

Benalla Bushwalking Club

Newsletter

Issue 5 Nov - Jan 2022

**Benalla
Bushwalking
Club**



President's Message

Since March this year, John Boehm has stepped up and been the President of our great Club due to my succumbing to illness and the accompanying treatments and so on. I wish to thank John for his willing readiness to take on the role and doing it so diligently on behalf of all of us. It is greatly appreciated John.

So here as we approach the end of another very interesting and different year for Benalla Bushwalkers, we can reflect on what has happened and what the future might hold. Our walks sub committee is wonderful in making sure that there are many and varied events on our calendar which are enjoyed by many participants. The program is in place now until well into 2022 but there are still lots of opportunities for YOU to add another event and make it even better. Thanks to the many people who have made suggestions and in plenty of cases taken on the leadership as well. We are always happy to welcome new leaders and there is a wealth of experience to help you in the task.

The result which we see now is that suddenly we are approaching the magical 100 membership mark for the first time in quite a while. Thanks to all club members.

We have a great new website up and running thanks to Trevor Smith, so have a look at it, enjoy and talk to Trevor if you have something to add.

Plenty of groundwork has already happened in preparation for the Federation weekend which we hope will happen around November 2022. Lots of discussions and ideas raised in conjunction with BWV and other local Walking Clubs.

Finally, please remember that we will have our Annual General Meeting in February 2022. That is the time when you have the opportunity to be an integral part of running this great club and enthusing with fresh ideas to take us into the future. DO NOT leave it to just a few to do the job.

See you somewhere in the great outdoors.

Doug Kneen. October 2021.

Welcome to new members:

Scott Papeneux

Clifton Boschetti

Barry Semmens

Tracey Barrell

Anna Castles

Juna & Caelyn Crozier

Margie Kirkham

Trevor Lansley

Peter Mather

President: Doug Kneen 0409 347 273

Secretary: Gill Sydes 0419 585 996

Walks Co-ordinator: Brian Watson 0407 300 922

Your Committee for 2021

President: Doug Kneen 5721 2892
Vice-President: John Boehm 0428 254 801
Secretary: Gill Sydes 0419 585 996
Treasurer: Brian Watson 0407 300 922

Committee members:

Trevor Smith 0417 598 346 Neville Downie 0416 181 501
Don Allen 0428 270 334 Suzie Buykx 0448 759 029
John Boehm 0428 254 801

Committee Responsibilities

Walks Program: Brian Watson Gill Sydes Doug Kneen
Guest speakers: Brian Watson
Maps & Gear loan: Gill Sydes
Public Officer: Gill Sydes
Registrar: Gill Sydes
Publicity: John Boehm Don Allen Suzie Buykx
Library/Archivist: Doug Kneen
Newsletter: Trevor Smith Don Allen
Webmaster: Trevor Smith
Meeting Supper: Neville Downie
Mid-week walks Liaison: John Boehm

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

Club E-mail address

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 8pm. 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 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

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

October

Fri/Sun 22-24

Wyperfeld Weekend

Neville & Jenny Downie

Sat 30

Cheviot Tunnel Bike Ride

Don Allen

Sun/Tue 31-Nov 2

Koszi in a day

Brian Watson

November

Sat/Sun 6-7

Harrietville & Dinner Plain

Adele Ritchie

Wed 10

Mt. Buffalo

John Boehm

Sun 14

Golden Mountain

Jean Lightfoot

Fri 19

Mt. Major by Moonlight

Brian Watson

Sat 20

The Spit - Winton Wetlands

Wendy Baker

Sun 21

Lurg Hills

Hamish McPherson

Fri/Sun 26-28

Youngs Hut

Gary MacDonald

December

Sat/Sun 4-5

Rosedale Rail Trail

Geoff Rintala

Sat 11

Annual Picnic

Gill Sydes

Sat 18

Mt Bogong by Moonlight

Brian Watson

January

Sat 8

Mollyullah Bike Ride

Brian Watson

Sun 16

Shepparton Bike Ride

Gary MacDonald

February

Sat 19

Dookie Bike Ride

Gary MacDonald

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.

