

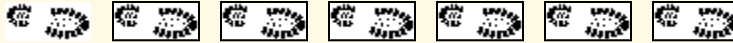


FOOTPRINTS

OCTOBER 2013

Newsletter of the Border Bushwalking Club
Inc.

affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria



COMMITTEE

President	Warwick McLachlan	02 60251323	president@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Vice President	Cindy Marsh	0410425335	cindy.bushwalking@gmail.com
Secretary	Sandy Kaitler	02 60241793	secretary@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au
Treasurer	Dick Wellard	02 60271622	treasurer@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

General Committee :

Steve Burton, Rosemary McConnell, Ira Robinson, Ian Trevaskis, Alison Wellard.

CLUB NIGHT
Tuesday 1st October
 at 7:30pm

'TWO for the PRICE of ONE'

Marie McGuire will present the story of two fantastic trips she has enjoyed this year. One covering more than 1000 kilometres on knobby tyres, the other travelling eight days on snowshoes and boot chains. One cycling the Mawson Trail in SA, from Adelaide to Blinman, the other walking the Overland Track in Tasmania in mid winter.

Why not bring a friend?

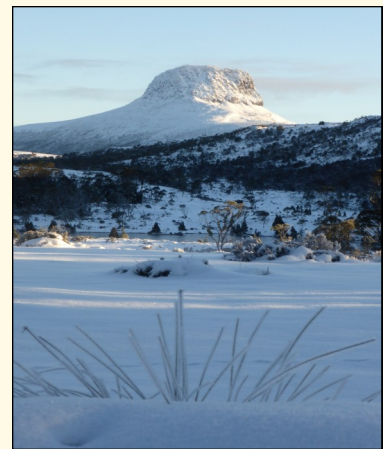
Club Nights are regularly held on the first Tuesday of the month (except December and January) at 7:30pm. The room is opened half an hour before the start so that members may socialise.

Where : Senior Citizens, Meeting Room, Civic Centre Complex, Hovell Street, Wodonga (Havelock Street end of car park)

Visitors are always welcome at meetings and supper is served afterwards.

Border Bushwalking Club Inc
PO Box 857 WODONGA 3689
Association No. A5665B

www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au



WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members :

Karen Collins
John White
Lyn Hayes
Fay Carne
Steve Burton

We trust that you will enjoy all that the Club and its members have to offer.

Disclaimer

Any statements and opinions expressed in articles published in 'Footprints' are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Committee or members of the Border Bushwalking Club.

The next **Committee Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, October 10th**. If you have any matters you want discussed please contact a Committee member.

Deadlines for next Footprints :

Activities for the next *Footprints* to the Activities Coordinator, at activities@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au

Footprints contributions including **Trip Reports** to Ian Trevaskis at iantre@hotmail.com by **Monday October 14th**.

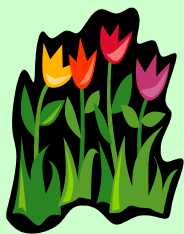
Pee Pee from the Presidential Potty

The Sap also Rises

Spring - when magic is in the air along with pollen, dust and the first blowfly. Spring - a time when a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of a First Home Buyers Grant and a young woman's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of her career trajectory. For bushwalkers – Spring is a time for a lively stepping out, leaving behind your companion Mr Dicky Knees, treading where angels are holding “No Fear” signs and beckon you to your next adventure. Truly it's a fine time to be out and about, with your new season pheromones beguiling your fellow walkers, a newly reduced paunch or hip/midriff helping your prance ratio and a sense that all is right with the world has entered your dorm. All that has to be good for the soul and body. So - come join in our activities.

What are you doing so late out? I want a report in the morning

This club began in 1978 and has extensively walked, paddled, cycled, skied and crawled on its belly through the undergrowth (Mt Anne Circuit, Tasmania, 1981). We have archives in spider like handwriting and Remington typewritten reports of derring-do, fearful endeavour and really stupid manoeuvres that perhaps should never see the light of day. Nevertheless it is our history and given Buddha says we must repeat our mistakes until we reach Nirvana, we need to revisit and reproduce these previous trips with new skills, calmness of spirit, finesse or failure, as the universe decides. Going through 30 years of walks reports to pick a destination will take longer than the trip and better then to abandon your search, and just enjoy a good fantasy. To solve that problem and speed up your search the club will electronicise Trip Reports into a searchable database on the website. To begin the process, whoever prepares the Trip Report- after each activity needs to complete the Word document found on the club's website under Information\Documents & Forms and email to secretary@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au. Handwriting can't be searched with our present technology so typing is the go. Nevertheless if nothing from you is the alternative, give us a writing for transcription.



