



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 191 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - FEBRUARY 2017

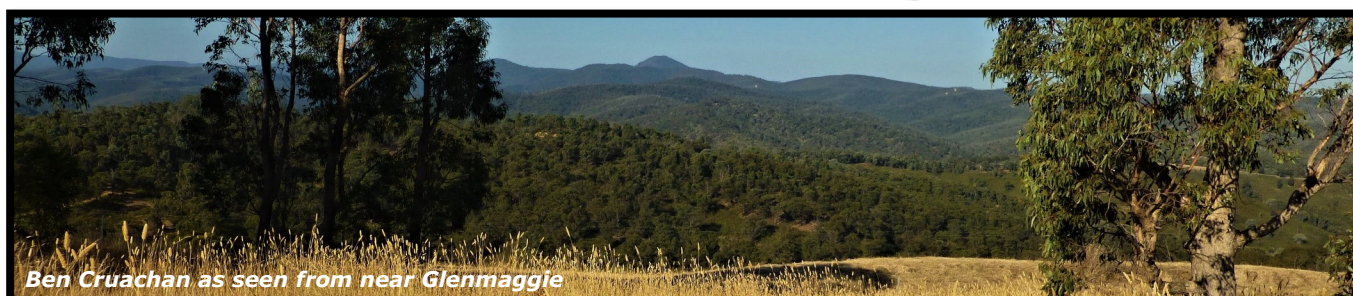


Photo: Anna Janca

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of his first ascent of Mt Howitt back in 1956 was BCWC member Oliver Raymond, who along with Jackie Whiting, Maureen Hickling, Anna Janca and visitor John is captured here taking a breather on top of the summit, once again. Unfortunately on this occasion the views were limited by fog and mist. Nevertheless their spirits weren't dampened by the wet conditions and the group pushed onto Mt Magdala and beyond to King Billy. Where they celebrated in style with imaginary Champagne and would you believe: Venison!

Check out what really happened and why a long drop can be your best friend when its raining cats and dogs - commencing on page 9.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



Ben Cruachan as seen from near Glenmaggie

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2016 / 2017

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CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH

**NEXT CLUB NIGHT & DINNER IS: WED 8TH MAR, 6:00PM AT THE WAN LOY RESTAURANT.
(9 CHURCH STREET TRARALGON)**

Welcome to our Newest Members

Claire Cassidy (Heyfield), Aloechka Delamaine, Narelle Warren (Stratford), Leigh Smith (Lakes Entrance), Veronica Dwyer (Newry), Jason Harris (Bairnsdale), Amanda Reddick, Becky Horsham (Cowwarr), Thomas Carew (Briagolong), Maureen Russell (Sale)

Presidential Ramblings

FEBRUARY 2017

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a safe and Happy New Year. I hope to see all of you on walks or at our bi-monthly social nights. The next social night is scheduled in Traralgon on the 8th March, so don't forget to check out the newsletter or website for details of this event. Our website is great for keeping up to date with current walks or additional walks that may not always be in the newsletter.

Once again, we have an exciting program for 2017, with day hikes, weekend hikes or camp at cars or weekends away. Make sure you let the leaders know if you intend participating.

If you would like to add or share any walks with the club this year, feel free to contact Marian.

Also, if you have any photos taken on walks, please forward them to Piero so he can upload them to our website gallery.

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

See you on the track!

Monica Scicluna



Snake training camp

Club News

BCWC Committee Meeting



The next Club Meeting will be a social night held on **Wednesday 8th March**, at the Wan Loi Restaurant in Traralgon commencing at 6:00pm. The restaurant is located at 9 Church Street, Traralgon where our Guest Speaker for the night will be: Matthew Zanini from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Members & guests are most welcome.

Campfires

During Summer, campfires can represent a substantial fire risk. The Gippsland Times recently published a useful reminder on of the guidelines to remember when extinguishing your campfire. The CFA advises -:

- Keep them smaller than one square metre.
- Dig a 30 cm trench to stop fire spreading.
- Create a border using large rocks, but not river rocks which can explode.
- Clear 3 metres of ground around it, and have no overhanging branches.
- Ensure the fire is at least 3 metres from tents and other equipment.
- Use water not soil to extinguish it, as they can smoulder for over 8 hours under soil.
- If it is cool to touch, then it is safe to leave.
- No Campfires on Total Fire Ban days.

Interesting Websites

Here are some interesting and / or useful links to other bushwalking related websites. Check them out at your leisure:

NSW National Parks Association:

<http://www.bushwalking101.org/>.

Wild Walks:

<http://www.wildwalks.com/>.

The walk descriptions seem to be mostly NSW, but they are quite comprehensive and well worth a read. The site also has a downloadable magazine which features Strzelecki Bushwalking Club in the current edition.

If you're into bushwalking and love reading then you cannot go past:

<http://hikingfiasco.com/>

This is a Hiking Blog set up by an avid Victorian Bushwalker who has covered the length & breadth of Victoria and beyond. His writing style makes for a very enjoyable read.

"Stocktake Sale"

The club still has plenty of stock of hats & badges left over from our 50th Anniversary celebrations and is offering members and guests a once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire a bargain of the century.

So for those members and guests who are spending too much time inside, hiding from the sun, now you have the opportunity to get out and about by acquiring a BCWC hat for the bargain basement price of

\$10/hat.

Contact the Treasurer Jack Winterbottom to secure a bargain.

Track Maintenance Activities

Joe van Beek has circulated a program for Track Maintenance Activity on the McTk for 2017. He noted that it was important to not allow track maintenance/clearing to dominate the walks calendar. To that end, there were 5 maintenance opportunities over the year ranging from 2 to 7 days in length. DELWP would be coordinating and manning Crooked River [Stonewall to the bottom of White Timber Spur] with a rappel crew. Whereas, PV Bairnsdale [Rob Paterson] will be coordinating track maintenance from Billy Goat Bend to Den of Nargun during early March

McTk would have two sorties; one to Champion Spur and a second on the Crinoline Track to Macalister River. Track 96 would have a crew in August. It was also proposed by DELWP that the Tali Karng tracks from McFarlane's Saddle to the Tamboritha Road on the Wellington River be looked at. Michael Dowe and Joe van Beek will aim to recce the top end of White Timber Spur ASAP.

Bushwalking Victoria News



Parks Victoria

New CEO

Andrew Fairley, Chairman of Parks Victoria has announced that Matthew Jackson will be the new Chief Executive of Parks Victoria. Mr Jackson was the Chief Executive Officer at Phillip Island Nature Parks for the past six years and prior to that held other senior roles within that organisation. He has also had experience in the private sector in marketing and distribution. "Mr Jackson was appointed after an international search that drew an outstanding response," said Mr Fairley. "He has extensive experience in environmental research, conservation, education, wildlife management, operational management and stakeholder relations. Mr Jackson has overseen strong and continued growth in research, conservation programs and visitor numbers and engagement during his time Phillip Island Nature Parks. He is expected to commence in mid-February 2017.

Parks Victoria

Draft Master Plan for Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing

Parks Victoria released a Draft Master Plan for the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing last December, which Bushwalking Victoria has major concerns about, including:

- Recreational walkers must not be excluded to benefit commercial operators. The plan states that recreational walkers will not be allowed to camp "within 100m of the trail" and they must have a permit to use designated campsites.
- Many of the luxury huts for "high yield visitors" will have major visual and environmental impact, contrary to claims in the plan.
- Diamantina spur is a difficult bushwalking route and a pristine alpine environment. Building a formed and benched trail up it and huts on it will destroy its natural qualities and appeal.
- Many other high quality tracks and trails across Victoria are falling into disrepair and some are closed

due to lack of funding. The regional economic benefits of maintaining bushwalking tracks for visitors should be spread across Victoria rather than most funds being directed to only a few "Icon Walks".

Safety issues have not been considered. Parties striving to reach huts in adverse alpine weather in the Victorian Alps have met with tragedy on several occasions.

Although submissions are now closed, all bushwalkers should be concerned about the Parks Victoria proposal. Check out the February 2017 Issue of Bushwalking Victoria's Newsletter for more details

Bushwalking Tips

Hiking in Hot Weather

1. **Pick the right trail.** Plan ahead. Considerations include: forecast temperature(s), shade, water, altitude, strenuousness of the route, length of route.
2. **Start early in the day** – perhaps at dawn. Take it easy. Be aware of the hottest times of the day for the area in which you are walking. If you are going to climb, try to arrange your walk so you do that in the coolest part of the day.
3. **Cover up.** Shield as much of your body as possible from the sun. Wear loose fitting, lightweight, breathable clothing. Protect your eyes. Protect the top of your head. Use sunscreen.
4. **Hydrate and stay hydrated.** Hiking in hot weather more than doubles the amount of water you need. The Bushwalking Victoria Facebook page includes 7 tips for staying hydrated.
5. **Stay salty.** Remember to rebalance those electrolytes while so you don't run out of energy.
6. **Rest more often.** Rest in shade wherever possible to give your sweat time to evaporate and cool your body. Never miss a chance to go swimming
7. **Wear appropriate footwear** – shoes/boots that are as light as possible commensurate with the track/pack weight requirements. Carry extra socks so that you can change socks to cool sweaty feet and reduce the risk of blisters.
8. **Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.** At first signs, stop and find some shade and try to cool down ASAP. Start planning how to get off the track and to medical attention. Don't hesitate to call 000 if necessary.
9. **Carry DEET-based insect repellent** to fight off insects.

WALK REPORTS

NICHOLSON TO BRUTHEN

BIKE RIDE

DATE: Sat 3rd Dec 2016

LEADER: Trish

REPORT: Robyn

Riders: Trish, Jackie, Anna, Robyn

As a change from walking, Trish organised a Rail Trail Bike Ride from Nicholson to Bruthen.

Meeting in the Nicholson boat ramp car park at 9.00am we set off about 9.30 looking fit and keen.

The first challenge was a short steep climb out of the car park to the bridge across the Nicholson River which proved too much for 3 of our riders (who shall remain nameless) all of whom ended up pushing their bikes up to the start of the ride..... After some much needed instruction from Trish on how to use our gears, seat position and comfortable foot placement on pedals, we set off again with more success.

We were fortunate to have a perfect, mild day with no wind and a beautiful tree lined trail for shade. Along the 20 km trail we passed through undulating hills, farm land and views across the Tambo River flats. The old Mossface Railway station, only the platform area remains which has been planted out with natives, bought some memories back of when the trains ran through as did the hop kilns and drying racks.

We reached Bruthen around midday had some lunch and a well-earned rest in the shade before we began our return journey.

Along the way we encountered many others using this popular trail for riding, walking & jogging. Great to see these trails being so well used.



Jackie, Trish & Anna relaxing in Bruthen

A great day and wonderful addition to the BCWC calendar, Thank you Trish.

LONELY BAY

LAKES ENTRANCE

DATE: Sat 31st Dec 2016

LEADER: Marian Matchan

& Marjorie Kanagaratnam

REPORT: Ken Free

Walkers: Marjorie, Billie, Ken, Trevor, Marian, Jim and Ben

At 9:30 am on New Year's Eve, 6 members and 1 visitor gathered at the Lakes Entrance Footbridge car-park for what promised to be a very pleasant days walking: the weather forecast was for a partly cloudy day with a maximum temperature of 24 degrees - a vast improvement on the rainy and/or very hot preceding days. With the obligatory paperwork done we carpoled and drove to the start of the walk off Blackfellow Arm Road.



**Billy, Marian, Marjorie, Trevor, Jim & Ben
On the track to Lonely Bay**

We initially ambled through a forest alive with birdlife (alas we had no birders with us!) before taking a right-hand turn to meander through the Fern Loop. This area has an amazing selection of remnant rain-forest species including ferns, vines as well as black-woods, ironbarks and other shrubs and trees which none of our group could accurately identify. Our leaders informed us that at times when Lake Tyers is 'full', the 2 bridges in the Fern Loop are engulfed in water and impassable - we were fortunate! After our second crossing of the waterway, we rejoined the Lonely Bay track which followed the eastern shore of the Lonely Bay inlet, affording us fantastic views across the lake. The hawk-eyes among us spied mullet jumping and a flock of young swans cruising lazily along the foreshore while others struggled to identify the wide variety of flora.

A morning tea break had been planned for a spot where the walking track met the end of Blackfellow Road with a picnic table large enough to accommodate all 7 walkers. We refueled, photographed, explored and turned to retrace our steps. On the way

Flinders Island

DATE: Sun 4th - Fri 9th Dec

LEADER: Oliver Raymond

REPORT: Heather Alexander

Walkers: Oliver, Maureen, Gail, Sue, Marian, Heather.



Group photo at the waters edge

back we dropped to the water's edge for a group photograph and to sample the samphire, an edible succulent plant which grows abundantly in this area (<http://tasteaustralia.biz/bushfood/samphire/>). Once back at the cars we drove to the Red Bluff carpark off the Lake Tyers Road and took a short walk to the beach where most of us were eager to have lunch and Marjorie was keen to have a swim (and lunch).



Marjorie making waves!

This was a very pleasant laid-back kind of bushwalk in a great natural environment with good company and great co-leaders.

Thank you Marian and Marjorie.

We left Yarram at 8.30 aboard an Airvan chartered from Flinders Aviation. It was a smooth flight over Bass Strait, disappointed we did not see any whales, but very pleased to observe Deal Island and the manned lighthouses. Our flight inbound took us southward along the western side of the island where we were able to observe the beautiful colours of the seafloor, beaches and wetlands.

We were met by our award winning tour guides Charlotte and Ben, and our very own photographer and journalist, AndrewBain (Clark Kent). A short drive to Emita for morning tea, beach walk to Castle Rock and a walk along 6km of beach and scrub to our base camp. Ben introduced us to a number of beach grown food delicacies including samphire (beaded glasswort), coast beard heath (native current) Ice plant (lettuce/spinach like), and Neptune's necklace.

After enjoying lunch we headed to the Fernaux Museum in Emita. The museum is run by local volunteers and showcases memorabilia of the island including mutton bird industry, early settlers, and the shipwreck of the area. The highlight of the afternoon was Wayne, the wombat joey.



Wayne (the Joey) with his Wildlife Carer

From the Museum we headed to Wybelena, an aboriginal resettlement, where we learned about the confused and moving history of the first Tasmanians. Next stop was Lillies Beach, where we enjoyed a swim with a "large" stingray, a dolphin frolicking offshore and a Pacific Gull attacking its meal of fish. On returning back to camp we had our first fantastic evening meal, a glass or two of wine and an early night for our next day.

After a breakfast including Avocado Smash with Fetta, day two started with a walk from The Dock to Kil-

liecrankie. We rock hopped most of the way over the magnificent coastline and around the base of Mt Killecrankie and lunched at Stacky's Bite. Stacky's Bite is probably a favourite site for the whole group. We swam, lunched and rested there and were sorry to leave. The water was magnificent. The whole walk was incredibly scenic, including the Killiecrankie "Castle" for rock climbers. After completing the 8km walk we returned to base for an early evening (8pm) in preparation for an early start up Mt Strzelecki. We left camp early and started up the mountain at 8.30. The weather was definitely on our side with temperatures around 20 degrees and very little wind. We enjoyed the tough climb and were each able to maintain our own pace taking in the spectacular views and mountain scenes. We reached the top around 12.30. Truly magnificent views.



Celebrating on top of Mt Strzelecki

After returning down the mountain we made a quick coffee, water and alcohol stop at Whitemark and headed home for bush camp showers. We were all amazed at how well we could wash in less than 2 litres of water from the solar heated camp showers. Sue, Heather and Charlotte drove to Marshall's beach for a quick swim. After dinner we headed down to Castle Rock to enjoy the sunset.

Wednesday morning sunshine greeted us and we drove to Palana Beach, a new housing estate on the North-Western side of the island overlooking the Sister Islands. The beach was particularly beautiful and waters very clear. There was an abundance of Limpets on the rocks. We tested them and we found they were delicious. We found a changing array of limestone and granite rock formations, bright seaweed, hanging gardens, rock pools, oysters and added to Sue's opercula collection (shell lids). We returned to a quiet section of the bay for lunch and were joined by a black faced cormorant which flew within metres of us, looked for food and when there was none on offer, turned his head, balanced on one leg and went to sleep! The swimmers of the group snorkelled and swam for quite a while and agreed that the beach was

another one of the best they had experienced. We headed home for showers and then drove to the Eastern side of the island to the Wallaby Sanctuary, where we fed the Bennett's Wallabies, and did a bit more bird watching. After the sanctuary, it was time to head to the Lady Barron pub for happy hour and our evening meal. Some colourful Collingwood jokes and entertaining stories fuelled the fun of the evening and the meals were delicious. We laughed and enjoyed the bus trip back to camp with Oliver's entertaining jokes, songs and stories.



Oliver on top of Mt Strzelecki

An overcast Thursday saw us set out to Patriarch Inlet on the Eastern side of the island. With the tide out we walked wide beach flats and observed the water birds. We headed back to Whitemark again for fuel and enjoyed a coffee and some shopping. A local gentleman who lived next to the beach at Palana and had seen us on the previous day updated us on the advantages of living on an 800 person island. A group of us headed off to explore the Settlement Point area in search of caves. The tide was a bit high, but we think we were in the right area. The bonus of the trip was to locate the Mutton Bird site at Port Davies. We were a little early to see the birds return with food at sunset. On returning to camp, the rest of the team has set up a fine dining table beautifully lit and decorated to enjoy our last evening meal together. We had a great night and enjoyed listening to Charlotte singing accompanied by ukulele.

Friday morning's camp pack up went off without a hitch and we headed to Tongue Point to relax before our flight home.

We thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Our guides were excellent and looked after us exceptionally well. The walks were well paced and well managed and we all found time to take in the amazing scenery.

Thank you, Oliver, for taking care of all of the logistics for the group, and thanks to the team for a great week of friendship and laughter.

Mt Howitt - King Billy

DATE: Mon 9th - Wed 11th Jan

LEADER: Oliver Raymond

REPORT: Oliver

Walkers: Jackie, Maureen, Anna, John (Visitor) Oliver.

Monday was a bright, cheerful day, and we got to the Howitt car park by 1200. Jackie and Oliver dropped the others off and drove on to the Macalister River. Clouds had gathered as we approached the car park and it was just starting to drizzle as the cars drove off. Then the fireworks started! Anna, Maureen and John decided that they wanted to stay dry, and crowded into the long drop toilet at the car park. By the time Oliver and Jackie returned after leaving Oliver's 4 w.d. at the river, all our gear was looking miserable under a light weight fly. The lightning and thunder was getting quite frightening, but there was nothing to be gained by staying where we were (and there wasn't enough room left for two more in the toilet)!

So off we trudged in the pouring rain with flashes of lightning around us, and the track quickly turned into a flowing creek. Still, it wasn't far into the Vallejo Gantner hut, and we thankfully walked into its shelter.

There, we dripped dry in front of a cheerful fire using a small amount of the copious wood stored around the hut. Thank you to whoever put it there!

After a cold night, we headed off at 0800 the next morning and topped up our water bottles at the spring – which was flowing a banker. Not a cloud in the sky, and the wildflowers were blooming everywhere in gay profusion. We paused for the obligatory photos of Speculation and the Viking, but ominously, a grey tendrill of cloud was creeping over Speculation.

By the time we reached the summit of Howitt the mist had descended. A brief pause was called to celebrate Oliver's 60th anniversary of first climbing Howitt (1956), we ploughed on through the fog.

The flowers became even more spectacular, but the weather remained clagged in.

Just before Hell's Window, the track forks. Anna and John elected to climb Mt. Magdala, and the rest opted for the more contoured track around the Mount.

Joining up again beyond Magdala, the party walked on to the camp site near the King Billy Spring, which Philip Davis assured us he had marked with a prolific number of bright ribbons the year before. We managed to find a few faded remnants, and despite the fog, finally stumbled on to the spring.

After setting up our tents for the night we walked on to Picture Point, which gives an amazing panorama of the mountains from Buller to Cobbler. The fog, by this time, had lifted, and though the tops of the mountains were still shrouded in cloud, we were able to see them clearly enough for identification. The buildings on Buller, in particular, stood out very clearly.

A peaceful and relatively warm night was enjoyed around the camp fire and in our tents. Next morning dawned cool and clear, and we sauntered on down the jeep track to the Macalister and Oliver's 4 w.d. On the way, we came across the rear leg of a deer, which a hunter had obviously tied rather loosely onto his vehicle. Two deer dashed across the track in front of the party and the track finally flattened out and ran along a beautiful little creek, a tributary of the Macalister.

And so to home. A note for the future; the bridge across the Macalister has now been closed, so vehicles have to ford the river, which was very low when we did it.



Mt Howitt - King Billy



Anna, Jackie & Oliver admiring the snow gums



Maureen, John, Jackie and Oliver on the track



Anna at Hells window



Group amongst the Wildflowers



Campsite at King Billy



Oliver on the summit of Mt Howitt



Hiking along King Billy track

Raymond Creek Falls Snowy River camp

DATE: Sat 14th - Sun 15th Jan

LEADER: Anna Janca

REPORT: Heather Alexander

WALKERS: Chris, Oliver, Andrew B, Rose, Pierro, Rob, Josie, Di, Danait, Graeme, Maureen, Marian, Marjorie, Trevor, Heather and Anna

After all overnight hikers gathered at Nowa Nowa, we drove on to Orbost, then after a short toilet stop at the beautiful park also on the Snowy River we continued into the Snowy River National Park and the start of the walk at the Raymond Creek Falls car park. It was great to see the lush regrowth after the 2014 fires. After a quick morning tea break and loading our overnight packs, we were on our way.

First stop, the magnificent Raymond Creek Falls. We did cringe at the 107 steps down, thinking all the time of the return, but the effort was well worth it. We then followed Raymond Creek as it flowed to the Snowy. Although the readily identifiable track was pretty good, we did have to get down on all fours to get under a few fallen trees.



Raymond Creek Falls

The rock pools and small cascades where we rock hopped across Raymond Creek were a welcome stop. The day was warm but very pleasant for walking. The water was quite low so an easy crossing and very pleasant to drink.

Although some sections of the track were not well maintained since the bushfires, the walk up the spur was easier than expected. Reaching the top, with Raymond Creek on one side and the mighty Snowy on the other, the views from the top of the escarpment down, along and across the Snowy were amazing, and our camp site inviting. The toughest section was the descent to the river as it is overgrown and quite steep, but all made it down without incident.



View of the Snowy River

We reached the confluence of Raymond Creek and Snowy River, and were rewarded with a magnificent river side grassy area and shady trees, with ample room to spread out and take in the water, the rocky escarpment, and Basin Creek Falls on the opposite bank also flowing. We enjoyed lunch, explored the area, spent a lot of time in the river and just chatting in the shade of the trees and around the campfire.

Although an overnight hike, 4 couldn't make it for the entire weekend. As it was only a 7 km walk each way, they could complete it as a day walk on Sunday.

The next morning a few of the group headed off to explore Raymond Creek trying to walk upstream heading up to the cascades where we had crossed the Creek the previous day. We soon met up with the 4 day walkers (who must have gotten up with the sparrows) joining us. The day walkers continued to enjoy the camp and the river, whilst the explorers continued on hoping to find a clear path on the rocks. A beautiful red belly black snake avoided us by taking to the water and we continued enjoying the rainforest canopy a distance up the creek but ran out of time to make it to the cascades. (A great reason for a return trip.)



**Heather, Danait, Di & Anna
Exploring Raymond Creek**

On returning to camp, we gathered blackberries and mint at the confluence of the Snowy and Raymond Creek and Andrew treated us to a billy of tea. Very refreshing.

Marian, Marjorie, Maureen and Trevor, who walked in on Sunday, joined us for lunch. We headed back out about 12.00 as the day was heating up. I found the climb out in the midday sun a real challenge, but the views again were well worth it.

Thanks Anna for a wonderful weekend walk. It was great to welcome some first time overnight hikers who enjoyed the weekend and enthusiastic to go again. We look forward to heading back to our riverside paradise again soon.

Lakes Entrance & Lake Tyers Forest Park

DATE: Sat 21st Jan

LEADER: Monica Scicluna

REPORT: Chris Marshall

Walkers: Chris, Monica, Narelle, Becky, Marion, Billy, Lee, John, Ken, Jessie, Gayle and Corinne

12 walkers headed off, after meeting at the foot-bridge, on the inland track to the entrance. The weather was just right for walking. We enjoyed the scenery along the way and the lovely view of Lakes Entrance town as we neared the entrance. We inspected the historic machinery from past days that is still there.



Group photo at start of the walk

Lunch was had at the very end and we were able to do some seal watching as there was a few about. We were then joined by Billy and after walking back along the beach side, we were treated to refreshment at his place.



Walking back along the beach

After leaving Billy's some of the group drove to the Marsdenia Rainforest Walk to do a nice circuit under the trees. Some unusual fungi were spotted on this walk and one was almost the colour of the sun with the light on it. On return to the cars I departed the walk and Monica will take over from here. Thanks to Monica for organising a lovely day. You're a legend.

After Chris left we drove to Cherry Tree picnic area where we had a snack and break before heading along the track to burnt bridge car park. This was a pleasant

stroll, we saw lots of fish jumping out of the water, I think they were mullet.



Rainforest walk

Thanks for all being such a great group to be with and to Billy for his hospitality.

Nicholson River Kayak Lake Entrance & surrounds

DATE: Sat 22nd Jan

LEADER & REPORT: Anna Janca

PARTICIPANTS: Piero, Rose, Danait, Veronica, Robyn, Leigh, Joe vB, Graham, Monica, Joe S

Blue sky, sunshine and Brett and Faye from Gippsland Kayak Tours met us at the boat ramp at Nicholson on Sunday morning. After the safety briefing and paddling instructions, we launched the kayaks, found our



Brett giving a safety briefing before departure

paddling arms and refined our 'technique'. Then off we paddled upstream on the Nicholson River, under the old trestle bridge (which now forms part of the rail trail) then winding through undulating farmland, bush, magnificent red and sandy cliffs, spotting sea eagles, kites, ducks and various other birds and all the jumping fish. A perfect day on the water. After a break and lunch, we paddled back, downstream, however, a bit harder work as we were paddling into a headwind. Thank you to all for a very enjoyable day.

Tali Karng & the Wellington River via the Valley of Destruction

DATE: Thu 26th Jan - Sun 29th Jan

LEADER: Andrew Burrows

REPORT: Graham Pilkington

Walkers: Andrew, Chris, Jackie, Kaye, Abi, Joe, Helmut, Michael and Graham.

The car camp for the first night was at Thomastown near a pretty stream. Andrew produced a battery operated spit from his solar paneled vehicle, lamb, pork and even gravy. Baked potatoes and pumpkin, and tinned vegies, completed the meal. Weight and what to take were a recurring topic of conversation over the weekend, and my Hi Country Dargo Mk 11 fat tent was an object of derision. It had been a warm day but an unnecessarily cold night followed.



Roast Lamb & Pork on the spit

The next morning we drove to McFarlane Saddle. Andrew produced his hand held scales and after weighing Jackie to make certain they were accurate, some bulging packs were put to the test. I am pleased to report that mine came in under 14 kg.

We followed the Wellington Plains Walking Track through Moroka Gap and between Mt Wellington and Spion Kopje (the latter presumably named after the Boer war battle of 1900, even though it was a British defeat). Lunch was just before the dreaded descent down the Gillios Track to Lake Tali Karng on a hot afternoon. To keep our spirits up, Chris told us stories of when, as a young filly herself, she led her horse down to the lake and rode back up, but we dismissed that as doing it the easy way.

Our necks craned eagerly to get a first view of the lake, but its calm blue was not seen until near the bottom, as it is surrounded by steep thickly wooded slopes and we were descending through the trees. It was apparently formed by a landslide blocking the Nigothoruk Creek and is 51m deep covering 35 acres. It is a beautiful peaceful isolated place, with a touch of mystery.

Later, as we sat around drinking tea and coffee, one of

our cheeky ladies issued a challenge to see who had the smallest. All the guys got into action and the after a chorus of zips being undone, a fine array was laid out. Andrew had the smallest. His super concentrated washing up liquid was in an eye drop bottle that must have originally been designed for use by a Western Pygmy possum. I drew some admiring glances. My toothbrush screws in half and the bristle section can be pushed into the hollow handle. Light, compact and hygienic. What more could you ask for?



The group at Lake Tali Karng



Andrew fishing for his supper

The next day was hot. We descended the path through the aptly named Valley of Destruction (why can't we go to places named Buttercup Meadow?), a tangle of scrub, trees and rock, and after a hundred metres or so, the Wellington River, somewhere off to our right, appears magically from underground, draining from the lake. Lunchtime saw us bathing hot feet in the cool river and we reached the campsite next to a crossing fairly early. All took a dip in a deep swimming hole as the Valley of Knee Reconstruction, as some wit described it, had taken its toll.

Kaye had a leaky water bottle which wet her pack, so she and daughter Abi proceeded to hang on a line a multi coloured collection of plastic bags of varying sizes from all the major supermarkets and most of the minor ones. It looked like they were signaling the UN for assistance. What they put in them I have no idea.

That evening, Helmut and Joe savagely beat a number of fallen branches to death to create the right sized fire wood so we could sit around a sociable blaze. The Oliver's Billy award goes to Andrew for not only taking his fishing rod but also for catching a 25 cm trout in our swimming hole.

the crossings were straightforward, as Parks Victoria insists on rocks being placed at uneven distances with every 3rd rock having a variable wobble factor, and all logs being barely wider than a boot. Even the graceful and well balanced Michael used a stick for one crossing.



Andrew giving the thumbs up on his catch



Graham, Chris & Abi using a log to cross the river



Group on the Wellington River Track



Group photo before departing camp

We left camp early to beat the heat. There were to be at least 11 crossings of the Wellington before we reached the Tamboritha Road, and Andrew decided to count them by tying a knot in a piece of string for each crossing. By the time we reached the bridge, the string was so knotted it looked like my neck after planning and packing for an overnight walk. Few of

The fortunate Helmut had found a pair of deserted ladies slip on aqua shoes and changed into them to avoid getting his boots wet for the rest of the walk, despite being 2 sizes too small. But they did suit him, and he continued to collect more rocks than on the first moon landing. Joe was taking many great photos as well as recording the state of the tracks and reporting this to Parks Victoria when he got back. We saw or met about 20 other walkers, most going in the direction they intended. We reached the car left at the bridge and the drivers were taken back to McFarlane Saddle, those forced to wait behind lolled about in the river, whilst being nibbled by tiny fish. You would pay good money for that in Melbourne.

Thanks to Andrew for leading a wonderful walk, and I look forward to my next visit to Tali Karng, as I don't think you can go there often enough. Joe is planning a trip to the area in April. I have bought bathroom scales.

Blue Pool

DATE: Wed 8th Feb

LEADER: Chris Marshall

REPORT: Narelle Warren



Blue Pool

Eleven enthusiastic walkers (Chris, Jessie, Di, Robyn, Graham, Carlos, Sue, Rose, Jose, Narelle and Michelle) enjoyed the Blue Pool/Peregrine Lookout circuit walk. We met at Briagolong at 10ish then travelled in convoy to Blue Pool. Jessie with her local knowledge of where the Crystal mine area can be found and wonderful botanical identification from Michelle, was much appreciated. We found Bracket fungus, an old nest and enjoyed watching Fantails flit about as we lazed in the shade, lunching at Mc Kinnons Point.



Group at Peregrine Lookout

A great walk organised by Chris and enjoyed by all. A few enjoyed a refreshing dip in the Pool with hovering dragonflies overhead. Thanks for a great day out.

Thurra River - Point Hicks Croajingolong NP

DATE: Fri 17th - Sat - Sun 19th Feb

LEADER & REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

Walkers: Chris Marshall, Graham Pilkington, Peter & Nicki Jennings, Piero Baglioni & Rose de Leeuw, Helmut Tracksdorf, Visitors: Julia & Ronnie Hibma, Rebecca Horsham, Gaye Davies, Daryle White.

Having arrived at Thurra River campsite early on Friday morning the walk leader was able to secure 2 spacious campsites right next to the river with fireplaces and picnic tables to boot. But not before he had to chase away 2 goannas and one rather large red bellied black snake!

During a recce the previous week, the mouth of the Thurra River was blocked by a sand bar causing the river to rise well above its normal height whereby the road into camp was covered by 20cm of water leaving many campsites flooded. During the week, the bar was breached and the change was simply dramatic. The river had dropped by 1.5 metres!

Later that day the rest of the walkers began to arrive and promptly set about erecting their tents. This being a car camp meant many luxury items were on display, such as camp stoves, fold up chairs and wait for it, a Gazebo!



Seeking refuge from the rain under the Gazebo

Peter & Nicki had brought heaps of wood from their farm so we were well set up when it came to lighting a campfire later that night. When the ranger arrived to collect the camp fees we were able to negotiate a deal that excluded the charges for extra cars (we had 5 extra vehicles!)

Friday was about setting up camp and settling into the location. Saturday was our big day – striking out to tackle the dunes. Our aim was to hit the track by 9:00am. Piero & Rose had travelled all the way from Eagle Point that morning to arrive onsite at 8:30am. Clearly, they had got up early. Unfortunately, they brought the bad weather with them and with the skies looking overcast we set off shortly after 9:00am, with raincoats and umbrellas in hand. After ambling along a well-defined path past banksias, gum trees and tea tree, we arrived at the back of the first major dune.

Showers soon followed and as we reached the front of the dune with views down upon Thurra River most of us had donned our raincoats with others (who shall remain nameless) putting up their umbrellas. Hiking standards have certainly declined in the modern era!!



Hands up, those who want to keep walking?



Walkers in the dune landscape

After some quick photos, we proceeded over towards the second dune which can only be described as the mother of all dunes. This involved dropping down the side of the first dune into a gully and then struggling up through the bush and sand only to reach the side of the second much larger dune. After a short break the leader let the walkers loose with the young guns (visitors) attacking the dune summit head on and the old guns (members) taking a more leisurely zig zag approach. Upon reaching the summit we were then exposed to the full force of the wind and rain that by now seemed to have settled in for the day. Views into the distant were non-existent due to low cloud and rain. Once again, we walked to the front of this dune which gave us another great view of the Thurra River below. Back at camp, the walk leader had handed out plastic bags & sheets in the expectation that participants would have the opportunity to do some dune sliding. It may have been the weather or the steepness of the slope or the fact that it would have taken 15 minutes to get back from the bottom. But no one dared to get out their plastic sheet/bag. Another sigh that Hikers are losing their sense of adventure – Leader included!

observe some iron sand formations that were very interesting indeed. Bands of iron stone gave the impression of metal having been worked and then dumped in the dunes. Thin plates of ironstone appeared as curved lines in the sand. The landscape varied in colour from bright yellow to dark red with wind-blown peaks and troughs all round.

