

# Benalla Bushwalking Club

**Newsletter**  
Issue 1 Mar - May 2022



Tungamah Canoeing -Feb 13

## 2021/2022 President's AGM Report

Firstly, I want to thank John Boehm for his huge input into our Club during this year after he started as Vice President but very quickly had to step up and take over as my health issues became a major problem and I was sidelined for many months. John took over and seemingly effortlessly led the Club through an extremely difficult and fragmented time dictated by Covid and all its implications and restrictions.

On behalf of myself and all Club members, THANK YOU JOHN.

What a year!!!

Covid has devastated us and our activities as a Club, but we have still managed to put on a good and varied program invoking many different events which, when possible, have been enjoyed by members and visitors. I think that as Covid has curtailed our activities enormously, when events have been able to be run, they have been well supported and enjoyed.

Thank you to our committee members who have continued under very trying conditions to ensure the program was in place and happened whenever possible. Leaders are so important and we have many members who step up and take on that role when needed. There is space for many more to help in the future.

Individuals such as Secretary Gill Sydes, Treasurer Brian Watson, John Boehm, Trevor Smith with newsletter and Web duties, plus lots of other members have made this a productive and memorable year. As a result, we have a very strong club with over 100 members, are financially in a sound position, and have a very bright future stretching out ahead of us. Thank you all.

Because of the interest and dedication of several of our members, we are currently involved in preparation for the 2022 Federation Weekend based in Wangaratta, hopefully in October. This is in conjunction with 3 other Clubs in this part of Victoria namely Border, Murray Valley and Warby Walkers, on behalf of Bushwalking Victoria. We look forward to a wonderful weekend of Warbys, water, wildflowers and walking in Wangaratta.

The future looks bright and exciting through the dedication and input of our members and we hope for much more enjoyment in the great outdoors.

**Doug Kneen. President. Benalla Bushwalking Club. 1st February 2022.**

### **Welcome to new members:**

Christa Martinson   Helen Nicholas  
Alison McCaig   Christine Trevaskis  
David Paynter

Haven't paid your  
membership fees?  
Remember \$5  
discount only  
applies 'til March  
31.

**President: Helen Nicholas 0428 784 495**

**Secretary: Gill Sydes 0419 585 996**

**Walks Co-ordinator: Brian Watson 0407 300 922**

## Your Committee for 2022

**President:** Helen Nicholas 0428 784 495  
**Vice-President:** Doug Kneen 5721 2892  
**Secretary:** Gill Sydes 0419 585 996  
**Treasurer:** Brian Watson 0407 300 922

### Committee members:

Trevor Smith 0417 598 346 Wendy Baker 0429 780 179  
Don Allen 0428 270 334 James Flynn 0413 945 671  
Fe Tuck 0458 060 143

### Committee Responsibilities

**Walks Program:** Brian Watson Gill Sydes Doug Kneen  
**Guest speakers:** Brian Watson Wendy Baker  
**Maps & Gear loan:** Gill Sydes  
**Public Officer:** Gill Sydes  
**Registrar:** Gill Sydes  
**Publicity:** Don Allen  
**Library/Archivist:** Doug Kneen  
**Newsletter:** Trevor Smith Don Allen  
**Webmaster:** Trevor Smith  
**Mid-week walks** Wendy Baker

# Reminders

## Total Fire Ban Days

Members are reminded the club policy is that on days of total fire ban during the declared fire season all walk activities are **cancelled**.

## Acknowledgement of Risks and Responsibilities Form

This form is now part of the membership application form. **All Members** must complete this form when renewing membership. This form alleviates the need for members to sign a form before each walk. Non-members on walks must sign the agreement before each walk. For this purpose copies of the form can be downloaded from the Leaders Information page in the Members Only section of the club website or a membership application form containing the agreement can be found at the rear of the newsletter.

## Travel Costs

The club has a policy of passengers on walks paying drivers for their generosity in providing transport. Currently the rate is 30c per kilometre per car. Members can assist the drivers by doing their own calculations based on **\$30.00 per 100km**, divided by number of people in the vehicle.

**A reminder that this rate is club policy and all members are expected to pay for transport at this rate regardless of the number in the vehicle. No pay, no lift.**

## Staying Together

With larger groups or groups containing walkers of varying abilities it is inevitable that the group will tend to become strung out at times. To avoid this happening or at least becoming a problem if it does happen the following actions *must* be adhered to.

