



BAYSIDE
BUSHWALKING
CLUB

PACKS UP!

March 2024

Volume 40 Number 5



Wilson's Promontory – Millers Landing

Photo by the Editor

(Feb 2024)

If you enjoy reading this magazine or would like to know more about walking with the Bayside Bushwalking Club, visit our website www.baysidebush.org.au

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Devilbend Reservoir Circuit

The first of our new leader walks for 2024. Wendy Purves completed her leader training in November 2023, and she led her first walk around Devilbend Reservoir. Wendy led from front, the middle and the back, ensuring at all times that all of her group of 14 were enjoying themselves. We had members who were walking with the club for the first time, others who we hadn't seen for a period of time, and others who we may have seen recently. The chatter and banter along the way was very enjoyable and welcoming for newer members.



Devilbend Reservoir Through the Pine Trees

We met rather early, to start the walk at 8:30. And as the morning progressed, we were very pleased not to have to endure the midday/afternoon sun. Our walk started amongst pine trees, and we had to take care to avoid the exposed tree roots that criss crossed our path, at the same time as catching glimpses of the reservoir through the tree trunks.





Channel Between the Bittern and Devilbend reservoirs

Morning tea was at Bittern Dam. This was a very civilised spot to top up – picnic table, benches and great grass. We then continued the circuit back to Devilbend Picnic Reserve. This part of the walk was a bit more exposed to the sun, but fortunately offered more shade than expected, due to earlier starting time.

We finished back at the reserve for lunch under the gazebo. Beautiful shade, tables and the mandatory tablecloths.

A lovely walk, run very capably by Wendy.

Leader – Wendy Purves

Author - Louise O'Connor

Photos – Paul Redmond

10th February 2024

Olinda Falls Circuit Walk

The Olinda Falls Circuit is a good walk that gives some decent climbs and beautiful varied forest giving plenty of opportunities for forest bathing! The weather was perfect for walking in the Dandenongs – top of 19C with an odd sprinkling of rain. Earlier predictions were for a hot day, 27C. As an added complication, the Mount Dandenong Tourist Road was closed at Ferny Creek because of a landslide! But all was well on the day, so we were able to enjoy the day.

The walk starts at Woolrich Lookout in the RJ Hamer Arboretum with stunning views across the Yarra Valley. Taking Dam Road, we made our way to the small dam with its beautiful reflections. A short steep climb took us up to Golf Course Track then along to Rock Lookout for another peek at the Yarra Valley. Our route skirted the Dandenong Ranges Botanical Gardens (previously known as the National Rhododendron Gardens) before taking us along Predator track, but we didn't see anything that matched the aggressive name! In the absence of any surprise attacks, we made our way up to Falls Road and on to the Olinda Falls Picnic Ground for morning tea.



Suitably refreshed, we walked to the Olinda Falls that were flowing quite fast due to the recent rain. Unfortunately, the best view of the Falls from the bottom viewing platform is still unavailable as it remains closed because of the significant damage from the storms of over two years ago.

Leaving the Falls, we took the Cascade Track that was its usual sloppy mess in spots. We then descended into the valley through forests of Mountain Ash and Stringy Bark. With the Tree Ferns looking magnificent, it was green, green, green everywhere. Not what you expect in January.

Lunch was at Valley Picnic Ground.

All good walks recommence with a hill after a break. This good walk is no exception, with a sustained climb (including a couple of steeper sections) back up through the Arboretum to the cars. In all we climbed around 500 metres as reliably reported by Doug’s GPS!



This is a beautiful walk that provides enough challenge to let you know you have been out on a worthwhile walk in the bush!

Leader & Author: Susan McCarthy – Photos: Jane Battrick - 21st January 2024



A Journey into Victoria's Alpine Wonderland

Telephone Box Junction to Mt Stirling summit, King Spur Hut and Craig's Hut.

As dawn broke over the suburbs on Australia Day 2024, 11 BBC members headed for Mount Stirling.

Leaving our cars at Telephone Box Junction we shouldered our three-day packs, to explore the Mount Stirling area in the breathtaking terrain of Victoria's Alpine region, our substitute for a walk to Lake Tarli Karng which had to be cancelled due to a fire close to the Tamboritha Road which closed the eastern section of the Alpine National Park.

Leaving TBJ, as those in the know call it, our journey led us up the Bluff Spur Track to eventually reach the Bluff Spur Memorial Hut. After admiring this hut and its agreeable camping area with a circle of high backed chairs carved by chain saw from fallen timber, this energetic group moved on to the day's destination at King Spur Hut (aka Salt Lick Hut). This relatively new, as mountain huts go, hut welcomed us with modern amenities, furniture and a pot-bellied stove, and outside, green grassy tent sites among the Snow Gums. After everyone had refuelled, the party headed up to the summit of Mount Stirling.