We then continued, pushing through to the final small dune which took us all the way down to the last barrier which was thick tea tree and scrub just short of the beach. We could hear waves breaking on the shore but could not see the ocean. Here in this sheltered location we stopped for lunch. It was then that those plastic bags were put to good use – as ground sheets!

After, lunch we could pick our way through the thick bush by following an animal track which had been dutifully marked by our leader on his recce the previous week. Within less than 5 minutes we were standing on the beach. Inexplicably the rain had stopped and the wind was less severe. We had conquered the dunes and now it was time to check out the Point Hicks Lighthouse, located further along the promontory and out of sight. Walking along the beach we spotted a couple of endangered Hooded Plovers scurrying along the beach. Within the hour we had negotiated the beaches and headland to come out directly at the Point Hicks lighthouse station. After a group photo, we promptly inspected the base of the lighthouse and its surrounds. From here it was an easy but slow walk back along a dirt road which lead us all the way back to camp. It had taken us effectively 6hrs to do the circuit. While the weather had not been kind it certainly made the cup of tea back at camp taste great. That afternoon and evening we settled around camp, cooked our meals and huddled around the roaring campfire until light showers saw us retreat under the Gazebo. All in all, an interesting day albeit a wet one.



Walking on the dunes

So, with the added weight of plastic bags in our packs we did our best impersonation of Lawrence of Arabia and walked onto the dune proper, some with camelbacks and others without. It wasn't the heat that was oppressive, it was the wind and rain. There was little shelter from the onslaught but somehow, we managed to find a spot out of the wind but not out of the rain!

The picture was not one of majestic beauty but one of desperate walkers seeking refuge where none was to be found. Soon we were once again on our way striding across the sand dunes until we reached the site of an ancient forest recognised by the numerous bits of wood and tree stumps strewn across the sand. In addition, there were unusual tube formations which appeared to be old tree roots replaced by calcite deposition. With the wind and rain following our every move we pushed on towards the back of this massive dune formation which took us below the tree line and gave us some respite from the wind and rain. Just before reaching the end of the dune we took in a diversion to

Sunday saw the group slowly pack and getting ready to leave, but not before we walked out onto the beach to inspect the Thurra River sand bar which clearly showed the extent of the breakout and its height. After more photos, we returned to camp and packed up – making sure it was all spik & span.

Participants were given the opportunity to climb Mt Everard on their way out. But only Helmut & Daryle took up the challenge. The others had a long distance to drive and were keen to get underway, quite understandable. Ironically after they left, a large goanna casually strolled across the bridge with 2 cars in pursuit. The Mt Everard turnoff is about 7km along the Thurra river road. Arriving at the start of the track about 11:00am Daryle & Helmut then proceeded to hike up a well-defined track to the Summit itself. Although there were great views inland, the coastal dunes were partially hidden by tall trees on the summit. This was a great way to end the weekend's activities.

Thanks to all the adventurers who took part.

WALK PREVIEWS

Walk Gradings

It is planned to camp over at Billy Goat Bend on the

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		

TOM'S CAP

MULLUNGUNG STATE FOREST

DATE: Sat 4th Mar
GRADE: L - 7 - 7
DISTANCE: 15km
MEET: Giffard West Hall – South Gippsland
Highway @ 9:00am
LEADER: Peter Jennings 0428 230444
EMAIL: pnjjennings@gmail.com

Meet at the Giffard West Hall to car pool – 2WD cars OK. On our return, afternoon tea will be provided in the hall which also has toilets – a \$2 contribution for use of the hall is requested. The walk takes in a combination of forestry roads and 4WD tracks which in parts unfortunately have been eroded due to destabilisation by off-road motorbike traffic. We will have lunch on a peak known as Toms Cap from where Angus McMillan and his party could see Corner Inlet in 1841. On our way to the starting point in the forest we will visit “the bullocky’s grave”. Whilst grades aren’t particularly steep or rocky, walkers are advised to wear hiking boots rather than joggers as there are sections with loose gravel on slopes. MSF is a dry sclerophyll forest that in the past has been used for grazing, timber milling and post cutting. Today fire wood collection is permitted in parts while other parts have been set aside as fauna and flora reserves. Walkers will see a wide variety of tree and plant species and may see wallabies, kangaroos, emus, goannas, koalas and possums.

TRACK MAINTENANCE CAMP

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 4th - Sun 5th Mar
GRADE: S - 4 - 4
DISTANCE: 7 - 8km
MEET: Billy Goat Bend Carpark @ 8:30 am
LEADER: Rob Paterson 0429 950 494

Saturday night (optional), with works starting 8.30am on Saturday and Sunday. (see description below) There are several sections of the Mitchell River Walking track that will be our focus for the weekend. Works include cutting back of overgrown trees and shrubs, removal of fallen trees and limbs and re-benching worn or eroded track surface. NB If you have chainsaw accreditation and wish to use a chainsaw please ensure that you have proof of training on the day. All tools and equipment will be supplied by Parks Victoria. Saturday: Meet at Billy Goat Bend camping area at 8.30 am. Depending on group numbers tasks will be assigned and transport arranged. Lunch will have to be taken as we will be out for the day. Return to Billy Goat Bend for dinner (if camping over). Sunday: Meet at Billy Goat Bend camping area at 8.30 am. Depending on group numbers tasks will be assigned and transport arranged. We will be working during the morning only, returning by 1.00pm. On Sunday afternoon if there is any interest and time and energy levels permit, we may go to the Honey House for some vegetation removal around the building. NB: This activity may be rescheduled due to extreme weather or local fire activity.

MT KOSCIUSZKO

SUNRISE & GLACIAL LAKES

DATE: Fri 10th - Mon 13th Mar
GRADE: X - 5 - 4 & M - 3 - 4
DISTANCE: 22.5km & 15km
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. Enjoy breathtaking views, pristine alpine country, glacial lakes, rivers, herb fields, and, hopefully, an amazing flower show. We will 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. On the day we are not doing the summit sunrise walk, the Sawpit Creek - Pallaibo and Waterfall Tracks with eucalypt forests, waterfalls, bird and wildlife spotting (possibly a platypus) and wildflowers are highly recommended easier walks. Accommodation will be decided once participants known. Options are a holiday park within Jindabyne on the lake, or a bush park. Both offer cabins and tent camping with full facilities. Registration is now complete so check with Walk leader re current status if interested.

McMILLAN TRACK MAINTENANCE CHAMPION SPUR to STANDER CK

DATE: Fri 17th Mar - Wed 22nd Mar
GRADE: **Good level of fitness required**
DISTANCE: 3 - 6km per day
MEET & TIME: TBA on registration
LEADER: Joe van Beek
PHONE: 03 5176 5302
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

We will be working as volunteers with DELWP to find, clear and mark the section of McMillans Walking Track from Champion Spur Track down to Stander Creek. This is towards the Woods Point end of McMillans Walking Track. There is some flexibility as to which days you register for, subject to transport logistics. The camp site is accessible to 2WD vehicles with some care. Please register with Joe van Beek by 13 March for this maintenance activity.

Note this replaces the planned work on the Crooked River part of the track because of planned burns in that area at that time.

GIPPSLAND HERITAGE WALK MORWELL

DATE: Sat 18th Mar
GRADE: **S - 1 - 1**
DISTANCE: ~5km
MEET: Waratah Restaurant carpark 9:30am
 (Cnr. Old Princes Hwy and Monash Way)
LEADER: Jim Stranger - 51918312
EMAIL: Strangers1@westnet.com.au

This short walk loops around Kernot Lake taking in the Gippsland Heritage display. We will also experience the Gippsland Multicultural display as well as the Gun-nai-Kurnai interpretive walk along Waterhole Creek. It is an easy, flat walk on well-formed paths.

COBBANNAH CREEK

DATE: Sat 25th Mar
GRADE: **M - 7 - 8**
DISTANCE: 13km
MEET: 7:00am at Stratford or 7:30am Cnr Bever-
 leys & Dargo Roads
LEADER: Ken Free or Rob Paterson
 Ken - 5144 1195
EMAIL: kenfree@iprimus.com.au

Car shuffle to Mitchell Road, drive back to Billy Goat Bend Road. Drive along Billy Goat Bend road to start of walk Walk along overgrown track before descending into Cobbannah Creek. 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.

HIAWATHA YARRAM

DATE: Wed 5th April
GRADE: **S - 3 - 1**
DISTANCE: ~ 6Km
MEET: Lake Guthridge. Behind old Police Station
 @ 8:30am
LEADER: Jessie Walker - 0427 455 203
EMAIL: jawrhw@hotmail.com

An easy day walk around Hiawatha with interesting History of the area. One 2k hill to walk (or drive) then some more short easy walks. View the decommissioned Heritage A Framed Bridge.

**SCRUBBY CREEK
MITCHELL RIVER NP**

DATE: Sat 8th Apr
GRADE: S - 6 - 8
DISTANCE: ~6km
MEET: Stratford Memorial Park @ 8:30am
or ALT: Lindenow @8:45am
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 scrub-bash our way downhill to the Mitchell River at a point approximately 11/2 kms downstream from where Woolshed Creek (the Den of Nargun creek) enters the River. From here we will follow the River downstream until we reach the spot where Scrubby Creek enters the River. We will follow Scrubby Creek upstream through glorious warm temperate rainforest gullies with overhanging rocky bluffs. After a lunch-break in these delightful surroundings we will scrub-bash our way uphill to pick up the Scrubby Creek Track and return to our vehicles. Although this is a short walk, it will involve rock-hopping, scrub bashing through at times thick regrowth and probably wet boots. This is a walk for those who are fit, with a spirit of adventure and who are not afraid of clinging onto rocky outcrops while trying to get a footing on slippery slimy rocks along the creek bed.

**LAKE TALİ KARNG
ALPINE NP**

DATE: Easter - Fri 14th Apr - Mon 17th Apr
GRADE: L - 7 - 8
DISTANCE: ~45km over 4 days
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall, @10:00 am Friday
LEADER: Joe van Beek - 5176 5302
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

Enjoy some of the wonders of the Alpine National Park over the Easter Weekend. On the Friday we will walk in carrying our supplies for the weekend from McFarlane Saddle to a base camp on Nigothoruk Ck which flows into Lake Tali Karng - only the last little bit is steep walking. The next day carrying just day packs we will visit the amazing Lake Tali Karng. The lake was formed by a landslide and has no surface outlet. It has particular significance to the Aboriginal people. The walk down Gillios track and back up via the Echo Point Track has some challenging steep sections. Easter Sunday we will visit Millers Hut and take a leisurely walk along the Mount Wellington Track and take in the magnificent panoramas from Gable End and The Sentinels. We

will be able to look down on the lake and the route followed the previous day. After another night of geniality around the camp fire we will pack up on Monday morning and walk back to the cars with a side visit to Mount Wellington to take in more spectacular views. This walk is in Alpine conditions where weather can change rapidly. Come prepared. Pack to be self sufficient but we could rationalize gear before we start walking to reduce load weight. The walk schedule may change depending on weather.

Registrations for this walk will close on Monday 10 April

SALE WETLANDS

DATE: Sat 15th Apr
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: ~12km
MEET: Swing Bridge (Sale side) @ 9:00am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0439614544
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

Sale Common hosts a combination of freshwater marsh and red gum woodlands which support an enormous variety of bird life. The boardwalk gives us a chance to observe the wetland at a closer level. There are a couple of bird hides where we can view pelicans,, swans and ducks to name a few. So bring your camera and binoculars 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 easy hike.

**FEATHERTOP
ALPINE NP**

DATE: Sat 22nd Apr - Sun 23rd Apr
GRADE: M - 6 - 6
DISTANCE: ~12km one way
MEET: Bairnsdale - Howitt Park, @8:30 am
LEADER: Michael Dowe - 0427 523 647
EMAIL: mrjldowe@wideband.net.au

Saturday: Drive to Diamantina Hut car park via mt Hotham and walk to Mount Feathertop via the Razorback Walking Track. Camp overnight near Federation Hut. Sunday: Return via the Razorback Walking Track. Walkers will need to be equipped with 'all seasons' camping equipment including fuel stove and wet weather gear.

**DEPTFORD
BAIRNSDALE & SURROUNDS**

DATE: Sat 29th Apr
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: 7.4km with option further 0.5km
MEET: Bairnsdale - Howitt Park, @ 9:00 am
LEADER: Trevor Clues - 5156 4559
EMAIL: Valmai51@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.

**ANGUSVALE TO JURGENSON POINT
MITCHELL RIVER NP**

DATE: Sat 6th May
GRADE: M - 5 - 3
DISTANCE: ~ 14km
MEET: Stratford @ 8:00 am
or Beverley's Road @ 8:45 am
LEADER: Ken Free - 5144 1195
EMAIL: kenfree@iprimus.com.au

This walk will follow the Mitchell River from the Angusvale campground downstream to a point opposite Jurgenson Point and the point where Sandy Creek enters the Mitchell River. This is one of the few undammed 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 with great opportunities for photographs of the river and its surrounds. After lunch we will retrace our steps back to Angusvale.

**KAYAK CUNNINGHAM ARM
LAKES ENTRANCE & SURROUNDS**

DATE: Sun 14th May
GRADE: M - 1 - 1
DISTANCE: ~ 2-3km
MEET: Lakes Entrance footbridge carpark
TIME: TBA
LEADER: Anna Janca - 0419 178 445
EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

**TINAMBA TO HEYFIELD RAIL TRAIL
SALE & SURROUNDS**

DATE: Wed 17th May
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: ~ 20km round trip
MEET: TBA
LEADER: TBA

Heading east from Heyfield towards Tinamba, the trail follows the South shoulder of Traralgon-Maffra Road (C105) for a kilometre or two, before crossing the road and heading northeast. The going here is flat and easy on well packed gravel, and much of the trail between here and McKinnon's Road has recently seen major improvements; especially the area either side of Boggy Creek (so-named for a very good reason!). Once quite rough and difficult to traverse, the section of trail from Boggy Creek to McKinnon's Road is now in tip-top condition, and Boggy Creek will no longer live up to its name. Soon after we arrive at Tinamba.

**McMILLANS WALKING TRACK
MAINTENANCE
CRINOLINE TRACK**

DATE: From Sat 20th - Wed 24th May
GRADE: A good level of fitness is required
DISTANCE: Total length of track is 10km
MEET: TBA on Registration
LEADER: Joe van Beek - 5176 5302
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

We will be working as volunteers to Parks Victoria to clear, rebuild and mark the section of McMillans Walking Track from Breakfast Creek up towards the Crinoline and down to the Macalister River. There is flexibility as to which days you register for. The camp site is off a sealed road accessible to 2WD vehicles.

Please register with Joe van Beek by 15 May for this maintenance activity.

**NYERIMERLANG
LAKES ENTRANCE & SURROUNDS**

DATE: Wed 24th May
GRADE: S - 1 - 1
DISTANCE: ~ 2-3km
MEET: TBA
LEADER: TBC



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

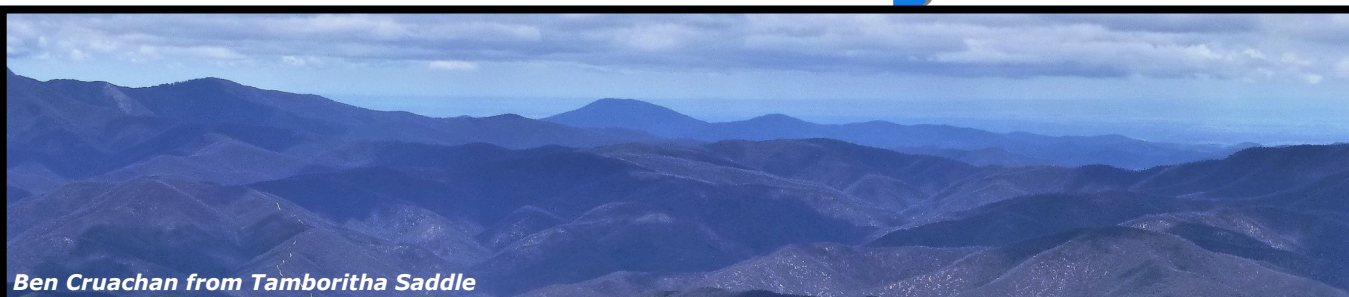
ISSUE 192 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - APRIL 2017



Tucked away in the foot hills to the West of Yarram is this marvel of Engineering. In fact it could be considered on par with the great Pyramids of Egypt or at the very least, another one of the Editors Tall Stories! Seven walkers, ably led by Jessie Walker decided to check out fact from fiction and travelled to Hiawatha, located SW of Balook. This Decommissioned and sadly neglected 'A' Frame - heritage listed bridge, is the only remaining example of this type of design in the country.

Check out the full story behind their visit and where the name Hiawatha originated by turning to page 10.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



Ben Cruachan from Tamboritha Saddle

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

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2016 / 2017

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		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 - 14	NEWSLETTER:	Helmut Tracksdorf	5156 6763 newsbcwc@gmail.com
~ Past Reports	15	WALKS CO-ORDINATOR:	Marian Matchan	0448 523 287 walkbcwc@gmail.com
~ Calendar of Walks & Events	16	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 CLUB NIGHT & DINNER IS: WED 10TH MAY, 6:00PM AT THE BAIRNSDALE CLUB.

(68 NICHOLSON STREET BAIRNSDALE)

Welcome to our Newest Members

*Trevor Whibley (Wy Yung), Daryle White (Kalimna), Coralie Pandey (Sarsfield),
Sue & Tony Weilgosz (Traralgon)*

Presidential Ramblings

APRIL 2017

We have had some fantastic day and weekend walks to start the year. Thanks to our fearless leaders for organising these walks on our program. Always check the website in case extra walks are put on after the newsletter is sent out.

Just a reminder that membership renewals are due in April. Family \$60, Single \$48 and newsletter only \$20. This can be paid into our account (Please use your surname when depositing funds), by cheque or cash. Details are on the form. Please download the renewal form, from our website:

<http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/become-a-member/renew-your-membership.html>

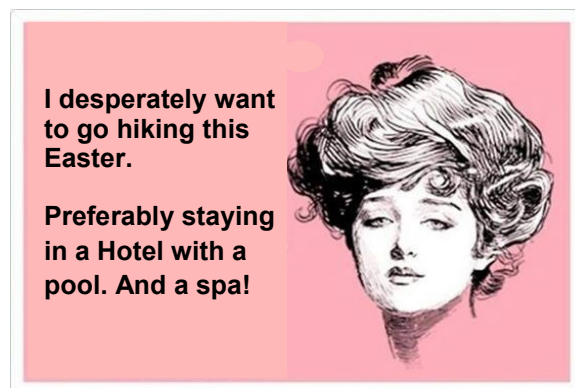
Members should also sign the acknowledgement of risk form and submit it with their renewal to Anna our Secretary.

Thanks must go to Heather and her team for organising our March social night in Traralgon. Joe van Beek spoke about the maintenance efforts on McMillans Track and showed us photos of the event. Also, Guest speaker Matt from DELWP for his informative talk. Check out the Club News for more details.

Hope to see you at our next Club social night on Wednesday 10th May in Bairnsdale.

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

Monica Scicluna



Hardcore Hiker

Club News

BCWC Committee Meeting



The next Club Night and Dinner will be held on **Wednesday 10th May**, at the Bairnsdale Club commencing at 6:00pm. The Club is located at 68 Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale where our Guest Speaker will be BCWC member: Piero Baglioni. If you want to hear about Piero's hiking adventures then get your ass, horse or walking frame to Bairnsdale! Members & guests are most welcome.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 14th June** at the Maffra Vet Centre, commencing 7:30pm

Club Social Night

Our social night in Traralgon on Wednesday March 8, was well attended and was a great success thanks to the efforts of Joe van Beek and our guest from DELWP Matt Zanini.

Joe presented the experience of the Crooked River Track maintenance crew at the end of September last year which resulted in the stranding of the team following heavy rainfall in the area. The experience highlighted the importance of working together with DELWP to ensure access, support, weather intelligence, safety and equipment issues are well planned and executed. He acknowledged the support and encouragement provided by DELWP with special thanks to Matt Zanini, James Noonan and Jeremy Reynolds.



Members of the Track Maintenance crew at the Crooked River
(Oliver Raymond, Peter Maffei, Michael Dowe, Joe van Beek & Philip Davis)

Joe's presentation led well into Matt's informative session about his role at DELWP, and how DELWP can work with the club in the future. Matt emphasised his appreciation for the great work that is being undertaken and stressed his willingness to act as our contact for any matters relating to access to State Forests.

Also present as a special guest was Peter Maffei (SBWC), who was one of the team who got caught behind the Crooked River. Peter spoke briefly about his role as convener of BTAC (Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation), a subcommittee of Bushwalking Victoria. Peter emphasised the ability of BTAC to support BCWC with track maintenance activities.

AGM

The AGM of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club will be held on - **Wed 12th July**. Whereby, all positions will be declared vacant. This presents an opportunity for any member who wishes to participate in the running of their club to throw their hat in the ring. Rather than be daunted by the prospect, consider it an opportunity to participate at the next level and give something back. We will definitely be looking for candidates to fulfil various positions on the night, so please consider nominating.

PHOTOS

Somebody once said "A picture is worth a thousand words" Well don't you believe it! In the humble opinion of the Editor - a photo is always better!

Yes we welcome any photos of Walks or other club activities for inclusion in the Newsletter or Website. IF you would like to submit a photo please forward your photo/s via email or SMS to: The Editor, The Secretary or the Publicity Officer in JPEG format preferably. Contact details are on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Walk Previews Change of Format

Please note the usual format for Walks Previews in the Newsletter has been changed to reflect a more compact form. IF you are interested in participating in a walk simply refer to the full description of the Walk as displayed on the Clubs Website at:

<http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/87-walk-previews/133-2016-calendar.html>

The change has been implemented for simplicity and to reduce the number of pages per the Newsletter.

Any feedback on the new format is most welcome. Contact the editor via: newsbcwc@gmail.com

Bushwalking Victoria News



Welcome Colin MacDonald

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Colin Macdonald to the Board of Bushwalking Victoria. We believe that Colin can contribute a lot to Bushwalking Victoria's success as he has been a keen bushwalker for a long time. He has worked as a psychologist and administrator at a number of Victorian universities. He has contributed to a number of not-for-profit boards. Colin's other interests include fishing and learning German.

Tracks & Conservation Activities

BTAC Program

Date	Activity Description	Associated Organisation
10-13 June Or 13-17 June	Croajingolong NP Track Clearing/Maintenance	Parks Vic
TBA - October	Eastern Tyers Walking Track, Erica (Baw Baw NP)	Parks Vic
11-12 Nov Or 18-19Nov	Errinundra NP Track clearing	Parks Vic

The following table provides indicative dates and activities to be carried out by Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) which is a standing committee of Bushwalking Victoria. Some activities are still in the planning stage. All details are subject to clarification and change. For more information, unless otherwise stated, contact David Miller, Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Projects Coordinator, at: projects@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing

Guest Speakers

Guest speakers at the recent Warby Ranges Bushwalkers AGM were:

Stuart Hughes: Director Park Planning and Policy, Parks Victoria

Adam Nitschke: Manager Precinct and Maritime Planning, Parks Victoria.

They gave a very interesting talk and video presentation about the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing Draft Master Plan. Their talk was followed by a question and answer session. Other clubs may be interested in inviting them or other speakers from Parks Victoria to talk about the plan and answer questions. You can view Bushwalking Victoria's submission regarding the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing Draft Master Plan at:

http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/files/Submissions/2017_01_27_FHAC-DMP-2016-Submission_Bushwalking_Victoria.pdf

http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/files/Submissions/2015_12_10_Falls_to_Hotham_Alpine_Crossing.pdf

Request for Photos

Bushwalking Victoria is preparing to launch its new website, filled with loads of resources for our members. This will include more information on tracks, bush safety, equipment reviews. We want to show off the incredible walks that we have to offer here in Victoria – walks that you have been on, that you know best, and that you have seen in different seasons. To do that, we need your photos! We want our new website to be filled with pictures of Victoria's tracks, to help those planning their next adventure, and to inspire those who haven't yet bushwalked. Help us by providing photos of tracks that you have walked on, including notes on when and where the photo was taken, and who took the photo. We also want to be able to give the photographer exposure as another way of continuing our efforts to promoting local bushwalking. Photos can be landscapes, sunsets or sunrises, quirky or creative, and with or without walkers (please make sure you get permissions from any people featured in your photos). The photos will feature on the rotating banner of the homepage of our new website. We will also be using these pictures on Instagram and Facebook. Send in as many photos as you want. Please send your photos to:

admin@bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

WALK REPORTS

MT TABLETOP ALPINE NP

DATE: Fri 24th Feb
LEADER: Maureen Hickling
REPORT: Jackie Whiting

Walkers: Liz Shave, Michael Bender, Maureen Hickling, Jackie Whiting

Our camp site at JB hut was the perfect place to start our hike to Mt. Tabletop. After lunch we set off at 2.30 for the 10 kms hike. The track started about 25m on the south side of our camp and followed a path through native grasses and a corner fence post remaining from the days the land was leased by Cobungra station for cattle grazing until 1989. Walking towards the snow gums we followed Tabletop creek to another grassy plain and then began the climb to Mt. Tabletop.

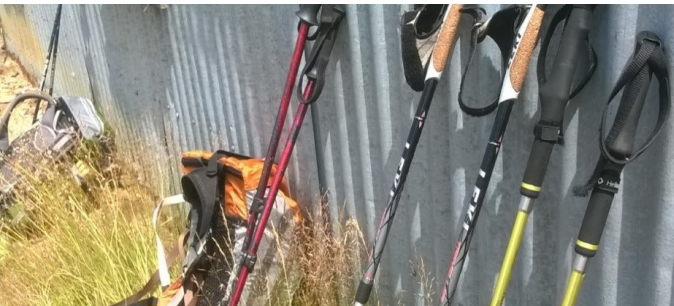
We were rewarded with clear blue skies and a panoramic view towards Dargo on the one side and across to Hotham and the ski lodges on the other. Our return after a short rest was via the same route.



Taking a break

A few kilometers from camp the mist shrouded the flats giving an eerie feeling to the end of the day. We arrived at JB hut around 6.30 to find our co-hikers for the weekend had a lovely bright fire burning inside to welcome us.

Thank you Maureen, for a great walk.



TOMS CAP WALK MULLUNGDUNG

DATE: Sat 4th Mar
LEADER: Peter Jennings
REPORT: Nicki Jennings

Seventeen walkers gathered in the 100 year old Giffard West Hall on an overcast but pleasant day in readiness for a 13km walk in the nearby Mullungdung State Forest. Mullungdung is a 13,800ha forest on the coastal plain between Sale and Yarram with diverse flora and fauna.



Members and visitors gathered in the Hall

After introductions we left the hall and drove 13 km into the forest. We travelled along the Old Rosedale Road and then did a short walk off the road to the lonely grave of bullock driver, Alex Steimmer. In 1870 he was hauling goods from Port Albert to the gold fields at Walhalla when he stopped to repair his dray. The bullocks moved forward crushing him. Mill workers found his body days later and buried him nearby in a damp gully.



Danait, Graham & Aloechka beside Steimmer's grave.

We then drove a little further to the start of our walk to Toms Cap, which is a small hill that in 1841 provided explorer Angus McMillan with his first view of the coast at Corner Inlet. Our walk began along a narrow bush track which in parts was badly eroded from motor bikes and heavy rain. The forest varied between tall stands of Yellow String Bark trees on the richer flatter soils and large *Banksia serratas* and dense undergrowth on the sandy ridges.



Almost Bourke Street

Everyone kept a steady pace along the track which included a few inclines which increased our heart rates. Wattles, correas, hakeas, leptospermums and other species were in healthy abundance and gave great promise of a good flowering in spring should we return. We reached Toms Cap at lunch time and settled around the stone cairn marking the spot where MacMillan saw the coast. He named it Toms Cap as the shape of the hill was similar to the hat of one of his party. In recent times vandals have forcibly removed the marble plaque from the cairn. It is not known whether this was just wonton vandalism or a deliberate act to remove a plaque which celebrated the controversial character of Angus MacMillan.



Lunch at Toms Cap

After lunch we continued on our circuit walking along Toms Cap Road before heading bush along another narrow track back towards the Old Rosedale Road. Some areas we walked through were still recovering from control burns and the black trunks contrasted starkly with the green foliage and undergrowth.

We completed our interesting walk about 2.30pm and drove back to the Giffard West Hall for an afternoon tea of coffee, tea, scones, brownies and a good chat. A good day was had by all.



Toms Cap proved a popular walk

TRACK MAINTENANCE WEEKEND

BILLY GOAT BEND

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 4th - Sun 5th Mar

LEADER: Rob Paterson

REPORT: Piero Baglioni

Participants: Michael Dowe, Josie Paterson, Rose de Leeuw, Matt (Parks), Piero Baglioni

The day dawned bright and sunny as Piero and Rose negotiated the last section of track to reach the designated start point at the Billy Goat Bend camp site by the advertised start time of 0830. Piero later to discover that he had been made to get up a half hour earlier "because we are always the last to arrive".

Rob launched into the Parks manual of do's and don'ts on this type of weekend and after signing our lives and maybe the odd limb away to Parks, we set off back up the Billy Goat Bend road till it intersects with Mitchell Weir track, then drove along a disused management vehicle track till we reached the Mitchell once again six km downstream of our starting point. We unloaded the equipment and proceeded to the Mitchell river walking track, our assignment for the day to remove any encroaching vegetation and logs which may have fallen over the track.

It was an effort to get the brush cutter going, but when it finally kicked over, Michael, who was operating it at the time turned into a blur of arms, legs, branches leaves and glistening blades. We followed up with long handled secateurs, the chain saw tool kit and the fuel can, removing the mown vegetation as we went. After expending 2 tanks of fuel over the ensuing hour, we stopped for a break with the glow-

MT KOSCIUSZKO

DATE: Sat 11th - Mon 13th Mar

LEADER: Chris Marshall

Day 1 REPORT: Piero Baglioni

ing satisfaction that we were "progressing nicely", only to find, after Rob had consulted the GPS on his phone, that we had only covered 1 km.

This necessitated a change of strategy and we were a little less meticulous with our pruning in the hour that followed, covering a satisfyingly greater amount of territory. Rob and Josie turned back to pick up the vehicles after about 4 hours of gruelling labour and the remaining crew pressed on removing overhanging branches with the whipper snipper and thicker logs with the chainsaw off the track. The day grew progressively warmer, and after around 7 ½ hours we wearily climbed the last section of benched track to Billy Goat campsite and gratifyingly sank onto the benches.

It was at this point that the issue of erecting a tent presented itself and even though there were a number of sites to choose from, a decision regarding the best could not be reached. Eventually after removal of some choice boulders, a level site was chosen and camp was struck. Rob shone with his culinary genius once again and the group feasted on roasted vegetables and succulent meats, all watered down with fine ales and a fruity red.

We sat talking around the campfire for a while, until Rose spotted stealthy movement in the bushes –three brush tailed possums had come for their share of the booty –and this was not the first time by the way they were confidently tucking into the rubbish bags and eskies. The group talked for a little longer until one by one we all drifted off to our tents for a well-deserved sleep.



Josie, Matt, Piero, Rose & Michael
Taking a well earned break

We all arose at about 0800 to the sound of Rob warming up the chainsaw (might be a slight exaggeration) and after breakfast headed off in the Angusvale direction, again removing overhanging vegetation and benching sections of track which had slipped down the hill. It was extremely humid and we were mostly soaked in our own sweat by the time we returned to the Billy Goat bend campsite. We had lunch here after which it started to rain so we had to evacuate more quickly than expected so we packed up our gear and made our way back to the Dargo Glenaladale road and home.

Thanks to Rob for organising a thoroughly enjoyable and satisfying week end.

Walkers: Rose de Leeuw, Piero Baglioni, Robyn Rowley, Becky Horsham, Maureen Russell, Tom Carew, Chris Marshall

The group met at the Jindabyne caravan park at the revised hour of 9:30 am to accommodate 2 walkers who had journeyed from Bombala. On arrival it seemed the place was a hive of activity with our erstwhile leader flocking the lambs. It transpired that Graeme's hand, which he had an operation the previous week, appeared infected and therefore decided to have it treated at the local clinic. The remainder of the party then left in convoy for the entrance to the park where we paid the entry fee, left a car at the end of the second walk and the remainder at the start of the morning walk.

This walk follows Sawpit creek from a bridge on the highway up a slight incline climbing and falling in and out of beautiful gullies until it reaches a small but picturesque waterfall –where the walk takes its name. We crossed sawpit creek and made our way back on the other side of the stream, again climbing in and out of gullies. Rose was leading the group at this stage when she suddenly let out a yelp and back pedalled straight onto Piero's boots. The cause soon became clear as a 2 metre brown snake slithered off the track and into shelter. We followed the track back to the bridge over Sawpit creek and the picnic ground where we had lunch. Robyn decided she would exempt herself from the afternoon walk and drove to the end of the walk where she would spend a couple of hours reading her book and relaxing in the sun.

The remainder shouldered packs and headed off in the opposite direction to the morning, following Sawpit creek down the valley. There are some spectacular views along the way –and if you are quiet and lucky, may startle a lyre bird from the bush onto the track, all feathers aflutter. Unfortunately, this was a treat for a small select few and when the story was related to the others in the group, the looks of scepticism told a story of their own.

The walk eventually descends down some steep stone steps and crosses the creek on a metal bridge, eventually joining the Thredbo river and reaching the Thredbo picnic ground where we found Robyn and enjoyed a rest on her travel rug, whilst others had a swim in the river.

We returned to the Caravan park, to find that Andrew and Lou had arrived and to find that Graeme's hand had been saved by some craftily prescribed antibiotics.

We all shopped for tea and then enjoyed a lovely BBQ tea. In usual Ben Cruachan style, there was enough food to last for 2 nights.

Thanks Chris for a great walk and Anna for organising the accommodation.

MT KOSCIUSZKO

Day 2 REPORT: No Report Submitted
(Photos Only)



Sunrise from the Summit



Group at Junction of Summit & Main Range Track



Lake Albina

GIPPSLAND HERITAGE WALK

DATE: Sat 18th March
LEADER: Jim Stranger
REPORT: Ken Free

Walkers: Dorothy, John, Ken, Jim, Oliver, Wil and Corinne

At 9:30 am on a cloudless warm autumn day, 7 of us gathered in the carpark of the Waratah Restaurant just off the Old Princes Highway at Morwell for a day of walking, history and culture.

The walk commenced at the Gippsland Immigration Park which has as its centerpiece the Gippsland Immigration Wall of Recognition where the names of people who migrated to Australia and settled in Gippsland are listed; it records the country they came from and the year they arrived. Dorothy, John and Oliver were able to point out their entries on the wall and posed for some photographs.



