



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 197 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB - FEBRUARY 2018



Photo: Ken Free

And the Gold Logie goes to these walkers who travelled to Ensay to tackle the Logie track which is a remote and picturesque bush track, located on private property owned by local renowned artist, Robert Logie. After the walk which takes you through gullies and tree ferns that are a haven for lyrebirds, the group were invited to Roberts art studio tucked away in the bush and then to his gallery in Ensay, The Old Pub Gallery which was renovated and restored by Robert and his family many years ago. There were many paintings on display in the gallery and the walkers highly recommend a visit to any intrepid traveller (or walker) passing this way.

Check out the full report on page 7 and the significance of the area to one of our members - William (Billy) King.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



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www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com

IN THIS ISSUE

BCWC - Established 1965

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~ President's Report	3	PRESIDENT:	Joe van Beek	5176 5302
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~ Club News	4	VICE PRES:	Jack Winterbottom	5143 0903
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~ Walk Reports	5 - 9	TREASURER:	Robyn Rowley	5149 2519
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~ Walk Previews	10 - 13	PUBLICITY:	Vacant	
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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

*Leanne Caithness & Family : Josh, Peter & Ben (Valencia Creek),
 Dean & Trudi Clark (Eagle Point)*

Presidential Ramblings

FEBRUARY 2018

As President, I believe that one of my roles is to balance members safety with hassle free enjoyable walking. Not an easy task in today's Occupational Safety and Health Environment.

Most people in the work place know that safety and emergency response management systems can be quite bureaucratic with regular audits and tool box talks. However, these measures have reduced the number and severity of work place injuries.

Bushwalking by contrast has a low level of injuries and incidents but emergencies can arise. And when they do we need to be prepared. Therefore, a key issue for BCWC should be on the prevention of incidents and the ability to respond in the case of an emergency.

BCWC and other clubs have for a long time maintained that a walking group should have a minimum of 4 people on the basis that if one member is injured and unable to continue with the walk, two members would walk out to seek help while the other stays with the injured member. With technology today, it is not necessary to send two people for help if you have mobile phone cover to call 000 or a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) which can summon help without the need to leave the injured person. Does this mean that the minimum number of people on a walk can be reduced to two? I think so.

These are some of the points the committee is currently debating in introducing an emergency management plan, which details policy and protocols. This serves to document what most people already do as good practice. To enjoy hassle free bushwalking, we need to have a variety of walks where people can lead or participate, within their comfort zone and not feel overly burdened by policy and procedural matters. Striking the right balance can be a difficult task.

There are still some gaps in the walks program for the first half of 2018 and Anna will soon be seeking ideas and leaders for walks during the rest of the year. Please contact Anna Janca if there is a walk you would like to see on the program or there is a walk you are willing to lead.

Happy Bushwalking

Joe van Beek



Club News

BCWC Club Night - Traralgon

The next Club night is scheduled for **Wednesday 14th March**, where we will convene at the Wan Loy Restaurant at 9 Church Street Traralgon **at 6:00pm**.

The evening will provide an opportunity to meet with several PV rangers and Jack Winterbottom who will provide a presentation on Bush Birds. So if you can't tell the difference between a Mopoke and a Boobook come along and be enlightened!



Boobook



Mopoke

Spot the difference!

McTk 2017 Newsletter

Please note the Special Edition Newsletter for McTk 2017 remains a work in progress. So if you are hanging out for it, the Editor requests your patience a little longer.

Walks Program

Anna Janca our Walks Co-ordinator continues to work on putting our 2018 walks program into effect. Anna and the walking group sub-committee will reconvene to compile the calendar for the second half of the year. There are still gaps in the current calendar which need leaders. So please consider leading a walk so that we can fill the calendar for the first half of the year.

Publicity

Unfortunately our Publicity officer has had to step down from the role and we are therefore in need of a new..... Volunteer?

Jack Winterbottom has stepped into the gap and offered to "temporarily" send walks previews to the Newspapers, prior to the start of each walk, as an interim measure until the role can be filled. If you are interested to step into this role please contact Jack or any other committee member.

Wonnangatta Station Centenary Event

For those interested in the history and heritage of the high country and in particular the Wonnangatta Valley. On the Labor Day weekend from Friday 9th to Monday 12th March, 2018, a unique event is scheduled to occur. Namely the Centenary of the Wonnangatta Murders.

Over the years, Ben Cruachan Walking Club has made regular visits to this very special valley which was once known as the most remote cattle station in Victoria with origins going back to the gold rushes. Located between Mansfield and Dargo below Mt Howitt, it is a really a unique environment. Talbotville was the closest settlement in its day.

McMillan's Walking Track which was originally constructed in the 1860's to connect the various gold mining townships across the Victorian Alps from Omeo to Woods Point, traverses through the Wonnangatta valley from Eaglevale to the Moroka river.

Wonnangatta Station was acquired from the Gilder family in the 1980's and is now incorporated into the Alpine National Park.



Wonnangatta homestead (circa 1940's)

The following links highlight the stories behind the murders and Wonnangatta's place in Australian history.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1054100271401725/>

<http://www.harryshut.net/wonnangatta-murders/>

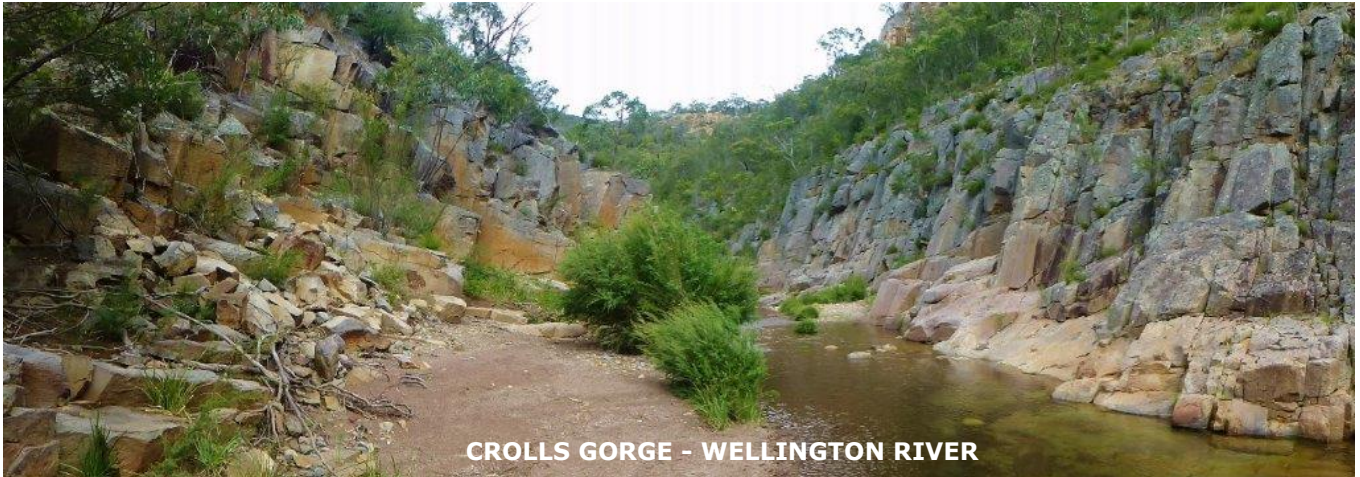
<https://www.facebook.com/thewonnangattamystery/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wonnangatta_murders

More information is available online, just search for Wonnangatta Mystery.

It is also interesting to note that the Victorian Mountain Huts Association supported by Friends of Wonnangatta are proposing to rebuild the Wonnangatta Homestead. BWV is supporting the project if some effort goes towards cleaning up the walking track from Guys Hut to the Wonnangatta Valley. Club Member, Philip Davis, is BWV's representative on this project.

WALK REPORTS



CROLLS GORGE - WELLINGTON RIVER

WELLINGTON RIVER RAMBLE Alpine NP

DATE: Sat 13th Jan 2018

LEADER & REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

Walkers: Chris Marshall, Trevor Whibley, Marian Matchan, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Lynette Newman, Wendy Ammitzball, David Stuckey, Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Andrew Stevenson, Ken Free, Chris Johns, Andrew Burrows, Anna Janca, Leanne & Josh Caithness, Trevor Clues, Darryl White, Helmut Tracksdorf.

Participants thought this event was going to be a walk in the park. But No! It turned out to be a walk up a creek (albeit a river) without a paddle!

22 people registered for the 1st walk of 2018, but only 19 turned up on the day. Phew! what a relief for the leader who believes the greater number of walkers - the greater the risk of something going wrong!



Ramblers at the start of the walk

After meeting at Glenmaggie hall early Saturday morning the group headed off in convoy along the Licola Rd, arriving at their destination and starting

point, the Wellington river at 10:30am. After a brief safety talk the group headed off upstream in Indian file or 1st Nations file for the PC amongst us.

Fortunately this walk is relatively short and flat whereby we simply followed the river valley upstream for 4km crossing the river 7 times. The scenery was quite nice with the river crossings proving a highlight unless you wanted to keep your feet dry!

The track was well defined as it also represents the main track walking into or out of Tali Karng, from the Wellington River end. However, after the 7th river crossing it was time to head "off track" and up the middle of the Wellington River, which at times had us wading through knee deep water to reach our destination of Crolls Gorge.



Up the Wellington river without a paddle!

Crolls Gorge is a small gorge (refer above) on the Wellington River that is bypassed by most walkers when walking into Tali Karng. That is because the track heads up and over a saddle which effectively bypasses the gorge. However as we approached the gorge it appeared most walkers were pleasantly surprised by its natural beauty. Or alternatively had had enough of walking in water and were simply happy to reach our destination for the day. It was also midday so after walking thru the gorge we found a suitable place to stop for lunch and a swim.

We had plenty of time up our sleeve so it came as a surprise that after lunch the bulk of the group wanted to head back to the safety of their vehicles. Having travelled in excess of 200km to reach this location, the leader was in no hurry to return to the big smoke, so split the group into 2 and allowed those wishing to return to do so "at their own risk".

Only 5 walkers remained behind to soak up the scenery and atmosphere with Marjorie taking another dip in the warm waters of the Wellington. Before returning Helmut & Andrew scouted up the river to explore further afield and were rewarded with the best swimming hole one could imagine. At least 30 metres long and 2 metres deep. Take note for next time!

The return walk was a breeze and a pleasant stroll. By the time we got back to the cars, only Marian was waiting to take Marjorie and Darryl back to Bairnsdale. Helmut, Andrew and Anna stayed on to continue their adventure by heading up to Moroka Gorge for the rest of the Weekend. But that's another story for another day.

Thanks to all those who came along and made this an interesting walk up the Wellington River without a paddle.

GUTS HUT TO WONNONGATTA DRY RIVER TRACK ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 20th - Sun 21st Jan
LEADER: Anna Janca
REPORT: Chris Marshall

Walkers: Anna Janca, Andrew Burrows, Joe van Beek, Chris Marshall, Trevor Whibley, Becky Horsham, Tom Carew, Wendy Ammitzball, Lynette Newman, Jason Harris, Oliver Raymond and Ken Grandy.

On Friday afternoon before the walk Trevor, Ken and Tom set out down the Zeka Spur Track to drop vehicles at the Wonnongatta camp site for the return trip on Sunday. This involved a five hour round trip (not including complications). 10 walkers set out around 8.30 on Saturday morning from our overnight camp at Bryce's Gorge car park, across Bryce's plain to Guy's Hut. We stopped briefly for an inspection of the hut before heading towards the Dry River Track through alpine woodland. The track through the woodland and over and down the steep descent to the Dry River Track was indistinct, difficult to navigate and slow going as it had not been maintained. There were great mountain views, including some views of Mount Buffalo along this section. The walking conditions improved when we joined the Bicentennial Trail and took a well earned break at the Dry River (which fortunately wasn't dry) and then continued to our overnight campsite and a welcome dip in the Wonnongatta. It was long, hot and hard but we all made it to Wonnongatta.

A wonderful camp meal was organised by Anna which was so much better than our usual dry, boring fare.



Chris & Trevor relaxing at Bryce campsite

Thanks Anna. We all enjoyed a lovely evening in the peaceful, scenic Wonnongatta valley.

Due to car problems one of our younger walkers found the walk wasn't extreme enough and decided to test the limits of human endurance by walking most of the way back up the Zeka Spur Track to his vehicle and arrived back at his car after midnight that night (amazing effort Tom).



Campsite at Wonnongatta

On Sunday we strolled through the ruins and cemetery of the historic Wonnongatta Station and reflected on how tough and remote it would have been in those times. We then had a lesson in 4WD by Ken, Oliver and Trevor up the extremely rough and steep Zeka Spur Track. We were very pleased not to be walking and are extremely grateful to Ken, Oliver and Trevor for providing their time and vehicles to make this walk possible, particularly Ken, who did two trips in two days ferrying people and equipment. The Zeka Spur Track is no 'walk in the park'.

Thanks again to Anna for organising the walk.

LOGIE TRACK

Cassilis Gold Mining Area

DATE: Sat 3rd - Sun th Feb
LEADER: Trevor Clues
REPORT: Leanne & Josh Caithness

Walkers: Trevor Clues, Ken Grandy, Ken Free, Lynette Newman, Anna Janca, Marian Matchan, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Billy King, Josh and Leanne Caithness

10 walkers set out for a very enjoyable and cultural experience. Our Walk Leader, Trevor Clues, did a marvellous job of organising some activities that many of us had never experienced before.

The walkers met at the Ensay Football Ground at 10am. We then car-pooled to the home of Robert Logie, a renowned artist. Robert was very generous in allowing us to walk around his property. We set out on a well-made 4WD track with a gentle uphill slope, walking through the Australian bush. At some points there were gullies containing many tree ferns, making for some great photo opportunities. We had our lunch in one of these gullies, where we decided that Billy should come on every walk, as he brought chocolate to share with everyone! Billy observed that we were walking through his Mum's Aboriginal region, Monaro Country, which was a special element to our experience.



Walkers at the Gallery with Robert & Flash, his dog

We returned along the same track and arrived back at Robert's house after walking approximately 10km. Robert showed us through his art studio and his house which is tucked away in the bush. He then took us to his gallery in Ensay, the Old Pub Gallery. Many years ago, Robert and his family bought the old Ensay South Hotel when it was quite run down. They have renovated it beautifully, and it is now the home of his Art works (and his Mum, who was very kind to let us go through her house). Robert has many pieces of art displayed in the gallery, and we highly recommend a visit to see it. He also said that we are very welcome to give him a call to get a lesson on print-making.

We'd like to thank Robert for his generosity in allowing us to walk around his property and to see his studio, home and gallery. His website is <http://www.robertlogie.com/index.htm> which has an amazing collection of his artwork.



Billy & Marjorie in Monaro country

After leaving the gallery, those of us who were camping overnight drove to the Swifts Creek Camp Ground where we set up camp and then relaxed on the banks of the Tambo River. It is a very picturesque camp ground, with good toilet/shower facilities and a shelter containing a very efficient fireplace. We chatted, read books and showered before walking to the Swifts Creek Hotel for dinner. The meals were huge and very tasty. Afterwards, we waddled back to the camp ground (due to having such a lot to eat) and Trevor, who had been very organised in bringing firewood, lit the fire. We met Max and Sue, who have travelled from Perth, and had a nice talk with them.

On Sunday we got up and had a leisurely breakfast and then drove to the carpark at the bottom of the Jirnee Water Race. This is the longest water race in the Southern Hemisphere, and was used to provide water for the gold mining operations of the Jirnee Sluicing Company from the early 1900's. The race is a total of 77km long and was dug by hand in very rocky soil – an amazing feat. The ascent to the race and the descent from it were quite steep to walk, but the section in the middle (along the edge of the water race) was quite flat.

We then drove to where the King Cassilis Mine and treatment works were, which are now seen as the ruins of old machinery sitting around going rusty. Trevor supplied us with lamingtons for morning tea, which were very well-received! Afterwards we each left when we were ready, and made the drive home.

It was a very pleasant weekend, and we are very appreciative to Trevor for organising the many different aspects of it.

MT HEDRICK & AVON CHANNELS AVON - MT HEDRICK RESERVE

DATE: Sat 10th - Sun 11th Feb
LEADER: Chris Marshall
REPORT: Trevor Clues

Walkers: Saturday: Diana Christiansen, Trevor Whibley, Darryl White, Helmut Tracksdorf, Anna Janca, Chris Marshall, Jodie.

Sunday: Trevor Clues, Helmut Tracksdorf, Anna Janca, Chris Marshall, Trevor Whibley, Marian Matchan, Marjorie Kangaratnam, Billy King, Leanne, Peter & Ben Caithness, Coralie, Claire, Jason & Amanda.



Saturdays walkers at start of their hike

Saturday. Around 9am 8 walkers headed up the track from the Mount Hedrick car park to the summit of Mount Hedrick enjoying the views of Ben Cruachan at the 4 lookouts on the way. We had lunch on the summit and then proceeded to walk along the track following a contour with more views of the mountains, including Ben Cruachan and interesting rock formations. We returned to Dermody's camp for a well earned swim at the pretty swimming hole there. Refreshed we then walked to Wombat crossing and back. Some took the high road and others the low for the return trip. Having made ourselves hot, another swim was necessary and we settled in for a pleasant evenings camp.



**Taking in the views from Mt Hedrick
With Ben Cruachan in the background**

Sunday. At 0900 hrs our party of keen walkers left the camp at Dermody's and proceeded to walk the 5.5 km along the Avon River walking track to the channels. It was a beautiful day with temperatures in the mid twenties. The track was undulating and rocky in places, with some steep pinches along the way.

At several locations excellent views were had overlooking the Avon River and distant hill tops. One of our members was able to demonstrate his new Peak Finder Phone App, which entertained the tech heads amongst us.

After about 2 hours of walking we arrived at the Channels, where a leisurely lunch break was had. Some people had lunch, others swam in the large pool. 4 intrepid swimmers swam from the waterhole upstream into the channels proper, which gave a different perspective of the rock walls from water level. These 4 swimmers spent over 40 minutes in the water, and so were glad to return to the group for the rest of their lunch.



The Channels

We reluctantly left for the return walk back to the vehicles. On arrival at Dermody's camp, a number of people chose to go for another swim in the waterhole at the back of camp. Total distance for the walk was 11 km for the day.

BAW BAW VILLAGE TO Mt ST PHILLACK BAW BAW NP

DATE: Sat 17th Feb
LEADER: Jim Stranger
REPORT: Trevor Clues

Walkers: Helmut Tracksdorf, Piero Baglioni, Bev Beard, Jo Huggins, Marian Matchan, Marjorie Kangaratnam, Ken Free, Chris Marshall, Trevor Clues, Trevor Whibley, and visitors Tom and Courtney

A pleasant walk on a beautiful day in cool mountain air on a day that was quite hot, off the mountain! We were astounded at the number of mountain bike riders on the mountain. The car park was full. Fortunately they went one way and we went a different way on a very peaceful track.



Group near the beginning of the walk

After winding our way through alpine woodland and peat landscape we arrived at Phillack saddle, where we promptly stopped for lunch. After a pleasant break we strolled back but this time took McMillan's Flat track which brought us out below Baw Baw village.



Ken at Phillack saddle



Marjorie and Marian inspecting a feather

After refreshments in a local establishment we returned to our cars and home. A pleasant days outing was had by all. Thanks Jim.

McMILLAN'S TRACK MAINTENANCE

DATE: February 2018
LEADER: Joe van Beek
REPORT: Helmut Tracksdorf

BTAC Event: 10 volunteers & PV staff plus BCWC members: Tony Weilgosz, Maureen Hickling, Joe van Beek & John Hanlon headed up to Breakfast Creek on the 15th of February to work on the track over Mt Tamboritha, between Kelly Lane and Dingo Hill Track and from the Saddle between Sugarloaf and the Crinoline down to the Macalister River.

Although a BTAC event 4 BCWC members participated. John did a marvellous job as Camp Master but Joe was in two minds about being woken up by John playing the bagpipes at 6:10am on Sunday morning - was it Amazing Grace or Highway to Hell!! (Editors comment!)

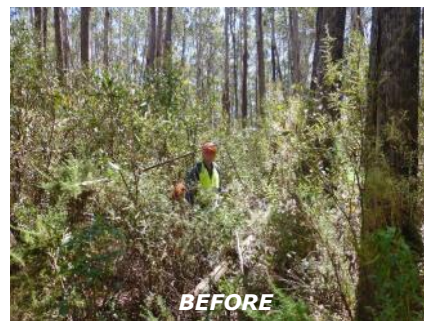
The team worked well without incident (except for a couple of blisters and some tired bodies) and achieved some good work.

The track from Breakfast Creek over Mt Tamboritha and out to the Long Hill Track is cleared for the first 6km from the West up to an elevation of 1,200metres and for the first 4 km from the East. Leaving 1.5 to 2km in the middle that still needs some attention. This section is taped where the track is not clear.

We also cleared logs, except for a couple of very large ones from the Western end of the track between Kelly Lane and Dingo Hill Track and cleared vegetation along the last 2km before Kelly Lane. This section of the track is now easy walking.

BCWC Event: During the week commencing 19 Feb the team of: Joe van Beek, John Kellas, Sue Hides, Helmut Tracksdorf, managed to clear from the Licola-Jamieson Road to Mt Shillinglaw which was the most overgrown part of the track. Joe & John stayed on to also tackle a section from Lazarini Spur Track down to the Black River.

Full credit to Joe for once again rallying the troops to hit the track and start working. How does he do it? Also full credit to John Kellas who only has to drive 700km to attend this event. Yes, that's 700 not 70!



BEFORE



AFTER

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		

WALKS PROGRAM - CHANGES

GEORGE BASS COASTAL WALK - FEB

DEFERRED, DATE TO BE ADVISED

CAPE WOOLAMI WALK - FEB

DEFERRED, DATE TO BE ADVISED

MITCHELL RIVER NP WALK - FEB

CANCELLED NO LEADER AVAILABLE

DOCK LAKE & YEERUNG ESTUARY WALK - MAR

DEFERRED, DATE TO BE ADVISED

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. Ideally, if there are sufficient 4WD vehicles, we will start with a car shuffle, 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. 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 Howitt, Hell's Window, and Mt Magdala 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. If sufficient 4WD vehicles are available, we will take a ride for the last 5km / 500m ascent to complete the circuit, otherwise we walk.

This walk is in exposed alpine country and a changeable weather environment. Appropriate clothing for all weather should be carried. Water will be available only at camp sites and when crossing the Macalister River. Vessels for up to 3 litres of water should be carried. Camp fires will be subject to fire restrictions. Walkers will be advised of cooking equipment requirements before the walk. This is a 3 day walk carrying a full pack – please keep items carried and pack weight to a minimum and share equipment where possible.

Check out the walk preview on the website for full 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.

BCWC MEETING

CLUB NIGHT - TRARALGON

DATE: Wed 14th Mar
MEET: Wan Loy Chinese Restaurant,
9 Church Street, Traralgon @ 6:00pm

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

BRYCES GORGE ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 24th - Sun 25th Mar
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: 9km
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall @ 8:00am
LEADER: Oliver Raymond
EMAIL: oliverraymond@wideband.net.au
PHONE: 0411 420 345

Gather at the Glenmaggie hall 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 Pieman Falls. Continue around the clifftops of Bryce Gorge to Conglomerate Falls to set up camp. Explore Conglomerate Falls, walking to the bottom and returning to camp. From the falls the track follows Conglomerate Creek through woodlands and across open plains, then groves of snow gums to Guy's Hut and the car park beyond. Full overnight all weather gear required as this is alpine country with changeable weather. Water will be available near campsite. Suitable for beginners to overnight hikes.

