



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

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ISSUE 222 -- Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club -- February 2022



Cape Liptrap Walk

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 13 April 2022
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, Maffra.

Welcome to new members:

Terri Allen and Richard Shephard, Jenny and Kym Bull, Wendy Chambers, Jack Clayfield,
Dan Collis, Belle Deacon, Gemma and Peter Dodds, Colin Garth, Kate Wilkins

On Track with Trackers

My Ninth Post

Is it too late to say Happy New Year?

I must be getting old because the years are starting to fly by, and I cannot recall what happened last week let alone last year. Although I may be a GOM (), I am also an optimist. Technically they don't go together but in today's world you need to apply spin and apparently facts don't matter. So, before I lose my marbles completely here are the latest facts presented without any spin!*

*Forget the Winter Olympics or the talk of an election, the only topic on every bushwalkers lips today should be **FEDWALKS 2021**. The organising committee have used up more Panadol's than a gathering of pork barrelling politicians. Politics is a walk in the bush (aka: park) when it comes to sorting through the myriad of setbacks and problems that have challenged the committee over the past 2 years. Therefore, we should all be grateful for the extra effort they have had to put in, to ensure the event is a success. If there is a medal for perseverance, they are certainly deserving of it. So, on behalf of all club members, I would like to thank all members of the organising committee for their efforts in getting us to the point where **FEDWALKS 2021** will soon be underway. If you haven't booked a walk, there may still be an opportunity to get onboard. Check the website at: **FEDWALKS 2021** or contact a member of the organising committee to see if you can still get a guernsey.*

The organising committee is made up with members from the Ben Cruachan Walking Club and Strzelecki Bushwalking Club, ably supported by West Gippsland Bushwalking Club, South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club, and the Peregrine Club.

In addition, there are a myriad of other organisations and individuals that have assisted in ensuring the event will prove successful. Wellington Shire Council is a major sponsor, representatives from our land managers Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning are also involved. Macalister 4WD Touring and Social Club has kindly offered logistical support for several walks and the Licola Wilderness Village is providing accommodation facilities. Participants will be entertained by guest speaker Beau Miles a local Gippsland adventurer and music will be provided by local solo musician and song writer Courtney Jane.

Special mention must also go to all those members of the bushwalking fraternity who assisted in clearing tracks in preparation for the FEDWALKS weekend. You know who you are so give yourself a pat on the back. Thank You.

*OK I'm generally limited to one page and on this occasion, I've focused primarily on **FEDWALKS 2021**. As a Walking Club, our membership remains strong with 146 registered members with an average age of 56.7 years. Not sure what this means except that some of us are above average whereas others are below. If you are below average, may I suggest you lift your game and catch up with this GOM!!*

*See you on the track,
Trackers
President BCVC*

** Grumpy Old Man*

Walk Reports

Crolls Gorge Circuit and Mystery Hike Weekend

Sat/Sun 22/23 January 2022

Leader: Helmut Tracksdorf

Report: Peter Jennings

Walkers: Helmut, John, Andrew, Nicki, Peter, Clare, Richard, Cindy, Briany, Belle, Alan.

Day 1: Saturday 22/1/22

This was the Club's first designated walk for 2022; described as a leisurely introduction to our New Year activities.... "a gentle stroll to Crolls Gorge".

Half of the group travelled up to Red Box Campsite on Friday while the rest met at the Glenmaggie Hall before driving up to the campsite on Saturday morning.

With all of the paperwork completed we were underway by 10am for the short drive up to the starting point at the beginning of the Tali Karng walking track.

The day was beginning to warm up so the seven Wellington River crossings before we left the track were a pleasant introduction for later when we would be walking up the river to the gorge.

Soon enough, we reached the turn-off point and took to the river enthusiastically – "how cool is this?!" The water level wasn't as high as feared so we progressed steadily upstream either in the water or at times or rock hopping along the sides. It was, however, very disappointing to see several large carp in some of the deeper holes though there were a few trout as well. We pulled up at a shady spot for lunch before progressing further upstream for about 15 minutes to a deep channel and bubbling rapid for a swim. After the swim, as we walked back downstream to our lunch spot, Briany startled a red-bellied black snake who decided to take a dip as well.

After picking up our packs we made our way back to the Tali Karng track, keeping an eye out for the snake in case it got washed down the river!

Back at camp, dinner preparations began with some cool beverages and a variety of nibbles. As promised, Peter brought his big BBQ plate which became the focal point for the tong masters who cooked up some delicious meals – washed down with some delightful reds. The campfire chatter extended into the evening with tall tales and true which served to highlight the variety of backgrounds one might find on a Club walk. Where else would you find a teacher, a geologist, a gardener, a farmer, a policeman, an accountant, a train driver, a meteorologist, a budding detective and a microbiologist in one setting?

Day 2: Sunday 23/1/22

The expected high temperature for the day put paid to Helmut's preferred Mystery Walk.... climbing up Mt Ligar (The Crinoline). Instead, it was decided to explore the surrounding area, but not before a lesson on the geology of the locality delivered by our resident geologist (Helmut).

First a visit to the Red Bluff campsite where we could see many, many layers of sedimentary rocks (and a great swimming hole), then to the plaque at the mid-point of McMillans Walking Track (unveiled by Joan Kirner in 1988), a short walk to the beginning of the Crinoline Track, a walk through the grounds of the Melbourne Grammar Camp, then up McMillans Track from Breakfast Creek to the ridge from where we could look down on our campsite. A short walk back to camp, pack up, lunch and goodbyes saw the end of a wonderful weekend – a fitting "first activity" for the year.

Many thanks to Helmut for organising and a particular welcome to the five visitors who hopefully will continue with their interest in the Club's activities.



Getting Ready for FedWalks2021 BTAC @ Muttonwood Camp

25 January -- 01 February 2022
Leader and Report: Joe van Beek

Nine members of the clubs hosting FedWalks2021 (6 from BCWC and 3 from SBWC) participated in the BTAC event as volunteers to Parks Victoria to check, clear and mark tracks in preparation for **FedWalks2021** in late March.

Camp for the weeklong event was established at the Muttonwood campsite on the Wellington River, 16 km north of Licola on Tuesday 25 January. The BCWC shelter was put to good use providing shade from the hot sun and shelter from the pouring rain at other times. Twenty-two volunteers working in teams lead by Peter Maffei, Joe van Beek, John Green (VMTTC) and Alex Jennings (Parks Victoria ranger) attended to a wide range of tasks: checking out walking tracks including finding the alignment in some cases, clearing tracks of vegetation and fallen logs, marking the tracks with track markers. On top of that, the volunteers assisted Parks Victoria making the Alpine National park safer for users by clearing road side vegetation on Kelly Lane, erecting signs and clearing fire pits and their surrounds in the camp ground. One participant acted as camp warden for security and housekeeping on each day the teams were in the field.

The BTAC teams checked out more than 40km of walking track, cleared some 27km and erected track markers along an estimated 4.5 km, on tracks to be used for **FedWalks2021**. They contributed some 616 volunteer working hours as well as their travel time from home which was as far away as Sunbury for Robert Irvine, a first time BTAC participant, and Melbourne for 10 of the participants.

Walking Tracks checked and cleared included:

- Tamboritha Trail from Dingo Hill Track to Breakfast Creek (part of McMillans Walking Track)
- Mt Eliza on private property
- The track to the Crinoline
- Marking a route out to Neilson Crag in the wilderness zone
- Arbuckle Junction to Kellys Hut (to be used by 3 different walks at **FedWalks2021**)
- Bryces Gorge (to be used by 2 different walks at FedWalks)
- Wellington River (part of Crolls Gorge Walk)
- Mt Reynard
- Moroka Falls and Moroka Hut tracks.

The threat of thunder storms on the Tuesday and Wednesday nights came with some loud bangs but



Above: before

Below: after!!



very little rain, unlike the storm on Friday afternoon /evening which resulted in turning the camping ground into a series of lakes with rain well into Saturday morning. A weather enforced lay day was taken on Saturday. The improved weather in the afternoon provided for an opportunity to prepare gear for the next few days and do some tidying up around the camp site including clearing fire pits and their surrounds. Peter arranged for a brain storming meeting to gather ideas as to how BTAC might do things better or differently. Many ideas were offered but it is unlikely that BTAC will be able to afford a helicopter!

Parks Victoria kindly provided the ingredients for a BBQ meal on the Thursday evening which volunteers participated in preparing and was enjoyed by all. There was good camaraderie among the participants making the week long activity a very pleasant/enjoyable/happy experience. Participants all willingly

pitched in and went the extra mile contributing to the camp activity, be it lighting the fire, providing toilet paper, helping out with the cooking of the BBQ, offering pre-dinner snacks, providing transport, cleaning and sharpening tools, playing music, washing dishes, diverting flood water, etc, etc. Joe's damper with lashings of butter and marmalade was a hit.



We all felt for Scott who came all the way to Mut-tonwood from Melbourne but did not get out into the field because of our weather enforced lay day, for Tran when her idyllic camp site became a lake and for Peter who had to get his vehicle towed home. Thanks to Alex Jennings for his support, participation and contribution and thanks to Alex and Parks Victoria for the Thursday evening BBQ fare.

Raymond Creek Falls to the Snowy River

Saturday 29 January 2022

Leader: Trevor Clues

Report: Clare Snell

Walkers: Trevor, Ann, Clare, Geoff, Kerry, Jenny, Kym, Penny, Colin, Ken and Leanne

We met in a wet Howitt Park at 8am Saturday morning. There was some talk about whether the walk should be cancelled with the rain coming down quite heavy around Bairnsdale. A quick consultation of the radar gave us some hope that the rain would be less the further east we travelled so we jumped into our cars and set off. With one car taking a wrong turn at the roundabout, we can confirm it is quicker to travel to Orbost via Bruthen and not Lake's Entrance! From Orbost we made our way up to Raymond Creek Falls camping area, and thankfully the rain was holding out, with some light drizzle not presenting too much worry.

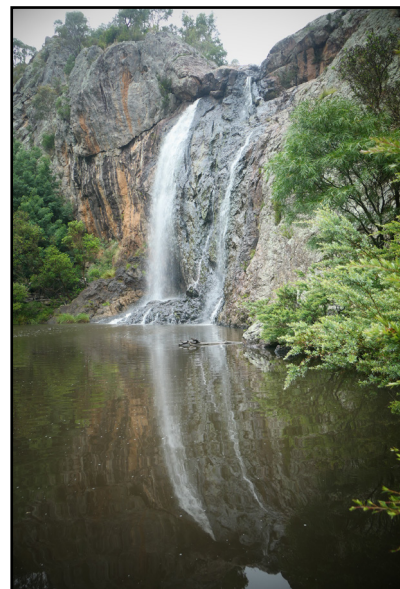
After the long drive (~130km), the walk started in

the mild but humid conditions. On the information sign at the carpark, someone had written 135 steps down to the falls, but our walk preview had only 107! Which was correct? A few of us tried to count the steps but got distracted by the trees and fungi. Somewhere between the two numbers seemed about right. The falls were a beautiful site, cascading 20m into the deep pool below. We all agreed it wasn't quite warm enough for swimming, however we did hear some young ones in the water on the way back out.

We followed the creek through the temperate forest, with fungi, flowers, butterflies, and frogs providing lots of photography options for the group, with one keen walker laying on the ground to get the perfect shot! We reached a rocky outcrop which required some sure footing to get across the cascading creek without getting our feet wet. The lichen and moss-covered rocks looked beautiful, but the wet conditions made for slippery rocks. Even with the orange markers clearly pointing off to our right at the outcrop, there was some thought that the path lay to the left. A quick reconnaissance and we trusted the markers.

A steady but short uphill climb ensued. The path levelled out, and glimpses of the Snowy River and farmland with rolling green hills on the opposite bank could be seen through the trees. Lunch was had at the top of the escarpment, with spectacular views down to the river and rapids. While hidden behind a hill, we could see it wasn't far to the confluence of the Snowy River and Raymond Creek. We did not walk down the escarpment as no one was keen to swim, and we hardly needed to anyway with the humidity well over 90%.

We had a leisurely walk back to the carpark, following our same route out, making it about 8km overall. Some of the walkers had joined the walk as visitors and ended deciding to become fully fledged members. It was great to see new and familiar faces, thanks to Trevor for organising a great day.



Cape Liptrap Weekend Walk

Friday/Saturday 05/06 February 2022
Leader and Report: Helmut Tracksdorf

Walkers: Belle, Briany, Peter & Nicki, Lynette, Clare, Leanne, Harry, Helmut.

DAY 1 CAPE LIPTRAP

Some participants arrived at our base camp, Bear Gully campground, on Friday night, whereas others arrived on Saturday morning at the designated starting point – The Cape Liptrap lighthouse carpark. So, whilst waiting for the others to arrive on Saturday morning, the early arrivals took the opportunity of visiting the Cape Liptrap lighthouse only a short walk away. The lighthouse is located on a major headland which affords spectacular views and gave us a preview of what we could expect far below. The rock platforms and calm blue ocean waters we could see appeared very inviting.



Cape Liptrap Lighthouse and view of the Cape

An early warning sign of what one can encounter in these coastal environments was the presence of several large snakes calmly soaking up the early morning sun on one of the sidetracks that our leader explored as a potential “shortcut” down to the beach. Fortunately, his gut feel told him to find another route and not explore any further!

With the arrival of the others, we re-gathered in the carpark and after introductions and other pleasantries (which included a safety talk about NOT stepping on snakes) we headed back down the road to locate the main beach access track which was not signposted. Getting down was our first challenge as the track was a combination of very steep, sometimes slippery with loose gravel underfoot and heavily overgrown in sections. Not being able to see where to put your feet

was a little unnerving. Nevertheless, we all survived the descent and arrived on the beach in a small bay with the Cape Liptrap to our left and our destination towards the right.

From here on it was classic coastal walking with small coves and jagged rock platforms that needed to be negotiated – very carefully! Even the sandy sections were difficult due to the course nature of the sand not allowing for consolidation and hence your foot would sink into the sand. The first obvious signs of how spectacular this area is, was the orange lichen that covers many of the rock faces giving the appearance that someone has literally painted the rocks.



Paint? Or Orange lichen?

For those who appreciate their biology or ecology, the lichens responsible for the orange hue on the rocks belong to the family Hymeneliaceae. The colour is contained in their thallus, which is the vegetative part of the body. Lichens are grouped by thallus type since the thallus is usually the most visually prominent part of the lichen. OK I know this all sounds rather sexy, but rocks can have that effect on some people. Now you know why!

Moving right along, we were also taken with the geology of the area with layers of rocks (beds) that had been significantly folded. It is difficult to appreciate the forces at work to achieve this result, but if you can imagine the rocks becoming plasticized (soft) due to the heat and pressure they fold more readily resulting in the following amazing features within the strata:



Continuing along the rock platforms and rocky beaches, it was clear to see that this area is certainly worth exploring. The sea was very calm, and the rock pools all looked inviting. When we stopped for lunch at a rocky promontory, we were able to explore some of the deep and clear blue pools more closely. During our “stroll” along this coastline we came across a dead seal skeleton, a dead wombat and a dead fairy penguin as well. We ignored the skeleton that looked human to avoid the necessary paperwork upon our return!!

It is worth noting that there is a recognised walk along this coastline from Cape Liptrap to Venus Bay which covers more than 20km. Today our group was only exploring a small section of this trail which led us to Morgan’s Beach located 4km from Cape Liptrap. In addition, this walk is very dependent upon high tide times which may trap the unwary walker. Therefore, we were happy to stop for lunch at a cave or rather large overhang which afforded us some shade on this relatively warm day. It was then time to turn around just before reaching Morgans and retrace our steps along the coastline back towards Cape Liptrap.

One of the interesting things to find along this coast is the presence of chert nodules (chemically precipitated SiO₂ rocks). They are not abundant but can be used as an effective stone tool that produce razor sharp edges when chipped. A demonstration by the walk leader produced a large chip that could have been used as a shaver! No one was harmed during this demonstration!

During our return journey we were constantly amazed at the colours and rock formations along this section of coast. Even the seaweed looked amazing.

One of the major geological features we came across was a large Anticline where the rock strata has been folded into an arch. From a geological aspect this was a classic example. However, what was interesting about this feature is that when the walk leader returned home and checked his old photos from a previous visit to this region back in 1976, he discovered he had been to this same location before BUT had no recollection of it! Which proves our leader is losing his memory. Check out the comparisons below noting the dapper guy in the older photo is a younger version of the walk leader himself.

Upon our return to Cape Liptrap, we slowly but steadily made our way back to the top of the bluff and, after another quick check of the lighthouse, we said goodbye to those members and visitors who had arrived this morning as they had other commitments they needed to attend.

The remaining five members of the group then travelled by car around to Waratah Bay and North Walk-

erville to check out what may be of interest. It was established that South Walkerville was worth exploring further so that was put on the schedule for tomorrow.

DAY 2 SOUTH WALKERVILLE

By the time dawn arrived on day 2, we had lost another 2 members of our group (duty and family commitments called them home) The remaining 3 adventurers then headed off to explore South Walkerville - which did not disappoint.

Here there is a short coastal walk that includes some of the oldest rocks in Victoria. For those who are interested, there are Cambrian greenstones (altered basalts) that are 550 million years old, fossil-bearing limestones that are 480 million years old and spectacularly folded sandstones at 400 million years old. The age of these rocks is literally beyond comprehension as they formed well before the Wilson Promontory granites intruded into the region. To put that into perspective, Wilson Prom was a granite batholith (a very large igneous intrusion at depth in the earth’s crust – that DID NOT reach the surface of the earth). Therefore, the present-day Wilson Prom which is clearly visible across the bay from Cape Liptrap was once deep within the earth’s crust. Uplift combined with eons of erosion have exposed the granite as we now see it today.

In addition, one of Victoria’s most active and exposed fault lines cuts through this area. Known as the Waratah Fault, it is approximately 100 metres wide and over the last 15 million years has lifted the hills around this area by over 175 metres above sea level. The fault zone can clearly be seen in the cliffs along the beach. It is worth noting that this fault is moving at approx. 0.04mm per year. Not much I hear you say, but over 1 million years that’s 40metres!!!!

A more recent feature that we explored along the coastline was the remnants of the Lime Kilns that were constructed in 1878 and used to convert limestone into quicklime (calcium oxide). This was then used as a mortar for the construction of buildings in



Melbourne. The iconic Flinders Street Station was constructed using quicklime from Walkerville.

Behind the kilns a track led us to the old Walkerville cemetery which contained several graves of early settler families that lived, worked, and died in the region.

Further along the coast we found a cave and tunnel which we had initially missed but stumbled upon and then explored along its length which brought us back to where we missed the entrance earlier.



The rock pools and sea stacks that are along this section of coast are worth exploring at low tide. We found another large cavern further along that would have been impossible to explore had the tide been high. While it was tempting to explore further we found some stairs that led back to the main road so it was decided that we should return to our vehicles and call it a day.