1. If you have to leave the track for a toilet stop advise the walker ahead or behind you of your intention and leave your pack in the middle of the track.
2. At a track intersection walkers *must* stop and wait for the rest of the party to catch up before proceeding.
3. If a small group wish to leave the main group to visit a nearby off route attraction they *must* advise the leader of their intention before doing so. The leader, if he agrees to the request, will decide whether the whole group goes or waits on the track for their return.
4. Each walker should at all times be able to see the walker ahead and the walker behind, especially in more dense vegetation conditions. If not, the message should be sent up the line to slow up and allow them to catch up. With larger groups it is advisable to appoint an experienced walker as whip or "tail-end charlie" to keep track of the slower party members.
5. Should the party become disoriented, which can happen to the best of us, it must be remembered that the leader has sole responsibility for the final decision on what to do. The last thing that is needed is for individuals to be 'doing their own thing' in an attempt to rectify the situation.

The above common sense rules, if followed, will help to keep groups together and safe and avoid the trauma and expense of searches for lost walkers.

## Club Website

[www.benallabushwalkingclub.org.au](http://www.benallabushwalkingclub.org.au)

## Club E-mail address

[benallabushwalkingclub@gmail.com](mailto:benallabushwalkingclub@gmail.com)

## For Sale

Club Mugs (\$10.00) Cloth Badges (\$7.00) and Hat Badges (\$10.00) are ready and waiting for you to buy. See Brian at the Meeting or phone to place your order.

## General Meetings

Meetings are held in the Uniting Church Parish Centre, Carrier Street Benalla (opposite Coles) on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. A short meeting followed by a guest speaker, then supper. Everyone is welcome.

## Newsletter Deadlines

Members wishing to suggest or lead a walk are asked to send details to the walks program coordinator, Brian Watson on email [brian\\_gayle@bigpond.com](mailto:brian_gayle@bigpond.com) prior to a committee meeting.

Walk reports should be sent to Trevor Smith in the week following the walk. Photos are always welcome. A walk participant may be asked to write a report. Trevor's email is [trevsm42@bigpond.com](mailto:trevsm42@bigpond.com)

## Club UHF Communication

When using hand held or in vehicle UHF transceivers on club outings, the preferred channel to use is channel 9.

# Walks Program

Members wishing to go on a walk should contact the leader:

- Three days prior to the walk for day walks.
- Five days prior to the walk for overnight, extended walks or car camps.  
People calling in late may be considered at the leader's discretion.

**Common sense walks etiquette:** If you are booked in for a walk and find you are unable to attend please inform leader before advertised departure time to prevent unnecessary delays.

## Risk Acknowledgment Form

Just a reminder that walk leaders need to have **all non-member participants** fill in the Risk Acknowledgment Form prior to each walk. A copy of the form can be found in this newsletter or can be downloaded from the club website by navigating to the Leaders Information page in the Members Only section where you will find a link which, when clicked, will download the form in PDF format which can then be printed out.

**TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS** On days of Total Fire Ban, any walks/activities in that district will be cancelled.

**When engaging in BBWC activities, a COVID vaccination certificate is applicable. Please produce your certificate upon the request of the Leader.**

## Walk Gradings

Distance in one day	Difficulty	Track
<b>S</b> - Short, under 10Kms.	<b>1 - 3</b> Easy, suitable for beginners.	<b>1 - 3</b> Grade, open terrain, well formed tracks or paths.
<b>M</b> - Medium, between 10 and 15Kms	<b>4 - 7</b> Medium fitness required.	<b>4 - 7</b> Bush, minor scrub, some rock hopping or scrambling.
<b>L</b> - Long, between 15 and 20Kms.	<b>8 - 10</b> Hard, strenuous, fit walkers only.	<b>8 - 10</b> Bush, thick scrub, major rock and creek crossings, rock hopping.
<b>X</b> - extra long, over 20Kms.		

**Example: S - 4 - 3 = Under 10Kms, medium fitness required, well formed track.**

School Terms 2022		Easter 2022	
Term 1	31 Jan - 8 Apr	Good Friday	2 Apr
Term 2	26 Apr - 24 Jun	Easter Monday	5 Apr
Term 3	11 Jul - 16 Sep		
Term 4	3 Oct - 20 Dec		

## Notes for New/Potential Walks Coordinators

Benalla Bush Walking Club has been around for over 30 years. Many members have 10-20 years of experience with the Club, so there is always a wealth of knowledge beside you on the walks. What this means is you don't have to know everything.

