

Ben Cruachan Walking Club Inc. Minutes for 2023 Annual General Meeting

Star Hotel, SALE on Wednesday 12 July at 7.00pm
Preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm

1. President's Welcome:

President Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming to the 2023 AGM of Ben Cruachan Walking Club.

1.1. Attendance:

Committee Members:

Peter Jennings, Joe van Beek, Elizabeth Davis, Ken Free, John Cox, Jack Winterbottom, Geoff Mattingley, Monica Scicluna, Robyn Kercher, Clare Snell

Club Members:

Wil Streckfuss, Helmut Tracksdorf, Nicki Jennings, Mal McCalman, Terri Allen, Joe Scicluna, Graeme Frith, Judy van Beek, Michael Young, Lyn Watts, Gary Watts, Anne Wilson, John Matchan, Marian Matchan, Frank Jones

1.2. Apologies-

Catherine Lane, Lyn Tomlin, Phil Davis, Chris Marshall, Trevor Whibley, Andrew Stevenson, Kerry Knights, Jodie Wigg, George Boyd, Chris Free, Corinne Kleine

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 13th July 2022

Motion: That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 13th of July 2022 be received and confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Joe van Beek **Seconded:** Jack Winterbottom

3. Presentation of Reports- All reports are attached at the end of the minutes

3.1. President: President Peter presented his report to the meeting, attached below.

Motion: That the President's report be accepted.

Moved: Peter Jennings **Seconded:** Robyn Kercher

3.2. Treasurer

Monica Scicluna's report is attached below.

Motion: That the Financial Statement for 2022-23 financial year and Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Monica Scicluna **Seconded:** Ken Free

3.3. Tracks and Conservation:

The Tracks and Conservation Coordinator Joe van Beek read his report, attached.

Motion: That the Tracks and Conservation Report be accepted.

Moved: Joe van Beek **Seconded:** Helmut Tracksdorf

3.4. Walks Coordinator

Walks Coordinator Report is attached below. Geoff Mattingley summarised the main points, noting this was for walks fully conducted by our club, so for example excluding combined walks.

Motion: That the Walks Coordinator's Report be accepted.

Moved: Geoff Mattingley **Seconded:** Robyn Kercher

3.5. Newsletter Editor

Jack Winterbottom reported there were 6 newsletters for the year, and thanked John Cox for his assistance with his job in his role as Website Coordinator.

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

3.6. Publicity Reporter:

Kerry Knights' report is attached below. She was an apology for the meeting, so it was read in her absence.

Moved: Robyn Kercher **Seconded:** Monica Scicluna

3.7. Membership Secretary:

Ken Free reported on the membership numbers for the past year, and they can be analysed in his report.

Moved: Ken Free **Seconded:** Jack Winterbottom

4.8 Facebook Page Editor:

Jodie's report will be a little late due to the birth of her son Mitchell yesterday, although she did offer to put something together! Offer denied! The meeting understood the report is not essential for the AGM.

Moved: Peter Jennings

Seconded: Robyn Kercher

4. Appointment of an impartial Club member to chair election proceedings.

Helmut Tracksdorf accepted the position.

5. Vacating of all office holder and ordinary committee member positions.

Helmut Tracksdorf announced the vacation of all positions.

6. Election and Appointment of Office Holders

6.1. President:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of President

Nomination: Peter Jennings

Nominated by: Elizabeth Davis

Nomination accepted Declared elected

6.2. Vice President:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Vice President

Nomination: Elizabeth Davis

Nominated by: Peter Jennings

Nomination accepted Declared elected

6.3. Treasurer:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Treasurer

Nomination: Marian Matchan

Nominated by: Elizabeth Davis

Nomination accepted Declared elected

6.4. Secretary:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Secretary

Nomination: Robyn Kercher

Nominated by: Peter Jennings

Nomination accepted Declared elected

6.5. Membership Secretary:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Membership Secretary

Nomination: Ken Free

Nominated by: Robyn Kercher

Nomination accepted Declared elected

6.6. Publicity Officer:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Publicity Officer

Nomination: Kerry Knights

Nominated by: Peter Jennings

Nomination accepted Declared elected

6.7. Newsletter Editor:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Newsletter Editor

Nomination: Jack Winterbottom

Nominated by: Joe van Beek

Nomination accepted Declared elected

6.8. Tracks and Conservation Coordinator:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Tracks and Huts Coordinator

