



Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Newsletter

April 2024

www.sbwc.org.au

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE

I want to use this month's column to promote two upcoming events and encourage members to become involved. Both events incorporate combined clubs bushwalking events where you can enjoy the company of like-minded people, have fun walking in a potentially new area and experience some fine walks in the process.

The first event is the Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs Weekend. Last year the event was hosted by the South Gippsland Club while this year's event will be hosted by the Ben Cruachan Club and will be based in and around Licola where many of the finest walks in Gippsland are located including selected sections of the famous McMillan's Walking Track.

As with all such events, you will have several walks to choose from covering a range of different lengths and degrees of difficulty so that there is always something for everyone.

The event runs over the three days from Friday 10th May until Sunday 12th May and bookings are now open for this event. However, registrations close on April 19th so it is important to get in promptly if you want to be a part of this fine event.

For full details, contact information and registration, go to [CGCW2024 Details-1.pdf \(bcwc.au\)](#)

The second event which will happen this year is *FedWalks 2024*. It's essentially the same format as the Gippsland event above but operates on a larger scale with members from all 60 clubs affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria having the opportunity to be involved.

FedWalks operates under the auspices of Bushwalking Victoria and takes place in a different part of the state each year with local clubs taking responsibility for the organization of the event and management of the walks program. Last year's event occurred in the Wombat State Forest to the west of Melbourne.

Because this year marks the 90th anniversary of Bushwalking Victoria, it has been decided to run the event at Wilsons Promontory which is one of the state's premiere walking locations. Organising clubs for the event will be Bayside Bushwalking Club, Melbourne Bushwalking Club and South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club.

Continued next page...

Club Night

Wednesday 10th April 2024, 7.30 pm

Judy Purbick is one of our members and a physio. Judy will talk about 'Looking after our legs', quite important to keep up our favourite hobby.

Did you know: The average person walks the equivalent of 5 laps of the Earth's equator in a lifetime.



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Location: Trafalgar Scout Hall, Kitchener St
Visitors welcome

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLUB MEMBERS

Maree Mills

Michelle Burke

Roslyn Webb

Graham Dewhurst

Kaye Livingstone

facebook

We now have 1,393 people following us on Facebook.

Our new target is 1500 followers!!
Help us get there by Liking our page.

NOTICEBOARD

Presidents Prattle Continued...

Registrations for this event have not yet opened but the dates been set from October 11th to 13th and bookings for more than 300 accommodation places at the Prom have been reserved in anticipation of a bumper event. To ensure you don't miss out on registration when it opens you can monitor the relevant website at <https://fedwalks.org.au/> or keep an eye on our club newsletter where we will publish advice as it is received.

If you haven't previously been involved in an event such as these, I encourage you to become involved. You won't be sorry.

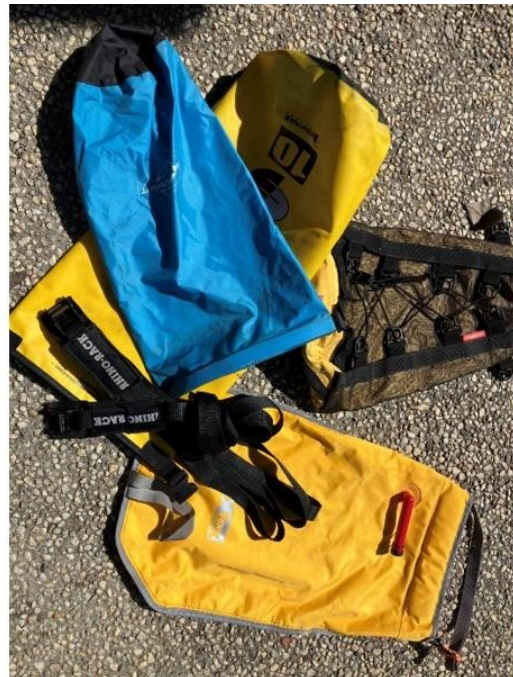
Jim Rowley

Paddle Equipment Donation

Thanks to John and Anne Abery for the donation of the following.

- Dry bags.
- Rhino Rack tie downs.
- Inflatable paddle float.
- Deck bag.

These items will be a valuable addition to our club paddle equipment.



Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Committee

Jim Rowley	President	president@sbwc.org.au
John Scarlett	Vice President	sbwccommittee1@gmail.com
Joanne Leviston	Secretary	secretary@sbwc.org.au
Carmel Mooney	Treasurer/Memberships	treasurer@sbwc.org.au
Carolyn Dyke	Publicity	publicity@sbwc.org.au
Adrian Crawford	Activities Coordinator	
Peter Dyke	Equipment officer	
Tania Kirby	General Committee	sbwccommittee2@gmail.com
Trevor Sutton	General Committee	

Other Positions

Matthew Morgan	Newsletter
Sharlene Butler	Trip Reports
Chris Elliot	Club Night Coordinator
General Enquiries to: secretary@sbwc.org.au	

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 13th May, 2024

7.00 pm start

Venue: Moe Library

Closing date for submissions for the next newsletter is:

Tuesday 23rd April 2024

For a guide, most trip reports are approx. 300 words, include some photos if possible

Send items to:

Trip reports to

The Strzelecki Bushwalking Club is an affiliated member of Bushwalking Victoria

NOTICEBOARD

Farewell to Robyn & Peter

A special function was held at the Glengarry Hotel on Tuesday 26th March to farewell Robyn and Peter.

Although they have already moved to Mansfield, they returned for the event which was attended by representatives of the many organisations with which they have been associated including a large contingent from our own club.

Speakers from several groups paid tribute to the outstanding work that they have done within our community and wished them well for the future.

In responding, Peter noted that they intended to investigate bushwalking activities in the north-east and hoped to put something on in that region for our club at some stage in the future. They also indicated that they would welcome visits from club members who were travelling in that area.

It was a fine evening, much enjoyed by all who attended and a great opportunity to say farewell to these two legends of our club.



Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs Weekend

Ben Cruachan Walking Club is hosting the Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend for 2024. We have confirmed a booking at the Licola Wilderness Village for Friday 10th to Sunday 12th May 2024 for the event.

Registrations close April 19th, booking details and more info can be found at [CGCW2024 Details-1.pdf \(bcwc.au\)](#)

A cost of \$150 per person for 2 nights accommodation, staying in the cabins. Two guided walks from the FedWalks2021 booklet occur for Saturday and Sunday. Saturday includes pre-dinner nibbles, a BBQ dinner, and after-dinner entertainment items. Plus an afternoon tea on Sunday. (self cater for breakfasts, lunches and Friday evening dinner).



ACTIVITY REPORTS

FLINDERS ISLAND EXPEDITION: Fri 1st March to Wed 6th March, 2024

Participants: Jim Rowley (Leader), Martin Norris, Roz Sprat, Pat Williams, Kevin Collins, Tania Kirby, John Scarlett, Rhonda Scarlett, Adrian Crawford, Lucy Yeong, Julie Taylor, Matt Morgan, Wayne Leviston, Jo Leviston

Day 1: Arrival, Furneaux Museum and Pat's River Walk

Essendon Airport. No crowds, queues, surly officials, overpriced takeaways. Just a quick check-in, the smell of avgas, the walk across the tarmac to the waiting plane. Fourteen of us squeezed aboard the Sharp Air twin-prop, everyone with a window seat, and we were off, over Melbourne, across South Gippsland, Corner Inlet and the Prom, then above the cloud before descending through fluffy grey ravines and seracs of vapour to emerge directly off the shore of Flinders Island. We cleared landing formalities in about 5 seconds and had our bags in 5 minutes, then were off in a mini-bus and an Isuzu ute to Whitemark.

Whitemark is not a bustling place but it has one café, one baker, one petrol station, one restaurant down by the wharf, one golf course and one pub. The Interstate, to which we were booked in, is a gracefully ageing hotel, comfortable enough, with friendly staff, good meals and a convenient location in the very centre of town.

We were given little time to relax in this congenial hostelry, and were summoned to re-board our vehicles. Stop 1: the Furneaux Museum, a repository of old records, photos, farm implements, reconstructed cabins, relics from the mutton-birding, sealing, sailing and farming history of Flinders and the surrounding islands. Stop 2: a weather-worn brick chapel and graveyard in a windswept field that marks Wybalenna, where the remnants of Tasmania's full-blood Aboriginal people were placed in around 1840 under the oversight of George Augustus Robinson, their official Protector, to keep them safe from murderous sealers and ex-convicts, and incidentally clear them out of the way of land settlement. Of about 160 people, two thirds died here.