What you will need is:

- A plan for the day
- A starting point
- A starting time, both for the activity, and to leave Benalla
- A map of where the group is going
- A finishing point
- An approximate finishing time.

Now, a walk report sheet will have a number of these points laid out, so have one before and during the walk. Afterwards, complete it and hand it on to Doug Kneen, or any Committee member.

Any problems, before, during or after the walk, ask one or two of the more experienced ones their thoughts.

That you have a walk put into the program means that the Walks Committee have confidence in your skills and abilities. Take it as a compliment!

# Walks Program

## March

Tue 1	General Meeting	Parish Centre 7:30pm
Thu/Mon 3-7	Lower Glenelg Camp & Canoe	Lynne Cornall
Sat 5	Mackeys Lookout	Don Allen
Wed 9	Mt. Stirling Summit	Wendy Baker
Sat 12	Yarck to Alexandra Bike Ride	Don Allen
Fri 18	Full Moon Lookout	Brian Watson
Tue 22	Bennies Track Maintenance	Brian Watson
Wed 23	Bennies Track Maintenance	Brian Watson
Sat 26	Myrtleford to Bright Bike Ride	Don Allen
Sun 27	Mt Major	Helen Nicholas
Tue/Fri 29-1 Apr	Mountain Huts Scenic Hike	Helen Spinks

## April

Tue 5	Mt Samaria Track Maintenance	Brian Watson
Tue 5	General Meeting	Parish Centre 7:30pm
Wed 6	Mt Samaria Track Maintenance	Brian Watson
Sat 9	Kids Walk / Easy Overnight Hike	
Sun 10	Kids Walk / Easy Overnight Hike	
Wed 13	Cherry Tree Canyon Walk	Bev Thornell
Sat/Sun 23-24	Mitta Weekend	Wendy Baker
Sat/Sun 30-1 May	Murray River Cookout	Doug Kneen

## May

Tue 3	General Meeting	Parish Centre 7:30pm
Sat 7	Tanglefoot Track	Trevor Smith
Sun 8	Mt Torbrek	Gary Mac
Wed 11	Wahgunyah	Kaye Johnson
Sat/Sun 14-15	Barmah Forest	Helen Nicholas
Fri 20	Mooroopna Progressive Dinner	Gary Mac
Sun 22	Murrundindi	Trevor Smith
Sun 29	Delatite River	John Boehm

**When engaging in BBWC activities, a COVID vaccination certificate is applicable. Please produce your certificate upon the request of the Leader.**

**Thu/Mon March 3-7 LOWER GLENELG RIVER CAMPING & CANOEING**

Camping on the banks of the beautiful Glenelg river at Pritchards Campground.

Activities may include canoeing/kayaking (BYO or borrow one from BBWC), short walks, fishing and lazing around. If anyone is interested there may be a trip to the Princess Margaret Rose Caves.

The Glenelg River has some spectacular limestone cliffs and tranquil forest.

Campsites need to be booked on the Parks Victoria website. [www.parks.vic.gov.au/en/bookings](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/en/bookings) (select Lower Glenelg National Park, then select Pritchards campground). I have already booked site no. 1 and it would be nice if we were near each other i.e. book site 2,3,4, or 5 etc. These campsites are suitable for caravans and tents. Small tents maybe able to fit onto site with a caravan.

**Contact:** Lynne Cornall 0412 247 483

**Sat March 5 MT BUFFALO WALK**

This is a repeat of the walk that was led by Wendy Baker on Wed 8th December last year. Wendy had some feedback from some members that because it was a mid-week walk they were unable to participate, but would like to do it.

We take our cars to Mackeys Lookout and walk to the Chalet using part of The Big Walk trail. Along the way there are several spots where there are panoramic views of the Ovens Valley and distant mountains.

I'm told that a coffee van operates at the Chalet over the weekend, so we will be able to buy a fresh coffee and something to eat, have a wander around the Chalet before the downhill walk back to our cars.

There are a couple of uneven, rocky sections on this track so I'm going to give it a MEDIUM rating, despite it being only 8km return.

Meet up at 7:45 at our usual spot behind Aldi to sort out car-pooling, and leave by 8:00.

Before the walk date, I will confirm to participants that a coffee-van will be operating. If not, we carry our lunch, to eat near the Chalet before returning.

