



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

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ISSUE 216 – Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club – February 2021

View from the waterfall on the way up Snowy Bluff. More on page 9.



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 14 April  
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, Maffra.

**Welcome to new members:  
Brigitte Koening and Tom, Charlie and Mimi Noble,  
Nigel Royce, Julie Taylor, Lynne Tomlin, Jenny Homer**

# Trackers Anonymous

## *My Third Post*

*Just when we thought it was safe to go back into the bush, we have been plunged into yet another lockdown! Hopefully by the time you read this we will be Back on Track.*

*I continue to place faith in my crystal ball and predict this year will be better than 2020 with plenty of walks and other associated activities resuming soon. Also, I have it on good authority that the earth is getting flatter – so walking should become easier!*

*We were able to finish 2020 on a high with several members visiting the Cobberas in December and hiking up to the Pilot with views of Mt Kosciusko beyond. In addition, we located the spring that represents the source of the mighty Murray River and the first cairn marking the Black–Allen line.*

*At the same time, Joe van Beek and other club members played host to Don Fuchs, a photojournalist, and Richard Monk. They are working on a project for Australian Geographic highlighting the mining history and Angus McMillan's association with the track that linked the goldfields. They embarked on a photographic expedition along a 66km section of McMillan's Walking Track commencing at Omeo and finishing at Talbotville, after negotiating the Crooked River section of track. Don and Richard have produced an excellent video of the expedition which not only helps raise the profile of the track but also assists in promoting the guidebook for our club. A video of the expedition can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/7wf7quly>*

*We have maintained the momentum and jumped out of the blocks in January 2021 by completing several walks including an overnight event that started with a visit to Crolls Gorge on the Wellington River followed up the next day with a mystery walk – to the Rock Shelter located along the Long Hill spur. While the heat was conducive for a swim at Crolls Gorge the hike out to the Rock Shelter proved more challenging.*

*In early February, Oliver Raymond and his son, Adam, lead a keen group of hikers, from the west, up to Snowy Bluff located on the junction of the Wonnangatta and Moroka rivers. This 3-day event proved to be the hike of the year- so far! So, thanks to Oliver for putting this hike on the program. It is worth noting that Oliver, who has more years under his belt than the rest of us minions, decided to take a short cut home by dropping off the last spur in a bee line for camp. Meaning we had no option but to follow his lead into the Moroka River valley. Somehow, we all managed to survive!*

*Heather Alexander has formally stepped down from Committee in her role as our website administrator. Fortunately, we are able to welcome John Cox onboard to take on the responsibility of this task. John is suitably qualified for the position as he was actively involved in setting up the Maroondah Bushwalkers website. On behalf of Committee, I would like to thank Heather for her efforts in maintaining our website during her tenure and at the same time, welcome John. John was formally voted onto the BCWC Committee at our February meeting.*

*Looking ahead, we have a comprehensive walks program BUT there are still opportunities for additional activities to be added. Please give some thought towards what other activities you would like to see on our program and let Geoff Mattingley, our Walks Co-ordinator, know. Activities such as bike rides, canoeing and skydiving are all deemed suitable, although I'm the first to admit that riding a bike may be considered risky!*

*Carpe Diem and see you on the track.*

## **TRACKERS**

# Club News

## Social Meeting on March 10

At our usual Traralgon venue of the Wan Loy Chinese restaurant. We hope to have a speaker from the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation [GLaWAC] talk to us about awareness of indigenous heritage when walking in the bush and how cultural assessments are carried out.

## Guide to McMillans Walking Track

The McMillans Walking Track guide is now available. It is in bookshops and other retailers such as outdoor gear shops. It is also available on line via the Chapman's website. 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.

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. It is a great gift to family and friends.

## McMillan Walking Track and Ausgeo

A full write up of the adventure is in the last Newsletter, 215 December 2020. Here is the link (again) to the video produced. <https://tinyurl.com/7wf7qulv>

.....from page 13 a toilet, fire pit and good access to the river. There is no reliable phone coverage at the camp site.

It is planned to camp over on the Friday and Saturday nights, with walks on Saturday and Sunday. After setting up camp on Friday, there will be time to explore the old farm buildings and surrounds and to undertake short walks close by – a day for relaxing in this stunning environment.

Access to the property: Access to the property will be on Friday and participants will need to make prior arrangements with the leader to ensure that the access gate is re-locked, ideally, all attendees to enter the property together as a group. The vehicle access to the property is via an old farm road (approx. 3.2 kms) which is not suitable for conventional vehicles; however late model Subaru Foresters and similar have sufficient ground clearance; 'serious' 4WD vehicles won't have a problem, although the track is rough and rutted in places.

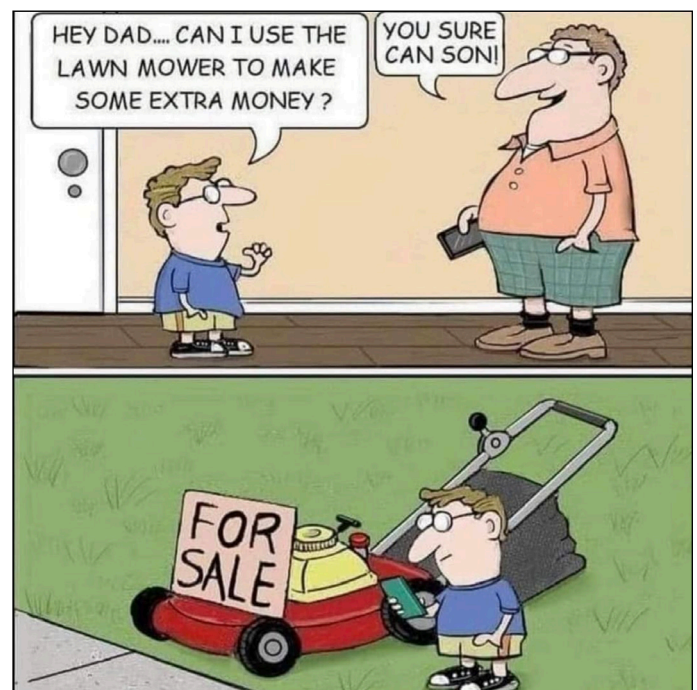
**The Walks:** Saturday's walk will leave from the camp and follow a ridge-line west to the highest point on the property ('top peak'), then follow another ridge north down to the river. We will return to camp by following the river downstream. Grade M-7-4. Sunday's walk will leave from camp and follow the river downstream to Bull Point where the Wentworth River enters the Mitchell River. We will then retrace our steps back to camp. Grade S-3-4. *Please register with Walk Leader well before the day of the walk.*

## Hidden Huts of Baw Baw

Strzelecki BWC and Friends of Baw Baw have invited us this coming weekend, 20/21 February 2021, to discover some of the mining, cattle-grazing and snow-skiing history of the Baw Baw Plateau. They will camp at Talbot Hut site on Saturday night.

The walk leader is Peter Maffei; phone 0418 149 465; email [Peter.maffei@bigpond.com](mailto:Peter.maffei@bigpond.com).

Full details are on the Walks Program on the club website.



# Book Review

## “How to Navigate” by Caro Ryan

I stumbled across Caro Ryan’s website [lotsafreshair.com](http://lotsafreshair.com) while doing some research on Blue Mountains bushwalks undertaken by my parents during the 1940s. Caro lives in Katoomba and is a Search Commander with NSW SES Bush Search and Rescue and the Deputy Unit Commander for the Blue Mountains.

Being a somewhat adventurous bushwalker, with a leaning towards off-track walks combined with an obsession with maps, led Caro to write this book on traditional navigation skills in an Australian context. I purchased a copy of the book when it was launched in December 2020 on the basis that you’re never too old to learn something new or to go back and revise what you thought you knew all along. I haven’t been disappointed!

Caro has an easy-to-understand writing style in language that is not weighed down with technical terminology. There are photographs and illustrations on most pages and the spiral binding means that you can lay the book open at the appropriate page while you play with your compass or map.

The contents includes 27 pages on map reading, 10 pages on compasses, 6 pages on route planning and 20 pages on how to navigate. In addition, Caro includes some helpful advice on GPS settings, reading latitude and longitude on topo maps and what to do if you get lost. All in all, a very comprehensive navigation book.

Whether you’re someone who glazes over at the site of a topo map or an experienced map reader who can remember a time when there was no GPS, smartphones or apps, this is a great book on navigation and at \$24.95 there’s no reason not to have it on your bookshelf. It can be purchased at [lotsafreshair.com](http://lotsafreshair.com).

Ken Free (who really misses the Blue Mountains!)



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# Walk Reports



The Channels

12 December 2020

**Leader: Jodie Wigg**

**Report: Lisa H**

It was a case of second time lucky for the walk from Dermody's Camp to the Channels. The October walk was postponed because of dodgy weather, but warm weather and blue skies greeted the walkers on Take 2.

The lessons started early with a couple of Traralgon walkers learning that Google Maps can't be trusted to locate the Newry Golf Club, the meeting point for the day. Some car pooling ensued and we were soon off to Dermody's Camp, part of the Avon-Mt Hedrick Scenic Reserve; about 20 minutes away. The dirt road was easily traversed by 2WD. There's a drop toilet at the campground, about 10 free campsites and pretty close to the Avon River. I reckon it would be ripper spot to camp if you've got a couple of days spare. Phone coverage is hit and miss though.

There were a couple of non-members in the mix, me included, and everyone swapped names before heading off. Those names were quickly forgotten and

there was a quick chat and several members agreed that name tags would be beneficial on walks.

We set off for the Avon-Mt Hedrick Scenic Reserve just before 9:30 in perfect conditions. The walk followed the well-defined Avon River walking track upstream, crossing a few gullies along with several ups and downs that required careful footing – small rocks acting like marbles and making the going slippery at times. Two walkers slipped, hitting the deck at various times while going downhill. One was a particularly decent fall, fair and square on the bum, and I was impressed that there was no swearing!

Several walkers rallied around to help because getting back up again was proving a bit difficult. It was great to see people chipping in to help and offering encouraging humour and anecdotes. Hot tip – a pole is always handy for those slippery bits

The advantage of the uphill parts of the walk is that the height gave stunning views of the river below.

The halfway point of the walk was about 5.5 kilometres from the carpark and campground. It is where the river cuts through sandstone and forms a mini-gorge known at the Channels. There are several swimming holes enroute and the group's peaceful lunch beside one of them was spattered with squeals of delight as a handful



of the group took a dip. Cold at first, the water was divine, and a gentle current allowed some giggling swimmers to be carried downstream. Hot tip – take water sandals because the rocks were sharp in places.

Rested and refreshed the group then headed back to Dermody's Camp. By this stage, the day had warmed up and we were thankful it wasn't a particularly hot day. A slight detour off track took us to a river monitoring station used by the Bureau of Meteorology to assess river heights. It's one of three on the Avon Catchment that provides river height data. It was cool to learn about its important role is determining flood warnings.

We reached our cars after 3pm where the chatting continued (they're a friendly bunch!) and walkers headed home for a well-deserved lemonade. A big thanks to Jodie for showing us the way.



## Croll's Gorge; the Rock Shelter

09-10 January 2021

**Leader: Helmut Tracksdorf**

**Report: Day 1- Janine Muir; Day 2 - Nicki Jennings**

- **Day 1: Saturday 9th January 2021**

Described as a “leisurely introduction to our New Year activities”, 13 walkers (11 members and 2 visitors) signed up for this weekend getaway: Sue and Tony, Nicki and Peter, Lynette, Helmut, Sue W, Jodie, Angela, Michael, Janine, Lynne and Brigitte. After meeting up at Lake Glenmaggie Hall, five cars drove in convoy to our camping spot, Red Box Camping Area. Here we met up with the advance party and heard stories about the local residents – most notably a large, hungry goanna that had been visiting camp (which we never got to see). We quickly put our tents up, and by 10.10am were in the cars for the short drive to the start of the Croll's Gorge walk.

The walk started along the same route as to Tali Karng, but after about 3.5km we veered off to the north, heading instead towards the gorge that was beckoning us in the growing heat of day. After tentatively stepping into the Wellington river for the first time (with a variety of footwear including water sandals, fluorescent orange water shoes, old runners, and hiking boots) we met subsequent river crossings with increasing enthusiasm – and even welcomed them after a very short time. We did seven river crossings, and on the eighth time we stayed in the water, walking the rest of the way to Croll's Gorge along the river. The river depth varied quite a lot, from ankle deep water through to waist deep water (which was first discovered when Angela still had her phone in her back pocket!). Fortunately the phone survived, and the rest of us put our water-averse objects, such as electronic car keys, in water tight containers in our back packs (good suggestion by Nicki for that btw!). The water ran fast in places and you really had to be quite careful with your footsteps – and placement of trekking poles, as the current was even pushing



them about as they broke the surface. It was super fun traipsing upstream though, with everyone watching the line taken by those ahead to gauge whether we wanted to follow them or look for a shallower route.

After about two hours we arrived at Croll's Gorge – a place so magnificent words are an inadequate medium to truly convey its beauty (hopefully the pictures will!). Perched on a rocky ledge, we ate lunch (our boots seeping with water and clothes drying nicely) with fabulous chatter confirming the fun we were all having. But alas, the fun was ramped up to another level after lunch, when we entered the Gorge for a much welcome swim. Half the walkers stayed at the lunch spot, while the other half walked a bit further upstream to a deeper section with ‘rapids’. While the others were enjoying the ‘spa’ section, two innovative walkers (ie. the ladies who didn't bring their cozzies!) earmarked another section of the river for ‘private bathing’ – the ‘marketing’ must have worked, because soon a third member joined the ‘private bathing’ section! As it turned out, getting in the river with stealth and poise was much easier than getting out! After a lovely swim and many laughs, memorable moments of fun and friendship were with us forever. After about an hour at the Gorge, we returned to camp along the same route. Although walking in the river was now our preference, there seemed to be a lot more stones making their way into shoes and boots on the return trip – which wore thin!



Back at camp we sat for a while, chatted and had a snack – then some went back into river for another dip and to chat further. The water in the river was

warm, the view from within was spectacular, and we thanked our lucky stars that we were experiencing such a beautiful part of the world. That night we were spoilt by Angela and Jodie with a platter of pre-dinner nibbles (thanks girls) and prepared dinner around a small camp fire before retiring for the night. It was a fantastic day with much chatting, laughter and fun – and we were all very keen to learn what ‘mystery walk’ Helmut had planned for day two.

- **Day 2: Sunday 10th January 2021**

In the morning Helmut was still being mysterious about our final destination but had quietly mentioned it involved 6km downhill to a mysterious feature and then an inevitable 6km uphill return. At 8am we drove half hour along the Tamboritha Road then turned on to Dingo Hill Track and parked at the beginning of the Long Hill Spur Track to commence our walk.

The morning was still cool as we walked along under a canopy of snow gums with colourful sprays of yellow, white and pink wildflowers. We passed the point where McMillan’s Track veered off our route and heads towards Mt Tamboritha. Word passed along the line that the mystery feature was a large overhang cave with stunning views that money can’t buy.

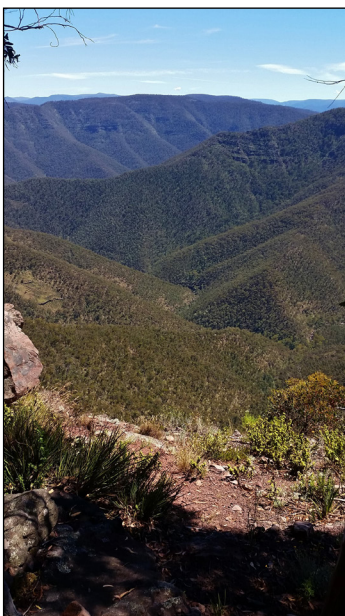
After a few kilometres of following the ridge line the track began to descend steeply and the vegetation became sparser. The day was heating up towards a predicted 35 degrees. To the south west we could see The Crinoline through gaps in the trees. It is an imposing mountain with weathered rocky layers jutting from its side. We came to a brief stop where the four wheel drive track ended and a foot track continued along the ridge of the Long Hill Spur. We stashed our afternoon supplies of water in

the shade ready for our return and hot ascent. With lightened packs we carefully proceeded along the track as the spur line became very narrow and brought back memories of the Crosscut Saw. We had vast encompassing views to the North West and the Caledonian River Valley. In the valley below us was Shaw Creek with its multiple water falls including one we thought we could see.



After a short while we arrived at Helmut’s mystery destination. It did not disappoint. Before us was The Rock Shelter, a large rock overhang with stunning views across the Caledonia River valley and beyond. We settled down for lunch in the welcome shade and marvelled at the view. Helmut used his geological knowledge to explain the two distinct layers of sedimentary rock that formed our shelter. The top layer was highly resistant sandstone that capped a layer of silt and mudstone. These rocks are 360-380 million years old and from a time when the first significant adaption of life occurred on dry land. We then walked around to stand on top of The Rock Shelter. The vast views were contrasted by a tiny native geranium which was flowering happily on the exposed rocky platform. Jodie took a perfect photo of the tiny flower.

It was now mid-day and hot as we began our climb back up the spur. We picked up our stashed water supplies and hoped we had enough to keep us going through the heat. We set off at varying paces to grind our way back up the hill. A few puddles that had looked muddy and unappealing on the way down in the morning now looked cool and tempting on the way back up. By 4pm we had all arrived back at the vehicles a bit hot and weary but satisfied with our mystery destination and our exercise for the day. Janine’s and Brigitte’s GPS trackers had measured 15.5 km for the walk, a little longer than our expected 12km hike. It was no problem as we all made it and agreed that Helmut had given us two contrasting but wonderful days of walking, scenery and friendship.





# East Tyer's Walking Track

16 January 2021

**Leader: Joe van Beek**

**Report: Ken Free**

At the civilised hour of 9:00 am, 14 of us met up at the Tyers Kindergarten where we signed on, did some Covid-friendly car-pooling and headed off in convoy for Caringal Scout Camp and the start of our walk. Our 2 Parks Victoria guests [Leesa (PV Volunteer Co-ordinator), Nicola (PV Volunteer Guide)] joined us at Caringal for a hands-on day out in the bush.

We were met at the Scout Camp by Kate, the camp manager, who accompanied us to the walk start point where Joe gave the walk briefing and we had a group photograph. We all donned our rain jackets in preparation for what promised to be a showery day.



The walking track follows the route of a logging tramway and snakes its way through a damp forest of tall Eucalypts and magnificent tree ferns. It was soon apparent that we would be partaking of the blood sport known as 'spot the leech before he gets you'. Someone, who is wiser in these matters than me, quickly pointed out that one of the advantages of our Covid year was the discovery that hand sanitiser is super effective in dispatching leeches.

Joe warned that there would be many crossings of the East Tyers River as we walked upstream, with one crossing guaranteed to wet our boots and/or feet.

It must be said that the track clearing team, led by Peter Maffei from Strzelecki Bushwalking Club, have done a magnificent job on the track itself, but especially on the log crossings which mostly now have guide ropes to hang onto. Joe performed an admirable task in guiding and assisting each of us across the countless river crossings: there were no mishaps and no wet bottoms!



After around 4 kilometres of track-walking, river-crossing and leech-catching, we visited the site of Nelson's Saw Mill where the main evidence of its existence is an impressive mound of well compacted sawdust. There were various other artefacts, for example the boiler flue, a buckled circular saw blade, fire bricks and various bits of cast iron from the boiler that was once there and a trench that probably was the saw pit.

The Nelson's Saw Mill apparently was operated from 1929 to 1936. It's believed that the Tramway was used from 1924 to 1940, during which time the Erica State Forest was extensively logged and a number of upstream mills operated.

Another kilometre along the track brought us to an abandoned timber bogie which became an appropriate prop for a group photograph amongst the fern trees. Due to the weather situation and the unknown track condition further on, Joe had made the wise decision to turn around at this point. We then retraced our steps to a clearing adjacent to the Nelson's Mill site for our lunch break which was somewhat shortened by the onset of rain.

After lunch we made our way up a side gully and then onto Monettes Mill Road. With not a leech in sight, we had a pleasant downhill-all-the-way amble until reaching the 'C' Loop track which took us back to the walking track and thence to the cars.

Almost within sight of our cars, Judy van Beek tripped and fell heavily and unfortunately broke her upper right arm. We all wish Judy a speedy recovery and hope to see her on more club walks in the near future (*Judy is healing well. Ed*).

Notwithstanding Judy's mishap at the end of the day, this was a most enjoyable day in the bush, well organised and led by Joe – thanks Joe. The company was so good we hardly noticed the miserable weather and it was great to meet our Parks Victoria guests who hopefully will join us on more club walks in the future.

## Lakes Entrance: Footbridge to Entrance + Lake Tyers Forest Park

30 January 2021

### Leader and Report: Monica Scicluna

Walkers: Corinne, Wil, Marian, Lynette, Anna.

Visitors: Claire, Robyn, Jenni.

We met at the footbridge at 9.30am. After we all signed in, we set off along the bridge towards the entrance. The way there is either on the beach or the inland track which meanders through bush. Due to high tide we stayed walking inland.

Once we arrived at the entrance we were greeted by seals, while we had our snacks. From here we walked along the historic board walk. The weather was a little drizzly at times. We decided to walk back along the beautiful beach. Lunch was eaten under the shelter. Anna brought back some yummy cakes to share, thank you.

We then set off in two cars towards Lake Tyer's Forest Park, turning towards Lonely Bay, we stopped at the start of our Marsdenia Walk, a 1km loop taking you through rainforest under the highway.

From here we drove to Lonely Bay for our 2km return walk along the waters edge, due to the entrance not being open. The water was black but looked spectacular. We all had a very pleasant day. After sharing a cuppa and a chat we all headed home.

## Snowy Bluff

05-07 February 2021

### Leader and Report: Oliver Raymond

Walkers: Oliver Raymond, Helmut Tracksdorf, Michael Dowe, Anna Janca, Brigitte Koeninger, John Martin, Lyn Newman, Adam Raymond, Peter Walsh.

After a leisurely assembly at the Glenmaggie hall at 0930 on the Friday, we split into three vehicles and headed off to Doolan's Plain Road. The weather was a light drizzle at times, but not too discouraging, so we started the drop down to the Moroka River in good spirits.

Some time later, we wobbled into our camp site after a steep 800 metre descent in about 6 km. Oliver, in particular had to have his pack carried into camp by Adam for the last 400 lineal metres of track. (Note:

It's handy having a reasonably young fit offspring on a potentially tough walk!)

As expected, the drizzle seemed to have set in by the late afternoon and, after setting up our tents and eating our evening meal, it was an early bedtime.

However, our peaceful slumbers did not last long. In the middle of the night a large thunderstorm erupted over us. The lightning flashed and the thunder rumbled around the hills in a most spectacular fashion, followed by a torrential downpour. I was reminded of the poem:

*"And this is our wisdom: we rest together  
On the great lone hills in the storm filled weather,  
And watch the skies as they pale and burn,  
The golden stars in their orbits turn,  
While Love is with us, and Time and Peace,  
And life has nothing to give but these."*

But by reveille, the rain had stopped, and we were able to set off on the climb to Snowy Bluff at about 0800. We had a map and a series of waypoints and a reliable GPS – and it was just as well. There is no track up the Bluff, and though the scrub was light for 2.5 km, it soon thickened after we turned left and crossed what was somewhat exaggeratedly described as a waterfall. Despite the previous night's downpour which had raised the Moroka River about 4 cm, there was only a trickle dripping over a cliff.