Overall, this was a great area to explore, and it certainly gave us all an appreciation of what one can expect within this region. Being close to the Prom, most people would bypass Cape Liptrap but from the walk leader's perspective, this section of coastline has a lot to offer for any intrepid walker.

Raymond Island

Saturday 12 February 2022

Leader and Report: Robyn Kercher

Walkers: Linda, Anne, Trevor, Robyn, Robyn, Helmut, Monica

Weather: Initially raining, then overcast, warming to 23 degrees.

When we met at the ferry waiting area, a misty rain was falling and umbrellas and raincoats were important protection against the elements. We had a trivia quiz about the history of Raymond Island and koala numbers from the first release to the latest count.

The ferry trip over was lovely and smooth, and our party began the walk southwest towards Montague Point. On the boardwalk we encountered an echidna which was busy looking for a feed and did not seem to be bothered by our close proximity to it. There was also plenty of birdlife, with swans, pelicans and ducks on the lake. Our first and second koalas were sighted high in the trees beside the roadway. The previous record of sightings on a walk was determined to be 32, so we had high hopes of exceeding this number.

As we walked through the Anglican church camp, we saw plenty of kangaroos lazing and grazing on the grassy lawns. We soon saw many more koalas along the koala trail, with most looking slightly wet and bedraggled, including a mother with joey in her arms. Helmut spotted a Trigger Orchid in flower. By this time the rain had stopped and the walk through the island bushland of manna gums and banksias was lovely. The koala count had reached 21 by the time we made our way to Western Boulevard for morning tea and the weather was warming up. Trevor pointed out the landmarks of the Silt Jetties, Mt Taylor, Nicholson, from the beach looking north.

From here we walked along Gravelly Point Road, past farms and bushland spotting kangaroos and a few koalas and admiring the bushland. The walking was easy, so there was plenty of enjoyable conversation on the walk. We headed back towards the ferry with the koala count just pushing 31, but we soon saw three more in the urban area bringing our total to 34!

We were hungry and ready for lunch so enjoyed the offerings at Paynesville, but Port Albert still reigns supreme for the best Fish and Chips!



Bryces Gorge

Saturday/Sunday 19/20 February 2022

Leader: Oliver Raymond

Report: Lauren Slayford

Our very own meteorologist predicted great weather (and no rain!) for this 2 day walk, and was certainly true to her word. Meeting at the Glenmaggie Hall, we commenced a small convoy travelling around 100km north, passing through Licola, and arriving at the Bryce's Gorge Car Park in the late morning. After our last proper toilet stop (drop hole) at the car park, we started our walk. With a few of us completing our very first overnighter, or returning to it after a long period of time, we were pleased for the opportunity to experience the feeling of heavier packs, giving us a an easy 9km to reflect on what we do and don't really need!

Traversing slightly undulating grassy plain, occasionally rocky underfoot, we were soon looking out over the stunning Pieman Falls. The falls were running freely and the view was simply beautiful. Onwards towards Bryce's Gorge, we arrived in time for lunch and set up camp. Blessed with beautiful weather, overlooking an incredible rock formation and accompanied by the sounds of the nearby Conglomerate Falls, many of us reflected on how lucky we are to live in this incredible part of the country - "We really do have it all".

After lunch, we took a short walk just past camp to check out the waterfalls, where we spent much of the afternoon mulling around, chatting and dipping feet in the cool spring water. Some of the more adventurous members travelled to the bottom of Conglomerate Falls to see if they could catch some of the trout that could be seen in the pools from above. Success! Some beautiful trout were caught and released by our expert fishermen.

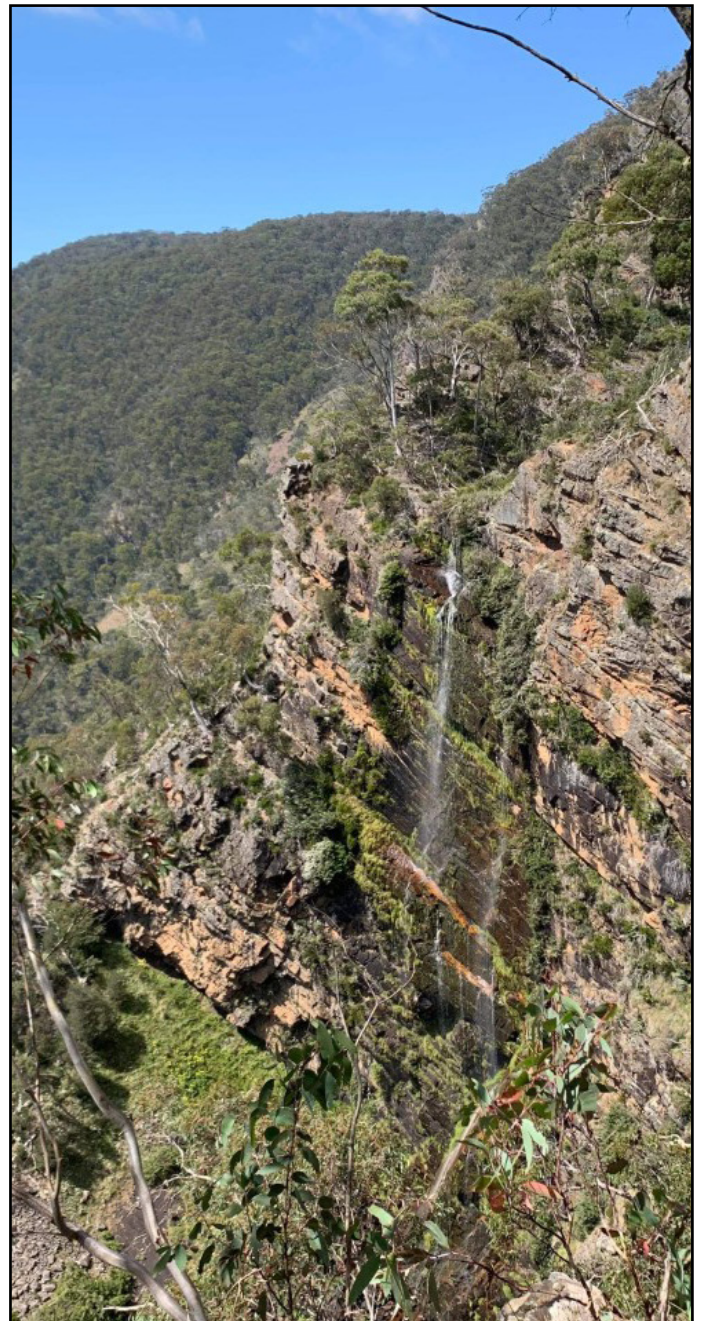
We were lucky to be able to fill our water bottles with fresh water from the stream, and enjoyed a healthy dose of banter around the small campfire in the evening. We were lulled to sleep by the sounds of mopokes and the rush of water from the nearby falls.

The following morning we packed up camp and commenced another leisurely stroll towards Guy's Hut. We were so pleased to have Oliver to talk to us about the different trees and beautiful old gums that surrounded us, showing us how to identify the different trees by the leaves. We are privileged to have such an experienced walk leader take the time to share his knowledge with us.

Guy's hut was another highlight of our walk, built in 1940, it has fared over the years very well. We passed by a few walkers commencing their walk from the op-

posite end of the track, and arrived back at our cars at the end of our easy 9km loop by mid morning.

A fantastic weekend was had by all, for this perfect short pack walk.



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.

Den of Nargun

Date: Saturday 05 March 2022
Dist/Grade: 6 km, S-4-2
Meet: Stratford opposite PO at 8.30am, corner of Beverleys Road and Dargo Road 9am
Leader: Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460

This walk features the Bluff Lookout with views of the Mitchell River Gorge, deep green pockets of warm temperate rainforest and Woolshed Creek.

A very significant Aboriginal site, this walk is part of the Bataluk Trail, which explores sites of significance to Gunakurnai history and culture.

Social Evening: Sue Wesson - Walking in Bhutan

Date: Wednesday 09 March 2022
Meet: 6pm Criterion Hotel, Sale
Arranger: Monica Scicluna; joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460
RSVP: Friday 04 March

Everyone is welcome to come along, have dinner and catch up with fellow members. Our guest speaker, Sue Wesson, will be talking about her 2014 adventure travelling in Bhutan - a 14-day hike to Mount Jomolhari and the Tibetan border. She says, "This is a very special place and I had an unforgettable time with my guide, cook, cook's assistant and pony man (and six ponies)". Come and enjoy her experience.

FedWalks 2021

Date: Friday/Monday 25/28 March 2022
Venue: Licola and the mountains to Howitt and Moroka

Open to members of clubs affiliated to Bushwalking Victoria. Ben Cruachan is one of those and active in organising this event. Have a look at the website as there are some places available as people drop out for personal reasons at the last minute. <https://fedwalks.org.au>

Mt Taylor

Date: Saturday 09 April 2022

See website for details. None available at time of publication.



Deptford / Slaughter Track

Date: Saturday 16 April 2022
Dist/Grade: 7.5 km return S-3-3
Meet: 9am @ Howitt Park, Princes Hwy, Bairnsdale (north side of road and east side of river)
Leader: Trevor Clues; valmai51@bigpond.com; 0428 564 559

Car pool at Howitt Park for one hour drive to Deptford, an old gold mining locality on the Nicholson River. There are toilets on the North side of ford where we start our walk. The old bridle path called Slaughter Track is an easy 3.7 km (1 1/2 hour) walk along the picturesque Nicholson River to Stantons Place. An ideal setting for lunch with picnic tables and an opportunity for a swim. Along the track we will view a tunnel through the rock to divert river, mine shafts and a stone oven, all remnants of the gold mining era. When we return to our cars we have the option of a short walk upstream to view another mine shaft complete with remains of the stamper battery. Bring a towel and torch.

Kosciusko National Park

Date: Wednesday 20 - Sunday 24 April 2022
Dist/Grade: various

This is scheduled for the Easter weekend. Check website for details.

Mitchelldale Car Camp

Date: Saturday 23 - Monday 25 April 2022
Dist/Grade: Sunday 12kms M-7-4 Monday 6kms S-3-4
Meet: arrange with Jodie
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 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 Saturday and Sunday nights, with walks on Sunday and Monday. After setting up camp on Saturday, 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 Saturday and participants will need to make prior arrangements with the leaders to ensure that the access gate is re-locked. 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: Sunday'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 S-7-4. Monday'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.

Morwell to Yallourn Walking Track

Date: Saturday 30 April 2022
Dist/Grade: 10 kms S-2-2
Meet: McDonalds car park, Morwell
Leader: Jim Stranger; strangers1@westnet.com.au; 0400 278 939

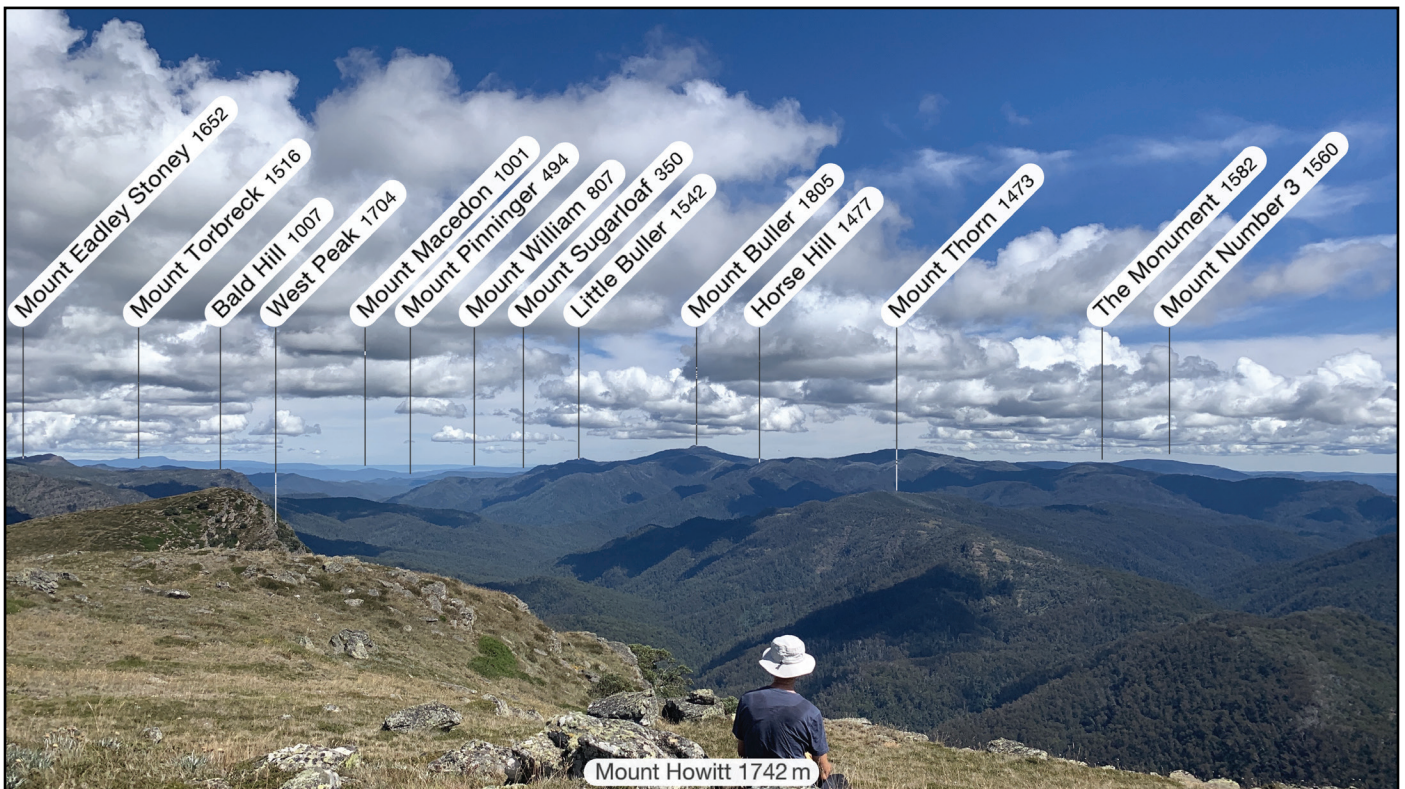
This pleasant walk follows a large diversion channel and then links to the old Yallourn - Morwell rail line. The western section of the track is close to the Yallourn Open Cut coalmine. It is relatively flat and well surfaced.



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Facebook: BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club
 WWW: www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com

ISSUE 223 -- Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club -- April 2022



Mt Howitt views and participants

Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Committee Members 2021/22

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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

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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 June 2022
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, Maffra.

Welcome to new members:

Evan Chesterfield, Dan Collis, Peter and Gemma Dodds,
Colin Garth and Megan Humphreys

Track Notes with Trackers

My Eleventh Post

With FEDWALKS 2021 now done and dusted, we can all breathe a sigh of relief!

Especially the organising committee which had to endure 3 years of worry and stress. Nevertheless, in the end, it all proved worthwhile as the overall feedback is one of tremendous success. Check out the detailed report in this Newsletter!

During Easter many of you will undoubtedly have caught up with family and friends. Hopefully you had a great time and managed to celebrate the occasion in whichever way you felt was appropriate. Unfortunately, the current turmoil in Eastern Europe means many people were unable to celebrate and are suffering so our thoughts and prayers are also with them. I mention this because when we are out in the bush “getting away from it all” it is certainly soothing for the soul and especially when you are away for several days. No news, no social media, and no worries! The world and all its problems simply fade away. I’m no doctor but this would have to be the best medicine one can prescribe for the soul. As a member of the BCWC you are certainly able to enjoy that experience and put some of the terrible global issues out of your mind for a short time at least.

A slight reality check may be required because more and more people are seeking to experience this feeling. Looking back, it was common to find yourself alone on many trails and peaks. Today, it is rare indeed to find yourself alone on the track. Dare I say in the future, you may need to book and pay for the privilege of walking many of the local tracks we currently take for granted. So, if you’re looking to experience the great outdoors before the inevitable price hike hits, dust off your walking boots and hit the tracks and trails on offer now.

Check out our walking program before it’s too late or dare I say too expensive to walk!

Talking about our walks program, over the next few months we need to organise more walks. In fact, the opportunity for additional activities such as bike rides, kayaking or even a historical town walks could be included on the program. All that is required is for someone to nominate an activity and be prepared to lead it. I’m sure there are members of our club who have the knowledge and experience to lead or initiate an activity that all members could enjoy. Autumn is an ideal time to get out and about soaking up the colours and spotting unusual fungi along the way.

Some selected activities currently planned that should be of interest to members are:

Mitchelldale car camp being led by Jodie during Anzac Day weekend. This walk never fails to impress those who attend. At our next club night scheduled for Wednesday 11th May we will relive the excitement of FEDWALKS 2021. Come along and enjoy the company of fellow club members who led some of the walks and listen to the stories and view photos of their experiences during the event.

In June we will celebrate the formation of our club back in 1965 atop Ben Cruachan. That was 57 years ago and is somewhat of a pilgrimage for club members. The Camino is but a mere poor cousin to this event so make sure to circle 25th June on your calendar.

With a federal election in the wind, it would be remiss of me not to mention our own election of office bearers for 2022/23 is also fast approaching (July). If it’s lower taxes, you want then you need to consider running at the federal level. However, if it’s higher levels of enjoyment and a greater level of participation in your club you are seeking, then consider taking on a Committee role. Without the Committee, YOUR club would not exist. Think about it!

See you at the polling booth OR preferably on the track,

Trackers

President BCWC

Club News



At last. It is done.

Originally named FedWalks2020 and scheduled for November 2020, the organising committee, convened by Joe van Beek, commenced meeting in May 2019! The event was postponed in June 2020, rebadged FedWalks2021 and rescheduled for November 2021. The committee started meeting again in February 2021 but Covid-19 reared up again and the event was postponed a second time until March 2022 but retained the title FedWalks2021 as the 2022 FedWalks event was already planned. Thus the event has been some time in gestation, almost 3 years with about 30 committee meetings.

Eventually it was held on the last weekend in March and it was very successful. The weather was absolutely superb (in total contrast to the dates in November last year when you would have got very wet and very cold!). Wellington Shire was our major sponsor – In The Middle Of Everywhere. The next event on 01/02 October 2022 will be based in Wangaratta and highlight the Warby Ranges.

Our target for the weekend was 250 walkers but with the 2 postponements and date changes, we had about 100 changes thus the waiting list was fully accommodated and we had 210 people present. This meant less pressure on the accommodation and the dining experiences. The Licola Wilderness Village was a great spot for the weekend. Only 2 walks had a big travel component. Mt Howitt car park and Horseyard Flat car park are both 80 kilometres one way hence 4 hours of driving. It reminds us BCWC folk that doing the Mt Howitt or Moroka Falls as a day walk is quite an undertaking for us dedicated bushwalkers.

