

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC.

Minutes for Management Committee Meeting

Held on Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 7:00pm preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm
Maffra Community Sports Club

1. President's Welcome:

1.1. **Attendance:** P Jennings, M Machen, K Free, G Mattingley, J van Beek, R Kercher, R Patterson,
Guests: Judy van Beek, Josie Patterson

1.2. **Apologies:** J Muir, E Davis, C Snell, M Scicluna, J Wigg, K Knights, J Winterbottom
Apologies noted

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

2.1. Confirmation

That the Minutes be confirmed, with the addition of apology of J Wigg included.

Moved: K Free

Seconded: J van Beek

Carried

2.2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

ACTION	WHO	STATUS
Website update	Ken, Geoff, Jack	Completed
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	Completed
Contact M Matchan re accounts withdrawal for McTk23	Joe	Commenced
Research longest continuous club member	Jack	Completed
Make bookings for meetings and social nights 2024	Monica	Completed
Contact Helmut & Piero as guest speakers in Traralgon	Peter	Commenced

3. Correspondence: Noted

4. President's Report:

Report noted.

Polo tops /shirts with club logo to be explored by Kerry and Robyn.

Reccies should be reported to Walks Coordinator G Mattingley for insurance purposes.

5. Treasurer: Report noted

Next year we will look at the viability of the PO Box.

6. Tracks and Conservation, McMillans Track, BTAC

Reports noted

7. Publicity: Report noted

8. Facebook: Report noted

9. Membership: Report noted

10. Newsletter: No report

11. Walks Program: Report noted

11.1 Current Status –more walks required in the coming months

12. Management of Website: Report noted

Ken thanked for his great work

13. Combined Club Walks: Report noted

Joe commended and thanked for his organisation of this event

14. 60th Birthday Celebrations: No update at this stage

15. General Business:

- Consider a change of night for the future to Thursday
- Ken raised the issue of membership fees to be reviewed before the AGM. The treasurer (Marian) suggested keep status quo
It was moved that the membership fees remain the same for next year, 2024-25.
Moved J van Beek Seconded R Kercher
Carried
- Can committee please check the number of brochures currently available, as there have been requests for more.

Next Committee Meeting: Maffra Community Sports Club June 12

August 14

October 9

December 11

Next Social Meeting:

May 8. Traralgon

July AGM Sale 10

September 11 Bairnsdale

December 1 Maffra Christmas Social

Meeting closed 8:29 pm

Correspondence

In

J Winterbottom	Longest Serving Member
BWV	Club Connection
K Free	Club Register
BWV	Club Details
BCWC	Newsletter
Strzelecki	Kathmandu Sale
Strzelecki	Newsletter
J van Beek	CGC Weekend
BWV	Survey re Fed walks
J Adamson	Walk Enquiry
K Free	Website Changes
Easy Web	Invoice
H Tubb	Membership enquiry
Vic Grid	Transmission Lines
S Fenton	Walking in Heyfield
Conservation Regulator	Conservation Matters
BWV	BSAR anniversary

EG Shire	Breakfast meeting
BWV	Bulletin
J van Beek	CGC Weekend
M Young	Conservation Matters
Strzelecki	Newsletter
Sports Gippsland	Club Support Workshop

Out

Committee Members	Re Kathmandu Advertising
K Free	Website
H Tubbs	Ideas about walks
M Young	Conservation Matters
EG Shire	Breakfast meeting
Committee	Reminders re meeting
BWV	Re Survey

To all members

FOE	Walk opportunity
K Knights	Cope to Hotham
J van Beek	CCW Weekend
BWV	Fedwalks questionnaire
BCWC	Website
BWV	BSAR Celebration
Conservation Regulator	Conservation Matters
Strzelecki	Newsletter
Tourism Heyfield	Meeting
BCWC	Reminder of meeting
BCWC	Walks coming up

President's Report – April 2024 meeting.

1. BWV had a webinar on 29 Feb which I missed but watched on delay. A few points came out of it:
 - a. Reccies are covered by insurance if the walks co-ordinator is advised beforehand; just remember to tell him/her that you are back!
 - b. Bushwalking Australia has information on insurance on the Insurance & Risk tab <https://www.bushwalkingaustralia.org/insurance>
 - c. BWV is looking for ideas to celebrate the 90th anniversary – suggestions include:
 - i. Try bushwalking – publicised by BWV
 - ii. A fancy dress walk
 - iii. Co-ordinated AAWT walk as a relay
 - iv. A relay walk all over Victoria
 - v. A calendar or diary
 - vi. Merchandise (not supported by those on the webinar)
 - vii. A bushwalking expo
 - viii. A wine bottling

BWV will decide what to do in due course – any other ideas? One other idea was a documented history but it was felt that would be better left to the 100th.