We returned to Whitemark and set off on a late afternoon walk of 9 km, following the beach North to a shallow bay, then rounding a point to the estuary of Pat's River, before returning in time to sit down to a more than adequate meal in the dining lounge of the Interstate.

This rather complex itinerary went off without a hitch due to the organising skill and indefatigable efforts of Jim Rowley, and all agreed that it was a fine start to our tour.

John Scarlett



ACTIVITY REPORTS

FLINDERS ISLAND EXPEDITION: continued...

Day 2: Mt. Killiecrankie Circuit

After a comfortable night's sleep and a good breakfast, we gathered on the pub verandah to collect our packed lunches. Only Lucy was missing. Oddly enough she was located in the Lounge, where we had planned to meet, a plan ignored by all except her.

In our two vehicles we drove north for 44 km, to our start point on Dock Road, elevation 110m. The walk climbs to 321m through rocky steep country with views across farmland and over the coast and ocean. We had to crawl beneath, squeeze between and clamber over boulders. We took a short detour to view the 'White-eyed man' and a discussion was held as to who in the club this giant boulder most looked like. No conclusions were reached.



At the trig point on top, the wind was fierce.

Martin did a recce and found an alternative way down for anyone feeling intrepid. No-one was. Descending, John, Jim and Martin confidently strode out down a sloping expanse of rock leading a small group of trusting souls. Others stood patiently waiting where the path actually led. The pub had provided a fabulous lunch of frittata, two salad rolls and a piece of fruit. We ate this near the water, on rocks stained bright red with lichen. The walk back to the car followed the water, weaving in and out of coastal forest. We passed gorgeous swimming beaches and wind and sea-weathered rock formations and abandoned old beach shacks. No-one found any of the famed Killiecrankie diamonds but we did find the skeletal remains of a long gone whale.

We returned to Whitemark in time to clean up for a posh dinner at a lovely restaurant near the wharf, booked for us by the ever-organised meticulous planning Jim. Jo had arranged a collection to purchase some 'Thank-you' gifts for him and she and Wayne went to some trouble to get him a dressy shirt with the Bulldogs logo. Kevin, Lucy and Pat all made thoughtful presentation speeches, which went some little way to thank Jim for the enormous amount of planning he had put into his trip for us.

Rhonda Scarlett.



ACTIVITY REPORTS

FLINDERS ISLAND EXPEDITION: continued...

Sun 3rd March—Hike to Stanley Point

This was a very wild and windy Flinders Island day with white caps crashing in the bay at Whitemark.

This Stanley Point hike is at the extreme North-East corner of Flinders Island. The drive along the ubiquitous gravel roads took about an hour and is said to be about 56 kms from Whitemark, although the maximum speed with the roads is around 80 kms per hour.

Along the way, whilst we passed numerous examples of fresh overnight roadkill, Jim, our driver, regaled us with tales of his sojourn at Deal Island. We were sailing along merrily on a rather smooth gravel road when Matt pointed out that we were travelling the wrong way. Fortunately, we got the whole Deal Island story before we got onto the correct road where it was impossible to hear the driver due to the corrugations.

The North-most point of the island is adjacent to two islands called the Inner Sister and the Outer Sister, also known as the big and little sister, now also known as the Pat & Roz islands.

It was a lovely 10.2 Km hike with coastal vegetation, grassland tracks, views of wild crashing seas, casuarina forest and views of the North-East river.



We headed from the North-East river car park to Stanley Point and then around the corner to Jackson Cove, where we had a late morning tea. Unfortunately for water babies like me, it was too wild to swim. The winds were up to 80 kms per hour.

We saw many wallabies, then climbed East, through a saddle, past “No Entry” signs which Jim assured us was okay. We then dropped off to the North-East Reserve (Massive Wetlands) where we eventually had lunch before boarding the bus.

In the course of our hike, we saw Jim striding off into the distance and realized that was to rescue Wayne who had taken a wrong turn and had got lost. It took us (including Jo) a little while to realise who was missing.

Towards the end of the walk, we came across a live baby echidna which was stuffing itself on ants which were all around it.



The water in the North-East river estuary was beautiful colors. Different shades of aqua, green & blue. However, we had to lunch behind rocks due to the wind that nearly blew us away.

We then had a brief 2km hike at Trouser Point.

One of the highlights was that Jo lost her watch, realizing along the walk.

As we returned to the car park, we saw the watch on the road, and she

quickly rescued it just before a white utility screamed around the corner, over where it had been. Wayne had said the watch that was lost was a Rolex, however the watch that Jo retrieved was not a Rolex! How do we explain that?

A very enjoyable day, thanks Jim & all.

Julie Taylor



ACTIVITY REPORTS

FLINDERS ISLAND EXPEDITION: continued...

Day 4: Mt. Strzelecki

Day 4 revealed a beautiful morning; the wind had dropped and the camp was all smiles and bonhomie despite what lay ahead. Yes, Mt. Strzelecki, our biggest walk on the trip at almost 800m or 756m or 727m, depending on which information board you looked at.

The day was always going to be challenging. The previous days efforts were starting to show, with my t-shirt on back to front and a sore toe. I was late for breakfast, but later, with a full belly, my shirt corrected and Roz and Pat's delightful attention to my little toe, we were ready to go.

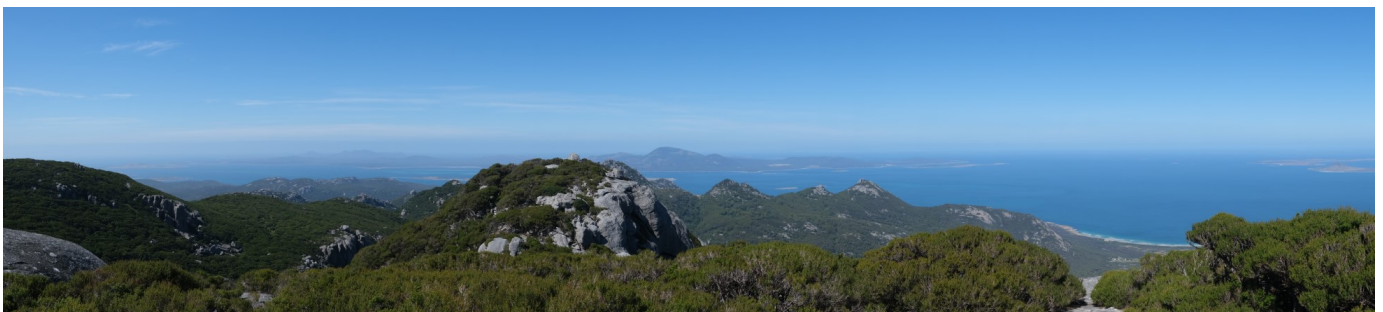
The rough corrugated road to Strzelecki National Park was spectacular, dampened only by the number of Bennett wallabies and a couple of snakes dead along the road (and Matt getting locked in the bus). Mt Strzelecki looked daunting, (Were Martin's socks really on the wrong way?) Jim's description "Just a forest walk" seemed a little underwhelming.

The pleasant sounds of the bush were soon interrupted by more bodily sounds of grunts and snorts and other noises too rude to mention. However persistence finally saw us reach the summit to reveal a



panoramic view of Flinders Island and the numerous other islands in Bass Strait, one in particular, Chapple Island with its conical shape and 8ft tiger snakes (according to Jim), truly made the view breathtaking. What a great place to have lunch!

The return trip was slow and steady with some choosing to walk the entire trip back to Whitemark along the coast. Adrian saw a couple of snakes along the way, but a safe trip back to Whitemark was had by all. A wonderful day finally finished with a meal and a few drinks at the pub. Cheers! *Kevin Collins*



ACTIVITY REPORTS

FLINDERS ISLAND EXPEDITION: continued...