Walkers from 32 of the 60 clubs affiliated to Bush Walking Victoria attended. BCWC provided 33 walkers and StrzeleckiBWC 29. There were 41 leaders/co-leaders from 12 different clubs and 15 of those were BCWC members. Many thanks to all those leaders who put in quite serious amounts of time and effort and expenses reconnoitring their walks. One co-leader was replaced on the morning the walk was assembling! Just as many thanks to her.

There were 21 walks on the program. There were 15 walks on Saturday, 14 on Sunday and 3 overnight walks on Sunday/Monday. "Recovery" of the walkers on 2 of those was provided by Macalister 4WD

and Social Club who thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. Big thanks to them. We believe this is the first occasion that overnight walks have occurred on a FedWalks event. The most popular walk on Saturday was The Crinoline "challenge" (Walk 20) fully booked with 20 and Bryces Gorge (Walk 02) on Sunday with 20 too. Overall, Mt Howitt (Walk 07) had the most walkers overall with 17 and 18 over the 2 days.

Back at base, a Taste of Gippsland was presented on Sunday evening with music, local produce (meats and cheeses) and local wine. If noise level is a measure of success, it was a ripper. People enjoyed the Gippsland nibbles and a lot fetched their roast dinner from the dining hall to consume back at the action. It was well received. The overnight walks also had their Taste of Gippsland secretly transported by the 4WD Club. No-one missed out. Safe to say, it was very well received. People purchased from local businesses involved on the way home on Monday.





Walk 03: Arbutle Junction to Thomastown



Walk 13: Mt Eliza



Walk 05: Thomastown to Kellys Hut



Walk 21: Tali Karng



Walk 06: Bryces Gorge



Walk 21: Tali Karng



Walk 07: Mt Howitt



Walk 21: Tali Karng

Walk Reports

Mt Howitt

Sunday 27 February 2022

Leader: Peter and Nicki Jennings

Report: Janine Muir

Walkers: Peter, Nicki, Janine, Linda, Geoff, Claire, Colin, Kim, Jenny.

On a Saturday forecast to be super wet and miserable, 11 intrepid adventurers headed up to Mt Howitt trailhead and carpark. There were varying reports of weather encountered on the drive, from torrential rain to whiteout fog, and everything in between. Luckily the weather at our camping spot was clear, and we had a great night chatting around the campfire (and what a camp fire it was – thanks heaps Mike and Chris). We awoke to a magnificent day Sunday, and 9 walkers headed off to Mt Howitt, led by Peter and Nicki. To say the scenery along the way was stunning doesn't quite capture the beauty before us - but wow, it truly was stunning!

As per the walk preview, the track began as a gentle 4.5km walk through button grass plains and snow gums to Vallejo Gantner Hut. This particular hut is a copper clad inclined 'A' frame design, and was built in 1970 as a refuge for bushwalkers. The hut is truly palatial, with two entrances, a huge fireplace in the middle, a loft with a ladder and hand rail for access, and oh so much space inside! Not far from the hut was an equally impressive toilet – a "loo with a view" as you'd expect!

After a morning tea break, we headed off past Macalister Springs, which was flowing beautifully (through a piece of pvc pipe). We were hoping to get a view of Terrible Hollow to the east, but unfortunately the view at that stage was blanketed in cloud. Thankfully the jagged lines of Crosscut Saw, with Mount Buggery and Mount Speculation in the background, were more visible (especially on the return journey). Absolutely stunning scenery.

After the 2.5km moderate climb from the hut onto the treeless high plains we reached the cairn (and trig point) at the summit of Mt Howitt (1742m). The walk preview's promise that the "ascent is one of the most beautiful in Victoria featuring alpine meadows, weathered snow gums and wonderful views" was letter-of-the-law accurate. From the top we could see Mount Magdala, Lake Mountain, Mount Macedon, Mount Buller, and even Mount Sugarloaf (according to the *PeakFinder* app!). What a fabulous destination to stop for lunch - it felt like we were dining on top of the world.

After lunch we retraced our steps back to Macalister Springs and Vallejo Gantner Hut, then turned



onto a lesser foot track climbing uphill to the east. This track has views of the Razor and the Viking before swinging southward through snow gum forest to rejoin the main track. From here it was about 4km back to the cars, where Mike and Chris had a welcome campfire waiting for us (thanks again guys).

By the end of the day we had passed lots of beautiful snow gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*!), paper daisies, various heathland varieties, billy buttons, trigger plants, and loads of other plants I don't know the names of - but no orchids! We saw a tiger snake, a most exquisitely coloured alpine grasshopper, loads of butterflies and various little birds. It was a fabulous walk in beautiful weather with great company taking in stunning scenery – how lucky we were. Thanks to Peter and Nicki for leading this walk.



Den of Nargun

Saturday 05 March 2022
Leader: Monica Scicluna

No report, just an image of a deluge day!



Lake Tyers and environs

Saturday 09 April 2022
Leader: Trevor Clues
Report: Monica Scicluna

Walkers : Trevor, Evan, Marian, Anne, Monica

We met at the Lake Tyers carpark near the hotel at 10am on the most magnificent day. We walked towards the number one boat ramp for a cuppa; the views of the beach were beautiful.

Back to the cars and a short drive to the start of the Lake Tyers Clifftop Walk. We meandered through the bush seeing heath bushes and fungi and heading down steps to the 90-Mile Beach.

We decided to walk back along the beach and back up to the cars. It was so enjoyable watching the waves and picking up pebbles the cliff face was amazing.

It was early for lunch, so it was decided to go to Lake Tyers State Park and do the Marsdenia Rainforest Walk and then Toorloo Arm Walk.

Well, the rainforest walk was outstanding. I have never seen water in the creek and to see it flowing was spectacular, everyone enjoyed this short walk. It was now time to have lunch on the newly erected table and benches.

After lunch we drove to Burnt Bridge and walked along the arm to Cherry Tree and back, Trevor pointed out the Aboriginal settlement and how there were many water ways off Lake Tyers.

From all of us thanks to Trevor for a fantastic day.



Marsdenia Rainforest Walk



Many "arms" of water -- Evan, Trevor, Marian

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.

IMPORTANT: Anyone attending a BCWC activity must be currently vaccinated against Covid 19.

Easter 4-day Alpine Adventure

Date: Friday 15 - Monday 18 April 2022
Dist/Grade: 40+ km X-7-4
Meet: Bairnsdale or Omeo; arrange with leader
Leader: Sue Wessons; wessons@iinet.net.au; 0413 954 756

A four day hard walk in the beautiful alpine region of Mount Feathertop and Mount Hotham dropping down to Harrietville for the first night and West Kiewa River, Cobungra Gap and Dibbins Hut for the third night.

The weather can be anything from very cold to warm. It may snow but there is unlikely to be deep snow from last winter season. You may like to stay overnight in Omeo if you have a long drive. We probably will.

Day 1 Car shuffle. Leave cars at Mt Loch car park about 9.30 am, transport packs down to Harrietville Caravan Park in one vehicle. Take a car to Diamantina Hut, then walk to Harrietville via Bon Accord Spur. 12 kms. Loss of about 1000 metres. Your pack can be transported down to Harrietville so a day pack only for Day 1. Stay at Harrietville Caravan Park.

Day 2 Harrietville to Federation Hut on Feathertop via Bungalow Spur. 1300 metre climb, 21.4 km. Up to the Feathertop Summit should you choose.

Day 3 Federation Hut, down Diamantina Spur, West Kiewa River for lunch, camp at Dibbins Hut. This is the most difficult day as coming off Diamantina Spur is tricky and exposed in places. But the river is worth the effort and a swim may be in order at lunch time. Dibbins Hut is my absolute favourite and I have done this hike many times starting at Harrietville.

Day 4 Up Swindlers Spur to Derrick Hut for lunch. This is a steepish climb, especially at the beginning. Then a short stroll back to Mount Loch carpark. Return home via Omeo.

This walk will be a pleasant way to spend Easter in the High Country, so be quick to reply if you want to come.

Deptford / Slaughter Track

Date: Saturday 16 April 2022
Dist/Grade: 7.5 km return S-3-3
Meet: 9am @ Howitt Park, Princes Hwy, Bairnsdale (north side of road and east side of river)
Leader: Trevor Clues; valmai51@bigpond.com; 0428 564 559

Car pool at Howitt Park for one hour drive to Deptford, an old gold mining locality on the Nicholson River. There are toilets on the North side of ford where we start our walk. The old bridle path called Slaughter Track is an easy 3.7 km (1 1/2 hour) walk along the picturesque Nicholson River to Stantons Place. An ideal setting for lunch with picnic tables and an opportunity for a swim. Along the track we will view a tunnel through the rock to divert river, mine shafts and a stone oven, all remnants of the gold mining era. When we return to our cars we have the option of a short walk upstream to view another mine shaft complete with remains of the stamper battery. Bring a towel and torch.

Kosciusko National Park

Will be on later in the year. Check website for details.

Mitchelldale Car Camp

Date: Saturday 23 - Monday 25 April 2022
Dist/Grade: Sunday 12kms M-7-4 Monday 6kms S-3-4
Meet: arrange with Jodie
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 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 Saturday and Sunday nights, with walks on Sunday and Monday. After setting up camp on Saturday, 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 Saturday and participants will need to make prior arrangements with the leaders to ensure that the access gate is re-locked. 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: Sunday’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 S-7-4. Monday’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.

Morwell to Yallourn Walking Track

Date: Saturday 30 April 2022
Dist/Grade: 10 kms S-2-2
Meet: McDonalds car park, Morwell
Leader: Jim Stranger; strangers1@westnet.com.au; 0400 278 939

This pleasant walk follows a large diversion channel and then links to the old Yallourn - Morwell rail line. The western section of the track is close to the Yallourn Open Cut coalmine. It is relatively flat and well surfaced.

Balook / Macks Creek

Date: Sunday 08 May 2022
Dist/Grade: 14 km, M-6-6 some steep descents
Meet: 9.30am at the Balook Visitor Centre
Leader: Peter Jennings; pnjjennings@gmail.com; 0428 230 444

This walk involves a section of the Grand Strzelecki Track. After a car shuffle, from the Tarra-Bulga Visitor 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 because of leeches 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 certainly hear, if not see, lyrebirds, which are a feature of the park.e.

Social Evening: Stories from FedWalks2021

Date: Wednesday 11 May 2022
Venue: Wan Loy Chinese Restuarant, 9B Church Street, Traralgon
Leader: Joe van Beek; joevanbeek@bigpond.com; 0411 749 799 RSVP 09 May.

Come and enjoy the company of fellow club members over a meal and hear the stories and see the photos from walk leaders and walkers of their experience of FedWalks2021 held from 25 to 28 March 2022. We will gather at 6pm for some chit chat as we order our meals. After the meal we will see some photos and hear the stories of the walks that took place over the FedWalks weekend. Of particular interest will be the overnight walks and the collaboration with the Macalister 4WD club. All those that attended FedWalks2021 are invited to bring some photos (printed out or on USB) to share along with a story or two. Please register with Joe van Beek by Monday 09 May.

Confluence of the Dargo and Wonnangatta Rivers & Granite Creek Goldfields

Date: Saturday 14 May 2022
Dist/Grade: (1) 2km, (2) 3.5km, S-4-3 day return
Meet: 8am at corner of Beverleys and Dargo Roads
Leader: Ken Free and Liz Davis; pepadavis53@gmail.com; 0447 447 526

NOTE: Register with Walk Leader before the day of the walk. This club activity will be limited to 12 participants. A 4WD or at least Subaru Forester (or similar) will be required for some of the roads we will travel on.

After driving north on the Dargo Road, we will turn onto the Lower Dargo Road and follow the Dargo River until reaching a private property where the owners, Jen and Norm Wilkinson, have granted us permission to conduct a walk. The property borders the Wonnangatta River and Dargo River and the confluence of the two rivers which, having 'joined up', become the Mitchell River. Here the Mitchell River, familiar to many of us, begins its journey to the Gippsland Lakes. On our arrival at the Wilkinson property we will undertake a short car shuffle.

Jen, who has a wealth of historical and botanical knowledge, will accompany us on a 2 km walk up and along a ridgeline with great views of the surrounding hills and the Wonnangatta and Dargo River valleys. Following the walk, we will travel by car to a location where we will have close-up views of the river confluence.

After lunch we will travel by car down the Dargo Road to Pretty Boy Hill. This is the northern most point of Track 96 and also the location of our second walk which winds through the historic Granite Creek Goldfields. This walk is 3.5 kms long and includes some short steep hills.

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

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

Jack Smith Lake / Ninety Mile Beach circuit

Date: Sunday 22 May 2022
Dist/Grade: 17 km L-3-4 no fresh water available
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 overflows into the ocean when it fills. We will have lunch behind the dunes here then walk the 7km back to our cars along the beach.

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



area of great significance to the traditional custodians, the Gunaikurnai people.

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

Tambo Bluff / Nyerimilang

Date: Saturday 28 May 2022
Grade/Dist: S-3-2 10 km return, 5 hours, day return
Meet: 9.30am @ the parking area opposite the Swan Reach General Store on Princes Hwy
Leader: Trevor Clues; valmai51@bigpond.com; 0428 564 559

This stroll is 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 will be an opportunity to tour the historic Nyerimilang Homestead, built in 1893, which overlooks the Lakes.

Fungi Walk

Date: Saturday 11 June 2022
Grade/Dist: S-2-3 5km 3-4 hours **Meet:** 9.45am @ LyrebirdForest Walk carpark
Leader: Judy van Beek; jjvb@bigpond.net.au; 0407 533 643

This is a combined event with Strzelecki BWC, limited to 25 people. Julie Parker, a member of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists and SBWC, will guide us on a ramble to observe various fungi found in the forest. The track follows the Little Morwell River for 1km through green gullies of eucalypts and tree ferns reaching a more open area on the forest edge. There will be numerous opportunities to look at a wide variety of fungi. Bring a small mirror, any reference books or charts, cameras and lunch. You may wish to visit Mirboo North after the ramble (Grand Ridge Brewery; cafes) or have a stroll along the Grand Ridge Rail Trail.

Bike Ride: Traralgon - Toongabbie

Date: Saturday 11 June 2022
Grade/Dist: X-1-1 30km 3.5 hours
Meet: 9.30am @ Burnett's Road, Rail Trail car park
Leader: Jim Stranger; strangers1@westnet.com.au; 0400 278 939

We begin by riding across the Latrobe River wetlands over a series of the original rail line bridges. The ride progresses through open farmland to Glengarry township, crosses the newly erected Eaglehawk Creek bridge and to Toongabbie. In Toongabbie we will explore some of the history of the area. Returning, we will stop at the old Glengarry Station for lunch.



Ben Cruachan Anniversary Lunch

Date: Saturday 25 June 2022
 Check out the website for details.



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Facebook: BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club
WWW: www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com

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Gardiner Falls on Macks Creek - see page 7

Ben Cruachan Walking Club

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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

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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 10 August 2022
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, MAFFRA.

The Annual General Meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 13 July 2022
at the Criterion Hotel, Yorke Street, SALE.

Welcome to new member:
Mary Sowa

Track Notes with Trackers

My Twelfth Post

We are fast approaching the end of another Financial Year so let me start with some admin issues:

- Membership fees
- Annual General Meeting

With petrol at \$2:00 per litre (and set to rise even higher!) no doubt we are all feeling the cost-of-living pressures, so you will be pleased to know that your committee has decided to maintain the annual membership fees fixed for 2022/23 financial year. Ken, our membership secretary, is looking forward to seeing members renew their membership asap which effectively keeps him employed versus unemployed!

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled next month in Sale on 13th July. Therefore, I would like to ask club members to consider joining the Committee. With several positions available, now is the time to:

“ask not what your club can do for you...but ask what you can do for your club”*.

Generally, we appear to rely on regular stalwarts of the club who volunteer their time and energy in running the club. While this is certainly appreciated, we are nonetheless keen to attract new committee members, therefore I encourage you to consider stepping up to the plate and join the team that keeps your club running smoothly. In this month's newsletter, we have included a nomination form for club members to join the committee. I urge you all to seriously consider taking on a role. Don't hesitate to contact any member of the committee if you require additional information. Our AGM is certainly worth attending this year and I invite all members to come along and see what makes our club special.

At present we are experiencing a cold snap with Winter starting right on cue with significant snow falling in the Alps and with more predicted to come. This augers well for our upcoming activities which kick off with an anniversary walk up Ben Cruachan later this month followed by a snowshoe shuffle up Mt St Gwinear in August. This to be followed by an overnight hike in the snow around Mushroom Rocks in September, and then a trip to Kosciusko in October/November to tackle the Ramshead Range. Feathertop is also on our list of walks in October, so make sure to register your interest in these events before climate change makes all that snow disappear!

If snow, wind, and rain are not your cup of tea, then we also have other events during winter that should warm the cockles of your heart. Check out our walks program to see what you can add to your bucket list of walks. And if it's not on the program, then please feel free to add an event and lead it!

Currently we are reviewing our website with a view to upgrading it. However, before we do anything we require your feedback. John Cox has initiated a website review using Survey Monkey and hopefully you have all received a request to complete the survey. Please take the time to complete it (allow 5 mins) so that we can identify what improvements can or should be implemented.

This will be my last Trackers report for the time being as I intend to step down at the AGM and pass the baton on to someone more capable or more Presidential. I would like to thank the Committee and members for their support during my two terms as President, which was dominated by the Covid pandemic and proved challenging at times. Nevertheless, I am pleased to confirm we managed to maintain regular meetings, usually via zoom and a program of activities and events that kept the club active and dare I say solvent! I'm confident that the club is in excellent shape to continue delivering activities and camaraderie for all members well into the future.

Without further ado, see you at the AGM or on the track.

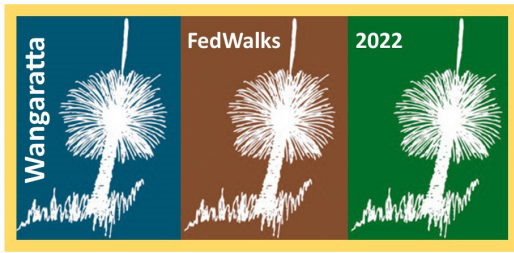
Trackers

President BCWC

*Reference from JFK's inaugural address, 1961

Club News

FedWalks 2022



No sooner is one event over but the next one is coming along to a venue near you (well, maybe not too near). Wangaratta is the locale for the FedWalks2022 event on Sat/Sun 01/02 October. Whilst not fully filled with details yet, the generic FedWalks website is the place to go for all the details. www.fedwalks.org.au

There will be a bike ride on each day (plus an extra on Monday) and there may be a walk on the Friday. You need to arrange your own accommodation. Booking for the event will be through TryBooking (as per FedWalks2021) accessed through the website.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc will be held at the Criterion Hotel in Sale on Wednesday, July 13th, 2022 at 7pm. Meet at 6pm for a meal beforehand.

To be eligible to vote, membership fees must be paid in full. A request for a postal vote must reach the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the AGM.

Executive Committee positions must be filled by BCWC members, all other Ordinary committee positions are open to Club members. Five ordinary committee members are required.