King Spur Hut

Up went the track and up we went, passing the Geelong Grammar School Hut, which stands on the east side of Mount Stirling just below the tree line with an expansive view to the Crosscut Saw and all those other mountains whose sight brings back memories of past trips.

On Mount Stirling, its peak rising proudly against the afternoon sky, we stood in a crisp, blustery invigorating breeze (read strong cold wind), under the old trig station, a little the worse for wear but one of the few that remain standing and took in the 360 degree view.



The views across the neighbouring mountains are amazing. Mount Buller, The Bluff, Mount Howitt, the Crosscut, Mount Buggery, Speculation, the Cobbler and Mount Buffalo on the northern horizon.

Opposite the summit sits the lone Summitt Snow Gum that the experts believe to be approx. 325 years old. You have to admire its ability to stand the test of time - baking hot summer's days with searing north winds, deep snow falls and blizzards. **(See note at end of article)**

As afternoon turned to evening, we found ourselves immersed in the beauty of this Alpine area, before heading back to camp for a late afternoon tea. With the evening turning cooler, the pot-bellied stove in the hut was fired up and many chose to eat in the warmth inside, although a minority remained outside.



At King Spur Hut

The morning broke with a gorgeous sunrise, and with no need to pack up, it was a reasonably early start with our sights set on the walk to Craig's Hut. The road east to Craigs is a four wheel drive track, all up hill and down dale, wheel ruts and with the added attraction of what Northern Territorians call "whoa-boys", steep side ridges bulldozed laterally into the road surface on hills, to assist the water runoff in rainstorms. A horse trail runs vaguely parallel to the road and avoids the whoa-boys and also provides a much more pleasant experience of walking through the alpine forest instead of a tramp on a road, yielding right of way to 4WDs.

Finally, leaving the road and walking past the car park, the roof of Craig's Hut could be glimpsed. But hang on, that car park is chockers with 4WDs, new and old, clean and dirty, neat and careworn. Craigs Hut is a popular destination for 4WDs. Families, young couples, older couples, young blokes and young girls, together and separately. Some having a picnic and some cooking on a BBQ. All inspecting this iconic building. But wait! That one is not a 4WD out of the car park, it is a shiny red helicopter... one couple doing it in style with an aerial trip out of Mansfield.



Perched near the top a hill, Craig's Hut offers a commanding perspective of the surrounding alpine wilderness, a fitting reward for the journey thus far. The original hut on this site was built as a replica cattleman's hut for shooting 'The Man from Snowy River' film. Being a film set, it was not a suitable construction to survive what the weather would throw at it and its deterioration occurred in inverse proportion to its growing popularity as a destination. A second more robust hut was built but it did not survive the December 2006 bushfires. The Craig's Hut seen today is the third iteration and looks like it will survive for as long as any Fred Fry Hut.



Craigs Hut with Mount Cobbler

Having lunched under the shade of a giant tree we returned to our hut to boil the afternoon tea billies, with dinner, again in the hut beside the fire, not too far behind.

With the promise of a beautiful sunset a small group headed up the track once more to a vantage point to watch the sun set behind Mount Buller. Sadly, a bank of cloud above the horizon made short work of obliterating a promising sunset. With the prospect of a cool, cool night the party slipped into tents soon after nightfall and curled up until dawn.

The next morning saw the campers up early and packing for the walk back to TBJ and home. The return walk passed the 'Cricket Pitch Hut' set in a flat open area that could provide such a venue and then took a series of lesser-known tracks, passing the skiers shelter at the Machinery Shed and heading gradually downhill on a series of zig zags to the foot of the Bluff Spur where the walk had commenced two days prior. A further ten minutes saw us back at TBJ and cars.

The team regrouped at Yarck for a treat lunch at the bakery and a chance to review our weekend of flora and fauna and the rich tapestry of biodiversity found at Mount Stirling. We all agreed... this had been a wonderful alternative to the Lake Tarli Karng adventure which had to be abandoned due to bushfires.

Thank you to Jeff and Paul for an amazing Australia Day weekend adventure.

Authors - Wane Spoor and Pam O'Connell

Photos – Paul Redmond

Leader - Jeff McDonell





The Mt Stirling Summit Tree is an icon of the region. This solitary ancient snow gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) is the only tree on the 23 hectare Summit, sitting proudly at 1725m, well above the “tree line”.

In 2019, it was estimated to be 319 years old.

In the winter, the Stirling Summit Tree can be completely buried in snow. When this happens, the tree is only noticeable as a snowy mound. And yet, each summer the tree emerges to enjoy the summer sun. Due to its great age, and its solitary prominence in the landscape, the Stirling Tree is an attractive feature for bush walkers, cross country skiers, photographers and others who visit Mt Stirling.