Day 5: What an adventurous jam-packed day 5; full of laughter, memorable quotes, cheekiness and pristine coastal and well-formed tracks. A few of us started the day with our usual ritual, down to the café for gourmet breakfast, patiently waiting for the café to be open. As we made our way to the table, conversations flowed, some of them are rated “not suitable for publishing” and might need your imagination with clues provided to fill in the gaps. Soon the topic turned into “criminal content” – someone from Strzelecki forgot to pay for their meals again! Oh no!! This time it was more than one person and obviously not the first time from members of the club. (FYI: we paid as we exit the dining room before heading off to our room, not at the time when meal was ordered). “The hotel has reported the incident to police, and they were on their way”, commented by one of the club members.



Person A: “I fancy seeing Person B in handcuffs” Laughter followed and it is up to your imagination to guess who they were and there’s no prizes for the correct answer either.

After a big Day 4 we were lucky to have multiple short walks planned for the day. Our first destination was a short drive south to Lady Barron, a foreshore walk. The weather was perfect for walking along the beach. There was some rock hopping, with the walk on a well-formed bush track as well. The total distance was 3.97 km and it was completed in 1.5 hours. Some of us wanted to walk a bit extra to make this walk 4Km. The second walk was along Cameron lagoon or inlet which is a bird-friendly lagoon and John and Tania came well-prepared with binoculars. It is often a landlocked breeding ground for waders, terns and snipes, to name a few of the birds. We spotted sea eagles and left plenty of footprints in the sand.



Then we headed off to the east coast to Patriarchs Lookout. As we headed towards our destination on the dirt road, there was a herd of young heifers on the road. We kept pushing them up the road and eventually we stopped to let the farmer guide them to where they should be. We had our lunch or morning tea before climbing up an elevation of 91m. It was a 2km return trip. Patriarchs Wildlife Sanctuary was not too far from the lookout. Someone said “It’s 3km down the road and if you cause any trouble you will have to walk”. Everyone behaved and hopped back on the mini bus or ute for our next stopping place. In the sanctuary, we could feed wildlife with pellets provided for by the wildlife trust.

The last point of interest for the day was Patriarch Inlet and Red Bluff. Unfortunately the inlet was dried up. We started walking to Red Bluff and along the beach and as it was getting later in the day our leader decided that we should get onto our transport and drive to the bluff. A group of 4 decided to rock hop along to the bluff and the rest got back to the mini bus. Kevin, our designated driver, showed excellent driving skills on road and off-road as well as along sand. The road was lumpy and bumpy and we got through most of the hurdles. However, the last one was too much for the Isuzu and we decided not to push on. Fortunately the gang of 4 took some beautiful photos to share with the rest of us.



Some of the memorable quotes for the day : “thorn between roses”, “come on bastards, let’s go”, “love bird”, “darling here it is” and anything else that happened on Day 5 stayed with it.

Lucy Yeung

ACTIVITY REPORTS

FLINDERS ISLAND EXPEDITION: continued...

Day 6: Last Day

We woke to dense fog across the island. “Jim, do planes fly in when it’s foggy?” “No” was the simple answer. Regardless, in contrast to the first day, it was a slow start, with various people slowly dragging their weary bodies to the bright, okay, foggy morning...well, even then too bright for those suffering after the late-night partying by some who are clearly living the adage of ageing disgracefully (yes you in the unit out the back).

Jim insisted on one last climb to another bloody lookout, appropriately named Walkers Lookout. I think, to most people’s relief, there was no walking, as the bus drove the 400m vertical climb. It was an outstanding place to end the walk, with 360-degree views over the places we had walked over the last 5 days. The short trip back to Whitemark (pop 190), the capital of the Flinders Island, saw a mass dispersal by the retail-therapy-deprived to all the retail establishments, no doubt further helping the local economy. Oh yes, food; food was great wherever you went.



At 11:30 we found ourselves at the Flinders Island International Airport (FIIA). And in keeping with the laid-back and trusting nature of the local community, we left the keys in the rental vehicles. An hour later, we were back in Melbourne. Damn! It was suddenly loud, busy, and smelly (well, the smelly might have been us).

Writing the last day’s trip report was always going to be the easy write-up, well... unless the plane crashed. But I’m going to indulge myself by penning a few platitudes.

Flinders Island has some great nature, and some great scenery, but mostly, at least for me, it was the pace of life that felt so good. It reminded me (while wearing my rose-tinted glasses) of small country towns in the 70-80s (but with lots of the good modern things, like good red wine and the Internet, and without body shirts, platform shoes, and smokers everywhere).

The gushing part now: what can you say about the bloke who put it all together? And yes, he would say it was only possible by “standing on the shoulders of giants” (see even a gushing bit about Peter Maffei’s last club trip to F.I. seven years previously). Well, my first thought was that I could say nothing about him. But I guess “Bloody Bonza Ripper Beauty Cobber Mate” might better sum it up. The real plus of the trip was the people. If you ever get the chance to embark on a longer trip like this it is a great way to get to know people at a level you wouldn’t otherwise. And this was a great bunch of people. John Scarlett was so nice that I thought he would make a great SBWC president (despite being nearly as old as Biden and that the current president isn’t that nice).

Martin Norris



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Multi-Day Walk: Northern Kosciusko/Jaguanal— Fri 1st to Wed 6th March

Participants: Kerry Williams (Leader) , Tim Clarke and Wayne Burge

Thursday: We drove to Corryong via Benambra for tea at the pub then 20 minutes out the road to Bradneys Gap rest area to camp for the night.

Day 1:

Friday dawned fine and we started up Everard Flat trail at 7.50am. It was a warm, slightly humid morning and the going was a slow grind up hill. We eventually went downhill to cross Khancoban Creek then meander along a fairly flat section above the creek; some falls could be seen from the track. Then we had another long grind up a steep section to meet with the Dargals Trail; we were hot and very sweaty! Kerry had advice from parks NSW that they had cleared some of the track including part of Strumbo Trail but the foot track down was now overgrown. We decided to head on a compass bearing down into Pretty Plain Creek then over the ridge to Pretty Petty Plain Hut. The scrub was head high in places and ok in others. We made it to the valley and on making our way down the plain found some recent pink tapes that led us over the ridge to the hut, this was a bonus. It was 6.50pm when we arrived at the hut it had been a long hot day. The hut is fantastic and Kerry had last been there 44 years ago.



Day 2.

Today we set off to make our way around to Grey Mare Hut. After the long day yesterday we had a later start of 10am which allowed me to have a quick fish in the creek, I managed to catch a couple. We walked up Bulls Head Creek for about 3 quarters of an hour towards the Strumbo Range. Kerry reflected on a log book entry book that one group had tried this and had given up because of the scrub so we had a chat and decided, considering the heat, climb and likely scrub bash, to abandon this idea and head back to the hut. New plans were hatched and we walked



down Bulls Head Creek past its junction with Pretty Plain Creek then on to the Tooma River. Walking was a state of balance and unbalance on the tussocky snow grass. This is a very pretty place, a wide valley surrounded by forested hills. We camped at the ford where Hell Hole Trail crosses the Tooma River, had a swim and a fish, but no fish. When the sun went down it cooled off quickly. I left my wet socks out on a bush to dry only to find them frozen stiff in the morning. This meant I had to defrost them by putting them in the river then ringing them out and wearing them.



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Multi-Day Walk: Northern Kosciusko/Jaguanal— Fri 1st to Wed 6th March

Day 3.

The plan today was to head around to Wheelers hut. This meant 2 crossings of the Tooma River about 13ks. The day was fine and sunny and the walking was fairly easy.

We arrived at the hut around 2pm and 3 other blokes came in for a look just after us. Tim was using his solid fuel stove and they were fascinated. Tim mentioned his website 'Tim the Tinker', maybe he has some new clients.

Wheelers hut is a fantastic hut and overlooks the plain below, very easy to sit and take in the view with Jagungal poking up in the background above the other ridges.

Tim and I had a fish in Dargal Creek and I managed 1 trout for supper. There was a resident copperhead that went under the hut but was not seen again. We watched the evening light play across the plain from the veranda then sat around the fire in the hut making for a very pleasant night.



Day 4.

Woke to a good frost and a perfect morning.

Today we had to back track to the Dargals Trail. This meant a couple more river crossings then a steep climb up onto the Broadway Top.

The walking along the Broadway Top was delightful, grassy track, ripper snow gums and some views.

We completed the circle when we reached the intersection of Dargals Trail with Everard Flat track.

Then it was the reverse of day 1, downhill to Khancoban Creek for the night arriving at 6.30pm; 24 km for the day.

We had a pleasant night around the fire.