Nominations and requests for postal votes are to reach the Secretary by last day of June 2022. A nomination form for printing is on the last page of this newsletter.

Hiking Gear at AGM

Back in April 2022, the club received an email from Gary Duncan who resides in Bairnsdale and was facing the dilemma that we all face eventually.

What to do with our gear after a lifetime of hiking and realising we cannot do it anymore?

Gary contacted the club via email and told us that he had maps and back-packing stuff (of no small value) and that at his age (80) he would like to pass it on to the "New Generation".

Hence we visited Gary to check out his gear. He has an extensive collection of maps (approx 100) plus several tents, sleeping bags, mattresses and camp stoves.



In addition, Gary has dedicated a great deal of his outdoor time in photographing and collecting information on Victorian & NSW Alpine huts.

With an IT background, Gary built a website featuring every alpine hut that exists in the high country. Check it out at: gmduncan.com/Aussie_Huts/

His hiking gear will be available to members who can inspect it at their leisure at the AGM in July. Many thanks to Gary for his generous donation and for his dedication in amassing a vast amount of information on Alpine huts.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

Walk Reports

Two Mountains and Two Rivers An Easter Alpine Adventure

Friday 15 - Monday 18 April 2022

Leader and Report: Sue Wessons

Lynnette, Janine, Jodie, Michael and I (Sue) met on Thursday 14th April at the Golden Age Motel in Omeo for dinner, all being very glad that we did not have to negotiate the Easter traffic on the Princes Highway. We slept well and headed off for Harrietville at 8 am where we were to start and end our four-day loop walk covering Mounts Feathertop and Hotham and branches of the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers. We made a 20-litre water drop at Diamantina Hut praying that, during the next three days, visitors would respect our supply for Bon Accord Spur.

At Harrietville, we gathered and acknowledged the Traditional Owners the Yaitmathang and Dhudhuroa peoples and shared our intentions for the walk. I was a bit nervous as I hadn't led this walk in fifteen years although I had done it many times before, mostly as a leader. The highlight of the day for me was meeting a shortish, grey-haired man on the track by name of Ian Stapleton. I had been trying to contact him for years about photographs in his books and had been unsuccessful. We had a good yarn and parted company with his phone number and some more names of people to contact. Ian was a teacher to Lyn's husband and Michael had sat on his back verandah with Jack Winterbottom. Later in the walk we came across students from Mittagundi and Wollangarra (the camps established by Ian in the 1980s and 90s) camped at Dibbins Hut.



Janine and Jodie were both hoping to summit Mount Feathertop. We were all hoping that water would be available at Federation Hut and to avoid having to walk through to the spring on Tom Kneen Walking Track out towards MUMC Hut. The bush

was looking lush and the weather was perfect for hiking. Bungalow Spur is a slow steady climb and there were very few logs across the track so we arrived soon after 3 pm having headed off at 10 am. We set up camp behind the hut, found water in the tank and became part of 31 tents and tarpaulins that night on the saddle. Jodie, Lyn and Janine decided to watch sunset from Mount Feathertop while Michael and I lazed about the camp. They came back just on dark waxing lyrical about the views, which are supported by excellent photographs.



On Day 2 we headed off at 8.30 along the Razorback towards Hotham and then headed down Diamantina Spur which is not to be sniffed at. There are a few steep pinches which require reversing and placing hands and feet carefully. Most of the spur is very steep and all were glad to get down to the Kiewa West Branch valley. We had lunch at Blair's Hut on the river in one of the most beautiful settings for a hut anywhere. Once again, the weather was perfect. There were many hikers on the tracks both days including a group practising yoga at camp (many people were doing yoga poses to stretch, a big cultural shift from my generation) and using an umbrella for sunshade on the track. I was definitely the oldest person on the tracks that we saw during Easter. There were mostly twenty-somethings and a couple of school groups and some thirty-somethings and forty-somethings but few older than that. I always love the forest at Cobungra Gap and the walk down into the Cobungra valley where Dibbins Hut is situated. This valley is a crossroads; people

come down from the Bogong High Plains and from Hotham as well as the West Kiewa. We shared the linear camp site with 21 tents. Highlights of the day were the views of Feathertop, the Razorback and Buffalo from Diamantina Spur. We were cheek by jowl with our camping neighbours but everyone was considerate and friendly.

We left camp again at 8.30 and trudged up Swindler's Spur which has very beautiful vegetation and had morning tea at Derrick Hut with a couple. The very large snow gums here are unburned and spectacular. The Monday forecast was inclement so many parties had decided to leave the mountains before the predicted rain. We decided that our projected campsite on Bon Accord Spur would be sheltered and low enough to avoid extreme weather events. Janine particularly enjoyed the views from the track walking to Mount Loch carpark (which is closed for development). We collected our 3 litres of water each from Diamantina Hut and headed back onto the Razorback and down Bon Accord Spur. A French couple took our photos and we took theirs at the turn off. Bon Accord Spur is steeper than I remembered! We reached the Old Hut Site and found a water tank!! The site didn't look very inviting and I assured everyone that there was a better spot a bit down the track. This spot too looked uninviting and was overgrown with huge tussock grasses. We all decided to continue on down to the Ovens River as it was only 2 pm. We arrived down at the Ovens just on dark to "limited camping available" on a pebbly beach. Still there was running water and it was flatfish. Beggars and all that. We slept surprisingly well thanks to wonderful modern sleeping mats and we were able to put tent pegs into the spaces between pebbles.



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

On Monday we only had an easy 6 km hike on relatively flat ground in light mizzle back to the cars. No leeches were encountered. We had morning tea at the pop-up caravan attached to the camp ground in Harrierville. It was a good segue back into mainstream existence as we sat outside in the very light rain and listened to calming and familiar seventies music. We regrouped in Omeo (having collected the water containers from the hut!) for lunch at the Crazy Cow. Everyone was in high spirits.

Morwell to Yallourn Walking Trail

Sunday 30 April 2022

Leader and Report: Jim Stranger

Expectation of a drenching on our walk failed to eventuate but strong winds did provide a challenge. Setting off from the Toners Lane car park on an elevated retired rail line, full exposure to the elements had all the makings of a bad hair day but hey – we're bushwalkers, so on we go.

The rail line was used in the past to transport brown coal from the mine to the briquette works in Morwell. To our east were the Morwell River Wetlands and the Yallourn Open Cut Mine. One of our walkers revealed that her father had been the first supervisor of the new (at the time) Yallourn Power Station. Turning east away from the rail line the walking track followed a massive catch drain or water diversion channel designed to keep water out of the mine. Extensive planting of indigenous vegetation certainly helped give this highly modified area a natural appearance. Retracing our steps from the track's intersection with Latrobe Road we returned to our vehicles. The wind still howling, an alternate protected lunch site was the order of the day. Kernot Lake provided an attractive option, under cover but still exposed. The adjacent Gippsland Memorial Park and Multicultural Centre were passed by for another milder time.





Balook / Macks Creek

Sunday 08 May 2022

Leaders: Peter and Nicki Jennings

Report: Wendy Chambers

WALKERS: Peter, Nicki, Wendy, Kerry, Mary, Marian, Ken, Joe

This was my first walking experience with the club. Walkers met at the Tarra Bulga Visitor Centre carpark at 09:30am. After introductions and a lovely hot cup of tea provided by Nicki, a car shuffle to Macks Creek Hall was completed and a short time later we started the walk in misty, intermittent rain. Within a short time the mist lifted and the scenery was a magnificent kaleidoscope of lush temperate forest, splashes of colourful wild flowers with plentiful tree ferns, abundant bird sounds and the appearance of lyrebirds along the way. Peter was a source of knowledge identifying many and varied species of flora by botanical names – which I will not attempt to spell. Due to recent rain the walking tracks were particularly slippery, especially on the downhill sections.

We stopped for lunch at Gardiner Falls. Chatting with the seasoned walkers was great and Lesson 101 was to carry a foam mat to sit on to keep dry. Note to self – must buy one!

Macks Creek was spectacular – high flowing and refreshingly free of pollution. The rangers have done an exceptional job of controlling invasive weeds, notably free of blackberries. We experienced four creek crossings along the way which resulted in most walkers getting wet feet.



There were plentiful displays of fungi along the way in many and varied shapes and colours for fungi enthusiasts. The walk weaved along creek frontage, through dense forest and through pine plantations. We came across remnants of the 2021 storms with large trees blocking the final part of the walking track. We arrived at the hall at about 3pm and headed back to Tarra Bulga Guest House for a cup of coffee and scones just as the rain set in. I had a fabulous day and met really interesting people. Thank you Peter for running this walk in one of Gippsland's best kept secrets.

Confluence of Wonnangatta and Dargo Rivers / Granite Creek

Saturday 14 May 2022

Leaders: Ken Free and Liz Davis

Report: Clare Snell

Walkers: Liz, Ken, Marion, Tony, Sue, Geoff, Sandy, Anne, Lynette, Maureen, Helmut, Clare

After a foggy drive from all directions, the group met at the Beverly's and Dargo-Bairnsdale Road intersection for an earlyish 8am start. We jumped into three 4x4s and headed off towards Dargo, turning off just before reaching the town. We followed the Dargo River, with beautiful autumnal foliage, along with many walnuts trees, making for a delightful drive. We reached our destination of the locked gates into Jen and Norm Wilkinson's property. After several unsuccessful attempts by various members trying to unlock the combination lock, we ended up climbing



Nicki rescuing Ken's glasses

over the gate or through the barbed wire fence to start our walk.

We were soon met by Jen on her vintage looking motorbike and the walk, along with many stories of the property began. While walking along the road we heard of the man who had originally staked in property in 1920 and how Jen and Norm bought the property from him in the 1970s, originally as a week-ender. Soon we reached a bit of a summit, but if we wanted to see the confluence of the Dargo and Won-nangatta Rivers, we had quite a steep hill to trapes down. Once at the bottom, we fought through the weeds and the reeds to see the confluence. Some even dipped a hand in the water. Jen told us there can be up to 3°C difference in the water temperatures of the rivers due to their differing characteristics, which is mind boggling. Alas, it was time to trudge back up the hill to continue the walk.

We made it to Jen and Norm's house and were lucky to see their incredible netted orchard and veggie garden, with the grass kept under control by the many guinea pigs and chooks. We sampled the juicy apples and marvelled over the kiwi fruit and persimmons. It was then time to head up towards the high point of our walk, with Jen providing a wealth of knowledge on the different plants on the property. We were presented with lovely valley views at the top but what goes up must come down, and we headed down a steep hill back towards the cars. Not to leave out the non-botanically-minded, a giant (well, quite large) earth worm was spotted with an earwig trying to make a meal of it. Helmut kindly rescued the worm! This time, under Lynette's deft touch, we all got to go through gate.

On to lunch in Dargo we went, but the pub was very busy with 4x4s so we headed down to the Dargo Hall for a quick bite before heading back to Pretty Boy's Hill to start our ramble around the Granite Creek walking track. The ground underfoot was very wet, with some muddy and slippery sections to be got through, with a creek crossing being easily managed by all. The sky decided to send a few drops our way, but nothing to detract from the lovely bush,



despite a stray leech or two saying hello. We viewed the various evidence of old mine workings and wondered at their inventiveness without modern day equipment.

Everyone enjoyed both walks, with all agreeing Liz and Ken had done a wonderful job in organising such interesting walks.

Jack Smith Lake / Ninety Mile Beach Premium Walk Experience!

Sunday 22 May 2022

Leader: Peter and Nicki Jennings

Report: Kerry Knights

WALKERS: Peter, Nicki, Libby, Clare, Anne, Helmut, Mary, Marian, Trevor, Kerry, Libby, Caroline, Sandy

The much-anticipated walk across the Jack Smith Lake State Game Reserve and Ninety Mile Beach has been proclaimed to be a **Premium Walk Experience**, with perfect conditions prevailing. Scoped by Peter and Nicki, this walk is on their 'old stomping ground' and their long-time neighbour and friend, Libby, brought along her friends Caroline and Sandy who were pleased to have the opportunity to explore this special part of Gippsland.

The walk was a little over 17 km, with largely flat terrain. We were fortunate to have Libby and Nicki with us, as they had undertaken considerable research over a couple of years, cumulating in a local history book co-written by Nicki.

Those travelling from East were fortunate to see a huge Wedge-tailed Eagle perched in a tree near the road before the meeting point. It was massive and seemed to have its eye on some nearby roadkill.

As befitting a Premium Walking Experience, there were pauses along the trail where local history and knowledge was shared. Soon after leaving the carpark, we stopped near some old fencing. Peter spoke of the involvement of ESSO-BHP in the 1980s, where part of Danny Boland's property was leased by BHP to weld up pipelines for the oil rigs. These started off as 1 km lengths, but were upscaled over time to 4 km. The launching of the pipeline was a spectacle for the locals at the time. Pipes were sealed, pulled through a purpose-built gap in the dune (created well before Environmental Effects Statements were developed) and then floated off behind massive tug boats. The Basslink electricity interconnector enters mainland Australia near this site. Birdsong featured during our walk, with many flitting from branch to branch as we went past.

Walking towards Hoddinott Hill (named after an early European settler), the landscape was of coastal scrub, with tea-tree bushes holding densely woven and delicate spider webs, each festooned with dew drops. Small brown mushrooms sprouted from the

path, and evidence of animal activity included numerous prints in the sand. A Peregrine Falcon flew into view, briefly landing above us, before setting off again.

We paused at the top of Hoddinott Hill, where morning tea was taken. Rising some 29m above sea level, the hill has a densely wooded gully on the ocean side, and farmland to the west. Further along the track, near an ancient pine tree, Peter spoke of Danny Boland's family's history. The tree was part of the homestead site and a depression in the land indicates where the water well was. Once electricity came to the region, around 1950/1960, the Boland family moved their home in its current location, some 3 km away.

Striding out on the 4WD track, we later turned at what initially seemed a non-descript part of the track. Looking up, however, the standout feature was a kookaburra, perched in the upper most branches. Going 'off track', we wove our way through the grasses and other vegetation. Samphire and pigface were prolific and traversing the large, dry lakebed, we were greeted by a mosaic of colour. The small leaves of the foliage were in reds, browns, greens and as they merged in the distance, a gentle hue met the eyes. Interspersed with this landscape were abandoned swans' nests, reeded areas, remnant algae which had dried as the waters receded, and plentiful kangaroo prints. There was a mob of kangaroos at the far end of the walk, and they bounded off as we approached.

Peter and Nicki had obviously arranged for three planes to do a slow and low fly-over in formation, and that was a welcome sight.

Upon meeting another 4WD track we turned towards the area known as Red Hill. This site is significant to the local Gunaikurnai First Nations People; a tragic tale of the Warrigal Creek massacre, which followed the explorations in the 1840s of Angus McMillian as he sought a route from the high country around Omeo to the Gippsland coast. Landholders and the Aboriginal People were in conflict with spears being no match for guns. Whole families

were massacred at Warrigal Creek, and with a government official due to travel through the area, the remains of those killed were reportedly taken to what is now known as Red Hill and buried. This story is a sobering reminder of the atrocities committed by European settlers. Libby and her family, who now live at the Warrigal Creek homestead, have supported the Gunaikurnai community in acknowledging and addressing this great injustice.

Jack Smith Lake, named after a local 'character', was the next landmark. Swans were plentiful, and the sun glistened off the water. Peter and Nicki showed us the site of a swashway installed many years ago. It is a weir-like barrier in the natural water course. Its presence was contentious, as its purpose was to manipulate the lake water level but it has fallen in to disrepair. We lunched nearby beside the lake's water course that leads to the sea.

Once a fine repast had been enjoyed, it was now the 'homeward stretch'; 7 km of sand walking. Whilst some walkers may have had reservations about this part of the track, they had no cause for concern. As befitting this Premium Level Experience, Peter and Nicki had arranged that the sand was firm packed and easy going. The beach provided a boomerang and shell fossil for one sharp eyed walker, along with a very small crab, which was promptly returned to the water. The sound of waves gently crashing was a pleasing background for the next couple of hours. Finishing up in the same glorious sunshine which had featured during the day, all agreed the walk was one of great distance and contrasting landscapes. But it wasn't over just yet.

The final feature of the Premium Level Experience was an invitation to return to Warrigal Creek homestead for a cuppa and cake. (Thank you to Libby). Both were much appreciated, taken in the gardens of the homestead, as walkers regaled each other with tales and tips, including the nuances of Ginger Fluff Sponge and how to make the best ever cup of tea.

We look forward to the next trip led by Peter and Nicki which will be to Cyathea Falls later in the year.



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.

IMPORTANT: Anyone attending a BCWC activity must be currently vaccinated against Covid 19.

Fungi Walk

Date: Saturday 11 June 2022 **Grade/Dist:** S-2-3 5km 3-4 hours
Meet: 9.45am @ Lyrebird Forest Walk carpark
Leader: Judy van Beek; jjvb@bigpond.net.au; 0407 533 643

This is a combined event with Strzelecki BWC, limited to 25 people. Julie Parker, a member of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists and SBWC, will guide us on a ramble to observe various fungi found in the forest.

The track follows the Little Morwell River for 1km through green gullies of eucalypts and tree ferns reaching a more open area on the forest edge. There will be numerous opportunities to look at a wide variety of fungi. Bring a small mirror, any reference books or charts, cameras and lunch. You may wish to visit Mirboo North after the ramble (Grand Ridge Brewery; cafes) or have a stroll along the Grand Ridge Rail Trail.

Angusvale - Jurgenson Point and return

Date: Saturday 18 June 2022 **Grade/Dist:** M-5-3 16km 6 hours
Meet: 8am @ Beverley's Road, Glenaladale
Leader: Marian Matchan; Matcho01@bigpond.com; 0448 523 287

This walk will follow the Mitchell River from the Angusvale campground downstream to Jurgenson Point, where Sandy Creek enters the Mitchell River. This is one of the few un-dammed rivers in Victoria with great rapids and plenty to look at, including rocky bluffs on the eastern shore and remnant rainforest gullies on the western shore. The walk follows the western side of the river on a sometimes overgrown track, fallen trees to climb over and at times care must be taken as track veers close to edge with a long fall to the river below, great opportunities for photographs of the river and its surrounds. After lunch we will retrace our steps back to Angusvale.

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

Ben Cruachan Anniversary Lunch

Date: Saturday 25 June 2022 **Grade/Dist:** S-3-5 6km 3.5 hours
Meet: 8.30am OR 10am @ Sugar Beet Museum at Macalister Park, Maffra
Leader: Helmut Tracksdorf; helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com; 0402 089 404
 Joe van Beek; joevanbeek@bigpond.com; 0411 749 799

From the meeting point in Maffra, we will initially drive towards Ben Cruachan, located north of Maffra. Before arriving at the base of Ben Cruachan we will stop at a semi-remote location and walk along a bush track that leads to the rocky outcrop known as Magog. Upon reaching the summit of Magog at 571 metres we should be able to see the summit of Ben Cruachan (836 metres) approx. 2.5km north of our location. Please note that the last 500 metres involves walking through thick bush with no obvious track and is

steep. After reaching the summit we will take in the views and then return to our cars and continue to Ben Cruachan. Allow 2 hrs.

