

BEN CRUACHAN WALKING CLUB INC.

Minutes for Management Committee Meeting.

Held on Wednesday 14 June 2023 at 7:00pm
preceded by Dinner at 6:00pm
Maffra Community Sports Club

1. President's Welcome: Peter Jennings welcomed all those in attendance.

1.1. Attendance: COMMITTEE Ken Free, Peter Jennings, Elizabeth Davis, Rob Paterson, John Cox, Geoff Mattingley, VISITORS Josie Paterson and Graeme Frith

1.2. Apologies: Joe van Beek, Jodie Wigg, Janine Muir, Clare Snell, Monica Scicluna, Robyn Kercher, Kerry Knights, Jack Winterbottom

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

2.1. Confirmation

Moved: Elizabeth Davis

Seconded: Rob Paterson

Carried

2.2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Peter Jennings confirmed the following:

1. The 58th Ben Cruachan Anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday 1 July 2023 with a walk to the summit of Ben Cruachan and a BBQ lunch;
2. 17 club members have registered for the Wilderness First Aid Course at Maffra CFA on Sunday 18 June 2023;
3. Caroline Trevor from the Heyfield Community Resource Centre has expressed her gratitude for the attendance at Joe van Beek's recent talk about the McMillans Walking Track. Also, as noted in the President's Report, Petra Wood from Wellington Shire Council has advised that she is most impressed by our club, particularly the maintenance of the McMillans Walking Track and the work that BTAC do .

3. Correspondence:

See List below.

3.1 Walks on days other than Saturday

A club member has enquired via email whether walks could be held on days other than Saturdays; His work commitments make it difficult for him to attend Saturday walks. Following some discussion it was generally agreed that the scheduling of walks on particular days is the Walk Leader's preference.

3.2 Membership secretary email address

Peter Jennings thanked John Cox and Ken Free for organising a club gmail address for the Membership Secretary. The memsecbcwc@gmail.com address was set up in April and is operating very well.

4. Reports:

4.1. President

See Report below.

That the Report be accepted,

Moved: Peter Jennings Seconded: Ken Free Carried

4.2. Treasurer

See Financial Statement below.

That the Report be accepted,

Moved: John Cox Seconded: Geoff Mattingley Carried

4.2.1 Do we want to roll over term deposit due on the 14th of June?

In the absence of the Treasurer, Peter Jennings advised that the Term Deposit due on 14 June 2023 has been rolled over. The other Term Deposits have expiry dates of 17 November 2023 and 14 February 2024.

4.3. Tracks and Conservation

4.3.1 McMillans Track

4.3.2 BTAC

See Reports below.

The reports were discussed and noted by the committee.

4.4. Newsletter Editor

Jack Winterbottom has advised that the June 2023 Newsletter is due for completion shortly.

4.5. Publicity

See Report below. The report was discussed and noted by the committee.

Committee members were quite impressed with the great job Kerry is doing with publicity, a recent example being a half page spread in the Gippsland Times which covered Marian Matchan's Jurgenson Point walk and Joe van Beek's report on BTAC work on the Australian Alps Walking Track.

4.6. Facebook

See Report below. The report was discussed and noted by the committee.

4.7. Membership

See Report below.

That the Report be accepted,

Moved: Ken Free Seconded: Rob Paterson Carried

Ken Free advised that in the first week in July 2023, just prior to the AGM, a second reminder email will be sent to members who haven't renewed.

5. Walks Program

See Report below.

That the Report be accepted,

Moved: Geoff Mattingley

Seconded: Rob Paterson

Carried

5.1 Current Status

Geoff Mattingley reported that there are still many gaps in the Walks Program, particularly July, August, September and October. He would welcome any proposals for walks in these months. Peter Jennings reported that, following our recent Leader Training day, we now have 6 newly trained leaders who are keen to get started.

ACTION: Peter and Geoff to circulate a request to potential leaders for walks to be scheduled in July, August, September and October.

6. Management of Website

See Report below.

That the Report be accepted,

Moved: John Cox

Seconded: Geoff Mattingley

Carried

6.1 Current Status

John Cox advised that the new website will shortly be up and running.

Jodie Wigg has provided photographs for inclusion on the Homepage.