North to Alaska (inverted)

This club has a long history of visits to Tasmania, the southern hemisphere bushwalking Mecca where, after multi days in the wilderness, a return to civilisation feels like landing on a noisy, smelly, human species crowded planet. 30,000 people travel the Overland Track each year to experience, at whatever level they are capable of, the sights, sites, and silence of Tasmania's Central Highland. Without knowing the numbers I imagine less than 100 travel the Track in winter. Marie Maguire was one of them in July this year. Her story with pictures will be told at our next meeting. This is an ordinary person doing an extraordinary thing. If you have never walked or snow shoed in a beautiful remote place or can't imagine the prospect, then **1 October** at 7:30 pm will open you up to what is possible, with planning, teamwork, and do-ability.

An imagining from the search training weekend by Bushwalking Search and Rescue in July 2013

I am the crash test dummy on a BSAR training weekend. I am humanoid (new model Mk IV) and have been left in the snow, under trees at a deliberately unknown point so the search team can try and find me. I write these notes in case they don't and if you are reading them, they haven't. I was looking forward to being stretchered out as I like looking at clouds as I lie on my back swaying gently with my puffing carriers. I am usually a fittish snow camper but now constrained by a key locked snow gum splint on my make-believe broken leg. Once upon a time a photographer crawled 2 km to the Whites River track in the Snowy Mountains with a real broken leg but I don't intend to go anywhere. I was given a Cadburys Crunchie, a paper bag of boiled sweeties and was told the search team would find me easily/in a day or two/ eventually –I'm now not sure which it was. I am still hopeful as I scratch this in the snow. The pay sounded good and I am partial to Crunchies. There is another dummy out there somewhere but I can't hear or see him, over in the next valley I think. I am starting to feel a little cold. The Crunchie wrapper has some insulation and keeps two of my fingers warm but I don't like the sticky. I would like to whistle a happy tune for cheering up but my program is limited to “Yes Master” Hmmm, feeling faint.....I think I should check my battery..... ..

Warwick McLachlan

TRIP REPORTS

Mountain Creek to Camp Creek Gap

This was a three-Pauline, two-Margaret walk, or for those with tartan in their veins, we had three Mcs and two Scotts! We also had pleasant spring weather, an abundance of wattles in flower and the conversation the BBC is renowned for.

From the car park at Mountain Creek a 4WD runs directly to Camp Creek Gap, the access point to the Eskdale Spur, but we made the walk more interesting by following the linked footpaths that start across the road from the car park. These wind in and around the rainforest alongside Mountain Creek, and their names—Shady Gully Track, Tree Fern Walk and Black Cockatoo Track—hint at the lush vegetation, ferns, mosses and the ever present gurgling of the creek. It was like walking in Middle Earth and we half-expected to meet a Hobbit.



We emerged onto the 4WD track near the start of the Staircase and started the steady ascent to Camp Creek. Soon we were faced with the first of many creek crossings. The creeks were higher, wider and faster than when I surveyed the walk in May (something to do with snow melt) and the group adopted a variety of methods to cross. The leader took the direct approach, marching boots and all through the water, knowing that any attempt at finesse would likely lead to total immersion. Some removed boots and socks and tiptoed through, wincing as the cold water lapped their ankles. One took this a step further by donning natty little rubber slippers to protect her tender soles, while another tried to step from one rock to another in the hope of keeping her tootsies dry. At one crossing the challenge of a fallen log was too great and one member demonstrated her commando skills by wriggling across it on her belly. I waited until lunchtime to tell the group that, because we were returning by roughly the same route, we would have to do all the creek crossings again!



We weren't alone on our journey. We saw a variety of wildlife: two leeches, one large black snake, a lizard, a cormorant and a wallaby, but no other walkers (only a pair of boots). We got back to the cars just as light rain started to fall after a day of laughter, fun and exercise.

Eileen Clark

Cross Country Skiing Magic

Five of us took advantage of the snow cover to ski out beyond Falls Creek Village recently and carve up some slopes at the back of Sun Valley and behind Mt Mackay.

The day was magic in every sense of the word - magic weather, magic snow, magic turns and magic company!



