



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

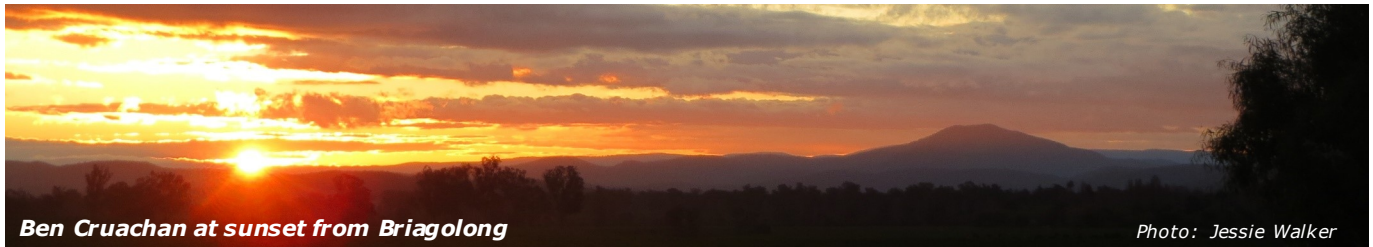
ISSUE 185 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - FEB 2016



Photo: Helmut Tracksdorf

Members may recall, the clubs last kayak outing was a gentle paddle on a billabong of the Mitchell River at Bairnsdale back in 2013. It was therefore time to up the ante and dust off the paddles for something a little more adventurous. 11 members and 3 guests took up the challenge and headed out to Toorloo Arm which is a hidden gem within Lake Tyers Forest Park. Anna and Marjorie can be seen here enjoying the occasion which saw them paddling along the narrow Toorloo Arm and negotiating the many obstacles such as logs and snags that inhabit the waterway. They somehow managed to get their kayak stuck on a submerged log which provided the rest of the group with plenty of entertainment. Check out the full report on page 9.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



Ben Cruachan at sunset from Briagolong

Photo: Jessie Walker

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

IN THIS ISSUE

BCWC - Established 1965

COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2015 / 2016

~ President's Report	3	PRESIDENT:	Monica Scicluna	5144 6713
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~ Club News	4	SECRETARY:	Anna Janca	0419 178 445
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~ Bushwalking Victoria News	5	PUBLICITY:	Piero Baglioni	5156 7034
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~ Walk Reports	6 - 11	WALKS CO-ORDINATOR:	Marian Matchan	0448 523 287
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		TRACKS & HUTS:	Michael Dowe	5147 3075
~ Walk Previews	12 - 16	ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:		
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			Chris Marshall	0499 780 399

CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY AT THE WAN LOY RESTAURANT, 9 CHURCH STR TRARALGON, AT 7:30PM (NB: PRECEDED BY DINNER AT 6:00PM)

Presidential Ramblings

FEBRUARY 2016

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a Happy New Year, I hope to see all of you throughout the year on various walks.

2015, our Golden Jubilee year was certainly an active one with more than 50 walks completed during the year. Congratulations to all club members who organized, lead and/or participated in those walks. If the last 50 years are anything to go by - the next 50 years should be more than a walk in the Park.

Marian has been very busy getting the walks calendar up to date on our new website, If you would like to organize a walk please contact Marian as there are still dates available.

Thanks to Anna and her many hours of organizing our new website, which is now up and running. By now you should have received your user id and password to sign in. So hopefully you can log in and check it out. If you haven't taken the opportunity to review it, do it now at:

<http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/>

Anna would be grateful for your feedback.

Joe has organized a leader training weekend this year on the 25th & 26th June, it may be worth marking this on your calendar if you wish to attend.

See you on the track.

Monica Scicluna



"I'll take them"

Club News

BCWC Committee Meeting



The next Committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday**, February 10, 2016 at the Wan Loy Chinese Restaurant, 9 Church Street, Traralgon, at 7.30 pm. Please note the meeting will be preceded by dinner at 6 pm. Members & guests welcome.

2016 WALKS PROGRAM

The Walks Program for 2016 is now up and running thanks to Marian. The original version was forwarded to members back on 4th November 2015. The program still has dates available should you wish to add or lead a walk. Please check the latest program by looking it up on our new website (see below) and let Marian know if you wish to add a walk, by emailing: walkbcwc@gmail.com

Upcoming walks can be found in the Walks Preview section - refer page 12.

BCWC New Website



Thanks to Anna Janca and her concerted efforts we now have a new 'refreshing' website for all members and guests to enjoy. However, please note it is a work in progress and will be fine tuned over the coming months. Members should by now have received their unique login details which allows them greater access than the standard visitor. If you have not received your unique login details, please contact Anna at: secbcwc@gmail.com

In order to improve upon and maintain the integrity of our new website it is vital that members provide feedback when and where possible. There is a greater degree of functionality associated with the new site and we request members explore and familiarise themselves with the added extras. Please provide your positive and / or negative feedback to Anna.

Thanks must also go to Jack Winterbottom who maintained our previous version of the website and did a great job with limited resources and not the full complement of IT skills necessary. Nevertheless, Jack was able to provide a unique link for members and guests to stay in touch with what was happening in the club.

Also thanks to Andrew Norman who was called upon to assist in the development of a new website but unfortunately work and family commitments took precedence. (and rightly so!) Andrew was able to provide a proforma website for the club to consider.

So when you have a spare moment, check out the new website and let us know what you think. Here is the link:

<http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/>

50th ANNIVERSARY STOCK for SALE

Jack Winterbottom still has plenty of 50th Anniversary stock items on hand and available for SALE.

With Summer now upon us, a new hike hat or a BCWC badge is just what you need to be seen in.

Don't wait for our next Anniversary - As they will ALL BE GONE!! (we hope!)

Current Stock in hand is as follows:

ITEM	COST/UNIT	No
Mugs	\$10	12
Badges	\$20	46
Bucket Hats:	\$25	
M/L		16
L/XL		18
Cotton Hats	\$25	
55cm		10
57 cm		7
59 cm		10
61 cm		9

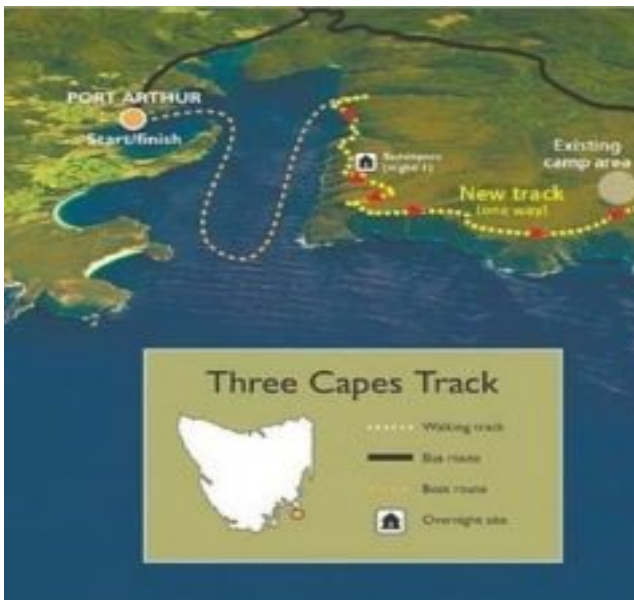
Contact Jack at: jack@wbm.id.au to secure your preferred fashion or stock item. And don't forget the proceeds go to a good cause - your club!

Bushwalking Victoria News



3 Capes Walk, Tasmania

The 46 km, 4-day Tasman Peninsula Three Capes walk opened on 23 December 2015. (It's actually a two capes walk involving Cape Pillar and Cape Hauy, but with views to Cape Raoul. The track was originally to include Cape Raoul, but that section was not funded.) 48 people may start the walk each day, year round. The walk starts at the Port Arthur Historic Site, from where walkers are taken by a cruise boat to start of the walking track at Denmans Cove. The walk finishes at Fortescue Bay, from where walkers are bussed back to Port Arthur.



The cost for the 4 days is \$495 per person, regardless of season, with walkers staying in huts on three nights.

When the upgraded trail was mooted in 2009, the proposed fee was \$200 for a 6-day walk. The higher fee is required to cover the cost of track upgrade (\$25m-\$30m, depending on the source of infor-

mation) and to 'fund costs associated with the cabin-based experience'.

The new section of walking track can be accessed only by the boat from Port Arthur. All areas that were previously accessible, including day walks to Cape Hauy and overnight walks to Cape Pillar can still be done for the cost of a Parks Pass. But if you are planning an overnight walk to Cape Pillar, you need to check where you can camp. The previous two official and three informal camping sites in the Cape Pillar area are not passed by the new track and have been closed and are being rehabilitated. An update on the Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service Facebook page says a new campsite should be open by 23 December and that the previous post that the campsite would be limited to 6 tents is incorrect. The camp ground at Fortescue Bay is still open to the public.



It is a beautiful walk, and despite the hefty fee is heavily booked. For more information and to book, visit: www.threecapestrack.com.au.

WALK REPORTS

Moroka Gap / Mt Wellington Alpine NP

DATE: Sat 28th - Sun 29th November, 2015

LEADER: Jack Winterbottom

REPORT: Chris Marshall

Walkers: Jackie, Oliver, Chris, Graham, Heather, Anna and Jack.

On Saturday morning seven walkers left the lowlands behind to spend a night at Moroka Gap. For some it was an exciting first overnight hike and others were old hands. After a quick stop at Bennison Lookout for a view of the mountains, we continued on past Lost Plain and turned right at Arbuckle Junction and continued on to McFarlane Saddle carpark. After an equipment check and a slight reorganisation of packs, it was decided that most hikers would probably survive and not die of starvation, hypothermia or dehydration.

We walked out on the track towards Mt Wellington reaching Moroka Gap in good time and then set up camp. There was much laughter upon looking around and discovering that 3 tents were matching, brand new virgins.



Looks like Aldi had a tent sale!

We then walked out to Mt Wellington and stood enjoying the vista. Just then a phone rang. One of our walkers had received a call from Vietnam. Ah! Isn't technology wonderful? We returned to camp and went about to collect water which turned out to be a tadpole further than expected.



Group photo taken at Mt Wellington summit

Voted best bird highlight of the trip was a magnificent flame robin that dropped in for a visit. The weather was great and toasting by the campfire, looking at the stars, Oliver treated us to a lovely recital of Clancy of the Overflow. Nightcaps were provided by Graham and his friend Mr Johnny Walker. We returned to cars on Sunday morning all still in one piece and were advised by our calorie accountant that we had burned approx. 12,000 kilojoules in the 18km covered by the walk.



Returning to McFarlanes Saddle

Many thanks to Jack for leading the walk

MOROKA RIVER WALK

Alpine NP

DATE: Tue 12th - Thu 14th January, 2016

LEADER: Joe van Beek

REPORT: Oliver Raymond

Walkers: Anna, Oliver and Joe.

Support: Carolyn, Marian & John

This walk was initiated by Anna and planned by Oliver at short notice with Joe acting as leader. Fortunately John and Marian Matchan and Carolyn Raymond were able to lend support as the walk involved a significant car shuffle.

Anna arrived at Traralgon Station at 0730 on Tuesday on the Gippslander, to be picked up with Joe and then driven up to the D4 track in the Raymond's 4WD.

Anna had wanted to do this walk to complete her McMillan Track experience, and as both Joe and Oliver had done the walk before, they were keen to go as well. The party left Carolyn and the vehicle at the Volkswagen camp on the D4 track at 1030 on a beautiful morning – temperature 17.5° indicated by the car. The track was certainly better than the first time Oliver had walked it, as deer hunters had cut their way through the many fire killed trees that had previously blocked the route. Joe and Anna had brought their secateurs along, and industriously snipped annoying bits of scrub out of the way of future walkers.

The turn off down to the Moroka River was reached, and the party paid their obeisance to Beth's Peak (which is named after Beth Kilpatrick) in passing, and started the long descent towards the Moroka. We were keeping a sharp eye out for thunder eggs, which had been found on this route by Andrew Norman, Andrew Stevenson and Oliver on a previous expedition. The track is not easy to find, but between finding the occasional marker and Joe's diligent use of his GPS, we managed to keep fairly close to the marked route. Anna let out a yell just before we crossed a gully - "Thunder eggs!" Her sharp eyes had seen some sticking out of the ground. Shortly after, we crossed the gully, and there in the dry creek bed was a slab of rock which was full of half thunder eggs.



On we went down the hill, with the temperature steadily climbing. Near the Moroka we were startled by what sounded like a trumpet call. For those of you who have never heard a Sambar Deer call, it is a cross between the blast on a trumpet and an irate B Double driver blowing his horn – a most unexpected sound in the Australian Bush. We never saw the actual deer.

At 1608 we arrived at the deer hunters' camp on the Moroka, and filled our bellies and our water bottles with the cool waters of the river. We then struggled on in the heat towards our designated camp spot for the night. We passed a deer wallow on the way, and arrived, tired and overheated at the bottom of the Moroka River Track at 1810. Almost 8 hours to cover about 13 km. Not an easy day.



Oliver at the deer hunters camp



Anna soaking up the cool waters of the Moroka!

Swims in the Moroka revived the party, and we were in bed before dark.

Next morning we set off at 0740, as the forecast was for a very hot day. The forecast was spot on! Joe knew we would have to cross the river many times, so we elected to slosh through each crossing in our boots, which helped keep the heat down. Just before the Carey River entered the Moroka, there was another trumpet blast from a Sambar, but once more we never saw the deer. After lunch in a shady spot, we slogged on in the heat, with the aim of getting to camp early and spending some time in the river. Luckily, the valley flattened out, and we didn't need to cross the river as many times from then on. In total, we crossed the Moroka 17 times that day. Luck-

ily the river was low, so we had no trouble sloshing across. Just before the Wonnangatta River was reached, we were treated to another blast from a deer, once again without seeing the animal.

Joe, meanwhile, had borrowed a lavender scented garbage bag from Anna and was doing a marvellous job cleaning up the litter strewn along the road. There was an amazing variety of alcoholic containers and we found out that there is a drink consisting of vodka and chocolate mixed together! Must try it sometime!

The car was reached at 1000 – 11 km in 3 hours. A bit like the horses bolting home at the end of a ride.

At 1100, when we were nearly at the bitumen, the heavens opened and we were deluged with heavy rain. A pleasant lunch was had in a café Anna took us to in Lindenow, and Marjorie made us a very welcome cup of coffee in Bairnsdale before Anna left Joe and Oliver to catch the bus back to Traralgon. A most satisfying walk.



Anna & Oliver near the Junction of the Moroka and Wonnongatta Rivers

Lakes Entrance - Lake Tyers Forest Park walk

DATE: Sat 23rd Jan

LEADER & REPORT: Monica Scicluna

Walkers: Joe, Bridget, Jessie, Bev, Corinne, Kath, Marjorie & Billy, Marian, Piero & Rose.

Visitors: Hannah & Luke, Erin & Matthew, Barbie, Jenny, Kay & Ian

We reached our camp site on the Wonnangatta at 1415, after walking (theoretically) 9 km in 6.5 hours. We dropped our packs, and plunged into a welcoming pool in the River. What a relief! The rest of the afternoon was spent in and out of the water, until, about 1700, rumbles of thunder were heard and a dark cloud appeared over the ridges. We got a few very short, heavy showers of rain, which helped cool things down a bit, and then the weather returned to being stinking hot once more. Our evening meal was eaten and we turned in early once more, to try to sleep through a torrid night. During the night, Anna heard a violent blast of wind for a short time, as an apparent cool change ripped through the camp. The two men heard nothing, and slept on peacefully.

Next morning, Oliver had the billy boiling shortly after day break, and we were on the track at 0710, with the aim of reaching Anna's car, 11 km away, before the forecast rain started. We heard another deer blast at Pulpit Rock, another one further along, and Oliver heard a third one while he was walking ahead of the others just before reaching the car. On this occasion the hind (no antlers) crossed the road just in front of him, so he was able to confirm it was a Sambar.

Waking up to a cloudy day, we met at Stratford Park to organize carpooling to Lakes. We then arrived about 10am at the footbridge, where we met the rest of the walkers. After filling out all the paperwork, a few walkers decided to go and get a coffee to warm up before we headed off. We set off along the track towards the entrance, passing old machinery and finally with the sky clearing we could watch the seals swimming at the break water and it was then time for lunch. After lunch we decided to walk along the beach back to the footbridge. On arrival ten of our walkers departed our company for coffee or to head home.



Pulpit Rock (and that elusive Sambar deer)



Part of the large group that walked to the Entrance



The remainder of the group that tackled Toorloo Arm

Ten of us then set off to Lake Tyers Forest Park, our first walk was Toorloo Arm which took about an hour, from there we drove back to the start of Marsdenia Rainforest Walk which took about half an hour, due to lack of rain, there was no water in the creek, but the ferns and fallen trees with amazing fungi and moss looked amazing, lots of photos were taken.

Thank you to all my walkers and visitors for sharing a lovely part of Gippsland with me.

KAYAK ADVENTURE Toorloo Arm from Cherry Tree LAKE TYERS FOREST PARK

DATE: Sun 30th Jan

LEADER: Anna Janca

REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

Participants: Heather, Bridget, Claire, Michael, Joe & Judy, Graham, Marian & John, Marjorie, Billy, Helmut, Trevor and Anna.

After meeting up at Lakes, 14 participants headed off towards Nowa Nowa taking the Burnt Bridge turnoff and Cherry Tree track to meet up with Brett and Faye from Gippsland Kayak Tours, who were going to escort our intrepid landlubbers up a creek "With Paddles"



Getting ready to launch the kayaks

The forecast was ominous with storm clouds gathering and heavy rain predicted. Nevertheless after being introduced to some basic kayak skills and the all-important safety talk from Brett, we hit the water at Cherry Tree Picnic area on Toorloo Arm and slowly paddled our way up Stony Creek, gathering experience and confidence as we went.

Our group comprised 5 double kayaks and 4 singles. The double kayaks are heavier but more stable in the water. Whereas the singles are more sleek but susceptible to tipping over IF you try to stand up in one! Fortunately no one tried.



Judy & Joe demonstrating their paddling skills

Toorloo Arm is a small arm of Lake Tyers within the Lake Tyers Forest Park. Stony Creek flows into Toorloo Arm and is quiet narrow which makes it all the more interesting as the forest tends to encroach upon the creek as you head upstream. Exposed limestone cliffs with caves add an extra scenic feature to the experience. Light rain which followed us upstream kept us cool whilst paddling. The tranquillity of Toorloo Arm is a sight to behold and we were all entranced by its natural beauty. Crossing under the Princes Highway as we headed upstream was our only connection to the outside world, and the further upstream we paddled the further away from civilisation we got. Numerous snags and fallen trees meant we had to negotiate our way in a careful manner and on occasion, contort ourselves to get under and yes even, over obstacles!



Michael negotiating his way under a log

This proved an interesting sideshow for the group as we were able to observe how some individuals negotiated these obstacles. Marjorie and Anna were seen riding their kayak like a wild bull at the local rodeo – just to get their vessel off and over a hidden log just below the surface of the water. Fortunately this was captured on video and is available for your viewing pleasure at:

<https://onedrive.live.com/redir?resid=E8B7B2FC4900E135%>

Shortly thereafter the creek came to an abrupt end and we were obliged to turn around and commence our return journey to Cherry Tree. The light rain had stopped and after negotiating the same obstacles for a second time with just as much fun as the first time, we were soon back at Cherry Tree picnic area where we stopped for lunch.



Lunch break at Cherry Tree

After lunch, several members decided to complete the 2km circuit to Burnt Bridge from Cherry Tree on foot, which is a pleasant stroll along the shoreline of Toorloo Arm. The rest of the group promptly got back into the kayaks and commenced paddling downstream towards Burnt Bridge and Long Point beyond. As we paddled towards Lake Tyers proper, Toorloo Arm widens out and appears shallower. Nevertheless it remains an interesting paddle with more seabirds such as Pelicans and Cormorants becoming apparent. In fact we were fortunate enough to spot several Azure Kingfishers and a soaring Sea Eagle as well. One of our members promptly left the group to paddle over to where the Eagle had landed high in a tree to capture it



Kingfisher & Sea Eagle spotted at Toorloo Arm

on film.

Upon reaching Long Point the group landed ashore and took some time to recuperate and relax. Basically waiting for our photographer of the sea eagle to catch up! Then it was time to head back. Amazingly the predicted storms did not eventuate and in fact the afternoon became quite warm. By the time we returned to Cherry Tree, we had paddled approx 12km in total. Toorloo Arm had indeed provided us with some amaz-



Joe taking in the scenery



Michael wishing he was back at work!!! (NOT)



Heather & Graham perfecting their paddling technique

ing scenery and exotic wildlife all whilst paddling at a leisurely pace along the backwaters of Lake Tyers.

Thanks to Anna for organising the event and thanks to Brett & Faye from Gippsland Kayaking for providing the kayaks which made this adventure possible. The Club should now consider changing its name to The Ben Cruachan Walking, Kayaking & Rodeo Club!!!!

**NB: DUE TO LATE SUBMISSION THIS REPORT IS
OUT OF SEQUENCE
(NB: No Photos were submitted)**

TYERS WALKING TRACK

DATE: Wed 9th Dec 2015

LEADER: Oliver Raymond

REPORT: Graham Pilkington

The walk commenced on the edge of Tyers, with a stiff climb through English style meadows along the recently opened Tyers walking track. Surprisingly, we passed near an olive plantation before looking back at the Latrobe Valley spread out below, with industrial sites rising sternly out of the landscape.

We continued through a new pine plantation and into a heavily wooded gully for a break, before turning at the two mobile phone masts and back down to the track, with a constant view of the valley laid out before us.

Lunch was at the Tyers rotunda, with some bringing sandwiches and others using the gas BBQ, and some doing both. Thanks to Oliver for a very pleasant walk in the woods.

WALK PREVIEWS

Walk Gradings

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

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

We will gather at the Glenmaggie hall to car pool. Drive approx. 46kms north of Licola to start of the walk. Follow well defined track across open snow plains to the lookout across to Pieman Falls. Continue around the clifftops of Bryce Gorge to Conglomerate Falls to set up camp. Explore Conglomerate Falls, walking to the bottom and returning to camp. From the falls the track follows Conglomerate Creek through woodlands and across open plains, then groves of snow gums to Guy's Hut and the car park beyond. Full overnight all weather gear required as this is alpine country with changeable weather. Water will be available near campsite. Suitable for beginners to overnight hikes. Please register your interest with the walk leader.



THURRA RIVER & POINT HICKS

CROAJINGOLONG NP

DATE: Fri 19th - Sat 20th - Sun 21st Feb

GRADE: **L – 7 – 8 & S – 3 – 4**

DISTANCE: Choice of full or half day walks

MEET: Nowa Nowa Community centre

Cnr Princes Highway and Bruthen Road

TIME: TBA

LEADER: Anna Janca - 0419 178 445

EMAIL: 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

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 - 6 - 3
DISTANCE: 8km
MEET: Tyers kinder car park Park @ 9:00am
LEADER: Jim Stranger - 5191 8312
EMAIL: 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

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.

**KOSCIUSZKO NP
SUMMIT & SURROUNDS**

DATE: Sat 12th - Mon 14th March
GRADE: Various
DISTANCE: Various
MEET: Nowa Nowa Community Centre, Cnr Princes Highway and Bruthen Road,
LEADER: Anna Janca - 0419 178 445
EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

Enjoy breathtaking views, alpine country, waterfalls, snow gums, heath and, hopefully, an amazing flower show, and of course, walking to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko. I am told the weather is mostly stable at the time of year we will be there, but we will be in Australia's highest alpine country, so participants should be prepared for anything. Tracks are clear and well defined with easy to hard graded walk options available. We will be in a bush camping ground with full facilities catering for both tent and cabin accommodation. Whether you want longer or short, easy or hard walks, put Mt Kosciuszko summit on your bucket list, or just want to enjoy the scenery and socialize, come along for a fun weekend. If you require cabin accommodation, please register interest with the walk leader by 15/2/2016 as bookings need to be made. The planned walks are: Walk 1: Thredbo Village to Mt Kosciuszko Summit - Take the chairlift or walk up Merritts Nature Track (3.7 km hard) to top of Kosciuszko Express chairlift and start of summit track. Walk to Mt Kosciuszko summit and return along gently climbing and undulating track much of which is paved or boardwalk (12.4 km easy/medium return). Descend and return to Thredbo Village by the chairlift, or via Dead Horse Gap track (5.3 km medium) and short car shuffle, or walk further along Thredbo River track (4.8 km easy). Walk 2: Mt Kosciuszko Summit from Charlotte Pass (at approx. 1850m) following the old road (now the main Summit Track) winding upwards to Seaman's Hut, then along the Etheridge Ridge to Rawson Pass and the Summit (2037m). Return to Charlotte Pass along the same track (18 km return medium/hard) or along the Great Dividing Range and the Australian Alps Walking Track, then turn off onto the Main Range Track to Blue Lake, and Hedley Tarn Lookout (22.5 km medium/hard). Walk 3: Sawpit Creek - Pal-laibo Track 4.5 km one way with car shuffle or 9 km return and / or Waterfall Track 6 km return - eucalypt forests, waterfalls, bird and wildlife spotting (possibly a platypus), wildflowers. (Easy / medium) Park entry fees: \$17 per car per day. Pensioners (with blue concession cards only) free. Chairlift fees: \$29 one way, \$35 return / day pass Campground fees: Unpowered \$26 per night; powered \$59 per night; cabin \$79 - \$176 per night for up to 6-8 people (contribution will depend on number sharing cabin).

NB: Refer to BCWC Website preview for more details

MORWELL NP

MORWELL

DATE: Wed Sat 16th March
GRADE: S - 5 - 3
DISTANCE: 6 km
MEET: Maccas carpark, Traralgon @ 9:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0439 614 544
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

We start our walk at the Kerry Road Picnic Area. With a bit of luck there will still be plenty of orchids in bloom. Especially the Tree Orchid. We will proceed along the Foster's Gully Nature Walk at a leisurely tempo, because there is too much to see to hurry. We will be back at the picnic area around lunchtime and after lunch we can do the Billy's Creek Walk towards the old weir. I particularly like these two walks because they show a different side of the Park. How lucky we are to have this all on our doorstep.

TARA BULGA NP

STRZLECKI RANGES

DATE: Sat 19th - Sun 20th March
GRADE: Various
DISTANCE: Various
MEET: Tarra-Bulga Visitor Centre @ 9:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0439 614 544
EMAIL: 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 favourite places.

THE SISTERS MT ALFRED STATE FOREST

DATE: Sat 26th March
GRADE: S - 7 - 8
DISTANCE: 8km
MEET: 7:00 am @ Stratford
7:45 am @ Lindenow
LEADER: Ken Free - 5144 1195
EMAIL: freestyle2@optusnet.com.au

This walk is in the Mount Alfred State Forest North East of Mitchell River National Park: an area rarely visited by bushwalkers. To get to the start point we will drive for approximately 90 minutes from Lindenow through quite picturesque forests with opportunities for wildlife spotting. The walk starts at the Merrijig Track and follows the route of an old forestry track through mostly open forest with a range of understory plants. The final section of the walk is quite steep and all off track with plenty of bush bashing, rock hopping and clambering over fallen trees. A reasonable level of fitness is required and good quality footwear is a must. At the summit we will lunch under a full canopy of mature trees before retracing our steps back to Merrijig Track.