BALOOK - MACKS CREEK LOOP TARRA BULGA NP

DATE: Sat 7th Apr
GRADE: L - 7 - 6
DISTANCE: 17km
MEET: Tarra-Bulga Visitors' Centre - Balook @ 9:30am
LEADER: Peter Jennings
EMAIL: pnjjennings@gmail.com
PHONE: 0428 230 444

This walk involves sections of the Grand Strzelecki Track. From the Tarra-Bulga Visitors' Centre at Balook we will walk through rainforest on formed tracks until we reach a road that passes beside a second rotation plantation. Provided the weather is clear, from here we will have magnificent views of the coastal plain from Ninety Mile Beach to Wilsons Prom and as far as Toora. We continue along the forestry tracks that lead steeply down to Macks Creek where we will stop for lunch at a small waterfall. After lunch we walk a short distance along Macks Creek including two crossings that involve rock hopping before commencing a very steep ascent through the rainforest back to the visitors' centre. Once back at Balook a coffee at the Lyrebird Guest House is an option. Tarra-Bulga National Park is well known for its giant Mountain Ash trees, beautiful fern gullies and ancient myrtle beeches. We will hear, if not see lyrebirds which are a feature of the park.

RECONNAISSANCE - FINDING LOST LAKE WINGAN INLET CROAJINGOLONG NP

DATE: Mon 10th - Wed 12th Apr
GRADE: S - 3 - 7
DISTANCE: ~4km plus
MEET: TBA
LEADER: Oliver Raymond
EMAIL: oliverraymond@wideband.net.au

This is an opportunity to take part in a relatively easy walk to a place few people have been. We will drive to the Wingan area on 10 Apr, and on 11 Apr we will drive down Gale Hill track to a point about 2 km from Lost Lake. From there we will scrub bash, using our GPS and compass, to the site of the lake. The actual time for the walk is not known, and if it proves easy and a short walk, there are plenty of other Wingan area walks we can do. The obvious one is to continue down Gale Hill track to the ocean beach.

BCWC COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Wed 11th Apr
MEET: Bairnsdale Club, 68 Nicholson Str,
Bairnsdale @ 7:30pm

GABLE END & THE SENTINEL ALPINE NP

DATE: Fri 13th - Sun 15th Apr
GRADE: M - 4 - 4 (supported)
DISTANCE: ~10km per day
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall @ 9:00am
LEADER: TBC
EMAIL: walkbcwc@gmail.com

This walk will provide the experience of camping in the Alpine National Park but carrying a day pack only. Day 1 will start with travelling to McFarlane Saddle and lunch. Starting at McFarlane Saddle the track traverses the Wellington Plain to Nyimba Camp, then a short steep section down to Nigothoruk Creek, then up again to Millers Hut to set up camp. Day 2 will follow a 4WD track up to Gable End and The Sentinels. This track ascends from approx. 1400 to 1545 over 5 kms through snow gums and alpine meadow, returning along the same track. There is some rock hopping at The Sentinels if walkers choose to explore all the way to the end which provides stunning views across the mountains and down to lake Tali Karng, as well as, on a clear day, all the way south to the coast. This walk is subject to one person in the group having a 4WD and happy to transport the overnight gear of walkers to the Millers Hut camp site via the Mt Wellington 4WD track.

SALE COMMON - WETLANDS WALK SALE

DATE: Wed 18th Apr
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
MEET: Swing Bridge (Sale side) @ 9:00am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna
CONTACT: 0431 777 460
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.

St GWINEAR TO MUSHROOM ROCKS BAW BAW NP

DATE: Sat 28th Apr
GRADE: M - 4 - 4
MEET: Tyers kindergarten carpark @ 8:00am
LEADER: Andrew Burrows 0421 353 945
EMAIL: solarphysics@me.com

Climbing 200 metres over 2.5 kms, the walk to the summit of Mt St Gwinear winds through heathland and snow gum forest with the summit providing magnificent views stretching across the valleys of the Thomson and Aberfeldy Rivers and into the Victorian Alps. We will continue on the gently undulating plateau joining the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) then continue SE along the AAWT to Talbot Peak, passing hut ruins, on the way to Mt Erica, then descending to Mushroom Rocks. After exploring the maze of giant granite tors and taking in the energy and beauty of the area, we will continue the remaining 1.5 kms to the end of the walk. As this is an alpine area, be prepared for cold and changeable weather.

DEPTFORD BAIRNSDALE & SURROUNDS

DATE: Sat 21st Apr
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
MEET: Howitt Park car park (East side of Mitchell River bridge) @ 9:00am
LEADER: Trevor Clues
CONTACT No: 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 stamp-er battery. Bring a towel and torch.

TOMS CAP MULLUNGUNG STATE FOREST

DATE: Sat 5th May
GRADE: L - 7 - 7
MEET: Giffard West Hall, Sth Gippsland Hwy @ 9:00am
LEADER: Peter Jennings
CONTACT No: 0428 230 444
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. Whilst grades aren't particularly steep or rocky there are sections with loose gravel on slopes. On our way to the starting point in the forest we will visit "the bullocky's grave" and hear about his unfortunate accident. We'll

have lunch on a peak known as Toms Cap from where Angus McMillan and his party could see Corner Inlet in 1841. 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.

BCWC MEETING CLUB NIGHT

DATE: Wed 9th May
MEET: Bairnsdale Club, 68 Nicholson Str,
Bairnsdale @ 6:00pm

Mt HOTHAM HUTS

DATE: Sat 12th - Sun 13th May
GRADE: TBA (Lodge Accommodation)
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 Alpine National Park.

TOORLOO RAINFOREST & BAT CAVE WALK LAKE TYERS PARK & COLQUHUON FOREST

DATE: Sat 19th May
GRADE: S - 4 - 4
DISTANCE: Rainforest 1km / Colquhuon 4km
MEET: Lakes Entrance – Marine Parade car park,
opposite Aldi @ 9:00am
LEADER: Ken Grandy
CONTACT No: 0419 585 404
EMAIL: kgrandy@dodo.com.au

From the meeting place we will make a 15 minute drive to Lake Tyers forest park at Toorloo Arm. The first part of this walk will be a short jaunt through a section of rainforest with some large gums and rainforest trees. After a cuppa it's back in the cars for another 15 minute drive to a location in the Colquhuon forest. This walk follows an old road (very overgrown and barely recognisable as a road) through a section of large gums and tree ferns to the entrance to an old water formed cave. This cave is approximately 50 – 100 metres in length and is the home of a large colony of little bats; so bring a torch and a hat. We'll then have lunch here before returning to the cars.

THE CRINOLINE ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 26th May
GRADE: M - 7 - 7
DISTANCE: ~10kms
MEET: Glenmaggie Hall @ 8:00am
LEADER: TBC
CONTACT No: 0419 178 445
EMAIL: walkbcwc@gmail.com

There are two routes from Breakfast Creek up to the Crinoline. One via a designated track, which is also a section of McMillan's track and the other which is straight up the side of the mountain where you can blaze your own trail. Which one we choose will depend on the walk leader. So if you don't want to tackle the hard way put your hand up to lead the easy route, before its too late! Contact the Walks Co-ordinator to register your interest in leading this walk.

LONG HILL TRACK & THE CRINOLINE

DATE: Sat 27th - Sun 28th May
GRADE: L - 8 - 8
DISTANCE: 20+kms
LEADER: Helmut Tracksdorf
CONTACT No: 0402 089 404
EMAIL: helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com

A preview of this walk will be published in the next newsletter. Suffice to say - numbers will be limited to a maximum of 6 walkers, who must be fit and capable of pushing their boundaries!!!! For those who want to stay longer and experience the joys of hiking, we may even consider completing a circuit walk which returns via McMillan's Track up via Mt Tamboritha spur!!!!

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.

SELECTED MISQUOTES



Marian indicating the leeches are "At least this big"
on Logie track



Joe wondering if a metal detector would have
been better along Tamboritha spur?



Josh with his "new truck" at Cassilis



Jim leading the group out of the wilderness at Baw Baw.



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 198 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB - APRIL 2018



Photo: John Churchill

No, Christmas hasn't come early this year, but we suspect Oliver wouldn't mind a present just like this, when Xmas does roll around. (take note Caroline!) And if you're still wondering what it is? It's Guys Hut, wrapped with insulation blanket to protect it from cinders from a planned backburn exercise. Oliver Raymond and John Churchill were pleasantly surprised by this unusual sight when they recently visited Bryces Gorge on their recent expedition into the Alpine National Park north of Licola.

Check out the full report on page 6 and the history of this hut which has become one of the iconic huts of the high country.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



Ben Cruachan as viewed from north of Tinamba

Photo: Helmut Tracksdorf

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

IN THIS ISSUE

BCWC - Established 1965

COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2017 / 2018

~ President's Report 3

PRESIDENT: Joe van Beek 5176 5302
joevanbeek@bigpond.com

~ Club News 4

VICE PRES: Jack Winterbottom 5143 0903

SECRETARY: Heather Alexander 5149 7048
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~ Walk Reports 5 - 12

TREASURER: Robyn Rowley 5149 2519
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~ Walk Previews 13 - 15

PUBLICITY: Vacant

NEWSLETTER: Helmut Tracksdorf 5156 6763
newsbcwc@gmail.com

~ Selected Mis-quotes 16

WALKS CO-ORDINATOR: Anna Janca 0419 178 445
walkbcwc@gmail.com

TRACKS & HUTS: Michael Dowe 5147 3075

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chris Marshall 0499 780 399
 Trevor Whibley 0458 725 558
 Piero Baglioni 0408 446 299
 Monica Scicluna 0431 777 460

CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH
NEXT CLUB NIGHT IS SCHEDULED ON: WED 9TH MAY, 6:00PM
AT THE BAIRNSDALE CLUB, 68 NICHOLSON STR

Welcome to our Newest Member

Frankie McLennan (Woodside)

Presidential Ramblings

APRIL 2018

As a retired person I am privileged to choose how to spend my time, well sort of. There are some home duties especially since we have a good variety of fruit trees and a salad and herb garden which Judy and I like to make the most of. Many members will have sampled some of the 'Springfield' produce e.g. apricot relish, plum or mint sauce, fig chutney or lime marmalade. And there are family and social commitments that also need to be fitted in. So far this year I have had two trips to NZ, participated in five walking track maintenance activities, been to at least five bushwalking related meetings and been on a couple of interesting club walks as well as spent quite a bit of time on organisation and administration of bush walking related activities. Some might say that I am besotted with McMillan's Walking Track. So you can see that bushwalking and related activities is a big part of how I choose to spend my time. The highlight for this year has been a five day family tramp (which is kiwi for bushwalk) to take my grandchildren to the Blue Lake in the Nelson Lakes National Park in the South Island of New Zealand. The water is reputed to be the clearest in the world.



With my Grandchildren at Blue lake

I enjoy doing my own thing but couldn't do a lot of what I do and have the companionship that I enjoy without being a member of a bushwalking club.

The Ben Cruachan Walking Club exists for the benefit and enjoyment of its members. So do let me or any committee member know if you have any concerns or suggestions. We welcome suggestions for specific walks, types of walks or other outdoor activities and topics for our club nights. I encourage you to participate in the walks program and make the most of the learning and training opportunities available as well as participation in walk planning and leading. You may even like to join the committee at the AGM on 11 July. I would love to receive your nomination.

Our affiliation with Bushwalking Victoria provides advocacy to Government and the protection of insurance and other benefits and opportunities.

The first of April is the beginning of the membership year so if you have not already done so it is time to renew your membership.

If I don't see you on a track maybe I will see you at our next Club Night on 9 May in Bairnsdale.

Joe van Beek

Club News

BCWC Club Night - Traralgon

The next Club night is scheduled for **Wednesday 9th May**, where we will convene at the Bairnsdale Club located at 68 Nicholson Street at **6:00pm**.

The evening will provide an opportunity to hear **Piero Baglioni** speak about his recent exploits (with Rose de Leeuw) on the famous Haute Route which commences in Chamonix at the base of Mont Blanc in France and traverses the Alps into Switzerland ending at Zermatt, located below the famous Matterhorn. This 14 day trek is almost on par with McMillan's track. Can you believe it?

Membership Renewal

Yes, another year has passed and it's that time of year when we all rush to renew our membership. So if you want to avoid disappointment and not miss out on another 12 months of adventure. Log on to our website NOW and complete your application on line.

http://bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC_Content/Forms_Guidelines/Membership_Application_Renewal_201804.pdf

Wedding Bells

On Saturday 14 April 2018, one of our keen walkers Trish Marston was married to Phillip Brown at St Pauls Anglican Cathedral in Sale. The rain stayed away long enough for a great service followed by photographs and mingling with guests on the church forecourt. The Ben Cruachan Walking Club was represented by Marian, Marjorie, Chris and Ken. Following health problems, Trish has not walked with the club for some time, however on the day of her wedding she looked a picture of health and happiness and the females present gave her new husband Phillip the thumbs up!



The happy couple Phillip & Trish with Ken, Marjorie & Marian

Riding not Walking

Who needs walking boots when you can ride? Another of our avid walkers Jackie Whiting also happens to be a keen horse rider and lead a group of fellow horse lovers around Wy Yung recently. Sometimes when tackling those steep inclines on many of our walks, I suspect a horse would come in handy. Food for thought at our next committee meeting maybe?



Jackie with her mount, Johnno

GPS Augmentation being tested

Until the end of January 2019, GeoScience Australia and other organisations are broadcasting a correction signal that can be used by many consumer-grade GPS receivers to improve the accuracy of position calculations. These systems (correctly called Satellite Based Augmentation Systems or SBAS) rely on ground stations at accurately known locations receiving the GPS signal and comparing the calculated GPS position with their known position, with the resulting difference being broadcast as a correction via other satellites. Suitably-equipped receivers can use this correction to overcome much of the inherent error in GPS positioning.

Further information can be found at <http://www.ga.gov.au/scientific-topics/positioning-navigation/positioning-for-the-future/satellite-based-augmentation-system>

Leadership Training

Bushwalking Victoria is offering a weekend course in leadership in Gippsland for members who would like to lead walks, or who already lead walks but have not undertaken any training and / or would like to update their knowledge. The two day course will cover leadership, planning, conducting a walk, risk management, walk administration and emergency management. The course will be delivered by Bushwalking Victoria Board members.

The course will be conducted on August 4 & 5, 2018, at Dalkeith Heights, Traralgon. There is no cost for the course, but participants will be required to bring their own lunch. Please contact Joe van Beek if you are interested.

McTk 2017 Report

The wait is over. And your editor takes full responsibility for the delay in getting McTk 2017 out to our avid readers. The only excuse he can offer is: "The dog ate his original transcript!!!! Check out the supplementary issue issued with this Newsletter.

WALK REPORTS

MACALISTER SPRINGS, MT HOWITT & KING BILLYS ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 10th - Mon 12th Mar
LEADER: Anna Janca
REPORT: Josh Caithness

Walkers: Chris Marshall, Trevor Whibley, Anna Janca, Leanne & Josh Caithness, Oliver Raymond, Tom Carew & Aloechka Delamaine

8 intrepid walkers set off on a 3 day hike on and around Mt Howitt. The route involved walking up the King Billy 4wd track to the top of King Billy 1, staying the night there; walking to Mt Magdala, then on to Mt Howitt, before spending the night at Vallejo Gantner hut; and finally walking back to the Mt Howitt carpark on the 3rd day.

After meeting 7.5km down the King Billy 4wd track, the walkers set off on a 10km walk up to the top of King Billy 1. The walk consisted of a 3.5 hour trudge up a continually uphill 4WD track, before finally arriving at camp. Along the way they were occasionally passed by large groups of 4wders (since it was a long weekend), and they even met someone who was camping up on the Australian Alps walking track (who turned out to be a rather interesting character). When they arrived at the top of King Billy 1, several walkers were rather keen to get water, so Oliver led the way in the search (he had previously found water in the area). Water proved to be very hard to find as it took a whole 40 minutes to discover, however it should be easier to find next time as Anna took a GPS reading of the spring's position.

The following morning everyone packed up and went for a short walk to Picture Point to have a look at the amazing views, before venturing out to the summit of

Mt Magdala. The walkers were promised a "gently undulating" walk along the Australian Alps Walking Track, however the track didn't quite fit the description. It was rocky, steep in places, and rather challenging. It took roughly two hours to reach the summit of Mt Magdala, where they stopped to admire the spectacular views and have lunch. It took another 2 hours of walking to reach the summit of Mt Howitt. By that stage a few walkers were running low on water, so Tom and Trevor decided to investigate a rumour of a spring about 15 minutes down the track. Sadly, as it had been such a dry Spring and Summer, there was no water to be found. An hour and a half later the walkers arrived at Vallejo Gantner hut, where they could fill up with water at the Macalister Spring and set up camp. However the spring was barely running so it took a full 30 minutes to fill everything up, and then they had to search for a camp site.



View of Crosscut Saw from near Vallejo Gantner

As the walk was over the long weekend, there were campers everywhere (approximately 80 of them). The walkers ended up walking an extra kilometre along the track to some plains to camp.

The next day was a very easy walk and definitely fitted the description of gently undulating. It was a little bit over 3 kilometres back to the car park from their campsite, and they managed that in roughly an hour. Overall it was a very fun weekend that was enjoyed by everyone.

Thank you to Anna and Oliver for organising and leading the walk; their guidance and experience was much appreciated.



Group photo taken at Hells Window, Mt Magdala

BLUE POOL - PEREGRINE LOOKOUT

DATE: Sat 14th Mar
LEADER: Chris Marshall
REPORT: Monica Scicluna

Walkers: Chris Marshall, Monica & Joe Scicluna, Chris Johns & Jackie Whiting.

On a beautiful autumn day, we arrived at Briagolong café. From here we car pooled to the start of the walk. The view over Blue pool was so peaceful, being a week day, we were the only people there.

Due to no rain the creeks had no water, we headed up to Peregrine lookout, meandering through beautiful trees and scrub for morning tea and a spectacular view.

From here we passed a shaft that is fenced off, we presume it was for gold mining. Lunch was consumed on the cliffs of McKinnon Point.

We returned via Freestone Creek, walking along the road for a short time due to Fromme campground being closed, due to someone dumping asbestos, even though it has been removed the camp site is closed for six months.



Chris, Monica, Joe and Jackie at Blue Pool

We stopped for afternoon tea at the Riverstone café in Briagolong.

Thanks Chris for a wonderful mid week walk.

BRYCES GORGE - GUYS HUT ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 24th - Sun 25th Mar
LEADER & REPORT: Oliver Raymond

Walkers: Oliver Raymond and John Churchill.

The weather report looked ominous, which must have put most sensible walkers off. However, John Churchill and myself were undeterred, so took off at the appointed time and drove into the hills. The road up from the end of the bitumen was in better condition than I have ever seen it, thanks to the fire-turned

into a fuel reduction burn, and all the equipment (graders/dozers/loaders) involved. We passed many pieces of equipment although there were no helicopters at the Snowy Plains Airstrip. The fuel reduction burn had been extended to just passed the Dimmicks Lookout turn off, which will give protection to the Howitt road as far as that for a few years.

Arriving at the Bryce's car park, we admired a group of well set up tents, but the occupants had obviously set off for the Gorge already. Shouldering our packs, we headed off towards Pieman's Falls, which unfortunately were completely hidden in an all-enveloping mist, swirling up the escarpment. So we pressed on to the Conglomerate Falls and our overnight camp site.



Oliver at Pieman's falls (hidden in the mist)

At the Falls we met the walkers from the car park camp tents, a cheerful group of white haired gentlemen from Melbourne who were reliving their youthful bush walking experiences. They had been up Howitt the day before and were doing the day walk around the Bryce's circuit.

Mindful of the forecast, we elected not to camp on the cliff edge camp site and pressed on to a much more sheltered site that I had used many years ago. By this time the wind had started to strengthen, and we raced to set up our tents, just managing to complete this as the rain started. Luckily, I had had the foresight to pack a light nylon fly, which we erected as soon as we got the fire going.

Well, the weather really deteriorated from then on. The southerly wind howled over the ridge behind us and the rain pelted down. We spent the rest of the afternoon huddled under the fly, emerging to warm and dry ourselves by our soon roaring fire whenever the rain eased up.

And so, to bed.

All night long the lightning flashed, the thunder rolled around the hills and the rain pelted down. The wind tossed the trees on the ridge above us, roaring incessantly, and occasional eddies swirled around our tents, bending them against the sides of our sleeping bags. It was a real test of our gear, which stood up surprisingly well.

Morning dawned with no relief from the rain. There was absolutely no warmth left in the blazing fire we had left the night before – it was a heap of sodden charcoal. So we breakfasted on our muesli, washed down with a hot chocolate brewed on John's trusty Trangia. We could hear a wild dog howling its protest over the roar of the wind and, much in sympathy, we rolled up our gear and trudged off up the track, which was a running stream after the night's rain.

Arriving at Guy's hut, an amazing sight greeted us. As a precaution against it burning down if the fire had jumped the control lines, the DELWP crew had completely wrapped the hut in a swaddling heap of aluminium backed insulating material and had mowed the grass around the building down to a very short stubble. We had never seen anything like it.

A photo was essential. (refer front cover)

We then slogged our way across the plain to the car park, had a short talk to the equally sodden campers there and drove home in the civilized warmth of our car.



Guys Hut minus the wrapping

Footnote: *Guys hut located on Bryce's (or Snowy) Plains, was built in 1940 by Jack Guy and Denny Connolly. The hut replaced the original Snowy Plains hut, built by the Bryces during their occupation of Wonnangatta Station from 1870 - 1914. The hut along with the Wonnangatta Station freehold and leasehold, passed into the hands of Bob Gilder, of Glenfalloch Station in 1970. Shortly thereafter they were bought by the Victorian Government.*

WALHALLA TO THOMPSON STATION VIA POVERTY POINT

DATE: Sat 24th Mar
LEADER: Monica Scicluna
REPORT: Piero Baglioni

Walkers: *Monica Scicluna, Joe Scicluna (in spirit only), Piero Baglioni, Rose de Leeuw, Tom Bodin, Chris Marshall, Trevor Whibley, Andrew Stevenson, Louise McLaren, Michael Dowe, Marian Matchan, Ken Free*

The East Gippslander was on time for a change as we turned the corner into the Tyers kindergarten car park, the meeting point for this picturesque walk.

Monica gathered her chickens around her and guided the group through an informative 5 minute briefing on club protocol.

We subsequently climbed into our cars for the 30 minute trip to Walhalla upper, the start of our walk.

By the time we arrived, the sun had retreated below dark scudding clouds, leaving us in grave doubt about how dry we would remain by the end of the day.

Joe barely had time to make his slippers more comfortable and contentedly start to leaf through his favourite fishing magazine – at least that's what he said it was!

The rest of us took to the track, slowly winding our way up above the picturesque mining town of Walhalla, with great views of the old hospital and cemetery across Stringer's creek on the opposite side of the valley.

The walk follows the Great Alpine walking track down the valley through some large stands of mountain ash and drops into magnificent fern tree gullies. After an hour or so walking we stopped for a break at one of the many fairy glens and spent an enchanted 15 minutes chatting and eating.

We proceeded along the track sometimes listening to the chug chug of the steam locomotive as it wound its way along Stringers creek.

We met a group of German academics who walk this track annually. Unfortunately communication was a little difficult but I think they tried to convey just how beautiful our bush is. If only we could appreciate it a bit more.

We also passed a group of Melbourne bushwalkers who were walking the track in the opposite direction. They seemed to know quite a bit about our club and the many walks we organise.

Eventually we reached Poverty Point bridge, a magnificent structure spanning the Thomson river. It was at this point that the bulging clouds could no longer support the volume of water and they quickly gave up their loads – directly on top of where we were standing it seemed. We donned our raincoats and pack covers and waited for the rest of the group to catch up.