2. Ken has done a great job in simplifying the website – there are some new tabs and photos and everything can now be accessed with a “hover” and no more than two clicks (compared with up to five previously)
3. I have had a request for another round of club polo tops. We have four in stock.
4. We’ve had a good walks program for February, March and April but beyond that is looking a bit sparse – please consider listing a walk.
5. Some committee members received a phishing email purportedly from me – a fake gmail address had been set up then I guess they got email addresses from Walk Previews. I asked Robyn to circulate an email warning the whole membership.

There are ways round this but in the past we have decided to stick to our current system.

- a. Members login
- b. Phone numbers only on Walk Previews
- c. Register walks through the walks co-ordinator (no email addresses on previews)
- d. Online booking

Treasurer's Report

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024

Bank balance as at 1st February 2024 \$ 3,802.91

INCOME:

Memberships: M. Dawkins	52.00	
Visitor fees	25.00	
Reverse ANZ Account fee	10.00	
CGCW Payments 25 people @ \$150.00	3750.00	
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 3,837.00

EXPENDITURE:

Stationery	33.96	
Annual fee - Post Office box	154.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		187.96

CLOSING AS AT 31/3/2024 \$ 7,451.95

Term Deposit \$5077.68 due 17th June 2024

Term Deposit \$10,335.00 due 14th February 2025

BCWC	\$12,529.63
MMWT	\$5,429.58

Tracks and Conservation J van Beek

McMillans Walking Track

The special edition of the BCWC Newsletter on McTk2023 is still pending.

DEECA Mansfield have tidied up Bald Hill to Woods Point and have cleared the worst of Champion Spur Track to Stander Creek.

DEECA Heyfield have committed to work on the 14km Crooked River section from White Timber Spur Track South to Stonewall.

BTAC/ BCWC have scheduled to clear the remaining section of Champion Spur Track to Stander Creek and to clear from Champion Spur Track down to the Black River and possibly some work up towards Lazarini Spur Track if time and resources permit on ANZAC weekend.

Some BCWC track maintenance/track marking activities will be scheduled into the walks program.

BTAC

The February activity with 21 volunteers attending cleared the AAWT over The Nobs, High Cone and 400m short of Square Top. The March activity which was also on the AAWT had 16 volunteers and two park rangers who cleared 6km from Johnnies Top to Corner Creek. See reports attached.

5-7 April 20 volunteers from BTAC and FoBB cleared the AAWT in the region of Mt Whitelaw in Baw Baw National Park.

On ANZAC weekend BTAC and BCWC work on McMillans Walking Track, as above. In May BTAC will clear the AAWT from Low Saddle to Mt MacDonald.

The BTAC committee met on 4 April. The latest program of activities is available on the BTAC page of the Bushwalking Victoria Website.

Conservation:

Nil to report.



Are we there yet?

Twenty one BTAC volunteers worked with Parks Victoria to clear 7.6 km* of scrub overgrowth and fallen timber on the AAWT between Mt McDonald and Square Top on the weekend of 23-25th Feb.

This is an impressive section of the AAWT along the Great Dividing Range, with steep mountains and spectacular views, following the divide between the Jamison/Howqua watershed that flows north to the Murray and the Barkly/Macallister watershed that flows south to the Gippsland Lakes.

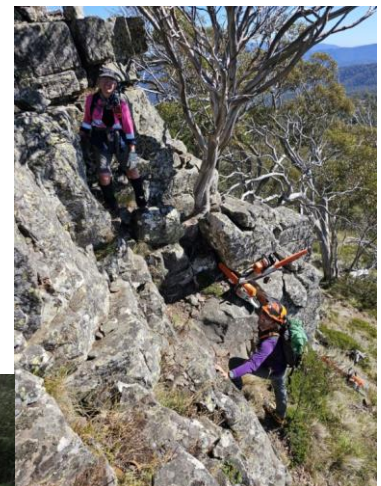
On Friday 21 volunteers car pooled at Howqua Hills with those that had capable 4WDs to travel into camp at the Upper Jamison Hut. Each day to start work, we drove up the Knobs Track which is a moderately challenging 4WD climb. The second challenge was the distance that work tools needed to be carried in, as well as the climbs and descents, not to mention occasional rock bands to negotiate.

Though Saturday was a long and exhausting day (12 hours) there was a good sense of achievement among the volunteers. On getting back late in the day, it was great to have Tegan from Parks Victoria supporting us with the preparation and cooking of a delicious BBQ dinner.

Thanks to all the volunteers that put in so much effort; 360 work hours and spent over 175 hours travelling to and from the activity. Thanks to Parks Victoria. There was good synergy working with the Rangers, Jim Craven and Tegan Sharwood, on the planning, logistics and support. Thanks to Joe van Beek and Owen Morris for leading work teams.