**Above the waterfall – enroute to Snowy Bluff**

We then had a hard, steep slog up through moderate scrub for about 2.5 km, before angling right and heading along the cliffs of the Bluff.

And that was when we had our reward. The views that slowly emerged to our left were nothing short of spectacular. The day was crystal clear after the storm the previous night, and a strong wind was blowing up



**Panorama view from Bluffs below the summit**

and over the edge of the cliffs that line the Bluff. We could see for many kms to our north, and with the aid of Lyn's Peak Finder software in her phone we soon identified Mt Buffalo's Horn and Hump and Mt Feather-top in the far distance, away to the north, beyond the Wonnangatta valley.

Much to our surprise, on gaining the summit we encountered two Geocachers, who had struggled up the seemingly sheer face of the Bluff from the Wonnangatta River. Doing it the hard way, indeed!

And so, after a well-deserved lunch we turned for camp, taking a slightly less scrubby route on the way back by sticking close to the cliffs as much as possible.

We reached our starting point at about 1200, so bringing a most satisfying walk to a close. Thanks to Oliver and Adam for not only leading us into this wilderness but successfully getting us out!



**Our two intrepid leaders. Adam and Oliver**



**Group taking in the views**

Loaded down with firewood we crossed the Moroka into our camp and soon had a cheerful fire going for the evening.

The following morning, we set off up the 800 metre hill back to the cars. Interestingly enough the Moroka River Track appears much steeper going up when compared to coming down. As we trudged up the hill, a Sambar deer on the far side of the valley gave us a call, as if to say: "Thank you for not shooting me!"

# 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.**

## **Raymond Creek Falls to the Snowy River Day Walk or Beginner's overnight pack carry**

**Date:** Sat 20 - Sun 21 February 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** Day Walk 13 km, **M-6-7**; Pack Carry 6.5 each day = 13 km, **S-6-7**  
**Meet:** 8am @ Howitt Park (north side), Main Road, East Bairnsdale (just over the bridge)  
**Leader:** Anna Janca; [annajanca@bigpond.com](mailto:annajanca@bigpond.com); 0419 178 445

This walk is offered both as a day walk and can be extended to an overnight pack carry for those interested in staying on. It is a good walk for beginners who would like to have a go at a pack carry on a short moderate walk and practice in preparation for the upcoming Mt Howitt walk.

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

## **The Lakes National Park -- Loch Sport**

**Date:** Sat 27 February 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 9 km, **S-3-3**  
**Meet:** 9am @ Longford Hall  
**Leader:** Monica Scicluna; [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com); 0431 777 460

At the Longford Hall we will car pool and depart to Loch Sport about an hour away. After our usual cuppa, we will do Dolomite walking track; a circuit that takes us to Oil Bore Landing, then to Pelican Point and along Lake Victoria. From there we will drive to Point Wilson for lunch. This circuit walk will take us along Balfour's Swamp to Murphy's Hill to Barton's Hill and on to Victoria Track. If time permits we can go to the Loch Sport Hotel for a coffee. This is an easy walk in a lovely Gippsland coastal park.

## Mt Howitt - King Billy Circuit

**Date:** Fri 05 - Sun 07 March 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 29 km, X-5-5  
**Meet:** 9.30am @ Glenmaggie Hall  
**Leader:** Oliver Raymond; oliverraymond@wideband.net.au

This walk will be limited to a maximum number of 8. We drive to the Howitt car park and offload walkers and packs. Then drive two or three high clearance 4WDs down to the Macalister River and park two vehicles for the pick up. Return to the Howitt car park and walk into near the Vallejo-Gantner hut. Camp before the hut to avoid congestion. Next morning walk via Mt Howitt/Mt Magdala to King Billy. Camp for the night and if time and weather allow, climb King Billy for views of the Buller Village and Mt Buffalo. Next morning, walk down to the cars, drive back to the Howitt car park, pick up the third car and return to Glenmaggie. Please, email the walk leader to register for this walk. This walk is always popular, so be quick to reply if you want to come.

## Club Social Night

**Date:** Wednesday 10 March 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** Social!  
**Meet:** Wan Loy Chinese Restaurant, 9B Church St, Traralgon 6pm

**Check the website for details**

## Horseshoe Bend Tunnel and Walhalla

**Date:** Saturday 13 March 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** Tunnel 4 km, S-6-3; Walhalla 3 km, S-4-2  
**Meet:** 9.30am @ Tyers Kindergarten carpark  
**Leader:** Jim Stranger; strangers1@westnet.com.au; 0400 278 939

The walk is an opportunity to see the Thomson River flowing past the Horseshoe Bend Tunnel entry for the first time in 108 years. Recent works by the Catchment Management Authority (see December Newsletter) have allowed the river to resume its original course to allow fish migration while retaining the integrity of the heritage listed tunnel. Access to the tunnel entry will depend upon river height at the time. We will then drive to Walhalla for a short circuit walk around the township taking in its history and scenery.

## Sale Common Wetland Trail

**Date:** Saturday 27 March 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 12 km, M-3-3  
**Meet:** 9am, Swing Bridge, Sale (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 observation spots where we can view pelicans, egrets, herons, spoonbills, ibis, crakes, 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.

## Jack Smith Lake and Ninety-Mile Beach

**Date:** Saturday 27 March 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 17 km, L-3-4  
**Meet:** 9.30am, McGaurans Beach  
**Leader:** Peter Jennings; pnjjennings@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, when it fills, overflows into the ocean. 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.

## Mt Tamboritha Circuit

**Date:** Easter Fri-Mon 02-05 April 2021  
[Check the website for details](#)

## Billy Goat Bend - Cobbannah Creek loop

**Date:** Easter Sat 03 April 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 10 km, M-5-5  
**Meet:** 8am @ cnr of Beverly's Road and Bairnsdale-Dargo Road  
**Leader:** Ken Free; freekenneth@optusnet.com.au; 0414 774 144

This walk takes in a 2.5 km section of the Mitchell River Walking Track and a short trek up the Cobbannah Creek. The walk commences at the Amphitheatre Lookout (aka Billy Goat Bend) from where we will walk up-stream on a well-defined track until reaching the point at which Cobbannah Creek enters the Mitchell River. We will then follow Cobbannah Creek upstream threading our way through creek-side vegetation with some rock-hopping and photo opportunities.

At the location where the Mitchell Road crosses Cobbannah Creek, we will leave the creek and turn left up Mitchell Road which takes us to its intersection with Billy Goat Bend Road where we will again turn left and walk back to our cars.

Topographical Map: 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.*

## Mitchelldale Car Camp

**Date:** Friday 23 - Sunday 25 April 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** Sat: 12 km, M-7-4; Sun: 6 km, S-3-4  
**Leader:** Jodie Wigg; jodiewigg@gmail.com; 0411 631 862

Parks Victoria has generously granted the Ben Cruachan Walking Club access to Mitchelldale on the Northern end of the Mitchell River National Park; an area identified on some topographical maps as "Scott's Farm". Vehicle access is normally restricted to Parks Management vehicles. This car camp is only available to financial members of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club. There are basic facilities available on site including [continue page 5 .....](#)



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

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

ISSUE 217 – Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club – April 2021



Early morning Viking, later afternoon Trestle Bridge

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2020/21

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:	John Cox Michael Dowe Rob Paterson	Liz Davis Angela Roughley

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Incorporation No  
A0004849G

### In This Issue

- 3 Trackers Who?
- 4 Club News
- 5 Walk Reports
- 13 Walk Previews

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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 09 June  
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, Maffra.

**Welcome to new members:**

**Alice Corkill, Peter Walsh**



# Trackers Anonymous

## *My Fourth Post*

*As a member of the bushwalking fraternity, I certainly enjoy getting out and about in the great outdoors.*

*There is nothing to compare with the peace and tranquillity of the Australian bush. Ahh the serenity!*

*But wait! What's that I hear coming along the track?*

*Sounds like every man, woman and child is out there seeking their own slice of harmony with nature. On a recent hike to Mt Howitt there were 5 cars in the Howitt carpark but upon our return there were more than 50 vehicles! This scenario was on display across the State at most of the popular hiking trails. After the Covid lockdowns, people were clearly chaffing at the bit to get out and about. It will therefore be interesting to see if life returns to normal and if bushwalking as we know it becomes tranquil once again.*

*On a separate note, would like to acknowledge the contribution that Prince Philip played in his role as instigator of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. The D of E scheme is a youth awards programme that was founded in the UK in 1956 by Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh and has since expanded to 144 nations. The Award is about individual challenge within a variety of activities, support and teamwork and recognition. As every individual is different, so too are the challenges that young people undertake to achieve this Award. With guidance, each young person is encouraged to look at themselves, their interests, abilities, and ambitions, then set themselves challenges in the four different Sections of the Award (Voluntary Service, Skill, Physical Recreation and Adventurous Journey).*

*No doubt, many members of Bushwalking Clubs got interested in Bushwalking via this scheme. If you are one of those individuals, congratulations on taking up the challenge. If not, then read on! While the Award scheme specifically targets the younger generations, we are all young at heart and therefore would respectfully suggest we all need to challenge ourselves from time to time. Get out of your comfort zone and push those boundaries! After all, life is for living and when you're on top of that mountain peak you will certainly appreciate life and living just that little bit more!*

*Ok, enough of philosophy 101.*

*Looking ahead, we are working towards a successful FEDWALKS 2021 with a Base Camp along the Wellington River for Walk Leaders which was held last weekend. The walks program will basically seek to introduce walkers to sections of McMillans Walking Track and the surrounding Alpine National Park. Based upon my earlier comments, it will be interesting to see if we are inundated with walkers wishing to participate in FEDWALKS in November. We are hopeful that MMWT guidebook sales will do well during the event.*

*At our next Club night in May (refer club news) we will have a guest speaker discussing the merits or otherwise of Pushing Your Boundaries. There will also be a movie so come along and don't forget your popcorn!*

*I have it on good authority that it should be a cracker of a night!*

*Carpe Diem and see you on the track.*

**TRACKERS**

# Club News

## BCWC AGM

It's on again!! Wednesday 14 July at the Criterion Hotel Sale. Dinner beforehand, if you like, RSVP to Monica Scicluna 0431 777 460 by 07 July.



## Fed Walks 2021

It is getting closer! Mark November 12 - 15 in your diaries. The walk reccies are just about done, the walks booklet is almost ready for publication, the accomodation and nutrition are sorted, the guest speaker is primed, all we will need is you to attend. A new website has been created (details in an email soon) but beware, the old FedWalks website is still active but has very little information (apart from previous FedWalk weekends) about the coming event.

All the nitty gritty details (maps, walk previews, etc etc) will be on the dedicated Fed Walks website. The website goes live in a month's time, at the end of May and bookings commence at 23hr59 on 01 August.

This event is a great opportunity for the local clubs to showcase our bushwalking "neck-of-the-woods" and rub shoulders with bushwalkers from all over the state. More details in the next newsletter.

## Guide to McMillans Walking Track Still available - details here

The McMillans Walking Track guide is now available. It is in bookshops and other retailers such as outdoor gear shops. It is also available on line via the Chapman's website. 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.

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. It is a great gift to family and friends.

## Hidden Huts of Baw Baw

Strzelecki BWC and Friends of Baw Baw ran this two day walk in February 2021, to discover some of the mining, cattle-grazing and snow-skiing history of the Baw Baw Plateau. Members of BCWC attended and had a great time.

1. Jans Hut
2. Rover Hut (J W McMahan Ski Lodge)
3. NBW Hut



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# Walk Reports

## Raymond Creek Falls to the Snowy River



**Saturday 20 February 2021**

**Leaders: Anna Janca, Lynette Newman**

**Report: Anna Janca**

Walkers: Becky, Evan, Nicki, Peter, Geoff, George, Lynne T

It was a hot day and no-one was interested in doing a pack carry. So we had a very pleasant 14 km return day walk. A great walk in the bush for a hot day. Stops and cool-offs at Raymond Creek Falls itself, morning tea at the Creek Crossing, then lunch on the grassy flat in the shade on the banks of the Snowy River. Must not forget the cooling swim in the Snowy and views of Basin Creek Falls on the opposite bank. Then, we enjoyed it all again on the return walk whilst also taking in the stunning views of the Snowy from the top of the spur and escarpment. The only downside was the 100 + steps at start /end of the walk, easy going down, but a b..... going up at the end. Oh well, can't have everything.

## Loch Sport

**Saturday 27 February 2021**

**Leader: Monica Scicluna**

**Report: Marian Matchan**

Six enthusiastic walkers (Corinne, Ken, Robyn, Neil and Marian led by Monica) headed off in cars towards Loch Sport, stopping off at the Dolomite picnic area.

From here we walked around the edge of the Dolomite Swamp, where the area was mined for dolomite stone. This is sedimentary carbonate rock similar to

marble in white/grey tones. The slabs of rock are often used as benchtops in kitchens and bathrooms. We walked through melaleuca, old banksia and a few gum trees.

Not far into our walk we come across a couple of copper-winged Common Bronzewing sitting quietly in the undergrowth. A bit further along there was a huge koala perched in a tree near the track. Then we walked on the sand on the edge of Lake Victoria, around Pelican Point, and yes, there were pelicans, swans and sea gulls. We had morning tea with views across the water to Duck Arm, Paynesville and Raymond Island. We had a visit from a very intelligent man (so he said) and his crazy border collie dog. He explained what man was doing to destroy our water ways. From here we headed further along the edge of Lake Victoria back to our cars. Then we drove to Loch Sport and began walking on Murphy's Hill track, up Balfours Hill (our only hill for the day) and along the edge of Lake King. We walked through more really old banksias, some were leaning with others having already fallen, bracken ferns, pigface and heaps of butterflies.

Lunch was at Point Wilson picnic area, where Lake King meets Lake Victoria. There was some boats moored at the jetty with people enjoying the ambience.

Walking back along Murphy's Hill track, we did a detour along a fire track, as the sign was missing and we missed a turn, called into the bird hide, but there was no water, then it was back to our cars for the trip home. We covered approx 12 kms for the day.

A great day, great company, thanks Monica.



## Mt Howitt - King Billy Circuit

Friday 05 - Sunday 07 March 2021

Leader: Oliver Raymond

Report: Trackers

Walkers: Oliver, John, Becky, Evan, George, Helmut

### DAY 1

With the Labour Day holiday looming, the prospect of an extra day in the bush seemed like a good idea. But it soon became apparent that every other Victorian had the same idea. Fortunately, we chose to start ahead of the pack and hit the trail one day earlier and managed to avoid the scrum!

Arriving at the Howitt carpark on Friday there were 5 vehicles in the carpark. Oliver and Becky promptly executed a car shuffle by driving down to the Macalister River along King Billy track and leaving a 4WD vehicle down near the river. The rest of the group checked out the empty carpark and logbook located at the start of the track. Oliver had suggested setting up camp before Vallejo Gantner hut to avoid what may be a crowded campsite tonight at VG hut. However, a quick check of the logbook suggested only 2 small groups may be staying there. Upon their return from the car shuffle (which took approx. 1 hr to complete) we decided lunch would be another good idea as it was effectively midday.

Around 1:30pm we were ready to hit the track and headed off towards VG hut and Macalister Springs. We had only travelled a short distance when we met up with PV officers Bernie and Alex who had been doing some track clearing near VG hut. After exchanging pleasantries, we departed and continued towards our destination for the day – Macalister Springs only 5km down the track. By 3:00pm we had arrived at VG hut and promptly continued to higher ground to secure what can only be described as the best campsite in the whole area – right alongside the escarpment with unparalleled views of features such as The Viking, The Crosscut Saw and Mt Speculation. We soon settled in and after setting up our tents we were able to relax and soak up the atmosphere along with the views and the occasional wanderer who passed by.

Sitting around camp that evening, we were certainly blessed with good weather, great company, and the odd yarn. Several members of the group (who shall remain nameless) hit the sack early, while the die-hards hung out until 9.00pm – which was still early if you ask moi!

### DAY 2

We rose early to capture the morning light hitting the Crosscut Saw and watch a few clouds in the valley rise and brush up against the Viking. They soon disappeared, and we were faced with another day of perfect weather and hiking conditions. By 8:30am we were ready to hit the track and set off towards Mt Howitt and beyond.



We soon arrived at a junction with the AAWT. Turning right would lead us onto the Crosscut Saw and beyond to Mt Speculation. However, we turned left and headed up to the summit of Mt Howitt just a short distance away. Upon reaching the summit we took a short break to soak up some more views and take a group photo. We could see the King Billeys clearly ahead some 8km away but to get there we had to negotiate Hellfire Creek, Hells Window and Mount Magdala before reaching our destination for today.



Following a well-defined track, we soon arrived at Hellfire Creek, a pleasant campsite located on a saddle. As it was near midday, we decided to have lunch and take a break before tackling Mt Magdala which is located only a short distance away. Evan went exploring to locate a water source located down a nearby gully – with success!

Soon it was time to get back on our feet and tackle Mt Magdala. Two options are available when tackling this peak. Over the top or around the side! The group split into two with Becky and Evan going over the top while the rest of us went around the side – which is supposedly easier! Not wanting to miss Hells Window which is on the way to the top of Magdala, I had little option but to tackle some of the climb and then retreat to the bottom track. The views from both above and below were worth the effort!

Within the hour we were all back together having met at the base of Mt Magdala. The home stretch was now in sight – just a couple of kms to our south. However, this involved a steady climb which meant our pace slowed to a crawl as we made our way to the top. Around 4:00pm we hit Bluff Track, a popular 4WD track that leads to Lovicks Hut. Unfortunately, a potential campsite that was located next to the road proved dusty with many vehicles passing by so we decided to check out for alternative sites further away from the road and nearer to the spring that is located in this vicinity. Oliver soon located a spot and we all moved down to a great little glen that was only 50 – 60 metres away from a cool clear spring that was running constant. After setting up camp, we topped up our water supplies and relaxed around camp. Evan produced some bush tucker that was hard to beat! That night around a pleasant campfire, we reminisced about other walks and shared experiences. There was not a cloud in the sky and the stars were at their brilliant best in the night sky. Once again, the diehards stayed up until 9:30pm.

### DAY 3

Awoke to the sounds of silence except for the occasional bird call. After breakfast we were soon all packed and heading back up to Bluff Track. The AAWT departs Bluff track at this location and heads up over the top of King Billy 1 and King Billy 2. Having done this walk previously and NOT gone over the top, it was hard not to take the opportunity this time. Oliver, John, and George stayed with the road while Becky, Evan and I chose to walk along the AAWT and go over the top. In hindsight this was the better choice as the views were exceptional and the terrain most challenging. The top of the King Billys

are basically basalt caps which involve climbing up and over boulder fields but once on top the 360-degree views are certainly worth it. We kept in touch with the others via walkie talkies and let them know they should continue walking once they connected with King Billy Track as our route was slightly longer and took longer to navigate.

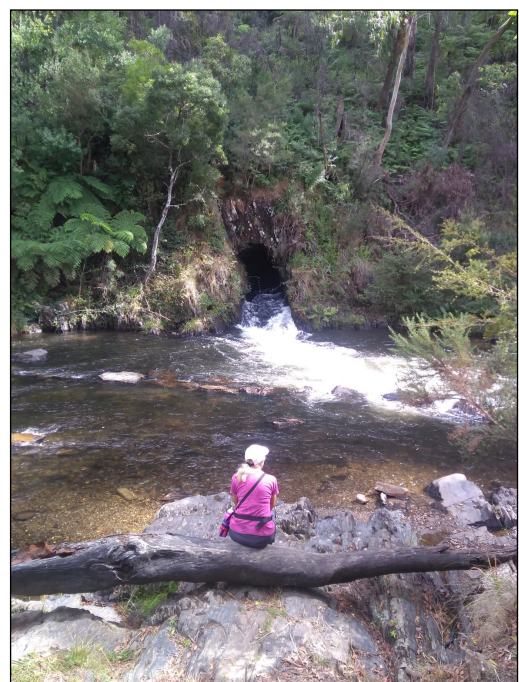
Nevertheless, once we had re-connected with the road, our progress saw us catching up to the others well before Macalister River where our vehicle was parked. With the hike coming to an end, we were all elated to arrive at the car and enjoyed a cuppa brewed by Becky with the aid of her 4WD Kitchenette. Within the hour we were all aboard and commenced our drive back to Howitt Carpark. It should be noted that 6 individuals and 6 packs were accommodated in and on Beckys 4WD. Fortunately it was only the packs that had to be tied to the roof racks and not some of the passengers!

Upon our return to Howitt Carpark, we were blown away by the number of vehicles that were now in the carpark! There were more than 50, and on the assumption that there would be a minimum of two people per car – that meant more than 100 people were in and around Macalister Springs. Too many for us to contemplate so without further ado we headed out of the crowded hills and back to the quiet regional towns we had all come from. Bliss.

Thanks to Oliver for leading us on another adventure into the wild.

## Horseshoe Bend and Walhalla

Friday Saturday 13 March 2021  
Leader: Jim Stranger



## Jack Smith Lake and Ninety-Mile Beach

Saturday 27 March 2021

Leader: Peter Jennings

Report: Ken Free

WALKERS: Monica, Marian, Sue H, Peter J, Peter W, Lauren (V), Tony, Sue W, Frankie, Lynette, Oliver and Ken.

On a cloudy Autumn morning with a forecast of some showers, we gathered at McGauran's Beach for a day that would include history, wildlife, interesting coastal vegetation and a 7 kilometre section of Ninety Mile Beach. According to Parks Victoria, who are now the land managers, Jack Smith Lake became Victoria's first State Game Reserve in 1958. A wide range of bird species are known to visit the area. Swamp Harriers, White-bellied Sea-eagles and Brown Falcons often soar overhead in search of prey.

After donning our raincoats, we set off along a sandy vehicle track which meandered between low coastal scrub to our left and once-cleared farmland to our right. Peter pointed out a cleared area of farmland which had been leased to Esso as a staging area for welding long lengths of pipe to be submerged and eventually link up to the off-shore rigs in Bass Strait. There were occasional sightings of kangaroos and evidence of digging possibly by echidnas as we slowly climbed (22 metres!) to Hoddinott Hill where we enjoyed views of Bass Strait to the south and sheep grazing to our north. (The Hoddinotts were landholders during the 1800s.)

After a short rest at Hoddinott Hill, we walked for around 3 kilometres before leaving the vehicle track to enter and cross the currently-devoid-of-water Lamb's Lake which contains an amazing cover of succulents including Pig Face and Samphire. Samphire has become quite fashionable amongst Melbourne's trend-setting chefs, I believe. In its raw state, it is quite

fibrous but pleasantly juicy; once cooked (sautéed in butter) I imagine it would be quite scrumptious.

At the end of Lamb's Lake we crossed Jack Smith Beach Access Road and followed it along the edge of Jack Smith Lake where we found similar vegetation to Lamb's Lake. Peter pointed out Red Hill, an area of sand dunes where apparently the bodies of aborigines massacred at nearby Warrigal Creek in 1843 were buried by the perpetrators in an effort to avoid prosecution for this horrendous crime. For thousands of years, this area was home to the Brataualung people until colonisation gradually moved them off their traditional country. Red Hill is now a significant site which the traditional owners do not want disturbed.