Nomination: Joe van Beek

Nominated by: Peter Jennings

Nomination accepted Declared elected

6.9. Walks Coordinator:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Walks Coordinator

Nomination: Geoff Mattingley

Nominated by: Robyn Kercher

Nomination accepted Declared elected

6.10. Facebook page editor:

The chairperson invited nominations for the position of Facebook page editor

Nomination: Jodie Wigg

Nominated by: Robyn Kercher

Nomination accepted Declared elected

7. Appointment of Up To Five Ordinary Members

Nomination: Janine Muir
Nominated by: Peter Jennings
Nomination accepted **Declared elected**

Nomination: Rob Paterson
Nominated by: Robyn Kercher
Nomination accepted **Declared elected**

Nomination: Monica Scicluna
Nominated by: Robyn Kercher
Nomination accepted **Declared elected**

Nomination: Clare Snell
Nominated by: Robyn Kercher
Nomination accepted **Declared elected**

Appointment of New Life Member Ken Free

Although the club did not have a guest speaker presentation this year, our planned event was the Appointment of Life Member Ken Free awarded after 20 years of exceptional service to the club as summarise below.

Ken Free

Ken joined the Club in 2003 so has been a member for 20 years.

He has been an active member of the Club and has led many walks and participated in many others.

He has served on the Committee for much of his time in the Club.
This includes at least 4 years as Secretary, 3 years as Publicity Officer, 3 years as Membership Secretary and a couple of years as Committee Member.

He has contributed to the wellbeing of the Club by participating in Track maintenance activities, organising events, regularly transporting walkers to walks and providing support and counsel to members and officers.

For many years Ken has utilised his exceptional skills in woodcraft to create exquisite trays for presentation to new Life Members of the Club.

Ken spent many years bushwalking in NSW and the ACT before settling in Sale and has freely shared his experience and expertise to anyone requesting information or help.

Ken introduced a number of walks in Mitchell River NP to the Walk Calendar which saw many new members from the Bairnsdale Region - an area to the east of the traditional membership area of Maffra, Heyfield and Stratford.

In summary, Ken has been an active and valued member of the Club for 20 years plus. He has contributed to the Club in an official capacity and socially and is a regular and popular participant at Club events.

He is a most worthy recipient of Life Member of the Ben Cruachan Walking Club.

Ken accepted his appointment as Ben Cruachan Walking Club Life Member, and reiterated his love for the Mitchell River National Park. He thanked Rob Patterson, Michael Young for contributing to that, Andrew Stevenson in helping build club membership, and Marian Matchan for her contribution as walk co-leader.

8. Meeting Close

8:05

Reports



Ben Cruachan Walking Club President's Report for 2022/23

I'll start by noting that the club recently had its 58th birthday on the summit of Ben Cruachan which I have googled and found was named in 1847 by Malcolm McFarlane a nearby landholder. Our thanks to Joe, Judy and Jack for organising the weather and providing a magnificent BBQ for about two dozen Ben Cruachaneers.

To prepare this, my first AGM report, I looked back to what Helmut said last year so if I may I'll borrow a quote from his 2021/22 President's Report

Looking back over the past 12 months it's interesting to see how the year has panned out. With covid lockdowns and restrictions now effectively behind us, the pandemic has had a significant impact on the smooth running of our club. Not only have walks been cancelled but events such as FEDWALKS was deferred for 2 years. In addition, a lot of the goals we were seeking to achieve have not been completed. Dare I say they will become a job for the new Committee! (He wrote with an exclamation mark!)