Around the perimeter of the summit are many other old snow gums, all of which are stunted, many having died from the harsh climate and bush fires. The Mt Stirling Summit Tree is included in the Register of Significant Trees at regional level with the [National Trust of Australia](#) and in 2016, the tree came 2nd in the Victorian Tree of the Year competition.

(An extract from the Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Resort Management Web Site)

For more information on Whoa-Boys go to a Northern Territory Gov’t website

<https://wildlife.lowecol.com.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/Whoa-Boy-Construction.pdf>



Beeripmo

Remember the weekend of the 7th & 8th of January 2024 when Victoria copped a drenching and the Campaspe, the Goulburn and other Victorian Rivers threatened to overflow their banks again, so soon after the last flooding. We defied the forecasts and travelled to the Mount Cole State Forest and embarked on the Beeripmo.

No rain on our trip on the Western Highway to Beaufort and out to Richards Camp. A warm evening in a relatively empty camp. A warm night and a fine sunny morning, dry tents and so a good start for our walk up the steep track to the lookout above Raglan Falls on Cave Hill Creek. Plenty of water flowing in Cave Hill Creek which flows on through Richards Camp. But don't leave your mackintosh in the car, the forecast indicates that it will commence raining during the afternoon, somewhere between Grevillea Lookout and Sugarloaf. And so it did. Some donned wet weather gear and others asserted that the humidity would render a walker just as wet inside the parka as without. Your author, with memories of nearly dissolving inside his parka on a warm rainy-day walking from Waterloo Bay to Refuge Cove, opted to get wet from the rain and not from other causes. Showers, and not rain, were the order of the afternoon, and my lightweight clothing dried between the precipitation "episodes", a word we now seem to have to use.

But before the weather changed, we ignored the massive rock ledge hidden off the northeastern side of Cave Hill before lunching at Grevillea Lookout which revealed a disappointing view of low cloud. The party pressed on to the foot of the Sugarloaf, the sooner to negotiate the steep zig zag and regroup at the top of this hill.



The progress to the foot of the climb was briefly halted while the parka advocates adorned themselves with waterproof clothing and the parka skeptics hoped for the best and for brief showers. I use the word adorned, as walker JW revealed the latest in all in one waterproof capes by Aarn Packs.

Walker MT allowed her more basic side to provide an unseemly fashion critique of the situation.

Weather and time precluded a side trip down to the Bukkeritillible Cave or to a viewing event (that word again) at Buangor Lookout.

The showers were becoming more frequent and a tad heavier, much to the chagrin of the parka skeptics, and the group democratically agreed to ignore the Beeripmo Camp in favour of the Mugwamp Camp two kms distant. Mugwamp has a hut. It also has a new toilet. It does not have a tank and the water supply is Middle Creek, a small shallow creek close at hand, heroically guarded by voracious soldier leeches.

The rain had increased the otherwise meagre flow but had also increased the volume of sediment and vegetation particles in the water. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away.





**Mugwamp Hut
(With the author's water filter)**

We were all grateful for the cosy Mugwamp Hut in which to shelter, cook and eat, for the showers had morphed into rain. All the company chose to sleep in their tents; however, one tent was not out in the rain, having been erected inside the hut.

Day two dawned wet. It was hard to determine if the dawn had occurred due to the cloud that rested heavily on the sodden ground. Our rain was not as heavy as the rest of Victoria had suffered, but it was unceasing. Examination of the rain radar on BOM, showed that the heavy rain was passing around both sides of Mount Cole, to the east and west, leaving a gap of lighter rain to fall on our territory. Somewhat like water in a river rushing around a small island in mid-stream.

Leech weather in leech country; keep your eyes on the person ahead and warn them of the telltale bloody streaks or the discovery of leeches arching their way up gaiters or waterproofs.

Downhill all the way to the cars with plenty of time available to be in Beaufort for lunch.

A great walk with the most welcoming of company who remained in the best of humour, even when bad mouthed about her very practical, effective, hazard reducing and leech repelling safety yellow waterproof attire.

A big thank-you to all participants - Louise and Paul from BBC; Jan, Marianne and Alan from CWCV and Chris and June from Geelong Bushwalkers.





Beeripmo - Crossing a Fallen Tree in Style

Author & Photos – Paul Redmond

January 7th to 9th, 2024

BUSHWALKING SAFETY ESSENTIALS are the things to consider and put in place so your bushwalks are conducted safely. Follow this link to the Bushwalking Victoria website for articles on walking safely

[Walk Safely - Bushwalking Victoria](#)

VAST OUTDOORS, 880 Nepean Highway opposite the Kingston Arts Centre (which older members will remember as the former Moorabbin Town Hall) support our club with discounts and advice.

