



# Ben Cruachan Walking Club

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ISSUE 234 — Newsletter of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club — February 2024



On the ridge from Diamantina Hut to Mt Feathertop - see page 5

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club



## Committee Members 2023/24

President:	Peter Jennings	0428 230 444
Vice-President:	Elizabeth Davis	
Secretary:	Robyn Kercher	secbcwc@gmail.com
Member Sec:	Ken Free	memsecbcwc@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Marian Matchan	
Publicity:	Kerry Knights	
Newsletter:	Jack Winterbottom	newsbcwc@gmail.com
Walks Coordinator:	Geoff Mattingley	walkbcwc@gmail.com
Tracks & Conservation:	Joe van Beek	
Committee:	Monica Scicluna, Janine Muir, Rob Paterson, Clare Snell, Jodie Wigg	

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Incorporation No  
A0004849G

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## Club Committee meets on the second Wednesday of even numbered months

The next Committee meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 10 April 2024  
at the Maffra Community Sports Club, 122-126 Johnson Street, MAFFRA.

**Welcome to new members:**  
**Margaret Dawkins, Chen Shujun, Di and David Woodcroft**



# Presidential Footnotes

## My Ninth Post

### Wow! Did we have a great walk last weekend!

I think the Mt Wellington walk last weekend exemplified what this club is about. Getting out into our wonderful Gippsland environment to walk and talk and camp with people with a common interest but diverse backgrounds. It also helped that we had an ideal February day – not too hot, not too cold, clear skies and a stunning location to visit. Then to top it off, lots of new and newer members. Trevor Whibley remarked to me when we met up on Friday afternoon that when he read the names of walkers on the participants' email, there were many that he didn't know; but by Sunday afternoon he had a stack of new buddies. By the way, thanks Trevor for being our whip and look out for Clare's walk report. And speaking of walks, many thanks to Kerry, Clare and Monica who have led walks in recent weeks.

### COMMITTEE MEETING

- At our first meeting for the year, in addition to the regular agenda items, the committee heard from Joe about the Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend which will be based in Licola on the weekend of 10th to 12th May. Keep an eye on the walks calendar as places will be limited.
- We also dealt with some issues related to the Club's Facebook page. Jodie, our Facebook co-ordinator, reported that there are now 540 Facebook members – amazing given that we have 133 paid up members. The main issues we resolved were to have a statement of the purpose of the club, update the Facebook membership rules, include a welcome to new members, not allow the advertising of private walks, and to not to allow anonymous posts.
- To round off our IT discussions, Ken and Jack have been working behind the screens to simplify our webpage – our updated website is good but when it is simpler it will be simply fabulous!
- Plans for the Club's 60th anniversary celebrations are bubbling along – our 60th year commences in June, and not long after, in July, is our AGM. I asked committee members to start thinking about positions for next year and also ask you, my dear reader, to consider putting your hand up to help run the club in 2024-25.

### FINALLY

In my December Footnotes I completed the series of the twenty bushwalking commandments – for a pearl of wisdom this time I have borrowed a line from our neighbouring club, the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club.....

“Of all the paths in life you take, make sure a few of them are dirt”

*Peter*



# Club News

## Social Night - 13 March

In Bairnsdale at The Club on Wednesday 13 March, we will have a conversational meal followed by abfunfilled fantastic talk from Robyn Kercher and Kerry Knights. They will thrill us with tales of their exploits on the Cape to Cape Walk they recently completed. This walk runs from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin (or vice versa) on the west coast of Western Australia to the south of Busselton. Hydration is never a problem as the walk runs through Margaret River. Taking 6 days to complete the 120 kilometres, Robyn and Keery took advantage of being totally and fully supported thus turning it into 6 1-day walks. Come along and be entertained.

This will be a great evening full of bonhomie and elucidation. The venue is The Bairnsdale Club, 68 Nicholson Street, Bairnsdale (bang in the middle of the CBD). RSVP by Monday 11 March to Monica Scicluna on 0431 777 460; joe.monica@hotmail.com.

## Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend 10-12 May 2024 - based in Licola

This year's Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend is hosted by the Ben Cruachan Walking Club. It will be based at the Licola Wilderness Village. Walks have been selected from those offered at FedWalks2021.

When: From Friday evening 10 May to Sunday 12 May 2024.

Accommodation will be in the cabins.

We plan to include a BBQ on Saturday night, with pre-dinner nibbles and after-dinner entertainment items. Afternoon tea will be provided on Sunday before heading home.

A fee of approximately \$150 per person for the weekend will include two nights accommodation at the Lions Wilderness Village, pre dinner nibbles and a BBQ meal on Saturday evening, Sunday afternoon tea and two walks led by experienced walk leaders.

An email to all BCWC members and the other Gippsland Clubs will go out in early March with specific details for all aspects of the weekend including a Registration Form and how to pay. It will be an excellent weekend.