At this point a decision was made to walk directly to the station and to have lunch here. It was a wet miserable hour before the station finally came into view and we could shelter from the downpour.

The group had lunch under the station veranda and then drove back to Walhalla, where we picked up Joe and found a conveniently open café for hot drinks and scones.

Thanks to Monica for her leadership and for organising this inspiring stroll through the bush, virtually in our back yard!

BALOOK - MACKS CREEK LOOP TARRA - BULGA NP

DATE: Sat 7th Apr
LEADER: Peter Jennings
REPORT: Nicki Jennings

Walkers: *Frankie MacLennan, Leanne & Josh Caithness, Tony & Ryan Wielgosz, Anna Janca, Peter & Nicki Jennings, Trevor Clues*

After a quick coffee on the lawns of the Tarra-Bulga Visitors Centre the nine of us headed off along a well-worn part of the Grand Strzelecki Track towards Macks Creek. The initial part of the track was lined with large tree ferns and epiphytes beneath a canopy of towering Mountain Ash. We then emerged onto a dirt road and down through young pine trees on a



Group under the fern canopy on Macks track

section of the walk. Suddenly our pace slowed while our breathing and heart rates increased. Thankfully the towering forest shaded our ascent. Wild Cherry Tree Hill is named after the many native Cherry Trees (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) that line the track. They are a partially parasitic tree with dark green soft foliage that contrasts beautifully with the surrounding forest.



Walking along Wild Cherry Tree track

The steep climb along the track lasted for forty minutes or so and then the ascent became gentler. We walked along a carpet of dried leaves and long ribbons of bark from the massive Mountain Ash. The forest was stunning. Finally with 17km under our boots we returned to Balook and the Visitors Centre. We all enjoyed a well-earned afternoon tea at the Lyre Bird Guest House before heading home with very tired legs.

**LOST LAKE
WINGAN INLET
CROAJINGOLONG NP**

DATE: Fri 9th - Sun 11th Apr
LEADER: Oliver Raymond
REPORT: John Churchill

Walkers: *Oliver Raymond, John Churchill, Ian Bilney and Jenny Beck.*

A close look at a map (or a Google Earth view) of the Wingan Inlet area reveals an un-named feature that appears to be a small freshwater lake (pond?) perched amongst the old sand dunes 80 meters or so above sea level. More elusive even than the nearby Elusive Lake, it has over the years generated within Oliver's mind a determination to find the lake and gaze upon its waters. And so a plan was hatched to search for the lake and confirm its existence, and a 'lost lake' search party was gathered from far and wide - consisting of BCWC members Oliver (Traralgon), John (Melbourne), Ian (Paynesville) and club guest Jenny (Marlow).

The planned starting point for the search was the intersection of the Gale Hill and All Day tracks. The search party arrived at the starting point in time for lunch on Tuesday 10th April. After a quick lunch it was soon established that the All Day Track was so overgrown as to be virtually impassable without a couple of machetes and a chain saw. Ian consulted his very impressive GPS-enabled tablet and determined that the best starting point would be five kilometers or so further along the Gale Hill Track. This new starting point meant a roughly three-kilometer return walk through untracked bush. The party set-off in a north-west direction keeping to the high ground as much as possible and, after an hour or so of relatively easy scrub-bashing, was rewarded with a view through the trees of sunlight glistening on dark tannin-stained waters. The lost lake had been found! The find may not have ranked with the discovery of the source of the Nile, but Oliver was well satisfied. The lake itself has a surface area of around one hectare (roughly 190 meters by 50 meters). Edged with thick reeds it presents a very pretty sight.



Map highlighting "Lost Lake"

After an uneventful return to the Gale Hill Track the party then drove on to a small (and very dusty) clearing behind the sand dunes at the end of the track and established camp for the night. It was a



Ian, Oliver and Jenny on the shores of "Lost Lake"

very dark night and the stars were particularly spectacular until it clouded over around midnight and a few spots of rain fell.

The next day could well have been an anti-climax after the excitement of finding the lost lake but, the weather was just about perfect for a walk with daypacks from the campsite along the coast to the Wingan Inlet Camping Area. Oliver and Ian left early in the morning to organize a car drop to Wingan Inlet. En route, Oliver startled a Sāmbhar Doe on the track, radioed Ian that he had seen her, and Ian promptly encountered her, looking very indignant.

By 8.30 AM we were making our way along the beautiful isolated beaches (and rocky headlands) south of the Inlet. We found the skeleton of the whale which had been found on a previous club walk (remember that, Jackie?)

The rock hopping across Petrel Point took about 90 strenuous minutes, so we took a well earned rest alongside an old and massive buoy that was rusting on the beach. We then walked easily along a low tide beach, searching hopefully for the indicator to the track across to Fly Cove. This is not easy to find, but we did finally see it, partly due to the flotsam that previous walkers had tied to it. Thank you, those people!

After a relaxed lunch at Fly Cove (of Matthew Flinders fame) we turned inland and enjoyed a very pleasant walk along a path through thick coastal scrub until eventually arriving at the Wingan Inlet Camping Area around 2 PM. The only other person we saw on the walk was an eccentric old character collecting kelp at Fly Cove. Surprisingly we did not see a single snake on the walk and the only serious wildlife encountered was a 1.5-meter goanna on a tree stump at the Camping Ground.



Jenny & Ian exploring Fly Cove

After regathering our strength at the Camping Ground, we decided there was enough daylight left for a side-trip to Elusive lake before returning to our campsite at the end of the Gale Hill Track. It was an easy downhill walk to the lake shore along the Elusive Lake Track – just over four kilometers from its intersection with the Wingan Inlet Track. The water looked very enticing on the very warm afternoon and Jenny and John enjoyed a highly refreshing swim. The lake is quite deep (20 meters according to our map) and the water was darkly stained with tannin. From the shore Oliver

and Ian kept a sharp eye on the swimmers in case a 'Loch Ness-like' creature emerged from the depths and devoured them (in which case, what would they do??). Whilst at the lake we were lucky enough to hear the mournful howls of a dingo in the nearby bush. Both the Elusive Lake and the Lost Lake are truly beautiful spots with accessible sandy edges and a visit is highly recommended to anyone who happens to be in the general area.

After the swim, and an uphill walk back to the car, Ian drove us all back to our campsite in his very comfortable Prado. Oliver calculated we had walked around 23 kilometers during what had been a very enjoyable day. After dinner we had all retired to our tents by 7.30 PM and slept well (especially those who had joined Oliver in sampling some of his Johnny Walker Black Label).

We had packed up the campsite and were on our way back home early the next morning. Oliver and John visited the very impressive display of exotic Australian timbers and polished gemstones on display at Mingling Waters Caravan Park in Nowa Nowa, before moving on to some great lunchtime meat pies at the Bruthen Bakery.

GABLE END, THE SENTINELS & MILLERS HUT ALPINE NP

DATE: Fri 13th - Sun 15th Apr

LEADER: Anna Janca

REPORT: Judy & Joe van Beek

Walkers: Anna Janca, Becky Horsham, Frankie MacLennan, Peter & Nicki Jennings, Judy & Joe van Beek

We met at the Glenmaggie Hall in the sunshine at 9am and packed our camping gear and overnight provisions into Peter's 4X4 for this supported walk. We proceeded to McFarlane Saddle in Peter and Anna's vehicles with a brief stop at Licola and Bennison's Lookout, where we had perfect views of the hills and our destination. We had an early lunch on arrival at the saddle car park.

The walking from McFarlane Saddle along the Wellington Plain was in ideal conditions, dappled sun and moderate temperature with a hint of a breeze. Peter, with our gear on board, proceeded to Millers hut along the Mt Wellington Track. He radioed us when he got to the top of Mt Wellington (1,634m) and reported gale



Becky, Anna, Peter, Judy, Joe, Frankie, Nicki setting out from McFarlane's Saddle

strength winds. Not to miss out we detoured via Moroka Gap to Mt Wellington where the views were extensive but the wind, blowing at over 60k/h, was a fair reminder to the van Beek's of their Wellington NZ days. It was an exhilarating addition to the trip.

On our arrival at Millers Hut at 4pm we found Peter had already erected his and Frankie's tent; the rest of us proceeded with camp establishment and moved on to cook a meal over the camp fire. It was a relaxing evening around the campfire. Becky provided much interest when cooking her cake dessert in her campfire cup. In the night the wind picked up and buffeted the tents along with the sporadic midnight showers. In the morning some possessions were missing having blown about in the wind and a couple of tents had issues.



Billy time at Millers Hut

Saturday morning was overcast but fine with a good breeze blowing. After attending to breakfast, a cuppa and making lunch we secured the tents and were on our way to the Sentinels and Gables End before 9am. As we climbed higher through the snow gums and came out onto the Alpine Meadow we saw the cloud coming in from the West. We scrambled (rock hopped) out to the western most part of the Sentinels (1,520m) to get a view of Lake Tali Karng below (870m) and the mountains around. We could still see Tamboritha and the Crinoline, although skies were darkening ominously.

Once back at the end of the 4WD track, 500m from the view point, Anna wisely called an early lunch break at 11.30am, while we were still in relative shelter from the weather. During lunch the cloud moved in

with some flurries of snow. It was decided that we would not proceed over the exposed tops to Gables End as it would be unpleasant and no views once we got there. We retreated to our camp at Millers Hut by 1pm and made the hut home for the afternoon and evening. Despite the roaring fire in the fire place the temperature in the hut remained at 3 degrees according to Becky's thermometer; what gadget did she not have? Her Platypus hot water bottle not only kept her warm but took the chill off the red wine which Nicki wanted at something above current room temperature. We played some cards and did a few quizzes from papers that Peter found. It was too cold to sit still for long; people were on the lookout for "happy hour" from 3pm! Although the fire threw out little heat, it did dry clothes, provided a cooking site and a welcome ambience. We enjoyed a shared meal in the hut, grateful for the tables and camp chairs brought in. We did discuss the pros and cons of a well ventilated hut and wondered why Parks had not installed a toilet at the site.



Becky, Judy & Joe on approach to the Sentinels

An entry in the hut book gave some interesting history of Henry Miller; he, and then his son, fattened some 800 head of cattle on the Gable End lease block. While some of us were happy to retire and spend the night in our tents, Frankie and Becky bedded down in the hut. The roar of the wind in the tall snow gums was a constant noise throughout the afternoon into the night. There were squalls of showers and the temperature remained near freezing.

Sunday dawned with the weather a bit more moderate. The shelter of the hut was appreciated for having breakfast and packing up. We were on our way by 9am, Frankie took a ride with Peter. It was still blowing a gale on top of Mt Wellington but that wasn't evident from the walking track. The walkers proceeded past the camp site used on a club walk the previous Easter, down across Nigothoruk Creek (the feed for Lake Tali Karng), around Nyimba Camp and onto the Wellington Plain. We stopped to inspect the ruins of Dunsmuir Hut shortly after which we met Peter and Frankie who had walked in to meet us. We were back at McFarlane Saddle just on noon, had some lunch and proceeded home with a stop near Breakfast Creek. Here we found Helmut, Andrew and Piero packing up from their aborted Long Hill circuit walk. There was a brief stop at Licola so Becky could have her traditional treat (Ice cream on the way up, a pie on the way home); we split forces at Glenmaggie by 2.30pm, with all feeling it had been a good 3 day outing into the hills.

LONG HILL TRACK

ALPINE NP

DATE: Fri 13th - Sun 15th Apr

LEADER: Helmut Tracksdorf

REPORT: Piero Baglioni

WALKERS: Helmut Tracksdorf, Andrew Stevenson, Piero Baglioni

Piero and Andrew left work early on Friday 13th which was an ominous sign already and drove to Red Box camp, just past the Melbourne Grammar school camp, nestled below the Crinoline, about 30 km past Licola. Helmut had already set up our tents and a pleasant campsite, having arrived earlier in the day.

It was hard to imagine how the inclement weather forecast for the week end would eventuate as a warm northerly breeze gently blew any remaining cloud away and left us with a night sky full of intensely bright stars and the gentle murmur of the breeze blowing through the trees.

We solved the problems of the world that night and contentedly retired to our tents in preparation for an early start the next morning.

Somewhere during the night a strong wind blew up, this was joined with the pitter patter of rain on the tent but when Andrew very gently woke the group at 6 am, it all seemed to have blown away. We packed our day packs, had breakfast, then drove the 10 or so km to the start of the walk along Dingo Hill track.

The weather, very surprisingly was holding out, so clear was the horizon that we were able to spot Mt Ligar from the lower slope of Dingo Hill Track.

The 4WD track eventually petered out and narrowed to a well marked walking track along a ridge. This was the start of the long hill.

We followed the ridgeline, making good time and reached an enormous rock shelter just as a cyclone hit. We felt very exposed on the ridge and walking was made very difficult with gusts attempting to morph the group into an episode of the flying nuns.

We had a break here on the sheltered side of the ridge and enjoyed an early lunch in the relative shelter provided by the massive ledge of rock which was precariously balanced above our heads.



Andrew and Piero at the rock shelter

We continued along the exposed route and soon a wall of water was spotted approaching from the south west. We wisely donned our wet weather gear and bravely continued into the abyss. The wind increased its vicious whine and the temperature dropped to an uncomfortable level. We emptied our packs of all the clothing they possessed and were still cold.

Eventually we reached a point where long hill track mysteriously appears to disappear. Undeterred our leader plunged into the bush leading us into the unknown. It should be said at this stage visibility was limited as we were walking not only in the bush but in the clouds, with wind and intermittent rain hampering our efforts. A quick check of the map established that our leader had left his compass back in the car, which meant taking a bearing was somewhat difficult! So after stumbling around in wet, windy and cold conditions. We were left with only one safe and logical decision. Turn around and head back to the safety of our vehicle and camp. We had already walked approx 12km so it was going to be a long walk back. It was at this point that Helmut tripped over an inconvenient stump. Over the next hour he developed a moderate degree of chondromalacia, more typically known as "one bung knee". Fortunately he made it back to the car because it was beginning to look like we may have to leave him behind!

We were all cold, wet and miserable and due to the cold found it difficult to perform anything that required fine motor skills. According to the temperature display in the car it was 2Deg. Which suggested we had made the right decision to turn around rather than stumble on in the hope of finding the track. We drove back to Red Box camp and after changing into dry clothes and warming ourselves next to a roaring blaze, we could almost imagine that we had re-joined the species - homo sapiens.

We had planned to walk along McMillans track back to Dingo Hill track the following day, but alas, Helmut's knee did not improve so we had to spend the morning lazing around the campsite eating protein bars and again solving the problems of the world! In fact it was reassuring just relaxing around another roaring campfire.



Put another log on the fire!

Eventually we mustered enough motivation to pack our campsite and after meeting the other walking group, who had spent a few days around the Miller's hut area, we drove back to civilisation.

Thanks to Helmut for organising this interesting and challenging expedition. Hopefully we may be able to attempt it again on a week end when the weather is a little kinder.

COBBANNAH CREEK MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sun 22nd Apr
LEADER: Ken Free
REPORT: Piero Baglioni

Walkers: Ken Free, Marian Matchan, Peter and Nicki Jennings, Rose de Leeuw and Piero Baglioni

As the last tendrils of mist burned away with the early glow of the rising sun, our small group slowly converged on the intersection to Dargo and Beverley's road. Piero and Rose were the first to arrive, a feat never seen before and probably never again. The car shuffle is quite demanding for this walk and about 30 minutes later arrived at the starting point, an old logging track off the road to Billy Goat Bend. It was disappointing to see that former users of this area had left their rubbish strewn around the camp fire for others to collect.

We followed the now heavily overgrown logging road until it petered out and then followed the ridge steeply downhill until it reaches Cobbannah creek. We entered the creek just above a sizeable pool, where we stopped to soak in the silence of the gorge and the sun reflecting on millions of year old rock. As expected the creek was as dry as a bone, with only the odd pool of trapped water in the shadier parts of the gorge still remaining. This made walking much easier than on previous attempts and the group was able to navigate quite quickly to our exit point at the intersection of Cobbannah and Gap creeks by 1130 where a decision was made to stop for lunch.



**Ken, Nicki, Marian, Peter, Piero & Rose
Taking a break in Cobbannah Ck**

Ken spotted an eagle and soon this was joined by its mate soaring majestically above the creek bed. The group enjoyed this arial acrobatic show for some time, until eventually we all had to get up for the climb up Gap creek.

This again proved easier than on previous attempts as the group could move easily up the middle of the dry creek bed. The familiar landmarks of a giant gum (alais Anna's hugging tree) and the mini den at the higher end, the moss drooping from the trees and the larger rocks were still evident but revealed an entirely different perspective to the usual lush tropical rainforest encountered during past visits.



Peter inspecting the giant Gum

We came across a few small pools, the still clear water revealing grayling that had retreated to this slowly shrinking sanctuary. I hope for their sake that it rains soon.....

We stopped to make way for a monster black snake which very slowly uncoiled and slithered in between 2 rocks directly in our path.

After 2 or 3 kilometres we reached a spot where a ridge ran off to our right in a north-easterly direction towards the spot where we had left a couple of cars earlier in the day. We bush-bashed our way through some tangled undergrowth for around 100 metres before breaking out into open forest and a steady up-hill climb to Mitchell Road, and a short walk to the cars.

It was eye opening to see this rarely visited part of the bush reveal yet another of its many moods. Thanks to Ken for a great day and providing the opportunity to once again visit a beautiful and tranquil oasis in the Aussie bush.

**St GWINEAR TO MUSHROOM ROCKS
BAW BAW NP
Sat 28th April**

NB: This Will appear in the June issue pending receipt of Walk report.

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		

WALKS PROGRAM - CHANGES

GRAMPIANS - BLACK RANGE WALK - JUN
DEFERRED UNTIL SPRING 2018

TOMS CAP

MULLUNGUNG STATE FOREST

DATE: Sat 5th May
GRADE: L - 7 - 7
MEET: Giffard West Hall, Sth Gippsland Hwy
TIME: 9:00am
LEADER: Peter Jennings
CONTACT No: 0428 230 444
EMAIL: pnjennings@gmail.com

We meet at 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. Whilst grades aren't particularly steep or rocky there are sections with loose gravel on slopes. On our way to the starting point in the forest we will visit "the bullocky's grave" and hear about his unfortunate accident. We'll have lunch on a peak known as Toms Cap from where Angus McMillan and his party could see Corner Inlet in 1841. 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.

BCWC MEETING

CLUB NIGHT - BAIRNSDALE

DATE: Wed 9th May
MEET: Bairnsdale Club
68 Nicholson Street @ 6:00pm

Come along and hear Piero Baglioni talk about his and Rose de Leeuw's 2017 trek along the Haute Route.



Rose & Piero on the track above Arolla

HOTHAM HUTS & DINNER PLAIN

ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 12th & Sun 13th May
GRADE: M - 5 - 3 & S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: Sat 12km & Sun 7km
MEET: Tourist Info office at Bruthen
TIME: TBA
LEADER: Jackie Whiting
CONTACT No: 0428 588 547
EMAIL: whitingj53@gmail.com

Staying at Omeo Caravan Park on Friday night,

Day 1 - Saturday we will drive up to the Hotham Heights village and start the Hotham Huts walk from the Loch Reservoir and car park. After enjoying the views from Mt Loch, we will follow the gently undulating Australian Alps Walking Track to Derrick Hut and then on to the historic Spargo's Hut whilst enjoying the magnificent views and massive snow gums. We will then proceed on down the steeper Golden Point Spur to the bridge crossing Swindlers Creek, then climb up to join the Cobungra Ditch Track for a couple of kms. We can then choose the shorter Edelweiss Track or following the Davenport Access Track climb up to the road. If inclement weather, Plan B will be the 12 km Cobungra Ditch track which follows an abandoned water race, and a more sheltered track. Those not involved in the car shuffle can enjoy refreshment at The General Store (pub). For any people who would like to join this weekend but not able to manage the steeper last section of this walk, the easier alternative will be available of returning from Spargo's Hut to the Mt Loch car park along the same track. After a great walk, we will return to Omeo to enjoy dinner at the historic art deco Golden Age Hotel.

Day 2 - Sunday From Dinner Plain and the JB Hut car park, we will follow the Dead Timber Hill Walking Track, with breathtaking views and join the easy 3 km Room With a View circuit ending at the picnic table or Dinner Plain coffee shop.

Accommodation cost \$25 - \$30 per person per night, depending on type of accommodation. Please register by Monday April 30 to enable accommodation bookings to be confirmed. BYO bedding.

TOORLOO RAINFOREST & BAT CAVE WALK LAKE TYERS PARK & COLQUHUON FOREST

DATE: Sat 19th May

GRADE: S - 4 - 4

DISTANCE: Rainforest 1km / Colquhuon 4km

MEET: Lakes Entrance - Marine Parade car park, opposite Aldi @ 9:00am

LEADER: Ken Grandy

CONTACT No: 0419 585 404

EMAIL: kgrandy@dodo.com.au

From the meeting place we will make a 15 minute drive to Lake Tyers forest park at Toorloo Arm. The first part of this walk will be a short jaunt through a section of rainforest with some large gums and rainforest trees. After a cuppa it's back in the cars for another 15 minute drive to a location in the Colquhuon forest. This walk follows an old road (very overgrown and barely recognisable as a road) through a section of large gums and tree ferns to the entrance to an old water formed cave. This cave is approximately 50 - 100 metres in length and is the home of a large colony of little bats; so bring a torch and a hat. We'll then have lunch here before returning to the cars.

ANGUSVALE TO JURGENSON POINT & RETURN MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 26th May

GRADE: M - 5 - 3

DISTANCE: 14kms

LEADER: Marian Matchan

MEET: Stratford @ 7:45 am or

Beverleys Rd @ 8:30am

CONTACT No: 0448 523 287

EMAIL: Matcho01@bigpond.com

This walk will follow the Mitchell River from the Angusvale campground downstream to a point opposite Jurgenson Point where Sandy Creek enters the Mitchell River. We walk along the edge of the bluff with views down onto the river and across to the rocky ledges, thru shady gullies lined with ferns and moss covered rocks, at times we walk adjacent to what looks like an old water race or aqua duct. The walk follows the western side of the river on a well made track with great opportunities for photographs of the river and surrounds. After lunch we will retrace our steps back to Angusvale.



The mighty Mitchell River

THE CRINOLINE ALPINE NP

DATE: Sat 26th May

GRADE: M - 7 - 7

DISTANCE: ~10kms

MEET: Glenmaggie Hall @ 8:00am

LEADER: TBC

CONTACT No: 0419 178 445

EMAIL: walkbcwc@gmail.com

There are two routes from Breakfast Creek up to the Crinoline. One via a designated track, which is also a section of McMillan's track and the other which is straight up the side of the mountain where you can blaze your own trail. Which one we choose will depend on the walk leader. So if you don't want to tackle the hard way put your hand up to lead the easy route, before its too late! Contact the Walks Co-ordinator to register your interest in leading this walk.

Come and celebrate BCWC's Birthday.

Formed in 1965, BCWC will celebrate its 53rd Birthday by walking to the summit of Ben Cruachan. No! No! not the one in Scotland but the one North of Maffra.

Come along and celebrate the cutting of the cake.

Only those who reach the summit (by any means) will be considered worthy of receiving refreshments and possibly a glass of champagne!!!

BRUTHEN TO NICHOLSON RAIL TRAIL EAST GIPPSLAND

DATE: Sat 2nd June
GRADE: M - 3 - 1
DISTANCE: tba
MEET: Bruthen @ 9:00am
LEADER: TBC
CONTACT No: 0419 178 445
EMAIL: walkbcwc@gmail.com

This walk will follow a well marked track from Bruthen towards Nicholson, along the rail trail - However, we require a Walk Leader for this walk to take place. This is an excellent opportunity to take on a leadership role - IF you wish to gain experience in leading a walk. Contact Anna if you would like to participate.

MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

DATE: Sat 16th June
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
MEET: Maccas carpark Shopping Centre
Traralgon @ 8:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna
CONTACT: 0431 777 460
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

Morwell NP is a small, unique area of remnant forest in the northern foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges. It includes fern gullies, dryer eucalypt ridges, revegetated river flats, nature gum and 43 species of native orchids, some of which are declared rare. Wildlife in the park are wallabies, wombats, possums, kangaroos and koalas. The walks may be along Foster's Gully Nature Trail or Stringybark Ridge. We will be back at the picnic area for lunch. After lunch we can go onto Billy's Creek Trail towards the old weir.

BCWC BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS BEN CRUACHAN SCENIC RESERVE

DATE: Sat 23rd June
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
MEET: Maffra @ 9:00am
LEADER: TBC
CONTACT No: 0419 178 445
EMAIL: walkbcwc@gmail.com

BLOND BAY GRASS TREE WALK BLOND BAY RESERVE

DATE: Sat 30th June
GRADE: S - 2 - 2
DISTANCE: 10kms
MEET: Wattle Point picnic area @ 10:00am
LEADER: Trevor Whibley
CONTACT No: 0458 725 558
EMAIL: trevorwhibley@hotmail.com



Xanthorrhoea australis aka Grass tree

From our meeting point at the end of the bitumen at Wattle Point, we will car pool and drive into the Blond Bay State Game Reserve. Today's leisurely coastal stroll will entail a circuit walk of approximately 10km and the highlight will be walking through extensive areas of large grass trees and banksia woodland. The track will be sandy in places and generally flat. We will arrive in the Storm Point area for lunch where we will have views across Lake Victoria to the coastal township of Loch Sport. Birdos bring your binoculars.

BCWC CLUB NIGHT & AGM MAFFRA

DATE: Wed 11th July
MEET: Maffra Sports Club
Main Street @ 6:00pm

Yes, another year will have flown by and it will be time to elect a new committee and possibly a new President. So IF you are interested in participating, put your best foot forward and hit the campaign trail, not running but walking.

SELECTED MISQUOTES



It's too bloody far!



This would make a good sawlog!



It looked big when I pulled it out of the creek!



What's the number for the rescue chopper?



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

ISSUE 199 - NEWSLETTER OF THE BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB - JUNE 2018



Photo: Oliver Raymond

It may have been cold, but it was still a great day for the 23 hardy souls who made it to the top of Ben Cruachan to attend BCWC's 53rd anniversary celebrations. Starting from Newry recreation reserve the group travelled by 4WD along Millers Rd to the base of Ben Cruachan itself and then tackled the 2km 4WD summit track which had everyone's heart pumping before reaching the top. The views from the top over the Avon Wilderness were certainly spectacular, but it was the picnic lunch and good company that everyone came for.

Check out the full report on page 10 and BCWC's connection to this iconic mountain.

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.



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

IN THIS ISSUE	<i>BCWC - Established 1965</i>
<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2017 / 2018</u>	
~ President's Report 3	PRESIDENT: Joe van Beek 5176 5302 joevanbeek@bigpond.com
~ Club News 4	VICE PRES: Jack Winterbottom 5143 0903
~ Walk Reports 5 - 10	SECRETARY: Heather Alexander 5149 7048 secbcwc@gmail.com
~ Walk Previews 11 - 12	TREASURER: Robyn Rowley 5149 2519 glengyle@wideband.net.au
~ Selected Mis-quotes 13	PUBLICITY: Vacant
	NEWSLETTER: Helmut Tracksdorf 5156 6763 newsbcwc@gmail.com
	WALKS CO-ORDINATOR: Anna Janca 0419 178 445 walkbcwc@gmail.com
	TRACKS & HUTS: Michael Dowe 5147 3075
	ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
	Chris Marshall 0499 780 399
	Trevor Whibley 0458 725 558
	Piero Baglioni 0408 446 299
	Monica Scicluna 0431 777 460

CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH
NEXT CLUB NIGHT & AGM IS SCHEDULED ON: WED 11TH JULY, 6:00PM
AT THE CRITERION HOTEL SALE, 90 MACALISTER STR. SALE

Welcome to our Newest Members

George Campbell (Sale) Patrick Platt (Donvale), John Powell (Sarsfield), Tom Bodin (Morwell)

Presidential Ramblings

JUNE 2018

A year has almost flown past since our 2017 AGM. Have you remembered to renew your membership? It has been quite an eventful year with many good things happening, as always there are a few things that we could have done better. I will be reflecting on the past year in my report to the AGM on 11 July.

The evening of Wednesday 11 July should be one of the highlights of the year. Monica and Chris have organised an evening that will be a joy to attend. The evening commences with a hearty dinner with the theme of Christmas in July. Wear something in line with the theme. This will be followed by the AGM. You may like to join the committee or nominate someone else for the committee. I would love to receive your nomination. We will have some vacancies and definitely want to fill the position of publicity officer which has been vacant most of this year which has resulted in a low media profile for the club and its activities.

Following the AGM which shouldn't take too long we will have a gear evening. Bring along an item of bushwalking/camping gear that you think is pretty neat and you are happy to introduce to others at the meeting. There will also be a sales table. If you have items that you wish to sell or pass on bring them along. Bring some cash, you may pick up a bargain.

The committee has resolved to start a register of gear that can be loaned. This will allow people to tryout gear before they invest in gear of their own. Members who have gear that they are happy to loan to others are asked to put that gear on the register. This would be gear mainly for pack carries and overnight camps such as tents, sleeping mats, cookers, back packs etc. Initially Chris Marshall, 0499 780 399, will manage the register manually but it may end up on our web site.

If I don't see you on a track maybe I will see you at our Christmas in July Dinner, the AGM and Gear Night at the Criterion Hotel in Sale commencing at 6pm.

Joe van Beek



Steve was always reckless when going for a walk!

Club News

BCWC Club Night & AGM



The next Club Night is scheduled on **Wednesday 11th July**, where we will convene at the Criterion Hotel located at 90 Macalister Street, Sale at **6:00pm**.

We have a jam packed evening planned starting with a **Christmas in July** dinner, so come along with that theme in mind.

In conjunction with the dinner, we will be holding a **gear night**, so please bring along any gadgets, equipment and ideas to show and share with others. If you have any items for sale bring them along as well.

Our annual **AGM** will follow dinner, so if you want to become a proactive member of our group, do not hesitate to contact our President Joe van Beek and flag your interest, prior to the AGM.

We require a publicity officer which is an important role in recruiting new members and advertising current walks in the local papers. Help is available to the person that takes it on.

Club Night Presentation - May

At our previous club night, some twenty members enjoyed a meal at the Bairnsdale Club on 9 May and afterwards were entertained by Piero Baglioni with a very well prepared account of the walk he and Rose de Leeuw undertook on the Haute Route, where they were joined part way by Helmut Tracksdorf. Piero took us day by day along the 14 day walk which is a spectacular and demanding hike in the French and Swiss Alps, from Chamonix (France) to Zermatt



Piero & Rose on the Haute Route above Gasenreid

(Switzerland) .

The route traverses below the summits of 10 out of the 12 of the highest peaks in the Alps, and crosses several high passes. The highest pass is at 2964 m. This is a world of glaciers and towering, snow-capped peaks. The Haute Route also meanders through green alpine valleys with flower-covered meadows and picture-book villages. It is a trek of contrasts. The route passes through the centre of both the French and Swiss Alps: two distinct cultural regions with different languages and architecture.

Thanks to Piero for his most interesting presentation.

McMillans Track

Recently (April 2018) 2 other individuals took up the challenge and walked McMillan's Track from West to East, experiencing navigation issues just outside Woods Point, at the turnoff off to the D4 track and near Treasure Spur. A report of their walk can be viewed online at:

<https://app.box.com/s/0s9vjin7zhumerapy5lhknkhkdhstd9jm9>

On a separate note, **DELWP** is hosting a meeting on August 23 to discuss how to promote McMillan's Walking Track. Joe van Beek will be attending and has invited other Committee Members.

Ben Cruachan Picnic

Another year has passed and the history of The Ben Cruachan Walking Club continues to be written in the worn out soles of members boots. Not to be outdone 23 hardy souls helped celebrate BCWC 53rd Birthday by walking to the top of the Ben Cruachan. Once they reached the summit it was a marvellous sight to see them all celebrate with coffee, tea and cake. Check out the report on page 10

Equipment Register

The Committee has agreed to adopt Chris Marshall's proposal to implement an Equipment Register. Chris recommended that a register be created of equipment available for loan to new members - who are interested in overnight pack carries but do not have appropriate gear. This would enable them to try the activity and gear prior to outlaying significant funds purchasing their own new gear. Chris offered to maintain such a register which Anna would load onto the website for member only access.

WALK REPORTS

TOMS CAP MULLUNGUNG STATE FOREST

DATE: Sat 5th May
LEADER: Peter Jennings
REPORT: Monica Scicluna

Walkers: Joe van Beek, Ken Free, Anna Janca, Frankie MacLennan, Michael Dowe, Geoff Mattingley, Monica Scicluna, Peter Jennings

We met at the Giffard West hall, where Nicki had the kettle on for a cuppa on our arrival. We then registered, were briefed about the walk, then it was decided to take two cars.

Our first stop was a km walk according to the sign post but ended up being two km, to view 'the bullocky's grave'. It was in 1870 that a German migrant named Alex Strammer stopped his bullock team due to failing brakes, the accident happened when the lead bullock moved forward, he was under the wagon and was crushed to death. His body was found four days later by a mill worker, who then buried him in the gully where the ground was soft. Peter mentioned that the frame and headstone were erected at a later date.



Visiting Bullocky's grave

From here we drove to the start of the 12km loop walk which included Tom's Cap. As we walked along the road with banksias and stringy bark trees along side, a lot of trees had been cut so the road could be widened, (a lot of fire wood to be taken). We could hear kookaburras and wrens along the way. Finally we arrived at our lunch stop at the peak. This is where Angus McMillan and his party in 1841 could see Corner Inlet, the views were lovely, but due to the trees, we were not able to see Corner Inlet.



Group at Toms Cap

After lunch we followed the road, then cut across the bush, where we were stopped by Peter near some poo, he then informed us that the wombat poo we were seeing along the track was why the State Forest was named Mullungdung meaning Mullung (wombat) Dung (poo).

From here we walked along a 4wd track back to the cars, as we approached true to Peters word a wallaby hopped past us, this was another tick off the preview.

We then drove to the 1km track into Froud's Mill Site. We saw remnants of what was once a thriving mill. William and his sons Alfred & James commenced operation in 1929. Alfred and James were both killed during WWII and William sold the mill to the Kauri Timber Company in 1945. It finally closed in 1951 when the timber ran out.

Back to the hall, where once again our host had the kettle on and lovely scones and Anzac biscuits for all of us to enjoy.

Thanks Peter for a fabulous day in the bush and Nicki's hospitality.

NAMADGI NATIONAL PARK - ACT RECCE

DATE: Sat 19th - Sun 20th May
LEADER & REPORT Ken Free

On 19 and 20 May 2018, Marian Matchan, Marjorie Kanagaratnam and Ken Free visited Namadgi National Park in the ACT by participating in walks led by 2 of the ACT bushwalking clubs. This proved to be a great way to undertake interstate bushwalks, led as they were by knowledgeable and capable locals.

Day #1 - Orroral Valley Heritage Walk, Saturday 19 May 2018, Brindabella Bushwalking Club.

On a crispy cold Canberra morning we met up with 12 BBC members at Kambah Village and after signing in and some car-pooling we headed down through Tuggeranong Valley and south into Namadgi National Park to our start point at the Orroral Valley Campground. The walk initially took us up and over a low ridge covered with young eucalypts before opening onto the Orroral Valley where we crossed the Orroral River and meandered along the wide open grassy spaces of the valley, watched over by large mobs of kangaroos.



Marian & Marjorie at Namadgi NP

We paused at a group of old stately eucalypts for a morning tea break and observed that there was hardly a cloud in the sky and we were rapidly approaching the maximum forecasted 17°C. Our next point of interest was the Orroral Homestead which has been recently restored by the Kosciuszko Huts Association.

The Orroral Valley was first settled by Europeans in the early 1830s and the quite substantial homestead was built for Archibald and Mary McKeahnie in 1866. Another building, now long gone, but of equivalent size to the homestead was located close by and housed the kitchen and staff quarters.

Following the obligatory group photograph, we headed farther up the valley to the site of the Orroral Space Tracking Station which, along with similar facilities at Tidbinbilla and Honeysuckle Creek, played a



**Group photo at Orroral Homestead
with the Brindabella Bushwalkers**



Marian, Ken & Marjorie on the track

key role for NASA during the United States campaign to land a man on the moon in the late 1960s. The Station also supported the joint Apollo-Soyuz project in 1975 and provided telecommunications support to the Space Shuttle missions until its closure in 1985. This was a great place for lunch, surrounded as it is by heavily treed hills with impressive rocky outcrops and plenty of interpretive signage to inform us of the recent history.

After a leisurely lunch we retraced our steps and stopped off at a large woolshed near the Orroral Homestead which has also undergone some conservation work by the Kosciuszko Huts Association. We then retraced our steps back down the valley, across the river and over the ridge to the cars. The BBC members know how to finish a day's walking and had come prepared with tea and coffee and cookies; unfortunately, with another commitment back in Canberra we had to decline the kind offer to join them.

What a great day's bushwalking: a wonderful group of friendly bushwalkers, hundreds of kangaroos, plenty of history, magnificent scenery and weather to die for! Thank you Doug and all the BBC participants for making us feel very welcome and giving us a great day in the Orroral Valley.

Day #2 - Gudgenby Valley Walk, Sunday 20 May 2018, National Parks Association ACT.

On another crispy cold Canberra morning we met up with 8 NPA members at Lanyon Marketplace at the

southern end of Tuggeranong Valley where we signed on, car pooled and headed even farther south into Namadgi National Park to our start point at the Gudgenby Cottage. Ken was pleased to catch up with some familiar faces from his Canberra days, including our leader Brian Slee and NPA ACT President Esther Gallant who was staying at the Cottage over the weekend. We initially headed east then south east through open forest before following the Hospital Creek valley for a short distance. Apparently Hospital Creek was so named because it was used by early sheep herders for resting ailing stock.

We then picked up one of the many old forestry management roads to make our way west across the valley to Frank and Jack's Hut. This area of the valley was once a substantial plantation of Radiata pine trees whose suitability to the southern ACT was questionable and the plantation received little or no maintenance and met its final doom during the devastating 2003 bushfires. NPA volunteers have worked tirelessly over many years to eradicate all traces of the pines and revegetate the valley with indigenous trees and shrubs - a fantastic conservation effort. The journey across the valley provided fantastic views of the surrounding peaks including Yankee Hat #1 and #2 and Mount Gudgenby, described by Ken as his favourite mountain back when he was younger and fitter!



Marjorie & friends at Yankee Hat aboriginal rock shelter

From here we headed north to Middle creek before turning east and heading for the Gudgenby Homestead and Cottage. Those with keen eyes were entertained on this part of the walk by a lone Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*) fluttering in the grass catching insects. At the Cottage we were greeted by a group of NPA artists who had spent the weekend in and around the Cottage painting the stunning landscape. Hazel Rath with helpers had prepared a batch of scones with jam and cream laid on for the not-so-weary walkers accompanied by tea and coffee - I wonder if all NPA walks finish with such style.

Once again, we had a wonderful day of sunshine in the Namadgi National Park with great company, more kangaroos and magnificent scenery. We are most grateful for the warm welcome we received from our leader, Brian Slee, the NPA ACT President, Esther Gallant, and all the participants. Thank you.



En route to Mt Gudgenby

The Frank and Jacks Hut, which was built in 1954 for Frank and Jack Oldfield, has been lovingly restored by the Kosciuszko Huts Association and gave the impression that it would have been quite a comfortable place to stay while out herding stock. After a group photograph, we headed west across Bogong Creek before heading in a roughly northerly direction to our lunch spot in the foothills of Yankee Hat #1, apparently so-named because to an early settler it resembled the profile of an 1800s US cavalry hat.

A short side trip after lunch took us to the Yankee Hat Aboriginal Rock Art Site which is a rock shelter with paintings depicting kangaroos, goanna, turtles and abstracted figures which date back at least 800 years and according to some sources maybe 3,000 years. Carbon dating has established that aborigines frequented the area for at least 21,000 years prior to European settlement.

**TOORLOO RAINFOREST BAT CAVE WALK
LAKE TYERS PARK & COLQUHUON FOREST**

DATE: Sat 19th May
LEADER: Ken Grandy
REPORT: Jackie Whiting

A lovely day produced nine eager hikers to Lakes Entrance to meet Ken Grandy who led us to Burnt Bridge road, Lake Tyers to begin our walk around the Marsdenia rainforest walk. This area is home to lovely native trees and beautiful ferns. Oliver was happy to point a few species including a very old blackwood wattle and a lawyer vine curling its way around the track and trunks of other trees without doing any damage. At one section we were next to the highway but hidden from view of the traffic. At a well-appointed information board, we read about our local

history of the Gunaikurnai people and their lives in 1890 when John Bulmer was living and teaching on the mission. Also reference to white explorer Angus McMillan.

After a cuppa we hopped into the cars again and drove to the well kept secret location of the bat cave walk near Corduroy track in the Colquhoun state forest. After about 25 minutes walking on an overgrown track we were near the opening of the cave and Ken suggested lunch before maybe getting dirty going through. He produced face masks, which we all thought was very funny, but in case we didn't like the ammonia smell. Plus, hats on in case of poop in our hair!



Getting ready to enter the Bat Cave

The magic of seeing the opening gave us a great thrill as it was obvious not many people come this way. Torches turned on we entered the tunnel like cave which was quite high but narrow in width at times, so we squashed our way through. Peering upwards we could see the tiny creatures like dots on the cave ceiling. Apparently, some of the brown winged bats had gone into hibernation and numbers were fewer than normal and quieter than normal. Walking on layers of well rotted bat manure we all said how good this would be for the garden. During the walk to and from the cave entrance we were surrounded by magnificent Blue Gums, River Peppermint, with their delicate leaves, Messmate, Red box and another native shrub I was thrilled to find the name was G-bung with hidden red/orange bark hidden below the surface. We all finished the day with hot drinks in Lakes Entrance. Thanks Ken for a very different experience.

ANGUSVALE TO JURGENSON POINT MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 26th May
NB: Report not submitted



Marian above the Mitchell River



Walkers at Jurgenson Point



Trevor taking in the view

BRUTHEN TO NICHOLSON RAIL TRAIL

DATE: Sat 2nd June
LEADER: Joe van Beek
REPORT: Monica Scicluna

Walkers : Judy van Beek, Trevor Clues, Ken Grundy, Ken Free, Bev Beard, Monica Scicluna

We arrived in Bruthen at 9am, the rain was falling, but by the time we drove to Bumberrah where we started our 13km walk, along the East Gippsland Rail Trail Into Bruthen, the weather had cleared, so off we went.

Along the trail we listened to the sound of about 25 different bird calls, spotting only a few. Thanks to Bev's wealth of knowledge, she said they included bell miners spotted pardalotes, eastern rosellas, crimson rosellas, white throated treecreepers, Australian king parrots, silvereyes, superb fairy wrens and cherry ballarts.



Bev, Monica & Joe on the rail trail

We also passed the hop kilns in Mossiface, which were built in 1881 by John Calvert. Three were built but only two remain. Trevor informed us that the paddocks we were looking at were all maize crops in 1910-1970s, we passed large maize storage cribs, the last one built in the 1950s.



The Hop Kilns

We walked through several tunnels, saw lots of cherry trees, cows, sheep, horses, kangaroos and dogs. Also took photos of Mossiface and Bruthen train station signs. When we arrived in Bruthen we went to the bakery for their tasty pies, pasties and cakes.



Ken, Joe, Judy & Trevor at one of the tunnel entrances



Group photo near the end of the walk

Thanks Joe for a very pleasant day out.

BCWC 53rd ANNIVERSARY BEN CRUACHAN SUMMIT PICNIC

DATE: Sun 24th June
LEADER & REPORT: Joe van Beek

Participants: Chris Johns, Oliver and Carolyn Raymond, Jim and Denise Stranger, Michael Dowe, Trevor Whibley, Chris Marshall, Geoff and Sandy Mattingley, Marjorie Kanagaratnam, Billy King, Marian and John Matchan, Jack Winterbottom, Jessie Walker, Tony and Sue Wielgosz, Maggie Marriott, Heather Alexander, guest from SBWC; Peter Maffei and Judy and Joe van Beek.

BEN CRUACHAN SUMMIT PICNIC

It wasn't the coldest morning of the winter but cool enough. It didn't get much above 10 degrees all day. Twenty-three hardy souls made it to the top of Ben Cruachan for a picnic to mark the 53rd anniversary of the founding of our club. Most gathered at the Newry Recreation Reserve from where we car pooled in 4WD vehicles to the base of Ben Cruachan. Travelling up Millers Road we looked more like a four-wheel drive club on an outing than a bushwalking club.



Group ready to commence their climb to the summit of Ben Cruachan



Socialising at the summit Carpark

The 2km four-wheel drive track to the summit provided a variety of challenges for walkers and drivers. Jack, Oliver and Tony ferried picnic gear and goods to the top including Billy's chair. John and Jessie took rides up all the way. Michael went back to get his vehicle to provide a ride for Billy. Carolyn hitched a ride for part of the way up. When the walkers arrived at the top Oliver had the billy boiling on a fire, Jack had a kettle boiling on a gas burner and Tony had a cooker ready for whatever needed heating/cooking. Packets of biscuits, homemade cooking, leftovers from the BWV AGM and more were produced for a late morning tea which immediately flowed into lunch when salads, quiches, soups, sandwiches, dips, Turkish bread, sausages and many more eats were produced and devoured. Maggie's freshly baked bread was a popular treat.



Jessie Walker, one of our longest serving members at the summit of Ben Cruachan

We socialised, took in the views, basked in the winter sun like lizards and worked out the various peaks from Peter's Peak Finder app on his mobile phone. We could see the snow on Mt Useful to the west of us. Oliver took the group photo, Denise ensured the fire was out, Jack, Tony and Oliver stowed all the gear in their vehicles and at 2 pm we were on our way back down the track. Jessie, our most senior walker, was the first to the bottom.

Thanks to everyone for their contribution to a great outing. A visit to the top of Ben Cruachan should be a must for all members. The views over the Avon Wilderness Area and beyond are as good as any in the Gippsland Foothills and the vegetation is majestic.

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		

FOSTERS GULLY MORWELL NP

DATE: Sat 7th July
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: 10kms
MEET: Maccas carpark Traralgon @ 8:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna
CONTACT No: 0431 777 460
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

Morwell NP is a small, unique area of remnant forest in the northern foothills of the Strezlecki Ranges. It includes fern gullies, dryer eucalypt ridges, revegetated river flats, nature gum and 43 species of native orchids, some of which are declared rare. Wildlife in the park are wallabies, wombats, possums, kangaroos and koalas. The walks may be along Foster's Gully Nature Trail or Stringybark Ridge. We will be back at the picnic area for lunch. After lunch we can go onto Billy's Creek Trail towards the old weir .

AGM AND CLUB NIGHT SALE

DATE: Wed 11th July
MEET: Criterion Hotel Sale @ 6:00pm
RSVP: Friday 6th July
Contact: Monica at: joe.monica@hotmail.com

Yes, another year will have flown by and it will be time to elect a new committee. If you wish to join the committee or nominate someone for a position then please advise Joe before the date of the meeting.