AFTERNOON SUN ON THE SISTERS - NORTH PEAK

WINGAN INLET - CAR CAMP CROAJINGOLONG NP

DATE: Fri 1st - Sat 2nd - Sun 3rd April
GRADE: Various
DISTANCE: Various
MEET: TBA
LEADER: Oliver Raymond - 0411 420 345
EMAIL: oliverraymond@wideband.net.au

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.



RELAXING AT CAMP WINGAN

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

as soon as possible to let him know whether you would like to participate.

The walks will include:

Gale Hill track to the sea then back to the camp ground (L/9/4)

Rame Head return (S/4/4)

Elusive Lake (S/4/4)

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

St GWINEAR - Mt ERICA CAR PARK

BAW BAW NP

DATE: Sun 10th Apr

GRADE: M-6-5

DISTANCE: 16km

MEET: Tyers Kindergarten car park @ 8:00am

LEADER: Piero Baglioni - 0408 446 299

EMAIL: pbaglioni@bigpond.com

Ben Cruachan Walking Club will lead a 16 kilometre walk which follows the Australian Alps Walking Track in the Baw Baw National Park. At 1500m above sea level, the walk is typical alpine environment and walkers should be prepared for a sudden deterioration in the weather. The walk is on a well made and well marked track under a canopy of snow gums and is graded medium, so if you're reasonably fit this will suit you. There will be plenty of photo opportunities with spectacular views and a scattering of alpine flowers and berries. We will also spend some time exploring the famous Mushroom Rocks.

SALE WETLANDS WALK

DATE: Wed 13th Apr

GRADE: M-3-3

DISTANCE: 12km

MEET: Swing bridge car park @ 10:00 am

LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0439 614 544

EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

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. Even during the driest part of summer there is a lot of greenery about, which makes this an ideal and easy hike.

SCRUBBY CREEK

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 16th Apr

GRADE: M-6-8

DISTANCE: 6km

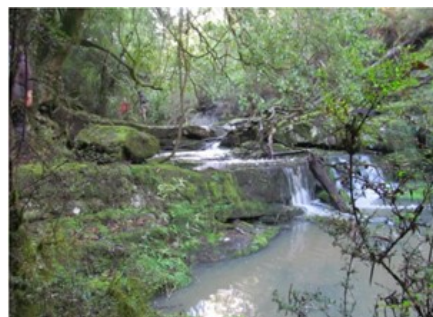
MEET: 8:00 am @ Stratford

8:45 am @ Lindenow

LEADER: Ken Free - 5144 1195

EMAIL: freestyle2@optusnet.com.au

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 negotiate our way downhill to the Mitchell River at a point approx 1.5kms downstream from where Woolshed Creek (Den of Nargun) enters the River. From here we follow the River downstream until we reach the spot where Scrubby Creek enters the Mitchell. We follow Scrubby Creek upstream through glorious warm temperate rainforest gullies with overhanging rocky bluffs. After a lunchbreak in these delightful surroundings we will negotiate 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, thick bush and 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.



**COBBANNAH CREEK
MITCHELL RIVER NP**

**PREVIEWS
BCWC WEBSITE**

DATE: Sat 23rd Apr
GRADE: M- 6 - 8
DISTANCE: 13km
MEET: Cnr Beverly's Rd & Dargo Rd @ 8:00 am
LEADER: Rob Paterson - 0429 950 494
EMAIL: robjp56@gmail.com

We do a car shuffle to Mitchell Road, then drive back along Billy Goat Bend Road to the start of walk. We walk along an overgrown track before descending into Cobbannah Creek. Walk downstream along Cobbannah Creek, where we will have a lunch stop at the confluence of Gap and Cobbannah creeks. After lunch we will walk up Gap Creek to the exit point where we will follow a steep ridge to Mitchell Road and back to the vehicles. Return by vehicles to starting point.

Please note that all the previews per this Newsletter and more are available per our new website. You can contact the leaders of all walks directly via our website simply by selecting their email address at the bottom of each preview page.

In addition, there may be more information available via the website, so we invite members to check previews online - especially if you are interested in participating on a particular walk or event.





Ben Cruachan Walking Club

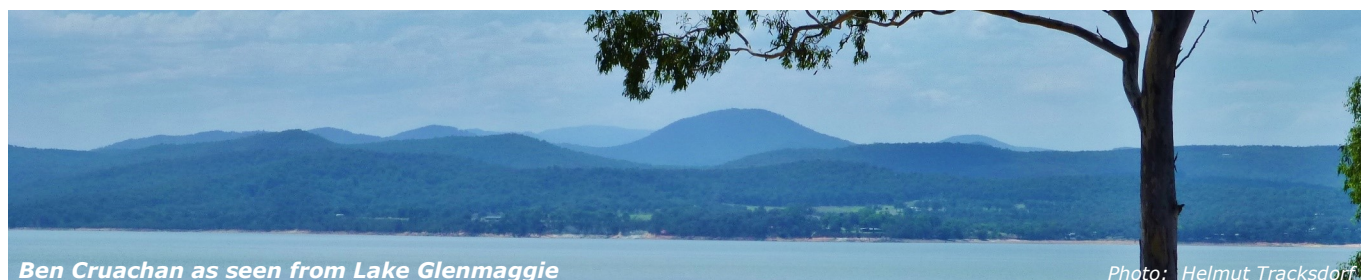
ISSUE 186 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - APR 2016



Photo: Chris Llahsram

Not quiet on top of the world but close enough to the top of Australia were 13 members of BCWC on route to Mt Kosciuszko. Several hardy members hiked up from Thredbo Village to the Eagles Nest whilst others took the easy way via the Chairlift! As such the Club will now be known as the "Ben Cruachan Walking and Chairlift Club". Due to Privacy concerns we will only name and shame those who took the easy option in the walk report. For those who have never ventured into the Kosciuszko National Park, it comes highly recommended by all those who took part. Not only are you exposed to some of Australia's finest alpine scenery but you are also in the home of The Man from Snowy River. Fortunately no brumbies were spotted during our visit. Check out all the individual reports commencing on page 11.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



Ben Cruachan as seen from Lake Glenmaggie

Photo: Helmut Tracksdorf

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

IN THIS ISSUE

BCWC - Established 1965

COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2015 / 2016

~ President's Report	3	PRESIDENT:	Monica Scicluna	5144 6713 joe.monica@hotmail.com
~ Club News	4	VICE PRES:	Margaret Beckett	5148 2237
~ Bushwalking Victoria News	5	SECRETARY:	Anna Janca	0419 178 445 secbcwc@gmail.com
~ Walk Reports	6 - 18	TREASURER:	Jack Winterbottom	5143 0903
~ Walk Previews	19 - 21	PUBLICITY:	Piero Baglioni	5156 7034 publicitybcwc@gmail.com
~ ANZAC Day tribute	22	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:		
			Joe van Beek	5176 5302
			Trish Marston	0409 656 332
			Chris Lockwood	5145 6549
			Chris Marshall	0499 780 399

CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL AT THE BAIRNSDALE CLUB, 68 NICHOLSON STR. BAIRNSDALE, AT 7:30PM (PRECEDED BY DINNER AT 6:00PM)

Welcome to our Newest Members

Robyn & Carla Rowley (Denison), Bridgeen Bourke (Drouin),

Geoff & Marlene Proudfoot (Traralgon), Barbie Naughtin (Rosedale), Geoff Mattingley (Sarsfield)

Presidential Ramblings

APRIL 2016

We have had some fantastic day and weekend walks to start the year. Thank you to our fabulous leaders for putting these on the program. Check out the reports attached.

It has come to my attention that maybe we have become complacent, myself included, and that we presume members are aware of our protocols when attending a walk. We have a team working on guidelines for leaders and walkers on a walk. This will be available on our website when completed. Till then, it is the leader's responsibility to ask someone to be a whip. All other walkers need to be between the leader and the whip, in the event of a walker needing to leave the group for eg. Toilet break or maybe another reason, you must inform the leader or whip so they can wait for you to re-join the group. At any crossroad or fork in the track, the leader must wait and re-group before heading off. If for any reason you are left behind, you must stay where you are until someone comes back for you. With cars going to a destination, cars in front must wait to ensure the car behind follows when coming to any intersection. At the end of the walk, the leader must wait till all cars have started and driven off, before leaving.

Our Club, for the first time, is organising a walk leader training weekend on the 9th & 10th July. I would like to invite all current walk leaders and members to participate. We can always learn something new or refresh on what we already know.

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

Just a reminder that membership renewals and subs are due in April. Family \$54, Single \$42 and Newsletter only \$20. This can be paid into our account (Please put your surname when depositing) or by cheque or cash. Details are on the form. Please download the renewal form, from the website: <http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/become-a-member/renew-your-membership.html>

Make sure all members sign the acknowledgement of risk form and submit it to Anna our secretary.

Hope to see you at our next meeting in Bairnsdale or on the track. If you have any issues feel free to contact me anytime.

Monica Scicluna



Club News

BCWC Committee Meeting



The next Committee meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 13th, 7:30pm** at the Bairnsdale Club located at 68 Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale. Please note that the meeting will be preceded by dinner at 6 pm. Members & guests welcome.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Yes! It is that time of the year when Membership Renewals are due. This not only means we are all 1 year older (or younger if you have the right mindset) but that its time to open our wallets and blow away those cobwebs so that we can stay fit for another year! Where else can you obtain the health benefits associated with Bushwalking for such a reasonable price?

You can arrange your Annual Renewal Fee on line at: <http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/become-a-member.html>

Simply download the form, fill it out and email it to the Secretary at: secbcwc@gmail.com or send it to Anna c/o: PO Box 70, Maffra VIC 3860

BCWC

Protocols & Procedures

As mentioned in the Presidential Ramblings it appears members may need to be reminded that there are protocols associated with walking in the bush. Several recent incidents have caused some members angst. Rather than dwell on the specific occasions it is better to focus on how we can improve our enjoyment of walking in the bush - as a group! It would therefore appear that now is a good time for members to consider participating in the upcoming Walk Leader Training weekend on the 9th & 10th July.

Although titled 'Walk Leader Training' this is not just for those new to leading walks. It is for all members. Even though members may have led walks in the past, or indeed, have no intention of leading a walk, this will be a refresher for experienced walk leaders, and we will need experienced walk leaders to head up discussion/scenario groups and help with field exercises.

Joe van Beek will be facilitating this training based on materials prepared by Bushwalking Victoria. For full details check out the email sent to members on 14th February.

McMillan's Track

Joe van Beek is working on his report on the condition of the track and preparing recommendations for its future maintenance. His report will encourage the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria, to take ownership of track maintenance, with support from Bushwalking Victoria and assistance from Ben Cruachan Walking Club.

During April the club plans to reconnoitre, inspect and seek to mark the alternative route from the Dargo High Plains Road just south of King Spur Track across to White Timber Spur Track and down alongside the Crooked River to Bull Town. With PV approval members will do some vegetation clearing of the track along the Crooked River and if time and resources permit also do some clearance work on the dry foot tracks above the Crooked River heading north and then east from Talbotville.

First Aid Kits

In checking the blue (walk) bag, it was noted that the current first aid kits do not contain items which would be needed for some of the more likely first aid needs which may arise during a walk: an emergency blanket, elastic bandage for sprains, dressing and steri-strips for skin tears, insect bites and blisters. Gastrolyte / rehydration was added to the list by those present and it was noted that the snake bandages can be used for sprains. Discussion occurred about the Club's and individuals' responsibility in carrying first aid kits on walks. Phillip Davis confirmed that the Club walk leaders are required to carry a first aid kit, and it was agreed that this should contain items which are relevant to the common risks faced on a walk.

Newsletter submissions

*Please note the Closing date for submissions for the JUNE 2016 newsletter will be **Saturday 28th MAY**. Please forward all Reports, Photos and any other articles for submission by the above date to The newsletter editor at: newsbcwc@gmail.com*

Submissions are preferred in WORD format and pictures in JPEG format reduced in size to less than 500kB but not less than 100kB. Thanks.

Bushwalking Victoria News



Safety Alert

Viking & Razor

Bushwalkers undertaking remote day or multi-day hiking trips in the Mount Howitt, Crosscut Saw, Mount Speculation, The Razor and The Viking areas of the Alpine National Park must ensure they have adequate water before leaving trail heads. This is due to the dry conditions continuing through the early parts of the autumn months in this area.

Recently, several parties have run out of water in this area. Some have descended in unsuccessful attempts to locate water, resulting in search and rescue events.

If you are visiting this area please ensure that you are carrying enough water

where2walk

(w2w)

Bushwalking Victoria's online library of bushwalks, has been improved.

w2w was developed at the request of clubs and launched in October 2012 with more than 150 walks. Since the launch a further 65 walks have been added. When all existing walks have been updated, new walks will be added. At least 110 walks have been updated already, with more being updated every week.

Since January, 2016 w2w is being progressively updated and improved as follows:

New maps for all existing walks. The new maps are being created and published using Mapbox, an Open Street Maps product. The maps have a consistent design and are compatible for use on mobile devices that allow users to zoom in and out and pan to better view details of the walk route.

Most walks will have **downloadable GPX files** for use in GPS devices.

For selected walks, an **elevation profile diagram** will be provided to give an overview of the terrain for the walk.

Walk descriptions and associated information for each walk are being reviewed and updated. The **start point** for each walk is shown on a Google map, in addition to the walk map. Check out the following link for more details:

<http://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/walks-directory>

Ambulance cover for Bushwalkers

The president of Bushwalking Australia, Tony Walker recently represented bushwalkers at annual meetings of the Search and Rescue Consultative Forum organised by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. (AMSA)

At the 2015 meeting, a question was raised by another representative concerning whether persons subject to a search and rescue callout were charged for its cost. The question was subsequently put to the National Search and Rescue Council (NATSAR), which agreed to the following response:

A search and rescue terminates at the point that the person in distress is in a position of safety. At that point, depending on whether medical assistance is required, the associated costs will be contingent on the State/Territory ambulance service arrangements. The NATSAR Council recommends for people who are heading into the remote outdoors to research or ask State/Territory SAR Authorities on their current arrangements as they vary between the jurisdictions.

Nominations for BV Board

If you think you would like to be a member of the Bushwalking Victoria board, working on behalf of the Victorian bushwalking community, please download and complete a nomination form available from Bushwalking Victoria website (navigate to **Members > Forms > Board of Management**).

The board is appointed at the annual AGM in June, and your term of office would begin then. The date of the 2016 AGM is 18 June 2016. If interested contact any member of the current board, we'd be happy to talk with you informally and without commitment about what the board does, and how you could contribute. You do not have to have held an office-bearing position in the past or to have been a club committee member.

WALK REPORTS

Bryces Gorge Alpine NP

DATE: Sat 6th - Sun 7th February, 2016

LEADER: Oliver Raymond

REPORT: Heather Alexander

Walkers: *Chris, Jackie, Anna, Maureen, Heather, Andrew (visitor), Helmut & Oliver.*

Five walkers met Oliver at the Glenmaggie hall to car pool to the start of walk. Whereas, Helmut and our guest Andrew met us at the Bryce Gorge car park.

The weather was great for walking. We maintained a leisurely pace along the track and enjoyed the views from the lookouts at Pieman and Conglomerate falls.



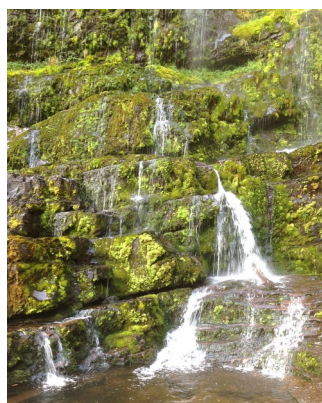
Group at Pieman Falls



Group at Conglomerate Falls lookout

After setting up camp and enjoying lunch, we set off to collect water and explore Conglomerate Falls. Large fish were clearly visible from the top of the falls in the pond below. However they soon took cover when we decided to enjoy a paddle in the icy waters.

The scramble down to the bottom of the falls was a bit of a challenge, but well worth the effort. Anna braved the icy water, but the chill was a bit too much. We all enjoyed some quiet reflection while Anna recovered. The southern face of the waterfall is stunning, covered in rich green moss and ferns. We found an interesting nest on a ledge built of medium size twigs. My work colleagues suggested that the nest may have belonged to a Peregrine Falcon, unfortunately nobody was home during our visit. I have also learned that there are 3 rare ferns in the area, something to look out for on future visits.



The rich green moss and Falcon nest

After our return to camp we gathered at the top of the gorge to enjoy the amazing views. We were soon joined by a white lipped snake out on its afternoon forage. Maureen levitated while the rest of us sprang to our feet to escape. The snake took off in the opposite direction with Helmut filming its departure close behind. That afternoon Helmut returned home to enjoy a well-earned rest after his successful, but tiring, trek into the thunder egg site on MacMillans Track, below Beths Peak.

We enjoyed interesting conversation (mainly about food and gear) over the course of the evening and were entertained by our guest, Andrew who introduced My Kitchen Rules style meals to the group. We enjoyed antipasto, lamb & mint sausages with mashed potato, and titanium cooked steak. Hope he can deliver the spit roast after a Wonnangatta walk in due course.

Chris set the alarm for us to get up to watch the sun rise over the gorge. We were soon packed up and ready to head out via Guy's hut. It was another enjoyable walk in good temperatures. We passed a waterhole and spotted a small trout. Whilst enjoying a meal break at Guy's hut, Alfred the wedge-tailed eagle soared across the grassy plains on cue. We were soon back at the carpark, ready to head home after a stop at Licola for lunch.

Our thanks to Oliver for leading the group and sharing this wonderful location.



Thurra River & Point Hicks Croajingolong NP

DATE: Fri 19th - Sat 20th - Sun 21st Feb

LEADER: Anna Janca

REPORT: Ken Free

Walkers: Anna, Marian, Heather, Chris, Barbie, Denise, Jim, Helmut, Robin, Ken, Marjorie, Maureen and Maurice (visitor).

On a pleasantly warm Friday, 13 of us made the longish drive to the campground at Thurra River in East Gippsland for what promised to be a relaxing weekend of walks and socialising in a great coastal environment. Some arrived early enough to do some short explorative bushwalks while others were content to pitch the tent and break out the food and drink. Our post dinner socialising around the campfire was cut short by a shower of rain which threatened to set in for the evening: a time was set for the start of our walk in the morning and we went to bed early.

Saturday dawned dry and overcast which suited the day's walking schedule where we'd spend a few hours on the sand hills with no shade. Anna gave us an overview of the planned walk which would take us from the Thurra River campground along the well defined 'Dunes Walk' track to the sand dunes, across the dunes to West Beach, along the beach to Point Hicks Lighthouse and finally back to the campground via the East Beach.



Group photo atop Thurra River dune

The initial 2 kilometres meandered through coastal forest of Melaleucas, banksias, native cherry, coastal heath, correa and eucalypts before emerging at the sand dunes around 100 metres elevation above the campground. At a vantage point with views over the Thurra River and to the sea in the distance, we took the obligatory group photographs before heading approximately west-north-west alternately slithering down into gullies and clambering/crawling our way up the next dune.



Clambering up the dune

We passed a number of oases of low scrub, each one populated by seemingly hundreds of birds including the most yellow-tailed black cockatoos I've ever seen in one place. We had our morning tea break at the edge of some scrub and had time to marvel at what we'd experienced so far and wonder what lay ahead. Our tail-end-charlie (aka good sheepdog), Marian, assured us that the best was yet to come including some very serious scrub-bashing - needless to say, we were all champing at the bit.

After checking the topo map and gps co-ordinates, Anna led us up and over the highest part of the sand dunes and then a steady undulating descent towards West Beach which we caught glimpses of in the distance. We had the opportunity to slide down a particularly steep dune on our bottoms dodging tree roots, rocks and low-growing shrubs on the way before arriving in an area with simply amazing geological features and sand varying in colour from almost white through greys and oranges to almost rusty red. Helmut, our resident geologist (aka bad sheepdog)

did his best to educate us on the source of coral-like structures in the sand, objects which appeared to be rusty old pieces of iron and small pieces of close-grained wood blasted and polished by perhaps centuries of being tossed about in the sand dunes. This was a magical place unlike anything else we'd experienced on this walk.



Sliding down the steep dune

Anna found a 'path of least resistance' through the scrub and with cries of woo hoo we reached the West Beach where we paused to soak up the sights and sounds of the crashing surf before heading in a south easterly direction along the beach towards Point Hicks Lighthouse. We passed the decaying remains of a jetty which was once used for ships to deliver supplies to the lighthouse. At the base of the lighthouse we sat with backs against a dry stone wall and enjoyed a relaxed lunch before another group photograph and the (mostly) downhill walk back to camp.



Jim and Denise enjoying the lunch break

For the history buffs: Captain James Cook, on board the Endeavour, sighted sections of the Croajingolong coastline in 1770. The Point Hicks Lighthouse, built in 1890, is situated on the headland sighted by Lt Zachary Hicks on this same voyage.



Group at Point Hicks lighthouse

Saturday after-the-walk provided an opportunity for some to test drive Anna's kayak, some to taste test the variety of pre-dinner nibblies and drinks and some to demonstrate their culinary skills by preparing a scrumptious ratatouille with embellishments. As is customary, we solved the problems of the world and retired early full of anticipation for Sunday's walk.

Sunday was a bright sunny day and promised to be somewhat warmer than Saturday. The walk Anna had planned for us would be a leisurely walk along the beach heading east towards Mueller Inlet where we would walk through the campground and follow the Bald Hills Track back to our camp. Interestingly, when we arrived on Friday the Thurra River exit to the sea was closed off by a sand spit but on Sunday morning the river had broken through necessitating a knee-deep wade through fast moving water. The beach between the river and Mueller Inlet was another feast for the eyes with amazing rock formations and a great collection of washed-up driftwood including one tree trunk which was trying to imitate a dinosaur.

On arriving at Mueller Inlet we had another surprise in the form of very high water which had literally swamped the track leading from the beach to the Mueller Inlet Campground. Following some exploration and discussion of our options, the consensus was that we should retrace our steps and hope that the tide hadn't come in. It hadn't, and we experienced an easy second crossing of the Thurra River before arriving safely back at camp.

As we packed up and prepared to go our separate ways we reflected on the fact that this had been a fabulous weekend, well planned and organised by Anna with great assistance from Marian. Saturday's walk in particular will probably be remembered by some of us as one of the best walks this year and I'm already looking forward to the next time we come to Thurra River/Point Hicks.

Thank you Anna.

Nyerimerlang

DATE: Wed 24th Feb

LEADER: Monica Scicluna

REPORT: Wil Streckfuss

Walkers: Wil, Jessie, Bev, Monica and Jackie

On a beautiful summer's morning Bev, Jessie, Monica and I drove to Nyerimerlang where we met Jackie. After our usual cuppa we inspected the homestead. This is always interesting because although the interior is restored to a real 'home', history comes to life with the displays of old photographs, paintings and other memorabilia.

Then we started our walk, but after a short while we visited the farm with its display of old machinery, some of us recognised machinery that was still used in our lifetime. Then along the walking track, on one side the beautiful Gippsland Lakes, on the other side large shady trees. Even the hottest summer's day their shade keeps the walkers cool, assisted by an always gentle sea breeze.

Of course the bellbirds were expecting us and greeted us with a welcoming choir. It was all sheer delight.

After lunch Jackie said goodbye and us four took the car to Kalimna, where we walked along 'The Narrows'. It was quite busy there with fisherman and also with people who collected large quantities of mussels who are there in abundance, living under water on the rocks near the banks of the river. Monica climbed down to collect some for me! Well I had a good meal out of that, Thanks Mon!!

All too soon it was time to go home, thanks Monica for a lovely day.

Baw Baw village to Phillack Saddle

Baw Baw Plateau

DATE: Sat 27th Feb

LEADER: Jim Stranger

REPORT: Nicki Jennings

On a mild morning, 22 walkers gathered at Tyres to walk from Baw Baw village to Phillack Saddle and back, an eight kilometre walk along Village and McMilians trail led by Jim Stranger. Once we arrived at Baw Baw Village the sun was shining and we could look over the thick blanket of grey clouds that covered Sale and the Latrobe Valley. The village and car park were packed with eager mountain bike riders and their vehicles but we soon left the commotion behind and headed off along a nicely grassed track into a magnificent snow gum forest.

The snow gums with their striking green trunks provided a shady canopy as we walked along.



Under the snow gum canopy

Albert informed me that this area had not been burnt since 1939. We could still see the remains of the original trunks in the centre of many of the trees. This area of mature snow gums is precious as frequent fires are threatening the survival of snow gums in other sections of the Alpine Park. The undergrowth was thick and healthy with grassy patches where mountain gentian and yellow paper daisies flowered. It was a delight to be amongst it all!

The actual walk was easy over gentle undulations although at times the track became a little narrow and a bit over grown. Some members clocked up extra kilometres in sorting out a little confusion over the route. We had three first time walkers with the club who had no problems with the walk and enjoyed being out in the superb alpine environment.



Pausing to inspect a yellow daisy

In the valleys we crossed treeless frost hollows where cold air is trapped making a frosty micro climate unsuitable for even snow gums. These Baw Baw frost hollows are the haunt of the critically endangered Baw Baw Frog which sadly we did not encounter. Small bridges and boardwalks kept our feet dry and protected the damp areas at the bottom of the hollows.

We had lunch at Phillack Saddle where the view was excellent back to Mount Baw Baw and some even managed to get phone reception. Sandwiches, nuts and fruit always taste ten times better in the fresh mountain air with a wild expansive vista.



Group photo at Baragwanath Flat

After lunch we made the return trip to Baw Baw Village however this time we returned along part of the McMillan trail before joining the Village track again, for the final descent into the world of mountain bikes, ski lodges, cars and bitumen.

Mt Darling

DATE: Sat 5th - Sun 6th Mar

LEADER: Oliver Raymond

REPORT: Jackie Whiting

Walkers: Oliver, Michael, Heather, Chris, Anna, & Jackie

Meeting Oliver and the other walkers it was an early start at 7.30am when we left Glenmaggie Hall and set off in two cars to Licola and up the Tamboritha road to Dimmick's Lookout. A quick look at the clear panoramic view across a line of ridges and the Alpine National Park and a friendly chat to some 4WD guys heading to the Wonnangatta, we started our hike some 100m away into Mt. Darling, Snowy River Wilderness area at 10.30am.



Oliver, Jackie, Chris, Heather & Michael at the start of their Wilderness adventure

Following an old and now disused track which was used to haul alpine ash logs, we descended in a zigzag fashion downwards at a 1:3 gradient leading into 1:6. We encountered new growth of snow gums and a prickly hakea, wild flowers and many fallen logs to scramble over or under. My mind whispered to me "whatever goes down must come up again". The scenery down the slopes was lovely and clear with fresh smells, snow gums, occasional huge rock faces with collections of ferns and everlasting flowers. Oliver applied his trusty Borneo machete to chop back some unfriendly blackberries and gradually the track changed to tall alpine ash. Two and a half hours later we came to a small clearing which was to be our lunch spot. Named on the map as Mt. Darling Saddle we were also provided with a huge lovely fallen log to sit on.



The perfect log for a lunch stop.

Oliver said the track got rougher from here and he wasn't wrong. Besides climbing over or under the fallen logs we had to push our way through more and more undergrowth which was taking over our trail. We seemed to be following small deer trails but it was hard to see a clear path. One of our walkers was feeling tired and so Michael abandoned his pack and carried hers. Now at a Y junction in the track we regrouped and considered our options.

- (a) Return to the lunch spot & make camp,
- (b) Split the group, with 2 staying behind to mind our packs while 4 continue along Mt. Darling track to the usual camp spot and views,
- (c) We all walk on together.

