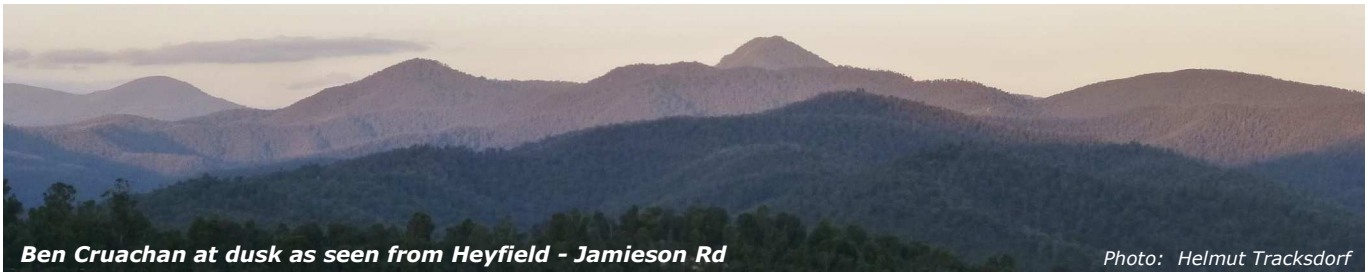
# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

**ISSUE 187 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - JUNE 2016**

***Everybody loves a mystery and these old ruins are no exception. Located within the Mitchell River National Park these are the ruins of the Honey House — all that remains of the Rising Sun Apiary constructed in 1923. It was originally constructed from natural stone bonded with clay and pointed with mortar on the exterior. The chimney is unusual as it forms part of the external wall of the building but does not protrude from the external walls of the house. Members of the club can be seen here inspecting the ruins and were given some historical background by walk leaders Rob & Josie Paterson.***

***Check out the full report on page 9.***

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc



*Ben Cruachan at dusk as seen from Heyfield - Jamieson Rd* *Photo: Helmut Tracksdorf*

**Club Postal Address — PO Box 70, Maffra Vic 3860 — Incorporation No A0004849G**
**www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com**

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***BCWC - Established 1965***

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2016 - 2017

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **PRESIDENT:** | **Monica Scicluna** | **5144 6713** |
| | joe.monica@hotmail.com | |
| **VICE PRES:** | **Joe van Beek** | **5176 5302** |
| **SECRETARY:** | **Anna Janca** | **0419 178 445** |
| | secbcwc@gmail.com | |
| **TREASURER:** | **Jack Winterbottom** | **0408 411 079** |
| **PUBLICITY:** | **Piero Baglioni** | **5156 7034** |
| | publicitybcwc@gmail.com | |
| **NEWSLETTER:** | **Helmut Tracksdorf** | **5156 6763** |
| | newsbcwc@gmail.com | |
| **WALKS CO-ORDINATOR:** | **Marian Matchan** | **0448 523 287** |
| | walkbcwc@gmail.com | |
| **TRACKS & HUTS:** | **Michael Dowe** | **5147 3075** |

**ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

**Trish Marston**
**Chris Marshall**
**Heather Alexander**
**Wil Streckfuss**

**CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH EVEN-NUMBERED MONTH**
**NEXT MEETING: WED 10 AUGUST AT 7.30PM**
**SEMINAR ROOM, MAFFRA VET CENTRE, 10 JOHNSON STREET, MAFFRA.**

***Welcome to our Newest Members:***
***Penny Bryer [Heyfield], Alison Stephens and Stephenie Kelly [Cowwarr],***
***Diana Christiansen [Denison], Rani Kanagaratnam [Bairnsdale],***
***Billy King [Lakes Entrance]***

# Presidential Ramblings

***JUNE 2016***

*I would like to thank our members who take on the Leadership roles once again for putting on walks and associated activities, without them our club would not function.*

*A small committee have been working on guidelines for Walk Leading Checklist and Bushwalking Etiquette, which when finalized will be added to our website for members to use.*

*Joe and his team are on the final stages of organizing our walk leader training weekend on the 9th & 10th July. If you are interested in leading a walk I encourage you to attend, we are limiting it to 25 participants, so please register. We can always learn something new or refresh on what we already know.*

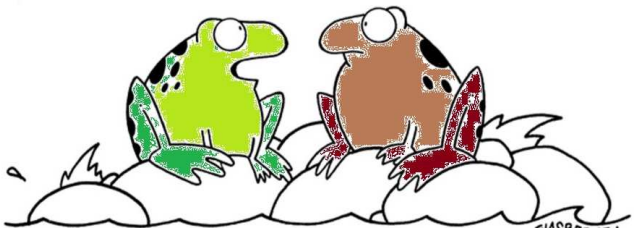
*If you would like to organize a walk please contact Marian as there are still dates available on this years calendar.*

*Hope to see you at our birthday lunch on Sat 25th June in Sale at the Criterion, preview attached. We still have hats, badges and mugs from our 50th. So if you would like to purchase any of these items, they will be available at the lunch.*

*If you have any issues please feel free to contact me anytime.*

*See you on the track!*

*Monica Scicluna*



**"I used to be a brown tadpole, but the global warming people convinced me to go green"**

# Club News

## BCWC Annual General Meeting

This was held at Maffra Vet Centre on 08 June. The new committee members are listed on page 2. In her Presidential Report, Monica thanked the committee for their hard work over the last year which had been a HUGE year for the club. We had our 50th Anniversary, celebrated the McMillan Track 150th Anniversary, hosted the Combined Gippsland Walking Club's Weekend at Sambain chalet, hosted an end-to-end walk of the McMillan Track, had 50 walks for 50 years [although we walked 60!], got a new website up and running, increased club membership to 111 plus all the usual stuff!! Well done everyone. We also decided to have the AGM in July from next year combined with a meal etc.