We will meet for our social dinner. We will also be having a gear night so please bring along your latest and best gadgets, equipment and ideas to show and share with others. If you have any items for sale bring them along too. The AGM will follow dinner, if you are interested in being on the committee, do not hesitate in contacting our President Joe van Beek prior to the AGM. We are desperate for a publicity officer, this is important in recruiting new members and advertising

current walks in the paper. Help is available to the person that takes it on.

TRACK 96 FREESTONE STATE FOREST

DATE: Sat 21st July
GRADE: M or L
DISTANCE: TBC
MEET: TBC
LEADER: TBC

NOWA NOWA & RAIL TRAIL COLQUHOUN STATE FOREST

DATE: Sat 28th July
GRADE: M - 2 - 2
DISTANCE: TBC
MEET: TBC
LEADER: TBC

Mt St GWINEAR SNOW SHOE SHUFFLE BAW BAW NP

DATE: Sat 11th August
GRADE: M - 8 - 8
DISTANCE: 11km
MEET: Erica Ski Hire @ 9:00am
LEADER: TBC

The walk starts at the Mt St Gwinear car park and follows the ski trails to Phillack Saddle and returns via the same route.

Walkers need to be prepared for sudden deterioration in the weather. As a minimum full wet weather gear should be carried. Gaiters are also recommended.

Bring your lunch and something to sit on. We will hire snow shoes and wheel chains from Erica Ski Hire.

TRACK 96 TRACK MAINTENANCE

BTAC EVENT

BRIAGOLONG STATE FOREST

DATE: Sat 11th - Sun 12th August

GRADE: M

MEET: TBC

LEADER: TBC

BUCHAN CAVES RESERVE

DATE: Sat 18th August

GRADE: S - 3 - 3

DISTANCE: 11km

MEET: Buchan Caves office @ 9:00am

LEADER: TBC

Two short, picturesque, easy walks in the Buchan Caves Reserve where you will see kangaroo's and possibly deer.

If you can't make it in time for the first walk (Kanooka track), you could join us for the second walk (Moon Hill), fantastic views over the township of Buchan, with the possibility of being extended if anyone wants a longer walk.

AVON - Mt HEDRICK WILDERNESS PARK

Mt HEDRICK CIRCUIT

DATE: Sat 1st September

GRADE: M - 6 - 4

DISTANCE: 10km

MEET: TBC

LEADER: TBC

OTWAYS TRACK MAINTENANCE

BTAC EVENT

OTWAY NP

DATE: Thu 13th - Sun 16th September

GRADE: M

MEET: TBC

LEADER:

YEERUNG ESTUARY & DOCK LAKE

CAPE CONRAN COASTAL PARK

DATE: Sat 15th September

GRADE: M - 3 - 3

MEET: TBC

LEADER: TBC

Experience the rich diversity of flora and fauna which is found in the lower reaches of the Yeerung River as we walk the Estuary View Trail to the coastline. Keep an eye out for the White-bellied Sea Eagles as we explore the coastal waters of the estuary. Enjoy the beach walk to Dock Inlet, a unique and picturesque, land-locked expanse of fresh water isolated from the coast by a coastal dune barrier. Experience the natural beauty of the heathland and banksia as we travel back to the Yeerung River. The walk will commence at 8.00am to enjoy the morning bird song.

This can be done as a day trip, or a weekend car camp, with travel to and exploration of Cape Conran walks local to the campground on Saturday, and this Yeerung Estuary and Dock Inlet walk on Sunday, before returning home. Car camp will be at the Banksia Bluff Campground on Saturday night. Cost is \$38 per site per night for up to 6 people per site. Please advise your preference when registering.

WIRILDA TRACK & PIPELINE TRACK

MOONDARRA STATE PARK & TYERS PARK

DATE: Sat 22nd September

GRADE: M OR L - 6 - 6

MEET: Wirilda Environment Centre

LEADER: TBC

The Wirilda Walking Track is Latrobe Valley's best kept secret. The walk is conducted annually in conjunction with the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club and Friends of Tyers Park. From the meeting point, which is also the finishing point, a thirty minute drive is required to get to the start of the walk at the Moondarra Dam wall. The Wirilda Track follows the Tyers River valley back to Wirilda Park. Scenery varies from dry, open forest to lush fern gullies and passes under the conglomerate cliffs of the Tyers Gorge. There are a few hills and a river crossing so spare footwear is advisable. Be sure to bring lunch, adequate water and a raincoat. Joe van Beek may lead a 24 km circuit version of the walk (Grade X-9-5) 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 Walking Track. Duration; 6 hours.

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.

SELECTED MISQUOTES



The new hiking safety protocols, suck!



This is a great tent Joe



Where is a gun when you need it?



Remind me what we're doing here?

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Newsletter

200th Edition



Photo: Joe van Beek

Not only was it zero degrees at Mt Saint Gwinear, but with plenty of fresh snow falling the conditions were absolutely perfect for these hardy souls who took part in the Snow Shoe Shuffle, led by Joe van Beek. Lynette, Jackie and Monica can be seen here, well prepared to keep out the cold and soak up the perfect conditions with heaps of fresh snow covering the trees and bushes to create a magical effect. With the snow covering everything there was some amazing scenery to be seen and from all accounts this may be one of the best walks so far this year. At least those taking part thought so!

Check out the full report on page 8 .



Ben Cruachan on dusk from Briagolong

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

IN THIS ISSUE	<i>BCWC - Established 1965</i>
<u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2018 / 2019</u>	
~ President's Report 3	PRESIDENT: Joe van Beek 0411 749 799 joevanbeek@bigpond.com
~ Club News 4	VICE PRES: Piero Baglioni 0408 446 299
~ Walk Reports 5 - 9	SECRETARY: Ken Free 0414 774 144 secbcwc@gmail.com
~ Walk Previews 10 - 12	TREASURER: Robyn Rowley 0427 486 273 glengyle@wideband.net.au
~ Memory Lane 13	PUBLICITY: Chris Marshall 0499 780 399 publicitybcwc@gmail.com
	NEWSLETTER: Jack Winterbottom 0408 411 079 newsbcwc@gmail.com
	WALKS CO-ORDINATOR: Geoff Mattingley 0429 084 216 walkbcwc@gmail.com
	TRACKS & HUTS: Michael Dowe 0427 523 647
	ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
	Marian Matchan 0448 523 287
	Trevor Whibley 0458 725 558
	Heather Alexander 0414 917 830
	Monica Scicluna 0429 614 544
	Becky Horsham 0458 470 375

CLUB MEETS — SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EVERY SECOND MONTH
NEXT CLUB NIGHT IS SCHEDULED ON: WED 13TH SEPT, 6:00PM
AT THE BAIRNSDALE CLUB, 68 NICHOLSON STR. BAIRNSDALE

Presidential Ramblings

AUGUST 2018

Welcome to the 200th edition of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club Newsletter. Quite a milestone in the clubs history. I wish to congratulate Helmut on this special edition and thank him, from all of us, for his work as newsletter editor over the last five years. Helmut has produced 32 editions of the Newsletter including four special editions, covering walks of McMillans Walking Track, The clubs expedition to Larapinta and Rose and Piero's walk on Vancouver Island, as well as the Clubs 50th Anniversary Edition. Helmut will retire as Newsletter editor after this edition and hand over to Jack Winterbottom who will bring his own flare to the Newsletter.

At our AGM on the 11 July there were a few changes to the Committee, Heather Alexandra stood down from the position of Secretary and Anna Janca stood down from her position of Walks Co-ordinator. These positions were filled by Ken Free and Geoff Mattingly respectively. Piero Baglioni was elected as vice President and Chris Marshall as Publicity Officer. Becky Horsham was elected as a new member on the committee. See the previous page for a full listing of the Management Committee for 2018/19.

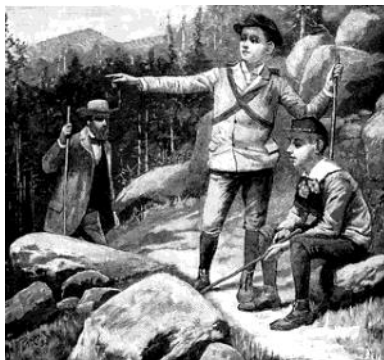
To ensure a great year of bush walking and other activities for club members we need to have a full and comprehensive walk calendar well into the future to allow for promotion of the walks and so members can choose and plan their walks. To this end it is now a whole of committee responsibility to develop the walks program, but we do need your help. We need to know which walks or activities you would like to see on the program. We also need members to volunteer to lead walks. Experienced walk leaders are available to mentor and guide beginner walk leaders. Why not take a few minutes now and email your offers or suggestions to our walks coordinator Geoff Mattingly on walkbcwc@gmail.com

You will have received notification of the Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs Walks which we are co-hosting with SBWC. Our usual combined walk with SBWC on the Wirilda Track has been extended as a combined event for all seven Gippsland bushwalking clubs with four walks to choose from. You do need to preregister for this event with registrations closing on 10 September. If you have any hassles with registering just give me a call on 0411749799.

Sometimes it is hard to commit to a walk when the weather forecast is for -2 degrees, snow, hail, rain and possible thunder storms with only a possibility of some breaks in the cloud. But when one does make the commitment with the appropriate preparations and gear for the conditions the experience can be totally awesome, one you wouldn't want to miss. See the walk report on the Snow Shoe Shuffle to Mt St Gwinear in this newsletter.

If I don't see you on a track maybe I will see you at our next club night in Bairnsdale.

Joe van Beek



***We should call that mountain over there, "Ben Cruachan",
because "Ben Dover" just doesn't sound right!***

Club News

BCWC Club Social Night

The next Club Social night is scheduled on **Wednesday 13th September**, where we will convene at the Bairnsdale Club located at 68 Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale at **6:00pm**. Come and hear Geoff Mattingley talk about his 2014, 6 - day walk in the eastern canton of Switzerland. North of Maffra!!!!

AGM

The results of the AGM are in and your new committee for 2018/19 has been elected. While there are, dare I say some old faces there are also some new ones as well. Check out your new committee on Page 2 and congratulations to all those concerned and yes, members can look forward to another exciting year of Bushwalking activities.

McMillans track

On the 22nd August, DELWP hosted a meeting at their Heyfield office to discuss the promotion of McMillan's Track. Along with Parks Vic. several committee members attended and will report back at the next committee meeting in September.

Joe van Beek has also advised that on the Australia Day Weekend in January 2019 BTAC has scheduled a McMillan's Track maintenance weekend on the Lazarini Spur Track to Black River section.

Walks Program

Geoff Mattingley our new Walks Coordinator has officially taken over the role from Anna Janca and is looking forward to circulating a draft Walks Program in the coming weeks. Joe van Beek has proposed that we aim for 35 weekend day walks, with a mix to suit different members, is a reasonable target for the walks program. Combined with car camps, pack carries and mid week walks. Members are invited to submit proposals for walks over the next 6 months and beyond directly to Geoff via: walkbcwc@gmail.com

Similarly, Ken Free will contact members seeking suggestions for walks and inviting members to lead a walk with assistance on offer from experienced walk leaders.

BCWC - Facebook page

Although the club has had a FB page for some time it has not been utilised to the clubs advantage. This is about to change with the introduction of Becky Horsham to our Committee. Becky who is considerably younger than most members represents the next generation and we welcome the injection of youth and vitality not only into the club but into our program.

So check out the revitalised BCWC FB page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/886005908123823/>

Noting you can register for walks via the FB page.

Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs - 2018

Ben Cruachan Walking Club (BCWC) and Strzelecki Bushwalking Club (SBWC) will jointly host the 2018 Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' event this year. The Peregrine Club were to hold the event but unfortunately pulled out. The event (CGCW2018) will be based at the Wirilda Environment Park 10 kms North West of Traralgon on 22 September 2018 and will consist of a choice of 4 walks of 24 kms, 14 kms, 10 kms and 4 kms.

If you are interested to attend, registrations for the event must be made by **10 September 2018** to the BCWC Secretary by mail or email on the Registration form which has been circulated to all Gippsland bushwalking clubs.

Walk Leaders and tail-end-Charlies will be from BCWC and SBWC and Joe invited people to nominate for these roles; walk leaders and tail-end-Charlies have to register for the event.

Monica Scicluna has offered to provide some catering for afternoon tea and salads for the end of the day barbeque.

Federation Walks Weekend 2020

Joe van Beek has proposed that our club along with Strzelecki Bushwalking Club could jointly host Fed-Walks 2020 at the Lions Camp at Licola which would give us the opportunity to show off our backyard with a variety of walks in the high country including sections of McMillan's Track.

Joe will discuss the proposal with other clubs, and will investigate the venue and report back to Management Committee members by email. We need to determine the feasibility of BCWC hosting the event by 20 October 2018, the date of FedWalks 2018.

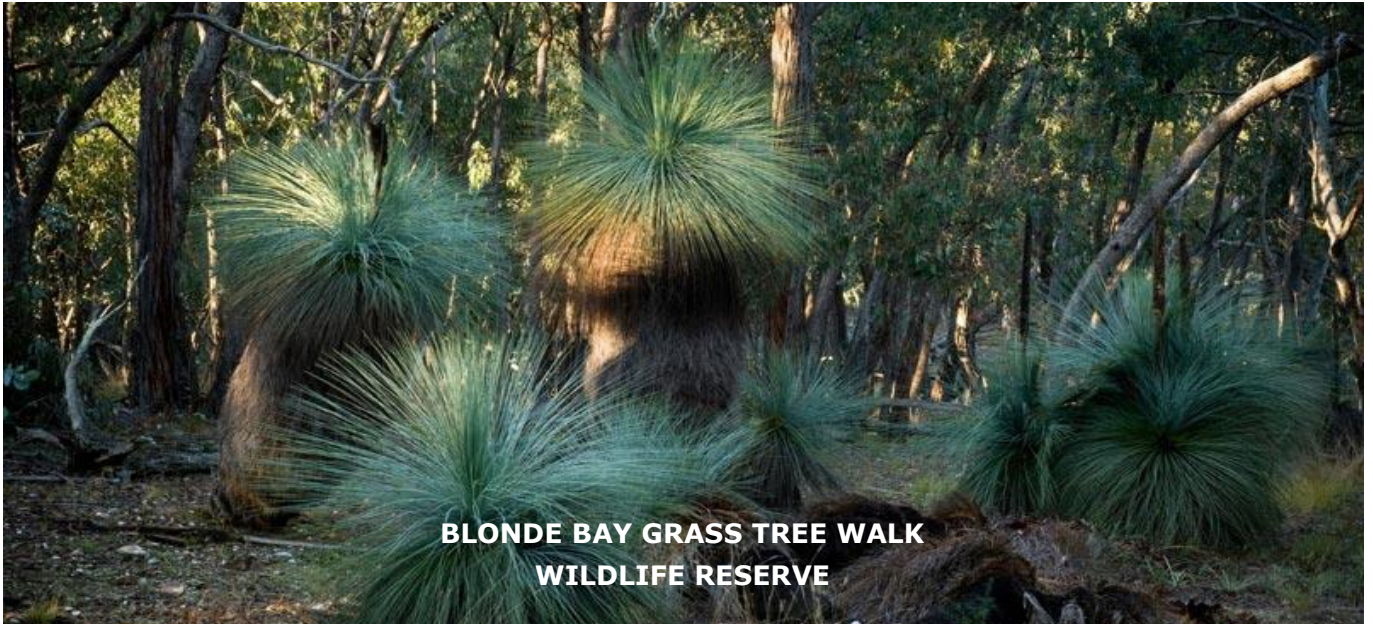
For FedWalks 2018, Monica Scicluna has offered club members accommodation at their family's property at Safety Beach on the Mornington Peninsula. Monica will also investigate the possibility of a walk on Sunday 21 October 2018 in conjunction with Strzelecki Bushwalking Club.

Newsletter update

Having taken on the role of Newsletter Editor back in 2013, this 200th Edition represents my last for the time being. Hopefully members have enjoyed the read as much as I have enjoyed the journey. The role of Newsletter Editor will now transfer to the capable hands of Jack Winterbottom who has done a marvellous job in the past and no doubt will continue to do so, into the future.

Thanks to all those members who contributed reports, photos and articles over the last 5 years. Without you the Newsletter could not have been a success. HT.

WALK REPORTS



**BLONDE BAY GRASS TREE WALK
WILDLIFE RESERVE**

DATE: Sat 30th June
LEADER: Trevor Whibley
REPORT: Chris Marshall

Walkers: Trevor, Chris, Coralie, John, Marjorie, Billy, Marian, Jim, Joe, Judy, Geoff, Anna, Eva, Maggie, Jackie, Ken, Chris and visitors Natasha, Moira and Karyn. Camp crew: Ken and Kath.

We met at Wattle Point car park at 10:00am hoping the weather would hold until after the walk as a BBQ lunch was planned. While registrations were taking place, we were lucky enough to spot some Gippsland Lakes dolphins off the beach.



Natasha & Joe enjoying lunch



The Blonde Bay Bushwalkers

We then drove to the start of the walk and set off down Grass Tree Track passing numerous large grass trees along the way till we reached the shore of Lake Victoria stopping briefly to view Loch Sport across the water. We then followed a track along the shore line to meet our fabulous camp crew Ken and Kath who had a lovely fire and BBQ underway at Storm Point.

A very social lunch was then had including the comfort of camp chairs. We then followed the beach part-way back and viewed more grass tree specimens along Banksia Track very thankful that the weather held off for lunch.



Trevor leading the group

Thanks to Trevor for organising this short 10K return walk with lots of opportunities to catch up with members from across Gippsland and thanks to Ken and Kath for supplying an awesome BBQ.

TRACK 96 FREESTONE CREEK

DATE: Sat 21st July

LEADER: Chris Marshall

REPORT: Leanne Caithness

Walkers: Piero, Rose, Joe, Chris, Trevor, Marian, Monica, Geoff, Ken, Leanne, Josh, Di, Robyn & Eva.



**The Freestone Freeloaders!
(Spot the rabbit!)**

On Saturday 21st July 14 of us met at the Briagolong café and then drove up Freestone Creek road to a section of Track 96. This track is historically significant because, during the late 1800s and early 1900s, it existed to service the needs of gold miners, connecting Briagolong and Gladstone Creek to the gold-fields at Lees Creek and Granite Creek. These areas were the location of a number of alluvial gold mines. They were first discovered in the mid-1860's and, though not highly profitable, continued to be worked into the twentieth century.

This track was marked on a Government map dated 1909 as "Track 96". The walking track, as well as being interesting historically, traverses some very scenic forest with camp and picnic sites along the way. The total network of tracks that make up Track 96 total 60kms of walking, providing various degrees of difficulty for the casual or experienced walker. Track 96 was retraced and cleared during the 1990s thanks mainly to the efforts of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club who have helped retain a vital link with our past.



Rose & Piero enjoying lunch



Joe minding the packs during lunch

Our walk covered 7km of the track (14km return). There were a number of places we had beautiful views of the Freestone Creek, and we stopped for lunch at a picnic area which is also used for camping. Many thanks to Chris for organising this walk in a very scenic area.

NOWA NOWA TRESTLE BRIDGE AND BOGGY CREEK GORGE

DATE: Sat 28th July

LEADER: Jackie Whiting

REPORT: Jim Stranger

Walkers: Jackie (leader), Ken, Bev, Sue, Eva, Wendy, Marjorie, Billy, Marion, Rob, Josie, Phillip, Elizabeth, Denise, Jim, Maria (visitor), Bernard (visitor), Horrie (visitor)

We met at the Mingling Waters café in Nowa Nowa in weather perfect for walking. After welcoming our visitors, Maria and Bernard from Traralgon and Horrie from Painesville, we set off along the shore of the Nowa Nowa Arm of Lake Tyers. Almost immediately we were treated to the sight of pelicans and a Sea Eagle roosting high in a dead tree with his gaze firmly fixed on our group.



Sea Eagle spotted along the track



Stoney Creek Trestle Bridge - Built 1906

We followed walking and vehicle tracks through open Silvertop Ash, wattle and Banksia Forest to the spectacular Trestle Bridge on the East Gippsland Rail Trail. The bridge was constructed from local timbers in 1906 and carried trains through to Orbost until it was closed in 1988. It is 250 metres long and 20 metres high.

As we sat down to admire the structure and enjoy a snack, the sound of bagpipes carried across 'the glen'. The piper, Bernard, had laid to rest to speculation regarding the size of his large pack.



Maria & Jackie at Stoney Ck



The hills were alive with the sound of Bernard

Vegetation in the area had obviously been damaged by deer and highlighted the need for their control. The timber bridge over Boggy Creek, considerably smaller than the Trestle Bridge, was nevertheless impressive. Back to Mingling Waters for coffee and the end of the walk.

Thank you, Jackie, for your organization and a most enjoyable day.

From the bridge we followed the rail trail through the Colquhoun Forest and in to Nowa Nowa. From there we took the track to the Boggy Creek Gorge Lookout where we enjoyed the view and a well-earned lunch.

SNOW SHOE SHUFFLE MT St GWINEAR

DATE: Sun 19th Aug
LEADER: Joe van Beek
REPORT: Monica Scicluna

Walkers: Lynette, Jackie, Monica & Joe

After meeting at the Erica ski hire store, we picked up snowshoes and then hopped into Joes car for the trip to Mt St Gwinear car park. It was not only zero degrees but with fresh snow falling the views around us were magical.

With considerable snow on the ground we had to pull over so that Joe and Lynette could put the snow chains on.

We arrived about 11am, and after gearing up we set off up the trail to the lookout and then on towards the summit of Mt Gwinear. They had 20cm of snow overnight, so the going was hard. Joe led the way, forming steps in the deep snow for the rest of us to follow. Although fresh snow was falling we were still able to enjoy superb views and with a blanket of snow that covered everything in sight, it proved magical. We stopped for lunch about 1.30pm just sitting on the snow. We then pushed on and after reaching Mt St Gwinear summit, the obligatory photos were taken.



Joe at the summit of Mt St Gwinear

It had taken us some time pushing thru the snow to arrive so we didn't dilly dally too long and simply followed the ski trail back down the plateau to the car-park.



Returning to the carpark



Jackie 'chilling out'

During our return the scenery was breathtaking with so much snow and plenty of photo opportunities. We arrived back at the car park about 4pm, after our 6km walk. What a thrill this walk proved to be.

Thanks Joe for a fantastic day in the snow.

Believe it or Not:

Saint Gwinear was a Celtic martyr, one of only two early Cornish saints whose biographies survived the Reformation. Born in Ireland with the Irish name of Fingar, he was converted to Christianity by Saint Patrick and after spending time in Brittany went with 7 companions to Cornwall, landing at Hayle, he was martyred by King Teudar (Theodore the Great). Saint Gwinear was said to have died along with his followers by being thrown into a pit of reptiles.

Moral of the story: To become a saint you need to be bitten by snakes. Stick to bushwalking because being bitten by a snake is less likely! Especially if it's snowing.

BUCHAN CAVES RESERVE

DATE: Sat 25th Aug
LEADER: Trevor Clues
REPORT: Chris Johns

Walkers: Ken Grandy, Ken Free, Marion Matchan, Trevor Clues, Trish (visitor), Wendy Ammitzboll, Chris Johns

Seven of us made our way to Buchan Caves Reserve in preparation for our walks, to be led by Trevor Clues. There was considerable fog en route but once we arrived at Buchan and got our bearings we were on our way. The day begun quite misty and gave a rather eerie feel to our surrounds for a short time.



***The Buchan Bushwalkers and friend!
Ken, Chris, Wendy, Trevor, Ken & Marian (Photo by Trish)***

Moss-covered rocks, fallen tree branches, grottos and limpid, beautifully clear pools, with numerous inquisitive Kangaroos and Wallabies added to our adventure. The track was generally very good, with an occasional scramble over rocks and the infrequent stream crossing. The countryside was quite wooded with a mixture of trees and shrubs; a beautiful area to walk in. Our first walk was about 5 km along both Kanooka and Granite Pools Tracks, with easy up and down gradients; something with which our visitor Trish coped very well. Upon arrival back at the car-park we had an early lunch (brunch?) before tackling our second walk along both Northern Arm and Moon Hill Walk Tracks, arriving at a point where we had a great view of outer Buchan area, (refer above) and then returning to the vehicles.

