



DECEMBER, 2000

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**MELBOURNE
BUSHIES
CHRISTMAS
PARTY
WEDNESDAY
20 DECEMBER**



*Function Room, 1st Floor, Trades Hall
Council Building, Victoria Street,
Carlton (opposite Horticultural Hall).*

Come along with a plate of goodies and Christmas Cheer to share with your Bushie mates – old and new.

We were lucky to be able to hire the above venue. We are able to provide our own food, however all drinks (including soft drinks) are to be purchased from the bar.

THE BRIDE WORE BLUNDSTONES

...and the Groom wore a Top Hat and Tails.

What else would one expect when Tracey & GT made vows to, amongst other things, "be nice to each other" for the rest of their lives. They were married in the presence of their family, friends their beloved dogs Nicky and Clancy, under the old fruit trees at the bottom of their garden on a misty November day.

VALE

JOAN HAIG & PETER CROHN

It is with great sorrow that I have to advise members that in the past few weeks we have lost two Bushies.

In mid November Joan Haig, a good friend to many a Bushie and in particular Wednesday Walkers, died after a long illness.

On Wednesday 22nd November Peter Crohn, an avid Sunday Walker, died suddenly at his home.

I know that these people will be sadly missed and would like to extend, on behalf of the membership, our deepest sympathy to their families

Clare Lonergan
Editor

The News is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.

Edited by **Clare Lonergan**.

Articles (max 1000 words), walk reports, poems, snippets of news, photographs of club events, reports of new gear, book reviews, letters "to the Editor", advertisements, etc. are always welcome.

The Editor reserves the right to edit articles, letters or other contributions, where space, clarity or propriety dictate, and to maintain editorial consistency.

Please note that electronic mail is preferred, and that walk previews, articles, etc. for The News may be sent to the Editor

- ◆ By emailing to:
OR
- ◆ Placing disk (or hand written material) in the "Red Box" in the clubrooms
- ◆ By posting disk (or hand written material) to:

Advertising Rates (artwork ready)

¼ Page 1 Issue - \$30; 3 Issues - \$80; 12 Issues (1 year) \$300

½ Page 1 Issue - \$50; 3 Issues - \$135; 12 Issues (1 year) \$500

Full Page 1 Issue - \$80; 3 Issues - \$220; 12 Issues (1 year) \$800

Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc.)

Members Ads - FREE

**Closing date for receipt of material
for *The News* is**

Last Wednesday in each month

ELECTRONIC MAIL IS PREFERRED

BOOKSHOP BROWSING

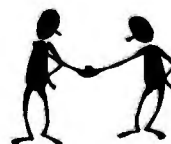
BUSHIES will gain much pleasure from tracking down:

- *Victoria's National Parks - A centenary History* at \$65.46. It is written by Esther Anderson and jointly published by Parks Victoria and The State Library of Victoria. The book gives an overview of the development of the parks system and looks to its future role and management, particularly with regard to the growing number of visitors. The book is light on discussing native flora and fauna, but, instead, has an emphasis on conservation, Land for Wildlife, the involvement of Aboriginal people in the park management, and backgrounds the politics over the decades.
- *Classic Treks* from 5 Mile Press, at \$39.95, is sub-titled: *The Most Spectacular Treks of a Lifetime....* Yes, a real "day-dream and drool" book. It's compiled by over a dozen of the luckiest people around: editor of Wilderness Odyssey, president of the Outdoor Writers Guild, and editor of The Great Outdoors. Need I say more? The treks are listed by continent (two each for Australia and New Zealand) and are clearly mapped out, with a walk profile to show the diversity of attitude, plus liberally interspersed with inspiring photographs. If you can't afford the trip, at least treat yourself to the book. (Check out the witty footprint on the front cover!)
- You might want to start dropping hints for Lonely Planet's 2001 Diary (\$24.75). It has a week to a page (spiral bound), with, needless to say, stunning photos. My favourites are the full moon over the Grand Canyon (March) and the 900 year old Bagon temple in Myanmar (September).