I would like to think that from here on in, things will surely improve BUT unfortunately the situation in Ukraine, although a long way away from here, has the potential to impact our activities via the rising costs of living – especially fuel prices which may restrict or at least hinder our ability to travel long distances.

Nevertheless, as a walking club we can be thankful that we are able to get on with life and continue to enjoy the great outdoors and the camaraderie that comes with it. Thank you Helmut.

So what have we been up to?

As Helmut said..... we are a walking club, we are a group of people who love the outdoors, the company of like-minded people and I'll add, keeping active.

We ended the year with over 140 members and in Geoff's report you can see how many walks have been run and the number of participants. Making a few assumptions, I estimate that collectively we have walked about 5,000km this year. That's from Sale to Alice Springs.... and back.

But to do that we need leaders.

It had been seven years since the club had had a leader's training session, who remembers our stay at Coonawarra? This time we had twelve members in Sale with John Cox and John Hillard from BWV as the presenters – it was an intensive program but gave some new leaders the knowledge and confidence to put a walk on the calendar. You'll see that Clare has a walk coming up this weekend and I've heard that there are a couple of others in the pipeline from new leaders.

The leader training was shortly followed by wilderness first aid training – again another intensive program capably presented by local paramedics Jo Doherty, Debbie Ray and Sandra Tozer from Ambulance Victoria at Maffra. We had sixteen participants and we can all perhaps feel a little safer out on the trail if some of those are present. Thanks Joe for organising it.

Apart from those milestone events we continued our program of Club Nights with a variety of guest speakers – these include Jim and Heather Phillipson from the Rendere Trust, Dr Sonia Sanchez from Birdlife Australia, Roger Morris from the Game Management Authority and of course our own Joe van Beek speaking on the South West Track.

One of the tasks that Helmut was referring to in his report last year was the club website – I am very pleased to report that the upgrade has been completed. My understanding of how this came about is that about three years ago John Cox offered to do a bit of tidying up of the website. This morphed into a full blown upgrade and we can't thank John enough for his skills, knowledge, persistence and time in completing this task. Along the way we also decided to do an early upgrade of our website address and add a dedicated email address for the Membership Secretary.

Monica will provide details later but I am pleased to report that our club is in good shape financially..... but with mixed emotions report that this was added to by a generous donation from the estate of former life member, Norm Williams who passed away recently. I've had a think and a thought about how we might use this money to create a lasting club legacy and at the same time honour Norm. Something for consideration and discussion at a committee meeting.

To conclude I'd like to thank our committee:

Vice President Liz Davis, Secretary Robyn Kercher, Treasurer Monica Scicluna, Walks Co-ordinator Geoff Mattingley, Membership Secretary Ken Free, Newsletter Jack Winterbottom, Tracks and Conservation Joe van Beek, Publicity Kerry Knights, Ordinary Members (who aren't ordinary) John Cox – previously mentioned as website administrator, Jodie Wigg who looks after our Facebook page, Rob Paterson, Clare Snell and Janine Muir who provide valuable input. I'd also like to thank Monica and Robyn who apart from their committee roles help out extensively with the social calendar.

And finally – I'd like to thank the twenty or so walk leaders – no leaders, no walks!