## Alterations to Regular Meetings

At the May committee meeting, it was decided to change the format of meetings through the year. Over the last year, we have been getting close to 30 members at each committee meeting, all enjoying the associated meal and social interaction. While in no way detracting from the value of club members being present at a committee meeting, for the committee, dealing with club business was harder than it should/could be and we have had some long [too long really] meetings. We resolved to have a specific social meeting on the second Wednesday of the odd-numbered month [3,5,7,9,11]. Members are still welcome to attend committee meetings. A schedule of meeting dates and venues will be circulated shortly and included in the website Walks Calendar.

## McMillans Track Maintenance

During April, a crew of BCWC members, (Joe van Beek, John Kellas, Michael Dowe & Anna Janca) worked on behalf of Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to upgrade three off-road sections of McMillans Walking Track totalling some 10km.

Plan A was to work on the Crooked River section from the Grant Historic Area up to the southern end of White Timber Spur but a planned 12,000 Ha-fuel reduction burn there meant we enacted plan B.

From a camp on the Mayford flats on the upper Dargo River, John, Michael and Joe put in almost 50 hours of labour to upgrade the marking and clear the track/route on Treasure Spur from Mayford up to the King Spur Track. It will now be much more straightforward to follow the track and the walking will be easier. Mayford is a delightful but remote location. It has 4WD access only between November and the beginning of May, but is accessible on foot all year round subject to weather conditions. It is a 9km walk and a drop of 800m in from the Dargo High Plains Road.

On Monday afternoon the group relocated camp to Eaglevale on the Wonnangatta River. Extra track markers and nails were collected from PV at Dargo on the way through. On Tuesday morning they started work, marking and clearing the track from Eaglevale up to Cynthia Range, marked on some maps as Station Track. Dan from DELWP at Dargo visited to check that they were compliant with DELWP volunteer safety systems and obtained authorisation for them to use power tools on DELWP managed land. Anna, who joined the group on Tuesday, was dispatched to Dargo to get fuel. Michael finished up on Wednesday afternoon and Anna re-joined the group from Thursday through to finish on Saturday.

They concluded Station Track on Thursday afternoon. Friday and Saturday morning were spent clearing the track from the Wongungarra River up to Brewery Creek Road not far from Talbotville. There was quite a lot of blackberry on the lower half of this section of track.

Having completed this work after some 120 hours of volunteer effort there is now an easy to follow 11km system of tracks linking the pleasant camping areas of Talbotville and Eaglevale. However, still take the requisite maps as you will need to ford the Crooked and the Wongungarra Rivers which are straight forward at low flow. There is a suspension bridge across the Wonnangatta River.

The BCWC volunteers are grateful to James Noonan, Forest Manager - Macalister, DELWP Heyfield, Sarah Noonan, Ranger Team Leader, PV Heyfield, Vicki Jones, Ranger PV Dargo and Dan 'Dargo', DELWP Dargo for their facilitation, support and encouragement. Thanks to John, Michael and Anna for their time, companionship, hard work and additional special thanks to John for the use of his vehicle and equipment, all the 4WD driving to get us to and from the work sites and coming all the way from Mt Gambier.

## Walk Leadership Training

An important event for everyone. Joe van Beek will conduct Walk Leadership Training over the weekend of 09-10 July at Coonawarra Farm Resort, and presented and facilitated by Joe, Ken Free and Judy Hunter, BWV Training.

The training is open to all club members irrespective of experience. Beginners will gain an insight into walk organisation and leadership preparing them to lead walks while experienced leaders will impart their knowledge by participation in discussion, work groups and outdoor exercises and get a refresher. The training is based on the well-respected Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) training program and materials and will introduce the latest useful material utilised by the club.

Check out the email sent to all members by Anna on the 9th May for more details.

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club – Walk Leadership Training

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Date:** | Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 July, 2016 | To be publicised in local papers? No | |
| **Grade:** | L – 3 - 3 | **Style:** | Weekend overnight in bunkrooms. |
| **Meeting Place:** | 1. Stratford - Memorial Park, Princes Highway, or<br>2. Bairnsdale – Visitor Information Centre, Main Street | **Meeting Time:** | 1. Stratford 8.15 Saturday<br>2. Bairnsdale 8.15 Saturday<br>For arrival at the venue no later than 9 am to settle in before training commences at 9.30 am. |
| **Walk Summary:** | The walk leadership training is open to all club members irrespective of experience. Beginners will gain an insight into walk organisation and leadership preparing them to lead walks while experienced leaders will impart their knowledge by participation in discussion, work groups and outdoor exercises and get a refresher. The training is based on the well respected Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) training program and materials and will introduce the latest useful material utilised by the club.<br>The training will be presented and facilitated by Joe van Beek, Ken Free and Judy Hunter our guest presenter and facilitator from BWV. Anna Janca will explain the BCWC paper work requirements and how to navigate the club's website.<br>Topics covered will include:<br>✓ What's it mean to be a leader and leadership styles.<br>✓ Walk preparation focused on the day walk with considerations for base camps and pack carries.<br>✓ Risk Management; why we do what we do.<br>✓ Conducting a walk; safe, environmentally friendly and enjoyable walking.<br>✓ Critical Incident management<br>The training will start at 9:30am on Saturday 9 July, gather from 9am, and conclude with afternoon tea at 3:30pm on Sunday 10 July. There will be an after dinner session on Saturday night from 7:30 to 9:00pm, bring your after dinner coffee or wine. Weather permitting there will be an outdoors activity on Sunday morning. A good frost will not stop this activity; come prepared.<br>A detailed training schedule and some pre course reading will be sent out to registrants prior to the training. All participants will receive a copy of the book Bushwalking and Ski Touring Leadership published by the Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Training Advisory Board Inc. | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Walk Leader:** | Joe van Beek<br>Logistics: Anna Janca & Marian Matchan | **Email:** | joevanbeek@bigpond.com<br>Registrations to: secbcwc@gmail.com | **Phone:** | Joe: 5176 5302<br>Anna: 0419 178 445<br>Marian: 0448 523 287 |

**Facilities & requirements at training venue and accommodation:**

Coonawarra Farm Resort
3545 Bairnsdale – Dargo Road, Glenaladale

Accommodation: Bunkroom with mattress and pillow supplied - no linen or blankets. Participants to bring pillow case and sleeping bag.
Accommodation options:

- Bunk room with ensuite - $50 per person per night.
- Bunk room with communal ablution facilities in separate building requiring outside access - $40 per person.