As the day was still young Trevor suggested we move on to Bruthen for a short 2 km walk along a Rail Trail, and upon return to Bruthen we visited the former small Prison, Fettle's Hut and very nice Amegilla Gallery (named after the Amegilla Bee which inhabits the area). Before departing for home, and after our strenuous day, we decided to reward ourselves with a Coffee/Tea/Whatever break. A lovely day's Walk with terrific companions to travel with. Thanks Trevor for organising and leading our day.



Chris, Ken, Wendy & Marian at Spring Creek waterfall



Ken, Wendy, Trish, Marian, Chris & Trevor at the entrance to Fairy cave at Buchan

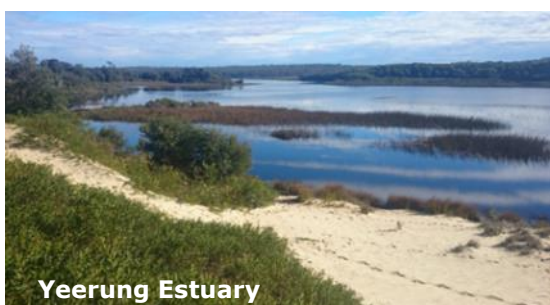
WALK PREVIEWS

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		

YEERUNG ESTUARY & DOCK INLET CAPE CONRAN COASTAL PARK

DATE: Sat 8th Sept
GRADE: M - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: 16km
MEET: TBA
LEADER: Heather Alexander - 0414 917 830
EMAIL: heather.alexander1@gmail.com

Experience the rich diversity of flora and fauna which is found in the lower reaches of the Yeerung River as we walk the Estuary View Trail to the coastline. Keep an eye out for the Whitebellied Sea Eagles as we explore the coastal waters of the estuary. Enjoy the beach walk to Dock Inlet, a unique and picturesque, land- locked expanse of fresh water isolated from the coast by a coastal dune barrier. Experience the natural beauty of the heathland and banksia as we travel back to the Yeerung River. The walk will commence at 9.00am.



Yeerung Estuary

BCWC - SOCIAL CLUB NIGHT BAIRNSDALE

DATE: Wed 12th September
MEET: Bairnsdale Club, Nicholson Street
Mall @ 6:00pm

Come along and enjoy some dinner and socialising. After dinner, our Guest Speaker, Geoff Mattingley, a member of your Committee, will show some pictures of a visit to Switzerland in 2014, including a 6 - day walk in the eastern canton of Switzerland. This area is culturally very different from the rest of Switzerland - they even have their own language. So come along for a very special and informative night out.

OLD WEIR SITE @ GLENALADALE MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 15th Sept
GRADE: M - 6 - 4
DISTANCE: ~14km
MEET: Stratford @ 7:30am
Beverleys rd @ 8:00am
LEADER: Ken Free - 0414 774 144
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 between 1881 and 1891 then collapsed following heavy floods in 1893/94. This is one of Victoria's great rivers and there'll be plenty of time to investigate native flora and seek out great photo opportunities, particularly for those interested in the quirky history of this place. Following lunch at this fascinating and peaceful place, we will return along the same track. The walk is mainly along ridges high above the Mitchell River, travelling through open forest and occasionally dipping into lush gullies. There's a wide variety of birdlife and other fauna such as wallabies and goanans. Some of the river views are quite stunning

COMBINED GIPPSLAND BUSHWALKING CLUBS' WALKS 2018

Moondara State Park & Tyers Park

DATE: Sat 22nd Sept
GRADE: VARIOUS
DISTANCE: Various
MEET: Wirilda Environmental Park
@ 8:30 - 9:00am
LEADER: Joe van Beek - 5176 5302
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

The annual BCWC and SBWC combined walk of the Wirilda Track has been extended to the Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Walks; a one day event consisting of 4 walks. Please refer to the CGCW2018 Information and the CGCW2018 Registration Form which can be

viewed on the BCWC website at:

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

To participate in this event you need to complete the registration form and forward it by **10 September**. Instructions are on the form, which can be downloaded from the Walks Program on the Clubs website above. Refer to the walk scheduled on 22nd September.

MITCHELLDALE - CAR CAMP

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Fri 28th - Sun 30th Sept
GRADE: S - 4 - 4
DISTANCE: ~ 6km / day
MEET: Stratford @ 9:00am
Beverleys rd @ 8:45am
LEADER: Rob Paterson (TBC)

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

It is planned to camp over on the Friday and Saturday nights, with walks on Saturday and Sunday.

Check out the Clubs website and/or Facebook page for updated information.

DEN OF NARGUN

MITCHELL RIVER NP

DATE: Sat 6th Oct
GRADE: S - 4 - 2
DISTANCE: ~6km
MEET: Stratford Park @ 9:00am
Beverleys Rd @ 9:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0431 777 460
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

This walk features Bluff lookout with views of the Mitchell River Gorge deep green pockets of warm temperate rainforest and Woolshed Creek. A very significant Aboriginal site, this walk is part of the Bataluk Trail, which explores sites of significance to Gunakurnai history and culture.

FEDERATION WEEKEND

FEDWALKS - 2018

MORNINGTON PENINSULA

DATE: Fri 19th - Sun 21st Oct
GRADE: Various
DISTANCE: Various
MEET: Friday 19th at Monicas Place
LEADERS: Monica Scicluna / Chris Marshall-0431 777 460
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

This year, Saturday 20th Oct will be the Federation Walk, members will need to REGISTER online with Bush Walking Victoria. We will organise a mystery walk for Sunday morning, this will be discussed Friday night. Monicas parents have a home in Safety Beach so you are welcome to stay or camp out the back, (\$10 for two night will cover cost of utilities per person) BYO food.

SALE COMMON

WETLANDS TRAIL

DATE: Sat 27th Oct
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: ~ 12km
MEET: Swing Bridge (Sale side)
LEADER: TBC

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.

PORT ALBERT

OLD PORT TRAIL

DATE: Wed 31st Oct
GRADE: S - 1 - 1
DISTANCE: 11km
MEET: Sale (back of old Police Station)
TIME: 9:30am
LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0431 777 460
EMAIL: joe.monica@hotmail.com

**PORT ALBERT
OLD PORT TRAIL**

(Continued)

We will leave our cars at the start of the trail in Seabank Caravan Park. From here we will meander along the coastal trail passing through grass trees, heath, orchids, banksias and coreas. We will then have lunch at the Port Albert fish shop, taking our time and then after lunch will follow the track back to our cars. This is a great walk for beginners to come and meet fellow walkers and have a great time

**McMILLANS WALKING TRACK
ARBUCKLE JUNCTION TO GLENCAIRN**

DATE: Sat 3rd - Tues 6th Nov
(Melb Cup weekend)
MEET: Heyfield Information Centre at
11:00am Saturday 3rd Nov.
GRADE: Various (refer website preview)
DISTANCE: Various
LEADER: Joe van Beek - 041 174 799
EMAIL: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

This will be the first of a series of 6 walks over the next few years which will cover the length of McMillans Walking Track. Each walk will give participants the opportunity to experience a section of McMillans Walking Track, in manageable bite sized pieces.

For this first 3 day walk we will camp alongside Dingo Hill Track and travel by car to the start or from the finish of the walk as required. Participants may choose which days to walk or even just come for the camp and do some of the driving to set walkers off and collect them at the end of the days walk. All roads involved can be negotiated by 2WD vehicles.

Participants will need to be self sufficient for food and camping requirements. The club has a register of equipment that can be borrowed.

Check out the walk preview on the Club website for more details or contact the walk leader.



**NEWLANDS ARM
GIPPSLAND LAKES**

DATE: Wed 7th Nov
GRADE: S - 3 - 3
DISTANCE: 6km
MEET: Newlands Arm Boat Ramp
TIME: 9:30am
LEADER: TBC

**BCWC - CLUB SOCIAL NIGHT
SALE**

DATE: Wed 14th November
MEET: Criterion Hotel, Sale @ 6:00pm
Cnr York and Macalister St
Mall @ 6:00pm
RSVP: Monday 11th Nov

Come along and enjoy dinner and socializing. We will be having a guest speaker and will let you know closer to the date Hope to see all.

**WILSONS PROMONTORY NP
(LODGE ACCOMODATION)**

DATE: Fri 23rd - Sun 25th Nov
GRADE: Various
DISTANCE: Various
MEET: Tidal River @ time TBC
LEADER: Monica Scicluna - 0431 777 460
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.

WEBSITE PREVIEWS

NB: More information may be available via the website, or our Facebook page 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.

MEMORY LANE

2017 / 18



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

PO Box 70 Maffra Victoria 3860
Incorporation No A0004849G

www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com



ISSUE 201 – Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club – October 2018



Jason turns his back on the stupendous views of the Mitchell River and its National Park as seen by the club on its walk to the Old Weir Site. More on page 6.

In This Issue

3	Presidential Ramblings
4	Club News
5	Walk Reports
10	Walk Previews

Committee Members 2018/19

President:	Joe van Beek joevanbeek@bigpond.com	03 5176 5302 0411 749 799
Vice-President:	Piero Baglioni	0408 446 299
Secretary:	Ken Free secbcwc@gmail.com	0414 774 144
Treasurer:	Robyn Rowley glengyle@wideband.net.au	03 5149 2519
Publicity:	Christine Marshall publicitybcwc@gmail.com	0449 780 399
Newsletter:	Jack Winterbottom newsbcwc@gmail.com	0408 411 079
Walks Co-ordinator:	Geoff Mattingley walksbcwc@gmail.com	03 5152 2916
Tracks and Huts:	Michael Dowe	0427 523 647
Committee:	Heather Alexander Becky Horsham Marian Matchan Monica Scicluna Trevor Whibley	

Club Committee meets on the second Wednesday of even numbered months.

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 12 December 2018 at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, Maffra. The next Club Night is at 6pm on Wednesday 14 November 2018 at the Criterion Hotel, Sale. Phil Davis will talk about his experiences on the Kokoda Track.

Welcome to our newest member: Horrie Waymouth (Paynesville)

Presidential Ramblings

The Combined Gippsland Clubs' Walk held on 22 September 2018 based at the Wirilda Environment Park involved walks on the Wirilda Walking Track in Tyers Park. By all accounts, it was a great success. Thank you to all those involved who contributed to making it a great event. The participation by walk and club is shown in the table. Some participants are a member of more than one club. These participants have only been entered against one of their clubs. The Bass Coast Strollers submitted an apology for their absence. See the walk report in this edition of the Newsletter produced with acknowledgement to SBWC.

Club	24km Circuit	14km Classic	10km Tyers Gorge	Support	Total
Ben Cruachan BWC	3	7	5	2	17
Strzelecki BWC	3	5	4		12
West Gipps WC			3		3
South Gipps WAAC		1			1
Peregrine			2		2
Wonthaggi BBWC			1		1
FoTyersPark		3			3
Total	6	16	15	2	39

It is my intention to arrange five walks over the next three years which will cover most of McMillans Walking Track so people can get a "Taste of McMillans Walking Track". The schedule for these is:

2018_Melb Cup w/e	Arbuckle Junction to Glencairn Rd	36km	3 days
2019_Labour Day w/e	Talbotville to Moroka Rd	45km	2 days
2019_May 17-19	Cobungra to Dargo High Plains Rd	40km	3 days
2019_Grand Final w/e	Dargo High Plains Rd to Talbotville	40km	3 days
2020_Easter	Jamieson-Licola Rd to Woods Point	40km	3 days

There is a BTAC track maintenance activity on McMillans Walking Track on Australia Day Weekend in January 2019 on the section from Lazarini Spur Track down to the Black River, a very pretty section. I also will be leading a 14-day 220km end-to-end walk of McMillans Track at the end of November next year "McTk2019". I look forward to your company on these activities.

It is gratifying to see the walks calendar developing. Thank you to all those volunteering to lead walks. But this is an ongoing process, we do still need your help. We need to know which walks or activities you would like to see on the program and also need members to volunteer to lead walks. Experienced walk leaders are available to mentor and guide beginner walk leaders.

There are two land management issues in Gippsland which may provide opportunities for the club which have caught my attention over the last while and which may also be of interest to you. The Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board have published The Gunaikurnai & Victorian Government Joint Management Plan. The plan provides the joint management strategies and actions that are specific to each of 10 local parks and reserves which include the Mitchell River and Tarra-Bulga National Parks. For more information visit <https://www.gunaikurnai.com.au/joint-management/the-plan>.

The other is the concept of the Emerald Link covered in a report prepared by Goongerah Environment Centre (GECO), The Wilderness Society and Environment East Gippsland. The vision of Emerald Link is to protect the last unbroken forest wilderness area on mainland Australia which connects alpine forests to the rugged coastline in East Gippsland. Find out more at the website <https://www.emeraldlink.com.au>

This is the 201st edition of the club Newsletter and the first produced by Jack Winterbottom who has stepped back into the role of Newsletter Editor after a-more-than-5-year break. I am sure you will enjoy this issue. If I don't see you on a track maybe I will see you at our next club night in Sale on 14 November experiencing the Kakoda Track the easy way. All the best ...

Joe van Beek

Club News

Facebook

At the last committee meeting, Becky Horsham became our Facebook Administrator and our secret Facebook Group became public. The name of the group is **BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club**. To become our FB friend, search for <BCWC> and that brings up the home page of the group. Ask to join. The intention is that it becomes another portal to the world for the club providing notice of future walks and is a place to post comments and/or images relating to the club, its activities or bushwalking in general. A walk preview directs you to the website and a pdf document containing the information from the Walks Preview page.

Report of the Club Night in September -- Dinner, Social and Guest Speaker

There was a good turnout of members at the Bairnsdale Club for our September Club Night. After a hearty meal the president welcomed the members, visitors and new member Horrie Waymouth, who signed up on the evening. Joe presented Rob Paterson on his retirement from Parks Victoria with a token of appreciation from the club for facilitating and supporting our activities, especially in the Mitchell River National Park while he was Park Ranger. We wish Rob and Josie well in retirement and hope to see more of them as ongoing club members.

Geoff Mattingly gave us all an experience much different from walking in Gippsland with his illustrated

account of 3 walks in Europe. He walked us through the tracks and accommodation of his 6 day walk in the eastern canton of Switzerland, introduced us to a walk in the French Alps and took us to Prague and surrounding area. Thank you Geoff for sharing your and Sandy's European walking experiences with us.

Upcoming Events

Sunday 16 December: Christmas Luncheon - see p14 for details.

Friday 25 January to Tuesday 29 January 2019: McMillans Walking Track Maintenance. This is a BTAC activity in conjunction with BCWC. We will be working as volunteers to DELWP to do maintenance work on the 5km section of McMillans Walking Track from Lazarini Spur Track down to the Black River. Arguably the prettiest bush section of the whole of McMillans Walking Track. There is more information on the website and there will be a full preview in the next Newsletter.

Jax Editorial

Helmut has done a great job over the last 5 years as editor. He said it would be hard to emulate the editor previous to him and I reiterate those words too. Thank you Helmut.

This is first Newsletter of my second series. It is being produced using Abode InDesign; quite different from as Publisher, but the same. You can tell me if I have passed my Publisher's Test.

Please send reports and images to the Newsletter email address -- newsbcwc@gmail.com



Walk Reports

Track 96 Maintenance

31 August to 2 September 2018

Leader and Report: Joe van Beek

Participants:

BCWC: Joe van Beek, Chris Marshall, Trevor Whibley, Michael Dowe and Andrew Stevenson

SBWC: Tessa Lamin and Peter Maffei

Bayside: John Green and Scott Brunton

BWV Ind: Neil Kline and Hardy Clemens

Melb BW: Mark Heath

VMTC: Ailsa MacKenzie

DELWP: Patrick St John, Seb Nieuwesteeg and Bodie Appleton

This event which originally was to be a Ben Cruachan Walking Club (BCWC) event became a Bushwalking Track and Conservation (BTAC) activity. First scheduled for the weekend of 11 and 12 August but postponed because of a poor weather forecast. The team of 13 volunteers and three DELWP employees cleared and marked the section of Track 96 from Budgee Track to Lee Creek Picnic Area including the Alistair Fielding Memorial Walk. Some five kilometres of walking track.

Track 96 existed during the late 1800s and early 1900s to service the needs of goldminers, connecting Briagolong and Gladstone Creek to the goldfields at Lees Creek and Granite Creek. It was retraced and cleared as a walking track during the 1990s. BCWC had a major involvement in bring this track back into use as a bush walking Track.

Alistair Fielding was a park ranger from Briagolong who saw the potential for people to discover the Freestone's gold mining history for themselves by reopening a short section of Track 96 at Lees Creek. He died tragically before his vision for the area was completed. This part of the track, a 2.5 km loop, which has many recognisable features from the gold mining days is now maintained as a memorial to Alistair Fielding.

By evening on Friday 31 August most of the volunteers had gathered at the Lloyd Knob camping area, on Freestone Creek Road, approx 22 km north of Briagolong, to establish camp and get ready for work the next morning. The BTAC trailer had arrived with a selection of equipment, hand tools, PPE and gas BBQ. Come Saturday morning we were a team of 16 keen people. After a safety and work briefing and organising tools, equipment and supplies we headed

for the northern end of the section of track to be cleared on Budgee Track. We were in the clouds at 750m. We divided in to 3 teams, a chainsaw team which went ahead, a brush cutter and hedge trimmer team which followed and a track marker and grooming team. The chainsaw team which included the guys from DELWP did some heavy work including felling a few dangerous trees. They were done with the chainsaw work by knock off time. The other teams stowed their gear on the track and walked out to Lee Creek picnic area to be picked up and driven back to camp.

On Saturday night we feasted around the camp fire on the BBQ fare provided by DELWP. Patrick's shopping included locally made sausages and meat patties, potatoes and a healthy variety of vegetables and salad greens with chocolate for afters. It was a communal effort to prepare and cook. The BTAC gas BBQ was great for cooking the meat while the potatoes and vegetables were cooked on the camp fire. No one went hungry.

There were a few light showers during the day and evening but nothing to prevent us from working or to dampen our spirits.

It was an early start on Sunday as music from someone's camp site played before 6 am. Hardy had the camp fire going shortly afterwards. The aim was to be heading off by 8am so the wake up was timely. After breakfast the eleven volunteers remaining headed back to the Lee Creek picnic area. Again we divided into 3 teams. The brush cutter and hedge trimmer team walked back to where they had left their gear and resumed clearing which was now much lighter work than at the beginning of the previous day. They made their way along the western side of Lee Creek. The track marker team marked the Alistair Fielding Memorial Walk with blue markers to make it distinct from Track 96 which is marked with red markers. We also had a track grooming team working with hand tools doing some snipping of vegetation and removing debris from the track on the eastern side of Lee Creek.

We were all done by shortly after 1pm. We headed back to camp to pack up and head home. We left with the satisfaction of having achieved what we set out to achieve.

DELWP were appreciative of our efforts. Patrick St John, District Planning Officer, wrote: "The volunteers and DELWP guys did an awesome job. It seems to have been a pretty successful weekend thanks to the great organising done by BTAC, BCWC and their members. The enthusiastic participants have brought back to life one of the most logistically challenging sections of

the track for maintenance. Seb, Bodie and myself also really enjoyed being involved and Macalister DELWP would certainly be keen to work with you all in the future. Thanks again to all the participants and well done. “

We are grateful to DELWP for their support, participation and provision of fuel, food and other supplies. Finally, thanks to all the BTAC and BCWC volunteers for giving up their time to come into the bush and making a difference to yet another walking track.

Yeerung Creek / Dock Inlet

Saturday 08 September 2018

Leader & Report: Heather Alexander

Walkers: Wendy, Marian, Marjorie, Billy, Mike, Trevor

We experienced excellent weather for our walk as we set off from the car park at the Yeerung Creek Estuary to walk to the beach. We maintained a leisurely pace as we walked the beach to the start of Dock Inlet, where we enjoyed morning snacks and refreshment. Our photograph is the group on the sand bank - ocean behind. Billy kept us smiling with his one-liners and Trevor filled us in on his recent travels. I was really pleased that Marian spotted a pair of Hooded Plovers on the beach – our most threatened species of beach nesting birds. As we turned off the beach, (after finding the single pole and track marker), we enjoyed the shade of the brush overhead whilst walking to the north-eastern side of the inlet where we enjoyed lunch and the view. Plenty of frogs, a White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Swamp Harrier and Intermediate Egret in the area. The heathland/banksia track was a pleasant change from the beach as we returned to Cape Conran in the early afternoon sun. The track was very clear



due to tree clearing and vegetation works following the recent fire which affected the Yeerung Creek Falls section of the park. We made it back to the cars by 3.00pm after a very relaxed and enjoyable walk. Thanks to the group for your great company.

Old Weir Site -- Mitchell River NP

Saturday 15 September 2018

Leader: Ken Free

Report: Tony Wielgosz

The day promised rain, hail, wind and cold weather; what we had was a lovely sunny day with a slight sprinkling of rain.

The day started early with a 7:30am meet at Stratford and, with car pooling organised, we went to meet the rest of the group at the road junction several kilometres south of the Mitchell River National park. After introductions and some notes on the walk were handed out, we headed off to our walk start at the Den of Nargun carpark.

Fifteen walkers were guided by Ken Free to our first lookout overlooking the Mitchell River and some stunning views. From there it was uphill on a well formed track along the escarpment; more lookouts, some challenging hills, rock scrambling and great company. The views up and down the high flowing river were beautiful, and the walk took us through some lovely bush. The birds were singing and the sun was shining, and the skies looked only slightly threatening!

After approximately 2.5 hours walking we arrived at the old dam site on the Mitchell River and found a photographers delight; the old dam site is very well preserved with a large amount of the structure still standing after 130 years.

It was worth the walk as we explored the area, climbed the wall and had a lovely relaxed lunch in pleasant surroundings. Some group photos were taken and we commenced the walk back out retracing our steps.

Again an almost three hours walk out returned us to our vehicles where we said our goodbyes and thanked Ken Free for another great day out which was enjoyed by all.

Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Club's Weekend Tyers Park -- Wirilda Walking Track

Saturday 22 September 2018

Co-ordinator: Joe van Beek

The annual combined clubs Wirilda Walking Track walk with Strzelecki Bush Walking Club was extended this year to become the Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Walks with three walks on offer on the day and 39 participants from five Gippsland clubs and Friends of Tyers park joining in. Morning and afternoon tea was laid on and a BBQ finished off the day.

While Oliver Raymond and I stayed behind at the Wirilda Environment Park (base camp) to monitor radios in case of an incident, provide security and to have the billy boiling as walkers returned 37 walkers went off on the three different walks.

It was a very successful and enjoyable day. Thanks to the walk leaders, co-leaders and report writers. Thanks to Monica, Fran and Robyn for coordinating the goodies for the morning tea and BBQ salads and thanks to all those who made the cakes and salads. Thanks to Oliver and all participants for making the day go smoothly. Also thanks to FoTP and Parks Victoria for all the work in maintaining the track. The track is looking as good as it's ever been so if you didn't make it on the day, make sure you get out and walk this wonderful track.

Wirilda Walk 24kms—the fast one!

Leader: Piero Baglioni (BCWC)

Co-leader: Michael Dowe (BCWC)

Report: Cathy Almond (SBWC)

Six of us left close to the planned time of 9:30am and headed towards the Pipeline Track. The first 10kms of this walk was on a gravel road, some ups and downs but easy walking. Pierro and Andy set a cracking pace to which the rest of us could not hope to maintain, but we were never far behind.

