



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Facebook: BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club  
WWW: [www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com](http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com)

ISSUE 209 – Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club – February 2020



— FedWalks2020 —



Basin Flat on the way to Licola and the Licola Wilderness Village, the base for FedWalk2020.  
FedWalks 2020 is only 9 months away.

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2019/20

President:	Joe van Beek joevanbeek@bigpond.com	03 5176 5302 0411 749 799
Vice-President:	Piero Baglioni	0408 446 299
Secretary:	Heather Alexander secbcwc@gmail.com	0414 917 830
Treasurer:	Monica Scicluna joe.monica@hotmail.com	0431 777 460
Publicity:	Robyn Kercher publicitybcwc@gmail.com	0400 592 407
Newsletter:	Jack Winterbottom newsbcwc@gmail.com	0408 411 079
Walks Co-ordinator:	Geoff Mattingley walksbcwc@gmail.com	03 5152 2916
Tracks and Huts:	Helmut Tracksdorf	0402 089 404
Committee:	Michael Dowe Marian Matchan Jim Stranger	Becky Horsham Rob Paterson Trevor Whibley

PO Box 70 Maffra  
Victoria 3860

Incorporation No  
A0004849G

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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 08 April 2020  
at the Bairnsdale Club, 68 Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale.

The next Club Night is at 6pm on Wednesday 11 March 2020  
Wan Loy Chinese Restaurant, 9B Church St, Traralgon

# Presidential Ramblings

Welcome to 2020.

It has not been the best beginning to the year with all the bush fires and park closures. This has restricted activities to a degree but more importantly has had direct impact on some of our members and their families. A number of our members in the eastern part of our region vacated their houses not knowing what was going to happen. I wish them well with the recovery from the fires in their area.

The committee is working to pull together a program of interesting and varied walks for 2020 and will be seeking leaders and coleaders for walks. If you are willing to lead a walk or would like to see a particular walk on the program please don't hesitate to let me or Geoff Mattingly know. The big event for 2020 is FedWalks2020 in November. Many club members have already volunteered to assist with the running of the walks and the weekend.

Judy and I opted to stay home for Christmas to make the most of the produce ripening in our garden, mainly the fruit, we have processed lots into the freezer, dehydrated some, compiled rum pots and made some chutneys and relishes and the odd batch of marmalade. We have had mulberries, loquats, peaches, apricots, various plumbs, figs, rhubarb, and a variety of citrus. We have lemon on just about everything including in our drinks. The cockatoos have taken all our walnuts and almonds well before they were ready. Birds have just striped our grapes while still quite sour. We are now at the last of the plums. Nectarines, apples and pears are just coming on and will need to be dealt with as well. I haven't yet decided if I will make any cider this year. We have also been enjoying herbs, lettuces, spinach and silverbeet from the garden. We feel for all those who have lost their crops, orchards and gardens in the fires.



On the Labour Day weekend in March, there is a car camp at Kellys Hut. This is an opportunity to explore the area, recce and walk some of the FedWalks2020 walks and/or help with a bit of track maintenance. If I don't see you there maybe you will join me for a Taste of McMillans Walking Track (Number 5) at Easter when we walk the last 30km of the track into Woods Point.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Club Night at the Wan Loy Restaurant in Traralgon on Wednesday 11 March.

See you on the tracks. Happy Walking.

*Joe van Beek*

# Club News



## **VALE: Robin Catrionadh Helen Dobson 24/10/1951 – 19/10/2019**

Many club members will have good memories of Robin Dobson. She died before Christmas last year. Her daughter, Catrionadh, notified us recently.

Robin was an active member of the club for several years until she relocated to northern Australia four or five years ago. She participated in lots of club activities at 110%. Robin was a real go-getter on bushwalks, keen and enthusiastic, smiling a lot with a wide knowledge base. She liked the extended walks involving camping. At the start of one Oliver-Raymond-King-Billy-circuit, Robin provided the walk participants with, essentially, a slap-up finger buffet meal in the new shelter shed at Licola in preparation for the ensuing 3 days of nutritional deprivation! It was great. The club sends its condolences to Robin's family and friends.

## **First Aid Course -- 08 February 2020**

This is to report that twelve members of the club passed their three-yearly First Aid retraining on 08 February 2020. We had an excellent informative day. The club would like to thank Monica and Joe Scicluna for the use of their lounge room, kitchen and facilities for an entire day (Joe did go bowling to escape the party). Whilst we were sad to not be doing the course with our treasured Margaret Whelan, who has retired, and Life Saving Victoria, we had a great time with Kathie Kemp from Kemp Aquatics and Asthma Aus-

tralia. As usual, we CPRed Annie and baby, bandaged each other up several times, asked plenty of questions and successfully passed the 95 question test. Thus the club has plenty of First Aid-ready members.

## **For Sale -- Backpack**

It is a Kathmandu Interloper – 70litre – Kathmandu members' price is \$420 but that includes a zip on day pack. (Regular price is \$600). It is in "as-new" condition being quite young and rarely used.

One can be seen on the Kathmandu website at <https://www.kathmandu.com.au/travel/packs-and-bags/travel-packs/interloper-gridtech-70l-backpack.html>. WContact the secretary with an offer. Highest "bid" received by 11 March 2020 will be successful.

## **Strzelecki Bushwalking Club**

Strzelecki BWC is our neighbour and BCWCers are always welcome on their walks provided places available! See their website <https://sbwc.org.au>.

## **Membership Fees due 30 April**

Just a reminder that membership fees are due on 30 April 2020. \$48 for a single member and \$60 for a family. The fee has been this for a few years with most of the fee covering BWV membership and insurance. Remember that it does **NOT** cover Ambulance Victoria membership which you individually should/could have. [https://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC\\_Content/Forms\\_Guidelines/BCWC\\_MEMBER\\_APPLICATION\\_RENEWAL\\_FORM\\_2019-2020.pdf](https://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC_Content/Forms_Guidelines/BCWC_MEMBER_APPLICATION_RENEWAL_FORM_2019-2020.pdf)



# An Inspiring FedWalks 2020 Update 04



It is now 9 months until FedWalks 2020. The committee has met twice since the last report. We have been mindful of being ahead of the curve as regards planning and preparation. By the time you read this, the committee will have visited the Lions Village in Licola and all of our logistic questions will have been answered. A deposit on the site for our exclusive use for the weekend will have been paid so that really locks us in. The Licola Wilderness Village site has received significant upgrades over the last 12 months. They have a state-of-the-art PhotoVoltaic which, along with other “green” initiatives has reduced their carbon footprint by 92%!! Their website is <http://licola.org.au>.

Walks and leaders are mostly sorted. Draft maps have been done, a template for walks previews distributed to leaders to fill in, stakeholders are teed up for a presentation soon, we have a working float to fund initial outlays, the list goes on. If you want to be involved (if reticent, leader training is in August), get in touch with Jack Winterbottom ([jack@wbm.id.au](mailto:jack@wbm.id.au)) ASAP. Some walks will not occur. Quite a few reces will be occurring over the next few months. The Alpine National Park has been mostly closed over the bushfire period but this has only impacted three walks from a recce viewpoint. Keep a good eye on the Walks Program for these as you will be able to join the recce walks, especially recommended if you have your eye on doing specific walks on the FedWalks2020 weekend but had to make a choice as there were others you would have liked to have gone on too. Walks 12 and 13 of the original list are not going ahead. They cross private land and permission has not been granted. All the others are on the program at this stage. There are some club walks which are reces for FedWalks 2020 walks. They have the FedWalks2020 logo next to them in the Walks Previews section. Feel free to participate on those walks which, by their nature of being reconnaissance walks, may have the occasional stop for confirmation of time and place. They will be just as much fun as a typical walk. **Image: Info sign at Licola.**



FedWalks2020 is going to all these places!!!

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Walk</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Grading</b>		
VE	1	Wollangarra visit	Visit to Wollangarra Outdoor Ed Centre	Return	Sat & Sun	S-2-3		
E	2	Bryces Gorge	Pieman and Conglomerate Falls	Circuit	Sat & Sun	S-3-3		
E	3	Mt Arbuckle	Arbuckle Junction to Thomastown	Through walk	Sat & Sun	S-3-3		
E	4	Moroka Falls & Hut	Horseyard Flats to Moroka Falls	Return	Sat & Sun	S-3-4		
E	5	Kellys Hut	Thomastown to Kellys Hut	Return	Sat & Sun	M-3-2		
E	6	Bryces Gorge	Conglomerate Falls Pack Carry- beginners	Return	Sun to Mon	S-3-4		
E/M	7	Mt Reynard	Gorge Car Park	Circuit	Sat & Sun	S-3-4		
E/M	8	Mt Arbuckle	Arbuckle Junction to Kellys Hut	Return	Sun only	S-4-4		
E/M	9	McTk 1	Mt Arbuckle to Dingo Hill Track	Through walk	Sat only	M-3-3		
E/M	10	Mt Howitt	Macalister Springs to Mt Howitt Summit	Return	Sat & Sun	M-3-3		
M	11	Mt Eliza	Stony Creek to Tamboritha Road	Through Walk	Sat & Sun	S-5-5		
		<b>Horse Hill</b>	<b>permission not obtained to walk on private land</b>					
		<b>Bald Hill Spur</b>	<b>permission not obtained to walk on private land</b>					
M	12	Doolans Plain	Doolans Plain to Neilson Crag	Return	Sat & Sun	M-4-6		
M	13	Wellington Plains	McFarlane Saddle Mt Wellington	Return	Sat & Sun	L-3-3		
M/H	14	Beths Peak	D4 Track	Return	Sat & Sun	M-6-7		
M/H	15	Black River	Lazarini Spur Track to Black River	Return	Sat & Sun	M-7-3		
M/H	16	Cave Rock	Dingo Hill Track to Cave Rock	Return	Sat & Sun	M-7-5		
M/H	17	Dry River	Guys Hut to Wonnangatta	One way	Sun to Mon	L-6-6		
H	18	Crolls Gorge	Wellington River	Circuit	Sat only	S-5-8		
H	19	McTk 2	Tamboritha Saddle to Breakfast Creek	Through walk	Sat & Sun	M-7-5		
H	20	The Crinoline	Breakfast Creek to Mt Lyger	Return	Sat & Sun	M-8-4		
H	21	Tali Karng	McFarlane Saddle to Millers Hut	One way	Sun to Mon	L-7-4		
VH	22	Long Hill	Tamboritha Saddle to Breakfast Creek	Through walk	Sat only	X-9-6		

# Walk Reports

## BCWC supports BTAC -- Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation

### Australia Day weekend

Leader and Report: Joe van Beek

Three members of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club joined ten other volunteers from various bushwalking clubs on a BTAC track maintenance activity on the East Tyers Walking Track over the Australia Day weekend. The volunteers conducted a number of tasks on the East Tyers Walking Track and the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT). Joe van Beek was project leader ably supported by Peter Maffei, BTAC Convener. Robyn Kercher and Patrick Platt from BCWC had ample opportunity to put their chainsaw training to good use.

**The original BTAC plan** for Australia Day Weekend was to clear the track from Guys Hut at Bryces Gorge down to the Dry River which joins the Wonngangatta. A track that is planned to be used for FedWalks2020 but is currently over grown in places. Parks Victoria closed most of the Alpine National Park due to the bush fires so this track was off limits. Hope to be able to get to it before the winter.

**Plan B** was to help Parks Victoria rehabilitate tracks affected by the fires in March 2019 but PV staff were otherwise occupied. **Plan C** was to extend the re-opening up of the East Tyers Walking Track for some two kilometres along the original alignment to South Face Road, but on a recce for this work Joe and Peter failed to find the original alignment for all of the way. They did establish that the alignment is not as shown on maps. Hence a last minute **Plan D** was hatched.

The team gathered on the Friday afternoon/evening and camped at O'Sheas Mill Site (aka East Tyers Camping Ground) in Baw Baw National Park. On Friday a further effort was made to locate the alignment of the track to no avail while others did some work to tidy up the camping ground. On Saturday one team under the leadership of Peter Maffei erected signs at three locations on the East Tyers Walking Track while another team lead by Joe van Beek opened up the East Tyers Walking Track up to and a little beyond Munroes Mill Site where various relics of the saw milling activities remain, including a huge saw dust pile, a circular saw blade and a boiler. Worth a visit. On Sunday there were three teams: one doing some building work on a bridge crossing,



a second doing a general clean up of the access to the East Tyers Road off Monettes Mill Road and then south on the East Tyers Walking Track towards the Caringal Scout Camp and a third cleared an old logging road off South Face Road assumed to be part of the original East Tyers Walking Track.

The opening up of the East Tyers Walking Track has been a BTAC project for a few years with Strzelecki Bush Walking Club taking on the ongoing maintenance of the track. After finishing work on Sunday afternoon we all gathered at the open air chapel at the scout camp. It is here that the East Tyers Walking Track starts and where the track will be visited by the Minister for the Environment, Lily D'Ambrosio, some time before Easter. The walking track in the main follows old timber tram lines and crosses the East Branch of the Tyers River on a number of occasions, some requiring wading. Tree ferns and leeches are a feature of the track.

On Monday morning before packing up camp the volunteers in three teams did some much needed vegetation clearing on the AAWT, two teams, one from each end on the track north to the Mt Erica Road and the third team on the track east out to the Thompson Valley Road.



Despite resorting to Plan D, a lot of useful productive work was achieved. The weather was kind to us, not too hot. We all enjoyed the camaraderie at camp, Tarrig's guitar playing and the BTAC BBQ provided by Joe on the Saturday night. His birthday was acknowledged with a rendition of "Happy Birthday".

Photos are here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/jJkfwvPtXiYu1o67>

## The Lakes National Park

15 February 2020

Leader: Monica Scicluna

Report: Angela Roughley



WALKERS: Lynette, Trish, Mary, Natalie, David, Georgia & Angela.

What a great day for a walk through the National Park at Loch Sport – good prior rain had freshened up the landscape and the temperature was perfect for walking. As is usual for this particular outing, we met at the Longford Hall at 9am and car shuffled the 65kms to the start of the first walk. Upon reaching this, we set off along Dolomite Track before taking a left onto Tea Tree Track and then onto Oil Bore Track where, upon reaching our first scheduled stop (Oil Bore Landing), we enjoyed morning tea and took in the wonderful view – scores of black swans.

After this we continued along towards and past Pelican Point and Dolomite Swamp all the way back to Loch Sport and down National Park Rd and Lake Reeves Track back to collect the vehicles. Part 1 of our adventure was complete!

We then drove down to Point Wilson for lunch at the reserve making an impromptu stop along the way at the tower lookout taking in the most amazing panoramic view of Lake Reeve and surrounds. The

light sprinkle of rain wasn't a deterrent and many wandered down to check out the Jetty at the tip of Point Wilson during lunch.

Part 2 of the walk which would take us around Balfours Swamp was pretty much guess work with many of the signs hidden by vegetation but thankfully Monica and Mary had done a thorough recce for the walk and knew which turns to make. My poor little walking buddy had sore feet by now so when the track intersected the road, we headed back to the vehicles leaving the group to continue on the short remainder of the walk around Murphy and Barton Hills before also returning to the vehicles.

Back to Loch Sport we went to enjoy a beverage which proved too big a challenge on a Saturday afternoon, so we settled for Magnums from the local Foodworks store instead. Not a bad result really.



Above: Old Bore Site

Below: Lake Reeve Lookout





# Walk Previews

Distance	Hills	Tracks
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		

Please register with the Walk Leader before the day of the walk.

## Mt Arbuckle to Thomastown



**Date:** Saturday 29 February 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 10 km S-3-3  
**Meet:** 8am at Glemaggie Cemetery  
**Leader:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

Robyn Kercher and I are doing a recce of the walk that we will be leading and co-leading on the FedWalks2020 Weekend in November 2020.

It is from Arbuckle Junction to Thomastown part of which is along the McMillans Walking Track. It involves an easy car shuffle. From Arbuckle Junction we head uphill and then along the plains over a creek and past Kellys Hut, turning left and along the track to Thomastown. Robyn and I would like to offer club members and other FedWalks leaders who won't be able to do this walk, the opportunity to come along.

## Labour Day Weekend -- Camp at Cars: Kellys Hut/Holmes Plain/Mt Reynard



**Date:** Friday 06 - Monday 09 March 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** max 8 km; max M-5-5  
**Meet:** by arrangement, ring Joe  
**Leader:** Joe van Beek - 0411 749 799; joevanbeek@bigpond.com

This car camp near Kellys Hut on the edge of Holmes Plain replaces the one cancelled prior to Christmas. We will establish camp on Friday evening. Exact location of camp will depend on numbers. Participants are welcome to join in on Saturday or Sunday. Best to have a 4WD to get to camp. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning participants have a choice to do a walk, stay near camp and explore the area, Kellys Hut, McMichaels Hut and Shaw Creek or assist in some track maintenance on McMillans Walking Track between Kellys Lane and Dingo Hill Track. After lunch on Monday we will pack up camp and head home.