Entrance to Gippsland Heritage Walk

We also took the opportunity to have a group photograph adjacent to 'The Migrant' statue, a 2 metre high bronze sculpture by Melbourne based sculptor William Eicholtz which depicts a newly arrived migrant with all his belongings in a battered suitcase and bulging bag. If you'd like to learn more, go to:

<http://gippslandimmigrationpark.com.au>





Oliver pointing out his migrant heritage

PANFUCCI	Michele	ITALY	18/11/1958
PANFUCCI	Pietro	ITALY	18/11/1958
PAPANIOLOU DEMETRIOS	Leola	GREECE	1957
PASTUSZYN	Michael	UKRAINE	15/07/1949
PASTUSZYN	Maria	UKRAINE	15/07/1949
PICONE COLANTUONO	Maria	ITALY	07/07/1955
PICHOJA	Wladyslaw	POLAND	15/09/1949
PICHOJA	Anna	POLAND	15/09/1949
PISANI	Francis	MALTA	09/03/1950
PISANI	Mary	MALTA	31/05/1951
POLATO	Artida	ITALY	27/06/1955
PRESTIPPO BAIAMONTE	Angela	ITALY	15/06/1951
PRZYBYZ	Laita	PHILIPPINES	07/02/1956
PRZYBYZ	Anna	POLAND	Apr 1950
PRZYBYZ - DYALL	Krzysztof	POLAND	Apr 1950
RACHELE	Erano	ITALY	09/11/1954
RACHELE (MANCHELLA)	Giuseppa (Giuseppa)	ITALY	July 1957
RAPPAL	Michael	YUGOSLAVIA	03/04/1951
RAPPAL	Margolena	YUGOSLAVIA	03/04/1951
RAUSCHORF	Ilse	GERMANY	21/03/1951
RAUSCHORF BROESMAN	Ulrich	GERMANY	21/03/1951
REA	Joseph	N. IRELAND	1965
REA	Michael Elizabeth N.	N. IRELAND	23/12/1951
REA	Robert	N. IRELAND	23/12/1951
REA	Barbara	N. IRELAND	23/12/1951
REFETOWSKI	Andreas	POLAND	04/09/1951
REFETOWSKI	Barbara	POLAND	04/09/1951
REFETOWSKI	Wojtek	POLAND	04/09/1951

(*Acacia mearnsii*) used to create boomerangs and nulla nullas, Spiny-headed Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*) whose leaves were used for basket-weaving and the seeds for bush damper and Kangaroo Apple (*Solanum aviculare*) apparently used as a contraceptive, amongst other things.

We walked along the other side of the creek back to the cars and found that our intended lunch destination, Waratah Restaurant, was closed; plan B was also closed, but our leader had a plan C - the Cafe Qu Bah in Mid Valley which provided us with a scrumptious lunch to round off a most enjoyable and educational walk.

Thank you Jim for a great day.

HIAWATHA WALK

DATE: Wed 5th Apr

LEADER: Jessie Walker

REPORT: Ken Free

WALKERS: Jessie, Dorothy, John, Claire, Judy, Nola, Eric and Ken

We then followed the Gippsland Heritage Walk around Kernot Lake: a series of photographs, timelines and stories showcased at 12 stations, each with 6 panels and a bench where you can rest while you read! The first couple of stations provide an overview of the original occupants of the region, the Gurnai-Kurnai nation with the following stations depicting the development of European settlement in Gippsland. Here's the website: <https://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/3064>.

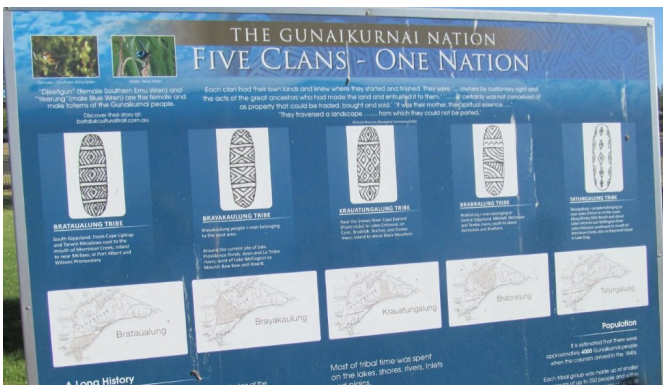
Having almost had our fill of Gippsland history, we then followed the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Trail which heads north under Princes Way following Waterhole Creek. A number of interpretive boards use paintings and text to explain the stories and meanings of the Gunaikurnai cultural heritage. The Gunaikurnai nation is made up of five major clans with different markings, stories and different language groups and its territory includes Gippsland's coastal and inland areas to the outer slopes of the Victorian Alps.

On a sunny autumn day, 7 of us met next to Lake Guthridge in Sale for what would be an enjoyable day of history and culture in the Hiawatha district located in the hills west of Yarram and south-west of Balook.

Our first stop was at the Jack River home of Jessie's brother Eric for a morning tea break and chat about local and family history. Jessie and Eric's ancestral family, the Greenaways, settled in the district of Fairview in 1893. Because there was already a Fairview in the Victorian Western Districts, it was renamed Hiawatha in 1915 by one of the early Fairview settlers who had visited Yosemite National Park and became fascinated by American Indian culture; he also named his property Yosemite.

Jessie and Eric were the ideal tour guides, painting amazing word pictures of early life in this district: clearing heavily treed hillsides by hand, milking 20 cows, travelling to school by horseback and with their neighbours creating a close-knit community of hard working families. We travelled a few kilometres to the Hiawatha district and made ready for the walking part of the day. We climbed the 2 kilometres of dirt road to the old family farm site and took in somewhat hazy views of the coastline from McLoughlin's Beach to Port Welshpool. The steepness of the hillsides triggered the memory banks of Eric and Jessie and we were entertained with stories of herding pigs uphill, walking through the mud and slush in driving rain several miles to school and back, and so on.

A short distance back down the Albert River Road brought us to the Minnehaha Falls, which are not the biggest or most spectacular but are very picturesque, nestled as they are in a lush gully that is home to the Albert River. This was our lunch spot and an ideal location for our group photograph. Across the road from our lunch spot is the now vacant location of the Hiawatha tennis court, cricket ground and community hall. Jessie produced a great collection of photographs from their childhood days including one of her mother planting a tree in front of the hall.



Gunaikurnai Heritage sign

Along Waterhole Creek we witnessed an abundance of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and various other native aquatic plant species. There were patches of mature indigenous vegetation including Black Wattle



Group at Minnehaha Falls

After lunch, with much anticipation we visited the Hiawatha School where Jessie and her siblings attended Primary School #3555 many years ago. The school was built in 1916 and operated until 1975 after which it was purchased by the current owners, Charles and Jeannette, who have painstakingly restored it and converted it for use as a retreat from their other life in suburbia. Charles and Jeannette were the perfect hosts, producing endless pots of tea and apple cake and biscuits while we listened to more history, especially concerning the school building. Charles' and Jeannette's accumulated knowledge of the school building and its surrounds was encyclopaedic and we are indebted to them for their generosity in opening up what is now their house for us to view and for sharing their knowledge of local history.



Jessie (center) and her students!

Our afternoon tea was unceremoniously interrupted by the sound of John's bagpipes echoing off the hillsides: the tune was unmistakable - 'Happy Birthday' to mark the anniversary for a young Dorothy. The birthday cake was an added bonus; clearly, we hadn't eaten enough!



John piping "Happy Birthday"

As if we hadn't had enough history for one day, down the road a piece we stopped to view the now decommissioned and sadly neglected 'A' frame road bridge which apparently is one of the only remaining bridges of this design in the country: a worthy conservation project which, although heritage listed, is crying out for attention - Wellington Shire where are you?

(refer Front Page of Newsletter)

And so, ended a great day filled with fascinating history and short walks up and down hillsides. A huge thankyou to Jessie for organising this fascinating 'bushwalk', to Eric for joining us and adding his memories to Jessie's, to Charles and Jeannette for their generosity and to John for the bagpipes and birthday cake.

SCRUBBY CREEK MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 8th April

LEADER & REPORT: Ken Free

WALKERS: Sue, Tony, Chris, Natalie, David, Di, Heather, John, Eva, Kaye and Ken

On a stunning autumn day with a forecast maximum of 28 degrees, 3 members and 8 visitors met in Lindenow where we filled out the obligatory paperwork, car-pooled and headed off for Scrubby Creek Track where we would commence our short but stunning walk. One of our visitors had travelled from Yarra Glen for this her first walk with the club, another visitor is a keen birdwatcher/expert and was eager to look for signs of owls which have a reputation for inhabiting Scrubby Creek and others were keen to 'try-out' the club on what they anticipated to be an adventurous walk.

We commenced the walk on Scrubby Creek Track, an old logging track which becomes more overgrown towards the end. After some easy bush bashing where we played "spot the pink ribbon" we negotiated a steepish descent through tangled vines and undergrowth to a sandy beach on the banks of the Mitchell River. Here the river is quite picturesque with rocky bluffs and thick undergrowth on the western shore and a mixture of large tranquil pools and rocky rapids: there's something to catch the eye in every direction. We had a short morning tea break punctuated with photo-shoots and simply taking in the sights before heading downstream to the confluence of Scrubby Creek and the Mitchell River.

It was perhaps not surprising to find the creek to be almost bereft of water, given the recent lack of rain. However, the upside was that it made our progress up the creek-bed a lot easier: there were no slips or slides and only a few slightly wet boots. The creek follows a rocky gorge with moss and lichen covered rocks and trees lining the sides; one of the striking features is the overhanging rock with caves and hollows carved by water over possibly millions of years.

Sale Wetlands

DATE: Sat 15th Apr

LEADER: Monica Scicluna

REPORT: Oliver Raymond

Walkers: Wil, Melissa, Bev, Josie, John & Dorothy, Clare, Marian, Trevor, Wendy, Oliver & Carolyn, Ken, Robyn & Monica

15 keen walkers rendezvoused with Monica Scicluna, our leader, at the Swing Bridge on a glorious Autumn morning. New walkers joined us, and Monica presented our new member with a complementary hat from our seemingly inexhaustible supply – we actually found a hat that fitted! Future new members may not be so fortunate. Note the spelling of “complementary”!

Off we went and were soon engrossed in various conversations. We passed a veritable “Gin Palace” (also known as a palatial boat) and various fishing groups (men fishing, women feigning being suitably enthusiastic while sitting patiently and watching).

Soon Monica turned us off the well-marked vehicle track on to the less obvious walking track, which leaves the former before the open duck shooting zone is reached. We failed to hear any shot gun blasts, so presumably the duck hunters were either absent or were lacking targets. We had several enthusiastic and knowledgeable bird watchers among us. They had their binoculars at the ready.



The walkers within a dry Scrubby Creek

Perhaps the most exciting part of the walk was the discovery that a pair of powerful owls were perched at the side of the creek, silently observing our progress. They sat quietly while we overindulged ourselves taking endless photographs and debated the brand of owl, how mature they might be and why on earth they weren't scared of us. John and Eva, our resident owl experts, were able to accurately identify them as powerful owls and we ambled on to our lunch destination.



Ninox strenua

aka: The Powerful Owl

While most of us ate lunch in the tranquil setting of a grassed area with ample shade, John scurried about collecting owl 'pellets' to send off to a laboratory for analysis and gave us a quick lesson on the regurgitation habits of owls - fascinating!

After a good break, we climbed up the last scrubby steep slope, again played "spot the pink ribbon" and emerged on Scrubby Creek Track with just a short walk to the cars.

We finished the day at the Long Paddock Cafe in Lindenow with much conversation about the great day we'd had in the bush.



Participants gathered under a magnificent River Red Gum

A long amble through a delightful Forest Redgum forest, most of which has been planted by enthusiasts, followed. We reached a cattle loading ramp which was declared as our morning tea break.

And then – we found a young Koala up a Red Gum tree. Well spotted, Bev! The darned things are, in popular mythology, supposed to only eat Manna Gum leaves. As there are no Manna Gums within many day's walks, this myth can be sent to the grave yard. Naturally, the bloody thing was almost impossible to photograph, but the number of attempts to immortalise the young animal must have really flattered the teenager!

So, on we went. Over boardwalks financed by John Lesley, whose name appears in small print compared to the politicians who had opened them, and who REALLY had nothing to do with their construction. This annoys me. We saw many water birds, on the water,

roosting in the trees and many who seemed to be engaged in nest building. These were easily identified by our "birdies".



Wil & Melissa enjoying the walk

We arrived back at our cars in time to see an ethnic (ie: non-Australian born) group fishing in the canal. The boy with the rod was miniscule compared to his rod. Inspecting the carpets the women were sitting on, your correspondent claimed them as being Turkish by origin, but hopefully Aussie by adoption, as he is!, at least the adoption part! Great to see many people enjoying the beautiful Swing Bridge, the river and the forest along the banks.

So after the obligatory group photos, we dispersed to our homes.



The obligatory group photo before heading home

Thank you, Monica, for a delightfully relaxed walk.

Tali Karng, The Sentinel & Gable End

DATE: Fri 14th - Mon 17th Apr

LEADER: Joe van Beek

REPORT: Chris Marshall

Walkers: Anna Janca, Andrew Burrows, Chris Marshall, Rebecca Horsham, Maureen Russell, Daryle White, Helmut Tracksdorf & Joe van Beek



Group ready to hit the track

At McFarlane Saddle

After a quick morning tea at McFarlane's Saddle car park the group set off for a lovely walk across the Wellington plains to a base camp just past Nigothorak creek. Being Easter Weekend, we were very fortunate that no one had beaten us to this secluded camping site. A pleasant evening around the campfire ensued.



Basecamp - The perfect campsite

The next morning, Daryle, Joe, Helmut, Maureen and Becky all set off at 9:00am to hike down to lake Tali Karng via Gillios track. On the way down they stopped to inspect the remains of the old burnt out motorbike located next to the track but hidden from view by re-growth after fires. It took 2 hrs to get to the lake from Basecamp with the last kilometre dropping off very steeply down to the lake. After a pleasant lunch beside the lake, Joe, Helmut and Maureen completed a circuit of the lake including a trip to Nigothorak falls leaving the others to relax and enjoy Tali Karng. Another hiker reported seeing a platypus at the waterfall but no sighting was made by our group.



Panorama view of Lake Tali Karng

After spending several hours at the lake, the return trip was made via Echo Point track which leads up on to Riggalls Spur Track. Here they met two hikers who had recently completed 100 km in 48 hrs at a charity walk which made our efforts look like a stroll in the park – Albeit the Alpine NP!



Daryle, Joe, Bec, Maureen & Helmut at Echo Point

The walkers returned to base camp after a strenuous uphill return trip to a lively campfire and a boiling billy compliments of Chris, Andrew and Anna who had spent the day at Basecamp solving the problems of the world and checking out Taylor's Lookout and Millers hut. Cards provided the evening's entertainment around the campfire.

On Easter Sunday we found the elusive Easter bunny had left deposits in our tents. Choccie eggs compliments of Easter bunny Anna. After breakfast, at 9.20 Chris, Joe, Helmut, Maureen, Andrew and Anna left for the Sentinel and Gable End. First stop was Millers hut and it's beautiful setting among some magnificent gum trees. Then onto one of the highlights of the trip, which was rock hopping out to the Sentinel with its spectacular views of the mountains and Lake Tali Karng. Next stop was the Gable End with more special views of the mountains. We arrived back at camp to another well stoked campfire with billy on the boil compliments of Bec who kept the homefires burning. Special thanks to Anna and Andrew for upping the ante on our usual boring camp fare and providing an insight into the gourmet camping experience. What came out of their packs was unbelievable. Prawns, Olives, Artichokes and dips washed down with Port & Sherry, supplied by Daryl & Helmut. It doesn't get much better than this.



Group at Millers Hut



Joe, Maureen & Helmut overlooking Tali Karng from the Sentinel

Easter Monday was a bolt for the vehicles back thru Nymbia campsite and along the Wellington Plains track with a quick reccie to try and locate the end of Spi-on Kopje track.

Thanks to Joe for organising another great trip and dialling up some unreal weather for Easter.

Additional photos of this hike can be viewed at:

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!AjXhAE8srfonXdOv7kHUevb5jP>

BCWC

REPORTS FROM THE PAST

Ben Cruachan to Gog & Magog

Sept 1984

The first two-day walk of the Ben Cruachan Walking club for 1984/85 was held on September 15/16. The walk was in the Ben Cruachan area and seven people participated. A car shuffle was necessary as the walk started at the top of Ben Cruachan and finished at the foot of a spur coming down from Magog.

Early morning views from the top of Ben Cruachan were spectacular, looking out over the mountains to the North and West. After taking in the views, the walk commenced by plunging into the scrub and following a spur running east from Ben Cruachan. This spur also gave the walkers lovely views of the mountains and also there were many wild flowers to be seen, magnificent after the recent rain.

The walk continued on to Little Ben and then down a steep spur, thick with undergrowth, to a small grassed clearing along a creek, which was a perfect camp site. Camp was made early and there was plenty of time for relaxing and chatting around the camp fire.

Next morning, after crossing the creek, the walkers headed up a spur towards a peak called Gog. After a two and a half hour climb, the top was reached and the party relaxed at the top while being able to look out over the flats toward Maffra and Sale, and also back towards the mountains.

After Gog, the next peak to be reached was Magog. Here everyone stopped for lunch, the party headed down a very scrubby spur to the road where the cars had been left, where there was time to relax before picking up the other car at the top of Ben Cruachan. Everyone then headed home after a very enjoyable weekend's walk.

Gappy Medew ~ Walk Leader.

McMillans Lookout

13th February 2000

McMillan Lookout is always a good walk that you come back to again and again. Whether you come around via Burgoyne Gap (haven't done), across from Ben Cruachan (haven't done, but love to do) or as we did on the day, went up from Hickey's Creek via Hickey's Creek Track, you will always see that superb view of Ben Cruachan and just off to the right, a view towards Loch.....um, Lake Glenmaggie.

A change of walk leader to Bob Rumpff (Elaine was off touring somewhere or other), made sure that we did get to the McMillan Lookout, eventually (I did say I hadn't been via Burgoyne Gap didn't I?)

Being a pleasant day, with a light cloud covering, no sign of rain and no 40degree heat that February 2000 was all so famous for (thank God!), stopped on the way up and saw in the distance Mt Useful, with its fire tower playing hide 'n seek in the clouds.

Lunch at the lookout 'twas a bit on the strange side. A skink decided on invading a lunchbox, while Frank Straw be only an arm's length away. I don't know, perhaps the little fella was hungry, or just had too much sun, but he did pose nicely and perhaps a slight smile, as a photo was taken by Frank.

Back down to the cars at Hickey Creek for the usual cuppa and chinfest session, which is always a good way to finish a walk. The ones who followed in the footsteps of those who walked before were Bob Rumpff - substitute walk leader, Norm Williams, Frank Hiscock, Geoff and Marlene Proudfoot, Frank Straw with a mate who's name slipped me mind? and writer who got shanghaied into writing this article.

Andrew McPherson

BCWC - Calendar of Walks & Events

Dates	Description	Grade	Contact	Phone
May 2017				
Sat 6	Angusvale to Jurgenson Pt	Medium	Ken Free	51441195
Sun 7	Kayak – Cunningham arm	Short	Anna Janca	0419 178 445
Wed 10	Club night & Dinner	Guest Speaker	Piero Baglioni	Bairnsdale
Wed 17	Tinamba to Heyfield Rail Trail	Long	Chis Marshall	499780399
Sat 20 – Tue 24	Track Maintenance – Tamboritha Saddle	Various	Joe van Beek	51765302
Wed 24	Nyerimilang	Short	Monica Scicluna	51446713
Sat 27	Mitchell River NP - Hortons Track	Short	Ken Free	51441195
June 2017				
Sat 3	Walhalla – Poverty Point	Medium	Monica Scicluna	51446713
Sat 10 – Mon 12	Mitchelldale Car camp	Medium	Rob Paterson Ken Free	0429950494 51441195
Wed 14	Morwell NP	Short	Monica Scicluna	0439614544
Wed 14	Committee meeting - Maffra			
Sat 17	Tyers Day walk	Short	Oliver Raymond	0411420345
Sat 24	Eagle Point / Paynesville	Medium	Ken Grandy	51551759
July 2017				
Sat 1	Scotts Farm	Medium	Ken Free	51441195
Sat 8	Swan Reach to Tambo River	Medium or Long	Jackie Whiting	0428588547
Wed 12	BCWC AGM & Dinner	Maffra		
Sat 15	Mitchell River NP - Roaring Mag	Short	TBC	
Sat 22	Nowa Nowa	Short	Jackie Whiting	0428588547
Wed 26	Den of Nargun	Short	TBC	
Sun 30	Xmas in July	Sale		



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 193 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - JUNE 2017



Photo: Ken Free

No, these are not members of The Block ready to do a renovation rescue on this interesting ruin from the past, but members and guests who took part on the Hortons Track walk led by Ken Free. After the walk they visited the historic Honey House located in the Mitchell River NP. These ruins are all that remain of what was called the Rising Sun Apiary constructed in 1923. This old ruin was originally constructed from natural stone bonded with clay and pointed with mortar on the exterior. The Club previously visited this site back in May 2016 (refer Issue 187) and remain fascinated with the story that these walls could tell. But if you want to hear the walkers story, turn to page 10.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



Ben Cruachan from Mt Ligar (The Crinoline)

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
~ Walk Reports	5 - 12	TREASURER:	Jack Winterbottom	5143 0903
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~ Walk Previews	13 - 17	NEWSLETTER:	Helmut Tracksdorf	5156 6763 newsbcwc@gmail.com
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		TRACKS & HUTS:	Michael Dowe	5147 3075
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			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 MEETING & SOCIAL NIGHT IS SCHEDULED ON: WED 12TH JULY, 6:00PM
AT THE CRITERION HOTEL IN SALE, FOLLOWED BY THE AGM AT 7:30PM

Welcome to our Newest Members

*Wendy Ammitzboll (Bairnsdale), Kaye Challinor (Bairnsdale), Heather Doolan (Yarra Glen),
 Leisa Cash (Maffra), Natalie & David Hinde (Traralgon)*

Presidential Ramblings

JUNE 2017

We have had some fantastic day and weekend walks in the last couple of months. Thanks to our fearless leaders for organising these walks on our program. We have also managed to complete some major track maintenance work on McMillan's track on Tamboritha Spur near Breakfast Creek and along the Crooked River, thanks to Joe van Beek and his team of volunteers. Check out the Club News for more details.

Also please check the website in case extra walks or activities are put on after the newsletter is sent out.

Just a reminder that our AGM and social night will be held on Wednesday the 12th July at the Criterion Hotel in Sale at 6pm, there will also be a presentation on the Camino Trail. There are positions on the committee that need to be filled so please think about being part of our great team.

The Criterion will also be the venue for our Xmas in July, on Sunday 23rd at 12noon.

Don't forget to RSVP by

Our May social night in Bairnsdale was a great success with approx. 20 members attending. Piero gave a very informative and visual account of their trip on the Bibbulmun Track.

If members are interested in attending the Federation weekend in October at Warburton.

Registration opens in July.

Hope to see you at our club social night on Wednesday 12th July in Sale.

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

Monica Scicluna



***Don't wait up for me, Dear.
I'm going to take a wok on the wild side.***

Club News

BCWC Club Social Night

The next Social Night & Club Dinner is scheduled for **Wednesday 12th July**, at 6:00pm at the Criterion Hotel in Sale. Our guest speaker, Chris Marshall will talk about her experience on the Camino Trail and how to avoid blisters by using preventative taping. So if you are thinking about walking the Camino Trail or any trail for that matter and want to avoid blisters - Be There!

After Chris's talk the Club will hold its AGM

AGM

The AGM of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club will also be held after our Social night on - **Wed 12th July at 7:30pm**.

All current positions will be declared vacant. This presents an opportunity for any member who wishes to play an active role in the running of their club to throw their hat in the ring. We will definitely be looking for candidates to fulfil various positions on the night, so please consider nominating.

A committee meeting be held directly following the AGM with the new Committee members.

Xmas in July



Our Xmas in July annual get together is scheduled for **Sunday 22nd July** in the library room of the Criterion Hotel at Sale.

This presents an excellent opportunity for members to relax and unwind in the pleasant surrounds of Sale. Enjoy Gluhwein beside the cosy fireplace and watch the snow fall outside frosted windows etc. Now that we've set the scene - Please make sure to **RSVP** Monica by **17th July** to register your interest so bookings can be made. Refer Walk Preview on Page 14 for details.

Walk Previews - Format

After discussion at the June meeting it was decided to stick with the standard format for Walk Previews in the Newsletter but with the added bonus of issuing a separate Calendar of Events to assist members plan and co-ordinate their activities on a Quarterly basis.

OAM Peter Jennings

Congratulations to BCWC member: Peter Jennings who has been awarded an Order of Australia medal in the 2017 Queens Birthday honours list, for his service to the community of Gippsland. Peter was nominated on the basis of his experience in a vast array of regional issues across several industries. Peter is a notable figure in the Giffard West and Sale communities and has taken on volunteer tasks, board positions and executive roles over the last 30+ years. Club members simply know Peter as an all round good bloke and avid hiker. Hear! Hear!



Congratulations must also go to Peter's partner & club member Nikki, who has no doubt supported and assisted Peter in obtaining this award, 3 Cheers!

Personal Locator Beacon

At the June Committee meeting a discussion paper re: Emergency Contact System was presented and discussed.

It was agreed that:

- A Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) be carried on all walks (including reconnaissance walks) where there is no mobile phone coverage.
- To ensure ease of access to a PLB, one be provided in each Walk Bag.
- A draft policy and guidelines be prepared for consideration at the next Committee Meeting.

Thanks to those members who provided Feedback.

WALK REPORTS

Mt FEATHERTOP ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 22 - Sun 23 May 2017

LEADER: Michael Dowe

REPORT: Tom Carew

Walkers: Michael, Anna, Chris, Jacki, Heather, Trevor and Tom.

It was a nice sunny morning as the group made their way towards Mt Hotham via Bruthen and Omeo for the 11:00am meeting place at Diamantina Hut, where the overnight walk would start and finish. Upon arrival at Diamantina Hut the weather turned and vision was limited as cloud, fog and light rain blanketed the mountain peaks. The group had a quick lunch, geared up and discussed if wet weather gear was needed as it was not very cold, but very damp. Meanwhile Heather arrived in her well set up and equipped van, after her GPS Navigation system sent her on a round about way to the starting destination. After a quick brief from walk leader Michael the group set off along the Razorback spur track which has steep drops on either side of the treeless ridge. Vision was limited to about 10 meters, so the group kept a eye on each other so no one disappeared.



Hiking through the mist along Razorback Spur

The track travelled at a mostly consistent grade with some short steep climbs and descents in rocky conditions, enough to keep your heart pumping and body warm. It was a impressive effort by some of the walkers in the group to participate after completing the Lake Tali Karng walk the weekend before. Being so high up above sea level the track was very exposed with little vegetation, however there were large areas of burnt and dead snow gums (we think from the 2003 fires) and along with the white mist and low clouds provided a eerie feeling but also some great photo opportunities of silhouettes in a white misty alpine scene. The group walked and talked while Michael kept a healthy pace up front, Trevor took the tail end Charlie role. Besides some of Trevor's banter, he did have some very interesting knowledgeable comments on the alpine flora and fau-

na, some species of plants he identified were able to be eaten, however our own snacks were a much better option. The group continued on and arrived at our overnight camp destination being Federation Hut. This was a great spot with snow gums and alpine scrub providing some shelter. Michael led the group to a great weather protected area behind the hut, where the group quickly claimed their real estate and set up camp, got warm and cooked tea. Thanks to Anna for lending her head torch to me while I cooked tea in the dark after cutting wood for the fire in the hut, (mine broke). Darkness was upon us and the temperature plummeted, so the group decided to hit the hay. However as everyone went to bed, the lure of the party atmosphere in the hut, with the warmth of its roaring fire, card games, yarning with the other hikers and my extra large block of fruit and nut chocolate (which was welcomed by all in the hut), proved to be a great option to attend well into the night.

The next morning provided spectacular weather and while everyone cooked breakfast, talked about how cold they were in the night and took bets on who would be the last person packed up and ready (Tom), there was excitement about the accent to the summit of Mt Feathertop.



Anna & Trevor approaching the summit

The climb was steep, exposed and challenging at times, but after a good effort by everyone the group made it to the summit and was rewarded with 360-degree spectacular views and very little wind. Michael picked a great weekend to summit the mountain!



Group on the summit of Feathertop

After a good amount of time on the exposed peak the group headed back to the track junction where we left our packs, had a quick snack then got going back the way we had come yesterday towards our cars. The only difference this time was that we had views today, thanks to the fine weather. The walk back had some challenging times but the group stuck together and helped each other out, with Chris pushing the group from the tail end Charlie role. Some handy pack adjustments from some of the experienced group members helped others manage their packs weight easier. The weather started to close in just as the group made it safely back to the cars, where everyone was relieved to take their pack off and sit and have lunch in Diamantina Hut and talk about the enjoyable weekend we had just had, before leaving to drive home. The walk was approximately 22km return. Mt Feathertop is 1922meters above sea level and the 2nd highest mountain in Vic. Mt Bogong being the highest!

Thankyou to Michael for organising and leading a great walk and all the participants for making it a great and enjoyable weekend. (P.S. Trevor I still have to give you those batteries back).

DEPTFORD WALK NICHOLSON & SURROUNDS

DATE: Sat 29th Apr 2017

LEADER: Trevor Clues

REPORT: Ken Grandy

Walkers: Trevor Clues, Trevor Whibly, Leisa Cash, Julie and Marion Gullickson, Marian Matchan, Coralie Pandry, Aloechka Delmaine, Wendy and Greg Pinnock, Kaye Challinor, Dorothy and John Hanlon, Julie Cattanach, Tony and Sue Wielgosz and Ken Grandy, with guide John Moreland.

This walk in the historic goldmining area of Deptford on the Nicholson river was led by Trevor Clues with the assistance of local guide John Moreland.

We were very fortunate to have John, who has spent much of his spare time fossicking in this area for gold. He was able to advise us on the history of the area and showed us where the township and some of the old mines were situated. He even took us bush bashing to show us the old cemetery site which obviously hadn't been visited for years. In its heyday, Deptford (situated approximately 34km north of Bairnsdale) boasted a hotel, post office, general store, school, blacksmiths shop, chemist, bakery and a church to cater to around 300 people. Intrepid miners came from all over to seek their fortune mining for gold.

The first part of the walk was upstream on the East side of the river for about half a kilometre to the site of the Tubal Cain mine which can still be accessed for a considerable distance into the side of the hill. There was evidence of bygone activities with the remains of old mining equipment outside the tunnel entrance.

The second part of the walk was the Slaughter Track on the west side of the river (walkers were ferried across the ford in the back of Ken Grandy's ute to keep their feet dry)



Hikers or hitch hikers?

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 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.

The old cemetery is in the bush about 500 meters along the track then an old fireplace which may have been the site of the bakers oven. A little further downstream we came to Houghtens diversion tunnel which was hewn through solid rock to divert the river allowing access to the dry river bed for mining of gold.

After crossing several dry creek beds and meandering through the bush, we arrived at Stantons Place (another river crossing) where we had lunch, during which we were serenaded by piper John.

After retracing our steps to Deptford, we took another short walk upstream, this time on the west side of the river, to the site of the Success mine. This whole area is riddled with old shafts and diggings and is very overgrown.



Group at Tubal Cain Mine

A successful and enjoyable day was had by all, ably led by Trevor and great commentary from John.

ANGUSVALE TO JURGENSON POINT MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 6th May 2017
LEADER: Ken Free
REPORT: Trevor Whibley

Walkers: Wendy, Trevor W, Eva, Marian, Trevor C, Piero, Monica, Joe, Robyn, Chris, Natalie, Leisa, Corinne and Ken

On a glorious autumn morning, an excellent turn out of walkers from the club met at Beverley's Road at 0845 hours. New members were well represented and the club has done some excellent work to attract new members in recent times.

After donning packs and changing a flat tyre (not necessarily in that order) at Angusvale, we commenced the walk south along the Mitchell River Walking Track on the western bank of the river. With Ken out front we maintained a leisurely pace, stopping occasionally to look at plants and wildlife, which in the morning were few and far between. The odd Pied Currawong (*Strepera graculina*), Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, King Parrot (*Alisterus scapularis*) and Crimson Rosella (*Platyercus elegans*) were seen along the way. We all marvelled at the impressive cliff lines and escarpments on the opposite side of the river. Several drink and bodily refuelling stops were made along the way.

After approximately 2½ hours walking we sat and had lunch on a pebbly beach on Jurgenson Point, opposite the confluence of the Mitchell River and Sandy Creek. The weather was perfect and the company of like minded individuals added to the perfect atmosphere. An infestation of Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) was found and a short identification session on this declared weed was undertaken at this time. Several isolated plants were found along the track as well. Also at our lunch stop a lone Kangaroo Apple, a native rainforest loving species was seen growing out of the sandy river bank. This species was most likely *Solanum linearifolium* or *aviculare*.



Walkers at Jurgenson Point

On our return trip, note was made of numerous Kurrajong trees (*Brachychiton populneus*) growing on the rocky hills and many seed pods were in the process of opening. Many more of these trees will be seen on the McKillop's Bridge/Silver Mine trip in the future.

The highlight of the walk was, I believe, a sighting of a White Bellied Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucagaster*) working upstream on the Mitchell River just south of Angusvale. At times, with the sun dropping lower in



Wendy, Trevor and Eva on the track

the sky the vivid flash of its white underwing brought the spectacle to the fore. This was then upstaged by 2 Wedge-tailed Eagles (*Aquila audax*) taking chase, with 1 eagle going into a Peregrine-like stoop to send the Sea Eagle on its way upstream. Hopefully Piero and others got some great photo opportunities.

Apart from a very large healthy-looking wombat (*Vombatus ursinus*) seen grazing on the opposite bank near Angusvale, that pretty much concludes this report on a great day out.

TINAMBA TO HEYFIELD RAIL TRAIL

DATE: Wed 17th May 2017
LEADER & REPORT: Chris Marshall

After a car shuffle, Monica, Joe, Mary, Di, Narelle, Jenny and Chris set out on a pleasantly overcast day to walk along the rail trail from Tinamba to Heyfield. The trail cuts through farms and we were the highlight of the day for many of the cows we encountered along the way. Joe was particularly talented at piquing the interest of various herds. This section of the rail trail is away from the road for most of the walk so the bucolic tranquility can be enjoyed without vehicle noise.