Susan Maughan

Meetings are held in the Clubrooms,
MacKenzie Street, Melbourne (rear of the
Royal Horticultural Society Building) on
WEDNESDAY evenings between 7.00pm
and 9.00pm

Visitors are always



Welcome!!!

General correspondence should be directed to:
The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001

WALKS SECRETARY REPORT

Club Contact System - The current Club policy is explained on the back of each Walks Program.

Before setting out, walkers should advise those at home of the destination of the trip, method of travel and expected time of return and leave with them the phone number of the Club 'Contacts'. Any delay or emergency will be notified to one of 'Contacts', in the order shown:

Graham and Sue Errey
 Geoff and Jenny Kenafacke
 Jim and Libby Marsden

On behalf of the Committee and all Bushies I would like to say THANK YOU to our Club Contacts for their many years of excellent service to the Club.

A review of the Club Contact System has resulted in the following improvement.

For weekend trips, and other day activities (ie non-Sunday Bus), the leader needs to place a copy of the trip route into the TRIP INTENTIONS FOLDER – located in the Clubroom. For the Sunday Bus, the leader needs to leave a copy of the routes (on a map) with the Booking List with the driver. This documentation is necessary in case of delay or an accident and will greatly assist Search and Rescue (if necessary).

Leaders – you must ring the Club Contact at the end of your club trip to report the safe return of your trip.

Changes to the Summer Walks Program

Historical Walk on Friday 26th January. New Leader is Nigel Holmes. Telephone
 Sunday Bus on Sunday 28th January - Lerderderg Gorge. Lynda Larkin will now co-lead with Jill Dawson.
 Pack Carry trip on the 23-25 February to Helicopter Spur and Mt Howitt. New Leader is Trish Elmore.
 Telephone

Rod Novak
 Walks Secretary

Day Walks for December 2000/January 2001

Sunday 7 January Easy & E/Medium	Keppell Falls – The Beeches
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Leaders	Peter Havlicek & Bill Donald
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Map Reference	Marysville – Lake Mountain Leisure Map 1:30 000
Expected time of return	6.30 -7pm

It is some time since I led a walk in that area (my 2nd as a leader) and we have not previewed to date. Both walks will certainly do the Beeches circuit, an extremely easy and almost magically beautiful section. To add a little effort to the easy walk, there shall be a wander along the Taggerty River to Phantom Falls and to the base of Keppells Falls before a climb of some 150 m.

The E/M walk may do something more strenuous, like climbing up Sands Road (500 m over a 4.5 km distance, oof!) to dislodge all that condition you put on over the holidays. Some nice views as a reward. And then to the Beeches as above.

Sunday 14 January E/Medium Medium	Big Pats Creek – Starlings Gap
--	---------------------------------------

Leaders	Doug Pocock & Hans Edlinger
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Approximate distances:	15km & 18km
Area	Warburton
Expected time of return	7pm

When the heat of summer is upon us and cooking the streets of Melbourne it is time to turn to the cool Mountain Ash Forests. The Club often walks The Richards Tramline but this walk will take in part of the Upper Yarra Track. From Big Pats Creek both groups will follow the old tramway to Ezards Mill Site and on to Starlings Gap, a lovely gentle climb from Starlings Gap. After admiring the size of the sawdust heap, the easy medium group will retrace their steps to Ezards and then make a variation DOWN a steep hill back to the bus. The Medium group will do a longer loop before returning.

Wednesday 17 January	Warburton Goldfields
Leader	Roger Wyett
Transport	Private
Approximate distance	11km
Area	Marysville – Lake Mountain Leisure Map 1:30
Expected time of return	4pm

This is only a short walk, but it will include two short but steep climbs of 300m and 200m each plus a water crossing about 2km from the walks end, as well as the traversing of some fallen timber. The crossing should only be ankle deep, unless it rains the night before, bring a change of footwear (or clothes if you fall in). But enough of the doom and gloom, this walk will visit two tunnel diversions of the Yarra River, a horizontal and several vertical gold mining shafts as well as an old open cut area, in a little known gold mining area.