Walk Gradings

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

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

School Terms 2021		Easter 2021	
Term 1	28 Jan - 1 Apr	Good Friday	2 Apr
Term 2	19 Apr - 25 Jun	Easter Monday	5 Apr
Term 3	12 Jul - 17 Sep		
Term 4	4 Oct - 17 Dec		

Fri/Sun October 22-24

WYPERFELD WEEKEND

Drive to Wyperfeld National Park Wonga campground (about 5 hours drive) on Friday. Saturday and Sunday do various walks or explore surrounding district then drive home Monday. If conditions are right there should be lots of interesting wildflowers and birdlife.

The campsites have to be booked and paid for online prior to arrival at parks.vic.gov.au search for Wyperfeld then scroll down to Book now.

Rating: S - 3 - 3

Contact: Neville & Jenny Downie 0416 181 501

Sunday October 31

CHEVIOT TUNNEL BIKE RIDE

We will ride from Yarck to Yea and return. Meet up in the Rail Trail car park in Yarck (on the left in the town itself, coming from Merton) about 9:00/9:15 for a 9:30 start to do the 27kms to Yea, inspecting/admiring the tunnel on the way. Have lunch and a good break in Yea and make our way back to Yarck. I expect this to be a moderate ride as Yarck is only 30 metres above Yea, so "on average" it is down hill to Yea, but there is a hill in between. The grade on each side is about 1 in 40 but only for a couple of kilometres each side. So, not too strenuous!

Rating: Easy

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

Sun/Tue October 31-Nov. 2 KOSZI IN A DAY

Sunday, drive to Khancoban and stay the night. Monday, drive to Thredbo, chairlift up the steep bit, and walk to the summit. A cheer and a beer and a photo, then down to Thredbo, and on back to Khancoban for another night. Tuesday, back home in time to listen to the Melbourne Cup. For the more intrepid ones, walk up from Dead Horse Gap.

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

Contact: Brian Watson 0407 300 922

Sat/Sun November 6-7 HARIETTVILLE & DINNER PLAIN

Sat Nov 6 Harrietville

Staying at Harrietville Camping Ground (You will be responsible for your own bookings) and meeting at the camp ground gates at 2pm for a 4km circuit around relics of Harrietville's gold boom days. Points of interest are the Tronah Dredge Hole and Ovens River. There will be an opportunity to swim. This will be a leisurely walk. Nibbles and drinks back at the caravan park finished with a meal at the pub

Rating: S - 3 - 3 (Easy)

Sun Nov 7 Highlights of the Dinner Plains

A reasonable early start for a drive up the mountain for our second walk Highlights of the Dinner Plains. This is 15km loop. Points of interest. Dinner Plain Information Centre, Room with a view (views of Hotham, Feathertop, Bogong High Plains, Mount Jim) Precipice Plain Lookout, Carmichael Falls and coffee at either the info centre or coffee shop.

Rating: M - 3 - 3 (Medium)

I know we all like to save money and eat on the cheap, supply our coffee after the walk etc., but the guys up on the mountains and small towns have been doing it tough during Covid. I have found all the people up there and in Harrietville in the past very supportive and I feel would like to support them in return without breaking the wallet, hence pub meal, stop off at info centre and coffee shop.

PLEASE CONTACT ME BEFORE WED 3rd NOV if this is a walk for you

Contact: Adele Ritchie 0456 412 192

Wednesday November 10 MT. BUFFALO

Lake Catani to Chalet via underground river track and return via lake walk.

Meet at Barkly St tennis courts 7.45am Leave Benalla 8 am

Rating: S - 3 - 3 (Easy)

Contact: John Boehm 0428 254 801

Sunday November 14 GOLDEN MOUNTAIN

Start at the Crystal mine and walk steeply up to the Golden Mount where there are good views of the Paps and Lake Eildon. Then down to the clearing where there was a hippie camp. After lunch walk up Mt. Strathbogie for a view towards Mt. Samaria, before returning to the Crystal mine.

Rating: M - 4 - 3 (Medium)

Contact: Jean Lightfoot 0407 908 352

Friday November 19 MT. MAJOR BY MOONLIGHT

Walk up the road to Mt Major in the evening. Sit and have your tea, or supper, or a glass of red, as the sun sinks into the West. And turn and watch the - wow - fully eclipsed moon rise over the Warbys. So, will it be moonlight or moondark for the walk down? Only one way to find out.....

