

# GO BUSH

OCTOBER 2017



## BENDIGO BUSHWALKING AND OUTDOOR CLUB INC.

### Advance Notice for an Amazing Talk – November Meeting

Date: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

Description: Special Guest Speaker Craig Doubleday – **Solo** Trek of the Alpine Trail. Craig's **6 week**, July-August 2017, ski traverse of the Alpine Track, **Walhalla to the ACT**

At the November general meeting we will host a special guest coming down from Melbourne who is making the time to visit and talk about an absolutely insane adventure solo trekking the high country. Following the footsteps of other extreme adventurers (remember Peter Tresider?) Craig braved arctic conditions to trek the high country – alone, in an environment that would make Mawson weep in despair. Experience vicariously the trials, agony and ecstasy of pitting man against the harsh environment of this part of Australia. Make the time to come along and listen to an amazing tale and leave astounded at what a person may achieve.



### December 12th End of Year Picnic

Date: Tuesday 12th, 6.30 pm onwards.

Description: BBOC End of year picnic

Rating: **Fun**

Where: White Hills Botanic Gardens.

**BYO everything** (including chair) and food to share. **Barbeque** on site.

Contact: John Lindner, 5448 3406

### EPIRB Bulk Buy

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon or EPIRB is used to alert search and rescue services in the event of an emergency. It does this by transmitting a coded message on the 406 MHz distress frequency via satellite and earth stations to the nearest rescue co-ordination centre. The club will be replacing its device soon and the committee has thoughtfully decided to try and obtain a bulk buy deal for members who wish to purchase this important device for their kit. Expected cost about \$250. Expensive? That is for you to

consider. Email the secretary, BBOC Gmail account, phone a committee member – let us know to put you on the list

## October Meeting

The committee has decided to attempt 2 things at this meeting.

1. A **calendar night** where we attempt some advance planning of trips, especially monthly day walks.

We need peoples' ideas and firm proposals to put on a forward planning sheet.

### 2. Sell and Swap

Please bring along any gear that you would like to sell, swap or give away. In addition, we have a number of club-owned items which are up for disposal. There won't be fixed prices for these items – just make a reasonable offer.

Just to keep you in the picture, we are going to dispose of these items due to their poor quality or lack of use.

2 Snowgum brand walking packs (Cordura fabric, green, rather heavy)

1 Salewa brand, "Sierra Leone" model, dome tent, 2-person, 3.2 kilogram

1 Caddis brand, "Explorer" model, 4-person tent, for car camping

1 Optimus brand, Trangia-type nested stove system, large, 3 bowls

1 Fuel bottle

4 Bicycle panniers, 2 pairs, 1 red pair and 1 black pair

1 Metal toilet box, never used (suitable as a heavy duty tool box)

•Plastic snow shovel (too heavy and too big)

•Small index box

## Membership Benefits

Insurance coverage on members trips. 10% discount at Aussie Disposals Bendigo

Your Bushwalking Victoria membership card enables you to obtain discounts at a number of retailers

Note that Bushwalking Victoria membership cards need to be presented prior to processing of sale.

<http://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/bwv-membership-card-benefits/bwv-membership-card-benefits>

Note: RRP = Regular Retail Price-does not include sale or consignment items or hire gear

### BENDIGO BUSHWALKING AND OUTDOOR CLUB INC

P.O. Box 989, Bendigo, 3552

Reg No. A0051482V

E-Mail: [enquiries@gobush.org.au](mailto: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/>

The BBOC is affiliated with



### 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](http://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.

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

<https://tinyurl.com/julud7v>  
<https://tinyurl.com/mauntol>  
<https://tinyurl.com/ya9e65dm>  
<https://tinyurl.com/ybnfzqx8>  
<https://tinyurl.com/y6wwkbn4>

## Monthly Meeting Activity

To be announced via e-mail

## 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.

AAWT – Mt Hotham to Mt Wills November 4th to 12th

Type- **Overnight Pack Carry**. Grade - **Medium**

The Australian Alps Walking Track winds through the high country of Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT. It traverses rugged remote alpine country including some of Australia's finest alpine national parks. The track climbs our highest mountains and crosses exposed high plains. It passes through magnificent tall forests and stunted snow gum woodlands, and discovers sites rich in history.