Patrick Platt

Project Leader for BTAC



*Knobs Track to Square Top - 6.4 kms 590m ascent, 350m descent.

Knobs Track to Mt McDonald ridge line – 1.2 km, 150m ascent

More photos at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/2byoQ71NSyZz9mvi8>

Four Johns on Johnnies Top

Of the 16 volunteers, who gathered at Omeo on the Friday and then proceeded to the camping site on Johnnies Top on the weekend 22-15 March to clear a section of the AAWT, four were named John.

The original plan was to clear and improve the 12 kms from Johnnies Top to the Buenba Hut Site but a recce on the Thursday prior to the activity by Joe, Patrick and Parks Victoria Ranger, Ella Carr, determined that to achieve all the required works on the 6.5 km section down to Corner Creek, would be a good outcome. The recce team used two rolls of pink flagging tape to define the route for the track clearing teams. Including realigning two kilometres of track back onto the original alignment not used for many years and marking the track through thick regrowth in areas affected by the 2019/20 bushfires.

It was determined that the whole party would camp at Johnnies Top for the duration of the activity even though this meant that tools would need to be carried back up the 800 metre climb once the objective was met. The volunteers and two Parks Victoria Rangers divided into three teams; a chain saw team and two brush cutting teams. After two days of hard work including the climb back to camp all but the last few hundred metres of open ground down to Corner Creek had been cleared and new markers erected for part of the way. An AAWT walker would now find it much easier and quicker to get down off Johnnies Top.



Thanks to all the volunteers that put in so much effort; 320 work hours and spent over 300 hours travelling to and from the activity. There was great camaraderie among the volunteers who came from near and far, including ACT. Thanks to Parks Victoria, especially Rangers, Ella Carr and Jo Durant who provided support in planning, logistics and helped out on the tools. Thanks to John Green and Patrick Platt for leading work teams.

Joe van Beek

Project Leader for BTAC

Additional Photos Photos by Joe van Beek and Monica Chapman

Publicity

The Publicity Machine continues to chug along, with articles appearing on an ad hoc basis in the Bairnsdale Advertiser, Latrobe Valley Express and Sale newspapers.

Once I have a walk report, then I can tweak, if needed, and send on. Whilst not all Leaders send their reports to myself (and Jack), I generally almost always receive the reports. They are very welcome and provide good fodder for enhancing the profile of the club.

I would welcome any suggestions on what other means I could utilise to get the word out about what a fantastic Club Ben Cruachan is.

Facebook is well covered by Jodie and others.

Facebook Report –

Membership Secretary's Report 10 April 2024

As at 7 April 2024, the total membership is 138.

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.

Ken Free

Membership Secretary

Newsletter: Presume going along well. Keep those reports coming.

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

1. Walks completed since last committee meeting:

* Mt Wellington - 15 members 1 visitor (base camp)

* Nyerimilang - 3 members, 1 visitor

* Mt Hotham Lodge weekend - 9 members

* Bentley Plain - 8 members 2 visitors (base camp)

* Bryces Gorge - 4 members (pack carry)

* Heart Morass - 9 members 3 visitors

* Cope Hut - Mt Hotham - 5 members (pack carry)

2. Mt Hotham Lodge weekend - first time tried, very successful. To be repeated next year.

3. Walks Program is fast running out of walks!

No walks at all offered for June, July, September. Only one for August. Other than Combined Clubs, none for May. Other than Combined Clubs & Fedwalks, only one for October.

Peter will offer walk.

Combined Gippsland Bushwalking Clubs' Weekend.

An invitation with details of the weekend was issued to BCWC, SBWC, WGBC, SGWAAC, Peregrine Club, Bass Coast Strollers and Wonthaggi Bush and Beach Walking Club on 6th of March and bookings opened via on line Google Forms, Thanks to Jack. Bookings close 19 April. 32 booked at this stage.

Registrations to 3 April: Total 28, BCWC 15, SBWC 11 and SGWAAC 2

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:

4 walks from the FedWalks2021 Booklet on each day: **First Choice of Walk**

Grade	Saturday	Sunday
Easy	5. Kelly's Hut - return from Thomastown 3	1. Wollangarra Visit* 5
Easy/ Medium	9. McMillans #1 - Arbuckle Junction to Dingo Hill Track via Kellys Hut. 6	8. Arbuckle Junction to Kellys Hut return 3
Medium/Hard	12. Neilson Crag 10	13. Mt Eliza* 11
Hard	19. McMillans #2 - Tamboritha Saddle to Breakfast Creek 9	20. The Crinoline return 8

* Require permission - permission granted.

We will require BCWC members to lead and co-lead these walks. Still need to finalise walk leaders.

