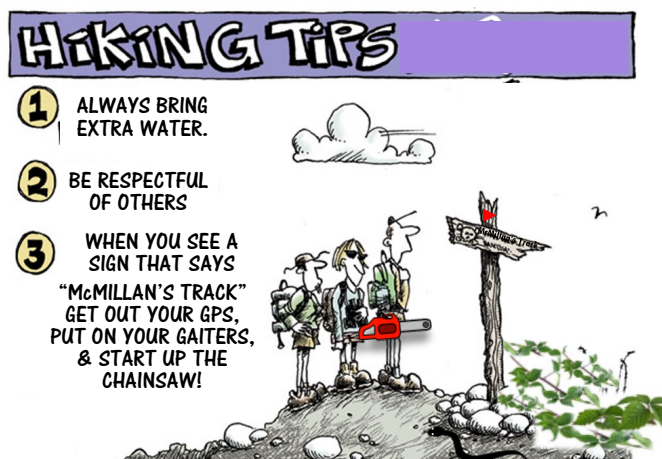
*We have had a busy two months starting with a few of us updating our CPR qualifications.*

*Also, our combined Gippsland Walkers weekend at Sambain Chalet, was an enormous success with various clubs attending. Joe, Helmut, Michael and Anna joined us for the weekend, which was their half way mark of walking the 220km McMillan's Track. Saturday night was enjoyed by all. Highlights being the cutting of the 150th anniversary cake (kindly made by Judy van Beek) our guest Darren McCubbin from Wellington Shire made the trip up and enjoyed the day with Jim Strangers group walk to Bryce's Gorge. Plus the trivia questions with Jack, proved a hit. A big thank you goes to Joe van Beek, Jack Winterbottom and Trish Marston, without your excellent organizational skills the weekend wouldn't have been the success it was. Also a big thank you to the businesses that donated gifts to be handed out as prizes.*

*Marian has been busy organizing next years walks program which has already been circulated. If you have a walk that you may like to share with fellow club members please contact Marian, we are all here to help. Joe has organized a leader training weekend next year on the 25th & 26th June, it may be worth marking this on your calendar if you wish to attend.*

*Wishing you all a Merry Xmas and a safe New Year*

*Monica Scieluna*



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# Club News

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## BCWC Committee Meeting



The next Committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday 9th December** at the Maffra Veterinary Centre located at 10 Johnson Street, Maffra,

Members & guests welcome.

## 2016 WALKS PROGRAM

A preliminary walks program for 2016 has been drawn up and was forwarded to members by Marian on 4th November. The program still has dates available should you wish to add or lead a walk. Please check the program and let Marian know asap, as she would welcome any additional walks. Upcoming walks can be found in the Preview section—refer page 18.

## Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' weekend - 2015

&

## 150th Anniversary of McMillan's Track

By all accounts, the Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' weekend, based at Sambain Chalet, north of Licola, was an outstanding success. Special mention and a vote of appreciation must go to Joe and Judy van Beek, Jack Winterbottom, Trish Marston, who between themselves managed to arrange the setting, co-ordinate the event and cook up a fantastic roast dinner meal for the weary walkers that joined us in celebrating the 150th anniversary of McMillan's track.



**Some of our key members tucking in**



**The Anniversary cake made by Judy**

Not only was the weather kind, but Trish and Judy's cooking complimented with wine, meant we were forced to walk off the extra kilos that some of us had stacked on. To protect the guilty no names will be mentioned, except for Michael who appears to have a large appetite!

The designated walks proved most enjoyable with plenty of scenery, waterfalls and wildflowers on display.

Also, a big thank you to the businesses that donated gifts to be handed out as prizes. They were: *Aussie Disposals Traralgon and Bairnsdale, Mitchells Traralgon, Ray's Outdoors Traralgon, Mountain Designs Traralgon, Happy Camper Gourmet Meals Lindenow, Bairnsdale Camping, BCF Bairnsdale.*

## McMillan's Track End-to-End Walk REPORT

Due to the number of days and photos associated with this event, a special supplementary edition (to the December Newsletter) will be issued to commemorate the occasion.

BCWC has tackled McMillan's track, End to End on several previous occasions (1996, 2003, 2009 and now 2015) and there can be no doubt as to the club's association with this historical track. The club owes a debt of gratitude to John Smith one of our foundation members who championed the cause (re-opening of the track) and Joe van Beek who is keen to maintain John's legacy.

Check out the Supplement which will be issued shortly.

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# Bushwalking Victoria News

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## Walking and Talking with the Bushwalking Victoria President

(Tony Walker)

### Tracks, trails and politics

Victoria has many attractions – coastline woodlands, hills and mountains – and the world is finding out about them!

Year by year, the pressure on our tracks and trails grows as different trail user groups, Victorian bushwalkers, and interstate and international visitors all want to use them. The commercial outdoor adventure industry is also growing rapidly and making increasing use of tracks and trails and park facilities.

While all this is happening, governments, under pressure to reduce spending, consider 'nature' resources such as national and state parks an easy target for budget cuts.

The reason I am emphasising these factors is that it is more important than ever for bushwalkers to have a strong, united voice representing our interests. Historically, we have tended to be very low key – almost invisible – to the decision makers in government. Some very good work by my predecessors at Bushwalking Victoria has helped towards addressing this problem, but much remains to be done.

We bushwalkers have a history of being people who don't like making a loud noise, even when it is in our interests. When I compare us with some of our peer groups in active recreation, who have professional, paid staff in executive positions lobbying for their members' interests, I am surprised at how well we do manage to do, but I am all too well aware of how difficult it can be to get our point of view over.

Sometimes when talking with bushwalkers at our many clubs I hear the message: 'We're not interested in politics. We just want to walk.' I sympathise with this attitude, but I can't help being tempted to respond: 'the 1950s are long gone, and they aren't coming back.' I cannot emphasise too strongly that political inertia is not an option in 2015.

Bushwalking Victoria works very hard to represent the interest of all bushwalkers in Victoria, and I believe we do it very well, but we need the support of all of our clubs to make our work possible. I am asking all bushwalkers to accept that in the real world we have to be politically aware and active and need to lobby and agitate for what we want. When government budgets are constrained, we need to make sure that decision makers understand that bushwalkers are not a soft target for cuts.

## Member-Only Information on the Bushwalking Victoria Website

Please note: There are two access levels on the Bushwalking Victoria website – public and member.

Information available to members only includes full walk notes for where2walk, club resource information and walk leader information. If you are member of a bushwalking club and have not created your own member account you are missing out on lots of resources of interest to you and your club.

Anyone who wants to access this information must create a personal member account. Member access for bushwalking club members is free – the cost is covered by the affiliation fee your club pays to Bushwalking Victoria.

The **free** access is provided via a **Coupon Code** for each club. Club secretaries have been provided with the Coupon Code and are responsible for advising their members of what it is.

## Bushwalking Victoria News - Survey

Bushwalking Victoria is reviewing the way it communicates with bushwalkers and bushwalking clubs. Here is an opportunity to influence the future direction of Bushwalking News Victoria. The survey should take only 4-5 minutes to complete.

Please respond to the survey about Bushwalking News Victoria by 18 December.

The outcome of the survey will be summarised in the February 2016 edition of Bushwalking News Victoria. <http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/>

## 150th Anniversary of McMillan's Track

Members of Ben Cruachan Walking Club and Victorian Mountain Trampers Club recently celebrated the 150th anniversary of McMillan's Track with a 220km walk, over a period of 14 days. The group hiked from Cobungra near Omeo to Woods Point crossing the Great Divide and fording 8 major rivers to reach their goal. If you can name the eight Rivers, you can apply for the Hot Seat!



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# WALK REPORTS

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## Golden Jubilee Walk # 41

### Mitchelldale Car camp Mitchell River NP

**DATE:** Friday/Sat/Sun - 2nd /3rd/4th October

**LEADER:** Ken Free

**REPORT:** Oliver Raymond

#### Mitchell River Walk

What a wonderful walk. It resulted because of having Rob and Josie as members. We all arrived at the designated times, and drove gently down to the camp site, which had been arranged by Rob.

Tents and vans were set up, and the wild life started to emerge. First the swallows nesting above the stove, and then the wombats, whose territory we were invading. A convivial evening was spent around the camp fire, and as the mist rolled in, it was agreed that we should start early next morning.



**Local Mitchelldale inhabitants**



**Evidence of a convivial evening**

What a weekend to pick. Two hot days, for this time of year, despite the dense morning fog on Saturday. So we set off early on both days.

Off and up we went. As soon as we got to the top of one hill, up we went again. And so on. Until, to our great relief, we arrived at where we were supposed to be – the final summit.



**Group photo taken on the final summit**

With great relief, we settled down to a rest. The stinging nettles were a problem, but we managed to relax and prepare for the descent.

And down we went. Eventually we arrived at the bottom and a degree of confusion occurred about where to have lunch. Our new “you beaut” two way radios soon sorted that out, and both parties relaxed into their lunch stop.

The walk back home was relaxed, and we arrived in time for a “together” evening meal.

And, so to bed.

Saturday night had no mist, and was warmer than the night before, so we set off early with much enthusiasm. No great hills to climb today!!

But wait! A red bellied black snake on the track caused a degree of caution to creep into the group. How do you walk past a snake that is visibly annoyed? The answer? Cautiously.



**Red Bellied Black Snake on the track**



And then down to the river, a sighting of Water Dragons and massive carp swanning through the pristine waters of the Mitchell River, and then a somewhat tangled track along the margin of the river.

Deer were spotted and antlers souvenired – but obviously, as we were in a park, not by destroying the owners. Many wombat villages were seen – much bigger holes than those made by rabbits.