Remember, it is a lot closer to the start of walks "in our own backyard" than, say, Bairnsdale, Sale, Maffra, Traralgon and all points further west.

## Sixtieth Anniversary Year

Our club will be 60 years old on the 23 June 2025 which means our sixtieth year commences on, say, 01 July 2024. Next year. Continue to watch this space for updates of what will be on. Although 60 years is, perhaps, not as significant as 50 or 75, it is a diamond year so deserves diamond-coloured recognition. At the committee meeting on 11 October, we heard about the plan for a club Larapinta Walk in early July (EOI article in the August Newsletter) to be led by Robyn Kercher which will give us a 12 day head start to 60 walking days in our sixtieth year. Become involved. Lead a walk! Contact the Walks Coordinator, Geoff Mattingley.





# Walk Reports

## Diamantina Hut to Harrietville

**Date:** 06 January 2024

**Leader:** Kerry Knights

**Report:** Di Woodcroft

Walkers: Carrie, Kerry, Colin, Belle, Colette, Julie and Di.

I headed off to Harrietville to walk from Diamantina Hut to Federation Hut (allowing some to summit Feathertop) on Saturday and then make our way down Bungalow Spur. This was about a 23 kilometre walk with an additional 2 to 3 kilometres for those summiting.

On Friday night, we all enjoyed somewhat of a music spectacular in Harrietville as both the pub we were staying at and the pub at the other end of town had quite good live music playing. Plus, the property in the middle had daytime music as it was hosting a music camp, which meant the evening even had tuba and trumpet lessons along with a choir group all happening. Our accommodation was clean, comfortable and surprisingly reasonably priced while delightfully daggy.

After a very good meal at the Snowline pub, we had lovely magpies and black cockies entertain us. In the morning, we headed off to Diamantina Hut for a walk with terrific weather.

Along the way, it was lovely to see families with young children on the walk with their overnight gear!

During our walk, we enjoyed many different fauna and flora. There was an echidna, tiger snake, a smaller non-tiger snake, a gorgeous yellow and black prehistoric-looking cricket, Spotted Pardalote (*ed. birds*), and numerous lizards.

Our group also got to enjoy swathes of very pretty paper daisies, orchids, yellow button plants (billy buttons), purple blue star looking flowers, trigger plants and others en masse down the steep sides of the trail.

We made our way easily to Federation Hut for a pleasant lunch. This allowed those not interested in climbing Feathertop to view the summit dotted with trail runners, while Julie and I joined them. At the top, the clouds broke briefly to allow us very nice views before closing in again. While on the top, a kind trail runner offered and took photos of us—myself fairly dishevelled as the steepness definitely made me quite a bit sweaty.

The group then continued down Bungalow Spur to enjoy the smell of the blossoms of the mountain ash and hillsides of native dogwoods bursting in white flowers. At one point, we filled up our water bottles from a spring that had the best water ever! Further down the spur, our group noted the changes of trees and flora; but what very much surprised me, were the significant amounts of downed cut trees from at least two to four to years ago, and how it opened the forest much more to sunlight at Tobias Gap.

Just as we were getting hot we reached a lovely chair at Picture Point that allowed us to have a nice rest with no ants. And then, not long after, we were on the outskirts of Harrietville and back at the pub for a well-deserved rest and drink. Thank you Kerry for an exceptionally well organised walk with some really good weather too.



*Image: Belle Deacon*



*Trigger Plant - Kerry Twoten*





Image: Monica Scicluna

## Blue Pool / Peregrine Lookout

**Date:** 03 February 2024

**Leader:** Monica Scicluna

**Report:** Sue Weilgosz

Walkers: Monica, Lynette, Ian, Richard, Sue and Sue.

Setting off from the car park under beautiful blue cloudless skies, and with the promise of a warm day, we quickly left behind the noise of the many campers trying to warm up after an obviously cool night.

A short walk through bush just above the Blue Pool on Freestone Creek, we stopped at the lookout back over the pool - quiet and serene water for now. Continuing on through bush for a short distance, the track then follows the well made gravel road, giving us the chance to spread out and chat.

At a bridge over the road spanning what would be a tiny creek in wet times, Monica explained that the bush to our right was the original site for the mining camp of Briagalong, before it was shifted to its current location. (There needs to be some signage here explaining that). The walking track here is well signposted, and into the thick ferny shrub we went.

Emerging at McKinnon's Point, we followed the road to the crossing of Freestone Creek, which required a change of footwear if walking boots were to stay dry. This crossing is flanked by a large cliff, providing habitat for birds and other creatures.