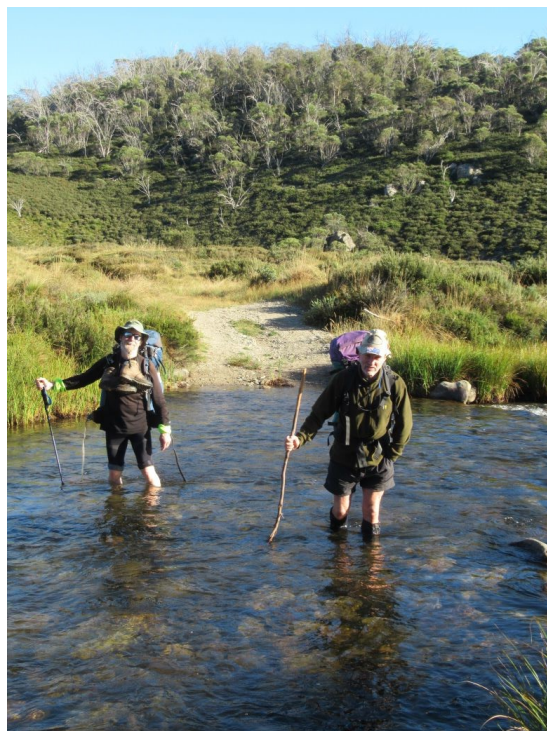


ACTIVITY REPORTS

Multi-Day Walk: Northern Kosciusko/Jagunal— Fri 1st to Wed 6th March

Day 5.

Another fine morning but no frost and all that was left to do was walk back to the car. This only took about 1 & a half hours. Thanks Kerry for putting on the walk. I have now seen a part of the world I had never seen before and some places I would like to come back and fish. Thanks Tim for the great company and many talks on fishing. We headed into Corryong for a coffee and to our surprise, a chat with Hans and Riecky who were heading into Kosciusko for a walk. *Wayne Burge.*



Addendum ...from the instigator of the aforesaid jaunt.

My last visit to Kossie via Everard Flat Track and the Dargal Range was 1980 as a ski entry point to Pretty Plain and the Jagungal area. I had a nagging ambition to revisit the 2 trips there of my 'youth'. On reflection, the hills appear to have grown a bit since then! Pretty Plain hut is a unique log cabin style with 3 rooms, initially built in 1937. Burnt down in the 2000 fires, it was rebuilt by the Kosciusko Huts Association and Parks NSW in 2006. A forecast 35 degrees in Corryong proved close to the mark and despite an early start to the day things warmed up! The climb to the Broadway Top on the Dargals Range comes in at 1200m vertical gain. After the first 400m you then drop down into Khancoban Creek, then start the climb proper. Speaking to the head ranger I knew she had had a team in clearing Everard and the first bit of the Strumbo Trail. This was to be our access to Grey Mare. As it eventuated the track clearing finished at Pretty Plain Creek with the rest of the Strumbo Trail untouched/overgrown after the fires. Faced with a battle through regrowth, a substantial climb, another 'hot' day and entries in the hut log at Pretty Plain that groups had turned back due to regrowth, fallen timber and a difficulty in locating the route, after an initial foray up Bulls Head Creek towards the Strumbo Range, discretion seemed the better part of valour so it was Plan B...or C! We walked back along Bulls Head Creek along the plain, picking up the Tooma River where we camped, another warm day...and frosty night. The nature of the plain had changed, very broken and tussocky, making for careful going. Abandoning Jagungal, day 3 took us to Wheelers hut, an absolute classic, including a galvanised iron bath (Lysaght Galvo) on the verandah. Wayne and Tim went fishing in Dargal Creek below the hut, lots of old mining in evidence. Tim scored zero and Wayne, after 2 hours - 1 rainbow trout (our supper) and almost landing a whopper, and 3 snakes! Having moved to plan B or C, the next day saw us climb onto the Dargals Range and follow the 'Broadway Top' for 6 km. This is a delightful ridge walk with great views, often walking through glades of overarching snowgums. Then the 1200m of descent back down to Everard Flat and Khancoban Ck for the night and the cars next morning. The thing that surprised me, apart from the addition of 45 years to my old bones on the climbs (no longer the boundless energy of youth), was how the vegetation profile had changed ...for the worse! The descent from the Dargals Range to Pretty Plain was no longer a wander (or ski) down through relatively open forest - now 2kms in 2 hours downhill through above head regrowth. Strumbo Trail now gone to the gods too! Notwithstanding changes to the planned itinerary, we saw some relatively unvisited and beautiful alpine country and a few classic mountain huts. Thanks Tim and Wayne for your repartee and banter and sharing the tramp.

Ps. Between my two tramping companions I have never heard so much waffle talked about fishing. My piscatorial knowledge has grown tenfold! *Kerry Williams*

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Day Walk: Tongue Point—Saturday 2nd March

Participants: Melissa Barnes (Leader), Helen Whitby, Janet and Phillip Box (SGWAC members)

A small group set off in perfect walking weather for the hike to Tongue point. After stopping and admiring the views out over the swamp surrounding Darby River and then the fantastic coastal views it was onto Fairy Cove.



Along the way we passed a number of swimmers who had had a dip at Fairy Cove and were less than reassuring with their 'it's fine when you're in' comments! It seemed we all left our bathers behind in our cars though!

Morning tea was enjoyed on the beach at Fairy cove where the tide was out. After a short climb back up to the main track we all agreed that the walk down to the cove was worse than the climb back up out.

From there we continued out to Tongue point where we took in the views of Whisky and Picnic bay in one direction and sand dunes in the other.

We saw the air ambulance coming into land at Tidal River and hope that the person has made a full recovery.

After soaking in the views we wound our back to the car park, arriving back a comfortable 3 hours after we started.

Melissa Barnes



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Day Walk: Labertouche Cave Loop—Sun 3rd March

Participants: Wes Holloway (leader), Pam Dale, Michael Haynes, Darold Klindworth & Brian Klindworth (visitor)

A Wonderful morning 8km hike to Labertouche Caves via the cave loop!

Thank you to Wes Holloway (Leader) for organizing an enjoyable Sunday bush walk.

Everyone had an opportunity to look up close into the darkness of the cave entry and take in the climb that would be needed to exit the cave, the only way out being a rope climb.



There were lots of conversation, butterflies were out in abundance and the odd mosquitoes along the way, and a morning tea stop at the cave's turnoff.

After the hike we had a visit to The Barn Cafe with a



selection of Coffee, Mocca and Chocolate and delicious food choices were had along with lots more enjoyable conversation. Thank you again to Wes for giving us an opportunity to take part in a great Sunday hike!

Pam Dale



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Day Walk: Uralla Nature Reserve—Wed 13th March

Participants: Jo Leviston (Leader), Wayne Leviston, Carolyn Lade, Matthew Morgan, Tania Kirby, Jim Rowley, Maria Garrett, Dale Alan, Graham Duell, Roslyn Webb (new member) & Michelle Burke (visitor)

Jo had a great idea to offer a short walk (approximately 3.9km loop), prior to the monthly club meeting in Trafalgar. It had been on the agenda prior, but cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

This time we met at 5.45pm at the small carpark before setting off in overcast but dry conditions.

This reserve is 60 hectares of natural bushland on the northern slopes of the Strezlecki ranges, just a 5 minute drive south of Trafalgar. There are several options of different loop walks, some more challenging than others.

This small pocket of bushland gave a snapshot of what Gippsland looked like before it was cleared for farmland when the area was settled.

We were a fairly chatty group, including a visitor on her first walk with us.

It is a pretty walk, well sign posted with the different routes, on a well maintained track.

Lots of tree cover, a small creek, very undulating, and a great view from “Fred’s lookout”.

There is a “Friends of Uralla” group who do all the track maintenance.

The bush smells were lovely due to some recent rain. We looked for the elusive koalas that are reported to be present, but I think we were either watching our feet, or talking too much to look up!

There are several steep sections – some with steps –Jo “Oh I forgot about those uphill steps” Leviston provided some history of the area. Hiking poles were put to good use by those of us who brought them, and a loose gravel downhill section resulted in one minor fall.

We enjoyed a quick BYO dinner sitting around the picnic table, before heading to the hall for the meeting.

Thanks Jo for the initiative at offering a pre-meeting walk. By all the chatter I think the group very much enjoyed it.