We had lunch under two old giant trees, whose offspring were spread around them. One was clearly identified by Oliver as a Yellow Box, but the other remains a mystery. The obvious was pointed out, that if old parent trees are allowed to survive, there are no new trees under the canopy of their parents. This can be a problem in regenerating utilised forests in which “habitat” trees have been left behind in logged areas. However, just outside the parents’ canopies the regeneration was prolific, although suffering from quite a bit of bark damage caused by deer rubbing their antlers on the young saplings to shed the velvet that coats fresh antlers.



**Group resting under one of the large gums**

We reached our camp site by early afternoon and some of our group plunged in to the Mitchell for a swim before heading home.



**Andrew after his plunge in the Mitchell River**

Thank you Rob and Josie for access to the camp site and Ken for leading the weekend.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 42

### Nyerimerlang

**DATE:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October

**LEADER:** Wil Streckfuss

**REPORT:** Monica Scicluna

**Walkers:** Wil, Monica, Mary, Kathy, Marie & Marg

Four of us drove to Stratford where we met Marie and Marg our visitors. From there we set off to Nyerimerlang. After a cuppa we followed the path to the homestead, however it was closed. We then meandered along to the old farm and shed with vintage machinery. Along the way we had magnificent views of the Gippsland lakes and parklands which took us a couple of hours. Then it was back to the homestead for lunch. After lunch we went for another walk, looking for kite birds. When the walk was over we all ended up at Lakes for a coffee overlooking the water. Thank you to Wil for another fabulous walk and memorable day.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 43

### Wirilda Track (24km circuit)

**DATE:** Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October

**LEADER & REPORT:** Joe van Beek

**Walkers:** Michael Dowe, Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Wendy Cartledge, Anna Janca, Geoff Cartledge and Joe van Beek. Wendy and Geoff are from the Strzelecki club

Each for their own reason, 5 Ben Cruachan and 2 Strzelecki members chose to join Joe on a 24km circuit variation of the Wirilda Walk. Instead of taking the car shuffle to the beginning of the Wirilda Track near the Moondarra Dam we walked 10 km up the Pipeline Access Road and climbed the face of the Dam wall to get to the start of the track and then walked the 14km down the Wirilda Track back to the Wirilda Environmental Park and the cars. Despite our ambition we didn't catch up to the Wirilda Track walkers. We arrived some 45 minutes after they had finished.



**Getting ready to hit the Track**

## Wirilda Track Walk (14km circuit)

**DATE: Saturday 10th October**

**LEADER: Jim Stranger**

**REPORT: Sue Hides**

As the other walkers disappeared in their cars we walked up the Wirilda Track from the Gippsland Water pump station up to a side track that cuts through to the Pipeline Access Road. The Pipeline Access Road is maintained by Gippsland Water for the servicing and maintenance of the pipeline that takes water from the Moondarra dam to Traralgon and other Latrobe Valley communities. Although it is a road walk it still feels secluded as it has locked gates on it. We crossed the Tyers River twice, by passed the Connon Park Scout Camp and crossed Boola Road as we negotiated the climbs and declines on our way to the dam wall. A final steep climb up the face of the dam wall and we were where the others had left their cars and by coincidence met Denise and Marjorie.

The walk down the Wirilda Track provided us with lots of variety in topography, vegetation, bird song, track condition and weather. Just before we took our lunch stop the thunder seemed all around us. The few spots of rain turned to a shower but stopped as we settled into our lunch under rain coats. No need for rain coats for the remainder of the walk. The rain had put gloss on the vegetation and the fern glen between W12 and W3 was very attractive. The river crossing was not an obstacle as the water level was minimal. We completed the walk in just on 7 hours and missed catching up to the others by 45 minutes but Joe had to keep the reins on some or they would have finished an hour and a half earlier.



**The G7 who tackled the long walk**

A crew of 10, plus leader Jim, drove in convoy from the Wirilda Environment Park near Tyers to the wall of the Moondarra Dam, very pleased to have left the more serious walkers who were doing a warm up for the Wirilda Track by hiking 10 km up the Pipeline Track to our departure point. For about half our group, the 15 km Wirilda Track from the Moondarra Dam to the Wirilda Environment Park was a delightful, new experience and one which we would all be happy to repeat. The trail head was marked by a blaze on a tree at the side of the W18 track just north of the dam spill way, we also crossed the W 11 and W 2 Tracks along our way back to the Wirilda Environment Park, they also provided access to the Wirilda Track.

The track was often in sight or sound of the Tyers River, it was a great walk to elevate the heart rate with plenty of short ascents and descents (described as 'undulations' by our leader) and with diverse forest environments, fern gullies and wildflowers to elevate the spirit. Clematis hung from tall trees like veils and we passed by hedges of correas in bloom after the Tyers River crossing on the home stretch. There were many more flowering shrubs and flowers. The bird song was better than Classic FM. The pace was brisk, seven of our crew passed within a foot of a handsome large black snake without stopping to admire it, there was another meeting with a snake at lunch time and encounters with leeches for those silly enough not accept Jim's offer of leech repellent. A weir, pipelines, the remains of a lime kiln and apple trees in blossom reminded us of those who had travelled this way before us and had worked to supply water and lime to a growing population.



**The G10 who took the leisurely walk**

*Photo: Eileen Laidlaw SBWC*

The Wirilda Track crosses through the Boola State Forest, Tyers Regional Park and the Wirilda Environment Park. Our thanks are extended to those who manage and maintain this gem.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 44

### Wilson's Promontory Lighthouse to Sealers Cove

**DATE:** Sun 18<sup>th</sup> - Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Oct

**Distance & Time:** 65km over 4 days

**LEADER:** Anna Janca

**REPORT:** Trish Marston

**Walkers:** Anna, Sue, Jackie and Trish

A small group of 4 walker's, dubbed the Fab Four – Anna, Sue, Jackie and Trish. Set off from the Lodge at Wilson's Prom, where a large group of the club's members sent them off with cheers and a bright smiley moon face (compliments of Andrew). The overcast weather soon cleared and we were blessed over the next 3 days with blue skies and warm weather.



**The Fab 4: Jackie, Sue, Trish & Anna**

Along the track we always found lovely clean creek water, wild flowers, lizards, seals, grass trees, fern gullies, headlands to climb, breathtaking views and crows.

First day was on the Telegraph Track to Roaring Meg where we set up camp; then a beautiful walk to South Point, the most southern tip of the Australian mainland. 20kms was covered. The night was very fresh (with several of the walkers, retiring to bed at 6pm) and the author got to experience sleeping out in a retro tent – a 37yo Paddy Pallin, complete with bush poles to hold it up, fortunately no visitors to the camp decided to enter and visit inside the tent.

Day two was 19.1kms, with a visit to the lighthouse, complete with a flushing toilet. When ready to depart the lighthouse, the Ranger asked us to pick up our rubbish at the rock where we had left our packs – we walked off scratching our heads, what was he talking about. Then began the conspiracy of the crows, we forgot Joe's warning words. Yes crows can open zips,

enjoy your meal and leave rubbish, they also communicate with the next group along the track, to let them know you are heading in their direction for the sharing of the next meal. 3 attacks in total over 3 days, good news they didn't like chocolate, but loved Italian Salami. We followed the east coast track up headlands, wow views, then along the white sand and sapphire blue waters of Waterloo Bay, we reached Little Waterloo Bay for the evening – breathtaking views, crows soon forgiven. White beach's with turquoise water – the Fab Four went swimming and then retired late this evening – 6.30pm.



**Fab 4 at the Lighthouse**



**Sapphire blue waters of Waterloo Bay**

Day three, only 14.6kms, along the east coast, with a visit to Kersops Peak, crows didn't get food, only a compass and first aid items, they opened the wrong zip. The Fab Four again passed through magnificent country, on through Refuge Cove, then to Sealer's Cove for the night, on this occasion not all the Fab Four went for a swim, evening started to cloud over for the first time, since we left as we were entertained by a couple of school groups wading across the estuary. Late evening for the team - 7pm.

Day four – 10.2kms, Fab Four, stripped down for the estuary crossing, then off down the beautiful boardwalk, drizzle rain started and by Windy Saddle, it was very damp. All too soon we were back at the carpark and off for celebratory coffee.

So far – the best walk I have been on, thank you Anna for organising. Go Fab Four.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 45

### BLUE POOL

### Peregrine Walking Track

**DATE:** Wednesday 28th October

**LEADER:** Jessie Walker

**REPORT:** Ken Free

**Walkers:** Jessie, Mary, Monica, Wil, Stephen, Graham and Ken

Seven of us met adjacent to the Briagolong Hotel at 9:30 am on what promised to be a sunny day with a maximum temperature of 24 degrees: perfect for a walk through the bush.

We motored north for a few kilometres to the Blue Pool Picnic Area where we left the cars and headed for the Blue Pool which is a very picturesque swimming hole on the Freestone Creek. We paused at the water's edge to take in the sounds and tranquil beauty of this spot before crossing the creek and heading uphill on the Peregrine Walking Track - so named because this area is home to Peregrine Falcons. The Peregrine Walking Track runs parallel to the Freestone Creek in a northerly direction.



**Taking in the tranquil beauty of Blue Pool**

Jessie had alerted us to the probability of seeing ground orchids so 7 pairs of eyes were scanning the trackside bush for these fascinating items of flora. It wasn't long before a small colony of possibly greenhood family orchids was spotted and the obligatory photo session followed. We managed to spot a range of other orchids but without an expert present we could only guess at their names.



**wildflowers (Fringed lily) spotted on the track**

The Peregrine Track climbed high along a ridge line above the Freestone Creek and at various points we were able to gain great views down the gorge from large rock 'lookouts'. Stephen demonstrated his hawk-eye abilities by spying 2 small dragon-like lizards who patiently posed while again we had an obligatory photo session.



