

Falls Creek A/B Camp 19 – 27 Feb 2024

The 19 A/B walkers experienced sunny weather with temperatures around 20 deg each day for the 2024 Falls Creek camp. On the first walk, Pretty Valley to Cope Hut via the Langford West aqueduct, the A's formed 2 groups crossing paths at Mt Cope trig. This included a difficult 700m cross-country bush bashing section that both groups found challenging. The B's followed the Langford West Aqueduct trail sighting the Cope, Wallace, and Rovers Huts, crossing paths with both the A and a small breakaway C group.



B walkers on a footbridge



A Boggy track near Tawonga Hut

Led by Lorraine, four adventurous A walkers took on Mt Bogong for a 3 day, 2 night overnight trek (a separate report of their adventure follows). Meanwhile, the perfect weather saw the A and B walkers climbing Mt Jaithmathong together from Pretty Valley. The vertical ascent of 550m provided a 360-degree view. Many of the team voted this their favorite walk of the camp.

Mt Jim from the Mt Cope carpark was a big day. Following the aqueduct track, some members walked across country through rocks, bushes, and bogs, while others took the Australian Alps Track to the summit, experiencing panoramic views and strong winds.

The Falls Creek area walk included a bush track to the trig on the Frying Pan spur, some cross-country walking to the Ruined Castle basalt columns, ending up at the lake for lunch.

The final night camp dinner saw pizzas being delivered as the majority wanted to relax at the lodge rather than venture out for the evening. Elaine and Andrew were thanked for their excellent organization of yet another successful Falls Creek camp.



We were all up and packed early on the final day hoping to avoid the high temperatures and catastrophic fire danger being forecasted for most of country Victoria.

Karen Baker

B walkers on Mout Jaithmathong. Photos by Les Gray.

OUR MOUNT BOGONG ADVENTURE

As a side trip to the Falls Creek A/B camp, four adventurous A walkers, led by Lorraine, took on a 3-day, 2-night trek to Mt Bogong summit. Starting at the Staircase trailhead, each loaded with a 15kg+ backpack, we began our ascent to the 1986m Mt Bogong Summit, a 1300m climb. It was slow and steady at 2 km/h with plenty of drink and rest stops. Mt Bogong summit via the Staircase is described as steep and arduous. After the first day, we found it to be exactly that!

We stopped for morning tea at Bivouac Hut, roughly halfway, then eventually lunch at the saddle at 1790m, still 200m to the summit. Onwards and upwards, we finally reached the top with views of Mt Hotham, Mt Buffalo and Mt Feathertop summits, with very little wind.

From the summit turn off it was still 3.7 km to Cleve Cole Hut where we camped for the night amongst the snow gums. The site had compostable toilets and water piped into the hut; luxury! The full moon shone down on our tents like a spotlight. Next morning we set off thinking that the hardest day was behind us; how wrong we were!!

We headed for Howman Falls, a short spur trail on the day's 10 km hike, then a 2km, 600 m steep descent to Big River Crossing. The water was cold and knee deep, but crossing via the chain was relatively easy. Reinvigorated by the cold water and lunch, we headed relentlessly upward for 700m to Roper's Hut. This took nearly 4 hours! Exhausted, we collapsed on the grass beneath the snow gums, to regain our strength, set up tents, collect water, and cook dinner. Completely exhausted but pleased with our endurance, we were in bed by 7.30, hoping for an easy last day.

Next morning, after a short 150m climb up to the Big River Fire/Australian Alps Trail, we retraced our walk from Day 3 back to Heathy Spur Trail. Just before the Edmonson's Hut turn-off, we met Kathryn Brown walking up the track to join us for the walk down to the car.

We completed 33.7 km, climbed 1200m on the first day, 750m descent and a 700 ascent on the second day, with an overall ascent of 2374m for the 3 days, quite an achievement.

Karen Baker



Mt Bogong Summit Day 1
L to R Lorraine, Dana, Meredith, Karen



Roper's Hut
L to R Karen, Lorraine, Dana, Meredith