Oliver advised the track would get harder and we had at least 1 hrs walk to go. Option (b) won and Chris and Heather stayed put minding our packs and four went on to bush bash along the Mt. Darling track to the original camp clearing. It took 1 hr to bush bash 1km without packs. The regrowth was above our heads and thick, making scratches and knocks inevitable. We went past an old deer hunters camp and commented on how difficult it would be for them to get in and out, let alone with a deer carcass. We found a creek to refill water bottles and took a breather at the intended camp spot. At least the track had cleared to a lovely alpine grassy area. On ahead was views of the

Wonnangatta but time called us back to regroup with the others. Apparently they'd had a rest on their hiking mattresses and even put up an umbrella to access more shade.



Chris waiting under her umbrella

We four looked a ragged sight. Back now to the lunch spot finding Michael's pack along the route. We heard a lyrebird and wild dogs calling and saw birds and parrots. In all we'd walked 8kms in 6 hrs. The camp site was inviting as we selected our spots to pitch tents and a small fire to boil the billy. Oliver had some nice red wine and Anna biscuits and cheese to share.



Boiling the billy

We settled for a quiet evening and as darkness came we sauntered off to bed. Strange noises which seemed to be bark knocking against tree trunks and a the screech of an unidentified animal made me alert at first but soon everyone fell asleep.

A warm night and no dew gave us a great chance to pack up dry tents as we had a cuppa and breaky. Hiking back up the zigzag made me think "how many fallen logs have we scrambled over this weekend?" We heard the call of samba deer, more birds and parrots as we headed up towards the cars. A billy was put on to boil and morning coffee was a reward well received. Packs back into the cars and boots off our feet helped us relax once again and then we were heading home again.

A fantastic challenging weekend and a thank you to everyone involved.

Mt Kosciuszko Kosciuszko National Park

DATE: Sat 12th - Sun 13th March

LEADER: Anna Janca

Kosciuszko National Park

Located in the Australian Alps, KNP is unique to the world's geographic alpine terrain and is internationally recognised as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Covering almost 675,000 hectares (1,485,000 acres) the Park contains the highest mountains and glacial lakes in Australia. It also has plant species found nowhere else on earth highlighted by vivid fields of colourful alpine flora, nine wilderness areas, rare and indigenous Australian mountain fauna, tremendous vistas, historic huts, sensational walking tracks and is the source of the Snowy, Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers.

DAY 1 REPORT:

Sue Hides

Thredbo to Mt Kosciuszko summit & return via Dead Horse Gap & Thredbo River Track

Via Express route: Monica & Joe, Bev, Jackie, Andrew, Marian, Heather & Ken.

Via Merritt's Track: Andrew, Anna, Chris, Sue & Helmut

A crew of five, (the advance party) Helmut, Andrew, Chris, Sue and Anna, drove from Sawpit Creek to Thredbo Village, leaving those who planned to catch the Kosciuszko Express (ie the chairlift) to follow an hour or so later. The advance party started walking at 7.20 am to the Eagle's Nest Restaurant at the top of the chairlift via Merritts Nature Walk. This steep stepped track ascends 560 m from Thredbo Village, crosses Merritts Creek and meanders under the Snowgums and chairlifts through alpine ash, snow gum and alpine meadows.

Good planning saw the advance party arrive at 9.30 as the rest of the crew alighted from the chairlift where hot chocolate & coffee was enjoyed by all in the Eagle's Nest.

The Mt Kosciuszko Track is mostly a mesh walkway, (designed to protect the fragile alpine environment from the feet of the many visitors) through alpine meadow. It starts at the top of the Kosciuszko Express Chairlift (at 1930 m), passes the granite outcrops of Ramshead Range, crosses the headwaters of the Snowy River, passes Lake Cootapatamba, crosses Rawson Pass to the summit of Kosciuszko (at 2228m). Most of the group enjoyed 360 degree views from the summit before low cloud obscured part of it. We lunched below the summit seeking shelter from the wind, just before rain that lasted about 20 minutes and gave our wet weather gear a break from our day packs. We returned the way we came, to the junction with the Dead Horse Gap track. Three of the party descended to Thredbo Village on the chair lift and the other 9 set off on the Dead Horse Gap Walk, a more



Group at Rawsons Pass



Group photo taken along Dead Horse Gap track (note The Pilot in the background)



Andrew & Ken just below the summit



Bev celebrating on reaching the summit

gentle descent to the Thredbo River than the walk up on Merritts Nature Trail that morning. The Dead Horse Gap walk offered fabulous views of the Ramshead Range, Crackenback and the Thredbo Valley and passed through beautiful alpine heath and snow gum forest. Five of the group returned to Thredbo Village from the end of the Dead Horse Gap Walk by car, whilst those in need of still more exercise, followed the beautiful Thredbo River back to the village.

It was a lovely day's walk with spectacular views from the rooftop of Australia.

**DAY 2 REPORT:
Chris Llahsram**

Charlotte Pass to Blue Lake & return

Walkers: Andrew, Marian, Bev, Heather, Monica & Joe, Ken & Chris.

After avoiding the early morning roos and deer, eight walkers arrived at Charlottes Pass car park to begin walking to the Blue Lake. This lake is one of five in the Kosciusko alpine area. It was formed by glacial activity and is 28 meters deep and 16 hectares in area. The car park had an excellent set of toilets compared to what is usually available in Victorian National Parks.



Group at Blue Lake lookout

The walk began with a very steep long descent to the intersection of the Snowy River and Club Lake Creek. It was hard not to think that this would be waiting to greet us at the end of the walk. Once the two river crossings were completed we commenced a long upward climb to the turn off to the Blue Lake. On the way we passed a point that gave us views to Hedley Tarn and the great rugged scenery of the Kosciusko Alpine area was everywhere to be admired.

We headed down the track to Blue Lake where a lunch break was taken sitting in the sun by the magnificent lake. On returning to the main track radio contact was established with our other walking group which we then managed to locate as little dots on Carruthers Peak.



Heather above Blue Lake

We returned downhill to the creek crossings. The only snake that was seen by the group was a dead one, thank goodness. Also spotted along the track were Hi Vis blue worm like creatures.

It was then time to attack the steep ascent to the car park. Many other walkers were also heading back. As our oldest walker made it to the top she was greeted by much cheering and congratulations from all those present, both club members and other walkers, who were most impressed by her achievement. This walk was rated Med/Hard.

Many thanks to Ken for leading the walk. The last time he did this walk was 15 years ago and it brought back lots of memories of that time which he shared with us.

**DAY 2 REPORT:
Helmut Tracksdorf**

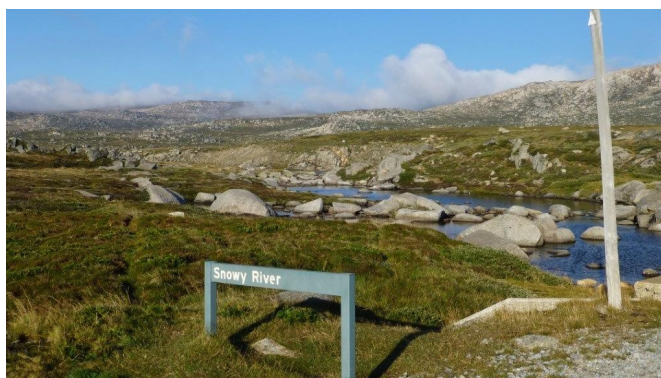
Charlotte Pass to Summit & return via Main Range Track & Blue Lake

After hiking to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko from Thredbo the previous day, a smaller group of 4 hardy (or possibly foolhardy) walkers decided to tackle the summit again, but this time starting from Charlotte Pass.

Charlotte Pass is located 9km from Mt Kosciuszko, but the plan was to complete a circuit by returning via Main Range Track and Blue Lake. This is a 23km circuit which takes you past attractions such as the source of the Snowy River, Seaman's Hut, Rawson Pass, Mt Kosciuszko, Lake Albina, Carruthers Peak and some of the most idyllic alpine scenery you will ever see, in Australia.

To avoid the crowds we departed Sawpit Creek at 7:00am and travelled by car to Charlotte Pass to commence our walk along Summit track at 7:30am. The

track follows the Old Summit Road which gently rises towards Mount Kosciuszko and takes you past attractions such as the source of Snowy River, Seaman's Hut (built in 1929) and Rawson Pass.



Headwaters of the mighty Snowy River



Anna, Sue & Jackie at Seamans Hut

We stopped at the Snowy which is just a small stream and Seaman's hut for photos and a rest. By 10:00am we reached Rawsons Pass, located directly below Mt Kosciuszko. However, this morning the summit was partly obscured by low cloud. Undeterred we pressed on and at 10:30am we were standing on the top of Australia with limited views in all directions. Nevertheless it was good to be able to share the experience with a smaller crowd.



Taking in the Summit views!!!

There were only 6 other adventurers on the summit compared to 60 the day before!

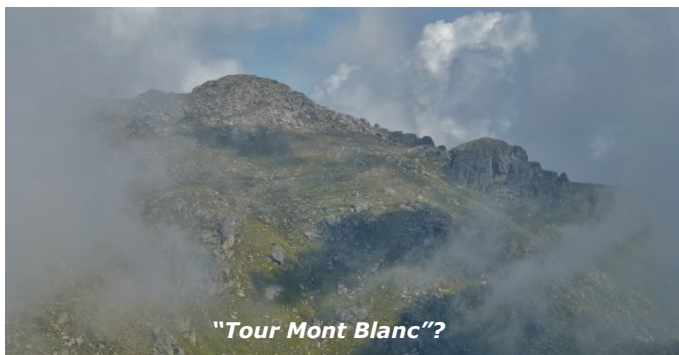
At 2228 metres, this was literally the high point of our hike but not the highlight of our day. That was still ahead of us. After the obligatory photos it was soon

time to depart, so we backtracked down the mountain a short distance to a junction where we turned sharp left to traverse the Main Range Track which continues along a ridge that leads past the tranquil waters of Lake Albina, then continues past the dramatic Western Escarpment, Caruthers Peak and onto the lookout over Blue Lake. This section is also part of the AAWT.



Lake Albina

We commenced hiking along the Main Range track at 11:10am which slowly descended for the next 2 – 3 kilometres. The track work along this early section was reminiscent of the Inca trail with carefully laid out stone steps. But once we began ascending the next major ridge the track turned into a simple well-worn path that slowly rises as you walk towards Mt Sentinel and Caruthers Peak. But first the track passes Lake Albina a hanging glacial lake that looks spectacular from above with soaring granite peaks behind it and windswept clouds rising from the valleys below. Continuing on we approached the dramatic Western escarpment which was the highlight for me as it reminded me of Tour Mont Blanc with its amazing vistas and fast moving clouds which swept up from the valleys and over the escarpment with incredible speed whereby the walkers in front disappeared from view. I was tempted to call out "MIRANDA" but then I remembered we left her at Hanging Rock!



"Tour Mont Blanc"?



"MIRANDA AAAA"

Sections of this track contain plant species found nowhere else on earth which were highlighted by appropriate signs advising us of their rare and indigenous nature. Together with the tremendous vistas we were all enthralled by the stark beauty of this place.

Upon reaching the summit of Caruthers Peak at 12:30pm we stopped for lunch and not too soon as some of us were famished needing sustenance to continue. After lunch it was all downhill to Blue Lake where we soon reached the intersection that leads off the main track and down to the lake itself.

Blue Lake (at 30metres deep) is one of only four cirque (glacial) lakes found in mainland Australia, the other three, Cootapatamba, Albina and Club, all located within Kosciuszko NP are shallower. It is also worth noting that the lake and its surrounds, including Hedley Tarn, is a designated Ramsar Site.

After a short detour to view Hedley Tarn we departed Blue Lake and headed back up the track to the junction of the Main Range Track where we then turned left and headed back towards Charlotte Pass. From here the track slowly and methodically drops down towards the Snowy River where that famous young stockman let his pony have its head and rode himself into Australian folklore.



Anna on Heartbreak Hill admiring the views

(Main Range Track on the horizon)

The final 800m of trail ascends steadily on a paved trail, albeit the last few hundred metres to Charlotte Pass is affectionately known as Heartbreak Hill, but it's worth it, just for the views!

Thanks to Anna for organising a great weekend.

Morwell NP

DATE: Wed 16th Mar

LEADER & REPORT: Monica Scicluna

Walkers : Wil, Mary, Di, Robyn, Bev, Robin and Monica

Our day started with plenty of sunshine, I had four walkers in my car heading to Maccas Traralgon to meet Robin and Bev. From there we drove to the Kerry road picnic area, on arrival we had our usual cuppa and form filling. Our walk was along the Stringybark Ridge walking track, we constantly were searching for lyrebirds to no avail, we were lucky to have Mary with us when she spotted a koala in the fork of the tree. This walk meanders through varnish wattles and grey gums, it was pleasant and everyone enjoyed themselves. Lunch was at the picnic area, Bev spotted a yellow breasted robin, to her dismay the camera was in the car. After lunch we said goodbye to Robin and drove to Billy's Creek, this walk was to the Weir wall which was built in 1914, this water supplied Morwell through wooden pipes. We walked along the creek, on the way sighting three hog deer, lots of wallaby's, five lyrebirds, parrots, fish and the sounds of bell birds,



Group ready to hit the weir wall trail

Mary and Robyn were unlucky enough to nearly stand on a snake but luckily he slid away. Thanks to my great team of walkers, it was a fabulous day for everyone.

Tarra Bulga National Park

DATE: Sat 19th - Sun 20th Mar

LEADER: Monica Scicluna

Walkers: Andrew, Anna, Bridget, Chris, Jackie, Louise, Monica, Piero, Rose, Sue.

Mack's Creek Walk

REPORT: Andrew Stevenson

The group met at Tarra Bulga Visitors Centre at 9 AM on the Saturday morning and everyone except Monica, Bridget and Louise decided to walk the Mack's Creek Track with Andrew. Bridget's report covers the other adventurers.

What started as a 10 km walk became a 15 km walk as a tree down across the road meant that we couldn't leave vehicles at Mack's Creek Hall as originally intended.

We left the vehicles off the road near the downed tree and a 15 km walk it would be.

It was overcast and raining lightly as we set off but the rain soon stopped and the sun tried awfully hard to emerge from the clouds.

The walk incorporates firstly the Wild Cherry Track and then the Mack's Creek Track and if the rather boring walk along the gravel road back to Balook is included the whole thing makes the Mack's Creek Loop of the Grand Strzelecki Track.

After leaving Balook we headed down the Bulga Park Road, past the Balook School Camp site and then onto the Wild Cherry Track. The track is named after the native cherry trees that grow along here (*Exocarpus cupressiformus*), which have a Cypress tree appearance. After a fairly steep downhill we crossed Mack's Creek twice and then skirted a recently logged pine plantation. Back into the native forest corridor along the creek and we came to a rocky outcrop and waterfall which looked like a good spot for lunch. After transferring our sanger's from our packs to our bellies we set off again alongside Mack's Creek crossing it a further four times before we began a short, steep ascent to our road. Some short sections were extremely slippery after the recent rain and tackling the mud on all fours seemed to get the best result. Once we all safely on the road we had a breather and a jelly snake and then proceeded through farmland, banksia woodland, past the Mack's Creek Hall and back up Bulga Park Road towards our cars. Once everyone was safely at the cars we made the short trip back to Balook, settled into the Lyrebird Guesthouse, freshened up and had pre - dinner drinks and nibbles.

Traditional Danish Dinner

Mine Host Tauben prepared a scrumptious dinner for us all which consisted of roast pork, a sweetish sauerkraut, numerous varieties of potato and lashings of gravy.

Dessert was a rather excellent creamy rice pudding with stewed cherries. He was ably assisted by two Viking servers.

After dinner we adjourned to the lounge to solve the worlds problems and then off to bed.

Tarra Bulga Walk
REPORT: Bridget Serrurier

Walkers: Monica, Louise and Bridget

After the torrential rain the day before, we decided to complete several shorter walks today rather than join the Mack's Creek walking group.

We drove to the Tarra Park and walked to the impressive Corrigan's Suspension Bridge, which stretches through the rainforest canopy, affording spectacular views of the lush fern gully on the forest floor below.



Corrigan's suspension bridge

This forest has fortunately remained untouched by logging or destructive fires and we marvelled at the ancient and massive trees, such as Mountain Ash, Blackwood and Messmate, many of which are centuries, or even a thousand years old. We then completed the Scenic Track through the tall Mountain Ash forest and patches of Cool Temperate Rainforest.

Returning to our car, we drove to Tarra Valley, where we enjoyed the Rainforest Walk, which meanders through a rainforest gully and across mountain streams to Cyathea Falls. The ancient Myrtle Beech along the trail creates a protective canopy above a delicate understorey of tree ferns, lichens and moss.



Louise & Bridget at Tarra Valley

At the spectacular Cyathea Falls, Louise spotted a small, (sadly dead), platypus on the rockface. The ranger we spoke to afterwards, had not heard of platypus being found in this area before. Throughout our walks, the birds, particularly the Lyrebirds and Whipbirds, were in full throttle. We spotted several female Lyrebirds, as well as Crimson Rosellas and other tiny colourful birds flitting about. The scenery in Tarra Bulga is truly breath-taking. Many thanks to Monica for organising a wonderful weekend!

Mt Tassie Walk
REPORT: Andrew Stevenson

On Sunday morning after a hearty breakfast we did a car shuffle to leave vehicles below Mt Tassie which gave people the option of a short or long walk.

Leaving the Visitors Centre we crossed Grand Ridge Road and headed up the Telecom Track through magnificent Mountain Ash and Tree Ferns. Lyrebirds seemed to be everywhere and it wasn't long before the first leech made an appearance. We soon crossed the Traralgon-Balook Road and then walked along the Duff Sawmill Heritage Trail. The Duff Sawmill Heritage Trail route to Mt Tassie is the easiest part of the Grand Strzelecki Track and one of the most scenic. It also portrays the rich settlement and sawmilling history of the area through interpretive signage and brochures available from the Visitors Centre. We walked through ever changing landscapes, from dense Blackwood forest with many mosses and fungi to the starkly contrasting wide open spaces and sweeping views from the Mt Tassie lookout and picnic area.

Other features seen include remnant old growth eucalypts, historic tree stumps and native flora revegetation areas.

Once we reached the top of Mt Tassie the sky was clear enough to make out Wilson's Prom, the Beach, the Plateau and the West Face Track. After we spotted about 4m



Phascolarctos cinereus spotted on the track!

Although they are said to be common here this is the first one I've seen after many walks over many years.

After a short steep uphill climb past the old Morning-side Grange Homestead site it was back onto the Telecom Track and back to Balook.

Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed the Tarra Bulga National Park and surrounds.

The Sisters Walk to the North Sister

DATE: Sat 26th Mar

LEADER: Ken Free

REPORT: Robyn McLennan (with slight additions by The Ed)

WALKERS: Heather, Marian, Robyn, Geoff, Daryl, Oliver, Anna, Andrea, Grace and Ken

"It was the man from Iron Bark who struck the Sydney town.."

"It was somewhere up the country, in the land of rock and scrub where they formed an institution called the Ben Cruachan Walking Club"

With Banjo Patterson, and a hint of Henry Lawson thrown in...

The cracks gathered in Sale, Rosedale and Lindenow before the 4 wheel drives, and Anna's trusty 2 wheel drive hit the dirt up behind Bairnsdale.



The cracks gathered for the days walk

It was a cool start, but as soon as we found the track (or what used to be a track) we all warmed up quickly.

The curious case of 'where is the next pink ribbon' was our focus, with keen eyes often better than the GPS. Upward, ever upward our mountain man, Ken led the way. While Oliver and others identified all the trees in our path.

By George, that is a fine looking Iron Bark!

"When they reached the mountain's summit, even Clancy took a pull"

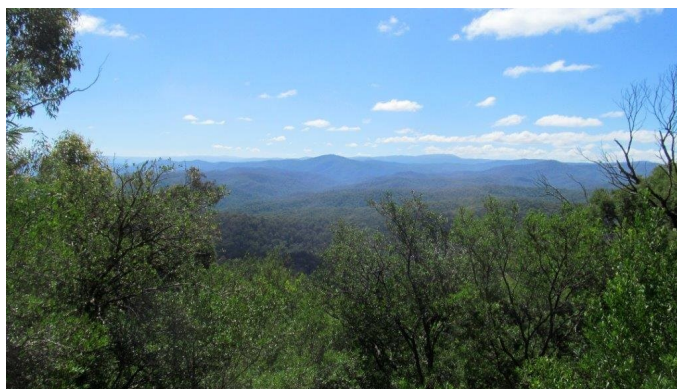
We all sat down and looked around.



Not a pair of secateurs in sight!

And sighed with some despair
There aint no views to be had with lunch.
Next time we'll bring secatairs!

With flint stones flying, we descended. And all at once, a view. A reward for all our efforts. And none to soon.



The rewarding view

The journey was interspersed with poetry, which kept us all inspired and some may say, amused.

There's one in every pack for sure
A joker they say.

Things changed with our first break after lunch. This was the beginning of our understanding of Mao's Anna's Red Book. (Mind you, she did not have it with her! However Oliver was able to produce it.)

"We should never pretend to know what we do not know, we should not feel ashamed to ask and learn from people below" P378

"Grasp Firmly. That is not to say the Party Committee must not merely grasp, but Grasp Firmly its main tasks" P379 Mao Tse Tung.

After the 90 deg bend in the "once was a track" we were all glad to reach the road. It was wonderful to catch up with many, and the walk was enjoyed by all.

Recce Guys Hut to Wonnongatta

DATE: 22nd - 24th Feb

LEADER: Oliver Raymond

REPORT: Anna Janca

Participants: Helmut, Oliver and Anna –

Supported by: Philip and Chris

Sitting around the camp fire on the Bryce's Gorge weekend, Oliver was looking deep into the distance fantasising about getting to the Wonnangatta River and valley from where we were. Next thing we knew, a couple of weeks later, we were off on another Oliver adventure - with Philip providing the support vehicle and retrieval. Meeting at Glenmaggie on Monday afternoon, Philip drove us to the Bryce's Gorge car park and camping ground where we spent the night. After making camp, we were pleasantly surprised by Chris' arrival – just to have a camp out for the night. The weather forecast was 'hot'. (We found out later it had been around 44 degrees at Licola the day we walked.)

So up before the birds, we packed up camp and started walking at 6.50 am. (Chris did get up to wave us off – not walking - she was going for a ride with Philip up the King Billy Track to find the soak. Philip was hoping for third time lucky). Oliver, Helmut and Anna, with trusty map, compass, GPS coordinates and GPS in hand, headed off to Guys Hut, then across the alpine meadow following the track to the signpost and junction of the Wonnangatta and Conglomerate Falls tracks.



Oliver at the track junction

Part of the Bicentennial Track for horses in the past, it became obvious that the track to the Wonnangatta over the next section was no longer in use and elusive. But after much consultation with the terrain, map, compass, GPS and each-other, we crossed the undulating meadows and scrub, to 'the kink'. This was tricky and essential to find, particularly as there had been fire damage in the area, and we had to take care that we did not drop down into the wrong valley. 'The kink' was a point on the track where it dropped off the plateau steeply for a short section, then levelled off onto a track which followed the contour at the head of several creek gullies before following a spur line down to the Dry River Track. Once on the right track, it was terraced and ok to follow, although heavily overgrown in most sections. Markers were found and GPS coordinates recorded and ribbons were tied around trees. Some dispute occurred over how the ribbons were to be tied, but the male version was eventually used – no bows. That is the trouble of being a minority in a group!

It was a hot day, and, luckily, once we got there, the Dry River was not dry, but very low. Although not on the river, as the track followed the river, it was flat, and it enabled access to what water was in the river, and an opportunity to cool off and top up. We then followed the Dry River Track to where it met the Wonnangatta Track at the Wonnangatta River valley. There we radioed Philip who came as far as he could along the track to retrieve us, 19 km from our start. Even with his u beaut 4WD, he could not navigate the badly dug up ruts and water holes - 'so bad that you could use them to test submarines'. But he was a happy man – he and Chris had found and marked the spring on the King Billy Track, which had eluded him many times before.



Mt Darling as seen from Wonnangatta Valley

WALK PREVIEWS

Walk Gradings

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

DEPTFORD & SURROUNDS

DATE: Sat 2nd April
GRADE: S – 3 – 3
DISTANCE: 7 - 8km
MEET: 9:00am
 Howitt Park, Bairnsdale
 (East side of Mitchell River bridge)
LEADER: Trevor Clues - 5156 4559
EMAIL: Valma51@bigpond.com

Car pool at Howitt Park for one hour drive to Deptford, an old mining locality. There are toilets on the North side of ford where we start our walk. The old bridle path called Slaughter Track is an easy 3.7 km (1½ hour) walk along the picturesque Nicholson River to Stantons Place. An ideal setting for lunch with picnic tables and an opportunity for a swim. Along the track we will view a tunnel through the rock to divert river, mine shafts and a stone oven, all remnants of the gold mining era. When we return to our cars we have the option of a short walk upstream to view another mine shaft complete with remains of the stamper battery. Bring a towel and torch.

SALE WETLANDS WALK

DATE: Wed 13th Apr
GRADE: M – 3 – 3
DISTANCE: 12km
MEET: Swing bridge car park @ 10:00 am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0439 614 544
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

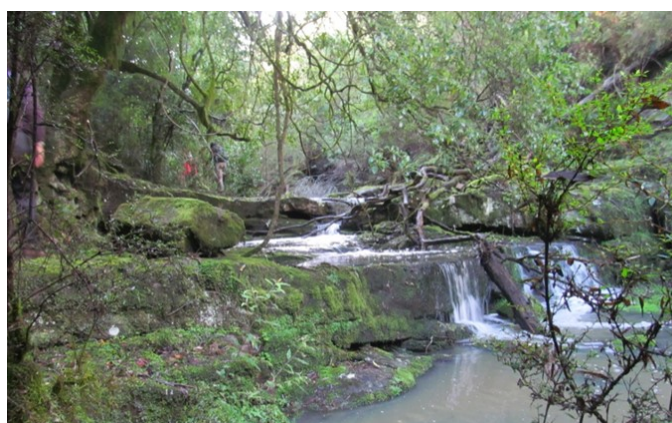
We follow the Flooding Creek Track that is level almost the whole way. There is always a variety of water -and other birds around to admire. Also further down the track near the river there are whistling kites and swamp harriers about with their nests high in the trees. Even during the driest part of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

SCRUBBY CREEK

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 16th Apr
GRADE: S – 6 – 8
DISTANCE: 6km
MEET: 8:00 am @ Stratford
 8:45 am @ Lindenow
LEADER: Ken Free - 5144 1195
EMAIL: kenfree@iprimus.com.au

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 negotiate our way downhill to the Mitchell River at a point approx 1.5kms downstream from where Woolshed Creek (Den of Nargun) enters the River. From here we follow the River downstream until we reach the spot where Scrubby Creek enters the Mitchell. We follow Scrubby Creek upstream through glorious warm temperate rainforest gullies with overhanging rocky bluffs. After a lunchbreak in these delightful surroundings we will negotiate 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, thick bush and 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.



**COBBANNAH CREEK
MITCHELL RIVER NP**

DATE: Sat 23rd Apr
GRADE: M - 6 - 8
DISTANCE: 13km
MEET: 7:00 am @ Stratford
7:30 am @ Beverleys Rd
LEADER: Ken Free - 5144 1195
EMAIL: kenfree@iprimus.com.au

This walk involves a car shuffle to Mitchell Road then drive back to Billy Goat Bend Road. Drive along Billy Goat Bend road to start of walk. We walk along an overgrown logging track before descending towards Cobbannah Creek. Upon reaching the creek we walk downstream along Cobbannah Creek, we will have a lunch stop at the confluence of Gap and Cobbannah creeks.

