

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC.
a
Minutes for Management Committee Meeting

Held on Wednesday 14th February 2024
at 7:00pm
preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm
Maffra Community Sports Club

1. President's Welcome: Below

1.1. Attendance: P Jennings, K Knights, K Free, J Winterbottom, R Patterson, M Scicluna, J van Beek, R Kercher, Guests J Patterson, A Stevenson, G Frith

1.2. Apologies: J Muir, E Davis, G Mattingley, C Snell, M Matchen, J Wigg

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

2.1. Confirmation

That the Minutes be confirmed.

Moved: K Free, P Jennings

2.2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

3. 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	Progressed
Publicity proposal for the Club 60 th celebrations	Kerry	Tabled
Canvassing for walks for the 2024 calendar	Geoff and Peter	Completed
Add a photo opt-out column to the Walk Attendance form	Jack	Completed
Check with BWV guidelines for publication of photos	Peter	Commenced
Contents of old first aid kits made available for committee	Peter and Geoff	Completed
Use of Facebook page issue	Peter and Geoff	Completed

4. Correspondence: Below

Noted

5. President's Report: Below, Noted

6. Treasurer's Report: J van Beek to contact M Matchan re accounts withdrawal

7. Tracks and Conservation

McMillans Track: Below, Noted

BTAC: Below, Noted

8. Publicity Report: Below, Noted

9. Facebook Report: See General business, Report below, Noted

10. Membership Report: Conversation regarding longest standing club member. It will be researched.
Report below, Noted

11. Newsletter: Out soon. Noted

12. Walks Program Report: In case of a last minute walk being added, members should check the website regularly, Kerry is advised, and if requested it can be circulated to members by secretary. Report below, Noted

13. Management of Website

Task group See below

14. Combined Club Walks

J van Beek See below

15. 60th Birthday Celebrations

Task group

16. General Business:

First Aid Kits salvage

Consent for newspaper articles

Speakers for the upcoming Social nights

Membership Drive

Combined Christmas and Social night in November 2024?

Meeting closed

Next Committee Meeting:

Maffra Community Sports Club April 10th .

Next Social Meeting:

Meetings: Maffra

Feb 14

April 10

June 12

August 14

October 9

December 11

Social Nights:

March 13 Bairnsdale

May 8. Traralgon

July 10 Sale AGM

September 11 Bairnsdale

December 1 Maffra combined social & Xmas

Peter had the suggestion that we combine the November social with the Christmas party

Correspondence

In

K Free	Register of Members
K Knights	Proposal re membership drive
P Jennings	From BWV re privacy and publication of photos
BCWC	Newsletter
BWV	Club update
Conservation Regulator	Conservation Matters
J Kellas	Who is the club's longest standing member?
J van Beek	Booking for Combined Club weekend
J van Beek	Save the date Combined Club
S Chen	Membership enquiry
K Knights	Walk Publication
Travel Company	Ad for walking in Crete
BWV	Newsletter
P Jennings	Use of FB page
J Cox	Re fire Ants
SBWC	Newsletter
E Hamilton	Free trial of Digital maps
E Smith	
J Wigg	Purpose of FB page

Out

M Hipgrove	McMillans
K Knights	Re Membership thoughts
S Chen	Membership enquiry
M Matchen	Various
Committee	Re meeting
P Jennings	Re circulation of advertising

To all members

K Knights	Tent advice
K Knights	Hotham to Harrierville
Conservation Regulator	Conservation Matters
SBWC	Newsletter
K Knights	Multiday Walk booking

President's Report – February 2024 meeting.

1. I went to Woods Point in December to greet the McTrack2023 crew at the end of their trek and bring some of them back to civilisation. All starters completed it except for one and they seemed very satisfied with their achievement. One couple came from Mildura! One of the walkers, Peter Maffei, asked me to pass on his compliments and appreciation for the work that BCWC does in promoting and maintaining McMillans Walking Track. It was nice of him to say that but we know and recognise that Joe is the powerhouse in this regard.
2. After a wet December which caused a couple of walks to be cancelled, things have dried out since Xmas followed by a very mild summer.... so far. Kerry kicked off the year early with a fully booked Hotham to Harrierville walk and it is very pleasing to see the walks calendar fairly full after a quiet January.
3. It was decided at the last meeting to make the contents of the old first aid kits available for committee members – check what you may want in your personal kit and maybe you'll get a freebie.