Please consider them for your next equipment purchase.

www.vastoutdoors.com.au



President's Column

This year is proving to be a popular year with Bushwalking Victoria celebrating 90 years of walking clubs in Victoria and Bayside Bushwalking Club celebrating 40 years since inception.

The show piece celebration of BWV's 90th Anniversary will be Fed Walks 2024 at Wilsons Promontory in October, hosted by Bayside Bushwalking Club.

Louise O'Connor has devised a questionnaire that will help us to tailor the event and to gather your support to make this a successful event. You will have received this questionnaire via email from the BBC Packs Up address a week ago. **Please take the few minutes required to respond and give the organising committee some valuable feedback.**

Squeaky Beach at Wilsons Promontory was selected as Australia's Best Beach for 2024, the first time a Victorian beach has been selected, as reported by the ABC earlier this month.

Your committee plans to celebrate BBC's 40th anniversary as part of our December end of year break up dinner. Expect more information as the year progresses.

A First Aid training day will be held in August. The committee would like to have as many members as possible holding a current First Aid Certificate. Look in the Day Trips calendar for the date.

I encourage leaders, particularly new leaders, to put on more walks and cycling trips over the coming months while the weather holds. We have several exciting overnight walks listed including three in Tasmania and on the Bogong High Plains. There will be many members away at basecamps this month - Yea 3rd March, Beechworth 22nd March and Perisher 26th March.

Wendy Purves, our social media coordinator is frequently posting club activities on our Facebook page. You can follow her on <https://baysidebush.org.au/content/bayside-bushwalking-club>.

Around 20 prospective new members attended the February meeting at which Peter Cook presented his new travel quiz and board game "OnyaWallaby".

Peter, a fellow bushwalker from the Maroondah Bushwalking Club and the lead author of *Walking the Wilderness Coast* invited members to play his game which has a strong conservation message. The club has purchased a copy for playing at base camps and it can be borrowed from the Secretary (secretary@baysidebush.org.au).



Enjoy your walking

Lyn Curtis

(President)

There will be vacancies on the BBC Committee at this year's AGM. Have you thought of volunteering to help manage your club. Contact our secretary for a nomination form, now before the deadline.



Next Member's Meeting

Monday April 8th, 2024

Lockie, from Bogong Equipment will be our speaker.

Lockie has hiked thousands of kilometres on trails throughout Australia while working within the adventure retail area. He has walked the Bibbulmun, Heysen, Larapinta, Great Ocean Walk, Goldfields and Grampians Peaks Trail amongst many other trips.

He is happy to share his experience and give great advice, even including how to use your poles correctly!

Venue - Hampton Community Centre, Willis St, Hampton - 7:30 for 8pm.

The AGM will be held on Monday 6th May

Please come along and add your support.

FedWalks 2024

Squeaky Beach Awarded Best Beach in Australia - 2024

According to an ABC article earlier this month, the Prom's Squeaky Beach was the first ever Victorian beach to be given the title of 'Australia's Best Beach of the Year'.

Squeaky Beach came up trumps after an investigation of 12,000 beaches around the mainland and surrounding islands conducted by Tourism Australia.

This is very timely as we are celebrating the much anticipated 90th anniversary of bushwalking clubs in Victoria this year at **Fed Walks 24, at Tidal River 11-13 October 2024.**

You will be able to experience first-hand the pristine beaches, spectacular granite mountains and cliffs and wildlife including kangaroos, emus and wombats and a stunning variety of birdlife. Wilsons Promontory is a bushwalker's paradise.

As part of the package, FedWalks24 offers 20 walks ranging from easy to medium to hard - available over two days with different styles of accommodation ranging from camping to glamping plus dinner and entertainment on the Saturday evening.

Get your walking buddies planning to attend this unique weekend experience.

Bookings open Monday 3 June 2024 via the Fed Walks website

www.fedwalks.org.au .

This year's 4 Peaks Challenge is to be held on Sunday April 21st.

Full details are in the advertisement that was attached to the email which brought you the February edition of Packs Up! The start and finish are in Camperdown.



Fancy Yourself as a Raconteur?

Well, Bayside U3A is not looking for raconteurs.

They are looking for presenters to their “Armchair Traveller” class.

Many BBC members would fit the bill to a tee. You have travelled overseas and in Australia and are more than capable of preparing and delivering a presentation to a small friendly group of Bayside U3A members. Some of our more interesting bushwalks would be an ideal topic also.

‘Armchair Travel’ is a friendly group which meets monthly to discuss travel venues around the world and in Australia. The usual format is an informal PowerPoint presentation, including photos, of the trip for about an hour, followed by about half an hour for questions and a chat over a coffee and cakes.

