

EDITION 1 MARCH - MAY 2024

BENALLA BUSHWALKING CLUB NEWSLETTER

Benalla Bushwalking Club



THIS ISSUE:

AGM ELECTS COMMITTEE 2024 &
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WALKS PROGRAM

AGM GUEST SPEAKER - HIGHLIGHTED
PRINCESS DIANA'S LANDMINES -
ANGOLA

GARY MACDONALD ELECTED TO
BUSHWALKING VICTORIA BOARD.

WALK REPORTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS, AND
UPDATES



Tungamah Paddle

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have just been reading 'Park Watch', the magazine for the Victorian National Parks Association. Within it there is an article where a member "reflects on the mindful activity of simple sitting in nature". I am reminded that we all walk in the bush in our individual ways for our own personal reasons. Some of us walk fast: some slow: some enjoy the journey; others stride for the destination. Some take photos; listen and watch for birds, insects, grasses, reptiles; others are more interested in the fungi and flora or the geology. When out and about I would encourage you all to take time to just sit. Be still, listen and observe. Think about where you are, our surrounds, your place in the universe. I know I find it difficult to just be still, yet I believe there is much value in it. I encourage you all to give it a try.

At our AGM the club elected new Committee Members and thankyou to all past and present for their efforts in ensuring the smooth and successful running of the Club. Special thanks to Trevor Smith our retiring Newsletter Coordinator and to Helen Nicholas for assuming the position. Seeyou ont the track

WENDY BAKER



MT MAJOR JANUARY 2024

WALKS PROGRAM SUMMARY

MARCH

Sat/Sun 2 & 3	camp Mountain Creek (base of Mt Bogong)	Helen Nicholas
Tue 5	General Meeting	
Sat 9	Winton Wetlands	Bev Thornell
Wed 13	Mt Timbertop	John Boehm
Sat 16	Razorback Hut	Fiona Tweedie
Sat 16	Reform Hill & Mosaic Trail Myrtleford	Wendy Baker
Fri 22 to Sun 24	Goldfields Trail Blackwood	Adele Ritchie
Sun 24	Mackey's Lookout	Wendy Baker