Peter Jennings

BCWC President

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

OPENING BALANCE AS AT 30TH JUNE 2022

\$16,002.40

SUB BALANCE CLUB	\$9,378.07	
SUB BALANCE MMWT	\$6,624.33	
ADD RECEIPTS	2022	2023
Membership	\$4,664.00	\$5013.00
Visitor Fees	\$230.00	\$100.00
Donation		\$5.00
Polo Shirt Sales	\$932.50	\$30.00
Interest	\$2.82	\$0.48
McMillan Club Walk Payments (Dec. 2022)	\$1400.00	\$2,450.00
Wilson Prom 2022 Reimbursement		\$913.20
Wilson Prom 2020 Reimbursement	\$909.00	
Fed Walk Reimbursement		\$4,669.08
Fed Walk Booklet Sales	\$10.00	\$239.00

McMillan Guide Book Sales	\$1,936.00	\$882.25
McMillan Door Takings		\$70.00
McMillan Markers Sale	\$40.00	\$25.00
McMillan Donation	\$83.00	
McMillan Book Sales (adj Chapman)	\$556.50	
Misc Deposit (W Chambers)	\$340.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$11,103.82	\$14,397.01
TERM DEPOSITS		\$15,041.09
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$45,440.50

LESS EXPENDITURE

BWV Affiliation Fees & Insurance	\$3,672.75	\$3,276.43
Ken Free (Life Membership Trays & Labour)		\$170.00
Jens Flowers (Norm Wilson)		\$60.00
Domain Registration		\$88.00
BWV Fed Walks Advance		\$4,295.00
SBWC (Fed Walk profit)		\$187.04
M Scicluna (Dinner Guest Speaker)		\$24.90
Australia Post (Box Rental)	\$44.00	\$148.00

McMillan Walk 2022 Deposit Refund :		
Wigg J, Thomas P, McLennan R, McLennan N		\$1,400.00
Term Deposit Bank Transfer ANZ		\$15,000.00
Mattingley, Geoff (PLB purchase)		\$405.00
Bio Diversity Legacy Ltd (donation)		\$100.00
M Scicluna (Dinner Guest Speaker)		\$65.06
Consumer Affairs Victoria (2020 Annual Statement)		\$59.20
Easy Web Design (website set-up part payment)		\$258.50
PJennings (Dinner Guest Speaker)		\$69.00
Website Upgrade gb	\$253.00	
Wilson Prom 2022	\$913.20	
Club T-Shirts	\$1,052.50	
Bereavement Gift (Helmut)	\$55.00	
Misc Refund (W Chambers)	\$313.00	
J & D Strnger (Polo Tops)	\$60.00	
BCWC Barbecue 2022	\$165.30	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$6,528.75	\$25,606.13
CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 30TH JUNE 2023		\$19,834.37
	SUB BALANCE CLUB	\$12,232.79
	SUB BALANCE MMWT	\$7,601.58

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 30TH JUNE 2023

CASH BOOK

Opening balance as at	\$16,002.40
Add Deposits	\$14,397.01
Total Income	\$30,399.41
Less Expenditure	\$25,606.13
Balance as at 30th June 2023	\$4,793.28
SUB BALANCE CLUB	\$17,232.79
SUB BALANCE MMWT	\$7,601.58
BANK STATEMENT	
Balance as per Bank Statement 30th June 2022	\$16,002.40
Less Unpresented Cheques	Nil
Closing Balance as per Bank Statement 30th June 2023	\$4,793.28
TERM DEPOSIT	
Bequeathed to BCWC from Norm Williams due 17/11/2023	\$5,000.00
Term Deposit due 14/10/2023	\$5041.09
Term Deposit due 14/2/2024	\$10,000.00

Membership Secretary's Report

BCWC Annual General Meeting 12 July 2023

As at 10 July 2023, the total membership is **147**.

The total of 147 includes **44** members who haven't renewed their membership, as of 10 July 2023.

9 of the total are designated "non-walkers".

In addition, there are 9 long-term members who receive the newsletter only.