We took lunch just after a short



but very steep uphill through the bush, sitting on the side of the road contemplating the serenity. Although we kept a decent pace up, we still had time to stop for the odd photo and admire the view.

This is a walk well worth doing if you want to challenge yourself. We arrived back at the BBQ around 4.30pm, about an hour after the latest group and were very happy to enjoy a cuppa and a sit down.

Thanks to all participants for a very enjoyable day, and Joe for all the organisation.

14km 'Classic' Walk

Leader: Peter Maffei (SBWC)

Co-leader: Chris Marshall (BCWC)

Report: Robyn Shingles (SBWC)

Peter led 16 walkers on the "classic" walk from Moondarra Dam down to the Wirilda Environment Park. With the track recently cleared, there was much appreciation for the clearing (but suggestions that the track could have been raked better!!! - that was my job on the previous Wednesday!). The group crossed paths with the 10km walkers who warned them of a snake just off the side of the road and a friendly goanna that had to be prompted to move off the track.



A highlight for many was the river crossing with ankle deep water while the lowlight was the damage to the track caused by trail bike riders, disappointing for those who volunteer many hours to maintain this track.

With Peter's involvement with the Friends of Tyers Park he was able to indicate the many points of

interest along the way, although rumour has it that by the end of the walk some had lost interest and zoomed on ahead to leave him walking back to base with his whip!!

10km (felt like 20) Walk

Leader: Robyn Shingles (SBWC)
Co-leader: Ken Free (BCWC)
Report: Fran Miller (SBWC)

Fifteen of us enjoyed a lovely walk through the Tyers Gorge following the river upstream. Views of the water nearly all the way, some pink heath and the odd remnants of the old pipe line made it very interesting and pleasant. A very large goanna also thought the track was a great place to hang out and didn't bat an eyelid as we clambered past, taking photos and admiring his wonderful spotty skin.

The creek crossing was a good way to cool off and we soon reached the lime kilns for lunch. The walk back along the road was hard yakka but we got a good view of the pipeline and then headed back to the track. It was great to get back to the BBQ shelter for a cuppa and nibbles then dinner.

Thanks to Robyn for leading this walk and the Ben Cruachan Walking Club for organizing the day.

Mitchelldale -- Camp at Cars

Friday 28 -- Sunday 30 September 2018

Leader: Ken Free
Report: Maurice Roberts and Maureen Hickling

Walkers: Eva, Ken, Joe and Judy, Maurice and Maureen

The group met at Beverleys Rd and drove in convoy to Mitchelldale to camp for 2 nights at Scott's Farm. There was plenty of light left to cook our dinner and enjoy the campfire despite spitting rain. We slept with the sound of rain on the tents during the night. Saturday dawned clear and crisp. After breakfast by the fire, we prepared lunches for our walk circuit, leaving at 8:45 up the track with many kangaroos and wombats grazing on the hill slopes. The mixed forest included box, peppermint, stringy bark and woolly butt. We saw plenty of birdlife, a Mistletoebird with red markings, a cuckoo and many showy Grey Fantails.

After 3 or 4 peaks and saddles we reached the high point for morning tea with great views across the mountain ranges. Snow showers in the distance

showed potential for rain showers heading our way. We followed an open spur down towards the river, crossing many animal trails with plenty of signs of brumbies, although we didn't see any. Many deer were heard and seen, also a couple of black snakes.



Lunch by the river was a welcome break after the steep downhill. Keeping close to the river bank we followed a challenging obstacle course downstream at the base of the steep hillside picking our way over rocks and along deer and brumby tracks. As the valley opened up there were many wombat burrows with easy alluvial sandy loam to burrow into. Signs remain of water races from the mining days.

The 2 Trees site was a highlight with two huge and impressive trees to marvel at.



There was a good, clear and strong flow in the Mitchell River despite the long drought. We returned to camp by 5pm to set up for dinner around the camp fire with a big clear sky full of stars.

On the Sunday we explored the old homestead site and 3 of us set off downstream through forest with some old farm properties across the river. We enjoyed morning tea at Bull Point where the Wentworth flows into the Mitchell, before returning to camp in time for Judy's delicious muffins, lunch and heading home.

Thanks to Ken for leading an interesting weekend in a seldom visited part of the Mitchell River National Park, and to Parks Victoria for allowing access.

Den of Nargun

Saturday 06 October 2018

Leader: Monica scicluna

Report: Jack Pownall-Lee



On Saturday the 6th of October we went for a walk at the Den of Nargun.

The people we met were nice and friendly. I enjoyed sharing my lollie snakes with them.

We walked for a long way with Monica at the front and Ken at the back to make sure everyone was safe.

We had to jump and hop over lots of rocks on our way down to the Den. There was a little green plant that stings you called stinging nettle. I was careful and so was everyone else.

The Den of Nargun is a special place for women of the Gunai Tribe. I was hoping to see a waterfall but it was dry.

Our second stop was at Deadcock Den. We were looking for a Kurrajong tree and found one. I saw a bearded dragon and some skinks. We saw a Red Belly Black snake on the track.

We had lunch at the Mitchell River. I ate more lollie snakes after lunch.

On the way back to the car it was all uphill. I had the job of leading and counting the group to make sure everyone was there. I liked being in front and have a special job to do.

I enjoyed the walk with everyone because they

were so nice. I look forward to going again.

Mississippi Creek

Saturday 13 October 2018

Leader: Jackie Whiting

Report: Ken Free

Walkers: Jackie, Trevor C, Marian, Alan, Lyn, Ken

On a glorious spring morning a select group of 4 club members and 2 visitors met at Forestech at 9:00 am, keen to make the best of a warm sunny day in the Colquhoun Forest.

After the obligatory signing-on, we drove a short distance to the Log Crossing picnic area where we started the walk along a trail which closely followed the Mississippi Creek, occasionally crossing solidly-made wooden bridges thereby swapping to the other side of the creek. Jackie explained the history of the trail, having been originally constructed in the early 1900s as a tramway to carry granite rock from a quarry to the lakeshore where it was loaded onto barges and taken to the lake entrance to construct breakwaters.

Despite the relative dryness, the surrounding bush looked quite fresh with a dense understory providing habitat for a diverse collection of twittering birdlife. Alas, we had neither birder or botanist with us so we were left to simply soak up the sights and sounds of the bush. Our walk leader was able to accurately identify a red-bellied black snake and an echidna both of which wanted to share our track.

We stopped at the granite quarry for an early lunch and after the customary photographs we proceeded to retrace our steps back along the tramway trail. Thence to Johnsonville for a coffee break and then the drive



home.

Thank you Jackie for a great day in the bush.

Walk Previews

Distance	Hills	Track
S -- Short <10km	1-3 -- Easy, suitable for beginners	1-3 -- Graded open terrain. Well formed tracks and paths
M -- Medium 10-15km	4-7 -- Medium, reasonable fitness required	4-7 -- Bush, minor scrub. Some rock hopping, scrambling
L -- Long 15-20km	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		

Port Albert / Old Port Trail

Date: Wednesday 31 October
Dist/Grade: 11km S - 1 - 1
Meet: 9.30am at McIntosh Drive, Sale, at Lake Guthridge by the toilets and playground
Leader: Monica Scicluna - 0431 777 460
Email: joe.monica@hotmail.com

We will leave our cars at the start of the trail in Seabank Caravan Park. From here we will meander along the coastal trail passing through grass trees, heath, orchids, banksias and coreas.

We will then have lunch at the Port Albert Fish Shop, taking our time and then after lunch will follow the track back to our cars.

This is a great walk for beginners to come and meet fellow walkers and have a great time.

Sale Common

Date: Saturday 03 November
Dist/Grade: 12km M - 3 - 3
Meet: 10am at Sale side of the Swing Bridge about 4 km south of Sale off the Sth Gippy Hwy
Leader: Jack Winterbottom - 0408 411 079
Email: jackwin27@gmail.com

We will follow the track that runs alongside Flooding Creek on the east and Sale Common on the west. Part of the circle will be along a dirt road and the walking trail that runs between the Swing Bridge and Cox's Bridge. Some of the walk will be in bush with a dramatic red gum or two and some part will be on an elevated boardwalk across the common. An aim of the walk will to be back at the Swing Bridge to see it opening at 3pm.

A Taste of McMillans Walking Track (1) Arbuckle Junction to Glencairn Road

Date: Saturday 03 - Tuesday 06 November
Dist/Grade: see below
Meet: 11am at the Heyfield Wetlands Centre
Leader: Joe van Beek - 0411 765 302
Email: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

This is the first of a series of 6 walks over the next few years wwhich will cover the length of McMillans Walking Track; each walk will be A Taste of McMillans Walking Track.

For this 3 day walk we will camp alongside Dingo Hill Track and will travel by car to the start or from the

finish of the walk as required. Participants may choose which days to walk or even just come for the camp and do some of the driving to set walkers off and collect them at the end of the days walk. All roads involved can be negotiated by 2WD vehicles.

Saturday is getting there and setting up camp. Sunday the walk will start at Arbuckle Junction and proceed over Mt Arbuckle to Kellys Hut and then to McMichaels Hut for Lunch. In the afternoon we will follow old logging roads to Dingo Hill Track and back to camp.

Monday, if numbers permit, there will be a choice of walks. For the keen and fit they will walk the Long Hill via Cave Rock to the Crinoline and then down to Breakfast Creek. The others will follow McMillans Walking Track over Mt Tamboritha and Little Tamboritha which provides wonderful views of the surrounding mountains and country. The finish is after a long descent at Breakfast Creek.

On Tuesday morning we break camp. Tuesday's walk will start from Breakfast Creek and cross the saddle between Sugarloaf and the Crinoline and then follow a spur down to the Macalister River. We wade the river and then proceed across some farm land to the Glencairn Road. Arrangements will be made for cars to collect the walkers from here to proceed on home.

Participants will need to be self sufficient for food and camping requirements. The club has a register of equipment that can be borrowed.

Day 1	M - 4 - 4	12km
Day 2	M - 6 - 5	15km
Day 2 alt	X - 8 - 6	23km
Day 3	S - 5 - 6	9km

Newlands Arm

Date: Wednesday 07 November
Dist/Grade: 7 or 14 km S - 3 - 3 or M - 3 - 3 3-4 hours
Meet: 9am at the back of the Macdonald's car park, Bairnsdale
Leader: Marian Matchan - 0448 523 287
Email: matcho01@bigpond.comcom

This is an easy walk, mostly on a flat, made track, starting on Lake Victoria Road and following Forge Creek and Newlands Arm along the water's edge to Dawson's Cove. We will see numerous numbers of sea birds, have great lake views, and see impressive homes and boats. We will stop along the way at a shelter for morning tea, then continue to Dawson's Cove for lunch, where there are picnic tables and toilets.

You will have the option of retracing your steps back to the starting point or finishing your walk at the lunch stop. The walk is 7 kms to Dawson's Cove or 14 kms back to the starting point.



Club Social Night

Date: Wednesday 14 November
Dist/Grade: 0 km **Social and informative**
Meet: 6pm for dinner at the Criterion Hotel, cnr of York and Macalister Streets, Sale. RSVP Monday 12 November.
Leader: Christine Marshall - 0499 780 399
Email: chr_252@hotmail.com

Come along and enjoy dinner and socializing. Our guest speaker will be club member Philip Davis who will speak about his experience of the Kokoda Track. Hope to see you all there.

Billy Goat Bend to the Den of Nargun

Date: Saturday 17 November
Dist/Grade: ~8 km **S - 6 - 3**
Meet: 8am at the park on the Princes Highway opposite the Post Office in Stratford or 8.45am at the corner of Beverleys and Dargo Roads, Glenaladale.
Leader: Ken Free - 0414 774 144
Email: kenfree@iprimus.com.au

This walk will follow the Mitchell River from Billy Goat Bend and the Amphitheatre downstream to the Den of Nargun. 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 *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 which are especially significant for indigenous Australians.



Wilson Promontory National Park

Date: Fri 23 to Sun 25 November
Dist/Grade: various various
Meet: Contact Monica for details
Leader: Monica Scicluna - 0431 777 460
Email: joe.monica@hotmail.com

We will have a short walk around Tidal River on Friday afternoon as the lodge is not available until 4pm. We will decide on Friday night what walks to do on Saturday. The intention on Saturday is to do a long walk but if some participants would like to do a shorter walk this will be organised too. On Sunday after packing up we will have another walk on the way out of the park.

Lakes Entrance (Footbridge to the Entrance) / Colquhuon Forest Bat Cave

Date: Saturday 01 December
Dist/Grade: 5 and 4 km (4-5 hours) S - 3 - 4
Meet: 8am at the park on the Princes Highway opposite the Post Office in Stratford or 9.30am at the Footbridge to the ocean beach in Lakes Entrance.
Leader: Monica Scicluna and Ken Grandy - 0431 777 460
Email: joe.monica@hotmail.com

This is an easy walk from the footbridge to the entrance, walking along a track in bush setting. We will have lunch at the entrance and, weather permitting, we will walk back along the beach.

After returning to The Esplanade we will drive 20 minutes to a location in the Colquhuon Forest. This walk follows an old road (overgrown and barely recognizable as a road) through a section of large gums and tree ferns to the entrance of an old, water-formed cave. This cave is approximately 50-100 metres long and home to a large colony of little bats, so bring a torch and hat!

Cowombat Flat and the source of the Murray River

Date: Sat 01 - Mon 03 December (2 or 3 day options)
Dist/Grade: 30 km X - 6 - 6
Meet: Howitt Park, Bairnsdale -- the Canoe Tree car park
Leader: Oliver Raymond
Email: oliverraymond@wideband.net.au

Drive to the start of the walk in to Cowombat Flat, via Omeo and Benambra. Walk 12 km in to Cowombat Flat. Camp overnight. Check out DC3 plane wreckage on the Flat. Those who only want a two-day tramp then go down to the Murray on 2 Dec, step in to NSW, and then walk back out to their car(s) and go home. The others walk about 5 km through scrub in to the first cairn on the Black-Allan Line, which marks the boundary between NSW and Victoria stretching from the headwaters of the Murray River to the coast at Point Howe. See next page for a photo of same. If you then feel inclined, we can struggle through the scrub to the swamp in which the Murray rises and try to find the steel post that marks the start of the Border. I have never managed to find it! Otherwise, we will sensibly return to our camp, spin unbelievable yarns into the night, and so to bed. On the morrow, we will walk the 12 km back to our cars and return home, stopping for a lunch time pie at the Swift's Ck Bakery en route.

If you want to come, please email me. I will then have a record of your intention. Please try to email me well before the walk so that I can co-ordinate transport. This could help you!



Christmas Luncheon

Date: Sunday 16 December

Dist/Grade: Delicious

Meet: 12 noon at the Criterion Hotel, cnr of York and Macalister Streets, Sale
0am at Sale side of the Swing Bridge about 4 km south of Sale off the Sth Gippy Hwy

RSVP: Monica Scicluna - 0431 777 460

Email: joe.monica@hotmail.com

This is our end of year social get together. As per usual, the theme is green and red. It would be lovely to see as many club members as possible there. Come and enjoy.



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

PO Box 70 Maffra Victoria 3860
Incorporation No A0004849G

www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com



ISSUE 202 – Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club – December 2018



Our avid adventurers on the coastal path at Port Albert. More on page 5.

In This Issue

- 3 Presidential Ramblings
- 4 Club News
- 5 Walk Reports
- 11 Walk Previews

Committee Members 2018/19

President:	Joe van Beek joevanbeek@bigpond.com	03 5176 5302 0411 749 799
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Tracks and Huts:	Michael Dowe	0427 523 647
Committee:	Heather Alexander Becky Horsham Marian Matchan Monica Scicluna Trevor Whibley	

Club Committee meets on the second Wednesday of even numbered months.

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 13 February 2019
 at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, Maffra.

The next Club Night is at 6pm on Wednesday 13 March 2019
 at the Wan Loy Chinese Restaurant, 9B Church St, Traralgon.

**Welcome to our newest members:
 George Boyd, Deb Sullivan, Belinda Pownall, Simon Lee,
 Jack Pownall-Lee & Brianna Sinclair**

Presidential Ramblings

It was pleasing to see a good representation of Ben Cruachan club members participating in the Bushwalking Victoria's FED Walks held on Saturday 20 October on the Mornington Peninsula. The event was based from Elgee Park, a private winery and sculpture park owned by the Myer family. Walks ranged from a stroll around Flinders observing its history to a 26km Two Bays Walk from Arthurs Seat to Cape Shank. I enjoyed the walk and the company on the 15km walk from Baldrys Crossing to Cape Schanck. The grass trees were very impressive as was the view from the cliffs above Bushrangers Bay. Many thanks to Monica and Joe Scicluna for accommodating many of the BCWC members at their family house at Safety Bay.

Since the AGM in July Becky Horsham has been leading the charge to get the Ben Cruachan Walking Club Facebook group active. I suggest, if you haven't already done so, you check out and become a member at [BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club](#). There are already some great photos of walks posted and some discussions happening.

The first walk in the series of a "taste of McMillans Walking Track" has been completed. See Peter Jennings's write up in this edition of the newsletter. The second one is a 3 day pack carry on Labour Day weekend in March from Talbotville to the Moroka Road. This walk provides an experience of the Mt Darling - Snowy Bluff Wilderness Area as you walk up the Moroka River. Check out the preview.

I am the project leader for the BTAC track maintenance activity on the section of McMillans Walking Track from Lazarini Spur Track down to the Black River on Australia Day Weekend in January and I will also lead a BTAC project in April to do clearing work on two tracks leading into the Wonnangatta via Dry River; The National Bicentennial Track from Mt Howitt and the old cattle droving track from Guys Hut. These tracks meet up in the Dry River before they get to the Wonnangatta. Club members are most welcome to join in on these activities. No previous track maintenance experience is required.

It is gratifying to see the walks calendar developing. Thank you to all those volunteering to lead walks. But this is an ongoing process, we do still need your help. We need to know which walks or activities you would like to see on the program and also need members to volunteer to lead walks. Experienced walk leaders are available to mentor and guide beginner walk leaders. Please contact Geoff Mattingly or any committee member. See contact details on the opposing page.

If I don't see you on a track maybe I will see you at our next club night in Traralgon in March which is titled: Maps and Apps - do I still need to carry a map and compass and know how to use them. Guest speakers will give us an insight into the various maps and apps that are available for our devices to help us find walks and navigate them.

I wish you all a very happy and safe festive season. Enjoy!

All the best ...

Joe van Beek

Club News

Facebook

At the last committee meeting, Becky Horsham became our Facebook Administrator and our secret Facebook Group became public. The name of the group is **BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club**. To become our FB friend, search for <BCWC> and that brings up the home page of the group. Ask to join. The intention is that it becomes another portal to the world for the club providing notice of future walks and is a place to post comments and/or images relating to the club, its activities or bushwalking in general. A walk preview directs you to the website and a pdf document containing the information from the Walks Preview page.

Report of the Club Night in November -- Dinner, Social and Guest Speakers

There was a great turnout of members at the Criterion Hotel in Sale for the November Club Night. After a hearty meal the president welcomed the members and visitors and introduced Phil Davis, Peter Jennings and Adrian Rijs who gave a very interesting and informative presentation about the Kokoda Track.

Upcoming Events

Friday 25 January to Tuesday 29 January 2019: McMillans Walking Track Maintenance. This is a BTAC activity in conjunction with BCWC. We will be working as volunteers to DELWP to do maintenance work on the 5km section of McMillans Walking Track from Lazarini Spur Track down to the Black River. This is arguably the prettiest bush section of the whole of McMillans Walking Track. There is more information on the website and a full preview on page12.

The Social Night in Traralgon in March promises to be very educational with our local expert DELWP GIS folk present to guide us through the intricacies of modern day connections to the rest of the world and how we can benefit from this when bushwalking. A new DELWP app will be featured.

Jax Editorial

Your editor has to compliment the walk report writers and image takers who have been very good at emailing both to him via the Newsletter email address. I have had lots of images to choose from, however, one thing that detracts from publishing images

is the size of the image. A 50kb image does not cut the mustard when enlarged beyond the size of, literally, a thumbnail so, shutterbugs, see if you can make your images at least 500kb. It is easy to downsize them but impossible to make them bigger!

Please send reports and images to the Newsletter email address -- newsbcwc@gmail.com



Standard bushwalker food at Port Albert



Taste of McMillan Track: camping and the views



Walk Reports

Seabank to Port Albert

31 October 2018

Leader: Monica Scicluna

Report: Joe van Beek

The last day of October was a mild overcast day as Monica led a group of 8 walkers from Seabank to Port Albert and towards the promise of fish and chips for lunch before retracing our steps. The rich coastal vegetation along Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park was in glorious bloom. We spied different orchids including Spider and Greenhoods and the *Correa reflexa* flowers were deep red and uncharacteristically plump. Trigger plants provided entertainment and delicate fringed lilies were spied. All these treasures were dwarfed by the spectacular flowering grass trees whose flower spikes surged upwards. Monica had timed the walk perfectly for this remarkable bush flowering.

In 1841 Angus McMillan's expedition finally reached the coast near Seabank and we saw the plaque commemorating the 150th anniversary of this event. The original Port settlement began nearby and we paused at the spot which is now overgrown. The very wide mud flats made it clear why the settlement later moved to the current deep water channel of Port Albert. As we neared Port Albert (and the fish and chips) we passed an expansive area of low growing mangroves, samphire and pigface. This is an area of significance and part of the Nooramunga Ramsar protected wetlands.

We enjoyed lunch together in the historic and picturesque town of Port Albert. The fish and chips from the shop on the wharf are famous for their quality and taste. We were encircled by expectant but disappointed seagulls as there were no leftovers. The return walk provided views across to Wilsons Promontory as black swans dabbled on the water's edge and the tide that we had thought was low before was even lower on our return. Ken Free, walking at the rear, nearly stepped on a large greenish, grey snake that everyone else had managed to pass without noticing! Ken seems to have a knack for finding large reptiles on walks. We ended the day with coffee, drinks and a cheery chat at the Yarram bakery before all heading in different directions.

A Taste of McMillan's Track: 1: Arbuckle Junction to Glencairn Road

03 - 06 November 2018

Leader: Joe van Beek

Report: Peter Jennings

Walkers: Tanya Garland, Shannon, Tim, Becky Horsham, Peter and Nicki Jennings, Joe van Beek.

We met up at Heyfield on Saturday morning then headed to Licola for a brief stop and an ice cream before heading up to a camping spot at Shaw's Creek on the Dingo Hill Track. Camp was set up in good time allowing time to relax around the camp fire before preparing dinner and turning in. The serenity was only disturbed by several "off-roaders" taking advantage of the possibility of an extended long weekend prior to the Melbourne Cup.

After breakfast on Sunday morning we all piled into Joe's 4WD and he drove us up to the starting point at Arbuckle Junction – the first objective.... climb Mt Arbuckle. After "bagging the peak" we made our way to Kelly's Hut then a little further on, McMichael's Hut. Both are vehicle accessible during the open season and both are set in idyllic spots for camping – those old cattlemen had things worked out! We followed a road for a few kilometres then had lunch beside a stream before getting back onto the walking track which took us back to camp. Day 1 and 12km completed with the possibility of rain at some stage over next two days. Tanya, Tim and Shannon decided that one day of walking was enough and made the decision to leave the group after breakfast on Monday morning. From the outset Nicki had decided that one day would be enough for her too and had kindly offered to do the pick-up for days two and three.

Monday – the rain didn't eventuate. Joe, Becky and Peter headed off early on the track to Breakfast Creek via Mt Tamboritha and Little Tamboritha with an estimated distance of 15km and a finish time of 3pm. Nicki promised to be at Breakfast Creek by 2pm. The walk across the high plain was relatively straight forward with magnificent views east to Mt Wellington and the Gable End and south west to The Crinoline. After lunch we made the steep descent to Breakfast Creek arriving at 1:20pm – Nicki had arrived only 10 minutes before us.