**Nobbi? Dragon lizard**



**Group photo at Peregrine lookout**

After pausing at the Peregrine Lookout, the track steadily descended initially through dry rocky landscape and then through damp gullies before emerging at Freestone Creek at a spot called McKinnon Point. We waded across the creek which was about boot depth and settled down in the shade for a very pleasant lunch break and boot-drying session. Over lunch we had time to reflect on the large numbers of birds in the obviously healthy bush: no peregrine falcons but plenty of colourful nectar-feeding birds, one lone black cockatoo and dozens of small birds punctuating the air; and of course Stephen spotted a kingfisher... twice.

After lunch we had an easy walk along a track on the eastern side of the creek, arriving back at the cars in time to make it to the Briagolong cafe before closing time. Thank you Jessie for a great mid week walk in a picturesque location so close to home.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 46

### McMILLAN'S TRACK End to End - 2015

**DATE:** Friday 30th Oct—Thursday 12th Nov

**LEADER:** Joe van Beek

**REPORT:** Joe van Beek / Helmut Tracksdorf

**BCWC Walkers:** Joe van Beek, Michael Dowe, Anna Janca, Helmut Tracksdorf,

**VMTC Walkers:** Clive Davies & Geoff Hindle

**Support:** John Kellas

*NB: The McMillan's Track report will be issued as a Supplement to the December Newsletter. Which will be issued shortly. Check it out upon arrival!*

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 47

### HIAWATHA WALK & HISTORY

**DATE:** Saturday 4th November

**LEADER:** Jessie Walker

**REPORT:** Ken Free

**Walkers:** Jessie, Mary, Monica, Wil, Heather, Eric and Ken

The district of Hiawatha is located in the hills west of Yarram and south-west of Balook.

Our first stop was at the home of Jessie's twin brothers, Eric and Albert, at Jack River for a morning tea break and chat about local history. Jessie's ancestral family, the Greenaways, settled in the district of Fairview in 1893; it was renamed Hiawatha in 1915 because there was already a Fairview in the Western Districts and one of the early settlers had visited Yosemite National Park and apparently became interested in American Indian culture; he also named his property Yosemite.



**Morning Tea at Hiawatha School house  
(hopefully they removed their hike boots!)**

Eric joined us for the rest of the day as an impromptu tour guide and, together with Jessie, managed to fill our heads with a kaleidoscope of images of early life in this district: clearing heavily treed hillsides by hand, milking 20 cows, travelling to school by horseback and with their neighbours creating a close-knit

community of like-minded hard workers.

We climbed the 2 kilometres of dirt road to the old family farm site and took in panoramic views of the coastline from McLoughlin's Beach to Port Welshpool. The steepness of the hillsides seemed to trigger the memory banks of Eric and Jessie and we were once again entertained with tails of herding pigs uphill, walking through the mud and slush in driving rain several miles to school and back, and so on. We were a captivated audience, but there were more sites to visit and more (just a little) walking to do.

A short distance back down the Albert River Road brought us to the Minnehaha Falls (I'm sure you can see a pattern emerging here), which are not the biggest or most spectacular but are very picturesque, nestled as they are in a lush gully that is home to the Albert River.



**Minnehaha Falls**

This was our lunch spot and an ideal location for our group photograph.



**Group at the Falls**

After lunch, with much anticipation we visited the Hiawatha School where Jessie and her siblings attended Primary School #3555 many years ago. The school was built in 1916 and operated until 1975 after which it was purchased by the current owners, Charles and Jeanette, who have painstakingly restored it and converted it for use as a retreat from their other life in suburbia. While enjoying a pot of Charles' tea and scones with jam and cream provided by President Monica we heard more history, especially concerning the school building.

Charles then took us for a muddy and steep walk uphill (another pattern) to the site of the original Fairview Hall/School which existed from 1907 to 1930 and, after termites were discovered eating their way through the structure, it mysteriously burnt down.

Charles' accumulated knowledge of the school building and its surrounds was encyclopaedic and we are indebted to him for his generosity in opening up what is now his house for us to view and for sharing his knowledge of local history.

Down the road we stopped to view the now decommissioned 'A' frame road bridge which apparently is one of the only remaining bridges of this design in the country but sadly is slowly decaying: a worthy conservation project crying out for attention!



And so ended a great day filled with fascinating history and short walks up and down hillsides. A huge thankyou to Jessie for organising this unusual 'bushwalk', to Eric for joining us and adding his memories to Jessie's, to Charles for his generosity and to Monica for the yummy scones.

## Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend 2015

### SAMBAIN CHALET

**DATE:** Fri 6th - Sun 8th November

**CAMP MOTHER:** Trish Marston

**CHIEF ORGANISER:** Jack Winterbottom

**MC & QUIZ MASTER:** Jack Winterbottom

**CUSTODIAN:** Max Harrup

**REPORT:** Joe van Beek

**Attendees:** Special Guest, Cr Darren McCubbin, Mayor of Wellington Shire, four McMillan's Track walkers and their support crew of one and 22 bushwalkers representing six of the seven walking clubs in Gippsland.

This year, it was BCWC's turn to host the combined clubs' weekend and BCWC was looking for a way to commemorate 150 years since Angus McMillan cut the track linking the gold mining communities in the Gippsland high country from Woods Point to Omeo. These were combined along with an end-to-end walk of McMillan's Track to mark the anniversary and draw some attention to an historic track that should be one of Australia's iconic walks was it not for lack of maintenance and promotion.

People gathered at Sambain Chalet north of Licola from all over Gippsland on the Friday night to renew acquaintances and meet new faces. Beds were found and meals were cooked. Trish cooked up a great roast pork dinner for the McMillan Track team.



**Jack asking Trish: "Please, can I have just one more potato?"**

After dinner and a cuppa most had an early night in anticipation of the walks the next day.

Everyone (well almost everyone) was ready and raring to go well in time for the three walks that were on offer on the Saturday. Check out the reports elsewhere in this newsletter for the Mt Howitt, Bryces Gorge and Mt Reynard walk plus the McMillan's Walk report for the walk over Mt Tamboritha to Breakfast Creek. (refer Supplement)

Saturday night was celebration night. Lots of chatter during the pre-dinner nibbles and meal preparation. After dinner Jack took up his post as MC and Quiz Master. Jack, Darren and Joe all spoke about aspects of McMillan's Track and the high country attractions. The quiz was fun and added more knowledge about McMillan's Track and the BCWC for those who didn't already know the answers. There were prizes for everyone thanks to the generosity of the outdoor shops in Bairnsdale, Sale and Traralgon and Happy Camper Gourmet Meals from Lindenow.



**Trish highlighting the prizes on offer**

Darren McCubbin the newly elected mayor of Wellington Shire had joined in the Bryces Gorge walk and admitted that he didn't realise that his shire had such wonderful waterfalls, scenery and wild flowers. Darren lead the singing and cut the anniversary cake. After supper, which featured several of Judy's cakes, folks started to retire to their bunks, mattresses and tents.

All woke to a crisp frost and blue skies on Sunday morning. After photos the walkers set off in two groups. One with the McMillan's Track walkers to Breakfast Creek to do the next section of McMillan's Track and the other to the Gorge Car Park for the Mt Reynard walk with Jack. See separate reports.

Trish, Judy and Bev helped Max clean up and lock up the Chalet and then went on to provide a welcome cuppa as the walkers regrouped at Licola before heading off home.

All in all a great weekend of camaraderie, celebration and bushwalking. We were blessed by excellent weather for the occasion. Thanks to all contributors, walk leaders and participants for making this a wonderful weekend.



**Darren McCubbin cutting the Anniversary Cake**



**John & Michael  
Tucking into the roast dinner**



**All the CGBC participants gathered together for a group photo at Sambain Chalet**

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 48

### Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend 2015

#### BRYCE'S GORGE

**DATE:** Saturday 7th Nov

**LEADER:** Jim Stranger

**REPORT:** Jackie Whiting

**Walkers:** Jim, Denise, Jackie, Sue, Ron, Julie and Darren

Bryce's Gorge car park, representing the start of our walk is 28 kms from Sambain Chalet. Once our guest the Mayor of Wellington, Darren McCubbin arrived we set off in two cars with eight walkers at 9am for the car park. A few pot holes and a sloppy wet patch on the road didn't deter the drivers.



**The Walkers getting ready at Sambain Chalet,  
Or ..... It's a conga line!**

Our walk leader was Jim Stranger accompanied by his wife Denise and we set off at a leisurely pace as we absorbed the beautiful high country on one of its best days. With clear skies and the sun shining we were captivated by the glorious display of colourful wild flowers which were discussed by a few as to their names and varieties. The grasses were swaying in the breeze and the magical fresh pure mountain water of the stream and bogs were entrancing.

We arrived firstly at Pieman creek falls which was in full flow gushing over the edge down into the rocky cavern below and eventually into the Wonnangatta and Mitchell river. The sound of water and stunning scenery made for many photos. There were discussions of the originality of the name "Pieman" and how this name came about. Next an easy stroll to Conglomerate ck falls which again gushed over a ledge and rushed down rocky ledges and huge cliffs into the creek below. Beside the top of the falls and amongst the snow gums we enjoyed a leisurely lunch. We were joined by a lovely red robin and some heard the call of the cuckoo.

Moving along again we made it to the historical Guy's hut built 1939/40 by Alex Guy and his sons. This hut has survived many bush fires and is in good condition with a tin roof, horizontal logs and a brick fireplace. Inside are the bunks and some bush chairs and table and notched into many logs are names of fellow visitors.



**Guys Hut**

No longer do cattle or horses roam this part of the Alpine National Park which, in my opinion, is one of the best areas of wilderness in Victoria.

A short trek back to Bryce's car park and we hop in the cars and drive a short distance to Dimmick Look-out where because of the glorious weather we could see across to Mt. Hotham and Falls Creek to the east and Mt. Buller to the west.

