

GO BUSH

MAY 2017



BENDIGO BUSHWALKING AND OUTDOOR CLUB INC.

President's Report

BBOC I believe has a good future with a wide range of outdoor activities being conducted, and new networking may broaden our membership. Unfortunately the club does not operate with an automatic pilot, and requires some members to take on positions and give a small amount of time.

A new year is about to come upon us, and the usual request for volunteers to take on positions is also upon you. I strongly suggest that you think very seriously about what position you could take on. Positions that will become vacant or are at present unfilled are Chairperson or treasurer and secretary. The time required is not onerous and if the positions are not filled the club will come to a close.

Membership Dues July 2017

The incredibly low cost of membership of the BBOC continues with dues unchanged. To make it easier for members to pay and submit the all-important yearly **membership form** (available on the website) there are now alternatives.

- Send a cheque and membership form to our P.O. Box.
- Deposit dues into the BBOC bank account. **Remember to type your surname** into the **reference** field. Bendigo Bushwalking and Outdoor Club, Bendigo Bank BSB **633-108**, Account Number: **134109016**.
- Pay the treasurer at a general meeting.
- E-mail (bendigo.bushwalking@gmail.com), send by mail or hand the membership form in at a general meeting.

Membership Benefits

Insurance coverage on members trips. 10% discount at Aussie Disposals Bendigo, 25% at Mountain Designs Bendigo.

Your Bushwalking Victoria membership card enables you to obtain discounts at a number of retailers including Ajays (Heathmont), Bogong Equipment (Melb), EMC (Deepdene), Melb Map Centre (Malvern East), The Wilderness Shop (Box Hill), Paddy Pallin, Smitten merino wear, Tasmania, Woodslane Walking Guides.

Trip Coordinator

The incredibly talented vice president Anne Bridley has taken on the role of trip coordinator. Trips can still be submitted through our Gmail account. Please welcome her with submission of a trip for the future.

BENDIGO BUSHWALKING AND OUTDOOR CLUB INC

P.O. Box 989, Bendigo, 3552

Reg No. A0051482V

E-Mail: enquiries@gobush.org.au

Meetings - 4th Tuesday every month [except Dec]

Presbyterian Church Hall, 35- 41 Forest Street

Meetings start at 7:30 pm sharp.

Web address: [http://gobush.org.au/](http://gobush.org.au)



Membership

Fees are \$60 for a family and \$40 for single members. Payable each financial year.

A Membership Form can be found on the website at www.gobush.org.au.

Remember you must sign the Acknowledgment of Risk at the bottom of the membership application otherwise you are not covered by the Club insurance.

You are welcome to try a trip or two at the nominal cost of \$2 per trip.

Wanted

Trip Leaders: Have you found a wonderful place to visit and would like to share it with others? Is there a place you would like to go and want company? Organise a trip! We have many leaders who are eager to assist you.

Club Night Events: Is there something you would like to see at a club night? Learn to navigate? Camping food? Perhaps you want to tell us about one of your trips or know someone who can give a talk. Let us know.

Deadlines

Submissions to the newsletter deadline are the third Tuesday of the month.

Email your submission to:

bendigo.bushwalking@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 16/17

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President | Kerry Cramer | 03 5441 4422 |
| Vice President | Anne Bridley | 03 5442 6188 |
| Secretary | Chris Franks | 03 5439 3549 |
| Treasurer | Position Vacant | |
| Trip Coordinator | Anne Bridley | |
| Equipment Officer | Chris Franks | 03 5439 3549 |
| Web Master | Peter Pemberton | 0428 869 196 |
| Newsletter | Roland Cauka | |
| General Committee | Roland Cauka | 0402 024 096 |
| General Committee | Leisje Wilson | 0448 031 647 |
| General Committee | John Lindner | 03 5448 3406 |

The statements and opinions expressed herein are those of the Editor and individual authors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Bendigo Bushwalking and Outdoor Club Inc.

Reading

Bushwalk Australia Magazine

Bushwalking Victoria News

<https://tinyurl.com/julud7v>

<https://tinyurl.com/mauntol>

Echuca Moama Bushwalkers News
Benalla Bushwalking Club Newsletter
Shepparton Adventure Club Newsletter

<https://tinyurl.com/lth5ju6>
<https://tinyurl.com/kx37oub>
<https://tinyurl.com/kkuthl6>

Monthly Meeting Activity

June 23rd "In Sturts Wake", a paddle into history – John Lindner.