After lunch we will walk up Gap Creek to the exit point where we will follow a steep ridge to Mitchell Road and back to the vehicles.

Return by vehicles to starting point.



**MISSISSIPPI CREEK TO QUARRY
COLQUHOUN FOREST**

DATE: Sat 30th April
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: 6km
MEET: Forestech @ 9:00am
LEADER: TBA
DETAILS: TBC
Check out the BCWC website for further details in due course.

**CALVI / HORTONS TRACK
MITCHELL RIVER NP**

DATE: Sat 7th May
GRADE: S - 3 - 4
DISTANCE: 6km
MEET: Lindenow Hall @ 8:30am
LEADERS: Rob & Josie Paterson - 0429 950 494
EMAIL: Robjp56@gmail.com

After carpooling we will travel along the eastern edge of Mitchell River National Park via Weir Lane, Wattle Creek Road and Sandy's Creek Road until we reach Five Ways where we will travel along Calvi and Horton's track where we will leave the vehicles. From here we will follow a ridge southwest then westwards, through at times thick scrub, until we make our destination, a rugged escarpment near the top of the Mitchell River Gorge opposite Rock Creek. This will be our lunch stop before returning to our vehicles. On our way back to Lindenow we will stop off for a short walk to a recently rediscovered historic hut on Stoney Creek. The remains of the honey house is a stone building that dates back to the early 1900's. Back at Lindenow those who wish to can avail themselves of coffee etc at the Lindenow Café before heading home. PLEASE NOTE: This trip involves travelling over some rough park tracks, if you have a standard vehicle you will need to negotiate a life line with someone who has a vehicle with high clearance, Subaru's etc are suitable if driven with care.

**WINGAN INLET - CAR CAMP
CROAJINGOLONG NP**

DATE: Fri 13th - Sat 14th - Sun 15th May
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: Various
MEET: Contact walk leader for details
LEADER: Oliver Raymond - 0411 420 345
EMAIL: oliverraymond@wideband.net.au

Wingan Inlet is located within 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

as soon as possible to let him know whether you would like to participate.

The walks will include:

Gale Hill track to the sea then back to the camp ground (L/9/4)

Rame Head return (S/4/4)

Elusive Lake (S/4/4)

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

TONGUE POINT WILSONS PROMONTORY

DATE: Sat 28th May
GRADE: M-6-4
DISTANCE: 10km
MEET: Lake Guthridge Car Park, Sale @ 8:00am
LEADER: Chris - 0499 780 399
EMAIL: chr_252@hotmail.com

After carpooling and travelling to the Prom, the walk will commence at the Darby River car park where the track climbs steeply allowing for great views back over the Darby River and surrounds. The track then follows the coastline to Tongue Point via Fairy Cove giving some lovely vistas of the coastline and out to sea. After reaching Tongue Point the walk will return the same way back to our vehicles. After returning to the cars and depending upon time an additional 2.2km walk to Darby Beach may be included making the walk total of approx 10kms.

AAWT - O'SHEAS MILL CAMP BEGINNERS & EXPERIENCED WALKERS (Walhalla & Baw Baw NP)

DATE: Sat 4th - Sun 5th 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 overnight 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.

LOCH SPORT NATIONAL PARK

DATE: Wed 29th June
GRADE: S-3-3
DISTANCE: 6km
MEET: Longford Hall @ 9:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 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 Gippslands National Park

PREVIEWS

Please note that all the previews per this Newsletter and more are available per our new website. You can contact the leaders of all walks directly via the website simply by selecting their email address at the bottom of each preview page.

TRIBUTE to ANZAC DAY

25th April 2016



Members of BCWC at the Summit of Mt Kosciuszko—12th March 2016



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

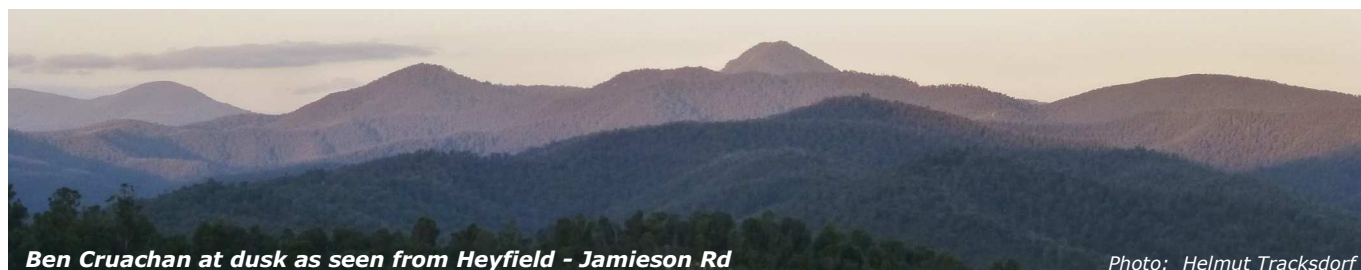
ISSUE 187 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - JUNE 2016



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

IN THIS ISSUE

BCWC - Established 1965

COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2016 - 2017

~ President's Report	3	PRESIDENT:	Monica Scicluna	5144 6713
~ Club News	4		joe.monica@hotmail.com	
~ Walk Leadership Training	5	VICE PRES:	Joe van Beek	5176 5302
~ Bushwalking Victoria News	7	SECRETARY:	Anna Janca	0419 178 445
~ Walk Reports	8		secbcwc@gmail.com	
~ Walk Previews	13	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.

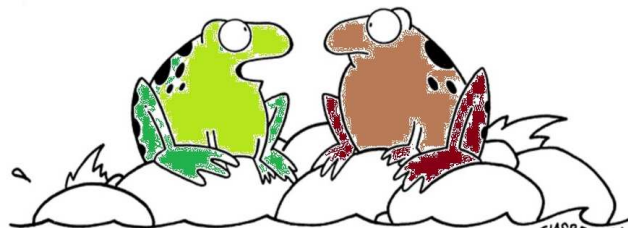
If you would like to organize a walk please contact Marian as there are still dates available on this years calendar.

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:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stratford - Memorial Park, Princes Highway, or 2. Bairnsdale – Visitor Information Centre, Main Street 		Meeting Time:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stratford 8.15 Saturday 2. Bairnsdale 8.15 Saturday <p>For arrival at the venue no later than 9 am to settle in before training commences at 9.30 am.</p>	
Walk Summary:	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Topics covered will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What's it mean to be a leader and leadership styles. ✓ Walk preparation focused on the day walk with considerations for base camps and pack carries. ✓ Risk Management; why we do what we do. ✓ Conducting a walk; safe, environmentally friendly and enjoyable walking. ✓ Critical Incident management <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				
Walk Leader:	Joe van Beek	Email:	joevanbeek@bigpond.com	Phone:	Joe: 5176 5302
	Logistics: Anna Janca & Marian Matchan		Registrations to: secbcwc@gmail.com		Anna: 0419 178 445 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.

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.

Able 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 delight-

ful 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

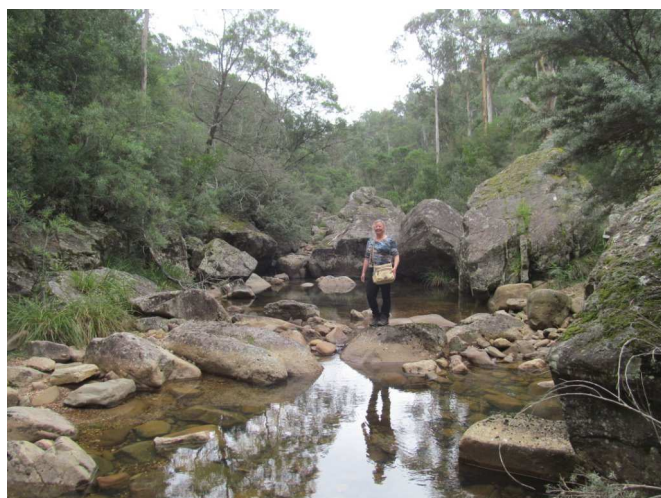
DATE: Sat 23rd April

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.

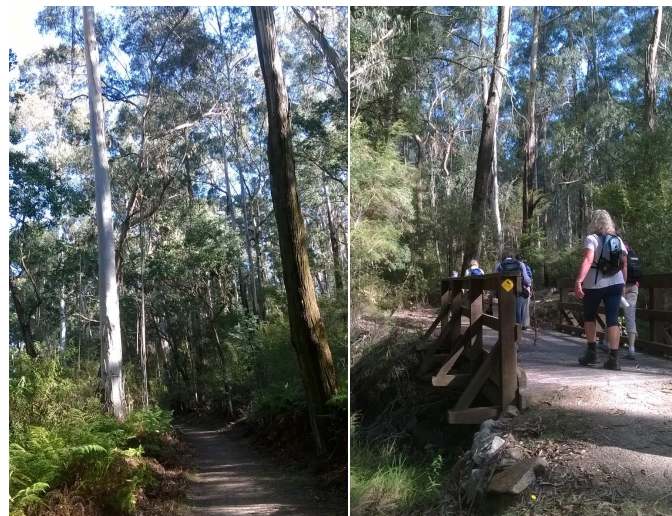
Mississippi Creek Colquhoun State Forest

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 pre-occupied 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

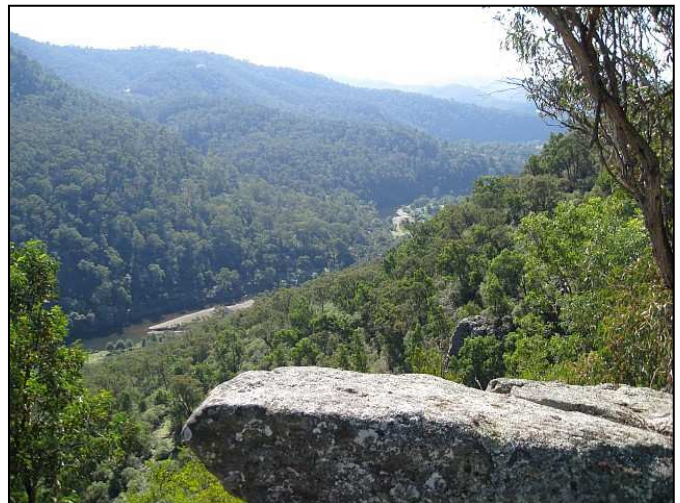
REPORT: Geoff Mattingley



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

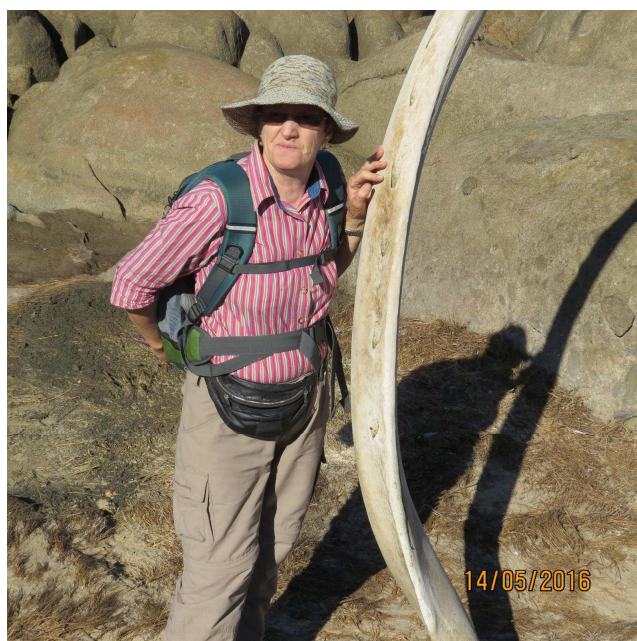
LEADER: Oliver Raymond

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.

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 coordinates 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.



Hello Possums!

WALK PREVIEWS

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

less, 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

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.

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.

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. Neverthe-

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.



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 188 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - AUGUST 2016



Photo: Ken Free

Mitchelldale is certainly proving a popular destination for members and visitors alike as can be seen by this happy group of hikers relaxing at the old homestead. Located within Mitchell River National Park, Mitchelldale formerly known as Scotts farm is a pioneer homestead surrounded by dilapidated farm buildings and a remnant orchard that was planted when the property was first cleared for farming at the turn of the century. Located on a bend of the Mitchell River, Mitchelldale is certainly a great place to visit at any time of year. Check out the full report commencing on page 10.



BCWC gratefully acknowledges the office of **Tim Bull MP** for the printing of this Newsletter

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



Ben Cruachan at dusk as seen from Chomleys Rd - Glenmaggie

Photo: Helmut Tracksdorf

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

IN THIS ISSUE

BCWC - Established 1965

COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2016 / 2017

~ President's Report	3	PRESIDENT:	Monica Scicluna	5144 6713 joe.monica@hotmail.com
~ Club News	4 - 5	VICE PRES:	Joe van Beek	5176 5302
		SECRETARY:	Anna Janca	0419 178 445 secbcwc@gmail.com
~ Bushwalking Victoria News	6	TREASURER:	Jack Winterbottom	5143 0903
		PUBLICITY:	Piero Baglioni	5156 7034 publicitybcwc@gmail.com
~ Walk Reports	7 - 14	NEWSLETTER:	Helmut Tracksdorf	5156 6763 newsbcwc@gmail.com
~ Walk Previews	15 - 18	WALKS CO-ORDINATOR:	Marian Matchan	0448 523 287 walkbcwc@gmail.com
		TRACKS & HUTS:	Michael Dowe	5147 3075
		ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:		
			Heather Alexander	5149 7048
			Chris Marshall	0499 780 399
			Trish Marston	0409 656 332
			Wil Streckfuss	5144 2183

CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH

NEXT CLUB NIGHT: WED 14TH SEPT, 6:00PM AT THE BAIRNSDALE CLUB, 68 NICHOLSON STR.
(MEETING ROOM OFF MAIN DINING ROOM)

Welcome to our Newest Members

*Robert Archer (Traralgon), Andrew Burrows (Inverloch), Diana Christiansen (Denison),
 Bridgeen Bourke (Drouin), Georgina Glanville & Jethro Harcourt (The Honeysuckles)*

Presidential Ramblings

AUGUST 2016

I am away at the moment in Broome but would like to thank our new committee who have had their first meeting this month, a lot of decisions would have been made and thank you Joe our new Vice President for chairing the meeting in my absence.

Margaret Beckett has stepped down from our committee as Vice President, she has had numerous roles over the years and, her knowledge extremely beneficial.

We will be having Committee meetings bi-monthly, on the other months we are hoping to have a club Night & Dinner with a presenter from within the club or from outside, this will give us a chance to catch up and discuss any issues arising.

I must give credit to Joe and his team for organizing a fantastic and informative walk leader training weekend on the 9th & 10th July.

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

See you on the track!

Monica Scicluna



"Bigfoot? BIGFOOT!! Well, you've got a BIG NOSE! What do you think of that, Mr Smarty pants?!"

Club News

BCWC

Club night & Committee Meetings

As recommended by the Committee at its May meeting it was decided to introduce a series of 'Club Nights' as an alternative to our usual formal Committee meetings. The Club Nights will be social events, including dinner, reporting and discussion of any Committee activities, and matters of general interest.

Club Members are still welcome to attend Committee Meetings, but these will not be social events as their focus is the 'business' of the Club. If you wish to refer anything to the Committee for consideration at these meetings, you should email Anna our Secretary at secbcwc@gmail.com so that the matter can be placed on the agenda.

The next Club night and Dinner will be held on **Wednesday 14th September at 6:00pm**. This will be held at the Bairnsdale Club, located at 68 Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale. Come along and hear one of our members discuss their adventure in tackling the TMB - Tour Mont Blanc.

The next Committee Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 12th October at 7:30pm** which will also be held at the Bairnsdale Club. Members & guests are most welcome.

AGM

The AGM of the BCWC was held back in June with a new Committee and Ordinary Members being elected for the 2016/17 FY. With Margaret Beckett stepping down from the Committee as Vice President, Joe van Beek was voted into the position. This was the only change to the Committee line up from last year. However we welcome 2 new Ordinary members on Committee and thank those who have stepped down.

Check out the new Committee and Ordinary members who will represent your interests over the next 12 months as detailed on Page 2. There are 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.

We thank Margaret Beckett for her dedication and assistance over the last 12 months, plus we welcome Joe van Beek in his new role as Vice President.

Walk Leadership Training Coonawarra Farm Resort (Sat 9th - Sun 10th July)

Presenters: Joe van Beek, Ken Free & Judy Hunter - Training officer, BWV

Sixteen people participated in the Walk Leadership Training conducted at Coonawarra Farm Resort not far from the Mitchell River National Park. The training was based on the training materials available from Bushwalking Victoria. The training schedule consisted of 15 sessions which covered a wide range of the things a walk leader needs to be aware of and prepared for.



WLT participants

There were class room sessions run by Judy Hunter on what it means to be a leader and leadership styles. The steps required for the preparation and conducting a day walk were covered by Ken Free. Joe assisted by Anna went through all the paper work requirements he also covered off on the team leaders duty of care and introduced the legal, insurance and risk management requirements. Joe covered managing minor incidents and incident reporting while Judy covered the management of more serious incidents. The introduction to navigation session on Saturday afternoon, according to feedback, was held too late in the day, too short and too rushed.

Conducting a base camp and preparing for and leading a pack carry were discussed around the wood burner in the lounge on Saturday night. Sunday morning was devoted to a practical outdoor activity in two groups simulating some of the situations a walk leader may need to manage on a walk. The debrief on the outdoor activity further reinforced the leadership requirements. Joe concluded the presentations with a session on how bushwalkers can help maintain a track and how to read track markers.

Participants were very generous in their rating of the various sessions and services. They clearly indicated that many would appreciate further training on navigation with map and compass and with GPS.

Club News



Trainer - Joe van Beek

The aspect of the Walk Leadership Training weekend that scored highest was the catering. Thank you to Judy van Beek and all those that contributed to the catering. The club is grateful to the presenters for the time put into preparation and presenting and also for passing on their experience in bushwalking leadership. Thanks to Bushwalking Victoria for making Judy Hunter available, for the use of the training materials and for copies of the book 'Bushwalking and Ski Touring Leadership' for each participant.

Please support the walks lead by the Walk Leadership Training participants to help them further develop their confidence and experience.

Storage of Club Equipment

Joe van Beek advises that the Club's equipment is now stored by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) at their Heyfield Depot. Jeremy Reynolds is the DELWP person responsible for this, and DELWP has accepted responsibility for storage and ensuring equipment is safe for use when required. Members should contact Joe, in the first instance, if they require use of the equipment.

Flinders Island

Oliver Raymond is looking for 8 people to go to Flinders Island from 4th to 9th December 2016. Hopefully flying out of Latrobe Airport. First in first accepted. It is a truly a beautiful place to visit. Check it out at info@tasmanianexpeditions.com.au

Contact Oliver directly if you are interested and require further information.

oliverraymond@wideband.net.au

Cockburn Range - The Kimberley



One of the many Gorges explored in the Kimberley

Back in July, Raymond Oliver spent some time hiking with his sons in the Cockburn Range. The Range is a magnificent sandstone escarpment that rises 600m above the surrounding plains. It dominates the landscape along a section of the Gibb River Road, in The Kimberley region of WA. We suspect Oliver was Tail End Charlie rather than Leader on this occasion!

Walk Program for 2017

Marian Matchan our diligent walks co-ordinator is starting to prepare our Walks Program for 2017.

Therefore could members please start thinking about:

1. New walks.
2. Walks they may wish to lead.
3. Mentored Leader Walks.
4. Walks that someone else could lead.

Keep in mind that we have a few long weekends and Easter in the first half of the year so please take advantage of them and use them for weekend camps.

Please email Marian at: walkbcwc@gmail.com with any suggestions by: **31st August** so we can start putting the 2017 program together.

Bushwalking Victoria News



AGM

Bushwalking Victoria held its AGM in June with Representatives from 19 affiliated clubs and one associated club attending. Tony Walker stepped down as President after serving the maximum term of three consecutive years. The new President for 2016/17 is **Peter Campbell**. Peter has been a Convener of Bush Search and Rescue for five years and a searcher since 1981.

FEDWALKS 2016

REGISTRATION NOW

FEDERATION WALKS 2016 – WESTERN GRAMPIANS



Held on the weekend of Sat 8th - Sun 9th OCT

Please Note: Registration closes at **12midnight, Wednesday 31 August**.

Registration is via the **TryBooking** website, which was used for last year's event. A link for this is on Bookings page (www.fedwalks.org.au/booking) of the **Federation Walks website**.

It is very easy to book as an individual or a group. If booking for a group, all you need is to have everyone's walk preferences and contact information to hand. You can book for the weekend or a single day or for dinner. Walks are filling. Before you book a specific walk, check the **Walks Program page** to see the current status of your preferences.

The guest speaker David Roberts, Grampians Ranger in Charge, will give a presentation about the Grampians Peak Trail - a very appropriate and interesting topic.

NEW BTAC COMMITTEE

Following the Bushwalking Victoria AGM, there were changes in the make-up of the Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) committee.

After many years of dedicated service as both a Board member and BTAC Convener, Megan Major

stepped down. Megan's wealth of experience will not be lost to the BTAC team as she has offered to take on the role of Field Officer for the Eastern Rangers (Gembrook, Powelltown) and to assist with the task of maintaining a register of volunteer hours.

Phil Brotchie also retired from the committee. Phil prepared submissions on behalf of the Bushwalking Victoria Board to government on a wide range of land management issues. So comprehensive were Phil's skills that a pool of people will be replacing him in this role.

Peter Maffei, have been appointed the new BTAC Convener, Who formally welcomed Mike Grant and Joe Van Beek to the committee. Mike has been with us for a number of months already and Joe joined following the AGM

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OF INTEREST TO BUSHWALKERS

All Australian alpine areas are facing uncertainties to their futures. The uncertainties include the effects of climate change, changing tourism and recreation industries and a shift in visitor demographics.

Mount Baw Baw and Lake Mountain Alpine Resorts Management Boards are undertaking the Mt Baw Baw and Lake Mountain 2030 project to respond to these changes. The project seeks to plan for the future of these iconic places based on the insights from everyone who visits, works and has an interest in the resorts. The outcome of the project will be a set of recommendations that will enable the Victorian Government to make a decision to ensure that the resorts remain a sustainable part of alpine tourism.

The first stage of consultation commenced on Monday 20 June and concluded on Sunday 10 July 2016. To underpin the consultation DELWP prepared Discussion Papers for each resort that outline the project, current facts about the resorts, and the big challenges facing their future. DELWP is seeking to hear from everyone through this process - visitors, people who work at the resorts or nearby, the local community and anyone with an interest in the resorts.

For information of the process and to access the discussion papers, go to:

<http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/Mt-Baw-Baw-and-Lake-Mountain-2030>

Please read through the Discussion Papers and provide you insights and ideas for the future of Mt Baw Baw and Lake Mountain.

WALK REPORTS

Wilson's Promontory Fairy Cove / Tongue Point

DATE: Sat 28th May

LEADER: Chris Marshall

REPORT: Robyn Rowley

Walkers: Chris, Oliver, Ken, Robyn, Di, Maggie, Gayle, Jackie, Anna, Andrew, Gayle, Trevor, Jim, Denise.

At 10.00 am after a quick stop at Yanakie bakery for coffee, 14 walkers gathered at Darby River car park. The weather was overcast and we were all well rugged up with coats, beanies and gloves to keep warm. As we set off, the steep climb soon had us warming up and shedding our excess clothes. Walking the path to Fairy Cove to the left we had a beautiful view of the Darby River snaking its way across the swamp marsh. On reaching the ridge top a magnificent ocean view ahead of us. We were fortunate on arrival at Fairy Cove the tide was out and we could enjoy lunch on the beach.



Lunch at Fairy Cove

Our next stretch to Tongue Point revealed views of massive sand dunes (Big Drift) and huge granite boulders tumbling along the coast line, we sat and enjoyed the scene before starting back along the



Tongue Point

same path. Along the way we spotted some beautiful Correa in flower also Hakea and several very spiky grevillea. Arriving back at the carpark about 2.00pm with only one shower of rain catching us, we also saw 3 Wedge Tail Eagles circling above. After a quick drink we set off again to Darby Beach then returned to our cars and made our way home.

Thank you Chris for a wonderful day exploring Wilson's Promontory National Park.

McMillans Track Bald Hill to Woods Point

DATE: Mon 13th June - Queen's Birthday

LEADER: Anna Janca

REPORT: Joe van Beek

Walkers: Ken G, Don (visitor), Andrew (visitor), Joe, Anna, Trevor, Wil, Denise, Jeremy (visitor - DELWP), Gaby (visitor - PV), Philip, and Ken F.

Curiosity and gratitude were the motivation to organise this rather out of the way walk. Anna, Joe, Michael and Helmut in the company of DELWP slasher wielding officers undertook this final stretch of McMillans Walking Track last November. It was difficult to follow and even more difficult to negotiate (I hesitate to say walk) because of the overgrowth, much of which was blackberry. In the mean time DELWP have cleared the track so we were curious to see what had been done.

We were indeed grateful to the DELWP people at Mansfield for now the track can be readily followed and walked. There are a couple of steep drops into creek crossings which presented a bit of adventure but generally the walking is now straight forward. It was pleasing to have a good turnout to put foot traffic on this part of McMillans Walking Track in recognition and gratitude of the good work done by DELWP.

12 walkers met at Tyers at 7:30am for the drive to the start of the walk near Bald Hill. Thanks to James and Denise Stranger for billeting some of the walkers from afar. It was almost 11am before the car shuffle was complete and the party set off to climb towards Bald Hill as far as the historic grave site of William Creighton, whoever he was, and then start the 400m descent to the Goulburn River.



Walkers gathered at the start of the walk with the temperature hovering around 3°C

Walhalla to O'Sheas Mill camp

DATE: Sat 18th - Sun 19th June

LEADER: Joe van Beek

REPORT: Heather Alexander

The descent is gentle at first but after crossing the Walhalla Road the track gets steeper as it approaches Gooley Creek. Some found it easier to slide down on their back sides than walk down some of the steeper bits. After crossing the creek and clambering up the bank on the other side the track levels off as it follows what looks like an old water race. After recrossing Gooley Creek the track follows below the Johnston Hill Track for a bit before the two join. A short walk down to the Upper Goulburn River brought us to the site of the former Gooleys Creek Township where the first gold in the area was discovered by William Gooley in May 1861.

Here we explored the interpretive signs and restored hut and took a lunch break in the sun while we contemplated the river crossing ahead of us.



Wil inspecting the restored hut

After the recent rain the Goulburn River was flowing higher than average but after observing that the water didn't go much above the wheel hub of a 4WD vehicle we crossed with caution but without much drama or any incident. From here we walked more briskly, especially while in the shadow of the hills and trees, slowing up to regroup in the patches of sun.

The hot drinks produced by Philip were much appreciated. Some enjoyed the warm fire in the hotel. Now there is only one hotel in Woods Point in contrast to the 36 that were in town at the height of the gold activities in the late 1860s.



All the walkers mustered behind the McMillan's Walking Track sign in Woods Point

Thanks to Anna's great organisation and leadership the walk was a great success. We enjoyed the company of our 4 visitors and were chuffed to have staff members of Parks Victoria and DELWP join us on the walk.