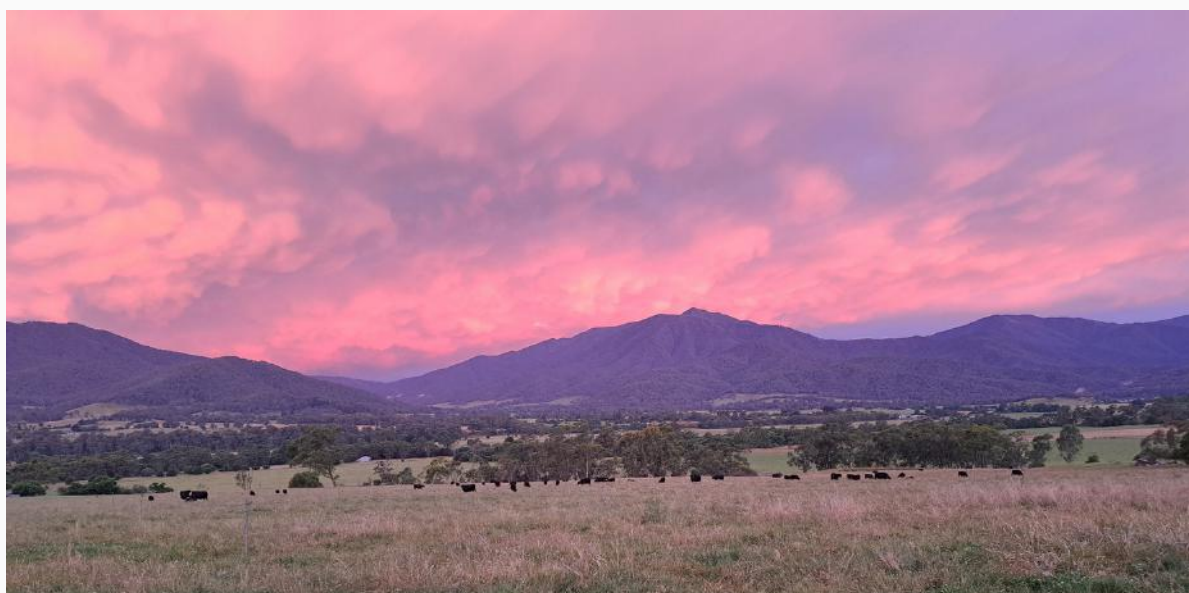
APRIL

Tue 2	General Meeting 7pm	
Thur 4	Committee Meeting 7pm	
Fri 5 to Sun 7	Tawonga Huts Hike	Brian Watson
Mon 8 to Fri 12	Adventure Week Licola	Gill Sydes
Sat 13	Mt Major Naming peaks with maps	Helen Nicholas
Wed 17	The Paps	Fiona Tweedie
Sat 20	Beechworth to Lake Kerferd	James Flynn
Sun 21	Moonlight Spit Walk	Wendy Baker
Thur 25	ANZAC Day	
Sat 27	Beechworth Cycle	Gill Sydes

WALKS PROGRAM SUMMARY

MAY

Sun 5	Beechworth to Yack Walk	James Flynn
Tue 7	General Meeting 7pm	
Sat 11	Violet Town	Bev Thornell
Sun 19	Mt Buffalo	John Boehm



Hot summers night - December '23 Mt Bogong

WALKS PROGRAM

Saturday 2nd/3rd March overnight camp Mountain Creek TAWAONGA (base of Mt Bogong)

Easy and various walks to enjoy, relax by the stream in shaded camp ground with bush toilet. Orientate yourself to Mt Bogong for your future walk.

Rating: Easy, small river rocks in creek crossings

Contact: Helen Nicholas 0428 784 495

Sat 9 Winton Wetlands Orienteering Walk

A short walk from the Hub to the Woodland Walk Circuit track & return, with a list of 20 questions to test your powers of observation. Morning tea at The Hub cafe to follow during which the winner/s will be announced.

Rating: Easy

Contact: Bev Thornell 0447 193 244

Meet at Barkly St (back of Aldi) at 0815: . Leave: 9am

Wed 13 March Mt Timbertop.

The walk begins at the carpark and follows a narrow path up to the summit. There are spectacular views of the Victorian Alps and the Delatite Valley. Meet at Barkly Street (Back of Aldi) 0:45am. Leave 9am.

Rating: S-5-4

Contact: John Boehm 0428 254 801

Sat 16 March Reform Hill & Myrtleford Mosaic Trail

Great views of Myrtleford, Mt Buffalo and the Ovens Valley will be enjoyed as we walk the 3.5km circuit of Reform Hill. The Hill is a former mine site and there is much historical information on offer. After lunch we will walk the 4km return walk of the Mosaic Trail. The flat track winds along the beautiful Ovens River. Have fun finding the 30 hidden Mosaics along the trail.

Rating: S-3-3

Contact: Wendy Baker 0429 780 179

Sat 16 March TBJ to Razorback Hut Circuit

This is an easier walk on the lower part of Mt Stirling. Walking along the forested ski trails up to King Saddle and on to Razorback Hut for lunch. Then returning along Hut Trail back to TBJ. Approx 8km, wide trails.

Rating: S-3-3

Contact: Fiona Tweedie 0408 655 081

Meet at Barkly St (back of Aldi) 0750. Leave 8am Benalla (Leave 9am Mansfield)

WALKS PROGRAM

Sun 24 Mar Mt Buffalo & Mackey's Lookout via 'the Big Walk'

Commencing the walk at Mackey's Lookout we will follow the 'Big Walk' track up to the Gorge and Chalet. Highlights will be the panoramic views over the Ovens Valley, Crystal Creek waterfall and imposing granite outcrops. We will lunch in the Chalet area before returning the same way. Approx: 11km. Be prepared for a relatively long but superb day.