On entering Heyfield we passed the memorial to the timber workers killed while at work in the forests, a beautifully rusted sculpture. Lunch was had in the pavilion at Apex Park. Those only going one way said bye to Di and myself who returned via the rail trail to our vehicles. Thanks to everyone for coming



Group admiring wood sculpture in Apex park



Anna at Breakfast Creek camp

McMILLANS TRACK MAINTENANCE BREAKFAST CK - TAMBORITHA SADDLE

DATE: Sat 20th - Tue 24th May 2017

LEADER: Joe van Beek

REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

Participants: Michael Dowe, Andrew Burrows, Anna Janca, Joe van Beek & Helmut Tracksdorf

As far as Track maintenance goes, this event turned into another adventure in the great outdoors!

Most of the group arrived around Midday except for Andrew who had further to travel than most. Nestled along the Banks of the Wellington River beside a creek called Breakfast was our delightful base camp for the next 3 - 4 days.

After setting up camp and collecting firewood we immediately hit McMillans track heading off towards the Crinoline to do a recce of this well utilised section of track. Beyond Smith Street where McMillans departs from the Crinoline Track, further work needs to be done. But not today as time was limited. Just some trimming with machetes & secateurs on the way up and then back down to base camp. Distance covered 7km.

Andrew had stayed behind to prepare the evenings meal which consisted of Roast Lamb on the spit with baked potatoes, pumpkin with peas, corn and traditional mint sauce and gravy. This now standard hiking meal!! was supplemented with wine. Bacchus would have been proud! We were left wondering what the members who stayed away were eating!

The next day the group set off to walk and recce the section from Dingo Hill Track across Mt Tamboritha and down to Breakfast Creek. While the first half of this track is relatively clear the second half needs work and we dutifully trimmed and marked as we traversed this section, covering a distance of 12km. Michael who had to return to work on Monday departed that evening.

Monday dawned another perfect day and Joe had mooted the idea of having a rest day - whereby instead of track maintenance we would hike from Dingo Hill track out along Long Hill Track, over the Crinoline and then back down to Breakfast Creek. A distance of 22km - in one day! Anna & Andrew took the alternative option and decided to recce McMillans track near Kelly Lane alongside Scrubby Hill. This left Joe and Helmut as the only two hardy (or foolhardy?) members to tackle this challenge.

Filenote: McMillans track over Mt Tamboritha and along Tamboritha Spur is certainly a spectacular section of track, with great views along many sections of the trail. However, Long Hill Track provides an even greater experience with not only similar views but amazing features such as the Rock Shelter and The Crinoline as highlights. BUT a word of caution, Long



Helmut & Joe ready to hit the track!



Joe under the Rock Shelter

Hill track is considerably longer and has a greater degree of difficulty, involving navigation skills and rocky sections that require due care and diligence when being attempted. It is also recommended to approach the Crinoline from the side and not front on as your foolhardy editor did!



Joe on The Crinoline contemplating about 'From Here to Eternity'

After a long day (8hrs) Joe and Helmut finally made it back to camp just as the sun was setting. They were surprised to see that Anna & Andrew had not yet returned to base camp. So it was decided to wait until 7:00pm before the alarm was raised. True to form they arrived shortly before this time having walked further than anticipated and receded more than initially thought. Personally methinks they got lost!!

Tuesday provided another perfect day whereby Joe & Helmut returned to track maintenance by clearing and marking the southern section of McMillans Track from Breakfast Creek up towards Mt Tamboritha. Anna & Andrew returned to Kelly Lane to continue with their recce of McMillans Track towards Dingo Hill Track. Today Joe & Helmut managed to clear and mark approx 3km of track. Andrew & Anna managed to clearly identify the section of McMillans track that bypasses Kelly lane near Higgins yards and hut.

Wednesday was our final day and once again the weather gods were smiling. However Andrew & Anna had to return home leaving Joe & Helmut to revisit the southern section and push further uphill towards Mt Tamboritha. By the end of the day they managed to clear and mark an additional 2km of track. It would be fair to say that the Southern section of McMillans Track from Breakfast Creek towards Mt Tamboritha is now a highway compared to what it was like only 3 days ago. However an additional 3 - 4km of track remains to be marked and cleared beyond where they finished.

Upon returning to base camp we packed up the campsite and Joe returned home. Helmut stayed for another night under the stars. Clearly not wanting the experience to end!

McMILLANS TRACK MAINTENANCE CROOKED RIVER

DATE: Sun 28th - Wed 31st May 2017

LEADER: Joe van Beek

REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

Participants: Joe van Beek & Helmut Tracksdorf

After the Track Maintenance efforts at Breakfast Creek, Joe was determined to return to The Crooked River to complete previous maintenance work done in October and November of 2016.

In October 2016, the track maintenance along the Crooked River was focused on the southern section from Stonewall (Refer BCWC Newsletter Issue 189). During November 2016, a recce and some clearing was done in the northern section at 25 & 30 mile Ck near White Timber Spur. However those efforts were unable to connect with the Stonewall efforts, leaving a section of McMillans Track that basically remained un-negotiable!

This section was the focus of our efforts and the first obstacle was getting in. Initially Jeff Davis Spur was considered as our access route but was considered too much of an unknown (not to be confused with Jeff Spur Track). Hence Joe decided to attack via Bulltown Spur and with his AWD, get us down to Stonewall.

It should be noted that the forecast for this week was RAIN, HAIL and SNOW down to 1200metres so things weren't looking good weatherwise. When we arrived at the top of Bulltown Spur it was clear that a shower of rain had made the track not only slippery but treacherous. We may have been able to drive down BUT there was no way we could have driven back up. It was very steep and very slippery. So after parking the car at the top there was only one way to get down. We donned our boots and packs and hit the slippery track. 1hr later we were at Stonewall at the Junction of the Crooked River and Good Luck Creek. We were certainly going to need a lot of Good Luck during this event.

We had departed Dargo at around 1:00pm so it was already mid to late afternoon by the time we commenced walking along the Crooked River. We were aiming to reach the extent of the October maintenance efforts which were another 1.5 hrs along the track. Due to the steep terrain, level ground is limited so by the time we did reach our goal we needed to find a campsite. Fortunately we found a somewhat flat site next to the River around dusk and immediately went about setting up our tents and collecting



Crooked River campsite

wood. This was to be our home for the next 3 days.

Shortly thereafter it began to rain so we promptly clambered into our tents where we cooked our meals and had an early night.

Monday dawned early as per usual! And the weather gods were smiling on us. It was damp but not cold and blue sky could be seen poking through the clouds.

After Breakfast we donned our maintenance gear and with machetes and marking tape in hand, set off to mark and clear the track.

There is not much to report except that over the next two days we were able to locate, mark and clear the "unnavigable" section of McMillans Track along the Crooked River. On Tuesday we were finally able to connect with the track clearing efforts carried out by DELWP contractors and BCWC members from the White Timber Spur end of the track.



Before and After photos (O denotes marker)

After a full 2.5 days, we were able to congratulate ourselves on the maintenance effort achieved. However it should be noted that a lot of work remains to be done before this section of McMillans Track resembles its former glory. There are sections where fallen trees and thick overgrowth remain to be cleared.

Upon returning to camp on Tuesday night it would be fair to say we were stuffed (or at least I was). But the campsite we had chosen proved to be a great spot with easy access to water and located on a majestic bend of the river. That night around a roaring fire we were as pleased as punch. The weather had held with only light occasional showers and relatively mild temperatures.

Wednesday was another glorious day as we hiked out back towards Stonewall. The only obstacle that remained was Bull Town Spur. We had a quick cuppa at Stonewall and then without further ado hiked back up to the car - which took us 1.5hrs. Not bad for a couple of senior citizens!

Upon driving back to Dargo a short flurry of snow reminded us that we had dodged a bullet wrt the weather forecast predicted for the days we were on the track. Good Luck had certainly prevailed.

Joe will forward a report of the track and our maintenance effort to DELWP in due course.

HORTONS TRACK & HONEY HOUSE VISIT

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 27th May

LEADER: Ken Free

REPORT: Wendy Ammitzball

Walkers: Wendy, Peter, Trevor, Jenny, Marian, Daryle, Andrew, Jack, Vicki, Julie, Coralie, Astrid, Leisa, Ian, Elizabeth, Elsje, Guy and Ken.

An 8.30 start on a beautiful day, the group of 18 members and visitors met at Lindenow and carpoled to drive to the commencement of our days walk.

The drive was a scenic trip where 4WD was required to negotiate the hillocks and holes in the track until we finally stopped at a point just off the ridge which was the start of the walk itself which was of an off-track nature. A quick snack then we set off following our intrepid leader Ken, following a route that had been laid out a few weeks earlier. Due to the weather over the previous few weeks, low lying bushes had grown into shrubs and shrubs had extended upward making following the markers an adventure. With many a good-natured call of 'there's one over there' we proceeded. The walk varied from quite open woodland to slightly more dense undergrowth which caused one visitor in shorts (with very brown legs) to review suitable attire choices for the next walk.

Not a great deal of wild life was observed however Jack, our adventurous 5-year-old, spotted a very interesting fungus which was growing out of the ground. I believe the common name is finger fungus as it had the look of a black necrotic zombie finger. According to my Australian fungi field guide, the growth appears to be *Cordyceps gunnii*. The *Cordyceps* genus being a highly specialized fungi which parasitise insects, usually in the larval stage. We also saw a number of more common fungi with beautiful russet colours and interesting shapes. A small clump of mosquito orchids, *Cyrtostylis robusta* was also spotted. These tiny beautiful orchids with dark aubergine stems and heart shaped leaves where nestled in the damp and it was only by chance that they were seen.

We arrived at our destination which was the top of the escarpment that overlooked the track the group had walked a few weeks previous. The view was magnificent and we were able to lunch on the rocks at the very top.



Time for a group photo at the escarpment

The view was of the river below us and the beautiful bush stretching away into the distance. Lunch was enjoyed by all and we then set off back along a similar route to our vehicles. Again, due to the growth the route was circuitous and we played follow the leader with Marion acting as forward scout and reciting bush poetry much to everyone's amusement.

We retraced our drive back along the tracks with an unscheduled stop to repair a flat tyre in record time. It was now starting to get a bit cool but we still had another short walk to a very interesting and not well-known piece of East Gippsland history.

The Honey House is an old stone building much in need of love and attention that housed, we believe, the process area of the Rising Sun Apiary Co. According to local legend a squatter in the area set up the enterprise in the early 1920's and the Honey House was where he processed the honey. Thick stone walls, a chimney and a raised concrete platform attest to the hope for permanence of this establishment although all that is left now is the remnants that can only be accessed by a well-hidden path in the bush.



The Honey House Foundation Stone

After an interesting discussion regarding the history of the Honey House and a number of group photos, we then returned to our starting point in Lindenow. From there the group made their farewells and disbanded after a very pleasant day enjoying a very unique area of the Mitchell River National Park.

selves in Bushmans to deter the blood sucking leeches we set off from the northern end of town. After a short steep climb we found ourselves walking above the town until we met with the Alpine Walking Track.

For some time we followed the side of the hills then we encountered our first fern lined rocky gully....just a taste....

As we progressed there were patches of dryer forest including a gorgeous stand of grass trees. And a few plants that none of us were able to identify but that we found quite interesting. More and more rocky gullies were found and some lovely grassy spots with the odd tree fern

And then the lovely Thompson was in site along with lunch on the old steel bridge. This is where we made ourselves comfortable with the hope of maybe sighting a platypus (to no avail) and started to enjoy our lunch...

....it was then that Robyn noticed she had a leech or two on her boots....then I too discovered them on mine. After a bit of a check most of us were sure we had none on us and relaxed to enjoy our lunches. Then along comes a younger group of walkers wearing just runners...and totally unaware of the leeches. They were not delighted to find them all over their shoes and pants but fortunately not on their skin...yet

After the younger ones departed we also decided to make our way on. This next leg of our walk I must say was my favourite with lots of dense rainforest and good views down to the river. Trevor clambered over a fallen tree at one point and looked like he would slide straight down into the river!

It was also during this leg I started to think my why does my ankle hurt so.. so I stopped all pulled of the gaiters and my boot to discover a leech enjoying a drink. Luckily Monica was ready to assist with her grinder of salt and he fell straight off me

I may add i was the only one to get a leech on my skin so the Bushmans was a great thing to put on

The end of the walk was back at the station where a few went to get the other car....Weenie served me at the station a lovely older lady who was surprised to hear we weren't talking the train

A fabulous day. Thankyou Monica

POVERTY POINT WALK

WALHALLA

DATE: Sat 4th June

LEADER: Monica Scicluna

REPORT: Coralie Pandey

Walkers: Trevor, Coralie, Joe, Robyn, Di

Walkers met at Tyers kindergarten on the fine but chilly morning and set off for Walhalla after formalities were complete. The drive up was gently winding and the town welcomed us with its charm and beauty. One vehicle was left at the Walhalla station and then we moved on to our walk start. Coating our-

TYERS HINTERLAND WALK

DATE: Sat 17th June

LEADER: Oliver Raymond

REPORT: Monica Scicluna

Walkers - Ken, Elizabeth, Kevin, Joe, Joe Van Beek, Denise, Leisa

Visitors Jo and Allan Hugging

We arrived at Tyers kindergarten at 9am, after the formalities we drove to the Tyers walking track.

We meandered along the paddock, on the way we had great views of the Latrobe Valley. Walking past olive orchard, then through pine plantations, wattle & blue gum.



Room with a view of The Valley



Group photo on the track

On returning to our cars we went to the Tyers rotunda for a barbecue lunch.

We all had a fantastic day in the sun with great company, thank you Oliver for a very special day.

Mt KOSCIUSZKO

Day 2 Report

NB: this report was submitted too late for inclusion into the June 2017 Newsletter

DATE: Sun 12th March

LEADER: Andrew Stevenson

REPORT: Graham Pilkington

We left our cabins in Jindabyne at 2.30 am and parked at Charlotte Pass. It is named after Charlotte Adams who was the first European woman to climb Kosciusko in 1881. She wore petticoats, chemise, drawers, a corset, crinolines, a bustle, corset covers, combination garments, a jupon, undercoat, a dress, hat and jacket and of course, sensible shoes, totalling 25 layers. By

coincidence, this was exactly the same number of layers worn by Maureen at the start of our walk.

It was crisply cool with little wind, and we made good progress on a firm wide track, and as Anna had arranged for a full moon, head torches were not really needed. We crossed over the iconic Snowy River near its head and as we ascended it got colder. The moonlight and Italian blood in Piero saw him holding hands with Rose for much of the way. It was only later that I learnt they had both left their gloves in the cabin.

We reached Seaman's Hut after 6km and sat in almost complete darkness for a rest and to get out of the wind. An information board told the story of how young Laurie Seaman died in a blizzard in 1928 and his parents built the granite stone hut in his memory. A reminder, if needed, that this alpine environment has to be respected.

As everything had gone smoothly, for the first time in the club's history, we were ahead of time on a walk. We reached what must be the highest public toilet in Australia and sat down on the concrete floor to eat our pemmican and wait for the final climb to the summit. There were seats available but they were short stay only.

With Lou's help, Andrew bravely led us off despite being quite ill (no, it wasn't altitude sickness) and we summited as the awesome (in the true sense of the word) sunrise blasted through the pre-dawn light. We were the only people up there.

At 2228 metres, and it is even higher in feet, it does attract the wind, and the normally unflappable Chris had her jacket and trousers flapping wildly as she photographed the occasion clinging to the cairn. Nevertheless, Becky decided to have a sleep at the top and followed it up later with another rest in the middle of the track on the way down.

In 1840, Count Pawel Edmund Strzelecki named it after a Polish hero and later went off to wander around Gippsland. We reluctantly departed and set off along the Main Range path for the remainder of our 23km circular walk, passing a few tents at Wilkinson's Creek campsite.

Robyn took some great shots at the very photogenic Lake Albina, and there was a shower of rain, causing Tom to pull out his transparent rain jacket which seemed to have been made out of a drycleaner's cover. Later on, Tom became the first man to do this circular walk carrying his Akubra all the way. If he had put it on, it would soon have been in Canberra.

We had a look at the Blue Lake, a basin carved out by glaciers a long long time ago, and crossed one bubbling stream on stepping stones and then the Snowy, before a steep climb back to Charlotte's Pass at about 2pm. We watched disdainfully as groups of ill equipped walkers were only just setting off.

It was an experience that will not be forgotten and thanks to Anna who organised it and Andrew and Chris who led the weekend walks

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		

EAGLE POINT - PAYNESVILLE CIRCUIT EAST GIPPSLAND

DATE: Sat 24th June
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: 5 - 6km
MEET: Howitt Park, Bairnsdale 9:00am
LEADERS: Ken Grandy - 0419 585 404
EMAIL: kgrandy@dodo.com.au

From Howitt Park we will travel to Eagle Point foreshore, a 10 minute drive. Here we will do a circuit walk around the Eagle Point bluff area including a diversion to the bluff lookout. Morning tea at Eagle Point foreshore. Then back in the cars with another 10 min drive to Paynesville. Second walk starts along Newlands Arm foreshore following the shoreline past housing along the foreshore and jetties to grassland and bush. Lunch at the far end (just short of Jones Rd) overlooking the Arm. Then return to carpark.

lunch. There is much to explore here with old farm buildings, a remnant orchard and a number of non-indigenous trees, notably elms and radiata pine, probably planted when the sight was first cleared for farming. After lunch we will continue to follow the river downstream to Bull Point where we will pick up an old vehicle track and follow it steadily uphill back to our vehicles. There are a few steep pinches towards the end of the walk, but the spectacular views over the river valley make it all worthwhile.



MITCHELLDALE RIVER WALK MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 1st July
GRADE: M - 6 - 4
DISTANCE: 15km
MEET: Stratford @ 7:30am or alt
 Cnr Beverleys Rd & Dargo Rd @ 8:00am
LEADER: Ken Free 5144 1195
EMAIL: kenfree@iprimus.com.au

This loop walk is in the Mitchelldale area at the northern end of the Mitchell River National Park. The walk will start at the Angusvale access road high on the ridge which overlooks the Angusvale camping area and the Mitchell River valley. We will follow an old farm road downhill before heading upstream towards Smith Point and then dropping down to the Mitchell River at which point we will walk downstream along the river to Scott's farmhouse where we will break for

SWAN REACH BRIDGE TO MOUTH OF TAMBO RIVER SWAN REACH

DATE: Sat 8th July
GRADE: Two options available
L - 3 - 3 (20km)
M - 3 - 3 (9km)
MEET: Swan Reach Jetty @ 10:00am
LEADER: Jackie Whiting 0428 588 547
EMAIL: whitingj53@gmail.com

Walking from Swan Reach Jetty beside the Tambo river and through paddocks beside the river to the Jetty and boat ramp at Johnsonville. Then following a quiet track to the mouth of the Tambo river for a leisurely lunch and return along the same track. This walk can be shortened by people joining the hike at Johnsonville making the distance 9 kms return.

**ROARING MAG FALLS
MITCHELL RIVER NP**

**XMAS IN JULY
CRITERION HOTEL - SALE**

DATE: Sat 15th July
GRADE: M - 6 - 5
DISTANCE: 7 - 8km
MEET: Memorial Park Stratford @ 7:45am or alt.
Lindenow Hall carpark @ 8:45 am
LEADER: Heather Alexander 0414 917 830
EMAIL: heather.alexander1@gmail.com

A popular walk 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 and wet stone traversing 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. This is a great walk and we will spend time soaking up the view across to the falls at morning tea and from the falls across the river valley during lunch. Walking poles (for those who use in wet and steep terrain) and solid hiking boots are recommended for the descent into the head of the falls as it may be a little damp underfoot.

**NOWA NOWA TRESTLE BRIDGE
LAKES ENTRANCE & SURROUNDS**

DATE: Sat 22nd July
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: 6.5km
MEET: Trestle Bridge Stony Creek @ 10:00am
LEADER: Jackie Whiting 0428 588 547
EMAIL: whitingj53@gmail.com

This walk starts at the trestle bridge which is an easy drive 3kms off Princes H'way. Walk starts at the impressive wooden bridge built in the early 1900's and takes you along the rail trail to Cossicks weir and returning along the Old Colquhoun road through lovely stands of native banksias and eucalypts. After a rest and snack we can drive into Nowa Nowa to the native wetlands for optional short walk 1.5kms and lunch beside wetlands and watch the fish jump and local bird-life.

DATE: Sun 23rd July
GRADE: Deliciously Easy
MEET: Criterion Hotel, Sale @ 12:00 noon
York Street, Sale
RSVP: Monday 17th July
LEADER: Monica Scicluna
CONTACT No: 0439 614 544
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

We will be enjoying our Xmas in July get together in the library room of the Criterion. Come and enjoy lunch with our members. This is where we can relax and exchange tall tales and other hiking stories, whilst sipping Gluhwein beside the cosy fireplace and watch the snow fall outside frosted windows etc. Now that we've set the scene - Please make sure to register your attendance by the due date so bookings can be made.

**DEN OF NARGUN
MITCHELL RIVER NP**

DATE: Wed 26th July
GRADE: S - 4 - 2
MEET: Stratford Park @ 9:00am or alt.
Beverleys Rd @ 9:30 am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna 0439 614 544
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

This walk features the Bluff lookout with views of the Mitchell River Gorge. Deep green pockets of warm temperate rainforest and Woolshed Creek. This is a very significant Aboriginal site, this walk is part of the Bataluk Cultural Trail and cultural to the Gunaikurnai people especially the women

**MITCHELL RIVER - OLD WEIR SITE
MITCHELL RIVER NP**

DATE: Sat 5th August
GRADE: M - 6 - 3
DISTANCE: ~14km
MEET: Stratford @ 8:00am or alt.
Beverleys Rd @ 8:45 am
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 7 kilometres to the site of the ill-fated weir which was constructed in

the 1890'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.

AVON RIVER TRAIL - THE CHANNELS

MT HEDRICK SCENIC RESERVE

DATE: Fri 11th - August
GRADE: M - 5 - 5
DISTANCE: ~9km
MEET: Macalister River Park, Maffra @ 9:30am
LEADER: Geoff Mattingley 5156 8162
EMAIL: geoffmatt@aussiebroadband.com.au

This walk is in the Avon-Mt Hedrick Scenic reserve, and takes us to a part of the Avon River that is very different from what we are familiar with at Stratford. Here, the river has cut through a section of sandstone, forming a narrow mini-gorge. The first 400m of the foot track alongside the Channel is rocky, with good views into the deep pools. From there the track is easier walking as it follows the river but higher up, giving some good scenic views. After lunch we follow gravel roads away from the river, then return to the foot track alongside the river to make the loop.

KANGAROO SWAMP RESERVE

MULLUNGUNG STATE FOREST

DATE: Wed 16th August
GRADE: M - 2 - 3
DISTANCE: 11km
MEET: Giffard West Hall
Sth Gippsland Hwy @ 9:00am
LEADER: Nicki Jennings 0429 464 212
EMAIL: pnjennings@gmail.com

Meeting at the Giffard West Hall, we will make the short drive along forestry roads to the start of the walk. We will walk along a narrow bush track through eucalypt forest and wattles for 2.5km before joining up with a forestry road along the side of the 70ha sedge wetland which is the largest of its type in central Gippsland. We will walk around the wetland before stopping for lunch at a good access point where panoramic views of the large swamp are possible. We then walk the remaining 3km back to the vehicles. Bring water, lunch and snacks. Wear comfortable, solid shoes as the track is at times uneven. If you wish to join us at the conclusion of the walk, there will be tea, coffee and slices available back at the Giffard

West Hall for a gold coin donation. Kangaroo Swamp is a beautiful and ecologically significant wetland in the centre of Mullungdung Forest. It is largely undisturbed and remote, providing habitat to a wide range of flora and fauna.

MISSISSIPPI CREEK

COLQUHOUN REGIONAL FOREST

DATE: Sat 19th August
GRADE: M - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: 14km
MEET: Forestec on Princess Highway @ 9:30 am
LEADER: Jackie Whiting 0428 588 547
EMAIL: whitingj53@gmail.com

This walk follows the pretty Mississippi creek from Log Crossing along the old tram line to the Quarry where the stone was mined for the rock wall at Lakes Entrance, we will stop for lunch here before our return .

MELBOURNE - CITY WALK

DATE: Sat 26th & Sun 27th August
GRADE: M - 1 - 1 & L - 3 - 1
DISTANCE: Sat: 10 - 12km
Sun: ~16km
MEET: Sat: Starbucks, Sth Cross Station @ 11:30am
Sun: Info Centre Fed Square @ 9:00am
LEADERS: Chris Marshall / Graham Pilkington
CONTACT No: 0499 780 399
EMAIL: chr_252@hotmail.com

Saturday: After meeting outside Starbucks on the pedestrian bridge the northern end of Southern Cross Station. We will walk to Docklands, then cross over to Yarra Edge and continue parallel to the river at Fisherman's Bend and under the West Gate bridge, through the West Gate park and around the pink lake (although the algae blooms only in summer), along Webs Point to the new lookout, and then follow the beach path to Station Pier and back to the city on the tram along the first rail line in Melbourne.

Sunday: After meeting near the information centre at Fed Square we will follow the Yarra eastwards through Birrarung Marr, past the sporting precinct with views of the Botanic Gardens, Herring Island, the Burnley Gardens Bend, northwards through Richmond and Hawthorn to the Abbotsford Convent for coffee or meditation (and an exit for those wanting a shorter walk), and on to Studley Park and Yarra Bend. Then the train back to the city.

NB: Check out the Full details of this walk via:

http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC_Content/Walk_Previews/MELBOURNE_WALK_20170826.pdf

**WINGAN INLET - GALE HILL
CROAJINGOLONG NP**

**DATE: Fri 1st Sept travel only
Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd September**

GRADE: X - 7 - 8

DISTANCE: 23km

**MEET: Howitt Park, Lucknow, Princes Hwy,
Bairnsdale . Time TBA**

LEADER: Anna Janca 0419 178 445

EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

Wingan Inlet is located within Croajingolong National Park about 47km southeast of Cann River. On this walk you may be lulled into a false sense of easy walking for the first 3 hrs along the 4WD Gale Hill Track through coastal forest, appreciating the changes in vegetation with the change from former sand dunes to rocky soil, we arrive at a gully and with a wet season, a small running stream leaching red from the sand. Following the gully we reach a small fresh water lake nestled amongst a forest covered sand dune. A short walk along an old board walk will take us to the coast. We then travel east, first along the sandy beach, then clamber over the rocks and boulders of Petrel Point, stopping for a breather and enjoying the views west to Point Hicks and its lighthouse plus the Thurra River dunes, inspecting shipwreck relics and a whale carcass washed up on shore, and a much needed lunch stop along the way. After a couple of hours of boulder and rock hopping we finally leaving the rocks behind and continue along the beach to Petrel Point Track. Then follow a narrow and at times overgrown track inland across Rame Head to Fly Cove. After a rest stop, we continue along the ocean beach to where we cross the sand dune back into Wingan Inlet and the camping ground. Please note, there is no drinking water accessible on this walk.

Sunday we will do a shorter walk in the morning before commencing the drive home.

Drop toilets, fire pits and bench tables are available at this camp ground. Fees apply and will be advised. Sturdy walking boots with good grip are essential as there will be a lot of rock and boulder hopping.

NB: The walk leader will be unavailable for contact from 4 to 25 August, so please register and contact her early if you have questions.

**THE SISTERS - SOUTH PEAK WALK
MT ALFRED STATE PARK**

DATE: Sat 9th September

GRADE: S - 7 - 8

DISTANCE: 8km

**MEET: Stratford @ 7:00am or alt.
Lindenow @ 7:45 am**

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 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 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 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. Walkers should carry at least 1.5 to 2 litres of water

**HOLEY PLAINS WALK
STATE PARK**

DATE: Wed 13th September

GRADE: S - 2 - 2

DISTANCE: 6 - 8kms

MEET: Rosedale @ 9:00am

LEADER: TBA

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.

**BUCHAN
BUCHAN CAVES RESERVE**

DATE: Sat 16th September

GRADE: S - 3 - 3

DISTANCE: 6 - 8kms

**MEET: Rosedale @ 8:00am or
Nowa Nowa at 9:30 am**

LEADER: TBA

Buchan Caves Reserve is located 60 mins from Bairnsdale via Bruthen or 45 mins from Lakes Entrance via Nowa Nowa. The Reserve boasts an impressive system of walking tracks, plus it's a refuge for wildlife with over 100 species of birds recorded, including King Parrots, White Winged Choughs and Currawongs. Kangaroos are plentiful throughout the reserve.

Further details in our August newsletter

**WIRILDA TRACK
MOONDARRA & TYERS**

DATE: Sat 23rd September
GRADE: L - 6 - 6
DISTANCE: 15km or 24km option
MEET: Wirilda Environmental Park @ 9:00am
LEADER: Joe van Beek 51765302
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

The Wirilda Track is Latrobe Valley's best kept secret. The walk is conducted annually in conjunction with the Stzelecki 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.

dick River and explore near camp, the Snowy at McKillop Bridge and the nearby Nature Trail. Saturday we will walk the Silver Mine Track, with Sunday, after a leisurely morning, drive home, stopping for short walks to view Wulgulmerang Creek Falls, and Little River Falls and the breathtaking gorge. There are no facilities at the planned camp, but water will be available from the river and fires may be lit at the time of year. This walk is in the Alpine National Park, so you should be prepared for changeable and cold weather.



**MCKILLOPS BRIDGE - SILVERMINE TRACK
SNOWY RIVER NP**

DATE: Fri 29th Sept - Sun 1st Oct
GRADE: L - 7 - 7 plus various short walks
DISTANCE: ~17km
MEET: Howitt Park at Lucknow, Princes Hwy, Bairnsdale @ 9:00am
LEADER: Anna Janca 0419 178 445
EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

The Silver Mine Track links fire access and other minor tracks, including a section of the bank of the Snowy River. The path is broad, well graded and carefully benched where it sidles steep hillsides. It has steep ascents (308m over 5.4km and 200m over 2km) and similar descents. The track passes through extensive stands of native White Cypress-pine, a distinctive botanical feature of this section of the Snowy River National Park. The broad ridge separating the Deddick and Snowy River valleys provides spectacular views of the rivers and surrounding mountains: the Pilot and Mt Cobberas to the northwest; Mt Tingaringy on the state border is the big plateau to the east; and nearby massive Mt Bulla Bulla and the triple topped Mt Deddick. Lunch on the river bank and explore relics from early 1900s silver mining operations adjacent to the Snowy River, including adits, shafts, mullock heaps and tracks. We will travel to McKillop Bridge on Friday morning, set up camp and lunch on the beautiful Ded-

WEBSITE PREVIEWS

NB: More information may be 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.

Contact the leader of a walk either directly or by selecting their email address at the bottom of each preview.



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 194 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC - AUGUST 2017



Keen and enthusiastic walkers rest up after the Den of Nargun walk. See page

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



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www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com

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~ President's Report 3 ~ Club News 4 ~ Walk Reports 5 ~ Walk Previews 8	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2017/18</u></p> <p>PRESIDENT: Joe van Beek 5176 5302 jo.com</p> <p>VICE PRES: vacant</p> <p>SECRETARY: Heather Alexander 5149 7048 secbcwc@gmail.com</p> <p>TREASURER: Robyn Rowley</p> <p>PUBLICITY: Piero Baglioni 5156 7034 publicitybcwc@gmail.com</p> <p>NEWSLETTER: Helmut Tracksdorf 5156 6763 newsbcwc@gmail.com</p> <p>WALKS CO-ORDINATOR: Anna Janca walkbcwc@gmail.com</p> <p>TRACKS & HUTS: Michael Dowe 5147 3075</p> <p>ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</p> <p>Piero Baglioni Chris Marshall 0499 780 399 Monica Scicluna Narelle Warren Trevor Whibley Jack Winterbottom</p>

CLUB MEETINGS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH
NEXT MEETING: WED 11 OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.30PM
AT THE BAIRNSDALE CLUB, 68 NICHOLSON STREET, BAIRNSDALE

Welcome to our Newest Members

Peter Ammitzboll [Bairnsdale], Ken Fisher [Wimbledon Heights, Allan and Jo Huggins [Tyers]

Presidential Ramblings

I am honoured to be elected as your president for the coming year. I look forward to working with the newly elected committee to the benefit of the club and meeting you on a walk or at another club activity.

First of all, thanks to Monica for her term and sterling job as president for the last two years and thanks to the outgoing committee for their dedication and hard work. Best wishes to those standing down from the committee; Marian Matchan, Will Streckfuss, Trish Marsden and Graham Pilkington. Thank you for your service on the committee.

Congratulations and welcome to all those elected to the committee for 2017/18. A special welcome to the new members on the committee; Robyn Rowley who has stepped directly into the role of treasurer, Trevor Whibley and Narelle Warren.

Secondly, I would like to make particular tribute to all those who lead walks. Without walk leaders we have no walks, without walks we don't have a walking club. Keep up the good work.

My aims for 2017/2018 are:

- It goes without saying - effective leadership of the committee.
- A great year of bushwalking - a wide variety of walks/events to cater to a wide range of people.
- Maintain our standing in the community
- Foster external relationships with:
 - ♣ Land Managers - track maintenance
 - ♣ Other bushwalking clubs - receptacle arrangements to add value to our members
 - ♣ Others involved in the bush e.g. 4WD clubs and VHCHA who have similar objectives.
- Exploit our uniqueness - I'm not quite sure what and how but we are in a fairly unique position in that we live and walk in arguably the best walking country in Victoria and we have a large backyard with no competing clubs in it. We are spoilt for choice.
- Build on the good work that Andrew Stephenson and Monica Scicluna and their committees have been doing. To ensure the club acts to protect the values for which it has become to be known:
 - ♣ Openness - full disclosure but with respect to personal privacy
 - ♣ Friendly - welcoming and catering for diversity
 - being inclusive and tolerant
 - being respectful of others
 - working harmoniously
 - being easy to deal with

Joe van Beek

Club News

AGM

The AGM of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club was held on **Wed 12th July**. **A good-sized throng attended and an excellent meal off the menu was provided by the Criterion staff.** Joe van Beek was elected President [congratulations Joe] with Heather Alexander and Robyn Rowley elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Narelle Warren and Trevor Whibley are welcomed on to the committee. Chris Marshall gave us great advice on blister prevention and treatment and an illustrated talk on her

Personal Locator Beacon

At the June Committee meeting, it was agreed that an extra PLB be purchased, hence one for each walks bag. And it has been as it now in a bag.

- A Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) to be carried on all walks (including reconnaissance walks) where there is no mobile phone coverage.

McMillan Track Walk

End to End – November this year

Check out the pre-preview in the Walks Preview section; page 11.