Walkers: Andrew B, Johnie, Rob, Andrea, Darryl, (Guests) Anna, Denise, Jim, Jackie, Maggie
Camp Mum and Dad: Judy and Oliver

12 walkers gathered at the Rotunda in the Walhalla township to meet and greet and set up for the 13.5km journey to O'Sheas Mill Camp. The weather was not kind to us on Saturday and those well prepared with wet weather gear kitted up for the worst. We headed up the steps to the track which wound gently southeast around the hill on our way to Poverty Point bridge.

The Victorian Heath was in bloom along the track and we enjoyed the ferns and lush foliage amidst the rain! Morning tea stop at the Thomson River track and on to Poverty Point Bridge for lunch. There had been little mention of leeches, but as we stopped to eat at the bridge, the little monsters got to work! I now think of them nature's slinkies, as I was quite amused by the way they slunk(?) from the ground up our boots and trousers. Hundreds of them! We ate on the bridge trying to avoid the attack, but accepted that they were likely to win this encounter.



The intrepid campers

Next section was the very narrow track on the side of the hill taking us to the steep section of the Fingerboard Spur leading us up to Thomson Valley Road. Heath and Crowea lined the track. A great river view and the sound of the water were very relaxing for those of us able to fall back and enjoy it. Once we hit the climb the focus was more on keeping cool than enjoying the view!

After crossing the road it was all downhill into camp. Oliver's tarp and Judy's fine fare were a very welcome sight. The hard part was finding a spot to pitch the tents out of the mud! Before long, they were all up. Fire on the go, the spuds went in and were very well tended by Andrew. By 6 we were all enjoying our fireside feast.

Everyone seemed to have a great night's sleep and were ready to face the return on Sunday. We headed off up the hill, a little concerned about the downhill stretch to come. The track appeared very slippery, but we were pleasantly surprised. A couple of slips, but fortunately no injuries. We met a hunter returning from his deer stalking and exchanged info re his GPS unit. A lovely rock picnic setting was found to enjoy morning tea by the river, followed by a leisurely walk back to Walhalla. Sounds of the train and the visitors brought the area to life. All were keen to get back in time to get coffee before the shops closed at 3!

Thank you Joe and Judy for organizing the weekend and the food, Oliver for transporting gear and setting up camp with Judy, and Jim and Denise for welcoming walkers into your home between walks. Look forward to seeing our guests on the track again soon. It was a good introduction to mud and rain and still being able to thoroughly enjoy great company in our beautiful bush.



Members celebrating the Club's 51st year in style at The Criterion

BCWC 51st Birthday & Sale Wetland walk

DATE: Sat 25th June

LEADER & REPORT: Monica Scicluna

Walkers: Geoff Proudfoot, Chris Marshall, Kath Johnson, Philip & Elizabeth Davis, Wil Streckfuss, Heather Alexander, Joe & Judy Van Beek, Mary Scicluna.

Lunch – Ken Free, Graeme Pilkington & Joe Scicluna

We woke to a lovely winter morning, after signing in at Coxs bridge we set off along the track and boardwalk towards the Swing Bridge.

Whistling Kites were spotted as well ducks and other local birds.

We met the rest of the group at the Criterion for lunch in the library room. It was great to sit and chat, listening to everyone's stories of places they have been and places they are going to in the future.

Phil made a toast to Ben Cruachan celebrating our 51st year. Thanks to everyone who attended and made it another special event.



On the board walk

Loch Sport NP

DATE: Wed 29th June

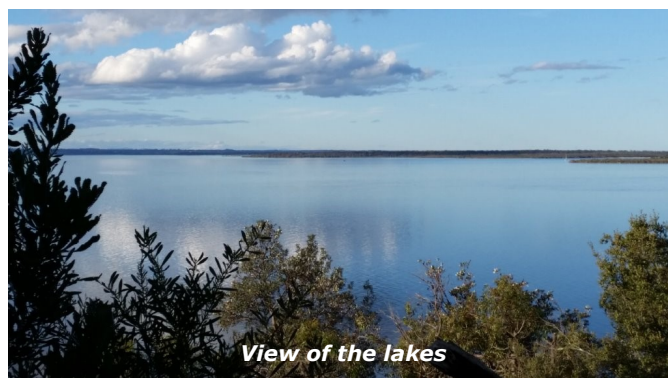
LEADER: Monica Scicluna

REPORT: Di Christiansen

Walkers: Jessie, Judy, Bev, Monica, Robyn, Joan W, Joan E, Di, Rick and Blair

We met at the Longford Hall before driving to Loch Sport, for a morning cuppa at the beginning of the Dolomite walking track. While we were preparing to start the walk crimson rosellas darted around the picnic spot. This circuit walk took us to the oil bore landing, then to Pelican Point and back along Lake Victoria to the car park. The track in the park is mostly sandy and as we walked we spotted some green hooded orchids in the woodland of Shining Peppermints and Banksia. On the last section along Lake Victoria we saw pelicans, black swans, cormorants and other water birds enjoying the sunny winter weather.

Back in the cars, we then drove to Point Wilson for lunch. We had lunch in the day shelter on the site of the Old Barton Homestead. Relics of the garden surrounding the homestead are still evident today. After lunch we did another circuit walk beginning at the Point Wilson Picnic Area and following the Lake Victoria Track to Barton's Hill and onto the bird hide overlooking Lake Killarney. We returned to the cars along Murphy's Hill Track, where we had a wonderful view over the lakes at the top.



View of the lakes

We followed the track back between Balfour's Swamp and Lake King to the cars. During the two walks we saw a lot of evidence that many animals live in this park, but on this day unfortunately we did not see them.



Balfours swamp

Thank you to Monica for a very enjoyable day.

Scotts farm Mitchelldale Mitchell River NP

DATE: Sat 2nd July

LEADER & REPORT: Ken Free

Walkers: Heather, Graham, Robyn, Chris, Andrew, Albert, Denise, Jim, Wendy, Angela, Bridgeen, Tricia, Trevor, Ken G, Daryle, Anna, Jenni, Ken F, Jackie and Piero

A stunning winter's day and an apparently enticing website preview combined to encourage 20 walkers to assemble at the Beverley's Road/Dargo Road meeting point for what promised to be a great day's walking in the northern end of the Mitchell River National Park. The June newsletter mysteriously listed the walk leader as "TBA" with "DETAILS: TBC" but this did not deter the faithful.

Following the obligatory signing-on, distribution of maps and a summary of our walks protocol, we car-pooled and travelled in convoy to a point high on the hill above the Angusvale Camping Ground where we left the cars for a steady down hill walk to the Mitchell River. Within ½ kilometre of our start point we paused to take in dramatic views to the north and our Scott's Farm destination and a few paces further on investigated the grave site of Max (a 15 year old dog?) who has commanding views of the Mitchell River adjacent to Angusvale. We arrived at Bull Point on the Mitchell River and observed that the water was cold, there was a lot of it and it was flowing quite fast: there would be no swimming today!

The walk from Bull Point to Scott's Farm is theoretically trackless, but a combination of deer, wombats and intrepid bushwalkers has resulted in a reasonably well-defined foot pad which everyone agreed was easy to follow. That is until yours truly managed to lead us through 100 metres of rotting flood debris - a test of character that we all seemed to pass. Along the river we enjoyed many photo opportunities and availed ourselves of a pleasant spot overlooking rapids for a morning tea stop.



Early morning mist rising from the Mitchell River, near Scotts Farm

At Scott's Farm some explored the old farmhouse with its wonderful stone chimney, some investigated the swimming hole beyond the 'pool paddock', some played 'guess what type of fruit tree that is' and all of us had a relaxing lunch under the old farm trees.

Refuelled and (somewhat) raring to go, we headed up the old farm road which would take us back to the top of the hill and the cars. At the halfway mark, on a grassy knoll, we had a well-earned rest break and marvelled at the views down to the river and back towards the farmhouse which now looked so far away. Near the top we navigated our way around and/or over the 2 locked gates before ambling our way to the cars.

Thankyou everyone for making this another great day in the Mitchell River National Park.

Grand Strzelecki Track Mt Tassie

DATE: Sun 17th July

LEADER: Andrew Stevenson

REPORT: Robyn Rowley

WALKERS: Andrew, Louise, Rose, Piero, Anna, Di, Graham, Johnno, Chris, Penny & Robyn

Our trip began with a pleasant drive from Traralgon to Balook & meeting at the Tarra Bulga info centre. Several cars were fortunate to spot lyrebirds & wallabies crossing the road on the trip up.

The previous weeks had seen a lot of rain fall in this area and the weekend prior, large snowfalls. As a result of this weather, the track was quite muddy and slippery in places, with a lot of damage to the undergrowth and tree ferns from the weight of the snow.



Fern fronds littering the track

We made our way along Duff Sawmill Heritage Trail through the rainforest which was beautiful and fresh, although challenging scrambling over and through the fallen undergrowth across the trail. The Gunai or Kurnai people of Gippsland and the early settlers to this area certainly had a difficult life contending with the rain, mud, snow and fires in summer and no decent roads.

In 1840 explorers Paul Strzelecki, James Macarthur and their party, battled through bush along the spine of this range for 22 days. Their Aboriginal guide, Charlie Tarra saved them from starvation by hunting koalas. His name was given to the Tarra River, Tarra Valley and Tarra Bulga National Park, which is now returned to its traditional owners.

After a very muddy 4x4 track walk up to the towers atop Mt Tassie, we had a beautiful view of the La Trobe Valley below blanketed in a soft layer of low cloud and blue sky above.



View of Latrobe Valley from Mt Tassie

Lunch was a welcome break with some of the group returning to the Balook café for coffee and the remaining 8 continuing on the Grand Strzelecki Track following the Mt Tassie loop. We had a very strenuous climb out at the end of the trail and welcomed our coffee at Balook. While enjoying our rest a very healthy looking fox strolled along the footpath.

Thank you Andrew for organising a very energetic walk.

Two Bays / Gunnamatta

DATE: Sat 23rd & Sun 24th July

LEADERS: Chris and Andrew

REPORT: Chris Marshall

Walkers: Andrew, Lou , Di , Anna, Jackie, Piero, Denise, Jim, Chris,

Well we certainly have some hardy walkers undaunted by adverse conditions in this club. The day threw all it could at us. Through gale force winds, rain, hail and a very small amount of sunshine, nine walkers pressed on and completed 15km of the Two Bays walk from Greens Reserve to Cape Schanck. We passed through areas of grass trees and proceeded to the Cape light-house with views of a rather turbulent Bushrangers Bay.



A stormy Bushrangers Bay

Still not deterred by the weather, five walkers then did the section from the wet and wild Gunnamatta Beach back to Cape Schanck.



Hiking along Gunnamatta Beach

Evening meal at the Rosebud hotel was enjoyed by all and then on Sunday morning, after a big brekkie at a local cafe, we strolled around Arthur's Seat taking in the views and freezing our butts off.

Noojee Trestle Bridge Toorongo & Amphitheatre Falls

DATE: Sat 30th July

LEADER & REPORT: Ken Free

Walkers: Wil, Corinne, Chris, Robyn, Helen (v), Diana, Kath and Ken

With 6 participants from Sale and 2 from Rosedale distributed between 2 cars, we set off on the longish drive to Noojee, a town with a population of 261 nestled in a picturesque valley on the edge of the Great Dividing Range north of Warragul. We enjoyed blue skies and sunshine on our drive over the rolling hills heading towards Noojee, but as we descended into the valley it appeared to be filled with low cloud. Apparently "Noojee" is an aboriginal word meaning "valley of rest" which was a good omen for the day and we were soon bathed in sunshine yet again.

This was never going to be a 'normal' bushwalk, so we first visited the Red Parrot cafe for morning tea and completion of the obligatory paperwork.

We then travelled about 10 kilometres east of the town to the Toorongo Falls Reserve where we undertook the loop walk to the 2 waterfalls. The initial part of the walk is a steady uphill climb to the Toorongo Falls on the Little Toorongo River, with many pauses on the way for photo opportunities of the raging river, tree ferns and towering mountain ash trees. The Toorongo Falls are simply spectacular being a collection of cascades over ancient boulders all surrounded by a dense forest of tree ferns and rain forest species.



Robyn, Kath, Helen, Diana, Corinne & Wil at Toorongo Falls

We then followed a well made and well used track which contoured around the hillside to the Amphitheatre Falls on the Toorongo River. Here a very impressive galvanised steel viewing platform has been constructed over the river affording fantastic views to the falls and the river downstream. The track then closely follows the river back to the carpark with almost constant views of water cascading over mossy boulders and lush surrounding forest.

Having completed a 2.2 kilometre walk we were in need of sustenance, so our next stop was the Outpost/Toolshed Bar and Bistro where we tucked into burgers, chips and soups and collectively solved the world's problems. After lunch we travelled to the Noojee Trestle Bridge which dates from 1890 and has a span of 102 metres. This historic structure is considered to be architecturally significant being the tallest surviving timber trestle bridge in Victoria at 20 metres and a unique and intact example of trestle bridge construction; it is now registered with the National Trust of Australia. We ascended steps to one end of the trestle, crossed the trestle and descended at the other end, pausing briefly for the group photograph.



Corinne Diana, Kath, Ken, Wil, Helen & Robyn at Noojee Trestle Bridge

Our final stop was the Noojee Trout Farm where we watched youngsters landing fish before making our purchases of smoked trout.

Having enjoyed a relaxing and civilised bushwalking day, we headed home. Thankyou everyone for a wonderful alternative bushwalk.

Mt St Gwinear Snow shoe Walk

DATE: Sat 6th Aug

LEADER: Michael Dowe

REPORT: Graham Pilkington

Walkers: Michael Dowe, Anna Janca, Joe and Paula van Beck, Georgie Glanville, Jethro Harcourt, and Graham Pilkington.

After hiring snow shoes at Erica, three lyre birds were spotted on the drive up. A good start in slightly over-cast but mild conditions. Snow was reached after a short walk, and new members, Georgie and Jethro, at first photographed every interesting icicle, snow gum, or mountain view. In fact, we all did. But it has to be said that we all looked pretty cool in the snow .



Cool Runnings or Cool Hikers?

We summited Mount St. Gwinear at 1509m and then Mount St. Phillack (1567m), and these names added to the heavenly feel to being high up in snow country. We sat down for lunch on the Phillack Saddle, and very comfortable it was.

Having had a group practice wearing the fiendishly difficult snow shoes, we wandered about moving effortlessly over the surface. Anna liked them so much she is thinking of getting a pair for gardening when it is wet.



**Jethro, Graham, Paula, Joe, Anna & Michael
doing the snow shoe shuffle**

We returned the way we came and as the snow depth was decreasing, we took the shoes off at Mount St. Gwinear. Michael was clearly a schoolboy hurdler and gymnast, but his actions did cause Anna to start drafting a Club rule change to deal with reckless behaviour on National Park signage, an amendment often discussed at Club meetings.



Michael training for the Winter Olympics!

After 11 km, we returned to the cars. There is something very peaceful and refreshing about crisp cold air and the whiteness of snow. Little did we know that Saint Gwinear was a Celtic martyr who was thrown into a pit of reptiles in Cornwall. I could not find any reference to falling into a pit of snakes in the new Bushwalking Etiquette.

Roaring Mag Walk Mitchell River NP

DATE: Sat 13th Aug

LEADER & REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

Walkers: Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Sue Roberts, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Jackie Whiting, Sue Hides, Astrid Rose, Ken Free, Robyn Rowley, Robert Archer, Philip & Elizabeth Davis, Marian Matchan, Wendy Cartledge (SBC). **Visitors:** Ken & Judy Alexander, Helen Watts, Yuanbin Wei, Kaye Livingston, Ruth Lewis, Angela Scully.

24 people registered for this walk and that was without being advertised! Which was a relief for the leader who suffers from: Demophobia, Enochlophobia & Ochlophobia to name a few. And, Yes your going to have to look them up!

After gathering at Lindenow and sorting out the admin issues including 2 cancellations we were off in convoy to the start of our walk. Upon reaching Roaring Mag Track the 22 remaining walkers were given some additional advice with a warm welcome offered to our 7 visitors. Maps were handed out and then a warning that we were about to enter deer hunter country. To ensure the main group would be protected and as a safety precaution several members were sent ahead to act as decoys in the event any hunters were in the area. Fortunately upon reaching the second water point all members/visitors were present and correct.

After a short break we left the vehicular track and headed off into the bush heading north and following markers left by previous expeditions. Within a short time we arrived at the escarpment and took in the views down the valley towards the Mitchell River and beyond to Castle Hill. Following the escarpment upstream we arrived at the highlight of our walk - Roaring Mag.

In fact this is not true, Roaring Mag was "not Roaring at all"! One had to strain ones eyes and ears to see or hear any water. Fortunately the escarpment and morning tea break made up for the disappointment.



The not so Roaring Mag

This certainly goes to prove that Roaring Mag is best approached after heavy rains. So for future reference if its not raining - bring plenty of water bottles!

After a well earned break we gathered our packs and struck out along the path cut by members in the past which leads to the head of the falls.

Soon we were standing in Roaring Mag creek without a paddle in sight. Rock hopping our way towards the "head of the falls".



Walkers in Roaring Mag Ck "without a paddle"

Without taking any undue risks we were able to get great views down the valley and check out the head of the falls confirming that there was a small amount of water trickling over the abyss. From here it was only a short scramble to our lunch spot on the edge of the escarpment looking back to were we had morning tea.



Ruth at Roaring Mag Falls

After lunch we proceeded north striking out through the bush towards Sandy Creek Track. Once again this was made relatively easy by following markers. Upon reaching the Track we simply followed Sandy Creek track back towards the main road and our parked cars.

A quick head count confirmed we had not lost walkers and that all had survived. The visit to Roaring Mag had certainly been worth the effort and enjoyed by all. Some members made a hasty retreat back to civilisation, whereas others headed back to Lindenow for Coffee and drinks. The proprietor of the Lindenow Pub was also kind enough to give some of our visitors a guided tour of the local history of the region via displays and old photographs upon the walls in the lounge.

Thanks to all those members who attended and to the visitors for making this another enjoyable walk. Unfortunately the leader still suffers from his phobias.



View from the head of the Falls

WALK PREVIEWS

Walk Gradings

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

DEN OF NARGUN - OLD WEIR SITE (Mitchell River NP)

DATE: Sat 27th August
GRADE: M - 6 - 3
DISTANCE: 10 km
MEET: Stratford @ 8:00am
Beverleys Rd @ 8:45am
LEADER: Ken Free - 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.

YEERUNG ESTUARY & DOCK INLET CAPE CONRAN COASTAL PARK

DATE: Sun 4th Sept
GRADE: M - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: 16km
MEET: 8:00am
Cape Conran campground
LEADER: Heather Alexander - 0414 917 830
EMAIL: heather.alexander1@gmail.com

Experience the rich diversity of flora and fauna which is found in the lower reaches of the Yeerung River as we walk the Estuary View Trail to the coastline. Keep an eye out for the Whitebellied Sea Eagles as we explore the coastal waters of the estuary. Enjoy the

beach walk to Dock Inlet, a unique and picturesque, land-locked expanse of fresh water isolated from the coast by a coastal dune barrier. Experience the natural beauty of the heathland and banksia as we travel back to the Yeerung River. The walk will commence at 8.00am to enjoy the morning bird song. This can be done as a day trip, or a weekend car camp, with travel to and exploration of Cape Conran walks local to the campground on Saturday, and this Yeerung Estuary and Dock Inlet walk on Sunday, before returning home. Car camp will be at the Banksia Bluff Campground on Saturday night. Cost is \$38 per site per night for up to 6 people per site. Please advise your preference when registering.

THE SISTERS - SOUTH PEAK WALK MT ALFRED STATE PARK

DATE: Sat 10th Sept
GRADE: S - 7 - 8
DISTANCE: 8km
MEET: Stratford @ 7:00am
Lindenow @ 7:45am
LEADER: Ken Free - 5144 1195
EMAIL: kenfree@iprimus.com.au

This walk is in the State Forest North East of Mitchell River National Park: an area rarely visited by bush-walkers. To get to the starting point we will drive for approximately 90 minutes from Lindenow through quite picturesque forests with opportunities for wildlife spotting. The walk starts at the Merrijig Track and follows an old overgrown forestry track through mostly open forest with a range of wildflowers just coming into bloom. The final section of the walk is quite steep and all off track with plenty of bush bashing, rock hopping and clambering over fallen trees. A reason-

ble level of fitness is required and good quality footwear is a must. At the summit we will lunch under a full canopy of mature trees before retracing our steps back to Merrijig Track. Walkers should carry at least 1 1/2 to 2 litres of water

BCWC

CLUB NIGHT & DINNER

DATE: Wed 14th Sept
MEET: Bairnsdale Club, 68 Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale (Meeting room off main dining room)
GUEST SPEAKER: Helmut Tracksdorf

Come along for a Social Night and hear one of our members talk about their experiences in hiking along the famous TMB or Tour Mont Blanc. Otherwise just come along for the meal and a jolly good yarn.

STARLINGS GAP TO ADA TREE

YARRA STATE FOREST

DATE: Sun 18th Sept
GRADE: M - 4 - 4
DISTANCE: 13km
MEET: Starlings Gap @ 9:00am
LEADER: Joe van Beek 5176 5302
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

This walk is part of the Walk Into History trail which starts near Warburton and finishes at Powelltown. The following link will take you to the Forest Notes for this walk:

http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/276233/FS0124-Walk-Into-History.pdf

We will follow an historic timber tramway from Starlings Gap traversing tall wet forest and cool temperate rainforest as it follows the Ada River downstream. We will visit several historic timber mill sites and the Ada Tree, one of Australia's tallest trees at 76m, and finish at the Ada Tree Picnic Area. The walk leader will be camping at Starlings Gap on the Saturday night. Walkers are welcome to join him from 4pm on the Saturday. The camping area is adjacent to the car park. There will be some basic navigational exercises for those interested.

HOLEY PLAINS WALK

HOLEY PLAINS STATE PARK

DATE: Wed 21st Sept
GRADE: S - 2 - 2
DISTANCE: 6 - 8km
MEET: Rosedale @ 9:00am
LEADER: Trish 0409 656 332
EMAIL: trishym66@gmail.com

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.

WIRILDA TRACK

TYERS PARK

DATE: Sun 24th Sept
GRADE: L - 6 - 6
DISTANCE: 15km
MEET: Wirilda Environmental Park Education Centre @ 9:00am
LEADERS: Joe van Beek 5176 5302
& Jim Strangers 5191 8312
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com
or Strangers1@westnet.com.au

The Wirilda Track is Latrobe Valley's best kept secret. The walk is conducted annually in conjunction with the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club and Friends of Tyers Park. 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 from fit walkers on the day. This would start by walking up the pipeline access road to the Moondarra Dam and returns via the Wirilda Track. Duration; 6 hours.

McMILLANS WALKING TRACK MAINTENANCE

BULLTOWN TO WHITE TIMBER SPUR

(ALPINE NP)

DATE: Thu 30th Sept - Sun 9th Oct
GRADE: Reasonable level of fitness required.
DISTANCE: 16+km
MEET: Talbotville
LEADERS: Joe van Beek 5176 5302
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

Joe is looking for a team of 3-4 people for each of 10 days for the proposed dates from Friday 30 September to Sunday 9 October (Team members may come and go as their availability allows) to work with DELWP to find, clear and mark the track along the Crooked River from near Bulltown to the bottom end of White Timber Spur Track, some 16 kilometres. This activity is already fully subscribed but members may register their interest as a reserve with Joe van Beek by 31 August.

MITCHELLEDALE CAR CAMP

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 1st - Sun 2nd Oct
GRADE: S - 5 - 4
DISTANCE: 7 - 8km per day
MEET: Refer preview per BCWC Website
LEADERS: Rob Paterson - 5156 9442
Ken Free - 5144 1195
EMAIL: robjp56@gmail.com
kenfree@iprimus.com.au

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 an 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. (refer to BCWC website for full details)

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 7 kms grade 4 - 4.

FEDWALKS 2016

GRAMPIANS

DATE: Sat 8th - Sun 9th Oct
GRADE: Various
DISTANCE: Various km
MEET: Refer FEDWALKS Website

The Federation Walks Weekend is a [Bushwalking Victoria](#) (BWV) event. Each year one or more walking clubs affiliated with BWV take turns to host the event in a different location, offering the opportunity for bushwalkers to participate in walks led by walk leaders with local knowledge.

Refer Page 5 for further details

OLD PORT TRAIL

PORT ALBERT

DATE: Sat 15th Oct
GRADE: M - 1 - 3
DISTANCE: 11.4km return
MEET: Lake Gutheridge BBQ area, Sale
TIME: 9:00am
LEADER: Trish 0409 656 332
EMAIL: trishym66@gmail.com

The walk will start at Port Albert, Stock Yard Point (the fish and chippery right at the point). We will follow an easy track along the foreshore, filled with Mangroves, after awhile, the track is seasonal to become a little wet, so waterproof shoes are recommended. Moving from the Mangrove area, the track then becomes sandy with coastal reserve, here, the walker will see a variety of wildflowers, birds and grasstrees. We will stop for lunch at the eastern end of the track, next to a coastal view. Then return along the same track back to Port Albert

FOSTERS GULLY NATURE WALK

MORWELL NP

DATE: Sun 16th Oct
GRADE: S - 5 - 3
DISTANCE: 6km
MEET: Maccas Carpark Traralgon 9:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna 0439 614 544
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

We start our walk at the Kerry Road Picnic Area. With a bit of luck there will still be plenty of orchids in bloom. Especially the Tree Orchid. We will proceed along the Foster's Gully Nature Walk at a leisurely tempo, because there is too much to see to hurry. We will be back at the picnic area around lunchtime and after lunch we can do the Billy's Creek Walk towards the old weir. I particularly like these two walks because they show a different side of the Park. How lucky we are to have this all on our doorstep.

WALHALLA TO THOMSON STN

VIA POVERTY POINT

DATE: Sat 22nd Oct
GRADE: M - 6 - 3
DISTANCE: 13km
MEET: Tyers Kindergarten @ 8:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna 0439 614 544
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

This walk starts with a bit of a short steep climb up to the old tramway above the town. From the tramway there is a good view of the Walhalla township strung out along the narrow valley of Stringers Creek. The circuit walk follows part of the Australian Alps Walking Track, past mine heads and through regenerated forest and ferny gullies, we will then turn northwards up the Thomson River Valley till it reaches the Poverty Point Bridge (aka Old Steel Bridge). This is where we will have lunch. After lunch we will follow the other side of Thomson River to the Old Depot Road. From here it is a short walk which passes under the Walhalla Road to Thomson Station

TRACK 96

SPORTSMAN & FREESTONE CK JUNCTION TO LEES CK MINING AREA

DATE: Sat 29th Oct
GRADE: L - 6 - 6
DISTANCE: 20km
MEET: Riverstone Café, 10 Forbes Street,
Briarolong @ 8:00am
LEADER: Chris Marshall 0499 780 399
EMAIL: chr_252@hotmail.com

Ben Cruachan Walking Club invites you to join us on a jaunt up part of the historic mining Track 96. We will follow the pretty little Freestone Creek up to the Lees Creek gold mining area where you can still see remnants of days past. After looking around the old house sites, dams, water race and mine workings which are part of the Alistair Fielding memorial track, we will return to the cars. Lyrebirds have been seen and heard in this area.