Rating: S - 3 - 3 (Easy)

Contact: Brian Watson 0407 300 922

Saturday November 20 THE SPIT - WINTON WETLANDS

Meet at 6pm at Bill Friday Swamp Picnic Shelter for a simple bbq...sausages, onion, bread and coleslaw provided. After the bbq we will drive along the Lunette to the parking area. Walk approx. 1km out to the island lookout. On the way view a number of artworks and an aboriginal 'ring tree'. Watch the sunset (8pm) and the moonrise (9pm). Beautiful. Bring torch just in case the moon doesn't rise!!!

Rating: S - 3 - 3 (Easy)

Contact: Wendy Baker 0429 780 179

Sunday November 21

LURG HILLS

Explore the Lurg Hills area with an enjoyable walk to a high point with expansive views and other interesting features. About 5 km return, off track walking, some steep sections. Number limited so get in early.

Rating: S - 4 - 4 (Medium)

Contact: Hamish McPherson 0401 331 850

Fri/Sun November 26-28

YOUNGS HUT

Walking in on the Friday past Mt Cope and onto Pole 333 we will then make our way across the High Plains and drop down into the area where Young's Hut is located. Having a full day free the options are open to explore the area, it could be a bush bash to the Budara River, a day trip down to Dibbins Hut or just a walk out along the track towards the top of Paling Spur. Walk out on Sunday morning, down to Mt Beauty for a coffee and some lunch and then make our way home.

Rating: M - 4 - 4 (Medium)

Contact: Gary MacDonald 0421 052 367

Sat/Sun December 4-5

ROSEDALE RAIL TRAIL

Near Tumbarumba there is a new rail trail not long opened. We will ride this, both ways, on the Saturday. Could well drive from Benalla, ride the trail, and home again the same day. Or stay a night, and do a stroll along some of the Hume and Hovell track on Sunday.

Rating: Medium

Contact: Geoff Rintala 5762 2345

Sat December 11

ANNUAL END of YEAR GET TOGETHER

A day in the park, beside the tennis courts, behind the Benalla Bowls Club. Have a drink and a snack, come lunchtime, Brian will cook up a bunch of lovely pizzas. Bring some nice photos to pin up on the board. Maybe a quiz or two. A canoe paddle perhaps. Certainly a chat and catch up with a bunch of lovely people.

Contact: Gill Sydes 0419 585 996

Sat December 18

Mt BOGONG by MOONLIGHT

Leave Benalla in the evening, and hike up the spur in the moonlight to Michells Hut site. A lovely full moon, should be simple. Set up our tents, then continue to the summit where we will be the highest people in Victoria, at about midnight. A sip of champagne, a toast, and back to camp, for a late start on Sunday.

Rating: M - 4 - 4 (Medium)

Contact: Brian Watson 0407 300 922

Sat January 8

MOLLYULLAH BIKE RIDE

What a way to start the year! A slow ride along some quiet gravel backroads not far from Benalla. Sit beside a creek for morning tea. An early start to beat the heat. About 29 km.

Rating: Medium

Contact: Brian Watson 0407 300 922

Sun Jan 16

SHEPPARTON BIKE RIDE

A nice easy start for the New Year come and ride the shared path network within the City Of Shepparton. Riding from Jordan's Bend along the Goulburn and Broken Rivers around Kialla Lakes and return. All being well the new bridge across the Broken River to the Botanic Gardens should be up and open to allow for a short diversion.

All easy riding on good surfaces and no hills.

Rating: Easy

Contact: Gary Macdonald 0421 052 367

Sat Feb 19

Dookie Bike Ride

It's about time we did this circuit again following the rail trail out to the end and then completing the block back into Dookie taking in the extended section that has now been completed.

Not big distances to be covered but a nice morning ride finishing off with coffee in the park.

Rating: Easy

Contact: Gary Macdonald 0421 052 367

Walk Reports



Paradise Falls Sun Sept.12

Helen Spinks had the full complement of 10 walkers (under Covid Rules) for this walk and it was a good easy walk, in good weather. Her walkers were Anna, Fe, Gill, Gordon, John, Kay, Robyn, Vicky and myself.