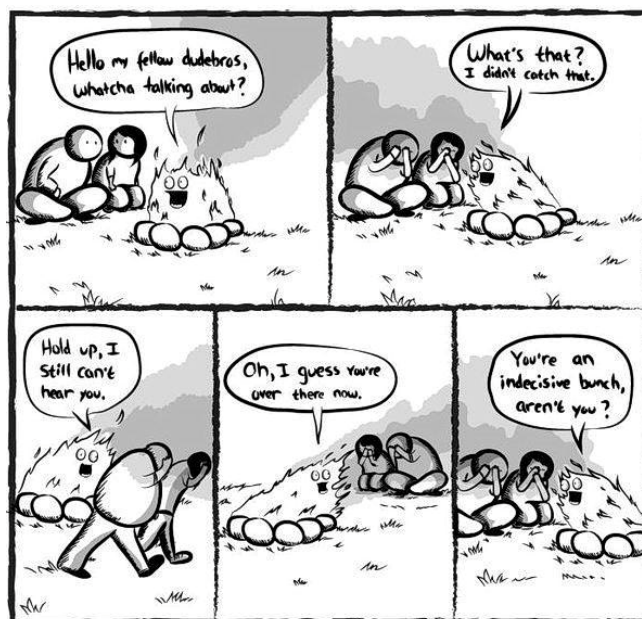
Federation Weekend

The Walks Weekend for the Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs [now called Bushwalking Victoria] is on Sat/Sun 28/29 October in the Warburton area. As is the norm these days, there is an app for that. "More to Explore" available in your Apple or Android store.

The web site is www.fedwalks.org.au which gives ALL the details.

Navigation Training

Joe van Beek has put together a top weekend located at Glenmaggie for navigation training for everyone of all abilities and experience. It will be a comprehensive weekend of all things navigational. See page 9 for details.



The Oatmeal <http://theoatmeal.com>

WALK REPORTS

Horton's Track and Honey House

Mitchell River NP

DATE: Sat 27th May

LEADER: Ken Free

REPORT: Wendy Ammitzboll

Walkers: Wendy, Peter, Trevor, Jenny, Marian, Daryle, Andrew, Jack, Vicki, Julie, Coralie, Astrid, Leisa, Ian, Elizabeth, Elsje, Guy and Ken.

After an 8.30 start on a beautiful day, the group of 18 members and visitors met after a very pleasant day enjoying a unique area of the Mitchell River National Park.

Poverty Point, Walhalla

DATE: Sat 4th June

LEADER: Monica Scicluna

REPORT: Coralie Pandey

Walkers: Trevor, Coralie, Joe, Robyn, Di

Walkers met at Tyers kindergarten on the fine but chilly morning and set off for Walhalla after formalities were complete. The drive up was gently winding and the town welcomed us with its charm and beauty. One vehicle was left at the Walhalla station and then we moved on to our walk start. Coating ourselves in Bushmans to deter the blood sucking leeches we set off from the northern end of town. After a short steep climb we found ourselves walking above the town until we met with the Alpine Walking Trackn't talking the train
A fabulous day. Thankyou Monica

Tyers Hinterland

DATE: Sat 17th June

LEADER: Oliver Raymond

REPORT: Monica Scicluna

Walkers - Ken, Elizabeth, Kevin, Joe, Joe Van Beek, Denise, Leisa

Visitors Jo and Allan Hugging

We arrived at Tyers kindergarten at 9am, after the formalities we drove to the Tyers walking track.

We meandered along the paddock, on the way we had great views of the Latrobe Valley. Walking past olive orchard, then through pine plantations, wattle & blue gum.

On returning to our cars we went to the Tyers rotunda for a barbecue lunch.

We all had a fantastic day in the sun with great company, thank you Oliver for a very special day.

Eagle Point and Paynesville Circuit

DATE: Sat 24 June

LEADER: Ken Grandy

REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

Walkers: Marian Matchan, Wendy & Peter Ammitzboll, Narelle Warren, Helmut Tracksdorf & Ken Grandy

Five members and one visitor turned up on a glorious morning at the foreshore of Eagle Point to explore and complete a circuit of the Eagle Point Reserve, taking in the well-known Bluff. Thereafter the group drove around to Sunset Cove near Paynesville to walk along the foreshore towards Newlands Arm via Jones Road.

In a nutshell, this walk was a stroll in the park, but one with an added historical perspective. Within the Eagle Point Reserve there are remnants of aboriginal heritage with several scar trees evident. Using his local knowledge, Helmut was able to show us a classic scar (canoe) tree off the main track not seen by most visitors. It's a great example of the areas indigenous past. It's also a reminder of the scars of early white settlement. Further along within the reserve we stopped to inspect a natural salt pan, one of many that dot the region. During winter this is usually full of water. But not today!

Leaving the bushy reserve, we cross the Silt Jetties Road and proceed up towards Eagle Point Bluff which overlooks the Mitchell River and gives an unparalleled vista of the East Gippsland low country and the surrounding lakes. On a clear day, you can see Gable End and snow on Mt Wellington. But not today!

It is interesting to note that some of the water flowing below us in the Mitchell River started its journey in the Crooked River, which flows into the Wongungarra, the Wonnangatta and then the Mitchell, entering the Gippsland lakes at this very location: Eagle Point. From this bluff you can also see Ben Cruachan. But not today!

We then did a quick circuit along the bluff and returned to the reserve stopping to inspect the bat house installed to shelter and house microbats that inhabit the region. There are many varieties to be seen. But not today!

Upon returning to our cars we had a pleasant morning tea before continuing to Paynesville a short 5 minute drive away. We parked at Sunset Cove which is a great spot for a swim. But not today!

The walk along the foreshore offers great views towards Newlands Arm located on the opposite side of the bay. The path follows the foreshore for some distance before rising up the escarpment through dry

sclerophyll forest. Here there were a multitude of birds from wrens to finches and even the obligatory Kookaburra. With the sun shining brightly there was a good chance we might spot a snake. But not today!

We soon reach Jones Road which meant we were leaving the bush and birds behind. After strolling along Jones Road for 15 minutes we decided to turn around and return to the bush for a spot of lunch. We found a great spot using a fallen tree as a seat beside numerous beehives. Bees can sting. But not today!

After lunch we skirted the forest along farmland and returned to the path along the foreshore. Here there are numerous jetty's with luxury yachts anchored offshore. It would have been great to hop onboard and sail away. But not today!

Maybe next time?

Tambo River and Swan Reach

DATE: Sat 08 July

LEADER: Jackie Whiting

REPORT: Peter Ammitzboll

Walkers: Jackie, Shirley (visitor), Noel, Marian, Monica, Joe, Ken, Natalie, David, Narelle, Leisa, Jeannie (visitor), Wendy, Peter, Astrid, Daryle, Anna, Robyn, Peter, Di, Julie, Bridgette, Jenny (visitor), Trevor.

After the usual cool start to the days we have been experiencing in East Gippsland lately the beautiful Riviera did not let us down with a pearler of a day unfolding before us. Fortunately the walk was not to start until 10.00am which gave the ground plenty of time to thaw out even though we did not manage the minus 5 that we had the previous weekend it was still cool enough around breakfast time. A shower overnight meant a bit of cloud cover kept the morning a shade warmer. A good crew of 23 showed up for the walk which was to be flat and easy but a bit lengthy, well for my novice legs anyway!

We set out from the Swan Reach bridge over the Tambo on the western side and followed the river very closely for the duration of the walk. The wheel tracks along the fence line next to the river took me back several decades when I use to relentlessly chase the elusive black bream with my father as a teenager. The terrain was flat and even with no breeze and lashings of glorious winter sunshine. Besides the numerous farm gates that we opened and closed there was little in the way of obstacles other than the fisher-peoples' cars that were occasionally using the track.

There was the usual seabird life to admire along the way with the huge pelicans standing sentry on the river banks and the forever watchful silver gulls and terns regularly positioned along the river with the occasional shag diving down for a feed. Fish seemed to be somewhat of a rarity, though there were many trying their hand at pulling in one or two. But evidently there was one good bream seen landed by Ken, but no photos, just another fishing tale. I think

by now it is probably a sailfish of 200kilos plus, or the like, that was landed as the story goes on.

Morning tea was at the Johnsonville boat ramp where we were joined by Trevor and we watched many large expensive boats navigating the river and risking marital relationships as they berthed at the jetty. That was about halfway to the mouth so onward for another 5kms or so before lunch.

There had been much work carried out along the riverbanks with the removal of willows and planting of various indigenous species. There was an established plantation of river red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) which Ken has provided a photo of which I failed to notice as we were quite strung out along the river and Ken was our Tail End Charlie. Considering the amount of use the area has had over many years it has been kept in good condition, thanks to various groups allowing many more generations to enjoy our natural attributes. There was one family we walked past with waving kids that proudly exclaimed that they were collecting firewood for their camp fire that dad was about to light.

The river mouth was picturesque and relaxing with six inch spongy grasses along the bank, crystal clear water, warm sunshine and the water like a mirror "No good if you're in a yacht", exclaimed Jackie! As we laid on the banks after lunch Jackie gave us a little bit of a local geography lesson as to the direction of various landmarks. From where we were we could see the northern end of Raymond Island, townships of Paynesville and Eagle Point, and Tambo bay to our right. When observed on a map it is interesting to see just how close our three major rivers up here enter the Lakes system to each other. They all have a maze of navigational poles to guide the watercraft safely into their mouths. Fortunately while we were lazing around the mouth I was lucky to spot a pod of dolphins breaking the glassy waters off in the distance. This added to our trip to the tip.

The walk back was pleasant with some keen healthy looking steers keeping a watchful eye on us as we traversed their back yards. Following the river the same way as before there were more people out fishing and a bit more traffic to be wary of but everyone was courteous and was probably wondering what the hell are all these people up to. In fact at the jetty at Johnsonville one boat owner exclaimed that we looked similar to some people he had seen at the bridge earlier. When we explained we were one of the same he just shook his head in disbelief.

Nearing the bridge and the collective of cars, a soaring Wedge-tailed Eagle reminded me of how lucky we are to live where we live and how glad I was to be back at the bridge! It was a very pleasant easy walk and enjoyed by all and it was one of those times that makes you appreciate some of the beautiful attractions that we have around us and often drive past every day.

Roaring Mag

DATE: Sat 15 July

LEADER: Heather Alexander

REPORT: Chris Marshall

After departing from Lindenow, the Subaru fan club arrived at Roaring Mag Road and 14 walkers (Heather, Ken, Kay, Chris, Kevin, Astrid, Trevor, Heather, Marion, Aloechka, Julie, Marian, Jo and Alan) set off on the circuit walk. In no time we were enjoying morning tea on the escarpment looking at a lovely view of Roaring Mag Falls that were not roaring at this particular time. Kay spied a snakeskin at our morning tea spot and Trevor followed the theme by handing out snakes for us to eat (the lolly variety only). We continued on and Heather, our intrepid leader, led us 'down the creek' to the piece de resistance of the walk where the creek runs over to the valley below. We enjoyed the magnificent views and took many photos. We moved around to the other side of the creek and had lunch looking back at the falls. We then completed the circuit in time to enjoy coffee and cakes at the famous Long Paddock at Lindenow. Thanks to Heather for a great walk.

Den of Nargun

DATE: Sat 26 July

LEADER: Monica Scicluna

REPORT: Narelle Warren

On the due date, eight cheerful walkers enjoyed the walk to The Den of Nargun, in the Mitchell River National Park. The walk was led by Monica Scicluna and she was joined by Corinne, Robyn, Joan, Joe, Trevor, Astrid and myself, Narelle.

We started the walk at the Den of Nargun car park and walked through the rainforest gully, along the stepping stones that lead into to the Den of Nargun. Only a few drops of water dripped into the pool. A pleasant stop for morning tea, taking in the beautiful rock formations and lush sheltered bush setting. We continued our walk through deep green warm temperate rain forest, along woolshed creek, passing the Deadcock Den and arriving at the Mitchell

River, enjoying the sounds of the rapids. We enjoyed watching two Wedge-tailed Eagles circling high in the sky. We ate our lunch then trekked up the hill to the Bluff Lookout, with views of the Mitchell River Gorge. We sat for a cuppa in the shelter of the car park and the rain now poured down. 4.1km. Thanks Monica for a lovely walk.



Walkers enjoying the various aspects of the Den of Nargun on a beautiful winter's day



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		

KANGAROO SWAMP RESERVE MULLUNGUNG STATE FOREST

DATE: Wednesday, 16 August

GRADE: M - 2 - 3

DISTANCE: 11km

MEET: Giffard West Hall, Gippsland Hwy @ 9am

LEADER: Nicki Jennings; 0429 464 212

EMAIL: pnjjennings@gmail.com

Meeting at the Giffard West Hall, we will make the short drive along forestry roads to the start of the walk. We will walk along a narrow bush track through eucalypt forest and wattles for 2.5km before joining up with a forestry road along the side of the 70ha sedge wetland which is the largest of its type in central Gippsland. We will walk around the wetland before stopping for lunch at a good access point where panoramic views of the large swamp are possible. We then walk the remaining 3km back to the vehicles. Bring water, lunch and snacks. Wear comfortable, solid shoes as the track is at times uneven. If you wish to join us at the conclusion of the walk, there will be tea, coffee and slices available back at the Giffard West Hall for a gold coin donation. Kangaroo Swamp is a beautiful and ecologically significant wetland in the centre of Mullungung Forest. It is largely undisturbed and remote, providing habitat to a wide range of flora and fauna.

MISSISSIPPI CREEK COLQUHOUN REGIONAL FOREST

DATE: Saturday, 19 August

GRADE: M - 3 - 3

DISTANCE: 14km

MEET: Forestech on Princess Highway @ 9:30 am

LEADER: Jackie Whiting; 0428 588 547

EMAIL: whitingj53@gmail.com

This walk follows the pretty Mississippi Creek from Log Crossing along the old tram line to the Quarry where the stone was mined for the rock wall at Lakes Entrance. We will stop for lunch here before our return.

MELBOURNE - CITY WALK

DATE: Saturday/Sunday, 26/27 August

GRADE: M - 1 - 1 & L - 3 - 1

DISTANCE: Sat: 10 - 12km; Sun: ~16km

MEET:

Saturday: Starbucks, Southern Cross Station @ 11:30am

Sunday: Info Centre Fed Square @ 9am

LEADERS: Chris Marshall / Graham Pilkington

CONTACT: 0499 780 399

EMAIL: chr_252@hotmail.com

Saturday: After meeting outside Starbucks on the pedestrian bridge at the northern end of Southern Cross Station, we will walk to Docklands, then cross over to Yarra Edge and continue parallel to the river at Fisherman's Bend and under the West Gate bridge, through the West Gate Park and around the pink lake (although the algae blooms only in summer), along Webs Point to the new lookout, and then follow the beach path to Station Pier and back to the city on the tram along the first rail line in Melbourne.

Sunday: After meeting near the Information Centre at Fed Square, we will follow the Yarra eastwards through Birrarung Marr, past the sporting precinct with views of the Botanic Gardens, Herring Island, the Burnley Gardens Bend, northwards through Richmond and Hawthorn to the Abbotsford Convent for coffee or meditation (and an exit for those wanting a shorter

walk), and on to Studley Park and Yarra Bend. Then the train back to the city.

NB: Check out the Full details of this walk via:

http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC_Content/Walk_Previews/MELBOURNE_WALK_20170826.pdf

WINGAN INLET - GALE HILL CROAJINGOLONG NP

DATE: Friday, 01 September travel only. Saturday/Sunday, 02/03 September walking

GRADE: X - 7 - 8

DISTANCE: 23km

MEET: Howitt Park, Lucknow, Princes Hwy, Bairnsdale. Time TBA

LEADER: Anna Janca; 0419 178 445

EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

Wingan Inlet is located within Croajingolong National Park about 47km southeast of Cann River. On this walk you may be lulled into a false sense of easy walking for the first 3 hrs along the 4WD Gale Hill Track through coastal forest, appreciating the changes in vegetation with the change from former sand dunes to rocky soil, we arrive at a gully and with a wet season, a small running stream leaching red from the sand. Following the gully we reach a small fresh water lake nestled amongst a forest covered sand dune. A short walk along an old board walk will take us to the coast. We then travel east, first along the sandy beach, then clamber over the rocks and boulders of Petrel Point, stopping for a breather and enjoying the views west to Point Hicks and its lighthouse plus the Thurra River dunes, inspecting shipwreck relics and a whale carcass washed up on shore, and a much needed lunch stop along the way. After a couple of hours of boulder and rock hopping we finally leave the rocks behind and continue along the beach to Petrel Point Track. Then follow a narrow and at times overgrown track inland across Rame Head to Fly Cove. After a rest stop, we continue along the ocean beach to where we cross the sand dune back into Wingan Inlet and the camping ground. Please note, there is no drinking water accessible on this walk.

Sunday we will do a shorter walk in the morning before commencing the drive home.

Drop toilets, fire pits and bench tables are available at this camp ground. Fees apply and will be advised. Sturdy walking boots with good grip are essential as there will be a lot of rock and boulder hopping.

NB: The walk leader will be unavailable for contact from 4 to 25 August, so please register and contact her early if you have questions.

Navigation Training

DATE: Sat/Sun 09/10 September

GRADE: S-3-6; for all grades of navigational ability. Beginners welcome.

DISTANCE: < 8km

MEET: Glenmaggie Hall @ 9am

LEADER: Joe van Beek; 0411 749 799

EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

The navigation training is for all levels of ability and experience. The training will work best if there is a spread of experience so that teams can consist of novices and experienced navigators. The activity is limited to 20 participants. Registration closes on Saturday 02 September. The training includes:-

- Reading a topographical map and it's features
- Using scales and finding grid references
- Use of a compass to orientate the map
- Walking on a bearing and aiming off
- Finding your location by triangulation
- Navigation without a compass
- Use of handrails, attack points and catching features
- Estimation of distance travelled
- Intro to GPS navigation

There will be practical exercises on Saturday and during the walk on Sunday.

Bring a compass [base plate preferred], any Victorian topographical map, a ruler and pencil. Also lunch and the usual walk things. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided on Saturday.

HOLEY PLAINS WALK HOLEY PLAINS STATE PARK

DATE: Wednesday, 13 September

GRADE: S - 2 - 2

DISTANCE: 6 - 8kms

MEET: Rosedale @ 9am

LEADER: TBA

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.

BUCHAN CAVES RESERVE

DATE: Saturday, 16 September

GRADE: S - 3 - 3

DISTANCE: 8 – 9kms

MEET: Buchan Caves office @9am

LEADER: Trevor Clues; 0428 564 559

EMAIL: Valmai51@bigpond.com

Buchan Caves Reserve is located 60 mins from Bairnsdale via Bruthen or 45 mins from Lakes Entrance via Nowa Nowa. The Reserve boasts an impressive system of walking tracks, plus it's a refuge for wildlife with over 100 species of birds recorded, including Australian King Parrots, White-winged Choughs and Currawongs. Kangaroos are plentiful throughout the reserve. Oh, and caves of course. We will do two short, picturesque, easy walks. If you can't make it to the first walk [Kanooka Track], you could join us for the second walk [Moon Hill] which has fantastic views over the township of Buchan. There is the possibility of extending the walk if anyone wants a longer one.

WIRILDA TRACK MOONDARRA & TYERS

DATE: Saturday 23 September

GRADE: L - 6 - 6

DISTANCE: 15km or 24km option

MEET: Wirilda Environmental Park @ 9am

LEADER: Joe van Beek; 5176 5302

EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

The Wirilda Track is the 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- Crooked River

DATE: Wed 27 Sept – Sunday 01 October

GRADE: No experience necessary but a good level of fitness needed

DISTANCE: ~ 7km from Stonewall

MEET: TBA

LEADER: Joe van Beek; 5176 5302

EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

We will be working as volunteers for DELWP to clear, mark and do some benching work on a six km section of the track along the Crooked River and 25 Mile Creek. This is north of the Grant Historic Area. There is some flexibility as to which days you register for subject to transport logistics. Stonewall is only accessible by 4WD. Work will involve brush cutting, chain swa operation, use of hand tools for clean up and benching work. We will also require people to support the work team by carrying in equipment and extra supplies from a base car camp at pr near Stonewall. Please register with Joe by 15 September for this exciting maintenance activity

MCKILLOPS BRIDGE - SILVERMINE Tk SNOWY RIVER NP

DATE: Friday, 29 Sept - Sunday, 01 Oct

GRADE: L - 7 - 7 plus various short walks

DISTANCE: ~17km

MEET: Howitt Park at Lucknow, Princes Hwy, Bairnsdale @ 9am

LEADER: Anna Janca; 0419 178 445

EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

The Silver Mine Track links fire access and other minor tracks, including a section of the bank of the Snowy River. The path is broad, well graded and carefully benched where it sidles steep hillsides. It has steep ascents (308m over 5.4km and 200m over 2km) and similar descents. The track passes through extensive stands of native White Cypress-pine, a distinctive botanical feature of this section of the Snowy River National Park. The broad ridge separating the Deddick and Snowy River valleys provides spectacular views of the rivers and surrounding mountains: the Pilot and Mt Cobberas to the northwest; Mt Tingaringy on the state border is the big plateau to the east; and nearby massive Mt Bulla Bulla and the triple topped Mt Deddick. Lunch on the river bank and explore relics from early 1900s' silver mining operations adjacent to the Snowy River, including adits, shafts, mullock heaps and tracks. We will travel to McKillops Bridge on Friday morning, set up camp and lunch on the beautiful Deddick River and explore near camp, the Snowy at McKillops Bridge and the nearby Nature Trail. On Saturday, we will walk the Silver Mine Track,

and on Sunday, after a leisurely morning, drive home, stopping for short walks to view Wulgulmerang Creek Falls, and Little River Falls and the breathtaking gorge. There are no facilities at the planned camp, but water will be available from the river and fires may be lit at the time of year. This walk is in the Alpine National Park, so you should be prepared for changeable and cold weather.

THE SISTERS - NORTH PEAK WALK MT ALFRED STATE PARK

DATE: Saturday, 07 October

GRADE: S-7-8

DISTANCE: 11km

MEET: Stratford @ 7am or Lindenow @ 7:45 am

LEADER: Ken Free; 5144 1195

EMAIL: kenfree@iprimus.com.au

This walk is in the State Forest northeast of the Mitchell River National Park: an area rarely visited by bushwalkers. To get to the starting point, we will drive for ~ 90 minutes from Lindenow through picturesque forests with the opportunity to spot wildlife. The walk starts from the Merryjig Track and follows the route of an old forestry track through mostly open forest with a range of understorey plants. The final section is quite steep and 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.

McMillan Track 2017 — End to End

DATE: Thu 16 November — Fri 01 December

GRADE: L-7-8

DISTANCE: 220km/14 days with shorter options

MEET: TBA

LEADER: Joe van Beek; 0411 749 799

EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

The end to end walk of McMillans Track from Cobungra, near Omeo, to Woods Point is an adventure not to be missed. We will walk the route that Angus McMillan established in 1864 linking the various gold mining communities in the Gippsland High Country and explore what remains.

The walk will be fully catered and supported by 4WD vehicles which will convey all the camping gear and food to the camping spot for each night. Walkers will only need to carry day packs. There will be a number of river crossings and some off-track walking.

Walkers may register for the whole walk or part thereof. For environmental and logistical reasons, walker numbers will be restricted to 8 at any one time. Initially three places are reserved for members

from other clubs.

Please contact Joe to register your interest and obtain a detailed itinerary and registration form. A deposit of \$300 is required on registration. Actual cost is expected to be about \$30 per day.

WILSON PROMONTORY NP

DATE: Friday, 10 — Sunday 12 November

GRADE: various

DISTANCE: various

MEET: Wilson Prom

LEADER: Monica Scicluna; 0439 614 544

EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

We shall stay in one of the lodges but it is not available until 4pm on the Friday so we shall have a short walk during the afternoon. On Saturday we will do a long walk but if some participants want a shorter walk, this can be organised. After packing up on Sunday, we will do another shorter walk on the way out of the park. This is always an excellent weekend getting to know your fellow club members a bit better!

WEBSITE PREVIEWS

NB: More information may be 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.

Contact the leader of a walk either directly or by selecting their email address at the bottom of each preview.



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 195 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB - OCTOBER 2017



Photo: Ken Free

They could be called The Weird Mob, but in fact they're just The Weir Mob!

Yes, this mob of walkers tackled the Old Weir site located on the Mitchell River at Glenaladale. For many it was their first time visiting this historic site. The construction of the weir on the Mitchell River commenced in 1891 with the foundation stone being laid on the 3 March 1893 by Frederick Drevermann. The weir was subsequently damaged by floods later that same year and now lies in ruins. Major sections of the weir wall are still visible today and represent a major attraction within the Mitchell River National Park.

So with apologies to that early Australian character "Nino Culotta", turn to Page 5 to see what the Weir Mob got up to. If not familiar with that name, we suggest you Google it!

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



Photo: Oliver Raymond

Ben Cruachan from Winkie's Corner

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

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			Monica Scicluna	0439 614 544

CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH
NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON: WED 5TH DEC, 7:00PM
AT THE MAFFRA VET CENTRE, 10 JOHNSON STR

Welcome to our Newest Members

*Eva Banks (Iguana Ck), April McKinnon (Lucknow), Lynette Newman (Mt Taylor),
 Ryan Wielgosz (Traralgon)*

Presidential Ramblings

OCTOBER 2017

It is worth noting, that for a relatively small club, BCWC punches above its weight. For example:

- We are maintaining our membership numbers from year to year.
- Our walks calendar is the envy of other clubs.
- Our walk participation rate is good.
- We have been more active in Walk Leadership Training and mentorship than most Victorian clubs.
- Our newsletter is highly regarded.
- Our website, I have heard said, is among the best and easy to use.
- We have good working relationships with DELWP and Parks Victoria in our region.
- Our contribution to track maintenance both with the club and through BTAC measured as volunteer hours, I believe is the highest in the state.
- We contribute above our weight to the affairs of Bushwalking Victoria e.g. Philip Davis's term as secretary of BWV and myself as a member of the BTAC committee.
- The media coverage we get in our local newspapers is high.
- The number of mentions that BCWC get in BNV is among the highest of all Victorian clubs.
- I have heard many testimonies to the fact that we are friendly and welcoming.

We have much to be proud of. However we mustn't become complacent. We need to keep doing well the things we already do. In my view there is no need to make great changes. Yes the world is changing and we should change with it but not in a knee jerk kind of way and not at the expense of our faithful membership.

I believe we all belong to this club to share time bushwalking in our wonderful choice of environments, with like minded people. We want to do this safely and without undue hassle.

I see my challenge, as your president, to ensure that the club exercises its duty of care for your safety and well being, which is an ever increasing bar, while facilitating enjoyable, hassle free bushwalking - and other outdoor adventures.

We rely on walk leaders (the club's representatives on walks) to lead walks that are within their comfort zone and when they want to push their comfort zone they will work with a mentor. Walk Leaders must be familiar with the policies, procedures and guidelines and the planning tools available on our website and review them from time to time.

See you on the track.

Joe van Beek



Club News

BCWC Club Social Night

The next Club Social Night & Dinner is scheduled for **Wednesday 8th November, at 6:00pm** in the Library room of the Criterion Hotel in Sale. Our guest speaker will be **Monica Hersburgh** from **Parks Victoria**, who will talk about how PV manage alpine peatlands across the Victorian alps. She will present a slide show on the values and threats to the nationally protected Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens.

For those members intending to attend the presentation, Monica would appreciate if they could participate in a 5 minute survey **PRIOR** to the meeting, which seeks to identify peoples knowledge and awareness of peatlands. The survey can be done via the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Peatland>

Time permitting, Anna may also talk about her recent Inca trail experience.

Come and enjoy dinner with fellow members. RSVP Monica on 0439 614 544 by **1st November** to secure your meal booking.

NB: The next Committee meeting has been brought forward from Wed 13th Dec to **Wed 6th Dec.** at the Maffra Vet Centre. Please note the change of Date.

Xmas in Dec Sunday 10th December 2017

We will be enjoying our Xmas get together in the library room of the Criterion Hotel in Sale. Come and enjoy lunch with other members. This is where we can relax and talk about walks or other related activities, that you have experienced during the year. However it is important you **RSVP Monica** on:

0439 614 544 by **3rd December.**

Victorian Environmental Friends Network Award

Jim Stranger, has been awarded the Best Friends Award for 2017 by the Victorian Environmental Friends Network. The award was presented at Dare-



Jim (2nd Left) with other award recipients & Nina Cullen

bin Parklands by Nina Cullen on behalf of the Minister Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change.

Jim was nominated by The Friend of Tyers Park in recognition of his tireless efforts and assistance over many years.

The VEFN's Best Friend Award is designed to recognise volunteers who make an outstanding contribution through exceptional dedication and service to their community as a Friend.

Jim and Denis Stranger have been long time members of BCWC. Congratulations Jim, on a well-deserved award.

Dialing Triple Zero Guidelines

When calling from a mobile phone:

Triple Zero (000) is Australia's primary telephone number to call for assistance in life threatening or time critical emergency situations.

(112) is a secondary emergency number that can be dialled from mobile phones in Australia. Special capabilities, including roaming, once only existed when dialling 112, however mobile phones manufactured since January 2002 also provide these capabilities when dialling Triple Zero (000) to access the Emergency Call Service.

NB: There is a misconception that 112 calls will be carried by satellite if there is no mobile coverage. Satellite phones use a different technology and your mobile phone cannot access a satellite network.

Important – if there is no mobile coverage, you will not be able to reach the Emergency Call Service via a mobile phone, regardless of which number you dial.

Dialling 112 directs you to the same Triple Zero (000) call service and does not give your call priority over Triple Zero (000).

112 is an international standard emergency number which can only be dialled on a *digital mobile phone*. It is accepted as a secondary international emergency number in some parts of the world, including Australia, and can be dialled in areas of GSM network coverage with the call automatically translated to that country's emergency number. It does not require a simcard or pin number to make the call, however phone coverage must be available for the call to proceed.

There is no advantage to dialling 112 over Triple Zero (000). Calls to 112 do not go to the head of the queue for emergency services, and it is not true that it is the only number that will work on a mobile phone.

To find out more about calling Triple Zero (000) from a mobile telephone, visit the [Australian Communications and Media Authority](http://www.acma.gov.au) website.

CPR Refresher Course

Monica Scicluna has arranged for a CPR refresher course to be held on **Saturday 9th December.** Members interested in participating should contact Monica on **0439 614 544** or email her at: joe.monica@hotmail.com

You could save a life with this knowledge. We therefore recommend all members give it some serious thought. Better to be prepared than not in case of an emergency.

Call Monica — NOW!

WALK REPORTS

NOWA NOWA

Trestle Bridge to Costicks Weir

DATE: Sat 22nd July

LEADER & REPORT: Jackie Whiting

Walkers: Jackie, Sue and Tony Wielgosz, Daryle White, Trevor Clues, Jeannie, David and Natalie Hinde

After a heavy frost, the day was perfect for the nine hikers who met at the historical Trestle Bridge near Nowa Nowa. The impressive red gum and iron bark bridge built in 1916 carried trains across its imposing 276m span, surviving the 1939 and 1980 bush fires, until the last train went across in 1988. Looking up from the picnic tables below, the bridge rises 20m and thoughts go to the marvels of its construction. A leisurely start took us up through the forest following the rail trail beside tall gum trees and the beginning of bright yellow wattle, telling us Spring was on its way.



The historical trestle bridge at Nowa Nowa

Turning back towards Costick's weir, built after the 1939 bush fires by John "Jack" Costick, the creek is crossed by a small concrete weir holding back the water to form a small dam. Now the vegetation is mixed with banksia but we still look up to see if we can find the elusive Koala but are only rewarded by scats.



Jeannie, Tony, Sue, Natalie, David, Marion & Daryle
At Costicks Weir

Back at the cars we take a quick 5km drive into Nowa Nowa and the Mingling Waters Cafe, purchase a good coffee, and head down to the boat ramp and wetlands to enjoy our lunch together in the company of a pair of sea eagles catching the thermals overhead. Afterwards we enjoy a leisurely stroll beside the wetlands watching the water for fish jumping or any bird life. A peaceful day enjoyed by all.

OLD WEIR SITE - GLENALADALE

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 5th August

LEADER: Trevor Wibley

REPORT: Lynette Newman

Walkers, April, Narelle, Ken, Marion, Ken G, Maureen, Maurice, Trevor C, Trevor W, Leisa, Chris, Eva, Helen, Charlotte, Sabi, and Lynette.

There were a few members but mostly people who were just attracted to being led to the remains of the weir. A recently arrived English vet who has just taken a position in Maffra was keen to get out in the local area and see what is on offer and some, like me, new to the area. There was much conversation as we met and mingled and got to know our fellow walkers.

I haven't been to the Den of Nargun and this area is on my list of local sites to visit so the opportunity to join a walk to the weir site with the club was perfect. The weather was sunny, a strong cool breeze and the sun shining on the water made for great photos.

We started from the carpark heading out on a formed track then after stopping at the lookout and examining the remains of a bird we headed off the track up to the ridge above the gorge. We followed Trevor Whibley who had previously marked the track with tape indicating thorough preparation. With that in mind we stopped at a fallen log for a snack break with another great view into the river valley. I was surprised by the extreme drops into gullies that we traversed on our way to the weir site, including one slippery part which we were warned to take care.



Lunch on the Old Weir Wall



Lisa & Eva wondering how did this happen?

There was a small section of 4wd drive track, along the ridge with occasional glimpses of the river.

We had plenty of time for a leisurely lunch sitting on the remains of the breached weir wall before retracing our steps to the cars.

It was agreed that gathering for coffee in Lindenow would be good for those returning through Bairnsdale, unfortunately the Long Paddock Café was closed so we had coffee and tea at the Pub instead.

Thanks to Trevor for marking and leading the walk and for a friendly welcome to the Club from the members and for inviting others to explore this area with them.

KANGAROO SWAMP NATURE RESERVE MULLUNGDUNG STATE FOREST

DATE: Wed 16th August

LEADER: Nicki Jennings

REPORT: Jim Stranger

Walkers: Nicki & Peter Jennings, Sue & Tony Wielgosz, Bev Aucote, Trevor Clues, Oliver & Carolyn Raymond, Denise & Jim Stranger, Judy & Joe van Beek

On a day windy enough to blow a dog off a chain, twelve walkers gathered at the Giffard West Hall for a



The Hardy Swamp Group

cuppa and briefing before heading off in convoy to our start point. Nicki explained that the Swamp Reserve which was our destination was a 70 hectare sedge wetland which is the largest of its type in central Gippsland. The reserve is located within the 13,800hectare Mullungdung State Forest. She also explained that Mullungdung is aboriginal for freshwater mussel, however her erstwhile partner, Peter, had several *dung* -based alternatives to its nomenclature. Much to Peter's disappointment, we chose to believe Nicki's version. Attempts were made to identify the many species of eucalypts which provided shelter from the strong wind. A patch of newly emerged Greenhood orchids were spotted at our lunch site. At the conclusion of the walk we returned to the hall where Nicki and Peter's enthusiasm for the history of the area was evident with Nicki having recently published a book on the subject. Thank you Nicki for a most enjoyable day.