Interesting Info

Bendigo Orienteers extends a warm welcome to anyone from the Bendigo Bushwalking and Outdoor Club to attend our special 40th birthday event.

This is planned for Saturday 27 May and uses the Wildflower Drive map. This is in the bushland area bounded by Strathdale, Strathfieldsaye, McIvor Rd and Strathfieldsaye Rd.

Start times 12:30pm - 2pm. This will be a social event, as well as an opportunity to enjoy orienteering in this area close to Bendigo.

Directions to the event: From Bendigo CBD take the McIvor Highway (B280) towards Heathcote. After 6.0 km turn right (O-sign) into St Vincent's Rd. After a further 600m turn right (O-sign) into Cassinia Drive and park as directed.

Regards, Julie Flynn, President, Bendigo Orienteers

Upcoming Trips

Here is your opportunity to tell everyone about your trip. Send me a paragraph with the highlights and a rough trip plan so that members can get excited and flood you with messages wanting to go.

Mt Ida & the Dargile Forest Wednesday 24th May

Type: Day walk Grade: Medium 14.5km DESCRIPTION: Walk starts at Dargile Picnic Area and heads through ironbark forests to climb to the top of North Ridge. The crest of the ridge is then followed to the top of Mt. Ida (450m) with excellent views over the surrounding countryside. The descent from the mountain is via a steep fossilised slope along Rodney Track and then back through the forest to the starting point. Afternoon tea/coffee in Heathcote before returning to Bendigo.

MEET: **At 8:30am** in the Strathdale Tennis Courts Carpark, Reservoir Road, Strathdale. **Fuel Share: Zone 1 \$10 Contact: David Crocker ph 5442 8189 or 0409 425 604**

A Meander on Lanjanuc Sunday 28 May

This is an easy 12km circuit walk on tracks with two sections on a sealed road and two sections off track.

Highlights: Sericulture ruins, Dog Rocks, a granite sculpture, Lodge Bros huts, Scorpion Rocks, Shepherds Flat Lookout, summit cairn and Langs Lookout.

Meet: Spring Gully Hall and Oval in Spring Gully Road on Sunday 28 May at **8.30am**. **Fuel Share: Zone 1**. \$10 per passenger. Coffee and Tea: Spring Gully General Store if time permits.

Leader: **Bob Jones**. **Mobile 0458012934** for any questions.

Mt. Macedon Wednesday 31st May

Type: Day walk Grade: Easy/Medium 13km DESCRIPTION: Starting high in the Macedon Regional Park from Days Picnic Ground following the Macedon Ranges Walking Trail to McGregors Picnic Ground and then traversing along the eastern edge of Mt. Macedon on Hoods Track to reach the War Memorial Cross (lunch). The return route follows the Macedon Ranges Walking Trail all the way back to Days Picnic Ground. Afternoon tea/coffee in Malmsbury before returning to Bendigo.

MEET: At **8:30am** in the carpark in front of Rebel Sport at Lansell Square, Kangaroo Flat. **Fuel Share: Zone 1 \$10 Contact: David Crocker ph 5442 8189 or 0409 425 604**

Goldfields Track – Porcupine Ridge Road to Vaughan Springs July 30

Activity: Day walk. Rating: **Easy/medium** Distance: 12.0 km

There is no need to contact me to say you are coming – just turn up. •We will car pool to reduce the number of vehicles. •Distance to start of walk at Porcupine Ridge is 90 k via Vaughan Springs. On the way, we'll leave 1 or 2 cars at Vaughan Springs to avoid a car shuffle at the start but we will have to do a car shuffle at the end to get cars at Porc. Ridge.

Attractions: Undulating terrain through woodlands. Perhaps signs of Spring will be detectable . . . perhaps not. Remains of old gold mines, buildings and water races. Loddon River and mineral springs at Vaughan Springs.

Weather warning If there are merely showers, cold wind and low clouds, we will NOT be cancelling. Cancellation will only occur if it is pelting down – unlikely. Please bring Warm clothing, Rain and wind-proof coat, Lunch and snacks, Thermos with hot drinks if desired, Walking poles.