Carolyn Lade



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Day Walk: Mnt Erica/Hobbitland—Sat 16th March

Participants: Cathy Almond (Leader), Martin Norris, Jim Rowley, Cam Robertson, Tony Seymour, Noel Haines, Kate Haines, Mark Connor, Darold Klindworth, Marilyn Jackson, Graham Jackson, Michelle Burke, Lucy Yeung, Matt Moran, Dale Allan, Melissa Barnes, Rob Bentveltzen, Owen & Judy Morris

We met at the Mount Erica carpark at 9.30 where Cathy explained the days walk and carried out the usual checks to ensure we were all well placed for a good day in the hills. The group was a mix of ages, experience and longevity in the club. It was good to see a couple of newcomers welcomed by that special Strzelecki vibe.

Cathy's brief was to walk a 1.3km up the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) to Mushroom Rocks and regroup there. After getting our walking legs in and giving consideration to the large group, there was then an option to choose between being part of a Go For It group, or the more casual Pontificators.



As the day unfolded it seemed there wasn't a huge difference between the two groups with one or the other being in front because of pauses to listen in on history, botany, geology etc. shared by different members. There was a casual leadership arrangement of the two groups taken on by Jim and Martin, with Cathy taking care to ensure no one was left behind at the back. It all worked very well. Martin's botanical knowledge is always a welcome addition in any group.

Beyond Mushroom Rocks is the major climb of the day to Mount Erica, 1512m. Between Mount Erica and Mount Talbot, in my opinion is one of the most beautiful corridors of snow gums on the AAWT. It is worth noting that the upper Baw Baw plateau has not suffered bushfires since 1939, whereas large parts of the Australian Alps have been decimated by 3 fires since 2003. We had time to get a closer look at a small tarn near Mount Talbot before arriving early at the planned lunch spot, Talbot Hut site, 2.9km from Mushroom Rocks. There was a small but healthy flow of water in the nearby creek (foot bridge).

After nourishing up on Cathy's tasty home baked biscuits the consensus was that Hobbit Land was an achievable and better destination for lunch, a further 1.8km. So off we went, with both groups not far apart northwest along the AAWT to where the taped Hobbit track heads off left (west) along a ridge for approximately 200m before a short steep descent left (south) into the heart of Hobbit Land. And that it truly is! Another world of ancient Myrtle Beech, the odd large Snow Gum, that seemingly grow out of the granite, all on a small plateau with a moss covered granite cliff where we had come down. There's also a couple of huge concave exfoliated granite slabs lying horizontal, some called these the sacrificial rocks. As we had done well to get there was no need for any sacrifices, so we just settled for lunch. Looking at these lovely very old trees, I had to wonder if the hobbits had beaten back the 1939 fires here?

After lunch, it was a matter of retracing our steps to Mount Erica carpark. Both groups met up again at Mushroom Rocks, where it was interesting to hear stories about an early ski club that had walled up a large overhanging rock to create weatherproof shelter from where they could base their skiing from. From there it was the last 1.3km back to carpark, with all arriving safely around 4pm. On the exit out of Hobbit Land one member of the group suffered a trip resulting in a grazed elbow requiring minor attention. This had no impact on the walk plan.



Thank you everyone, I hope you enjoyed the walk as much as Judy and me.

A big thanks to Cathy for organising it all so well, and to Jim and Martin for helping out within the two groups.

Owen Morris.

Are they Hobbit's following us down?

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Day Walk: Knotts Siding to Walhalla—Sun 24th March

Participants: Peter Dyke (leader), Carolyn Dyke, Briany Noonan, Cathy Almond, Maria Garrett

We met at Knotts siding (at the turn off to Walhalla from the Tyers-Walhalla road) on a cool morning that really felt like autumn so we were glad to set off to warm up.

The rail trail made for easy walking as we walked towards Thomson Station, passing many nice views of the river, including the exit of the

horse shoe bend tunnel.

We stopped at the Station and had

some morning tea in preparation for the Mormon Town Track hill, found on the left just after crossing the river. The hill is 600m of quite steep walking on a gravelly track to join the Australian Alps walking track.

From here it was a level walk into Walhalla, mostly shaded by trees and with nice views over the Thomson river valley.

We had our lunch under a tree in a lovely park near the river in Walhalla. Some of the group walked off to get coffee which took a while with many other people enjoying a Sunday out.

We kept a good pace on the return walk along the same route, except for an abrupt stop when a snake was spotted on the track and we had to wait for it to move off.

Approaching the end of the walk we wondered if we might be ready for an attempt at the club marathon walk in April? It was pointed out that we had just done a half marathon so it would be like doing it all again. No one was keen to do that on the day. All up, we covered about 24 km according to best estimates.

A lovely walk in great company!
Maria Garrett



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Base Camp: Great South West Walk—Wednesday 20 March to Sunday 24th March, 2024

Section Walked: Cut Out Camp to Nelson—100km in 5 days

Participants: Wayne Leviston (Leader), Jo Leviston, Martin Norris, Jim Rowley, Larry George, Robyn Laughlin, Leisa Meyer, Pat Williams, Helen Whitby, Tess Lamin, Robyn Kercher

Day 1: Cut Out Camp to Fitzroy Camp

After a Happy Hour (drinks and nibbles) and a briefing of the walk from Wayne the night before, everyone was keen to start. This was an early start as Gary the bus driver had organised a 7.00 am pickup. It was still dark as we left the Caravan Park so we encountered numerous wild life on the way to the drop off point, fortunately there were no casualties. After leaving two cars at the finish point we all made our way by bus to the start.

We started our walk at 8.10 am and had some light drizzle at the start of the walk but this soon stopped and we had perfect walking weather for the rest of the day. The tracks were well maintained which made for easy walking and it was great to see minimal weeds throughout the walk. The vegetation was varied. We started off amongst large messmate trees with prickly tea tree, scented paperbark and swamp gums in the wetter sections which were currently dry so there was no need to use the board walks provided. As we gained a little elevation the messmates gave way to the western peppermints.

Our first stop for the day was Cobboboonee Camp which was about 11km into our walk. Thanks to Wayne's great planning and high standards, Jim and Martin were sent off ahead about half an hour before our stop. This served two purposes – 1. Get Jim and Martin to burn off a bit of extra energy and 2. To boil the billies so there was hot water for everyone when they arrived. Everyone had been instructed to bring a cup, with tea, coffee and biscuits provided. A definite winner Wayne! We then walked about another 7km to our lunch stop, followed by about 4.5 km to the end of the first day, with the cars parked about 500m before Fitzroy Camp.

A cracking pace was set through the day and the walk was completed by 2.10 pm. On the way home Wayne and Jim also started a trend of stopping at the ice-cream shop. Another big hit and I have to say they were very generous serves. The day was then completed with dinner at the Nelson Pub.

Thank you to Wayne and Jo for organising such a great walk and great time. Also thanks to Martin for providing the maps and for leading the group.

Larry George



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Great South West Walk (cont.)

Day 2: Fitzroy Camp to Moleside Camp

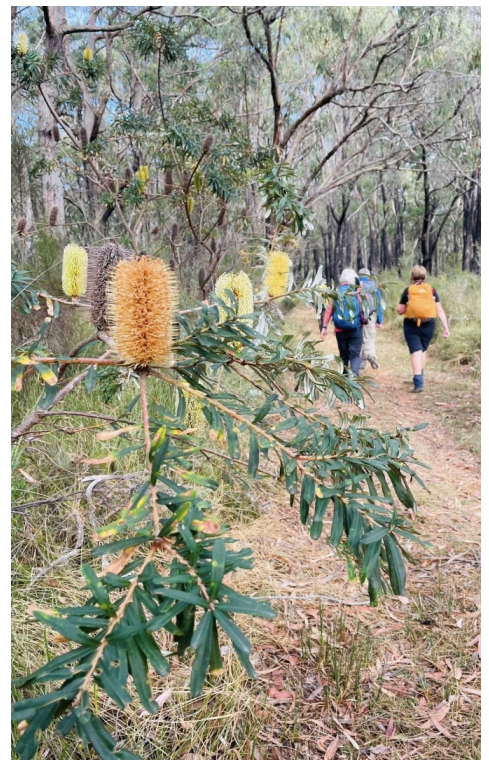
The second day of the Great South West Walk dawned clear and very cold, the felt like temp was 3 degrees. We were glad to jump into the bus and cars at 7:30 am to get warm and start our convoy to Fitzroy Camp. The estimated distance for the Day 2 walk was 21.5 km with a medium grade and Wayne had warned of wet feet and river crossings.