**Rating:** S - 4 - 3

**Contact:** Don Allen 0428 270 334 donallen1902@gmail.com

**Wed March 9 MT STIRLING SUMMIT**

Approximately 8km walk to the Mt Stirling Summit via Machinery Shed and Wombat Loop. Start and finish at King Saddle shelter. We will pass through a number of different vegetation zones and visit a couple of huts. Great views along the way and at the summit.

**Rating:** S - 4 - 3 (Easy-Medium)

**Contact:** Wendy Baker 0429 780 179.

**Sat March 12 YARCK TO ALEXANDRA BIKE RIDE**

This is a pretty easy ride of 42 kilometres, mostly shaded. Unlike lots of the rail trail, none of this ride is actually "level". You are either going gently uphill or gently downhill. Although, to be honest, the 10 kilometres from Cathkin to what I call the "Big Cutting" is steeper than "gentle", but nothing like the ride from Everton to Beechworth. I find that for bike rides, a small number of riders seems to work a bit better, so I will have a maximum of six riders. More details closer to the date.

**Rating:** Easy

**Contact:** Don Allen 0428 270 334 donallen1902@gmail.com

**Fri March 18 FULL MOON LOOKOUT**

In the cool of the evening we will have a drink and a chat as the moon slowly rises over the floodplains of the Ovens valley. A simple social evening to unwind after a hectic week (:

**Rating:** Easy

**Contact:** Brian Watson. 0407 300 922

**Sat March 19 CANOEING AT LAKE WILLIAM HOVELL**

A relaxing day doing very little, slowly. Contact Rob for details and meeting times.

**Contact:** Rob Caldwell 0431 022 349

**Sun March 20 BIKERIDING THE REEF HILLS BACKTRACKS.**

Maybe you've walked some of them – now's your chance to try 'em on a mountain bike.

**Contact:** Rob Caldwell 0431 022 349 Annie Gibbs 0417 332 471

**Tue/Wed March 22-23 BENNIES ROSE RIVER TRACK MAINTENANCE**

We have been invited to participate in clearing the old bridle track that runs from the Bennies Campground up toward Mt Cobbler. It was possibly once an outlet to take cattle to market from the Northern leases of Wonangatta. So, walk / work up from the campsite on Saturday. Camp overnight, and drive up and work back from Burnt Top Track on the Sunday. I find track clearing worthwhile and fulfilling, and an enjoyable social day.

**Contact:** Brian Watson 0407 300 922

**Sat March 26 MYRTLEFORD TO BRIGHT BIKE RIDE**

We will be pedalling for 60 kms on this one, so some leg weariness can be expected by the time we are back in Myrtleford, but it is a good ride along the Rail Trail, through a very picturesque countryside. It is slightly uphill all the way to Bright where we have a good break, and get some food. Along the way we could stop in Ovens where there is a very popular coffee van beside the Pub. Whenever I travel through Ovens there are always people at that coffee van! Then the return to Myrtleford is a downhill ride. More details closer to the date, and again, six riders.

**Rating:** Easy

**Contact:** Don Allen 0428 270 334 donallen1902@gmail.com

**Sun March 27 MT MAJOR**

**Rating:**

**Contact:** Helen Nicholas 0428 784 495

**Tue/Fri Mar 29-Apr 1 MOUNTAIN HUTS SCENIC HIKE**

The walk will begin by hiking up Heathy Spur Track to Big River Fire Track and on to Johnstons Hut for the first night then to Ropers Hut for the second night. The final night is at Edmondson Hut and then back to the cars. This gentle hike is about 7 kms each day.

**Rating:** S - 4 - 4 (Medium)

**Contact:** Helen Spinks 0488 013 059

**Tue/Wed April 5-6 MT SAMARIA TRACK MAINTENANCE**

We have been invited back by Nigel to clear the last couple of bits of track we didn't quite get to last year. Should be reasonably easy days. In appreciation for our participation, Parks Vic will put on a thankyou barbecue. And we will endeavour to find the Big Tree on the way home.

**Contact:** Brian Watson 0407 300 922

**Sat/Sun April 9-10 KIDS WALK / EASY OVERNIGHT HIKE**

**Rating:** S - 3 - 3 (Easy)

**Contact:**

**Wed April 13 CHERRY TREE CANYON WALK**

**Rating:** S - 3 - 3 (Easy)

**Contact:** Bev Thornell 0447 193 244

**Sat/Sun April 23-24 MITTA WEEKEND**

Mitta Mitta is a charming small town at the junction of the Mitta Mitta river and Snowy Creek. Arrive sometime Friday and set up camp at the local caravan park. Dinner at the pub.