Meeting point: 8.30 am at our usual Forest Street meeting place Leader: **John Lindner (5448 3406)**

Fuel: Zone 2, \$20

Trip Reports

Easter Walk, Cobberas Area. 14 – 17th April.

A party of 7 club members departed Bendigo on Thursday for the long drive to the east of the state, meeting to camp at Native Dog Flat, on the Buchan River along Limestone Road. The plan was to walk along Native Dog Creek to an area called The Playground, then climb onto Cobberas No 1 & camp near Middle Peak after exploring Cleft Peak. The following day we were to traverse Moscow Peak & Cobberas No 2 before descending to Cowombat Flat to camp for 2 nights, with a day walk to the Forest hill Cairn and an attempt to locate the next cairn on the Black Allan Line (which is the straight line part of the NSW/Vic border). Return was to be via Cowombat Flat Track back to Native Dog Flat to retrieve the cars.

As many people know, the best made plans of mice & men have been known to turn pear shaped. True to form, this happened. We set up a car shuffle, leaving one car at Native Dog Flat & the other at the carpark near Bulley Creek on Cowombat Flat Track, then commenced walking from Native Dog Flat. Somehow the leader managed to wander up the Buchan River onto Cowombat Flat Track to walk the car shuffle! To save face he claimed he had decided to run the walk in reverse so the party headed north along the track to arrive at Cowombat Flat early afternoon. The flat is a picturesque clearing straddling an infant Murray River, sandwiched between The Pilot to the north & the Cobberas Range to the south. It contains the ruins of a stone chimney & the wreckage of an RAAF DC3 which crashed in 1954. The leader produced documents relating to the air crash for the group to read before the party moved on to establish 'Base Camp'. The obligatory photos were taken of people with a foot in both NSW & Victoria and a raging trickle called the Murray River in between.

On Saturday the party sallied forth on the major expedition to follow the Black Allan from the spring denoting the closest point of the Murray to Cape Howe, past the first cairn on Forest Hill to the second cairn near the Berrima River. The leader led the party along a maze of brumby pads to the infant Murray, which was showing a lot of damage due to trampling of the soft ground by masses of brumby's. We followed a minor tributary upwards, past the steel post marking the spring which no one (except the leader) noticed. Twice!



After taking photo's the party continued upwards towards Forest Hill, undertaking a navigation exercise to find the Forest Hill Cairn, without the leader leading. After quite a bit of to-ing & fro-ing the cairn was located & more pictures taken.

A scroggin break was had before the party headed into the unknown on a compass course to the next cairn through thick scrub. We paused at Second Creek for lunch before the final ascent to the crest of the ridge to the second cairn.



We followed the ridge south from the cairn into thicker scrub which then graduated to impenetrable scrub which forced us to change course & follow the creek valley instead. An ascent on the south side of the creek went through light scrub before we emerged onto Mafarlane Flat Track to head back to Cowombat Flat. What followed was torture as the track climbed a little, then more. Then a lot more. It continued along, climbing relentlessly, until we reached another steep climb. Eventually we emerged tired & weary onto Cowombat Flat right on dusk after covering over 20km for the day. The evening meal was consumed and an early night was had.

Sunday dawned to find that the Easter Bunny had visited. Brekky was consumed with Easter eggs and the party set forth to climb Cobberas No 2 For some reason we received some funny looks from another group as we walked past the plane wreck.

We then entered the scrub to begin our assault on Cobberas No 2. 2 hours and 1.7km later the scrub won. Battered and scratched we retreated back to our camp at Cowombat flat for another night. While some remained in camp licking their wounds, others went exploring the rest of the Flat. Another early night followed.

Monday had us packing bright and early for the walk out on Cowombat Flat Track back to the car which had been cunningly placed at Bulley creek. Question. How do you fit seven bushwalkers and packs into a seven seat car? Answer. With difficulty! The car shuffle was undone and the long drive back home commenced

Thanks to those involved we managed to achieve everything except the Cobberas, which remains as "Unfinished Business".

Partners in crime were: Bob, Rechelle, Shawn, Garry, Robyn & David.