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club – Walk Leadership Training

Meals – we are self-catering.

- Breakfast and lunch - bring your own.
- Morning and afternoon teas will be provided.
- Dinner meat plus veg and veg only will be provided and will be gluten free. If you have special dietary requirements additional to this, please bring your own. Please advise when registering if you wish to share in the evening dinner. A contribution to the cost of this will be requested on the weekend.

Kitchen facilities: There is abundant refrigeration, crockery, cutlery, utensils, microwave, etc. However, cooking facilities are for bulk catering with large cooking pots, big ovens, etc. If you are self-catering, please minimise cooking and bring your own pot.

There is no mobile phone or Wifi internet reception. Internet access available at a cost of $10.

## Equipment requirements:

Bring a compass (Silva or equivalent) and the usual day walk gear as outdoor activities will be undertaken, weather permitting.

## Booking requirements & costs:

The number of participants is limited to 25. The training is open to all Gippsland bushwalking club members with BCWC having priority.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club members – please register and pay the accommodation component by **June 10, 2016**.

- $40 or $50 for accommodation – depending on which ablution facility you prefer.

BCWC will fund all costs other than meals. If it is successful in its grant application for this activity, $40 accommodation cost will be reimbursed to participants. However, this may not be known until the training date. Hence registration and payment from participants is required by the due date.

Other Gippsland bushwalking club members – Please register your interest **by June 10, 2016**. Once BCWC registrations are confirmed, the remaining places will be offered to other Gippsland bushwalking club members who in order of registration of interest. Your cost, payable by June 24, 2016, will be:

- $40 or $50 for accommodation – depending on which ablution facility you prefer, plus
- $20 for other costs eg printing and materials.

Payments can be made by:

- EFT into the Club's bank account BSB: 013 713 A/c 278934713 (Include WLT and surname in description of payment)
- Cheque posted to PO Box 70 Maffra
- Cash: Only to the Treasurer, Jack Winterbottom or Secretary, Anna Janca.

If you choose to participate in the evening meal provided, a contribution to this will be collected on the day.

## Drive from meeting point to walk start: (4 wheel drive vehicles not required.)

**From Stratford:** Travel east along Princes Highway. Turn left onto Fernbank – Glenaladale Road, following signs to Dargo. At The Fingerboards intersection turn/veer left onto the Bairnsdale – Dargo Road, continue on this, veering right at the Y with Beverleys Road, staying on the Bairnsdale – Dargo Road, until the large sign to Coonawarra Farm Resort. Turn left and follow road into resort. Approx. 40 kms / 30 mins.

**From Bairnsdale:** Travel west along Princess Highway. Turn right onto the Bairnsdale – Dargo Road, on the outskirts of town. Continue on this, veering right at the Y with Beverleys Road, staying on the Bairnsdale – Dargo Road, until the large sign to Coonawarra Farm Resort. Turn left and follow road into resort. Approx. 45 kms / 35 mins.

**At resort**, follow road on right passing stables towards the Lakeside complex with the lake on the right. Park in the area between the 2 buildings.

# Bushwalking Victoria News

## Federation Walks Weekend

The 2016 Federation Walks Weekend will be held on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 October 2016.

The event is being hosted by the Wimmera Bushwalking Club (based in Horsham). Horsham Rural City Council has kindly provided funding for the event which will be based in the Laharum / Wartook Valley area in an effort to aid their fire recovery efforts.

The walks program has been published. The walks range from Easy to Hard. Walk notes are available for 19 of the 20 walks. A summary of the walks and detailed walks are available from the Walks Program page.

Participants are urged to check all aspects of a walk when choosing their preferences, including grade, duration, length, total uphill, gradient, path and cautions. Participants should choose a walk within their ability. Participants should also take driving times and distances into account. Some walks are close to the Laharum hub; others involve a bit of a drive. Walk locations range from Mt Zero in the northern Grampians to the Chimney Pots in the south and across to the Black Range and Mt Arapiles in the west. A map showing the location of the walks is available from the Walks Program page.

Registration will open on Friday 8 July and will close on Wednesday 31 August.

Registration fees:

Two-day weekend (Saturday and Sunday): $20

One day only, Saturday or Sunday: $15

Additional cost for the Saturday evening meal: $24.

Information of the Saturday social evening is now available on the website.

Visit the Federation Walks 2106 website at http://www.fedwalks.org.au/ for more information.

## BWV Snippets

- An Administration Assistant is required
- Track and Conservation Weekend at the Prom on 26-28 August
- Chainsaw Course on 25 June at Drouin
- Regent Honeyeater Environmental Planting Weekends near Benalla on 30-31 July, 13-14 and 27-28 August, 10-11 and 24-26 September.
- Congratulations to Warrnambool Walkers — 40th Anniversary

## McMillan Track Week of Work

Three pages of the June edition were taken up by a "walk report" of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club maintenance week on the McMillan Track. An abridged version is on page 4 of this very newsletter. Congrats to Joe, Anna and John for getting exposure for our club. McMillans Track may well be one of the tracks nominated in ....

## Help Identify Tracks At Risk

Bushwalking Victoria recently met with Bradley Fauteux, CEO of Parks Victoria. At that meeting, BWV emphasised the importance of the volunteer work we have been doing with Parks Victoria, which is focussed mainly on tracks and conservation work.

BWV also made the point that some important tracks are being lost due to lack of maintenance. He has asked BWV to nominate up to 10 tracks state-wide where we would like to see priority given to remediation work. In 2015 the Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) committee compiled a short list of 'tracks at risk'.