Parking at the junction of Ben Cruachan Road and Mt Margaret Track, we will walk up the 4WD track that leads to the summit of Ben Cruachan. Prior to arriving at the summit, we will head off track and follow a rocky ridgeline that leads to the summit.

This event celebrates the 57th Anniversary of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club, formed by the founding members on the summit of Ben Cruachan in 1965. Accordingly, we will enjoy a BBQ lunch including drinks at the summit to celebrate the occasion.

All members are invited to celebrate this occasion BUT are not required to attend the walk (side trip) to Magog. For those not interested in scrambling to the summit of Magog, meet in Maffra at the later time of 10am and make their way via convoy direct to the base of Ben Cruachan where we will all meet at about 11am and then proceed to the summit. After lunch we will explore the summit and take in the expansive views before packing up and heading back down the mountain to return home.

Bike Ride: Traralgon - Toongabbie

Date: Saturday 02 July 2022

Grade/Dist: X-1-1 30km 3.5 hours

Meet: 9.30am @ Burnett's Road, Rail Trail car park

Leader: Jim Stranger; strangers1@westnet.com.au; 0400 278 939

We begin by riding across the Latrobe River wetlands over a series of the original rail line bridges. The ride progresses through open farmland to Glengarry township, crosses the newly erected Eaglehawk Creek bridge and to Toongabbie. In Toongabbie we will explore some of the history of the area. Returning, we will stop at the old Glengarry Station for lunch.

Annual General Meeting and Dinner

Date: Wednesday 13 July 2022

Grade/Dist: Delicious

Meet: 6pm Criterion Hotel, York Street, Sale

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

Everyone is welcome. Come along, enjoy dinner and catch up with fellow members. After dinner we will hold the AGM. If you are interested in being on the committee, contact President Helmut Tracksdorf.

Snowshoe Shuffle -- Mt St Gwinear

Date: Saturday 06 August 2022

See website for details.

Nowa Nowa Trestle Bridge

Date: Saturday 13 August 2022

See website for details

Mt Erica, Mushroom Rocks, Rover Hut

Date: Saturday 12 September 2022

See website for details.

NOMINATION FORM

I

Being a current financial member of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc.

Nominate

being a current financial member of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc

For the position of:

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER

VICE PRESIDENT

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

TRACKS & CONSERVATION

PUBLICITY OFFICER

WEBSITE OFFICER

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

COMMITTEE

(Please circle position for nomination)

.....

.....

Sign Nominator

Sign Nominee



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Facebook: BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club
 WWW: www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com

ISSUE 225 — Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club — August 2022



“Students” (centre left), fun-girls Eileen (centre centre), Julie and Pat (centre right) with their fun-guys!
 Top line from left: *Cortinarius archeri*, *Ramaria fumingata*, *Mycena interrupta*
 Bottom line from left: *Marasmius agaricus*, *Cortinarius austrovenetus*, *Mycena epipterygia*

Ben Cruachan Walking Club



Committee Members 2022/23

President:	Peter Jennings	0428 230 444
Vice-President:	Liz Davis	0447 447 526
Secretary:	Robyn Kercher secbcwc@gmail.com	0400 592 407
Member Sec:	Ken Free secbcwc@gmail.com	0414 774 144
Treasurer:	Monica Scicluna joe.monica@hotmail.com	0431 777 460
Publicity:	Kerry Knights	0431 462 464
Newsletter:	Jack Winterbottom newsbcwc@gmail.com	0408 411 079
Walks Coordinator:	Geoff Mattingley walkbcwc@gmail.com	03 5152 2916
Tracks and Huts:	Joe van Beek	0411 749 799
Committee:	John Cox Rob Paterson Jodie Wigg	Janine Muir Claire Snell

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Victoria 3860

Incorporation No
A0004849G

In This Issue

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- 5 Walk Reports
- 12 Walk Previews

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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 12 October 2022
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, MAFFRA.

Welcome to new member:
Mary Sowa

New Life Members at AGM

Joe van Beek

Joe van Beek joined the Ben Cruachan Walking Club in April 2007. He was working full time so after retirement in 2015 he was able to spend more time with the club and joined the Committee in 2015 as an ordinary member.

In August 2016 he was appointed as Vice President and took on the role of President in 2017. During Joe's 3-year tenure as President he raised the profile of the BCWC and establish numerous contacts with ParksVictoria and DEPI/DELWP. Joe currently in charge of Tracks & Conservation.

Joe became interested in McMillans Track before joining the committee. In 2014 he represented BCWC in meetings with Bushwalking Victoria and DEPI. After John Smith had pioneered the rediscovery of the track in the late 1970s and early 1980 and its re-establishment with its official opening in 1986, a lack of interest and usage meant the track had once again become heavily overgrown. Joe promoted the track to club members by introducing reconnaissance walks and track maintenance activities along heavily overgrown sections of the track. One famous incident involved the time where members became trapped on the wrong side of a flooded Crooked River and had to spend several days camped beside the river waiting for the water to drop.

In 2015, Joe led a small group on his first end to end walk of McMillans Track. I joined Joe on this walk and can vividly recall how difficult some sections of the track were because of the regrowth that had occurred. By the time, Joe led his second end to end walk in 2017 – the track had been significantly cleared and upgraded thanks to the numerous track maintenance activities organised by Joe. In 2018, the idea of a Guide Book was mooted.

In November 2020, in conjunction with John and Monica Chapman, the first edition of the McMillans Walking Track Guidebook was published. Joe was the major proponent of the project. 750 copies have been sold to date -- a major success.

Joe has been an active participant in co-ordinating the Bushwalking Victoria's Federation Walks Weekend in 2014 at Rawson and 2022 at Licola where he was the convenor. Both events have been outstanding successes. As a bushwalker, he has been part of the Bushwalking Victoria BTAC (Bush Tracks and Conservation) in helping to maintain tracks all over Victoria on behalf of ALL bushwalkers. He has just become its chairman.

Joe has earned lifetime membership of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club.

Helmut Tracksdorf



Monica Scicluna

Monica Scicluna joined the Ben Cruachan Walking Club in September 1999.

She became a member of the Management Committee soon after and from Day 1 was keen to make a contribution by organising social events and leading day walks.

She was Treasurer from 2005 to 2014 and again from 2019 to present. She was President in 2014 for 2 years, leading the club during a period when most of the club's communications with members and the general public moved online to the club's website.

After stepping down, she was an ordinary member of the Committee for 2 years before taking the Treasurer's role again.



For many years, Monica assisted Wil Streckfuss in organising the club's annual weekend at Wilson's Promontory. In 2014, Monica took over the organising/leadership role from Wil and has done a great job of organising this event ever since. Monica regularly leads club walks and is acknowledged and respected as a competent leader who looks after everyone on her walks. Monica has always approached each task with gusto and is generally the first to put up her hand when something needs to be done. She has for many years been the go-to person when we want a venue booked for a social event and readily volunteers to assist others on the Management Committee with administrative matters.

Over the years, Monica's contribution to the Ben Cruachan Walking Club by way of leading walks, organising social events and performing a number of committee roles over many years has been outstanding.

Ken Free

Club News


FedWalks 2022



Federation Walks
North-east Victoria

30 September —
02 October 2022

Walk, Wildflowers
Warby Ranges, Wangaratta



There are still places available on many of the 23 walks and 3 bike rides. Social events on Friday and Saturday night. Wangaratta is the locale for the FedWalks2022 event on Fri/Sat/Sun 30 Sept/01/02 October. The generic FedWalks website is the place to go for all the details. www.fedwalks.org.au You need to arrange your own accommodation. Booking for the event will be through TryBooking (as per FedWalks2021) accessed through the website.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at the Criterion Hotel in Sale on Wednesday, July 13th, 2022. All positions were filled. Congratulations to Peter Jennings and Liz Davis who were elected to the positions of President and Vice-President respectively and to the other committee members listed on page 2.

Life Membership Awarded

At the AGM, Life Memberships were awarded to Joe van Beek and Monica Scicluna. They joined Wil Streckfuss, Norm Williams, Oliver Raymond, Beth Kilpatrick, Jack Winterbottom and founder member, Ron Kemp. Monica and Joe are congratulated by Wil and Jack.



Club T-shirts

Monica Scicluna has shirts available for 3 small gentlemen, 2 size-16 ladies in blue and 1 size-14 lady in green. \$30 each. Her number is 0431 777 460.



Walk Reports

Fungi Walk

Date: Saturday 11 June 2022

Leaders: Judy van Beek, Julie Parker, Eileen Laidlaw

Report: Mary Sowa

WALKERS: Sue, Robyn, Mary, Anne, Maureen, Sue, Ken, Joe.

Note: Described as a fungi ramble, this was a combined club walk. There were 20 ramblers in total, with 7 BCWC members, one from Peregrine, two visitors and 10 from SBWC. Julie and Eileen were the fungi guides; both are members of SBWC and the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists.

Cortinarius archeri, *Mycena subgalericulata*, and my personal favourite (it sounds like something that was made up in a children's storybook), *Oudemansiella gigaspora*. No, I'm not speaking a different language (though you could say I'm speaking 'fungi'). These are just the names of a few of the marvellous array of fungi that we saw on the Lyrebird Forest walk near Mirboo North. This also gives a small insight into the wonderful expertise that we were privileged to have with us on the walk – in the shape of Julie Parker and Eileen Laidlaw – who were so happy to share their knowledge and answer any of our questions about the specimens we were seeing.

Avid fungi enthusiasts met on a damp and drizzly morning at 9:30am in the car park of the Lyrebird Forest walk located very close to the Mirboo North township. After donning wet weather gear and being given a brief but informative introduction to fungi by Julie, we headed off in a northerly direction around the loop track, to commence our journey of exploration into the wonderful world of fungi. Crossing a bridge over the Little Morwell River, we found lots of interesting examples in the cutting opposite. Progress was slow but fascinating, as Julie and Eileen would identify each specimen and explain its unique characteristics. Once we got our eyes into gear, we were finding that there were fungi virtually everywhere we looked, and that often in taking a step sideways to observe a specimen more closely, we might even step on another that we hadn't seen.

Eileen and Julie showed us lots of little tricks to identifying fungi: the feel of the cap's surface ('viscid' was the scientific word for slimy – see I was listening Eileen!); looking underneath the cap to check if the fungi had gills; seeing if the stalk broke cleanly like chalk; and checking if the soil under the stalk was dry, just to mention a few.

When I think back over the range of fungi we saw, the array was quite extraordinary. We saw transparent jelly-like blobs on rotting logs; tiny blue-capped



mushrooms clustering along a length of timber and staining its bark blue; red or yellow protuberances that looked remarkably like coral; gorgeous purple cortinarius nestled amongst the fallen leaves – which, when we placed a small mirror beside them, we could see the delicate fan-like gills and purple stem; and brown-coloured double-headed earth-stars that emitted a faint cloud of black spores when squeezed.

Halfway along the walk the group split into two, with Julie's group opting for the slightly longer 'warrior's walk' and Eileen's taking the middle path. Both paths (and groups) re-joined towards the end of the loop, where the path wound back along the Little Morwell River, which was looking quite full when we walked past it – and about to get filled even further as the light drizzle was starting to show signs of becoming heavier! Considering the forecast, we were very lucky with the weather and were well-rewarded by the amazing fungi sightings we observed. A huge thank you to Julie and Eileen for being so patient and generous with their knowledge and for giving us a glimpse into the incredible fantasy-world of fungi that is out there!

I may not be able to speak fungi yet, but I think I've picked up a few words and identifiers, along with sparking an interest into the fascinating fungi kingdom!

Angusvale to Jurgenson Point

Date: Saturday 18 June 2022

Leaders: Angela Roughley

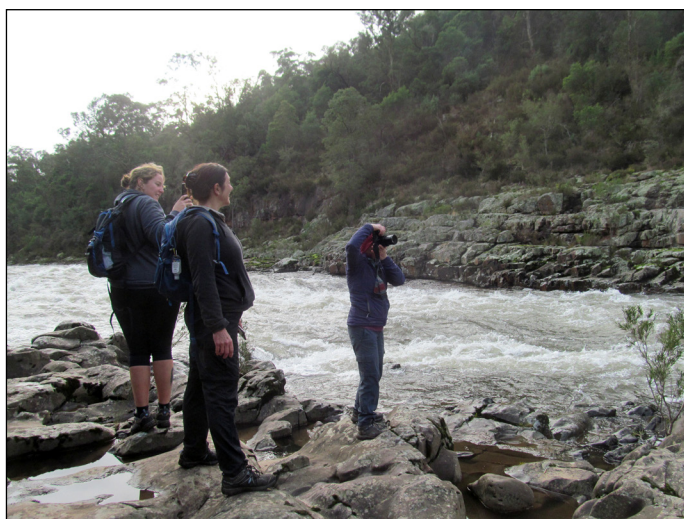
Report: Ken Free

WALKERS: Angela, Tony, Sue, Nicki, Peter, Kerry, Geoff, Becky, Briany, Liz, Liz, Ken, Piper.

On what promised to be a fine weather day, 14 of us met at Beverley's Road, carpooled and travelled in convoy to Angusvale for the start of a great walk along the Mitchell River. A reccie 3 months earlier revealed that the track was in dire need of some main-

tenance due to fallen trees and overgrown shrubs and grass, making it quite difficult to actually find the track in places. I was quite keen to experience the track in a hopefully cleared state.

We set off eager to experience the sights and sounds of the river and, although there was still a nip in the air, the sun was out with only scattered cloud. The initial part of the walk follows the old Mitchell Road, passing by the Horton's Track river crossing and coming to a point marked as "Picnic Area" on the topo map where the Mitchell Road takes a sharp turn uphill. For the next ½ kilometre or so, the walking track stays close to the river under a grove of Kanooka trees (*Tristaniopsis laurina* aka Water Gum) – one of my favourite sections of this walk. We took a diversion here onto a rock shelf in the river with stunning views both upstream and downstream and plenty of photographic opportunities.



Re-joining the track which now diverged away from the river, we encountered the first area where long grass and encroaching waist-high scrub made it difficult to discern exactly where the track went. We managed to find our way and travelled through the first of many creek gullies. For the next couple of kilometres we were pleased to find that a number of fallen trees had been cleared from the track.

Along this stretch, which is relatively high above the river, we frequently paused to take in the views of the river which now had a glistening appearance from the morning sun. Our leader chose a grassy spot for a morning tea break which gave many in the group an opportunity to congratulate her on organising wonderful weather for the day.

Refuelled, we carried on and soon encountered a couple of fallen trees which blocked the track and in one spot overgrown grasses and scrub which again tested our navigational skills.

In due course we found the turnoff to Jurgenson Point where we settled in for a very pleasant lunch break with the ever-present sights and sounds of the mighty Mitchell river. My lunch break was made more comfortable with the addition of a newly ac-

quired Helinox Zero Chair – thank you Jodie for introducing me to what is the best piece of hiking gear I've bought in a long time!

After lunch, our intention was to simply retrace our steps back to Angusvale and, having successfully found the track in the morning, we all agreed that "at least we won't get lost going back". Well we did!



On a section with very long grass and encroaching scrub, we managed to (temporarily) find ourselves 60 to 80 metres downhill from the track, necessitating an uphill scramble over rocks to regain the track.

The rest of the journey was uneventful and we simply soaked up the sights of the river rapids interspersed with stretches of placid appearing river with mirror reflections of the eastern shoreline making for more great photo opportunities.

On arriving back at the cars we assembled for the obligatory group photo, congratulated Angela on a great day's walk and headed home for a good night's sleep. Thanks Angela for a wonderful day in this special part of Gippsland.

Ben Cruachan Anniversary

Date: Saturday 25 June 2022

Leader and Report: Jodie Wigg



After meeting in Maffra, 11 walkers headed in 4WDs to the starting point of our first walk of the day - Magog summit. With a forecast top temperature of

17°C and sunny, it was to be perfect conditions for the anniversary celebrations. A few kilometres past the intersection of Ben Cruachan Road and Beaver Meadows Track, we parked the cars at an unnamed vehicle track. We got organised with our packs, ready to set off, when Joe realised that this track was a 'false start' and the actual start was a similar looking track a couple of hundred meters further up Ben Cruachan Road. As it wasn't much further, we opted to walk there.

Just in from the road, we climbed over a farm gate and followed a fence line up hill through bushland. Evidence of bushfire could be seen with blackened trees and new, young eucalypt growing. The track got steeper before turning away from the fence line into thicker bush. From here, we followed the fresh pink flagging tape, placed only a few weeks prior during the recce. The track became ever steeper until scrambling on hands and feet seemed the easiest way to continue the ascent. Nearing the top, we came to some large boulders where a boost was appreciated to help climb them. We admired the view of Lake Glenmaggie and Loy Yang power station before descending back along the same route to the cars.

We drove on to the base of Ben Cruachan where we were running a little behind time. We arrived to find the other group of walkers, whom had met in Maffra mid-morning, had already started walking to the summit. Ben Cruachan Track is the 4WD track to the summit which curls around the southern slope of Ben Cruachan. It took approximately 1 hour to walk to the top where we found the other 15 members. The wind had picked up and was quite strong at the top but the trees provided some shelter. The fire had been started and it wasn't long before the snags, burgers and onions were cooking. Two trestle tables were set up with sliced bread, rolls, salads, condiments and tea and coffee. After lunch, Joe prepared a special surprise of damper in a camp oven. While it was cooking, we headed to the cairn where there is a peak marker and trig point plus great views of Gable End and Mount Wellington to the north and Maffra, Stratford, Briagolong and Sale to the south. A couple of people pointed out other landmarks such as Lake Wellington, the Maffra milk factory and the radar tower at Longford. We then returned to the fire

where the damper was cooked and the desserts had been unpacked. There was a large chocolate cake with the numbers 57 and 81. We were not only celebrating the Ben Cruachan Walking Club's 57th anniversary but also celebrating lifetime member, Oliver Raymond's, 81st Birthday. Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Oliver and then enjoyed cake and a cuppa. It was then time to pack up and begin the hike back down to the cars. What a wonderful day spent celebrating atop Ben Cruachan summit. A special thank you goes out to Joe and Judy Van Beek for your organisation and hospitality and to everyone who helped around the BBQ.



Above: Octogernarian plus 1, Oliver Raymond with Carolyn and sons, Dan and Adam, celebrate Ollie's 81st birthday.

Below: the mob at Ben Cruachan car park.



Jack Smith Lake - Ninety Mile Beach Circuit

Date: Saturday 17 July 2022

Leader: Peter and Nicki Jennings

Report: Nicki Jennings

WALKERS: Sue, Peter, Nicki, Elizabeth, Terri, Seumas, Rhiannon, Jenny, Kym, Catherine, Robyn, Gary

Jack Smith Lake Reserve lies south of Seaspray and nestles close behind the dunes of the Ninety Mile Beach. Our 17 km walk on this wintery Sunday began at the McGaurans Beach section of the Ninety Mile Beach.