WILSONS PROMONTORY

LODGE ACCOMODATION WEEKEND

DATE: Fri 4th - Sat 5th - Sun 6th Nov
GRADE: Various
DISTANCE: Various

More news and details to follow in the OCTOBER
newsletter

McMILLANS WALKING TRACK MAINTENANCE ARBUCKLE JUNCTION TO KELLYS HUT (ALPINE NP)

DATE: Thu 10th Nov - Fri 11th Nov
GRADE: Reasonable level of fitness required.
DISTANCE: 4km
MEET: PV/DELWP Depot Licola @ 9:00am
LEADERS: Joe van Beek 5176 5302
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

BCWC will work with Parks Victoria to clear the track from Arbuttle Junction to the ski trail near the top of Mt Arbuttle and from the ski trail down to Shaw Creek. Volunteers will stay at the DELWP Surveyors Creek Camp on the Moroka Rd on the Thursday night. This is not a large task and therefore only a limited number of volunteers can be usefully engaged on this work. This activity is already fully subscribed but members may register their interest as a reserve with Joe van Beek by 31 August.

WALKS PROTOCOL

If intending to participate in a walk, Please ensure you register with the Walk Leader prior to the walk taking place.

For full details associated with each walk please refer to the BCWC website link:
[Upcoming Walks - Ben Cruachan Walking Club](#)



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 189 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - OCTOBER 2016

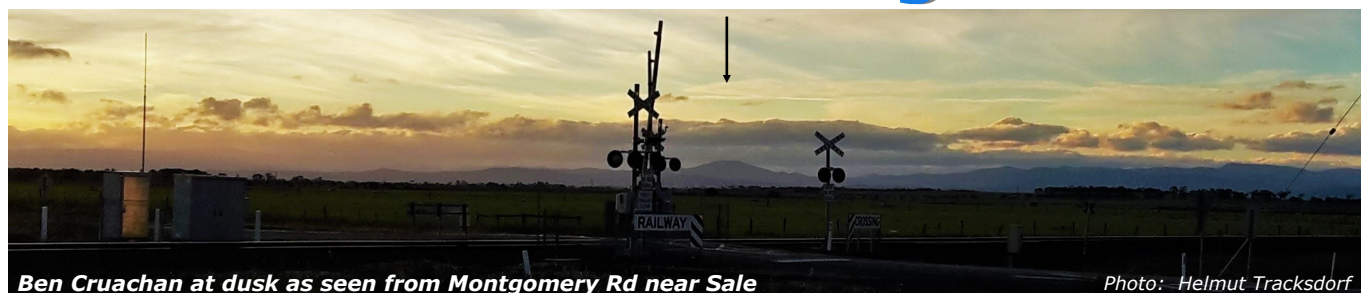


Photo: Helmut Tracksdorf

Track maintenance may sound like hard work, but when you combine it with adventure, where does one sign up? Just ask Joe van Beek or any of the other volunteers from BCWC, SBWC/BTAC & DELWP who attended the recent McMillan's Track maintenance effort along the Crooked River near Stonewall, located within the Grant Historic Area.

After four days of track clearing, overnight rain saw several members of the group cut off from civilisation by rising flood waters, which kept them confined to camp for the next 5 days! Fortunately they were well prepared to meet this unexpected challenge. Check out how they managed to survive their adventure commencing on page 12.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



Ben Cruachan at dusk as seen from Montgomery Rd near Sale

Photo: Helmut Tracksdorf

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

IN THIS ISSUE

BCWC - Established 1965

COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2016 / 2017

~ President's Report	3	PRESIDENT:	Monica Scicluna	5144 6713 joe.monica@hotmail.com
~ Club News	4	VICE PRES:	Joe van Beek	5176 5302
~ Bushwalking Victoria News	5	SECRETARY:	Anna Janca	0419 178 445 secbcwc@gmail.com
~ Walk Reports	6 - 15	TREASURER:	Jack Winterbottom	5143 0903
~ Walk Previews	16 - 18	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:		
			Heather Alexander	5149 7048
			Chris Marshall	0499 780 399
			Trish Marston	0409 656 332
			Wil Streckfuss	5144 2183

CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH
NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: WED 14TH DEC, 7:30PM AT THE MAFFRA VET CENTRE.
(10 JOHNSON STREET MAFFRA)

Welcome to our Newest Members

***Joe Crisp (Toongabbie), Kaye, Iain & Abigail Livingstone (Hazelwood Nth), Susan Munn (Sale),
 Gail Noble (Maffra), Rachele Quattrocchi (Bendigo), Helen Watts (Rosedale),
 Yuanbin Wei (Traralgon), George & Shayne Boyd (Briagolong)***

Presidential Ramblings

OCTOBER 2016

While I was away our club had many walks and track maintenance activities. I hope those members who participated enjoyed themselves.

A couple of our new leaders have lead or co-lead walks which is a great achievement for them personally and our club, with more walks to be added to our program.

I did hear that our September social night was well attended in Bairnsdale, a big thank you to our guest speaker Helmut Tracksdorf who spoke about his Tour Mont Blanc experience.

Jackie, Ken, Joe, myself and Ken's daughter Rachelle attended the Federation Weekend at the Grampians held by the Wimmera Club. There were 280 walkers with lots of great walks over the two days. Dinner Saturday night was fantastic with Parks speaking about the new proposed Grampians Peaks Trail (13 day/12 night one-way track) to be completed by 2019.

Joe and Judy van Beek were also expected to attend, but due to flooding on the Crooked River, the track maintenance team could not get out in time to attend.

If you are interested in attending FEDWALKS 2017, it will be held at Warburton.

The Combined Gippsland Clubs Weekend is on the 19th-20th November in the Rokeby/Noojee/Powelltown Areas so if you want to attend don't forget to register before the Friday 4th November.

Just a reminder to keep Sunday 11th December free so you can come to our Xmas lunch. Check our calendar for details of the venue. It's always great to see everyone at the end of the year in a social atmosphere.

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

See you on the track!

Monica Scicluna



"I think Mike's looking forward to a big campfire tonight"

Club News

BCWC Committee Meeting



The next Committee Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 14th Dec at 7:30pm** at the Maffra Veterinary Centre Club. The vet centre is located at 15 Johnson Street, Maffra. Members & guests are most welcome.

2017 Walk Program

Marian has presented a draft Walks Program for 2017, noting that:

- A significant number of new walks are on offer.
- The walks include a variety of grades, distance & style throughout many areas over the year.
- Requests from members arising from the survey have been incorporated.

However if you have not participated in the online survey could you please take a few minutes and click on the link below to complete the short survey and provide the Club with your feedback. This is completely anonymous.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9KWTS5N>

- A draft copy has been circulated to Walk Leaders for review.
- There are ample opportunities to add further walks.

Contact Marian at: walkbcwc@gmail.com with any suggestions.

First Aid Training (Sun 23rd October)

First Aid Training has been booked for Sunday, October 23, with Maranter Training to be delivered at the facilitator's venue at Swan Reach. To date there are 12 registrations: 4 for the refresher and 8 for the full course.

Check out the email reminder sent to members on the 11th Oct as places are still available for this valuable self development course. The cost of the training will be subsidised by the Club. Participants will need to bring their own lunch, however morning & afternoon tea will be provided by Maranter.

Please contact Anna at: secbcwc@gmail.com asap if you would like to participate.

Mitchell River NP Track Maintenance

Rob Paterson, who is both a Club member and a Ranger in the Mitchell River National Park, discussed the possibility of BCWC participating in Track Maintenance within the National Park.

Rob put forward a motion that BCWC set aside the first weekend in March, on an annual basis, towards track maintenance in the Mitchell River National Park. If this was fixed in the Club's program, then he could plan works for this. The Committee unanimously agreed to this given BCWC is a frequent and significant user of the Park.

Tracks & Huts

Michael Dowe reported that, in conjunction with Parks Victoria, significant maintenance had been done on the Crooked River section of McMillans Track. Some further work needs to be completed, so Joe van Beek and he would soon carry out additional reconnaissance work to assist in planning additional work in the future. Michael noted that the work party was stranded at the camp for 5 days due to high river levels, but were well supported by DELWP & Parks Victoria. Check out the full report from Joe, per this Newsletter and photos at the following link:

https://1drv.ms/f/s!AjXhAEn8srfomFu1mf4bEiU_UCUf

Xmas Function



Monica has contacted Narkoojee Winery and the Jorg restaurant as prospective venues for our Christmas function. They advise that for groups of more than 10, they can provide meals at \$50 per person. Check out the Group Booking Menu on page 3 of the following link:

http://narkoojee.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/by_jorg_menu_220816.pdf

Take a moment to check it out and let Monica know if you think we should give it a go or stick with the Criterion Hotel in Sale, or any other suggestions.

Bushwalking Victoria News



Supporting Bushwalking in Vic

Peter Campbell, President, Bushwalking Victoria is pleased to advise that Sport and Recreation Victoria have accepted BWV revised work plan for the 'Supporting Bushwalking in Victoria' project. Patsy Scales, Bushwalking Victoria's Office Manager, and Trudi Edmeades, Administration Assistant, will now be working on these three initiatives:

- **Step Out and Re-discover Yourself**, focusing on increasing bushwalking participation by people aged 45 or older
- **BushWalkVictoria**, a program to encourage responsible bushwalking and increase bushwalking participation by people aged 20-39
- **Fun Flexible Family Time**, focusing on increasing bushwalking participation by young families.

BWV will be asking clubs and Bushwalking Victoria members to help promote and 'increase the reach' of these initiatives using social media and your club networks in due course. When more people experience the joys of bushwalking some may also join clubs to get more experience.

Invasive Animals on Crown land

On 5th September, Charlie Ablitt and Peter Campbell provided input and feedback to a hearing of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Control of Invasive Animals on Crown Land. BWV stated that deer should be reclassified as feral/pest animals and that we support humane eradication programs for deer, goats, pigs, foxes, horses, rabbits, dogs and cats on public land including national parks.

Bushwalking Victoria considers that the safety of all users of public land is a paramount concern, noting that all shooting activities on public land pose very significant risks. We are concerned that increasing access for recreational shooters on public land and national parks will not eradicate pest animals and will increase risks to bushwalkers.

Our national parks must not be used as game reserves. The recent decision to allow recreational shooters on Snake Island is a worrying precedent in this regard. We also included the specific feedback on feral animals that was provided by Bushwalking Victoria clubs and members.

Greater Alpine National Parks Management Plan

Under the *National Parks Act 1975 (Vic)*, Parks Victoria is required to develop a plan of management for each national and state park every 15 years. The Act also requires park managers to exterminate or control exotic fauna and flora in parks.

The final Greater Alpine National Parks Management Plan is expected to be released in December 2016. The plan will provide strategic guidance for the management of more than 900,000 hectares of national, wilderness and other parks and historic areas in Victoria's east: Alpine, Baw Baw, Errinundra, Mount Buffalo and Snowy River National Parks, Avon Wilderness Park, Tara Range Park, and Walhalla, Howqua Hills, Grant, Mount Wills and Mount Murphy Historic Areas.

Over 500 submissions were received on the draft plan covering a wide range of matters including hunting, commercial development, environmental management, including dealing with species such as horses and deer, and the grazing trial.

You can download the draft plan at <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/walhalla-h.a/plans-and-projects/greater-alpine-management-plan/resources>.

Hog Deer Hunting Trial On Snake Island

Hunting of hog deer at Snake Island in South Gippsland will be allowed under a two year trial.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio said the trial, commencing in February 2017, will provide a further opportunity for safe and sustainable recreational hunting in the area.

Balloted hunting on Snake Island will follow the successful model that has operated at the Blond Bay State Game Reserve and Boole Poole Peninsula for the last 28 years.

The ballot and hunting periods will be strictly regulated by the Game Management Authority, the DELWP and Parks Victoria. No more than eight hunters will be allowed to hunt at any one time, and hunting will not be permitted on weekends or public holidays.

Snake Island is situated within Corner Inlet and is part of the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park in South Gippsland. Access to the island is by boat and is tide dependent with the closest boat ramp at Port Welshpool. There are an estimated 500 hog deer on the island. The trial will be an opportunity to provide quality hunting opportunities in a safe and controlled way that coexists with current land use and visitors to the island.

WALK REPORTS

Old Weir Site Mitchell River NP

DATE: Sat 27th Aug

LEADER: Ken Free

REPORT: Marjorie Kanagaratnam

Walkers: Peter, Elizabeth, Anna, Dianne, Oliver, Rob, Yuan Bin, Kaye, Geoff, Astrid, Marjorie, Rani, Marian, Margaret, Joe, Kev, Chris, Jim, Heather, Bev, Helen, Robyn, Kath, Elaine, Nicki and Ken

A sparkling, beautiful day saw members and visitors from east and west converge at Beverleys Road where we carpooled and headed to Den of Nargun Car Park. After the usual preliminaries, we set off – first stop the Lookout, soon afterwards veering to the right off the main track onto a rocky, not always well-defined path which had some of us breathing hard. We stayed up high for quite some time, enjoying various views of the mighty Mitchell River and its timeless surrounds without the restrictions of Park infrastructure.



Members & Visitors ready to hit the track

We were in dry rocky open eucalypt forest with the river carving its way through much denser vegetation below. Then gently descending, we lost sight of the river, walking pretty well parallel to it. Suddenly we were going down a steep slope with soil that slid away from beneath our feet. This is when Elaine fell and sustained an injury that left her in too much pain to move.

Marian & Ken, together with other Club members, then activated a plan to get help. Chris, Heather & Kath stayed with Elaine (and stopped her from rolling down the hill!), while Anna & Bev walked out to contact Emergency services. The walk then proceeded as planned.

While waiting for Ken & Marian to organise the rescue plan, the rest of us ate morning tea, spread out along the narrow track. Some were lucky to see a beehive in a dead eucalyptus trunk, with hundreds of bees flying in and out of a long narrow vertical slit.

Once the walk was back underway, a big goanna nearly tripped up our leader, started up the base of a small tree, then played dead, giving walkers the op-

portunity to view and photograph it from many angles. Continuing on, with plenty of ascents and descents, some rocky and exposed, some through rain-forest of moss, ferns, blackwood and pittosporum, we made it, despite the earlier delay, to our destination and lunch spot – the old Weir! Some people climbed the wall, then it was time to set off on the return walk.



Kaye and Yuanbin lunching on the Weir Wall



The impressive remains of the old Weir Wall

As we neared the spot where Elaine fell, chainsaws could be heard: SES workers were still cutting a track so Elaine could be trolleyed out to an ambulance. We found out later that both her lower leg bones were broken.

The highlights of the walk are the Mitchell River in all its sparkling, rushing glory and the broken dam wall, colonised by trees and jutting futilely out into the water. Many thanks to Ken & Marian for leading the walk, to those who stayed behind to assist Elaine (to whom we wish a good recovery) and to all walkers for keeping the cohesion of the group intact.

Post script to Weir Wall Walk

On Sunday 28 August 2016, Elaine was operated on at Latrobe Regional Hospital where her broken bones were reset with a total of 6 pins. As of 5 October, her recovery was proceeding well: her leg is in a 'moon boot', she has a wheel chair to get around with a ramp up to the door of her house and her daughter lives close by in Sale to provide assistance when she needs it. When I spoke to her she was in good spirits and looks forward to the day when she can join us on another walk. We wish her a speedy recovery.

One positive lesson from this incident was to learn the value of thermal blankets for keeping an injured person warm. I went out the very next day and purchased 2 thermal blankets which now reside in my backpack with my personal first aid kit.

Ken Free

Yeerung Estuary & Dock Inlet Cape Conran Coastal Park

DATE: Sun 4th Sept

LEADER: Anna Janca & Jackie Whiting

REPORT: Chris Marshall

Walkers: Anna, Jackie, Helen, Yuanbin, Marian, Kaye and Chris.

We met at Conran and proceeded to Yeerung Estuary which was only a short drive away. After crossing the bridge we walked the eastern side of the estuary to the coastline along the beautiful Estuary View Trail. Due to heavy rains recently there was plenty of water around and we followed the estuary till it entered the sea and then turned and headed up the coast.



View of Yeerung Estuary from trail

This was the start of a wonderful beach walk of 6km or so. 'No creek crossings' we were assured but alas, as with heavy rains, a small stream had decided to break through and so a crossing it was. After the crossing we rested for morning tea in the dunes to dry feet and take in the magic of the surroundings.

We turned off the coast and skirted the eastern side of the freshwater Dock Lake, another special place. We then followed a track back to Yeerung Estuary stopping for lunch on a bridge where Yuanbin spied a large frog in the water below and was fortunate to observe it for some time before it departed. A very rewarding, enjoyable day it was.

Thanks to Jackie and Anna.

Starlings Gap to Ada Tree Yarra State Forest

DATE: Sun 18th Sept

LEADER: Joe van Beek

REPORT: Jackie Whiting

Walkers: Anna, Andrew Burrows, Joe, Chris Marshall, Jackie, Heather, Kaye

A damp and overcast morning saw seven intrepid hikers meet at the Starlings Gap camping ground. Two young lads had spent the night at the camp site and survived the rain and leeches. We waited a while for a proposed hiker Yuanbin but unfortunately she never arrived to join us and we couldn't make contact because of poor phone reception. After a car shuffle we set out at 10.30 to walk to the Ada tree following the Ada River along an old logging tramway. Good boots were the order of the day as it was very wet and muddy on the ground. We spent a few hours scrambling under or over many fallen trees as we experienced the beautiful diverse forest scenery including the world's tallest hardwoods (mountain ash) and sections of cool temperate rainforest in moist sheltered gullies. The colours were bright and varied from greens of the ferns and moss to the greys from the trunks of the huge trees and brown and red from the mud. These tramways carried logs from the early 1800's through the 1939 bush fires to the end of the second World War. Huge relics of machinery still lay scattered around too huge to consider moving. Gullies were crossed by many trestle bridges built years ago and some huge logs remain from these structures covered in beautiful moss and ferns.



One of the large relics left behind

Lunch was at the abandoned Ada No.2 Mill site where amongst the long forgotten disused machinery are a few huge tables and raised floor structures for campers to pitch their tents. The drizzle came and went throughout the day but we enjoyed the scenery and a few birds including some playful rose robins. Arriving at the Ada tree our breath was taken away but the huge size of this beautiful old tree. Standing tall and serene at about 75m and with a girth of 15m the tree is thought to be 300-400 years old and still alive and growing.



Group photo at the Ada tree

Drizzle started to come in a bit heavier as we did our last few kilometers to our cars and made a welcome cuppa. Clothes and boots being pretty muddy we changed if we could checking one last time for those pesky leeches. Thankfully into our vehicles for the last stretch homewards. Thanks Joe for a very interesting hike.

Holey Plains State Park walks

DATE: Sun 21st Sept

LEADER: Trish Marston

REPORT: Jessie Walker

Walkers: Oliver, Jessie, Marjorie, Billie, Ken, Trevor, Marian, Kev, Joe, John, Dorothy, Carolyn, Chris and Trish

On a cool misty spring morning with a hint of drizzly rain 14 walkers met at Rosedale for what promised to be a great mid week walk. Trish, our first time leader, got us all signed up and explained the program for the day with maps and Park Notes distributed all round. Mozzies would be a problem so repellent was advised. We then car pooled and headed for Holey Plains State Park.



The rain didn't deter these hardy souls

At our first stop, Harrier Swamp, it was drizzly rain so our coats were needed; one person had left his on the kitchen table, but a replacement was soon located. We then did a short 20 minute walk around the swamp, finding green-hood orchids and others as well as running postman in flower. There were lots of holes dug by echidnas beside the track, but we didn't see any: no doubt they were in hiding from the advancing hoard of walkers.

Back at the cars we had morning tea before driving along Wildflower Track to Holey Hill Track and to the fire tower. At Holey Hill a couple of Parks Victoria workers were busy with tractors and other implements carrying out a makeover of the car-parking and picnic area. Another short walk took us on the Banksia Forest Walking Track. The Banksias had finished flowering but we did see lots of Peppermint Gums in full flower. Some birds could be heard especially the lovely song of the Grey Shrike-thrush.

The third walk was for about an hour to the Long

Swamp. Lots of frogs of different species could be heard but they were not as loud as this time last year when the full choir and orchestra were in attendance. By now the weather was fine and sunny just in time for lunch on Holey Hill where we were treated to the entertaining sound of John Hanlon's bagpipes. More than one of our walkers shared fond memories of John playing his bagpipes at lunchtime in the middle of the bush. Welcome back John and Dorothy!



John Hanlon piping the Walkers!

After lunch a discussion was held and it was decided to go to Clear Water Lake, a location in the Park which has proved difficult to find in previous years. A drive along Seldom Seen Track, Chessum Road and thence a road that threaded between the pine plantations eventually took us to the track to the Clear Water Lake.



Clear Water lake

There we saw more orchids on the short walk to the lake, the sun was now out and the view of the lake was lovely. The bagpipes came out again and some people couldn't resist the chance to have a dance when there's music on offer.



Jess & Billy dancing on the track

Thanks for a lovely day Trish and to all who contributed to a great day of socialising and enjoying the local bush. A special thank you to our local Parks Victoria Ranger, Jessica Fraser, who provided invaluable advice on navigating our way to Clear Water Lake.

Wirilda Track Combined Clubs Walk "short 15km circuit"

DATE: Sat 24th Sept
LEADER: Jim Stranger
REPORT: Peter Jennings

Near the spring equinox, days are getting longer, things are warming up, just the time for a good walk!

A group of 27 from three bushwalking clubs gathered at the Wirilda Environmental Park near Tyers – but first ... a decision: either walk or drive to the beginning of the track at Moondarra Reservoir – 24km versus 15km. A group of eight hardy souls opted for the full walk and nineteen less hardy souls for the shorter walk but it wasn't a race!

Moondarra Reservoir is the main water supply for the Latrobe Valley residents and industry and after recent rain water was flowing over the spillway in a brilliant cascade before plunging into the Tyers River valley. After a short distance on the track we could look back to see the spectacular waterfall. The track then left the river and passed through open forest dominated by various eucalypts with an understory of many species including wattles and tea trees; at ground level the ferns, mosses and flowering greenhood orchids were a particular feature.



Lunching on the bridge

Lunch was taken where we next met the river, conveniently on a bridge – time for a leech check too.

After lunch, the track followed a combination of walking and forestry tracks, passing an old limestone quarry and kiln at one stage.

Unfortunately the plan to complete the walk on the walking track was thwarted by the higher than expected river level at the point where a crossing was necessary. There were a number in the group that were pleased that Jim decided to take the safer option and walk the last few kilometres on the Pipeline Access Road.



Completing the last few kilometres on the road

And in case you're wondering, the hardy souls arrived back five minutes after the less hardy souls.

Many thanks to Jim, Denise and the team of helpers who assisted with the walk or do track maintenance.

Wirilda Track Combined Clubs Walk "long 24km circuit"

DATE: Sat 24th Sept

LEADER & REPORT: Piero Baglioni

Walkers: Joe van Beek, Piero Baglioni, Rose deLeeuw, Anna Janca (BCWC), Wendy Cartledge, Cathy, Martin (SBWC) and Julie (visitor)

This walk normally attracts a good deal of interest and this year was no different. The walkers assembled at the Wirilda Environmental Park for the usual pre walk formalities. Last year the option of walking 10 km up the Pipeline Access Road, climbing the face of the Dam wall to get to the usual start of the track and then walking the 14km down the Wirilda Track to the cars was taken up by 6 walkers. This year we added another walker and quickly disappeared up the pipeline access track before the other group had so much as turned their keys in the ignition.

The day proved to be quite warm and given the pace and the gradient, everyone was soon panting and sweating. In terms of its history, 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. We crossed two bridges over the Tyers River, bypassed the Connon Park Scout Camp and crossed Boola Road as we negotiated the climbs and declines (but generally uphill) on our way to the dam wall. A final steep climb up the face of the dam wall and we were where the walk would normally start. The spillway was flowing very quickly given the recent heavy rains experienced in the region and our first viewing point of the falls beyond the spillway was spectacular.



The Moondarra Spillway in full flow

The walk down the Wirilda Track provided us with lots of variety in topography, vegetation, bird song and track condition. Rose suggested that we have lunch after climbing the 4WD track following the intersection with the walking track. This way our food might stand a chance of staying where it was intended! The apple trees at the lime kiln were still stark and had not yet found their spring bloom, however this part of the walk was very pretty as always. It was disappointing to note that rubbish had been discarded needlessly in various places along the tracks.



On the home stretch

The river crossing was an interesting experience with mid calf levels and quite a strong current. Luckily there were lots of strong branches to hold on to! We completed the walk in just on 6.5 hours and missed catching up to the others by 10 minutes, a distinct improvement on last year's 45.

Thanks Joe, for a thoroughly enjoyable and informative walk.



Wirilda 'long trek' participants

Anna, Martin, Cathy, Joe, Julie, Piero, Wendy & Rose

Mitchelldale car camp Mitchell River NP

DATE: Sat 2nd Oct

LEADER: Ken Free

REPORT: Chris Marshall

Ken, Heather, Geoff and myself sought refuge from the football finals in the peace and tranquillity of the Mitchell River National Park for a camp at cars weekend. We arrived on Friday night, set up camp at Scott's farm and were very grateful for the shelter provided by the shed as it was raining on and off. On Saturday, with improving weather, we headed off on the long climb to Morning Tea Mountain where we had morning tea and enjoyed magnificent views of the park and river.



Morning Tea Mountain with magnificent views

Geoff, Chris, Heather & Ken

We then headed downhill through patches of poa to have lunch on the grass by the fast flowing Mitchell River. The sun emerged so we could relax on the bank and take in the surroundings.



Tough Lunch on The Mitchell

We returned to camp and enjoyed a lovely evening including a campfire and plenty of stars. On Sunday we followed a track upstream to Run Me Down Point and returned via the riverbank paths to camp. Heather was especially lucky to see a platypus and we also saw a small water dragon. Wildlife sightings included several cattle enjoying 'a chew with a view' (thanks Geoff), and a close encounter with a wombat and an old man kangaroo. Some birds spotted were Flame Robins, Jackie Winters, Kookaburras, Raptors, Australian Wood Ducks and Grey Shrike Thrush.



Close encounters with the local Fauna

After leaving the campsite on Sunday afternoon we decided to motor down and check out Angusvale. On the way there, we all pulled over to watch the amazing display of a magpie and a wedge tailed eagle having a little altercation. We returned to our homeland via Pretty Boy Hill and a scenic drive down the Freestone Creek Road.

Thanks to Ken and Rob for organising a great weekend.



Crooked River sojourn McMillan's Walking Track Maintenance

DATE: Thu 29th Sept - Sun 9th Oct
LEADER & REPORT Joe van Beek

Party Members:

Jeremy Reynolds DELWP, BCWC members Philip Davis, Oliver Raymond, Michael Dowe and Helmut Tracksdorf and Peter Maffei SBWC/BTAC.

As volunteers (with DELWP) the objective was to find and clear as much of the 16km of McMillan's Track along the Crooked River as possible. However, with access available from one end only, we set our target to 8 km. The area had a controlled fuel reduction burn in April so six months later was the ideal time to locate and clear the track.

As it was a long weekend it was decided an advance party should go and secure a campsite. Philip travelled from Sale and Oliver gave me a lift from Traralgon. We met at Dargo and proceeded to Talbotville where we ran into some rain. With Philip leading and Oliver keeping a close eye on Philip's progress, we negotiated the 24 river crossings along the Crooked River Track to Stonewall. The camp site at Stonewall

was not at all welcoming so we went back one river crossing to Bulltown to a pleasant camping spot big enough for our purposes. Camp was established with tarpaulin cover, store tent, fire place and individual tents. A toilet pit was dug and outfitted with a bush dunny and tent shelter. Fire wood was gathered, split and stacked. Jeremy arrived with tools, equipment, fuel and PPE at about 5:30pm. He had come down the Bulltown Spur Track, a track we had been advised to avoid, but was in much better condition than we had been lead to believe. That evening we experimented with chicken in Philip's camp oven - turned out nice and tasty. We had some rain in the evening and overnight.