No one was disappointed with this walk today and our thanks go to Jim our walk leader.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 49

### Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend 2015

#### Mt Howitt

**DATE:** Saturday 7th Nov

**LEADER:** Jack Winterbottom

**REPORT:** Monica Scicluna

Six keen walkers left Sambain Chalet at 8.30am for the drive to the Mt Howitt car park, where our intended walk commenced.

This mountain is a popular bushwalking destination with spectacular views including the Australian Alps Walking Track. We saw manna gums, snow gums and abundant views of wild flowers and the chirp of various birds.



**Sample scenery**



We arrived at Vallejo Gantner Hut at Macalister Springs for a well-earned snack break. The toilet there has the most fantastic southern facing views. Bev decided that she would wait for us at the hut.



**Bev at Macalister Spring**

The rest of the group set off to reach the peak of Mt Howitt which is 1742m high, this part of the walk was amazing with native bushes in flower, masses of purple, white and yellow. Jack told us names of different birds along the way. We reached the summit about 1pm, where we sat, ate and took in the most amazing scenery.

Our time came to an end so we set off back to the hut, picking up Bev on the way.

A big thank you goes to Jack for leading this walk and having the patience with the slower walkers myself and Bev.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 50

### Gippsland Combined Bushwalkers weekend

#### Mt REYNARD

**DATE: Sunday 8th November**

**LEADER: Jack Winterbottom**

**REPORT: Jim Stranger**

We woke to a frost at Sambain Chalet the morning of the Mount Reynard walk, with the surrounding snow plains a carpet of white. When the time to depart had arrived however, the ice had gone from car wind-screens and hot coffee had fired up the innards. After a short drive up Tamboritha Road and Howitt Road, eleven of us from several Gippsland walking clubs set off on foot on a 4WD track to Kelly Hut. On arrival at the hut our first snake sighting alerted us to their virtual invisibility in lush grass.

The hut was used by cattlemen until grazing was finally banned in the park.

From there it was up, up, up. The climb was not that steep but was made difficult by many fallen trees. In compensation, the wildflowers were magnificent with purple hoveas in abundance and snow daisies just coming in to flower.



**Group heading up to the summit**

The views from the top of Mount Reynard (1700 metres) were stunning with Mounts Buffalo and Buller prominent on the skyline.



**Taking a break**

From here our esteemed leader opted to return to the vehicles by the most direct route. This proved to be a winner as we avoided the fallen trees that had hindered our ascent. We then followed the Snowy Plain and Tin Bucket Creek back to our vehicles where Jack's GPS revealed that our 8 km. walk had actually been 12 km.

Thank you Jack for a well-led and most enjoyable walk.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 51

### Mt Worth State Park

**DATE:** Saturday 11th November

**LEADER:** Wil Streckfuss

**REPORT:** Heather Alexander

**Walkers:** Wil, Mary, Heather & Eloise (visitor).

Monica, Wil, Mary and I travelled to Traralgon, and were joined by our visitor Eloise, to travel to Mt Worth. Early morning clouds and rain departed when we reached Darnum and made our way to the Moonlight Creek picnic area, but the heavy winds kept us company for most of the day.

As we made our way up to the track to Maslin's Mill, we were observed by a mature Kookaburra perched on Blackwood branch, and were also amused by a Raven seeing off a Wedge Tailed Eagle. The height of the Mountain Ash and Grey Gum trees was incredible and it was great to see remnant forest untouched by fire in recent times.

The walking tracks provide good access to the forest. Recent rains made some spots slippery, but not impassable. The tracks were dotted with small holes, which the interpretive signs indicated belonged to the burrowing crayfish.



**Wil, Mary, Eloise and Heather taking a break**

After lunch we took the Giant's Circuit walk to the giant Mountain Ash, 7 metres in circumference. We were reminded of the perils of nature when we heard the resounding crack and observed a tree fall on the ridge south west of the picnic area. Along the way the mature tree ferns were magnificent and provided us with many "wow" moments. We found a tree fern grotto in the rainforest areas that took us all back to our childhood, playing in wonderful gardens, and we also observed quite a lot of interesting plate sized fungi growing from the side of the trees. Following the circuit, we located a number of old saw Mill sites and some evidence of equipment from operations in the 1920's. The forest has reclaimed most of the sites. Tiny birds, which we think were Little Olive Whistlers, kept us company along the track.

Thanks Wil for a wonderful day highlighting the beauty and accessibility of the Mt Worth area.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 52

### Billy Goat Bend to Den of Nargun Mitchell River NP

**DATE:** Saturday 14th November

**LEADER:** Ken Free

**REPORT:** Andrew Stevenson

**Walkers:** Ken, Bridget, Rose, Piero, Trevor, Andrew, Jackie, Heather & Marian

Walk leader Ken ordered perfect weather for this expedition from Billy Goat Bend along the western bank of the Mitchell River to the Den of Nargun.

The wildlife did not disappoint with numerous small flowering grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea minor*) spotted almost as soon as we turned off the bitumen into Mitchell River National Park. Numerous birds, a Gippsland Water Dragon, an eel and 2 goannas were also sighted during the walk.



**Gippsland Water Dragon spotted on the track**

We ate our lunch on the track in the shade of a rainforest gully. Just before we reached the Den of Nargun we made a short detour to Deadcock's Den to view a spectacular waterfall and rock pool - which is where we spotted the eel.



**Group photo at Deadcock Den waterfall**

A wonderful day was had by all with perfect weather, great company and spectacular scenery.

Thanks Ken for a great day.

## Golden Jubilee Walk # 53

### Loch Sport NP

**DATE:** Wednesday 18th November

**LEADER:** Monica Scicluna

**REPORT:** Heather Alexander

**Walkers:** Bridget, Heather Wil, Graham & Monica

On Wednesday 18 November, Monica led our group of 5 walkers along the Dolomite track to the Oil Bore landing where we paused on a small beach at Trouser Bight, overlooking Lake Victoria. The weather was perfect for our walk, with the temperature in the low 20's, clear skies and sunshine sparkling off the water.



**Bridget, Heather, Wil & Graham enjoying the sights**

We continued along the water's edge to Pelican Point, watching a group of kayakers passing by. Apart from these human visitors, we appeared to have the Park to ourselves, to enjoy the birdsong and various sightings of kangaroos, wallabies, pelicans and emu's. Monica's declared aim for the day was to sight a hog deer, which had proved elusive during her many previous walks.

This was a great time of year to visit this area, as the Ti Trees were in blossom, while the Banksia and Eucalypt woodland provided welcome shady areas. The coastal heath is interspersed with swampy, salt marsh vegetation and Monica insisted we tasted a specific saltweed, that has been dubbed the *Salad of the Future*. We lunched at Wilson's Point alongside the kangaroos' grazing area and were thrilled to see dolphins cavorting far out on the lake. Further rambles followed lunch: to the Bird Hide on Lake Killarney, via Murphy's Hill and Balfour's Hill, with wonderful views of Lake Reeve, Lake King and Lake Killarney. On leaving the Park, Monica was finally granted her wish of a brief glimpse of a hog deer as it fled across the road. Many thanks to Monica for organising such an enjoyable walk.

# WALK PREVIEWS

## Walk Gradings

the Latrobe Valley. At the top of the walk we will walk

Distance	Hills	Track
<b>S</b> – Short < 10 km	<b>1 – 3</b> Easy Suitable for beginners	<b>1 – 3</b> Graded open terrain Well formed tracks/paths
<b>M</b> – Medium 10-15 km	<b>4 – 7</b> Medium Reasonable fitness required	<b>4 – 7</b> Bush, minor scrub Some rock hopping, scrambling
<b>L</b> – Long 15-20 km	<b>8 – 10</b> Hard Strenuous. Fit walkers only	<b>8 – 10</b> Bush, thick scrub, Rock hopping, Scrambling, Creek crossings, Use of hands
<b>X</b> – Extra Long >20 km		

## XMAS LUNCH



**DATE: Sunday 6th December**  
**VENUE: Criterion Hotel Macalister Str SALE**  
**TIME: 12 Noon**  
**COST: \$20 pp** (main meal + 1 beverage)  
**RSVP: Tuesday 1st December**  
**Monica Scicluna -- 5144 6713**  
**EMAIL: [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com)**

We have decided to try the Criterion this year for our xmas get together. If you can wear something relating to xmas. that would make it more festive.

They have 3 or 4 choices from a \$20 menu or you may wish to order a meal off the main menu or board. If you wish to have a desert, this will be extra.

Hope to see you all for a great lunch and get together

## TYERS WALKING TRACK

**DATE: Wed 9th Dec 2015**  
**GRADE: S – 2 – 3**  
**DISTANCE: 8km**  
**MEET: Tyers kinder car park @ 9:00am**  
**LEADER: Oliver Raymond - 0411 420 345**  
**EMAIL: [oliverraymond@wideband.net.au](mailto:oliverraymond@wideband.net.au)**

We will drive to the start of the Tyers walk and park our cars. From there we will walk up the recently opened Tyers Walk, taking in the unfolding views over

along the Old Boola Road through a recently planted pine plantation, past an old trig point, up a wild gully and past two mobile phone masts. We will then return to the top of the Tyers Walking Track and return down the hill to our cars. We can then have lunch in the Tyers rotunda, which has a free gas BBQ – bring your own food and drink.

## PICTURE POINT WELLINGTON PLAINS

**DATE: Friday 1st Jan 2016**  
**GRADE: M – 3 – 3**  
**DISTANCE: 12kms**  
**MEET: Glenmaggie Cemetery @ 8:00am**  
**LEADER: Jack Winterbottom - 0408 411 079**  
**EMAIL: [jack@wbm.id.au](mailto:jack@wbm.id.au)**

The first walk for the New Year will be a fairly easy jaunt to Picture Point; the peak to the very left of the vista at Bennison Lookout.

