

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC.

Minutes for Management Committee Meeting

Held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 7:00pm
preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm
Maffra Community Sports Club

1. President's Welcome:

1.1. Attendance: Peter Jennings, Kerry Knights, Monica Scicluna, Clare Snell, Geoff Mattingley, Elizabeth Davis, Jack Winterbottom, Ken Free

1.2. Apologies: Robyn Kercher, Joe van Beek, Janine Muir, Jodie Wigg, Marian Matchan, Rob Paterson

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

2.1. Confirmation

Moved: Monica Scicluna **Seconded:** Jack Winterbottom **Carried**

2.2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Peter Jennings reported that the club night in Traralgon on 8 November was a great success with a good attendance of club members and a very interesting and entertaining talk from Peter Synan.

Joe van Beek has obtained a quote of \$2262.89 + GST for casting a bronze toposcope for installed at Ben Cruachan. Construction of the supporting plinth will be a separate exercise in consultation with Parks Victoria.

The club's 60th birthday celebrations is discussed under General Business.

Both Joe van Beek and Peter Jennings have attempted to contact Licola Lions Villages to obtain a quote for the Combined Gippsland Clubs 2024 event; to date they haven't responded.

New 1st Aid Kits have been purchased for the Blue and Pink Bags and out-of-date items removed.

3. Correspondence:

No correspondence was tabled.

4. President's Report

Peter Jennings presented his report which was noted by the committee.

5. Treasurer

In the absence of the Treasurer, Peter Jennings summarised Marian Matchan's report which was noted.

6. Tracks and Conservation

McMillans Track

BTAC

Committee members noted Joe's very comprehensive report and acknowledged the ongoing great work he is doing for both McMillans Walking Track and BTAC.

7. Publicity

Kerry Knights presented her report and announced that the Bairnsdale Advertiser newspaper are now publishing Ben Cruachan Walking Club material. Kerry proposed that she makes a start on publicity for the 60th birthday year, possibly incorporating a new member drive. The committee agreed that Kerry should present a proposal to the February 2024 committee meeting.

The report was noted.

8. Facebook

In the absence of the Facebook Manager, Peter Jennings summarised Jodie Wigg's report and noted the spike in activity towards the end of November.

The report was noted.

9. Membership

Ken Free presented his report with the news that as at 13 December 2023, the total membership is 131.

The report was noted.

10. Walks Program

10.1 Current Status

Geoff Mattingley reported that currently there are very few walks on the program.

There was considerable discussion about how to encourage leaders to put more walks on, what strategies may or may not have worked in the past and so on. There was general agreement with Jack Winterbottom's suggestion that a personal approach to leaders is preferable and more productive than a broadcast email. The most recent email resulted in a nil response.

It was agreed that Geoff Mattingley would do a ring around of known walk leaders and Peter Jennings will contact committee members via email during the next couple of weeks.

11. Management of Website

Peter Jennings discussed his website mapping chart and Ken Free's comments on the difficulties in navigating the club's website.

Following some discussion it was agreed that a small task group comprising Geoff Mattingley, Jack Winterbottom and Ken Free should meet during January to agree on changes to be made to the website and contact Enoch Lavender of Easy Web Design for assistance if necessary with the changes.

The task group will report back at the February 2024 committee meeting.

12. Combined Club Walks

See comments under *Matters Arising from Previous Minutes*.

13. 60th Birthday Celebrations

Monica Scicluna reported that the current proposal is to hold an official unveiling of the newly cast bronze toposcope on the summit of Ben Cruachan, as near as possible to the 60th Birthday, June/July 2025. A celebrity could be invited to undertake the unveiling. Following the unveiling, we could travel to the Maffra Community Sports Club for a celebratory lunch with cake. Merchandise carrying the club's logo, such as mugs and hats, is being investigated.

14. Newsletter

Jack Winterbottom advised that the December newsletter will be published shortly. In the absence of a list of upcoming walks to grace the last page, it was agreed that Geoff Mattingley will draft a paragraph encouraging all members to step up and put a walk on the program.

15. General Business:

15.1 Publication of photographs

Peter Jennings reported that concern has been expressed about a group photograph that was subsequently published with names included in the caption.

There was considerable discussion about the issue and what strategies could be employed to avoid any potential problem in future. Janine Muir had proposed that each walk leader should canvass the issue at the start of their walk.

In addition, the committee agreed that an opt-out column should be added to the Walk Attendance Sheet whereby a participant could indicate in writing that they did not wish to have the photograph taken and/or published.

Jack Winterbottom will prepare an updated Walk Attendance Sheet incorporating the extra column.

Peter Jennings will contact Bushwalking Victoria to ascertain whether they have a view or guidelines on publication of bushwalking photographs.