At the end of Jack Smith Lake we visited the site of a swashway, a structure with removable timber planks designed to regulate the water level in the lake. In decades past when this area was popular with duck shooters, the local farmers and shooters would agree on a compromise lake level which satisfied the hunters' desire to have plenty of ducks to shoot at and the farmers desire to not have their grazing land inundated. The swashway is now somewhat derelict since there has not been much water in the lake for some time.

On the sand dune side of the swashway, we settled on a comfortable lunch spot overlooking a large pond held back by the swashway and were serenaded by a chorus of frogs while we refuelled for the next leg of the walk.

With tummies full and re-invigorated, we crossed the sand dune onto Ninety Mile Beach with views of a mill pond-like Bass Strait and low waves gently lapping the shore. The sand was firm and flat so we made good progress along the beach with the subtle sounds of the sea and the occasional shore bird chirp punctuating the myriad conversations about where the next walk will take us, how we'll save the planet, Lynette's concert at the Wedge and so on. I think we solved most of the world's problems.



Several kilometres along the beach we encountered what appeared to be a quite spongy rock shelf jutting out from the sand. Our leader informed us that this was in fact a seam of peat, the precursor to brown coal by a few million years I guess. Another bit of information for your next trivia night was the fact that close by was the location of a pipe which brings salt water from Loy Yang. The salt water is produced when ash is washed out of the furnaces into settling ponds. The saline water is then piped to Bass Strait at McGaurans Beach.

A short rest stop, a group photo opportunity and another kilometre and we were back at the cars. I think it's fair to say that we all felt like we'd had a pretty good workout and absorbed a wealth of information about this area.

Thank you Peter, especially for the many historical insights.

### Billy Goat Bend - Cobbannah Creek loop

**Saturday 03 April 2021**

**Leader: Ken Free**

**Report: Tony Wielgosz**

Intrepid Walkers: Ken, Jodie, Geoff, Marian, Sue and Tony



The day promised to be 30 plus degrees and it delivered. Beautiful blue skies, sunshine and a very warm start to an amazing, albeit short, walk.

The day started early with an 8am meet at the Beverlys Road and Dargo Road intersection. With carpooling organised, we drove to The Mitchell River NP and Billy Goat Bend picnic area. After a brief walk review, while also comparing Sat Navs, Garmin and maps, we made our way to our first stop about 100m away at the lookout over the Amphitheatre and the

Mitchell River. Most complained of the cold updraft but were blown away by the stunning views.

Our group of five walkers were guided by Ken Free along the Mitchell River walking track for a couple of kilometres to our first short stop on Cobbannah Creek. After several photos it was off on the scramble and rock hopping up Cobbannah Creek. Fortunately Ken had done a reccie a few days earlier with Marian and Jodie, so pink ribbons guided us on our short trek. The views up and down this small creek were well worth the walk. We had a short stop at the beach with a large pool and cliffs as our backdrop. After morning tea we continued at times on hands and knees up the banks of the creek until we came to the Mitchell Track. After group photos it was time to return to our cars.

### Nowa Nowa - Stony Creek Trestle Bridge loop

**Saturday 03 April 2021**

**Leader: Angela Roughley**

**Report: Jodie Wigg**

Starting at the Nowa Nowa boat ramp, 10 walkers set off across the Princes Highway towards the East Gippsland Rail Trail to make our way to the historic Stony Creek Trestle Bridge. Reaching the bridge mid-morning, we stood on the east viewing platform admiring its beauty and magnificence and then using it as a backdrop for the group photo (thanks Ken). We enjoyed morning tea around the picnic table beneath the bridge in the sunshine.



Then we headed back towards Nowa Nowa on the same route, until we reached an old vehicle track, appropriately named Banksia Boulevard for the Banksia Trees that grow here. We followed this track south, again crossing the Princes Highway and continuing until we reached the Lake Tyres waterway. We joined

the wetlands walk here winding its way along the waterway back to the boat ramp at Nowa Nowa.

The group split up here where some enjoyed a cut lunch at the boat ramp before heading home. The rest of us went up to Mingling Waters and ate lunch at the cafe. The popular choice was fish and chips and one walker even mentioned that his fish and chips were the highlight of the walk!

Angela then showed us the collection of polished tree roots and gems that are on display at the cafe. The works are by artist Jack Ramsdell, of the Ramsdell's Mill in Nowa Nowa, which showcases RA - The Sun God (a giant, polished tree root system of a fallen eucalypt, hidden in a specially built timber pyramid).

Thanks Angela for a well guided and informative walk.

## Mitchelldale Car Camp - Scotts Farm

**Date: Friday 23 - Sunday 25 April 2021**

**Leaders: Jodie Wigg, Angela Roughley**

**Reports: Nicki Jennings, Janine Muir**

Walkers: Janine, Ken, Lynette, Peter, Nicki

### *Day 1: Nicki Jennings*

Scott's Farm on the Mitchell River is usually only accessible by walking in however for this club weekend Parks Victoria gave us 4WD access through two locked gates enabling a two night car camping and glamping weekend. The small convoy of 4WD drives arrived mid-afternoon Friday and set up camp alongside the bubbling Mitchell River complete with a long drop loo, large open shed and a soft grassy area for our tents. Some hardly soles braved a swim in the chilly water and Lynette set off upstream for a paddle in her



kayak.

Early next morning we set off to the west on a 13km steep hike along the ridge of "Four Peaks". The

views back down to the river were stunning and as we rose higher the ranges of the Mitchell River and Alpine Parks stretched out endlessly before us. In the valley below we could see small pockets of grassy river flats where once farmers had eked out a remote existence. Now they were secluded lifestyle blocks with a few roaming cattle. The waters of the Mitchell River shimmered in the valley below.

After a snack we descended a steep slope to the river. Large kurrajong trees dotted the bush as we passed an old fence line. When we arrived back at the river we had lunch at the site of an old suspension bridge and stock yards as a red-bellied black snake nonchalantly passed by.

After lunch we followed the narrow track along the Mitchell towards camp. Ken kept talking about a place on the return trip called "Two Trees". We wondered how we would distinguish this place when we were already surrounded by a multitude of trees. Not far from Scott's Farm we saw what he meant. This is a special place where two ancient gums of tall and spreading habit tower over all other trees. The branches of one droop low and wide like those of a huge English oak. The other is more erect but still with spreading upper branches and a massive trunk. The ground under the two trees is grassy and in a wide circle around them is a dense ring of saplings of the next generation. We stood in awe.





That night back at camp, we loaded the large BBQ plate with a gourmet spread of vegetables, beef and lamb which were enjoyed with shiraz, chocolate and a late night muscat. This was just the tonic to recover our legs in readiness for day 2 of our adventure.

**Day 2 Janine Muir**

We woke early to another freezing, but beautiful, morning - grateful the cloud cover kept the temperature from plummeting to the previous night's extra chilly low. After breakfast and a warm cuppa to get us going, we readied ourselves for the day's hike to Bull Point.



Before leaving however, with packs donned, we stood in a semi-circle while Jodie presented our AN-ZAC Day service. Complete with printouts of 'The Ode' so we could recite it with her, followed by the playing of 'The Last Post' from a recording saved to her phone, and finishing with a minute's silence, this

.....from page 15

was one of the highlights of the weekend. Thank you so much Jodie for the prep you put into making sure this very important day was appropriately honoured. Following this period of reflection and contemplation we headed off on our hike - another lovely touch.

The hike hugged the Mitchell River from Scott's Farm winding around to Bull Point, approximately 4km downstream (where the Wentworth River enters the Mitchell River). There was plenty of 'immersive track clearing' along the first bit of the track (!), but then we met up with the section of track that had been beautifully cleared by the recce party the week before - much easier going (thx guys). We were spoilt for beautiful views of the river, and found ourselves frequently pausing to take it all in (there are a good many pics to show for it also). We had a lovely morning tea break (with a stone-skimming 'competition') at Bull Point before retracing our steps (kind of!). By now the day had turned on magnificent weather for us, and as we approached camp thoughts turned to dipping feet and bods into the river to cool down! It was a great hike, somewhere in the vicinity of 8km (depending on which GPS you cite), with a surprising number of manmade structures on the other side of the river (was that a tennis court we saw?!?!?). After a relaxed lunch with great company, we packed up and headed back up that very steep 4wd track for home - special shout out to the drivers btw (great job navigating that gnarly route).

Thanks so much to all attendees who made this such a fantastic weekend - and special thanks to our walk leaders Jodie and Angela for your preparation and leadership.

**North Sister**

- Date:** Saturday 03 July 2021
- Dist/Grade:** 8 km, S-7-8
- Meet:** 7am Stratford; 7.30am Lindenow
- Leader:** Ken Free; freekenneth@optusnet.com.au; 0414 774 144

This is an adventurous off-track walk in the Mount Alfred State Forest, North East of Mitchell River National Park: an area rarely visited by bushwalkers. The walk starts at the Merrijig Track and follows the route of an old forestry track through mostly open forest with a range of understorey plants and plenty of birdlife.

There are sections of the walk which are quite steep and rocky. A reasonable level of fitness is required and good quality footwear is a must.

We will climb to the summit of the Sisters North Peak and then follow a ridgeline across a saddle to a rocky bluff with panoramic views to the West, North and East. To get to the start point we will drive for approximately 90 minutes from Lindenow (on mostly unsealed roads) through quite picturesque forests with opportunities for wildlife spotting.

- Topographical Map: Tabberabbera 8322-N 1:50,000
- Rooftop Map: Bairnsdale - Dargo - Omeo Adventure Map 1:100,000

## Mount Tamboritha Trail

Friday 02 - Saturday 03 April 2021

Leader and Report: Joe van Beek

The weather at Easter was too good not to go for a walk. There wasn't much appetite for a leisurely camp on the Wellington River but there was sufficient interest for a walk in the area.

Lynette Newman, Janine Muir, Lynn Tomlin and I met up at Licola on Friday afternoon and proceeded up the Wellington River to the Red Box camping area hoping there would be space for us. Although all the prime river side sites and those with fire places had been taken for the Easter Weekend we managed to get a very satisfactory site which was quiet and private. Janine did lament the fact we didn't have a camp fire. We enjoyed a convivial evening before retiring for the night ready for an early start in the morning.

Having packed up camp we left a car at Breakfast Creek and drove up to Dingo Hill Track and parked where McMillans Walking Track leaves Dingo Hill Track. We were walking by just after 8am, hoping to avoid the heat of the day. The sky was clear and the views all around were magnificent. It was very pleasant walking over Mt Tamboritha and Little Tamboritha. There was a bit of way finding to do for a section after Little Tamboritha. I put up some flagging tape where I thought it would be useful and felt sure we were actually on the trail.

We stopped for lunch with a marvelous view of The Crinoline and before the serious descent. There is some 350m climb on this walk but the total descent is over 1300m. Can be hard on the knees. Walking poles are a must for me. The track down was very distinct thanks to work done on it in early 2019, and afforded great views in places. We took it steadily. As we descended the temperature rose reaching 30 degrees by the time we got to Breakfast Creek mid afternoon. The cool water in the creek was refreshing.

Easter is a busy time in the high country and the camping places along the Wellington River are abuzz with people and their toys but we did not meet anyone else on the trail. We enjoyed that aspect along with the terrain (possibly not the steep descent), flora and views. We retrieved the vehicle from Dingo Hill Track and headed home satisfied that we had done a good challenging walk.

Thanks to Lynette, Lynn and Janine for their company and comradeship.

**Top:** Mt Tamboritha cairn. **Middle:** view of The Crinoline. **Bottom:** a well maintained track



# 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.**

## Balook - Macks Creek

**Date:** Sat 08 May 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 14 km, M-6-6  
**Meet:** 9.30am at the Tarra-Bulga Visitor Centre at Balook  
**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 formed "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. We will hear, if not see, lyrebirds which are a feature of the park.

## Social Night - Bairnsdale - Push Your Boundaries

**Date:** Wednesday 12 May 2021  
**Meet:** 6 pm for a meal @ The Bairnsdale Club, 68 Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale. 7pm for the main event.  
**Leader:** Helmut Tracksdorf; 0402 089 404  
helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com



At our next Social Club night on May 12th to be held in Bairnsdale, there will be a guest speaker some of you may be familiar with. Our President (hopefully you know who he is) will be talking about his recent adventure overseas (Tasmania) where he stepped out of his comfort zone and pushed his boundaries to new limits. He is still on a high after this adventure and would like to share his experience with other club members. So come along and enjoy the evening. But please note it's a Black-Tie event so make sure you are wearing your hiking boots otherwise you may not get past the Bairnsdale Bouncer - at the door!

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

## Tambo Bluff and Nyerimilang Park

**Date:** Sat 22 May 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 10 km, S-3-2  
**Meet:** 9.30am @ Swan Reach - the parking area opposite the General Store  
**Leader:** Trevor Clues; valmai51@bigpond.com; 0428 564 559

A stroll along the Wallaby Creek walking track to the shore of Lake King at Tambo Bluff. The walk along the beach is dependent on the tide so sturdy footwear is advisable. There are 100 steps up on return. We will then drive to Nyerlimilang Heritage Park for lunch. There are several walking tracks there (only 95 steps from the jetty up to the Park!).

There may be an opportunity to tour the historic Nyerimilang Homestead, built in 1893.

## Cobbannah Creek

**Date:** Sat 29 May 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** ~8 km, M-6-7  
**Meet:** 8am @ cnr of Beverleys Road and Bairnsdale-Dargo Road  
**Leader:** Ken Free; 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 of the Cobbannah Creek with plenty of rock hopping and photo opportunities.

The walk commences along an old logging track before descending into Cobbannah Creek where we will walk downstream taking in the sights of interesting rocky outcrops and cascades in the creek. After lunch, we will undertake a steady climb up a ridge and thread our way through mostly open forest to pick up the old logging track and thence back to the cars.

NB: This walk is off-track; it involves a lot of rock-hopping, clambering over, under and around obstacles like fallen logs, low scrub and large boulders. 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.

Topographical Map: 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.***

## Fungi Ramble

**Date:** Saturday 05 June 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 5 km, S-2-3  
**Meet:** 9.45am for 10am @ Lyrebird Forest Walk car park  
**Leader:** Judy van Beek; jjvb@bigpond.net.au; 0407 533 643

This event is a combined activity with Strzelecki BWC. Julie Parker, a member of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists and SBWC, will guide the group on a ramble to observe and examine various fungi found in the forest. It is limited to 25 people. The track follows the Morwell River for 1km through green gullies of Eucalypts and tree ferns and then reaches a more open area on the edge of the forest. There should be numerous opportunities to look at a wide variety of fungi along the route.

Participants should bring a small mirror, any reference books or charts, their cameras as well as lunch. Participants may wish to visit Mirboo North after the ramble (Grand Ridge Brewery; cafes)

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

## BTAC: East Tyers Walking Track

Date: 05 - 06 June 2021

<https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/btac>

## The Grampians: Mt Difficult Range

Date: Saturday 12 - Saturday 19 June 2021

Dist/Grade: 50 km, 4-day pack carry L-8-7

Leader: Helmut Tracksdorf; [helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com](mailto:helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com); 0402 089 404

This walk comprises 4 days of solid walking along the Mt Difficult Range in the Grampians & 1 day of relaxing and sightseeing around Halls Gap at the end of our walk. The other 2 days comprise travelling to and from East Gippsland. Walking in the Grampians can be challenging with numerous rock scrambles involved to reach summits and viewpoints. Nevertheless, the effort will be worth it with typical Grampians scenery around every corner.

With the walk scheduled during winter, participants need to be appropriately prepared as sudden changes can occur within the region. Nevertheless, the weather can also be mild, so participants need to be prepared for all types of weather conditions.

**Day 1:** Involves a 6hr drive to arrive at Halls Gap where we settle into our pre-booked hostel accommodation and review the walk plan. **Day 2:** We drive to the Northern Grampians and after exploring Mt Zero we commence our walk exploring the Mt Staplyton area. **Day 3:** We explore Roses Gap climbing Briggs Bluff and then on to explore the high point in the range – Mt Difficult. **Day 4:** Continuing along the range we head towards Plantation Campground. The scenery along this section is stunning. **Day 5:** Continuing along the Mt Difficult Rd we arrive in Halls Gap late afternoon. After arriving back at our hostel, we freshen up and celebrate with a meal in town. **Day 6:** Today we relax and explore Halls Gap and its surrounds. For those who wish to explore further afield – Cathedral Rock beckons as a Day walk. **Day 7:** Check out of our accommodation, travel back home.

Accommodation costs associated with this walk are: 3 nights @ \$50pp per night. A fuel levy for passengers will also apply but remains to be calculated.

NB: this walk is limited to a maximum of 6 participants, as some camp sites utilised are exceedingly small, so please register early to avoid disappointment. Please ensure you are familiar with the walk rating (L-8-7) before registering..

## Hortons Track and Honey House

Date: Saturday 19 June 2021

Dist/Grade: 7 km, S-3-4

Meet: 8am @ Stratford; 8.30am @ Lindenow

Leader: Ken Free; [freekenneth@optusnet.com.au](mailto:freekenneth@optusnet.com.au); 0414 774 144

This is an off-track walk through open forest, with some sections of thick scrub. After carpooling at Lindenow, we will travel along the eastern edge of Mitchell River National Park via Weir Lane, Wattle Creek Road and Sandy Creek Road until we reach Five Ways where we will travel along Calvi Track and Horton's Track to a point where we will leave the vehicles. From here we will follow a ridge southwest then westwards until we make our destination, a rugged escarpment near the top of the Mitchell River Gorge opposite Rock Creek. This will be our lunch stop before returning to our vehicles.

On our way back to Lindenow we will stop off at the southern end of Mitchell River National Park for a short walk near Stoney Creek to the ruins of an historic hut which was built in the 1920s to process honey,. The remains of the "Honey House", used by the Rising Sun Apiary Company, is a stone building with a foundation stone dated 1923.

Topographical Map: 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.***

[continue page 11 .....](#)



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

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

ISSUE 218 – Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club – June 2021



**VALE: Alex Husson**  
Camping at Cowombat Flat 2012 (see page 4)

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2020/21

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:	John Cox Michael Dowe Rob Paterson	Liz Davis Angela Roughley

PO Box 70 Maffra  
Victoria 3860

Incorporation No  
A0004849G

### In This Issue

- 3 Trackers Tripe
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- 5 Club News
- 6 Walk Reports
- 11 Walk Previews

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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 11 August 2021  
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, Maffra.

**Welcome to new members:**

**Leanne Coulthard, Louise Davis, Penni Ellicott, Pili Flores,  
Bryce Martin, Trevor Newton, Clare Snell, Kate Walsh**

# Trackers Tripe

## *My Fifth Post*

*It is with great sadness that I report the death of one of our stalwart club members, Alex Husson, who passed away in May at the age of 86. Although I only knew Alex briefly and met him on a couple of occasions it was clear he had a passion for the bush and had been an active member of BCWC for many years.*

*I fondly recall Alex's last overnight hike in 2012 into Cowombat Flat near the Cobberas where Alex, who would have been 78 at the time, was accompanied by his two daughters. Although suffering sore joints and some pain, Alex was determined to revisit the headwaters of the Murray River and soak up the atmosphere around another campfire out in the bush. On behalf of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club, I offer my condolences to Gwenda and her family for their loss.*

*Since my last report we have experienced another lockdown due to Covid, but fortunately it was brief. Ken Free had to cancel his walk along Cobbannah Creek, but that was the only setback I can recall. No doubt this walk will be back on the agenda soon. Prior to the shutdown several members were able to attend a recce camp on the Macalister River in preparation for FEDWALKS 2021, in conjunction with SBWC and others. It was interesting to note that one of the walks which was rated EASY – proved somewhat more of a challenge when the group became “geographically challenged” when they could not locate the track back to base. Waiting patiently back at base camp in the dark, I was wondering at what point should I call Search & Rescue? I will not mention it was a SBWC led hike, otherwise they may not invite me on any future events!!! So, mums the word! But it certainly proves the point that recces are an important part of hike planning.*

*At our last Committee meeting (held via Zoom due to (1) a significant storm front passing over East Gippsland, (2) Covid limits on public gatherings), we discussed the need for more walks to be added to our program. There are still some weekends with no activity planned. So, I encourage all members to consider leading a walk no matter how easy or hard it may be.*

*Due to the recent heavy rains and flooding that occurred within Gippsland, we put on a walk to Roaring Mag Falls at very short notice. What was surprising is that we had 18 participants register for the walk with only 3 days' notice. And while the amount of water coming over the falls was less than anticipated; a good time was had by all. And that is what is important – having a good time!*

*Keep an eye on our walks program and if you have a desire to do a walk or visit some exotic location (within Victoria preferably) – consider putting it on the Walks Program by contacting Geoff Mattingley so that it can be added to our current list of events. With that in mind, we are planning an overnight snow hike in July, a bike ride along the Gippsland Rail Trail in August, followed by a trip to the Grampians in Spring. All these activities should be of interest to anyone who has a sense of adventure. So, the question is: Is that person You?*



See you on the track.

**TRACKERS**





# VALE: Alex Husson

## 01 May 1935 -- 31 May 2021

Our older members will fondly remember Alex, a stalwart of Ben Cruachan Walking Club and the Friends of Tyers Park. The clubs were represented at his funeral by Oliver and Caroline Raymond and Jim Stranger. Alex was born in SW Victoria and worked as a farmer, carpenter and timber worker. He met his wife Gwen in the late 1950s and they had five children, many grand children and one great grandchild. He built their house in Traralgon in which he and Gwen lived most of their married lives. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in his sixties. This became progressively worse until he reached the stage of requiring full time care. He took up residence at BUPA Aged Care in Traralgon five years ago and lived there since with Gwen visiting most days despite her own mobility issues.

Many BCWC members will recall spending time at their holiday house in Inverloch, the evenings always involving card or board games and the following day, a coastal walk. Alex's last walk with the club was in 2012 to Cowombat Flat and the source of the Murray River. Alex was known for his determination however, on this occasion, it was not enough to see out the return walk without others sharing his pack. Sometime after that he acquired a mobility scooter and was often spotted terrorizing pedestrians on Traralgon's streets. He asked me to arrange a walk that could accommodate he and his scooter so I suggested the Mirboo North to Boolarra Rail Trail. The plan was that Gwen would meet us half-way and swap batteries with a new one that they had just purchased. The first part of the walk went well and, as planned, we changed batteries at Darlimurla. Not far down the track the battery died (the vendors had neglected to charge it!). As a consequence, a walk visitor and I pushed him to Boolarra, some five kilometers down (and up) the trail.

Another example of Alex's determination, some would say stubbornness, was at a Friends of Tyers Park Christmas function at Petersons Lookout. Alex insisted on heading 200 metres down the steep gravel track to the platforms despite us pleading for him not to. Regardless, off he headed and, by some small miracle, got to the bottom safely utilizing his scooter's rudimentary braking system. Of course, there was insufficient traction for the return trip so several of us somehow managed to push him back up the steep incline. Alex was quite unfazed by all this and returned to his hearty Christmas feast and a snifter of port.

Alex passed away on the morning of 31st of May, aged 86, tending to his much-loved vegetable patch at BUPA. Our thoughts are with Gwen and his extended family.

Jim Stranger.