MELBOURNE CITY TRAIL WALK

DATE: Sat 27th August

LEADER & REPORT: Chris Marshall

Walkers: Chris Marshall, Di Christianson and Graham Pilkington.

A very small, brave group of Ben Croakers ventured forth out of their comfort zone and into the big scary city for a 16km walk along the City Trail. Starting 9:00am at Federation Square, it was quickly decided to grab a coffee first due to the abundance of available cafes.

We then set out following the Yarra River through the park Birrarung Marr which, to the indigenous Wurundjeri people, meant 'river of mists and river bank'.

We stopped briefly to examine the Federation Bells which we're making a lovely sound as we approached them. They chime at certain times throughout the day. On we walked through the sporting precinct and along the river to just opposite Herring Island where we stopped for morning tea and another coffee (just because we could). Herring Island is an important habitat for birds, a sculpture park and is managed by Parks Vic.

We continued on the trail through the various parks, gardens and Collingwood children's farm to the Ab-



Di, Graham & Chris at Dight Falls

botsford Convent where we had lunch and of course another cup of coffee. After lunch it was a stroll to Dights Falls and rapids then on to Rushall Railway Station where we ended the walk and caught the train back to the big scary city.

WINGAN INLET CROAJINGOLONG

DATE: Sat 27th August
LEADER: Anna Janca
REPORT: Robyn Rowley

Walkers: Anna, Chris, Jackie, Robyn, Trevor & Oliver

Friday was a day of travel, some meeting in Nowa Nowa at 1.00pm to travel on together and others arriving later that evening to a warm and welcoming campfire. An early 8.30am departure was decided for the next morning.

Saturday, Oliver was up bright and early, reviving the fire and getting the billy on the boil. At 8.30 we all squashed into Oliver's car and headed for the starting point of our walk.

Gale Hill Track the beginning of our walk took us along 10 km of sandy track through thick scrub of Bloodwood and Mahogany trees lots of low brush, flowering wattle, Correa, White finger orchid and other flowering natives.



Group at the beginning of Gale Hill Track

We had now reached the sand dunes and following a narrow scrub trail searching for the elusive spring which was to be morning tea stop. Finally success a spring smelling a little of sulphur, flowing quite freely into a small hidden lake nestled among the sand dunes. Here we said goodbye to Oliver as he retraced our journey back to the car. Following a narrow sand track through the thick tea tree we made our way around and up over the sand dune to a magnificent view along the coast.

Making our way along the beach, the weather warm and the coastal boulders and rocks ahead to be clambered and explored. After several hours of making our way over the maze of rocks, past lots of drift wood and various unknown bits of boat, we stopped for a well earned lunch break.

Moving on again along the beach, Trevor and Jackie spotted a Whistling Kite as we were on the lookout for a post which marked a track back across the sand dunes, through the scrub and around the edge of



Wandering along the Beach

Wingan Inlet, passing some fishermen from our campsite. We returned back to camp about 4.30 pm as Anna predicted to enjoy a welcome cuppa from the billy which Oliver had on the boil ready for our return.

Another magnificent area of beautiful Victoria, explored by the BCWC. We settled in for another evening around the campfire. Great company and a wonderfully organised trip by Anna, Thank you.

NAVIGATION TRAINING GLENMAGGIE

DATE: Sat 9 - Sun 10th Sep
LEADER: Joe van Beek
REPORT: Lynette Newman

Participants: Anna, Vicki, Chris, Michael, Ryan, Claire, Philip, Di, Sue and Lynette

What a fabulous benefit of club membership!

Joe van Beek is a treasure, he prepared and presented an engaging and thorough training course to inspire and lead club members to be confident map readers who can find their own way around the bush.

Supported with materials from Bushwalking Victoria and a fabulous pamphlet from Geoscience Australia entitled Map Reading Guide we paired up and after detailed instruction from Joe we worked through our training exercises; identifying features on a topographical map, using grid references, estimating distance, using a base plate compass, bearings, from a map and in the field, pacing and walk duration estimation and using a GPS. Morning tea and lunch allowed for more social interactions.

After lunch we were given a geocaching exercise which was, frustrating, fun, interesting but mostly a good opportunity to use a GPS. We prepared our maps for Sunday's navigation training in the local area.

Sunday saw most of the participants return to put their training to the test! The sun was out and the temperature was mild.

Joe had set 12 points for us to find using differing methods, map only, compass bearing only or GPS. Anna, Vicki and I made the most of the challenges and took the opportunity of including wildflower spotting. The proof of Joe's excellent training was that we could find the last marker despite being led astray by him as a test.

Thanks Joe for such a comprehensive and well-presented course.

BUCHAN CAVES RESERVE

DATE: Sat 16th Sep

LEADER: Trevor Whibley

REPORT: Julie Gullickson

Walkers: Trevor Clues, Ken Free, Trevor Whibley, Narelle Warren, Marian Matchan, Daryl White & Julie Gullickson.

We had a moody sky and wet day for our walk at Buchan. Trevor, Ken, Narelle, Marion, Trevor, Daryle and Julie were not put off with the weather and we met in Buchan with our wet weather gear ready. The day started with us having to huddle under the shelter to complete the sign up sheets.



Group huddled under the shelter

Once the rain had paused Trevor led us to the first walk of the day, Kanooka Track, which took us along a creek bed and we were able to get to the look out across to Spring Creek Falls, however there was no water. We continued along this loop track back to the cars and managed to get under the shelter for morning tea just before the next shower came.



**Narelle overlooking Spring Creek Falls
(or should that be Trickle Falls?)**

Again we waited out the rain before heading to the Moon Hill Walk. At the beginning of the walk we were able to have a look into a small cave. We continued up the hill past the kangaroos to some seats overlooking Buchan township and the river. While we were sitting here enjoying the sun and some gossip, a group of kangaroos and deer passed us, including a white deer. There was some debate around the subject of this deer being an albino, however none of us were close enough to tell for certain. We headed back to the main area of Buchan Caves campsite just before another downpour. We were able to use the campsite's kitchen shelter where we had lunch.

After lunch it was decided that we hadn't done enough walking so we also walked the FJ Wilson walk which passes the main caves. Again we had a heavy downpour and managed to shelter in the entrance to the fairy cave or under a large tree.

With the three walks we managed to cover around 10kms. We ended our day with a coffee at the reopened Buchan Pub.

McMILLANS TRACK MAINTENANCE CROOKED RIVER

DATE: Tue 26th - Thu 28th Sep

LEADER: Joe van Beek

REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

Participants: Joe van Beek, Michael Dowe & Helmut Tracksdorf

After meeting in Dargo, we headed off toward Bulltown Spur a steep 4WD track that drops down onto the Crooked river at a place called Stonewall, named after the famous American Civil War Confederate general, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

A recent storm had swept thru the valley causing several large trees to block the track at Stonewall. Fortunately after clearing and cutting our way through we were able to get close enough to our starting point near Good Luck Creek.

We donned our packs and gear which included a chainsaw, hoe and machetes and began trekking along the Crooked River towards our campsite for this event which was approx 6km along the track. Surprisingly we startled a fully grown Stag deer along the track which promptly darted off into the bush. After arriving at our designated campsite we set up our tents, had lunch and then donned our safety gear before heading further North along the Crooked River to commence track maintenance. Our previous maintenance efforts along this section of track back in May 2017 had identified some major 'obstacles' that required a chainsaw. Arriving at these obstacles we were able to methodically clear the track and work our way forward.

At one stage whilst repairing some stonework on the track Helmut was surprised by a Black snake that was casually observing his efforts from only several metres away. A good poke with a very long stick had the desired effect and it moved on. By the end of day 1 we had successfully cleared along 2km of track. We then trudged back to camp slashing and clearing minor brush as we went.



Michael & Joe clearing the track

Day 2 was a repeat of Day 1 except longer! We managed to clear sections past where the Crooked River forks off from the main valley and continued along 25 - 30 Mile Creek. Eventually making our way up to the top of a spur where we had cleared and marked the track from White Timber Spur back in November 2016.

The main aim was to ensure that the track was sufficiently cleared for the VIP walk scheduled next month in November 2017 to mark the official re-opening of this section of McMillans Track. With years of neglect it had become overgrown and impossible to negotiate. The Club in conjunction with assistance from DWELP and BTAC can be proud of its achievement in clearing this section of track. Thanks must also go to Joe van Beek who has championed the cause and been the main driver behind getting the job done.



Joe & Michael at the end of another successful day

A report of the track condition and our maintenance effort was forwarded to DELWP. Plus PARKS were alerted to the fallen trees at Stonewall. (below)



WIRILDA TRACK - TYERS PARK 24KM CIRCUIT

DATE: Sat 23rd Sep

LEADER & REPORT: Joe van Beek

Of the twenty walkers, comprising visitors and members of Ben Cruachan, Strzelecki and South Gippsland Walking clubs, who met at the Wirilda Environmental Park, eight elected to do the 24km circuit walk.

The larger group of 12 pooled cars and drove to the Dam wall and walked the 14 km Wirilda Walking Track back to the Wirilda Environmental Park. (See next report)

Joe, Michael, Piero and Rose from Ben Cruachan and Martin, Julie and Liz from Strzelecki and Cintia a Strzelecki visitor walked a little way up the Wirilda Walking Track and then deviated onto the Pipe Line Access Road, a road maintained by Gippsland Water for maintenance access to the water supply pipe line from the Moondarra Reservoir to the towns and industries of the Latrobe Valley.



The combined group of hardy walkers

The party observed the various new cathodic protection systems being installed by Gippsland Water and preparations for a major repair job to the pipeline on their way to the Dam. The Dam was crested after 2hrs 15 minutes. Recent rains had raised the reservoir to within 500mm of the top of the spillway.

The team made good progress down the Wirilda Walking Track through a great variety of landscapes from dry eucalypt ridges, to cool fern gullies and enjoyed the change from road walking. The track in the main was dry and good walking. The weather was quite hot for this time of the year and there was the occasional strong wind gust.

Lunch was taken at the top of W18-2 where the breeze was cooling and mobile phone reception was good. Once again after lunch the team made good progress despite Piero experiencing a knee problem on descents; a borrowed walking pole seemed to help. We were surprised to catch the tail end of the other group as we descended into Whites Stream just before W3. We decided to wile away some time at the stream, one member had a swim while others removed boots and bathed their feet in the cool waters. After a while Philip Davis appeared with a plea for help.

Unfortunately, one walker from the other group was unable to complete the walk and had to be extricated.



The walkers relaxing at Whites stream

The two groups were melded and a party of five made haste to the cars at Wirilda Environmental Park. Two cars drove round to the pickup point on W3 to pick up the walker and her minder. All was well but it did result in a bit of a muddled ending to what was otherwise a rewarding walk.

WIRILDA TRACK - TYERS PARK 14KM CIRCUIT

DATE: Sat 23rd Sep

LEADER: Jim Stranger

REPORT: Elizabeth Davis

On a summer day at the beginning of spring, with a forecast of 30 plus degrees and gale force northerly winds, twenty walkers comprising visitors and members of Ben Cruachan, Strzelecki and South Gippsland Walking Clubs, met at the Wirilda Environmental Park at Tyers Park.

Joe van Beek left immediately with his group of 8 to do a 24km version of the walk following the water pipe line up to the Moondarra Dam and returning to the Park on the marked track.

The larger group of 12 pooled cars and drove the 30 minute trip to the Dam wall and began the 15 km walk back down to the Park at 10am. The weather remained kind, though quite hot for this time of the year.

The track was well marked and, with thanks to a team of track clearers led by Jim and Joe who had been through the previous week, was easily traversed. The walk involves some fairly steep sections with Jim encouraging us all by telling us we were nearly there. Also the great variety of landscapes from dry eucalypt ridges, to cool rainforest gullies kept us all intrigued. The dry season was obvious and we didn't even get our feet wet at the creek and pipeline crossings which on last years walk necessitated a route change. Despite the dry, we saw lots of bright flowering correas, heath, and several varieties of wattle. Our fearless leader luckily spotted a very long and fat tiger snake in the middle of the track which was itching for a fight.

Lunch was taken sitting on the edge of a bridge over the Tyers River, where several walkers discovered they had picked up some leeches but Jim showed us that a dab with Aerogard roll on solves the problem.



The larger group of walkers at the dam wall

Unfortunately, one walker was unable to complete the walk and had to be extricated, so this is a timely reminder that walk participants and leaders should thoroughly assess a walks length, degree of difficulty, the weather, and consequent suitability for individuals.

We arrived back at the Park at 4pm, hot and tired but just in time as some big fat raindrops started falling, and Richmond began their demolition of GWS.

It was a great day, and Jim imparted to us his love of the area and knowledge of its history. The remains of the old wooden water pipeline could easily have been missed without him to point them out. Thank you, Jim!

McKILLOP BRIDGE SILVERMINE TRACK

DATE: Sat 30th Sep

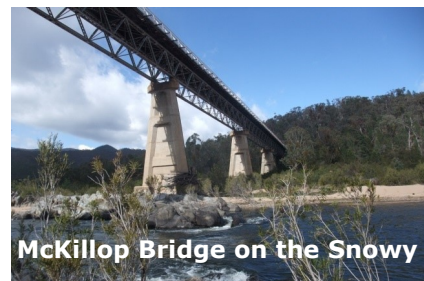
LEADER: Anna Janca

REPORT: Peter Jennings

Walkers: Anna Janca, Chris Marshall, Daryle White, Heather Alexander, Di Christiansen, Peter Jennings.
Camp support - Nicki Jennings

Seven adventurous club members set out on Footy Finals Friday for McKillop Bridge which crosses the Snowy River near Deddick for what was to be a great walk along the Silver Mine Track. Anna had heard about the track and went looking for it with Marian to do a recce then followed up with Bushwalking Victoria (BV) to undertake some maintenance.

The final 10km of the drive is a descent to McKillop Bridge along a winding, narrow, one might say, perilous road - not one for the faint hearted; but the reward of seeing the mighty bridge makes it very worthwhile.



We awoke on Saturday to glorious sunshine and got underway at 8am. The first section of the track is a steady climb along the Deddick Trail which is a management track leading into the Snowy River National Park through extensive stands of native White Cypress -pine. At a conveniently marked point we left the Trail and headed bush along a well formed walking track. It's on this section of the track that Anna and BV have done some maintenance.

At the high point on a bluff above the Snowy we experienced a magnificent 360° view that included a long stretch of the Snowy River and McKillop Bridge. From the bluff we descended to the banks of the Snowy for a very leisurely lunch break.



Heather, Di and Anna taking in the view

After lunch we were again on a management track with a steady climb for about 3km that took us past the remains of two silver mines – both fenced off. At the high point we re-joined the Deddick Trail and commenced the descent back to the bridge taking in magnificent views along the way.



Daryle, Heather, Anna, Chris and Di at the junction of Deddick Trail & Silvermine Track.

On Sunday we had to brave the drive back up McKillops Road but took the opportunity to stop off and see the amazing Little River Gorge and the Little River Falls. Many thanks to Anna who organised and led the walk and Marian for assisting with the recce.

This is a great walk – if it comes up again, don't miss it.

NORTH SISTER

Mt ALFRED STATE FOREST

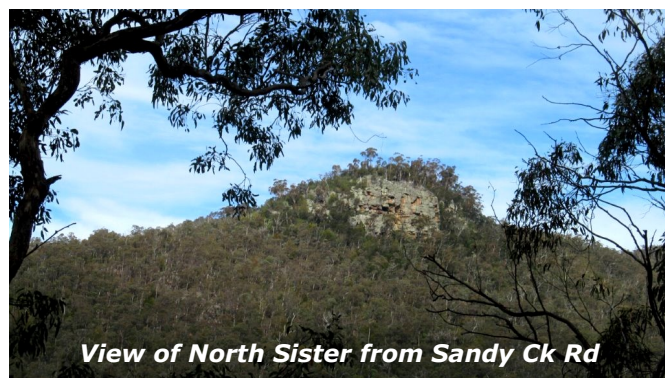
DATE: Sat 7th Oct

LEADER: Ken Free

REPORT: Marian Matchan

Walkers: Aloechka, Michael, Lynette, Trevor, Chris (visitor), April and Marian.

We were presented with a cool morning as we assembled at Lindenow to car pool. We then headed off towards our destination skirting the Mitchell River NP to Sandy Creek Rd and then Merrijig Track where we started our trek in the Mount Alfred State Forest. We got our first view of North Sister from Sandy Ck Rd.



View of North Sister from Sandy Ck Rd

We tightened our laces as our leader Ken set off on an overgrown old forestry track, the bush had engulfed the track since last year's hike with plenty of new suckers invading our pathway. We battled our way through the bush, past big iron bark trees with magnificent bulky bark covering their trunks. We were enchanted by various bird calls along the way but must have been making a fair amount of noise as wildlife was scarce, just a few wallabies crossing our path.

Sections of the walk were quite steep and rocky, a few people lost their footing, but thankfully the only injuries were scratches and barked arms. When we reached the summit, we headed right along the ridge-line and across the saddle to a rocky outcrop with panoramic views West, North and East. We settled here for lunch with some of the crew pointing out specific mountains in our view.



The intrepid North Sister walkers

After our normal photo shoot, we traced our foot prints back to the cars. We then drove for approx. 90 minutes back to Lindenow for a well earned coffee. Thanks to Ken for another great day out.

A (Recce) Day in the Life of a Walk Leader

Undertaking a recce with a small group of like-minded bushwalkers can be a very uplifting and productive experience. You find a location on the map which appears to have great geographical features, potentially fantastic panoramic views, some challenging elements like tough climbs and creek crossings and above all else it's somewhere new that club members have never been before. You set off full of enthusiasm and optimism and discover to your absolute delight that this will be one of those great walks: there are lush gullies, unspoilt vegetation, birds and other wildlife everywhere and the views are way beyond your expectations. You can't wait to write it up and share this walk with everyone.

And then, in the words of Van Morrison, "There'll Be Days Like This". We set off with the usual enthusiasm well prepared for a little scrub-bashing, knowing that the pay-off would be the spectacular views at the end point. The scrub became ever thicker and more difficult to penetrate, the fallen logs and vines made progress exceptionally slow and the peak from where we would get great views was literally smothered in large eucalypts, acacias and a myriad collection of head-high understory shrubs. We knew we were at the peak when, with the aid of a GPS, we stumbled upon a white painted survey post. The reactions to such an experience varied from the philosophical "at least we now know not to put this walk on the program", the mildly positive-spin "it's still great to just spend the day in the bush" to the "what a waste of time that was - where's the nearest muddy creek I can fall into?"

And so it was that Trevor introduced us to the art of free-falling into Bald Hill Creek.



Trevor demonstrating how to cool off - when the recce proves a waste of time



**Highlight of the recce!
A lonely White Painted Survey Pole**

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		

CLUB SOCIAL NIGHT & DINNER SALE

DATE: Wed 8th Nov
GRADE: Easy
GUEST SPEAKERS: Monica Hersburgh - Parks Vic
 Anna Janca - The Inca trail

MEET: Criterion Hotel - Sale @ 6:00pm
LEADER: Monica Scicluna 0439 614 544

We will be enjoying our social night in the library room of the Criterion Hotel. Come and enjoy dinner with fellow members and listen to our guest speakers.

ANNUAL LODGE WEEKEND WILSONS PROMONTORY NP

DATE: Fri 10th - Sun 12th Nov
GRADE: Various
MEET: Wilson Prom - Tidal River
LEADER: Monica Scicluna
CONTACT No: 0439 614 544
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

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.

BRYCES GORGE ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 11th - Sun 12th Nov
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall @ 8:00am
LEADER: Oliver Raymond

CONTACT No: 0411 420 345

EMAIL: oliverraymond@wideband.net.au

We will gather at Glenmaggie hall early Saturday morning to car pool. Drive approx. 46 kms north of Licola to start of walk. Follow well defined track across open snow plains to the lookout across to Pie-man 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 hikers.

McMILLAN'S TRACK 2017 END TO END WALK - 14 Days

DATE: Sat 18th Nov - Fri 1st Dec
GRADE: L - 7 - 8
DISTANCE: 220km (Cobungra to Woods Point)
MEET: TBA
LEADER: Joe van Beek
CONTACT No: 0411 749 799
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

The 2017 end to end walk of McMillan's Walking Track from Cobungra, near Omeo, to Woods Point is a two-week adventure not to be missed. We will walk the route Angus McMillan established in 1864 to link the various gold mining communities in Gippsland High Country and explore what remains. The walk will be fully catered and supported by 4WD vehicles which will convey all the camping gear and food to the camping spot for each night. Walkers will only need to carry day packs. There will be various river crossings and some off-track walking. Walkers may register for the whole walk or part only. For environmental and logistical reasons walker numbers will be restricted to 8 at any one time. Three places are reserved initially for representatives from other clubs. Please contact Joe van Beek to register your interest and obtain the detailed itinerary and registration form. A deposit of \$300 is required on registration. Actual cost is expected to be approx. \$30 per day. We will be working as volunteers with Parks Victoria

BILLY GOAT BEND TO DEN OF NARGUN

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 18th Nov
GRADE: S - 6 - 3
DISTANCE: ~8kms
MEET: Stratford at 8:00am or Beverley Rd 8:45am
LEADER: Piero Baglioni 0408 446 299
EMAIL: pbaglioni@bigpond.com

This walk will follow the Mitchell River from Billy Goat Bend and the Amphitheatre downstream to the Den of Nargun. This is one of the few un-dammed rivers in Victoria with great rapids and plenty to look at, including rocky bluffs on the Eastern shore and remnant rainforest gullies on the Western shore. The walk follows the Western side of the river on a well-made track which passes through numerous shady gullies. This area is known for its diversity of flora including the Xanthorrhoea Minor, a small version of the grass tree, which may be in flower at this time. Near the end of the walk we will visit the culturally significant Den of Nargun and Deadcock Den, places shrouded in mystery and history and is especially significant for indigenous Australians.

McMILLAN'S TRACK

VIP WALK - CROOKED RIVER SECTION

DATE: Tue 21st Nov
GRADE: L - 6 - 7
DISTANCE: 16km
MEET: Dargo store @ 7:00am
LEADER: Joe van Beek
CONTACT No: 0411 749 799
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

Be a VIP for a day. Join invited guests and DELWP representatives on this event to mark the reopening of the Crooked River section of McMillans Walking Track. This is a rare opportunity to conveniently visit this beautiful remote section of McMillans Walking Track which has recently been cleared for the first time in quite a while.

The VIP Walk includes 4X4 transport from Dargo to the lower end of White Timber Spur Track where the VIP Walk party will join the walkers and support crew on the end-to-end walk of McMillans Walking Track for a hot brew and a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the reopening of the Crooked River section of McMillans Walking Track. The VIP Walk party will then join the end-to-end walkers and make their way down the track to Stonewall (junction of Good Luck Creek with the Crooked River) where the 4X4 drivers will have a hot brew for everyone then take the VIP Walk party back to Dargo while the end-to-end walkers will pro-

ceed on to Talbotville.

There may be an opportunity to visit the area by taking the 4X4 ride and not do the walk. This will depend on numbers attending.

Registrations close **28 October**. See **VIP Walk Details** and **VIP Walk Registration Form** on the club's website.

COMBINED GIPPSLAND CLUBS WEEKEND

WALHALLA, BAW BAW & TYERS AREAS

DATE: Fri 24th - Sun 26th Nov
GRADE: Various
DISTANCE: Various

The Strzelecki Bushwalking Club is this year's host for our annual Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend. Preliminary planning is underway for what is hoped will be another memorable weekend following on from the very successful 2016 event hosted by the West Gippsland Bushwalking Club.

The base for this year's event will be the Carinal Scout Camp, set on a picturesque 14ha site, 37 km north of Moe and 9 km from Erica.

Registrations opened at the end of August and close on **Saturday 28th October**.

Check out the following link for full details:

<http://www.sbwc.org.au/index.php/combined-clubs-weekend.html>

CHRISTMAS LUNCH CRITERION HOTEL SALE

DATE: Sun 10th Dec
GRADE: Deliciously easy
MEET: Criterion Hotel Sale @ 12:00am
RSVP: 3rd Dec
LEADER: Monica Scicluna 0439 614 544
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

This walk involves trekking from where you park your vehicle to the front bar of the Criterion Hotel in York Street, Sale. After asking for directions from the person behind the bar you should be able to find your way to the designated watering hole where you can drop your pack and start to relax. Please be sure to bring a compass so that you can find your way back to your car.

However, you will need to register your intention to celebrate another successful year by calling Monica before Sunday 3rd Dec.

**TRACK MAINTENANCE
LAKE TALI KARNG CIRCUIT**

WEBSITE PREVIEWS

DATE: Tue 12th - Fri 15th Dec
GRADE: **Good level of fitness required**
DISTANCE: 8.5km+ walk in from McFarlane's
MEET: TBA
LEADER: Joe van Beek
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

NB: More information may be 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.

Contact the leader of a walk either directly or by selecting their email address at the bottom of each preview.

We will be working as volunteers with Parks Victoria to help with track maintenance work on the Wellington Plain, Gillios, Echo Point and eastern end of Rig-gall Spur Tracks. This takes us down to Lake Tali Karng. Work will involve some brush cutting, chain saw operation, use of hand tools for clean up and benching work. Parks Victoria will transport all equipment to the Nyimba camp site where a camp will be set up for the 3 nights. Please register with Joe van Beek by 1 December for this maintenance activity on this culturally significant track network.

**GUYS HUT TO WONNONGATTA
VIA
DRY RIVER TRACK**

DATE: Sat 20th - Sun 21st Jan 2018
GRADE: **L - 7 - 6**
DISTANCE: 17km
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall Friday arvo @ Time TBA
LEADER: Anna Janca
EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

Experience the majesty of the Alpine National Park, walking across Bryce's Plain, exploring Guys Hut, then through alpine scrub and snow gums along a rarely used track to the breathtaking view of the Snowy Range and beyond. The track then drops, steeply at first, following spurs around the tops of gullies, through alpine forest down 1000m to the Dry River 4WD Track. We then follow this track along the Dry River, which is true to its name, to the Wonnangatta Track before being picked up. The 4WD track joins the Wonnangatta Track and one can camp on the Wonnangatta River for the night. The next day, after exploring the ruins of Wonnangatta Station and historic cemetery before leaving the scenic Wonnangatta Valley, our 4WD support vehicle will take walkers on the 152 km, (approx. 6 hr) drive back to the meeting point via the scenic but steep and rough Zeka Spur 4WD Track. We will camp Friday night at the start of the walk to enable an early start. Although summer, we will be in alpine country with changeable weather. Walkers should equip themselves accordingly. A day pack only needs to be carried with a minimum of 2 - 3 litres of water. Overnight camping gear will be taken to campsite by 4WD vehicle retrieve crew. Please register for this walk by December 8, to enable arrangement of sufficient 4WD vehicles to retrieve walkers. This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the high country wilderness without carrying a full pack.



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Issue 196 - BCWC NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT

Mc TRACK 2017 REPORT



No need for an Ambulance for these intrepid Hikers!

BCWC's association with McMillan's Track was on full display once again with these hikers and support members posing for a photo at the completion of their 220km trek over 14 days. Left to Right, Joe van Beek, Tomas Carew, Michael Dowe, Sue Hides, Oliver Raymond (support crew), Karl Sommer (Sunraysia Walking Club member) & Anna Janca look pleased as punch, to have completed their Journey. BCWC member, John Kellas and Parks Vic Ranger Conor Wilson (absent) were also instrumental in ensuring the team made it through to the very end - at Woods Point. McMillan's track is one of Victoria's best long distance treks and could be considered on par with the AAWT (albeit shorter). Significant track maintenance over recent years has brought the track back up to scratch, thanks to the efforts of BCWC, Parks Vic & DELWP. Dust off your boots and check McMillan's Track out!

McTk Ramblings



McMillan's Track End to End walk

November 2017

This month we are publishing a special supplement to the November 2017 Newsletter, (albeit late) to record and report on Ben Cruachan Walking Club's recent challenge to tackle the 220kms of McMillan's Track – from Cobungra near Omeo through to Woods Point.

Over a total of 14 days, 5 members of Ben Cruachan Walking Club, Joe van Beek, Michael Dowe, Anna Janca, Sue Hides, Thomas Carew and 1 member from Sunraysia Walking Club, Karl Sommer took on the challenge of walking McMillan's track from End to End. This years event was also run in conjunction with the official re-opening of the Crooked River section of McMillan's Track, whereby the end to end walkers were joined by Geoff Mattingly, Marian Matchan, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Jackie Whiting, Diana Christiansen, Helmut Tracksdorf, Hans Tracksdorf (Bendigo Bushwalkers) and Matt Zanini (DELWP). Making the whole event possible were the all important Support crew: John Kellas, Oliver Raymond, Michael Dowe and Parks Vic Ranger, Conor Wilson with Jeremy Reynolds and George Graham From DELWP.

In addition the group were well stocked and supported by Happy Camper Gourmet meals.

On behalf of all the walkers, Thanks to all those involved.

Ben Cruachan Walking Clubs association with McMillan's Track goes back to the 1960's when one of its early members, John Smith ("Smithy") championed the track. Smithy's efforts to reconnoitre and re-discover original sections of the track earned him an Order of Australia Medal and resulted in the re-opening of the track by the then Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands – The Honourable Joan Kirner MLC in 1988.

Since then BCWC has consistently worked towards maintaining the track, albeit a difficult task given the length and breadth of the area it traverses. Fortunately, a renewed push by BCWC's current President, Joe van Beek and club members has achieved remarkable results in clearing large sections of the track with assistance and support from DELWP and Parks Victoria.

Today it is possible to walk the track via a combination of well-maintained roads, 4WD tracks, and along newly cleared sections of bush. The Crooked River section is a case in point which during the 2015 expedition was considered un-navigable. Today it is a scenic and enjoyable section of the track.

BCWC has consistently walked the track from end to end on many occasions from the early 60's and in more recent times in 1996, 2003, 2009, 2015 and now 2017. The walk could be considered as one of Victoria's premier long distance walks. However it is not necessary do the whole walk to experience McMillan's Track, as there are numerous sections that can be enjoyed on a weekend basis.

You're invited to explore McMillan's track with its unique history and amazing landscapes.

McMillan's Track

McMillan's Track Historical perspective

It is worth noting that prior to 1850, Australia's non-indigenous population was less than 500,000. In effect Australia was a colonial backwater struggling to develop. In 1851, the discovery of the Victorian Goldfields (Primarily Bendigo & Ballarat) converted a remote dependency into a country of world wide fame; it attracted a population, extraordinary in number, with unprecedented rapidity; it enhanced the value of property to an enormous extent; it also made this one of the richest countries in the world; and, in less than five years, this remote colony made an impact felt in the most distant regions of the globe. It was an extraordinary moment in time. By 1855, Australia's non-indigenous population had ballooned to 1.5 million.

Prior to the Gold rush, around 1840, Angus McMillan had established himself as an explorer of the high country in Gippsland but by 1855 he had effectively retired to become a pastoralist on the Avon River in East Gippsland.

In 1864, in need of money, McMillan acceded to a request from the Victorian Government to lead a team of men into Gippsland's alpine region with the aim of mapping and clearing tracks to support local mining operations. Within six months McMillan and his men had constructed more than 220 miles (350 km) of track through rugged terrain near Omeo and Dargo. It was to be McMillan's last expedition; in May 1865 he was clearing a track near Dargo when a pack-horse slipped and fell, crushing him beneath it. McMillan was carried to a public house in Iguana Creek, suffering serious internal injuries. He died on 18 May 1865, and was buried in the public cemetery at Sale.

His work from March to May in 1864, greatly expanded the existing track network and linked many goldfields including Omeo, Dargo, Crooked River and Woods Point.

Part of this network of tracks has now become known as McMillan's Walking Track and forms one of the most challenging walks across the Great Dividing Range of Victoria.

McMillan's Track BCWC's Perspective

Over time, McMillan's original track was superseded with the formation of alternative roads and as the gold fields became depleted and abandoned, its usefulness dwindled.

During the 1980's BCWC member John Smith ("Smithy") became the driving force behind re-discovering the track. BCWC in conjunction with predecessors of Parks Victoria (PV) and the Department of the Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) rediscovered, cleared and marked the track. The track was officially opened as McMillan's Walking Track by Joan Kirner then Minister of Conservation, Forests and Land on 19 March 1988 as recorded on the plaque to mark the occasion at Breakfast Creek on the Wellington River north of Licola.



The Plaque near Breakfast Creek commemorating the official re-opening of McMillan's Track as a walking track in March 1988

Smithy was duly awarded an Order of Australia medal for his submissions and commitment to the re-opening of McMillan's track. This was a truly proud achievement for John Smith and the Ben Cruachan Walking Club. However, it will require ongoing maintenance to keep the track open and available for others to enjoy.

Numerous working bees have been carried out along sections of the track with assistance from the various land management groups. In addition, club members have walked the track from End to End on many occasions and now 2017. On each occasion it has proven a memorable experience and an adventure not to be forgotten. This latest expedition was no exception.

McMillan's Walking Track 2017

Sat 18th Nov - Friday 1st Dec

End to End Walkers: BCWC Joe van Beek, Michael Dowe, Anna Janca, Sue Hides, Thomas Carrew. **Sunraysia Walking Club:** Karl Sommer

Part Time Walkers: Helmut Tracksdorf, Di Christensen (both BCWC) and Hans Tracksdorf (Ballarat Bushwalkers) walked Days 4 to 9. Clive Davis and Jurgen Weller from VMTC walked with us on Days 10 and 11. Andrew Burrows (BCWC) joined part way through on day 11 and walked to the end.

VIP Walkers: Geoff Mattingly (Leader), Marian Matchan, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Jackie Whiting, and Matt Zanini (DELWP). Support Crew: Jeremy Reynolds and George Graham (DELWP); Conor Wilson (Parks Vic)

Support Crew: John Kellas, Oliver Raymond, Michael Dowe and Parks Vic Ranger, Conor Wilson.

Sponsor. Happy Camper Gourmet.