We set off walking at about 8:40 am and the conditions were very similar to day one. A very wide well kept track provided easy walking and wonderful views. The area has beautiful banksias, grass trees, sedges and eucalypts. Martin, Tess and Robyn were able to share their knowledge of the plants and birds as we strolled along. A very enjoyable walk was made ever better by the billy boys (aka Martin and Jim) who cheerfully ran ahead each day to get the billy boiling and to get the ginger nut biscuits ready for our morning tea. Day two morning tea lacked the table and shelter of the day before but a log and the warm sun made for a lovely break amongst the banksia and eucalypt trees.

Despite Wayne's warnings of a wet track and wet feet we didn't encounter any water on the track, due to a couple of dry months, until we arrived at the inkpot towards the end of our walk on Day 2. The inkpot is a lake that is about 10 metres deep and is very dark in colour due to decaying vegetation. The dark surface provides a very reflective surface

and no wind on the day made for a great photo opportunity for a reflective shot.

Not long after the inkpot we arrived back at the cars and glimpsed our first view of the Glenelg River.



Leisa Meyer



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Great South West Walk (cont.)

Day 3 : Moleside Camp to Battersby Camp

Well, this is my first walk with Strzelecki Bush Walking Club, but I feel like an old hand after only two days.

Wayne has been a great communicator with the well set out walk plan and Martin suggested I just copy his notes for the walk report. I guess I will refer to those notes, because up to today there has been a lot of forest with a predominant Messmate background and my memory of each day as an individual entity is sketchy. I love the bark of the forest trees, the oblique leaves underfoot. (thanks Martin) and the feeling of being in a dense forest.

First thing, our bus driver who was very knowledgeable about the local area, history, and wildlife took us to a great spot, Bag Island, to get some lovely photos of the boat sheds on the Glenelg River with the late sun lighting them for later in the evening.

During our bus ride out to Moleside camp we saw a koala on the side of the road, moving from one tree to another on the ground. This was an indication they were in the area, and throughout the day we saw a number of koalas, high in the canopy of trees, or signs they were eating the foliage of the trees, and droppings on the path.



Other mentionable wildlife of the day was a shiny black tiger snake with visible bright yellow stripes who reared up after Jim and Wayne had passed, I hadn't noticed it until a fierce grip on my arm and exclamation from Wayne made me stop.

Thanks for saving my life! The snake moved into the brush on the side without incident, but I was ringside to get a great photo.



Also notable was the beautiful Golden Whistler, a listed

vulnerable bird species, with bright contrasts of golden feathers against black tips and a white throat we observed hopping among the branches. It stayed there long enough for the good photographers to get an image, but

moved way too fast for me! Robyn and Tess are sure to have a photo.



The morning walking was fresh, but heated up as the day progressed. We walked along the course of the river, but for most of the morning it was out of sight due to the scrub and cliffs on that side. We caught occasional glimpses at lookout points along the way. There were grumbles about the types of ginger nut biscuits available at morning tea, but this withstanding we managed to have a lovely cup of tea, and make it back onto the track. The track was wide and easy, and at lunch at Skipworth Springs, we had river frontage, views, flush toilets, and drinkable water. On we

proceeded to Battersbys, and to the cars. Back at Nelson, several of us bought huge, delicious ice-creams from the kiosk, so big that it was an effort to get through them. Buying a double was a big mistake, because no cones are able to hold that much ice-cream.

Thanks team for another wonderful day. Thanks leaders, flora and fauna experts, organisers, billy boilers, map readers, good company providers and all.

Robyn Kercher



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Great South West Walk (cont.)

Day 4: Battersby Camp to North Rd/Nth Nelson Rd

This walk followed the Bocara (Glenelg River) that starts its meandering from Gariwerd through Casterton to Nelson. Day 4 was a beautiful walk with a variety of wildlife and changing vegetation, through fern gullies and heathlands, with many *Xanthorrhoeas* (Grass Trees).



Evidence of antechinus, echidnas and koalas and wallabies were numerous. .

Birds spotted: Herons, Wrens, Robins, Kingfishers, Gang Gangs (Tess's Totem) Rosellas, Black Cockatoos, White Cockatoos, Ducks, Egrets, Swans, Australasian Bittern, Rufous Bristlebird and the amazing Emu.

The Lower Glenelg National Park was declared in 1969 and so the biodiversity is protected... and home to 50 different orchid species. A must visit in spring!

Highlights were Jim and Martin running forward to provide an amazing hot cuppa for morning tea! Thankyou to all for a great walk and especially Jo and Wayne!

Robyn Laughlin



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Great South West Walk (cont.)

Day 5: North Rd/Nth Nelson Rd to Nelson

A mild morning dawned for the 5th and final day of our Strzelecki Bushwalking Club's Great South West Walk. After the now familiar bus shuttle, the 11 intrepid travellers were ready to take on the predicted 18km (mmmm let's see how far it really is?). There had been much debate regarding the accuracy of individual devices. We were dropped off at River Rd/North Nelson Rd intersection and walked to Nelson. The walk is rated easy / medium, with the occasional flat incline. This section provided breathtaking views of the spectacular limestone cliffs high above the river which offered plenty of splendid photo opportunities. We had an interesting moment when we saw a bear, a bare body that is, no names but it apparently gets hot out on the trail.

Wayne and Jo planted their feet firmly for a photo shoot at Levistons Leap with the bush providing a magnificent backdrop. Further along we descended the stairs down to Hirths Landing where the river views were particularly nice. And yes we had to go back up them, just a little heart starter.

The billy boys Martin and Jim jogged ahead to fire up the jetboil, with the rest of us ambling behind. We still arrived before we left due to the South Australian time zone difference. I can say I went to South Australia today. At brew, Robyn K was the flavour of the morning for producing 'real' ginger nut biscuits.

Our resident botanists Tessa and Leisa, bought up the rear enjoying the photographic opportunities. The sights, scents and sounds on this part of the trail are second to none. It is definitely a walk that keeps on giving.

Any walk that finishes with an ice creamery one side of the track and a pub on the other is a winner in my opinion.

Many thanks to Wayne and Jo for their brilliant organising. I came on this adventure unsure of how I would go. I have been truly welcomed by the club members. Thanks to one and all.

Oh and by the way it was 15.97km today. I'm sure everyone will agree.

Helen Whitby ❤️ 🧐



WHERE AM I?

Photo location naming challenge: This photo will be posted on the SBWC Walk Buddies Facebook page. The first person to reply to the post, naming the correct location, wins. The winner gets to submit a photo for use in the next months newsletter 'Where am I?' section.

Photo by Wendy Cartledge



TWENTY ACRE CREEK SUNDAY 25TH FEB

If you have been to Licola you would have noticed all the dry creek beds the road crosses on the way. Warrigal Creek, Hickeys Creek, Twenty Acre creek etc all look as if they have not had water in them since the great flood of Noah's time. Twenty Acre Creek is the first one you cross after coming down from Blanket Hill. Walking along the rocky dry creek bed you wonder about Wayne's choice of location for a walk, has he finally succumbed to the Australian sun and gone mad! But before long the creek bed has a small trickle of water in it, as well as the odd snake or two. The further we got the better the water and there were a good number of water holes to dip in. Coby, Dellas and Brock were never out of the water for the rest of the day.

At the first waterfall a few of the walkers decided to have lunch and return to the cars. The rest of us continued on and climbed further falls as the creek grew in

stature. We sat and ate lunch at a large waterhole while Rob and Andrew tried to scramble round the side of the cliff.

Whilst Rob made it easily Andrew was having trouble trying to keep himself dry. The inevitable happened and Andrew fell into the water, much to everyone's amusement.