# Club News



**Fed Walks 2021**  
<https://fedwalks.org.au>

It is even closer! Mark November 12 - 15 in your diaries. The walk reccies are done, the walks booklet is ready for publication, the accomodation and nutrition are sorted, the guest speaker is primed, all we will need is you to attend. The website is active (see link above). Beware, the old FedWalks website is still active but has no information (apart from previous FedWalk weekends) about the coming event.

All the nitty gritty details (walk descriptions and previews, maps etc etc) are on the dedicated Fed Walks website. The website is live right now and bookings commence at 23hr59 on 01 August. All the information you require for choosing which walks to do is all there on the Walks Program page. Booking is first come - first serve. When you book a walk, have alternatives in mind to your first choice walk.

This event is a great opportunity for the local clubs to showcase our bushwalking "neck-of-the-woods" and rub shoulders with bushwalkers from all over the state.

The committee will need some assistance over the weekend. A call for specific help will be in the August Newsletter.



## **BCWC AGM**

It's on again!! Wednesday 14 July at the Criterion Hotel Sale. Dinner beforehand, if you like, RSVP to Monica Scicluna 0431 777 460 by 07 July.

## **Guide to McMillans Walking Track Still available - details here**

The McMillans Walking Track guide is now available. It is in bookshops and other retailers such as outdoor gear shops. It is also available on line via the Chapman's website. 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.

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. It is a great gift to family and friends.

## **FOR SALE: Backpack**

Monica Scicluna has a Kathmandu 50L travel backpack for sale, asking \$150. Her number is 0431 777 460.



# Walk Reports

## Horseshoe Bend and Walhalla

**Saturday 13 March 2021**

**Leader: Jim Stranger**

**Report: Elizabeth Davis**

Fifteen club members and visitors met at the Tyers carpark on a warm, overcast day, with a threatening weather forecast. We drove to the Horseshoe Bend carpark, 4km SE of Walhalla, and just managed to squeeze in! We set off on the well maintained and marked track through very healthy, towering eucalypt and wild cherry bush. Two kilometres downhill, we came to the extraordinary, heritage-listed, 200m-long tunnel. In 1912, gold miners blasted the tunnel to re-route the Thompson River, enabling easier mining of the dry river bed.

We were very lucky to have club member and Chairman of the WGCMA, Peter Jennings, with us. He explained the recently completed \$2m project to restore flows to the river to enable native fish to move from alpine areas to the sea and return to their spawning grounds upstream. The tunnel now diverts only 60% of the river water and 40% remains in the river.

The river was low enough to enable us to walk further upstream, several times using ideally placed stepping rocks cleverly anchored deep into the riverbed to prevent them moving in a flood. After another kilometre walking upstream, we reached the tunnel entrance.

We retraced our route uphill to the carpark, with Peter pointing out the remarkable rehabilitation of the walking track which now shows no signs of the wide, heavy machinery it had carried until the project finished in August 2019. After some discussion, the group decided the project had been a very successful compromise between strong, competing local opinions.

We drove on to Walhalla and had a pleasant picnic lunch beside the rotunda, during which we were serenaded by the lone piper on the hillside above! Jim then led us on a walk north up the main street, through the camping ground, and uphill to the walking track along the western side of the river, arriving back at our vehicles at 3.30.

Thank you, Jim, for a very enjoyable, interesting day and your excellent timing with the arrival of the rain! Also thanks to PJ for your informative contribution.

## Mount Tamboritha Trail

**Friday 02 - Saturday 03 April 2021**

**Leader and Report: Joe van Beek**

The weather at Easter was too good not to go for a walk. There wasn't much appetite for a leisurely camp on the Wellington River but there was sufficient interest for a walk in the area.

Lynette Newman, Janine Muir, Lynn Tomlin and I met up at Licola on Friday afternoon and proceeded up the Wellington River to the Red Box camping area hoping there would be space for us. Although all the prime river side sites and those with fire places had been taken for the Easter Weekend we managed to get a very satisfactory site which was quiet and private. Janine did lament the fact we didn't have a camp fire. We enjoyed a convivial evening before retiring for the night ready for an early start in the morning.

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The camping places along the Wellington River were abuzz (Easter time) with people and their toys but we did not meet anyone else on the trail. We enjoyed that aspect along with the terrain (possibly not the steep descent), flora and views. We retrieved the vehicle from Dingo Hill Track and headed home satisfied that we had done a good challenging walk.

Thanks to Lynette, Lynn and Janine for their company and comradeship.

## Balook - Macs Creek

**Saturday 08 May 2021**

**Leader: Peter Jennings**

**Report: Libby Balderstone**

Walkers: Nicki, Frankie, Libby, Ken, Roger, Briany, Leanne, Clare, Kevin, Jim

Our leader for this beautiful walk was Peter Jennings, ably assisted by warm and welcoming Nicki Jennings. There was time to chat (and warm up with a hot drink for those that were prepared) whilst the car shuffle was completed. Even at the car park at the Balook Visitors Centre, one absorbs the majestic Mountain Ash of this magical part of Gippsland.

The walk was on one section of the Grand Strzelecki Track. It commenced through warm temperate rainforest on formed tracks – towering Ash trees and ancient Myrtle Beech, huge tree ferns, fallen limbs and thriving fungi.



Leeches made their presence felt from early on – especially for those resisting Bushmans! A quick snack-stop when we reached Wild Cherry Track, and then we followed this old forestry track steadily down to Macks Creek through Sweet Pittosporum forest and with glimpses of great views to the surrounding Strzelecki hills. The last section was particularly steep, and very slippery after recent rain events. The two rock hopping crossings of Macks Creek also required

dexterity, and poles were definitely an advantage. Some walkers removed boots whilst others acquired wet boots! We followed further along the creek – pass-



ing plantation forest and restoration areas further uphill and appreciating the thriving riparian vegetation – and arrived at a perfect sunny lunch area where we could sit on large flat rocks at the base of a small waterfall.

We continued along the creek, with two more rock crossings, and followed a narrow path up and down until we reached a road that took us back to the cars at Macks Creek Hall. Some of the group – with trains to drive and other commitments – got to the Hall more quickly, whilst others amongst us ambled along enjoying the banksia woodland, autumn sunshine and scenery.

The short drive back up to Balook was followed by coffee (and treats for some) at Balook's Lyrebird House – and we left Kevin for his second night there enjoying the quirky hospitality and hopefully a hot shower! It was terrific to have such a span of age, background and profession in this group, and it reminded me again of how special the BCWC – and bushwalking in general – truly is.

This was a great walk through a truly beautiful part of Gippsland – including incredible fungi, good company and conversation, muddy moments and autumn sun. Thank you, Peter.

## Pioneer Walk - Wentworth River

**Sunday 16 May 2021**

**Leaders: Rob and Josie Paterson**

**Report: Chris Marshall**

Thirteen walkers met at the Lindenow hall to start the 50 km drive to the commencement of the walk in three FWD vehicles. It was great to catch up with many members we had not seen over Covid times.

The weather gods very kindly provided ideal conditions for the day. The walk started steeply downwards on an old vehicle track towards the Wentworth River where it was discovered that recent rain meant wet boots or taking them off to cross over to the ruins of a pioneer cottage on the other side. An Irish family lived here in the 1880's. The crossing was made by most walkers and was incident free. Ten out of ten for Josie who made the crossing barefoot.



After inspecting the ruins a return crossing was made and we then followed a pack horse trail with some lovely views of the river below. Upon reaching the main track it was a short downhill walk to take a look at Wallers Hut on the Wellington River and then the steep ascent back to the vehicles to share a super-sized block of chocolate compliments of Trevor.

Thanks to Rob and Josie for organising this pleasant Sunday for us.

## Tambo Bluff and Nyerimilang Park

**Saturday 22 May 2021**

**Leader: Trevor Clues**

**Report: Monica Scicluna**

Walkers: Geoff, Sandy, Monica, Bev, Liz (visitor).

This walk was amazing; the track is called Wallaby Creek Walking Track. As we headed down the steps to the gully, we saw lots of different vegetation and lots of fungi. This track was built on the sewerage pipeline. We then took the turn towards Lake King and the Bluff Lagoon. We ambled along the foreshore, luckily it was low tide. There were so many blue mussel shells; black swans were gliding along the water.

Morning tea was eaten on the edge of the water.

Trevor pointed out Raymond Island, Paynesville and the entrance to the Tambo River.

We then set off to challenge the 100 steps. We all managed to get up them with a couple of stops looking at the view. We walked another km to the cars, from there we headed to Nyerimilang for a well earned lunch. After lunch Trevor took us through the homestead.

The walk around the boundary and cutting across the middle was lovely, somewhere I hadn't been before. The day was full of firsts for me and the weather even though starting at 0 degrees turned into a spectacular warm day

Thanks to Trevor for sharing this part of Gippsland with us.



## Fungi Ramble - Lyrebird Forest Walk

**Saturday 05 June 2021**

**Leader and Report: Judy van Beek**

To comply with Covid regulations, the registrants (from Ben Cruachan Walking Club and Strzelecki Bush Walking Club) split into 3 separate groups. So it was a very last minute scramble to meet walkers' expectations AND comply with covid guidelines. Our guide was Julie Parker (SBWC) who graciously hosted both a morning and an afternoon walk. Luckily the weather was excellent for a slow fungi ramble and the stunning photos posted on the Ben Cruachan Facebook Page and other social media pages show the excellent range of fungi and lichen on display. If you are able to access it, do visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/886005908123823>.

Julie gave an informative introduction prior to each ramble and had charts available depicting the fungi and lichens to be found. Walkers had their mirrors, magnifying glasses and cameras ready to go.

The morning walkers spent a good 3 hours examining specimens and their enthusiasm and knowledge grew under Julie's excellent tutelage. This group covered the higher trail of 5kms. After lunch breaks for the respective groups, the second group of seven fungi rambles had their turn to follow the Lyrebird Bird middle trail, covering 3 kms over 2 hours. At times we were joined by a couple of Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists, who were also out scouting for specimens. They pointed out locations of hard to find ones such as the tiny bird's nest fungi or added further background to Julie's explanations.



Bird's Nest fungi



The day finished at 4pm, still in sunshine and moderate temperatures. Warmest of thanks go to Julie for her enthusiasm and dedication. We know *her* highlight was finding the tiny bird's nest fungi. Many rambles expressed their appreciation for being taught to look at what is underfoot rather than focusing on a fast walk to the end point of a trail. "It is a different way of being out in the bush", they commented. As well, it was a good chance for walkers from the two clubs to meet and mingle as well as three visitors joining in and meeting club members. All of us appreciated being out in the bush again and discovering that early June is not too late to find a diverse range of fungi. The last word belongs to a very modest Julie who said, "I am delighted to share my limited knowledge with people who seem to enjoy listening and learning."

## Grand Ridge Rail Trail

**Date: Saturday 05 June 2021**

**Leader and Report: Joe van Beek**

Walkers: Joe, Evan and Becky Horsham from BCWC, Helen and Rosemary from SBWC.

The Fungi Ramble, a joint BCWC and SBWC ac-

tivity, was split into 3 walks in order to comply with Covid restrictions and still accommodate those who had registered for the activity. Joe lead a walk on the Grand Ridge Rail Trail in the morning while Judy van Beek and Julie Parker of SBWC lead a walk on the Lyrebird Forest Walk near Mirboo North (Fungi Ramble). They did a shortened version in the afternoon for those who were on the rail trail walk in the morning.

Five walkers gathered outside of the Grand Ridge Brewery on a cold Saturday morning. Had the brewery been open, they may have been tempted to keep warm inside. Instead they took off at a brisk pace along the rail trail covering 4km in 50 minutes with minimal stops for photographs. Having warmed up, the pace slowed and time was taken to view aspects of the rail trail and photograph fungi. The brick culverts built in the 1880s were a feature that took our attention. We turned around at Culvert #11.

The walk back was at a slower pace and allowed for observing and photographing the variety of fungi at their various stages of development and decay and greeting the other users of the rail trail; walkers, bike riders and horse trekkers. After lunch at Mirboo North we went Lyrebird Forest Walk and met Julie and Judy for our afternoon Fungi Ramble. See page 8.

## “Not so” Roaring Mag

Date: Monday 14 June 2021

Leader and Report: Helmut Tracksdorf

Walkers: Helmut, Robyn, Monica & Joe, Elizabeth, Tony, Sue & Ryan, Ken, Clare, Di, Julie, Martin, Peter, Vanessa, Eva, Jacqueline and Raquel.

With apologies to Dorothy Mackellar

*“I love our Gippsland country,  
A land of sweeping plains,  
Of ragged mountain ranges,  
Of droughts and flooding rains,  
Where Roaring Mag bides her time,  
To put on a display,  
When walkers don their boots and curse,  
“Cor blimey! not today”*

It is not very often Gippsland plays host to an East Coast Low, but when one arrived and dumped 150mm of rain around Central Gippsland recently, it seemed like a good time to visit Roaring Mag Falls, located within the Mitchell River NP. Roaring Mag is unique in that it rarely flows because of its small catchment area. East Gippsland received close to 100mm so it seemed that would be enough to put the roar into Roaring Mag.

So, at short notice, a walk was added to our program and within 3 days we had 18 participants registered, including 5 visitors - if you do not count the blow-ins from SBWC!

Meeting at Lindenow on a cool Monday morning we promptly got everyone signed in and were soon underway after sorting out the carpooling arrangements. Four vehicles set off along the rough roads that lead us into the Mitchell River National Park. Within half an hour we had reached the starting point of our walk. After a brief overview by Helmut, we set off along an old logging track. Soon we were at a point where we left the track and followed a well-defined footpad through the bush that took us to the edge of an escarpment. Everyone was in high spirits looking forward with anticipation of what would be Roaring Mag Falls, only a short distance away. Within 10 minutes of reaching the escarpment we were overlooking what can only be described as not the mighty Roaring Mag Falls. Imagination and reality told two different stories. Trickle Falls would have been a more apt description.

After all that rain, it was still not enough to awaken Roaring Mag. For future reference it would require



150mm to fall within the immediate area to make this waterfall perform. Fortunately, Helmut was able to produce an A4 picture of Roaring Mag in full flow which lifted everyone's spirits. Phew!

After a short break we continued through the bush crossing the headwaters of Roaring Mag and following the creek bed to where it plunges over a precipitous edge. The views were simply outstanding and worth the effort to arrive at this junction. After taking in the views and some photos we edged back up onto the escarpment on the opposite side and stopped for lunch. Sitting on the rock ledges we had wonderful views down the valley and across to the sheer cliffs opposite where we had morning tea. After lunch we gathered for a group shot and then continued North along a well-marked (with ribbons) track that would lead us to Sandy Creek Rd. Within 20 minutes we hit the track and turning right proceeded back towards the main road and our vehicles.

All too soon we were back at our vehicles and wishing we could have spent more time absorbing the views. Nevertheless, with time up our sleeve Helmut suggested we visit the Old Weir wall located on the Mitchell River. So, heading back towards Lindenow we diverted along Milton Park Rd and drove to another point where we left the cars and walked the last kilometer down to the Mitchell River. The Old Weir never fails to impress but one cannot help but feel sorry for the workers who toiled on this engineering project back in the early 1890s only to see their efforts washed away shortly after completion during a flood in 1893. After clambering over the ruins, we took another group photo and called it a day.

During our return we spoke to the land holder near the Weir Wall who advised us that only 70mm of rain had fallen in this region which may explain why Roaring Mag was Trickle Mag. Nevertheless, it appears a good time was had by all who attended. Thanks to all those who made the effort to come along on this grand expedition to Trickle Mag.

# 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 Taylor

**Date:** Sat 26 June 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 10 km, S-6-4  
**Meet:** 10am at the Mt Taylor Recreation Area (“Boys Camp”).  
**Leader:** Robyn Kercher; rkercher@outlook.com.au; 0400 529 407

This walk explores typical East Gippsland bushland, with eucalypts, dogwood, scrub and, sometimes, lyre-birds. Starting at the car park, we will use a bushwalking track up hill towards Tower Rd. We will take the gravel road up to the top of Mt Taylor to the fire tower and telecommunications area (unfortunately there is no view) where we can have lunch in the sun. On our way back we will take Goodes Track and return to our cars. The walk has some steep sections going up to Mt Taylor.

## Cobbannah Creek

**Date:** Sat 03 July 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** ~7 km, S-6-7  
**Meet:** 8am @ cnr of Beverleys Road and Bairnsdale-Dargo Road  
**Leader:** Ken Free; 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 of the Cobbannah Creek with plenty of rock hopping and photo opportunities.

The walk commences along an old logging track before descending into Cobbannah Creek where we will walk downstream taking in the sights of interesting rocky outcrops and cascades in the creek. After lunch, we will undertake a steady climb up a ridge and thread our way through mostly open forest to pick up the old logging track and thence back to the cars.

NB: This walk is off-track; it involves a lot of rock-hopping, clambering over, under and around obstacles like fallen logs, low scrub and large boulders. 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.

Topographical Map: Tabberabbera 8322-N 1:50,000  
 Rooftop Map: Bairnsdale - Dargo - Omeo Adventure Map 1:100,000





## Dinner and Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday 14 July 2021  
**Meet:** 6 pm for a meal @ The Criterion Hotel, Sale  
**RSVP:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

We will get together for a meal, then we will hold our Annual General Meeting. If you are interested in being on our committee, all positions become vacant, so let Helmut know (details page 2) prior to our meeting.

## Overnight Snow Walk -- Mushroom Rocks/Mt Erica/Talbot Hut

**Date:** Fri-Sun 16-18 July 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 14 km in total, M-7-7  
**Meet:** 1pm Howitt Park carpark, Bairnsdale; 2.30pm Tyers Kindergarten carpark.  
**Leader:** Helmut Tracksdorf; helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com; 0402 089 404

This walk offers participants the opportunity to experience a section of the AAWT within the Baw Baw Range during mid-winter. There is a good chance that snow will be covering the track which means a greater degree of difficulty and experience is required in navigating the usually clear path. Fortunately, we have been granted access to the Rover Hut located near Mushroom Rocks as a haven and our accommodation venue. So, all going well, we should be able to enjoy a comfortable night and campfire during our overnight stay.

**Day 1 Friday:** We will walk from the Mt Erica carpark to the Rover Hut and settle into our accommodation.

**Day 2 Saturday:** We will hike up to Mt Erica and, if conditions, allow push onto Talbot Hut and then return to Mushroom Rocks. *For those unable to attend on Friday the opportunity to hike up to Mushroom Rocks and the Rover Hut on Saturday remains an option. However, if they wish to attend the hike to Mt Erica, they will need to arrive at Mushroom rocks by 9:00am*

**Day 3 Sunday:** After packing up and cleaning the hut we return to the Mt Erica carpark.

This hike will allow members to extend their experience of snow hiking by spending 2 nights camped out above the snow line in the relative safety of the Rover Hut. Accommodation costs of \$10 per person will apply and in addition, the hire of Yowies (Snowshoes) from Erica Ski Hire is recommended at \$30 pp.

If interested in participating in this event, please register early to avoid disappointment.

## Holey Plains

**Date:** Sat 24 July 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** ~8 km, S-2-2  
**Meet:** 9am @ Rosedale, at the public car park near the pedestrian crossing.  
**Leader:** Ken Free; freekenneth@optusnet.com.au; 0414 774 144

The Holey Plains State Park is located between Rosedale and Sale south of the Princes Highway and has a number of walking tracks. We will undertake 3 walks of relatively short duration: Harrier Swamp, Banksia Forest and Long Swamp. After lunch at Holey Hill we will drive to Clearwater Lake. There will be the opportunity to see a wide variety of native plants and if we're lucky, some of the wallabies, emus and echidnas which inhabit the Park. The plant species include eucalypts, wattles, tea-trees, banksias, bush peas and around 25 species of orchids.

## Mitchelldale River Walk

**Date:** Saturday 07 August 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 15 km, M-6-4  
**Meet:** 7.30am @ Stratford or 8am at Beverleys Road.  
**Leader:** 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: Tabberabbera 8322-N 1:50,000

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

## Snowshoe Shuffle

**Date:** Saturday 14 August 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 11 km; M-7-7  
**Leader:** Joe van Beek; 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 gums 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.

## Toorongo and Amphitheatre Falls, Noojee / Noojee Trestle Bridge

**Date:** Saturday 04 September 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 10 km in total, S-3-3  
**Meet:** 8am @ Stratford; 8am in Sale  
**Leader:** Ken Free; freekenneth@optusnet.com.au; 0414 774 144

This collection of short walks will require a longish drive west from Sale to get to the start point. We turn off the highway near Warragul and after a pleasant drive across lush rolling hills we'll pass through the sleepy village of Noojee before reaching the start of our walks to the Toorongo and Amphitheatre Falls. The sign at the start of the Falls loop walk describes this area as one of the most beautiful and wettest parts of Victoria with mossy rocks, tree ferns and a lot of water! We will then drive a short distance to undertake the Noojee Trestle Bridge and optional Rail Trail walk, a pleasant 3 kilometre walk along the original railway route. For keen photographers the trestle bridge offers endless possibilities for spectacular and quirky shots with interesting structural details and perspectives. For lunch, we will head for the Noojee Hotel. After lunch, if time permits, we can visit the Glen Nayook Rainforest Walk near the town of Neerim Junction.



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

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

ISSUE 219b – Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club – July 2021



## — FedWalks2021 —



# Trackers' Invitation

## My Sixth Post

*As a member of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club, you automatically qualify as a member of WWW. No! no! not the World Wide Web but the club of **World Wide Walkers!** Members of WWW have one thing in common – they enjoy getting out and about in nature, soaking up the scenery and having fun! But how do members get to meet other members of that community?*

*The answer is simple: via Federation Walks.*

*Federation Walks aka FedWalks is an annual event held in a different part of Victoria. The name dates from 1934 when Bushwalking Victoria was known as the Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs. One or more of the member clubs within a specific region, volunteer to host the event with support from Bushwalking Victoria. The host club(s) organise the event, develop the walks and social program, arrange logistics and manage registrations. All members of affiliated Bushwalking Clubs within Victoria as well as individual BWV members, are invited to participate. FedWalks is a weekend filled with bushwalking, exploring, having fun, and making new friends. It is a fantastic opportunity for members of different bushwalking clubs to get together and meet other members of the World Wide Walking community.*

*This year FedWalks is being hosted by Ben Cruachan Walking Club and other Gippsland clubs\*. No doubt members recall how our plans of hosting last year went off track with the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions on group gatherings. The team is now back in full swing and preparing for a fantastic venture in the Gippsland foothills and Southern Alps with the event based at the Licola Wilderness Village. Licola is a small village located on the banks of the Macalister River, approximately 50km north of Heyfield.*

*This year's program offers a variety of walks, many of which are aimed at introducing Victorian bushwalkers to McMillans Walking Track. With the launch of our official MMWT Guidebook last November, participants will have the opportunity to purchase a copy allowing them to experience other sections of the track in the future. FedWalks2021 will certainly raise the profile of MMWT within the bushwalking community and surely establish the track as one of Victoria's great long-distance walks. Members of Ben Cruachan Walking Club can certainly feel proud of this achievement. All thanks go to "Smithy".*

*Registration for the event is scheduled to open on Monday 2nd August. So, if you want to meet fellow members of the WWW community you should definitely attend FedWalks2021.*

*As President of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club, I thoroughly recommend this event to BCWC members, especially those who have not had the opportunity to attend such an event before. Apart from the walks, there are plenty of other activities that will keep everyone motivated. So, what are you waiting for?*

*See you on the track at FedWalks2021.*

## TRACKERS

*\*(Strzelecki Bushwalking Club, Peregrine Club, South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club and the West Gippsland Walking Club)*



Ben Cruachan



Strzelecki



Peregrine



South Gippsland



West Gippsland

## BOOKINGS OPEN 8am Monday 02 August 2021

Ben Cruachan Walking Club (BCWC) is the contractual club with Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) to organise the Federation Weekend 2021. The organising committee, however, has members from both BCWC and Strzelecki BWC (SBC) with Joe van Beek being the convenor. After a 1-year Covid hiatus which forced postponement of the event last year, preparations are very advanced for this event.

