# 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

Affiliated member of Bushwalking Victoria
towards better bushwalking

**Committee Members 2021/22**

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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 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 Panadols 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 sipported 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 BCWC

* 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 (VMTC) 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 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!

Above: before

Below: after!!

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 Muttonwood 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

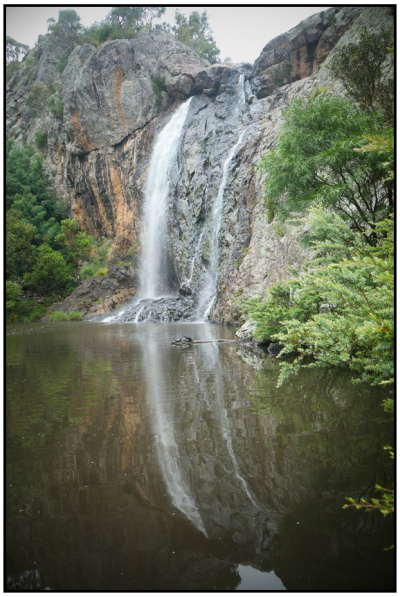
We met in a wet Howitt Park at 8am Saturday morning. There was some talk about whether the walk should be cancelled with the rain coming down quite heavy around Bairnsdale. A quick consultation of the radar gave us some hope that the rain would be less the further east we travelled so we jumped into 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 out 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 Walkerville 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".

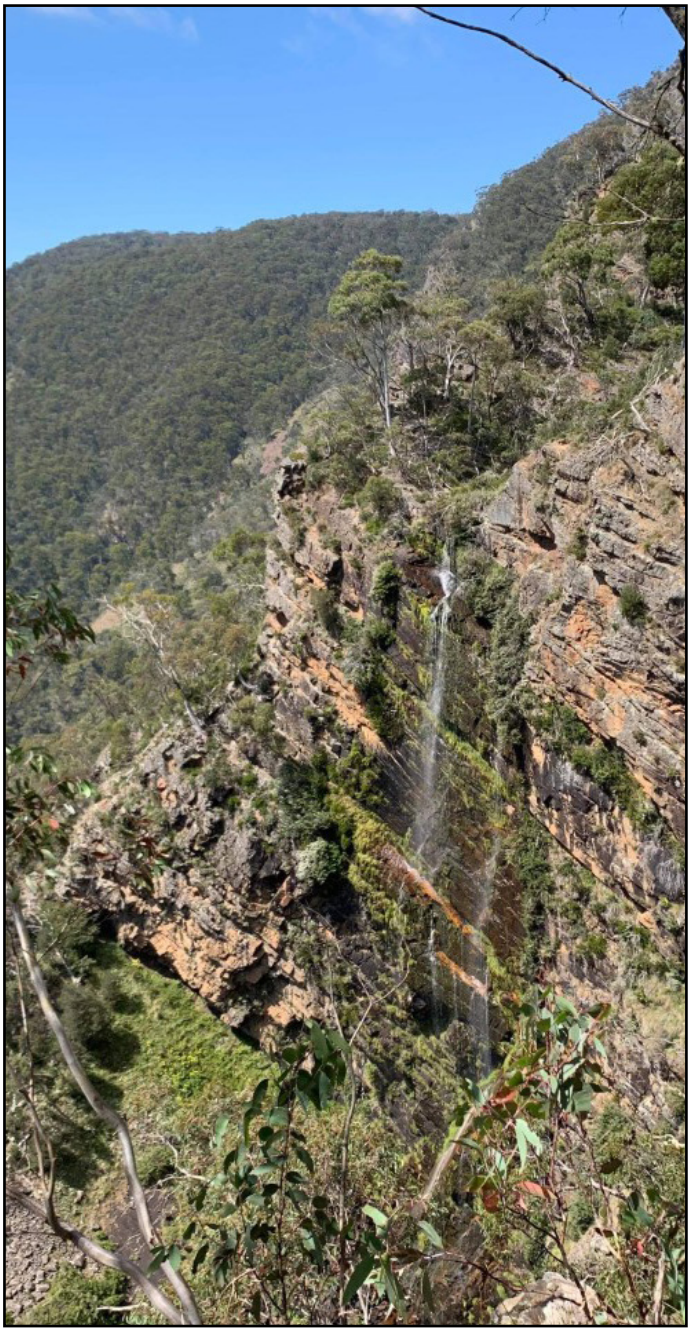
After lunch, we took a short walk just past camp to check out the waterfalls, where we spent much of the afternoon mulling around, chatting and dipping feet in the cool spring water. Some of the more adventurous members travelled to the bottom of Conglomerate Falls to see if they could catch some of 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 opposite 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

FedWalks2021

## 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 (11⁄2 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 llinks 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.