In answer to questions from the committee, John advised that the ongoing maintenance procedures for the website, e.g. uploading of documents, will not change in any significant way.

6.2 Domain Name

As advised at previous committee meetings our website Domain Name will need to change from a “.com” format to “.au” format.

After discussion, it was agreed that the simple format of “bcwc.au” would be preferable. John will advise Enoch Lavender of Easy Web Design (Joomla).

Motion: That the Ben Cruachan Walking Club adopt the Domain name “bcwc.au”.

Moved: Peter Jennings

Seconded: Rob Paterson

Carried

6.23 Thankyou

As noted in the President’s Report, John Cox has advised that he will be stepping down from his Management of the Website role at the AGM.

On behalf of the club members, Peter Jennings thanked John for the countless hours he has spent over the last 3 years applying his expertise to updating and generally tidying-up the club’s website.

7. General Business

7.1 Guest Speaker Confirmation

For the next 2 club nights in Traralgon and Bairnsdale, we don’t yet have guest speakers.

Peter Jennings asked for suggestions and in response Josie Paterson said she had recently attended a very interesting talk at Bairnsdale Library by a descendant of Bill AhChow who built the Moscow Villa Hut at Bentley Plain.

ACTION: Peter and Josie to follow up on speaker for the Bairnsdale club night in November.

7.2 New and/or different walks

Rob Paterson suggested that leaders be encouraged to find new and different walks.

7.2 Risk of injury on club walks

Rob Paterson raised the issue of the risk of injury to walk participants, particularly where inappropriate footwear or lack of fitness may be an issue. There was considerable discussion including specific examples and the general consensus was that walk leaders, in writing walk previews, should emphasise the difficulty and potential risks and be extra conservative in assigning walk ratings. Walk leaders have the authority to refuse participation on a walk by someone who they consider has inappropriate footwear or who they judge to be not fit enough to complete the walk. It was agreed that the Management Committee would support a walk leader in making what is a difficult decision.

Meeting closed: 7:57 pm.

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting 12 July 2023 at the Star Hotel, Sale

Next Committee Meeting: Maffra Community Sports Club, Wednesday 9 August 2023

Next Social Meeting:

1. Wan Loy Traralgon 13 September 2023, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting, speaker not confirmed.
2. Bairnsdale Club 8 November 2023, 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting, speaker not confirmed.

ACTION LIST

ACTION	WHO	STATUS
Circulate a request to potential leaders for walks to be scheduled in July, August, September and October	Peter & Geoff	
Follow up on speaker for the Bairnsdale club night in November.	Peter & Josie	

CORRESPONDENCE LIST

Incoming Emails April 11-June 12 2023

Consumer Affairs	Password Reset Bcwc1965
P Jennings	Membership Secretary email, membcwc@gmail.com
K Free	Information on current membership spreadsheet
Baker, Deane, Nutt	Reply to thanks re Norm Williams donation
Ian Mc Donald	Walks on days other than Saturday
J van Beek	Information/Report from BTAC events
P Jennings	Re Leadership training day
J Cox	Walk previews, archives
J van Beek	Wilderness First Aid
Various	Membership Enquiry
K Free	Memberships
P Jennings	Walk Leader Request
C Trevorrow	Heyfield Community Resource Centre
M Scicluna	Prom Booking dates
J van Beek	Thanks for help on Crooked River
J van Beek	Snow Shoe shuffle, various new walks
EG Shire	Winter Festival walks
E Lavendar	Invoice and Joomla details
J van Beek	Birthday plans for BCWC
BWV	Leadership Forum

To All Members

BWV	Update
Sec BCWC	Minutes
Strzelecki Bushwalking Club	Newsletter
J Winterbottom	Newsletter
Secretary Committee	Minutes
BWV	Bushwalking News
Sec BCWC	Submissions re Feral Horses
BWV	Clubs Forum, looking for input
Sec BCWC	Re Star Hotel, and Guest speaker
R Patterson	New Walks
Sec BCWC	Wilderness First Aid
Sec BCWC	Meeting Reminder
Sec BCWC	Heyfield Guest speaker reminder
Sec BCWC	Leadership training reminder

To Other Parties

K Free	Various Membership Enquiries
BWV	Board update
South Gippsland Walking and Adventure Club	Thanks, and summary of combined walks
C Trevorrow	Heyfield Community Resource Centre

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The AGM is only a month away so we need to give consideration to committee membership for 2023-24. All positions will be declared vacant however we have some definite retirements. John Cox has told me that after having completed the website upgrade he will be stepping away from management of it so we need someone to "keep an eye on it" (many thanks John); Liz Davis won't be continuing as Vice President and I believe that Monica has already lined up a successor as treasurer. Please give these and other positions some consideration for "self-nomination" or a worthy nominee as it would be good to have the ducks lined up before the AGM.