The choice of the walks that we can do include:

A walk over Mt Arbuckle to Arbuckle Junction and return. This is a 7km walk with 360m climb or a 5km walk with 180m climb if you turn around among the wild flowers at the top of Mt Arbuckle.

A fairly flat pleasant 5km bushwalk from Kelly Lane to Dingo Hill Track with vehicle pickup for a return to camp or a 10 km return walk.

A 300m climb to the top of Mt Reynard for some good views. Some of the 8km circuit is off track.

An easy pleasant 3.5km stroll down Kelly Lane to Thomastown and return making for a 7km walk.

Participants will need to be self sufficient for camping needs and all meals. Track maintenance equipment

and PPE will be provided. This camp and the walks are in an Alpine area where weather can change very rapidly. Bring warm and weather proof clothing and carry plenty of water and energy food on the walks.

Please contact the walk leader if you require any camping gear.



Top Left: Kellys Hut  
Bottom Left: Shaws Creek near McMichael's Hut  
Right: A venerable gum tree worthy of a hug

### Social Evening: Traralgon

**Date:** Wednesday 11 March 2020  
**Meet:** 6 pm @ Wan Loy Chinese Restaurant, 9B Church St, Traralgon  
**RSVP:** 08 March  
**Leader:** Jim Stranger; [strangers1@westnet.com.au](mailto:strangers1@westnet.com.au); 0400 278 939

Come and enjoy a lovely night with fellow members.  
Guest Speaker will be Gabrielle Brown who is the Community Liason Officer for Parks Victoria.

### Jack Smith Lake

**Date:** Saturday 14 March 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 17 km L-3-4  
**Meet:** 9.30am at McGaurans Beach  
**Leader:** Peter Jennings; [pnjennings@gmail.com](mailto:pnjennings@gmail.com); 0428 230 444

This walk commences at McGaurans Beach which is accessible by car. From McGaurans Beach we will walk a short distance behind the dunes before climbing Hoddinott Hill from where we can see a panoramic view of Jack Smith Lake Reserve and Ninety Mile Beach. We will then follow the boundary of the Reserve and the neighbouring farm for a distance before traversing the Reserve which is a mix of light scrub and grassy plain (no tracks) to a point on Ninety Mile Beach near where Jack Smith Lake overflows into the ocean when it fills. We will have lunch behind the dunes here then walk the 7km back to our cars along the beach.

Jack Smith Lake Game Reserve was established in 1958 and covers 2,750Ha. It features extensive coastal lagoons, salt marshes and native grasslands grazed by kangaroos, wallabies, wombats and emus while Jack Smith Lake provides valuable feeding and nesting habitat for a range of water birds. It is also an area of great significance to the traditional custodians, the Gunaikurnai people.

On the beach we will see shoreline birds, and maybe a seal or dolphin.

### **Doolan's Plains to Neilson Crag**

**Date:** Saturday 21 March 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 14 km M-4-6  
**Meet:** 10.30am; junction of Moroka Rd and Doolan's Plains Rd; 4km east of Arbuckle Junction  
**Leader:** Marian Matchan; Matcho01@bigpond.com; 0448 523 287



This is a recce for a walk at the FedWalks2020 Weekend in November 2020. It is from Doolans Plain to Neilson Crag (The Watchtower on some maps). Apparently there are fantastic views from Neilson Crag.

This will give other Club Members and other FedWalks leaders who won't be able to do this walk the opportunity to come along.

### **Morwell National Park**

**Date:** Saturday 28 March 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 10 km; S-3-3  
**Meet:** 9am @ McDonalds car park in Traralgon near the shopping mall  
**Leader:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

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.

### **Metung Environs**

**Date:** Saturday 28 March 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 7 km; S-3-2  
**Meet:** 10am @ Swan Reach opposite the General Store  
**Leader:** Trevor Clues; valmai51@bigpond.com; 0428 564 559

A gentle ramble from one end of Metung to Shaving Point on Lake King. Participants will be surprised to see how much bush there is in the village area.

The stroll along Bancroft Bay is very picturesque with boats coming and going.

### **Sale Common Wetlands Trail**

**Date:** Saturday 04 April 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 12 km S-3-3  
**Meet:** 9am at the Sale side of the Swing Bridge off the South Gippsland Hwy  
**Leader:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

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, 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.

## A Taste of McMillan's Walking Track #5

**Date:** Easter Weekend: Friday 10 -Monday 13 April 2020

**Dist/Grade:**

Day 1	M-6-7	14 km; 640m up; 630m down
Day 2	M-6-6	12km; 590m up, 750m down
Day 3	S-5-6	7km; 180m up; 450m down

**Meet:** tba

**Leader:** Joe van Beek; 0411 749 799; 03 5176 5302  
joevanbeek@bigpond.com;

This is the last of a series of 5 walks which cover the length of McMillans Walking Track. Numbers 2 and 4 were cancelled and will be offered again sometime later. Each walk is a section of McMillans Walking Track. This one, along the last 32km into Woods Point, gives a taste of the variety of walking conditions and landscapes encountered on the track, the highlight being the descent to the Black River on a benched track constructed by McMillans gang in 1864. The tranquility of the remote river crossing is something to experience. There are examples of intact dry stone walling and other relics of the gold mining era.

This four day supported walk starts on Lazarinis Spur Track at the junction with the Jamieson-Licola Road. On Friday evening we will camp at the junction ready to start the walk the next morning. On Saturday we will walk along Lazarinis Spur Track, visit Crow Hut and then descend to the Black River. We will enjoy a break at the river before climbing to CS5 Track and following it to our camp site at the junction with Champion Spur Track. Our support vehicle will transport our gear and food to the camp site.

On Sunday we walk along Champion Spur Track before picking up the bush track down to Stander Creek. We will see a number of old shafts and inspect the remains of the Leichardt gold stamping battery before starting the climb to the top of Johnstons Hill and our camp site for the night. On Monday we make our way partly up Bald Hill before the descent into Woods Point. The pub may be open.

Transport to and from the walk will be determined once the number of participants is known. We will require someone to drive the support vehicle. Participants will need to register by Wednesday 01 April and be self sufficient for food and camping requirements. A day pack will be required to carry lunch, water, snacks, rain coat, a warm top ,etc. The walk is in an Alpine region, be prepared for weather extremes.

## Balook - Macks Creek

**Date:** Saturday 18 April 2020

**Dist/Grade:** 14 km M-6-6

**Meet:** 9.30am @ Balook Visitor Centre

**Leader:** Peter Jennings; pnjjennings@gmail.com; 0428 230 444

This walk involves a section of the Grand Strzelecki Track. After a car shuffle from the Tarra-Bulga Visitors' Centre at Balook, we will walk through rainforest on former "tourist" tracks until we reach Wild Cherry Track -- an old forestry track that leads us steadily down to Macks Creek. We then walk along the creek (two rock-hop crossings required) until we reach a small waterfall where we stop for lunch. After lunch we continue along Macks Creek (two more rock-hop crossings) to a road that takes us to the cars at Macks Creek Hall. There is a short drive back up to Balook where a coffee and cake at the Lyrebird Guest House is an option.

Long pants advised and walking poles if you normally use them. Tarra-Bulga National Park is well known for its giant Mountain Ash trees, beautiful fern gullies and ancient myrtle beeches. If we don't see Superb Lyrebirds, we shall certainly hear them. They are a feature of the park.

## Nyerimilang

**Date:** Saturday 02 May 2020

**Dist/Grade:** ~5 km S-3-1

**Meet:** 9am at Stratford park opposite the Post Office

**Leader:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

A lovely drive through the hills to Nyerimilang Heritage Park. We will have a look at the homestead and also stop at the old farm, where there is some interesting vintage machinery in the shed.

It will be a leisurely walk through the parklands with great views of Gippsland lakes. There are lots of bell-birds and other wildlife to see. The first walk will be approximately 2 hours, then lunch and then another walk, plenty of choice!

### Toongabbie - Cowwarr Rail Trail

**Date:** Saturday 09 May 2020

**Dist/Grade:** ?? km M-1-1

No preview available at time of publication. Check out the Walks Program on the website.

### Mitchell River -- Picnic Point -- Bairnsdale

**Date:** Saturday 16 May 2020

**Dist/Grade:** 14 km S-3-2

**Meet:** 10am @ Howitt Park car park on the Lakes Entrance side of the Mitchell River bridge

**Leader:** Robyn Kercher; rkercher@outlook.com.au; 0400 592 407

This walk is a pleasant circuit beside the Mitchell River on good paths, mostly flat. There are many birds that reside in different sections of the walk, among them corellas, cormorants, pelicans, fantails and sometimes gang-gang cockatoos. New ramps lead walkers around the bat colony sanctuary so they are now viewed from Riverine St. Old trees, both native and exotic line the river banks including spotted gums, blackwood, oak and poplars. There are interpretive panels to give information to walkers explaining the history of the various locations. About half way, at Picnic Point there are new walking paths, stop for lunch and view Bairnsdale's surrounding farmland. The return walk over the Mitchell River takes us through Bairnsdale's Botanic Gardens, and some may wish to have a coffee at a nearby café before returning home (this cafe also does good Indian food). **Image:** The view from Picnic Point





# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Facebook: BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club  
WWW: [www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com](http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com)

ISSUE 210 – Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club – April 2020

View down the Moroka River valley from Neilson Crag



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2019/20

President:	Joe van Beek joevanbeek@bigpond.com	03 5176 5302 0411 749 799
Vice-President:	Piero Baglioni	0408 446 299
Secretary:	Heather Alexander secbcwc@gmail.com	0414 917 830
Treasurer:	Monica Scicluna joe.monica@hotmail.com	0431 777 460
Publicity:	Robyn Kercher publicitybcwc@gmail.com	0400 592 407
Newsletter:	Jack Winterbottom newsbcwc@gmail.com	0408 411 079
Walks Co-ordinator:	Geoff Mattingley walksbcwc@gmail.com	03 5152 2916
Tracks and Huts:	Helmut Tracksdorf	0402 089 404
Committee:	Michael Dowe Marian Matchan Jim Stranger	Becky Horsham Rob Paterson Trevor Whibley

PO Box 70 Maffra  
Victoria 3860

Incorporation No  
A0004849G

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**Club Committee zooms on the second Wednesday of even numbered months.**

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 09 June 2020  
at a Zoom window near you.

The next Club Night is to be announced.

**Welcome to new members: John and Sue Cox**

# Presidential Ramblings

Well it hasn't got much better! In the last newsletter I wrote, "It has not been the best beginning to the year with all the bush fires and park closures. This has restricted activities to a degree but more importantly has had direct impact on some of our members and their families." Well with COVID-19 we have all been impacted and face to face activities, including all club bush walks, have come to a complete halt. Who could have predicted this situation? It is encouraging to see how well the curve has been flattened and this gives me some hope that the health experts and government will relax some of the social isolation measures and allow some group activities, such as bush walking, in the not too distant future. There will, no doubt, be ongoing conditions applied. In the mean time, please continue to follow the advice of the health experts and the government. The health and safety of you and your loved ones are our top priority. I look forward to everyone resuming and enjoying bushwalking and outdoor activities when it is safe and appropriate to do so. We have plenty of interesting and varied walks on our program which we can schedule to suit.

The end of April is the end of the BCWC membership year. So your subscriptions for the 2020/2021 membership year are due. We request that you pay these in full, \$48 for a single membership, \$60 for a family membership. These haven't changed for a number of years. The Membership Renewal form is on the website. It seems that the best way to access it is to click on Become a Member on the Home page and then go to the bottom of the page for a link to the Membership Renewal Form. Most of your subscription goes to Bushwalking Victoria as an affiliation fee and to buy insurance cover. We will be following up with Bushwalking Victoria to see if there will be a rebate in either the affiliation fee or the insurance premium. If there is we will look for a way of passing that rebate to you in the future.

It is still too early to know if we will be able to hold our AGM scheduled for 8 July along with our annual Christmas in July dinner or whether we will need to conduct the affairs of the AGM in some other way. It is however not too early to start thinking about who should be nominated for the committee. Do not be hesitant to nominate yourself or a member you would like to see on the committee of your club. Someone with some aptitude in IT and willing to be the manager of the website would be most welcome on the committee. Send nominations to me or our secretary Heather. See opposite page for contact details.

See you on the tracks - or, maybe in the meantime, on Skype, Zoom or Goggle Meets! Stay fit, healthy, safe and happy.

*Joe van Beek*

**Robyn, Monica and Judy walking from  
Arbuckle Junct<sup>n</sup> to Kelly's Hut**





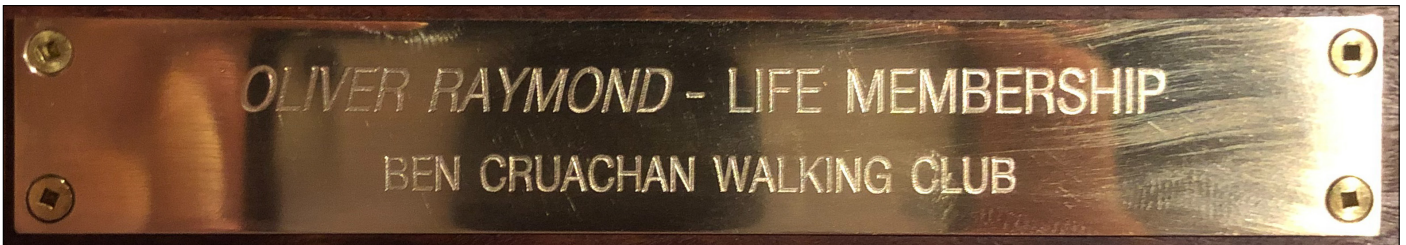
# Club News

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM is due to be held on Wednesday 08 July 2020. At this point in time, the Covid-19 restrictions mean it won't be happening in its usual manner of congregating at a venue etc. As relaxation of restrictions is being mooted this week (27/04), we may be able to have a face-to-face meeting but it is early days yet. Full details will be in the June newsletter along with the official notice calling the meeting. Note President Joe's advice in his Rambling about nominations for committee. There is a distinct lack of website expertise/enthusiasm on the committee and a volunteer to "take charge" would be gladly accepted.

## Membership Fees due 30 April

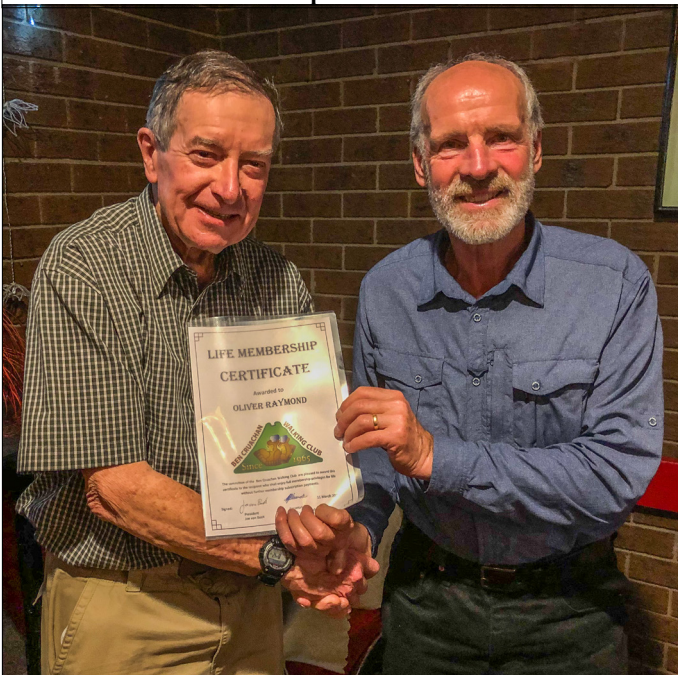
A reminder that membership fees are due on 30 April 2020. \$48 for a single member and \$60 for a family. Most of the fee covering BWV membership and insurance. Remember that it does **NOT** cover Ambulance Victoria membership which you should have individually or as a family. [Renewal Notice](#)



## New Life Member – Oliver Raymond

At the social event in Traralgon in March, Oliver Raymond was made a Life Member of our club. President Joe made the announcement and presentation of a certificate and a Forest Red Gum tray made by Ken Free. Oliver responded with thanks and stories of walks from the past. Questions ensued and Oliver was able to clarify the Murray River powered-canoe petrol incident (paying much tribute to his wife Carolyn) as well as justifying his usual multi-day walk wake up call of "Kettle's boiling" which was often the first words his fellow walkers would hear each day (sometimes before day had dawned!). It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Oliver joins Beth Kilpatrick, Ron Kemp, Wil Streckfuss and Jack Winterbottom as life members.