### Venue:

It is based at the Licola Wilderness Village (LWV), the only privately owned village in Victoria, owned by the Lions Clubs of Victoria and southern NSW, who celebrated 50 years of ownership earlier this year! As LWV is used by lots of schools, they are able to cater for a multitude of dietary requirements. There is 4G phone coverage in Licola now. A small base station was commissioned earlier this year. Its coverage is literally the village only but allows contact with the outside world, if you so desire.

The village has a shop which BCWC cannot pass on return from a bushwalk without purchasing a food item or two and a drink. They do sell other stuff, including tourist items, and have fuel as well. The price is higher than High Street but that is because it is further to transport it.

### Accommodation:

Will be in chalets for 16 people with 3 bedrooms. We will do our best to place members of the same club in the same chalet. Part of the booking process asks you to nominate your club. Each chalet has the usual amenities including kitchen.

The intention is for attendees to arrive on Friday, walk on Saturday and/or Sunday or Sunday/Monday and depart on Monday. We discourage people from travelling home on Sunday after 2 days of walking as the distances and time taken to get home will be large for many.

### Where to get detailed information?:

The event has its own [website](https://fedwalks.org.au). <https://fedwalks.org.au>. All you need to know is there. The Walks and Social Programs, the venue and accommodation and even what to bring.

### Walks Program.

There are 22 walks ranging from very easy (Walk 1 - Wollangarra) to very hard (Walk 22 - Long Hill - 24 kms usually done over 2 days). There are 3 overnight walks (Sunday to Monday). Walk 6 is Bryces Gorge a beginners or easy packcarry for those who would like to experience carrying all your gear in a pack and camping overnight. Food is provided. Walk 17 (Dry River/Wonnangatta) and Walk 21 (Tali Karng) are iconic walks, walking with a day pack, and supported by the Macalister 4WD club who will carry your overnight gear and provide food.

Eight of the walks are solely or partly on the McMillan Walking Track (MMWT). Some walks have a fair bit of driving to get to so anticipate early departures and late arrivals back at Licola.

FEDWALKS 2021 WALKS ON OFFER							
Walk No.	Walk Title	Walk Description	Map	Distance	Grade	Days	Capacity
1	Wollangarra visit	<a href="#">Visit to Wollangarra Outdoor Education Centre</a>	<a href="#">Map 1</a>	4	E (Very)	Sat & Sun	20
2	Bryces Gorge	<a href="#">Pieman and Conglomerate Falls</a>	<a href="#">Map 2</a>	8	E	Sat & Sun	20
3	Mt Arbuckle	<a href="#">Arbuckle Junction to Thomastown</a>	<a href="#">Map 3</a>	10	E	Sat & Sun	20
4	Moroka Falls	<a href="#">Horseyard Flats to Moroka Falls</a>	<a href="#">Map 4</a>	6	E	Sat & Sun	20
5	Kellys Hut	<a href="#">Thomastown to Kellys Hut</a>	<a href="#">Map 5</a>	14	E	Sat & Sun	20
6	Bryces Gorge Overnight	<a href="#">Conglomerate Falls Pack Carry- beginners</a>	<a href="#">Map 6</a>	8	E	Sun to Mon	12
7	Mt Howitt	<a href="#">Macalister Springs to Mt Howitt Summit</a>	<a href="#">Map 7</a>	14	E/M	Sat & Sun	20
8	Arbuckle to Kellys Hut	<a href="#">Arbuckle Junction to Kellys Hut</a>	<a href="#">Map 8</a>	8	E/M	Sun only	20
9	McMillans #1	<a href="#">Mt Arbuckle to Dingo Hill Track</a>	<a href="#">Map 9</a>	12	E/M	Sat only	20
10	Mt Reynard	<a href="#">The Gorge to Mt Reynard</a>	<a href="#">Map 10</a>	13	M	Sat & Sun	20
11	Wellington Plains	<a href="#">McFarlane Saddle to Mt Wellington</a>	<a href="#">Map 11</a>	16	M	Sat & Sun	20
12	Neilson Crag	<a href="#">Doolans Plain to Neilson Crag</a>	<a href="#">Map 12</a>	15	M	Sat & Sun	20
13	Mt Eliza	<a href="#">Stony Creek to Tamboritha Road</a>	<a href="#">Map 13</a>	6	M/H	Sat & Sun	20
14	Beths Peak	<a href="#">Moroka Road to Beths Peak</a>	<a href="#">Map 14</a>	14	M/H	Sat & Sun	20
15	Black River	<a href="#">Lazarini Spur Track to Black River</a>	<a href="#">Map 15</a>	12	M/H	Sat & Sun	20
16	The Rock Shelter	<a href="#">Dingo Hill Track to the Rock Shelter</a>	<a href="#">Map 16</a>	20	M/H	Sat & Sun	20
17	Wonnangatta Valley Overnight	<a href="#">Bryces Gorge to Wonnangatta</a>	<a href="#">Map 17</a>	17	M/H	Sun to Mon	12
18	Crolls Gorge	<a href="#">Wellington River wade</a>	<a href="#">Map 18</a>	13	H	Sat only	12
19	McMillans #2	<a href="#">Tamboritha Saddle to Breakfast Creek</a>	<a href="#">Map 19</a>	13	H	Sat & Sun	20
20	The Crinoline	<a href="#">Breakfast Creek to the Crinoline</a>	<a href="#">Map 20</a>	12	H	Sat & Sun	20
21	Tali Karng Overnight	<a href="#">McFarlane Saddle to Millers Hut</a>	<a href="#">Map 21</a>	19	H	Sun to Mon	12
22	Long Hill	<a href="#">Tamboritha Saddle to Breakfast Creek via Long Hill</a>	<a href="#">Map 22</a>	24	VH	Sat only	12

### Fuel Money:

Here is a snapshot from the website on the next page. Money for fuel used in a car in which you are a passenger does provide a perpetual topic for discussion. To make things fair, we have devised a table to give you an indication of fair reimbursement. This

**FUEL RE-IMBURSEMENT**  
The following schedule of re-imbusement rates has been calculated for those not using their cars and taking a ride with others.

- \$2 for Walk 13
- \$5 for Walks 1, 3, 5, 8, 15, 16, 18 and 20
- \$10 for Walks 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21 and 22.
- An extra charge of \$15 for all walkers on Walk 21; and
- An extra charge of \$20 for all walkers on Walk 17 for the 4WD support.

**ORGANISING CLUBS**

is not part of the price for the weekend as it will be a cash “transaction” facilitated by the walk leaders. Thus bring some cash.

**Social Program:**

Saturday night is Guest Speaker night. We will be entertained by Beau Miles, [website here](#), who describes himself as a filmmaker, poly-jobist, speaker, writer, odd! **He holds the world record for the quickest traverse of the MMWT** Sunday afternoon will have a Taste of Gippsland accompanied by singer [Courtney jane](#).

**Bookings:**

In this day and age, using the internet to coordinate things makes the job SO much easier than pen and paper. We are using Trybooking for this event.

There is a **green button on the top right corner** of the Walks Program page (see previous column). This takes you straight to the booking page where you have only 3 choices to make.

Choice 1 is the accommodation package with two options: Option 1 is the full Monty **\$260**. Option 2 is without Sunday meals and accommodation **\$220**.

Choice 2 is your chosen walk on Saturday.

Choice 3 is your chosen walk on Sunday.

Basically, it is first come, first serve. **NOTE: this is a first come-first serve system. All walks bar 4 have a limit of 20 participants including the 2 walks leaders. The 3 overnight walks and the very hard walk are limited to 12 including the leaders.**

You will be able to book a walk if there is space available. If there isn't, you will need to have a second choice walk up your sleeve. Play safe and have a third choice too. You will not be able to have 2nd or 3rd preferences as in past FedWalks weekends. Each individual needs to book separately. There is no facility to book two people together.

**Nutshell:**

Booking opens at **8am Monday 02 August 2021**.

Book as soon as possible.

Have 3 walk choices ready for each day.



The ridge running north from Sugarloaf to the Crinoline



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

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

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Hortons Track and The Honey House. See report on page 5.

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2021/22

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:	John Cox Michael Dowe Rob Paterson	Liz Davis Angela Roughley

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Incorporation No  
A0004849G

### In This Issue

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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 13 October 2021  
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, Maffra  
(or a computer screen near you!!).

**Welcome to new members:  
Ian and Debbie Broom, Jeanette McNamara,  
Briarie Noonan, Valerie Purcell, Penny Warren**



# Trackers Tripe

## *My Seventh Post*

As I sit down to write this month's Tripe, I'm effectively in lockdown in Melbourne!

This has given me a new perspective on the Covid situation. Living in Regional Victoria we are certainly blessed with open spaces and room to move. Who needs Social Distancing when your neighbours are a full day's hike away! Living in East Gippsland the pandemic seems miles (or should that be kilometres) away. What are the chances of catching Covid in the Country? Most of us would say very slim or words to that effect. Which brings me to my point!

Back home I was happy to move around, meet and greet within the guidelines laid down by our leaders. But here in Melbourne, it's a different story. With so many people out and about, it's hard to tell where people have been. Taking a trip to the supermarket is like an episode of Australian Survivor. If I'm sounding paranoid, it's because Catching Covid in the City is a lot easier than catching Covid in the Country. And that's the bottom line.

The good news is that people are lining up to get vaccinated so IF you haven't had the jab, may I respectfully suggest – register now! The more people vaccinated, the sooner we can go back to living life without lockdowns, restrictions and Covid stats every day.

With the AGM done and dusted, I would like to thank all those members of Committee who stayed the course and were prepared to continue serving in their existing roles. This has allowed for a smooth transition and means we should be able to hit the ground running. Looking ahead there are a few issues that need to be addressed, for example:

- **Walks Program – need to organise the next 12 months of walks**
- **BCWC Website – need to fine tune and improve functionality**
- **FEDWALKS2021 – Continue to organise and co-ordinate this major event**
- **Club Shirts - Choose and order polo tops**
- **Track maintenance – maintain the MMWT maintenance schedule**
- **Promote an annual BCWC activity – Wilsons Prom?**

Although not a complete list, this serves to highlight some of the issues your committee needs to address. Credit must go to Denise Stranger for putting forward the suggestion that we should consider ordering club shirts that not only help promote the club but will also enable other walkers to identify members of our club. This would be extremely practical during the FEDWALKS event, so Denise and Jim are already actively engaged in pursuing this goal. We are also keen to improve the functionality of our website so please feel free to highlight any issues or concerns that you may have noticed with our Website Sub-committee members: John Cox, Geoff Mattingley, Joe van Beek or myself. In addition, our Future Walks Program needs to be organised, so we have set up another Sub-committee to assist the cause. Joe van Beek, Robyn Kercher, Geoff Mattingley, Elizabeth Davis, Monica Scicluna, and I will be aiming to thrash out a 12-month program in the very near future. We welcome suggested walks from members that can be added to the program and, better still, welcome members to lead walks. If you feel that you have insufficient experience to lead a walk, please contact any of the sub-committee members who will happily mentor you in leading a walk (*Ed. see page 4*).

During June and July many of our walks and events were curtailed by a combination of Covid lockdowns and the severe storms that Victoria experienced in late June. Therefore, this month's Newsletter may be light on walk reports. Nevertheless, I have full faith in our Newsletter Editor to find a way in producing a bumper edition this month (no pressure Jack). Looking ahead, we have guest speakers teed up for our club nights in September and November. So, stay tuned, stay healthy and above all stay positive.

*See you on the track.*

**TRACKERS**

# Club News



## Fed Walks 2021

<https://fedwalks.org.au>

Bookings for the FedWalks2021 went live at 8am on Monday 02 August. Incredibly, 250 spots were filled and a waiting list started within 3 hours!

So I am sorry to say that if you haven't booked a spot, you have missed out for this year. Next year's FedWalks will be in the northeast of Victoria.

## Question for the botanists

On the Mt Taylor walk (p5), the participants saw a very attractive, introduced, flowering shrub with bright pink hips splitting to release red seeds, at Boys Camp which they couldn't identify. Does anyone know what it is? Answers please to the Editor.



## Guide to McMillans Walking Track Still available - details here

The McMillans Walking Track guide is now available. It is in bookshops and other retailers such as outdoor gear shops. It is also available on line via the Chapman's website. 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.

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. It is a great gift to family and friends.

## How Easy Is It To Lead a Walk?

You have a favourite walk that you do regularly. You reckon it is a good, satisfying walk. You would like to share it with the club. But you haven't led a walk before. No problem. There are plenty of people who are happy to mentor you, lead that walk with you as the Co-leader and get you started on the "road" of walk leading!! (Pun intended). Give Geoff Mattingley a call and talk about it. His details are on page 2.



## Still FOR SALE: Backpack

Monica Scicluna has a Kathmandu 50L travel backpack for sale, asking \$100. Her number is 0431 777 460.



# Walk Reports

## Hortons Track and the Honey House

Saturday 19 June 2021

Leader: Ken Free

Report: Clare Snell

Walkers: Ken, Louise, Peter, Lynette, Trevor, Clare.

The group met in Lindenow at 8:30 before the drive into the Mitchel River National Park. The patches of blue sky above us were somewhat deceiving as we could see the low dark cloud and misty looking conditions to the north. As soon as we hit the forest the mist surrounded us, which made for a very atmospheric drive in. We tried spotting The Sisters but could only get glimpses. The track was quite wet and a little slippery, but we got to our starting point after about 1.5 hours.

By now the mist had been replaced by a gentle (and at times a little heavier) drizzle and we all quickly got our wet weather gear on. A false marker ribbon led us on a merry little diversion at the start of the off-track walk, but we quickly realised the bush was too dense and went back to the GPS starting point. The pink marker ribbons were not easy to spot so we pushed forward on what could be the track, or possibly animal paths, but with the GPS and some keen spotting of the faded ribbons we made good progress through the wet bush, until we got to a point where we “temporarily didn’t know where we were”! Out came the GPS again but alas, the batteries were flat. Oh dear. Any worries were quickly averted because of course our trusty walk leader Ken had spare batteries.

The undulating walk, following the ridge line at points, was mainly clear but did require some gentle bush bashing in parts. Our walk down to the viewpoint overlooking the Mitchell River for lunch found us backtracking a bit when we lost the ribbon trail again, but finding the rocky outcrop made it all worth it. The mist was still rolling through the valley, creating a beautiful rainbow for us to enjoy while eating our lunch. After enjoying the view, we followed the outcrop to try to spot the Angusvale camping area, but it was just out of sight.

On the walk back finding the ribbons was a lot easier, now that we had our eye in, although the fact that Lynette had tracked our walk in on her Avenza maps app may have helped a bit. We enjoyed some glimpses of blue sky through the trees and ditched the raincoats for a bit for the mainly uphill walk but quickly had them back on as more light showers passed over us.

The wet conditions meant we were treated to a variety of fungi to spot.

After an adventurous drive back along the track, we all agreed it was more slippery on the way out, we stopped near Stoney Creek for the short walk into the Honey House. The infamous marker tree with the false pointing arrow was quickly found, and we enjoyed the old ruins of “THE RISING SUN APIARY” with the mozzies.

Thanks to Ken for organising such a great walk and to everyone else for the fantastic company. As we discussed on the drive in, some people never even get off the bitumen to come and see what is out here and I am very grateful for the club for helping me see these places that I wouldn’t get to by myself.

## Mount Taylor

Saturday 26 June 2021

Leader: Robyn Kercher

Report: Liz Davis

Walkers: Nicki, Peter, Lou, Elizabeth, Noeline, Trevor, Geoff, Sue, Michael, Bryce

On a cold, showery winters day, 11 of us met at Boys Camp, due north of Bairnsdale and Wy Yung on the Bullumwaal Road. Boys Camp is a pretty camping area with some lovely old English trees, and an interesting, though sad, history. In the 1930s it was a camp where at-risk boys were sent to live and cut wood in the surrounding bushland.

Well rugged up, we set off up the quite muddy road but soon had to shed some layers because of the steepness. After a few kms we veered left onto a bush track for some distance before rejoining the main gravel road. We made a short detour to a pretty view



over some open farm land below, which was bathed in sunlight. Another few kms, and we reached our lunching place at the top of Mt Taylor. Unfortunately, the light rain set in again, so we had no views but the large number of communication towers made for an unusual stop.

We retraced our steps down the road to Boys Camp, stopping half way to admire a steep rock face covered in lichen on the opposite side of a creek running beside us. The beautiful towering eucalypts with an understory of dogwoods, kunzeas and quite a few dianellas made for a lovely walk, and we also heard lots of birds including kookaburras and lyrebirds.

It was quite surprising to have had the area almost to ourselves, given the reasonable road and the amazing number of mountain bike tracks which have been developed in the area – must have been the damp weather.

The walk was a great winter work out, thank you Robyn, with the usual Ben Cruachan camaraderie, and it was nice to see two new walkers.

## Cobbannah Creek

**Saturday 03 July 2021**

**Leader and Report: Marian Matchan**

Angela, Jodie, Tom, Gary, Clare, Georgia, Briany and myself met at Beverley's Road, car pooled and headed up the Dargo Road to the start of our walk.

When we got to the spot to park our cars, there was another vehicle and a tent there as well. We headed off long the old 4 X 4 track, going from one pink ribbon to another. The weather was a bit chilly and a few clouds but we moved on stepping over fallen logs, pushing through bush, then low and behold we came across a fellow sitting on a log, not just any log but the log that makes up the loading area where the old timers loaded logs onto their drays to move them out of the bush. We stopped and had a bit of a chat, invited him

to join us, which he declined.

We clambered down a rocky descent to the Cobbannah Creek below, walked along the edge of the creek until we could find a safe place to cross; the water was a tad higher than normal. We climbed over some rocks and made our way across, only Georgia got her foot wet. We were met with the spectacular views of the steep cliffs to our right and the water thundering down over the huge rocks and into big pools of water. We could have sat all day just listening and watching the water making it's way down creek. Along a bit further it was time to cross the river again, the brave strong males and a couple of females threw rocks into the creek to make stepping stones. After we made our way across unscathed we headed up the steep cliff and walked along the ridge and back amongst the pink ribbons, along the 4 x 4 track and back to our cars.

As the day was only half over we decided to head to Den of Nargun for lunch, the car park was chockers. After lunch, we headed down to the river, along to Dead Cock Den and the damp, eerie and mossy walkway to the actual den. We were delighted as there was waterfalls at both of the dens and it was quite peaceful and mesmerizing except for those dam kids.

Then it was up all the steps and back to the cars to finish a very enjoyable day. A thankyou goes to Gary for supplying the girls with the recipe for a muesli bars.

## Old Port Trail

**Saturday 10 July 2021**

**Leader: Monica Scicluna**

**Report: Ken Free**

WALKERS: Monica, Judy, Joe, Jim, Robyn, Corinne, Trevor and Ken.

On what was forecast to be a somewhat patchy day weather-wise, 4 of us met at Lake Guthridge in Sale, picked up a 5th walker in Longford and met our 3 Traralgon walkers adjacent to the Seabank Caravan Park for the start of our walk.

With a slight shower threatening, we donned raincoats and headed off on the trail that meandered through coastal banksia with an understory of heath and correa which displayed masses of bright red flowers. Our journey was punctuated with pauses to take in views across the water to a couple of peaks at Wilsons Promontory shrouded in low cloud.

Before long we were able to admire a grove of Xanthorrhoea which were not in flower but looked extremely healthy and no doubt will produce many



flower spikes in late spring. It wasn't long before we were in sight of the Port Albert township and conversations began to focus on how enjoyable a lunch of fish and chips would be.

So, in due course, we donned our face masks and joined the line of day-trippers to order our serve of what some people claim is Gippsland's best fish and chips. We weren't disappointed! Following lunch, we strolled through the township with a brief stop at the Maritime Museum which would have to wait for another day. A short walk down a side street brought us back to the Old Port Trail where we retraced our steps back to the cars. A handful of our participants chose to walk back along the 'beach' and managed to not get wet.

Thank you Monica for a very enjoyable and laid

back trip to the Port Albert Fish and Chip shop, not to mention a great coastal walk.



## Dry River Track Maintenance

### Press Release from Parks Victoria

Over three days in March 2021, bushwalkers, horse riders and rangers worked together to clear nine kilometres of walking tracks and horse trails in remote areas of the Southern Alps on Gunaikurnai Country.

These remote areas pose a real challenge to Parks Victoria, with tracks and facilities in near-inaccessible places that need to be maintained for park users.

Luckily, we have the help of volunteers from the Ben Cruachan Walking Club, Bushwalking Victoria, members of the National Trail and their four-legged friends.

The Howitt Plains sit on the edge of the Great Dividing Range, several hours' journey away from Gippsland communities such as Sale and Heyfield, and Mansfield in Victoria's North East. This part of the Alpine National Park is an unforgiving landscape of dense bush, tall grass, rocky outcrops and steep climbs. The only way to get gear from Howitt Hut to Dry River is the old-fashioned way - by packhorse and mule.

"To get the job done a camp was set up at the junction of the Dry River and the National Trail," said Joe van Beek, committee member and volunteer with the Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) a standing committee of Bushwalking Victoria.



"Invaluable support was provided by members of the National Trail Association who used their horses and mules to cart equipment, supplies and camping gear for the volunteers and Parks Victoria rangers down into the Dry River."

"It was extremely rewarding to see our Remote Area Rangers working with horse and bushwalking groups to deliver this work," said Mike Dower, Area Chief Ranger for the Southern Alps at Parks Victoria.

"The track from Howitt Hut into the Dry River Valley is part of the National Trail – a 5,330 kilometre trail that stretches from Cooktown in north Queensland to Healesville in Victoria. It is a remarkable trek through some of Australia's wildest, most inaccessible country and it's important we help to do our bit for that internationally-recognised experience."

"Sometimes the mountain landscape doesn't call out for technology but needs an old-fashioned approach to get the job done."

This challenging work has resulted in a high standard of maintenance of remote area walking tracks and horse trails, only made possible thanks to volunteer group's collaboration with Parks Victoria.

# 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.**

## Blue Pool / Peregrine Lookout

**Date:** Sat 14 August 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 8 km, S-3-4  
**Meet:** 8.30am Stratford; 9am Blue Pool carpark  
**Leader:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

This walk leaves the Blue Pool carpark heading towards the Bluff, then along the Freestone Creek walking track to McKinnon Point, where we will have morning tea. From here we cross the creek so we could get wet feet if the water is high. Then its uphill to Peregrine lookout. (Peregrine Falcons could be sighted)

After another break we will head back to Blue Pool for lunch. The vegetation is Red Box, Stringybark and Ironbark.

## Snowshoe Shuffle

**Date:** Saturday 14 August 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 11 km; M-7-7  
**Meet:** Erica Ski Hire  
**Leader:** Joe van Beek; 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 gums 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.