Report: Joe van Beek & Helmut Tracksdorf

Ben Cruachan Walking Club's last end-to-end walk of McMillan's Walking Track was McTk2015 which took place in December 2015. Refer BCWC Special Newsletter Issue 184. Since then a lot of maintenance work has been done on the track including opening up the Crooked River section of the track. So this year the end-to-end walk included a VIP Walk on Tuesday 21 November to mark the reopening of this 15km section of the track.

McTk2017 was a 14 day, 220km fully supported and catered walk along the track originally cut by Angus McMillan through the Gippsland high country. The walk started at Cobungra near Omeo and finished at Woods Point. Objectives of the walk other than to enjoy the experience included:

1. Conducting a track condition survey,
2. Taking an accurate GPS trail,
3. Noting where signage needs attention,
4. Replacing & adding new markers.

Five members of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club and one member of Sunraysia Walking Club took up this years challenge of walking McMillan's Track from end to end.

This is the report of their adventure.

Day 1 – Saturday 18th November

Cobungra (Victoria River Track) to Black Sallee on Long Plain

Ascent: 240m

Descent: 60m

Distance: 8km

Cumulative: 8km

Campsite: Black Sallee (small lake)

Support crew vehicles departed Traralgon at 8:30am; Oliver went via Maffra to collect Michael, Anna and Tom while Oliver with Joe and Karl on board went via Sale to pick up Sue. By the time of final pickups our two support vehicles were loaded to capacity with supplies, equipment and walkers. The two vehicles met up at Swifts Creek for a coffee break. The much anticipated coffee at the Bakery wasn't to be as the Bakery was closed so coffees were had at the pub. After a further break at Omeo for a snack and the mandatory photos at the beginning of the walk the 6-dedicated end- to-end walkers commenced their adventure in the rain along the Victoria River track, near Cobungra. The rain soon ceased.

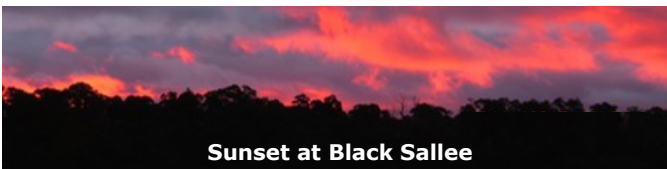


Mandatory group photo at the start of walk

The walk on this first day was an easy 8km stroll to Black Sallee, a nice campsite beside a small lake. When the walkers arrived just before 4pm Oliver had the tarpaulin stretched over the camp table to keep us dry in case of further rain. Sue had a swim and others worked out how their camping gear went together. We enjoyed a meal of barbecued lamp chops with mint sauce and boiled potatoes and vegetables. The sun set was picturesque - red sun at night, walkers delight.



Black Sallee campsite



Sunset at Black Sallee

Day 2 – Sunday 19th November

Black Sallee - Mayford Track – Treasury Spur - Kings Spur

Ascent: 840m Descent: 540m
Distance: 17km Cumulative: 25km
Camp: Near Bright Hut, Dargo High Plains

The mist was rising over the lake as we breakfasted and got ready for our first serious day of walking. On making sure we had everything required for the day, lunch, water, rain coat, warm sweater, first aid kit, sun tan lotion, insect repellent, map and GPS it was discovered that Tom had packed much more "just in case". Even after the contents were much reduced his pack was still the heaviest. Oh, to be so young and so fit. We were on our way shortly after 8am. Anna was recording waypoints for strategic locations. We were soon carefully picking our way down the steep Mayford Track.



The steep Mayford Track

Sue determined the pace downhill. Our first unbridged River crossing was the Dargo River which was straight forward with water up to mid calf. The delightful setting of the Mayford Paddocks was spoilt at one spot by rubbish and partial deer carcasses left strewn on the ground. Tom did a sterling service picking up rubbish, mainly drink cans and bottles. Lunch was had half way up Treasure Spur. Oliver and John meet us at the top of Treasure Spur where we attempted to remove markers from fallen trees



Tom drying his feet after crossing the Dargo

and put them up so they were useful. Once on the Dargo High plains we wandered on to camp near Bright Shire Hut taking in the views into and over the Devils Hollow. Water in the creek below the hut was refreshing and the BBQ sausage meal was nourishing.

Day 3 – Monday 20th November

Kings Spur – Dargo High Plains Road – White Timber Spur track

Ascent: 100m Descent: 630m
Distance: 16.5km Cumulative: 36.5km
Campsite: Ritchies rd & White Timber Spur Tk

At 1,550 metre elevation and a clear sky it was not surprising to wake up to a frost which soon disappeared once the sun hit the ground. Oliver had the billy boiling before most of us were awake. The route today differed from McTk2015. In 2015 the track down the Crooked River was over grown and difficult to find so the walk went down the Dargo High Plains Road; 26km of road walk! McTk2017 would tackle the track head on, knowing full well the Crooked River section of track was cleared. The section from the Dargo High Plains Rd round to the northern end of White Timber Spur track had not been walked previously by any of the party but we soon found some markers and followed the fence lines to meet up with White Timber Spur Track.



Michael resting along White Timber Spur Track

We did cross some boggy ground and wondered what it would be like in a wet year. The planned destination for today was the southern end of White Timber Spur Track but we knew we had an issue. Access on to WTST south of Richie Road was difficult if not impossible for our support vehicles. DELWP's plan to do some work on the track with a bulldozer had been delayed. John and Oliver checked out the track and decided it was unwise to proceed down the track so camp was established in a clearing just south of Richie Road 6 km short of our planned destination.

As it happened there had been a wild fire on White Timber Spur just a few days after we had passed through and a bulldozer was used to improve access onto the track for fire fighting.

The walkers arrived at the camp just after 1pm, had lunch and whiled away the afternoon trying to keep out of the sun. Some work was done on the track to allow passage by the DELWP and PV vehicles the next day. That evening we had a scrumptious beef stew and retired early in preparation for an early start the next day.



Camp near junction of WTST and Richie Rd

Day 4 – Tuesday 21st November

White Timber Spur Track - Crooked River - Talbotville

Ascent: 380m Descent: 1,170m
 Distance: 17.5km Cumulative: 69.5km
 Campsite: Stonewall

Today was to be a big day. First by completing the 6kms not walked the day before, and secondly, being joined by the VIP walkers for the reopening ceremony and walk down the Crooked River to Stonewall and then on through the 24 river crossings to Talbotville.

The tents were bone dry in the morning making for easy packing. We were on our way down White Timber Spur Track shortly after 7:30am. As we approached the end of WTST the two DELWP and one Parks Victoria vehicles caught up

with us. They had departed Dargo 2 hours earlier bringing the three additional walkers and the VIP walkers who would join us for the day. Oliver and John had also hitched a ride. The vehicles parked at the small helipad at the end of the track. It was here that a make shift "ceremonial" ribbon was erected. A bit before 10:00am, Joe and Matt got the proceedings underway. After a few words of thanks and praise for the efforts of many, the ribbon was cut and the Crooked River Track was officially declared re-open.



Joe & Matt get ready to cut the tape

With our ranks now swelled to 16 walkers we headed off steeply down from the end of White Timber Spur Track to the junction of 25 and 35 Mile creeks. One of the magic spots on McMillan's Walking Track. Most took off their boots to cross the 25 Mile Creek. Once across the creek we hit the track proper which immediately and slowly begins to rise above the creek bed. There were still quite a few obstacles such as fallen trees and scrub to negotiate at this northern end.. Those who thought the going was tough should have seen it before it was cleared! Lunch was had well above the river with extensive views of our surrounds. But it would have been nice to dip our toes in the river as it was already quite warm. Stone-walling along the track is clear evidence of early track construction during the gold mining era.



Example of Stonewalling along the track

The afternoon got quite warm and had an effect on the pace of the party. Where the Crooked River (actually a creek) flows into the valley floor to join with 35-mile Creek to officially become the Crooked River the group refilled their water bottles. The track was now definitely easier to negotiate plus we were next to the river on several occasions. The views along this section of the Crooked River and the signs of early gold mining activities such as water races and remnants of old machinery are certainly worth the effort. By the time we reached Stonewall, almost 5.30 for the last to arrive, we were all worn out and certainly happy to see our support staff with a billy on the boil and damper to boot. Those who were hot simply jumped in the river to cool off. The VIP walkers then departed via convoy back to Dargo and home no doubt wondering if they would ever return to this VIP - **Very Isolated Place!** Michael took a ride out to attend to a family commitment.



Tom, Anna & Karl at one of the 23 river crossings

certainly pleasant and upon arrival at Talbotville we met up with our support crew for another break. Then the real walk began with a short rise before dropping down to the Wongungarra River where we had to fight our way through some blackberries. Lunch was taken in the shade on the banks of the Wongungarra River.



Marian, Hans & Diana Inspecting old mining equipment

For the rest of us, now ten in number, we quickly decided that we would camp at Bulltown just one river crossing away rather than go onto Talbotville and that we would leave the other 23 river crossings for the morning and make up the 8kms some other day.

Day 5 – Wednesday 22nd November

Bulltown – Station Track – Cynthia Range – Eaglevale

Ascent: 785m Descent: 765m
 Distance: 21km Cumulative: 90.5km
 Camp: Eaglevale on Wonnongatta River

There were now 8 walkers on the track, comprising 5 end to end walkers and an additional 3 part time walkers. It was time to decide what footwear to wear because ahead lay 23 crossings of the Crooked River. This section of the walk was

The next leg would take us up the very steep 4WD Station Track up onto Cynthia range in what we estimated to be 33 degrees. Then on the walking track down to the Wonnangatta River. We crossed the river on the swing bridge at Eaglevale and met up with John and Oliver just before 4pm. Were we going to continue onto Pulpit Rock, our planned destination, or somewhere in between? No. This was too good a spot to move on from. We set up camp, swam/bathed, explored and enjoyed a meal of Happy Camper Meatballs on pasta. We were entertained by Hans's tales, some of which were no doubt true. We also discovered that Hans did not retire until all the fire wood was burnt with Tom keeping him company in the mean time.



Crossing the Wonnongatta at Eaglevale

Day 6 – Thursday 23rd November

Eaglevale – Moroka River - lower end of Moroka River Track

Ascent: 170m Descent: 80m

Distance: 10.5km Cumulative: 101km

Campsite: Moroka River (base of Moroka River Tk)

As it was going to be another hot day and we had distance to make up we had an early departure. To save time and some climb and descent we cut through Happy Valley, a private property located within the Wonnongatta. This certainly saved us some distance and was easier walking in the heat than climbing in and out of gullies along the road. We had committed ourselves before we got to the 'no trespassing' signs, Oops! Pulpit rock located on a bend of the river was a highlight and soon thereafter found our way down to the river to refresh and refill our water bottles. We then continued on towards the junction of the Moroka and Wonnangatta Rivers.



Group above the Moroka River



Group in the Moroka River



Group on the track near Pulpit Rock

Turning left we headed up into the Moroka Valley and the Mount Darling - Snowy Bluff Wilderness Zone. In line with policy for wilderness zones Parks Victoria have discouraged track maintenance and erecting markers within the zone. Some markers can still be found but it is up to the parties to navigate their way through the zone the best they can. For the first few kilometres we found easy going along the river flats kept open by deer grazing. For the remainder since the river was low we were able to walk in the river bed much of the way. This is another great location but walking up the rocky river was not without its challenges and going by the sky and high humidity there had to be thunderstorms somewhere. Eventually at around 5pm we reached our campsite below Snowy Bluff at the bottom end of Moroka River Track. It was then we could all relax by taking a dip and cooling off.

Conor Wilson from Parks Vic had transported all our gear and brought Michael and John into this management vehicles only wilderness zone. He joined us for the night and we introduced him to Happy Camper meals. Oliver took the opportunity to have a night in his own bed and fetch new supplies.



Conor being introduced to Happy Camper meals by Sue (with smoke in her eyes!)

Day 7 – Friday 24th November

Moroka River crossing – Playboy Creek -

D4 Track – Volkswagen

Ascent: 1,010m Descent: 40m

Distance: 13km Cumulative: 114km

Campsite: Volkswagen

A challenging day lay ahead, and Anna knew it, over a thousand metres of climb in hot conditions on uneven terrain. Everything, other than the day packs, was loaded onto Connor's vehicle. He departed for Doolans Plain to transfer gear back to John's vehicle with John and Anna aboard.



Ready to depart from Moroka River Track

Michael lead the way and found easy walking along the flats to Playboy Creek and then followed this upstream. We hunted for the markers indicating where to cross side gullies, we found some. We slowly rose above the landscape, stumbled on to a thunder egg site and reached Beth Saddle by 11:30. After a break we headed for the D4 Track. Slow and steady was the pace due to the heat. With storm clouds building we trudged on till lunch at 12:30 taken on the track. During lunch the heavens opened. Back on track we experienced a heavy hail shower. Hail stones crunched under foot till 2pm when we reached our campsite at Volkswagen which was a wonderful sight. John, Anna and Oliver had a fire going and the tarpaulin set up for shelter. They had collected buckets of hail off the tarpaulin.

Rain continued and off till about 3:30pm. It was dry enough then to erect tents and get sorted for the evening. Oliver had arrived back with fresh supplies. That evening we dined on a delicious chicken casserole prepared by Carolyn, his wife. Most retired early to their tents but chatter from Hans and Tom could be heard well into the night.



Campsite at Volkswagen



Karl, Anna, Joe and Michael relaxing at camp

Day 8 – Saturday 25th November

Moroka Road – Arbuckle Junction – Dingo Hill Track

Ascent: 260m Descent: 400m

Distance: 18.5km Cumulative: 132.5km

Campsite: Shaws Ck on Dingo Hill Track

A fine morning but tents were wet from further over night showers. The tarpaulin was left up till after breakfast and lunches were made and bags packed. Today's walk would take us along the Moroka Rd to Arbuckle Junction where there was mobile phone reception if you stood in the right place and held your phone just so.



Approaching Arbuckle junction

Several phone calls were made and SMSs sent. Then up onto Mt Arbuckle itself and down to cross Shaw Creek. We were thankful for the track clearing that had been done on this track. The purple wildflowers (hovea) along this section were marvellous.



Purple wildflowers along the track

We inspected Kellys Hut and had lunch at McMichaels Hut. A little further down Kelly Lane we turned off to follow the marked track along old logging roads/tracks north of the private property eventually came out onto Dingo Hill Track, where we once again met up with our support crew and camp.



Joe and Tom at Kellys Hut



Sue at McMichaels Hut

The GPS, as usual, suggested we had walked more than the distance measured from the map 19.7km compared to 18.5km and that we had climbed and descended more than the heights determined from the map, 330m v 260 and 462m v 400 respectively.

We enjoyed the bolognese sauce that Judy van Beek had prepared on the usual spaghetti. There was thunder around but we only had a few light showers. Hans and Tom burnt a mountain of wood well into the night. The light from the roaring fire was that bright at times that some of us woke and thought it was morning. Di spent a good deal of the night diverting a leak in her tent so as not to get her sleeping bag wet.



Serving up Judy's delicious Bolognese sauce

Day 9 – Sunday 26th November

Dingo Hill Track – Mt. Tamboritha – Red Box Camp

Ascent: 510m

Descent: 1450m

Distance: 19.5km

Cumulative: 152km

Campsite: Red Box Camp

No doubt one of the highlights of this walk is the track up and over Mt Tamboritha with its spectacular views and amazing array of wildflowers. However today the gods were not on our side. Rain coats had been on and off several times and Hans's umbrella had done some duty. Then in the afternoon there was a cloud burst initially driving strongly from the west and then straight down which drenched us in seconds. Sue and Anna didn't bother putting on rain coats they looked like drowned rats. Hans's Umbrella didn't pass the test. Fortunately, we still managed to capture the views and soak up the atmosphere. The track takes a significant turn to follow a spur



Group at the start of Tamboritha Spur



Group photo along Tamboritha

line all the way down to Breakfast Creek. This section required further maintenance and we marked it with tape as we went. With the rain now coming down relentlessly it wasn't much fun, however we got the job done.



Spot the odd one out!

As we staggered into Breakfast Creek in dribs and drabs we were certainly glad to put that last section of track behind us. Our support crew were just around the corner at Red Box Camp, an excellent choice. This is where the Part Time walkers packed up their gear and called it quits! Mainly because Heather Tracksdorf had come to take them back to civilisation. As Helmut, Hans and Di departed Clive and Jurgen arrived. Tom had an early night to catch up on sleep.

Day 10 - Monday 27th November
Breakfast Creek – Macalister River -
Glencairn Rd (9km) - Barkly River

Ascent: 990m Descent: 890m
 Distance: 17km Cumulative: 169km
 Campsite: Skene Ck - Barkly River

Anna set off before the others to get a head start on the climb towards the Crinoline. The tree falls had been cleared from this track by Parks Victoria back in July. Although this made for easier walking the relentless climb in increasing warm conditions still made it an effort. We caught up with Anna at Smith Street on the saddle between the Crinoline and Sugarloaf. Joe was curious about the track from here down to the Macalister River. It had been subject to a fuel reduction burn in early 2015 which burnt out most of the markers and evidence of the track. We may not have been on the 'track' but the route is down a well defined ridge which is readily negotiable. We crossed the Macalister River at the Gauging Station which is upstream from where the crossing is marked on most maps but seems the obvious place to cross and provides stiles to get over the fences.



On the ridge heading down to Macalister river

This was a convenient place for lunch. The next 3 km were on private land with a climb to a saddle then down to the Glencairn Road. The walk up Glencairn Road and then down Middle Ridge Road to the Barkley River seemed longer than it should have been, maybe we were tired. But it was a relief to arrive at the spaces Rumpff Flat where John and Oliver had established camp and we could bath in the stream. While Clive and Jurgen had their meal the rest of us concocted a stew/sauce with pasta sauce, salami and vegetables which was served on spiral pasta. Arguably our most tasty meal.

Day 11 – Tuesday 28th November

Rumpff Flat – Connors Plain –

Licola-Jamieson Road

Ascent: 1060m Descent: 270m

Distance: 20km Cumulative: 189km

Campsite: Jamieson Rd Lazarini Spur Jn

As we had an 800 metre climb up McMillans Spur (Morris Road) to the Jamieson - Licola Road first off Sue and Anna set off before the remainder of the party. Everyone did the climb at their own pace and we regrouped over a cup of hot tea brewed by John and Oliver at the top of Morris Road. An easy stroll along the Jamieson - Licola Rd before we turned down N18 and onto the old logging road leading to Mt Shillinglaw. It had been two years since we walked this track, but the track was almost beyond recognition with the amount of growth. We had not taken Joe's machete this day. Tom used a stout stick to bash a way through. The going got a bit easier as we



Section of overgrown track towards Shillinglaw

gained altitude and approached Mt Shillinglaw. Just off the summit of Mt Shillinglaw we joined the Australian Alps Walking Track, this had been cleared relatively recently but the cuttings had been left on the track making for tricky walking and trip hazards. It was a relief to be back on the Jamieson - Licola Road. We strolled along the road and arrived at our camp at the junction of J - L Rd and Lazarini Spur Track, not the most salubrious camp but adequate, at about 3:30.



Relaxing at camp after dinner

Clive and Jurgen, who had remained on the J - L Rd rather than walk the ridge to Mt Shillinglaw as they were expecting their fellow club member, Geoff, to meet them at any time from noon on, were waiting at the junction for their ride. Time went by and yet Geoff did not arrive. Clive got concerned that something may have happened to Geoff. It was decided that John should take Clive and Jurgen to Licola, so they could raise the alarm. Six kilometres down the road at the junction with N21 they meet Geoff who had been patiently waiting for Clive and Jurgen to appear for some time. Obviously, a miss understanding of the pickup point. Anyway, all's well that ends well.

Day 12 – Wednesday 29th November

Lazarini Spur – Black River – CS5 Track

Ascent: 600m Descent: 710m

Distance: 12km Cumulative: 201km

Campsite: Champion Spur/ CS5 Track Junction

Frogs croaked for most of the night, a vehicle went by and deer were heard during John's last night with us. He had commitments back in South Australia. It had been arranged that Michael would take over the support role. After packing up, carefully briefing Oliver where our next camp was to be and farewelling John we all set off: John and Michael to Maffra to transfer gear and supplies to Michael's vehicle who would then go to the camp site at the junction of Champion Spur Track and CS5, Oliver to find some water and establish camp at CS5 and the remaining walkers, now 5, headed down Lazarini Spur Track. An easy stroll for 4 km before we headed off down towards the Black River. The first 2 kms on a permanently closed road (PMC) but it was clear that a vehicle had been down it relatively recently and pushed over the scrub. Then on to a foot pad which was benched, and stone walled in places and quite overgrown. This time we had taken Joe's machete and Tom made good use of it. We paused at a spot where a number of trees bore blazes believed to have been made by McMillans track cutting gang back in 1864.



Blaze originally cut by McMillan's party

We got out our compasses to see if there was some sense to the positioning of the blazes as we had heard that McMillan had used them to calibrate a compass. To our amazement we found that our compasses did not read true. There must be some magnetic interference in the area. We got to the Black River, another of McMillans Walking Track's magic places, at 12:45pm for lunch and a cooling swim.



Anna, Joe & Karl taking a dip in the Black River

The short climb up to CS5 is challenging and once on CS5 it is a steady grind to the camp site at the junction with Champion Spur Track. Oliver had the camp established by the time the walkers arrived at 3:45 but he did confess that originally, he had established camp at the junction of Mt Selma Road and Champion Spur Track but then realised the error. Michael arrived at 4pm. Tents were erected and set up for the night. That evening Anna orchestrated a meal of leftovers consisting of eggs, potatoes, onions, cheese, asparagus, tomatoes, carrots and some with peaches and chocolate for desert. It went down a treat. Afterwards Sue did her usual routine of boiling water, collecting dishes and washing them.

Day 13 – Thursday 30th November

Champion Spur – CS5 Track - Comet Flats

Ascent: 680m Descent: 720m

Distance: 17km Cumulative: 201km

Campsite: Comet Flats

This day the walk was to be relatively short but with a challenging 700 metre climb, however due to the reports we were getting about pending storms and lots of heavy rain starting some time Friday it was decided we would push on to Comet Flats camping area on the Coulburn River just a few kms out of Woods Point adding 6kms, mainly downhill, to our journey for the day.

Our normal morning routine of having breakfast, making lunch, clearing up, packing up tents and gear, cleaning teeth, and stowing bags into the support vehicles etc was interrupted by Oliver wanting to take a group photo before we broke

camp. We commenced the days walk by heading up Champion Spur Track for two kms to a high point where the track heads off down towards Stander Creek. This track had been cleared since the 2015 walk. Within 15 minutes we were at a log which took us 2 hours to reach in 2015. We headed down a ridge and passed several shafts dug by miners. We then sidled on a benched track, which was still a work in progress maintenance wise, till we reached Stander Creek. There we inspected the ruins of the Leichardt Gold Stamping Battery and refreshed in the Creek. Lunch was had at the junction of Abbot Creek Track and Abbot Link Track where Joe erected some additional markers to make the way finding clear as had been done at several locations elsewhere along the track.



Joe erecting McMillan's Track markers

People walked up the relentless Abbot Link Track at their own pace. We regrouped near the communications tower on Johnsons Hill from where we had a view (partial) of Woods Point. We passed our previously planned camp site. When we got to the Walhalla Road Sue and Anna opted to walk the road rather than climb towards Bald Hill and come back to the Road. As Tom, Karl and Joe were looking for the point where the track leaves the Bald Hill Track we came across a bloke lying in the grass whom we didn't recognise at first. Andrew Burrows had come to meet us and walk the last section into Woods Point with us. We caught up with Anna and Sue who were also surprised to see Andrew. As we made our way down the bridge trail to Woods Point we were delighted to come across DELWP workers doing maintenance on the track, creating a diversion round a difficult bit and brush cutting blackberries and other vegetation. We were pleased to provide them with a few McMillans Walking Track markers for their use.

We caught up with Michael and Oliver at Comet Flats at 5pm and preceded to erect our tents for

the last time. The river had a good bath sized hole adjacent to a log where several of us took turns to clean up and refresh. We dined on an assortment of delicacies, many provided by Andrew, and leftovers. We also had some wine to finish up and Andrew found some more.

Day 14 – Friday 1st December

Comet Flats - Gooley Creek

- Woods Point

Ascent: 50m

Descent: 50m

Distance: 2km

Cumulative: 220km

Campsite: n/a



Historic hut beside the Goulburn River with Andrew (RHS) having joined the group

The day dawned threatening rain, but it held off long enough for us to pack up, complete the last two kilometres of the walk into Woods Point (we were there by just after 8am), take some end of walk photos, bid each other farewell and set off for home. Andrew and Anna may have got wet as they had a kilometre walk back to Andrew's Car. Oliver drove Joe and Karl back to Traralgon and Michael headed to Maffra with Sue and Tom.



End to End walkers: Anna, Tom, Sue, Karl & Joe on their last river crossing



The group at CS5 camp

And so ends another adventure along McMillan's track. This walk is certainly worth the effort and undoubtedly remains one of the highlights of the year for those who took part. Well Done!



Tom eating dinner



Yes, there's still room on top for more sauce!

CAST & CREW



Walkers at start of Track



Campsite at Volkswagen



John getting ready for dinner



Anna & Joe on Arbuckle Plain



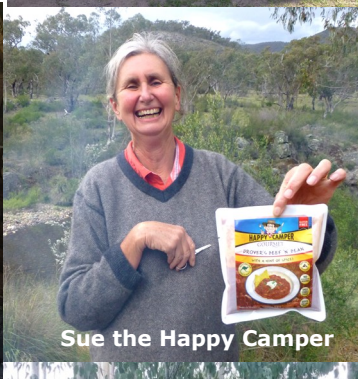
Conor at Moroka river Tk



Karl on Arbuckle Plain



Sue, Di & Michael at Kellys hut



Sue the Happy Camper



Good Tucker here, Mate!



Oliver replenishing the water supplies



Group at start of D4 Track



Hans, not your typical Hiker



Tom, establishing his whereabouts



Helmut with his catch of the day



Karl, Sue & Di on Mt Tamboritha

McTK FLORA





Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 196 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB - DECEMBER 2017



No, this isn't a hold up on the track. Its members expressing their delight at being on the Prom. What is becoming a ritual for BCWC is their annual visit to Wilsons Promontory NP to take in the sights and sounds of this amazing place, located on our doorstep. Here members (L to R) Monica, Lynette, Kath, Trevor, Marian, Emms & Robyn can be seen on top of a rock outcrop on their way to Tongue Point. This walk starting from Darby Saddle is a popular walk, taking in splendid views all the way down to a tip of land jutting out into the southern ocean aka The Tasman Sea.

To see what these adventurers got up to on their visit to the Prom, check out the full report by turning to page 6.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



Guys Hut - Alpine NP

Photo: Helmut Tracksdorf

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

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2017 / 2018

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~ Walk Previews	13 - 16	WALKS CO-ORDINATOR:	Anna Janca	0419 178 445
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			Piero Baglioni	0408 446 299
			Monica Scicluna	0431 777 460
			Geoff Mattingly	0429 084 216

CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH
NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON: WED 14TH FEB, 7:00PM
AT THE MAFFRA COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB, 122 JOHNSON STR

Welcome to our Newest Members

*John Churchill (Melbourne), Clive Davies (Brighton), Chris Johns (Sale),
 Debbie & Bryan Ray (Stratford)*

Presidential Ramblings

DECEMBER 2017

2017 has been a full year with more than 50 outdoor activities including a large variety of day walks, 10 overnight walks with two out of state, a bike ride, a kayaking event, 5 track maintenance working bees and an end-to-end walk of the McMillans Walking Track (McTk2017). Thanks to all those, including some new comers, who organised and lead the activities. The social occasions and club nights have been varied and well supported. The newsletters have proved informative and scintillating reading. Our website has kept us informed and provided a good reference for club material. Newspaper articles and some radio interviews have given us good exposure. The navigation training went well. Some members have done their CPR refreshers.

We've had great co-operation, support and encouragement from DELWP and Parks Victoria. They have attended some of our meetings, hosted and supported track maintenance, provided transport for our walkers on the VIP walk (reopening of the Crooked River section of McMillans Walking Track) and provided support for McTk2017 by conveying all our gear into and out of the Moroka Glen, management vehicles only wilderness zone.

Two of our members have been recognised for their generosity of service: Peter Jennings received an OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honour's List and Jim Stranger was awarded the Best Friend Award by the Victorian Environmental Friends Network.

We have been supportive of BWV with representation on the BTAC committee, attendance at the AGM and annual forum, participation in Fed Walks and involvement in the push to clearly have community based bushwalking clubs excluded from the Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS). Thanks to Philip Davis for representing BCWC at the November AAAS Forum.

I do regret that we only had one club member attending the Combined Gippsland Walking Club's Weekend. It clashed with McTk2017. Thanks to Trevor Whibley for representing BCWC at the weekend event near Erica.

I am pleased to advise that all committee positions are now filled. Jack Winterbottom has accepted the position of Vice President, Narelle Warren is our new Publicity Officer and Geoff Mattingly has been co-opted onto the committee as an Ordinary Committee member. The committee will be working to make 2018 as successful as 2017 if not more so.

We are currently working on getting the 2018 walks program up and our media releases back on track. Anna and team have prepared a provisional program of walks. Many of these still need walk leaders. Please contact Anna Janca our Walks Co-ordinator to discuss which walks you would like to lead whether they are on the list or not. I encourage all members to lead a walk at their level of comfort. We will link you with a mentor to get you started and direct you to the training and other materials available. Checkout the website <http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/>.

It remains for me to thank everyone for their contribution and participation in club activities during the year and for helping to make 2017 the successful year it has been and to wish you all a safe and joyous festive season.

See you on the tracks or at another club activity in 2018.

Joe van Beek



Club News

BCWC Committee meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled on **Wednesday 14th February, at 7:00pm** at our new location in Maffra. The **Maffra Community Sports Club** at 122 Johnston Street.

Please note the change of address.

The opportunity to have a meal before the meeting is also available at 6:00pm.

Xmas in Dec

26 members gathered at the Criterion Hotel in Sale for our annual Christmas get together. Joe gave a brief overview of the year and thanked everyone for their contribution to another successful year of club activities. A slide show of the recent McTk 2017 walk was put on an overhead screen for everyone's enjoyment. A jolly good time was had by one and all.

Meeting with John Smith "Smithy"

Sue Hides has kindly arranged for several members to meet with one of our foundation members - John Smith. John ("Smithy") had been an advocate of McMillans track for a long time. Smithy's efforts to reconnoitre and re-discover original sections of the track earned him an Order of Australia Medal and resulted in the re-opening of the track by the then Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands - The Honourable Joan Kirner MLC in 1988.

Ben Cruachan Walking Clubs association with McMillan's Track goes back to the first decade of the clubs inauguration because of John's efforts. The club will be forever in his debt for the mapping and maintenance work he put into McMillans track. On behalf of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club - "Thank you Smithy"

For those members meeting with John, it will be an great opportunity to catch up and talk about the early days of bushwalking - before policy and procedures became the norm!

McTk 2017 & VIP Walk

During November, 5 members and 1 guest completed an end to end walk of McMillans Track. The walk was held in conjunction with the VIP walk which officially recognised the re-opening of the Crooked River section of McMillans track. In total we had 15 individuals complete the VIP walk. Check out the report on Page 9 for more details.

A special edition Newsletter will be published in January 2018 to capture all the highlights of McTk 2017. So stay tuned.

DELWP & Parks Vic Support

As indicated in Joe van Beek's, Presidential Ramblings. During 2017 we've had great co-operation, support and encouragement from DELWP and Parks Victoria. They have attended some of our meetings, hosted and supported track maintenance, provided transport for our walkers on the VIP walk (reopening of the Crooked River section of McMillans Walking Track) and provided support for McTk2017 by conveying all our gear into and out of the Moroka Glen, management vehicles only wilderness zone.

We look forward to ongoing support from DELWP & Parks Vic during 2018, and look forward to working in conjunction with them again on further track maintenance efforts and other bushwalking associated activities.

Special thanks to Jeremy Reynolds at DELWP & Conor Wilson at Parks Vic for their support and assistance.



**Conor Wilson on the Moroka river Track
supporting McTk 2017**

2018 Walks Program

Anna Janca our Walks Co-ordinator is working on putting our 2018 walks program into effect. Check out the BCWC website for the current program, noting there are still several walks that require a Walk Leader before they can take effect.

Leading a walk may at first appear daunting, BUT the club does provide support and mentoring for any member who wishes to lead a walk. In fact, it's a relatively easy task! All you need to do is put one foot in front of the other and request those members participating in the walk to follow you and adhere to a few simple rules. Beats going to the dentist any day!

So check out the walks program and feel free to put your best foot forward and take up the challenge of "Leading a Walk"

WALK REPORTS

EASTERN BEACH WALK

Lakes Entrance

DATE: Sat 21st Oct

LEADER: Jim Stranger

REPORT: Chris Johns

Walkers: Daryle White, Marian Matchan, Jackie Whiting, Trevor Wibley, Jim & Denise Stranger, ?,?, Trevor Clues, ? & Chris Johns.

This Walk was quite lovely, with a cooling breeze, no rain and a very friendly group of companions. Jim kept us moving along nicely without any slave-driving tendencies appearing. We walked in part along the beach until arriving at the Life-Savers Lookout, when we moved inland along a bush track, in parts almost a jungle aspect, with thick bush, creeping lianas devouring trees and the occasional palm!! Upon arriving at the Entrance we saw many Seabirds and 3-4 gambolling Seals, who seemed as interested in us as we in them!! We returned to the Carpark, stopping again at the Lookout for lunch, then again partly along the Beach, into the scrub adjacent to Cottages, and along the Foreshore (luckily the tide was out!!) arriving back at the Carpark at almost exactly the predicted time. Many thanks to Jim Stranger and his Wife, Denise for a top day walk.



Group at Life Savers lookout - the Entrance

FED WALKS 2017

Warburton Area

DATE: Sat 28th - Sun 29th Oct

WALKS & LEADERS: Various

REPORT: Ken Free

BCWC Walkers: Monica & Joe Scicluna, Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Chris Marshall, Graham Pilkington, Trevor Wibley, Rachele Quattrocchi & Ken Free

(plus close to 300 walkers from clubs around Victoria)

This year's FedWalks was hosted by the Melbourne Bushwalkers, a club that was established in 1940 and is one of Australia's largest and longest established bushwalking and hiking clubs, with over 450 mem-

bers. The headquarters for registration and walks check-in was the East Warburton Hall where the yellow-jacketed 'officials' were very friendly and welcoming and the whole process operated smoothly and precisely just like a Swiss watch.