Club President Joe van Beek presents Oliver with his Life Membership certificate



Wil Streckfuss and Jack Winterbottom welcome Oliver to Life Membership



# An Inspiring FedWalks 2020 Update 05



It is now less than 7 months until FedWalks 2020. The committee has Zoomed twice since the last report. We are being very mindful of the effect of Covid-19 and the social restrictions currently in place in Victoria. The Organising Committee is keeping a very close eye on the restrictions in Victoria and will make an appropriate decision when necessary about cancelling/postponing/going ahead with the weekend. The committee is continuing to prepare. Quite a few reconnaissance walks have occurred and walk outlines are coming in. Preparation of the walks booklet has started, the stakeholder briefing has been postponed ... lots more happening.

## Walk Reports



### *Den of Nargun*

**29 February 2020**

**Leader: Monica Scicluna**

**Report: Maz**

**WALKERS:** Monica, Corinne, Trevor C and Marian

Four walkers met at Den of Nargun carpark. We chatted to a nice young fellow, Brent, from Frankston, who was checking the place out for a camp coming up for his school. Brent walked with us as we descended down into the Den, he was very interested in our stories of the area. For the first time in years there was water falling over the top of the Den and filling the pool below. The water in this pool was the clearest we had ever seen it. The moss on the rocks and trees was starting to green up after recent rains.

We walked down to the river that was running quiet quickly, it was the colour of coffee. We then headed along the well-made track to Dead Cock Den, which

also had a water fall over the top, cascading down into the pool below. We spotted a wombat scurrying into its house between some huge rocks.

We then climbed out of the Mitchell River valley back to the cars at the top of the hill and sat in the sunshine and had some lunch. We then decided we would visit the Echo Bend Caravan Park for a cuppa and ice creams. What a great park, so neat and the toilet very clean, our host Julie was very hospitable.

What a great, relaxing day.

### *Kellys Hut Car Camp Weekend*

**08 March 29 February 2020**

**Leader: Joe van Beek**

**Report: Joe van Beek**

BBC -- Bayside Bushwalking Club  
BCWC -- Ben Cruachan Walking Club  
BTAC -- Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation  
PV -- Parks Victoria  
SGWAAC -- South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club)  
SBWC -- Strezelecki Bush Walking Club  
VMTC -- Victorian Mountain Tramping Club

This was a busy car camp with lots happening in preparation for FedWalks2020. It was a combined effort between BCWC, SBWC and BTAC with a variety of activities near Kellys Hut over the Labour Day weekend. What was originally to be a Ben Cruachan Walking Club event turned out to be more of a BTAC activity for a variety of reasons including:

- Parks Victoria asked that the track maintenance activities go on ParkConnect, BCWC do not have a ParkConnect account; BTAC does.
- There were more BTAC regulars on the activity than BCWC people.



- We used the BTAC resources, their trailer and its contents.

There were 21 people involved in activities during the weekend. Some spent time checking out the walks they will be leading for FedWalks2020 and some did track maintenance. Some did both. Eleven individuals contributed to track maintenance totalling some 120 volunteer hours. The tracks maintenance work was done as volunteers to Parks Victoria (all works were authorised by Connor Wilson, PV Ranger, Foot Hills and Southern Alps and Leesa Riley, PV Volunteers coordinator). Seven people camped on Friday night, 14 on Saturday and 9 on Sunday night. Three people came up for the day on Sunday and two on Monday.



People started arriving on Friday afternoon and evening to set up the camp. As the bridge over Shaw Creek at Thomastown has been closed to vehicle traffic because it has been deemed to be structurally unsound, everyone had to travel via Arbuckle Junction and come into Kellys Hut from the north. Saturday dawned with a good frost.

#### On Saturday:

- Jim and Denise Stranger accompanied by Robyn Shingles (SBWC) walked from the camp at

Kellys Hut over Mt Arbuckle to Arbuckle Junction and back as a recce for their walk for FedWalks 2020. On return it was suggested the rating should be medium rather than easy/medium because of the steep climb onto Mt Arbuckle from the east.

- Joe van Beek dropped Judy van Beek, Monica Scicluna, Robyn Kercher, Les Cruickshank (SGWAAC) and Graham Talmge (SGWAAC) at Thomastown for reces of walks 3 and 5 on the FedWalks schedule. They walked up Kelly Lane back to the camp visiting McMichaels Hut on the way. See detailed report below.

- A track maintenance team consisting of Helmut Tracksdorf, John Green (VMTC), Bob Edwards (BBC), Campbell Edwards (visitor) and Peter Maffei (SBWC) did great work on clearing McMillans Walking Track between Kelly Lane and Dingo Hill Track. Joe collected them from Dingo Hill Track in the afternoon.

Saturday evening was a chance to swap stories, sharpen chainsaws, recover from the day and enjoy a wine with dinner around a campfire.

#### On Sunday:

- We woke to mist all around on Sunday morning. The cloud didn't lift till late in the day. Robyn S drove Robyn K, Monica and Judy to Arbuckle Junction for them to recce the remainder of FedWalks2020 Walk #5 over Mt Arbuckle back to Kelly Hut.

- Peter took Joe's vehicle back to Dingo Hill Track with Helmut, Bob, Les and Graham to finish off the work they had started on Saturday.

- John, Campbell and Jim took the chainsaw and some hand tools to work on the track from Kellys Hut to Mt Arbuckle. They tackled some large logs. Jim wishing they had been cleared before he did the walk.



- Graham Duell (SBWC), Tessa Lamin (SBWC) and Angus Lamin (visitor) came up for the day to do a recce of the Mt Reynard walk. After traversing some country that wasn't suitable they settled on a route for the walk and put up marker tape for future reference.

See report in the SBWC April Newsletter for more detail.

- Joe, Robyn S and Denise started some clearing work on the track to Mt Reynard.
- In the afternoon Peter, Helmut and Bob helped with clearing work on the track to Mt Reynard.

Having run extremely low on fuel for chainsaws, brush cutters and hedge trimmers all thoughts of further track maintenance on Monday were abandoned. A team of 9 enjoyed each other's company for the evening. Monday dawned a bit brighter with some promise of sunshine.

### On Monday:

- Joe, Helmut, Peter, Robyn S, Bob and Campbell undertook the Mt Reynard Walk following the horse trail and tapes put up the previous day by Graham D, Tessa and Angus. The secateurs and hand saws were put to good use and further pink tape was added. There were some good views to the north when the distant cloud lifted.
- Philip and Elizabeth Davis came up to check out some of their FedWalks2020 walk - Arbuckle Junction to Dingo Hill Track.
- After the camp was packed up Joe and Helmut went for a walk to visit and suss out Neilson Crag; Walk #12 for FedWalks2020. The light and views in the late afternoon were quite spectacular.

### In Summary:

Track maintenance achieved:

- Kelly Lane to Dingo Hill Track - 5km, removed logs and brush cut.
- Kellys Hut to Mt Arbuckle - 2km, chainsaw work plus light trim with hand tools.
- Kellys Hut to Mt Reynard, part only - 1km brush cut, light trim with hand tools next 3km to summit. The walk has been taped with pink ribbon.

FedWalks2020 walks reced or explored: Photos at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/XBCQ221J3mjKRb7G7>

- Walk 3 Arbuckle Junction to Thomastown
- Walk 5 Thomastown to Kellys Hut return.
- Walk 7 Mt Reynard circuit.
- Walk 8 Arbuckle Junct<sup>n</sup> to Kellys Hut return.
- Walk 9 Arbuckle Junct<sup>n</sup> to Dingo Hill Track
- Walk 14 Doolans Plain to Neilson Crag



Thanks to BTAC and Parks Victoria for the great support towards FedWalks2020 and walking track maintenance in general.



## Arbuckle Junction to Kelly's Hut

Saturday 08 March 2020

**Co-Leaders: Monica Scicluna and Robyn Kercher**  
**Report: Monica Scicluna**

We attended Joe's Massed FedWalks2020 Reconnaissance Weekend Car Camp at Kelly's Hut, arriving Saturday afternoon. We walked with Les on the Saturday afternoon from Kelly's Hut to Thomastown and return to help him with his FedWalks2020 reece.

On Sunday morning, with Judy van Beek, we were driven to Arbuckle Junction to walk the reece for the FedWalks2020 walk which Robyn and I will be leading.

After finding the starting point at, literally, the edge of Arbuckle Junction, we followed the McMillan Walking Track markers and climbed uphill for about 30 minutes before reaching Arbuckle Plain. It was very misty going up but with lots of rests and a morning tea break we conquered the 200m climb. When we arrived at Arbuckle Plain the view of the alpine meadow with heath, snow gums and wild flowers was all around us. We decided to stop by some logs for lunch and time to relax.

After lunch we gradually descended towards Shaw



Creek. We came across Jim, John and Campbell with chainsaws who were attacking fallen trees and turning them into steps. It is amazing what they can do and the cleared track was fantastic; all ready for Fed Weekend 2020 walks.

The day was beautiful and after crossing Shaws Creek, we could see Kelly's Hut in the distance. Joe met us and had the kettle on for a cuppa and lunch (a second lunch!).

This was my first car camp and I had the most amazing time. Many thanks to Joe for organizing this weekend.

## Doolans Plain to Neilson Crag

Saturday 21 March 2020

**Co-Leaders: Marian Matchan, Richard Habgood**  
**Advisor and Report: Joe van Beek**

This walk was a reece for Walk # 12 on the FedWalks2020 schedule. Some of us had been into the area before but were keen to go back and establish the truth about the reputed views to be had down the Moroka River and to the Wonnangatta River Valley. The feature on the map is Neilson Crag (The Watchtower) but on the ground which outcrop, rock feature or cliff face is the Crag and is that where the view is obtained from?

The meeting time had been set down for 10am at the Doolans Plains Road turn off from Moroka Road. Oliver Raymond, Michael Haynes (SBWC), Joe van Beek, Becky Horsham and Jackie Whiting arrived a few minutes late to find they were the first to arrive but within minutes everyone was gathered. Geoff Mattingley and Marian Matchan from Bairnsdale via the Marathon Road, Peter and Nicki Jennings from their camp at Horseyard Flat and Richard Habgood, Rhonda Jackson, Kevin Jackson and zz zz from the West Gippsland Bushwalking Club from Warragul.

It was decided not to walk the road part of the walk but to explore the off-road part, but on the drive in to look out for a suitable place for the walk to start that had adequate parking area for four or five vehicles, we drove in to the parking area at the end of the road. Previously the road had gone in further and there was evidence of a car camp approx 500m further on. It was from this site that we first headed towards the edge of the escarpment and got our first magnificent views to the west and north overlooking Surveyor Creek and Carey Creek. We made our way north, at times on the edge of the plain maintaining the views and at other times in the burnt bush back from the edge. The March 2019 fires had cleared much of the undergrowth but also deleted evidence of the walking track. We marked the route with orange flagging tape as we went. Lunch was had on top of a knob with commanding views. Joe and Helmut had been in the area only a few weeks previously and had found a spot to obtain a view to the east down the Moroka River valley. Joe lead the team to the spot but it involved some tricky climbing and a good deal of scrambling and bush bashing. On the



way back, the team was relieved to find a point just off the route that afforded an even more spectacular view to the east without having to do the tricky bits. This would become the destination for the FedWalks2020 walk. The route taken back to the cars was more direct and marked with pink flagging tape.

Richard and Marian took lots of notes and details on the GPS so they could determine and describe the walk for FedWalks2020 promotion. The group dispersed after a bit of afternoon tea and sharing notes. None seemed to be the wiser as to which feature was actually Neilson Crag - The Watchtower.

## *Dry River*

**22-23 March 2020**

**Co-Leaders: Jackie Whiting and Michael Haynes  
Advisor and Report: Joe van Beek**

This walk was a recce for the overnight Walk # 17 on the FedWalks2020 program which starts at Bryces Gorge and finishes where the Dry River flows into the Wonnangatta Valley. It follows an old cattle droving route with benched tracks in places. The track has not had much use over recent years and is quite overgrown. Joe had been looking for a chance to find and mark the track.

After participating in the Neilson Crag expedition on Saturday Joe van Beek, Jackie Whiting, Michael Haynes (SBWC) and Oliver Raymond made their way to Bryces Gorge and set up camp there. Early next

morning Oliver had the billy boiling as the others were still waking up. After breakfast Joe, Jackie and Michael equipped with lunch, maps, GPS, machete and plenty of pink ribbon set off. The first section of the track is on the well-trodden Bryces Gorge circuit passing Guys Hut but once the track leaves the circuit it is not so well trodden and soon peters out. The route crosses Conglomerate Creek and follows to the west of a branch creek heading north crossing it in its head waters. We found the odd marker as we entered the forested area but failed to identify the junction with the track coming in from the west from near Minogue's Lookout. We followed the GPS directions to a point on the edge of the terrace where the benched track leads down towards Dry River. We put up flagging tape as we thought necessary. The track disappeared at times and then was found again. On a number of occasions we had to back track and remove tape as the actual alignment of the track or at least a more obvious one was discovered. Even once we hit the flats of the Dry River we still had some difficulty locating the walking track but once we hit on a deer hunters camp site and the 4WD track heading into it the navigation and the walking was easy. Almost 9 hours after leaving Oliver at Bryces Gorge we arrived at our destination.

In the mean time Oliver, equipped with an interesting book, had overcome a tricky bit at the top end of the Zeka Spur Track and driven down to our rendezvous point on the Dry River in the Wonnangatta Valley. From there the three walkers relaxed while Oliver drove them the almost two hour journey back to Bryces Gorge. We camped the night before heading home

the following morning. On making contact with the world at large we learnt that we had until midday to get a drink in a pub or a meal in a cafe. COVID-19 measures were being tightened.

Unbeknown to us a mystery was unfolding in the Wonnangatta Valley. On Sunday 22 March we must have passed within 500m of the camp site of the two

people last heard from on 20 March. Subsequently their burnt-out camp site was discovered but the two people are still missing. We saw or heard nothing relevant to the mystery.

Image: Jackie and Michael at Guy's Hut



## Walk Previews

Distance	Hills	Tracks
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		

**Please register with the Walk Leader before the day of the walk.**

The COVID-19 restrictions mean, at this stage, no walks are planned for the immediate future. As the newsletter only comes out every two months, you need to keep an eagle eye out on the website but when walks restart, all club members will get an email from the club with ALL the details.



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Facebook: BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club  
WWW: [www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com](http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com)

ISSUE 212 – Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club – June 2020



THE Red Gum tree on the Sale Common circuit walk.



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2019/20

President:	Joe van Beek joevanbeek@bigpond.com	03 5176 5302 0411 749 799
Vice-President:	Piero Baglioni	0408 446 299
Secretary:	Heather Alexander secbcwc@gmail.com	0414 917 830
Treasurer:	Monica Scicluna joe.monica@hotmail.com	0431 777 460
Publicity:	Robyn Kercher publicitybcwc@gmail.com	0400 592 407
Newsletter:	Jack Winterbottom newsbcwc@gmail.com	0408 411 079
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Committee:	Michael Dowe Marian Matchan Jim Stranger	Becky Horsham Rob Paterson Trevor Whibley

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- 4 Club News
- 5 Walk Reports
- 8 Walk Previews

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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 12 August 2020  
at a ZOOM location near you.

The next Club Night is perhaps later in 2020. Watch this space.

**Welcome to new members: Kristy, Robert, Felicity and Fletcher Waddell,  
Sarah Sharp, Trish, Glen and Dean Ravenhall, Natalie, David and Aaron Hinde,  
Judith Gillen, John and Sue Cox**

# Presidential Ramblings

You may have already learnt that because of the uncertainties around what the social distancing restrictions might be in November and after consulting with key stake holders, the FedWalks2020 organising committee, have decided to postpone FedWalks2020 to November 2021 and the event will be known as FedWalks2021. The new dates for your calendar are 12 to 15 November 2021. This has some consequences for the club: firstly, the launch of the McMillans Walking Track guide book, which was to be have been at FedWalks2020, will now be at the Bushwalking Victoria Leadership Forum to be held Saturday 14 November in Melbourne. Secondly, we have considered reinstating the Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend for 2020. It has been proposed that we set aside the weekend of 24 and 25 October and several clubs will collaborate to organise an event once the social distancing restrictions are clearer. Save the date.

Talking about postponements, the committee have decided to postpone the BCWC AGM till 09 September. The recent announcement by the Premier, Daniel Andrews, was that, from 21 June, pubs are allowed up to 50 patrons in any one space subject to having 4 square metres per person but with a limit of 20 people per group. We suspect as restrictions are adjusted monthly, this will not change prior to 08 July. Even outdoor gathering are still restricted to groups not exceeding 20 people. Limiting attendance at an AGM is not the right thing to do by members. At the AGM we will mark the 55th anniversary of the club. Attendees are encouraged to bring along something relating to the history of the club: old photos, newsletters and other memorabilia.