Commencing at McFarlane Saddle, we cross Wellington Plain and work our way up through the regenerating snowgums to the top of Picture Point, have our lunch and return at a leisurely pace to the cars. This walk is in the alpine environment so be prepared for anything.

Mountain gear needs to be taken, as well as lunch, fluid and a good humour.

**LAKES ENTRANCE**  
**(FOOTBRIDGE TO THE ENTRANCE)**

**DATE: Saturday 23rd Jan**  
**GRADE: S - 3 - 3**  
**DISTANCE: 8 kms**  
**MEET: Stratford park at 9:00am**  
**LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0439 614 544**  
**Email: [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com)**

This is an easy walk from the foot bridge walking along a path in bush setting. We then go out to the entrance and if weather permitting we will walk back along the beach. If time and weather permits we will do another walk at Tyers.

**KAYAK ADVENTURE**  
**TOORLOO ARM FROM CHERRYTREE**  
**LAKE TYERS FOREST PARK**

**DATE: Saturday 30th Jan**  
**GRADE: M - 1 - 3**  
**DISTANCE: Kayak up to 13.5 kms**  
**Walk (optional) 2kms**  
**MEET: Stratford Memorial park at 8:00am**  
**Or Lakes Entrance footbridge eastern car-park, The Esplanade @ 9:00am**  
**LEADER: Anna Janca - 0419 178 445**  
**EMAIL: [annajanca@bigpond.com](mailto:annajanca@bigpond.com)**



Toorloo Arm is an arm of Lake Tyers within the Lake Tyers Forest Park. From Lakes Entrance, travel to Cherry Tree picnic area where we will meet Brett from Gippsland Kayak Tours. After familiarisation and safety instructions, we will paddle upstream as far as water levels permit, under the Princes Highway bridge along Toorloo Arm as it becomes Stoney Creek and enjoy the bush, birdlife, and hopefully as far as the steep cliffs and high caves. Returning to Cherry Tree for a stretch and lunch, then paddle downstream as far as people wish to go, enjoying the bush, marshland, water birds and eagles. For those who do not wish to paddle, bring a fishing line and there is a 2km easy walk from Cherry Tree to Burnt Bridge and return along the Toorloo Arm. There is a toilet and small

picnic area with 2 tables at Cherry Tree. Fires may be lit subject to weather and fire restrictions. For ease of paddling, enjoyment and safety, sea kayaks only may be used. If you do not have your own sea kayak, they will be provided at a cost of \$45 per person, payable in cash on the day. Please register with the walk leader by 22/1/2016 to enable confirmation with Gippsland Kayak Tours.

**BRYCE'S GORGE**

**DATE: Sat 6th - Sun 7th Feb**  
**GRADE: S - 3 - 3**  
**DISTANCE: 9kms**  
**MEET: Glenmaggie Hall @ 8:00am**  
**LEADER: Oliver Raymond - 0411 420 345**  
**EMAIL: [oliverraymond@wideband.net.au](mailto:oliverraymond@wideband.net.au)**

Gather at the Glenmaggie hall to car pool, then drive to the start of the walk. Camp near Conglomerate Falls and walk to the bottom of the Falls. On Sunday, drive back to Glenmaggie and pick up cars for the drive home.

**THURRA RIVER & POINT HICKS**  
**CROAJINGOLONG NP**

**DATE: Sat 19th - Sun 20th Feb**  
**GRADE: M - 3 - 4 (TBC)**  
**DISTANCE: Combination of full or half day walks**  
**MEET: Community centre car park Cnr Princes Highway and Bruthen Nowa Nowa Road, Nowa Nowa. TIME: TBA**  
**LEADER: Anna Janca - 0419 178 445**  
**EMAIL: [annajanca@bigpond.com](mailto:annajanca@bigpond.com)**

Discover vast dune fields, visit the Point Hicks Light station, take in coastal forests and explore estuaries and sweeping beaches. Wind through coastal banksias and heathland before opening out into a network of sandy trails and explore a unique landscape of soaring sand dunes towering 30m above the Thurra River. Experience pristine natural beauty and immerse yourself in history walking to the Point Hicks Light station, and explore other heathland and beach tracks, rock pools and view shipwrecks. Camping cost \$30 per campsite payable to the caretaker on site. Maximum of 2 tents per site.

**NYERIMILANG  
HERITAGE PARK**

**DATE: Wednesday 24th February**  
**GRADE: S - 3 - 3**  
**DISTANCE: 3 - 4km**  
**MEET: Stratford Park @ 9:00am**  
**LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0439 614 544**  
**EMAIL: [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com)**

A lovely drive through the hills to Nyerimilang Heritage Park. We will have a look at the historic homestead and also stop at the old farm, where there is some interesting vintage farm machinery in the shed. It will be a leisurely walk through the parklands with great views of the Gippsland Lakes. There are lots of bellbirds and other wildlife.

**BAW BAW VILLAGE TO PHILLACK SADDLE  
BAW BAW PLATEAU**

**DATE: Saturday 27th February**  
**GRADE: S - 3 - 3**  
**DISTANCE: 8km**  
**MEET: Tyers kinder car park @ 9:00am**  
**LEADER: Jim Stranger - 5191 8312**  
**EMAIL: [Strangers1@westnet.com.au](mailto:Strangers1@westnet.com.au)**

From Baw Baw Village we will follow the cross country ski trail to Baragwanath Flat and then take a walking track to Phillack Saddle. We should be there around time for lunch before returning much the same way. The walk takes in some of the best the plateau has to offer. Be sure to take adequate clothing and water as this is an alpine area and weather can be severe at any time of year.

**MT DARLING**

**DATE: Sat 5th - Sun 6th March**  
**GRADE: M - 6 - 6**  
**DISTANCE: 18km**  
**MEET: Glenmaggie Hall @ 7:30am**  
**LEADER: Oliver Raymond - 0411 420 345**  
**EMAIL: [oliverraymond@wideband.net.au](mailto:oliverraymond@wideband.net.au)**

Gather at the Glenmaggie hall to car pool, then drive to Dimmick Lookout, from where we start walking. The walk is along abandoned logging roads, which in places are heavily overgrown with wattle and eucalypt regrowth, but no steep grades. We will camp in a delightful grassy clearing, and after setting up for the night we will explore the start of the old track to Mt. Darling. We will walk out to the edge of the escarpment and enjoy the views over the Wonnangatta Val-

ley. We will not actually walk out to Mt. Darling, as the return trip takes a day from our camp site. On Sunday, we will walk back to our cars, drive back to Glenmaggie and pick up cars for the drive home.

**TARA BULGA NP  
STRZLECKI RANGES**

**DATE: Sat 5th - Sun 6th March**  
**GRADE: Various**  
**DISTANCE: Various**  
**MEET: Tarra-Bulga Visitor Centre @ 9:30am**  
**LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0439 614 544**  
**EMAIL: [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com)**

We will be camping behind Balook Guest House, the cost is \$20 per tent, they have a kitchen and outside shower and toilet. I have organized a main & desert dinner for Saturday night cost \$22 they are licensed. You will need to provide your own lunches and breakfast for Sunday. We will do various walks on both days, this will be decided closer to the weekend. I hope that this will be a relaxing weekend in one of my favorite places.

**WINGAN INLET - CAR CAMP  
CROAJINGOLONG NP**

**DATE: Fri 1st - Sat 2nd - Sun 3rd April**  
**GRADE: S - 3 - 3**  
**DISTANCE: Various**  
**MEET: TBA**  
**LEADER: Oliver Raymond - 0411 420 345**  
**EMAIL: [oliverraymond@wideband.net.au](mailto:oliverraymond@wideband.net.au)**

More details associated with this event will be published in the February 2016 Newsletter. Suffice to say keep the weekend free if you are interested in attending.



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Issue 184 - BCWC NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT - DECEMBER 2015

## McMILLAN'S TRACK REPORT



***Maintaining BCWC's association with McMillan's Track was Joe van Beek, Michael Dowe, Anna Janca and Helmut Tracksdorf who took up the challenge of walking the 220km over 14 days to complete an End to End walk of this iconic trail. Very little evidence of McMillan's original track remains today so it is indeed rare to find remnants that have survived over the last 150 years. Here they are inspecting one of several blazes that was cut by Angus McMillan's original party back in 1864. Check out the full report of their adventure starting at page 3.***

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# Newsletter Editor—Ramblings

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## **SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT EDITION - McMillan's Track**

**December 2015**

*This month we are publishing a special supplement to the December 2015 Newsletter, primarily to record and report on Ben Cruachan Walking Club's recent challenge to tackle the 220kms of McMillan's Track – from Cobungra near Omeo through to Woods Point.*

*Over a total of 14 days, 4 members of BCWC, Joe van Beek, Michael Dowe, Anna Janca and Helmut Tracksdorf and 2 members of VMTC\*, Clive Davies and Geoff Hindle took on the challenge. Unfortunately Clive and Geoff could only participate for the first 7 days as they had other commitments to attend to thereafter.*

*Acting in a support role was BCWC member John Kellas who ferried all our equipment and food from campsite to campsite. John had led the 2003 expedition and was therefore able to offer his knowledge and experience to this years participants. It goes without saying that without his support , we may not have made it! On behalf of the group, Thanks John.*

*Ben Cruachan Walking Clubs association with McMillan's Track goes back a long way. In fact it probably goes back to the beginnings of the Club back in 1965 (TBC) because one of its foundation members, John Smith ("Smithy") has been an advocate of the track for a long time. Smithy's efforts to reconnoitre and re-discover original sections of the track earned him an Order of Australia Medal and resulted in the re-opening of the track by the then Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands – The Honourable Joan Kirner MLC in 1988.*