Rating: M-4-3

Contact: Wendy Baker 0429 780 179

WALKS PROGRAM

Monday 8 to Friday 12 April - Adventure Week at Licola

This trip was postponed in 2022 due to wild weather. Travelling to Licola and then along the Tamboritha Rd we plan to camp 4 nights at Kelly's Hut off the Mt Howitt Rd. Walks have been chosen from the Licola Federation Walks weekend (the best of the best). The walks include Bryce's Gorge, Mt Reynard, Moroka Falls and possibly drive over Mt Wellington. None of the walks are difficult and the scenery is wonderful. Bring a swag, tent or van and join another of our clubs great care camps. We have allowed a day for the drive over and back.

Rating: Easy

Contact: Gill Sydes 0419 585 996 & Brian Watson 0407 300 922

Wed 17 April The Paps

Time for a stroll up to the top of the Paps. Stunning 360 degree views of the Strathbogie, the High Country and across a very full Lake Eildon. Its a bit of a climb up to the top walking along the 4WD track but the views are well worth it and there's never a rush. It's estimated 11.5km, 490m height gain up then down but nothing really steep.

Rating: M-3-3

Contact: Fiona Tweedie 0408 655 081

Sat 20 April Beechworth to Lake Kerferd

Walk through the eucalypt forest with reminders of previous gold mining. The well preserved track follows the running streams. Bird life and wildflowers.

12.6km

Rating: M-4-4

Contact James Flynn 0413 945 671

Meet at Barkly St (back of Aldi) 0745. Leave 8am.

Sun 21 April Moonlight Spit Walk

Join us as we walk out to the Winton Wetlands Spit for a sunset across the waters. Dependent on water levels we will be able to view the sunset from the 'Island' at the end of the spit. It can be Spectacular! Meet at the Bill Friday Swamp at 5pm. Bring torch, & mozzie repellent.

Rating: S-3-3

Contact: Wendy Baker 0429 780 179

WALKS PROGRAM

Sunday 5 May Beechworth to Yackandandah Walk

Follow the rail trail through eucalypt forest. Passing remnants of gold mining. Bird life, kangaroos and wildflowers along the rail to the historic town of Yackandandah. Care shuffle required. One way walk. 17.8km.

Rating: L-5-4

Contact James Flynn 0413 945 671 Meet at Barkly St 0745am. Leave 8am.

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 leaders 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.

On days of Total Fire Ban, any walks/activities in that district will be cancelled.

Walk Gradings

Distance in one day	Difficulty	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.

SAVE THIS DATE

The Club's 40 year Anniversary!

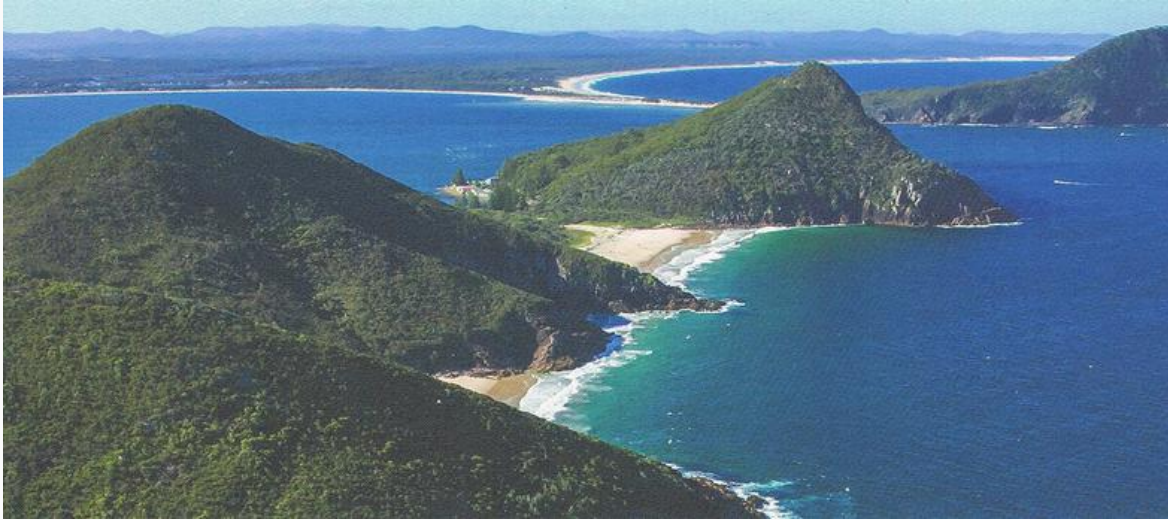
Save this date and join the luncheon to celebrate 40 years of Bushwalking.