Getting to Paradise Falls was a bit of an adventure in itself! I'm new to this district and there are SO MANY little roads to navigate and to work out if one needs to turn left here, or is it a bit further on? Where I used to live, the roads were much less numerous, so even for people new to the district, getting from one point to another was pretty straightforward. But we arrived at The Falls car park and walked the short distance to the waterfall. Interesting waterfall, in that one can walk around the head of the gully

to actually be behind the falling water. And with the recent rain, there was a good flow of water cascading over the drop and producing a curtain of water and mist at the base. The sun shining into the ravine and onto the cascading water made for quite spectacular viewing. For any members who haven't been to Paradise Falls, it is well worthwhile.

Back at the carpark, with picnic tables, it was a time for a quick snack before heading off on the Link Track between our carpark and the public road that leads to the Lake William Hovell Lookout. Gentle up-hill walk, some of the time following what was probably a logging track a long time ago, and which the Bush is now reclaiming. The Lookout is an excellent spot for sitting on the rocks and taking in the view of the Lake and surrounding mountains and valley farmland while eating lunch. Then the downhill walk back to our cars, and home. A good walk, Helen; thank you.

Don Allen

Melville's Lookout Sat. Sept 18

A group of ten hikers headed off about 10.30am up the Mt. Black Quarry Road after parking at the handy parking area near the junction with the Heathcote-Nagambie Road. The road is dirt and a good easy walking surface with very little traffic. We took our time walking to our goal – Melville's Lookout – to make the most of the wildflowers, the grass trees and (with Jean's help) a number of different orchids. The area is part of the Dargile National Park and the Mount Black Flora Reserve.

As we turned off to take the gentle climb to the top, we also stopped to look at the remains of Mt. Black Quarry where they mined the granite that was used to build the Goulburn Weir wall in the 1890s. At the top there is a great view and we sat at the picnic tables for our lunch. The day was mild with scattered cloud but a decent wind that we discovered when we had our lunch at the top! We took the steeper, rougher track on the way down and then back to the cars via the Mt. Black Quarry Road. A coffee in Nagambie and we were all on our way home.

Fiona Johnson

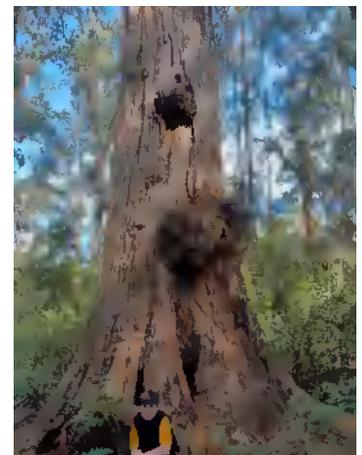


Tea Break!!

Track Clearing - Mt Samaria

Track Clearing - Mt Samaria

We have done very well. Nigel the Parks Ranger is impressed with the amount of tracks completed. As a club, the number and enthusiasm of our members participating is a joy to behold. One wintery day we had eleven hardy souls on the mountain, and we cleared all three tracks - short but steep - that lead to the summit. Fantastic result. Thanks to all.



The Big Tree
Mt Samaria

Wild Dog Rocks Sat. Sept 25

No we didn't see any wild dogs, but a great group that kept safe distance between all had a great walk. We started at Ferraris Road with an uphill walk in the Tallangalook Ranges to get to Wild Dog rocks - an interesting outcrop of rocks with lots of different views if you wanted to climb around the rocks. We saw a lot of forest, flowers and views. On our climb up we could look back down the valley and see our cars.

We had three first timers, so that is great to get new people involved. People could see Eildon, The Paps and, I think, the Cathedral Range, from the rocks. It was a sunny day but a cold wind at times. About 13 km was walked. Thanks to all the walkers for making it a great day for all who attended.

Gwenda Tait

Milawa Rail Trail Ride, Sun Sept 26

On a beautiful Spring morning, only two cyclists left Apex Park, Wangaratta for Milawa via the Rail Trail. It was mostly uphill until Everton Station where we had 'smoko', then on to Milawa with some diversions on good gravel to avoid the school holiday traffic on the busy Alpine Road.

Some very aggressive magpies made determined attacks on Don, who was cannon fodder at the front, but he admitted the value of helmet lights as a proven deterrent.

Stopping at The Bakery in Milawa for a takeaway lunch and a welcomed rest, the ride back to Wangaratta was flat and easy going, with the lush grazing and contrasting colours of golden canola and lilac Paulownia an indication of the diversity of this country since the traditional farming of the last century.