Of the \$150 fee \$105 goes to LWV for accommodation the remaining \$45 per person is available for catering by BCWC for the:

- welcome cup of tea and whatever on Friday,

- the afternoon tea/pre dinner snacks on Saturday,
- the BBQ on Saturday and
- afternoon tea on Sunday

Time Line review

14 Feb onwards	Allocate roles; such as those below, and ask some members directly. Convener, Joe v B Registrations, Jack W Treasurer, Marian M Accommodation allocation, ? Catering ? On the day support, reception etc ?
1 March 6 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

Big thanks to Joe!!!!

BCWC Management Committee 10 April 2024

Website Taskforce Report.

Following the February Management Committee meeting, Jack Winterbottom and Ken Free met to identify the website structural changes required to make it a more user-friendly website, for example to facilitate the downloading of the Walk Preview template or the Walk Attendance Sheet with one click. Once identified, the proposed changes were documented and, in consultation with Enoch Lavender from Easy Web Design and Peter Jennings, the changes were made.

The major changes identified were:

Addition of a FORMS tab on the top menu with a dropdown menu for Walks related and Membership related forms.

Addition of a GUIDELINES tab on the top menu with a dropdown menu for Club Guidelines and External Links.

Deletion of MEMBERSHIP and NEWSLETTERS from the top menu as these are duplicated on the large format menu which is located on the righthand side of the page.

The WALKS tab on the top menu now has a dropdown menu with a choice of Upcoming Walks, McMillans Walking Track and Archive containing an archive of Walk Previews and Plans.

A number of web pages were found to contain information which was duplicated elsewhere, for example: Safety and Your Health and Useful Links and Info. These duplications were deleted.

All the changes mentioned above were of a structural nature. While making the changes, it was apparent that the content of the website is quite wordy in places and could probably be reviewed.

To enhance the website structural changes, the Homepage slideshow has been refreshed to include a selection of photographs which celebrate what we do best: enjoying time in the bush.

Also, the Homepage now features a photograph of our President, Peter Jennings, soaking up the atmosphere of Cobbannah Creek.

Enoch Lavender from Easy Web Design provided an enormous amount of assistance and guidance and ultimately made the changes required in a very short timeframe and a very small cost to the club. At all times I found him to be very responsive, patient and understanding, given that he was dealing with people who are not IT specialists. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

Ken Free

Facebook Report – April 2024. Jodie Wigg

Memberships

New member requests (last 60 days) = 13

Growth (last 60 days) = 1%

Total members = 546

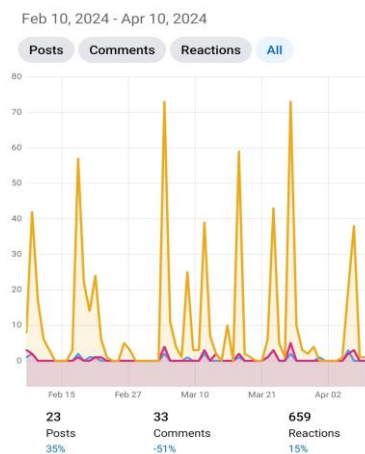
Engagement:

Posts (last 60 days) = 23

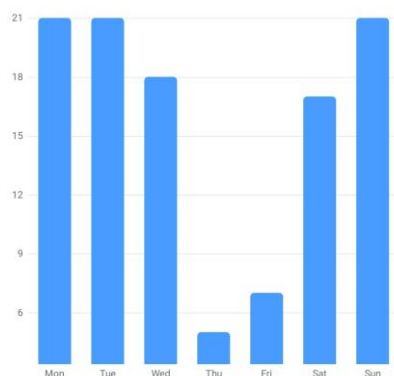
Comments (last 60 days) = 33

Reactions (last 60 days) = 659

Active members (last 60 days) = 440













Popular days



Top contributors

Mar 13, 2024 - Apr 10, 2024

-  **Shujun Chen**
3 posts · 1 comment
-  **Dan Prowse**
2 posts · 1 comment
-  **Julie Cockman**
1 post · 1 comment
-  **Ian McDonald**
1 post · 0 comments
-  **Sue Wielgosz**
1 post · 0 comments
-  **Joe Scicluna**
1 post · 0 comments
-  **Peter Jennings**
1 post · 0 comments
-  **Diane Woodcroft**
0 posts · 2 comments
-  **Peter Andrews**
0 posts · 2 comments
-  **Anne Wilson**
0 posts · 2 comments

ACTION LIST

ACTION	WHO	STATUS
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
Contact M Matchan re accounts withdrawal for McTk23	Joe	Commenced
Contact Helmut & Piero as guest speakers in Traralgon	Peter	commenced
Polo tops /shirts with club logo to be explored	Kerry & Robyn	
Check the viability of the PO Box before end of 2024-25	Ken & Marian	
Consider a change of meeting night for to Thursday	Committee	
Check the number of brochures currently available	All committee members	