BWV needs our input and knowledge to complete that list, and identify the priorities. BCWC has responded to BWV request that club walks coordinators or walk leaders identify tracks that need some TLC!

The club has sent a brief outline of the major problems associated with McMillans Track at present.

The BTAC committee, led by Megan Major, will then coordinate and review the list, and liaise with Parks Victoria to hopefully get some priority action.

The above notwithstanding, Joe van Beek has developed a good relationship with our local Parks People to the point of submitting a report generated by information the end-to-end walkers gathered on last November's McMillan Track walk.

# WALK REPORTS

## Deptford — Slaughter Track

**DATE: Sat 2nd April**

**LEADER: Trevor Clues**

**REPORT: Ken Grandy**

**Walkers**: Trevor , Jesse , Judy , Maggie , Ken , Piero & Rose, Marjorie & Marion, Anna, Jenny & Greg, Elizabeth , Barby , Trish and Ken.

Deptford was once a small gold mining village situated on the Nicholson River approximately 34 km north of Bairnsdale. The village, founded around the middle of the 1800's, once boasted a hotel, post office, general store, school, blacksmiths shop, chemist and bakery catering to the needs of around 300 people.

Our journey started at Howitt Park in Bairnsdale, where 16 keen and eager bodies, set out for the 1 hour drive north to Deptford, following the Great Alpine road, turning off at Granite Rock and following the Deptford road through Clifton Creek. The road runs through beautiful undulating farm country before leaving the bitumen and entering the forest. The gravel road to Deptford is winding, but well-formed and maintained.

The name Slaughter Track originated from its use as an access track for drovers moving cattle up the river from the open country at Waterholes. At

***Like lambs to the Slaughter!***

each settlement a beast was slaughtered to provide meat for that community. The track was also used as a goods route taking vegetables grown at The Farm (further downstream) up to the settlements. Local children used to walk to school at The Farm when the school at Deptford fell into disrepair.

Ably lead by Trevor Clues, our walk started at the Deptford ford end and progressed down river, passing the old cemetery on the right and then about 500 meters further on we came to an old large fireplace (may have been the Bakers Oven) and then to Houghtens diversion tunnel, which was hewn through solid rock to divert the rivers water to let the miners look for gold in the dry river bed.

The rest of the walk transverses the slopes

***Houghtens diversion tunnel***

above the Nicholson river and passes through forest and across dry (usually) creek beds with views to the river in various places. This whole area must have been dug over by bygone miners as there is plenty of evidence of disturbed ground and entrances to old mines. After crossing store creek (again dry) we arrived at Stantons Place Picnic area and the mid point of our walk. After lunch and a paddle (for a couple, a swim) we retraced our steps to Deptford.

A secondary short walk, on the east side of the

***Inspecting the mining relics***

river, took us upstream to an old abandoned mine, with the shaft accessible for a considerable distance underground, which was duly explored by a group of

adventure seekers. At the entrance to the mine, the remains of an old engine and stamping battery serve as a reminder of past hopeful endeavours.

With excellent weather and a beautiful place in the Australian bush, a great time was had by all.

## Sale Wetlands

**DATE: Wed 13th April**

**LEADER: Monica Scicluna**

**REPORT: Dianne Reid**

**Walkers:** Robyn, Wil, Corinne, Bridget, Jessie, Jackie, Mary, Robin, Graham, Monica and Dianne.

**Group inspecting one of the gnarly gums**

On a pleasantly warm morning, 11 walkers met at the Swing Bridge near Longford. After the customary cuppa, we headed off. The walk took us downstream along the river towards Lake Wellington. We then turned off following a track between Flooding Creek and the Sale Game Refuge. Along this section, aided by a skilled koala spotter among us, we had the privilege of seeing a koala sunning itself high in a tree. We admired the many old red gums with their twisted and gnarled appearance flanking the track.

We saw a variety of water birds, swamp hens, ibis and others along the way. We passed the site of Gippsland's first licensed airfield and came across an old brick water trough looking incongruous in its wilderness setting. We walked along a boardwalk taking us over a swamp which was quite dry even for this time of year. There were many carcasses and skeletons of fish and eels that had perished due to the low water levels. After lunch we headed back towards the swing bridge. As we walked along the lagoon with its tree lined banks we spotted a pair of Australasian Darters perched in a tree and Whistling Kites flying by. We all had a great walk and enjoyed the delightful scenery. Thank-you Monica for a pleasant and very enjoyable walk.

***The scrubby bunch***

## Scrubby Creek
## Mitchell River NP

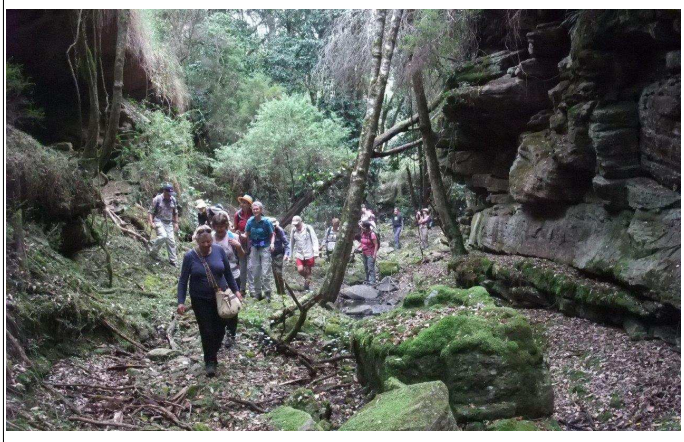
**DATE: Sat 16th April**

**LEADER: Ken Free**

**REPORT: Maggie Marriot**

**Walkers**: Heather, Marian, Robyn, Geoff, Andrew, Monica, Sue, Nicki, Peter, Elizabeth, Trevor, Ken, Jackie and Maggie

My first walk with the club saw me being picked up by Jackie and Marion and driving out to the meeting point at Lindenow. There I was introduced to a friendly welcoming group of walkers. Ken gave out a topographical map and described the walk as a 4-5 km walk through the scrub and down to the Mitchell River and then up along Scrubby Creek. After some



***Entering Scrubby Creek Gorge***

easy bush bashing and a reasonably steep descent we caught our first glimpses of the Mitchell River. Here the river is wide with pools along a stony river bed with rock faces and cliffs: it is very picturesque.