Think about who should be nominated for the committee. Do not be hesitant to nominate yourself or a member you would like to see on the committee of your club. Someone with some aptitude in IT and willing to be the manager of the website would be most welcome on the committee. Send nominations to me or Heather. See opposite page for contact details.

Some of you will be well aware that the club has a Facebook page and group capably administered by Becky Horsham. We have been using it to promote walks and to put up photos of walks undertaken by members both as club walks and private walks. I encourage you all to follow the page and feel free to post comments and photos of walks and share items relevant to the club. The facebook site is 'BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club'.

Heather Alexander, our secretary, will be sending out a reminder shortly for all those who have not yet renewed their membership to do so ASAP.

In lieu of the AGM on 08 July, I will see you on the Heritage Cruise and Walk at Sale. If not then I will see you on a track, at the AGM on 09 September or may be on Skype, Zoom or Goggle Meets.

Stay fit, healthy, safe and happy.

Cheers

*Joe van Beek*



# — FedWalks2021 —

# Club News

## VALE -- Bruce Draper

1941- 29 May 2020

It is with sadness that we remember Bruce Draper, a long-time member of the club who participated in many activities from the 1970s to the 1990s. Bruce attended both the 40th and 50th anniversary celebrations. His links with people and place around Heyfield and Gippsland were important to him all his life.

Our condolences to his family and thanks to his daughter, Catherine Ashley, for advising us of Bruce's passing.

## Covid-19 Restrictions

From Saturday 20 June, restrictions have tightened with reference to Covid-19 hence we are back at 10 people maximum per walk plus obeying the social distancing restrictions. Please follow the medical advice. The last thing anyone wants is for BCWC to become a cluster! If you have ANY of the symptoms described on the Victorian Government Coronavirus website here ... <https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria> do not come on a walk. Just ring the leader, explain the situation and stay at home.

## Membership Fees due 30 April

A friendly reminder that membership renewals for the year 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021 are due and payable by 30 June 2020.

Members who have yet to renew have been sent an email with the renewal form attached.

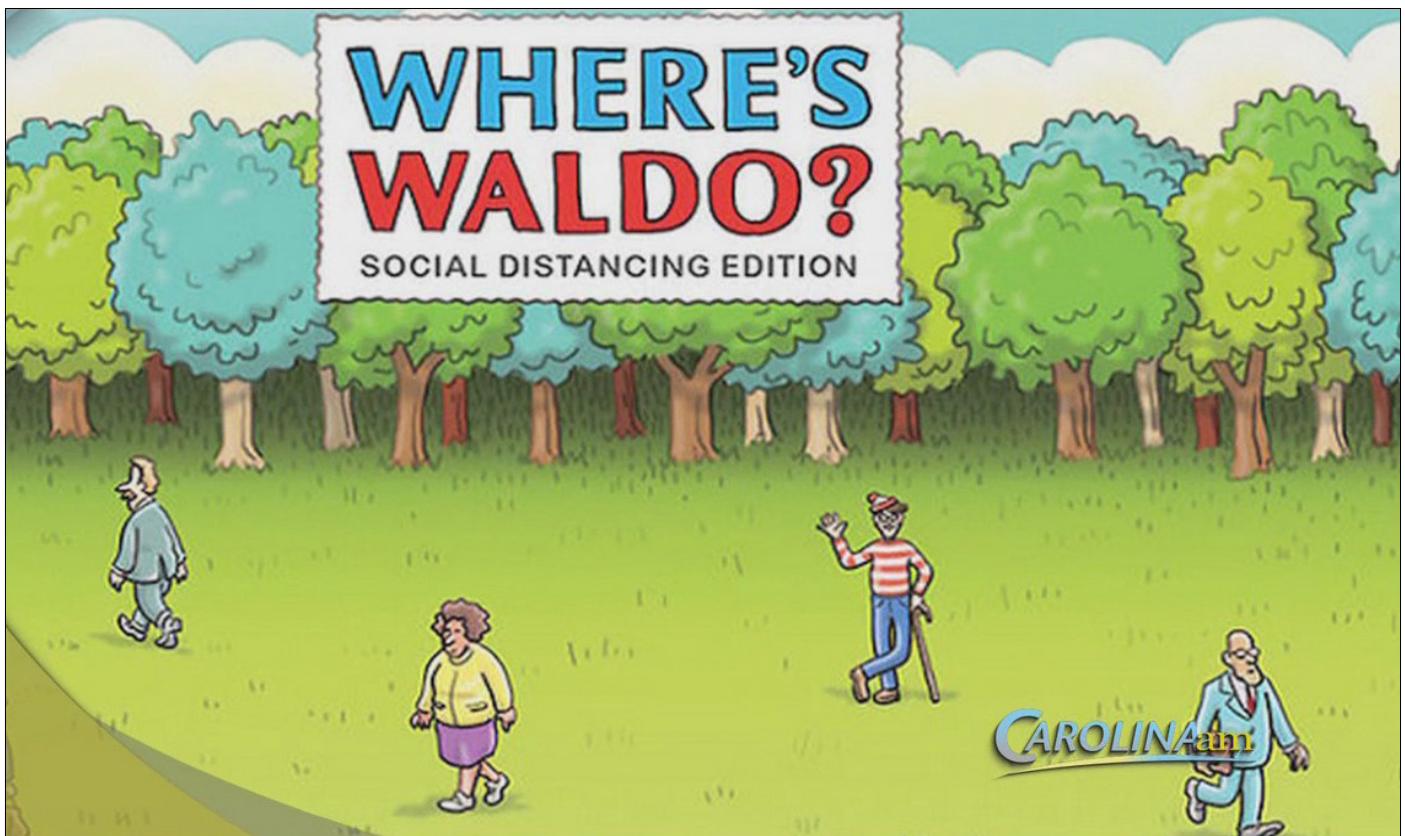
Please remember to provide your surname in the bank description field when paying by direct deposit, so that we can match your payment to your membership form.

Remember that it does **NOT** cover Ambulance Victoria membership which you individually should/could have. Thank you for your ongoing support to BCWC.

[https://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC\\_Content/Forms\\_Guidelines/BCWC\\_MEMBER\\_APPLICATION\\_RENEWAL\\_FORM\\_2019-2020.pdf](https://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC_Content/Forms_Guidelines/BCWC_MEMBER_APPLICATION_RENEWAL_FORM_2019-2020.pdf)

## Strzelecki Bushwalking Club

Strzelecki BWC is our neighbour and BCWCers are always welcome on their walks provided places available! See their website <https://sbwc.org.au>.



# Walk Reports

## Wirilda Park

23 May 2020

Leader: Joe van Beek

Report: Liz Davis

Walkers: Joe van Beek, Elizabeth Davis, Michael Dowe, Natalie Hinde, Trish Ravenhall, Elisa Winsa and Sharon Fouls (visitors)



It was great to be back on the track again, albeit on an overcast, cool day and to meet some faces new to the club. We met at the Wirilda BBQ area and set off at 10am. The Wirilda Track never fails to disappoint - there is always something new to see, and it was good to meet other walkers using the track. There were lots of pink heath and coreas flowering, and many different varieties of mushrooms, toadstools and fungi. Joe even pointed out an old sofa, which some dill had thrown off Petersons Lookout, high above the opposite bank of the river.

The Tyers River is very full, running swiftly, and Joe reported is in good health according to readings he takes every month. We came to a knee high river crossing (well, I'm not very tall!) and Joe gallantly stood in the middle to help us all cross.

We had lunch at the interesting old limestone quarry which operated in the 1930s and 40s, seated

below a steep rock face which Joe told us he had seen used by outdoor ed students to learn rock climbing.

Our return walk was mostly along the maintenance track for the new pipeline for Traralgon's water supply, but Joe was able to point out interesting old remnants of the original pipeline made from timber bound with heavy gauge wire. A couple of kms from our cars, we left the road and went down a steep short cut back to the track to retrace our steps to the BBQ area.

A lovely day, finally stretching our limbs. Many thanks Joe!

## Howitt Park to Mitchell River

23 May 2020

Leader and Report: Robyn Kercher

Walkers: Robyn, Monica, Anna, Marian, Visitors: Celine, Roger

We met at Howitt Park to begin this easy stroll in the Bairnsdale area. It was a fairly cold day, with a chilly breeze, so we were amazed that while the women were rugged up in winter woollies, Roger was wearing shorts! Going anti-clockwise on the circuit walk, we crossed the backwater swing bridge and passed through the Bairnsdale Botanical Gardens that will be a mass of daffodils in late July. Lots of runners and the occasional cyclist were also using the track, so we had to keep left at times. The track is well maintained, and the northern side of the river has mainly native vegetation. Roger said he had planted some of the trees many years ago. The river was flowing faster than usual due to the recent rains upstream, and there was a log-jam near the Lind Bridge. After crossing the river there, we walked along the south side of river with farmland to our left. We continued past the river bend at Bredt Street, and into the bush track by the Mitchell River Flats and near the Picnic Point Orchards. We climbed the hill up to the Picnic Point Reserve and stopped at the picnic tables for a snack and rest. On our walk home on the southern side of the river, we took Webbs Road by the vegetable fields, and followed the river path up the new ramp by Bairnsdale's Bat Colony. The bats can be seen in their thousands from Riverine Street, and can be quite noisy during the day. The autumnal foliage near the Port of Bairnsdale, with massive old trees (can anyone tell me what sort they are?) provided a lovely vista for the return journey. We were soon back at Howitt Park, hoping for a coffee, but nearby Lake Waddie Café was sadly closed.

## Port Albert

27 May 2020

Leader: Monica Scicluna

Report: Diane Reid

Walkers: Mary, Corinne, Peter, Nicki, Frankie, Jim, Denise, Neil, Diane, Jack, Judy.



Ten-ish walkers set off for a very pleasant walk along the Old Port Trail at Port Albert. It was a glorious day with the sun shining and no wind. We walked along the track which starts alongside the Seabank Caravan Park. We stopped along the way to look at points of interest and local birdlife. After arriving at Port Albert we had a delicious feed of fish and chips and were entertained with the antics of a visiting seal and, of course, the silver gulls. We set off after lunch on the return journey, where we walked on the sand for the last part. We could see the new mangroves with their aerial roots rising up through the sand. It was a most enjoyable day. Thank you Monica for organizing the walk and everyone else for their participation.



## Sale Common

30 May 2020

Leader: Monica Scicluna

Report: Robyn Rowley

Walkers: Natalie & David, Trish, Elisa, Tracey, Corinne, Bev, Judith, Marian, Lise & Paul Burgess, Jim, Ken, Judy, Joe & Wil.

With the gradual relaxing of coronavirus restrictions, BCWC members were keen to enjoy walks in our beautiful Gippsland environment while adhering to the new social restrictions. With this in mind 18 members (including 2 new) travelling from Traralgon, Bairnsdale and towns in between, met at the Sale Swing Bridge on a crisp Saturday morning with a blue sky indicating a warm day ahead. We split into 2 groups; one led by Monica and the other by Joe.

The start of our group's walk followed the gravel road that took us up to the gate of the Heart Morass, home of Sale Field and Game. Turning left, we headed north past the backwaters and billabongs of Flooding Creek, following the tracks through the wetlands.

The warm weather was bringing out plenty of birdlife and we were fortunate to have Bev identifying them for us. The final count was 32 different bird species.

We walked past beautiful, huge, gnarled and twisted River Redgums and shared our day enjoying the outdoors with hunters, fishermen & women, bike riders and joggers & families. Returning back to the Swing Bridge via the board walks, everyone enjoyed lunch in the sun before heading for the coffee shop or home. Thanks Monica for a wonderful walk.

## Metung

06 June 2020

Leader: Trevor Clues

Report: Marian Matchan

On an overcast Saturday morning, 9 walkers [Bev Baird, Louise Davis, Ken Free, Jude Gillin, Roger Wall, Geoff Mattingley, Maurice Roberts, Marian Matchan and our Leader Trevor Clues], drove in convoy from Swan Reach to Tambo Cliff Estate, a subdivision off the Metung Road.

We parked on the side of the road and walked along a well made track through trees and shrubs that obviously has been a part of planting by the Tambo Bluff Coastcare group to revegetate the public land with indigenous trees and shrubs grown from local seeds. There were numerous sections of steps and gravel paths that wound their way through the greenery. We came out onto the stoney beach at the edge of Lake King. From here we could look across to Raymond Island, the mouth of the Tambo. Through the smoke we could make out Mt Taylor and the tower in Bairnsdale.

From here we walked along the edge of the lake,

clambering over and around fallen trees and logs until we reached a wooden structure of dried timber logs made into the shape of an Indian Teepee. Then we proceeded up to the top of the cliff, climbing 100 steps. The views back across the lake to Paynesville and Bairnsdale were once again magnificent.

We proceeded back to our cars, then drove into Metung and, where some of you will remember from your childhood, the warm pools. Although these pools have since been filled in, Trevor told us he used to soak in the pools after a hard game of badminton in

his younger days. We walked along the boardwalk at the edge of Bancroft Bay for a while, then we headed up into the interesting designed houses of varied construction overlooking the Bay and eventually ended up at Shaving Point. From here we sauntered back along the board walk, looking into the water for signs of fish life and admiring the many boats of different shapes and sizes. Bev sighted quite a number of different birds for the day. Thanks goes to Trevor for a very enjoyable walk and our photographer Ken for great photos.



Above left: Trevor (middle) and participants inspect revegetation work somewhere in Metung!

Above right: Wil viewing the Sale Common -- still pretty dry.

Below: Lunch at Port Albert Fish & Chippery. All the folks on the left are part of the two-only-in-the-shop protocol. BCWC members await on the right for their order number to be called.



# Walk Previews

Distance	Hills	Tracks
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		

**Please register with the Walk Leader before the day of the walk.**

## **Toongabbie - Cowwarr Rail Trail**

**Date:** Saturday 04 July 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 12 km **M-3-1**  
**Meet:** 9.30am at CFA Shed, Traralgon-Maffra Road, Toongabbie  
**Leader:** Jim Stranger; strangers1@westnet.com.au; 0400 278 939

The walk will follow the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail from Toongabbie to Cowwarr, returning the same way. This is one of the most interesting sections of the rail trail passing through farm land and Gippsland Plains Grassy Woodlands. The trail is flat and well surfaced making for easy walking.

## **Mitchelldale - Mitchell River**

**Date:** 04 July 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 15 km; **M-6-4**  
**Meet:** Stratford @ 7.30am; Beverleys Road @ 8am  
**Leader:** Ken Free; freekenneth@optusnet.com.au; 0414 774 144  
Jodie Wigg; jodiewigg@gmail.com; 0411 631 862

This loop walk is in the Mitchelldale area at the northern end of the Mitchell River National Park. The walk will start at the Angusvale access road high on the ridge which overlooks the Angusvale camping area and the Mitchell River valley. We will follow an old farm road downhill before heading upstream towards Smith Point and then dropping down to the Mitchell River at which point we will walk downstream along the river to Scott's farmhouse where we will break for lunch. There is much to explore here with old farm buildings, a remnant orchard and a number of non-indigenous trees, notably elms and radiata pine, probably planted when the sight was first cleared for farming. After lunch we will continue to follow the river downstream to Bull Point where we will pick up an old vehicle track and follow it steadily uphill back to our vehicles. There are a few steep pinches towards the end of the walk, but the spectacular views over the river valley make it all worthwhile.

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

Rooftop Map: Bairnsdale - Dargo - Omeo Adventure Map 1:100,000

Please register with the Walk Leader before the day of the walk.

## **Heritage Cruise and Walk**

**Date:** Wednesday 08 July 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** ~5 km; easy  
**Meet:** 9.30am @ Port of Sale  
**Leader:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

First off is a cruise on the historic (built 1912) electric motor vessel RUBEENA taking us along the Sale Canal to the Swing Bridge. Cost \$20 per person. We will see the opening of the bridge which is remarkable. On

return to the Port, we have lunch, so bring your lunch. Hot drinks can be purchased at the cafe. After lunch, local tour guide, Val Walker, will take us on a memorable tour of historic buildings and places around Sale, which include the Water Tower, Powder Magazine, Signal Box, Museum and many more.

Due to the virus we may not be able to enter the buildings but her knowledge is excellent. If we can go in, it will be a \$5 per person fee to the Historical Society. So come along for a great day out in our backyard.

### **Mitchell River NP -- Old Weir Site**

**Date:** Saturday 18 July 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 14 km **M-6-4**  
**Meet:** 8am @ Den of Nargun car park  
**Leader:** Ken Free; [freekenneth@optusnet.com.au](mailto:freekenneth@optusnet.com.au); 0414 774 144  
Jodie Wigg; [jodiewigg@gmail.com](mailto:jodiewigg@gmail.com); 0411 631 862

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 1893 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 goannas. Some of the river views are quite stunning.