Greg Doubleday

Clean Up The Bush Day: Shelbourne Forest Conservation Reserve, Saturday 29 April, 2017

Introduction

For those of us who walk regularly in the bush around Bendigo, it is often distressing and frustrating to come upon piles of hard waste, just dumped along some track: concrete, bricks, tyres, plaster, white goods, plastic stuff, etc. And it is surprising how often this happens. I decided to do something about it in 2016, and I basically dragged the club into it. I used my little sketch maps and notes from 2015 by the way. I don't recall any discussion at committee level. Not that I necessarily condone this mode of initiating something - where is the policy man? But I do feel strongly that a club like ours, which uses the forests for its recreation, should put something back. The former Alpine Club used to participate in Clean Up Australia Day, and maybe the Outdoor Club did likewise. But we have not done anything much in the conservation field for a while, for example, in the track-clearing work parties run by Vic Walk. Bill Clarke has been fighting a one-man crusade about rubbish on One Tree Hill for some time, with a great deal of success.

An explanation for people who knew nothing about this.



I wish to apologise sincerely to members who knew nothing in advance of these events, but who may well have offered their labour if they had known. The co-ordination to bring about this kind of event is rather intimidating, and I should know – I organised both. Up until the last moment, I cannot be completely sure we can actually bring it off, since all the planets must be aligned – Parks Victoria, the Eaglehawk Landfill staff, the landcare group, knowing where the piles are and, of course, us as the labour. I feel that it would be an added complication to advertise a firm date in advance, one that possibly may not eventuate. In addition I need people with utes and trailers, and I don't want too many people. So the whole thing is a bit of a balancing act. I hope I can improve in 2018 by better advance notice and involving more people.

March 2016, Whipstick Regional Park

I had better explain the back ground to this endeavor. In early March 2016, a small group of club members (myself, Kate Lindner, Bob Jones, Chris Franks, Leigh Callinan) participated in Clean Up Australia Day in the Whipstick Regional Park just north of Eaglehawk. We visited 18 separate sites where hard-core rubbish had been dumped over the years (eg. concrete, bricks, white goods, wood). We had 3 utes and trailers, and a Ranger (Tim Buttle) from Parks Victoria accompanied us with his ute and trailer too. The only impediment was the temperature – above 40 degrees Celsius! Blood awful, but we stuck with it. However we decided

that we would not comply with the dictates of the Clean Up Australia, but would set our own date in cooler weather.

Recent 29 April event



So through a sequence of circumstances, in cahoots with Parks Victoria and the landcare group out at Shelbourne, I settled on a plan to clean up rubbish in the Shelbourne Forest Conservation Reserve. Personally, I had never set foot in this forest in the whole nearly 40 years I have been here – shame on me. This forest is located on both sides of the road 13 k. west of Kangaroo Flat. We had a team of 8 people: Leigh Callinan, Chris Franks, Kate Lindner, myself, Reyer De Moel, Athol Frederick (long time, no see!), with 2 other people (Lester Young, who went with me to Cape York in 2016 – volunteered) and John Robinson (Bendigo Field Naturalists – dragooned by me). In addition, several members of the landcare group gave us a hand.

What did we achieve?

There were 5 dumps to visit. 4 were quite small but the fifth was a huge pit, excavated perhaps for gold or stone, and absolutely filled with tyres and a huge amount of other rubbish. This pit yielded something like several hundred tyres (400 - 500), which are now piled up on the property of a landcare group member, awaiting collection by a recycling company contracted by Parks Victoria. We then returned to the other 4 sites, and the pit, and loaded about 1.5 tonnes more junk (Eaglehawk Tip weighbridge measurement).

A big fauna surprise

At one site, we got a big surprise. First there was the big, lone slab of concrete, my main target. This was quite easily shattered to smaller fragments using a sledgehammer. And what was beneath? Two (*Underwoodisaurus millii*), one adult which had shed its tail, probably due to shock, and one juvenile. They are extremely beautiful little animals, and we were a bit upset at what we had done.

Just near the concrete slab was a large piece of carpet, partly buried. I was determined not to leave behind this stain of suburbia. I marched over and pulled it free and dragged it to the trailer. As I loaded it, two more Thick-tailed Geckoes were seen clinging to the underside. Oh, bloody hell - more of the damn things! All four reptiles were relocated against their will to a particularly thick pile of shed bark beneath a Yellow Gum. So, the question had to be asked, just who is wrecking the habitat for the native creatures, the dumpers or the removers? The slab of concrete was a particularly impregnable fortress for these soft-bodied creatures. Don't you just love a good, meaty moral dilemma? Should we just put all those concrete slabs back in the bush . . . ?