*Since then BCWC has consistently worked towards maintaining the track, albeit a difficult task given the length and breadth of the area it traverses. The combination of forest fires and re-growth plus a lack of funding and volunteers has all but made it impossible to maintain. Consequently sections of the track have become overgrown and fallen into disrepair.*

*Today it is possible to walk the track predominantly on well-maintained roads and 4WD tracks, with the occasional off road section. However for those who like a challenge it is possible to walk off road sections that adhere to McMillan's original track and are not for the faint hearted. Apart from steep pinches and declines, some sections are near impossible to find and towards the end near Woods Point the track has become overgrown with blackberries. Only those possessed with determination should proceed. Just ask Anna and she will set you straight. The saying: Veni Vidi Vici appears appropriate!*

*The club has consistently walked the track from end to end on various occasions, in 1996, 2003, 2009 and now 2015. (probably more). This walk has almost become a rite of passage for club members. However it is not necessary to walk end to end to feel special, sections alone will reward you with fantastic scenery, amazing wild flowers and special memories.*

*So what are you waiting for?*

*Helmut Tracksdorf*

\* Victorian Mountain Tramping Club



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# McMillan's Track

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## McMillan's Track Historical perspective

It is worth noting that prior to 1850, Australia's non-indigenous population was less than 500,000. In effect Australia was a colonial backwater struggling to develop. In 1851, the discovery of the Victorian Goldfields (Primarily Bendigo & Ballarat) converted a remote dependency into a country of world wide fame; it attracted a population, extraordinary in number, with unprecedented rapidity; it enhanced the value of property to an enormous extent; it also made this one of the richest countries in the world; and, in less than five years, this remote colony made an impact felt in the most distant regions of the globe. It was an extraordinary moment in time. By 1855, Australia's non-indigenous population had ballooned to 1.5 million.

Prior to the Gold rush, around 1840, Angus McMillan had established himself as an explorer of the high country in Gippsland but by 1855 he had effectively retired to become a pastoralist on the Avon River in East Gippsland.

In 1864, in need of money, McMillan acceded to a request from the Victorian Government to lead a team of men into Gippsland's alpine region with the aim of mapping and clearing tracks to support local mining operations. Within six months McMillan and his men had constructed more than 220 miles (350 km) of track through rugged terrain near Omeo and Dargo. It was to be McMillan's last expedition; in May 1865 he was clearing a track near Dargo when a pack-horse slipped and fell, crushing him beneath it. McMillan was carried to a public house in Iguana Creek, suffering serious internal injuries. He died on 18 May 1865, and was buried in the public cemetery at Sale.

His work from March to May in 1864, greatly expanded the existing track network and linked the goldfields and towns of Omeo, Dargo, Crooked River and Woods Point.

This network of tracks has now become known as McMillan's Track and forms one of the most challenging walks across the Great Dividing Range of Victoria.

## McMillan's Track BCWC's Perspective

Over time, McMillan's original track was superseded with the formation of alternative roads and as the gold fields became depleted and abandoned, its usefulness dwindled.

During the 1980's BCWC member John Smith ("Smithy") became the driving force behind re-discovering the track. BCWC in conjunction with predecessors of Parks Victoria (PV) and the Department of the Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) rediscovered, cleared and marked the track. The track was officially opened as McMillan's Walking Track by Joan Kirner then Minister of Conservation, Forests and Land on 19 March 1988 as recorded on the plaque to mark the occasion at Breakfast Creek on the Wellington River north of Licola.



*The Plaque near Breakfast Creek commemorating the official re-opening of McMillan's Track as a walking track in March 1988*

Smithy was duly awarded an Order of Australia medal for his submissions and commitment to the re-opening of McMillan's track. This was a truly proud achievement for John Smith and the Ben Cruachan Walking Club. However, it will require ongoing maintenance to keep the track open and available for others to enjoy.

Since then, numerous working bees have been carried out along sections of the track with assistance from the various land management groups. In addition, club members have walked the track from End to End in 1996, 2003, 2006 and now 2015. On each occasion it has proven a memorable experience and an adventure not to be forgotten. This latest challenge was no exception.



## McMillan's Walking Track 2015

**DATES:** Friday 30th Oct - Friday 12th Nov

**BCWC WALKERS:** Joe van Beek, Michael Dowe, Anna Janca, Helmut Tracksdorf

**VMTC WALKERS:** Clive Davies & Geoff Hindle

**SUPPORT CREW:** John Kellas

**REPORT:** Joe van Beek and Helmut Tracksdorf

Four members of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club and two members of VMTC took on the challenge of walking McMillan's Walking Track to experience sections and or complete the 220 km journey in 14 days. The walk was in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of McMillan's Track and included reconnaissance of the tracks condition and involved a concerted effort to re-mark sections where necessary.

### Day 1 – Friday 30th October

#### Cobungra (Victoria River Track ) to Black Sallee on Long Plain

Climb: 240m                      Descent: 60m  
Distance: 8km                    Cumulative: 8km  
Campsite: Black Sallee (small lake)

On Friday 30 October Kath Smith, Forest Manager DELWP from Swifts Creek, farewelled the walkers and the support crew at Cobungra near Omeo. Robyn Shingles and Peter Maffei representing Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) were also present at the commencement of the walk to provide encouragement and present the walkers with BWVs recently released environmental code: Tread Softly. After photos, the 4 club members and 2 VMTC guests departed the starting point at 2:30pm and commenced walking along The Victoria River track.



Group photo at the start of McMillan's Track



The walkers heading off along Victoria River Tk

Due to the late start, we only had to walk 8km today which was along a well defined 4WD track that slowly rose towards the top of the divide. After a relatively easy two hour stroll we arrived at our first campsite at Black Sallee which was a luxury camp alongside a small lake.



Arrival at Black Sallee & campsite below



## Day 2 – Saturday 31st October

### Long Plain - Mayford Track – Treasury Spur - Kings Spur

Climb: 840m

Descent: 540m

Distance: 17km

Cumulative: 25km

Camp: Kings Spur near Bright Hut, Dargo High Plains

The group rise and shine at 6:30am and are ready to depart by 8:30am. Day 2 presented the walkers with a very steep descent along a fire break down to Mayford Flats on the Dargo River and then a steep climb up Treasury Spur on to the Dargo High Plains.



Looking down onto the Dargo paddocks from Mayford



Clive, Michael, Geoff & Joe on the Dargo paddocks

Prior to reaching Mayford Track it began to drizzle but fortunately only lightly. The Dargo flats were shrouded in mist and by 11:00 am we were crossing the Dargo, the first of many rivers to come.

Some chose to walk straight through the water which was below knee height, whereas others removed their boots and socks to keep them dry. Soon we were heading up the other side of the mountains following markers along Treasury Spur. Three quarters of the way up at 12:30pm we stopped for lunch. By 2:00pm we were on top of the Dargo High Plains and began walking along King Spur on a well made road again. There was plenty of fog and mist but no rain.



Group at the edge of Devils Hollow



Walking along King Spur

At Devils Hollow we were able to look across the valley towards Mt Hotham which still had remnant snow on some of its slopes. Down in the valley we could see two eagles being shadowed by Currawongs who were determined to drive the raptors away. The track along King Spur was well defined so we made good progress reaching our campsite at 3:30pm, where John was waiting. Another shower of rain also greeted our arrival.

The number of 4WD vehicles which were at and about our chosen camp spot reminded us that this was Melbourne Cup weekend and the first weekend that many seasonally closed tracks had been reopened.

After setting up our tents, Anna & Helmut went to inspect the nearby Bright Hut which was surrounded by slush and mud as a result of a 4WD group that had taken up residence. Upon looking

inside and introducing themselves they realised they had stumbled onto the set of 'Deliverance 2' and promptly made a strategic withdrawal. Reputations intact!

### Day 3 – Sunday 1st November

#### Kings Spur – Dargo High Plains Road – Jeff Davis Track

Climb: 170m                      Descent: 350m  
Distance: 27km                  Cumulative: 52km  
Campsite: Jeff Davis Spur track

We hit the track which was effectively Dargo Rd at 8:30am. Today could best be described as a stroll down the Dargo High Plains Road. Angus McMillan obviously agreed that this route presented easy going.

Continuing along the Dargo road we stopped briefly for lunch at noon and with dark clouds rolling in we hit the road expecting thunderstorms.



Walking towards ominous dark clouds



Strolling along the Dargo Rd

Further along we came across an old vehicle that had failed to negotiate a bend. After a quick inspection we continued on towards Jeff Davis Track and our next campsite. At 3:30pm we reached camp with the sound of thunder suggesting rain. Fortunately it was only light rain for a short time. After BBQ sausages for tea we hit the sack early at around 8:00pm



Group photo at McMillan's Track sign



Michael inspecting the vehicle

We didn't attempt the alternative route down the top end of the Crooked River as two recent walkers had abandoned it because the vegetation was hard to penetrate and the track could not be found; a job left for another occasion.

At 11:00am we stopped for morning tea at the historic site of Gows Hotel where our trusty support John, was waiting. There is nothing left of the original Hotel but several exotic trees clearly indicated its former presence.

## Day 4 – Monday 2nd November

### Jeff Spur Track - Crooked River - Talbotville

Climb: 110m                      Descent: 1,150m

Distance: 17.5km              Cumulative: 69.5km

Campsite: Talbotville

Rise and shine at 7:00am to the sound of kookaburras. Depart camp at 8:30am and head along Jeff Davis track which was partly shrouded in mist until it abruptly and steeply declines down towards the Crooked river for about 2km.

We reach the river at 11:30 and stop for an early lunch. With time up our sleeve we explored upstream following a track cut into the side of the valley above the river. There were signs of mining activity along this track and we all agreed this represented a more interesting approach to the river.



**Exploring along the Crooked River**

We suspect this track connects with the alternative top end track that was deemed unnavigable but time constraints meant this alternative route



**Michael inspecting old mining equipment**

will need to be explored another day.