Topographical Map: Cobbannah - Tabberabbera 8322-N 1:50,000  
Rooftop Map: Bairnsdale - Dargo - Omeo Adventure Map 1:100,000  
Please register with Walk Leader before the day of the walk.

### **Traralgon Rumble**

**Date:** Wednesday 22 July 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 11 km; **M-1-3**  
**Meet:** 9am @ McDonalds car park in Traralgon near the shopping mall  
**Leader:** Oliver Raymond; [oliverraymond@wideband.net.au](mailto:oliverraymond@wideband.net.au); 0411 420 345

We will walk past three new building sites in Traralgon.

\* A new PRIVATE ENTERPRISE financed three storey building which will include a picture theatre.

\* A new government-financed entertainment centre.

\* A new government-financed Aquatic Centre heated by water from an underground aquifer, with the water being returned to the aquifer after being used to heat the pool water.

We will then continue up to the edge of Traralgon, where we move on to the new bike path which is being developed between Traralgon and Morwell. This meanders through some delightful woodland, out to the Airfield road, where we will retrace our steps back to the start of our walk.

For those who are not up to 11 km, we can have a vehicle at Airfield road to return you to the lunch site. If the weather is fair, there is a picnic site with a gas BBQ available near the start. Otherwise, we can repair to the Raymond house and have some home made brewed coffee to go with your picnic in an artificially heated place.

### **Petersons Lookout and Tyers Gorge**

**Date:** Saturday 25 July 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 6 km; **S-3-3**  
**Meet:** 9.30am @ Tyers Kindergarten car park  
**Leader:** Jim Stranger; [strangers1@westnet.com.au](mailto:strangers1@westnet.com.au); 0400 278 939

Petersons Lookout is perched high above the Tyers River and overlooks the Tyers Gorge. The walk will include another seldom visited vantage point within the gorge and inspection of an old timber mill site. Access to the lookout platforms involves a short, steep climb back out but overall gradients are gradual.



## Slaughter Track -- Deptford

**Date:** Saturday 01 August 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 7.5 km S-3-3  
**Meet:** 9am at Howitt Park, Bairnsdale  
**Leader:** Angela Roughley; [angelaroughley@bigpond.com](mailto:angelaroughley@bigpond.com); 0423 089 203

We will meet at Howitt Park to organise the car pool for the one hour drive to Deptford, an old gold mining locality on the Nicholson River. There are toilets on the north side of the ford where we start our walk. The old bridle path called Slaughter Track is an easy 3.7km (1.5 hour) walk along the picturesque Nicholson River to Stantons Place. This is an ideal setting for lunch with picnic tables. Along the track we will view a tunnel through the rock to divert the river (Houghton's Diversion Tunnel), mine shafts and a stone oven, all remnants of the gold mining era.

## Snowshoe Shuffle -- Mt St Gwinear

**Date:** Saturday 01 August 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 11 km; M-7-7  
**Meet:** 9am @ Erica Ski Hireba  
**Leader:** Joe van Beek; [joevanbeek@bigpond.com](mailto:joevanbeek@bigpond.com); 0411 749 799

This exhilarating walk starts at the Mt St Gwinear car park and follows the ski trails to Phillack Saddle and returns via the same route with some variations. This walk among the snow gum trees takes you over the top of Mt St Gwinear with great views to the east and then goes on to join the Australian Alps Walking Track. Expansive views to the east and west are a feature of Phillack Saddle. The extent of the walk will depend on the amount of snow and the prevailing weather conditions.

Walkers need to be prepared for snow and 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.

## Wirilda Track circuit

**Date:** Sunday 09 August 2020  
Details unavailable at time of publication. Check out the website.

## Billygoat Bend to Den of Nargun

**Date:** Saturday 15 August 2020  
Details unavailable at time of publication. Check out the website.

## Mitchell River NP -- Cobbannah and Gap Creeks

**Date:** Saturday 22 August 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 13 km M-8-8  
**Meet:** Stratford @ 7am; Beverleys Road @ 7.30am  
**Leader:** Ken Free; [freekenneth@optusnet.com.au](mailto:freekenneth@optusnet.com.au); 0414 774 144

This is one of the Mitchell River National Park's best kept secrets: an off-track walk which takes in the rocky gorges that the Cobbannah and Gap Creeks run through with plenty of rock hopping and photo opportunities.

The walk commences along an overgrown old logging track before descending into Cobbannah Creek. We will then walk downstream along Cobbannah Creek and have a lunch stop at the confluence of Gap and Cobbannah creeks.

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

NB: This walk is all off-track; it involves a lot of rock-hopping, clambering over, under and around obstacles like fallen logs and large boulders; and the last section of the walk includes some scrub bashing and an unre-

lenting uphill slog. It is therefore a walk that can't be rushed and plenty of rest stops and re-hydration are the order of the day. All participants should have a reasonable level of fitness; if in doubt, please discuss with the walk leader prior to the walk.

Please Note: This walk depends on the water levels in the 2 creeks being relatively low. If the water level rises prior to 22 August 2020, the walk will be cancelled.

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

Rooftop Map: Bairnsdale - Dargo - Omeo Adventure Map 1:100,000

Please register with Walk Leader before the day of the walk.

### **Mt Tassie**

**Date: Sunday 30 August 2020**

**Details unavailable at time of publication. Check out the website.**

### **Mitchelldale Peaks and River**

**Date: Saturday 05 September 2020**

**Dist/Grade: 11 km; M-8-4**

**Meet: Stratford @ 7.30am; Beverleys Road @ 7.59am**

**Leader: Ken Free; freekenneth@optusnet.com.au; 0414 774 144**

**Jodie Wigg; jodiewigg@gmail.com; 0411 631 862**

This loop walk is in the Mitchelldale area at the northern end of the Mitchell River National Park. It is a tough-ish walk with great rewards. The walk will start on the old farm access road near Long Gully Creek and steadily climb up a series of ridges to peaks of 367, 381, 458 and 480 metres elevation (total climb approx. 300 metres). At the highest peak we will have spectacular uninterrupted views particularly to the north and east of remnant farmland in the foreground and alpine peaks in the distance. We will then proceed in a northerly direction downhill until we reach the Mitchell River where we will turn right and follow the river downstream for approximately 5 kilometres to a location known as "2 Trees". From here we will locate an old farm road which will take us back to our start point. There is some minor scrub-bashing along the river and some clambering over fallen logs and rock hopping.

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

Rooftop Map: Bairnsdale - Dargo - Omeo Adventure Map 1:100,000

Please register with the Walk Leader before the day of the walk.

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Date: Wednesday 09 September 2020**

**Dist/Grade: 0 km; delicious**

**Meet: 6pm, Criterion Hotel, corner of York and Macalister Streets, Sale**

**RSVP: Suunday 07 September 2020**

**Leader: Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460**

### **Angusvale to Jurgenson Point and return**

**Date: Saturday 12 September 2020**

**Dist/Grade: 14 km; M-5-3**

**Meet: Beverleys Road @ 8.30am**

**Leader: Marian Matchan; Matcho01@bigpond.com; 0448 523 287**

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

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

Please register with the Walk Leader before the day of the walk.



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Facebook: BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club  
WWW: [www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com](http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com)

ISSUE 213 – Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club – August 2020



Walkers resting on the Mitchell River Weir walk (p6); Just not enough snow for a shuffle (p4)

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2019/20

President:	Joe van Beek joevanbeek@bigpond.com	03 5176 5302 0411 749 799
Vice-President:	Piero Baglioni	0408 446 299
Secretary:	Heather Alexander secbcwc@gmail.com	0414 917 830
Treasurer:	Monica Scicluna joe.monica@hotmail.com	0431 777 460
Publicity:	Robyn Kercher publicitybcwc@gmail.com	0400 592 407
Newsletter:	Jack Winterbottom newsbcwc@gmail.com	0408 411 079
Walks Co-ordinator:	Geoff Mattingley walksbcwc@gmail.com	03 5152 2916
Tracks and Huts:	Helmut Tracksdorf	0402 089 404
Committee:	Michael Dowe Marian Matchan Jim Stranger	Becky Horsham Rob Paterson Trevor Whibley

PO Box 70 Maffra  
Victoria 3860

Incorporation No  
A0004849G

### In This Issue

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- 4 Club News
- 4 Walk Reports
- 9 Walk Previews

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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 14 October 2020  
at a ZOOM location near you.

The next Club Night is scheduled for Wednesday 11 November. Watch this space.

**Welcome to new members: Noelene Barnes, Tania, Keiran and Daniel Casey,  
Linda Judge, Tracey, Duana and Mariah Kelly, Elisa and Erik Rimsa,  
the Sheridan family, Robyn Stone, Roger Wall**

# Presidential Ramblings

## *An AGM in Covid times*

With Covid-19 restrictions as they are, it is not going to be possible to meet face to face for an AGM in the near future. The committee has decided that the club should proceed to hold its AGM on 09 September, 2020, by using Zoom. This may not suit everyone who wishes to attend the AGM but you will be able to vote by proxy.

There will be some special resolutions with respect to rule changes for members to vote on. Some of the changes are to align our rules to the most recent relevant Act and Regulations and to specifically allow for meetings by the use of technology such as Zoom.

One rule change proposed is aimed at spreading the committee work load more evenly by creating a new officer position of Membership Secretary thus reducing the work load of the Secretary position.

A further proposed rule change is to change the end of the club's financial and membership year from 30 April to 30 June. This would align our financial year with that of Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) and the period we pay affiliation fees and insurance premiums for, but has been motivated by the desire to give members some recognition for the rather interrupted walk program due to the corona virus and the fee discount offered by BWV. For 2020/2021 members will have 14 months membership for a 12 month subscription.

Members will shortly receive the notice of meeting, the details of the special resolutions and the Proxy Form along with a copy of the minutes of the last AGM. Closer to the meeting, all members will be sent a copy of the reports to be tabled or presented at the AGM and the list of the nominations for the incoming committee. If you have not received these items by 28 August, please contact the Secretary, Heather Alexander. In the week before the AGM, members will be sent the details on how to join the online Zoom meeting.

Please note that nominations for committee positions for 2020/2021 are to be with the Secretary by 21 August. You must be a financial member to vote at the AGM. Anyone who has not renewed their membership by the AGM will no longer remain on the register of current members.

## *Your photos are needed to help mark the club's 55th anniversary*

After the business of the AGM has been completed, we will celebrate the 55th anniversary of the founding of the club by sharing some photographs online over a cup of tea or a glass of wine. For this you are invited to submit up to 5 photographs depicting walks or events in the life of the club; recent as well as those going way back. Please forward your photographs to Jack Winterbottom at [newsbcwc@gmail.com](mailto:newsbcwc@gmail.com) by 31 August. If you have print photos or slides and are not able to scan them, get them to Jack and he will scan them and return them to you. Contact Jack on **0408 411 079** to make arrangements. Members submitting photos will be able to talk about them on the zoom meeting if they so wish.

If I can't see you on a track I look forward to seeing you on Zoom at our AGM on 09 September, 2020. Take care and stay fit, healthy, safe and happy.

Cheers

*Joe van Beek*

# Club News

## Notice of AGM

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc, A0004849G will be held on Wednesday 09 September 2020 by a Zoom conference meeting. Further details are in the President's Ramblings (page 3) and there will be a mailing to individual members of the meeting notice, agenda, reports and special resolutions.

## Covid-19 Restrictions

We are back in Stage 3 restrictions. The club has cancelled walks for the future. The last thing anyone wants is for BCWC to become a cluster! If you have ANY of the symptoms described on the Victorian Government Coronavirus website here ... <https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria>, take Dan's advice and get tested.

## Zoom technique

By now, a fair proportion of the community will have become familiar with the various ways of on-line communication either by dint of work or family contact. Zoom, Webez, Cisco, Skype are the common platforms. We will be using Zoom for the Annual General Meeting. It can be accessed as an app on a mobile device (tablet or phone) and from either an app or the internet on a desktop computer. Make sure you have downloaded and set up the app before the night of the AGM. Further details about the link to access the AGM and some "cheat sheets" will be issued a week or so before the AGM. It will also include some advice regarding the etiquette during the meeting.

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## Walk Reports

### Mt Erica / Mushroom Rocks

27 June 2020

Leader: Joe van Beek

Report: Trish Ravenhall/Natalie Hinde

We met at the Mt Erica car park. From there we walked through mountain ash forest dotted with silver wattle to the Mushroom Rocks, a collection of monumental granite boulders hidden in thick montane forest. We did get a glimpse of a Superb Lyrebird flying around in the trees.



After a rest at Mushroom Rocks, we continued our way uphill with the snow on the ground gradually getting thicker the higher we climbed and snowgums all through out the area. We made our way to the ruins



of Talbot Hut situated at 1520m. All that remains of the hut, which was destroyed in a storm in 1938, is a chimney. While several members stayed behind at Talbot Hut, the rest of us followed Joe in the search of Hobbit Land, taking us off the main track into the shrubs. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate Hobbit Land (as time was getting away from us), and made our way back up to the hut, where we stopped for lunch.

On the way back to the Mt Erica car park, we stopped by the remembrance stone of marathon runner Geoff Watts (father of Olympian Kathy Watts). In 1969, wearing only shorts and a singlet, Geoff Watts was on a training run in ultra-wintery weather on Mt Erica when he succumbed to the freezing conditions just a few metres away from the track.

Thanks, Joe, for a great walk.

## Mitchelldale River Walk

04 July 2020

Leader: Jodie Wigg

Report: Marian Matchan

After meeting at Beverley's Road, we continued by car to the starting point on Czydel's Road above the Angusvale Campground. It was a fresh morning, the spectacular views down over Scotts Farm and Angusvale with the mist in the gullies, wonderful.



The walk started along old vehicle tracks, some still used today by Parks Victoria. It was a slow decent into the valley where there were small glimpses of the Mitchell River, the views were breath taking.

The first point of interest was the faint remnants of an aqueduct or water race from the 1800s. Although right next to the Mitchell River, it is possible it was built for run off from a side creek as it is a good 10 metres above the river.

The next amazing aspect of this walk is 'Two Trees'. As the name suggests, a site where two huge unidentified Eucalypt trees stand like sentinels guarding the area. These trees may not be indigenous to the area and can only be assumed to have been planted by early settlers. Since then, a dense growth of saplings surround the two trees, a magnificent calming feeling engulfs the soul as you stand back and gaze.

We continued along the edge of the river, the river was turbulent and running swiftly over the rocks, we finally got to Scott's Farm situated in a cleared section of the National Park. We sat around here on logs and chatted at lunch exchanging stories and getting to know new members. We then explored the area and looked at the old farmhouse, also built in the 1800s. This was a good spot for a group photo (see next column).

We continued along the river with some minor bush bashing which took us to an old river crossing



at Bull Point where the Wentworth River enters the Mitchell River. From here we followed a very steep 4WD track (Czydel's Road) out of the valley back to the vehicles. We were glad to reach the top to where our cars were parked. We all recovered quickly from the long hard climb. An enjoyable day was had by all!

## Heritage Cruise and Walk -- Sale

08 July 2020

Leader: Monica Scicluna and Corinne Klein

Report: Jim Stranger

It was a cold and foggy morn when the good ship Rubeena pulled out of the Port of Sale cruising down the Sale Canal, past the confluence of the Thomson and Latrobe Rivers to the old Swing Bridge. With Liz at the helm and with commentary provided by Alan Lewis, Rubeena's owner and local historian, our journey took two hours. Alan explained that by 1890 the man-made entrance to the sea, canal and port connected Sale and the Gippsland region to the open sea and the rest of the world. The canal was dug using only manual labour, horse and scoop. The Swing Bridge, which was opened for our visit, is the oldest intact, operational bridge of its kind in Victoria. Other points of interest included an Aboriginal scar or canoe tree, Nankeen Night-Herons and some magnificent, ancient Red Gums.



## Mitchell River Weir

18 July 2020

Leader: Angela Roughley and Jodie Wigg

Report: Ken Free

The fog lifted for a sunny lunch at the Port of Sale where we met our guide for the afternoon, Val Walker, from the Sale Historical Society. Our tour took us first to the Powder Magazine where black powder or gun powder was stored before being transported to goldfields across Gippsland. We skirted around Lakes Guthridge and Guyatt and the new community gardens before a pleasant walk through the Botanic Gardens. From there past the old Sale Primary School and down historic Macalister Street to Victoria Park and the old water tower. We continued on to inspect the signal box building at the site of the original Sale railway station, passed the old prison site and then back to the Port.

Thanks to Monica and Corinne for organizing such an enjoyable and informative day and hats off to Wil who somehow managed to look fresher than the rest of us at day's end.