John Lindner

Traverse of the Macedon Range April 30

On Sunday 30 April nine walkers successfully completed a complete traverse of the Macedon range. Starting at Douglas Road we walked uphill for one hour to the Memorial Cross. This tested some of the Bendigo walkers not used to hills in our flat city. However, for the rest of the traverse nothing stopped them.

Views from the lookouts were somewhat limited but we visited the site of a 1948 DC3 crash where an Air Hostess successfully was able to save the 19 passengers and an injured Co-pilot. The pilot died in the crash. We then checked out the 8m high mortared stone cairn on Mt Macedon. In the forest the birds were quiet owing to cold weather.

We visited the highest point on the range at the Camels Hump and then enjoyed a late lunch at Days Picnic Ground. Climbing up Mt Towrong there was plenty of fungi observed and the very rocky descent to ANZAC road ensured everyone was very careful.

The Mt Macedon Village was full of people and what they were all doing God only knows but large numbers of mostly Asian looking people were photographing the autumnal colours of the deciduous trees in Honour Avenue. There were so many people in the Village it precluded our usual coffee stop, however, Reyer was adamant that he was having a coffee so he graciously shouted Kate, John and I to coffee/hot chocolate and cake in Woodend. Than you to those who supported the walk and to Reyer and David for the driving.



13-14th May 2017 Great Victorian Rail Trail- Upper Goulburn River



The ever flexible David Crocker, reorganised his trip plan to suit the circumstances of only three riders, thus three bikes on one car, cabin at Buxton (on the Archron river) and calm, crisp autumnal weather – perfect!

Saturday saw us riding from historically restored Alexandra railway station, through dramatic hilly select cattle country. The foggy conditions added to the mood and appreciation of the ancient River Redgums remaining along the river catchment and rail reserves. Eventually, we rode out of the fog to arrive at Molesworth for a late morning tea at the *Hungry Horse Hotel*. Now with woollies off and sun screen on, we were prepared for the long slow (read '**steep**' in rail terminology/ '**drag**' for author) gradient to the spectacular Cheviot Tunnel - key feature of the Tallarook to Mansfield Rail Line which operated from 1883-1970. Considerable time was needed here for a long lunch, photographs and marvelling at the artistry of design and labour required to build this - 200 metre long tunnel of, on-site handmade bricks through the hillside. Despite 'claggy clusters' (author

only), the return ride (total 48km) was much easier and a whole new scene with views off into the distance, of the Cathedral Ranges and occasional farmhouses or ruins tucked in amongst the red and gold of deciduous trees. Dinner at the Taggerty pub – yum highly recommended!

In brisk overcast conditions, we were back on the bikes again Sunday morning at Yea. Another well restored ex rail complex providing a variety of public recreational facilities to be explored. It was not difficult to keep peddling to generate warmth and soak up the ever changing scenery following the Goulburn downstream. I for one especially appreciated the benefit of freshly lubricated gears! Kerrisdale was considered a respectable destination at which to turn around and head back (Yea total distance 38km) to the quirky picnic setting of Homewood (ex station) for a late lunch. It was befitting to share this place and a few stories, with a fellow carrying his 35kg of gear on a hand made – tow trolley. He had recently completed walking the length of our local O'Keefe Rail Trail.



Thanks to Fiona P and David for an excellent weekend of riding and enjoying the wonderful outdoors together.

Kerrie Norris

BBOC Activities Calendar

| Date | Description | Rating | Comments | Contact |
|-------------------------|--|----------|---|---------------------------------|
| May | | | | |
| Wed 24 May | Mt Ida & the Dargile Forest | Med | Day Walk | David Crocker 0409 425 604 |
| Sun 28 May | A meander on Lanjanuc | Easy | Day Walk | Bob Jones. Mobile 0458012934 |
| Wed 31 May | Mt. Macedon | Easy/Med | Day Walk | David Crocker 0409 425 604 |
| June | | | | |
| Tue 27 June | Monthly Club Meeting | | | |
| July | | | | |
| Sun 30 July | Goldfields Track | Easy/Med | Day Walk | John Lindner, 5448 3406 |
| October | | | | |
| Mon 16 to Sun 22 Oct | Base camp at Cooinda Burrong Scout Camp | Easy/Med | Day walks. Spring wildflowers, views, bushland and creeks. | John Lindner, 5448 3406 |