## Dermodys Campground to The Channels

**Date:** Sat 28 August 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 12 km, M-4-4  
**Meet:** 89am @ Newry Hotel, Newry  
**Leader:** Becky Horsham; beckyhorsham@bigpond.com; 0458 470 375

We will walk approx. 6km from Dermody's campground to The Channels, have lunch beside the Avon River, then return along the same path. You will be greeted with stunning views along the way and, if you haven't seen

The Channels before, you're in for a treat.

The track is in good condition, easy to follow, undulating with a couple of short 'loose under foot' sections. There are toilets at Dermody's where we begin. Our lunch spot is the perfect place to dip your feet in the cool clear waters of the Avon, if the day is warm enough, or just sit on the banks of the river and enjoy the view.

*"The Channels is the centrepiece of the reserve; a magnificent gorge created by the Avon River carving its way through silt and sandstone over millennia. The steep sides of the gorge are covered in native vegetation, with shady Casuarinas in abundance. Crags punctuate the riverbed, creating a system of pools and rapids that provide important habitat for aquatic life"*

\*Getting to the start of the walk requires about 25 minutes of driving on unsealed tracks. Whilst not technically difficult, it is more suited to 4WD and AWD vehicles so we will leave any small cars at Newry. If it's wet, we will have to postpone.

## **Noojee Waterfalls and Trestle Bridge**

**Date:** Saturday 04 September 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 10 km in total, S-3-3  
**Meet:** 8am in Sale  
**Leader:** Ken Free; [freekenneth@optusnet.com.au](mailto:freekenneth@optusnet.com.au); 0414 774 144

This collection of short walks will require a longish drive west from Sale to get to the start point. We turn off the highway near Warragul and after a pleasant drive across lush rolling hills we'll pass through the sleepy village of Noojee before reaching the start of our walks to the Toorongoo and Amphitheatre Falls. The sign at the start of the Falls loop walk describes this area as one of the most beautiful and wettest parts of Victoria with mossy rocks, tree ferns and a lot of water!

We will then drive a short distance to undertake the Noojee Trestle Bridge and optional Rail Trail walk, a pleasant 3 kilometre walk along the original railway route. For keen photographers the trestle bridge offers endless possibilities for spectacular and quirky shots with interesting structural details and perspectives. For lunch, we will head for the Noojee Hotel. After lunch, if time permits, we can visit the Glen Nayook Rainforest Walk near the town of Neerim Junction.

## **Social Night Bibbulmun Track -- Andrew Stevenson**

**Date:** Wednesday 08 September 2021  
**Meet:** 6pm @ Wan Loy Chinese Restuarant, 9B Church Street, Traralgon  
**RSVP:** Monday 06 September. Joe van Beek; [joevanbeek@bigpond.com](mailto:joevanbeek@bigpond.com); 0411 749 799

Come and enjoy the company of fellow club members. We will gather at 6pm for some chit chat as we order our meals. After the meal Andrew Stevenson, a long term member and a former president of our club, will present his account of his recent experience in walking the 1000km Bibbulman Track in Western Australia from end-to-end. The Bibbulmun Track is one of the world's great long distance walk trails, stretching 1000km from Kalamunda, a suburb in the hills on the outskirts of Perth, to the historic town of Albany on the south coast. It passes through the heart of the scenic south west of Western Australia. The Track takes walkers through towering karri and tingle forests, down mist-shrouded valleys, over giant granite boulders and along breathtaking coastal heathlands.

Please register with Joe van Beek by Monday 6 September.

## **BTAC: Wellington River to Tali Karng**

**Date:** Thursday 09 - Sunday 12 September 2021

For details .. [https://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC\\_Content/BTAC\\_20210909.pdf](https://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC_Content/BTAC_20210909.pdf)

## Bryces Gorge

**Date:** Friday 10 - Sunday 12 September 2021

See website for details.

## White Womans Waterhole

**Date:** Saturday 18 September 2021

See website for details.

## Wirilda Walking Track

**Date:** Saturday 25 September 2021

**Dist/Grade:** 14 km, M-6-5

**Meet:** 9am, Wirilda Environment Park, Education Centre. Immediately west of where the Tyers River crosses the Moe-Glengarry Road, head north on Clarkes Road taking the first turn to the right (signed) and stop at the second house.

**Leader:** Joe van Beek; [joevanbeek@bigpond.com](mailto:joevanbeek@bigpond.com); 0411 749 799

The Wirilda Walking Track is Latrobe Valley's finest walk. The walk is conducted annually in conjunction with the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club and Friends of Tyers Park.

From the meeting point, which is also the finishing point, a thirty minute drive is required to get to the start of the walk at the Moondarra Dam wall. The Wirilda Track follows the Tyers River valley back to Wirilda Park. Scenery varies from dry, open forest to lush fern gullies and passes under the conglomerate cliffs of the Tyers Gorge. There are a few hills and a river crossing so spare footwear is advisable. Be sure to bring lunch, adequate water and a raincoat.

There will be a 24 km circuit version of the walk (Grade X-9-5) if there is enough interest from fit walkers on the day. This would start by walking up the pipeline access road to the Moondarra Dam and returns via the Wirilda Walking Track. Duration; 6 hours.

If numbers and interest are sufficient on the day a 3rd walk will be offered. This 10km circuit walk (Graded S-5-5) will start by going up Wirilda Walking track for a little way before heading off on a side track up to a 4WD track which is followed around the edge of Tyers Park with spectacular views of the Latrobe Valley. The park is re-entered along Blairs Road to connect up with Pipeline Access Road, W3 Track and Wirilda Walking Track. The walk returns to the Wirilda Park via the Wirilda Walking Track through the Tyers Gorge.

## Mt Feathertop

**Date:** Friday 01 - Sunday 03 October 2021

See website for details.

## Tambo Bluff and Nyerimilang Park

**Date:** Saturday 09 October 2021

**Dist/Grade:** 10 km, S-3-2

**Meet:** 9.30am, Swan Reach, opposite the General Store

**Leader:** Trevor Clues; [valmai51@bigpond.com](mailto:valmai51@bigpond.com); 0428 564 559

A stroll along the Wallaby Creek walking track to the shore of Lake King at Tambo Bluff. The walk along the beach is dependent on the tide so sturdy footwear is advisable. There are 100 steps up on return. We will then



drive to Nyerlimilang Heritage Park for lunch. There are several walking tracks there (only 95 steps from the jetty up to the Park!).

There may be an opportunity to tour the historic Nyerimilang Homestead, built in 1893.

## Cyathea Falls

**Date:** Saturday 16 October 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 19 km, L-4-3  
**Meet:** 9.30am, Balook Visitor Centre  
**Leader:** Peter Jennings; pnjjennings@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 former "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.

## BTAC: Mitta Mitta River to Benambra-Corryong Road

**Date:** Wednesday 20 - Sunday 24 October 2021

For details .. [https://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC\\_Content/BTAC\\_20211020.pdf](https://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com/images/BCWC_Content/BTAC_20211020.pdf)

## FULLY BOOKED \_ Wilson Prom Weekend \_ FULLY BOOKED

**Date:** Friday 22 -- Sunday 24 October 2021  
**Leader:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

We will have a short walk around Tidal River Friday afternoon. The lodge is not available till 4pm. On Saturday we will have a long walk or if some participants would like a shorter walk this will be organised.

On Sunday after packing up we will have another walk on the way out of the park. Ring for details.

## Arbuckle Junction to Thomastown (FedWalks2021 walk)

**Date:** Saturday 30 October 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 10 km  
**Meet:** 8am, TBA, talk to leader  
**Leaders:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

After a car shuffle, we will walk west from Arbuckle Junction following the McMillans Walking Track and ascend steeply (200 m height gain) for 30 minutes before reaching Arbuckle Plain. From here we will walk across the plain then descending to Shaws Creek. Once we have crossed the creek we will walk across Holmes Plain to Kellys Hut. After exploring the hut and surrounds, we will head south on Kellys Lane, a 4wd track detouring to McMichaels Hut by Shaws Creek for our lunch stop.

Back at Kellys Lane, gradually descending, with a couple of minor creek crossings, towards Thomastown. This walk is through Alpine Ash Forest, cross snow plains where hopefully we will see wildflowers and on the descend through Snow Gum and Candlebark Forest to Holmes Plain and Kellys Hut



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

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

ISSUE 220 -- Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club -- October 2021



MUMC Hut at Mt Feathertop

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2021/22

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:	John Cox Michael Dowe Rob Paterson	Liz Davis Angela Roughley

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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 08 December 2021  
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, Maffra  
(or a computer screen near you!!).

**Welcome to new members:  
Mark and Judy de Bono, Alan Lamb, Lauren Perry,  
Maureen Russell, Lauren Slayford**

# Trackers Tripe

## My Eighth Post

Wandering around the bush recently with a couple of like-minded friends I was asked: "Is FEDWALKS2021 going ahead this year"? Feeling confident, I responded with a firm Yes! I was sure, come November, we would once again be heading for the hills. Surely a loosening of restrictions combined with high vaccination rates would allow us to gather in larger groups.

Unfortunately, the reality is that FEDWALKS 2021 has been postponed! The second year in a row! ARRGH! One can only imagine the disappointment and frustration that the Organising Committee must feel after putting so much energy and effort into arranging this event. Hopefully, they can maintain their enthusiasm and the momentum to continue working towards the new revised timetable of March 2022. Equally, all registered participants will feel disappointed but, on a positive note, I remain confident that FEDWALKS2021 will go ahead in 2022 and more importantly, be one of the best FEDWALKS ever!

On a similar note, our Wilsons Promontory weekend, scheduled for later this month, has been cancelled. However, Monica has already re-booked the event for next year from 7 – 9 October 2022. If you registered this year, then your expression of interest is still valid for next year. Please let Monica know if you cannot attend on those dates next year. Alternatively, if interested in attending register your interest asap.

Despite all this, over the last two months we have been fortunate to be able to maintain a relatively active walks program, with 7 walks completed and only 1 cancelled. To recap:

- Joe led the Snowshoe shuffle at Mt St Gwinear on 14 August
- Monica led a walk to Blue Pool, also on 14 August
- Becky led a walk to the Channels on the Avon River on 19 September
- Joe and others led walks on the Combined Clubs Wirilda walk on 25 September
- Monica led a walk to Den of Nargun with heaps of water coming over the waterfall on 02 October
- Trevor led a walk at Nyerimilang and Tambo Bluff on 09 October
- I was able to lead an overnight walk to Mt Feathertop on 8/9/10 October

Our current Walks Program effectively comes to an end in December, so it is crucial that the recently appointed walks sub-committee get together soon and roll out another year of great walks. To this end, they are scheduled to meet on Monday 25 October at Stratford to sort out our walks calendar for the next 12 months. If you have a walk or similar activity (cycling, kayaking, or mud wrestling) in mind, please let one of our sub-committee members know asap, so that they can add it to the program.

As previously mentioned, Denise Stranger is arranging customised BCWC polo tops for members. All members should have received an email asking if they were interested in purchasing a top. Based upon the feedback received she is in the process of ordering 30+ polo tops which will come in two colours (Blue & Green) and should prove a hit, especially when club members are socialising with other clubs. Alternatively, they can be used during our usual walks or club events. The committee decided to cover the one-off cost of embroidering the club's name on each polo shirt. This means the cost per top to members will be: \$27.27. Upon receipt of the finished product, members will be contacted to confirm payment arrangements.

Finally, we had to defer our Club night in September featuring Andrew Stevenson's talk of his end-to-end walk of the Bibbulmun track in WA. The good news is that this gives Andrew more time to present a "Bigger than Ben Hur" presentation next month in November. I wouldn't miss this for quids!

See you on the track,

Trackers

# Club News

## “Guide to McMillans Walking Track” Christmas Present for a keen walker - details here

The McMillans Walking Track guide is now available. It is in bookshops and other retailers such as outdoor gear shops. It is also available on line via the Chapman’s website. 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.

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. **It is a great gift to family and friends.**

## How Easy Is It To Lead a Walk?

You have a favourite walk that you do regularly. You reckon it is a good, satisfying walk. You would like to share it with the club. But you haven’t led a walk before. No problem. There are plenty of people who are happy to mentor you, lead that walk with you as the Co-leader and get you started on the “road” of walk leading!! (pun intended). Give Geoff Mattingley a call and talk about it. His details are on page 2. The newly formed Walks Sub-committee is meeting this coming Monday in Stratford. Give Geoff or President Helmut a ring with your idea/s and/or to be part of the action.



**Fed Walks 2021**  
<https://fedwalks.org.au>

## POSTPONED

Late in September, the organising committee had a very hard task deciding if the event would go ahead this year. Taking into account various restrictions related to the number of people who could gather in one place in various situations in regional Victoria (accommodation, vehicles, dining halls and entertainment places) in the Roadmap scenario, we very reluctantly decided to postpone the event for a second time. The new dates for the weekend are 25/26/27/28 March 2022. It will still be called FedWalks2021!

All attendees have received an email outlining the postponement and the plans for 2022, inviting them to remain “onboard”. Some people have been unable to attend next year and have received a full refund. The number on the waiting list exceeds that number so, at this point in time, there are no places available.

## Question for the botanists



This plant may be one of the Syzygium family (Lilypilly) although the fruit looks a little too red to be *S. smithii*.

# Walk Reports

## Blue Pool / Peregrine Lookout

Saturday 14 August 2021

Leader: Monica Scicluna

Report: Robyn Rowley

Walkers: Marion, Liz, Di, Val, Robyn, Leanne, Sue, Maureen



We were very fortunate to be able to enjoy this beautiful area in between State Covid lockdowns. The day was clear and sunny, the air crisp and fresh as we gathered at the Blue Pool for the start of our walk.

The track follows alongside the Freestone Creek giving spectacular views of the Bluff and crosses the historic Gladstone Creek Bridge. Moving through the McKinnon Point camp area and across the creek where we all managed to keep dry feet and return via the Peregrine Track.

We greeted many walkers along the way; all like us enjoying the day out close to home, a very popular walk.

After enjoying our lunch in the shelter at the Blue Pool, some left for home and others opted for a coffee at the Badger and Hare before saying goodbye. Thanks Monica for organising this well loved walk.

## Snowshoe Shuffle aka A Bush Birthday Celebration

Saturday 14 August 2021

Leader: Joe van Beek

Report: Lynette Newman

Participants, Janine, Lynne, Jodie, Peter and Nicki, Julie, and Lynette.

Mid -August, the weather could be anything, from very cold with snow, to a mild spring day. Since my

Uni days, this time of the year, with the golden wattle blossoming and the magnificent displays of the magnolia tree, my attentions turn to the ski fields. Cross-country skiing, a walk in the park on skinny planks. Two years ago I went snowshoeing at Mt St Gwinear, also led by Joe. There had been a huge dump of snow and we nearly had to put chains on to get into the packed car park. We sank knee deep in snow even with Yowies on.

This year, snow had been, and mostly gone. Due to Covid-19 the ski fields had opened, shut, opened, shut and opened again. The Baw Baw area had been badly damaged in recent storms and a potential club weekend at Mushroom Rocks was dependent on the park being declared 'safe'. On Wednesday the okay was given. Thursday it was cancelled due to a snap lockdown. Aaaaah!

So it was with great excitement when regional areas were released from the latest lockdown that Joe was fielding inquiries from walkers keen for the next snowshoe shuffle.

I had purchased some Tubbs snowshoes, suitable for day walks on the Hotham-Dinner Plain groomed trails and I was keen to test them further.

We met at Erica ski hire, to hire snow chains (not used) and Joe hired Yowie snowshoes. Julie had her own MSR snowshoes and I carried my Tubbs on my pack. We arrived by 10am to the Mt St G car park - no snow, two other vehicles and the promise of the Coffee/donut van being open later.

Joe led us up the walking track, the Birthday Girl wearing her 'Happy Birthday' badge and after maybe 1km we came to snowy patches. By the time we met the ski trail there was more consistent snow cover and on the climb to Mt St Gwinear I found it easier wearing snowshoes than sinking one step and not the next.

The weather was cold, with a strong wind on the



exposed areas, but enough sun to highlight the colours of the snow gums and make the snow sparkle.

After a direct ascent of Mt St Gwinear, we descended then 'bagged' another peak, Mt St Phillack. Summit photos taken, we descended to the lunch spot in the saddle with a view to Mt Baw Baw. A bush birthday celebration, complete with party hats, party blowers and chocolates, completed our lunch stop then we returned via the rock shelter continuing towards Mt Erica before taking a side track back to the car park.

After the rock shelter I had snow shoes on, off, on but they were certainly not required on the 'unofficial' track to the car park.

Thanks Joe for leading us on this Birthday-almost-Birthday, adventure in the Baw Baw National Park.

Please excuse the ramblings of a would-be adventurer suffering from- snap-lockdown, release, indefinite lockdown fatigue!

## Dermodys Campground to The Channels

**Saturday 28 August 2021**

**Leader: Becky Horsham**

**Report: Oliver Raymond**

Walkers: Becky (leader), Elizabeth, Sue, Oliver, Julie, Monica, Elaine, Gerard, Peter, Nikki, Marilyn, Liz, Geoff, Mark, Libby, Clare, Leanne, Lauren, Maureen, Robyn. Evan joined us at lunchtime.

Twenty walkers turned up for this magic, Covid-release walk on a day of howling winds – but luckily, no rain. In fact the sun shone on us all day. The magic worked!

It was Becky Horsham's first walk as a walk leader, and she did us proud. All the protocols were observed, and no one wandered off against her instructions. Well done, Becky.

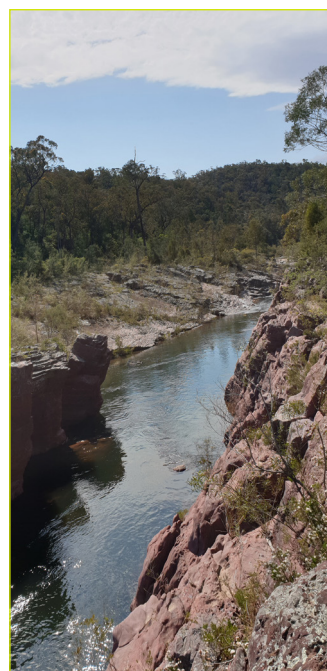


Despite the winds on the plains, we seemed to be in a sheltered area and many of the walkers didn't even need a jumper. Geoff Mattingley stopped us all at an automatic weather station, explained its workings and where to find the results on the BOM site (Bureau of Meteorology, for those who thought I was referring to the RAAF [bomb]). BOM is a site that is well worth a detailed exploration for those readers who have not worked their way through it before.

En route, it was a case of spot the orchids, which were scattered through the bush on either side of the track with other wildflowers, adding to the beauty of the day.

Becky stopped us for lunch at a delightful beach where we all took advantage of the sun and swapped yarns while munching. She then split us into two groups to wander further up the Avon River so that we could all enjoy the view of the Channels themselves without overcrowding. The river was up a bit, but still crystal clear and the white of the water falls in the gorge made a brilliant backdrop to the (red, mauve, orange??) coloured sedimentary rock that forms the Gorge. The same coloured rock outcrops in various locations through our part of Gippsland, notably around Licola, where you will be able to admire it if you are on the Combined Clubs weekend in March next year.

Over lunch, a mysterious addition to our numbers turned up, sporting an injured arm. He followed us back to Dermody's camp and then ran back to the Channel's car park to pick up his vehicle. Ain't youth wonderful? By the time we returned to our cars some of the walkers were feeling their age, but no one had dropped out. In a final gathering we held a census to see who had been double vaccinated. It was heartening to see that virtually everyone had been and only two had only had one jab at this stage.



It would be hard to find a more beautiful spot in Gippsland to spend a sunny day wandering through the bush. Thank you, Becky.



## Combined Club's Wirilda Walks

**Saturday 25 September 2021**  
**Leaders and Reports: various**

Overall Report: Joe and Judy van Beek

The Combined Clubs Wirilda Walks this year, involving Ben Cruachan Walking Club, the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club and Friends of Tyers Park as well as visitors, consisted of 3 walks within the Tyers Park and on the Wirilda Walking Track. To comply with Covid regulations, each walk met at a different location and maintained separation. Regretfully no social gathering of the various walkers was possible.

### **24km Circuit Walk**

**Leader: Martin Norris (SBWC)**

This energetic walk attracted mainly SBWC members with Evan Jones being the sole BCWC member. Walkers headed up the Pipeline Track to the Moondarra Dam and then down the Wirilda Walking Track back to the Wirilda Environmental Park. Liz Fleming published her 25 lessons learnt on this walk in the Strzelecki Newsletter.

25 Lessons Learnt on the Wirilda Track

*As told by Liz Fleming! . [In no particular order]*

1. Make sure you leave home at least 20 minutes

*before 9am (even if you do live close to Wirilda) – don't be late!*

*2. Pack a raincoat, even if there is no rain forecasted.*

*3. There are leeches, so make sure you have your legs covered, don't wear shorts.*

*4. Be prepared for hills, do some hill training beforehand (will do more training next time)*

*5. Follow the crowd, one foot in front of the other.*

*6. Don't always take the challenging route – maybe I should have signed up for the 14km hike instead.*

*7. Take your PECMI form and have your emergency contact details ready.*

*8. Take your gaiters, just in case there's river crossings (oh and for the leeches).*

*9. Take warm clothes, even the kiwis do feel the cold sometimes.*

*10. Enjoy the day out in nature with friends!*

*11. Martin is a great leader but also a fibber when it comes to hills, don't ever let him tell you that there's hardly any hills on Wirilda! Just don't believe him!*

*12. Maybe Cassie should have gone and got her eyelashes done – especially when you book in three hikes in three days! You're a machine!*

*13. A hike up Wirilda is much better for you than sleeping in and getting mandarins at the Farmer's Market – aye Julie?*

*14. It's wise to take up Jim's kind offer to take some of my pack contents (it may have helped, even just a little bit)*

*15. It was Jenny's first hike up Wirilda – will she be back to take on the 2022 challenge?*

*16. Peter thought he was 25 again, running up the hills, to be puffed at the top!*

*17. Carolyn is always so bubbly, even on a tough hilly hike! She always takes everything in her stride!*

*18. Melissa did well to survive the day with her parentals.*

*19. Sometimes it pays to go the long, windy road, rather than straight up the pipeline, as Wendy found the most amazing orchid growing in a tree.*





20. Briany stuck to her guns, stuck to a steady pace the entire day. I hardly saw her all day!

21. Trevor is a great photographer, not so good at counting sometimes.

22. Michael doesn't always seem to know the role of tail-end Charlie, pretty sure I was at the back most of the day.

23. Don't always follow the fit one, from another club, Evan, up the pipeline, it's not always the smart decision!

24. Cathy is a forward planner and has her Xmas Dinner already sorted.

25. Wirilda is only a few km out of Traralgon, it's going on my list for a mid-week, afternoon hike!

### **14 Km Classic Wirilda Walk**

**Leader: Jim Stranger**

Ten walkers led by Jim and Denise Stranger met at the Tyers Park Education Centre at 9am. A car shuffle transported walkers to the start of the walk at the Moondarra Dam wall. The Dam was at capacity with water cascading down the spill way. We started the walk in wet weather gear in a light shower – soon perfect walking conditions prevailed. The bush was fresh after good rains, ferns and shrubs flourished beside the track, Wonga vine and clematis were in bloom. The track was in fantastic condition.

