



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

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ISSUE 229 — Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club — April 2023



The Avon River. See page 5.

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2022/23

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Committee:	John Cox Rob Paterson Jodie Wigg	Janine Muir Claire Snell

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Incorporation No  
A0004849G

### In This Issue

- 3 President's Footnotes
- 4 Club News
- 5 Walk Reports
- 8 Walk Previews

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

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 08 June 2023  
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, MAFFRA.

Welcome to new members:

**Belle Deacon, Neil Kline, Ian McDonald, Stephen Rodgers-Wilson**

# President's Footnotes

## My Fourth Post

### WALKS PROGRAM

We have had a variety of walks so far this year – something for everyone! This includes a multi-day pack carry in the Mt Howitt region, a couple of easier walks bordering the lakes (Tambo Bluff and Loch Sport), the challenging Crosscut Saw (but what magnificent scenery!), the iconic Avon Channels and Sale Wetlands, a solid walk on the beautiful Grand Strzelecki Track and not forgetting the combined clubs event hosted by the South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club. Thirteen of our members attended the event and enjoyed a great weekend of activities. It was a good opportunity to see some “new” territory and to meet like-minded people who enjoy walking in the great outdoors. My favourite story from the weekend is about the bike ride. Angela, Sue and Michael from our club turned up with their bikes only to find that many others had e-bikes. Nicki asked Angela if she had any photos for a report – “sorry, no way – we spent all day trying to keep up!”

### CLUB NIGHT

At Gary Watt's suggestion, Heather and Jim Phillipson were the guest speakers at our March club night. They have an environmental philanthropic trust supporting various causes including Trust for Nature, Landcare Victoria, Land Covenantors Victoria and Team Kowari. Over 30 members attended. I think all present were amazed at the environmental work that the Phillipsons in conjunction with others have undertaken. As a thank you, the club made a small donation to the Trust.

### LEADER TRAINING

We have a leadership training course coming up on 13 May in Sale. There are still places for interested, potential leaders. The club can only exist if we have willing walk leaders and there are still gaps on the calendar for May, June, July and August. Perhaps some of our freshly minted leaders will fill them.

### HEYFIELD COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE EVENT

The Heyfield Community Resource Centre has been keen to be involved in a joint “event” focussed on McMillan's Track. Joe van Beek has kindly led the charge for us on this and will be the main presenter at the event on 04 May at the Heyfield Memorial Hall. Secretary Robyn has emailed details.

### *THE TWENTY BUSWALKING COMMANDMENTS – second instalment*

5. *Thou shall not use river stones for thy fireplace lest they explode*
6. *Thou shall leave gates as found when crossing a shepherd's land*
7. *Thou shall replenish thy wood supply before exiting camp*
8. *Thou shall pack with three things in mind...in this order – essential, just-in-case, desirable.*

*Peter*

# Club News

## Walk Leader Training

13 May 2023

Bush Walking Victoria conducts training programs for aspiring Day Walk Leaders for the many walking clubs in our State. The Committee has managed to arrange for one of these courses to be held in our area on Saturday 13 May 2023.

The course runs over one day, will be held in Sale, and will cover the following areas:

Leadership, Navigation, Walk Planning, Risk Management and Conducting the Walk

For further details, contact John Cox (0419 356 710; johnandsuecox@gmail.com).