After taking photos and enjoying the views we walked along side the river for a short distance and then a restful break before we traversed the gorge that is Scrubby Creek.

The creek emerges over a rocky overhang from the ranges as a gorge with moss and lichen covered rocks and trees lining the sides. As the water flow was near non existent, traversing up the creek bed was an easy and picturesque walk. In one or two places a helping hand pulled some of us up over rock ledges. At one point a narrow ledge above a water-hole provided a small challenge to some with the possibility of a wet ending and possibly some humour but all negotiated the way through with out falling in the water!

Lunch was at the top of the creek in a delightful open grassy area surrounded by the hills and tall bracken and forested scrub. After a good break we all headed up the last scrubby 2-3 km up a steep slope and emerged along the track we had started on.

The day ended with a visit to the Lindenow Pub as an alternative to the cafe which was undergoing renovations. The staff served us coffee and tea and for some Guinness. A pleasant way to end an enjoyable day.

## Cobbannah Creek

## Mitchell River NP

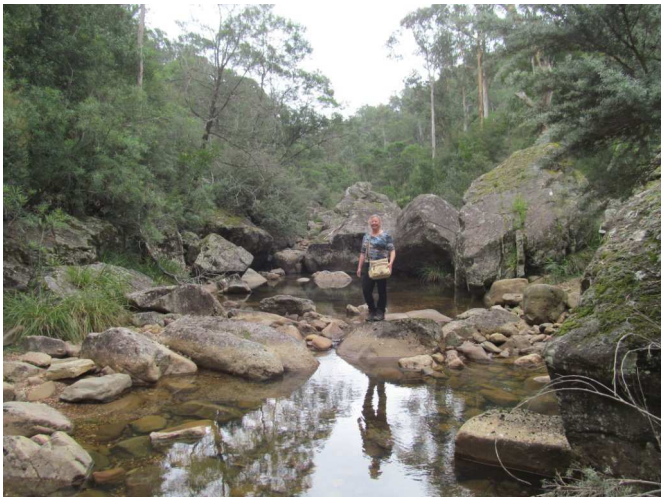
**DATE: Sat 23rd April**

**LEADER: Ken Free**

**REPORT: Marian Matchan**

WALKERS: Ken, Graham, Robyn, Chris, Andrew, Di, Penny, Jackie, Rose, Piero, Geoff, Maggie, Anna & Marian

To quote Jack Nicholson "As good as it gets".



***Maggie negotiating Cobbannah creek***

On a fine Saturday morning 14 fellow walkers, after the car shuffle, started walking at Billy Goat Bend Road and walked along an overgrown track through eucalyptus forest. We then descended down an, at times steep, rocky slope into Cobbannah Creek. We travelled down stream along Cobbannah Creek, rock and boulder hopping and crossing the trickle of the creek on numerous occasions. The rock formations on either side of the creek were just fantastic and the ambiance of the scenery was spectacular.

We lunched at the confluence of Gap & Cobbannah Creek on the rocky edge of the creek with the sound of the water passing over rocks in mini waterfalls in the background.

After lunch we walked up Gap creek. We past through moist mossy undergrowth with old man's beard moss hanging up to 30 cms from the branches, plenty of fungi of different types, black, red, chocolate, orange and white. We climbed over more boulders and rocks as we made our way up the creek. We heard a Lyrebird mimic not far away.

We made a steep exit out of Gap Creek where we followed a steep ridge to Mitchell Road where gladly our cars were parked a short distance away. A few of us were glad to get back as the 7 hours walking and at times quiet challenging terrain was starting to deplete our energy levels, Andrew did lift the enthusiasm of the group with his Tarzan calls.

Thanks to Ken for another fabulous experience in the great outdoors.

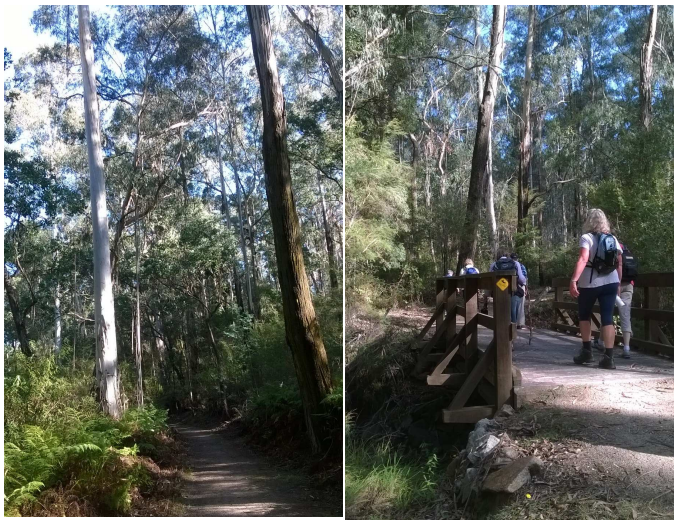
## Mississippi Creek
## Colquhoun State Forest

**DATE: Sat 30th April**

**LEADER: Jackie Whiting**

**REPORT: Heather Alexander**

Walkers: Trish, Corrine, Kathy, Will, Trevor, Ken, Julie, Bev, Oliver, Caroline, Monica, Jodie (visitor), Marjorie, Billy, Rani, Anna, Marian.