Ken Free
Membership Secretary
10 July 2023



Tracks and Conservation Report to 2023 Annual General Meeting

Walking Track Maintenance

The contribution to walking track maintenance by the club has been through BTAC activities. This is mainly because the Co-ordinator is also the BTAC Convener and a project leader. It has been convenient to utilise BTAC's access to ParkConnect and BTAC's tool trailer. Projects undertaken include:

- Clearing tracks in the Warby Ranges in July last year in preparation for FedWalks2022.
- Helping with fire recovery on walking tracks in Croajingolong National Park in September.
- Clearing the Long Spur section of the AAWT between Mt Bogong and Mt Wills in December.
- Clearing the Clive Lanigan Memorial track to Tali Karng in January 2023.
- Clearing the log jam on the AAWT between Mt Sunday and Low Saddle in February 2023.
- Assisting with work on tracks in Baw Baw National Park at the end of March.
- Clearing the Crooked River section of McMillans Walking Track in April of this year and
- Further work on the AAWT between the Omeo Highway and Gill Creek.

BCWC contributed more than 460 on the job man-hours by 6 members. The 460 hours do not include travel time or time spent in preparation and administration.

Parks Victoria and DELWP along with contractors continue to do considerable work on both the AAWT and McMillans Walking Track using Fire Recovery and Remote Track Upkeep project funds.

McMillans Walking Track

We do not have a formal way of measuring the use of McMillans Walking Track but anecdotal information suggests it gets steady use. The Land Managers are taking a more proactive role in the maintenance of the track.

Joe did a presentation about the track in May at the Heyfield memorial Hall at the invitation of the Heyfield Community Resource Centre. This was attended by 30 people including 13 club members. Close to a 1000 copies of the guide book have been sold. The McMillans Walking Track Facebook page has over 650 followers. BCWC have over \$7,500 in the bank for MMWT maintenance.

McTk2022, the BCWC end-to-end walk of McMillans Walking Track planned for last December, was postponed due to wet weather and high river flows. It has been rescheduled for December 2023 and is fully booked.

Conservation

No specific conservation activities have been undertaken during the year. Editions of Conservation Matters, the Conservation Regulator's quarterly newsletter have been circulated to members which help to increase members awareness of conservation issues. A watch is being maintained on Engage Victoria for consultations that may be of interest to BCWC members.

Joe van Beek

Tracks and Conservation Co-ordinator

Walks Co-Ordinator's Report to 2023 Annual General Meeting

Date	Walk	Leader	Walk Type			Attendance		
			Day	Base Camp	Pack Carry	Mem	Vis	Total
2022								
Sat 2 Jul	Bike Ride Traralgon - Toongabbie	Jim S	*			4		4
Sat 17 Jul	Jack Smith Lake	Peter J	*			10	2	12
Sat 23 Jul	Track 96	Monica	*			11		11
Sat 30 Jul	Eagle Point - Paynesville	Trevor	*			8	2	10
Sat 6 Aug	Snow Shoe Shuffle	Joe	*			7	2	9
Sat 13 Aug	Nowa Nowa - Trestle Bridge	Angela	*			12	1	13
Sun 28 Aug	Loch Sport	Monica	*			11	1	12
Sat 24 Sep	Wirilda Combined Clubs							
1-2 Oct	Fedwalks							
Fri 7 - Sun 9 Oct	Wilson's Prom Lodge weekend	Monica		*		8		8
Wed 12 Oct	McLoughlins Beach	Frankie	*			8	1	9
Sat 15 Oct	Nyerimilang	Monica	*			4		4