It will be a pleasant mixture of open forest, and following an old race through temperate rain forest. We will all meet at the Warburton Information Centre (Melway Map 289 K4) at 10.30am before proceeding along Woods Point Road to the Little Peninsular Tunnel Carpark (Melway Map 292 H1) for the late comers.

For those that survive the highlight will be the best Devonshire Tea in the Warburton area, location, a closely guarded secret of the leader!

Sunday 21 January	Cape Patterson - Inverloch
Easy & E/Medium	
Leaders	Lance Mobbs and Ches Volapto
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Map Reference	Cape Paterson 1:25 000

As I have not previewed this walk yet there is a chance that the walk may be changed to go from Powlett River to Cape Paterson. More information will be forthcoming in the January News.

Friday 26 January	Historical Walk
Easy	
Leader	Nigel Holmes
Please see Nigel in club rooms or phone him on phone	

Sunday 28 January	Lerderberg – O'Brien's
Easy & E/Medium	Crossing
Leaders	Jill Dawson & Lynda
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am

The leaders have not been able to get their walk preview to me at this point in time. However this walk should be a good one. The area is interesting and fairly close to Melbourne. A preview will be in the next edition of News.

Weekend & Extended Walks for December 2000/January 2001

23 Dec to 3 Jan	Pack Carry: Snowy Mountains (NSW)
Medium	
Leader	Ralph Black
Transport	Private
Distance	100km (approx)
Map Reference	Mount Kosciusko 1:50 000, Khancoban 1:50 000.

This trip will take us to some great places in the Snowy Mountains, including Mt Kosciusko, the Main Range, and Jagungal. We will be walking for at least 10 days with numerous side trips and a few days of base camps.

- A proposed itinerary is as follows: Day 0 (23 Dec). Drive to Perisher Valley from Melbourne.
 Day 1. From Perisher Village walk up to Porcupine Rocks and then onto the Rams Head. Camping somewhere in the vicinity of Kosciusko. Xmas eve dinner!
 Day 2. Day trip to Mt Kosciusko, North Rams Head and Mt Townsend.
 Day 3. Walk towards Blue Lake via Mt Northcote and Carruthers Peak. Camp somewhere here. Side trip to Blue Lake.
 Day 4. Continue along the range to Consett Stephen Pass

- and camp here.
 Day 5. Down to Schlink Pass via Dicky Cooper Bogong. Head to Valentine River and camp here. Side trip to Valentine Falls.
 Day 6. Head northward to Jagungal and camp somewhere to the south of the summit.
 Day 7. Day trip to Jagungal and Jackys Lookout.
 Day 8. Heading south now we will visit the Bulls Peaks, Brassy Mountains and camp somewhere near Gungartan.
 Day 9. Day trip to Tin Hut and Mt Porcupine.
 Day 10. Head down the Munyang River valley to Guthega Power Station.

This itinerary may need to be changed depending on the weather and the interests of the group. Be prepared for any weather conditions from storms and snow falls to hot sunny weather. Even though each days walk with the packs is relatively short, the trip will be at least medium standard because 10 days food will need to be carried.

Participants must be well equipped and experienced pack carry walkers. A short car shuffle will be required and each vehicle will need to have a valid NSW National Parks permit. Please contact the leader as soon as possible if you are interested in this walk. Limit of 8.

12-14 January E/Medium	Pack Carry: Razorback to Mt Feathertop
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Leader	Max Casley
Transport	Private

I do not have the leader's walk preview at this point in time.

This is a spectacular area to walk in, and summer in the high country has to be experienced to be believed. Please talk to Max regarding this walk in the club rooms or phone him on PS - I have done this walk (without a pack) and the views are breathtaking.

Ed.

25-28 January E/Medium	Australia Day W/End Pack Carry: Tarli Karng
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Leader	David Durad
Transport	Private

Once again I do not have the leader's walk preview at this point in time.