Noted

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

Bank balance as at 1st December 2023 \$ 7,670.01

INCOME:

Memberships: M. Beckers, D. Woodcroft 73.00
Visitor fees 5.00
Larapinta Deposit - Debbie Smith 148.50

TOTAL INCOME \$ 226.50

EXPENDITURE:

Consumer Affairs - Annual return 63.60
MMWT Expenses: J van Beek 1304.00
 Robyn Shingles 70.00
 Geoff Mattingley 90.00
 Jim Stranger 90.00
 Peter Jennings 155.00
 Oliver Raymond 438.00
 John Kellas 1298.00
 Catherine Lane 175.00 \$ 3,620.00

Deposit Licola Village \$ 400.00

Bank Fee January \$ 10.00

It was my understanding Bank not charging this fee any more
will have to see them again, they reversed December fee.

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 4,093.60

Bank Balance at 31 January, 2024 \$ 3,802.91

Term Deposit \$5077.68 due 17th June 2024

Term Deposit \$10,000.00 due 14th February, 2024 (Will reinvest if everyone happy)

BCWC \$13,451.01

MMWT \$5,429.58

Information regarding privacy and publication of photos from BWV

It is a challenge as you can't control the actions of individuals, but you can establish guidelines to set some boundaries.

Firstly, to cover the club's website or social media sharing, we recommend adding a version of the following statement to your membership application/renewal form:

INCLUSION IN PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH MAY BE USED FOR CLUB PUBLICITY:

(Including but not limited to papers, magazines, website, social media)

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to inform anyone taking photographs on a Club activity if I do not wish to be included and to remember to take reasonable steps to avoid this occurring.

It is reasonable to expect that if a person is lining up in a group photo it will be shared publicly, so this puts the onus back on the individual to opt out if they do not wish to be photographed.

Secondly, depending how strong you want your message to be, you could issue a formal policy or guideline. BWV is preparing a draft version and will look at making a version of this available to clubs shortly. Otherwise an article in your newsletter or email to members reminding them to be respectful of others may suffice.

Tracks and Conservation

Report from Joe van Beek for BCWC February 2024 Committee Meeting

4.3 Tracks and Conservation Report

McMillans Walking Track

Twelve walkers and 2 support crew set out on McTk2023 (an end-to-end walk of McMillans Walking track) on Sunday 3rd December and finished at Woods Point on Friday 15 Dec. Although some deviations were made because of high flows in the rivers the adventure went well. Thanks to all those who assisted with getting the walkers to and from the walk. There will be a special edition of the BCWC Newsletter with details and photos of the walk in due course. Attached are the notes on track condition and work required which I have forwarded to the relevant land managers. Some BCWC track maintenance activities will be scheduled into the walks program.

BTAC

On 17-19 November eighteen volunteers, including one BCWC member, realigned the lower section of the Stanley Name Spur back onto the ridge to Mt Thorn. The December activity on Mt Buffalo was cancelled because of forecast wild weather. The January activity for Mt Howitt was cancelled because of fire risk. These are yet to be rescheduled.

The February activity with 23 volunteers registered is clearing the AAWT over High Cone and Square Top. The March activity will also be on the AAWT but at Johnnies Top to Buenba Flats. In April BTAC joins with Friends of Baw Baw to clear a section of the AAWT in the Baw Baw NP and could be going to Croajingolong National Park on the ANZAC weekend.

The BTAC committee met on 1 February for planning further activities. The latest program of activities is available on the BTAC page of the Bushwalking Victoria Website.

Going well

Conservation:

Parks Victoria Ovens Region are now looking at March for the planting out of former ski slopes on Mount Buffalo with native species. Awaiting details.

McMillans Walking Track

Track condition and work required notes from McTk2023

Day	Section (length Km)	Comments	Priority	Action possibly by
1	DHPR - Kings Spur	4WD track		
	Mayford Track (3.0)	We didn't walk this but it requires rationalising to make the McMillan Walking Track experience more pleasant - too steep.	Medium	Combination, PV/other
2	Treasure Spur (3.2)	More markers required to be replaced and some infill markers required. Reasonable condition, a few logs down. Brush cut, hedge trim by end of 2025.	High	BCWC
			Medium	PV/BTAC/BCWC
3	Gow Plain (2.7) White Timber Spur Track North (7.0)	Clear and mark track around leasehold. Make notes to update guide book and post on BCWC website. This is walkers only now. Needs better marking. Track clearing by end 2025.	High	BCWC
			High	BCWC
			Medium	BCWC/PV
			Medium	PV/BTAC/BCWC
4	White Timber Spur Track South (7.3) Decent to 25 Mile Creek (0.6) Crooked River miners Track (12.6)	Still accessible by 4WD OK in mean time. Blackberries require spraying at sections on the river and at side creeks. Still 4km section to clear, north from 12 Mile Creek. Need to put the track back on original in places. Some logs. Track requires benching work in many places for walker safety and asset protection.	Low	
			Low	
			Urgent	DEECA
			High	DEECA/BTAC/BCWC
5	Brewery Creek Rd to Wongungarra River (2.0)	Blackberries require spraying. Cut back blackberries and other vegetation clearing. Annual task till blackberries are under control.	Urgent High	PV PV/BCWC/BTAC
	Cynthia Range to Eaglevale Tk (3.8)	Top part requires attention, mainly brush cutting. Lower part maintained by animal movement.	Medium	DEECA/ BCWC
6	Eaglevale to Pulpit Rock	Roadwalk		