***Sections of the well maintained tracks***

Our large group of 19 walkers enjoyed perfect conditions to walk the 15 km round trip Discovery Trail Walk in the Colquhoun State Forest. Eight walkers pooled cars at Stratford and made their way to the Log Crossing Picnic Ground to join the rest of the East Gippsland crew for a 10.00am start. Bev had already put the binoculars to work and spotted a number of parrots in the camping area.

The walking track follows the original tramway track, built in the early 1900s, which was used to help move granite from the Mississippi Creek quarry to Lakes Entrance. The well maintained track is extremely good for walkers, cyclists, trail riders and preoccupied birders! We enjoyed lunch at the old quarry site and then headed back to the car park. The great conditions meant that all participants were able to walk safely and enjoy a good chat.

We all enjoyed the wonderful eucalypt forest and observed numerous colourful fungi close to the track. The birds were certainly plentiful but perhaps our 19 strong chatter kept them from the track!! We saw grey fantails all along the walk and heard golden whistlers, superb fairy wrens, honeyeaters, thornbills and lyrebirds. At the end of the day, an Eastern Yellow Robin joined us back at the log crossing.

Thankyou for taking us into this beautiful part of East Gippsland, Jackie. I am certainly looking forward to getting back to enjoy more time there. Congratulations on leading your first walk. Hope it is the first of many more.

## Calvi / Horton's Tracks & The Honey House

**DATE: Sat 7th May**

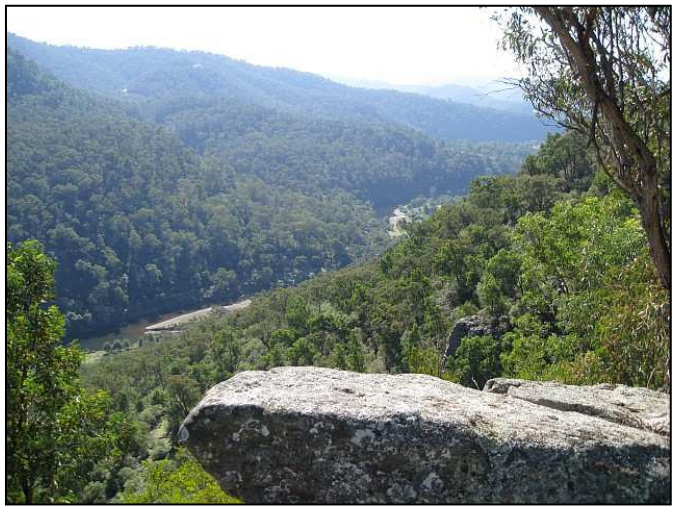
**LEADERS: Rob & Josie Paterson**

**REPORT: Geoff Mattingley**

***Removing the remains of a burning log from the track***

Walkers: Heather, Trevor, Oliver, Carolyn, Piero, Rose, Don, Ken, Elizabeth, Peter, Nicki, Anna, Helmut, Rob, Josie, Geoff

From our meeting point at Lindenow we drove along Weir Lane, Wattle Creek Road and Sandy Creek Road. Just before joining Calvi Track, we found the road blocked, not by any old tree, but a burning one. Well - not really - it was the still-smouldering remains of a large tree that had fallen across the road and continued burning. It had fallen from a very recent fuel reduction burn on the uphill side of the road.



***View of the Mitchell River above slalom rapids***

***Group photo taken at the escarpment***

In no time our ever-prepared leader had the chainsaw out, and with several others pitching in it was not long before the offending debris was sawn, dragged, and shovelled out of the way. The ashes still on the road were judged to be cool enough to drive over.

From our start point on Horton's Track we set off along a broad spur, heading gently downwards in a south-westerly direction. There were some scrubby bits but we managed to avoid the worst. Our destination and lunch spot was a rocky escarpment overlooking the Mitchell River, opposite Rock creek and overlooking Slalom Rapids. The Horton's Track ford was visible upstream. A great view, made even better by the perfect weather.

We returned to the cars by following the same route in reverse. Driving back along the way we had come, we stopped to see if we could locate the remains of the famous Rising Sun Apiary. After a short scramble thru thick bush Rob led us to the remains of the "Honey House", a stone building that dates back to the early 1900's, described as being the base for an apiary operation. Completely hidden by thick scrub, if you didn't know where to look you would never find it.

Not a long walk, but a great day - thanks Rob and Josie.

***Anna, Jackie and Oliver getting ready To tackle Gale Hill Track***

## Croajingolong National Park Wingan Inlet, Gale Hill Track

**DATE: Sat 14th May**

**LEADER: Oliver Raymond**

**REPORT: Jackie Whiting**

Walkers: Oliver , Anna and Jackie.

It was a 7.30am start as Maggie, one of our new members, kindly drove us to the start at Gale Hill Track and subsequently joined us for half an hour at the beginning of our hike.

We found the track easy to follow and were entranced by the early morning sunlight shining through the bush and tall trees. Oliver explained the trees were mainly Bloodwood not Eucalypts. Hiking at a good pace we saw our surroundings change to a sandy soil and banksias as we came closer to the sand dunes and beach. Entering a pretty gully at the end of Gale Hill track we encountered a clearing and stream with red mineral coloured bottom but crystal clear water. This led to a small lake to which Oliver expressed surprise as he hadn't seen this in fifteen years. The water reflection and blue sky made for a good photography opportunity. Crossing the dunes the landscape changed to endless beach, sea and sand as far as the eye could see. We were surprised to see footprints in

**Jackie inspecting a whale bone (Adams Rib!)**

the sand then spied a couple approaching who explained they had set out three hours earlier from Thurra River. Along we walked chasing terns and an endless track of wild dog footprints. Soon we were climbing over boulders and rocks of all shapes, colours and sizes sometimes with the tide pushing us up onto higher ground. We were amazed to find a recent whale skeleton washed up high behind boulders. From here we could see Point Hicks lighthouse and the dunes of Thurra River which some members would remember from an earlier hike this year. Two rusted parts of ships boilers and a part shipwreck of a sailing vessel also littered the beach with lots of wooden planks, marine rubbish and the odd shoe and drinking bottles washed up from high tide.