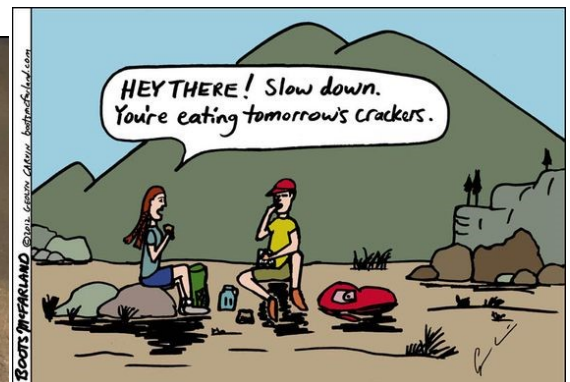
We continued on till the surrounding area started to flatten out and the creek lost its appeal. We headed for home after a very pleasant day spent wandering up twenty acre creek, arriving back at the cars about 4. Highlight of the day was being invited back to the Burge's for afternoon tea. Trying to squeeze about twelve hungry walkers into Wayne's kitchen wasn't easy but the delicious muffins Christine had just baked were delicious.

Peter Ryan

SCROGGIN



SO THE GAME IS A SIMPLE ONE. WITH THE CAT CLUTCHED IN YOUR ARMS, YOU FIRE THE GUN, AND SEE HOW LONG YOU CAN HOLD ONTO THE CAT. THE WORLD RECORD IS 1.3 SECONDS.



Therapist: Go for a walk in the woods. It will help relieve your stress and anxiety.

The woods:



SCROGGIN



Bushwalking Victoria has some more news and great articles in their latest bulletin, including:

- The benefits of joining a bushwalking club - [The Practical Value of Bushwalking Clubs: Learning and Safety - Bushwalking Victoria](#)
- An update on FedWalks - [Federation Walks \(fedwalks.org.au\)](#)
- The 75th anniversary of Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR), where all those associated with BSAR (past and present) are invited to join in [Bush Search and Rescue Victoria 75th Anniversary Tickets | EventBookings](#)
- BWV's upcoming Leadership Forum and AGM.
- A lighthearted article on committee positions, provided by the Border Bushwalking Club. [Who does what on the Committee? - Bushwalking Victoria](#)
- And more, check out BWV's latest news and newsletters at [Home - Bushwalking Victoria](#)

General Information

Visitors are welcome on most activities, subject to suitability. A donation of \$5 per trip per person may be requested. *If you wish to join an activity, please email the club secretary who will forward your request to the relevant leader*

Bookings: Intending participants should contact the leader a few days prior to the trip. All trips are open to both members and visitors. However, if numbers are limited, preference will be given to members. Limits are sometimes placed on numbers to maximise safety and enjoyment and minimise impact on the environment.

Transport: Almost all trips are by private vehicle. Please inform the leader when booking if you require or can offer transport. The Club committee recommends the following method for reimbursing vehicle owners who kindly offer transport to other participants – (a) if there is just one passenger, the passenger and driver share the petrol costs; (b) if there is more than one passenger, the passengers share the cost of the petrol, not including the driver.

Medical Conditions: Please indicate to the leader if you have any medical condition which may affect your participation. If necessary the leader can take extra precautions or adjust the activity accordingly. On all Club activities the leader should arrange for the Club's first aid kit to be carried by the party. Each individual should also carry a personal first aid kit, including any special medications.

Equipment: Members are normally required to provide all their own equipment. However, newer members may not have one or more essential items. **The Club has some items of equipment for hire** and new members could always ask the leader or other members if they have equipment that could be borrowed. (Established walkers tend to have spare gear floating around)

Have you joined the (members only) SBWC Walk Buddies Facebook Group?

There's a lot on offer on the club program, but sometimes you just get the urge to head off at the last minute. We have created a Facebook page to connect members who are looking for someone to walk with (or ride or kayak, etc). Activities can be posted to see if anyone would like to join you.

Open to club members only, if you're on Facebook search for **SBWC Walk Buddies** and click **Join Group**.

*Support for the printing of this newsletter is provided by the office of
Melina Bath, MP for Eastern Victoria
This is gratefully acknowledged by the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club.*

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

AAWT Track Maintenance on the Baw Baw Plateau.

Friday 5th - Sunday 7th April 2024

Since 2020 Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Members, Friends of Baw Baw and Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation Volunteers have been working on the AAWT from Phillack Saddle to Stronach's Camp. This year we hope to clear the last remaining section in the northern Baw Baw National Park around the Mount Whitelaw Hut Ruin.

It will be a walk in and camp for two nights activity, with Parks Victoria providing transport for your packs, water and track clearing equipment.

You will need to be self-sufficient for all camping and food requirements for the two days as it is a 6 kilometre walk from the car park to the camp site. This is a fuel stove only area.

As usual there will be jobs for everyone from putting up track markers, brush cutting, hedge trimming and limited light chain sawing as this has been completed in previous years.

Contact Peter Maffei if you wish to attend or want further details.

Oswin Robert's Reserve to Rhyll Inlet lookout, Phillip Island

Easy 10km

Saturday 6th April 2024

Experience a variety of landscapes on this 'bush to bay' walk. This easy flat 10km return walk features one of the last patches of native woodland on Phillip Island, wetlands, boardwalks and bay views.

Meet at Oswin Robert's Reserve on Harrison Rd Rhyll for a 10am start.

Melissa Barnes

Dog Day Afternoon at Childers

Easy 9km or 14km

Sunday 7th April 2024

Childers is located in the Strzelecki's just 10 km south of Yarragon. This pleasant ramble through the forests of Childers is a dog friendly walk so you are free to bring Rover or Fido along. It was even reccied by Briany's dog 'Jasper' who gave it the maximum 4 Paws rating. It's essentially a circuit of 9km followed by a 5km out-and-back section so you can choose to do the shorter or longer version. People without mutts are also welcome on the walk as long as they behave themselves and don't urinate in public.

Jim Rowley

Welshpool to Port Welshpool

Easy 12km

Tuesday 9th April 2024

This is a flat walk, much of which is along the Welshpool to Port Welshpool rail trail. This section completes the 109km Great Southern Rail Trail which commences at Nyora. After a look at Port Welshpool and a walk along the historic long jetty, the walk will return to Welshpool. There is the option for walkers to complete the walk one way.

Jo Leviston

The Inaugural SBWC Walk a Marathon Day or Half Marathon Day

Saturday 13th April 2024

Walk a Marathon or Half Marathon Day. Where people can have a go at completing 42.2km or 21.1km as a day walk along the Great Southern Rail Trail. Battery assistance is not allowed.

History: Blame Briany...she said she would like to walk 40kms and some bloke with a Rowley in his name said he would be in that as well and then some bloke with a Levo in his name said I might be interested in that. And as someone who has occasionally done that distance, I thought, okay I'll find a suitable route. So start training...and no training doesn't include needing to walk that far...just go on more club walks! We will have training suggestions for those interested. But please remember this is for fun! It isn't a race, there is NOT a WINNER...whatever you do that extends what you thought you could do is the absolutely best outcome.

Martin Norris

Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park

Easy 12km

Sunday 14th April 2024

Nooramunga encompasses the foreshore and islands in Corner Inlet, and covers a wide range of environments and habitats. This walk is through some of the remaining and relatively pristine foreshore forest areas, and a 4 km stretch on tidal flats walking between mangroves and tea tree. The forest areas are manna gums, banksia, grasstrees, hakea and ti tree among others. It is flat, easy walking on sandy tracks, although the tidal flats will be slightly damp...low tide is around midday. Meet at the corner of Ti Tree Rd and Telegraph Rd, 7 kilometers SW of Alberton, at 10 am. Bring water, lunch, suitable clothing (some sections very exposed if it is windy/wet). There are no toilets, and no water on the walk.

Graham Duell

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Gunbower Island Paddle

Friday 19th – Monday 22nd April 2024

If you missed out on the "idyllic paddling event of the year" in 2022, now is your chance to join us for a paddle in the "Kakadu of the South" - the Gunbower Creek between Cohuna and Koondrook. We will be camping in State Forrest near Sales Lagoon with day paddles based from that location. BYO food, water and accommodation. There are no toilets at this site but amenities are available on the island at the Twin Bridges Recreational Site on Koondrook Track. Follow this link for more information [Gunbower-Island-Canoe-Trail Brochure.pdf](#).

Host Club is SGWAAC Avenel

East Tyers Walking Track

Easy/Medium 9km

Saturday 20th April 2024

A walk along the East Tyers River, exploring the old mill site and some old artifacts in the area. Oh and the odd leech looking for a feast.