Sat 15 - 16 Oct	Scotts Farm with VMTC							
Sun 16 - 20 Oct	Little Desert with Maroondah							
Sat 22 Oct	Bike Ride Nicholson - Bruthen	Angela	*			5		5
Sat 22 - 25 Oct	Mt Feathertop	Helmut			*	4		4
Sun 30 Oct	Mitchell R Weir	Marian	*			10	2	12
Sat 5 - 25 Nov	AAWT (part) with YHA							
Sun 6 Nov	Balook - Cyathea Falls	Peter J	*			10		10
Sat 19 Nov	Mt Worth SF	Ken	*			6	1	7
Sun 27 Nov	Billygoat Bend - Den of Nargun	Marian	*			8		8
Sat 10 Dec	Tyers Park - Peterson's Lookout	Jim S	*			6		6
2023								
Sat 7 Jan	Mt St Gwinear - Mt Erica	Joe	*			18	2	20
Fri 3 - 5 Feb	Mt Hotham with VMTC							
Sat 4 - 6 Feb	Mt Howitt, Magdala, King Billy	Oliver			*	4	1	5
Sat 11 Feb	Loch Sport	Monica	*			9	5	14
Sat 25 Feb	Tambo Bluff/Nyerimilang	Trevor C	*			5		5
Sat 4 - 5 Mar	Crosscut Saw	Peter J			*	13		13
Sat 18 Mar	Avon Channel	Geoff	*			8		8
Sat 25 - 26 Mar	Gippsland Combined Clubs	Joe						
Sun 26 Mar	Sale Common & Wetlands	Monica	*			4	3	7
Sat 1 April	Strzelecki Track - Mt Tassie	Peter J	*			4	1	5
Sat 15 Apr	Mt Moornapa	Janine	*			15		15
Thu 20 - 25 Apr	Ramshead Range	Helmut/John			*	3		3
Sat 22 Apr	Mt Taylor	Robyn	*			6		6
Wed 26 Apr	Blond Bay	Rob P	*			7		7
Sat 29 Apr	Peregrine LO - Track 96	Monica	*			9	2	11
Sat 13 May	Leadership Training							
Sun 14 May	Lost Gorge	Rob P	*			14	2	16
Sat 20 May	Billy Goat Bend - Jurgensen Pt	Marian	*			10	1	11
Sun 27 May	Mullungdung - Hermit's Cave	Peter J	*			14	0	14

Sat 3 June	Fungi Ramble - Wirilda (combined)								
Sat 17 Jun	Wirilda Walking Track - Tyers Gorge	Jim S	*			12	1	13	
Sun 18 Jun	Wilderness First Aid								
Sat 24 Jun	Angusvale - Jurgensen Pt	Marian	*			7	0	7	
		Totals:		30	2	3	294	30	324
		Last Year		23	6	4	273	37	310

Club member leading most walks: Monica with 7, Peter and Marian equal with 4 each

Walk with most participants: Mt St Gwinear - Mt Erica 7 Jan 2023 - leader: Joe

Average number of participants on a walk: 9.4 (last year 9.3)

PUBLICITY REPORT

Many thanks to the Walk Leaders, and authors of the Walk Reports, who forward the information to me. It has ensured that articles are easy to submit for publishing.

I try and condense the reports to around 300 words, without losing the essence of the story, and then submit on to the local papers.

I was amazed and delighted to see a walk report (a Mitchell River one) published, with a couple of photos, in our local paper. I do wonder if this is the start of something which will occur more regularly ... or whether it's our 'annual' submission.

Either way, it's fantastic as it advises those around Bairnsdale that the Club is active.

Meanwhile, newspapers around Sale and the Latrobe Valley are always welcoming of our articles.

I've confirmed with Peter that I'm happy to continue in the role. The only 'caveat' is that I'll be away for a lot of Sept and Oct, hiking WA and NSW.

Kerry Knights

Website Report Annual General Meeting

The decision was made to continue with the Joomla platform. Our version has been upgraded to the current one and the site given a facelift.

All restrictions on Public access have been removed.

All Walk Plans and Previews have been sorted into their appropriate folders and linked. A backlog of outstanding previews has been cleared.

Previous years' Committee Meeting Minutes have been compiled into single files for each year, as have Newsletters.

It was decided to adopt the www.bcwc.au domain name as our preferred web address.

Re-organization of the file structure on the site has been completed. All files have been re-linked and checked. (A big thank you to Janine Muir for carrying out an audit of the site for us.) There are still a few issues relating to the changes made to the 'new' website.

John Cox