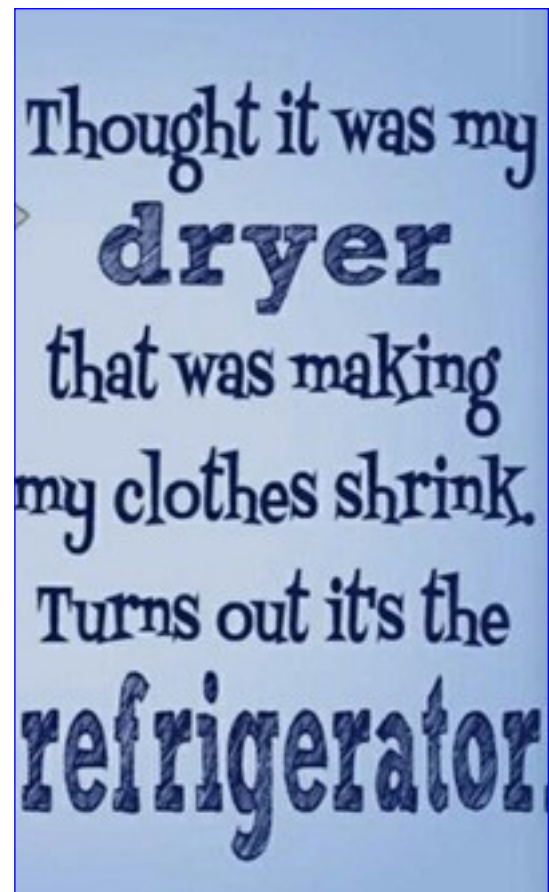
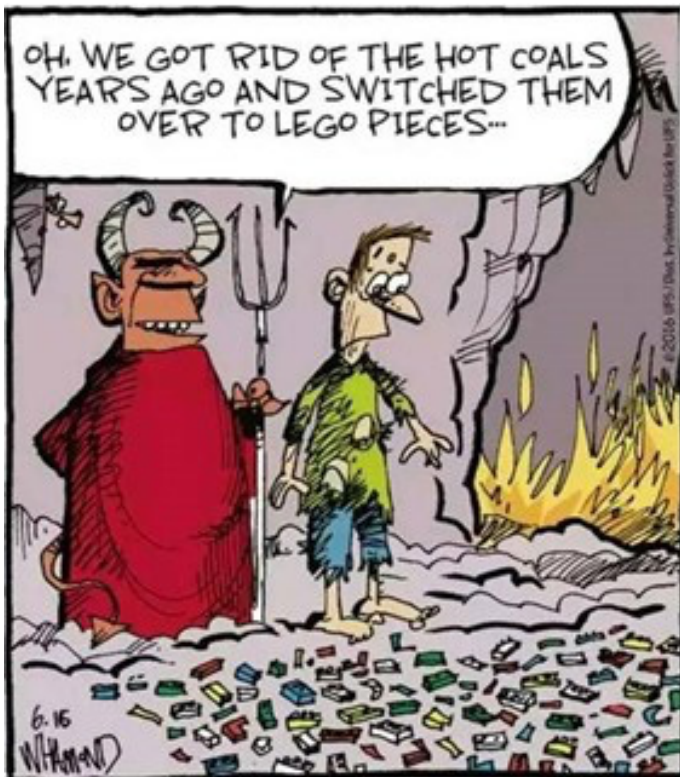
Registration is by email to the Club Secretary, Robyn Kercher, at secbcwc@gmail.com.

## McMillans Walking Track

Presentation at Heyfield

04 May 2023

Joe van Beek will be representing the club at the Heyfield Memorial Hall talking about the history of the track and the work the club has done to re-create the track. You can also what it is llike to walk the entire length in one go or access the track for shorter overnight hikes or just one day. Bookings are essential so contact the Heyfield Community Resource Centre on 03 5148 2100 oe <coordinator@heyfield.net>.



# Walk Reports

## Avon-Mt Hedrick National Features and Scenic Reserve

**Date:** 18 March 2023

**Leader:** Geoff Mattingley

**Report:** Belle Deacon

**Walkers:** Geoff, Clare, Belle, Kim, Jen, Liz, Oliver, and Briony.

In the midst of the surprisingly chilly and foggy morning of 18 March, 8 brave walkers met beside the Macalister River in Maffra. Brave walkers, as the weather was forecast to reach a nice warm peak of 35, yet they were undeterred. It was lovely to welcome Liz as a first timer to the club.

Down the first part of the track allowed for a short stop to overlook the Channels and see the expansive views across the Avon Wilderness Area. At this point walkers were, oddly, bearing goosebumps as



the temperature was not more than 16C. Further along, the land opened up to a track that followed the siltstone and sandstone channels. Beautifully carved red rock, deep with circular holes and crevices spanned several hundred metres beside the track. There was still a decent amount of water in the river, however the water level was low in parts. An exceptionally large carp that was spotted but did not seem bothered. As the heat started creeping in, the walkers stopped for lunch at Dermody's Camp – a well-equipped camp not far from the water.

The return journey was sheltered by clouds that made the steep temperature very manageable. The return journey along the 4WD tracks bore an interesting reward for Kim, beside the track lay a brand new pair of thongs, still with tags on. The perfect size for him and an apt reward for summer weather! A lovely little lizard was also happy to pose for the walkers to capture it.

Overall it was a beautiful day with lovely company.