Saturday 21 September 2024.

All welcome. Further details closer to event.

Saturday 18 May to Tuesday 21 May

A spectacular coastal walk in the Tomaree National Park with stunning views. Trail is 27km over 3 days. Book own accommodation. Caravan parks to choose from. Extra activities available. Contact Gill Sydes 0419 585 9966



Brian & Gayle Watson and Gill Sydes are going for a drive and the Tomaree Coastal Walk is part of our adventure.

The trip will start on the Mid North Coast of NSW doing a slow few days on the Tomaree Coast. We will visit Dorrigo and Die Happy, including a week or so at O'Reilly's in the tropical Lamington National Park. We have the 'Best Walks Handbook' for this area. Also included is Rathdowney and the Scenic Rim, Brissy to catch up with rellies then heading West across Southern QLD to Boulia....mmmm that's approaching 2000k! Along Donohue HWY to the border and onto Plenty HWY into Alice Springs NT.

We'll stay around the MacDonnell Ranges for about 1 week and perhaps the Larapinta Trail and then a consensus of what comes next.

So have a think, and a chat, and consider joining us for a day, a week, or as long as you wish. These ideas are subject to change due to weather, opinions or good suggestions.

Contact: Gill Sydes 0419 585 996 or Brain Watson 0407 300 922

AGM GUEST SPEAKER - FIONA TWEEDIE

Our own Fiona Tweedie assisted by photos and a map, spoke of her 8 years in the African country of Angola, population 10 million. As an International Teacher of 20 years her time in Angola was most interesting. It is a large country famous for the time Lady Di spent there because of the worlds largest concentration of land mines. The country was colonised by the Portuguese in the 1600's mainly for the slave trade. There was a fight for independence in 1975 followed by a civil war. Evidence of the war exists in damaged buildings and land mines. We saw photos of petrol and fruit roadside stalls, a boab tree and flamingoes. Native animals displaced during the ware are being reintroduced. During holidays Fiona and 2 other teachers had the use of a vehicle and driver to visit the Hippopotami in their native environment. This involved days of travel/accommodation and fits of wine flasks to a local party official and a policeman. On another occasion the 3 adventurers walk more than 140km along a beach passing fishing villages. A most interesting and educational talk. Thankyou Fiona.



Kumbira Bush Baby, Angola



Calendula Falls, Angola

Gary MacDonald appointed to Board - Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) and when asked about his

Appointment, Gary offered us an insight into the events leading up to his nomination.

“It is still early days but I hope that I can provide a useful link to the clubs in the Northern section of the State. I am sure that there are a lot of affiliated walkers out there who are unsure what and how BWV can assist with a whole host of knowledge either in person or via the website. I suppose in a nut shell to me its about communication, information, resources, and assistance that can help clubs continue to grow”. Congratulations Gary - we look forward to BWV news including BTAC (track clearing) news.

FEDERATION WALKS 2024

Fed Walks 90th year - the date is set for the 11 - 13 October 2024 at Wilsons Promontory. The organisers are expecting a massive turnout at this spectacular location and iconic walks of all levels. Those attending will be assured of a great time. Pencil it in your diary now! Details of the Fed Walks program will be available in our newsletter towards the middle of the year.

Benalla Street Orienteering Question: Who donated the stone at the Hec Waller Memorial?

WALK REPORTS

A Sunday walk at Mt Buffalo.
Viewpoint (pictured) clear skies great views, boulders in interesting places. We then walked the Underground River track to the chalet for lunch. Onto the home stretch via Lake Catani circuit. John made us stop at the Berry Farm on the way home for a Berry Sundae! Delicious.