We crossed several tributaries of the Ovens on the last few kms into Wangaratta, then followed the city's cycle paths back to our starting point. The trip meter showed 64 kms.

Thanks go to Don for his meticulous planning. Those of you who could not come missed out on a wonderful day.

Anne Cresswell.

Winton Wetlands Bike Ride Wed Oct 6

This bike ride was originally planned for Saturday 4th September, but because of Covid Rules, at the time, we had to cancel. At that time, we weren't allowed to travel further than 5 kms from home, so it became a non-starter. Within the Club we have a pretty full calendar of walks and a couple of bike rides, so I thought that would be the end of it. Next year!

But a laterally thinking Member suggested, "Why don't we do it as a Wednesday ride, just like we do Wednesday walks?" Which is what we did. It was planned as an easy ride for those Members who are not regular riders but would like to do a short ride with



us for the exercise and to "give it a go". And, always a gamble at this time of the year, we had perfect weather.

I had the full complement of 10 riders, complying with present Covid rules and another Member just happened to be working in the Wetlands area that day so that Member joined us for a short while. Another Member just happened to be at The Hub while we were having lunch.

The riders were Anne, Bev (the lateral thinker), Chris, Fe, Fiona, Helen (the snake photographer), Gill (the cyclist's photographer), John, Lyn (visitor) and

myself. We had a comfortably late-ish meet-up point on Nelson Road, from where we set off along the dam wall and around to The Hub, a distance of just on 12 kms, all flat going.

Everyone had a good rest and some food before making our way back to the start point. Saw two snakes on the return ride; a red-belly black and a brown; both looking shiny and healthy. Lots of frogs, I guess!

Enjoyable, easy ride in perfect weather. And thanks to Helen and Gill for the photos.

Don Allen

Barry Falls Sun Oct 10

Started with raincoats but didn't need after rain miraculously disappeared by the time we arrived to walk. Lovely drive from Benalla to Eldorado. Seven walkers plus a dog for variety enjoyed walk to Barry Falls, well worth the view - it was spectacular. Still not hungry, decided to walk Reid's Walk and build up an appetite. The Shepparton girls particularly enjoyed day OUT, it was freedom from lockdown. After lunch had a short stroll to The Dredge. A very interesting and enjoyable day and a big thank you to John for looking after us and getting us back safely.

Jan Dainton



**Machinery relic
Mt Samaria Tramway track**

Mt Samaria Tramway Walk Sat Oct 9

The weather was just right for a walk in the Samaria State Park along the Tramway Track. Despite a couple of soggy sections at the start it was good walking along our freshly cleared track with a couple of stops along the way to the braking station where we had a morning tea break.

It was then back up the track and to the closed road looking for the turn off to the linking track that would take us to the start of the Lightning Track. We did encounter a good variety of wildflowers along this section with lots of photo stops.

Lunch was taken on top of the rocky outcrop that takes in views of Mt Samaria where Mitch searched and found the geocache tucked under one of the many rocks.



**The Big Tree
Mt Samaria**

It was then just 25min down the Lightning Track and we were back at the kilns for our arvo tea after which we headed off to check out that Big Tree located just off the road.

Great to have a couple of visiting walkers along and a new first time walker who is now a new club member to top it off. Pretty certain that we will be making better use of this park with its ever changing terrain and straight forward walks located in our backyard.

Gary MacDonald

Killawarra Wildflowers Wed Oct 13



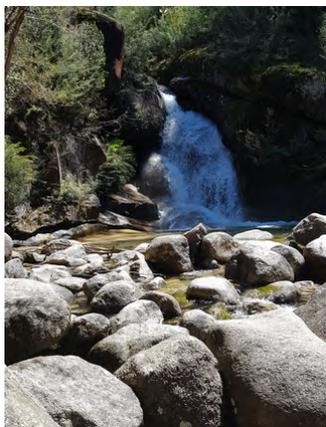
On a fine Spring day, a group of serious wildflower enthusiasts, led by Gill Sydes, explored a 4km. track in the Killawarra section of the Warby National Park. Focused and armed with mobile phones, our group vied with each other to find the first patch of wildflowers. We were rewarded with sightings of many indigenous flowers and if anyone was unsure of their names, Jean was there to help. Highlight was the discovery of scattered groups of Bearded Orchids. After lunch in the Rotunda, we departed, pleased with our day of exploration in a lovely part of our backyard.