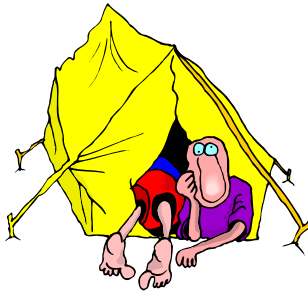
NOTICES

Top 10 Hiking Blunders

2. Buying your tent or sleeping bag at K-Mart

Yes, K-Mart does sell cheap tents and sleeping bags for a few bucks, but I wouldn't use them on an overnight hike in a fit. It's fine to buy your trail mix ingredients, and propane canisters at big retail stores, but trust specialty outdoor stores and reliable brands for the gear that matters most, like footwear, raingear, sleeping bags, and tents.

Jason Stevenson (author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Backpacking and Hiking*; Alpha Publishing, 2010)



Don't miss Marie Maguire's magical photographic portrayal of her recent trip on the Overland Track in Tassie.

MONTHLY QUIZ

Congratulations to Marijke Korting and Janet Buckton, winners of the past two month's quizzes.

Marijke wins a copy of the Paula Constant novel *Sahara* and Janet wins a copy of *Finding Your Way in the Bush*.

This month's quiz asks the question ...

Why did so few members bother to enter?

Welcome

The Committee recently welcomed Steve Burton on board as the Club's new Equipment Officer and thanks Brian Franklin for all the hard work he put in to audit and itemise our hiking and camping equipment that is available for hire from Adventure Gear Albury.



Members and friends enjoying the recent Mac's Hill Walk

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS FORM

You never know when you are going to be in trouble and for this reason all Border Bushwalking Club members are asked to please make sure that they have a completed 'Emergency Contact Details' form with them in an external pocket of their pack. Recently the details provided on this form proved invaluable when liaising with emergency services at the scene of a nasty accident that involved one of our club members. All emergency personnel that were in attendance were most impressed with this aspect of our club that allowed them to quickly attend to the needs of our member. A copy of the form can be downloaded from the BBC website and I encourage you all to print it off, fill it in and carry it in an external pocket (either in a small zip lock bag or an old film canister) at all times.

NOTICES

GEAR HIRE

Members please note that the Club equipment we have available for hire is located at

'Adventure Gear Albury'

479 Dean Street, Albury

phone : 02 6021 6200

website :

www.adventuregearonline.com.au

We thank Gino and Kelly for their generous support of Border

Bushwalking Club.

Members should be aware that when hiring gear from '**Adventure Gear Albury**' that payment is to be made when the gear is picked up. Payment is to be made according to the number of days of the activity as listed in *Footprints* (whether used or not) and there will be no refund given if the gear is not used. If you have any further queries or problems with this arrangement please contact a Committee member.

THANK YOU

The Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank **Frances Dryden** at **Java@Yack**, Yackandandah, for the printing of the monthly edition of *Footprints*.

We appreciate the ongoing support.

A GENTLE REMINDER

All members of the Club are reminded of the importance of carrying the correct clothing and equipment when undertaking activities at altitude such as the High Plains.

Weather conditions that may appear benign can quickly turn nasty.

Leaders are also reminded that they are obliged to check that ALL participants have the appropriate clothing and equipment in their packs.

(Refer to the Club Handbook for details)

Photo credits this issue : Janet Buckton, Warwick McLachlan, Marie Maguire, Sylvia McAra, Beth Armstrong and Pauline McLaughlin

REMINDERS TO TRIP LEADERS

Trip Leaders are reminded that it is your responsibility to organise an **ECP** (Emergency Contact Person) for the activity you are leading. Trip Leaders are also reminded that **PLBs** (Personal Location Beacons) should be carried on any remote, extended or out-of-range of mobile areas. These are an important and vital safety item and are available for hire at no cost from '**Adventure Gear Albury**'.

Walkers are asked to email

**Cindy Marsh, Field Officer,
Bushwalking Victoria Alpine No 1**

at : cindy.bushwalking@gmail.com

or

Pauline McLaughlin, Field Officer, Mount Buffalo

at : mcpaulin@bigpond.com

to

- *Report on the matters concerning the conservation of bush land and walking areas*
- *Report any damage to signage*
- *Report on track maintenance*
- *Report any weeds or blackberries*



Despite the aerial assaults by a rather aggro magpie, members recently enjoyed a bike ride from Rutherglen to Corowa which included chocolate, wine and cheese tasting. Yum!

LEADERS WANTED

We encourage **all** members to have a go at leading an activity. It is not difficult if you choose something you are comfortable and familiar with and we have many "old hands" in the club who are only too willing to act as co-leaders or to assist you. Please contact the Activities Coordinator and give our regular Leaders a bit of a break.

ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

LEADERS reserve the right to change the activity route on the day depending on prevailing conditions and altered circumstances. A walk leader can refuse permission for any person to take part in his/her activity. A list of trip participants must be prepared and the non-member fee (currently \$5) should be collected before the start of the trip. This is a requirement of our insurance policy. Without this list participants may not be covered by insurance.

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSONS (ECPs): Leaders must leave trip details, including a list of participants and their contact numbers with a family member, or if none available, with an ECP. In the event of a delay, the ECP will contact families and decide on the next course of action.

PARTICIPANTS (members and visitors) must check with the leader that their fitness and experience suit the walk. Follow the leader's instructions at all times. Pay own ambulance costs – insurance is recommended (but accidents are rare).

BOOKINGS: If you intend participating in any of the activities listed below **you are required to personally speak** to the Leader **no later** than the **Wednesday** prior to a **day** activity or **7 days** prior to an **overnight** activity or unless otherwise indicated. SMS bookings are not appropriate. **Please be aware that leaders have the right to decide the size of the group they will accept for their activities. Activities may become fully subscribed before the general cut-off date. By contacting the leader early you may avoid missing out.**

WALKS GRADING

Easy walks are generally less than about 15 km per day, on easy terrain and following some form of track.

Medium walks are from 15 to 20 km per day and may involve considerable climbs, on or off tracks. Could involve up to 6 hours walking.

Hard walks may involve long distances, long steep climbs, cross country travel, thick scrub, rock scrambling. Could be up to 8 hours of walking.

Exploratory is unknown to leader and while every effort has been made to grade the activity appropriately, there may be some unexpected aspects which may increase the difficulty of the walk.

SPRING 2013

The walks details below are correct at the time of printing of the newsletter. However, check the club's website <http://www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au/> for any alterations or cancellations.

Saturday 28th September

Ned Kelly Lookout

Easy 10-12kms

Leader: Don Ingram

Phone: 0409 352 899

Final date to book: Friday 27th September

This walk will included walking on track and through open bush and involved rock scabbling. We will be going to Ned Kelly lookout where he could see over the Beechworth and spot any approaching Troopers.

Sunday 29th September

Rutherglen to Wahgunyah

Easy 18kms

Leader: Pauline McLaughlin

Phone: (02) 6021 3767

Final date to book: Wednesday 25th September

We will walk on the picturesque rail trail where the scenery changes from bush to farmland (and of course grape vines), from Rutherglen to Wahgunyah, have a picnic by the river and return along the track to Rutherglen. The walk could be graded medium due to the length but the track is FLAT so the walking is easy. There is an option to walk one way (9kms) and return by car.

Sunday 29th September

Frying Pan Spur

Medium 15kms

Leader: John Stevens

Phone: 0428 247 083 after 7pm

Final date to book: Friday 27th September

This walk will start from Howmans Gap. We'll walk up Frying Pan Spur track to the summit ski lift tower, then follow the track southwards until we reach the dirt road that will take us back to Howmans Gap.

Saturday 26th October **Flaggy Creek Track** **Medium 14 kms**
Overnight Camp on Friday 25th October
Leader: Cindy Marsh
Phone: 0410 425335 after 7pm
Final date to book: Wednesday 23rd October

This rugged walk (14 km return), passes through the northern end of Mt Lawson State Park from the Kurrajongs picnic area and provides access to waterfalls and rock pools within Flaggy Creek Gorge. Plus, this is a great spot to camp. We will leave Albury/Wodonga after work on Friday and camp overnight at the camping ground. An evening under the stars around a log fire is always enjoyable.

Sunday 27th October **Mt McLeod** **Medium 22kms**
Leader: Ian Trevaskis
Phone: (02) 60712361 or 0425 782983
Final date to book: Wednesday 23rd October

This walk leaves from the Mt Buffalo Rd near the Ranger's office and follows the Reservoir Track to the Mt McLeod Track turnoff and then to Mt McLeod, the most remote part of Mount Buffalo NP. Walking is all on track except for the last 50 metres to the summit. There are great views of the Ovens Valley and surrounding peaks, also good views across the Mt Buffalo Plateau. Return following the same route. This walk is over easy, well defined terrain.

Sunday 27th October **Bright To Wandiligong and return** **Easy 12kms**
Leaders: Val Rolfe, Phone: (02) 6059 1959
Pauline McLeod, Phone: (02) 6023 2030 or 0402 231446
Final date to book: Thursday 24th October

We start this walk at Bright and follow Morse Creek to Wandiligong. The track is a little undulating, but mostly flat, and is very pretty along the creek with the wild flowers and wattle trees. We will have lunch at the Chinese Bridge, then follow the same track back to Bright.