7	End of Moroka Junction Track to D4 D4 Track (5.6)	Wilderness Zone - no maintenance allowed under current policy. Walked in the dark, seemed OK	Low	
8	Arbuckle Junction to Kellys Hut. (3.6) Kelly Lane to Dingo Hill Track. (5.0)	OK condition, a few logs. Check in 24 months. Many trip hazards, requires care. Some of the logs at the Dingo Hill Track could be removed. Otherwise OK. Check within 24 months.	Medium Medium	PV/BCWC PV/BCWC
9	Dingo Hill Track to Breakfast Ck (12.0)	In reasonable condition. Could do with more markers in places e.g. on decent. Vegetation requires trimming back ideally within next 18 months.	High High	BCWC PV/BTAC/BCWC
10	Section in front of MGS (0.3) MGS to Smith Street (3.2) Saddle to Macalister River (3.5)	Needs to be better defined so that walkers pass the plaque and the signs. Perhaps make a gravel path. Reasonably clear of vegetation. The track needs benching repair work for walker safety and asset protection. This is the most used section of MMWT. Vegetation clearing within next 24 months. Extra markers required. Vegetation clearing within next 24 months.	Medium High Medium High Medium	PV/BCWC PV/other/BTAC/BCWC PV/BTAC BCWC PV/BTAC
11	N18 to N25 over Mt Shillinglaw (4.4)	Blackberries require spraying. Track needs logs removed and vegetation trimmed back.	Urgent High	DEECA DEECA/BCWC
12	Lazarini Spur Track to Black River (6.0) Black River to CS5 Track (1.0)	Track should be better marked. Large tree fall tangle across track about half way down. Able to walk round. Clear. Vegetation will need trimming back in the next two years or so. This rough section needs urgent clearing and marking.	Medium High Medium Urgent	BCWC DEECA DEECA/BTAC DEECA
13	Champion Spur Track to Stander Creek. Bald Hill to Coulburn River (2.8)	Top end has a number of logs that make progress difficult. Chainsaw work required. Middle to lower section is very overgrown. Needs clearing. It would be good to have some area cleared and levelled at or near Stander Creek for tents so walkers could over night near the creek. Some improvements to the Cooley Creek crossings would be desirable. Some blackberries near the creeks should be sprayed. Vegetation clearance will be required within the next 2-3 years.	Urgent High Medium Medium High Medium	DEECA/BTAC DEECA/BTAC/BCWC DEECA DEECA DEECA DEECA/BTAC

Publicity

Publicity has not been as prolific over the Christmas break.

I am hopeful that the upcoming walks calendar will evolve, and feature more walks, and from this, more walk reports ... and then more articles for the newspapers.

What is lovely to see is the Facebook posts where BCWC is referenced for hikers to consider joining or contacting for local information.

So, a short report as I really don't have much to share at present.