P.S. Driver Annie and her passengers got the fright of our lives, as we were driving into the park and narrowly missed a small annoying group of feral deer, daring each other to leap across the road in front of cars. We were NOT amused....

Bev. Thornell



Mt Buffalo Waterfalls Wed Oct 20

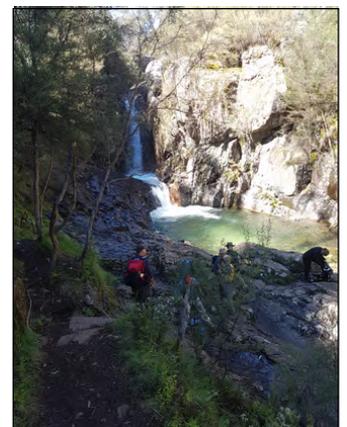


On Wednesday eight members travelled through Myrtleford to Mount Buffalo.

We walked the rather steep steps to Ladies Bath Falls. Recent rain ensured plenty of water cascading through the falls. Impressive rock formations with clear water typical of the mountain streams of the North East. This was a resting destination for people travelling to the Chalet. Men would separate and the ladies could immerse themselves in the cool waters. After lunch and a walk to Rollason Falls we visited the Buffalo Berry Farm Coffee shop. Afternoon tea comprised Ice Cream with mixed Berry Pie or Pancakes from the shop.

A warm sunny day added to the enjoyment.

James Flynn



Wyperfeld NP Weekend Camp Fri/Sun Oct 22-24



Despite being some 450 kms from Benalla, Neville and Jenny Downie had a good roll-up for this weekend and blessed with good weather, it went well. They had eleven walkers in total, Barry, Brian, Desma, Gary V, Gary M, Gill, Trevor, Trish and myself, plus two Members including President Doug, who camped with us at the Wonga campground as supportive members.

Also, welcome to new Members Barry and Trish.

By Friday evening we were all at the Campground, where Neville and Jenny hosted a Happy Hour under their caravan annex and this set the “vibe” for the weekend.

Saturday morning, we headed off on the walk to Lake Brambruck. Many of the shrubs and smaller plants are in flower at this time of the year and the members who know their Native Wildflowers were in their element. Like the

other Lakes in the Wimmera River system, it is now dry, and has been for many years. I personally was fascinated that here in Victoria we have a river, the Wimmera, that never reached the open ocean, but evaporated in the big lakes and aridness of the Mallee. Like a mini version of the Channel Country that feeds Lake Eyre in central Australia.

Saturday afternoon we drove a few kilometres to the Mallee Fowl Walk, which was a short easy walk through the Mallee vegetation with the destination being the nest (long abandoned) of a Mallee Fowl. Our Mallee Fowl is now going through pretty tough times, through habitat loss and a change in the fire regime. At present they are listed as “vulnerable” with their numbers decreasing, so unless something changes, they will soon be listed as “endangered”, and then it is the slippery slope to “extinct”. National Parks such as Wyperfeld play such an important role in helping species like our Mallee Fowl to keep going for little longer.

Also, on this walk we checked out the Eastern Lookout with views for kilometres across the Mallee landscape.

Sunday morning one of the Members noticed that a pair of galahs had their nest in a hollow of a big gum, quite close to our campsite and the young galahs were quite close to having a go at flying for the first time. They would peer out of the nest, have a look at the ground and decide, “Nah, perhaps later!” But we were quite fascinated by all this and Neville had to be a tiny bit assertive in order to get his Sunday morning Tyakil Walk underway. An interesting walk to another long-dry lake bed, with wildflowers in abundance. And a very small concreted dam, once fed by a now dilapidated little windmill over a bore, that long ago a well-meaning person constructed as a water point for the animals, not realising that the animals in such an environment are well adapted to the dry conditions. But the concrete and the little windmill are still there in the Mallee Scrub.



Neville and Jenny organized a very enjoyable camping and walking weekend and many thanks to them.

Don Allen

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

Leaders complete & forward to: **Doug Kneen**

BENALLA BUSHWALKING CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (2021)

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