## Combined Gippsland Clubs Weekend @ Inverloch

**Date:** 24-26 March 2023

**Organising Club:** SGWAAC

**Report:** Nicki Jennings

**Attendees:** Elizabeth, Philip, Helmut, Michael, Sue, Nicki, Peter, Robyn R, Robyn S, Anne, Angela, Denise, Jim

The South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club organised and hosted a great weekend for other Gippsland clubs to come and enjoy the delights of South Gippsland. Multiple walks were organised for each day and were led by South Gippsland club members. The fourteen walks and activities included: the George Bass Coastal Walk with its stunning views, the Wonthaggi Desalination Plant circuit, the Wonthaggi Heathlands, Point Smythe, Bear Gully and a coastal ride along the rail trail.

The Saturday night dinner was at the Inlet Hotel Inverloch with guest speaker Laura Waters author of "Bewildered". Over five months Laura walked the 3,000km New Zealand Te Araoa track from the top of the North Island to the southern tip of the South Island. Her story of endurance and persistence was inspiring. This walk was life and career changing for Laura. Her photos showed spectacular and remote landscapes.

Our thanks to SGWAAC for organising this great weekend of activities. It was good to meet new people who enjoy walking and the delights of nature.

## Sale Wetlands

**Date: 26 March 2023**

**Leader: Monica Scicluna**

**Report: Marian Matchan**

Meeting at the Sale Swing Bridge, at the junction of the Thomson and Latrobe rivers, Monica led Mary, Sally, Kerry, Ian, Geoff and Marian on a stroll around the Sale Wetlands.

We set off down the road, past the site of the old Sale aerodrome and home to the Sale Field and Game, then left into the Sale Common wetlands where we meandered along the edge of the Heart Morass. Here there was an abundance of bird life. Huge amounts of Swans with their cygnets, cormorants continuing to dive underwater for a feed, there were other unidentified birds calling to their mates to “come on over”. There were a couple of Heron in their nests, with their young flexing their wings just about ready to take their maiden flight. As we walked along the freshly mown track we continually encountered interesting spiders with their dainty spun webs stretching across our pathway. The spectacular huge old twisted and gnarled gum trees enveloped our path during most of our day. We then walked along a boardwalk viewing the plants just sticking their heads above water and we wondered what critters were lolling around under the murky water. It was lovely to see other families enjoying the ambience of the surrounds, kids laughing, bike riders and other walkers.

After we arrived back to the swing bridge we headed to the Sale Art Gallery to view the latest exhibition. Funnily enough Ken Free had some woodwork on show!! Great work Ken. Then, after a cuppa, we headed back to the historic swing bridge, which constructed in 1883, to watch it swing around allowing high vessels to enter the Port of Sale.

Thanks for another great day Monica. Good weather, interesting scenery and wonderful company.

## Mt Tassie - Grand Strzelecki Track

**Date: 01 April 2023**

**Leader: Peter Jennings**

**Report: Belle Deacon**

On a crisp, early morning, five eager walkers met at the Balook Visitors Centre to embark on the Mount Tassie Loop, a respectable 18-kilometre walk. For early autumn, the temperature was a very meagre 7°C as the walkers set out. To quote Geoff, it was like “walking in a fridge”. The Mount Tassie Loop is situated in the eastern heart of the Strzelecki ranges and features many beautiful segments of differing flora, from towering tree ferns to giant Mountain Ash eucalypts. Some sections



lived up to their temperate rainforest label, with significantly wet sections and the accompanying inhabitants. Leeches. Very desperate leeches kept

the walkers on their toes, plucking the little free-loaders off shoes, boots, socks and pants in parts.

At 720m, Mount Tassie is the highest peak of the ranges, offering lunch views across the Latrobe Valley, Wilsons Promontory, Snake Island and the coastal region was visible to the southwest. The walkers earned a well-deserved rest in a simply stunning, sheltered sunny setting.

Back down the logging tracks and through the plantations of eucalypts and pine trees was a welcome stretch of downhill. However, all things that go down must come back up again. Peter and Sally were lucky enough to spot a Superb Lyrebird on the way back, however no other fauna was seen on the journey, unless you count the feral llamas that were chased off the road by Sally that morning.

It was a wonderful walk, and thanks to Peter for leading and driving!

## Mt Taylor

**Date: 22 April 2023**

**Leader: Robyn Kercher**

**Report: Ken Free**

**WALKERS:** Robyn, Sally, Debbie, Marian, Geoff and Ken.

At the very civilised time of 10 am, a select group of 6 met at the “Boys’ Camp” just off the Bullum-waal Road for what promised to be a great day in the East Gippsland bush. This was my first visit to Mt Taylor, having been advised many years ago that “it wasn’t much of a bushwalk with a lot of walking on dirt roads”. Well that proved to be erroneous!