Thankyou noted

Facebook Report – February 2024

Memberships

New member requests (last 60 days) = 46

Growth (last 60 days) = 7%

Total members = 540

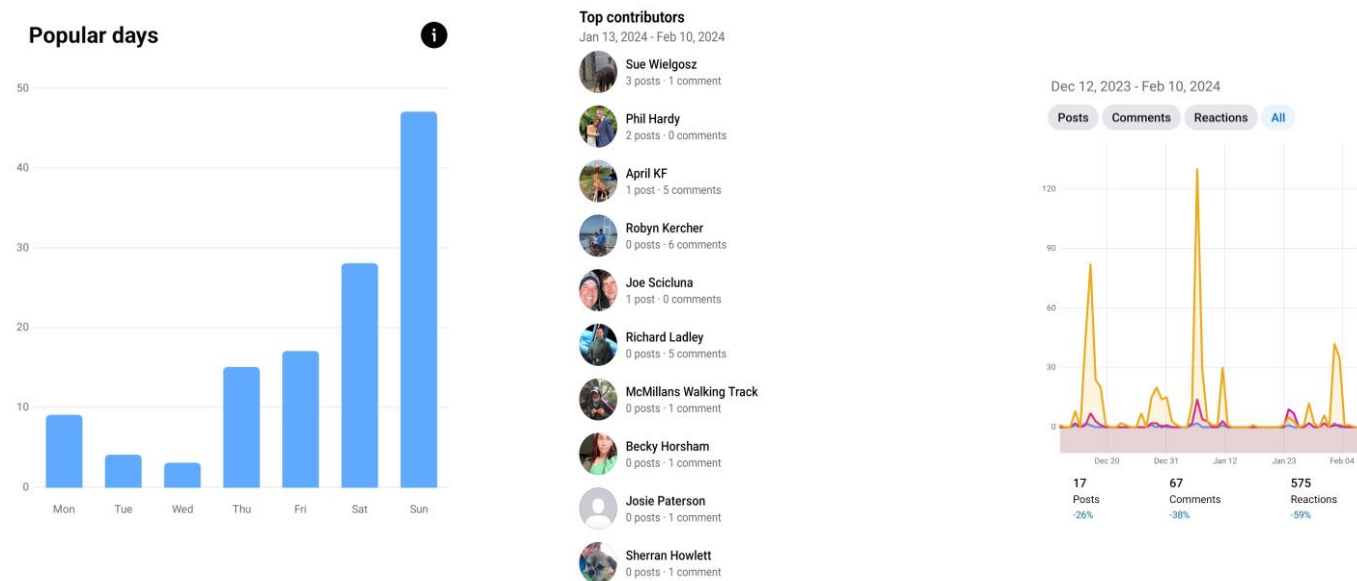
Engagement:

Posts (last 60 days) = 17

Comments (last 60 days) = 67

Reactions (last 60 days) = 575

Active members (last 60 days) = 464



I'd also like to add that since the December meeting, I have had 46 new member requests, the largest growth since I have been monitoring the Facebook page.

Additionally, there are currently 8 pending member requests whom have not answered the new member questions or agreed to the group rules. Up until recently, I had just allowed people to join, regardless of answering or not (which is what I was told to do by Angela, who was the previous Facebook admin).

Although the rules are very generic, due to the large membership growth, I am hesitant to allow people who do not answer the questions or agree to the rules.

I should say that I haven't had anyone causing trouble and I have not had to warn or remove a member.

The main reasons people want to join the Facebook page seem to be:

- To join walks and meet new people
- to follow the McMillans Walking Track (I plan to put a link to the McTK Facebook page on the BCWC page)
- are family or friends of club members who want to follow walks their loved ones are attending

I do believe that reviewing the rules of the Facebook page is required and any other suggestions on improvements that can be made.

Membership Secretary's Report

As at 13 February 2024, the total membership is 133.

In addition there is 1 new member pending (paid but no membership application form yet).

9 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.

Noted Who is the longest continuous member?

Walks Co-ordinator's Report for February Committee meeting:

1. Walks completed since last committee meeting:

- * MacTrack: 8 BCWC, 2 Sunraysia, 2 MWWC, 1 Strzelecki, 1 BWV individual member
- * Hotham - Harrietville: 6 BCWC, 1 visitor
- * Blue Pool/Peregrine Lookout: 6 BCWC

2. Raymond Island scheduled for Saturday 10 Feb, 12 starters

3. Heart Morass 9 December 23 cancelled due to wet conditions

4. Some walks added - still more needed. Several previous and prospective leaders contacted - no success.

5. 15.1 Publication of photographs

6. I have loaded an updated Walk Attendance Sheet to the website (not the same as Jack's design). This has a heading advising participants of the situation regarding photos.

7. I anticipate that it will be rare for someone not wanting to be photographed

Newsletter Report

Out soon

Ken and Jack Report on Website

Contacted Enoch Easy web. Successful meeting re changes and educating our webmasters to make changes, such as adding items on the top line of website, adding forms, links and so on. This will make the website more user friendly, and include links.

Authorised to spend up to \$500 if necessary for alterations.

Moved K Knights, Seconded R Patterson

Carried

Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs Weekend.

Save the date notice

On 29 December I sent the following message to BCWC, SBWC, WGBC, SGWAAC, Peregrine Club, Bass Coast Strollers and Wonthaggi Bush and Beach Walking Club.