15.2 Old First Aid Kits

Following the purchase of new 1st Aid Kits, there are a number of old and/or out-of-date items which are surplus to requirements. Peter Jennings proposed and it was agreed that these items be offered to committee members at our next meeting.

15.3 Use of Club's Facebook Page

A club member, Dan Prowse, has asked whether he could use the club's Facebook page to invite people to join him on a private walk.

It was generally agreed that to do so could create the impression that it was a club sanctioned activity with insurance cover. The committee noted that the club's Facebook page is not used to publicise future activities; contributions and comments relate to activities which have already been held.

Geoff Mattingley will contact Dan to advise him of the committee's decision and to invite him to lead club walks.

Peter Jennings will advise Jodie Wigg (Facebook Manager) of the committee's decision.

Meeting closed at 8:42pm

Next Committee Meeting:

14 February 2024, Maffra Community Sports Club

Next Social Meeting:

13 March 2024, Bairnsdale – There are a couple of options for guest speakers.

ACTION	WHO	STATUS
Website update	Ken, Geoff, Jack	Commenced
Ben Cruachan plinth and toposcope	Joe and Peter	Commenced
Club 60 th anniversary celebrations 2024-25	Jack and Monica	Commenced
Gippsland combined clubs walks 2024 - coordination	Joe	Commenced
Publicity proposal for the Club 60 th celebrations	Kerry	
Canvassing for walks for the 2024 calendar	Geoff and Peter	
Add a photo opt-out column to the Walk Attendance form	Jack	
Check with BWV guidelines for publication of photos	Peter	
Contents of old first aid kits made available for committee	Peter and Geoff	
Use of Facebook page issue	Peter and Geoff	

President's Report – December 2023 meeting.

1. The end of year Xmas lunch was well attended at Maffra – it was a good venue which we might use again. I gave an overview of the club's activities for the year.
2. I participated in the recent Bushwalking Victoria survey and webinar. Both were initiated by the new BWV Executive Officer (Richelle Olsen). 41 of a possible 60 responses were received at the time of the webinar.

What are the current major areas of concern for technology for your club?

What do you use for your existing Activity Bookings?

What are the current major areas of concern for your club operations - what is keeping you awake at night?

Would you be interested in participating in the following activities led by BWV?

As a general feeling, on a scale of 1-10, how happy and healthy is your club?

The webinar started with introductions followed discussion about challenges, wins, future webinar frequency and the draft Leader Training Modules.

3. We don't have many walk cancellations but due to the inclement week of weather, after consultation with those registered, I cancelled the Mt Wellington walk. The McTk23 group headed out on Sunday 3rd of December but I note that they avoided crossing the Dargo River. I have been following them on a tracking website called findmespot set up by Joe.
4. I purchased two new first aid kits which are now in the blue and pink bags.
5. We still don't have any confirmation from the Licola Lions Village about the Gippsland Combined Clubs Walks in late April or early May – I have followed up with a phone call but could only leave a message.

BCWC Membership Report - December 2023

As at 9 December 2023, the total membership is 130.

8 of the total members are designated "non-walkers".

There are 7 Dual memberships (9 dual members).

In addition, there are 8 long-term members who receive the newsletter only.

Ken Free
Membership Secretary
9 December 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

2023

Bank balance as at 1st October 2023 \$ 1,143.70

INCOME:

Memberships: I. McDonald, C. Ladley, M. Prentice		112.00
Visitor fees		60.00
McMillans End to End - F. Henderson	MMWT	350.00
McMillans End to End - Jan Wiebe	MMWT	350.00
McMillans End to End - G. Watts	MMWT	350.00
Guide Book sale - Woods Point Post Office	MMWT	28.00
M. Scicluna - McMillan Book	MMWT	20.00
Wilson Prom Payments		952.00
Interest on Term Deposit		84.09

TOTAL INCOME 2306.09

Term Deposit redeemed 5000.00

EXPENDITURE:

Refund MMWT payment: RM Bentvelzen		350.00
Reimburse M. Matchan	Movie "A walk in the woods"	19.98
	Easy Web Design	264.00
Reimburse P. Jennings	First Aid Kit	99.50
	Guest Speaker meal	46.30

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 779.78

Bank Balance at 30 November 2023 \$ 7,670.01

Term Deposit \$5077.68 due 17th June 2024

Term Deposit \$10,000.00 due 14th February, 2024

BCWC \$13,698.11

MMWT \$9,049.58

**BWV Board Meeting
BTAC Report
November 2023**

Contents

- Activities update
- BTAC Committee Meeting
- Vehicle use reimbursement rate
- Report, Remote Tracks Cleared, attached

Activities Update

15 volunteers and 3 Parks Victoria rangers attended the activity near Mt Bogong on 26-29 October. The work included some hut maintenance. See attached report from John Green, the project manager. Bob Edwards has 18 volunteers attending the November activity (17 -19th) to realign the Stanley Name Spur Track back onto the ridge from Circuit Rd to Mt Thorn.