The Jack Smith Lake area is culturally significant to the Gunaikurnai people. Their long occupation there is evidenced by several middens and tools that have been found in the area. The reserve also holds a darker past with its association with the Warrigal Creek massacre. Present on the walk was Dr Seumas Spark, a Monash University historian, who has been commissioned by the proposed off shore wind farm, Star of the South, to conduct a cultural heritage survey of this part of Gippsland.

The first section of the walk followed a track behind the dunes through dense coastal vegetation. We then ascended Hoddinott Hill at 29m above sea level for a stunning view across a melaleuca wetland to the ocean beyond. The track continued along the ridge line and a neighbouring farm before we descended to the mostly dry Lamb's Lake. This lake is covered with samphire and salt pans and edged with tall tussocks. Bleached white shells from a wetter era dot the lake bed. It is a beautiful wide and open expanse. A large mob of kangaroos took fright on the lake edge and headed bush as we approached. Sadly we also saw deer tracks traversing the muddy lake bed.



Ben Cruachaneers lunch in the lee of the sand dunes

The sunshine continued as we crossed Lamb's Lake and approached a more substantial track to the neighbouring Jack Smith Lake. It was easy walking along this track which provided good views of Jack Smith Lake with its swans and birdlife. We lunched beside the lake overflow near where it enters the sea. Dark clouds loomed on the horizon as we began our



7km return beach walk. The stormy sky and dark sea provided a stunning backdrop. Light rain began to fall but we were all well prepared and in good spirits as we trod the sands back to the cars.

This is the second time this year that the club has held this walk. It continues to attract walkers for not only its beauty but for its historical and cultural significance.

Blue Pool to Peregrine Point and Track 96

Date: Saturday 23 July 2022

Leader: Monica Scicluna

Report: Frank and Klara Jones

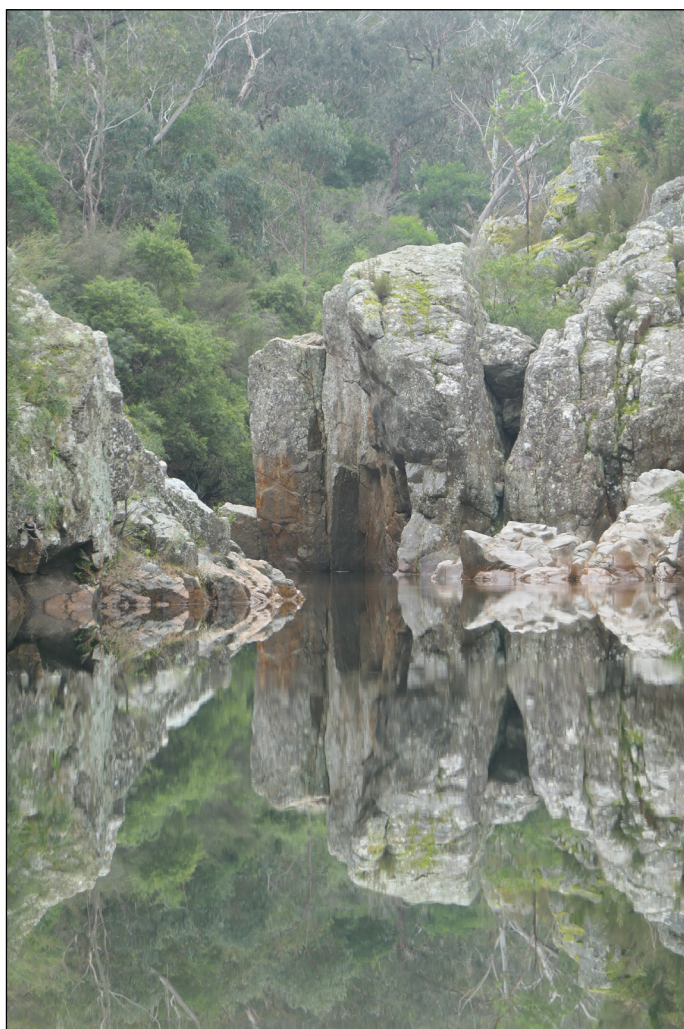
We started the day driving from Sale to the Blue Pool carpark via Stratford. Just prior to the roundabout in Stratford, we notice a group of bohemian hippies beside a couple of four-wheel drive vehicles. We were to find out later that these bohemian hippies were our fellow walkers.

At the Blue Pool carpark, we met a couple of fit looking young fellas that I assumed were on the walk with us no, no, no, these young men were going to run the track. I enquired how long they estimated that the run would take and was staggered to hear "34 minutes"!

Klara and I have hiked this track many times over the years and we usually start at Blue Pool and hike up the hill to Peregrine Lookout. Today, Monica was leading us in a reverse direction, and what a change it made to the whole hike. You see things from a different angle and different perspective. This track would normally take Klara and I around 2 to 2.5 hours but

due to the number of stops to admire and photograph the numerous flora (fungi, ferns and orchids), different views and socialising, it took about four extremely enjoyable hours. Many thanks go out to the extremely knowledgeable fellow walkers to firstly notice, and then draw our attention to, the many and varied fungi from big combs to delicate and minute black ones. I am sure I would have walked past the small, green, upright Maroonhood Orchids.

The Peregrine Track is one of my favourite walks as it encompasses such a variety in a relatively short walk. There is relatively flat terrain with scenic views along Freestone Creek, some elevated views where you can look down on Blue Pools or along the creek. Thanks to Monica for the history lesson at the Gladstone Creek Bridge. (We were unaware of the historical significance and had not noticed the intricate carving on the old bridge). A lovely walk up a sheltered gully with a variety of ferns. A shale and rock gentle climb up to Peregrine Lookout with truly panoramic views up, down and across the freestone valley. A gentle walk down through leatherwoods and ironbark to the last, steeper drop down to Blue Pool and Blue Pool itself. During summer, a great end to the walk is to go for a swim in Blue Pool.



There were two crossings of Freestone Creek, the first at the McKinnon's Point Campground, which was relatively easy as the water was up a bit but still



no more than ankle to shin deep. Some chose to remove their boots and cross with bare feet (apparently their feet went instantly numb with the cold). The second crossing at Blue Pool was a little bit more difficult involving some slippery logs at the tail end of Blue Pool itself, but all our intrepid hikers managed to cross without incident.

What a cheerful, interesting and knowledgeable bunch of hikers from such a diverse background. Discussions varied from fauna and flora to hiking equipment, food and weather. No mention of religion or politics. Coffee, some snacks and a chat back at Briagolong was a fitting end to a rather pleasant hike.

Eagle Point to Paynesville

Date: Saturday 17 July 2022

Leader: Trevor Clues

Report: Briany Noonan

Trevor put on perfect weather for our walk from Eagle Point to Paynesville. We started the day with a car shuffle then made our way up to the Bluff. Trevor pointed out features from the lookout such as Bairnsdale, Lake King, Jones Bay and the Silt Jetties. We then ventured down to and through the Eagle Point Flora and Fauna reserve where some trees that appeared to have previously been struck by lightning were spotted. Morning tea was had along the Eagle Point to Paynesville foreshore where we remarked



at what a spectacular day it was and how the water looked like a mirror. Continuing on, we spotted many swans, kangaroos and ebikes! Trevor pointed out some more features seen from our position including Mount Taylor and Mount Little Dick. All too soon we arrived at the cars that had been positioned earlier and we took a short drive to Paynesville where we had an early lunch near the jetty. After lunch we drove to Sunset Cove where we took a walk along the walking track to the lookout and back, remarking at more picturesque scenery. Thank you for a wonderful walk Trevor, and the other walkers for good company!

Mt St Gwinear - Snowshoe Shuffle

Date: Saturday 06 August 2022

Leader: Joe van Beek

Report: Kerry Knights

The Annual Snowshoe Shuffle was an Epic Walk, which brought together those elements which enable the walk, and walkers, to justifiably claim it as 'The Stuff of Legends'.

Mt St Gwinear was named by the geologist and surveyor, William Baragwanath, after Saint Gwinear of Cornwall. Of Irish descent, Saint Gwinear was around in the 6th century, and is said to have died, with his followers, by being thrown into a pit of reptiles. Fortunately, no such fate awaited our group.

Meeting at Erica to gather our Snowshoes, which Joe had wisely booked in advance. Accompanied by clear skies with a chill in the air, the walk promised to be special. Arriving at the St Gwinear carpark, and donning extra layers, we gathered for the obligatory group photo. Strapping snowshoes on to packs, we hiked upwards, through mud and thin, patchy snow, before the snow increased and we reached the ski trail. Whilst this trail forbade walkers, it allowed snow shoe shufflers. So, on went the snow shoes.

From here we continued upwards to Mt St Gwinear, (1506 m) where we paused for morning tea. The summit is marked by a cairn of rocks, and has views to Thompson Dam. From there, it was down to the junction at Rock Shelter, before turning right. Now we had joined the Australia Alps Walking Track, and we headed towards Mt St Phillack (1556 m). This is the highest point on the Baw Baw plateau. With views obscured by thick Snow Gum, the decision was made to continue the short distance on to Mt St Phillack saddle, where we dined under snow gums and clear skies. The tower at Mt Baw Baw was off in the distance, and the junction to Mt Baw Baw is not far from the saddle.

During the walk so far, we had passed through thick stands of Snow Gum, with their bark of green, gold, brown and more. As snow melted, it ran down the trunks, further enhancing the colours. Fungus could be spotted by those with a sharp eye, and lichen festooned the branches. We had heard a lyrebird in full song earlier in the walk, and were to enjoy this cascade of auditory delight later on as well.

Once satiated, we retraced our steps to Rock Shelter, where we then continued directly on for a couple of kms or so. Heading downward, the snow had melted in parts, revealing the pools of water, thick with vegetation, and there was the occasional glimpse of the board walk planks of the AAWT. A native rat scampered by.

From the AAWT, we dropped down to a little known route, marked by pink tape at handy intervals along the way. Soon after traversing one creek in snow shoes, we removed them totally and continued in regular bushwalking footwear. This section of the track was characterised by towering eucalypts, lush ferns, carpets of strappy grasses and more fungus in remarkable shapes and colours. One further creek crossing loomed, and it sounded like a torrent awaited us. But, this was not to be. As the light levels dropped due to the sheltered nature of the gully, a





clear mountain stream greeted us. It was spectacular, and had rocks or logs to cross over with. Not all in the walk were able to get over without a dunking, though, having pushed the limits of physics to their detriment.

After this minor mishap, it was onwards and upwards towards the carpark. Tired legs made for slow going, however it provided an opportunity to savour this remarkable part of the world. The climb was along the contours of the hill, so not as steep as it could have been. Those pink ribbons on the tree were able to guide us, where we 'popped out' on the track. Not unlike returning from Narnia and finding oneself back in the wardrobe, somewhat stunned to see familiar landmarks again.

So, what made this walk Epic, and the Stuff of Legends? It is a combination of the distance, the different (and new to many) means of walking in snow, the hilly (indeed, mountainous) terrain, traversing hidden tracks, the views for miles, the incredible diversity of plants, the accompanying lyrebird songs, and the awesome company. Such a wealth of bush-walking experience, we were always assured of making it back for a hot donut at the carpark, despite some brief moments of navigational uncertainty. And underpinning all of this was the positive and inquisitive energy of the walkers, who willingly shared their knowledge and experiences. This is what makes BCWC so special for so many of us. Thanks Joe for leading this walk.

Yummy Scroggin

Sesame Snack by Gary Watts

Copha 90g
 Honey 3 tbsp
 Brown Sugar 1/2 cup
 Rice bubbles 2 cups
 Currants 1/2 cup
 Rolled oats 2 cups
 Roasted Peanuts or
 Slivered Almonds 3/4 cup
 Sesame seeds toasted 1/2 cup

Nowa Nowa Trestle Bridge

Date: Saturday 13 August 2022

Leader: Angela Roughley

Report: Marian Matchan

Angela lead the way followed by Ken, Trevor, Jodie, Georgia, Michael Y, Ruth, Brad, Piper, Robyn, Sue, Michael D and Marian heading off from Nowa Nowa along the rail trail. The weather was a bit rainy and we could hear thunder in the hills close by, so we all got decked out in our wet weather gear and headed off along the well made track. The brilliant yellow of the wattles in full bloom, the grey box trees were so tall and straight as were the stringybarks.

After approx. 5 kms, we sighted the old trestle bridge, 20 metres high and 276 metres long; still standing tall and nearly as straight as it did when it was constructed last century. Here we rested and had a cuppa and chat.

We walked back along the rail trail for about a km then veered off the rail trail and crossed the highway taking us through the Lake Tyers S.P. which meets up with Boggy Creek. Here we followed the Boggy Creek along an undulating track with views across the lake until we arrived back at Nowa Nowa. The light rain persisted most of the day so after walking the 12 kms, the wood fire in the Mingling Waters Café was a welcome sight. We settled in and had a wonderful lunch with much chatting, laughter and carrot cake, what a great day. We all headed off our separate ways with Georgia sticking up the "L" plates for the drive home. Thanks to Angela for organising a great day.



Line a lamington pan with baking powder. Melt copha over low heat. Stir in honey and sugar. Stir all ingredients until sugar dissolves then gently simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from heat then pour over rice bubbles, oats, nuts, currants and sesame seeds. Press into tin.

Bake at 180 C for 10-15 minutes or until golden. Allow to cool before slicing.

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.

IMPORTANT: Anyone attending a BCWC activity must be currently vaccinated against Covid 19.

Full details are available on the website www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com.au

Walk Name	Date	Grade	Distance	Leader	Contact
Loch Sport NP	28/8 Sunday	S-3-3	9km	Monica Scicluna	joe.monica@hotmail.com 0431 777 460
Grant Historic Area Track Clearing	29/8 Monday	S-5-5	6km	Joe van Beek	joevanbeek@bigpond.com 0411 749 799
Mt Erica	10-11/9 Sat-Sun	M-6-5	9km/4km	Helmut Tracksdorf	helmut.tracksdorf@bigppond.com 0402 089 404
Social Evening	14/9 Weds	see website for details			
Wirilda Track Combined Clubs	24/9 Sat	S-5-5 M-6-5 X-9-5	10km 14km 24km	Joe van Beek	joevanbeek@bigpond.com 0411 749 799
Mt Feathertop	30/9 Friday - 2/10 Sunday	see website for details			
FedWalks2022	1-2/10 Sat-Sun	varied	varied	www.fedwalks.org.au	
Wilson Prom	7-9/10 Fri-Sun	Fully booked			
McLoughlins Beach	12/10 Weds	S-1-1	8km	Frankie MacLennan	FrankiemacLennan1@gmail.com 0407 867 084
Committee mtg	12/10 Weds	Maffra Sportsman Club			6pm meal, 7pm business
Bike Ride Nicholson-Bruthen	15/10 Sat	X-1-1	40km	Angela Roughley	angelaroughley@bigpond.com 0423 089 203
Little Desert Maroondah BWC	16-20/10 Sat - Thurs	X-4-3	75km	John Cox	johnandsuecox@gmail.com 0419 356 710
Eagle Point-Paynesville	19/10 Weds	see website for details			
Mt Bogong	22-25/10 Sat-Tue	see website for details			
Ramshead Range	30/10 Sunday - 4/11 Friday	M-6-4	32km	Helmut Tracksdorf	helmut.tracksdorf@bigppond.com 0402 089 404
part AAWT YHA Bushwalking	31/10 Monday - 19/11 Saturday	X-7-8	206km!	Joe van Beek	joevanbeek@bigpond.com
Cyathea Falls	6/11 Sunday	L-4-3	19km	Peter Jennings	pnjjennings@gmail.com 0428 230 444



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Facebook: BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club
WWW: www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com

ISSUE 226 — Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club — October 2022



Mt Feathertop

Ben Cruachan Walking Club



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Incorporation No
A0004849G

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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 14 December 2022
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, MAFFRA.

Welcome to new members:

Toni and Craig Baldwin, Peter Camburn, Maxine Cox, Ruth and Brad Downs, Graeme Frith,
Jonathn Kendall, Catherine Lane, Malcolm McCalman, Robyn and Neil McLennan,
Andrew and Jodie Tilley, Michael Young

Peter's Brief

My First Post

I'm on the road writing this, hence the title.

Let's start with the committee – we have some new members who are hitting their straps already. Kerry is producing plenty of copy for the editors and Jodie is growing our followers and likes on Facebook. In the meantime, the continuing members are, well, continuing their good work, perhaps a special mention for John Cox who is working on refreshing our website. The committee also decided to explore the possibility of a leadership course next year. The last one was about six years ago and we have since had a steady influx of new members who hopefully will step up as leaders. A wilderness first aid course is also on the agenda.

The finances are solid, membership is stable, tracks are receiving attention, the newsletter is on its way, walks have been happening and the secretary is busy . BUT, we need to start filling the walks calendar for 2023. If you have a walk or walks you would like to lead, please let Geoff know. I'll put in a plug for one of mine; I attended the Woodside Landcare meeting last week and heard a guest speaker talk about the Strzelecki koalas in Mullungdung State Forest – check out the walks calendar for details.

To round off the year we are having a Christmas lunch at the Criterion Hotel in Sale on Sunday 18 December – all welcome.

Hope to see you on a track.

Peter



Club News

Vale -- Norm Williams

Norm Williams, a club Life Member for decades has passed away. He was 101 years old. In his more sprightly days, he was an active member of the club for many years and very involved in all things. There will be an obituary in the next newsletter.

Christmas Social

This year's Christmas Social is at noon on Sunday 18 December 2022 at the Criterion Hotel, 90 MacAlister St, Sale VIC 3850. Feel free to dress Christmasy with any combination of green, red and white. RSVP by Monday 11 December to Monica Scicluna who can be contacted by email (joe.monica@hotmail.com) or phone (0431 777 460). This is a great event and an opportunity to meet our fellow club members and reminisce.



October mtg news

- FedWalks2022 was a successful weekend at the beginning of October. BCWC members led walks, participated in walks, helped the committee, had a good time.
- There was a surplus of \$170 from the 2021 event to share between Strzelecki and Ben Cruachan.
- The Facebook page is ripping it up. 396 members, 26 pages in September/October. Well done Jodie.
- The club has 132 members. 68 female, 64 male, including 7 dual members (of 2 clubs) and 9 who only receive the newsletter.

Social Evening

The next Social Evening on 09 November 2022 at the Wan Loy Resturant in Traralgon. 6pm for a feed prior to "business". This social features guest speaker Dr Sonia Sanchez. She is a Project Officer with BirdLife Australia in the Coastal Birds team. BA, with supporters and volunteers, are committed to conserving Australia's native birds and their habitats. This includes beach nesting birds such as Hooded Plovers and Oystercatchers and other species that use beaches such as migratory shorebirds.