Given that rain was still being forecast for Tuesday, Joe observed that we had time to complete Tuesday's walk of 9km today! Peter and Becky were reluctant to

Newlands Arm

07 November 2018

Leader: Marian Matchan

Report: Marian Matchan

walk in rain so Peter said he was up for it but Becky declined (she didn't regret it). After a quick snack and drink, water bottles were filled and the two old blokes were on their way by 2pm. The walk up to the Crinoline ridge took about 1½ hours along a well-defined track with several zig zags however the descent to the Macalister River is not well defined, with many markers having been destroyed by a recent bushfire. In parts the undergrowth has taken over which necessitated some bush bashing down the spur. After the long descent (another 1½ hrs) we crossed the Macalister River boots and all, then made our way across farmland to the pick-up point at Glencairn where Nicki and Becky were waiting. The 9km had taken us four hours and we were..... tired.

We were back at camp shortly after 7pm and enjoyed a wash, meal and good night's sleep. Tuesday morning we packed up and headed home... and it still hadn't rained!

Thanks Joe for organising "A Taste of McMillan's Walking Track Part 1". I'm looking forward to the other parts but might not rush into a 24km, one-day walk in such rugged country.

The weather looked a bit ominous as 5 walkers, Sue, Noelene (visitor), Trevor C, Ken and Marian headed off on their 14km walk. Starting on Lake Victoria Road, we walked along the edge of Forge Creek which runs into Newlands Arm. At the beginning the undergrowth was damp from the overnight rain and had that nice fresh bushy smell, there were ducks, swans and other water birds frolicking in the water.

As we travelled along we came to the well constructed walking trail that winds along adjacent to the water, we had million dollar houses on our right and million dollar boats on our left. We walked and chatted until we came to the boat ramp at Dawson's Cove where we sat and took in the views across the lake to Paynesville.

We retraced our steps, stopping at a well constructed shelter where we had lunch, startling a fox that was trotting along the track. We returned to the car, then cruised back to Bairnsdale to the coffee shop. Chris, I hope you enjoyed the cake Ken bought for you.



It has been a few years since McMillan Track markers were placed in this tree.



Club Social Night - Kokoda Track/Trail

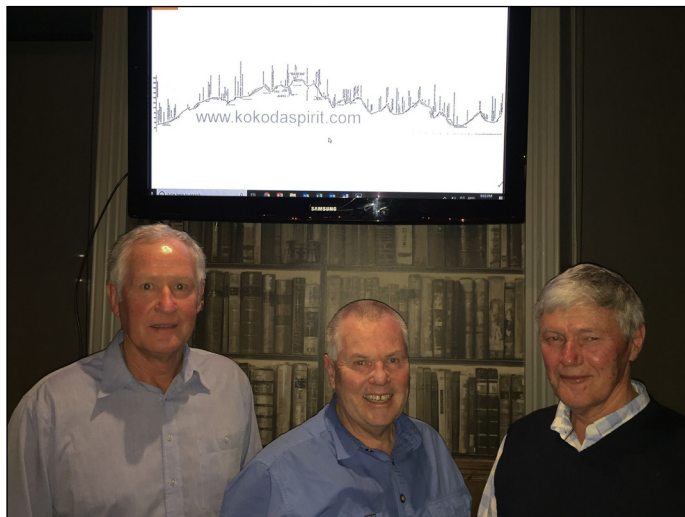
14 November 2018

Co-ordinator: Christine Marshall

Report: Jack Winterbottom

This was a tremendous social night. Phil Davis had prepared his talk to us extremely well, based on a lot of research, a passion for the subject and the experience of having actually walked the track. Peter Jennings and Adrian Rijs, who have also walked the track, spoke and shared images and video rounding

out a very informative evening. Phil initially gave us the political and social context of the track in relation to the peoples of Papua prior to the Second World War then gave us a pen picture of the events in the south-western Pacific Ocean leading to the Battle of the Coral Sea and then the strategic importance of the Kokoda Track and its defence by the 35th Battalion, essentially a band of conscripts who were illequipped in all possible manners to defend the Australian mainland. Kokoda was arguably Australia's most significant campaign of the Second World War. More Australians died in the seven months of fighting in Papua and the Japanese came closer to Australia than in any other campaign. Phil, Peter and Adrian "took" us on the 90 kilometre track showing all aspects of the physical, cultural and memorial experience it is. Thank you very much to them for providing us with insights into the track and its place in Australian history.



Peter, Phil and Adrian with a relief map of the Kokoda Track

Billy Goat Bend to Den of Nargun

17 November 2018

Leader & Report: Ken Free

Walkers: Monica, Wendy, Trevor W, Trevor C and Ken

On a day with a forecast of around 20°C and partly cloudy, a select group of 5 gathered at the Beverley's Road/Dargo Road intersection for what promised to be a very pleasant walk in the Mitchell River National Park. After organising a car shuffle, we took the obligatory group photograph at the Amphitheatre Lookout and then headed roughly south along the Mitchell River Walking Track. The effects of the drought were immediately obvious with most of the understory shrubs either dead or looking very dry and stressed. At later stages of the walk, we discovered the up-side to the relatively clear understory: we could

see things that were normally hidden by the bush.

Not far into the walk we spied a smallish black goanna which had climbed a tall straight eucalypt to a height of around 10 metres and while we stood admiring this handsome little reptile an angry chorus of kookaburras started, quickly followed by the sight of a kookaburra swooping and buzzing the goanna. In due course the goanna beat a retreat down the tree and disappeared amongst the leaf litter – what a floorshow!

The track winds its way around hillsides giving us great views of the river below us and the rocky escarpment on the eastern shore. It occasionally dips in and out of shady creek gullies and we chose one of these as an ideal location for a morning tea break and later on for our lunch stop.

About 1 km north of Woolshed Creek, we had our dose of history for the day: Trevor W had participated in this same walk 12 months ago at which time Rob Paterson had guided the group to a small shed above the track where rock core samples are stored. The core samples date from the 1970s when the area was being surveyed for possible dam sites. Fortunately the building of the dam did not go ahead and these core samples provide an historical reminder of what might have been the death nell for the Mitchell River as we know it. With the current quite clear understory, Trevor W was able to easily locate the core sample shed.

Along this stretch of the River, we had our 2nd floorshow for the day when Trevor W (always in the thick of it) first spied a Sea-eagle perched in a tree on the opposite shore and then a Peregrine Falcon which proceeded to buzz the Sea-eagle until it moved on.

Upon reaching Woolshed Creek the decision was made to visit Deadcock Den which even in its dry state is quite picturesque and walk to the carpark via the Bluff Lookout. Deadcock Den provided more wildlife experience with both a skink and water dragon posing for the cameras.

All in all it was a great day in the bush with good helpings of fauna, flora, history and company.



Wilson Promontory Annual Weekend Walking Extravaganza

23-25 November 2018

Walk 01: Norman Bay to Oberon Bay

Leader: Monica Scicluna

Report: Jackie Whiting

Walkers: Monica, Corrine, Bev, Frankie, Marion, Jackie



Starting with the tide out, walking on Norman's beach we saw several daring people taking to the water, others playing games on the expanse of wide sand. Across the beach we took the track to Little Oberon bay. Studying the flora, listening to the bird life, finding dynamite holes in some of the boulders whilst hiking up and down the track made for an interesting first hour. We walked down onto the lovely pale yellow sand and found a comfy spot amongst some beautiful boulders. The cuttlefish and colourful sea weed plus a seagull or two made for a relaxing place to rest up. Three walkers proceeded on to Oberon bay and three went back to Norman's Bay and Tidal river.

On we went up and down the track again with lovely blue sky and waves crashing against the shore line and rocks and we were soon at Oberon bay. On the beach we sat down for lunch with the noise of the waves and two Australian Ravens eagerly watching our lunches. Soon it was time to turn around for the return journey to Tidal river and a welcome cuppa and cake. A lovely hike.



Walk 02: Refuge Cove circuit

Walk Report: Chris Marshall

Walkers: Chris Marshall, Trevor Whibley and Bec Horsham.



After spending a pleasant Friday night in the George Robinson lodge with all the members of BCWC participating in the weekend, we set off on Saturday morning on the same Telegraph Saddle shuttle bus with our other group doing the day walk to Sealers Cove. It soon became apparent that with full overnight packs we were going to be slower than those with day packs. We waved them goodbye till we crossed paths again at Sealers Cove.

We had lovely walk through the trees and ferns ending with the long stretch of boardwalk and onto the beach where we met our other group just finishing lunch. They headed back as we ate our lunch and waited for the tide to drop to make the crossing of Sealers Creek to the campsite. After crossing we then pressed on to Refuge Cove with spectacular views of the coast. We made camp at Refuge Cove in the uninspiring allocated hikers campsite. An early night was had in preparation for the long day on Sunday to get back to Telegraph Saddle. In the morning Bec gave us a lesson in how to pack up quickly and have breakfast in no time at all. We then pressed on over a steeper, rougher section to Waterloo Bay with more outstanding coastal views. Then it was across to the main track and up the steep section to the car park. Thanks to Monica for organising another successful Prom weekend.

Walk 03: Darby Saddle-Tongue Point-Darby River

Leader & Report: Monica Scicluna

Walkers: Josh, Tom, Frankie, Jackie, Bev, Michael & Marian

After packing up our things from the lodge we departed about 9.30am to Darby Saddle. We were dropped off and we were lucky to have Leanne follow our drivers to the river and bring them back thus saving a car shuffle at the end of our walk.

After a bit of upward climb we headed up to Sparkes Lookout for morning tea and spectacular views of the prom. The weather was clear with no chance of rain.

From here we set off to Tongue Point for lunch, the flowering shrubs were beautiful and walking along the board walk is so inspiring, we are so lucky to live in this wonderful region.

We arrived at our lunch destination about 12noon. We had a leisurely lunch, while Josh and Michael explored the other side of the rocks.

We then set off towards our destination Darby River, by this stage the sun was out and quite warm. We arrived about 1.30pm, where Leanne and Joe were waiting for us. After farewells, Tom Michael, Bev, Frankie, Joe and myself decided to go to Yanakie café for a cuppa and a treat. So much doom and gloom was predicted for this weekend weather wise, but we were so lucky that we had a perfect weekend. Thanks again to everyone for a fantastic weekend.

Lakes Entrance

01 December 2018

Leaders: Monica Scicluna – Entrance Walk

Ken Grandy - Bat Cave

Walkers: Monica, Chris, Bev, Ken, Amerlea, Wendy, Geoff, Belinda, Simon, Briana and Jack, Marjorie & Billy, Ken, Leanne, Josh, Peter and Chris, Scott, Tanya, Shannon.

Fifteen of us set out from the footbridge at Lakes Entrance at about 10 to enjoy the morning walk; the group consisted of 10 members, and 5 visitors including some younger members of these families.

After crossing the footbridge we walked the lakeside path to the Entrance, being ably led by Monica with the assistance of some of the younger ones helpfully calling out to the rest of the group which way to turn at the next intersection. The weather was very mild and numerous birds were seen and heard and we also spotted a blue tongue lizard that quickly scuttled out of sight once it realized it had been spotted. This is mentioned as the next lizard type creature we saw,

later in the afternoon, had quite a different response! A relaxed morning tea was enjoyed at the grassy area on the lake side with enough shade for all of us to rest in. A few walkers went to explore the 'Lady Harriet' barge that has been restored and to read and discuss its very interesting history. The group then continued over the dunes past the New Works Historic Walk memorabilia reading the adjacent information. We then continued out on the seawall to the actual entrance and watched a number of boats enter from outside at a cracking pace. For the return journey, the group split with the majority walking back along the beach and a few of us via the lakeside/inland route; both groups arriving back at the footbridge with minutes of each other.

A picnic lunch was enjoyed on the town side of the footbridge thus allowing fish and chips, icecreams and coffees to be purchased. By this time we had been joined by a further 7 people for the afternoon walk, making it quite a large group.

Ken Grandy led the second event of the day which involved car pooling and then a scenic drive into a secret spot in the Colquhuon forest where we parked our vehicles. We trooped into the bush following a disused and overgrown road/track, for about ½ an hour. At one stage a large lace monitor was on the path and not prepared to give way. Ken shooed him off only for the goanna to try unsuccessfully to climb a nearby tree - hissing and generally letting us know he was not happy. We continued to slowly wend our way down to the bat cave. Although extremely well hidden, we were able to see a sign that discouraged people entering, and a narrow, tall fissure through the limestone maybe a 100 or so metres away. This is the home to small horseshoe bats. After a short while, we then returned to the track and retraced our way back to the cars, not spotting our goanna again. Both walks were lovely and completely different to each other. The weather was kind, and both walks very interesting and enjoyable.



Cowombat Flat, Townsend Corner (the source of the Murray River) and the Black-Allan Line

01-03 December 2018

Leader: Oliver Raymond

Report: Peter Jennings

Walkers: Helmut, Sue, Jackie, Tony and Ryan, John,
Oliver, Peter.

We set out on Saturday from our various homes and met up at Bairnsdale before heading up to Cowombat Flat Track via Omeo and Benambra. Cars were left at the locked gate at the start of the Cobberas Wilderness Zone and after a quick lunch we were on our way at 1pm for the 12km walk to Cowombat Flat in fairly warm conditions; luckily there were several streams crossing the track with drinkable water.

Cowombat Flat was a welcome sight at around 5pm giving us plenty of time to set up camp on the vast grassy expanse, close to Mountain Trout Creek which has plenty of cool, potable water. Looking across the Flat we could see NSW on the other side of the Murray and several brumbies who do a “good” job of keeping the grass down.

We rose under some dark storm clouds on Sunday but got underway before the showers started, heading for the border marker post. After some excellent navigation by Helmut and Oliver we located the post after about 1½ hours. Helmut and Oliver were overjoyed as this was their third attempt to find the elusive post – it seemed so easy for the rest of us!

For future reference the GPS, 1966 grid reference for the marker post is: 0606655 / 5926781

And the first cairn: 0607058 / 5926577

It was then just a short walk up to the first cairn on the Black-Allan line which separates Victoria from NSW. But is the border a straight line? The following extract is from this paper:

<http://www.mygeodesy.id.au/documents/Black-Allan%20Line%20Revisited.pdf>

There are many references to the Black-Allan Line as a straight line drawn from Cape Howe to the nearest source of the Murray River, not the least being the British Act of Parliament that separated Victoria from New South Wales; but precise definition of the line is lacking. What is a straight line? Is the Black-Allan Line a straight line drawn on a map? And if so, what is the map projection and what is the reference surface – sphere or ellipsoid? Or is the Black-Allan Line a curve

on a reference surface? And if so, is it a plane curve or is it a geodesic – a curve having the shortest path length? Or is it some other curve with a useful property? This paper aims to answer these questions by an investigation of some of the original computations associated with the boundary line and also from official reports on the progress of the Geodetic Survey of Victoria around the time of the boundary line survey.

We enjoyed a celebratory feast of muesli bars, scroggin and fruit before making our way back to camp via the obligatory photo straddling the Murray. We were back in camp by 11am! Well done team!

During the afternoon, extra-curricular activities involved fishing, rock hopping, brumby checking or just relaxing.

On Monday morning we were underway by 7:30am, back at the cars by 11:15 and depending on your preference, lunch at either Buchan or Bruthen.

Many thanks to Oliver for his leadership and perseverance, (third time lucky) without which the rest of us may never have visited the beginning of the Black-Allan line and the headwaters of the Murray (see below).



Walk Previews

Distance	Hills	Track
S -- Short <10km	1-3 -- Easy, suitable for beginners	1-3 -- Graded open terrain. Well formed tracks and paths
M -- Medium 10-15km	4-7 -- Medium, reasonable fitness required	4-7 -- Bush, minor scrub. Some rock hopping, scrambling
L -- Long 15-20km	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		

Trapyard Hill

Date: Tuesday 01 January 2019
Dist/Grade: 6km S - 3 - 4
Meet: 8am at Glenmaggie Hall
Leader: Jack Winterbottom - 0408 411 079
Email: jack@wbm.id.au

This walk is a New Years Day favourite. We will start from McFarlane's Saddle and, after a short walk through snow gum forest recovering from bush fires of 1998, we will turn northward – and slowly descend towards the headwaters of the Moroka River. No wet feet as we won't see any water and we then start a slow descent towards Trapyard Hill. The gradient will become positive towards the hill with a final steep climb to the top.

Given good weather, the views are magnificent. We will have lunch at the top. The return will be along the same track, back to the cars. Total distance is about 6 kms.

Eaglepoint - Paynesville

Date: Wednesday 09 January 2019
Dist/Grade: 7+km S - 3 - 3
Meet: 9am at Howitt Park, Bairnsdale. East side of the Mitchell River bridge
Leader: Trevor Clues - 0428 564 559
Email: valmai51@bigpond.com

Ten minutes after the walk commences, walkers will stop for a well-earned coffee break while some hard-working clubmembers perform a car shuffle. We will then climb to the top of The Bluff for views over Lake King and Jones Bay including the unique Silt Jetties. These are now possibly the longest in the world since hurricane damage to the ones at the mouth of the Mississippi River in America. Continuing along the Lake King shoreline towards Paynesville, there is the option of another walk along the north shore of Newlands Arm.

Mt Howitt / King Billy Circuit

Date: Friday 11 - Sunday 13 January 2019
Dist/Grade: Day 01 - 5km; Day 02 - 12km (hills); Day 03 9km X - 7 - 7
Meet: 9am @ Glenmaggie Hall
Leader: Oliver Raymond
Email: oliverraymond@wideband.net.au

After carpooling at Glenmaggie Hall, we will drive to the Howitt carpark (2.5hrs). After leaving one 4WD

at the headwaters of the Macalister River, the party will walk in from the carpark to Vallejo-Gantner Hut and camp for the night. On day two we will walk over Mt Howitt, bypass Mt Magdala and camp at the base of King Billy. Day three will see us walk past the two King Billys and down to the vehicle left on the Macalister after which we will drive up to the first vehicle and return home.

Numbers on the walk will depend on how many 4WDs we can recruit. If two are available, 10 walkers can participate.

Mt Howitt wildflowers

Date: Saturday 19 - Sunday 20 January 2019
Dist/Grade: 16km M - 4 - 3
Meet: Contact Jack to discuss options.
Leader: Jack Winterbottom - 0408 411 079
Email: jack@wbm.id.au

For those so inclined, we will mosey along to the Howitt carpark at a gentle pace during Saturday afternoon and prepare our camp at the Howitt carpark for an early departure on Sunday morning. Those who do not wish to drive up on Saturday need to be at the Howitt carpark by 9am (3hours from Heyfield) on Sunday morning. Leaving camp at 9, we will walk in to Vallejo-Gantner Hut and Macalister Springs for morning tea then a further 2.5 kms onto the treeless plains of the high country and the fantastic views to be had from Mt Howitt. An early lunch at the top will mean a stressless walk back to the cars leaving for home no later than 4pm. This is a relatively easy walk on an old landrover track across the undulating button-grass snow plains to the hut then walking tracks and a few sharp rises to the mountain top.

Maintenance: McMillan's Walking Track: Goulburn State Forest

Date: Friday 25 to Tuesday 29 January 2019
Dist/Grade: Up to 10km per day. Reasonable level of fitness required but no previous track maintenance necessary
Meet: Friday afternoon or by prior arrangement near Crows Hut on the Lazarini Spur Track off the Jamieson-Licola Road ~55km south east of Jamieson and ~40km northwest of Licola.
Leader: Joe van Beek - 0411 749 799
Email: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

This is a BTAC activity in conjunction with BCWC. We will be working as volunteers to DELWP to do maintenance work on the 5km section of McMillans Walking Track from Lazarini Spur Track down to the Black River, arguably the prettiest bush section of the whole of McMillans Walking Track.

The 220km McMillans Walking Track is based on the pack horse track cut on behalf of the Government by Angus McMillan in 1864 to link the various gold fields between Woods Point and Omeo in the Gippsland high country. The track was retraced and cleared as a walking track during the 1980s.

As Lazarini Spur Track is readily negotiable by 2WD vehicles volunteers may arrive and depart to suit their availability. Friday will be a getting there and setting up camp day. We will commence maintenance work at 9 am on Saturday. On Tuesday we will finish by 2:30pm.

Work will involve brush cutting, hedge trimmer operation, chain saw operation, erecting markers and the use of hand tools for vegetation trimming and clean up. No previous track maintenance experience is required. We will initially car camp along Lazarini Spur Track accessible by 2WD vehicles, but may transfer some of the camp down the track as clearing progresses. This will be 4WD only. A BBQ meal will be provided on the Saturday and Sunday evenings. 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 DELWP will provide all tools and PPE for the maintenance works.

Please register with Joe van Beek (BCWC - details above) or David Miller (BTAC - 0417 565 919, email: davidmiller3199@gmail.com) for this maintenance activity on this historically significant track. Indicate expected arrival and departure days and times.

Cycle: Gippsland Plains Rail Trail: Traralgon to Cowwarr

Date: Saturday 23 February 2019

No details available. Please see the website.

A Taste of McMillans Walking Track (2): Talbotville to Moroka Road

Date: Saturday 09 - Monday 11 March 2019
Dist/Grade: see table to the right
Meet: TBA.
Leader: Joe van Beek - 0411 749 799
Email: joevanbeek@bigpond.com

Day 1	M - 7 - 5	11km, 570m up
Day 2	X - 7 - 8	23km, 410m up
Day 3	M - 7 - 6	13km, 1030m up

This is the 2nd of a series of 5 walks over the next few years which will cover the length of McMillans Walking Track; each walk is A Taste of McMillans Walking Track. This section gives a taste of the history, wilderness area and a sustained climb. This three day pack carry will start at Talbotville in the Grant Historic Area.

On Saturday we will set off after an early lunch, wade across the Crooked and Wongungarra Rivers and climb over the Cynthia Range and will camp at Eaglevale on the banks of the Wonnangatta River.

Sunday we will walk up the Wonnangatta River Valley to the junction with the Moroka River then follow the Moroka upstream through the Wilderness Zone. In the wilderness zone there is no maintained track or consistent markers. We will need to navigate a way through which may involve crossing the river numerous times. We will camp at the bottom of the Moroka River Track.

Monday there are no river crossings but there is a sustained climb once we pass the Higgins Yards site and leave the Moroka River. Transport should await us on the Moroka Road as we emerge from the D4 Track.

Participants will need to register by Monday 04 March and be self sufficient for food and camping requirements. The club has a register of equipment that can be borrowed.

Transport. We are looking for offers to drive walkers to Talbotville on the Saturday morning and collect them from D4 on Monday afternoon.

Club Social Night -- Maps and Apps

Date: Wednesday 13 March 2019
Dist/Grade: Social, relaxed and informative
Meet: 6pm, Wan Loy Chinese Restaurant, 9B Church St, Traralgon
Leader: Joe van Beek - 0411 749 799
Email: joevanbeek@bigpond.com
RSVP: Monday 11 March 2019

“Maps and Apps: do I still need to carry a map and compass and know how to use them.”

Come along and enjoy dinner and socialising and find out the latest about maps and the many apps that are out there to help (and confuse) bushwalkers.

Hans van Elmt, GIS Team Leader DELWP, will give us an introduction into sourcing and using maps on our devices, including the DELWP Vicmap viewer.

Peter Maffei, BTAC convenor, will give us an introduction to a number of Apps that help us find walks and navigate them including Peakfinder and the DELWP Moretoexplore.

Any questions of Bushwalking Victoria?

Our other guest for the evening will be Robyn Shingles, board member of Bushwalking Victoria. Robyn will discuss the role of Bushwalking Victoria and be available to answer any questions in a short session preceding the other speakers. Hope to see you all there.