Upon our return to the Crooked River it was time to don sandals or runners as there were many more crossings of this river before we would reach our destination for the day - Talbotville.



**Clive and group crossing the Crooked River**

In the 1860's, the Crooked River became the sight of a minor gold rush with thousands of people took up residence along its banks in places like Bulltown, Hogtown and Talbotville. There is clear evidence of mining (shafts) and the remnants of historic buildings along the track. All in all an interesting and possibly dangerous area to explore.

The water at our first crossing was crystal clear but with the numerous 4WD's negotiating the track it soon became muddy downstream. After finally crossing the river 20 times we reached Talbotville at 4:30pm.

Talbotville is located on a large grassy plain next to the river. This was a popular camping spot where a thriving 4WD and camping community had set up for the Melbourne Cup weekend. Once again John had chosen an ideal spot for us to set up camp beside the river. We hit the sack at 9:00pm after a round of 500. (cards)



**Our campsite at Talbotville**

## Day 5 – Tuesday 3rd November

### Talbotville – Station Track – Cynthia Range – Eaglevale – Pulpit Rock

Climb: 785m

Descent: 765m

Distance: 21km

Cumulative: 90.5km

Camp: Wonnongatta River (1km past pulpit rock)

Woke to the sound of running water at 6:30am. At 8:30am we departed camp crossing the Crooked River one last time before heading up hill. The track diverts off the main 4WD road and drops down to the Wongungarra River and the extension of Station Track which climbs up the Cynthia Range then drops down to the suspension bridge over the Wonnangatta River. This section presented us with our first real bush bashing experience as parts of these tracks were quite overgrown, but worse was still to come.



Where McMillan's Track drops down to Wongungarra

Initially the walk proved a stroll along a 4WD track but once we plunged off the side (following the officially marked track) it became more challenging. It appeared no one had walked this section for some time as it was completely overgrown with little evidence of a path. Fortunately we were able to negotiate our way down to the Wongungarra River doing a little track clearing on the way down.



Checking our position during track clearing

After a short break we headed off up Station track which soon separated the men from the boys and girls. It was up, up and more up with steep sections along the way. By 11:30 we finally reached Cynthia Range Track where we diverted once again off road down towards the Wonnongatta valley below.

By 1:00pm we were down alongside the lush pastures of the Wonnangatta valley. This looked like perfect cattle farming country but then again I'm no cattle farmer! We crossed the Wonnangatta River via an old suspension bridge at Eaglevale and promptly settled down for lunch beside the river. A perfect location.



Crossing the Wonnangatta river

By 1:45pm we were back on a 4WD track referred to as Moroka junction track which followed the Wonnangatta valley upstream for approximately 12km until we finally arrived at our campsite just past pulpit rock alongside the river at 5:30pm. This gave us the opportunity to freshen up and wash away the dirt and grime (plus the smell) of the last 5 days.



Anna, Joe and Geoff above the Wonnangatta River

This time we only had to share our campsite with a couple of deer hunters who proved an interesting couple. (See 'Wildshot' on Page 19)

## Day 6 – Wednesday 4th November

### Pulpit Rock – Moroka River - lower end of Moroka River Track

Climb: 170m                      Descent: 80m

Distance: 10.5km              Cumulative: 101km

Campsite: Moroka River (base of Moroka River Tk)

Rose 6:00am with the aim of departing by 8:00am. Today Anna left us for two days due to a commitment in Melbourne. So the rest of the party made its way up the beautiful Moroka River.



**Michael & Joe discussing the options: up or down?**

from the river and crosses the saddle that Helmut & Michael explored. They found a track marker but couldn't understand why McMillan would have chosen the high ground rather than the easier river option.

Upon returning to the Moroka, Helmut & Michael seemed to find every brown snake that lives along the river!



**Geoff, Clive, Helmut, Joe & Michael at start of Moroka River**

We followed the track markers along the river until they petered out. This section of the track along the Moroka river was certainly scenic with plenty of spots to stop and take in the views.



**One of the close encounters!**

We re-joined the others for lunch alongside the river at 12:30pm. After a short break we continued along the beautiful Moroka River until we reached our campsite at the bottom end of Moroka River track at 3:15pm. There was a large waterhole in the river at this location which afforded us the ideal opportunity for a swim.

As a Wilderness area there is no access for private vehicles to this camp site. We were therefore grateful to Sheri and Paul from DELWP who on behalf of PV ferried our camping equipment and food from Doolan's Plain down to the river. We dined in style, as we did every evening, and gathered some local knowledge.



**View of Snowy Buff from Moroka River**

However, as the track markers became fewer we weren't sure whether to go up or down. At this stage the group split into two parties with Joe, Clive and Geoff staying with the river whereas Michael and Helmut took the high ground which led them up over a saddle which then promptly dropped back down to the river. According to previous attempts McMillan's track diverts away

**Day 7 – Thursday 5th November**  
**Moroka River crossing – Playboy Creek –**  
**D4 Track – Volkswagen**

Climb: 1,010m      Descent: 40m  
 Distance: 13km Cumulative: 114km  
 Campsite: Volkswagen

Next morning Sheri and Paul took the rubbish we had collected along the track and ferried our camping gear, left over food and John back to his vehicle (our support vehicle). We continued on along the track recording markers, replacing missing and burnt out markers which was part of our daily routine as required. At 9:30am we reached Playboy Creek where we left the Moroka River and headed up over Beth Saddle and onto the D4 Track which links up with Moroka Road.



**Saying thanks & goodbye to Sheri & Paul of DELWP**

After leaving the Moroka River we walk parallel to Playboy Creek looking for markers as we go. By 10:30 we leave Playboy creek and head uphill towards Beth Saddle still following and looking for markers. By 12:30 we arrive on top and stop for lunch. Soon after we hit the D4 track which connects with Moroka Rd. However we are effectively above the cloud line so we are walking in the mist with occasional light showers. The wet conditions bring out the leeches and soon we are removing these bloodsuckers from our legs.



**Makeshift 4WD bridge on D4 track**

At 2:30pm we reach our campsite called Volkswagen, named after a VW was left abandoned at this site (many years ago & since removed). Unfortunately the campsite which is located near the junction with the Moroka Road was not ideal as a deer had had an unfortunate accident nearby and was starting to decompose. So every now and again the waft of 'Eau De Venison' would drift across our campsite.



**Volkswagen campsite on D4 track**

Geoff and Clive who are members of the Victorian Mountain Tramping Club (VMTC) finished their walk with us here whereas Anna re-joined the team. Now there were only 4 walkers left to complete the task.

**Day 8 – Friday 6th November**

**Moroka Road – Arbuckle Junction – Kellys Lane – Sambain Chalet**

Climb: 260m      Descent: 400m  
 Distance: 18.5km      Cumulative: 132.5km  
 Campsite: Sambain Chalet

We wake up to the sound of ravens and blowflies, thanks to the deer carcass nearby. Also the sound of John cutting wood indicates it's time to get up! By 8:30am we are on the track and hit Moroka road within 5 mins. Turning right we stroll towards Arbuckle Junction spotting a pure black rabbit along the way. Is this a sign of good luck or bad?



**Approaching Arbuckle Junction**



We arrive at the junction by 9:45am and then head bush following markers up towards Mt Arbuckle. This section of the track requires maintenance as it has become noticeably overgrown. Skirting the summit of Mt Arbuckle we cross over towards Shaws Creek with Kelly Hut beyond. The views over the button grass plains dotted with purple hoveas are simply spectacular.

Reach Kelly hut by 11:30am taking time out to inspect the hut and take a photo. We now turn South following Kelly lane a 4WD track that takes us towards the Bennison Plains. Stop for lunch at McMichaels Hut which is located next to Shaws Creek, a pleasant spot.



**Joe reading the Kelly Hut logbook**

Departing at 12:45 we continue along Kelly lane. However it soon becomes apparent that we have missed a marker indicating a turnoff point.

After some discussion the group splits into two with Anna and Helmut sticking to Kelly Lane and Joe and Michael heading back to explore where we missed the turnoff. Kelly Lane connects with Tamboritha Road which leads Anna & Helmut directly to Sambain Chalet, whereas Joe and Michael bushwalk around the perimeter of Higgins Hut to arrive at Sambain a short time later.



**Anna happy at reaching Sambain**

Sambain Hut is the location for this years annual gathering of the Eastern Clans otherwise known as the Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs Weekend. (CGWC) For the McMillan's track walkers it is an opportunity for hot showers and the added luxury of eating and sleeping indoors.

An added bonus was the fantastic roast dinner prepared by Trish Marston and her team of helpers, that provided enough sustenance for what lay ahead.

Check out the December Newsletter for a full report on the CGWC weekend activities.

### **Day 9 – Saturday 7th November**

#### **Sambain Chalet - Dingo Hill Track – Mt. Tamboritha – Breakfast Creek**

Climb: 510m

Descent: 1450m

Distance: 19.5km

Cumulative: 152km

Campsite: Sambain Chalet

As part of the CGWC celebrations seven other walkers joined us today for the walk along McMillan's track over the Mt Tamboritha section. At 8:30am the group are ready to depart walking along the perimeter fence of Higgins property towards Dingo Hill track and Long Hill track. Surprisingly we meet a lone walker at Shaws creek also walking McMillan's Track from end to end, carrying a full pack and unsupported! Hats off and full credit to this hardy individual. I for one had not thought it possible.



**CGWC walkers ready to hit McMillan's Track**

Soon we were heading up towards Mt Tamboritha and beyond. The views along this section of the McMillan's track were indeed spectacular as were the wildflowers at this time of year. It would appear that November is the best time to walk this section of the track. As a group we certainly enjoyed the views and scenery that was abundant in spades.