Birdlife Australia would like to engage with bush-walking clubs in the conservation of the endangered Hooded Plover and the cryptic Eastern Ground Parrot (a coastal heathland, threatened bird). This is an exciting opportunity for BCWC members to learn about these species (and other coastal birds) and make a difference in their conservation on our walks. There will be general information provided and some training and identification information for us to learn. Further information can be found at Beach-nesting Birds Program and/or BirdLife Australia, or Facebook - @hooded.plover.



Image by Friends of Hooded Plover (Mornington Peninsula) Inc

Walk Reports

Loch Sport - Lakes NP

Date: Sunday 28 August 2022

Leaders: Monica Scicluna

Report: Tony Wielgosz

WALKERS: Sue, Robyn, Mary, Anne, Maureen, Sue, Ken, Joe.

After meeting at 9am to work out car pooling for our walks around the Gippsland Lakes, 12 keen walkers set off in four cars. With a top temperature of about 20 degrees, spirits were high.

The first walk was just inside the park boundary to the Oil Bore, the Dolomite Swamp, Pelican Point, and back to the cars. Many bird sounds accompanied us along the way, and the clouds quickly gave way to beautiful blue skies and mirror calm water. A sharp eye noticed many greenhood orchids in the middle of the track, and many water birds were spotted on the lake.

Back to the cars and further into the park for lunch at Pt Wilson, with a quick stop for the lookout over Lake Reeve. Pt Wilson is set up with an undercover BBQ area, tables, toilets and signage detailing the lives of our original inhabitants of this area.

Our second walk started through more open areas rising above the lake, and many of the older coastal banksias seemed to have been felled by recent high winds. Turning into some thick scrub and heading downhill, our route was curtailed by a swamp that had flooded over the track. Rather than blindly pushing on, we decided to return to the cars. Thankfully so, it turned out, as another eagle-eyed walker spotted a mobile phone in amongst some ground cover - everyone quickly checked their pockets and the grateful owner was quickly found (he hadn't realised that he had dropped it)!

Thanks for your organisation (and the good weather) Monical!



Combined Clubs Walk Wirilda

Date: Saturday 24 September 2022

Leaders: Joe van Beek

Report: Nicki Jennings

WALKERS: Joe, Judy, Anne, Peter, Nicki, Roz, Tim, Colin, Craig, Toni, Gabrielle, Sharlene, Simone, Adrian

Walkers from Ben Cruachan Walking Club, Strzelecki Bushwalking Club and Friends of Tyers Park joined together on a sunny day to enjoy the natural beauty of the Tyers Park, which lies to the north of the Latrobe Valley. Many hidden treasures were awaiting us.

Early in the 10+km walk, an eagle eye spotted movement in the Tyers River. A platypus was dabbling along the edge of the water before shyly disappearing from view. We soon left the Wirilda Walking Track and proceeded along a four wheel drive track that skirted the southern edge of the park and provided us with spectacular views across the Latrobe Valley. We could see right across to the distant Strzelecki Range and Mount Tassie. First morning tea was nibbled here as we identified many familiar landmarks.

Refuelled and enjoying each other's company we strolled along a less used four wheel drive track though forest rich in understory and tall eucalypts. Joe told us of the work that the Friends of Tyers Park do to help maintain and care for this special area. They collect large amounts of rubbish every Australia Day and help keep the tracks clear and useable.

Just before second morning tea, Joe lead us to a large overhang cave high on a ridge. The roof was composed of conglomerate rock and the floor thick sand. It was large enough for all of us to enjoy at once. The drier forest on this ridge had many wild flowers in bloom. We saw Lady Finger and Leopard



orchids, Hardenbergia, delicate Love Creeper and a display of many more flowering plants. From the cave we headed back towards the Wirilda Walking track down a steep, well vegetated slope.

After lunch we returned to the Wirilda Walking Track which follows the Tyers River. Friends of the Park had recently cleared overgrown vegetation from the track and done work to level the track surface. We appreciated their efforts as we walked along this picturesque part of the river. Just to top the day off another platypus put on a longer display for us. What had seemed like a small floating log on the bend of the river suddenly duck-dived and then resurfaced a little further along. We stood mesmerised as we watched this rare treat. Seeing two platypus in different sections of the river speaks well of the river's health.

We continued along the Wirilda track enjoying the ferns, flowers and trees. At one point we had a clear view across the Tyers Gorge to Petersons Point. We arrived back at the cars after an excellent walk which some people calculated was more than 10km. The AFL Grand Final was underway but we felt more enriched after a day in the Wirilda Park.



Wilson's Promontory

Date: 07-09 October 2022

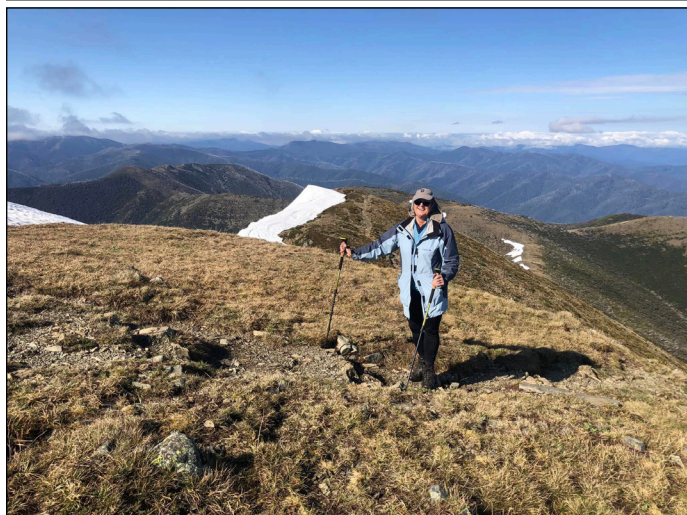


Day 01: Lilly Pilly Circuit (inc Mt Bishop)

I (Angela Roughley) certainly appreciated the later start of 9am which was when the Parks Office opened and we could obtain permits for our vehicles to be in the park overnight. We gathered outside the front of the Lodge for a group photo before setting off to walk the kilometre to the starting point at Lilly Pilly Carpark. Here we regrouped with the couple who had driven before splitting into two groups: those who naturally had a faster pace and those who wanted to take it a bit easier. The weather was perfect as we gently climbed across the southern face of Mount Bishop and wandered through the stingybark forest. The Lilly Pilly Nature Walk is an 800 metre loop that left the main Lilly Pilly Circuit track. Here we found a seemingly self-contained temperate rain-

Mt Feathertop

Date: 21 - 23 October 2022



forest right in the middle of the eucalypt stand. Absolutely stunning.



We continued on our way up to the summit of Mount Bishop, where we took some happy snaps and marvelled at the panoramic view over the west coast of Wilsons Promontory and its offshore islands. Postcard perfect! A smooth rocky outcrop just shy of the summit provided a good platform for lunch before we made our way easily back down and returned to the lodge. The afternoon was free to spend however one wished before coming together for a shared dinner on Saturday night that was nothing short of a feast.

Day 2: Tongue Point

On a lovely sunny morning, after a sleep-in and leisurely breakfast at the luxurious George Robinson Lodge, at Wilsons Promontory, Monica, Corrinne, Lynette, Helmut and I (Julie Taylor) did the car shuffle for the Tongue Point to Derby River walk, culminating at Derby River. Monica and Corrine took a more leisurely path whilst the rest of us strode off to take in the magnificent views at Sparks Lookout. Unfortunately no whales.

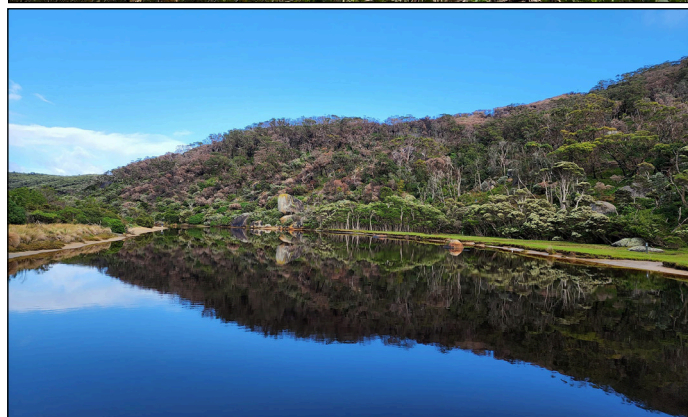
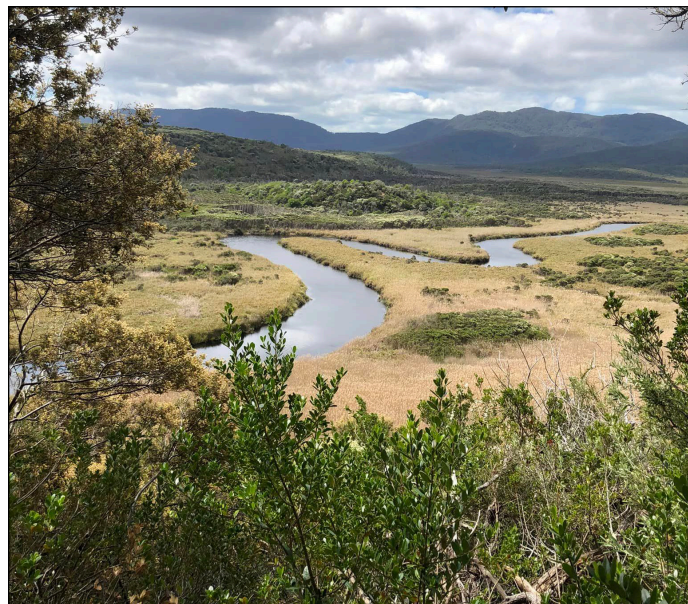


Then Lynette had to take off for a rehearsal at Bairnsdale and Helmut and I headed to Tongue Point which was windy and spectacular, and lunch with the tide swirling in at Sanctuary Cove. We arrived at Derby

River to find our cohorts having lunch.

We then walked to the Derby River beach, very spectacular and climbed the massive sand-dune to find lacy sand-sculptures made by the wind, aboriginal middens, and features of a geographical nature of great interest. This is an excellent adjunct to the walk and well recommended.

Thank you to Monica and the Ben Cruachan club for a wonderful weekend.



McLoughlins Beach Walk

Date: Saturday 12 October 2022

Leader: Frankie McLennan

Report: Peter Jennings

Walkers: Trevor, Chris, Ken, Anne, Corine, Monica, Jim (SBC), Peter, Frankie.

We met at McLoughlins Beach jetty at 10am on a coolish but sunny day. We took the boardwalk over the mangroves and coastal heath to the boat ramp where we saw pelicans and spoonbills gathering near the channel. Despite the pleasant conditions there weren't any boat trailers in the car park – a wasted opportunity! Crossing the footbridge, we noted that the tide was in the final stages of running out, exposing extensive mud flats.

Further on, at the picnic table, we turned south



west to head along the secluded track parallel to the beach. Some Lady Finger and Spider Orchids were in flower amongst the banksia, coastal manna gums and some interesting (unidentified) fungi. We continued through to the McLoughlins Beach entrance which is the start of the Ninety Mile Beach. The end of the track has eroded back several metres over recent years producing a precipitous drop that was too high and steep to make our way down to the beach; a little back-track brought us to a more gentle drop onto the beach. We then made our way along the beach heading north east into a consistent breeze; Frankie noted that there weren't any little sandling birds which are a regular feature of the beach birdlife. We arrived at the bush track near the start, made our way over the footbridge and board walk to the car park picnic shelter where we had lunch together.

Many thanks to Frankie for once again organising this little mid-week walk; it is a lovely part of the world and a bit different to many of the walks we do in the bush and in the hills.

Nicholson - Bruthen Rail Trail Bike

Date: Saturday 22 October 2022

Leader: Angela Roughley

Report: Sue Wesson

Marian, Prez Peter, Julie, Angela, and Sue headed off from Nicholson boat ramp carpark full of optimism that we could beat the rain to Bruthen. Angela and Sue are wombles but Marian, Peter and Julie turned out to be racehorses and won the field at every leg. The day was humid with intermittent sun and the track had been completely revamped. Some sections are now bitumen and others had a hard gravel road base. There are new picnic tables and seats. We made it to Bruthen (23 kms) in two hours and had a very early lunch. Heading back to Nicholson we were confronted by the deepest grey clouds not too far away that promised to explode on us at some time. We had a break at Bumberrah but the mosquitoes soon found us so we didn't linger. With-

in fifteen minutes the heavens had opened and we experienced riding the Rail Trail in a torrential down-pour. We joined the Drowned Rat Brigade. The plans for a leisurely coffee in Nicholson were ditched in favour of "Home, James, and don't spare the horses".



Nyerimilang

Date: Saturday 15 October 2022

Leader and Report: Monica Scicluna

Walkers: Monica, Anne, Peter and Lisa

After introducing ourselves and the usual formalities, we started our walk meandering out to the old farm with its display of old machinery. Unfortunately, some of us recognised machinery that was being used when we were young. (The lookout is under repair)

Then we went along the walking track; on one side the beautiful Gippsland Lakes and on the other side large shady trees. The bellbirds were expecting us and greeted us with their welcoming choir. It was all sheer delight. Lisa spotted a green hood among the overgrown weeds. We had morning tea at the bird hide.

Next we headed back along the salt marsh track and then turned onto the kite track. We were lucky to see one kite. This is an easy walk with the homestead in sight. We had lunch in the spectacular gardens. We wondered around the inside the homestead before heading home. We all had a lovely day.



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.

Walk Name	Date	Grade	Distance	Leader	Contact
Cyathea Falls	6/11 Sunday	L-4-3	19km	Peter Jennings	pnjjennings@gmail.com 0428 230 444
Social Evening	9/11 Wednesday				see website for details
Cowombat Flat / The Pilot	11-13/11 Fri-Sun	L-8-7	42km	Helmut Tracksdorf	helmut.tracksdorf@bigpond.com 0402 089 404
Moonlight Ck / Waterfall Bower Tk	20/11 Sunday	M-6-4	10km	Ken Free	freekenneth@optusnet.com.au; 0414 774 144
Billy Goat Bend to Den of Nargun	27/11 Sunday	M-6-3	8km	Marian Matchan	Matcho01@bigpond.com; 0448 523 287
Crosscut Saw - Viking	3-6/12 Sat-Tues				see website for details
McMillans Track	4-17/12				see website for details
Petersons Lookout	10/12 Saturday	S-2-2			see website for details
Christmas Lunch	18/12 Sunday				see website for details
Howitt, Magdala King Billy	4-6/02/2023				see website for details



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

Facebook: BCWC Ben Cruachan Walking Club
WWW: www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com

ISSUE 227 — Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club — December 2022



Peterson's Lookout (see page 8)

Ben Cruachan Walking Club



Committee Members 2022/23

President:	Peter Jennings	0428 230 444
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Secretary:	Robyn Kercher secbcwc@gmail.com	0400 592 407
Member Sec:	Ken Free secbcwc@gmail.com	0414 774 144
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Publicity:	Kerry Knights	0431 462 464
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Walks Coordinator:	Geoff Mattingley walkbcwc@gmail.com	03 5152 2916
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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 February 2023
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, MAFFRA.

Welcome to new members:

Toni and Craig Baldwin, Peter Camburn, Maxine Cox, Ruth and Brad Downs, Graeme Frith,
Jonathn Kendall, Catherine Lane, Malcolm McCalman, Robyn and Neil McLennan,
Andrew and Jodie Tilley, Michael Young

Bush Telegraph

My Second Post

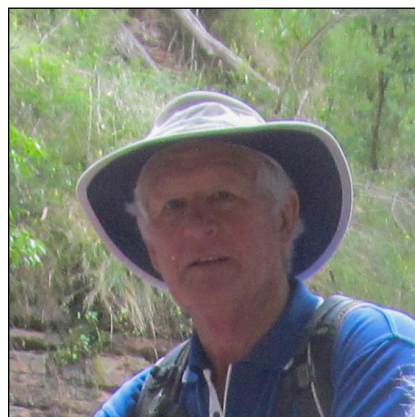
My contribution to the last newsletter was written in haste at short notice on my phone so I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My life's journey commenced on my family's farm near Bombala in southern NSW. My bushwalking journey commenced at high school where I did my Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award which included going to Outward Bound. I qualified as a maths and science teacher and after teaching for three years went back to Outward Bound as an instructor before returning to the family farm. In 1981 my family moved to a new farm in Gippsland at Giffard West, but not before I had met Nicki who was a teacher at Bombala. We married in 1983 and raised three girls, involving ourselves in many community activities and organisations along the way. In the early 2000s we found ourselves answering the call of the bush. We did some great walks with friends but when some moved away and others retired we joined BCWC and have really enjoyed the company of new friends and many walks which were new to us. We have now retired from farming and live in Sale.... and then I was asked to take on the President's role, so here I am.

Enough about me – the highlight of 2022 has to be FedWalks. I know it was three years in the making (thanks Covid) but it all came together beautifully under the leadership of Joe and his team. There were over 200 participants enjoying more than 40 walks over two days – and nothing substantial went wrong. No serious injuries, no one lost, just a big, big group of happy campers/walkers. How good was that!

But that's not all... the other highlight was the presentation of life memberships to Joe and Monica. These things don't come easily and they aren't sought, but they are a way of recognising years of exemplary service. Joe and Monica aren't sitting back and resting on their laurels, they are both still members of the committee and continue to lead walks.

I have looked back over the 2022 Newsletters to get a sense of the Club's activities for the year. What an amazing effort for a club of volunteers. As a matter of interest, I tallied up the walks and walk leaders for the year – over forty walks, a couple of bike rides and about twenty leaders, and that's not counting FedWalks! Well done us!! But no resting on laurels, let's start getting some walks onto the 2023 Calendar.

With that, I'd like to wish everyone Merry Christmas, happy New Year, all the best for 2023 and I hope to see you on a track somewhere.



Peter

Club News

The Bellinger Bell Award

The Bellinger Bell is awarded annually to a member of the RAAF Air Academy who pursues excellence in all their endeavours.

Congratulations are due to BCWC member, Frank Jones, who has been awarded the Bellinger Bell Award for 2022 for his exemplary performance at the School of Air Traffic Control (SATC) at the RAAF base in Sale and his voluntary contribution to the Sale community and surrounding areas.

November Social Evening

Dr Sonia Sanchez, a Project Officer with BirdLife Australia came and talked to a small but quality crowd at Wan Loy in Traralgon about the challenges that beach nesting birds face (especially Hooded Plovers and Ground Parrots) and how bushwalkers can help. An online workshop has been arranged for this coming Saturday, 15 December at 6:30-8pm AEDT. This workshop is free and is for anyone who is interested in the project and the coastal environment in general. Even if you're not sure if you want to get involved, you can just attend the workshop to learn more about these two endangered species and their habitats.

To find out more information and register for the workshop at - <https://bit.ly/3gYgVoe>

IDENTIFICATION AND RECORDING OF COASTAL BIRDS FOR BUSHWALKERS



Dan Lees



Laurie Ross | Tracks Birding

Do you enjoy hiking along the Victorian coastline?
Join us to learn ID Hooded Plovers and Eastern Ground Parrots while hiking and record your observations to help these species!