**You must be prepared for extreme alpine weather.** It includes the summits of Mt Jim, Mt Nelse and Mt Bogong, as well as numerous cattleman and survival huts.

<https://theaustralialps.wordpress.com/the-alps-partnership/publications-and-research/australian-alps-walking-track-guide/> For further information, Garry Brannan ph 0450879917

## Bendigo Canoe Club Events

**Padding - The Bendigo Canoe Club has extended an open invitation to BBOC members to participate in the following event in November 2017.**

Goulburn Classic: Sat 11th November 2017,

Come and paddle on one of Victoria's nicest rivers. Details to follow.

Also from the BCC – Sea kayaks for sale at HUGE discounts.

- Prijon Barracuda RS Fibreglass touring kayak - \$1,695
- Prijon Catalina plastic fast - \$1450.00 – 4.64m x 55cm, 24kg with bulkhead front and rear. Suit smaller paddler, quite quick. The boats can be transported from Sydney free of charge to the Tumut race on the 15 th October.

If you are interested in any of these events, one of the above boats or paddling in general, ph 0450879917 or garrybrannan@gmail.com Cheers, Garry

## Trip Reports

### Whipstick Wander MTB Ride 24 September

Backyards are often neglected in favour of more exotic locations. This ride explored the forest that's right on our back doorstep criss-crossing the Raywood Channel the whole way. A party of six gathered at the scout hall in Eaglehawk on a grey and very windy day. Mark Slater ran an eye over the assembled machines, executed a jury rigged repair on one dysfunctional front brake and then waved us off.

We headed up the Mulga Bill track to Lightning Hill and only lost one member briefly when he missed the turn off the water race. Past the remains of gold diggings, we arrived at Blue Jacket reservoir and stopped to admire the stone work of the channels running into and out of the reservoir. Some neat footwork hopping over the channels with our bikes and we headed north. The ride leader confused everyone by spotting a trail marker on the right side of the road and then veering left into the bush onto a little used nature walk that took us past Notley picnic ground.

The wild flowers were putting on a profuse display. But while our party lacked the expertise to name them, we could certainly stop to admire them. Next stop was the Whipstick Hill lookout for a peek between the trees that are growing up around it, and Shadbolt reserve where the sun came out just in time for a snack break.



Another walking track took us to the Old Tom Mine where hundreds had worked on puddling, cyaniding and quartz reef mining well into the twentieth century. Mullock heaps, the depression left by three large cyanide vats, a concrete water race, the remains of a puddling machine and a very deep hole from the quartz mine are still visible.

The only two places where the ride leader strongly recommended people get off and walk were here on the mine site. One participant took that as a challenge and had a couple of attempts riding up some steps and across a broken foot bridge. Much to the ride leader's relief, he finished the ride in one piece.

Then it was a return trip past Notley and the



nature walk loop to Rifle Range Road to finish back at the scout hall and a restorative pie and coffee at the Eaglehawk Bakery.

Despite a long winter lay-off for some participants, everyone handled the varied surfaces – and the odd confusing direction from the ride leader – with admirable skill and resilience. Thanks to David, Garry, Jill, Rechelle and Shawn for coming with me on the “interesting” route out to Shadbolt Reserve.

#### Mt Feathertop Trip Report 16-17 Oct 2017.

In the end only Ray Wilson registered an interest to hike up to Feathertop, so with the weather conditions predicted to be perfect we headed off From Bendigo before 7am and were up at Federation Hut by 2.30pm



The weather was in fact a bit ‘hot’, circa 28 degrees at Harrietville. We

encountered not a soul on our walk up the Bungalow Spur and encountered our first snow patches just below Federation Hut. After lunch and a reviving cuppa tea, we traversed across the first large snowfield up from the hut, en route to the summit. The snow was fairly soft and a we did sink down to our knees one or two times but the travers was manageable and the gaiters we brought along were lifesavers ( well feetsavers at least ! ).