Saturday head south (40km) towards Omeo - destination Mount Wills. A 3 hour 6km return walk up Mt Wills for stunning 360° views across the High Country. A most understated hike.

Return for a relaxed time in Mitta Mitta, walking the numerous tracks around the township and historic gold mining areas. Same on Sunday morning.

Book own site at caravan park.

Powered sites \$40                      Unpowered sites \$35

Cabins \$160 / 2 persons              On-site vans \$75 / 2 persons.

Mitta Mitta Caravan park 02 60723568

If you would like to share with someone let Wendy know and she may be able to connect you with another 'sharee'.

**Contact:** Wendy Baker 0429 780 179.

**Sat/Sun Apr 30-May 1 MURRAY RIVER CAMP COOKOUT**

A pleasant weekend on the banks of the mighty Murray River. Scrumptious tea cooked in camp ovens. Great social event. Fishing, swimming, canoeing, wine appreciation?

**Contact:** Doug Kneen 0409 347 273

**Sat May 7 TANGLEFOOT TRACK**

This is in a rainforest area so may be wet underfoot depending on the weather. This fairly easy loop walk passes through typical rainforest vegetation of tree ferns and beech. The walk is mainly level with a gentle climb on the return leg. There is a steepish descent for the last hundred metres or so which would be slippery in the wet. Walking sticks are recommended.

**Rating:** S - 3 - 3 (Easy)

**Contact:** Trevor Smith 0417 598 346

**Sun May 8 MT TORBREK SUMMIT WALK**

The walk will start from the Barnewall Plains Picnic Area and it is a 4.2km return walk to the summit of Mount Torbreck that rises to an altitude of 1516m. The walk is steep and rocky in places but is easy to follow as you ascend up the mountain then walk across the ridge to the summit.

The summit is marked by a very large rock cairn and offers breathtaking and impressive views of the ranges covered in ash forests in all directions, including nearby Lake Eildon and the higher ranges near Mt Buller.

Subject to available time we may have the chance to walk into the memorial site for the Avro Anson that crashed on the mountain in 1940.

**Rating:** S - 4 - 3 (Medium)

**Contact:** Gary MacDonald 0421 052 367

**Wed May 11 WAHGUNYAH RIVER TRACK**

A short walk through beautiful old river gums, local vineyards and historic spots. This 7 km circuit includes a visit to the historic John Foord Pioneer Cemetery and a walk along the river.

**Rating:** S - 3 - 3 (Easy)

**Contact:** Kaye Johnson 0427 571 478

**Sat/Sun May 14-15 BARMAN FOREST**

**Rating:** S - 3 - 3

**Contact:** Helen Nicholas 0428 784 495

**Fri May 20**

**MOORoopNA PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

It's been a couple of years since this night was last held, so to start it off again it was suggested we might try it over in the Goulburn Valley, or to be more precise "Fruit Salad City" Mooroopna.

The format will be a little different, in that participants will drive to the main course venue, park their cars and deliver their main course offerings. They will then undertake a 5 min. walk, with drinks/nibbles/entrees etc, to the first round venue. Once the first round is completed it will be the same 5 min walk back to the main course venue to complete the evening.

Times are still to be finalised, but it is envisaged the arrival time will be around the 6.00pm mark, and, yes, it will be held only over two venues not three.

Please note numbers will be capped at around 22 persons.

**Contact:** Gary MacDonald 0421 052 367

**Sun May 22**

**MURRINDINDI CASCADES & RIVER WALK**

Starting at the Murrindindi Cascades easy walking extends for 13Km travelling to and from the Murrindindi River through a variety of bush from tall open forest to deep ferny gullies.

For those with energy to spare at the end, and if time permits, a climb to Wilhelmina Falls is worth the effort.

**Rating:** M - 3- 3

**Contact:** Trevor Smith 0417 598 346

**Sun May 29**

**DELATITE RIVER WALK**

An easy walk along the Delatite River starting at Mirimbah park, returning the same way.

Meet at the Tennis Courts behind Aldi, Barkly St

Meet 8.45am Depart 9.00am

**Rating:** S - 3 - 3 (Easy)

**Contact:** John Boehm 0428 254 801

# *Pathfinder Award*

The Benalla Bushwalking Club has instituted a special award for people who have made a sustained and significant contribution to bushwalking, both within the Club and also throughout the wider community.