Many members of the class are elderly and cannot travel as much as they would like. This class provides a stimulating opportunity to get out of the house to ‘armchair travel’ and socialise with similar minded people. The co-ordinator of this group, Claire Andrews, is always looking for new presenters.

Claire and her helpers can offer you as much or as little assistance to prepare your presentation as you require. This help could be putting together PowerPoint slides or setting up the laptop and projector on the day. There is no need to provide your own technology, although you are welcome to bring your own laptop, if you would prefer and if it is compatible.

This class meets on the fourth Friday of the month, from 10.30am-12pm in Beaumaris. Presenters should arrive about 10am to allow time for the setup.

If you would like to have a ‘no obligation’ chat about the possibility of presenting, Claire would be very grateful if you would contact her - mobile 0449 181 146 or claire.bec.waters@bigpond.com

For those few BBC members who need to ask, “What is U3A”?

U3A (University of the Third Age) is an international group for seniors, with about 1,500 members in the Bayside U3A. The group’s aim is to provide educational, recreational and social activities for seniors (over 50 years old), regardless of their ethnicity, religion, ability or disability.

It is run entirely by volunteers.



The Outdoor Furniture at Bluff Spur Memorial Hut - 2012 and 2024



Poo Pots, the 'Gold Standard' for Bush Toileting

From ABC Northern Tasmania By Sarah Abbott

Tasmania Parks and Wildlife wilderness rangers, like Olivia Hickey, are putting in a special effort to push the use of poo pots. "We're all carrying them with us and trying to promote them this season," she said.

Poo pots and poo tubes are sealable containers for transporting human waste from sensitive wilderness areas back to toilets.

And wilderness rangers are actively encouraging their use because of the "unprecedented" amount of human poo they have been seeing in remote places. Ms Hickey said the problem has increased since the dramatic rise in "less educated" bushwalkers in Tasmania in recent years. "People are getting into bushwalking but don't know how to toilet properly," she said.

Part of her job is teaching them about bush toileting techniques.

"The gold standard of waste in the bush is now a poo pot."



Some parts of remote Tasmania are particularly sensitive to pollution from toileting.

(Photo - ABC Open: Heath Whiley)



The poo problem

The question of how best to toilet in the wilderness is not new. The state's Parks and Wildlife Service has, for many years, advised walkers far from toilets to dispose of their poo by burying it in a hole at least 15 centimetres deep, at least 100 metres from water courses and campsites. It means people need to carry a hiking shovel. But research from the field shows many choose not to.

"[For example,] in the Western Arthurs and at Lake Rhona, only 50 per cent of groups are carrying a shovel," Ms Hickey said. "Which is really scary because that is an indication that people don't know how to toilet in the bush." She said when asked about not carrying shovels, people often said they would use a stick or a walking pole instead. "But sticks and walking poles cannot dig holes ... you can't get 15 centimetres down anywhere in Tasmania with a stick or a walking pole," she said.

"[Even] with a shovel, you've got to be committed and consider pre-digging holes, so you know where you'll be going and have time to dig a good hole." Ms Hickey said this was something relatively few walkers were doing, with many burying their waste badly or not at all, leaving rangers to pick up after them. "We go along and pick those [poos] up and take them back to a toilet," she said. She and her colleagues find faeces near rivers, lakes, streams, and campsites and even next to toilets.

"Whether people think [the toilets] are smelly or weird, or they don't know how to use them, or they can't be bothered, who knows what's going on?"



Education is the most important part of a wilderness ranger's role, Ms Hickey says.

(Photo Supplied by Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service)

Need to treat the water

Visitor numbers to Tasmania and its remote areas have been rising.



"Looking at Tourism Tasmania numbers, the problem is that bushwalking in Tassie is increasing exponentially," Ms Hickey said. "We're having the highest-recorded numbers in places like Mt Anne and the Western Arthurs and up into the Walls [of Jerusalem] now than we've ever had."

And many more humans in Tasmania's wilderness means much more human poo causing increasing aesthetic, environmental, and human health problems.

"It doesn't take much for anyone to go for a walk anywhere and see the impact of people not doing the right thing when it comes to toileting," Ms Hickey said. "[And] one of the things we've seen, which is a direct result ... is gastro starting to appear on the walking tracks," Ms Hickey said. "So, I would now never not treat my water at Lake Rhona, in the Western Arthurs, Mt Anne, or the Walls of Jerusalem, where in the past we've not had to."

"There is a measurable difference now from people not doing the right thing."

Presenting the poo pot



A poo pot should be watertight and lightweight.

(Photo supplied by Tas. Parks and Wildlife Service)

The solution that Ms Hickey and the other wilderness rangers actively promote is the poo pot.

"A poo pot is basically a non-collapsible container you can carry waste in," Ms Hickey said. "The poo pots we [rangers] carry can actually fit into the water bottle pocket of your pack, which is great because it's not going inside your pack," she said.

