



BENDIGO BUSHWALKING AND OUTDOOR CLUB INC

President's message for March

Seven Committee members met at my place on March 17. In summary:

- *The new BBOC Logos, which will be free to club members, are still coming soon.*
- *Check out our continually improving website at <http://gobush.org.au>.*
- *We're still developing a 'Leader's Pack', for inclusion in our website. This will be a great help to any member considering leading an activity; and we do need more leaders.*
- *We reckon that Bushwalking Victoria's document on Safety and Risk Management will probably do us and we will have a link on the website to it. We recommend that all members study it; for most it will be common sense but there will be some new ideas that we should all know about.*
- *We are going to make more use of Dropbox to store photos, reports etc, which will provide us with permanent backup of these. Garry is working on this.*
- *Our meeting place, Sacred Heart Hall, will be demolished soon, so we are looking for a new inspiring venue. Kerrie (Norris) and Maggie are looking at three possibilities. If you have any ideas on a venue, let them know; their phone numbers are below.*
- *The March meeting will feature Reece Tehan talking on his experiences as a volunteer for ten years helping the East Timorese get back on their feet. Come and hear how this new nation is recovering after 30 years of Indonesian persecution and Australian neglect.*
- *Check out the Activities Calendar in this newsletter. There's Greg's Noojee – Powelltown overnite walk, next weekend, and his Lerderderg Gorge walk in April. There's also Ray Thomas's Nest Boxing weekend in April.*

Come along on Tuesday nite and enjoy the company and the information.

Leigh Callinan

BENDIGO BUSHWALKING AND OUTDOOR CLUB INC

P.O. Box 989, Bendigo, 3552
Reg No. A0051482V

Meetings - 4th Tuesday every month [except Dec]
Sacred Heart Hall, Short Street at 7:30 pm sharp

Membership: Single \$40.00
Family \$60.00

Web address: <http://gobush.org.au/>

BBOC is affiliated with



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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 14/15

President	Leigh Callinan	03 5442 3675
Vice President	Kerrie Cramer	03 5441 4422
Secretary	Chris Franks	03 5439 3549
Treasurer	Greg Doubleday	03 5447 8156
Walks Coordinator	Garry Brannan	0450 879 917
Equipment Officer	Chris Franks	03 5439 3549
Web Master	Peter Pemberton	0428 869 196
Newsletter	Garry Brannan	0450 879 917
General Committee	Kerrie Norris	03 5447 8017
General Committee	Roland Cauka	0402 024 096
General Committee	Maggie Smyth	03 5443 4530

Club Meetings:

Meetings are at 7.15 for a prompt 7.30 pm start on the 4th Tuesday of every month (except January and December) at the Sacred Heart Hall, just behind Haymes Paints in Short Street. There is an annual calendar of speakers, presenters, and activities. Visitors are always welcome.



Monthly Meeting Activity

- **March 24th** **Friends of Luro – Reece Tehan** will talk about his experiences in the Luro district of Timor Leste, and the opportunities for Trekking and Homestay in the area. Reece has made regular trips to Timor as a volunteer for ten years. Friends of Luro is an Australian Friendship Group supporting sustainable pilot programs in Luro, Timor Leste with a special focus on Education, Clean Water and Sustainable Tourism Programs. Every year since 2005 they have been to Luro to run pilot community development programs and deliver much needed basic goods including water filters, wheelie bins for dry goods storage and provide Secondary Education Scholarships to the next generation. Friends of Luro is a not for profit Australian volunteer community group. <http://www.friendsofluro.org/>
- **April 28th** **Calendar Planning**
10 minutes [maybe less] - **"Where am I"** - plotting GPS co-ordinates on the map. Quick and simple, not boring or techo. **Garry Brannan**
- **May 26th** **'Magic Lantern Show' (Wyperfeld National Park)** - Solo, pre and post fires, from a dessert rat's perspective. Presentation by **Bill Clarke**

Memberships for 2014 - 2015 **Some members still have outstanding fees for 14-15.** If you are unsure, please contact Greg. Fees are \$60 for a family and \$40 for single members, pro rata for new members.