Friday morning Oliver and I, armed with a chainsaw and slasher, started clearing the track from Stonewall. It was quite light work at first but got more intense as we went up the track. We cleared some 2.4km. Philip and Jeremy followed with a brush cutter and rake. We met a number of deer hunters who were out with their dogs with tracker collars. Some had established camp at Stonewall. When we got back to camp in the afternoon we were greeted by Peter, Helmut and Michael who were already well established at camp and had the fire going. They had also come through the fords on the Crooked River Track. The river was up just a bit. That evening we dined on spaghetti bolognaise. The pasta sauce precooked by Judy van Beek was much admired and enjoyed.

Next morning, Saturday, we were on the job early.



One of the 24 river crossings



Group at Stonewall, getting ready for a days toil

Peter, Michael and I in a chainsaw gang and Philip, Oliver and Helmut in a brush cutter gang cleared the track to the 4.3km mark. Jeremy took a few photos and left us to it. In the evening we had a camp oven stew made with lamb sausages, a variety of vegetables and condiments. We retired to our tents after a discussion as to whether we had to wind our watches forward or backwards to effect the time change to daylight saving.

On Sunday morning we walked back up the track to our gear and resumed track clearing in the same gangs as the previous day. Based on a forecast for some rain for Monday starting during the night, Philip decided to leave Sunday night rather than the planned Monday morning departure so he could get up the Bulltown Spur Track in the dry. Oliver decided he would do likewise. The two of them knocked off work at noon and returned to camp to pack up and leave. We cleared to the 5.5 km mark and left our gear there. Barbequed lamb chops were the main stay of our dinner that night.

Having had a hard day on Sunday with walking 11 km and clearing 1.2 km of track including some blackberry thickets it was decided Monday should be an easier day before another big day on Tuesday. We took mattocks, shovels and rake hoes and did some track benching work on the first 2 km of the track. We had rain showers on and off. On driving through the river on our return to camp we realised that the crossing was becoming marginal. In fact it was probably beyond getting Michael's 4WD ute across. The river was up over 250mm from when we had arrived.



**Joe Michael Peter
(Doing Benchwork)**



BEFORE & AFTER

By Tuesday morning it was clear that we weren't going to cross the river by vehicle or foot. Rain set in, quite heavy at times. Instead of sending the "we are off to work" message to DELWP from my SPOT I sent

the change of schedule message and put the SPOT on tracking to indicate our location. John Kellas was going to join us on Tuesday. We had no means of communicating to him not to bother coming. We weren't sure if he would arrive or not. However John turned up at the river crossing around mid day. After a brief shouting conversation (his radio could receive but not transmit) across the river John turned round to make his way back to Mt Gambier taking the provisions for our next few meals with him, some which Judy had prepared at home for us. We took an inventory of the food we had and decided we could live comfortably till Sunday or even Monday if required. As the planned menu was now out of the window we drew straws as to who would cook when. The longest straw would cook first and had the choice of all the food available. I drew the long straw and opted for a one pot stew using rump steak and a selection of vegetables and seasonings.

Wednesday morning was mild with clear skies. An ideal morning to resume our track clearing work, but alas we were caught behind a raging river at some 500mm higher than when we had arrived. Michael and Peter set off to climb up to Basalt South Track in the hope that they may be able to make contact with the outside world on their mobile phones. They managed some SMSs and limited voice contact. Helmut and I collected some more fire wood.

On his way back on Tuesday John confirmed to DELWP at Dargo that we were stuck in camp. DELWP sent a crew to check on us. At about noon Paul Brooks and a colleague arrived at the other side of the river. We established radio communication and had Paul make some telephone calls on our behalf on DELWP's radio telephone system to reassure those back home that all was well even though we would be delayed getting home. That afternoon we did some clearing along a water race put in by gold miners over 150 years ago to help them win the alluvial gold from the area. That evening Helmut prepared a rice dish we christened Crooked River Gumboot.

The river peaked some time Wednesday morning but was still too high on Thursday to attempt any kind of crossing. As promised by Paul a further crew from DELWP arrived around noon on Thursday bringing with them a radio telephone for our use. After a number of attempts James and colleague managed to get a rope across the river to us. We used that to ferry a back pack containing the radio telephone and the day's Herald Sun to our side of the river. We could now contact the outside world and let partners know the status quo. We filled in the warm sunny day with further clearing along the water race, exploring the diggings and some housekeeping around camp while Helmut panned for gold with limited success. Michael concocted a sauce using a variety of our remaining supplies which went deliciously with the spiral pasta.

The water level was receding slowly. On Friday morning it was estimated that it would be Sunday before we could reliably get both vehicles across the ford. Peter and I gave away all thoughts of participating in

FED Walks in the Grampians on the weekend. We called Judy on the radio telephone and sang Happy Birthday in lieu of me being home to share her birthday with her. At mid day a further DELWP crew (Aaron and Cory) arrived with unsolicited supplies for us. They ferried across an esky containing a dozen cans of refreshment, a spare battery for the radio phone and a telephone number for Matt Zanini. In the afternoon Peter and I waded across the river with the help of the rope.



Joe looking relieved after crossing the river

We walked up the track and retrieved the equipment and fuel we had left there on the Sunday. Peter prepared a stew with the last of the rump steak and other ingredients which went down well with a cold can of beer.

Saturday morning was cool and overcast as we once again completed the Site Safety Survey for our intended activities for the day which included getting all gear and equipment to the same side of the river, some further work on the water race and preparing ourselves for getting back to civilization including a decent wash in the river. Luckily the day had warmed up nicely. For our last supper we had barbecued sausages, lamb cutlets and corn cobs along with boiled potatoes, kumara and carrots and steamed broccoli.



Joe cooking supper with Peter looking on in anticipation

Without any great rush we started packing up camp on Sunday morning over breakfast and then a cup of tea. By 11:30 the things that DELWP were to collect had been carefully stowed in the bush, the toilet

hole filled in, the remaining fire wood neatly stacked, the vehicles loaded and the fire quenched. We were ready to go. The river crossing went without incident and the drive up Bulltown Spur Track was less challenging than expected. We stopped at the Dargo Store and lingered over a hot pie and a cup of coffee, inspected the historic artefacts in the store, looked at the books they had on the shelf. Now we were on the right side of the river there seemed no hurry to get home.

Many thanks to Philip and Oliver for all the camping equipment they provided and left behind for our convenience and comfort. We are grateful to DELWP for the support, including payment for food, provision of equipment, fuel and PPE and transport of equipment and also for the encouragement to work on this section of McMillans Walking Track. Thanks to Jeremy and Matt for their personal involvement. We were touched by DELWP's concern for our welfare once we were camp bound by the river and grateful for the support provided. We are sorry that John made such a long trip to no avail but appreciate his enthusiasm for returning sometime next year to complete the clearance of the Crooked River section of McMillans Walking Track. Also thanks to the party members for their efforts, use of vehicles, unselfish sacrifice of their time, support and camaraderie.

**Crooked River
Snapshots**



Oliver, Peter, Michael, Joe & Philip at the intersection of the Crooked River & Good Luck Ck



Philip & Oliver inspecting a mining relic

FEDWALKS 2016

Western Grampians (Gariwerd)

DATE: Sat 8th & Sun 9th Oct

WALKS: Various

LEADER: Various

REPORT: Ken Free

WALKERS: Monica, Joe, Maureen, Jackie, Rachelle & Ken (plus close to 300 walkers from clubs around Victoria)

This year's FedWalks was hosted by the Wimmera Bushwalking Club, a small club of around 35 members which was formed in 1972. The headquarters for registration, walks check-in, Saturday night meal and chilling out after a day's walk was the Laharum sports complex located near the north west end of the Grampians and easily accessible from the nearby towns of Horsham, Dadswell Bridge and Halls Gap. Our small contingent of Ben Cruachan walkers was depleted by 2 when Joe van Beek and his McMillan Track comrades were 'captured' by the wild and rapidly rising Crooked River. Their exploits had been somewhat embellished by some FedWalks participants such that I was informed at the point of registration that "half your club are trapped by floodwaters in the high country"!

There was a diverse range of walks on offer and between us we had booked in for a great selection from easy rambles through to medium/hard slogs. As this was my first taste of the Grampians I had selected relatively easy walks which were nevertheless great experiences. My daughter, Rachelle, and I got to see no less than 4 waterfalls absolutely gushing with water from recent rain and, on the Sunday visited several aboriginal rock art sites with interpretation by rock art specialist Ben Gunn - a man who is passionate and knowledgeable about his subject matter.



Rachelle at Burrong Falls

On Saturday afternoon we regrouped for pre-dinner drinks and told stories (short and tall) about our different walks prior to enjoying a fabulous dinner prepared by the Laharum community sports people. Speeches followed from Peter Campbell, President

Bushwalking Victoria, Chris Dunmill, President Wimmera Bushwalking Club, the Mayor of Horsham Rural City Council, and David Roberts from Parks Victoria.

It was a fabulous weekend: great location, fabulous walks, relaxed but business-like administration and enjoyable company on the walks. The highlights for me were the aboriginal rock art and the superb book "*Gariwerd - Reflections on the Grampians by Gib Wettenhall*", a copy of which was presented to each of us at registration - this will be a nice reminder of FedWalks16.



Aboriginal Rock art in the Blank Range

On leaving, we were reminded that next year FedWalks17 will be in the Warburton area on 28 & 29 October and hosted by Melbourne Bushwalkers - something to look forward to!



Looking towards the Grampians from The Black Range

WALK PREVIEWS

Walk Gradings

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

WALHALLA TO THOMSON STN VIA POVERTY POINT

DATE: Sat 22nd Oct
GRADE: M - 6 - 3
DISTANCE: 13km
MEET: Tyers Kindergarten @ 8:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna 0439 614 544
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

This walk starts with a bit of a short steep climb up to the old tramway above the town. From the tramway there is a good view of the Walhalla township strung out along the narrow valley of Stringers Creek. The circuit walk follows part of the Australian Alps Walking Track, past mine heads and through regenerated forest and ferny gullies, we will then turn northwards up the Thomson River Valley till it reaches the Poverty Point Bridge (aka Old Steel Bridge). This is where we will have lunch. After lunch we will follow the other side of Thomson River to the Old Depot Road. From here it is a short walk which passes under the Walhalla Road to Thomson Station

TRACK 96 SPORTSMAN & FREESTONE CK JUNCTION TO LEES CK MINING AREA

DATE: Sat 29th Oct
GRADE: L - 6 - 6
DISTANCE: 20km
MEET: Riverstone Café, 10 Forbes Street,
Briagolong @ 8:00am
LEADER: Chris Marshall 0499 780 399
EMAIL: chr_252@hotmail.com

Ben Crauchan Walking Club invites you to join us on a jaunt up part of the historic mining Track 96. We will follow the pretty little Freestone Creek up to the Lees Creek gold mining area where you can still see remnants of days past. After looking around the old house sites, dams, water race and mine workings which are part of the Alistair Fielding memorial track, we will return to the cars. Lyrebirds have been seen and heard in this area.

WILSONS PROMONTORY LODGE ACCOMODATION WEEKEND

DATE: Fri 4th - Sat 5th - Sun 6th Nov
GRADE: Various walks
DISTANCE: Various

We will have a short walk around Tidal River Friday afternoon. The lodge is not available till 4pm. On Saturday we will have a long walk or if some participants would like a shorter walk this will be organised. On Sunday after packing up we will have another walk on the way out of the park.

Check out the BCWC Website at:

http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC_Content/Walk_Previews/WILSONS_PROM_20161104.docx.pdf

For updates and additional info

**McMILLANS WALKING TRACK MAINTENANCE
ARBUCKLE JUNCTION TO KELLYS HUT
(ALPINE NP)**

DATE: Thu 10th Nov - Fri 11th Nov
GRADE: Reasonable level of fitness required.
DISTANCE: 4km
MEET: PV/DELWP Depot Licola @ 9:00am
LEADERS: Joe van Beek 5176 5302
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

BCWC will work with Parks Victoria to clear the track from Arbuttle Junction to the ski trail near the top of Mt Arbuttle and from the ski trail down to Shaw Creek. Volunteers will stay at the DELWP Surveyors Creek Camp on the Moroka Rd on the Thursday night. This is not a large task and therefore only a limited number of volunteers can be usefully engaged on this work. Please note this work activity is already fully subscribed but members may register their interest as a reserve with Joe van Beek in case of cancellations.

**BILLY GOAT BEND - DEN OF NARGUN
MITCHELL RIVER NP**

DATE: Sat 12th November
GRADE: S - 6 - 3
DISTANCE: ~ 8 km
MEET: Stratford @ 8:00am
Beverleys Rd @ 8:45am
LEADER: Ken Free - 5144 1195
EMAIL: kenfree@iprimus.com.au

This walk will follow the Mitchell River from Billy Goat Bend and the Amphitheatre downstream to the Den of Nargun.



Deadcock Den

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 and Deadcock Den, places shrouded in mystery and history and is especially significant for indigenous Australians.

**COMBINED GIPPSLAND CLUBS WEEKEND
HOSTED BY**

WEST GIPPSLAND BUSH WALKERS

DATE: Sat 19th - 20th Nov
GRADE: Various
DISTANCE: Various
DETAILS: Check out the Walks Calendar at:
<http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/87-walk-previews/133-2016-calendar.html>

for full details including Registration:

McMILLAN TRACK

MAYFORD & DARGO HIGH PLAINS

DATE: Sat 26th - Sun 27th Nov
GRADE: L - 9 - 9
DISTANCE: ~ 26 km over 2 days
MEET: Bairnsdale Howitt Park @ 8:00am
LEADER: Michael Dowe - 0427 523 647
EMAIL: mrjldowe@wideband.net.au

The walk starts at JB Plain hut near Dinner Plain and follows the Dinner Plain 4wd track until it joins McMillans Track at the Mayford Spur. From here the walk continues along McMillan's Track down the Mayford Spur and across the Dargo River to Mayford. After camping at Mayford the walk continues up the Treasure Spur and along the King Spur 4wd track to the Dargo High Plains Road. Walkers will need to be equipped with 'all seasons' camping equipment including fuel stove and wet weather gear.

Saturday - 16km and 850m decent

Sunday - 10km and 780m ascent

NICHOLSON TO BRUTHEN BIKE RIDE BAIRNSDALE & SURROUNDS

DATE: Sat 3rd Dec
GRADE: M - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: ~ 40 kms return
MEET: Nicholson Boat ramp carpark
@ 9:00am
LEADER: Trish Marston - 0409 656 332
EMAIL: trishym66@gmail.com

We begin our bike ride at Nicholson on the rail trail. With a gentle incline away from Nicholson we head through open farm land, with sheep and cattle scattered in the paddocks. As we forge further East we travel through red gum forests through deep cuttings with the odd challenging hill. Then the country side opens out with great views across the Bruthen flats and the far away hills. We will lunch in the Main Street gardens of Bruthen, with the option of a meat pie at the bakery. When we have recovered from our mornings ride, we will retrace our journey back to Nicholson.

FLINDERS ISLAND

DATE: Sun 4th - Fri 9th Dec
GRADE: Various
DISTANCE: Various
LEADER: Oliver Raymond
Please note this walk is now fully allocated and booked.



CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

DATE: Sun 11th Dec
VENUE: To Be Confirmed
ORGANISER: Monica Scicluna

For more details, check out Page 4.

HOWITT, MAGDALA, KING BILLY MACALISTER RIVER

DATE: Thu 9th - Sat 11th Jan 2017
GRADE: X - 7 - 4
DISTANCE: ~24km over 3 days
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall @ 9:00am
LEADER: Oliver Raymond
EMAIL: oliverraymond@wideband.net.au

Monday: Drive to the Howitt car park. Leave walkers. Two vehicles drive to the pickup point on the Macalister River. Leave one vehicle there and drive the other one back to the Howitt Car Park. Walk in to the Vallejo Gantner Hut for the night.

Tuesday, walk to King Billy via Howitt and Magdala. Before climbing Magdala, the party can split if required. I will walk around Magdala on a contoured bridle path, but other members can choose to walk over Magdala via Hell's Window. Both tracks meet up on the King Billy side of Magdala. We will then walk on to the camping spot at King Billy for the night.

Wednesday, we will walk on to the Macalister River (about 12 km) and drive to the Howitt car park and then home. This section's walk is flat for about 2 km and then downhill. Jeep track all the way. Numbers for this walk are limited to 5 unless we can get more than two 4 w.d. vehicles to transport us. Early, and definite, registration is essential. If there is any chance of you pulling out, PLEASE do not register for the walk. Anyone with a 4 w.d. vehicle who is willing to help would be welcome. Please contact the leader ASAP.

RAYMOND CREEK FALLS TO SNOWY RIVER

DATE: Sat 14th - Sun 15th Jan 2017
GRADE: S - 6 - 7
DISTANCE: 6.5km each day
MEET: Howitt Park, East Bairnsdale @ 8:00am
LEADER: Anna Janca - 0419 178 445
EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

Following a well maintained track, (including 107 steps down and up on our return), view Raymond Creek Falls plunging 20 metres into a deep clear pool. Then follow Raymond Creek through warm temperate rainforest, to a second set of rock pools and small cascades where we rock hop across Raymond Creek. Walk 100m up a spur through open eucalypt forest reaching the top of the escarpment with sweeping views of the magnificent Snowy River with its beach and rapids far below, and its rolling hills and farmland on the opposite bank. Continue along a rocky narrow track down the spur to the confluence of Raymond Creek and the Snowy River with its lush grassy bank, open bush and cliff face of the escarpment. Basin Creek Falls are directly opposite on the western bank of the Snowy River. We should arrive and set up camp early afternoon, allowing plenty of time to explore, or just laze and enjoy with opportunity to cool off in the creek and river at camp and along the way. Return will be by the same track. There were bushfires in this area early 2014. Although easy to follow, the track is not well maintained with small branches and some sapling regrowth, particularly on the spur and down to the Snowy River. This provides insight into stages of regrowth after bushfires. Walking poles may be useful.



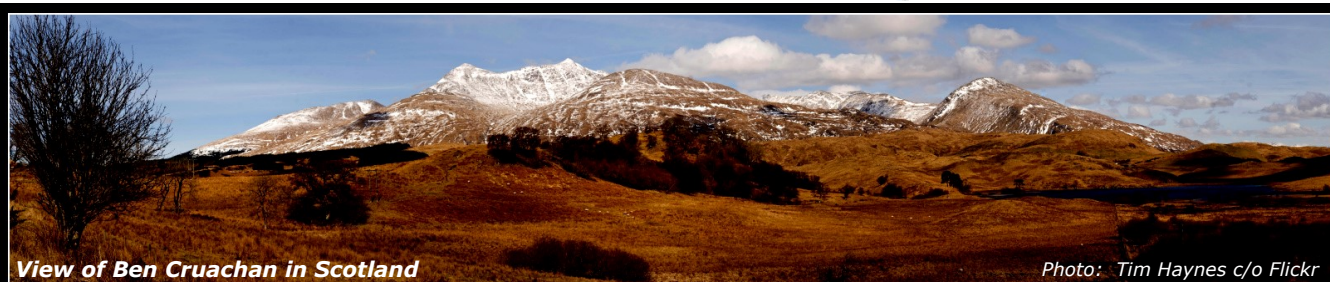
Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 190 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - DECEMBER 2016



Looking very casual and relaxed were these members of BCWC and guests who tackled a section of the historical Goldfields Track known as Track 96. The track serviced the needs of the miners, connecting Briagolong to the gold fields at Lees Creek and Granite Creek, located north of Blue Pools. Freestone Creek, Lees Creek and Granite Creek were the locations of a number of alluvial gold mines. These were first discovered in the mid-1860s and though not highly profitable, continued to be worked into the twentieth century. The Lees Creek Picnic Area provided the ideal lunch spot and group photo opportunity. Check out how much gold the participants discovered commencing on page 7.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



View of Ben Cruachan in Scotland

Photo: Tim Haynes c/o Flickr

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

IN THIS ISSUE

BCWC - Established 1965

COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2016 / 2017

~ President's Report	3	PRESIDENT:	Monica Scicluna	5144 6713 joe.monica@hotmail.com
~ Club News	4	VICE PRES:	Joe van Beek	5176 5302
		SECRETARY:	Anna Janca	0419 178 445 secbcwc@gmail.com
~ Bushwalking Victoria News	5	TREASURER:	Jack Winterbottom	5143 0903
		PUBLICITY:	Piero Baglioni	5156 7034 publicitybcwc@gmail.com
~ Walk Reports	6 - 10	NEWSLETTER:	Helmut Tracksdorf	5156 6763 newsbcwc@gmail.com
~ Walk Previews	11 - 14	WALKS CO-ORDINATOR:	Marian Matchan	0448 523 287 walkbcwc@gmail.com
		TRACKS & HUTS:	Michael Dowe	5147 3075
		ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:		
			Heather Alexander	5149 7048
			Chris Marshall	0499 780 399
			Trish Marston	0409 656 332
			Wil Streckfuss	5144 2183
			Graham Pilkington	0427 786 664

CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH
NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: WED 8TH FEB, 7:30PM AT THE MAFFRA VET CENTRE.
(10 JOHNSON STREET MAFFRA)

Welcome to our Newest Members

*Diana Armstrong (Sale), Danait Ghebregabhier (Lakes Entrance), Julie Taylor (Traralgon),
 Dorothy & John Hanlon (Sale)*

Presidential Ramblings



DECEMBER 2016

Thanks to everyone that attended our Xmas break up it was fantastic to see you all.

A few of our members updated their First Aid Certificates, which is reassuring as there were several instances where the training was put into good effect this year.

There have been some great walks over the last couple of months. We have a great walk program for 2017, thanks to Marian and her team. If anyone has a special place they would like to share with the club, contact Marian so we can add it to the program. Oliver Raymond managed to organise a trip to Flinders Island recently, so we look forward to his report on this remote hiking location in the new year.

I would like to thank Joe van Beek and his team for the maintenance work he organised on the McMillan Track over the last couple of months. Check out the report and photos of the clubs latest efforts on Page 9.

I wish you all a Merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

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

See you on the track!

Monica Scicluna



"I recommend you lose some weight, quit smoking, eat the carrot and take a hike"

Club News

BCWC Committee Meeting



The next Committee Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 8th February, 2017 at 7:30pm** at the Maffra Veterinary Centre Club. The vet centre is located at 15 Johnson Street, Maffra. Members & guests are most welcome.

2017 Walks Program

Marian has tabled a Walks Program that covers all of calendar year 2017 whereas the website only displays walks up until July 2017. Some members may have noticed that not all of the walks per the website are supported by a Walk Preview.

The committee has decided that up to 3 months of previews should appear on the website. Where gaps exist, Marian will follow this up with the relevant walk leaders to enable the inclusion of a Walk Preview so that members can be assured of relevant information before committing to an upcoming walk. However, in some instances only a brief outline of the walk may appear. It is primarily the Walk Leaders responsibility to table a Walk Preview, so please help Marian in addressing this task by sending her a Walk Preview well in advance of your walk. Ideally 3 months in advance - if possible.

If you require assistance in generating a Walk Preview Contact Marian at: walkbcwc@gmail.com

McMillans Walking Track

During November, Michael Dowe, Joe van Beek and Helmut Tracksdorf conducted a reconnaissance of the northern section of the Crooked River using the White Timber Spur approach down to the junction of 30 & 25 mile Creek. They were able to push through and tag approx 5km of track in 6hrs. But unfortunately not connect with the recently cleared southern section of the Crooked River Track. Joe van Beek provided a report of the recce to DELWP.

Joe advised that a rappel crew from DELWP had also recently done some preliminary track work on the upper part of the Crooked River, which assisted the recce group down White Timber Spur. The total track along the Crooked river is approximately 16 km, and remains 'inhospitable' from the Northern end. The Club is working with DELWP to complete the clearing of this section of McMillan's Track in 2017.

The track & its current condition can be viewed at:

https://1drv.ms/f/s!AjXhAEEn8srfoMv_5yU-DJVEhk4ED



**Michael & Joe on the track above 30 mile Creek
(White Timber Spur in the background)**

The Club received an email from Michael Dower, of Parks Victoria, advising PV is celebrating its 20th anniversary. In addition, Michael thanked all the volunteers for their contribution towards track maintenance, during 2016.

Further along McMillans Track at Arbuckle Junction, approx. ¾ of the track over Mt Arbuckle was cleared by club members working as volunteers with Parks Victoria. The remaining section down to Shaws Creek is set to be cleared later this month if sufficient members are available at this busy time of year.

Check out the work done thus far at:

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!AjXhAEEn8srfoMWC4dOvq2zvZEEs4>

Website:

The Website Working Group has met and identified the following issue:

The photo gallery is not being kept up to date because members were not submitting enough photos for inclusion on the gallery. Up to 5 photos could be included for each walk.

Anna Janca will investigate whether setting up a site on the Cloud for the Club to which photos could be uploaded by members was possible and worthwhile. If successful, photos could then be selected for the website.

The Committee therefore wishes to encourage walkers to submit photos to the Club's newsletter editor at: newsbcwc@gmail.com

Tracks & Huts

Parks Victoria and DELWP have suggested the Club prepare and submit a 2017 Track Maintenance Plan for 2017. This will assist PV & DELWP to coordinate and plan some of their own activities. Michael Dowe and Joe van Beek have agreed to submit such a plan as soon as practicable.

Bushwalking Victoria News



Bushwalking Australia AGM

President Bushwalking Victoria, Peter Campbell attended the Bushwalking Australia Annual General Meeting in Hobart in mid November. Over two days a lot of information was shared about promoting and progressing bushwalking across Australia.

The Bushwalking Australia National Risk Management Guidelines were approved. Peter will work with his counterparts in other states to share and develop further guidelines to guide and inform bushwalkers.

Andrew Davey from Tasmania was elected as President of Bushwalking Australia. BWV look forward to working with Andrew and the other Bushwalking Australia Council members over the coming year.

Chris Towers stood down after almost four years as President of Bushwalking Australia, which also marked the end of seven consecutive years in executive roles in both Bushwalking Victoria and Bushwalking Australia. Chris has made a great contribution to promoting and furthering bushwalking with tremendous support from his partner Elaine. BWV wish them both well for their 'second retirements'.

BTAC

Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) is a standing committee of Bushwalking Victoria.

2nd - 5th Mar 2017

Annual Track Clearing, Baw Baw NP

Details: The activity will focus on clearing the Australian Alps Walking Track in the Mt Talbot area to enhance walking opportunities in the Baw Baw National Park. Parks Victoria will establish a base camp for the activity at Jeep Track Flat from early Thursday 2 March. Access to the base camp is via the St Gwin-ear car park or Baw Baw Village. Parks Victoria will supply fresh fruit, general consumables, energy food and all meals for participants who register an interest in attending, including ample water. Participants need to bring camping gear, sturdy footwear and wet-weather clothing. Participants are welcome for whatever time they can spare. There will be a variety of tasks to complete, from very easy to arduous.

Parks Victoria will provide all equipment and safety gear. To help with planning the activity and the catering arrangements, Parks Coordination would appreciate knowing numbers and days of attendance well in advance. To register interest and for further information contact Ron Cann by 16 Feb 2017

Email: racann@dcsi.net.au Phone: 5623 5358

3rd Joint Management Plan For 10 Gippsland Parks

A draft joint management plan is being developed for 10 parks and reserves that will be managed in a partnership between the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners and the State of Victoria.