WALKS CALENDAR

Since the last meeting we have had nine walks, a social evening and leader training; we also had many members attend the McMillan's Track presentation by Joe at Heyfield – well done us! Looking forward, July and September in particular are in need of some love.

As an aside, Petra Wood from the Shire, who attended Joe's presentation at Heyfield, asked me to attend a Tourism Discovery event as Heyfield and district search for a life after timber. She was most impressed by our club, McMillan's Track and the work that BTAC do.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

We had twelve of our members and one Strzelecki member at the leader training – a successful day with six new members now ready to take on walk leadership. It was suggested that for their first walk (or two) they team up with an experienced leader to guide them through the process. As a follow-up, John Hillard (one of the presenters) has offered to run an "in-the-field" navigation session and Belle has kindly offered to get access to an orienteering course near Buchan that the RAAF uses. Ten of those at the leader training have expressed interest; numbers will depend on the availability of instructors.

RETENTION OF ATTENDANCE SHEETS

This matter came up at the leader training with the suggestion that seven years is required which is at odds with what I was told and reported last meeting. The presenters were going to follow up with BWV.

CLUB NIGHT May 2023

Another well attended night with Joe presenting and talking about the South West Walking Track. Thanks Joe.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

We have seventeen registered at the time of writing.

BUSHWALKING VICTORIA – LEADERSHIP FORUM AND AGM

To be held in Melbourne 24th June. Each club is entitled to send up to three members.

Financial Statement for 31st May 2023

Total Account Balance @ 31st March 2023 2122.98

Club 9822.40 MMWT 7300.58

Income :

Membership :

McDonald, I, White, S, Perry, L, Colette, Rowley, R,

Caithness, L, Walsh P 266.00 Visitor Fee : 30.00 McMillan Guide Book Sales : 206.00 McMillan Event Door

Takings: 70.00 McMillan Markers Sales : 25.00 597.00

_____ Sub Total : 2719.98

Expenditure :

249578 CAV 59.20 249579 Easy Web Design (Website Set Up) 258.50 249580 P Jennings (Guest Speaker Meals)
69.00 386.70

_____ Total Account Balance @ 31st May 2023 2333.28

Unpresented Cheque :

249576 Biodiversity Legacy Ltd 100.00 Bank Balance @ 31st March 2023 2433.28

Term Deposit \$ 5,000.00 due 14th June 2023

Term Deposit \$ 5,000.00 due 17th November 2023

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

Club 14731.70 MMWT 7601.58

Tracks and Conservation.

Report from Joe van Beek for BCWC June Committee Meeting

4.3 Tracks and Conservation Report

McMillans Walking Track

Track maintenance on the Crooked River section was carried out on 21 - 25 April. See attached report.

BTAC

BTAC committee met on 1 June to firm up further activities.

The section of the AAWT from the Omeo Highway to Gill Creek was cleared over the weekend 19/20 May. See attached report.

BTAC promoted the Grampians Walking Track Support Group for their activity on 3 - 4 June.

Eleven volunteers registered.

Conservation:

Awaiting details from Parks Victoria Ovens Region with respect to helping to plant out former ski slopes on Mount Buffalo with native species in February next year.

BTAC clear a further section of the AAWT

Report on BTAC Gill Creek activity 19th to 21st May 2023

The track from Omeo Highway to Gill Creek forms a 4.5 km section of the AAWT almost half-way along its length. A BTAC crew had cleared the first 2.2 km section four years previously. The remaining section was heavily overgrown and had many fallen logs across it. Parks Victoria had identified it as a track much in need of clearing.