Welcome to new members and visitors

Bushwalking News Victoria

Topics this month include:

'Tip Sheets' on the Bushwalking Victoria Website
Extended Walks Leadership Course
Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Report
Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Program
Kids Adventure Outdoors Weekend
Invitation of Participate in Nest Boxing Weekends
Bushfires and Planned Burns
Bushfires Take a Heavy Toll on the Bibbulman
Thin Green Line
Online Booking of Camp Sites
Draft Walking Strategy for Kakadu
Long-distance Walks in Australia



The most recent edition the Bushwalking Victoria Newsletter can be found [here](http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/newsletter-archive.html) .
<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/newsletter-archive.html>

Federation Walks Weekend 2015

The Federation Walks Weekend for 2015 will be held in the Victorian Goldfields and Spa Country around Daylesford and Hepburn Springs on the weekend of 24th and 25th October 2015

The event will be hosted by the Bayside Bushwalking Club and the Great Dividing Trail Association

The venue for registration, afternoon tea and Saturday evening meal will be the Hepburn Primary School 156 Main Road, Hepburn (corner of Fourteenth Street)

Due to the diversity of accommodation in the area and the proximity to Melbourne which permits day trips, the hosting clubs will not be organising accommodation. Instead we will provide information about suitable group and budget accommodation.

The Daylesford area is very popular and accommodation can book out quickly, sometimes a year in advance, so if you would like to participate in some of the great walks we are planning and stay overnight, book soon.



<http://fedwalks.org.au/>

Trip Reports

Kosciuszko National Park Base Camp And Walks

John Lindner

Dates Saturday 17 to Monday 26 January 2015

People John Lindner, Bob Jones, Tim Martin, Alan Spence, Rod and Maggie Smyth

The success of the trip was due wholly to people who wanted it to succeed, and work together for that end. I felt that my efforts had been well worthwhile.

Major walks in the Kosciuszko area

- Mt. Kosciuszko and Mt. Townsend, mainly on iron walkway from top of chairlift. 21.0 k,
- Ramshead Range circuit. 7.0 k
Dead Horse Gap chairlift top, iron walkway, return along the range to DHG.
- The Chimneys via the Cascade Firetrail 16.0 k
- Munyang River corridor with a circuit on the Rolling Ground. 23.0 k
Up to White's River Hut and then a visit to Dicky Cooper Bogong.
- Main Range circuit from Charlotte Pass 22.0 k
A walk along the highest part of the range, visiting Blue Lake.

Minor walks in various areas

- Along Thredbo River to Crackenback Resort 6.4 k
- Along Thredbo River to Ngarigo campsite 9.0 k
- The 5 stone huts on the Swampy Plains River 5.0 k

Our total walking distance was therefore well over 100 k. A good part of each of the first four major walks was off track, which is quite strenuous having to negotiate grass tussocks and scrub. I found this pretty exhausting, and had to have a rest day after two such days.

Weather Generally fine and sunny with the most glorious, cumulus clouds you can imagine. However the fine, hot weather at this altitude generates thunderstorms, with thunder, lightning and heavy rain. We had a couple of episodes while at Thredbo Diggings, but they seemed to pass quite quickly. By contrast, the lowlands on the upper Murray River had torrential rain, whose evidence was easily discernible when we returned there.

Campsites

- Swampy Plains River campground (2 nights)
- The Diggings campground on the Thredbo River (7 nights)
- Tom Groggin campground on the upper Murray River (1 night)

The upper Murray River valley and the Kosciuszko area are incredibly beautiful at this time of year, green and well-watered, a great contrast to Bendigo. Looking at or standing in a torrent of clear, cold water, with its dancing sunlight playing on the river stones, is a tonic to the soul. Access is via the Alpine Way from Corryong, through Khancoban to the Swampy Plains River, Tom Groggin on the Murray, Dead Horse Gap and Thredbo village. Our main camp was on the Thredbo River, well downstream of the town – just as well, because some effluent must discharge from the sewerage treatment plant. I just wish I knew how much. The water is quite clean but not to be drunk without treatment.

The mountains in this area are mainly granite with gently rounded contours and sculptured, free-standing boulders, but there is sedimentary rock on part of the Main Range too. This latter type, into which the granite pushed its way, was once many kilometres thick when the mountains were very high. Now they are both much worn down, and the granite rubble, lying about everywhere on the surface, gives the feeling of something having being demolished, which of course is exactly what has occurred. The granite outcrops on the Ramshead Range are startling in their monumental expressiveness, and you can get obsessive with a camera.