Recipients of this award have shown a dedication to bushwalking through their participation and efforts over an extended period of time in all aspects of bushwalking. It is a special recognition for people who, through their own commitment to Bushwalking, have enhanced the pleasure and enjoyment that others have derived from outdoor activities. Their commitment has increased awareness, appreciation and participation to the benefit of all members of the community.



***Doug Kneen and John Boehm with his well deserved award  
February 2022***

# Gear for Sale

Willie Skinner is selling some of the gear she has accumulated over the years. These are all good quality items and will last their new owner many years.

Anyone interested in purchasing any of these items should contact Willie at [rjwilray@bigpond.com](mailto:rjwilray@bigpond.com) or 0409 438 511.



Black Wolf, granite peak  
60 litre pack.  
black and yellow  
\$100



Berghaus Antaeus 60 plus  
10 litre biofit Backpack.  
Red and grey  
\$65



Exped downmat 7 pump  
Sleeping mat  
R? 5.8 not sure on this  
one.  
\$100



Exped ultralight, 7cm thick, medium  
sleeping mat  
LxW 183cm x 52cm, 700 fill down  
Wt. 630g. R 5.9  
This has a yellow snoozalum bag to inflate it.  
\$175

# Walk Reports

## **Mt. Major Sun Jan 9**

I did my first 'lead' walk on Sunday 9th January 2022 with this lovely bunch of people in this photo at the top of Mt Major walking up the north side.

I may not have been physically present at the lead end of the walking group but my spirit was in it!

The walk started early and got all of us talking about the new year ahead of us.

**Helen Nicholas**



## **Ropers Hut Mon Jan 10 - Tue Jan 11**

The Ropers Hut overnight hike was cancelled due to lack of interest. Instead, Willy, Lynne and I planned and began a leisurely hike over 3 nights/4 days to Johnsons Hut, Ropers Hut and Edmondsons Hut.

We checked the weather forecast on the second morning after staying at Johnsons Hut - storm warnings and substantial rain - ...we decided to return home.

The walk out to Johnsons Hut was highlighted by the wonderful wildflower display, the sighting of a large alpine spider, small iridescent green beetles and a very frightened snake. We saw a large hare near the hut. Our night at the hut included lots of conversation, sitting by the creek soaking our feet, and watching a beautiful sunrise and sunset.

**Helen Spinks**



## **Shepparton Bike Ride Jan 16**

It was 12 riders that took the opportunity to ride some of the shared path network in Shepparton on a very warm morning. First section was out to Jordans Bend following the Goulburn River then returning back the same way. It was then under the Midland Highway and on to the confluence of the Broken and Goulburn River where there was a strong flow in the Broken following the recent heavy rain in the Benalla area. We then travelled across the new bridge on the Broken River then followed the track through the Botanic Gardens and onto a

recently completed path that follows the Sevens Creek and some shade where we enjoyed a break, then returning to the cars.

All up about 26km in 3hrs including breaks finishing about midday to avoid the hottest part of the day.

**Gary MacDonald**

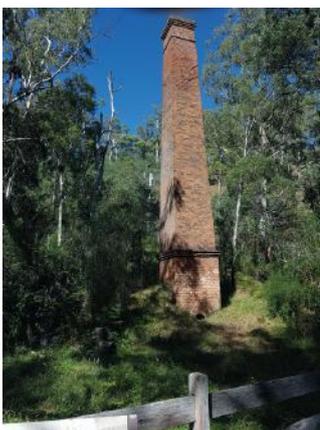
## South Buffalo Sun Feb 6

On Sunday 6 February, after weaving our way up in cars to the Cresta carpack (around far too many cyclists - push-y and motor!), twelve walkers set off along the Mt Buffalo South Track in the pleasantly warm sunshine. Gaiters on, we picked our way up the rocky paths and through the long grasses along the small snow plains, where happy yellow papercut daisies clustered through the grass to the burnt out snow gums. As we climbed, the terrain changed and there were huge stacked rock mounds. We noticed some big white bags in one section, and Gary wondered if they might be bags of granitic sand dropped in by rangers that will be used to improve and repair the track. Not confused too much when the path crossed over a large area of flat rock, we made it to the top and enjoyed our lunch amongst huge boulders with panoramic views of mountains and hills stretching to the horizon, including the peak of Buffalo itself. The experience on the way back down was so different that it felt like a different path, despite being return. We saw another walker, on her way up the mountain, that left many of us feeling very overdressed and overburdened - a beautiful young girl in bare feet! The scent of the native mint spread in the afternoon sun, and Gill introduced me to a trigger plant - apparently completing a rite of passage once I myself had "triggered" it - another completely new experience for this very novice walker! Bev brought giant yo-yo biscuits for afternoon tea; after a bit of mystery we learnt that Fiona had brought the fruit cake; and some gluten-free plum cake hit the spot for the GF/coeliacs. Thank you to Gill, our Leader, for a really beautiful and interesting walk.