Adrian Crawford

The Gurdies near Grantville

Easy/Medium 12km

Sunday 21st April 2024

The Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve is 260 hectares of reserve with multiple walking tracks. The Reserve represents some of the largest remaining areas of native vegetation on the eastern shore of Westernport. It is home to a variety of animals, birdlife and even native orchids.

We will be walking on 4wd tracks and foot pads. It will be about 12 kms of easy-medium walking tracks with one creek crossing via a large log, walk or crawl. Some small ups and downs and some lovely views across Westernport Bay from the lunch spot.

Tessa Lamin

Mt Cannibal & Button Grass Walk

Easy 7km

Saturday 27th April 2024

Mt Cannibal Flora and Fauna Reserve [3 km easy but with some short steep sections] followed by Button Grass Walk, Bunyip State Park, 4 km easy.

Mt Cannibal is easily identified from the highway at Garfield North. The loop track takes in some great views and interesting plants recovering well from the 2019 fires. After that a 30 minute drive will take us to the Button Grass Walk in Bunyip State Park. This is a loop through diverse woodland and wet heathland with some board walk to keep feet dry.

Julie Parker,

Latrobe River from Sale Paddle

Easy

Tuesday 30th April 2024

Exploring the Latrobe River upstream from the swing bridge at Sale.

Pat Williams

Buln Buln East

Medium 15km

Saturday 4th May 2024

Meeting on the edge of the forest at Springsure Hill, we will be walking through delightful native forest along small trails and some 4wd tracks, following along then crossing Shady Creek. This will be a medium walk as it is a bit hilly up, with some down too! Leader will be Dale Allan.

Tania Kirby (2IC)

Oberon Bay, Wilson's Prom - beginners overnight walk

E/M 7.7km

(NEW DATE) *Saturday 25th – Sunday 26th May 2024*

This is a classic Wilson's Prom walk, a great introduction to hiking.

We will meet at Tidal River around 1.30pm and do a car shuffle to Telegraph Junction. From there, we will walk down the four wheel drive road, to the turn off to Oberon Bay.

Returning Sunday, we will walk the coastal route home. We will need to cross Growler Creek, the plan is to do this at low tide. From there, the walk meanders around the coastline until we arrive back at Tidal River.

There is a walking path which is well marked, it can be rocky and rough in parts though.

The campsites are beautiful and sheltered with soft ground, you won't need a hammer for pegs. There are toilets and drinking water (untreated rain water) available at the site. There is the option to walk to Halfway Hut after arriving, just to check it out. It's a good beginners overnight hike because it isn't long so we have plenty of time, it's a lovely campsite and you don't need to worry about water. It's rated medium because of the need to carry a pack and some slightly rough paths, give me a ring if you are unsure if it is suitable.

Could you please let me know if you are interested, as I need to book campsites? You don't have to commit at this stage. The cost of campsites is \$7.50pp. I am happy to share a tent if anyone wants to.

For those that are new to overnight hiking, I'll put together a list of what you should bring and email it out, well prior. Note the club has a lot of gear you can borrow. I will be leaving from Warragul and am happy to ride share/drive.

Cathy Almond

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES!

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Program – April 2024

Please read the Walk descriptions on pages 26 & 27 for further detail.

Date	Activity	Location and Description	Grade	Leader/Contact
Fri 5 - Sun 7	Multi Day Track Maintenance	AAWT Track Maintenance on the Baw Baw Plateau. A 5.5km section of the track between Stronachs and Phillack.	Med	Peter Maffei
Sat 6	Day Walk	Oswin Robert's Reserve to Rhyll Inlet lookout, Phillip Island	Easy 10km	Melissa Barnes
Sun 7	Doggy Day Walk	Dog Day Afternoon at Childers	Easy 9km (or 14km)	Jim Rowley
Tue 9	Day Walk	Welshpool to Port Welshpool	Easy 12km	Jo Leviston
Wed 10	Club Night - Judy Purbric physio			
Sat 13	Marathon	Walk a marathon 42km or half marathon 21km.	M/H	Martin Norris
Sun 14	Day Walk	Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park	Easy 12km	Graham Duell
Fri 19 - Sun 21	Paddle (Base Camp)	Gunbower Island Paddle (SGWAAC)		Avenel
Sat 20	Day Walk	East Tyers Walking Track	E/M 9km	Adrian Crawford
Sun 21	Day Walk	The Gurdies near Grantville	E/M 12kms	Tessa Lamin
Sat 27	Day Walk	Mt Cannibal & Button Grass Walk	Easy 7km	Julie Parker
Tue 30	Paddle	Latrobe River from Sale Paddle	Easy	Pat Williams

To add an activity to the program, please contact **Activities Coordinator**—Adrian Crawford
Note that last minute activities can be added and communicated via bulletin/email/Facebook.

*NB: All activities and dates are subject to change.
Last minute activities may be added and communicated via bulletin / email / Facebook
Walks in **green** are recommended for less experienced participants (but open to all!)*

Grading of Walks: The following guidelines are provided, but check with the leader for a detailed description of the terrain to be covered and to discuss suitability for your experience.

Family – on formed tracks over level to gently undulating terrain with distances up to 10km per day.

Easy – suitable for adults and older children over gently undulating terrain, up to 15km per day, mostly on track.

Medium – involves sustained climbs or descents of 1km or more. Some of the walk may be off track. Distances of 12 to 18 km in a day.

Hard – consistent walking with moderate to hard ups and downs, medium scrub, forest walking, off track, alpine environment with possible adverse weather.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES—longer term forecast

Below is the forward outlook for the following months. More detail will be provided and activities confirmed for each months newsletter but feel free to contact leaders to sign up / express interest.

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Program – May 2024

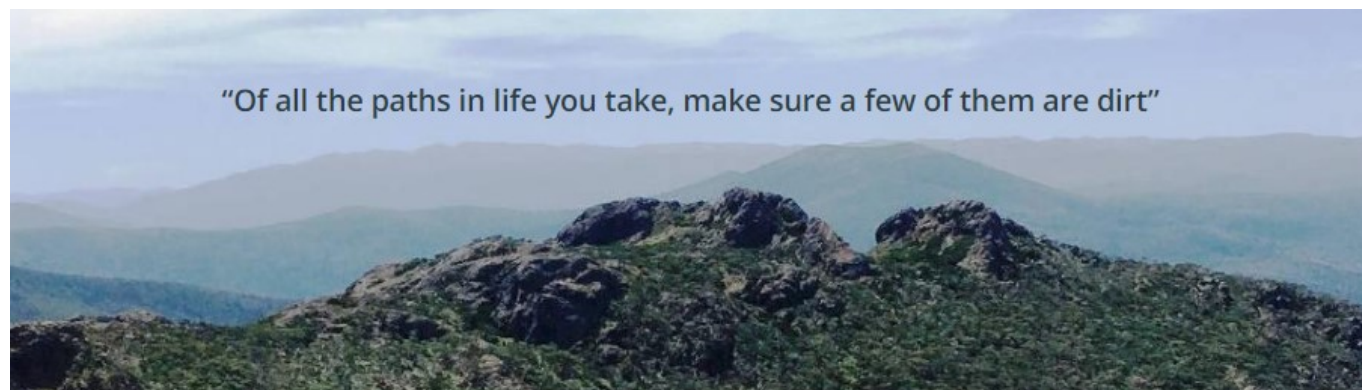
Date	Activity	Location and Description	Grade	Leader/Contact
Sat 4	Day Walk	Buln Buln East	Med 15km	Tania Kirby (2IC)
Wed 8		Club Night - Wisdom of the Elders		
Fri 10 - Sun 12	Day walks	Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend for 2024 Licola Refer details on page 3		BCWC
Tue 14	Day walk	George Bass Coastal Walk	E/M 13km	Jo Leviston
Wed 15 - Sun 19	Multi-Day	Upper Yarra Tk	M/H	Wendy Cartledge
Sat 18	Day Walk	Three Bays Walk (Wilson's Promontory)	Easy 12km	Melissa Barnes
Sun 25	Day Walk	Freeman's Mill	E/M 13.5km	Tania Kirby
Sat 25 - Sun 26	Overnight	Oberon Bay, Wilson's Prom - beginners overnight walk	E/M 7.7km	Cathy Almond

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club Program – June 2024

Fri 7 - Sun 9	Multi-Day	To be confirmed - Mitchell River Walk (base camp)		Tania Kirby
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Strzelecki Bushwalking Club



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