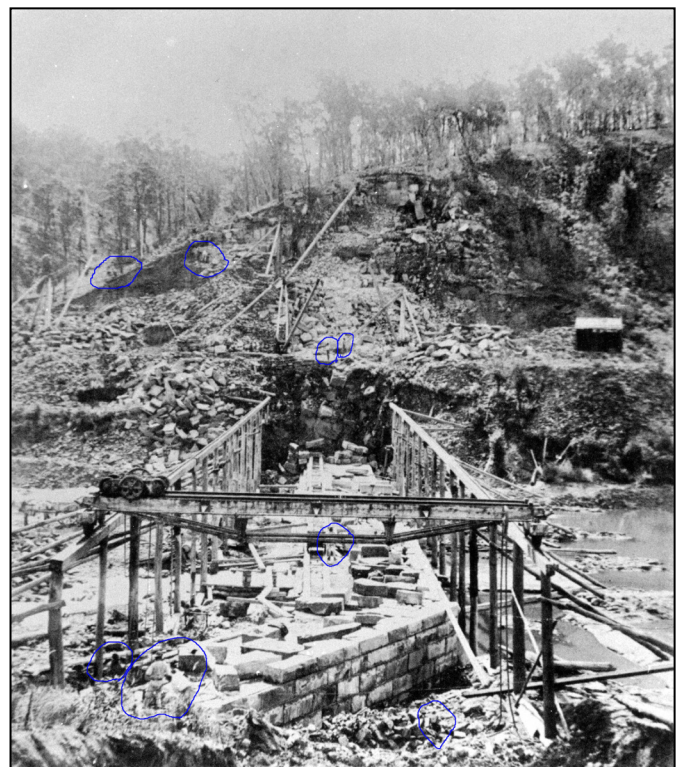
In a scene reminiscent of Bourke Street on a Friday afternoon, with almost as many cars as people, 18 of us met at the Den of Nargun car park for what would be a stunning day in the bush.

Angela and Jodie had apparently used their connections to delete any likelihood of rain and, although we started walking with a cool breeze around the ears, the sun was shining and the breeze soon disappeared.

We assembled into 2 Covid-19 groups of no more than 10 people and headed off to our first brief stop at Bluff Lookout where we gazed down on Woolshed Creek and the Mitchell River accompanied by the distant sound of water rushing over rapids. From here we turned south and scrambled uphill before threading our way through low scrubby bush which after about ½ kilometre led us to another unnamed



*Top left clockwise:*  
Climbing up to lunch, luncheon, a flood in C1893, under construction, the weir today





lookout point apparently used by abseiling enthusiasts.

Another meandering 2 kilometres of mostly open forest brought us to a steep downhill section on a seldom used dirt road. We left the road and carefully threaded our way down into the first of 2 slippery-under-foot gullies. The second of the gullies is quite steep with a generous ground cover of grass and leaf litter and is a site etched into the memories of club members who did this walk in August 2016.

After successfully navigating the slippery gullies we experienced a steep and rocky climb to our morning tea spot where we found plenty of comfortable rocks and logs to perch on while socially distancing and munching on some body fuel. From here it was a very pleasant wander through undulating open forest for around 3 kilometres until we started the short and rocky descent to the weir site.

Although I have completed this walk on numerous occasions, the sight of the weir wall jutting out into the swiftly flowing Mitchell River is one I never tire of. It is a stunning piece of bush landscape which has the added benefit of having some fascinating history: construction of the weir commenced in 1891 and was completed in 1893 by which time the money had run out so that the irrigation channel planned to take water from the weir to Lindenow and beyond was never constructed. In the floods of late 1893/early 1894, cracks started to appear on the eastern side of the weir wall and in due course it permanently fractured.

We spent a wonderful time lunching and lounging on the weir wall in bright sunlight, before reluctantly packing up and retracing our steps back to the Den of Nargun car park. A most enjoyable day in the bush resulted in smiles all around and we thanked Angela and Jodie for leading another great Ben Cruachan bushwalk. I'm sure most of us will have our names down for your next walk.

## Traralgon Rumble

22 July 2020

**Leader: Oliver Raymond**

**Report: Monica Scicluna**

We met in Traralgon on a very chilly morning. After moving our cars to the all day car park near the ASIC building, we set off with a snack and water bottle in hand.

After only 300 metres, our first stop was at an almost completed three storey building including apartments, picture theatres and bowling alley; a privately financed project.

Another 300 metres took us to the government

financed Entertainment Centre (still to rise above the car park level) and another 100 metres to the Aquatic Centre which will be heated by an underground aquifer, with the water being returned after heating the pool water - an excellent example of utilising geothermal, totally renewable energy.

We then followed a fantastic combined cycle and walking path in the middle reservation to the edge of Traralgon and on to Airfield Road where we turned around. It continues on to Morwell.

Oliver pointed out a very old red gum and we meandered through woodland. We met up with a group of cyclists which included Denise Stranger and Peter Maffei. Once we reached the Airfield road we returned the same way, this was a great 11km walk.

Lunch was enjoyed in a central picnic area. We had special visitors, Noel and Janice Burrows; it was great to see them so well. Thanks Oliver for a great day out with fantastic company.

## Peterson's Lookout and Tyers Gorge

25 July 2020

**Leader: Jim Stranger**

**Report: Jodie Wigg**

Group 1: Jim, Denise, Angela, Georgia, Jodie, Liz, Sue, Tania, Gabrielle and Robyn.

Group 2: Judy, Jenny, Oliver, Monica, Mary, Corinne, Trish, Natalie and Roger.

It was a fresh, foggy morning with an expected top temperature of 13°C for the day. Meeting at the Tyers Preschool, 20 walkers were split into two groups of 10, following the social distancing guidelines.

We drove to the starting point of the walk which was at the W2 Track and Tyers-Walhalla Road intersection. Group 2 set off first down the W2 track directly to Petersons Lookout.

My group, Group 1, headed off about 15 minutes afterwards. A little way down the W2 Track, we stopped to look down at a small wetland located not too far off the road. A little further along the track, we turned off to bushbash a short way to another point of interest. This was to admire a rather large, old woodchip pile which is the only remnant left of an old timber mill site from the 1950s. Making our way back to the road, we continued a little way further and turned off again onto an overgrown vehicle track, which lead us down to a viewpoint over the Tyers River Gorge. This was a good opportunity for a group photo. We then backtracked to the W2 track and continued down to the main lookout.

We crossed paths with Group 2 at the point where the W2 track ends and the walking track begins down to Petersons Lookout. Group 2 were coming up the hill from the lookout and they headed off towards the cars via the viewpoint of the Tyers River Gorge. Group 1 went down to Petersons Lookout.

After appreciating the view, we stopped to look at a Sydney Rock Orchid that is growing near the lookout. Unfortunately it was not in flower. It is not a native flora to the area, so it is suspected that someone has planted it there. We then headed back to our cars and drove back down to the Tyers Preschool where we had lunch in the park. Thank you Jim for a lovely walk.

## Snowshoe Shuffle - Mt St Gwinear

01 August 2020

Leader: Joe van Beek

Report: Nicki Jennings

The group gathered in Erica before driving up to the Mt Saint Gwinear car park. Warm July weather ensured that our “Snowshoe Shuffle” had become yet another outing for our regular boots. Joe had kindly organised a perfectly calm, sunny, alpine day for our adventure which he began by leading us down to the Forbidden Glen. This deviation from the more traditional route up the ski run proved beautiful. We descended under towering snow gums to a creek which most of us managed to cross with dry feet. Joe then pointed out some impressive “New Zealand” beech

trees which the Aussies in the group immediately recognised as being Australian beech trees but which may well have shared a common Gondwana origin with those in New Zealand.

We climbed back up through the bush until we reached the Australian Alps Walking Track and the first traces of snow, ice and frozen soil. We lunched on Mt St Phillack on snow-covered ground in a winter wonderland. The snow gums had amazing coloured trunks of brown and green which contrasted with their blanket of snow. After our welcome lunch, we followed the icy track from Mt St Phillack at 1556m back to Mt St Gwinear at 1509m and stunning views to the northwest.

On the return walk back to the cars, Joe again led us on a less travelled track through the alpine bush. We arrived at a very sturdy viewing platform surrounded by trees with the view long overgrown. A snow gum with a broad trunk stood behind us. It was one of the biggest and strongest snow gums I had seen. Joe told us that it would have dated back at least to the 1939 fires which had swept across this ridge.

Our return to the Mt St Gwinear car park ended a wonderful day of scenery, good company and fine weather. It was also the last day before face masks became mandatory for regional Victoria. This fact was not lost on us as we enjoyed the fresh mountain air on what subsequently proved to be the last BCWC outing before level 3 COVID-19 restrictions were reimposed across our region. Thank you Joe for a wonderful day: one that will be treasured as we retreat into lockdown.



# Walk Previews

Distance	Hills	Tracks
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		

**Please register with the Walk Leader before the day of the walk.**

## Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday 09 September 2020  
**Meet:** 7pm, on Zoom  
**Secretary:** Heather Alexander; heather.alexander1@gmail.com; 0414 917 830

### Mt St Gwinear car park to Mt Erica car park

**Date:** Saturday 19 September 2020

See website for details, if we are allowed to go walking!

### Combined Gippsland Walking Clubs @ Wirilda Environment Park

**Date:** Saturday 26 September 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 14km, M-6-5  
**Meet:** Wirilda Environmental Park, Education Centre  
To get there, head north along Clarkes Road which is immediately west of where the Tyers River crosses the Moe-Glengarry Road. Take the next road to the right (around 300 metres) and follow it to the second house on the right (a further 200 metres)  
**Leaders:** Joe van Beek - 0411 749 799; joevanbeek@bigpond.com  
Jim Stranger; strangers1@westnet.com.au; 0400 278 939

The Wirilda Walking Track is Latrobe Valley's best kept secret. This 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.

If there is enough interest from fit walkers on the day, Joe van Beek will lead a 24 km circuit version of the walk (Grade X-9-5). This would start by walking up the pipeline access road to the Moondarra Dam and returns via the Wirilda Walking Track. Duration; 6 hours. If there is sufficient interest in these walks, and we need to limit numbers per walk, we can add one or two more walks from slightly different starting points.

## Wilson Promontory National Park

**Date:** Friday 02 - Sunday 04 October 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** various  
**Meet:** Tidal River at lunchtime Friday  
**Leader:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

**At the moment, this weekend is full, if it goes ahead.**

We will have a short walk around Tidal River Friday afternoon as 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.

## McLoughlin's Beach coastal walk

**Date:** Wednesday 07 October 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 8km, S-1-1  
**Meet:** McLoughlin's Beach Jetty @ 10am  
**Leader:** Frankie MacLennan; frankiemaclennan1@gmail.com; 0407 867 084

Meet at the McLoughlin's Beach jetty at 10am (arrive early and walk out on the jetty to view the ocean boat channel or have a cuppa at the shelter). We take the boardwalk over the mangroves to the boat ramp. Pelicans, spoonbills and cormorants gather near the footbridge. We cross the channel through the native grass meadow to the walking track through the coastal bush. We head along a secluded track parallel to the beach. Orchids, banksia, coastal manna gums and maybe some interesting fungi depending on the weather. We walk through to the McLoughlins Beach entrance which is the start of the Ninety Mile Beach. We cross to the beach with the wind behind us and walk back along the beach. If we are lucky we may spot some shorebirds or a seal or see some interesting marine creatures washed ashore. Then we head back to the bush track, returning the way we came. Arrive back at the car park for lunch together.

## Mitchell River NP: Mystery History Walk

**Date:** Saturday 10 October 2020  
Keep an eye on the website for details.

## Orchid Walk: Morwell NP

**Date:** Sunday 18 October 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 10km, S-3-3  
**Meet:** 9am, McDonald's car park in centre of Traralgon  
**Leader:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

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, re-vegetated 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.

We will join Friends of Morwell National Park for their annual Orchid walk at 10am.

We will be back at the picnic area for lunch. After lunch we can go onto Billy's Creek Trail towards the old weir.

## The Channels, Avon River and Dermody's Camp

**Date:** Saturday 24 October 2020



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Facebook: BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club  
WWW: [www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com](http://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com)

ISSUE 214 – Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club – October 2020



Top: Standing on the edge of Roaring Mag (p5). Bottom: Standing on the edge of the old railway line (p4).

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2019/20

President:	Helmut Tracksdorf	0402 089 404
Vice-President:	Piero Baglioni	0408 446 299
Secretary:	Robyn Kercher secbcwc@gmail.com	0400 592 407
Member Secretary:	Ken Free secbcwc@gmail.com	0414 774 144
Treasurer:	Monica Scicluna joe.monica@hotmail.com	0431 777 460
Publicity:	Jim Stranger publicitybcwc@gmail.com	
Newsletter:	Jack Winterbottom newsbcwc@gmail.com	0408 411 079
Walks Co-ordinator:	Geoff Mattingley walksbcwc@gmail.com	03 5152 2916
Tracks and Huts:	Joe van Beek	0411 749 799
Committee:	Liz Davis Angela Roughley Heather Alexander	Michael Dowe Rob Paterson

PO Box 70 Maffra  
Victoria 3860

Incorporation No  
A0004849G

### In This Issue

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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 09 December 2020  
at a ZOOM location near you.

Next Club Night is 11 November (Zoom) and Christmas Social on 13 December (see Previews at the end)

**Welcome to new member: Sue Wesson**

# On Track with Trackers

## *My First Post*

*With the new committee now in place and the second wave of Covid receding (touch wood) I am looking forward to the remainder of 2020 and beyond! This year has certainly been a challenging one for all so hopefully you and your loved ones have managed to get through this pandemic not only in good health and good spirits but full of optimism to Boot!*

*Naturally I am honoured to be elected as your new President for the coming year and look forward to working with the newly elected Committee to ensure our Club continues to prosper and do well, so that we can all get back to doing what we enjoy: Bushwalking!*

*We are certainly indebted to Joe van Beek, our previous President, who, for the past 3 years, has demonstrated a high level of leadership and commitment to our Club. My only concern is that in setting the bar high, Joe has presented me with a difficult task to follow. Nevertheless, with the help of the Committee and members alike I hope to be able to maintain the high standard he has set. So, on behalf of all members I would like to thank Joe for his leadership and commitment to BCWC during his tenure as President. 3 Cheers!*

*I would also like to thank the previous Committee for its hard work and dedication during the past 12 months. The Club would not have been able to operate smoothly without you. Thanks to one and all!*

*Fortunately, with restrictions for Regional Victorians easing in Mid-September small groups of 10 have been allowed to gather which has enabled us to start getting out and about and back on track. Several walks have already been organised including a combined walk with SBWC along the Wirilda Walking Track, which was enjoyed by all members who took part. We also managed to hit new highs with an ascent of Feathertop in early October, enjoying magnificent views of the surrounding high country combined with the last of the winter snow. Topped off with tea and chocolate cake down in Harrietville with well-known local identity – Ian Stapleton. Check out the walk report in this newsletter.*

*November will see the launch of our Guide Book for McMillans Walking Track (MMWT) which may be considered a crowning achievement not only for the Club but for former member John Smith who started the whole process of rediscovering the track back in the 1980s. There are a lot of people to thank for this achievement and in particular John and Monica Chapman who have not only contributed to the Guide Book but allowed us to use their well-recognised format to promote the guide to the bushwalking fraternity. Check out the article about the MMWT Guidebook in this newsletter.*

*Some of you (especially new members) may be wondering who is this new President, what is he like? Allow me to introduce myself! Typically, “old school”, I have been actively involved in bushwalking and other outdoor pursuits for more than 50 years. Completed my first overnight hike aged 14 in 1967 and still going strong. (touch wood) A knowledge of basic math will confirm my age. For our younger members, the reference to old school suggests I’m somewhat old fashioned but generally like to do things the way they used to be done. Bushwalking is not about the latest gear, gadget, or GPS. It’s about stepping out into the landscape and soaking up the scenery, sights and sounds. It also about giving you the opportunity to ponder, discuss and philosophise about the issues of the day with like-minded friends. In other words, to socialise, which is good for your overall mental health. But please note it comes with a health warning: Bushwalking is contagious! So be prepared to enjoy yourself!*

*With this in mind, I look forward to catching up with members on our various walks to soak up the atmosphere, contemplate life in general and discuss the issues of the day – without resolving one!*

*See you on the track,*

**TRACKERS**

## McMillans Walking Track Guide Book

John and Monica Chapman and BCWC have been working on a guide book to McMillans Walking Track for well over a year. This project will soon come to realisation. The book has been printed and is now being shipped. It should be available late November. The book will be officially launched at the Bushwalking Victoria Leadership Forum on Saturday 14 November.