There are 9 volunteers registered for the 8 - 18 December activity at Mount Buffalo to be managed by Mike Grant.

The first activity for 2024 will be based on a camp at the Vallejo Gantner Hut to clear the track from the Mt Howitt Carpark to the summit of Mt Howitt and re-establish the old Zeka Spur Walking Track. 11 volunteers have registered so far for this activity to be held 26 - 29 January.

The latest version of BTAC 2023/24 program is on the BTAC page of the BWV website.

BTAC Committee Meeting

The next BTAC committee meeting will be a face to face committee meeting at the Doveton Library on Thursday 4 February 2024.

Vehicle use reimbursement rate

BTAC recommend that the reimbursement rate for authorised vehicle use by volunteers e.g. when towing BTAC trailer, be increased from \$0.40 to \$0.50 per km as per separate paper.

Joe van Beek
BTAC Convener
15 November 2023

BTAC Activity: Duane Spur/ T Spur/ Cairn Creek Hut Track 26-29 October 2023

Remote Tracks Cleared

AAWT walkers and other hikers will be delighted that Duane Spur and T Spur in the vicinity of Mt Bogong are now much easier to traverse. It is now also easy to get to Cairn Creek Hut after BTAC volunteers spent two long days working with rangers from Parks Victoria to clear the tracks, repair the chain across Big River and do maintenance works on and around Ropers Hut.

On the afternoon of 26th October, 15 Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) volunteers and Parks Victoria ranger, Al, met at Falls Creek for a trip by 4-wheel drive vehicles to Ropers Hut where they set up camp. The following morning in sub-zero temperature, they formed three groups.

A small crew of three volunteers spent the day carrying out tasks within the immediate vicinity of Ropers Hut. The first was to identify, mark and clear the short section of the AAWT from the Big River Fire trail to the Ropers Hut Camp Site. This had become overgrown as hikers were continuing along the Fire Trail. The next project was to clear the overgrown water access track from the camp site to Duane Creek.

A group of 5 volunteers plus Ranger Al descended Duane Spur, crossed Big River and set about ascending T Spur, clearing as they went. There was a considerable amount of brush-cutting and hedge-trimming low down on T Spur, while the chainsaw contingent climbed most of the way (approximately 2.5 km, ascending 540 metres) to T Spur Knob, clearing fallen timber.



Most of the team at Ropers Hut

The third group were joined by another ranger, Sam, and descended Duane Spur, clearing as they went,

using brush-cutters, hedge trimmers and a chainsaw. There was a large log jammed against the chain spanning Big River, which was cleared with some ingenuity: the chain had to be cut, the log sawn, then the chain re-joined.



Clearing the walking track on Duane Spur

For both of these groups, there was a demanding walk back to Ropers Hut at the end of the day, ascending approximately 740 metres over 3.7 km, carrying the power tools. The hut crew had started preparation for the evening's barbecue meal with ingredients kindly provided by Parks Victoria. All ate well and slept well that evening.

Saturday was another freezing morning. Three volunteers stayed to do work on Ropers Hut. The maintenance works included installing a support beam in the roof, sanding and painting all the window frames, the door and

the inside cooking bench. The front stone porch was repaired and concreted, and the surrounding earthen drains were reinstated.

The other 12 volunteers and, now, three rangers drove along Timms Spur in 4WD vehicles to Bogong Creek Saddle and walked along the Cairn Creek Walking Track as far as it was clear before commencing work to clear the, in places, heavily overgrown track, which ranger, Rich, had located and taped with pink ribbon the previous day.

The 2.5 km track goes to an old hut built to facilitate surveying the height of Big River where it is joined by Cairn Creek. The track has been very difficult to walk for some years, being lost among fallen timber and overgrown by bush. Parks Victoria rangers had made a number of previous attempts to clear the track but the huge amount of work involved and the difficulty of



Rarely visited Cairn Creek Hut

identifying the line of the track had previously proved too daunting.

It took a very determined effort by the team involved but by the end of the day, there was a clear path all the way through to Cairn Creek Hut. This was a really remarkable achievement and provided great satisfaction to everyone involved. The 300 metre steep climb out of the valley provided another taxing end to the work, before the drive back to Ropers Hut.



Despite the freezing nights, the weather was pleasant for working. There was a great sense of achievement and camaraderie from the 15 volunteers working with the three rangers as a united team. The volunteers contributed over 300 work hours and spent over 200 hours travelling to and from the activity.