The 10 parks and reserves under joint management are:

- Tarra Bulga National Park
- The Knob Reserve
- Mitchell River National Park
- Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park
- Lakes National Park
- Gippsland Lakes Reserve at Raymond Island
- Lake Tyers State Park
- Buchan Caves Reserve
- Corringale Foreshore Reserve
- New Guinea Cave, within Snowy River National Park

Stakeholders have an opportunity to share relevant knowledge they have of the 10 parks and reserves, and to highlight issues, concerns and ideas at this stage of the planning process.

An online survey is available for providing feedback or raising questions at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DraftJoint_Management-Plan

WALK REPORTS

WALHALLA TO THOMSON STATION VIA POVERTY POINT

DATE: Sat 22nd Oct

LEADER: Monica Scicluna

REPORT: Julie Taylor

On an unseasonably bitterly cold and raining Saturday morning, 6 hardy walkers met at Tyers at 8.30am before proceeding towards Walhalla. For the car-shuffle a vehicle was left at the bridge adjacent to the train station with the remaining two cars then taking the walkers 5kms to the Walhalla Camping Ground. When we arrived there was light rain and it was a cool 7-8 °C meaning thermals and rain jackets were donned.

We then departed along the track to Poverty Point, experiencing weather varying from rain, hail and brief episodes of sunshine where beams of light streamed through the beautiful tree ferns and forest canopy with majestic effect. The rain provided a diverse experience with creeks rushing, and the occasional waterfall. Walking was pleasant along a smooth and well beaten walking track.

We arrived at the Poverty Point Bridge for lunch at around 12 noon when the rain temporarily abated. Lunch was mostly eaten standing up as the sun struggled to break through the clouds which rendered it a pleasant lunch break.



The wet but happy walkers on Poverty Point Bridge

The 3 to 4 km route back to the waiting car for the car shuffle was more measured (slower) due to an injury of a member of the party. This meant that the abundance of leeches along the track were able to attach themselves in droves to whatever parts of our bodies that they could reach and feast profusely.



Lookout above Walhalla Township

We eventually made it to the carpark where we disembanded to Walhalla where we ironically at the Grey Horse Café we enjoyed excellent coffee in brilliant sunshine whilst attempting to locate and pick off various stray leeches that were then unceremoniously deposited on the veranda of the café.



Looking relaxed (and leech free) back at Walhalla

Track 96 Sportsman & Freestone Junction To Lees Creek

DATE: Sat 29th Oct

LEADER: Chris Marshall

REPORT: Elizabeth Davis

Walkers: Michael, Anna, Trevor, Jamie, Rose, Piero, Philip, Elizabeth, Ken, Jackie, Joe, Marian, Graham, Martin, Heather and Julie

We all met at Briagolong at 8am on a glorious morning, worked out car pooling and proceeded in convoy up the road NE towards Cobbannah. The area was very busy with traffic, given it was the Melbourne Cup long weekend, and the Blue Pools resembled the supermarket carpark on a busy Saturday morning!

All cars squeezed into a little steep parking area on the side of the road where the 17km walk began. The track is a part of the historic Track 96 first cut in 1895 to link gold mines and was a clearing project for BCWC not long after the Club was formed .

First up, a crossing of Freestone Creek but our leader, with her amazing attention to detail, had the previous day left a pile of sticks beside the bank for those without walking poles and built up a ridge of stones to make the crossing shallower, so it was an easy crossing.



Heather at Freestone Creek

From there on, the very varied terrain proved fairly testing to most of us. The well marked, in great part due to Chris, track meandered up and down over dry ridges and down through cool, shady areas by the creek. We had beautiful views of Freestone Creek from high up but were pleased to get down to the sections following the creek. Lots of wild flowers were spotted – green hood orchids, billy buttons, a chocolate orchid, everlasting daisies, hardenbergia and others we weren't able to name. Our resident



Spider orchid spotted on the track

bird expert, Heather, could name many of the bird species and we were surprised that they didn't seem too disturbed by our large group.

We reached our lunch spot at Lees Creek at midday – a pretty clearing with a picnic table beside a steep vehicle crossing of Freestone Creek. Our ever-thoughtful Leader had even provided lunchtime entertainment ! Several groups of trail bike riders and 4WD'ers with varying degrees of competence and success, tried to cross the creek.

The fitter (younger?) of our group left to do the 4km, 1 1/2hour Alistair Fielding Memorial circuit walk to the Lees Creek gold mining area which includes old house sites, an old dam and gold workings.



Unfortunately the only gold discovered on this occasion turned out to be Billy Buttons!

Upon the groups return, we all retraced our steps in by now, much warmer conditions, to the cars. The only drama of the day was created by one car having a flat battery, but well done Trevor on being able to produce jumper leads!

Many thanks Chris for being such a thoughtful, well-organised leader, and for sharing your "back yard" with us. It is obviously a very special place to you, and we can now see why.

Wilsons Promontory National Park

DATE: Sat 5th - Sun 6th Nov

LEADER: Monica Scicluna

REPORTS: Day1 Becky - Day 2 Gaye

Day 1: With intermittent heavy downpours, BOM reporting wind gusts exceeding 115km/hr overnight and a severe weather warning in place, as newcomers we could be forgiven for assuming that our first experience with Ben Cruachan Walking Club wouldn't go ahead according to plan. Obviously it would involve lounging around the lodge playing board games and drinking cups of tea. Boy, were we wrong! Upon entering the communal living area, instead of being greeted with discussions about the benefits of Earl Grey vs English Breakfast, or whether we would be playing Scrabble or Rummikub, the talks centred around deciding whether full wet weather gear would be needed, and calls to not forget beanies and gloves. Expectations for the day now dramatically altered, by 9.30am we were booted – jacketed – and beanie'd up. Emerging from our sanctuary, and after a quick group photo, we were on our way. Twelve hardy souls ready to tackle whatever The Prom and Mother Nature could throw at us. Destination: Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk via Mt Bishop, departing Tidal River. Distance: 10km. Altitude reached: 319m.



Time for a quick group photo

everyone keep to get out of the wind and see what the rest of the walk had in store for us. Lilly Pilly boardwalk did not disappoint – a seemingly self-contained temperate rainforest smack in the middle of a eucalypt stand – a truly magical place. From here it was a gentle walk back to the carpark and down to our Tidal River lodge home.

No one got blown off a cliff. No near misses from falling trees or lightning strikes. Heck, we didn't even get rained on. However I still feel the scrumptious BBQ, homemade salads and (several) bottles of red wine were all well deserved. I feel truly privileged to have met such a strong, positive, honest, admirable, and fun group of women. Thank you so much for allowing us to be a part of your weekend and we hope to see you all again soon.

Day 2: There was an early (false) start for one or two hopeful punters to conduct a 5 am weather check to see if an early Mt Oberon walk was possible. Alas, no miracle had happened overnight so Day Two began rather leisurely, people taking time to have breakfast and pack up. Despite the hopes of everyone gathered the weather hadn't really improved at all overnight so wet weather gear and jackets were out again. After some shuffling of cars we all arrived at the start of Darby Saddle. In the open sections it was cold and blustery but when sheltered from the wind it was a lovely day. The walking was not too difficult and the group kept a comfortable pace as we made our way along the track.



On the approach towards Tongue Point

A brisk walk from Tidal River to the Lilly Pilly Gully carpark saw a few layers of clothing shed early on but the rest of the day involved a game of jacket-on jacket-off every time the threat of rain came and passed. Quite a commotion was caused by the spotting of an orchid beside the track on the way up Mt Bishop, but this was nothing compared to the excitement of the discovery of koala scat on the way back down! But, alas, our searching was in vain with none of the shy marsupials were seen. Lunch at the Mt Bishop Lookout was an enjoyable, if somewhat rushed, affair with

There was a number of scenic lookouts on the way but the highlight for most shutterbugs seemed to be the decent to Tongue Point and also once we arrived at Tongue Point. The rocky outcrop provided a nice backdrop for a rest, although with the wind still strong most sought some protection amongst the trees and rocks. After this rest break it was time for the group to begin the journey home and head to the Darby River car park. The day's walk was approximately 9kms and it was another lovely day- thanks for letting us come along.

McMillan's Walking Track Maintenance Arbuckle Junction to Kelly Hut

DATE: Thu 10th - Fri 11th Nov

LEADER: Joe van Beek

REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

During last years walk of McMillan's Track (Nov 2015) it was noted that various sections of the track were heavily overgrown. The walk from Arbuckle Junction across to Kelly Hut and beyond to Mt Tamboritha and down to Breakfast Creek is one of the most spectacular sections for views and wildflowers. However from Arbuckle Junction to Kelly hut the track was in dire need of some urgent attention.

Consequently, Joe van Beek arranged for members of BCWC in conjunction with Parks Victoria and DWELP to clear the track from Arbuckle Junction to the ski trail near the top of Mt Arbuckle and beyond down towards Shaws Creek.

Those members who responded to the call for volunteers were capably hosted and lead by Conor Wilson of Parks Victoria at the DELWP Surveyors Creek Camp on the Moroka Rd.

By the end of the afternoon the group had cleared approx. 2km of track almost reaching the top of Mt Arbuckle. The following photos give a clear indication of the BEFORE and AFTER views of the track.



Before & After photos of the Track

Check out the additional photos taken on the day at:

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!AjXhAE8srformWC4dOvq2zvZEEs4>



Surveyors Creek camp

After arriving at camp on Thursday, the group settled into their accommodation, had lunch and then promptly hit the Junction to commence work clearing the track. But not before we had donned our safety gear and been suitably prepped with a safety briefing by Conor as to the hazards and risks associated with the work at hand.



**Conor from Parks Victoria briefing BCWC participants
Michael, Joe, Anna, Heather & Chris**

Den of Nargun Mitchell River NP

DATE: Sat 12th Nov

LEADER: Jackie Whiting

REPORT: Graham Pilkington

Walkers: Jackie, John, Maureen (visitor) and Graham.



**John, Graham, Jackie & Maureen
ready to hit the trail**

Shortly after leaving the car, we came to the first of many great views on this walk – Lookout Point, high above the Amphitheatre on the Mitchell River as it curves to form Billy Goat Bend. An excellent path cut high into the steep slope led through bush, giving glimpses of the water below, and occasionally plunging down a gully, lush and green at the bottom.



Jackie at Lookout Point above Billy Goat Bend

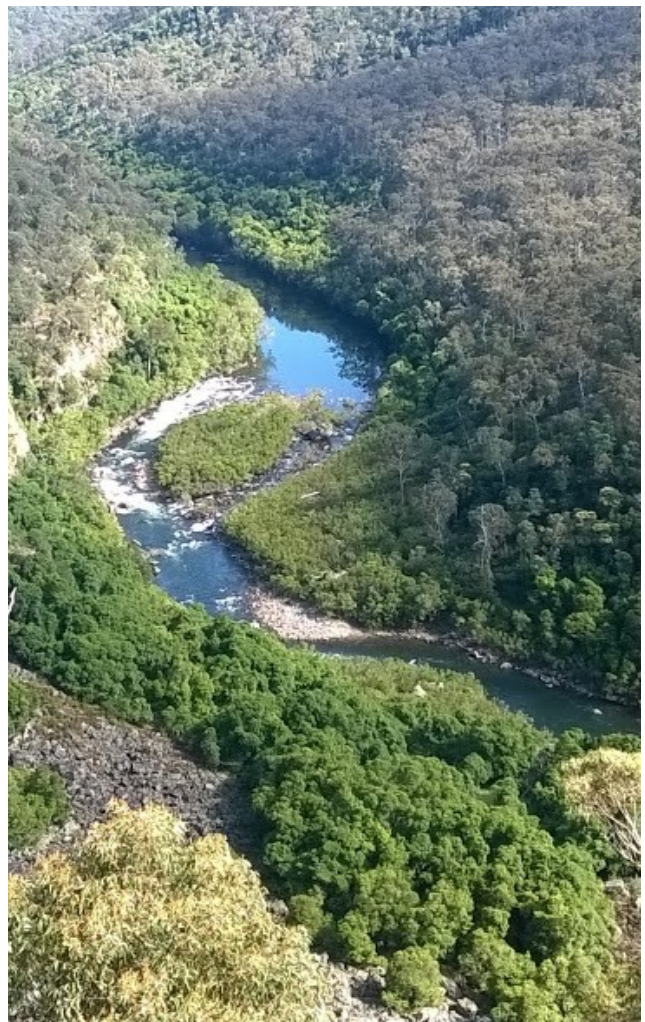
A large goanna was spotted slithering through the sand on the river's edge, and another took over briefly from Jackie and led us along the path. The day was getting warmer, and morning tea, 2nd morning tea and

lunch were welcome breaks, the latter on a point overlooking the now tempting water. On the other side, red cliffs soared hundreds of feet skywards, with many tantalizing caves and rock formations clinging to the rugged ancient face.

The path dipped and curved towards the climax of the walk, the wonderfully named Den of Nargun. But first we walked along Woolshed Creek to the less wonderfully named Deadcock Den, through a deep and sheltered gorge of kurrajongs, thick lianas, ferns and moss. It is a beautiful place. A floor of pale rock led to an overhang with a waterfall rolling over the top to sprinkle into a pool. Heads went in turn under the cooling shower of water as the heat reflected off the stone.

Further up the narrow gorge is Nargun, both dens places of importance for indigenous women. Yet Nargun is a creature part stone, able to repel spears and bullets, and take unsuspecting children from their mothers. A higher series of waterfalls tumble over the monster's dark cave and into a wide pool. We sat on the jumbled rocks thrown down from above long ago, and listened to the quiet.

A short detour to Bluff Lookout completed the day and we returned to the car. Thanks to Jackie for leading a wonderful walk.



Mitchell River at Billy Goat Bend

WALK PREVIEWS

Walk Gradings

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

LONELY BAY - LAKE TYERS PARK

DATE: Sat 31st Dec (New Years Eve Day)
GRADE: S - 3 - 2
DISTANCE: 6km
MEET: Lakes Entrance Footbridge @ 9:30am
LEADERS: Marjorie & Marian
PHONE: 0481 254 560 or 0448 523 287

Lonely Bay is a 6 km circuit that winds through various vegetation types, with gentle inclines. A lot of the walk hugs the shore of Lake Tyers which has many arms, inlets and bays. The water is clear and unclogged as the Lake has broken through to the ocean in recent months. Glimpses of Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust farm and the Lake Tyers settlement can be seen along the way. Eucalypts, banksias and some rainforest trees as well as a few species of birds, including emus may be encountered. After the walk we will drive back to Red Bluff beach for lunch and a paddle in the ocean.

HOWITT, MAGDALA, KING BILLY MACALISTER RIVER

DATE: Mon 9th - Tue 10th - Wed 11th Jan
GRADE: X - 7 - 4
DISTANCE: ~24km over 3 days
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall @ 9:00am
LEADER: Oliver Raymond
EMAIL: oliverraymond@wideband.net.au

Monday: Drive to the Howitt car park. Leave walkers. Two vehicles drive to the pickup point on the Macalister River. Leave one vehicle there and drive the other one back to the Howitt Car Park. Walk in to the Vallejo Gantner Hut for the night.

Tuesday, walk to King Billy via Howitt and Magdala. Before climbing Magdala, the party can split if

required. I will walk around Magdala on a contoured bridle path, but other members can choose to walk over Magdala via Hell's Window. Both tracks meet up on the King Billy side of Magdala. We will then walk on to the camping spot at King Billy for the night.

Wednesday, we will walk on to the Macalister River (about 12 km) and drive to the Howitt car park and then home. This section's walk is flat for about 2 km and then downhill. Jeep track all the way. Numbers for this walk are limited to 5 unless we can get more than two 4 w.d. vehicles to transport us. Early, and definite, registration is essential. If there is any chance of you pulling out, PLEASE do not register for the walk. Anyone with a 4 w.d. vehicle who is willing to help would be welcome. Please contact the leader ASAP.

RAYMOND CREEK FALLS TO SNOWY RIVER

DATE: Sat 14th - Sun 15th Jan 2017
GRADE: S - 6 - 7
DISTANCE: 6.5km each day
MEET: Howitt Park, East Bairnsdale @ 8:00am
LEADER: Anna Janca - 0419 178 445
EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

Following a well maintained track, (including 107 steps down and up on our return), view Raymond Creek Falls plunging 20 metres into a deep clear pool. Then follow Raymond Creek through warm temperate rainforest, to a second set of rock pools and small cascades where we rock hop across Raymond Creek. Walk 100m up a spur through open eucalypt forest reaching the top of the escarpment with sweeping views of the magnificent Snowy River with its beach and rapids far below, and its rolling hills and farmland on the opposite bank. Continue along a rocky narrow track down the spur to the confluence of Raymond Creek and the Snowy River with its lush grassy bank, open bush and cliff face of the escarpment. Basin Creek Falls are directly opposite on the western bank of the Snowy River. We should arrive and set up camp early afternoon, allowing plenty of time to explore, or

just laze and enjoy with opportunity to cool off in the creek and river at camp and along the way. Return will be by the same track. There were bushfires in this area early 2014. Although easy to follow, the track is not well maintained with small branches and some sapling regrowth, particularly on the spur and down to the Snowy River. This provides insight into stages of regrowth after bushfires. Walking poles may be useful.

LAKES ENTRANCE & LAKE TYERS FOREST PARK

DATE: Sat 21st Jan
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: ~12km
MEET: Stratford Memorial Park @ 8:30am
or ALT: Lakes Entrance Footbridge @ 9:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0439 614 544
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

This is an easy walk from the footbridge, walking along a track in bush setting out to the entrance for lunch. Weather permitting we will walk back along the beach. We will then drive to Lake Tyers Forest Park where we will walk through warm temperate rainforest at Marsdenia circuit. Then onto Lonely Bay picnic area from Blackfellow Arm track.

KAYAK - NICHOLSON RIVER

DATE: Sun 22nd Jan
GRADE: M - 1 - 1
DISTANCE: TBA after recce
MEET: Stratford Memorial Park @ 8:00am
or ALT: Nicholson River boat ramp @ 9:00am
LEADER: Anna Janca - 0419 178 445
EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

The Nicholson River flows into the Gippsland Lakes at Jones Bay in Lake King. After familiarisation and safety instructions from Brett of Gippsland Kayak Tours, we will paddle upstream from the township of Nicholson, under the old trestle bridge (now the rail trail), and continue on enjoying birdlife, fish jumping, rolling farmland, cliffs, and the beauty and serenity of the river. Details of distance, lunch stop, etc will be provided once a reconnaissance is completed and before the day. There are toilets and full picnic facilities including BBQs at the start of the paddle. 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, including life jacket, at a cost of \$45 per person, payable in cash on the day. Please register with the walk leader by Thursday 19/1/2017 to enable confirmation of numbers with Gippsland Kayak Tours.

TALI KARNG & WELLINGTON RIVER VIA THE VALLEY OF DESTRUCTION

DATE: Thu 26th - Sun 29th Jan
GRADE: M - 7 - 8
DISTANCES: Day 1 - 13.5km
Day 2 & 3 - 18km total
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall, Glenfalloch Road,
Glenmaggie @ 11:00am Thursday
LEADER: Andrew Burrows - 0421 353 975
EMAIL: solarphysics@me.com

The theme for this walk is leisurely enjoyment in a very special area of the Alpine National Park. The walk will start at either McFarlane Saddle, which is 2WD accessible, or Millers Hut, if there are sufficient 4WD vehicles to transport all walkers. Thursday we will gather at the walk start for a BBQ and camp overnight. Friday, we will walk into Tali Karng either 13.5 km from McFarlane Saddle along the Wellington Plains Track or 6-7 km from Millers Hut, camp at the lake and explore at our leisure. Leaving the lake on Saturday, we will climb approx. 250m over less than 1 km through the Valley of Destruction. Then, over Saturday and Sunday, walk along the Wellington River 18 km, camping on Saturday night on the river, enjoying cooling off with the 16 river crossings along the way, and returning to the Wellington River Bridge on the Tamboritha Road on Sunday. Water will need to be taken for Thursday night and the Friday walk into Tali Karng. Water will be plentiful from Friday night onwards. Refrigeration will be available from the meeting point to the start of walking on Friday morning and BBQ cooking facility will be available for Thursday lunch and dinner, so you can BYO steaks, etc. for Thursday, and, if frozen, for Friday night also. Full overnight packs and gear for changeable alpine weather will be required. Camp fires will depend on restrictions applicable at the time, and are not permitted within 1 km of the lake.

CASSILIS HISTORIC GOLD MINING AREA

DATE: Sat 4th - Sun 5th Feb
GRADE: S - 2 - 2
DISTANCE: 2km x 2
MEET: Swifts Creek Camp Park on Tambo River @
midday on Saturday or alt If you don't arrive
Saturday then 8.30 am Sunday 5th Feb
LEADER: Trevor Clues - 0428 564 559
EMAIL: Valmai51@bigpond.com

Travel to Swifts Creek Saturday to arrive by lunch time, there are short walks to do around Swifts Creek township Saturday afternoon. Camp overnight at Swifts Creek camp ground. Saturday night dinner at Swifts Creek Pub. Sunday 8.30 am, short drive to King Cassilis mine where the President of the Historical Society will show us around, over a 2 km walk which will take approx. 1.5 hrs. Short drive to Jirnkee water race for a steep 2 km walk that will take 1.5 hrs. This area can be very hot in February so bring plenty of water.

BLUE POOL / PERIGRINE LOOKOUT STATE FOREST BRIAGOLONG

DATE: Wed 8th Feb
GRADE: S - 4 - 4
DISTANCE: 3 - 4km
MEET: Riverstone café, Briagolong @ 10:00am
LEADER: Chris Marshall - 0499 780 399
EMAIL: chr_252@hotmail.com

Ben Cruachan Walking Club invites you to join us for a walk around the Blue Pool Peregrine Lookout circuit breaking for lunch at the craggy cliffs of McKinnons Point. We will return via the Freestone Creek walking track past Bluff Lookout to the cars. This walk will involve two creek crossings and some short steep sections. It is predominantly through dry open forest of Red Box, Stringy Bark and Iron Bark.

COBUNGRA DITCH WALKING TRACK OMEQ

DATE: Sat 11th Feb
GRADE: M - 5 - 3
DISTANCE: 11.5km
MEET: Bruthen @ 8:00am
LEADER: Geoff Mattingley - 5156 8162
PHONE: geoffmatt@aussiebroadband.com.au

The Cobungra Ditch Walking Track follows the course of an abandoned water race, a ruin from the gold mining era of the district. Cut into the side of the hills and retained for much of its length by an impressive dry-stone wall, this engineering wonder was constructed in 1883 -1884 to provide water to the hydraulic sluicing operations of the Cobungra Gold Mining Company (GMCo). The water race starts from the head of Swindler's Creek, an upper tributary of the Cobungra River, and terminates at the Brandy Creek mine towards Dinner Plain. The first part of the walk is downhill on a gravel road for a bit over 1 km, and the last part is gently uphill for 500m, but in between it is effectively level. At around 1500m altitude we will be at the mercy of alpine weather, and if the forecast is bad (rain, extreme heat etc.) I will cancel the walk. The walk area is a 2 hour drive each way from Bruthen, so we need to leave early – 8 am from Bruthen (North service road, opposite the toilet block). Return time to Bruthen should be around 5.30 pm. There is a short car shuffle involved at each end of the walk. Information about the track and it's history can be found at: [http://www.mthotham.com.au/docs/2016/images/Track Notes- Cobungra Ditch WEB ver 2016.pdf](http://www.mthotham.com.au/docs/2016/images/Track%20Notes-Cobungra%20Ditch%20WEB%20ver%202016.pdf)

THURRA RIVER & POINT HICKS CROAJINGOLONG NP

DATE: Fri 17th - Sat 18th - Sun 19th Feb
GRADE: L - 7 - 8
DISTANCE: 3 - 4km
MEET: Nowa Nowa Community Centre car park, Cnr Princes Highway and Bruthen Road
Time: 10:00am Friday or ALT at Thurra River Friday night.
LEADER: Helmut Tracksdorf - 0402 089 404
EMAIL: newsbcwc@gmail.com

Discover vast dune fields, visit the Point Hicks Lighthouse 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 the remnants of shipwrecks.



Stegosaurus on the dunes at Thurra River

Please note the following Camping fees apply.

\$35 per campsite payable to the caretaker on site. With a Maximum of 6 people per campsite this essentially equates to a minimum cost of approx \$6.00 pp per day. (based on 6 people / site). However only 1 vehicle is permitted per site, so carpooling is preferred. Please note additional vehicles will draw an extra charge. Check out the following link for more details:

<http://pointhicks.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/Thurra-River-and-Mueller-Inlet-Campgrounds.pdf>

JB PLAIN - DINNER PLAIN

DATE: Sat 25th - Sun 26th Feb
GRADE: TBA
DISTANCE: TBC
MEET: TBA
LEADER: Maureen Hickling - 0437 719 575
EMAIL: mhinkling@hotmail.com

TOM'S CAP

MULLUNGUNG STATE FOREST

DATE: Sat 4th Mar
GRADE: L - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: TBC
MEET: TBA
LEADER: Peter Jennings
EMAIL: pnjennings@gmail.com

TRACK MAINTENANCE CAMP

BILLY GOAT BEND

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 4th - Sun 5th Mar
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: TBC
MEET: TBA
LEADER: Rob Paterson 0429 950 494

MT KOSCIUSZKO

SUNRISE & GLACIAL LAKES

DATE: Sat 11th - Mon 13th Mar
GRADE: Various
DISTANCE: Various
MEET: TBA once participants known
LEADERS: Anna Janca - 0419 178 445
Andrew Stevenson
EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

The highlight of this weekend will be a moonlight walk to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko to watch the sunrise. Clear, well maintained and easy to follow by moon and torch light, the track winds upwards (610m over 9 km) to Seaman's Hut, then along the Etheridge Ridge to Rawson Pass and the Summit. After sunrise and breakfast, we will continue along the Great Dividing Range and the Australian Alps Walking Track with stunning views of Albina Lake, and the Main Range Track via Blue Lake and Hedley Tarn and the uppermost reaches of the Snowy River.



Albina Lake

Enjoy breathtaking views, pristine alpine country, glacial lakes, rivers, herb fields, and, hopefully, an amazing flower show. We will need to start walking 2.5 - 3 hours before sunrise so as to reach the summit by sunrise. Although the circuit is 22.5 km the ascents and descents require only reasonable fitness. A shorter 18 km option can be taken by returning from the summit along the same track rather than completing the Main Range circuit. Although the weather mostly is stable at the time of year when we will be there, we will be in Australia's highest alpine country, the weather can be very changeable, and the walk area is treeless and exposed. You should be prepared for anything, and carry at least 2 litres of water if a warm day. Cooking breakfast just off the summit will be weather dependent and cooking equipment will be arranged amongst participants once known - no fires. Bring your head torch. The plan is to travel to Jindabyne on Friday, have an early night, then leave our accommodation around 2 / 2.30 am on Saturday morning for the walk, subject to confirming sunrise times. If weather does not permit the sunrise walk on Saturday morning, we will have Sunday morning, before driving home on Monday.

Check out the Walk Preview per the Club's website for full details regarding accommodation and costs at: http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC_Content/Walk_Previews/MT_KOSCIUSZKO_MOONLIGHT_SUMMIT_20170310.pdf

GIPPSLAND HERITAGE WALK

MORWELL

DATE: Sat 18th Mar
GRADE: S - 1 - 1
DISTANCE: TBC
MEET: TBA
LEADER: Jim Stranger - 0417 599 108