**Group atop Mt Tamboritha admiring the views**



**Heading down Tamboritha saddle with the Crinoline in background**



**Group photo with Gable End (in background)**

As we approach Breakfast Creek the track became more difficult due to the steep decline and regrowth that occasionally obscured the track. Nevertheless it proves relatively easy to negotiate our way down with the help of the occasional marker and arrived at Breakfast Creek at 5:00pm. With the assistance of a car shuffle we were ferried back to Sambain Chalet for an evening of camaraderie and celebrating 150 years since the establishment of McMillan's Track. Darren McCubbin, Mayor of Wellington Shire led the singing and cut the commemorative cake.

**Day 10 – Sunday 8th November  
Breakfast Creek – Macalister River -  
Glencairn Rd (9km) - Barkly River**

Climb: 990m                      Descent: 890m  
Distance: 17km                  Cumulative: 169km  
Campsite: Skene Ck - Barkly River

Today, after a car shuffle we recommence walking at Breakfast Creek with six other walkers in tow. Before starting we took group photos at the official plaque commemorating the re-opening of McMillan's track back in 1988.



**Official group photo at commemorative plaque**

The combined group then began their climb up towards the Crinoline, diverting at Smith Street and then down a recently burnt out spur that leads to the Macalister River. We left Helmut behind at Breakfast Creek as he was suffering from a mild case of the trots, which made walking somewhat tricky to say the least. Enough said!

After a knee-high crossing of the Macalister River the group had lunch. Then it was only a relatively short trek up the other side and then on to Glencairn, an old established farm located within the Macalister river catchment. Arriving at 2:30pm. Here John and CGWC support staff were waiting. After a group photo, the six guest walkers left to return to Sambain or home whereas the three remaining end to end walkers continued on towards their next campsite.



**Group at Glencairn**

It then took almost 2 hours for the remaining 3 walkers to reach camp alongside Skene creek a tributary of the Barkly River. After crossing the Barkly, the walkers appeared happy to see John and Helmut (who had recovered from his stomach bug) waiting at camp. Someone had built a roman style spa bath in the creek, so some of us took advantage of the opportunity to freshen up. That night we hit the sack around 8:30pm having discussed and resolved all the current global issues, around the campfire.

**Day 11 – Monday 9th November**

**Skene Creek – Connors Plain –  
Licola-Jamieson Road**

Climb: 990m                      Descent: 890m  
Distance: 20km                  Cumulative: 189km  
Campsite: Skene Ck - Barkly River

Woke to the sounds of birdsong and Skene Creek around 6:30am. We hit the track at 8:30am This morning Anna took a break and rode with John. A wise move as within minutes we turned up McMillan Spur / Morris road, which although not quite vertical was certainly steep by most standards. After approximately 2hrs of steady climbing we arrive on top to be greeted by a D10 dozer and crew who are doing road maintenance. Anna re-joins us as John has parked near the intersection of Morris track and the main Jamieson - Licola Rd.



**Another one bites the dust on the  
Licola - Jamieson Rd**

After a short break we turn right along the Jamieson Licola Road to a junction with Lazarini Spur Track. The 4 km of off-road from N18 up to Mt Shillinglaw which joins with the AAWT and back to the Jamieson Licola Road, had some difficult bits. This track was over grown in places and markers burnt out. Unfortunately Joe inadvertently misplaced one of his walking poles whilst busy cutting and remarking this section of the track. If future expeditions should find it,

please return it to Joe as he had formed a sentimental attachment to it. Fortunately the line of the track was easy to follow by noting the gap between the tall trees.

Prior to reconnecting with the main road Anna decided to take a tumble. This resulted in the sole of her shoe removing itself from her boot. Prior to this we had already initiated some repairs back at Sambain Chalet. But fundamentally her boots had reached the end of their life. We initiated some additional repairs tying and taping the sole back on. There was not much more she could do except soldier on.



**Anna's boots showing signs of wear & tear**

We reconnected with the main Jamieson - Licola Rd at 3:00pm and by 4:10 reached the head of Lazarini Spur, where we set up camp for the night.



**After dinner it seemed appropriate to relax with a drink and some apricot slice.**

**Day 12 – Tuesday 10th November**  
**Lazarini Spur – Black River – CS5 Track**  
 Climb: 600m                      Descent: 710m  
 Distance: 12km                  Cumulative: 201km  
 Campsite: Champion Spur/ CS5 Track Junction

As per usual we rise and shine early at 6:30am to a variety of birdsongs. Depart camp at 8:15am following Lazarini Spur Track. Within the hour we depart Lazarini's and follow McMillan's track markers all the way down towards the Black River. There was a bit of scrub bashing and some awkward fallen trees that needed to be negotiated.

On the way down, we passed trees that were originally blazed by McMillan's party 150 years ago and observed some stone walling also attributed to the original construction of McMillan's Track.



**Helmut, Joe, Anna & Michael on Lazarini Tk**



**Blaze originally cut by McMillan's party**



**Anna, negotiating fallen trees on the track**

There is a beauty and tranquillity about this isolated part of the world which makes the journey worthwhile. From the Black River we climbed steeply up Champion Spur Track where John had established camp. We arrived round 2:30pm.

We were indeed very fortunate to have John Kel-las as our support crew. John has walked the track twice and had been on many track maintenance work parties. His knowledge of the track was of immense benefit to us.



**Remnant stone walling**



**John relaxing at camp**

Within half an hour of setting up camp it began to rain so while some of us snoozed in our tents, others huddled under the awning of John's vehicle. After an early dinner consisting of Happy Camper Meatballs, we finished with apricot slice and port. Due to the consistent light rain we hit the sack early around 7:00pm

### Day 13 – Wednesday 11th November

#### CS5 Track – Abbot Link Track - Johnson Hill - Johnson Link Track

Climb: 680m                      Descent: 720m  
Distance: 11km                  Cumulative: 212km  
Campsite: Johnson Link Track

This morning within 20 minutes of our departure we arrive at a point where McMillan's track leaves Champion Spur track. We spend the first 15 minutes marking and clearing the track which appears heavily overgrown. By 9:30 we have lost all signs of McMillan's track and can only scrub bash our way down the spur looking for 'any sign' of its existence. We do manage to find a log cut but that's all. At 11:00am we take a break and establish via GPS that we have only progressed 820 metres, 'as the crow flies'. In real terms we have walked approximately 2km, zig zagging for evidence of the track.



**Evidence of a track?**

Michael, our main navigator (via GPS) was heard saying: "We are on the track, but just can't see it"

In Joe's words: "Today presented us with one of the greatest challenges as far as the track was concerned. As we dropped off Champion Spur we searched and searched for evidence of the track to no avail. This section was burnt in 2009. The

fire burnt/melted the markers and the regrowth was thick. After two hours we were only 600 meters from our starting point".

Finally at 11:30am we located an old burnt out marker. We're back on track! After a while the undergrowth thinned out and it was relatively easy walking along the ridge. When we got off the ridge we found and lost the benched track a number of times. However, we did put up markers when we were sure we were on the track.

Eventually we hit Stander Creek which was strewn with mining relics from the past. However to view these relics you must turn right when you hit the creek. Those who went left missed seeing them.



**Mining relics in Stander Ck**

The exit from Stander Creek to Johnson Hill was a grind up the Abbot Link Track. If you thought Morris Rd was steep, this bordered on 'vertical' The track was closed to 4WD vehicles, no doubt because too many had come to grief attempting this section. To prove the point, Anna's boot repairs also failed along this track, and another temporary patch job was done.



**Anna undergoing boot repairs**

We finally reach our campsite near the intersection of Johnson Link Track and Johnson Hill Track at 4:45pm. There is a lot of mist around with dew dropping off the trees. After setting up our tents we celebrate our last camp with a drop of champers. By the time we hit the sack at 8:30pm the mist is like pea soup.



**Campsite in the mist**



**Celebrating our last camp with champers**

**Day 14 – Thursday 12th November**  
**Johnson Hill – Bald Hill - Gooley Creek**  
**- Woods Point**

Climb: 110m                      Descent: 520m  
 Distance: 8km                      Cumulative: 220km  
 Campsite: n/a

For our last day we met up with Catherine, Roger, Geoff and David from the Mansfield DELWP depot to identify and mark the track from Bald Hill down to the Goulburn River. They were equipped with slashers, secateurs, GPS and tape. What we thought might take a couple of hours ended up taking close on five. The lower we got the thicker the undergrowth, which included blackberries, and the more difficult it got

to find the track. After we crossed Gooley Creek, only the brave took the lead, as the blackberries were causing many scratches. We were grateful to have the slashers. We worked as a team with the DELWP people but they did most of the heavy lifting.



**Our friend the Blackberry**

We were pleased to finally hit the Johnson Hill track just above Comet Flats and the Goulburn river and walk the last few kilometres into Woods Point on a made road. Arriving at 1:20pm

We were delighted to be met by Judy and Jack, our pick up crew, but also by the surprise welcome provided by Charlie Ablitt and Dave Rimmer from BWV who had come from Melbourne. I'm not sure who arranged the short heavy shower of rain just as we entered Woods Point, the heaviest we had since we left Volkswagen. In the main, the weather during our walk of McMillan's was benign. Luck as it turned out was on our side.



**Helmut, Michael, Joe & Anna at the end of their walk**

It was good to finish, but at the same time it was sad. Our adventure had come to an end. We joined with colleagues and friends for a cuppa and treats. The Woods Point Hotel was closed, which meant we couldn't shout the bar. That was their loss. Shortly after leaving Woods Point the heavens opened and we drove through a massive hailstorm. I couldn't help but think, Wow! How lucky are we!

**MCMILLAN'S TRACK — FLORA & FAUNA**



**MCMILLAN'S TRACK**

**WILD SHOT**



***It was a dark and gloomy night when all of a sudden some hunters appeared!***

***"What are you hunting for?" asked Joe***

***"BUSHWALKERS" they replied.***