**Hello Possums!**

Around 12 midday we enjoyed lunch amongst the boulders then back onto the sandy beach. Oliver was in charge of the GPS and Anna reading map co-ordinates which helped us find the next section Petrel Point track. We were met at this point by a visitor Stephany, waving and encouraging us up the dunes as the tide was coming in. The old sign post was partly buried in the sand and toppled over. This track wound around banksias and t-trees on an easy sandy path through to Fly Point and our homeward path and board walk to our camp site, for a well-deserved cuppa. Our hike had taken eight hours and a big thank you to Oliver for organising a wonderful day.

# WALK PREVIEWS

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

## AAWT - O'SHEAS MILL CAMP

### for beginners and experienced walkers

### (Walhalla & Baw Baw NP)

**DATE:** **Sat 11th - Sun 12th June**
**GRADE:** **M - 4 - 4**
**DISTANCE: 13 km per Day**
**MEET: Walhalla General store @ 9:30am**
**LEADER: Joe van Beek - 5176 5302**
**EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com**

This walk and camp is an introduction to backpacking and overnight remote camping without having to carry a full backpack or bring all your own equipment. Come and learn what equipment is appropriate for your ambitions. This outing is for experienced backpackers and beginners. People young and old who are new to backpacking and overnight camping will be able to learn from experienced bushwalkers the type of equipment, clothing and food to buy and pack before investing in any equipment. We will meet at the Walhalla General Store for a 10am departure. All over night requirements will be loaded on to a vehicle. You will walk with just a day pack containing as a minimum your lunch, water, energy rations, a warm top and wet weather gear. We will walk the first 13km of the Australian Alps Walking Track. When we arrive at the camp the tents will be up and a fire going. Food will be provided but you will need to assist with preparation and cooking. There will be plenty of time to discuss the various tents, cooking gear, sleeping bags, etc and have a natter around the fire. Next morning we pack up and walk back to Walhalla. You will have time to explore Walhalla before heading home. All participants will need to complete a registration form available from Joe van Beek. On acceptance of registration you will be sent a packing list. There will be a charge of $40 for members of Bushwalking Clubs affiliated to BWV and $50 for visitors.

## McMILLANS TRACK

### BALD HILL to WOODS POINT

### GOULBURN STATE FOREST

**DATE:** **Mon 13th June**
**GRADE:** **S – 4 - 5**
**DISTANCE: 8km**
**MEET:** **7:30am**
**Tyers kindergarten, Main Road**
**LEADER:** **Anna Janca - 0419 178 445**
**EMAIL:** **annajanca@bigpond.co**

This walk covers the last 8 km section of the iconic 220 km McMillan's Track. After a 1km ascent towards Bald Hill, we will start down following a spur through open bush to a terraced track along the lush Gooley Creek to the Goulburn River. Rock hopping across the ford at the Goulburn River, we will walk on a 4WD track then road into the quaint village of Woods Point. Along the way we will explore historic gold mining relics, and a hut. We will be descending approx. 400m over approx. 5 kms. Depending on the degree of maintenance undertaken, the track may not be well formed. Be prepared for changeable weather.

The start of this walk is approx. 2.5 hrs from the meeting point at Tyers. For those participating in the AAWT – O'Sheas Mill Camp weekend over the preceding Saturday and Sunday and wish to continue on to this walk on Monday, or if you are travelling from East Gippsland for this walk and prefer to travel on Sunday, Club members local to the meeting place have kindly offered to make Sunday night accommodation available.

## BCWC BIRTHDAY WALK

## COX'S BRIDGE & CRITERION

**DATE:** **Sat 25th Jun**
**GRADE:** **Easy & Relaxed**
**DISTANCE: TBA**
**MEET:** 10:30 am @ Cox's Bridge
12:00 noon @ Criterion Hotel, Sale
**LEADER: Monica - 0439 614 544**
**RSVP:** **Monday 20th June**
**EMAIL**: joe.monica@hotmail.com

We will be celebrating Ben Cruachan's birthday this year in the library room at the Criterion.

If weather permits and you feel like a walk before lunch I will run a walk from Coxs Bridge to the Swing Bridge along the boardwalk. For our birdwatching members maybe they could spot some birds for us along the way.

The meal will be $25 including a drink. There are a few meals to choose from at this price or you may order off the board, deserts are available.

## LOCH SPORT NP

**DATE:** **Wed 29th Jun**
**GRADE:** **S - 3– 3**
**DISTANCE: 6km**
**MEET:** 9:30 am @ Longford Hall
**LEADER: Monica - 0439 614 544**
**EMAIL:** joe.monica@hotmail.com

We will meet at the Longford Hall, then car pool and depart to Loch Sport about an hour away. We will have the usual cuppa at the start of the Dolomite walking track. This is a circuit that takes us to the oil bore landing, then to Pelican Point and along Lake Victoria. From there we will drive to Point Wilson for lunch. This circuit walk will take us along Balfour's Swamp to Murphy's Hill to Barton's Hill and on to Victoria Track. If time permits we can go to local hotel for a coffee. This is an easy walk in one of Gippsland's National Parks.

## SCOTT'S FARM VIA BULL POINT

## MITCHELL RIVER NP

**DATE:** **Sat 2nd Jul**
**GRADE:** **M - 6 - 4**
**DISTANCE: 10km**
**MEET:** **Stratford @ 8:00am**
**Beverley's Rd @ 8:45am**
**LEADER: TBA**
**DETAILS**: **TBC**

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. Topographical Map: Cobbannah - Tabberabbera 8322-N 1:50,000

## Walk Leadership Training

## Coonawarra Lodge Resort

**DATE: Sat-Sun 09-10 July**
**LEADER: Anna Janca - 0419 178 445**

See pages 11 & 12. The weekend is about 3/4 full so still room for you to sign up.