The Wirilda track winds through open forest and generally follows the course of the Tyers River through the Boola State Forest and Tyers Park to the Wirilda Environment Park, sometimes well above and away from the river. There were plenty of short ascents and descents. We lunched on the W12 bridge over the Tyers River and detoured away from the track just after the old lime kilns to avoid a river crossing. It was remarkable to see the height that the river had reached in previous heavy rains.

This is a lovely walk with variety in landscape and flora and was much enjoyed by the company which included Jim and Denise Stranger, Peter and Nicki



Jennings, Libby Balderstone, Sue Wesson, Michael Dowe, Maria Garrett (SBWC), Belinda Slinger (SBWC) and Sue Hides. Many thanks to Jim and Denise and all who maintain the track for a great day in the bush.

### **10 Km Wirilda Mystery Walk**

**Leader: Joe van Beek**

One of three walks on offer: the Mystery Walk attracted a good mix of walkers from BCWC, SBWC, WGWC, U3A, FoTP and visitors. This circuit walk started following the Wirilda Walking Track from the Wirilda Environmental Park but soon turned up Red Box Track for a steep climb to a 4WD track following the ridge line overlooking the Latrobe Valley. The walk crossed over the water supply pipeline to Traralgon and the natural gas pipeline from Longford to Melbourne and under major electricity transmission lines. A brief shower of rain dampened the views of the valley and Strzelecki Ranges.

We stopped for morning tea upon reaching Blairs Road and stripped off raincoats, to then walk through the bush on 4WD tracks until we came to the top of some rocky outcrops. Joe led us down an indistinct track to get under the rocky outcrops to view a cave. Some climbed inside to view the cave made out of conglomerate rock. There was evidence of birds and small animals using and visiting the cave. Some five species of orchids were found in the vicinity of the rocky outcrops.

We made our way back to Blairs Road and followed it to the junction with the Pipeline Track. Here we went off track and up onto a ridge for our lunch stop with views of the park and the Tyers River winding its way downstream. We continued off track down the face of the hill till we intercepted the Wirilda Walking Track and followed it for 4km back to our starting point at the pump station.

The damage in the riverbed from the June floods was very evident and flood debris was observed on the sides of the walking track. The evidence shows that flood water had been as much as 5 metres above normal flow levels. Impact on the track was minimal even though it had been under water in places. The good work carried out by FoTP to maintain the track was much appreciated.

The walk was at a gentle pace, with Joe taking time to explain features of the park and the early 20th century water infrastructure, and plenty of time to explore the cave and surrounds. We covered the 12kms in 5 hours, arriving back at the pump station in bright sunshine.

## Mt Feathertop

Saturday 08/09/10 October 2021

Leader: Helmut Tracksdorf

Report: Helmut Tracksdorf

Walkers: Helmut Tracksdorf, Michael Dowe, Sue Wesson, John Martin, Jodie Wigg, Becky Horsham, Evan Jones and Briany Noonan.

### DAY 1

After what must have been an early start for some of our members from east of East Gippsland, we met at Bairnsdale around 8:15 and hit the road towards Mt Hotham and beyond. Apart from the numerous stops for roadworks along the Alpine Way, we soon arrived in Omeo for a break and coffee stop. Then it was off again up into the mountains, over the top of Mt Hotham arriving at Diamantina Spur around 11:30am. Not only was the weather looking good the conditions were perfect for a great day of hiking. After an obligatory group shot at the start of the Razorback spur, we were off and running, walking actually!



One of the highlights of walking along the Razorback is that Mt Feathertop is always in view in front of you and slowly, but surely, looms larger as you get closer. At this time of year with the last of the winter snow still covering her slopes, the mountain is a beauty to behold. As we got closer, we were soon walking through snow drifts even along the Razorback Ridge. By the time we arrived at the junction above Federation Hut, we were walking through solid snow at least 30cm thick.

Within 10minutes we arrived at our destination for day 1 – Federation Hut. It was 3:30pm and it had taken us 4hrs to walk at the hut, slightly longer than anticipated due to the snow drifts encountered. We had the whole place to ourselves primarily because Melbourne is in lockdown, hence the crowds were kept at



bay. After finding a campsite and settling in we boiled our billies in the hut and relaxed over coffee and tea.

While we were the only ones here, I was aware another group of hikers were on their way to Federation Hut as well. My brother and 3 other hikers were also doing the same hike, but they started later having come from further afield. Soon enough, around 6:00pm they wandered into camp. Evan had managed to light the stove in Federation Hut, so it was a warm welcome. The other party were a familiar group as two had walked MMWT with BCWC and they had all met up with Michael and I in Tassie after our walk of the South Coast Track, back in 2019. Anyhow, the hiking fraternity is clearly growing.

### DAY 2

The weather gods continued to smile upon us, turning on another great day. We rose early, slowly packed up camp and before heading off to the summit of Mt Feathertop, we explored along a spur for an elusive teepee that had been spotted last year from over near MUMC Hut the previous year. We soon found it and established it belongs to some serious (local?) climbers as there was a reasonable amount of gear inside. Upon our return to the hut, we set off for the summit via Molly Hill cairn.



**Background Info:** Molly Hill cairn is an official monument that commemorates Mary (Mollie) Ann Hill, a 30-year-old nurse from Glen iris who was the first skier known to have died in Victoria

*She was with a group from the Ski Club of Victo-*

ria that was stuck at the Feathertop Bungalow during six days of poor weather. On Friday 2 September 1932 a group of six set out from the Bungalow for Hotham Heights. It is believed that before her fatal accident, she slipped and injured her wrist, but after her arm was put in a sling, opted to continue with the crossing.

After the group climbed to the Razorback, she slipped on a steep patch of ice and slid over 60 metres down a steep slope before hitting a tree. A rescue party was quickly organised, and she was stretchered to Harrietteville and then driven to Bright Hospital. Despite an emergency operation, Molly Hill died of intracranial bleeding from a depressed fracture of the skull later that night.



we saw an adventurous lady carrying skis up to the summit and it was clear her intention was to ski down from the top.

Upon returning to our packs, we hiked along Tom Kneen track towards MUMC hut. This track effectively leads into a gully which then involved crossing 50 metres of snow laying across the usual track. Some found it easy whereas others found it tough as to lose your footing could mean you would slide down the slope for another 50 metres!! Nevertheless, we all survived the crossing. Within an hour we arrived at the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) hut. This hut was constructed in 1966 so it has recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Not bad considering all the significant fires that have occurred within this region during that time.

Once again, we settled down making ourselves comfortable in the hut. Having arrived relatively early in the afternoon, we had plenty of time to relax and explore. For some of the members of our group this was their first visit to both Mt Feathertop and MUMC hut which I personally found amazing. I have lost count on how many occasions I've been able to visit Mt Feathertop, suffice to say it's in the double digits! The other group of hikers wandered into camp several hours later yet again. They had witnessed the lone lady ski the slopes of Mt Feathertop. That night some of us slept outside in tents whereas others utilised the comforts of the hut. Either way, everyone was happy.



We dropped our packs at the junction of Tom Kneen track which leads to MUMC hut and made our way up along the spur that leads directly to the summit. The ridgeline is very exposed, so we donned the appropriate gear to avoid the cold wind blowing over the ridge. Within a short time we were on top and taking in the 360 degree views. Mt Bogong and the Fainters to the North, still covered in snow. Mt Buffalo to the west and Mt Buller, Mount Howitt to the South. We dropped off the ridge and found a quiet spot (out of the wind) to soak up the atmosphere. The other group of hikers soon arrived as well. After an hour on the summit, it was time to retreat down the spur line and back to our packs. On the way down



### DAY 3

The next morning, it was clearly obvious the weather pattern had changed. Rain overnight had set the mood and presumably the barometer reading was a lot lower than the day before. Rain squalls were lashing the hut and it looked decidedly unpleasant outside. I had requested members be ready to hit the trail for our return journey by 9:00am, but there were agitators in the ranks who wanted to leave EARLIER at 8:00am!! Being a benevolent dictator, I agreed to their request allowing them the liberty of testing the stormy weather outside before the rest of us. This sounded like a good plan plus it meant we could simply follow their footsteps in the snow and not get lost! In fact, the real reason they wanted to leave early was because they were the slow coaches. There, I said it!



After waving off the slackers, the loafers loafed around, had their second cuppa and got ready to launch into the unknown at the more agreeable time of 9:00am. Come the appointed hour we said our goodbyes to the “other” party of walkers (Hans, Karl, Meryl and David) and stepped out the front door straight into the wet weather. I should mention here that the other party were going to spend the whole day in MUMC hut, reading, relaxing, and laughing at us for going out in these conditions.

It was interesting to note that with no views available and only heavy rain as our company we made good time. It took us 40 minutes to get back to the junction above Federation Hut, whereas the day before it took us 1 hour from this same point. As we turned to head east along the Razorback the weather began to ease but the snow was wetter and slushier. Never-



theless, we eventually caught up with the early starters just past Diamantina Spur and then continued along the Razorback as a full complement, back to our cars parked next to Diamantina Hut on the Mt Hotham Road. We had managed to shave a whole hour off our return journey from the junction!

All in all, a great hike and fun time was had by all. No doubt there will be a queue at next year's event. On the trip home we stopped in at Omeo for a late lunch and what can only be described as the second highlight of the whole weekend – the colossal pies at the Crazy Cow Bakery.

### Tambo Bluff and Nyerimilang Park

Saturday 09 October 2021

Leader: Trevor Clues

Report: Monica Scicluna

Walkers: Ken, Robyn, Marian, Corinne, Mary, Jenny

We met at Swan Reach, checked in and drove to the start of Tambo Bluff. We walked along Wallaby Track which originally was the sewerage system for this area. It is a lovely stroll with lots of bush and birds chirping. Due to the tide being high we walked along the cliff top. Trevor pointed out Raymond Island, Paynesville, the mouth of the Nicholson and Tambo Rivers. Three of us tackled the 100 steps to the beach and back up. We continued through houses till we reached our cars. We then drove to Nyerimilang, where we had our lunch on the homestead's verandah, the views are amazing, some members strolled through the homestead. We went for a walk along Whistling Kite Track and then crossed over to Kurrajong Track and back onto Clifftop Track, past the old farm buildings, onto the lookout. The weather was perfect, after stopping at the Black Stump in Johnsonville for a cuppa or/and ice-creams we headed home. Thanks Trevor for organizing this wonderful walk.

### Cyathea Falls

Saturday 17 October 2021

Leader: Peter and Nicki Jennings

Report: Clare Snell

Walkers: Peter, Nicki, Libby, Ken, Monica, Leanne, Eva, Vanessa, Frankie, Vicky, Clare, Gerard, Jac.

Strong winds in the area meant the walk was delayed from the scheduled Saturday to Sunday and unfortunately a few weren't able to make it. Thanks to

Libby for suggesting the quick reschedule and to Peter and Nicki for contacting everyone so quickly.



We met at the Balook Visitor's Centre at 9:30am in cool but much calmer conditions. A couple of light showers while the group was gathering quickly passed and we set off on the tourist trails, including crossing a rather glum logged area on a gravel road, to reach Diaper Track. The steady and gentle downhill was accompanied by many, many, many leeches plus a little mud which made the track a bit slippery in sections. The track was in good condition considering the previous day's wild winds, but we did have to cross over and under two separate tree falls. We all agreed



delaying the walk had been a wise decision as while it would have been interesting to see those big trees tumbling down, it would have also been a bit scary. We had been promised no water crossings and I guess the couple of temporary creeks along the way didn't count!

Reaching the bitumen road, we did a de-leeching and then marched onto the Tarra Valley picnic area. We left our bags with Nicki and took the east track up to Cyathea Falls, which were flowing very nicely after all the rain the area has recently had. The Myrtle Beach forest and accompanying tree ferns, moss and



lichen were lush and green. After enjoying lunch by the Tarra River, we set off for the gentle climb back up to the visitor's centre. By this time, we knew our way around the obstacles on the track and limited the stops to keep the leeches, or at least of knowledge of them, at bay. There was some disagreement as to whether the number of leeches was exceptional but I'm sure I picked at least 20 off my boots during the day. The sun finally came out in the afternoon which helped warm us all up and some layers were shed on the last bit of the climb.

Reaching the Lyrebird Guesthouse, we said our goodbyes to half of the group, with the other half staying to enjoy coffee and scones from the eccentric caretaker. Protein smoothies, herbal teas with magical properties and artisan handmade chocolate were also enjoyed. Thanks to everyone for a fabulous day.

#####



The Razorback at Mt Feathertop

# 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.

## Mount Howitt

**Date:** Sat-Sun 30-31 October 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 14 km, M-4-3  
**Meet:** 4.30pm on Saturday 30 October at the Howitt carpark  
**Leader:** Peter Jennings; pnjjennings@gmail.com; 0428 230 444

We will camp at the Mt Howitt carpark. Google maps estimates 1hr 37mins (73km) from Licola along the Tamboritha Rd then Howitt Rd – there is a toilet available.

The track begins as a gentle 4.5km walk through button grass plains and snow gums to Vallejo- Gantner Hut and Macalister Springs. A 2.5 km moderate climb onto the treeless high plains leads to the Mt Howitt cairn (1742m) where we will have lunch. The ascent is one of the most beautiful in Victoria featuring alpine meadows, weathered snow gums and wonderful views. On return, when at Macalister Springs, we head up a lesser foot track climbing uphill to the east. This track has views of the Razor and the Viking before it swings southward through snow gum forest to rejoin the main track.

An option is to camp on Sunday night after the walk and return Monday.

## Arbuckle Junction to Thomastown (FedWalks2021 walk)

**Date:** Saturday 30 October 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 10 km  
**Meet:** 8am, TBA, talk to leader  
**Leaders:** Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

After a car shuffle, we will walk west from Arbuckle Junction following the McMillans Walking Track and ascend steeply (200 m height gain) for 30 minutes before reaching Arbuckle Plain. From here we will walk across the plain then descending to Shaws Creek. Once we have crossed the creek we will walk across Holmes Plain to Kellys Hut. After exploring the hut and surrounds, we will head south on Kellys Lane, a 4wd track detouring to McMichaels Hut by Shaws Creek for our lunch stop.

Back at Kellys Lane, gradually descending, with a couple of minor creek crossings, towards Thomastown. This walk is through Alpine Ash forest, crossing snowplains and descends through Snow Gum and Candlebark Forest to Holmes Plain and Kelly Hut.

## Mitchelldale River walk

**Date:** Saturday 06 November 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 15 km; M-6-4  
**Meet:** Stratford at 7.30am or Beverley's Road at 8am.  
**Leader:** 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 site 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: Tabberabbera 8322-N 1:50,000

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

## **Club Night: Bairnsdale Club: Andrew "Bibbulmun" Stevenson**

**Date:** Wednesday 10 November 2021  
**Meet:** 6pm, Bairnsdale Club, 68 Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale. Right in the CBD.  
**RSVP:** by 08 November to Robyn Kercher on 0400 592 407

Come and enjoy the company of fellow club members. We will gather at 6pm for some chit chat as we order our meals. After the meal Andrew Stevenson, a long term member and a former president of our club, will present his account of his recent experience in walking the 1000km Bibbulmun Track in Western Australia from end-to-end. The Bibbulmun Track is one of the world's great long distance walk trails, stretching 1000km from Kalamunda, a suburb in the hills on the outskirts of Perth, to the historic town of Albany on the south coast. It passes through the heart of the scenic south west of Western Australia. The Track takes walkers through towering karri and tingle forests, down mist-shrouded valleys, over giant granite boulders and along breathtaking coastal heathlands.

## **Grampians NP: Mount Difficult Range**

**Date:** Saturday 13 - Friday 19 November 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** various - see below **L-8-7**  
**Meet:** 8am Bairnsdale; 9.30am Traralgon  
**Leader:** Helmut Tracksdorf; [helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com](mailto:helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com); 0402 089 404

Contact Helmut to register your interest.

This activity aims to provide participants with 2 options.

- a) 4 days of serious hiking with the opportunity to relax at the end of the hike OR
- b) Base Camp at Halls Gap and carry out day trips to explore the Grampians.

For those who have not visited or explored this region, be prepared to be blown away by its ruggedness and beauty.

The hike comprises 4 days of solid walking along the Mt Difficult Range in the Grampians and 1 day of relaxing and sightseeing around Halls Gap at the end of our walk. The other 2 days comprise travelling to and from East Gippsland. Walking in the Grampians can be challenging with numerous rock scrambles involved to reach summits and viewpoints. Nevertheless, the effort will be worth it with typical Grampian scenery around every corner. With the walk scheduled during Spring, there should be plenty of wildflowers on display but nevertheless participants need to be prepared for wintery conditions as sudden changes can occur within the region.

### **For those interested in Hiking:**

Day 1: Involves a 6hr drive to arrive at Halls Gap where we settle into our pre-booked hostel accommodation and review the walk plan.

Day 2: We drive to the Northern Grampians and after exploring Mt Zero we commence our walk exploring

the Mt Staplyton area.

Day 3: We explore Roses Gap climbing Briggs Bluff and then on to explore the high point in the range – Mt Difficult.

Day 4: Continuing along the range we head towards Plantation Campground. The scenery along this section is stunning.

Day 5: Continuing along the Mt Difficult Rd we arrive in Halls Gap late afternoon. After arriving back at our hostel, we freshen up and celebrate with a meal in town.

Day 6: Today we relax and explore Halls Gap and its surrounds. For those who wish to explore further afield – Cathedral Rock beckons as a Day walk.

Day 7: Check out of our accommodation travel back home.

Accommodation costs associated with this walk depend upon the option chosen:

For Hikers: 3 nights @ ~\$50pp per night.

For Base Campers: 6 nights @ ~\$50pp per night

NB: These costs are based upon shared accommodation (4 persons per room) If wanting a private family room high higher costs would apply (~\$90pp/night) A fuel levy for passengers may also apply but remains to be confirmed.

NB: Some of the campsites along the track are small so we will be limiting the number of hikers. Therefore, if interested in participating in the hike, **please register early to avoid disappointment.**

Please ensure you are comfortable with the walk rating (L-8-7) before registering.

### **For those interested in Base camping at Halls Gap:**

There are a variety of options available. Relax and stroll around Halls Gap exploring what the town has to offer. There are numerous walks and strolls around the area with lookouts and viewpoints within easy reach. Explore further afield with day trips to scenic points such as Mackenzie Falls, Zumsteins, Boroka and Reids lookout. Mt William, the highest point within the Grampians Range, is located a short drive from Halls Gap. The list of things to do and places to see is endless. So, if you are happy to travel the distance you will not be disappointed. Please note that Spring is the peak period for visitors to this region so please register your interest to attend As Soon As Possible.

The costs associated with Base Camping at Halls Gap remain to be confirmed, however if participants are happy to share accommodation on the basis of Co- Living with a shared bathroom (either in mixed or separate rooms) the cost would be as low as \$50 per person per night.

Check out the preferred accommodation venue at: <https://tinyurl.com/Halls-Gap-Accommodation>

## **Avon - Mt Hedrick Scenic Reserve**

**Date:** Saturday 20 November 2021

**Dist/Grade:** 11.5 km, M-6-6

**Meet:** 8.45am, Macalister River Park, Maffra

**Leader:** Geoff Mattingley; [geoffmatt@aussiebroadband.com.au](mailto:geoffmatt@aussiebroadband.com.au); 03 5152 2916

In the Avon-Mount Hedrick Scenic Reserve, the walk commences north of Bulldog Junction, climbing through mixed forest towards the top of Mt. Hedrick (459m). On the way there are great views of Ben Cruachan itself, Mt Margaret and others across the picturesque valley below. The walk then heads down a steep descent through changing vegetation, before winding back up to Huggett Lookout where again there are great views - lunch here. Upon leaving Huggett Lookout, there are two steep climbs before arriving back at Mt. Hedrick. From here we descend to the carpark.

A lot of the track is rough and stony, thanks to damage by trail-bikes. In particular there is one downhill section with loose surface - poles will be useful. Total climb and descent for the day is 500 m (not all at once!), but the views are worth it.

Topographical Map: Ben Cruachan 8222-2-4 1:25,000

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



Meeting place: Macalister River Park, Maffra.

From Traralgon - immediately after crossing Macalister River as you enter Maffra, turn right into McMahon Drive (opposite Macalister Hotel). After 150m there is a parking area on the right, with toilets.

From Stratford - follow the main street through Maffra. Just before the river crossing, McMahon Drive is on the left (Macalister Tyre Service is on the corner)

## Hell's Window

**Date:** Friday - Saturday 26-27 November 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** 26 km, L-6-6  
**Meet:** Glenmaggie Hall  
**Leader:** Oliver Raymond; oliverraymond@wideband.net.au; 0411 420 345

The Australian Alps Walking Track passes over the summit of Mt Magdala, to the west of Mt Howitt. Hell's Window is a deep cleft in the ridge, east of Mt Magdala.

We will carpool at the Glenmaggie Hall then drive to the Howitt car park. Walk via Vallejo Gantner Hut to the camp site 2.6 km past Mt Howitt. Then optional – help establish a water point or walk to Hell's Window and back. Overnight at the camp site and then return to the Howitt car park on Saturday and drive home.

## Bogong Summit and Hut Hunt

**Date:** Thursday - Monday 09 - 13 December 2021  
**Dist/Grade:** ~60 km, Hard  
**Meet:** 7am, Bairnsdale  
**Leader:** Becky Horsham; beckyhorsham@bigpond.com; 0458 470 375

We will begin our walk just south of Falls Creek, head north along the AAWT to the summit of Mt Bogong. Then we go south via Cairn Creek Walking Track and Big River Firetrail back to our starting point (all going to plan!). We should be able to find five different high country huts along the way, as well as ruins and waterfalls.

Day 1 – drive Bairnsdale to Falls Creek (4hrs). Hike to Ropers Hut with side trips to two other huts. (16Km)

Day 2 – hike to Cleve Cole Hut (10Km) or Michell Refuge Hut (14km) via Howman Falls and Maddison Hut site.

Day 3 – summit Mt Bogong at 1986m and tick 'Highest Peak in Victoria' off your list. Try to find the rarely visited Cairn Creek Hut. This may require a bit of bush bashing. (12Km)

Day 4 – Continue south along the Big River Firetrail to the cars (18km)

Day 5 - \*an extra day has been allowed for in case of inclement weather, things not going to plan etc

This will be a hard hike in a remote location, and some of the tracks are lightly trafficked with possibly some bush bashing required. Because of this **only people who are experienced in alpine hiking with good gear (and able to carry 5 days' worth of food) should register.**

## Christmas in December

**Date:** Sunday 12 December 2021, 12 noon  
**Venue:** Sale Greyhound Club, Sale-Maffra Road, Sale  
**RSVP:** Wednesday 08 December; Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

If you can wear something relating to Christmas, that would make it more festive. We will order drinks and meals downstairs but will congregate upstairs. Hope to see you all for a great lunch and get together. If you wish to make a day of it, dog racing starts at 5pm.