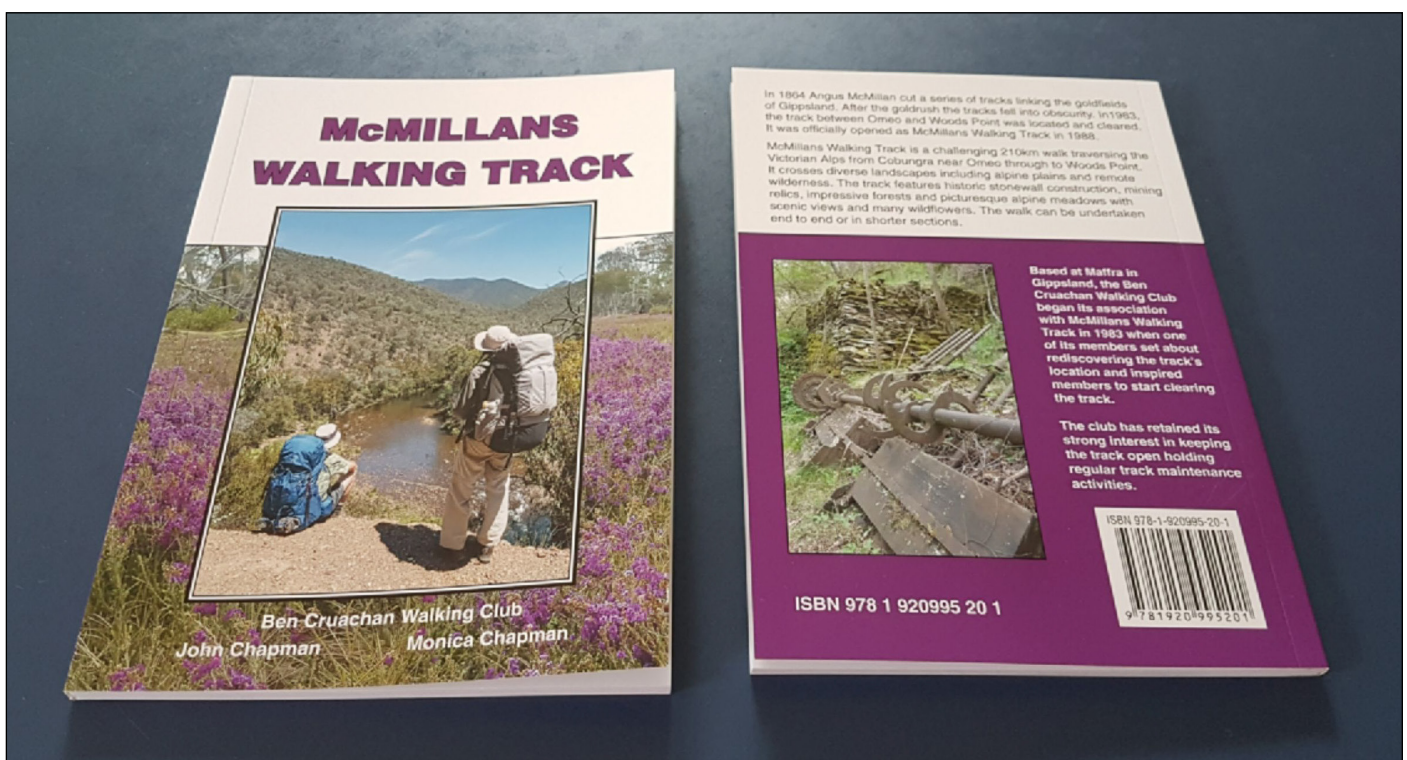
The guide book is in the style of other guide books produced by John and Monica Chapman. They have produced 15 titles including Australian Alps Walking Track, Larapinta Trail and Overland Track. This guide is modelled on their successful collaboration with the Geelong Bushwalking Club to produce Walking The Otways.

Helmut Tracksdorf, Joe van Beek and Martin Norris (SBWC) have worked with John and Monica to produce a publication that the club can be very proud of. This included including walking the track together end-to-end in December last year. The guide has sections on the history of the track, the flora and fauna of the region and the weather expected on the walk. The book contains guidance on preparation, planning and safety as well as detailed maps and step by step track notes divided into six sections. A number of variations and side trips are described.

BCWC's share of the cost of printing the book has been supported by a generous grant from DELWP and from funds raised by the club from the sale of donated goods and other donations. All BCWC profits from book sales will go towards the maintenance of McMillans Walking Track.

McMillans Walking Track will be distributed to book shops and other retailers such as outdoor gear shops. It will also be available on line via the Chapman's website. Prepublication orders at the special price of \$22 can be placed on <http://www.john.chapman.name/pub.html>. The recommended retail price for the 90-page book in full colour is \$24.95 but there is a special price to Ben Cruachan Walking Club members of \$20. To place your order email [BCWCsales@bigpond.com](mailto:BCWCsales@bigpond.com) with the number of copies you would like and your postal address and transfer \$20 per copy to the BCWC bank account BSB 013713 Acct 278934713 with your surname as reference. Copies will be dispatched once money is received and the books are available.

This book should be in your collection even if you do not intend to do the walk. It contains a lot of information for use on other walks and makes interesting background reading. A good gift to family and friends.





# Club News

## AGM

Thank you to those members who attended the Zoom AGM in early September. The business part of the meeting went smoothly. Welcome to our new President, Helmut Tracker, and the new committee. Zoom etiquette was followed scrupulously and after a break for a cuppa, we had the second half slide show with plenty of reminiscence. Many thanks to Jac Postlethwaite for the Zoom account with no limits and all who attended.

## Covid-19 Restrictions

We are back to walking, although in 10s or less. Check the website for latest walk info. If you have ANY of the symptoms described on the Victorian Government Coronavirus website here ... <https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria>, take Dan's advice and get tested.

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## Walk Reports

### Toongabbie - Cowwarr Rail Trail

04 July 2020

Leader: Jim Stranger

Report: Judy van Beek

An enthusiastic group gathered from various parts of Gippsland at the Toongabbie CFA parking area adjacent to the old Toongabbie station to walk the rail trail between Toongabbie and Cowwarr.

The 67-kilometre Gippsland Plains Rail Trail runs from Traralgon through to Stratford. Work began on the first section of the trail in 2004 and the rail trail was officially opened in 2005 after several railway bridges were rebuilt and strengthened. Work continued over the following decade and it is now the only rail trail in Victoria where users can catch a train to and from either end of the trail. The Saturday morning walk stretch was 12 kms return.

The rail trail makes for easy, flat walking being a well maintained gravel path; it's well wide enough to allow social distancing while walking with people. The trail passes through grassy woodlands with remnants

of forest red gum forest as well as farm land. Points of interest on the trail included the retaining work required to bolster the steep clay cuttings for the train track and views northwards to the Great Dividing Range hills. Ben Cruachan was sighted on the far horizon

The threat of rain held off and the group made good time to the turnaround point, the Traralgon-Maffra Road crossing, a couple of kilometre short of Cowwarr itself.

After a brisk return into a cold westerly wind to Toongabbie, the group took shelter at the recreation ground where several historical buildings have been maintained. The Federation Grandstand (a Historic Cricket Pavilion), is a very elegant wooden building and proved to be an enjoyable place to socialise and have lunch, with ample room for social distancing. Adjacent to the grandstand is a very well maintained Mechanics Institute building dating from 1883.

Toongabbie has a number of plaques noting historic buildings and the history of transport, both rail and coach. A few walkers stayed on to browse. Of particular interest was the explanation of how, after 1883, the early travellers to the goldfields at Walhalla could make their way via train to Toongabbie and then complete their journey to Walhalla by coach or bullock train following the route through the hills across the Brunton Bridge.

Thanks go to Jim Stranger for arranging this walk and allowing us to explore the early history of this area of Gippsland.



Walkers shelter in the Federation Grandstand

## Roaring Mag Falls

11 July 2020

Leader and Report: Helmut Tracksdorf

With a second wave of Covid-19 cases creating another lockdown situation for our city cousins, the participants on this walk were indeed fortunate to be able to get out and stretch their legs in the great outdoors. 9 members and 3 visitors turned up on an overcast morning at Lindenow to take part in exploring Roaring Mag. The forecast suggested we would get wet and the walk leader was convinced we would get heavy rain before completing this walk. Nevertheless, we were all prepared to Carry On Regardless! Displaying our true spirit of adventure.

After a short drive to the starting point at Roaring Mag track within Mitchell River NP, we donned our gear, put on our packs, and hit the track. The first part of this walk is along an old forestry road with remnant stumps still visible alongside the track. After 2km we effectively departed the track and followed a marked footpad through the bush where we got our first sprinkling of rain. Donning wet weather gear, we continued on to reach an escarpment from where we got our first views of the Mitchell River valley. Low cloud and mist shrouded the scene but still created a great atmosphere for all to enjoy. Turning right we followed the escarpment for a short distance coming out above Roaring Mag falls itself – which as expected turned out, DRY! But the view onto the rocky bluffs was still spectacular. We stopped here for morning tea and to soak up the scene. The low cloud and threatening rain held off, so we were able to relax and enjoy the view.

After the obligatory photos we continued towards the head of Roaring Mag and made our way down into the creek bed itself which had a little water and rock pools in abundance. The thick moss and occasional flowering pink heaths were proving popular with everybody. Walking down the creek we arrived at the head of Roaring Mag falls giving us splendid view down the valley which remained shrouded in mist. Due to the wet conditions our leader advised it was not safe to get too close to the edge. Otherwise the walk may turn into a rescue!

We then clambered up out of the creek bed and onto some rock ledges which gave us splendid views of the valley and steep cliffs which create the amazing escarpment from which Roaring Mag flows. However due to the small catchment area that feeds the creek, Roaring Mag only flows after significantly heavy rains. The sprinkling we got this morning was

not going to make the cut today. We stopped here for lunch and once again took in the views and the serenity!

After lunch we took some more photos and then prepared for departure which required following a marked track through the bush towards Sandy Ridge track. Although slightly uphill, the track was easy to follow and within half an hour we were back on an overgrown forestry track. Turning right we walked along this track until it connected with Sandy Creek Road. A short stroll back along the road led us back to our cars. All in all, a pleasant walk and with the rain holding off we were indeed lucky to be able to enjoy this area in Goldilocks conditions - i.e.: not too hot and not too cold!

The preview advised this walk was 10km but it was indeed shorter at 8km so with the early finish we retired to the Long Paddock café back in Lindenow for a rewarding cup of coffee and cake. Only to be reminded of the reality of life under Covid-19 by applying hand sanitiser and being restricted to 4 patrons inside at any one time with no seating both inside and out. So, we diligently practised our social distancing on the footpath and headed off back into reality soon after.



## Wirilda Circuit from W3 Track

19 September 2020

Leader: Joe van Beek

Report: Oliver Raymond

Our Club's first walk since the lock down was not fully subscribed to the legal limit of 10 walkers.

Seven walkers, Joe and Judy van Beek, Oliver Raymond, Lynette Newman, Trish Ravenhall, Natalie Hinde and Monica Scicluna were led by Joe on a ramble around the Tyers River on a lovely spring day.

We started and finished at the Limestone Quarry on W3 Track. We followed the river upstream on the Pipeline Access Road, crossed the river at W12 Track and followed the Wirilda Walking Track back to W3. In passing we came across a group of young people

doing what we were, two car loads of deer hunters, one determined young bloke who was doing the up and back of the full length of the Wirilda Walking Track and finally an older couple who turned out to be ex members of our Club. The man, Bob Tuit, recognized Oliver from a previous McMillans Walking Track walk, but Oliver's Alzheimers prevented him reciprocating!

We were most impressed by the size of the Valley's water pipeline from Moondarra, and the ingenious way it was protected from corrosion. Joe pointed out a Sydney Rock Orchid high in a tree, and Oliver told the story of how it had got there. An orchid lover called Keith Lambert had put it there, many years ago. Keith was a lifetime lover of the bush and orchids, and had a special shed at his house in Tyers devoted to orchids he had brought back from his rambles up the East Coast of Australia. He had put some of them out in the bush. Joe said there was another orchid out of zone near Peterson's Lookout. Unfortunately, Keith is not alive, but his memorials are.

As we walked we saw some beautiful wildflowers, and some insect eating Drosseras in flower alongside the road. They grow in nitrogen deficient soil and get their nitrogen from dissolving small insects trapped in the sticky substance in their flower-like platelets.

Our photo shows the group "social distancing" in their face-masks at the beginning of the walk! See if you can identify them?



lourful and another highlight being a duck orchid.

We reached the southern highpoint at 320m elevation but views were restricted by the trees. Contouring north then north-west, we reached the cleared plateau of Mt Lookout. At this private property belonging to my family, I opened the gate and led the group along the plateau enjoying views to Mt Nowa Nowa, Mt Taylor, Mt Alfred, Gable End and Mt Baw Baw to name a few. We returned to the gate and re-joined a 4WD track descending along the southern side of the reserve. Rob pointed out an old log loading area. We reached the cars after 3hrs and a moderately paced 6k walk.

Due to excessive mosquito numbers we retreated in our cars for refreshments. Thanks Piero and Rob for an enjoyable walk.

## Combined Gippsland Walking Clubs @ Wirilda Environment Park

26 September 2020

### Walk 4: Blairs Road Circuit

Leader and Report: Joe van Beek

Seven walkers, Joe van Beek and Oliver Raymond from BCWC, Lauren Armstrong from SBWC, John Collyer, Barb Bourten and Ken Moulton from SGWAAC and Yola Samplawski from WGBC all rugged up for wet and cold conditions set off from Wirilda Park BBQ shelter on a walk not previously offered as a club walk.

It wasn't long before people started stripping off rain coats and other items of apparel as the walk



## Mt Lookout Bushland Reserve

20 September 2020

Leader: Piero Baglioni and Rob Paterson

Report: Lynette Newman

Nine Bairnsdale area locals were keen to get out once 'step 3' or was it 'stage 3' (?) restrictions were reached. We assembled at the entry to the reserve from Beynon's Rd heading uphill along remnants of a 4WD track. The track was much less obvious higher up and high winds have brought many trees down in the forest. Some wildflowers were appearing with the *Indigofera australis* being one of the most co-

headed up the Wirilda Walking Track and then up the short but steep Red Box Track. This took the walkers up onto a ridge with expansive views of the Latrobe Valley. At one point the sun, as it penetrated the cloud, spot lighted the Australia Paper mill and the Loy Yang power station. Further along was a view into the Yallourn open cut mine. At another point the walkers were virtually above the water supply main to Traralgon, the natural gas pipe line from Longford to Melbourne, the condensate pipe line to Melbourne and under the power transmission line from Loy Yang to Melbourne. Thoughts of the film 'Woman at War' occurred to some. We took a bush track for a bit to get shelter from the SW wind.

On reaching Blairs Road in good time it was agreed we would do a 2.5km side trip to a rarely visited part of Tyers Park. Joe lead the walkers to an area that has quite a few orchids. It was a bit early in the season but some sharp eyes did find some orchids in bloom. But the main attraction was the cave in conglomerate rock that was reached after a bit of a scramble down a steep slope. The swifts were rather reluctant to return to their nests in the cave with the humans present.



Back to Blairs Road, we followed it to the Pipeline Track which we crossed for a 400m section of off track walking to meet up with the Wirilda Walking Track. With the weather nowhere as bad as forecast we stopped on a ridge top for lunch.

The walk concluded by following the last three kilometers of the Wirilda Walking Track through the Tyers Gorge back to Wirilda Park. There were frequent stops to observe fungi, wild flowers, ferns, birds, views of the river and Petersons Lookout perched high above the river on the opposite bank. John's phone indicated we had walked 15+ kilometers but Joe maintained it was close to 11kms.

It was a pleasure to lead and show off the Tyers Park and Wirilda Walking Track to such a friendly, curious and appreciative group of walkers.

## Mt Feathertop

02-04 October 2020

Leader and Report: Helmut "Trackers" Tracksdorf

Walkers: Lynette Newman, Roger Wall, Helmut "Trackers" Tracksdorf.

### Day 1: Friday 2nd

The 3 hardy souls who took up the challenge of conquering (or at the very least visiting) Feathertop were well rewarded for their efforts over 3 days in early October. Starting from Diamantina Hut along the Mt Hotham road we set off along the Razorback Ridge with our destination, Mt Feathertop, clearly in sight and partially covered in winter snow. A late wintery blast the previous week had delivered 10cm of fresh snow cover which was rapidly melting by the time we arrived however there were several small snow drifts still evident along the ridge making our walk interesting.

The track along the Razorback Ridge involves 10km of gentle ups and downs with some small steep pinches where with every twist and turn a new and exciting view is revealed. Within 4hrs we had arrived at a junction in the track. Turning right would take us up to Mt Feathertop, turning left leads to Federation Hut. We turned left and headed down to the hut which is located on a small, picturesque saddle only 10 minutes away. The current Federation Hut is relatively new having been rebuilt after the 2003 bushfires that ravaged the Alpine National Park, destroying the original Federation Hut.

We had the place to ourselves upon our arrival, so had the pick of campsites to set up our tents. However, we were soon joined by a multitude of other walkers some of whom continued onto MUMC hut which was our destination the next day.