After a reconnaissance of the track six weeks previously, a team of 12 volunteers (including four who were new to BTAC) met up on Friday afternoon to camp at Big River Bridge Campground. On Saturday morning, we met the two rangers, walked the 2.2 km to the start of our work and began. There was plenty of work for our three chainsaws, two brush cutters and two hedge-trimmers. By the end of the first day, we had well passed the half-way point of our intended clearing and walked some 3.5 km back to the cars parked at Omeo Highway. Once back at our campsite, the rangers kindly cooked a barbecue dinner for us all on the fire.

On Sunday, after a 7:45am start, we were able to complete the clearing of the track down to Gill Creek, followed by the uphill walk back, carrying the tools and fuel bottles.

We are grateful for the efforts of the volunteers giving up their time and for their hard work, and to Parks for their support for the team and for generously providing dinner on Saturday night after a day's work.

John Green
BTAC Project Manager
22/5/23



Volunteers and Park Rangers at Gill Creek

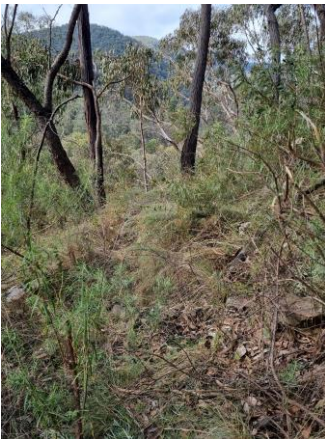
BTAC challenge the Crooked River over ANZAC weekend.

On Friday afternoon nine hearty volunteers (including 3 from BCWC and 3 named Peter) met up with Daniel Ball, Forest Management and Roding Officer, at the DEECA Depot in Dargo for a welcome and briefing in preparation for their work on the Crooked River section of McMillans Walking Track. It was anticipated that this would be a challenging weekend of track clearing because of its remoteness, difficult access and unknown condition; and so it proved to be. Capable 4WD vehicles were required to get to either end of the 13km section of the track. All camping gear, supplies and work equipment had to be portaged 4km up the track to a make shift camp. There are no recognised camping sites along this section of the track, it took some effort and ingenuity to find and make a camp site not too far from water, tents were strung out along the track. Participants were instructed to *"Pack light and compact in a back pack; a small tent, dare I say dehydrated food, limited luxuries. Be self-sufficient for camping and all meals except the Friday BBQ"*.

The team was pleasantly surprised to find that the first 4km up from the Stonewall end was easy walking having been cleared in recent times, as was the first kilometre and a half from the other end of White Timber Spur Track. Over the weekend the team chain sawed the logs off the whole length of the track leaving some easy-step-over ones and thoroughly cleared a bit over 3km including some dense patches of blackberry. They also did some step cutting and track benching to make walking easier. There is still some 4.5km of track that needs further work in the near future. Blackberry is an issue, it is in patches over the whole length of the track. Spraying would be desirable.

Fine weather blessed the team for the whole of the duration and they enjoyed being on this historically significant track constructed by gold miners in the 1860s through the stunning scenic steep sided Crooked River valley. The benched track was constructed, at places high above the river, to a high standard with dry stone walling still in good condition in some sections.

The volunteers contributed a total of 336, otherwise payable, hours to this activity.



A before and an after photo. Volunteers take a break. More photos check out [2023 Crooked River](#)

Thank you to Daniel and DEECA for their contributions and support; the BBQ goodies, which were enjoyed on Friday night at Bulltown and on the track for lunch on Saturday, the use of trunk radios and access to their depot at Dargo for getting organised and parking cars and the BTAC trailer over the weekend. And thank you to the volunteers for their time, effort, achievement and camaraderie over the ANZAC weekend on the Crooked River section of McMillans Walking Track.

Joe van Beek (BTAC Convenor)

PUBLICITY REPORT June 2023

Kerry Knights

Many thanks to the Walk Leaders, and authors of the Walk Reports, as receiving this information has transformed my role, and makes it a doddle.

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.

As usual, the Bairnsdale Advertiser has mastered the art of stonewalling. Not that I'm bitter and twisted ... truly ... I'm not, I'm just amazed that so much newsprint goes towards specific other groups.

However, newspapers around Sale and beyond are very receptive, and I understand the BCWC spiel is regularly published.