We ascended the spine of the mountain on clear ground. Most of the snow on the west slopes had melted with the snow being all located, on the eastern face. And what a face that was. We daren’t venture out to the extreme edge, as it was a sheer, near vertical, 1000m drop. ( Take your breath away stuff ) . The summit cornices were fractured and awe inspiring .



Some aspects created the closest thing you’d get to a crevasse in Australia .Well Ray and I were literally in Nirvana. The conditions and summit snow, just perfect. For two Seniors, life couldn’t be any better. We hiked down to the MUMC ( Melbourne University Mountaineering Club ) hut in the late afternoon to stay overnight. We noted in the giant cabin logbook, which dated back to 1995, that the Hut celebrated its 50th Birthday last year, in 2016. ( So Built in 1966 ). My first winter ascent there was back in 1975 with the Bevan Trimble Rover Crew from Bendigo. At that time we were assisted in our climb by a young James Lerk, ( now Bendigo writer and compiler of the weekly historical notes in the Bendigo Weekly ). The hut was very comfortable with the only problem being the lack of any water. Luckily



there were still some large patches of snow nearby, which we melted to get us thru. Each of the triangular windows provided magnificent vistas, glowing in tints of orange and blue as the sun set over Mt Buffalo to our west.

The next day we retraced our steps to the summit, for another "Oh My God ! This is breathtaking." After taking in the rarefied atmosphere,( with not the slightest breeze present ), we walked back down the ridge and over to Molly Hill cairn and then back across the large snowfield to get back to Federation Hut. After lunch and another brew up, we were ready to hit the track down. Ray was now on a mission ( he had a prearranged appointment in Bendigo at 6pm ), so off he powered down the track at a pace that would leave a lot of younger people in his dust. I left 15 minutes later and was sure I'd catch him . Well on the way down we both encountered various parties heading up the track, including, a group of 5 marathon runners training for an Alpine marathon in the area ( one of these had already run up and down the day before ). The marathon trainees did also cross the snow field with just their runners and no poles?! We also encountered a very large ( 36 ) school group of circa year 9 girls who were struggling up the track , in what was by now, quite hot conditions. Well after numerous stops and chats to hikers, I did arrive at the base trailhead and I didn't catch up with Ray, after all. He had 'Blitzed' down in an impressive 2hrs 3 mins! ( Not bad for a Golden Square senior. )



The trip home was another whole story. With Rays scheduled meeting hanging in the air. Just at a critical point before Milewa, we were detoured by emergency services( due to a car crash ) back up north to Wangaratta. This ended up adding another half hour to our travel time and then we copped roadworks before 'Wang', just for good measure.

In the end, we were just so thrilled that we had been privileged to be able to once again experience the majesty of this mountain, which James Lerk had just recently tagged ' The Queen of the Mountains'. We were also thankful that our bodies had held up to the physical requirements needed to climb up here with full packs. Anyway we'll see how we go next time?!!

Hans Tracksdorf

Photos generally & not in order summit view to Mt Bogong, Ray and Hans, Ray on top!, harvesting water at mumc, summit crevasses, mumc mountaineering hut

## BBOC Activities Calendar

Date	Description	Rating	Comments	Contact
<b>October</b>				
Fri 27 (pm) and weekend 28-29	Federation Walks	Mixed	Day Walks Book Yourself	John Lindner 5448 3406
<b>November</b>				
Nov 4 to 12	Mt Hotham to Mt Wills	Med	Pack Carry - Alpine	Garry Brannan 0450879917
Tue 28 Nov	General Meeting		Craig Doubleday Alpine Adventure	
<b>December</b>				
Dec Tue 12	End of Year BBOC Event	Fun	Picnic at White Hills Botanical Gardens @ <b>6.30 pm</b>	John Lindner 5448 3406