**Clifton Boschetti**



## Howqua River Sat Feb 5



The Howqua Valley is a beautiful part of the country with stunning river scenery and a variety of walks of all descriptions. The Heritage Walk is a very pleasant 4Km loop walk which we started from Sheeppark Flat. The walk proceeds along the bank of the Howqua River past a brick chimney and remains of a gold smelter, relics of the goldmining activities in the area, where a huge amount of money, for the time, was spent for very little return.

Travelling on, we came to Fry's Hut, built by Fred Fry in the early 1940's as his home. Using split timber and with his own personal style of workmanship, master bushman Fred erected many huts in the region including Upper Jamieson Hut, Ritchies Hut, Gardiners Hut and Noonans. Fred's life in the Howqua Valley was the basis of Neville Shute's 1950 novel 'The Far Country'.

Having inspected Fred's hut we then got our feet wet with a refreshing river crossing and returned to Sheepparks along the opposite bank where we had lunch.

After lunch we decided to venture towards Tunnel Bend to find the tunnel that was cut by hand to divert the river to a water race feeding a large waterwheel used during goldmining. As the time was getting on we only made it to Noonans Hut before turning back to Sheepparks where some of the members headed for home after a very pleasant day.

As I was still keen to find the tunnel entrance and Sue wasn't desperate to get home we drove to Tunnel Bend and did manage to find the entrance but, not having decent enough torches, didn't proceed any further. So, satisfied at being able to tick an item off the bucket list, we headed for home after a thoroughly enjoyable day.

**Trevor Smith**



### **Mt Buffalo Wed Feb 9**

What a perfect day in paradise! Seven bushwalkers had the honour of visiting Mt Buffalo to engage in three great walks. The walks were not long, however they all added up to 7km. The first walk was Dickson's Falls walk which was a four-kilometre round trip. The weather was perfect, not a breath of wind. This certainly made experiencing the vision and sound of rushing water over the falls extremely calming yet dynamic. The lookout was a comfortable walk for all. After this we travelled to 'The Hump' and 'Cathedral walk'. Before starting the walk, we enjoyed a quick morning tea. This fuelled us up to handle a steep walk to the top. It was certainly worth the effort; the views



were panoramic. After we had all taken the views in from all angles, we ventured down the mountain for lunch. We then travelled to the 'Old Galleries' for a short and enjoyable walk. The walks were quite different to each other however they all had one thing in common. The climbs were challenging in parts and the views were magnificent. After we had our walks, we enjoyed afternoon tea in the park at the base of Mt Buffalo. Thanks to everyone who brought along 'yummies' to share and thanks to John Boehm for leading the walks.

**Fe Tuck**

### **Tungamah Canoeing Sun Feb 13**

A pleasant day. Cool enough to be comfortable, and warm enough to absorb the occasional splash. No pressure, just gliding along the big pools of blackish water of the Boosey Creek. Quite a few mossies though. Afterwards, a picnic in the park at the center of town. 9 paddlers.

**Brian Watson**



### **Dookie Bike Ride Sat Feb 19**

Twelve riders gathered in Dookie to ride the rail trail. Starting on the new extension section in Conway Road, it was in past the bunkers and silos and onto the existing trail following the Katamatite rail line as we cycled to the end, about 5km out of town. It was then onto the quiet back roads that took us around the block to tackle the long slight incline of Chateau Road. Once that was done it was down hill back to the cars to complete the circuit.

Morning tea back in Dookie where we helped Don celebrate his birthday and enjoyed a variety of homemade slices, cakes and muffins in the local park.

**Gary Mac**

## **Mt Timbertop Sun Feb 20**



What can you do on a pleasant sunny day but tackle the climb up to Mt Timbertop? That is what nine walkers decided to do. It is a steady steep climb to the top, but quite manageable with rest stops along the way.

Going up, the group faced having to clamber up the short rocky section located just short of the top. Then it was time to enjoy the spectacular 360 degree views.

There was a solid breeze blowing as we walked along the ridge line, stopping for lunch at the end of it.