Plants range from Snow Gums and other eucalypts at lower altitudes, to a wide variety of shrubs and many wildflowers which reach their peak at this time of year. The most common of these were Billy Button daisies (yellow, orange), Silver Snow-daisies (white), Everlasting daises (orange), Eyebrights (white, pink) and Gentians (white). In some areas the introduced Flatweed or Dandelion (yellow) is completely dominant, so you have to include it as a wildflower too, much as I would rather not. There's also lots of Snow Grass and Ribbon Grass.

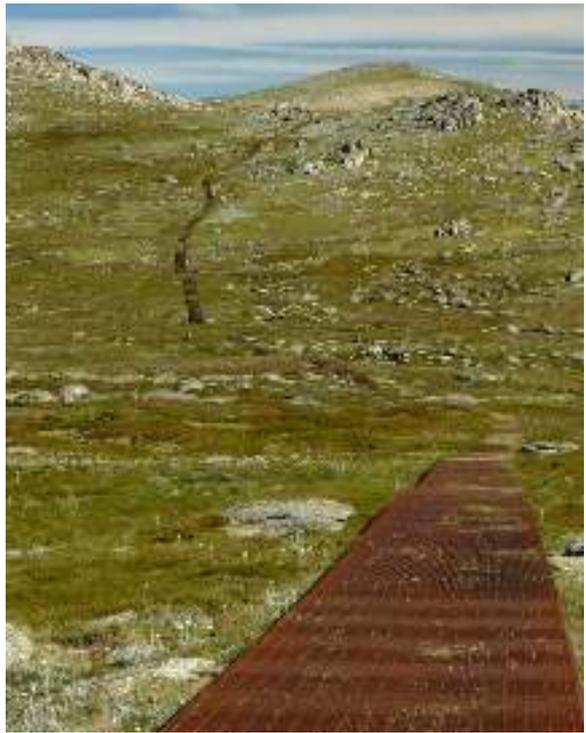
Birds included the Little Raven (common on the peaks), Wood and Black Ducks and a vigorous dawn chorus of small species in the thick shrubbery. Down at Tom Groggin, we were camped right near the nest of a Satin Bowerbird with two well advanced chicks. Mammals included feral horses (small group on the Ramshead Range), deer (early morning on the roadsides, but not sure which species), Eastern Grey Kangaroos (literally hundreds at Swampy Plains and Tom Groggin), Red-necked and Swamp Wallabies and wombats (lots of burrows and some poor road-killed ones).

There were some interesting people too. Canny, well-equipped fly fishermen after trout had a saying new to me, "Match the hatch" – it means tailor-making the fly to correspond with the current crop of insects. At sunset, as the beams played over the Thredbo River surface, the air was thick with them. There was a huge number of campers and it was very crowded in all three places – luckily most are well-behaved, but at Swampy Plains we had to put up with five hours of monotonous duff-duff (is that how you spell it Tim?) Bob's "favourite" people were the cyclists, who are now entitled to use many of the tracks, but not the iron walkway or the Main Range track. Indeed at times there could be a risk of a cyclist-walker collision. Walk leaders be warned – this is one for you to include on your risk assessment sheet in future.

At Thredbo we visited the very interesting museum to look up all the media reports from the chalet collapse in 1997, in which Stuart Diver was the only person to survive. We also visited the site of the disaster, now vacant. At Seaman's Hut, a few kilometres from Kosciuszko, there is a sad memorial to the four young snowboarders who perished in 1999 in their hastily dug snow cave, only 1.5 from the hut, which was built in memory of two Americans, Laurie Seaman and Evan Hayes who perished in a blizzard in 1926.