Again the trail is well marked, with the walking track diverging to the left into ferns, thick native scrub and blackberries, which have been recently sprayed. As the track started to wind up towards the Peregrine Lookout, we found ourselves in an area that was burnt by the recent fires in this area. The large boulders in this area were now open to view, not hidden by tree growth. Black tree trunks were prevalent, some spouting new green growth, a testament to the resilience of our eucalypts. Apart from paper daisies in full flower, not many other small plants have regrown.

Making our way to the lookout for lunch we left the

burnt area behind us, and the stop was welcomed. Sadly we hadn't spotted any Peregrines, despite Lynette checking with her binoculars.

On the downward side of the walk now, we noted the old gold mine shaft covered with wire. Gold panning is quite popular still along the Freestone Creek, but I don't think anyone has been made wealthy from it.

The track zigzags steeply down to the crossing (boots off again) of the lower end of the Blue Pool. Surprisingly, the water crossings were almost warm, not the icy zing that I had been expecting. The beautiful weather has brought out the crowds, and all the available shade on the rocky beach was taken up. Not many people in the water, though, so as far as swimming goes, it could have been better. The last I saw of Lynette, she was going for a swim.....

Thanks Monica, for today's walk.



Image: Monica Scicluna



Image: Monica Scicluna



## Raymond Island

**Date: 10 February 2024**

**Leader: Clare Snell**

**Report: Marian Matchan**

On a nice sunny Saturday morning, 13 walkers gathered together waiting for the ferry to take us across to Raymond Island or also known as Tatum-galung Country.

Once on the Island, we started our walk to do a bit of koala spotting. They were very hard to spot at first, then we got the knack of finding them, for the day I think the number was up towards 10 to 12. From here we walked down 11th Parade, we stopped at the decorated community garden and had a photo shot, then to Centre Road through the Banksia and Manna gums. There were big areas fenced off that had been revegetated, past some houses, glimpses of the water and found a great open grassy area with seats for a morning tea stop. The wind had started to pick up, from here we headed south to the waters edge, there we had views across Lake Victoria to The Grange and Loch Sport. We strolled along the waters edge, sand and shells, to the west end of the Island taking in all the views of boats and different species of birds around us. Then we got onto the wooden walkway and headed back to the ferry. Plenty of people on the ferry for our return journey. We found a picnic table and consumed lunch of takeaway as well as homemade sandwiches, the wind was pretty strong by this stage and you had to be careful you didn't lose the filling out of your sandwich.

What a wonderful day full of great conversations, lovely people and picturesque scenery. A big thank you to Clare for organizing the day.



Image: Monica Scicluna



# Walk Previews

Distance	Hills	Tracks
S -- Short <10km	1-3 -- Easy, suitable for beginners	1-3 -- Graded open terrain. Well formed tracks and paths
M -- Medium 10-15km	4-7 -- Medium, reasonable fitness required	4-7 -- Bush, minor scrub. Some rock hopping, scrambling
L -- Long 15-20km	8-10 -- Hard, strenuous. Fit walkers only	8-10 -- Bush, thick scrub. Rock hopping, scrambling, creek crossings, use of hands
X -- Extra long 20+km		

**Please register with the Walk Leader before the day of the walk.**

see website for further details - <https://www.bcbc.au/walks/upcoming-walks.html>

Walk Name	Date	Leader	Contact
Track Clearing BTAC	23-25/02/2024		<a href="https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/btac/">https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/btac/</a>
Mt Hotham Alpine NP	01-04/03/2024	Geoff Mattingley	geoffmatt@aussiebroadband.com.au; 0429 084 216
Nyerimilang Park	09/03/2024	Monica Scicluna	joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460
Social Evening	13/03/2024 RSVP 11/3	Monica Scicluna	joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460
Bentley Plain	16-17/03/2024	Peter Jennings	pnjennings@gmail.com; 0428 230 444
Bryce's Gorge	16-17/03/2024	Oliver Raymond	oliverraymond@wideband.net.au
Track Clearing BTAC	22-25/03/2024		<a href="https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/btac/">https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/btac/</a>
Heart Morass	23/03/2024	Monica Scicluna Anne Wilson	joe.monica@hotmail.com; 0431 777 460
Cope Hut to Hotham	23/03/2024	FULLY BOOKED	
Track Clearing BTAC	05-07/04/2024		<a href="https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/btac/">https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/btac/</a>
Noojee Waterfalls	06/04/2024	Clare Snell	Snellclare12@gmail.com; 0451 923 159
Committee mtg	10/04/2024	Robyn Kercher	rkercher@outlook.com.au; 0400 529 407
Hermit's Cave	21/04/2024	Peter Jennings	pnjennings@gmail.com; 0428 230 444
Social Evening Traralgon	08/05/2024		<a href="#">see the website</a>
Combined Gipps-land Clubs Weekend	10-12/05/2024		<a href="#">see the website</a>
FedWalks2024 Wilson Prom	11-13/10/2024		<a href="https://fedwalks.org.au">https://fedwalks.org.au</a>