After lunch John Lane suggested venturing down the other side to get on the track that loops back to the track we came up on. The drop down to the track required us to take our time as it was steep, rocky, with high stepping. Once down that section it was basically an easy contour track to reconnect to the track down.

At the carpark we had afternoon tea and enjoyed Wendy Cheesman's delicious muffins. Unfortunately Jean Lightfoot wasn't feeling the best and was unable to lead the walk.

**John Boehm**



## **Ovens River Lagoons Sat Feb 26**



Four paddlers (three more were unable to come) set up inflatable kayaks at Cameron's Bend. We set off downstream with cloud cover keeping the temperature down. Paddling was relaxed, and we happened to pass a winery ... so, of course we stopped to sample a wine and enjoy a cheese platter!

Continuing on, there were plenty of birds, including swans and a whistling kite. We lunched at Williams Bridge and found our way back through the many islands to the start (about ten kilometres for the day). Gayle's date scones (back at the camp) finished off the day perfectly!

**Gill Sydes**



# Benalla Bushwalking Club Inc.



## Acknowledgement of Risks and Responsibilities of Participants on Club Activities

To be completed by all non-members and non-financial members participating in this activity.

Leader: ..... Date: .....

Activity: .....

In voluntarily participating in the above activity of this club, I am aware that my participation in this activity may expose me to risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss of or damage to my property. Those risks include, but are not limited to, slippery and/or uneven rocks, rocks being dislodged, swimming, diving, submerged logs and rocks, shallow and/or cloudy water, hypothermia and strong currents.

To minimize these risks I have endeavoured to ensure that

1. This activity is within my capabilities.
2. I am carrying food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity.
3. I have advised the activity leader if I am taking any medication or have any physical or other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity

I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during the activity and accept the instructions of the leader of the activity.

I have read and understand these requirements. I have considered the risks before choosing to sign this acknowledgement of risk. I still wish to join this activity. I accept that in signing this form I will take responsibility for my own actions.

### Members:

Name	Emergency Contact

### Non Members - \$5.00

Name	Address	Signature	Emergency Contact



Name of Walk:

Participant Nos.:

Leader:

Date:

Distance:

Weather:

Rating:

Location of Starting Point:

Walk Description:

Location of Finishing Point:

Problems?

Comments for next time:

## BENALLA BUSHWALKING CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (2022)

The annual membership fee is \$45 per person (\$40 (incl. \$5 discount) if paid prior to March 31). Full time students, if accompanied on walks by their paid up parent(s), are covered by the parent(s) membership.

No. of individuals included in application: ..... Amount Enclosed \$ .....

Payment Method:  Cash / Cheque  Online Deposit

For online payments **BSB 803078 Acc. No. 137269. Please use name as reference.**

Membership Renewal  New Member

Name/s.....

Postal Address.....

Town.....Postcode.....

Email Address.....Phone.....

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN BENALLA BUSHWALKING CLUB ACTIVITIES

#### **NB. To be completed by all new and renewing members**

In voluntarily participating in any activities of the Benalla Bushwalking Club, I am aware that my participation in these activities may expose me to risks that could lead to injury, illness or death or to loss or damage to my property. Those risks may include, but are not limited to, slippery and/or uneven ground, falling rocks, cliffs, exposure to weather, white out conditions, heat exhaustion, hyperthermia, creek crossings and snake/spider bite.

To minimize these risks I will endeavour to ensure that-

- (1) any activity in which I participate is within my capabilities, and
- (2) I am carrying food, water and equipment appropriate for the activity.
- (3) I agree to advise the activity leader if I am taking any medication or have any physical or any other limitation that might affect my participation in the activity.

I will make every effort to remain with the rest of the party during any activity and accept the instructions of the leader of the activity.

I accept that I also have an obligation to read and understand the risk management strategy guidelines that the club distributes or makes available in its newsletter or web page from time to time providing guidance and instruction on how to minimise any risks of its activities.

**By signing this form and/or payment of my subscription** I acknowledge I will be responsible for my actions and fully understand and accept the above conditions.

NAME(1)\_\_\_\_\_ NAME(2)\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE(1)\_\_\_\_\_ (2)\_\_\_\_\_

DATE\_\_\_\_\_

AS AT DECEMBER 2018

### EMERGENCY CONTACT

NAME.....

HOME ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE HOME.....MOBILE.....

RELATIONSHIP.....

Return completed form to: The Treasurer, Benalla Bushwalking Club, Box 210 Benalla. 3672