After some chit chat it became abundantly clear only regional Victorians were in the high country because our city cousins were still in stage 2 lockdown due to Covid 19.

After relaxing at camp, we headed up to Molly Hill located above the track junction mentioned earlier. This was to observe the sunset and then watch a gibbous moon rise above the mountains shortly thereafter. It soon got chilly once the sun went down and we couldn't wait for the almost full moon to rise – but we did. What a perfect end to day 1.

### *Day 2: Sat 3rd*

Lynette was up early to catch the same sun rise again. With the weather remaining fine we were soon up and about preparing breakfast in the hut. It was then time to pack our gear and tents and continue the next leg of our journey. Heading back up to the junction, we turned towards Mt Feathertop and followed the track a short distance to another junction where the Tom Kneen Track diverts off the main ridge and heads towards MUMC Hut. Tom Kneen was a member of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) who unfortunately died in an avalanche on Mt Feathertop back in 1985.

Dropping off our packs at the junction we continued along the steadily rising Mt Feathertop track, which rises steeply all the way to the summit. Mt Feathertop still had a considerable amount of snow on its east face whereas the west side was effectively threadbare. This is because the full afternoon sun melts the snow more rapidly than on the east side. The weather was perfect except for a strong prevailing wind that created a chill factor at this altitude of 1900m. The actual temperature of 14°C felt more like 5°C.

We found a great little spur just below the summit which sheltered us from the wind where we could bask in the sun and soak up the views which included Mt Bogong, The Fainters, Jaithmathang, Mt Hotham and many more peaks in the distance.

Ah! The serenity.

Before heading down, we took the opportunity for some summit photos and then slowly made our way back to our packs at the junction. Soon we were heading along Tom Kneen Track passing a natural spring where water is readily available all year round. Filling up our water bottles we continued towards MUMC hut which is less than 1hr away. Upon arrival at the hut we were greeted by 3 other bushwalkers, who Helmut knew quite well. They were his brother Hans from Bendigo Bushwalkers, Karl Sommer from Sunraysia Bushwalkers and James Lerk an ex-MUMC member.



Karl and Hans had participated in the 2017 walk of McMillans Walking Track with BCWC, whereas James who is an ex-OXO man (MUMC member) from way back had helped build the MUMC Hut back in the 1960s. His last visit to this hut was more than 40 years ago! In fact, James had lead Hans & Helmut on their first ascent of Mt Feathertop in mid-winter back in 1974. Refer below! We soon settled down in the hut and reminisced about GOD – the Good Old Days!



BTRC Members on summit of Mt Feathertop – Aug 1974  
David Scholes, Peter Fresser, Hans & Helmut Tracksdorf.  
(James Lerk in background)

After lunch we simply relaxed and explored the surrounds. That night under a very cool but brilliant night sky we sat outside around a campfire sipping red wine and port - for medicinal purposes only of course!

### *Day 3. Sun 4th*

During the night we lost 1hr of time due to daylight saving kicking in. Normally this would not be a problem but today we had a bus to catch and that 1hr could be crucial! So, we all rose early and after cleaning up the hut set off at 8:30am and headed back towards Federation hut. It was clear the snow was

melting fast as drifts that were visible yesterday had already disappeared. The forecast for today was more than 20°C which meant the last of the winter snow would soon be gone.

On route back to Federation Hut, Lynette took a tumble and twisted her ankle. Fortunately, after a cold pack (using snow) and an ankle bandage she was able to continue albeit a little slower. We assisted her by reducing the weight in her pack. Back at Federation Hut we had a break and morning tea. After a quick group photo, we headed down Bungalow Spur towards Harrierville allowing 4hrs to get down and meet the bus scheduled to arrive from Bright at 3:55pm. The Alps Link bus would then take us back up the mountain to Mt Hotham allowing us to complete our journey without a car shuffle.

The last leg comprised a walk of 10km starting at a height of 1200m and dropping all the way down to 500m. This was an enjoyable steady decline walking past Snow Gums on high, down through tall mountain ash forests arriving at the bottom of the track 1hr ahead of schedule. The track runs directly past the property one of Harrierville's well-known local identities - Ian Stapleton - where Hans had left his car earlier in the week. We were then pleasantly surprised to be met by Ian who invited us in for tea or coffee and chocolate cake. With time to spare we were happy to take up the offer and have a chat at the same time.

However, soon it was time for the 3 Ben Cruachans to get going as we were still 0.5km from Harrierville proper. Sure enough, we arrived with 10 minutes to spare with the Alps link bus arriving on time at 3.55pm. By 5:00pm we were back at Mt Hotham with Helmut dropped off at Diamantina Hut to collect his car.

All in all, a great hike enjoyed by everybody.

And in this instance the timing was perfect where by we were able to experience the last of the winter snow, combined with a full moon rising over M Feathertop.

## Nyerimilang

**03 October 2020**

**Leader: Monica Scicluna and Trevor Clues**

**Report: Monica Scicluna**

After introducing ourselves and the usual formalities, I took our COVID photo for attendance. Weather wise it was unusual to have a 29 degree day but we survived.

We started our walk meandering out to the lookout, from there we passed the old farm with its display of old machinery. Unfortunately, some of us recognised machinery that was being used when we were young.

Then we went along the walking track; on one side the beautiful Gippsland Lakes; on the other side large shady trees. Even on the hottest summer's day their shade keeps the walkers cool, assisted by a gentle sea breeze. Of course, the bellbirds were expecting us and greeted us with their welcoming choir. It was all sheer



delight. We had morning tea near the water looking out at Fraser Island. From there we headed back along the salt marsh track and then turned onto the homestead track. This is an easy walk with the homestead in sight. We had lunch on the homesteads balcony. We were lucky to have Trevor with us who let five people in at a time to see inside this magnificent homestead.

Some of the group went down to the new landing. Some of us decided to go to the Kalimna Nursery café for a cuppa with great views. Thanks to everyone for making this such a lovely day.

## McLoughlin's Beach coastal walk

**07 October 2020**

**Leader: Frankie MacLennan**

**Report: Peter Jennings**



We gathered at the McLoughlins Beach\* jetty car park and despite the misty drizzle (mizzle), all were keen to get going. The walk starts with a stroll along a long boardwalk over the mangroves, coastal heath and samphire to the boat ramp where we crossed the channel over the footbridge and on through the mature poa tussocks and coastal bush to the beach. With the breeze and drizzle at our backs we walked along the beach to the entrance which is the start of the Ninety Mile Beach to the east and Nooramunga Marine Coastal Park to the west. The erosion of the dunes at the entrance is quite incredible with hundreds of tea trees, wattles, banksias etc. undermined and falling into the water.

The return was along a secluded and sheltered track parallel to the beach where we saw a variety of orchid species in flower, banksias, coastal manna gums and some interesting fungi.

Having walked about 9km we arrived back at the car park in good time for lunch together in the picnic shelter. Our thanks to Frankie for introducing the club to a “new” walk.

\*McLoughlins Beach became prominent when a jetty was erected in the 1920s. The beach took its name from an early fisherman, Robert McLoughlin, from Shallow Inlet.

## Mitchell River NP: Mystery History Walk

10 October 2020

Leader: Rob Paterson Report: Elizabeth Davis

In ideal weather conditions, we met at Lindenow at 9am and drove across the Wuk Wuk bridge, then north along Weir Rd to a marker only Rob could have found about 2kms north of Braney's Flat.

We all cheerfully (and legally) abandoned our face-masks and set off west through the dry, open bush.

After a fairly easy 3km walk we reached a spectacular

high, rocky, precipice which gave amazing views down over the very full, brown Mitchell and the Old Weir Wall.

Another 2kms along an old vehicle track and we entered a very pretty privately owned paddock surrounded by bush with a creek on one boundary. We spotted a seemingly abandoned young calf, and also magpies defending their territory from 6 or 8 eagles. The huge, old, beautifully crafted (supposedly by the weir wall workers) fire place and the stone dairy built into a slope, were in the paddocks centre. It had been a dairy farm in the late 1880's, and the milk was sent by barge down the creek to the factory at Lindenow.

Another fairly easy walk through open timber, and we reached the Honey House which Jodie and Angela were very excited to see for the first time.

A quick stroll downhill and we were back at Braney's Flat, where we had lunch and then drove the few kms back to Milton Park (aka “Stonehenge”), where we parked. It was a steep v on the very rocky 4WD track down to the Old Weir wall, with some dry stone walling and beautiful river views on the way. Some of us had not seen the wall from the east bank before, so we spent half an hour clambering around the rocks and soaking up the history before climbing back to our vehicles and retracing our route back to Lindenow. It was a lovely day, thank you Rob, and nice to meet two new members.



# Walk Previews

Distance	Hills	Tracks
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		

**Please register with the Walk Leader before the day of the walk.**

## The Channels, Avon River and Dermody's Camp

**Date:** Saturday 24 October 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 11 km, M-5-5  
**Meet:** 8.30am, Newry Golf Club, Three Chain Road, Newry  
**Leader:** Jodie Wigg; jodiewigg@gmail.com; 0411 631 862

This walk is in the Avon-Mt Hedrick Scenic reserve and takes us to a part of the Avon River that is very different from what we are familiar with at Stratford. Here, the river has cut through a section of sandstone, forming a narrow mini-gorge.

Starting at Dermody's Camp, we follow the Avon River Walking Track upstream, crossing through gullies and climbing to vantage points with views over the river. Arriving at The Channel, we will first walk along the top of the gorge and peer down into the deep rock pools. We will then make our way back to the mouth of the gorge to have lunch. Providing the weather is warm enough, there will be time for a paddle or swim here too (water sandals/shoes or thongs are recommended as the riverbed has sharp, pointy rocks). After lunch, we will follow the same track back to Dermody's Camp.

Topographical Map: Valencia Creek 8222-2-1 1:25,000

Rooftop Map: Dargo - Wonnangatta Adventure Map 1:100,000

Dermody's camp is approximately 15km from the Newry Golf Club on gravel roads but suitable for 2WD vehicles.

## Billy Goat Bend - Jurgenson Point

**Date:** Saturday 31 October 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 14 km, M-8-3  
**Meet:** 8.45am, cnr Beverlys Road and Bairnsdale-Dargo Road  
**Leader:** Angela Roughley; angelaroughley@bigpond.com; 0423 089 203

This walk will follow the Mitchell River from Billy Goat Bend and the Amphitheatre upstream to a point opposite Jurgenson Point and the point where Sandy Creek enters the Mitchell River. 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 with great opportunities for photographs of the river and its surrounds. There will be an opportunity for a quick swim during lunch after which we will retrace our steps back to Billy Goat Bend.

NB This walk includes a number of steep climbs and descents. There will be time to take it slow and steady, but a reasonable level of fitness is still required. Please register with Walk Leader before the day of the walk.

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

Rooftop Map: Bairnsdale - Dargo - Omeo Adventure Map 1:100,000



## McMillans Walking Track - Track Maintenance

**Date:** Friday 06 - Monday 09 November 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** Up to 8 km with 600m climb and descent, M-7-7  
**Meet:** Campsite on the Macalister River. See below.  
**Leader:** Joe van Beek; [joevanbeek@bigpond.com](mailto:joevanbeek@bigpond.com); 0411 749 799

Because of COVID restrictions this activity is limited to 10 participants.

We will be working with BTAC as volunteers to Parks Victoria to do maintenance work on the section of McMillans Walking Track from the Macalister River to the saddle between The Crinoline and Sugarloaf. A 3.5km section with 600m climb. This section was subject to a planned burn in 2015, regrowth is now obscuring the track. 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.

There are a wide range of tasks. No previous track maintenance experience is required. Track clearing activities will occur on Saturday and Sunday (and also Monday if required), starting at 8am. Actual hours to suit individuals.

Provide your own transport to Glencairn or arrange to share a ride. A 4WD or AWD vehicle is required to get to the camp site. The camp site is 23km from Licola, the last 3km on farm track, allow 45 minutes. Accommodation is car camping on the banks of the Macalister River on Private land.

Parks Victoria and BTAC will provide all track maintenance equipment and PPE. A camp fire with hot plate and tripod will be available. Please come self sufficient for camping. Bring camping gear and provisions for all meals, face mask and hand sanitiser. Also bring a day back pack to carry lunch, energy snacks, water, rain coat, warm top, emergency contact and medical information form, etc. You may like to bring your favourite tool. Sturdy work footwear and river crossing footwear will be required. This activity is in the Gippsland high country where weather can change rapidly. Come prepared for all seasons.

## Slaughter Track – Deptford

**Date:** Saturday 07 November 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 7.5km, S-3-3  
**Meet:** 9am, Howitt Park, Bairnsdale  
**Leader:** Angela Roughley; [angelaroughley@bigpond.com](mailto:angelaroughley@bigpond.com); 0423 089 203

We will meet at Howitt Park to organise the car pool for the one hour drive to Deptford, an old gold mining locality on the Nicholson River. There are toilets on the north side of the ford where we start our walk. The old bridle path called Slaughter Track is an easy 3.7km (1.5 hour) walk along the picturesque Nicholson River to Stantons Place. This is an ideal setting for lunch with picnic tables. Along the track we will view a tunnel through the rock to divert the river (Houghton's Diversion Tunnel), mine shafts and a stone oven, all remnants of the gold mining era.

## Club Night by Zoom!!

**Date:** Wednesday 11 November 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** Social! 80 minutes in 2 sessions  
**Meet:** 6.45pm for 7pm start  
**Leaders:** Joe van Beek; [joevanbeek@bigpond.com](mailto:joevanbeek@bigpond.com); 0411 749 799  
Helmut Tracksdorf; [helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com](mailto:helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com); 0402 089 404

Meet on line and catch up with other BCWC members. No limit on numbers. Catch up on some club news. There will be an illustrated presentation by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority on the project to install the fishway at Horseshoe Bend on the Thompson River covering engineering and environmental challenges.

There will be an introduction to **McMillans Walking Track and the guide book** about to be released soon as well as a presentation and update on **FedWalks2021** which BCWC is hosting in conjunction with other Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs at Licola in November 2021.

### **Cythea Falls -- Tarra-Bulga NP**

**Date:** Saturday 14 November 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 19km, L-4-3 300 metre descent then ascent!  
**Meet:** 9.30am; Balook Visitor Centre  
**Leader:** Peter Jennings; pnjennings@gmail.com; 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 "tourist" tracks until we reach Diaper Track, an old farm or forestry track that leads us steadily down to the Tarra Valley picnic area near the Cyathea Falls. After a short walk to the falls we will have lunch then return to Balook where a coffee at the Lyrebird Guest House is an option.

Leeches may be encountered – long pants and good boots advised.

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.

### **Pack Carry: Cowombat Flat and The Pilot**

**Date:** 04-06 December 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** 12+18+12 km, L-8-7  
**Meet:** 8am, Howitt Park, Lucknow, Bairnsdale  
**Leader:** Helmut Tracksdorf; helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com; 0402 089 404

This walk, scheduled over 3 days, covers 40km+ and traverses a 20km section of the Australian Alpine Walking Track along Cowombat Flat Track and beyond to The Pilot located within the Kosciuszko National Park. While the walk is predominantly along 4WD tracks there will be some off-track hiking involved when returning from the summit of The Pilot, as we follow the ridgeline back down to Cowombat Flat rather than the 4WD track. There is no designated track along this section and the bush becomes very thick in places. ie: some scrub bashing will be involved. Prior to our return to Cowombat Flat we will divert to visit the natural spring / soak that represents the official starting point of the Murray River and of the Black-Allan line (the straight-line part of the Victoria-NSW border). We then continue on to Forest Hill Cairn which is the first of the 12 cairns built by the surveyors along the line from 1869 onwards. All going well and if we survive, the group will return to the base camp at Cowombat Flat.

This walk takes place within a designated Wilderness Area, where water may be scarce along the track if the weeks leading up to the walk have been dry. However, water will be available at the designated campsite – Cowombat Flat.

The terrain is not flat so walkers will need to be fit and prepared for all weather conditions, including Alpine climate.

The proposed walk schedule is as follows:

Day 1: 3hr drive to starting point. Hike 4hrs along 4WD track & set up camp at Cowombat Flat. 12km

Day 2: Crossing the Murray River we hike to The Pilot where we will gain views of Mt Kosciuszko and the surrounding mountains, return via a scrub bash to visit the source of the Murray river and Forest Hill cairn. Then return to camp. Approx 18km

Day 3: Pack up camp and return via Cowombat Track to vehicles. 12km.

NB: this walk will be limited to 10 participants, so registration will be on a first come first served basis.

### **Social: Christmas Lunch**

**Date:** Sunday 13 December 2020  
**Dist/Grade:** Delicious, relaxed **RSVP: Noon Monday 30 November**  
**Meet:** Sale Greyhound Club, Sale-Maffra Road, Sale  
**Leader:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

This has been an unusual year! Come and catch up with walking friends and acquaintances. Dress Xmas.