ONLINE WORKSHOP

December 15, 2022 @ 6:30 - 8:00 pm (AEDT)



Walk Reports

Mitchell River Weir - both sides

Date: Sunday 30 October 2022

Leader: Marian Matchan

Report: Elizabeth Davies

WALKERS: Marian, Ken, Monica, Corinne, Geoff, Kerry, Elizabeth and new members and visitors (Welcome!) Kylie, Brad, Ruth, Debbie and Christina.

Twelve of us met at the very busy Echo Bend Caravan Park just south of the Den of Nargun carpark, on an unusually glorious day indicative of Marian's excellent organisational skills.

The first part of our walk was through private cleared land owned by the caravan park. Through a gate, and we were into the state park and native forest which looks stunningly healthy after all the rain. We spotted lots of *Xanthorrea minor* just starting to flower, several varieties of orchids, and the very "growthy" kunzeas were just starting to flower too. An area of dogwood had grown so much since Marian and Ken did the walk reccie only 3 weeks previously, that often their track marker tape was hard to spot. Christina came close to stepping on a brown snake curled up under a eucalypt, and while they were hard to spot and identify, we heard lots of different birds. As we started on the steep descent down to the river, lots of beautiful yellow everlasting were flowering, some up to 2 metres tall due to the rain.

We came to the Mitchell River just south of our usual route there from the Den of Nargun carpark. She was roaring, very brown, and too high to enable us to climb the west dam wall section. After morning tea we retraced our steps the 4km up through the glorious bush to the caravan park where we had lunch in a handy gazebo, an icecream, and a chat to Julie the park owner.

We drove south from the park to Glenaladale and across the Mitchell Bridge, and turned north to arrive at "Stonehenge" and our next walk. It was a steep rocky 1km descent with a dry stone wall along a section, and some lovely views to the west of the Mitchell and cleared farm land. We crossed the flat on which the dam construction workers lived in make-shift huts, some with their families and even vegetable gardens, and came to the eastern bank of the river and the wall remains.

The dam wall was built between 1890-93 and was planned to irrigate Lindenow, Bengworden and Goon Nure, but was destroyed by a major flood soon afterwards due to insufficient footings on the eastern side.

We sat on the wall and chatted about the amaz-

ing history of the area, then walked back uphill to our cars and home. Thank you Marian for a lovely day visiting what I regard as one of Ben Cruachan's spiritual homes.



Balook - Cyathea Falls

Date: Sunday 06 November 2022

Leaders: Peter Jennings

Report: Marian Matchan

On the sunny morning of November 6th, Peter J led Anne, Robyn, Neil, Julie, Wendy, Mal, Ken, Marian with Nicki as the Tail-End-Charlie. From the visitor centre at Balook we headed through the "cool temperate" rainforest (another description comes to mind "damp rainforest") with a canopy of tree ferns draped over the track with beautiful moss, fungus and decaying timber lining the sides of the walkway.

We turned down Diaper Track which was wet and boggy in places with plenty of debris of bark, fallen branches and a few fallen trees for us to negotiate. The vegetation changed from big gum and blackwood trees to dense tree ferns some 10m high. We saw three big Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos, screeching at us that we were in their territory. We walked beside some small water falls with the tumbling water sending fine mist into our faces and wetting our boots as we passed.

We reached Cyathea Falls to the sound of water





plummeting over the huge rocks and after a 400m walk into the falls we were mesmerized by the huge amount of water rocketing over the edge of the falls high above us, truly a magnificent sight. We had lunch at the shelter area with the sound of the waterfall as background music to our ears. We then retraced our steps, with a small detour up the Yarram-Balook Old Coach Road.

A truly wonderful walk with plenty of varied and beautiful scenery. I would like to make special mention of Neil, who is in his early 80s who walked the 19.1 kms with a beaming smile on his face and he looked as fresh and relaxed at the end of the walk as he did at the beginning, just a few leech marks on his legs to show for it, well done Neil. Thanks go to Peter and Nicki for organizing such a wonderful day.

Mt Worth - Moonlight Creek/ Waterfall/Bower Track

Date: 19 November 2022

Leader: Ken Free

Report: Kerry Knights

Mt Worth State Park is located behind Darnum, in the foothills of the western Strzelecki Ranges. It is part of the traditional country of the Bunurong First Nations People. The area came to the attention of Europeans in 1860, when Surveyor George McDonald and his team cut a track through thick forests from Lang Lang to Moe. Mt Worth is the highest point on the track. In the 1870s, more Europeans arrived, with tracts of land cleared and huts built. Further changes to the landscape occurred in the 1920s, with 12 timber mills operating on the slopes, stripping the area of much valuable timber. Relics of this activity remain, with equipment and tramways found within the landscape.

The Park features tall, wet forests of majestic Mountain Ash, Mountain Grey Gum and Blackwood, with an understory of verdant tree ferns in the sheltered gullies. The cool, moist environment supports a number of rarer plants, particularly ferns, including the Netted Brake, Slender Treefern and Skirted

Treefern. Birdlife is abundant, with lyrebirds, rosellas, parrots, Tawny Frogmouths and the rare Sooty Owl all found within. Possums, Feather Gliders and Platypus also thrive within this habitat.

So, with that rich biodiversity on offer, it was with considerable enthusiasm that the posse of wise walkers left from Bairnsdale and joined the Sale contingent at Lake Guthridge before continuing on to the Park.

A narrow, winding road climbed up the hills, before dropping down to the visitors parking area. Facilities include shelters and clean toilets. The bird song was prominent upon arrival, with perfect walking conditions on offer. Once the seven walkers had geared up, we were off exploring. Taking the track closest to the cars, we found ourselves at Trevorrows Mill site, where a large boiler structure was clearly being reclaimed by the plants. What wasn't clear, though, was where the track went from there. Having transitioned from 'super highway' to a boggy mess, the wise decision was made to retrace our steps the 700 m or so back to the carpark. With our legs warmed up, and hearts filled with joy at being out and about, the proposed start point for the walk was located over by the information shelter. So, we were off again.

Passing Maslins, the site of a long past mill, we took the lower track, hugging Moonlight Creek. The sound of flowing water and numerous bridge crossings (helpfully named by silver badges on the structures), along with tall eucalypts and thick ferns, were constants. Morning tea was at a creek crossing, just before Seymours Mill (where there's a long seat available to rest upon). This site, like so much of the track, had a rich diversity of fungus, in a range of shapes, sizes and colours. Curious bore holes were prominent along the track, often in clustered patches, with the consensus being these were possibly the endemic burrowing crayfish. These endangered creatures create complex networks of burrows and chambers, and have some distinctive pelleted, conical 'chimneys' of mud up to 10 cm tall.

Continuing on, we reached our first of two waterfalls for the day. Recognised by some as Mikes Waterfall, it's a pleasing cascade just off the track. Around this time, small drops of moisture began to descend from above. Raincoats were retrieved as a



Billy Goat Bend - Den of Nargun

Date: Sunday 27 November 2022

Leader: Marian matchan

Report: Kylie O'Neill

Walkers: Marian, Ken, Tony, Sue, Nicki, Peter, Kerry, Kylie.

It was a great day, the weather was “Goldilocks” (not too cold and not too hot). We started with a car shuffle at the Den of Nargun and walked in at Billy Goat Bend carpark.

The walk followed the Mitchell River downstream, passing through numerous shady treefern Gullies. There was dense undergrowth just off the track due to our high rainfall season and, because of this, we were unable to sight the old hut that was used when core samples were taken by a surveillance team to see if damming the Mitchell River would be viable. A few steep ascents and descents and fabulous views of the “roaring” river from the higher vantage points of the walk. Some pretty flora – purple fringed lilies and native violets and along the river edge a large Kurrajong tree was seen. Not a lot of fauna, one lizard taking in the sun along the waters edge.

We located a mine shaft that we named the “glowing cave” as it had neon yellow foamy stuff floating on the surface. Not too many were game to get a closer look!



Kerry provided the group with a heart stopping moment – she stepped on a slippery grass tussock and dropped 3 metres off the side of the track towards the raging Mitchell River. She was able to climb back up, with (thank goodness), just bruising and the loss of her milo flask.

We took a lunch break at Deadcock Den. This was looking its best with waterfalls and water flowing through the creek down to the Mitchell River.



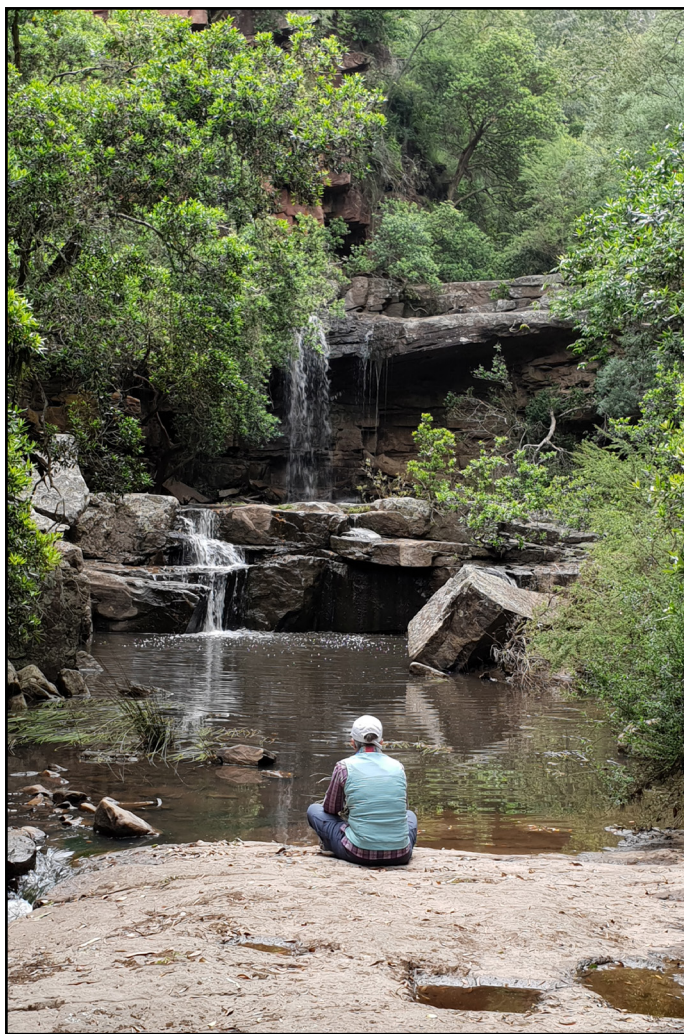
precautionary measure. Continuing on through wide open spaces, Link Track was an obvious intersection, and provided a heart thumping trudge uphill. The first section was particularly notorious, however the gradient becoming less a little further along. Lunch was had at the top of a rise, with the wide, grassy track providing a comfortable place to dine. And gather more leeches.

After a fine repast, we continued before the track turned off to the right, and promptly deteriorated in quality. The mud underfoot, slippery slopes and over hanging branches were no barrier to the determination of hardy bushwalkers, as we traversed through to the next waterfall. Known by some as Mikes Other Waterfall, and evidenced by video proclamation to the same effect, it was slow going afterwards through the splendid tree ferns and foliage. Helpful ropes strung between trees provided a point of balance for some. Others embraced the limited friction underfoot to stretch out and widen their stance. The experience was seemingly “a bit like skiing”. But not as cold.

Regrouping after the sloppy, muddy path, the Mud Load Award nominees were evaluated and ranked. Whilst many had impressive patches of mud on clothing and boots, there was a clear winner in this category. A combination of capillary action and gravity provided the winning edge for the coveted Award. The path became more manageable, and soon we were striding along the track, back past Trevorrows, and to the carpark. All the while, birds flitting about and their calls ringing through the Park.

Upon cleaning up a little for the trip home, we drove to the Darnum Tearooms, next to the General Store, and had a cuppa. From there, we travelled home.

The indicator of a Great Walk is always a combination of several factors evident at the conclusion – such as smiling readily at the experience, a high level of satisfaction, having dirty boots and clothing, and feeling a little ‘pooped’. This walk nailed all those elements. Thanks, Ken, for showing us this wonderful part of Gippsland. See walk data on page 10!!



A short time later a detour from the track revealed a massive pile of rich coloured sawdust where an old mill had been. Now the forest has reclaimed the land and Mountain Grey Box and Silver Top Ash towered above us. Some old growth gums with deep hollows provide safe habitat for furry and feathered friends. The forest also had a rich understory thriving in the dappled light. Green Hood orchids, Fringed Lilies, native violets, Maiden Hair ferns and paper daisies were only some of the colourful beauties we saw along the way.

The track descended to a point where two viewing platforms allowed the spectacular panorama of Tyers Gorge and beyond to be appreciated safely. We gazed down to the Tyers River and across to the Wirilda Walking Track on the other side of the gorge where the club had previously walked in October. This side of the gorge is very steep and characterised by large conglomerate boulders and weathered overhang caves. Jim informed us that the platform which we were trusting with our lives was only one level above the demolition stage. It seemed OK to us. Joe found a geocache to add to his grand total of over seven hundred, some of which had been very hard won in remote locations.

Friends of Tyers Park help maintain this forest and keep it free of litter. We had three Friends members on the walk. Well done to them. This 1,800ha park is a precious remnant adjoining the busy Latrobe Valley.

After lunch, that steep zig zag back up to the Den of Nargun car park – boy, the newbies legs (yep, that’s me) were aching the following day!

During the walk we met some other walk enthusiasts from Melbourne and shared our maps (they were looking a bit lost). Apparently, they come up regularly as a group of friends to also enjoy our beautiful Gippsland location – makes you appreciate how lucky we are to have it on our doorstep!

Thanks everyone for a great day – Kylie.

Peterson’s Lookout

Date: Saturday 10 December 2022

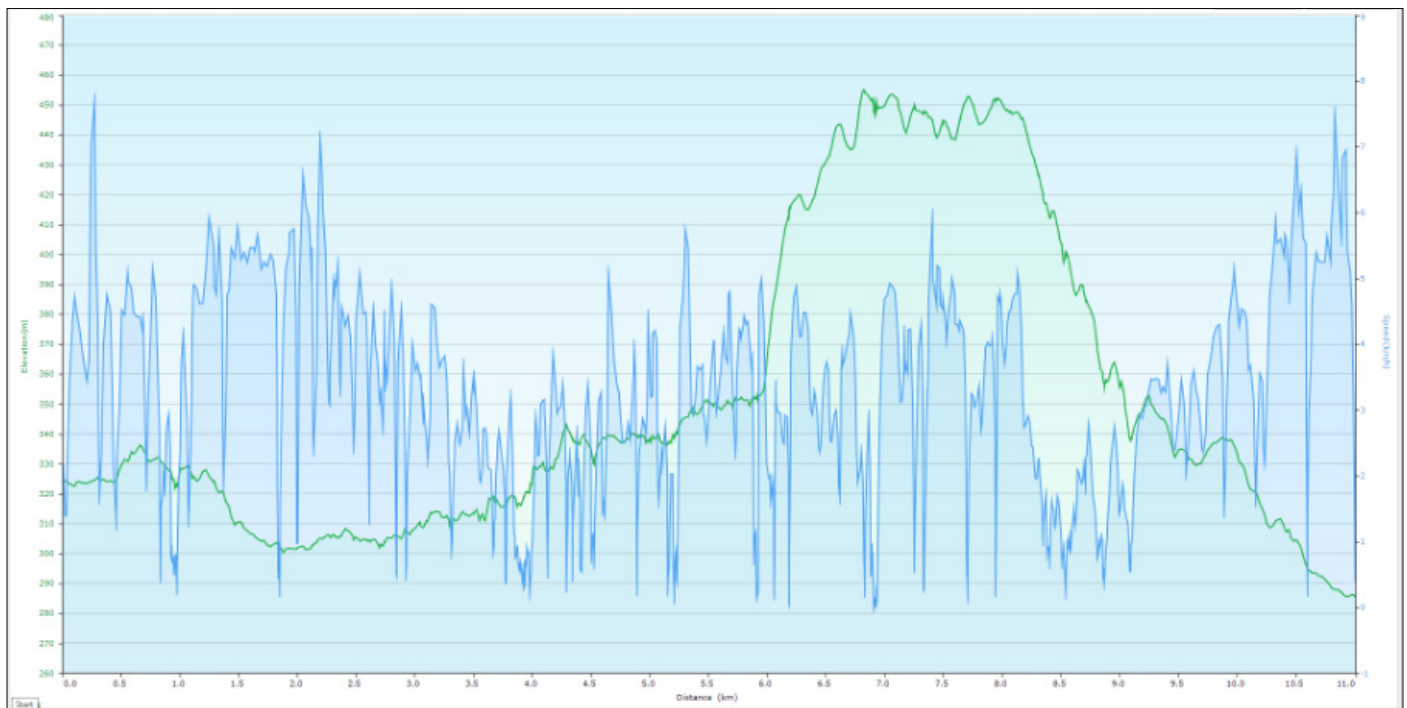
Leader: Jim Stranger

Report: Nicki Jennings

Walkers: Jim, Peter, Denise, Joe, Elizabeth, Nicki

Petersons Lookout is not a long walk at only 6km return but it is packed with delights. On a perfect sunny day Jim led our small group into the Tyers Park that he knows and loves so well. There was a profusion of dainty wild flowers along the track as we walked in the shade of large eucalypts. Off to the side of the track we looked below to an old gravel pit which has now become a thriving wetland complete with a chorus of noisy frogs.





Summary	Time	Speed	Elevation
Points: 1017 Distance: 12.4 km Area: 2.4 sq km	Elapsed Time: 5:21:34 Moving Time: 4:09:20 Stopped Time: 1:12:06	Avg: 2.30 km/h Avg Moving: 2.97 km/h Min: 0.0 km/h Max: 8 km/h	Min: 285 m Ascent: 345 m Max: 456 m Descent: 384 m Grade: -0.3 %

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.

Walk Name	Date	Grade	Distance	Leader	Contact
Mt St Gwinear to Mt Erica	07/01/2023	M-7-4	15km	Joe van Beek	joevanbeek@bigpond.com 0411 749 799; 03 5176 5302
Mushroom Rocks to Mt Erica	07/01/2023	S-7-3	3+km	Judy van Beek	joevanbeek@bigpond.com 0411 749 799; 03 5176 5302
Howitt, Magdala, King Billy	4-6/02/2023	L-8-8	34km	Oliver Raymond	oliverraymond@wideband.net.au; 0411 420 345
Crosscut Saw	4-5/03/2023	X-7-5	21km	Peter Jennings	pnjennings@gmail.com; 0428 230 444
Social Evening Criterion Hotel, Sale	08/03/2023	Edible	50m		see website for details
Mt Wellington	25-26/03/2023	L-4-3	16km	Peter Jennings	pnjennings@gmail.com; 0428 230 444