After a briefing from Robyn, our intrepid tail-end-Charlie and navigator located the start of our bush track and we wound our way uphill through low scrub with a canopy of eucalypts giving some shelter from the bright sunshine. It was an almost cloudless day with the temperature in the low twenties and no hint of wind. At each pause to catch our breath, we col-



Ben Cruachan Walking Club

lectively remarked on how still and quiet the bush was. Towards the top of Mt Taylor, we emerged onto a dirt road which would lead us to the summit (a couple of hundred metres – not a lot!). At the summit we were greeted by a veritable clutch of communication towers, one of which provided shade in a grassed area more than suitable for an early lunch. Over lunch we had wide-ranging discussions including a comparison of our gastronomic lunches, walks past and planned and Helinox chairs.

After lunch we briefly stopped to observe the start point of one of the many mountain bike tracks with signs warning of unavoidable drops and natural obstacles. We chose the designated walking tracks! Our route on the Goodes Track and Leadoux track meandered downhill with occasional views across a deep gorge and the bush now filled with the sound of a variety of birds – perhaps they enjoyed a lunch break as pleasant as ours.

Thank you Robyn for another wonderful day in the Gippsland bush.

## Tambo Bluff and Nyerimilang Park

**Date: 25 February 2023**

**Leader: Trevor Clunes**

**Report: Kylie Clarke**

**Walkers:** Trevor, Kylie, Ann, Debbie, Marion

**Tambo Bluff - 3.5km:** Setting off from Swan Drive, we headed onto Wallaby Creek walking track to enjoy a gradual descent in the shade, along a well-maintained track (thank you to the Tambo Bluff Landcare Volunteers). No wildlife seen, but lots of chatter may have been the cause, sorry Trevor, too many women!

The walk timing was well planned for low tide, and we were able to trek the distance along the pebbly, water’s edge to the 100 steps. Lake King was like glass, a nice breeze taking the edge off the warm 34 degrees. Prior to ascending the steps a short drink’s break on the sandy bank was enjoyable in the sun. Plenty of fish were seen stirring the water and the usual birds - swans and seagulls.

The Bluff views of the lake well worth the climb, with a short walk back to the cars.

**Nyerimilang Park - ??:** As we arrived earlier than expected, we decided to walk first then stop for lunch. The walk was very enjoyable. Wonderful views over the lakes from the Cliff Top track. We then followed the Kurrajong and Homestead tracks, mostly shaded with established gums and an impressive Kurrajong tree.

The Park was busy with visitors on walking tours and we were able to chat to volunteers who were demonstrating blacksmithing skills along with a viewing of the homestead. ....continued on page 8

# 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.**

see website for further details - <https://www.bencruachanwalkingclub.com/upcoming-walks.html>

Walk Name	Date	Grade	Distance	Leader	Contact
Peregrine Lookout Track 96	29/04/2023	s-3-4	8 km	Monica Scicluna	joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460
McMillans Track Presentation	04/05/2023			Heyfield Community Resouces Centre	03 5148 2100 coordinator@heyfield.net
Hermits Cave Koala Spotting	07/05/2023	L-4-4	16 km	Peter Jennings	pnjennings@gmail.com; 0428 230 444
Social Evening	10/05/2023	Joe van Beek on South West Trail 6pm meal, 7pm talk. RSVP Monica 08/05			joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460
Leadership Training	13/05/2023			John Cox	johnandsuecox@gmail.com 0419 356 710
Billy Goat Bend Jurgensen Point	20/05/2023	M-5-3	16 km	Marian Matchan	Matcho01@bigpond.com; 0448 523 287
Fungi Ramble Wirilda	03/06/2023	S-2-3	3 km	Jim Stranger	strangers1@westnet.com.au; 0400 278 939
Tyers Gorge	17/06/2023	<a href="#">see website for further details</a>		Jim Stranger	strangers1@westnet.com.au; 0400 278 939
Angusvale Jurgensen Point	24/06/2023	<a href="#">see website for further details</a>			
AGM	12/07/2023	Yum	Social	Monica Scicluna	joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460
Snow Shoe Shuffle	05/08/2023	<a href="#">see website for further details</a>			

.... from page 7

Again, the team of volunteers are doing a fabulous job of maintaining Nyerimilang, grounds and tracks. Lunch was taken on the veranda in the shade and taking in the picturesque views across the lawn over Lake King. Another bonus – the gift shop was open and we were all able to enjoy a well earnt ice cream at the end of the day.

Thanks for a lovely day!