I've considered the Great Eastern Mail (GEM) which is published every 2 weeks. They'll take any article presented, which may well be to our advantage.

If there's no one putting their hand up, I'm more than happy to continue in the role. However, I do have lots of holidays coming up, especially with Long Service Leave in Sept and Oct. For that, I'm hiking in WA, and other places.

And, to be honest, without joining the Club, I would not have embraced the option of hiking holidays as I have.

Thanks Kerry

Facebook Report – June 2023

by Jodie Wigg

Memberships

New member requests (last 60 days) = 24

Growth (last 60 days) = 4%

Total members = 474

Engagement:

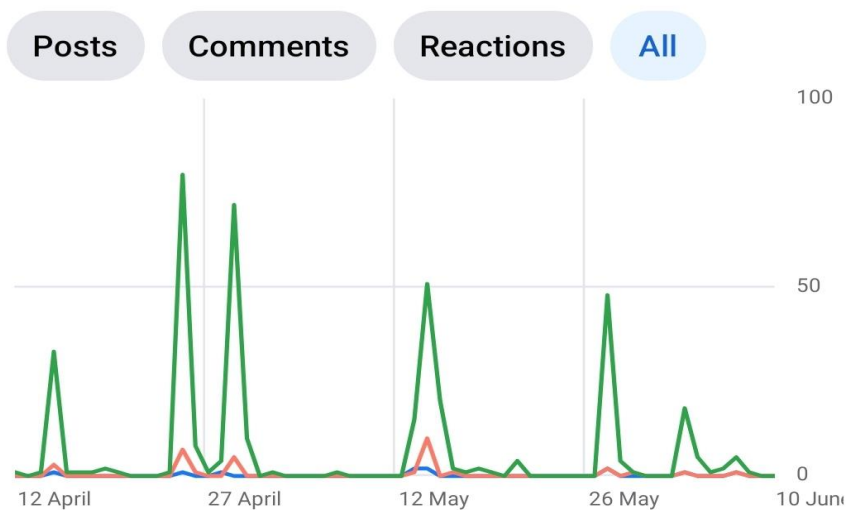
Posts (last 60 days) = 11

Comments (last 60 days) = 33

Reactions (last 60 days) = 400

Active members (last 60 days) = 408

12 Apr 2023 - 11 June 2023

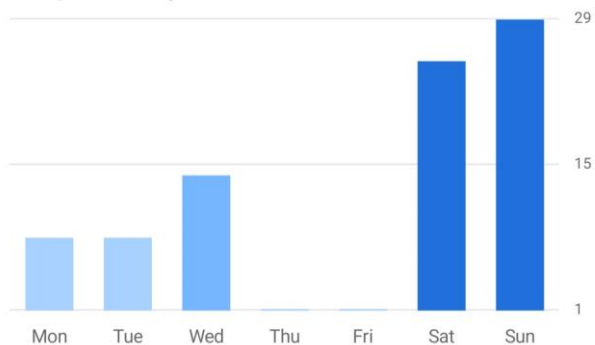


11
Posts
-39%







33
Comments
-46%

400
Reactions
-21%

Popular days i



← Top Contributors

-  **Joe Scicluna**
2 Posts · 0 Comments
-  **Angela Roughley**
1 Post · 2 Comments
-  **Sue Wielgosz**
1 Post · 0 Comments
-  **Becky Horsham**
1 Post · 0 Comments
-  **Daniel Shugg**
1 Post · 0 Comments
-  **McMillans Walking Track**
1 Post · 0 Comments

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

1. 8 walks completed since last committee meeting - largest number of participants 16 on Rob's Lost Gorge (14 members)
2. Six day walks added to program.
3. Second half of this year is very short of walks.

Membership Secretary's Report

BCWC Management Committee Meeting 14 June 2023

As at 14 June 2023, the total membership is 146.

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

There are 6 Dual memberships (8 dual members).

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

An email was sent to all members on 31 May 2023 advising that club membership expires on 30 June 2023.

In response, 50 members have already renewed their membership, as at 3:00pm today.

The Membership Application and Renewal forms have been loaded to the club's website and can be accessed via the Guidelines and Forms tab or the Become a Member tab.

Ken Free
Membership Secretary
14 June 2023