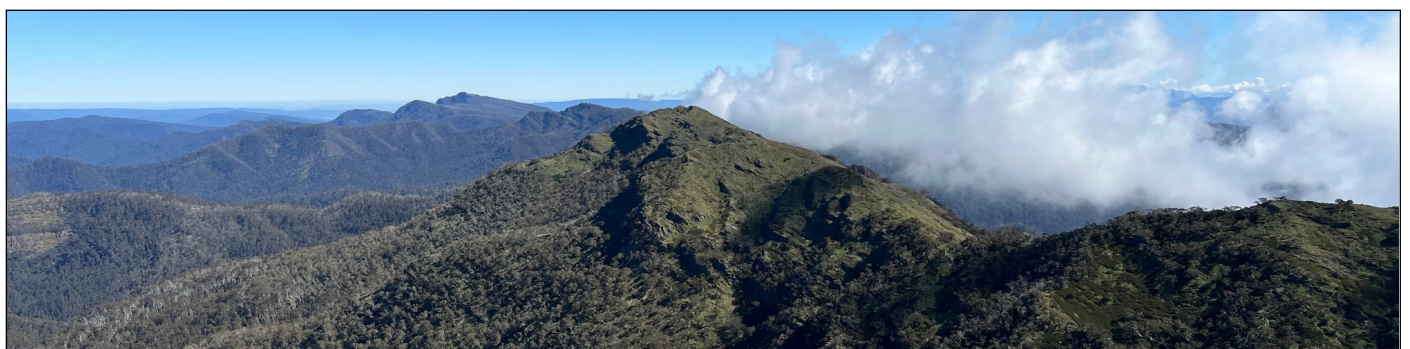
# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

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

ISSUE 221 -- Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club -- December 2021



Hells Window and view therefrom



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2021/22

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 strangers1@westnet.com.au	
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:	John Cox Michael Dowe Rob Paterson	Liz Davis Angela Roughley

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Incorporation No  
A0004849G

### In This Issue

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- 4 Walk Reports
- 10 Walk Previews

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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 08 February 2022  
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, Maffra.

### Welcome to new members:

**Frank and Klara Jones, Kerry Knights, Anne Wilson,  
Santa (pictured on his first walk with the club)**



# Trackers Tripe

## My Ninth Post

*Last year I was predicting 2021 was going to be better than 2020. Unfortunately, the crystal ball I was using was faulty and has been returned to the Op shop, from whence it came! Tea leaves are the new rage now! Therefore, am delighted to announce (not predict) that 2022 should, could, may, will, probably, etc. be better than 2021.*

*Looking back over the year, we did suffer from some setbacks such as FEDWALKS 2021 being deferred yet again, and several club walks and activities cancelled at short notice, due to lockdowns. Severe weather also caused a number of walks to be abandoned.*

*Nevertheless, we managed to maintain an active agenda of walks and associated activities that gave all members the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. If you missed out, then get your boots ready for 2022.*

*With Christmas fast approaching, club activities are winding down. As I write, all that remains is our annual Christmas lunch in Sale, which will be: All Over Red Rover, by the time you read this Newsletter. Hopefully, you were able to attend and catch up with fellow walkers and reminisce about the year's events.*

*FEDWALKS 2021 has been rescheduled to March 2022, which is not that far away. Check out the program online. I understand places may be available for some walks due to cancellations associated with the rescheduling. Keep an eye on the website and your email inbox if places become available. This will be the major event for 2022, one which we can all look forward too.*

*We organised BCWC polo tops this year, with many members placing orders. They will be delivered shortly and would make a good present. If you have not done your Christmas shopping, then these tops should be on your list! It will be great to see members on walks and other activities, promoting their association with the club.*

*McMillans Walking Track (MMWT) continues to draw attention with several members of the public completing the ETE (End-to-End) in the Fastest Known Time. For the record they completed the 210km walk in: ..... 4 days 5 hours and 17 minutes. Now all we have to do is: Start training to better this time!*

*On a festive note, I would like to wish all members a safe and happy Christmas, and hope that you are able to catch up with family and friends that you may not have seen for some time due to the lockdowns. May you all enjoy the festive season.*

See you on the track,

Trackers



# Walk Reports

## Den of Nargun

Saturday 02 October 2021

Leader: Monica Scicluna

Report: MArrian Matchan

Wow, wow, wow, you all missed a beauty today.

With Monica at the helm, Ken, Andrew, Leanne, Alice, Corrine, Brett and Marian headed down the hill from the carpark with the noise of thrashing water in our ears. We turned towards the Den and, for the first time ever, I saw water thundering along the usually dry creek bed. We had to divert off the track and over some fallen trees to make it along to the Den; the track and rocks were a tad slippery so we had to take it carefully. The water was pelting over the top of the entrance of the den creating a wonderful waterfall, the water all frothy and brown swirling around in the pool below, it was mesmerising. Sorry I got a bit carried away, thought I was beginning to write a travel doc.

I have been going to the Den of Nargun for quite a number of years now and I still can't get over how spectacular this area is.

From here we headed up the hill for a bit to get onto the track down to the river as there was too much water to do the usual creek crossing. At the river we sat around on the rocks and had an early lunch watching and listening to the water pelt and swirl over the big boulders in the river. With full bellies we returned back to our cars, then onto the Echo Bend Caravan Park for coffee, ice cream and a chat.

Thanks to Monica for a great day.



## Wellington Plain

(replaced walk to Mount Howitt)

Saturday/Sunday 30/31 October 2021

Leader: Peter Jennings

Report: Leanne Coulthard

Walkers: Peter, Nicki, Sophie, Lynette, Lynne, Janine, Penny, Jodie, Leanne, Clare, Malcolm, Lauren

The planned walk was overnight camping at Mt Howitt carpark and a hike up to Mt Howitt the next day, but this plan quickly flew out the window as it was discovered that the Mt Howitt Road to the campsite location was extremely boggy and inaccessible for vehicles.

A new campsite was chosen at Kelly's Lane. After much discussion around the campfire about possible walks in the area it was decided that we would tackle the Wellington Plain Walking Track. Being one of the walks scheduled for FedWalks, it was a good opportunity to complete a practice run.

Following a very crisp and cold morning (below zero temp with our tents iced over... brrrrrr!!) we drove approximately 15 km to the start of the Wellington Plain Track at McFarlane Saddle.

On arrival we found small amounts of snow in the carpark, but the morning was perfect – the sun was out and no wind. Our mission was to walk for approximately two and half hours along the track, have lunch at that point, then turn back to ensure that we didn't return too late back at the campsite for those of us to pack up and return home that night.

At 10am we set off on the track, first reading the signs with information about the local history, then headed SE up a gentle incline. At the top it curved around to head SW. After a km or so, we left behind





the snow gum woodland and onto the low heathland and grasses of the Wellington Plain.

Soon after we discovered Dunsmuirs Hut, jokingly named “Broken Hut” by Peter, as it was just that, broken and falling down. Other thoughts that it may have been the Button Man’s hut!

After approximately four kms, we passed through another section of woodland. Evidence of past bushfires could still be seen with various trees blackened but this added a contrast to the grey tree trunks and the green foliage at the base of the trees. Small wildflowers of varying colours were starting to peek through at various points.

After about an hour and a half into the walk we had to bid goodbye to Lynne and Lynette as they headed back their vehicle, required to leave early to return home by mid-afternoon.

We had a morning tea break at an area with plenty of rocks to sit on amongst tussock-like grasses to the admire the views out towards the Mt Wellington ridgeline. To identify this spot Peter decided to call it “Snack Point”. During our break it was decided that we would continue to Mt Wellington regardless of the time, as it would be such a shame to turn back when we were so close.

The track then forked off to the east and within a few hundred metres was Moroka Gap in the clearing. We continued east on the footpad heading gently uphill to the Mt Wellington 4WD track. We then walked north approximately one km to reach the top. After about two- and three-quarter hours of walking, we conquered Mt Wellington (1634m)!!! At the peak we discovered a massive stone cairn with a Geodetic Survey marker attached to a rectangular cement block sitting at the top.

The 360-degree views were absolutely stunning and a perfect place to eat our lunch. Unfortunately due to a slight haze in the distance we were unable to see the coastline, but the rest of the views over Gippsland and the mountain ranges of the Alpine National Park were utterly amazing. Janine had a nifty app on her phone which identified many of the various peaks/ mountains. Ben Cruachan was located and the snow-covered peaks of Mt Feathertop and Mt Hotham could

be seen in the distance.

After about 45 mins of soaking in the beautiful views, it was time to head off on our return trek. So in reverse, we of course had a couple of downhill sections and included a short rest for a snack at “Snack Point”, where we were joined by a couple of little lizards scurrying around the rocks. We then reached the carpark in two and a quarter hours, shaving 30 minutes off on the return journey. A total of 16kms in just over five hours. It was a fantastic surprise walk with absolutely perfect weather – thanks Peter!

## Noojee Waterfalls

Saturday 23 October 2021

No report but great photos. Jim Stranger at Amphitheatre Falls; walkers on the floor of Glen Nayook.



## Arbuckle Junction to Thomastown (FedWalks2021 walk)

Saturday 30 October 2021  
Leader: Monica Scicluna

No report received; just some great photos. The plain across to Kelly Hut and the mob at the hut.



## Mitchelldale River walk

Saturday 06 November 2021  
Leader: Jodie Wigg  
Report: Clare Snell

On a bright and sunny morning, with the promise of fine weather ahead, we met up at Beverleys Road.

Sixteen hale and hearty walkers then travelled to a point off the Angusvale Road, weaving between pot holes and dancing over corrugations, before the vehicles parked at the start of Bull Point Track.

Destined for a loop walk, we gathered ourselves, listened to Jodie's briefing, and set out. A long and gentle downhill at the start tested the knees of many, and gave a sense of the climb to be undertaken at the end of the day.

Wattles were in bloom, filling the air with their

scent, and flowers sprinkled the trackside in an array of colours. In the absence of a qualified Botanist being part of the group, we considered options for the species name. On reflection, they were undoubtedly incorrect.

Those with a keen eye were able to spot fungi and mushrooms growing, with one particularly large and impressive specimen noted on the way downhill.

Birdsong featured throughout the day, and a Wedge-tailed Eagle soared above us in the morning.

With pauses on grassy knolls, including Jacksons Point and Top Point, the track was a gradual downhill. A brief side trip led to the Old Water Race, and discussion ensued about whether this was for irrigation or gold mining. The hunt, 'back in the day', for the elusive yellow rock proved to be the most plausible reason why this long gully was dug.

Soon after, morning tea beckoned and we settled in at 'Two Trees'. This location was impressive – two massive eucalypts which surely must have significance for the local Aboriginal community. One with particularly gnarly branches which twisted and knotted themselves, and boughs reaching out and down towards the ground, or opening towards the sky. The other tree, some 20 metres away, seemed a different species, but similarly majestic. Both had a field of Scotch thistle underneath, and ringing the whole area, were new saplings. Jodie spoke of these being the result of germinating seeds from the 'mother trees'.

By now, the sound of the river water cascading over rocks was an ever present in the background.

After setting off from Two Trees, the walk became



more adventurous, with much forging through undergrowth, removing fallen wattle branches and stepping around bracken. Wombat holes were plentiful, and led to one walker having a foot break through the surface as the burrow entrance collapsed.

By now, the temperature had climbed a little more, and we were all looking forward to lunch, riverside, and the chance to get wet.

At last, Scott's Farm came to view. Lunching under the wattles, along the river, was a welcome reprieve. Whilst some chose to get wetter than others, all agreed that the river is a very special place. Thanks to the recent rains, it was flowing briskly.

Once lunch was over, we moseyed up to the farmhouse. It is surrounded by impressive trees, including a massive Cyprus Pine and Oaks, and the nearby orchard had ripening fruits, which some enjoyed.

Constructed of horizontal logs, and sporting an impressive stone chimney, the house was sparsely furnished. A bedroom with metal-sprung bed, small wardrobe and mirror was off to the side of the kitchen. This was where a massive fireplace dominated the room, and on the shelves above, an array of teapots, pans and cookware. An isolated location, the farmhouse and surrounding buildings gave some insight in to the challenges of those early European settlers.



After gathering for a group photo, with the chimney the backdrop, we regrouped and headed towards Bull Point. This part of the walk was cleared earlier in the year, but the ideal growing conditions has seen foliage and grasses flourish. Dead branches from wattle were particularly bothersome as they had fallen over the track. However, with the river on the left, and hills on the right, we were never at risk of getting lost.

However, scratches and stumbles did feature, with bloody patches on exposed skin being compared. It was one walker tumbling over which led to concerns, however, once bandaged and rested, they continued on with the grit and determination which embodies Serious Bushwalkers. And, as expected with the Ben Cruachan walking group, the walker had the quiet support of those around them.

Eventually, Bull Point came in to view. Located on

the sweep of the river, it is at the end of a 4WD track. Regrouping for another rest here before the track was tackled, remnants of lunch were eaten from packs and water bottles filled. After an initial solid, short uphill, the track became less of a heart thumping experience, with a gentle climb and brief flatter patches. Jodie had advised of there being two particularly nasty pinches towards the end of the road, and these slowed many up. It was here that provided a great opportunity to turn from the uphill, and enjoy the vistas over where we had been. The River and Scott's Farm could be seen at various times, but always, the majestic Ranges rolled out in all directions in hues of blue and green.

At the end of the track, each group was met with gentle applause and congratulatory comments. Many commented on the views along the track, the challenge and the fantastic sense of achievement.

Thanks to Jodie for leading, and Ken for being the tail-end-Charlie.

## Hell's Window

Friday/Saturday 26/27 November 2021

Leader: Oliver Raymond

Report: Penny Warren

Walkers: Oliver, Jodie, Brodie, Penny

### DAY 1:

Meeting early Friday morning at the Glenmaggie Hall, our initial group of 6 was reduced to 4 with Becky and Evan, sadly, unable to attend. As we drove further toward our starting point, low cloud and fog made for slow and steady going. Eventually we reached the Howitt Car Park late morning.

Gathering up our packs and checking we had the car keys safely stashed, we set off toward the Vallenjo – Gantner hut and Macalister Springs. Morning fog sat low across the alpine meadows, breaking up and becoming patchy as we reached our lunch spot and the loo with a view. After filling our water bottles at the spring and answering the call of nature - taking in the sweeping views of the valley from the loo - we set out toward Mount Howitt.

Heading westly, the track narrowing and closely following the ridge, views were obscured by the low cloud over the north however clear to the south over the Macalister River and valley below. After about 1.5km, we met the Australian Alps Walking Track, keeping to the left to commence our steady climb toward Mount Howitt - Toot buck-nulluck (Gunai).

Trekking across the open grassy summit, the beginnings of this year's alpine wildflowers showing





morning.

**DAY 2:** Waking up to clear blue sky overhead, we knew we were in for a stunning day for our return trip. After packing up and establishing the water point, we aimed to reach the car by midday. We retraced our steps, only this time going down the ups and up the downs. From the campsite we trekked up the Big Hill, before dropping to another saddle then embarking on the steady climb to the summit of Mount Howitt, wildflowers dotted throughout the snowgrass, another week or two the summit will be vibrant with colour.

Continuing along the AAWT, the views stunning and further than the previous day, clarity and brilliance of the sky overhead promised us scenery we missed out on the day before. The Crosscut Saw, Mount Speculation, Mount Buggery, Terrible Hollow, the Viking and the Razor all imposing rugged formations across the landscape. We were able to spot other hikers coming along other tracks in the distance.

On reaching the junction in the track, veering right we continued retracing the final 7km of our trip, reaching the car in good time, returning to Glenmaggie via the rutted Howitt Road by mid-afternoon. A fantastic time had by all, and a BIG thank you to Oliver for an amazing journey.

### WATER POINT

At the Hellfire Creek camp (-37.1885, 146.6310), the last sheltered grassy saddle before ascending toward Hells Window and Mount Magdala, (from the Mount Howitt side) there is a rough foot track heading



flashes of purples, yellows, white and mauve, Mount Howitt sitting ahead surrounded in patchy low cloud. Once on the summit, we could only snatch sneaky glimpses of the peaks and bluffs to the north. As soon as Oliver would name them, the cloud would steal them away, leaving us hoping for clearer views on our return journey the following day.

Following a short break for a drink and a snack we continued west, away from the summit through open snowgrass country, maintaining a steady pace across the Big Hill, walking amongst snow gums and wildflowers, over rocky outcrops, continuing along the AAWT finally arriving at the Hellfire Creek campsite, (-37.1885, 146.6310) a protected grassy saddle surrounded by gnarled twisted snow gums, at the base of Mount Magdala.

After setting up our tents for the night, we all set off for the final few hundred metres towards the looming Hells Window.

On reaching our end point, we were greeted with stunning clear views across the Howqua River valley, the sheer cliffs and steep gorges dominating the landscape, Mount Buller in the distance, the glint of rooftops and the ski-lifts evident. To the south, the King Billies and The Bluff sitting proud. (*ed. see cover*)

On return to our campsite, Oliver was able to locate a water point on the south side of the camp site, dinner was cooked up, a small campfire enjoyed by all and an early night in preparation for the return trip the next



southwest off the ridge down towards Hellfire Creek. After approximately 200 metres, there is a white PVC pipe secured in a small running creek, allowing for water collection. The rough foot track is marked with red reflectors on a couple of trees (the red marker is on the tree in the middle of the photo).

## Cultural Walk at the Wedge

**Sunday 28 November 2021**

**Leader: Lynette Newman - Clarinet soloist**  
**Report: Elsa**

Attentive listeners: Janine, Jodie, Robyn, Clare, Lynne, Chris and Ken.

For most of us, there's nothing better than soaking up the sights and sounds of the bush in the company of like-minded club members. Occasionally, an injection of culture, especially when it involves one of our fellow walkers, is equally satisfying and enjoyable.

And so it was that on a pleasant late-November day, we turned out to see and hear the Mozart Clarinet Concerto with the star of the show, Lynette Newman, as the clarinet solo. Lynette took centre stage in a most elegant burgundy frock and no walking boots!

For the serious music lovers, we were treated

to a virtuoso performance of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A Major with Lynette accompanied by the Gippsland Symphony Orchestra who have come out of a long Covid hibernation to perform concerts in Sale and Warragul. We were kept in awe as a seemingly very composed Lynette had her fingers dancing around the clarinet keys. For those of us who grew up with the likes of Bob Dylan and The Band, I'm inclined to say that the backing band were great but the lead clarinet was stupendous.

Our bonus was the second performance, Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor with Edward Pople (solo violin) accompanied by the Gippsland Symphony Orchestra. For this performance, Lynette played clarinet as part of the orchestra.

It was a Sunday afternoon without the sounds of trickling mountain streams. However, the sight and sounds of Lynette's clarinet performance was a wonderful substitute. Congratulations and thanks Lynette for inviting us into your cultural world.



# 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.

## Crolls Gorge Circuit and Mystery Hike Weekend

**Date:** Sat/Sun 22/23 January 2022  
**Dist/Grade:** Day 01: 8 km S-5-5 Day 02 10 km, M-7-5  
**Meet:** 8am at Glenmaggie Public Hall  
**Leader:** Helmut Tracksdorf; [helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com](mailto:helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com); 0402 089 404

This weekend involves 1 day of easy walking along the Wellington River and 1 day of either relaxing at camp OR embarking on a mystery hike to explore the surrounding area.

Day 1: From Glenmaggie we travel to Licola and beyond to Red Box campsite located beside Tamboritha Road and set up camp. A short distance further is the start of the Wellington River track which follows the Wellington River towards the Valley of Destruction and Lake Tali Karng. However, we only walk 3.5 km before leaving the track and commence walking up the river for another 1km to reach Crolls Gorge. Crolls Gorge is a pleasant spot to explore and have lunch. Depending on the weather it is also a great swimming spot so bring your cozzies!

After lunch we will explore the Gorge and walk up the river before deciding whether to return the same way or leave the river and make our way out of the Gorge to re-connect with Wellington River Track. This walk is relatively easy but does involve walking in the river so be prepared to get your feet wet. Upon return to camp, we will relax and explore.

Day 2: There are several options available. The mystery hike will depend upon the weather and temperature. There are several options to choose from, but participants will only find out by attending. Those wishing to relax can stay at camp and explore the river or simply go fishing! After lunch we will return to camp and then pack up to head home.

## Raymond Creek Falls to the Snowy River

**Date:** Saturday 29 January 2022  
**Dist/Grade:** 13 km return M-6-7  
**Meet:** 8am @ Howitt Park, Princes Hwy, Bairnsdale (north side of road and east side of river)  
**Leader:** Trevor Clues; [valmai51@bigpond.com](mailto:valmai51@bigpond.com); 0428 564 559

Follow a well maintained track (including 107 steps down), to view Raymond Creek Falls plunging 20 metres into a deep clear pool. Follow Raymond Creek through warm temperate rainforest to a second set of rockpools and small cascades where we rockhop across Raymond Creek. Walk 100m up a spur through open eucalypt forest reaching the top of the escarpment with sweeping views of the magnificent Snowy River with its beach and rapids far below, and its rolling hills and farmland on the opposite bank. Continue along a rocky narrow track down the spur to the confluence of Raymond Creek and the Snowy River with its lush grassy bank, open bush and cliff face of the escarpment. Basin Creek Falls are directly opposite on the western bank of the Snowy River. Swim in the Snowy River before returning by the same track (107 steps up). Walking poles may be useful.

## Cape Liptrap, Waratah Bay

Date: Friday/Saturday 04/05 February 2021 [See website for details](#)

## Ewing Morass Wildlife Reserve

Date: Saturday 12 February 2022 [See website for details](#)

## Raymond Island

Date: Saturday 26 February 2022 [See website for details](#)

## Mt Howitt

Date: Saturday/Sunday 26/27 February 2022 [See website for details](#)

## Mitchell River and Echo Bend

Date: Friday/Sunday 04/06 March 2022  
Dist/Grade: varied km, **M-4-1-ish**  
Meet: Echo Bend Camping Park, 345 Dunbars Road, Iguana Creek,  
Leader: Monica Scicluna; [joe.monica@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.monica@hotmail.com); 0431 777 460

If you are interested in joining us on this weekend of relaxed walking, please ring and book your accommodation directly asap. A small deposit is required. Also contact Monica and let her know you intend to attend.

This will be a social weekend with walks at Den of Nargun and Den of Nargun to Billy Goat Bend The walks may vary. The phone number for booking 03 5157 6317.

## Social Evening: Sue Wesson - Walking in Bhutan

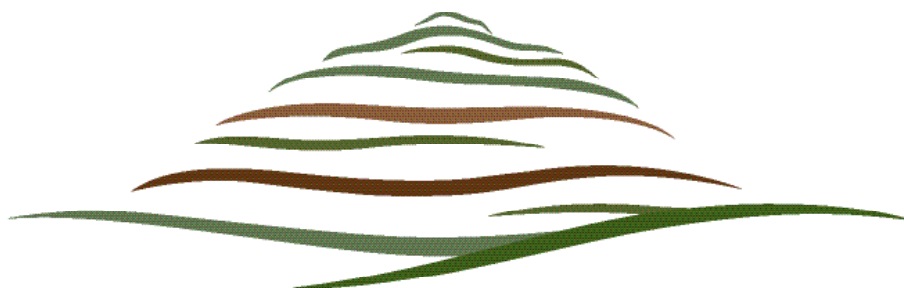
Date: Wednesday 09 March 2022  
Meet: 6pm Criterion Hotel, Sale [See website for details / Feb Newsletter!](#)

## Dargo and Wonnangatta River junction

Date: Saturday 19 March 2022 [See website for details](#)

## FedWalks 2021

Date: Friday/Monday 25/28 March 2022 [See website for details](#)



— **FedWalks2021** —