Before we drove back to Falls Creek on Sunday morning, we were already starting to plan another clearing activity in nearby country in a year's time.

More photos at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NgccdshQteCy4Sj79>

Relaxing at the end of the day

John Green
BTAC volunteer and Project Coordinator.

PUBLICITY REPORT

11 Dec 2023

Kerry Knights

Publicity continues to roll along at a quietly pleasing pace, with the Bairnsdale Advertiser now regularly printing articles in the Wednesday weekly paper. This is a shift up from the free Weekend paper which Yeates also publish, but is not widely distributed.

From feedback received from Club Members, the newspapers in the Sale area generally publish what I send through. I am unsure of what the Latrobe Valley Express publishes, but I continue to send through articles. Hopefully, this all spreads the word about the Club activities far and wide and encourages 'curious walkers' to consider coming along as Guests to experience the joy of being part of BCWC.

Articles submitted also include the fine work from BTAC, and so a huge thanks to Joe for sending these through.

One issue which does need clarification, and is listed as an Agenda item for the Dec meeting, is the potential issues with consent and photos provided for publication.

Facebook Report – December 2023

by Jodie Wigg

Memberships

New member requests (last 60 days) = 15

Growth (last 60 days) = 2%

Total members = 507

Engagement:

Posts (last 60 days) = 23

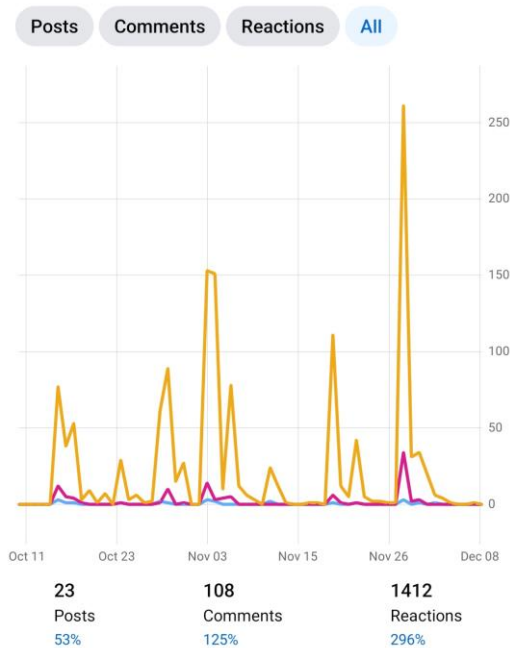
Comments (last 60 days) = 108

Reactions (last 60 days) = 1412

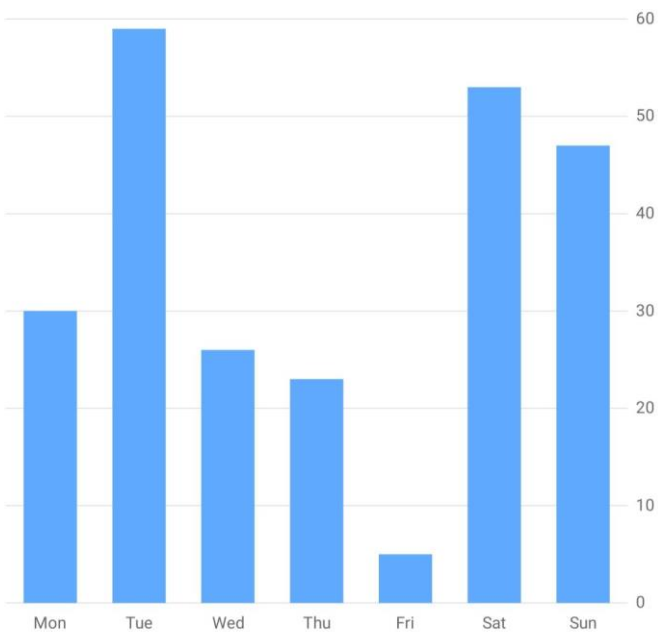
Active members (last 60 days) = 430

Helmut and Piero's traverse of the AAWT saw an increase of the engagement figures with many updates posted to the page by them and their support crew.

Oct 12, 2023 - Dec 11, 2023



Popular days



Top contributors

Oct 12, 2023 - Dec 11, 2023



Helmut Tracksdorf
3 posts · 13 comments



Andy Stevenson
2 posts · 3 comments



Chris Marshall
1 post · 5 comments



Hans Tracksdorf
0 posts · 7 comments



Peter Jennings
1 post · 1 comment



Joe Scicluna
1 post · 0 comments



Peter Maffei
1 post · 0 comments



Kerry Twoten
0 posts · 2 comments



Ann Cornish
0 posts · 2 comments



Jason Harris
0 posts · 2 comments

Membership Secretary's Report