BCWC believe it is their turn to organise the Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend for 2024. We have confirmed a booking at the Licola Wilderness Village for Friday to Sunday 10 to 12 May 2024 for the event. Save the day!

Approx cost of \$150 per person for 2 nights accommodation, Saturday pre dinner and dinner, Sunday afternoon tea and two guided walks from the FedWalks2021 booklet- Saturday and Sunday (self cater for Friday evening dinner, breakfasts and lunches: BYO).

More details and booking information in February/March.

PS Please confirm receipt of this email.

All but the Wonthaggi Club have confirmed receipt of the message.

The booking at LWV is for 40 people at this stage.

Note: this event is on Mothers' Day Weekend. How can we make it special for mothers?!

Walks:

Propose 4 walks from the FedWalks2021 Booklet on each day:

Grade	Saturday	Sunday
Easy	5. Kelly's Hut - return from Thomastown	1. Wollangarra Visit*
Easy/ Medium	9. McMillans #1 - Arbuckle Junction to Dingo Hill Track via Kellys Hut.	8. Arbuckle Junction to Kellys Hut return
Medium/Hard	12. Neilson Crag	13. Mt Eliza*
Hard	19. McMillans #2 - Tamboritha Saddle to Breakfast Creek	20. The Crinoline return

* Require permission - not yet sought.

At 20 walkers per walk this will cater for up to 80 participants. The more popular walks could be put on both days if numbers warrant.

We will require BCWC members to lead and co-lead these walks.

Article in newsletter, email to clubs will be sent by Joe.

Some members have volunteered to be leaders of walks, but a couple more needed. J van Beek will propose the walks offered for the booklet.

K Knights and P Jennings volunteered to assist as walk leaders

J Winterbottom will make a suitable layout for a walk booklet to be published.

To firm up the event:

We require to agree accommodation and catering arrangements. Do we allow participants to stay elsewhere. Can they tent or bring a van to LWV?

Decision was to keep the group together.

Agree walks to be offered

Prepare a budget: accommodation, catering, any other out of pocket costs(?)

Set fee or fee structure

Do we seek sponsorship to subsidise cost to participants or to allow for say door prizes? Agreed not to.

Prepare a registration form printable copy or on line e.g. Google Forms Agreed yes

Provide a notice to clubs and their members covering

- Event date and times
- Accommodation
- Catering
- Travel
- Walks and details of walks; photo copy of info in FedWalks 2021 Booklet(?)
- Cost, including driver to walks contributions
- Registration details
- Making payment details
- Contact for queries
- etc

note the timeline

Time Line

14 Feb to 28 Feb	Form an organising Committee; Key roles, Convener, walks, registrations, treasurer, accommodation allocation and event catering. Decisions and preparation
1 March	Send Notice to clubs for distribution to their members Open bookings
1 March to 19 April	Recce walks Process bookings
19 April	Close bookings
24 April	Confirm Numbers with LWV
30 April	Confirm bookings, accommodation and other arrangements and walks to participants by individual email
1 May to 10 May	Arrange catering for Sat night BBQ(?) and Sun afternoon tea
10 -12 May	Enjoy the event

Agreed, and J van Beek was thanked for his work.

Meetings: Maffra

Feb 14

April 10

June 12

August 14

October 9

December 11

Social Nights:

March 13. B'dale

May 8. Traralgon

July 10 AGM Sale

September 11 B'dale

December 1 Christmas Social Maffra

Monica to make bookings and contact Helmut and Piero re possibility of speaking about AAWT.

Facebook Page Information and discussion

The purpose of the Facebook page is to share experiences of club members, publicise the club and promote the interests of the club.

To be added to introduction: No advertising of private walks.

New member intro message includes that they should refer to website and welcome from president.

New member requests which do not answer the group questions or rules will not be accepted.

Private walks will not be allowed through our page. Anonymous posts will not be allowed.

Continue with the current administrators and number of administrators. Don't share maps.

Peter will ask BWV about liability due to FB

Incoming emails

Delete all commercial material

Don't share anything that asks for donations

Meeting Closure: 8:59 pm

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	Progressed
Check with BWV guidelines for publication of photos	Peter	Commenced
Inform Jodie of agree Facebook arrangements	Peter	
Contact M Matchan re accounts withdrawal for McTk23	Joe	
Research longest continuous club member	Jack	
Make bookings for meetings and social nights 2024	Monica	
Contact Helmut & Piero as guest speakers in Bairnsdale	Monica	