Poo tubes, in contrast, are longer and often made out of a PVC pipe with a secured bottom and a screw top. But both are used the same way, with the technique involving corn starch bags.

"You poo into a corn starch bag, then you squash all the air out of the bag and put it into the poo pot," Ms Hickey said. "[In there] it can't get squashed and you can't smell it, and then you can carry it." The walker then transports their poo pot to a toilet, the nearest of which is often a Parks-installed loo. "You put the corn starch bags into the toilet ... [and Parks is] happy for them to go in there because they biodegrade so quickly. "Then that waste can get flown out."

Ms Hickey said Parks was asking people to carry poo pots on all walks of up to two days long, and on longer walks to use toilets or the poo-burial practice at campsites, and poo pots for "emergency poos" in between.

Toilets vs poo pots

Ms Hickey said some people believe the "poo problem" should be addressed by installing more toilets. "Everyone says, 'Just put a toilet in if there's a toileting problem'," she said. But adding a toilet to an area draws more people to it and creates a camping hub, she said.



"And a lot of areas can't sustain those visitor numbers." She said it was also expensive to install toilets in remote areas and fly the waste back to civilisation. "It's about \$3,000 an hour to pay for a helicopter to remove peoples' poo," she said. And many Parks users already complain about the cost of Parks passes, Ms Hickey said.

To help keep those prices down, the organisation is now selling poo pots at some of its visitor centres including the Mt Field Visitor Centre.

It is also encouraging people to make their own. "If you google how to make a poo pot, there's heaps of information out there, particularly from the [United] States," Ms Hickey said.

Poo pots pass pub test

Bushwalkers in Tasmania who know what they are doing are already carrying poo pots, Ms Hickey said. And in other places around the world poo pots are the norm. "There's one place in the States that issues poo tubes to walkers, and [the US National Park Service] weighs them when they come back in, and people get fined if they're not carrying poo," she said.

Ms Hickey said she expected, at first, that the bushwalkers she spoke to about poo pots would greatly resist the idea of bagging up and carrying their poo. But overall, the reception of poo pots has been "really positive", which she has found "quite exciting".

"When they meet us and we do a demonstration and we demystify poo a bit and we all laugh, people really aren't that scared, and they actually think it's a great idea. "[And] it's not actually that scary ... [especially] if you've ever picked up a dog poo," she said. Ms Hickey suggested it was hard to argue with the logic of removing your waste from a wilderness area.

"We all go bushwalking because we enjoy these beautiful places," she said. "So, it's trying to tap into this idea of leaving it as you find it, so in 50 years your kids ... can have the same experiences we do. "I like to say every single poo makes a difference — if you carry out your poo, it makes a difference to that place."



Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service manage a number of remote toilets.
(Photo supplied by Olivia Hickey)

From [ABC Northern Tasmania](#)
By [Sarah Abbott](#)

Posted Wed 31 Jan 2024

{Tasmania may have the *Walls of Jerusalem*, but in Victoria, mostly we have the *Walls on the Toilets*.}

Sarah is a features reporter with the ABC Northern Tasmania team. She has a science communication background and worked in science television and documentary production before joining the ABC. She makes video & radio stories and writes articles – all about northern Tassie's most interesting characters.

Australia's Most Painful Creatures

From the bull ant sting to the 'physical torture' of the Irukandji, the ABC asked venom expert Bryan Fry to rank Australia's most painful creatures.

Go to this [ABC Science](#) article to find out what is in Professor Fry's top 10 most painful stings.

The list starts with our bushwalking friend –

10. The Bull Ant

There are about 90 different species of bull ants in Australia – nine at least recorded in Sydney, according to the Australian Museum.

Their nests are underground and they'll attack anything of any size that gets too close.

The Australian Jack Jumper ant, a bigger kind, is more likely to cause a severe allergic reaction. This is where problems can arise, according to Professor Fry.

"If you look at Tasmania ... it seems there's something with that species of bull ant," he says.

"It's not necessarily that there's more sting but that it seems to be a particularly allergenic."

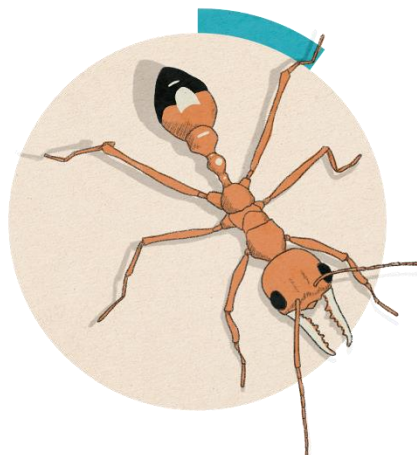
The list continues down to no. 5 **Redback Spiders** and concludes with the **Irukandji jellyfish** at top (or bottom) of the list at no.1, with the **Stonefish and others** in there as well.