Above: *Swampy Plains at the ford near Geehi Hut.*
 Top right: *The group at the summit of Mount Kosciuszko.*
L-R Tim Martin, Bob Jones, Alan Spence.
 Right: *The iron walkway from the top of the chairlift to Rawsons Pass.*
 Below: *Tim and Bob outside the Cootapatamba Hut on the Ramshead Range.*
 Bottom Left: *Fantastic granite boulders near Dicky Cooper Bogong.*
 Bottom Right: *The Eldorado Dredge.*



On the way home, we didn't want to merely rush so we set ourselves some extra goals. We visited the grave of Jack Riley at Corryong, the supposed model for the Man from Snowy River, but I don't think it's quite that simple. At Koetong were two fine trestle bridges which would have once borne railway lines in the timber industry and are now part of the rail trail system. At Eldorado sits the mighty gold dredge, a vast piece of industrial monsterdom which once steadily ploughed its way through 18 kilometres of the alluvial system before it finally stopped in 1954 – thanks heavens that kind of destruction is in the past. Paradoxically the thing is like some kind of vast cathedral calmly reflected in the water, quite beautiful.

Ritchies Hut Weekend

Our trip to Ritchies started from Sheeppark Flat with a three kilometer walk downstream along the Howqua River to Fry's Hut, built by Fred Fry as his home in the late 1930s.



Also of interest on this section of the river is a tall square brick chimney and smelting furnace, built in 1884 and used to extract gold from ore mined in the valley. The waterwheel "Hanney" was erected nearby, powered by water from the race which follows the valley from Tunnel Bend. "Hanney" was 18 metres in diameter and drove first a 20 head gold stamper, and later a 30 head stamper that broke the ore into a suitable size for gold extraction in the furnace. Nothing remains of "Hanney", we could not even locate the foundations, although we had followed the water race all the way from Sheeppark Flat.

The walk into Ritchies starts from the Eight Mile, just a short drive from Sheeppark. There are two tracks to choose from, and we selected the "high track" for the walk in, with the guarantee of dry feet at the end. This is a very easy and pleasant walk, with views of the river valley most of the way.

Robert[Bob] Ritchie built the original "Ritchies Hut" with the aid of Fred Fry in late 1947. Bob's parents, Geoffrey and Antoinette Ritchie first moved to "Delatite" near Mansfield in 1902 and bought "Wonnangatta Station" in

1914. They employed the ill-fated James Barclay as manager. Following Barclay's murder in 1918, they sold the property. [See GoBush, November 2014, pp 4]

"Ritchies" was of drop slab construction, built as a fishing hut. It was destroyed in the 2006/2007 fires but was later reconstructed by volunteers on the same flat at the junction of the Howqua River and the 14 Mile Creek.

Beside the hut is a delightful clearing where we pitched tents, except for Kerrie who disappeared into a tunnel in the blackberries where she spent the next hour trying to figure out the intricacies of her new tent. She should have brought the instructions, but all was good in the end.

The next locality upstream from Ritchies is Pikes Flat, a mere couple of kilometers walk if the information board at the hut is to be believed. Rechelle convinced John to lead a party of discovery to Pikes, [Garry was busy studying the insides of his eyelids at the time, and Bob had a book to read] and so with Kerry, Kerrie and Tim in tow they set off.

Some time later Kerrie returned, not having reached the objective and concerned that it was getting late. Perhaps she just wanted to have another go at pitching her tent in the remaining two hours of daylight.



Top: Bob and Kerry at the furnace Centre: Ritchies hut
Bottom: The Crew – John, Garry, Kerry, Kerrie and Rechelle.
Front row – Tim and Bob's chair [where he would have been sitting had he not been taking the photograph]

After more time had elapsed, a rather disgruntled John returned. He turned back at a sign indicating that they had walk four kilometers from camp, and Pikes was a further kilometer – up hill – on a road.

. . . more time passes . . . Rechelle, Kerry and Tim stride triumphantly into camp having completed the ten kilometer round trip to Pikes.

There had been a couple of light showers during the day, and that night we had steady rain on and off, punctuated by a short sharp thunder storm. By morning however, it had all cleared away.

After a leisurely start, we returned via the “low track” which necessitated getting our feet wet in the 12 crossings of the river as it loops back and forward across the valley. Even so, it is a very pleasant walk.

After returning to the cars we drove to Tunnel Bend and stopped for a look. Tunnel Bend is named for the 100m tunnel built in 1884 as a link between the Howqua River and the four kilometre hand cut water race to the “Hanney” waterwheel near Fry's. The tunnel is open, and some of us walked through to the other side. Further down the river we stopped at Devon Flat for lunch and to pick blackberries, and then to Mansfield for coffee.