## Grand Strzelecki Track — Mt Tassie

**DATE: Sat 17 July**
**GRADE: L-8-6**
**DISTANCE: 8 or 18km**
**MEET: 9am @ Balook**
**LEADER: Andrew - 0417 972 831**

**EMAIL: awstevenson@hotmail.com**

Walkers have a choice of walking from Balook via the Duff Heritage Trail to Mt Tassie or completing the whole loop which returns to Balook via the West Face Track and Drysdale Road.
Lunch will be had at Mt Tassie which overlooks the Latrobe Valley. A car shuffle can leave vehicles at Mt Tassie should some walkers not wish to walk back to Balook.
Previous experience of this walk almost guarantees a Lyrebird sighting as we get deep in the understorey of the Strzelecki Warm Temperate Rainforest. We also pass through Blackwood forest and just before we finish the walk we pass the ruins of the old Drysdale Homestead.

## Two Bays Trail

## — Mornington Peninsula

**DATE: Sat-Sun 23-24 July**
**GRADE: L-7-3**
**DISTANCE: 28km**
**MEET: 5am [yes—five]@ Maffra Post Office or 8am Mornington Peninsula**
**LEADER: Chris - 0499 780 399**

**EMAIL: chr_252@hotmail.com**

The Two Bays Walking Track is the longest continuous walking track on the Mornington Peninsula. It starts at Dromana on Port Phillip Bay and ends at Cape Schanck. It passes through Arthurs Seat State Park, Greens Bush and finishes with spectacular views of Bushrangers Bay and Bass Strait and across to Cape Schanck.

The first part of the walk is a steady but not too harsh climb up a well made path with spectacular views across Port Phillip Bay, which winds up, around and along the ridge-line of Arthur's Seat. The climb is relatively short and sharp and we will soon be descending down from the bushland, past a lovely dam for a stroll through some quiet suburban streets, before heading past farmlands to enter into the first of a series of joined reserves and national parks for the remainder of the walk.

Beyond Arthur's Seat, the walking is fairly easy – mostly flat or gently undulating and following through lush ironbark, Blackwood and banksia forests. The Greens Bush section contains some great grass tree specimens.

The final leg of the walk brings you out above beautiful Bushrangers Bay, which is apparently where two convicts from Tassie landed in the 1800's after commandeering a schooner, using it as a base for their pirating. From there, we will hug the coastal scrub above the seacliffs, the waves of Bass Strait pounding below us, before coming out at Cape Schanck lighthouse.

The grade and surface of the track varies from steep gravel sections around Arthurs Seat to undulating grassy track through Greens Bush. As we arrive at our destination you will see some of the best coastal scenery near Melbourne.

As this is a long walk with the possibility of finishing late please pack a headlight. Dinner will be at the Rosebud Hotel for those interested.

On Sunday there is an option to visit the Peninsula Hot Springs (see video at www.peninsulahotsprings.com). This will be dependent upon the weather and availability on the day.

RSVP by 1/7/16 if you require shared accommodation at the Rosebud Motel Caravan Park.

## Noojee Trestle Bridge, Toorongo & Amphitheatre Falls

**DATE: Sat 30 July**
**GRADE: S-3-3**
**DISTANCE: 10km all in**
**MEET: 8am @ McDonalds Car Park, Traralgon**
**LEADER: Ken - 03 5144 1195**

**EMAIL: kenfree@iprimus.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 Warragul 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 Toorongo 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. After lunch, for those with reserves of energy, there are a range of other short walks in the area, including the Ada Tree.

## Mt St Gwinear Snow Shoe Shuffle

**DATE: Sat 06 August**
**GRADE: L-8-8**
**DISTANCE: 11km**
**MEET: 9am @ Erica Ski Hire**
**LEADER: Mike - 0427 523 647**

**EMAIL: mrjldowe@wideband.net.au**

The walk starts at the Mt St Gwinear car park and follows the ski trails to Phillack Saddle and returns via the same route. Walkers need to be prepared for sudden deterioration in the weather. As a minimum full wet weather gear should be carried. Gaiters are also recommended. Bring your lunch and something to sit on. We will hire snow shoes and wheel chains from Erica Ski Hire.

## BCWC Committee Meeting — Maffra

**DATE: Wed 10 August**
**MEET: 7.30pm**

## Mitchell River NP Roaring Mag Falls

**DATE: Sat 13 August**
**GRADE: S-6-5**
**DISTANCE: 10km**
**MEET: 8am @ Memorial Park, Stratford OR 9am carpark opposite Lindenow Hotel**
**LEADER: Helmut - 0402 089 404**

**EMAIL: helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com**

This is one of the clubs most popular walks within the Mitchell River National Park. The walk is partly on well-made forestry tracks and partly off-track through a mix of open forest and thick regrowth scrub with some clambering over fallen logs and some rock hopping around the "head of the falls". Roaring Mag Falls is situated to the east of the Mitchell River and is in a location that provides spectacular views across the river valley to the escarpment beyond. The natural beauty of this location is guaranteed; however water coming over the falls is entirely dependent on heavy rains during the weeks preceding the walk. Nevertheless, If you enjoy being in the thick of the bush in a seldom seen location, this is a great little walk.

## Mitchell River Old Weir Site

**DATE: Sat 27 August**
**GRADE: M-6-3**
**DISTANCE: 10km**
**MEET: 8am @ Memorial Park, Stratford OR 8.45am corner of Beverley's Road and the Bairnsdale-Dargo Road**
**LEADER: Ken - 03 5144 1195**

**EMAIL: kenfree@iprimus.com.au**

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.

## Cape Conran

**DATE: Sat 03 September**
**GRADE: TBA**

Details on the website.

## Mitchell River NP The Sisters — South Sister

**DATE: Sat 10 September**
**GRADE: S-7-8**

Details on the website.