Bryan Fry is a University of Queensland, US-born Australia-based venomologist who studies different types of venom, their evolutions, their effects and even their potential uses.

By [Brianna Morris-Grant](#) with illustrations by [Emma Machan](#)

Australia has earned its reputation for having the most dangerous animals – [National Geographic even compiled a top-30 list](#).

Published 26 Jan 2024



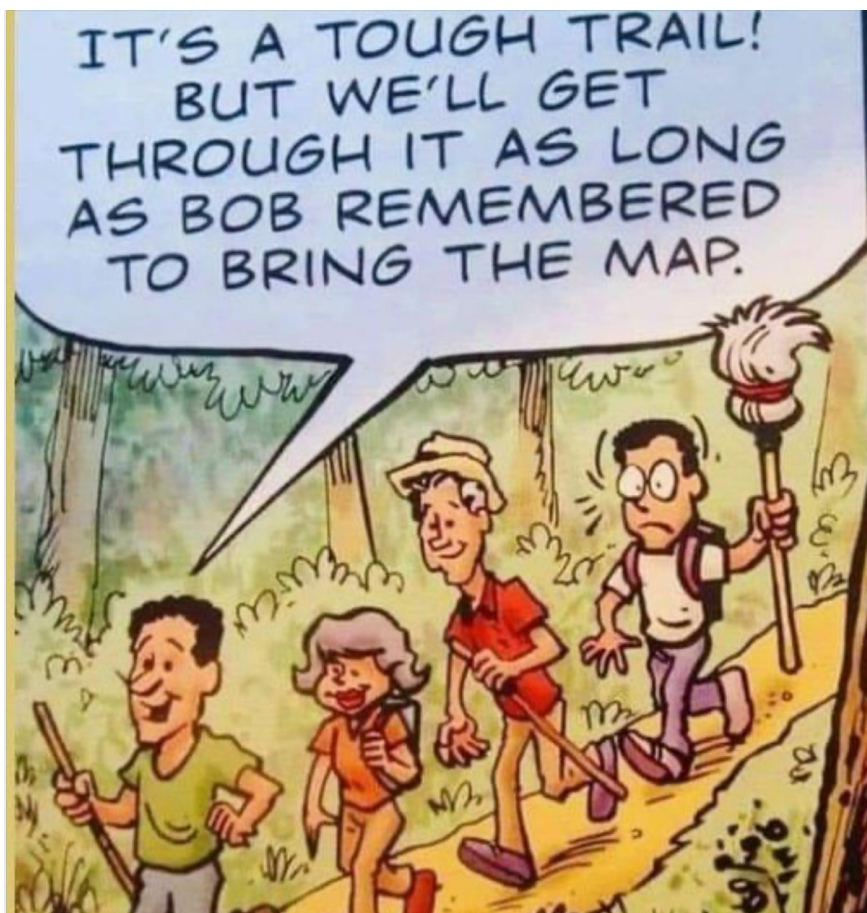
Don't worry about getting older, you will still do the same stupid things, just slower

This Month's Photo Riddle



Where are you and what are you looking at?

Answer on page 24





BTAC Activity

Alpine National Park - AAWT Johnnies Top

22-25 March 2024

Check out [BTAC - Bushwalking Victoria](#) to see what other activities are coming up.

When:	Friday 22 - Monday 25 March 2024
Track:	AAWT from Johnnies Top to Buenba Hut site, a 12 km section.
Area/Park:	Alpine National Park
Project Leader:	Joe van Beek Phone: 0411 749 799 Email: joevanbeek@bigpond.com
Where to meet:	Park Victoria's Omeo Depot at 147 Bilton Street Omeo.
Working hours:	Track maintenance activities will occur on Saturday and Sunday and if required on Monday morning starting at 8am each day.
Skills needed:	Good level of fitness. Brush cutting, hedge trimming, use of chainsaw, use of hand tools, manual lifting. There is a wide range of tasks. No previous track maintenance experience is required.
Transport:	Arrange your own transport to the Omeo depot. Car pooling is encouraged. We will car pool in the more capable 4WD vehicles from the Omeo depot to our two camping spots..
Accommodation:	Initially there will be a camp on Johnnies top for some of the volunteers which may relocate, depending on progress, to the other camping spot on the Buenbra Flats where the remainder of the volunteers will camp.
We will provide:	Parks Victoria and BTAC will provide all track maintenance equipment and PPE. Parks Victoria will provide a BBQ dinner on Saturday evening.
Please bring:	Camping gear and provisions for all meals. Please pack so that all your gear can be readily transferred to another vehicle if and as required. A day backpack to carry lunch, energy snacks, water, raincoat, warm top, emergency contact, and medical information form, small first aid kit, etc. Sturdy work footwear and gaiters. This activity is in the high country where the weather can change rapidly. Come prepared for all seasons. Scope of work: We will be working as volunteers
Scope of work:	We will be working as volunteers to Parks Victoria to do track maintenance work. Maintenance work will involve brush cutting, hedge trimmer operation, chain saw operation, erecting markers and the use of hand tools for vegetation trimming and clean up.
Meeting time:	2pm on Friday 22 March at the PV depot in Omeo.