Thanks to Rechelle, Bob, John Kerrie, Kerry and Tim.

Garry Brannan

***Fred Fly's life in the Howqua Valley was the basis of Neville Shute's 1950 novel 'The Far Country'.*

Mount Samaria

First and foremost we saw 2 good films, Paper Planes & St Vincent at the historical Swanpool Cinema. Prior to this we had dinner at the Black duck Diner over the road. A very salubrious start to the weekend. Well almost the start.

On Friday night we camped at Samaria Well at the northern end of the park and are awoken throughout the night by rampant and unsleepy koalas. Saturday's walk we start at Spring Creek Camp after making our way up the very rocky and eroded (in places) road to the plateau. As you enter the plateau you are immediately struck by the lush and dense vegetation. From all accounts it hasn't been logged since 1969 and a fire (backburn or otherwise) hasn't scarred the mountain like so many other places in Victoria.

The whole plateau is sun protected by the ridges to the north and northwest and this gives protection from hot summer drying winds. It's amazing because this is the end of summer and on these southern slopes the water is held in by the dense undergrowth. To our surprise Wild Dog Creek is actually flowing as we cross it just after leaving the cars. We do a slow climb through the forest to the ridge, follow that until it dips to a saddle and then another climb to Mt Samaria, where the views (along with a wild apricot tree) make an excellent spot for a late lunch.

After lunch we descend to Wild Dog Creek Falls and wander about listening to the water as it plunges off the rocks to the valley floor below.

Sunday's walk is to Back Creek Falls and the vegetation changes as we rise and descend through the forest. A cool breeze slips through the forest and cools our exertions. We stop for a rest beside the fern shrouded creek and admire the huge trees. One a huge stunted gum with holes galore and Max christens it the Wildlife Hotel and it is well named. Back Creek falls are not quite as spectacular as the day before but unlike the yesterday we are able to scramble to the base of the falls for a better view. We retreat and retrace our steps. I almost forget to mention the abundant wildlife, especially birds. It always adds so much to a walk.

On Monday we set off up the gravel road from Samaria Well to a property gate, where a sign encribed, “To the Glory of God”, blocks our way. After looking at the farm beyond, we follow an old 4wd track to the creek and then make our way as best we can because it is overgrown (or is that overgrown) with blackberries. It's a pity because rock pool after rock pool are hidden from our view and impede our path, but not a wily wombat who we surprise cooling off in the water. Suddenly the blackberries become his friend as he disappears into a tunnel, but then he emerges, curious and allows us to take photos of him in his abode.

Just upstream from our camp we arrive at a largish but overgrown pool and surmise that this is probably the reason for the name Samaria Well. After a leisurely lunch at the campground we head for home, our appetites whetted by what appeared on the menu this weekend. Thanks to Max, Helen and John for joining me in this little weekend adventure to the oasis that is the Mt Samaria Plateau.

PS It would be remiss of me not to mention the great discussion we had on the last night around the fire with a youngish Iranian couple; (I thought they were Columbian (not so)) and the open discussion we had comparing life in Iran and Australia. There were quite a few surprises.

Activities . . . February to April and beyond

Timber Tramways, Big Pats Creek to Powelltown - 28 – 29th March.

2 Day Medium Walk.

This walk starts at Big Pats Creek, just out of Warburton, and follows old logging tramways to finish at Powelltown. This network of tramways supplied various sawmills in the area with logs for milling and was finally abandoned around 1949 when the New Federal Mill closed. Scattered along the walk are remnants of the tramways and abandoned machinery with the odd sawdust mound. Some sections are steep and can be slippery if wet. The odd leech will be encountered. If the weather is wet this walk can be quite miserable, worse if it snows. If it is windy there is a reasonable chance of being hit by falling limbs. Camp will be in the vicinity of Ada No2 Mill which was destroyed in the 1939 bushfires. If time and enthusiasm allow, a side trip to the Ada Tree and New Federal Mill site can be incorporated. A car shuffle of about 30km from Big Pats Creek to Powelltown is required as this is a through walk.

Maximum number of 8. Departing Bendigo Friday night.

ECP Robyn Doubleday

Maps: Gladysdale, Ada River, Spion Kopje 1:25,000 Vicmap.