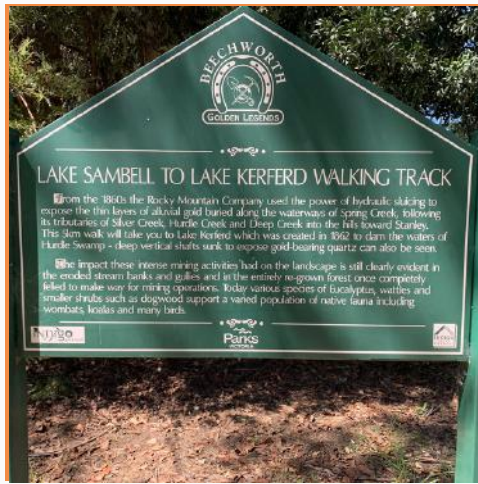


Tungamah Paddle Feb '24 A slow relaxed paddle, not too far or strenuous. Perfect early morning on a hot day and the reflections were amazing. We enjoyed a coffee & icecream at the general store and looked at the impressive silo art.



Benalla Street Orienteering Q: Why is the Railway Bridge so special?





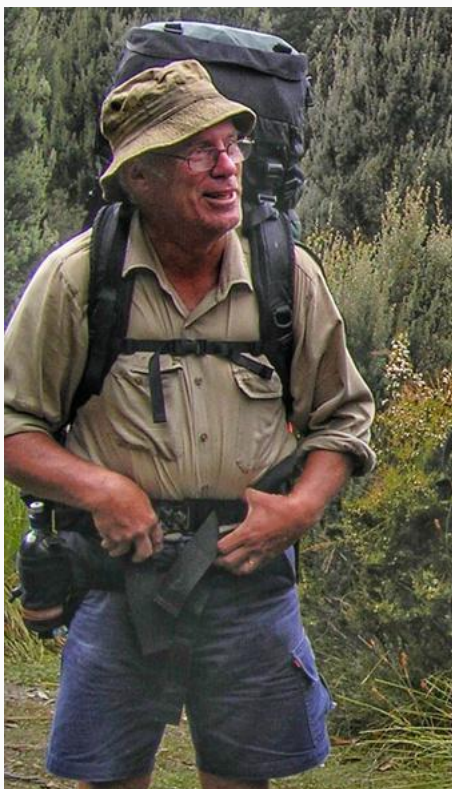
Lake Sambell to Lake Kerferd Walking Track

The 7am early meeting time in Benalla was just right for the group to beat the heat of the day. Unfortunately James stuck a problem with his car and decided to remain in Benalla to call the RACV. Our numbers were down by 1 so the walk leader duties were delegated to Janice & Gary. Luckily Janice knew where the start point was (cause Gary didn't) and she had walked some of the track before .

The walk made its way through the forest on a path that is shared with the mountain bike riders, it is well signed and in good condition with a few very slight up sections. You then find your self on a well formed road arriving at Lake Kerferd. Whilst the track continues around the Lake we took the opportunity to rest in the shade before we made the return journey, a very pleasant location. On returning to the cars the group then enjoyed lunch under the Pines in the main street of Beechworth after purchasing a variety of delights from the baker (yes we did buy a Beesting or 2). A very pleasant walk that will end up on the program again this year - Total distance walked approx 12km.

**Thankyou Trevor Smith
for over a decade as Editor of the Club's
Newsletter.**

**Your contribution to the Benalla
Bushwalking Club is greatly appreciated.**



SNAKE BITE BANDAGES - GRAPHIC INDICATORS

Available from your chemist. Apply pressure immobilisation bandage to limb. The correct tension means that the picture of the rectangle when stretched out become squares.



2024 Committee

President: Wendy Baker 0429 780 179
Vice President: Gary MacDonald
Secretary/Public Officer: Gill Sydes 0419 585 996
Treasurer: Brian Watson 0407 300 922

Committee Members:

Doug Kneen
Trevor Smith
James Flynn
Bev Thornell
Fiona Tweedie
Walks Program Brian Watson - Gill Sydes & Gary MacDonald

Newsletter: Helen Nicholas
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