On both Saturday and Sunday a total of 20 walks were on offer and they ranged in grade from 'easy' to 'hard' and were mostly within a radius of 30kms from Warburton. This is mountain ash country which had a great combination of steep hills and very lush and damp tree fern gullies. The long history of logging was evident on many walks with remnant saw milling machinery, tramways and old log bridges across waterways. On Saturday, Rachele and I chose to do the Mt Little Joe Summit and River Trails walk which combined a relatively easy stroll along the Yarra River with a 470 metre climb (and descent) to the summit of Mt Little Joe where we had a great view of the tree trunks that surrounded us ☺.



Walkers at Mt Little Joe summit

On Sunday, we did a 16 km circuit which took in the Ada Tree, Charlie Creek and old saw mill sites. The Ada Tree is 76 metres tall, around 300 years old and is one of the largest flowering trees in the world. This was a very enjoyable walk through mostly tree fern country with plenty of historic interest and good photo opportunities.

We experienced a couple of interesting events on this walk: an 83 year old and very fit woman fell head first into a creek, stopped only by her hiking pole from going over a waterfall - fortunately she suffered no injuries; and, on arriving back at our cars we were greeted by the sight of a scout leader who mistakenly thought that Toyotas could drive over tree trunks - his scout troupe were suitably impressed.



Oh What a Feeling

I'm sure I can speak for the other club members who participated when I say that we had a great weekend, met up with some old friends from other clubs and made a number of new friends. Melbourne Bushwalkers did a great job. We can't wait for the next Fed-walks.

WILSONS PROMONTORY

Tidal River - Oberon Bay- Norman Pt

DATE: Fri 10th - Sun 12th Nov

LEADER: Monica Scicluna

REPORT: Trevor Whibley

Walkers: Kath Johnson, Robyn Rowley, Monica & Joe Scicluna, Corinne Klein, Lynette Newman, Chris Marshall, Joan Emms (visitor), Marion Matchan, Trevor Whibley, Wil Streckfuss, Nick & Julie.

Friday was a travel day, and it must be said the weather was perfect for all 3 days. After arriving at the George Robinson Lodge and unpacking, Joe went to catch tea. [Look for the nearest fish and chip shop I said]. A few souls went out for the short walk to Pillar Point before tea, where a great view of Norman Bay, Leonard Bay and off-shore islands could be had.

Amazingly when we returned to the lodge Joe had arrived after actually catching 5 beautiful Salmon. There's a first time for everything I spose! We all rushed to help him clean and scale them. At this point one of our dedicated walkers discovered she missed Maffra so much and was homesick already, so hopped in her car and drove back to Maffra, mumbling something about her bag. Oops, sorry Chris I wasn't meant to say your name. She arrived back some hours later.

On Saturday morning we left the top car-park at Telegraph Saddle and walked to Oberon Bay via Telegraph Track, crossing Growler Creek on the way. Some beautiful rock outcrops were seen on this section. On arrival at Oberon Bay we checked out the various secluded tent sites for future reference. Some beach-combing and photo opportunities took place along the beach with a number of dead mutton birds [Short Tailed Shearwaters] found, which is a normal occurrence on these ocean beaches.

We crossed Growler Creek again as it entered the sea, and had lunch amongst the granite boulders. At one stage a Little Falcon or Australasian Hobby cruised past looking for his lunch as well. A very leisurely lunch and a nanna nap [Joe] was undertaken while awaiting a small contingent of our generally more mature members [sorry Robyn]. Eventually they arrived from Norman Bay.

Once we departed for Norman Bay, we encountered the Bushwalking Victoria BTAC crew and Parks Victoria Ranger undertaking track maintenance near Norman Point. Eventually we arrived back at the lodge and ice creams were the order of the day. A quick coffee and another small group consisting of Marion, Trevor, Lynette and Chris decided to 'do' Mt Oberon while it was still clear. [Another 4 km] Magnificent views were had from the top, before the cloud layer



Group approaching Norman Point

dropped in on us.

Tea that night was a BBQ with BBQ Salmon, courtesy of our very successful fisherman Joe. Thanks Joe, top marks. I take back everything I said about your fishing ability!

On Sunday morning, after packing up, we discovered our intrepid Maffra member had left early to go to work, via Tongue Point and again left her bag behind. We rang her and transferred her bag back to her at Darby Saddle. Some were heard to say that Chris appeared to have other things on her mind?



Ready to depart for Darby Saddle

Darby Saddle – Tongue Point- Darby River. 9 km.

After pointing the Maffra girl in the right direction, the walkers departed Darby Saddle, and walked along the coast, with magnificent views of the off-shore islands. A number of abalone dive boats were seen close in-shore due to the very calm conditions. Look-out Rocks and Sparkes Look-out were points of interest along the way. Lunch was had at Tongue Point, before heading back towards Fairy Cove. Trevor saw a very healthy black cat having a dust bath, but unfortunately didn't have his gun on him as we were in a National Park. [Note. It was not THE Black Panther].

After passing a localised fuel reduction burn, a coffee was had at Yanakie, before everyone headed home. It was a totally awesome week end of walking and social activities, with excellent company. Thanks everyone for volunteering me for the walk report.!!!

BRYCES GORGE ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 11th - Sun 12th Nov

LEADER: Oliver Raymond

REPORT: Maureen Hickling

Walkers: Oliver Raymond, John Churchill, Maureen Hickling, (Ian) Maurice Roberts

Bryce's Gorge carpark was quite busy with many campers and families out enjoying the good weather. However we soon left the crowds behind as we set out across the plains through open forest and grassland bisected by watercourses flowing after recent rains. Snow gums were the predominant tree, and stunning purple patches of hovea looked like heather, dotted with buttercups and egg and bacon amongst the snowgrass.

We made a short detour for a better view of Piemans Falls, then the track continued on through undulating forest before climbing over a hill and approaching the Gorge. The campsite was set among old snow gums with greenish trunks, right on the edge of the cliff, with a great view along the Gorge.

We collected water from the rocky pools in Conglomerate Creek, just before it drops vertically down into the Gorge below, and enjoyed our lunch before heading across the creek and through the bush to explore down to the bottom of the waterfall to enjoy the stunning views.



Maurice, Oliver & John above Conglomerate Falls

Another three campers joined us during the afternoon to share the campsite and campfire with a pleasant afternoon of swapping yarns, while I followed the little creek upstream to try my luck with rod, and finally managed to catch a nice little trout, which Maurice cooked over sticks on the campfire. (I had forgotten the foil!) A cross between sashimi and smoked trout, we all had a taste.

Oliver's Kettle was in demand as the group prepared and compared cuppa soups and dehydrated meals. During the afternoon the grey clouds had been gathering and thunder rolling around the hills. A shower of rain just as we were finishing our meals sent some scurrying to the tents. It didn't last long and soon we were able to enjoy the campfire and watch the stars come out.

The night was cold with an icy breeze that tested out our tents and sleeping bags. Early morning saw us up hovering around the fire for warmth, waiting for the sun to finally rise above the ridgeline. Our track followed the creek upstream and the group kindly held back so I could try my luck in a promising fishing hole, but no luck. Maybe next time. We continued on through lovely open forest and snowgrass plains, stopping at Guy's Hut for morning tea.

Back at the cars before lunch, we wandered across the road to check out a creek at the end of the clearing, before heading back to Glenmaggie.

It was a pleasure to walk in an area unaffected by recent bushfires, and amazing to find such a spectacular area within easy walking access.



Exploring below Conglomerate Falls



The Sashimi or Smoked Trout

Thanks to Oliver for leading the walk, and to John for his company, Maurice and I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend.

BILLY GOAT BEND TO DEN OF NARGUN MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 18th November

LEADER: Piero Baglioni

REPORT: Chris Johns

Walkers: Trevor Whibley, Rob & Josie Paterson, Peter & Nikki Jennings, Chris Johns, Eva Banks, Helmut Tracksdorf, Piero Baglioni, Frankie McLennan, Leisa Cash.

11.5* Members met at Stratford Memorial Park in preparation for the "Billy Goat Bend to Den of Nargun" Walk. We made our way to Beverley's Road and beyond for quite some distance along bush roads to our starting point at Billy Goat Bend. Before starting our hike we stopped at a viewing platform overlooking the Mitchell River with soaring, majestic cliffs framing the scene.



Group at Billy Goat Bend Lookout

After taking in the view we began wending our way along a defined path through the bush parallel with the River; passing occasional rapids. The track varied from level to very rocky with rises and falls in the temperature, owing to thick bush and temperate gullies making for quite humid conditions. This trek is very scenic, quite often in sight of the River, with Rob pointing out and explaining many features. Stopping for lunch at an open, shaded area, we were rewarded with a zephyr of breeze - most welcome.

Rob offered to take us off-track upward to an unusual trig marker and small tin shed which contained many abandoned drill core samples from an unrealised investigative plan to dam the river.



Rob with a drill core sample

Moving further we came across several dells with moss and lichen covered trees slowly being strangled by twisting creepers, until we eventually arrived at Woolshed Creek, which lead us to Deadcock Den and the Den of Nargun. What a great spot and beautiful sight it was!! Steve Parrish, the Landscape Photographer, would love to take some Snaps and it wouldn't surprise to see little people peering at us!!



Visiting Deadcock Den

Further Along the track, oddly twisting trees, ferns, drooping creepers, enormous rocky overhangs, flat shelves, with shafts of sunlight angling through the canopy, everything covered in moss or creeping plants, with a limpid pool at the Den of Nargun. Here we stopped for a well-earned breather preparatory to the walk back out to the Road, each finding a butt-friendly rock to sit upon, and drank in the view, all of us mesmerised to some degree by the water dropping from above and splashing into the Pool below - Ahh The Serenity!! This Walk is a must for the keen member - it's got a lot to recommend. Our Leader Piero Baglioni, took his role seriously by ensuring there were no stragglers and mindful of the humidity, made sure we had several breaks. Many thanks, Piero; also Helmut and Rob for explanations en route. On a personal note I'd like to thank the Members who generously offer rides in their sturdy 4WD vehicles to some of the more rugged arrival points for Walks.

**One of the walkers was pregnant so technically they count as 1.5*



Take me to the River!

McMILLANS TRACK VIP CROOKED RIVER WALK

DATE: Tue 21st Nov
LEADER: Geoff Mattingly
REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

Walkers: BCWC: Marian Matchan, Marjorie Kangaratnam, Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Dianne Christiansen, Jackie Whiting, Helmut Tracksdorf & Visitor Hans Tracksdorf (Ballarat Bushwalkers)

Support Crew: DELWP: Jeremy Reynolds, Matt Zanini, Anthea Clarke; PARKS Vic: Conor Wilson

BCWC: Oliver Raymond & John Kellas

End to End Walkers: BCWC: Michael Dowe, Joe van Beek, Sue Hides, Anna Janca, Tom Carew. Karl Sommer (Sunraysia Bushwalkers)

This walk was designated as a VIP walk to officially celebrate the re-opening of The Crooked River section of McMillan's track. The members and guests who attended were definitely VIP's aka Very Isolated People – In the Bush!

After an early rise for most participants we met with Parks & DELWP staff in Dargo at 7:00am, who then drove us to White Timber Spur (off Ritchies Rd) to meet up with the end to end McMillan's track walkers who had started 3 days earlier from near Cobungra. After a 2hr drive we arrived at our destination, a small helipad at the end of White Timber Spur where we met the other walkers. We then held a small informal ceremony with Joe & Jeremy presiding over the cutting of the ribbon and declaring the Crooked River Track re-open.



Joe presiding at the opening ceremony

By 10:30am we were off, dropping down the steep spur line to the junction of 25 & 35 mile creeks. Once across the creek we hit the track proper which immediately and slowly begins to rise above the creek bed. Surprisingly there were still quite a few obstacles such as fallen trees and thick scrub to negotiate. Additional maintenance work needs to be done on this northern section of track. Those who thought the going was tough should have seen it before it was cleared!

After 2hrs of walking we were well above the river with extensive views of our surrounds. Lunch was a welcome reprieve although it would have been nice to dip our toes in the river as it was already quite warm. Rejuvenated we continued following the track still negotiating trees that require a chainsaw to clear. Stone-

walling along the track is clear evidence of early track construction during the gold mining era. After another hour we arrived at the top of a spur, where the track suddenly opens and becomes more clearly defined. This is due to the extensive track maintenance efforts conducted from the southern end of the Crooked river that had reached this point.



Taking a break along a stonewall section of track

Shortly thereafter we commence our descent towards where the Crooked river (actually a creek) flows into the valley floor to join with 35-mile Creek to officially become the Crooked River. Here the group refilled their water bottles and took a short break before continuing.

The track was now definitely easier to negotiate plus we were next to the river on several occasions. The views along this section of the Crooked River are certainly worth the effort and made up for the first half of the walk. With the kilometers flying by (for some) we were able to enjoy the scenery and take in the views even passing some old machinery left behind from the gold mining days. It's hard to describe the before and after scene of this track – suffice to say it's a 4-way freeway now compared to our first visit several years ago. Once again, a fantastic effort by all those involved in clearing the track.



Marian, Hans & Di inspecting mining relics

By the time we reached Stonewall we were all worn out and certainly happy to see our support staff with a Billy on the boil and damper to boot. Those who were not simply jumped in the river to cool off.

So, the VIP section of the walk was over and judging by the comments a success. However, track maintenance remains an ongoing task especially at the northern end near White Timber Spur. The VIP walkers then departed via convoy back to Dargo and home no doubt wondering if they would ever return to this VIP - Very Isolated Place!

McTK 2017
END TO END WALK
ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 18th Nov - Fri 1st Dec

LEADER: Joe van Beek

REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

End to End Walkers: BCWC: Anna Janca, Michael Dowe, Tom Carew, Sue Hides, Joe van Beek and Sunraysia Walking Club member: Karl Sommer

Part Time Walkers: Hans & Helmut Tracksdorf, Di Christiansen

Support Crew: John Kellas, Oliver Raymond & Michael Dowe, Conor Wilson Parks Vic.

NB: A full detailed report of McTrack 2017 will be published as a special edition newsletter in January 2018. In the interim, hopefully this summary will suffice!

BCWC last walked the Mc Track in 2015. Since then a lot of maintenance work has been done on the track. So this year the end to end walk was held in conjunction with the VIP Crooked river walk, which celebrates the re-opening of this section.

McTk2017 was a 14 day, 220km supported and catered walk along the track originally cut by Angus McMillan through the Gippsland high country. The walk started at Cobungra near Omeo and finished at Woods Point.

Starting on Saturday 18 November, 6 dedicated end to end walkers commenced their adventure along the Victoria River track, near Cobungra, not knowing what to expect or what adventures lay ahead. Day 1 was a stroll to Black Sallee a nice campsite beside a small lake. The serious walking was still ahead and Day 2 didn't disappoint with a steep drop down to Mayford Paddocks and the crossing of the Dargo River. Then after a short respite, 3hours of steady climbing up Treasure spur onto the Dargo High plains.

Day 3 The next destination was White Timber Spur. During McTk 2015 this section was avoided due to re-growth and accessibility issues. So the previous group of walkers used the Dargo High Plains road. McTk 2017 would tackle the track head on. Knowing full well the Crooked River section of track was cleared. They were also on a mission to meet up with the VIP walkers and take part in the official re-opening of The Crooked River section of track. That evening they camped at the head of White Timber Spur track, a 4WD track that winds its way up and along a spur all the way down to the junction of 25 & 35Mile Ck.

Day 4 Following the track to its inevitable end the two groups of walkers and dignitaries from DELWP & Parks Vic met and after handshakes and greetings got down to business. Around 10:00am, Joe and Jeremy got the proceedings underway. A makeshift ribbon was strung across the track and after a few words of thanks and praise for the efforts of many, the ribbon was cut and the Crooked River Track was officially declared re-open.

With our ranks now swelled to 15 walkers we headed off down the end of White Timber spur to the junction of 25 & 35Mile creek. Check out the VIP walk report for what followed next.

Day 5 There were now 9 green bottles or walkers left on the track, comprising 6 end to end walkers and an additional 3 part time walkers. It was time to decide



One of the many river crossings

what footwear to wear because ahead lay 22 crossings of the Crooked river. This section of the walk was certainly pleasant and upon arrival at Talbotville we met up with our support crew for another break. Then the real walk began with a short rise before dropping down to the Wongungarra river and lunch. The next leg would take us up the very steep 4WD Station Track up onto Cynthia range. Then off track, down into the Wonnangatta valley and Eaglevale. Our next campsite for the night.



Crossing the Wonnangatta at Eaglevale

Day 6 To save time we departed early and cut through Happy Valley a private property located within the Wonnangatta. This certainly saved us at least 1km of walking in the heat. Pulpit rock located on a bend of the river was a highlight and soon thereafter down to the river to refresh and refill our waterbottles. We then continued on towards the junction of the Moroka and Wonnangatta rivers.

Turning left we headed up into the Moroka valley following the river upstream. This is another great location but walking up the rocky river was not without its challenges. Eventually we reached our campsite below Snowy Bluff on the Moroka river Rd. It was then we could all relax by taking a dip and cooling off. Conor Wilson from Parks Vic had transported all our gear into this wilderness zone.

Day 7 A challenging day lay ahead. After departing camp we continued upstream until Playboy Creek and then followed this upstream slowly rising above the landscape. We were looking for a turning point that would take us up and over Beth saddle onto the D4 track. Slow and steady was the pace due to the heat. By 11:00 we hit the D4 track and with storm clouds building we trudged on till lunch at 12:00 taken on the

track. Shortly thereafter the heavens opened and we were back on track walking in hail. The campsite at Volkswagen was a wonderful sight.



Group with Conor at Moroka River Track

Day 8. No doubt the highlight of this walk is the track up and over Mt Tamboritha with its spectacular views and amazing array of wildflowers. However today the gods were not on our side because after lunch it began to rain. Fortunately we still managed to capture the views and soak up the atmosphere. The track takes a significant turn to follow a spur line all the way down to Breakfast Ck. This section requires further maintenance and we marked it with tape as we went. With the rain now coming down relentlessly it wasn't much fun, however we got the job done.



Singing in the rain



Group at the junction of Moroka Rd & D4 track

As we staggered into Breakfast Creek in dribs and drabs we were certainly glad to put that last section of track behind us. Our support staff were just around the corner at Red Bluff Camp an excellent choice. This is where the Part Time walkers packed up their gear and called it quits! Mainly because Heather had come to take them back to civilisation. There were now only 6 green bottles left on McMillans Track.

To see if they survived the next leg of their journey, Check out Next months Special Edition Newsletter, which will be printed in January 2018 and dedicated to McTk 2017.

Day 7 Today's walk would take us along the Moroka Rd to Arbuckle junction and then up onto Mt Arbuckle itself. Then beyond down to Kellys and McMichaels Huts. The purple wildflowers (hovea) along this section were marvellous. Walking along Kellys lane we branched off and eventually came out along Dingo Hill rd, where we once again met up with our support crew and camp. Always a pleasant sight.



Approaching Kelly Hut with Hovea in abundance

2017 IN REVIEW



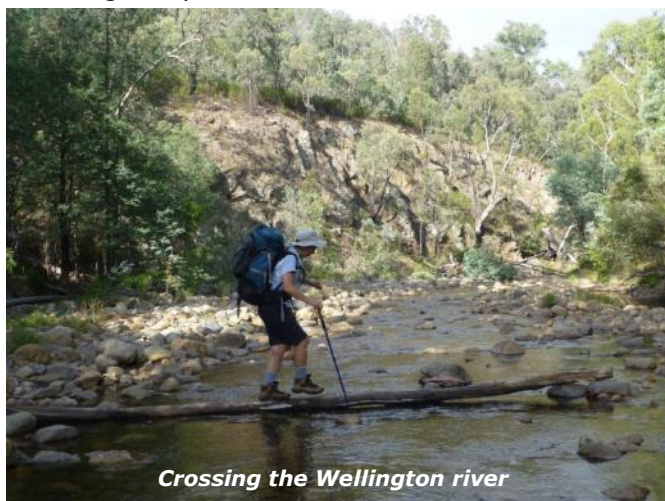
WALK PREVIEWS

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		

WELLINGTON RIVER RAMBLE ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 13th - Jan 2018
GRADE: M - 4 - 4
DISTANCE: ~16km Day return walk
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall @ 8:00AM
LEADER: Helmut Tracksdorf
EMAIL: helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com
PHONE: 0402 089 404

The theme for this walk is a leisurely summer ramble along a high country river, enjoying the bush and a cooling paddle and dip in the river. This walk will start at the Wellington River bridge on the Tamboritha Road at the Tali Karng Track, and then follow the undulating track along the river, over Shaws Gap (which requires only a 100 metre climb) and then back along the river no further than the Conglomerate Mine Track, which is approx. 8 kms from the start. There will be approximately 8 river crossings, and beautiful spots to stop for a cooling paddle and explore. The walk returns along the same track. If the group finds a heavenly spot and prefers not to continue to Conglomerate Mine Track, then so be it. Relax and enjoy summer in the high country is the theme for the first Club walk of 2018. This walk is a good introduction for people interested in walking the complete track from McFarlane Saddle to Lake Tali Karng and down the Wellington River in the future. For a summer walk it doesn't get any better.



Crossing the Wellington river

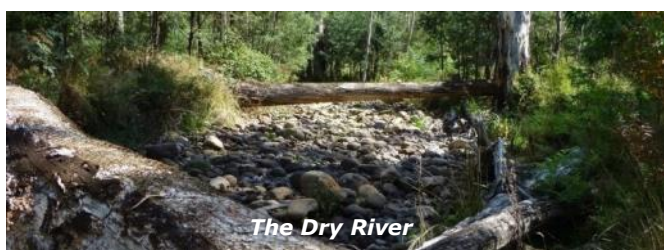
GUYS HUT TO WONNONGATTA VIA DRY RIVER TRACK

DATE: Sat 20th - Sun 21st Jan 2018
GRADE: L - 7 - 6
DISTANCE: 17km
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall Friday arvo @ Time TBA
LEADER: Anna Janca
EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

Experience the majesty of the Alpine National Park, walking across Bryce's Plain, exploring Guys Hut, then through alpine scrub and snow gums along a rarely used track to the breathtaking view of the Snowy Range and beyond. The track then drops, steeply at first, following spurs around the tops of gullies, through alpine forest down 1000m to the Dry River 4WD Track. We then follow this track along the Dry River, which is true to its name, to the Wonnangatta Track before being picked up. The 4WD track joins the Wonnangatta Track and one can camp on the Wonnangatta River for the night.

The next day, after exploring the ruins of Wonnangatta Station and historic cemetery and the scenic Wonnangatta Valley, our 4WD support vehicle will take walkers on the 30.5 km ride up the scenic but steep, narrow, winding and rough Zeka Spur 4WD track and further 12.5 km to the start of the walk at the Bryce Gorge Car Park.

We will camp Friday night at the start of the walk to enable an early start. Although summer, we will be in alpine country with changeable weather. Walkers should equip themselves accordingly. A day pack only needs to be carried with a minimum of 2 - 3 litres of water. Overnight camping gear will be taken to campsite by 4WD vehicle retrieve crew. Please register for this walk by December 8, to enable arrangement of sufficient 4WD vehicles to retrieve walkers. This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the high country wilderness without carrying a full pack.



The Dry River

**McMILLANS WALKING TRACK MAINTENANCE
KELLY LANE - McACALISTER RIVER
VIA MT TAMBORITHA
ALPINE NP**

DATE: Thu 25th - Sun 28th Jan 2018
GRADE: M - 6 - 8
DISTANCE: ~12km/day (Good level of fitness Req'd)
MEET: TBA
LEADER: Joe van Beek
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

This is a BTAC (Bush Tracks Advisory Committee of Bushwalking Victoria) activity in conjunction with BCWC. We will be working as volunteers to Parks Victoria to do maintenance work on the 25 km section of McMILLANS Walking Track from Kelly Lane to the Macalister River. This includes the track over Mt Tamboritha and the track towards The Crinoline. Thursday will be a getting there and setting up camp day. We will commence maintenance work at 8:30am on Friday. On Sunday we will finish by 2pm. Work will involve brush cutting, chain saw operation, erecting markers and the use of hand tools for vegetation trimming, clean up and benching work. We will also require camp minders and drivers for drop offs and pickups. No previous track maintenance experience is required. Sections of the track provide spectacular views. We will car camp at Breakfast Creek or the nearby Red Box Camping area on the Wellington River 20km north of Licola. The camping area is adjacent to a sealed road thus readily accessible by 2WD vehicles. Parks Victoria will provide a BBQ meal on Saturday night. Participants will need to be self sufficient for camping and all other meals. They will need to carry lunch, water and snacks on the maintenance days. BTAC and Parks Victoria will provide all tools and PPE for the maintenance works.

Please register with Joe van Beek (BCWC) or David Miller(BTAC) Mobile: 0417565919, email: davidmiller3199@gmail.com for this maintenance activity on this historically significant track.

**LOGIE TRACK & CASSILIS GOLD MINING AREA
ENSAY & SWIFTS CREEK SURROUNDS**

DATE: Sat 3rd - Sun 4th Feb
GRADE: S - 4 - 3 Overnight car camp
MEET: Ensay Football Ground, (left just before Ensay)
LEADER: Trevor Clues
CONTACT No: 0428 564 559
EMAIL: valmai51@bigpond.com

After driving approx. 30 minutes east through the rolling hills around Ensay, walkers will reach the Logie Track. After walking for about an hour, we will enter private property belonging to a local artist, and continue on this remote and picturesque bush track, through gullies and tree ferns and haven for lyrebirds. On return to Ensay, there may be opportunity to visit

the art gallery of property owner. The group will then drive on to the Swifts Creek Camp Ground on the banks of the Tambo River to set up camp and, after a refreshing swim, walk to the pub for dinner. Sunday will start at 9 am with a drive to the Cassilis Gold Mining Area east of Swifts Creek to walk a 2 km small section of the 77km Jirnee Water Race, built in 1899, the longest in the southern hemisphere. This will include and steady steep ascent and descent, but on well-made track, but manageable at walker's own pace. This will be followed by a drive to the King Cassilis Mine and Treatment Works where walkers can explore and fossick at leisure before returning home. Although this is planned as a weekend car camp, walkers may join for individual days only.

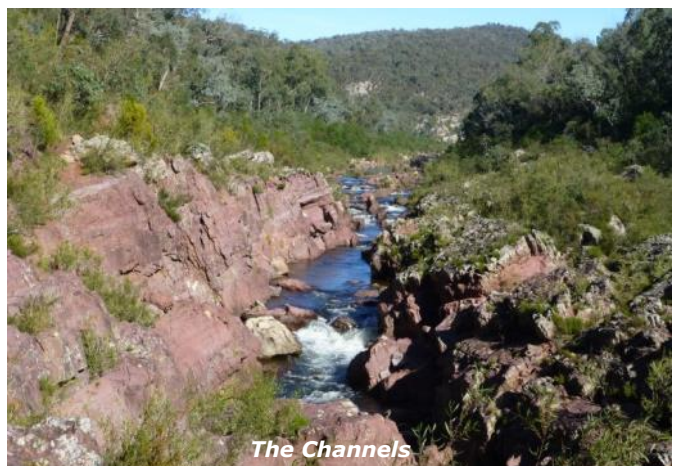
Check out the website for full details.

**MT HEDRICK & AVON CHANNELS
AVON MT HEDRICK WILDERNESS PARK**

DATE: Sat 10th - Sun 11th Feb
GRADE: M - 6 - 4 (Car camp & walk)
MEET: Dermody's camp
LEADER: Chris Marshall
CONTACT: 0499 780 399
EMAIL: chr_252@hotmail.com

This camp & walk is in the Avon-Mt Hedrick Scenic reserve, and takes us to a part of the Avon River that is very different. The river has cut through a section of sandstone, forming a narrow mini-gorge that is well worth a visit.

To beat the heat, early on Saturday we will meet/travel from Dermody's Camp to the Mount Hedrick track and enjoy this circuit walk and lovely views in the morning. We will then head back to Dermody's Camp for lunch and a cooling swim in the water hole, if hot. For those still keen, depending on the weather, we can walk along the Avon River track to Wombat Crossing and return to Dermody's Camp. We will have a later start on Sunday and walk to the magnificent Channels. If the weather is hot enough, we can go swimming at the Channels - a memorable experience. After lunch, we will return to Dermody's Camp. A leisurely Sunday walk and swim day. This weekend can be done as a weekend car camp or people may join for just a day walk. The leader will be at Dermody Camp on the river Avon between the Channels and Wombat crossing from Friday afternoon. Please advise your intentions when registering.



**BAW BAW VILLAGE TO PHILLACK SADDLE
BAW BAW NP**

DATE: Sat 17th Feb
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
MEET: Tyers kindergarten carpark @ 9:00am
LEADER: Jim Stranger 0400 278 939
EMAIL: strangers1@westnet.com.au

From our meeting place we will drive to 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 Baw Baw 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.

**GEORGE BASS COASTAL WALK
STH GIPPSLAND COAST**

DATE: Sat 24th Feb
GRADE: M - 5 - 5
MEET: Wonthaggie Info Centre, @ 9:00am
LEADER: Andrew Burrows
CONTACT No: 0421 353 975
EMAIL: solarphysics@me.com

Walking south east from San Remo, enjoy panoramic views from a cliff top path high above the Bass Strait surf and beautiful secluded beaches as we trace part of the route of George Bass' coastal discovery voyage. Although grazing occurred on this coast for many years, remnants of native vegetation cling stubbornly to the windswept cliff tops. Low vegetation provides excellent opportunities for observing bird life. The track follows a narrow strip of public land along cliff tops, consisting of slashed track through grassland. The track surface can be slippery. Beaches along the walk are unsuitable for swimming due to strong undertows, rips and steep sloping sandy bottoms. Sturdy walk shoes should be worn. We will stop at Kilcunda for lunch and then walkers will have options, depending on weather, to continue walking to Powlett River and beyond via beach, rock pools, bush tracks and points of interest such as the desalination plant, wind turbines, and coastal bush and tunnel tracks, or just head for a cooling dip at the beach. Bring bathers. The track is exposed and water will not be available along the track, so sufficient water and weather protection should be carried. Come for a day walk or stay for the weekend and enjoy further evening sunset walks, swimming and the Cape Woolamai walk on Sunday. Camping at the Powlett River camp ground will be arranged once numbers staying for both days is known. Please indicate your intentions and whether you will require camping for Friday and/or Saturday nights when registering with the walk leader

**CAPE WOOLAMI
PHILLIP ISL - STH GIPPSLAND**

DATE: Sun 25th Feb
GRADE: S - 5 - 5
MEET: Cape Woolami SLS Club @ 10:00am
LEADER: Andrew Burrows
CONTACT No: 0421 353 975
EMAIL: solarphysics@me.com

This trail offers outstanding ocean and island views in a windblown landscape of rugged heathland fringed by steep granite cliffs, beaches and pounding surf. The sandy track winding along the sheer cliff tops on Phillip Island's southerly point culminates in a superb panorama of the island. There will be opportunity for a swim in a sheltered bay. Walking shoes should be worn. The track is exposed and water will not be available along the track, so sufficient water and weather protection should be carried. Bring bathers. Walkers can participate as a day walk, or come for the weekend and enjoy the George Bass Coastal walk planned for Saturday and further evening sunset walks and swims. Camping at the Powlett River camp ground will be arranged once numbers staying for both days is known. Please indicate your intentions and whether you will require camping for Friday and/or Saturday nights when registering with the walk leader.



Cape Woolami

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 3rd Mar
GRADE: TBA
MEET: TBA
LEADER: TBC
CONTACT No: 0419 178 445
EMAIL: walkbcwc@gmail.com

Details of this walk remain to be confirmed with a Walk leader also required. Please contact Anna our Walks Co-ordinator if you are interested in leading a walk in the Mitchell River National Park.

**MACALISTER SPRINGS, MT HOWITT,
MT MAGDALA & KING BILLYS
ALPINE NP**

DATE: Sat 10th - Mon 12th Mar
NB: Travel to start of walk Fri 9th
GRADE: M - 6 - 3 & various
DISTANCE: ~30km (over 3 days)
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall or Howitt Plain Car Park
LEADER: Anna Janca 0419 178 445
EMAIL: annajanca@bigpond.com

Mt Howitt (1742m) sits in the centre of a high range, part of the Great Dividing Range. It provides views of some of the most majestic and rugged peaks in the Victorian Alps, and in summer is carpeted in wild flowers. This walk will provide stunning views of The Crosscut Saw, the Wonnangatta Valley to the east and the Howqua Valley to the north west, Mt Buller in the distance, and then walk down into the Macalister River valley. A stunning walk. A circuit walk starting from the Howitt Plain Car Park. It can be walked clockwise or anti clockwise, the direction and length depending on the number of walkers and 4WD vehicles available. Ideally, it will be done anti clockwise, leaving 4WD vehicles on the King Billy Track at the Macalister River crossing, eliminating a 500m climb over 5 kms at the end of the walk, but necessitating a car shuffle before starting the walk. In this direction, the walk will start with a pleasant walk across alpine meadow amongst snow gums to Macalister Springs and the Vallejo Gantner Hut for the first night campsite. Day 2 will be walking over undulating alpine meadows among magnificent snow gums, wildflowers, and gentle climbs reaching Mt Magdala, Mt Howitt and Hell's Window, whilst being in awe of the views, ending at King Billy No. 1 campsite. A short walk to Picture Point, will provide amazing views of the upper Howqua Valley and Mt Buller whilst also looking across at Mt Howitt and Mt Magdala. Day 3 will follow the Australian Alps Walking Track to King Billy No 1 and King Billy No 2 then onto the King Billy 4WD Track descending 600m over approx. 7 km to the Macalister River and the 4WD vehicles to take walkers up the 5km / 500m to complete the circuit.

Check out the walk preview on the website for additional details.

**BLUE POOLS CIRCUIT
STATE FOREST BRIAGOLONG**

DATE: Wed 14th Mar
GRADE: S - 4 - 4
DISTANCE: ~4kms
MEET: Riverstone café, Briagolong @ 10:00am
LEADER: Chris Marshall

CONTACT No: 0499 780 399
EMAIL: chr_252@hotmail.com

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. If the weather permits, a swim in the Blue Pool may be a good idea after the walk

DOCK LAKE & YEERUNG ESTUARY

DATE: Sat 17th Mar
GRADE: M - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: 16kms
LEADER: TBC
CONTACT No: 0419 178 445
EMAIL: walkbcwc@gmail.com

**WALHALLA TO THOMSON STATION
VIA POVERTY POINT**

DATE: Sat 24th Mar
GRADE: M - 6 - 3
DISTANCE: 15km
MEET: Tyers kindergarten @ 8:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna 0431 777 460
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

We will leave a car at Thomson station and then drive to the camping ground. 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

WEBSITE PREVIEWS

NB: More information may be 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.

Contact the leader of a walk either directly or by selecting their email address at the bottom of each preview.