Fuelshare: approx \$40.00

For more details & bookings contact Greg Doubleday 54478156.

In Sturt's Wake - 11 April to 19 April 2015 – Booked out.

Lerderderg Gorge Walk 18 – 19th April – Medium

The Lerderderg Gorge provides a remote area feeling walk without going to a remote area. It is located approx 70km Northwest of Melbourne and was declared a Heritage River in 1992.

We will be experiencing the rugged middle reaches of the gorge where access is only by foot. The river should be dry which means we will be walking in the river bed to avoid the sometimes scrubby banks. This means we will be on river rocks which get slippery if they get wet. It can be very hard on your feet so stout footwear is essential.

We will start and finish the walk at Lohs Lane, below the summit of Mt Blackwood, descending steeply into the gorge before walking downstream to camp at Ah Kow ruin & mine site. Water is available from a large waterhole nearby. The next day we will continue downstream exploring various sites & locations before climbing steeply out of the gorge and following the Blackwood Ranges Track back to Lohs Lane.

It can get quite cool overnight or if the weather comes in from the south so be prepared, I have seen ice coating the river rocks at this time of the year!!

For more details and bookings contact Greg Doubleday on 54478156

Map: Lerderderg & Werribee Gorges 1:35000 Meridian Maps

ECP: Robyn Doubleday Fuel share: Zone 2 \$20.00 Maximum Party size: 8

Expressions of Interest – Red Sandstone Cave/s – Early April.

Rating M-H.. Two days, carry your water.

Where? Way out west near the Vic/Sa border, Base camp 11 km from car. I have been there before but I want one more visit there to verify how many caves exist. Sounds easy doesn't it?

There is a catch though. It all depends on weather! We need no rain for two weeks before we go, and no rain while we are out otherwise we will be stuck there for a week.

Fuel share – by negotiation.

Register your interest and we can make a versatile plan.

Bill Clark

5442 1432.

Date	Description	Rating	Comments	Contact
March				
Tuesday 24th	Club Meeting		TBA	
Sat 28 – Sun 29 March	Noojee – Powelltown	M PC	Timber Tramways - 2 days Big Pats Creek to Powelltown	Greg Doubleday 5447 8156
April				
TBA - April	Desert Red Sandstone Caves	M-H	A journey of exploration and discovery	Bill Clark 5442 1432.
April 11 to 19	In Sturt's Wake..	M	Booked out.	Bob Jones 0458012934
17 – 19th April	Lerderderg Gorge - 2 days	M PC	Experience the rugged middle reaches of the gorge	Greg Doubleday 5447 8156
18-19	Nest Boxing Weekend		Refer Page 4, February GoBush	
24 -26	Anzac Day W/E			
May				
Sunday 3rd	Creswick Forest	DW E		Garry Brannan 0450 879 917
8-10 th	Mt Feathertop Overnight at Federation Hut and a secret location	M PC	Three day circuit. Bungalow Spur, Razorback and Bon Accord spur	Keith
16 -17th	Nest Boxing Weekend		Refer Page 4, February GoBush	
16 - 17th	Bushwalking Victoria -		Extended Walks Leadership Course Refer Page 3, February GoBush	
22-24 th	Grampians Base camp	E	Mt Rosea	Graham Borrell 0438 437 680
Tuesday 26th	Club Meeting		TBA	
June				
5-8 Queens Birthday Week End	Wilson's Prom Three nights.	M+ PC	One night may be at the light house in the LHK cottage. Expensive at \$133 but I've done it before and thought it good value.	Garry Brannan 0450 879 917
Tuesday 23th	Club Meeting		TBA	
Sun 28th	Leaghur State Park	DW		Graham Borrell 0438 437 680

E – Easy M – Medium H – Hard D – Day DW – Day Walk PC – Pack Carry BC – Base Camp

For additions to the activities calendar: - Email trip details to Garry for inclusion in the calendar together with a write-up for the newsletter. garrybrannan@gmail.com.

The deadline for the next edition
of GoBush – Wednesday April 22

Please forward Trip Reports, details of Coming
Events, and any interesting articles to Garry at
garrybrannan@gmail.com 0450879917



FOR SALE
Double Sea Kayak
\$500
Contact Kerrie
5447 8017