Finish time:	By noon on Monday 25 March.
WWCC:	It is a requirement of Parks Victoria that all volunteers after their first volunteering activity have a Working With Children Check and load it up on ParkConnect as evidence.

- **You must register on ParkConnect by 16th March to attend this activity.**
- **If wanting to join after 16th March contact Joe van Beek.**
- **Please also register on the BBC web site so that Bob Edwards (BBC’s Conservation Coordinator) has a record of members attending.**

Coming Up With BTAC

29-31 March	Baw Baw National Park	AAWT	Peter Maffei
25-28 April	Croajingolong National Park	Rescheduled Coastal Walk	Mike Grant
May	Alpine National Park	Howqua Area Tracks	Bob Edwards

Go to [BTAC - Bushwalking Victoria](#) for further details and for updates



The latest issue of the Bushwalking Victoria Bulletin is available through the link on the BBC Website under the Packs Up! tab. It is also available direct at BWV by clicking [February 2024 Bushwalking News!](#) .

The February Bulletin contains an article titled “Ghost forests: Australia’s snow gums under threat from climate change”





Upcoming Walks and Activities

Grandchildren's Walk at the Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens.

Saturday 13th April 2024

Bookings open on 1st March 2024.

When booking, please advise in the Comments Box the number and ages of the children with you.

This is a walk for club members with their grandchildren aged 3 years+.

Grandparents are to be fully responsible for the children they bring.

Free entry to the Gardens and free parking.

BYO snacks, lunch, water, plus sunhats and sunscreen. The Gardens café will be open.

Start time 10am. Estimated finish time 1.30-2pm.

Tracks & paths are pram friendly, but bikes and scooters are not permitted in the gardens. Nor are pets allowed.

The current listing of BBC activities can be found on the club's website.

Leaders who would like their activity detailed and promoted here should contact the editor at newsletter@baysidebush.org.au .



Photo Riddle Answer

You are looking at one of the many eels in the creek on the Lilli Pilly Nature Walk at Wilsons Prom.



**Lighting the Fire
(Ryders Huts 2021)**

Currently BBC has 353 members.

(Unattributed photos by the editor)

If you enjoyed reading this magazine or would like to know more about walking with the Bayside Bushwalking Club, visit our website www.baysidebush.org.au .

The Club is welcoming to new members. If you are unsure about a first walk with BBC, we can provide a ‘buddy’ to assist and prepare you for an enjoyable day in the bush or on an urban walk. Places are held for new members on the popular walks that quickly book out.

Identifying details of members have been removed from this ‘public’ edition of the magazine. Some formatting may have suffered from this action.



Packs Up! is the newsletter of the Bayside Bushwalking Club (BBC).

Editor – Paul Redmond

Contributions can be sent to the editor at newsletter@baysidebush.org.au.

Text must be in Microsoft Word format and photos for inclusion in jpg format.

Deadline for contributions is the close of business on the third Monday of the month.

The contributor is responsible for ensuring that all authors and photographers have agreed to publication in *Packs Up!* and that persons depicted in photographs have given their consent for their image to be published in *Packs Up!* and appear on the BBC Website.

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of Bayside Bushwalking Club Inc., its office bearers, or members.

Advertisements may be accepted from members relating to Club activities, sale of second-hand equipment or seeking expressions of interest in club or private trips. Advertisements submitted must comply with Club policy as set out in Appendix 2 to the "ABC of the BBC".

Publication of all submissions will be subject to limits of time, space and the editor's discretion, especially the editor's discretion.

Find us on Facebook

The Bayside Bushwalking Club's Facebook page is attracting lots of "likes" every week. If you're on Facebook and want to find us, search Bayside Bushwalking Club in the Search box at the top of the Facebook screen. There is also a link on the BBC website that will take you straight there. And if you "Like" the page or one of the posts, you will get any new BBC posts on your Facebook feed.



**BAYSIDE
BUSHWALKING
CLUB**

ABN 25 734 864 041
Incorporated Association A0007879P

P. O. Box 460, Sandringham Vic 3191
Website: www.baysidebush.org.au
email: info@baysidebush.org.au

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www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au