November 11th –25th **Australian Alps Walking Track** **Hard 222kms**
Leaders : Michael Lowe, Phone: (03) 6334 0001
Paul Schirmer, Phone: 0412 404 770

The plan is to walk the top section of the Alpine Track from Dead Horse Gap (near Thredbo) to the northern track terminus, at the Namadgi Visitor Center near Tharwa in the ACT. This will involve doing a food drop beforehand at Kiandra, and restocking with that food at the end of the first week of the two-week trip. The start point could be moved slightly to shorten the trip, depending on the make-up of the group. Please let us know if you are interested, as places are limited. Costs, transport and other details are still being worked out.

Saturday 16th November **Howmans Gap Loop Walk - Waterfalls,** **Medium 14kms**
Wildflowers and Views
Leader: Carol Tonn
Phone: (03) 5754 1214 or 0427 179442
Final date to book: Wednesday 13th November

We will meet at Bunnings Wodonga and rendezvous with Carol at Mt Beauty. The walk will start at Howmans Gap, walk up Road 24 to the top of the McKay Pipeline then past waterfalls toward the Summit Chairlift. Then it's all downhill along foot trails leading into Falls Creek Village Bowl and down the Packhorse Trail back to Howmans Gap. An easy short side trip to Frying Pan Spur Lookout a possibility too depending on how the group is going. Walking on dirt roads up to the Summit and a gradual altitude gain of 450 metres then on foot pads down to Falls Creek Village Bowl and along the Packhorse Trail back to Howmans Gap.

Saturday 30th November

Falls Creek to Hotham Crossover

Hard 21kms

Mt Hotham to Falls Creek

Leaders: Deb Kahn

Phone: (02) 6041 4202 before 8pm

Co- Leader Required

Final date to book: Wednesday 27th November

The title of this walk says it all. One group will walk from Pretty Valley Pondage to Hotham via Pole 333, Cobungra Gap, Basalt Temple, Dibbens Hut and Swindlers Spurr, while the other group does the reverse. For this walk to go ahead a co-leader from Falls Creek to Mt Hotham is required. A co-leader is required for the crossover. Contact Deb if you are available.

Saturday 7th December

Overnight at Federation Hut

Hard 22kms

Leader: Deb Kahn

Phone: 0260414202 before 8pm

Final date to book: Friday 29th November

This walk along the Razor Back is a walk on the roof of the world – well it feels like it. The plan is to wander out from Diamantina Hut, at a leisurely pace and set up camp at Federation Hut. Those who wish to trip the light fantastic and see sunset can walk up Feathertop; others may prefer to indulge in pre-dinner canapés in the dwindling summer light. Either way we will retrace our steps back along the Razorback the following day to our cars and down to Harrietville in time for a gelato or coffee.

FORWARD PLANNING

Sunday March 23rd 2014

Cape Conran

relaxing, varied and enjoyable

Friday March 28th 2014

Leader: Pauline McLeod

Phone: (02) 6023 2030 or 040 2231446

I have made a booking for the Oliveberry Lodge at the Cape Conran Coastal Park for 6 nights. It fronts onto 50 kilometres of sandy beaches. You can bushwalk, fish, surf, and also enjoy plenty of nature walks or just laze around. Camp sites and cabins are available for those who don't want to stay in the lodge. Cape Conran is approx 500kms from Albury and is 19kms from Marlo. Cost will depend on numbers, but should be approx \$220. per person. Phone me for more info.

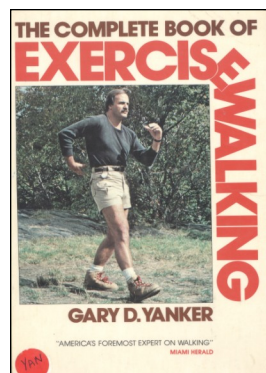
Please be aware that the following activities on our calendar are included for your enjoyment but are not covered by BBC Insurance Policy.

Nepal and Bhutan 2014

Contact Rosemary McConnell

Phone: (02) 6056 8997

Leaving Brisbane 06/04/2014 and returning 03/05/2014. Contact Rosemary for a detailed itinerary.



One of the many books available from the Club Library!

CHANGE TO FUEL COSTS

Effective from May 1st 2013, the calculation of fuel costs has been increased from 30 cents/km to **35 cents/km**. Leaders are asked to note this change when calculating costs for driver re-imbursments.