This is a very special area with unusual and unexpected land formations - snow plains to a tarn! Once again, I have done this walk (without a pack) and the views, and the terrain, are breathtaking- literally. I seem to remember being bribed up the hill (and what a hill!) by the lure of jelly snakes and mini mars bars by a certain ex-vice president!!!!

Ed

Please talk to David regarding this walk in the club rooms or phone him on

25-28 January Medium/Hard	Australia Day W/End Pack Carry: Carey Creek - Neilson Crag
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Leader	Gina Hopkins
Transport	Private

Approx. Distance	30km
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Map Reference	Tamboritha Moroka 1:50,000
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Area	Alpine National Park, 55 km NE Licola
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This will be an exploratory walk and is likely to involve some very steep descents and ascents, with an unknown amount of scrub, and wading in the creek. If you're still interested, read on... We will descend to the Moroka River from Doolans Plain and follow the river north to the Carey Creek junction. Hopefully we might find a pool along the way to cool down in. The first night's camp will probably be near the junction. Then we'll spend a day exploring the Carey Creek upstream until we find another suitable campsite. The last day we'll continue up Surveyor Creek, a tributary of Carey Creek, and finally climb up to Neilson's Crag to get some great views of Snowy Bluff.

25-28 January E/Medium	Australia Day W/End Base Camp: Mt Buffalo National Park
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Leader	Stuart Mann
Transport	Private

Blah, blah, blah, Mt Buffalo Blah base camp at blah, blah, Lake Catani Campground.

Reserved blah sites for twelve blah people.

Led by One deranged leader BlaH!!!

Try and get some sense out of him by phoning

Do you think they will tell that a preview has not been done?

Again!

26-28 January E/Medium	Australia Day W/End Camp: Walhalla
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Leader	Brian Crouch
Transport	Private

The Australia Day camp at Walhalla will be smaller than past years as the school camp is not available. So I am planning on using Ian's cottage and having other people camping in the Public camp area.

This is a great place to walk in rugged mountain country with beautiful scenery.

I plan on being in Walhalla Thursday late afternoon until Sunday afternoon and will arrange walks for Friday 26 and Saturday 27th.

Numbers will be limited to 12 and bookings will close on 12th January 2001.

Phone me on

25-28 January Easy	Australia Day W/End Canoe Trip: Goulburn River - Beginners Welcome
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Leader	George Zamora
Transport	Private

Area:	Goulburn River, Nathalia District
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Approx. distance	250km from Melbourne
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Come and explore with me the wonders of the Goulburn River. On Thursday night we will camp close to McCoy's Bridge, which is located on the Murray Valley Highway. On Friday we start our paddle downstream to where the Goulburn River meets the Murray River.

On Friday night we will camp on one of the sandbars along the river (Plenty of sandbars on this trip). We should arrive at Stewards Bridge on Sunday afternoon after smooth water paddling all the way. Should be a good flow of water at this time of the year.

For those people who have been on previous canoeing trips, this river is completely different to the Murray River. First, there is no high speed boats on the river, just canoes, so you don't have to insert your fingers in your

ears each time a speed boat passes. Second the river is not as deep, nor does it have such strong currents as the Murray River, which means that is easier to negotiate obstacles such as snags. You will see magnificent River Red Gums and many types of native birds; but you will not see people (except at an exclusive nudist country resort that may leave you open mouthed). Beautiful campsites will provide a trip to remember. It will be an easy trip with lots of swim stops, lunch and afternoon breaks.

Warning: It will be hot - old pyjamas, plenty of 15+ sun cream and a hat. We will hire canoes at Barmah town. The two person Canadian canoes are supplied with - life jackets, waterproof barrels, detailed maps, bird ID books, fact sheets and compasses. A non-refundable deposit of \$20 per person is required for canoe allocation, as this time of the year is the busiest of the calendar.

A great adventure. This trip is a must. As lots people like to come on canoe trips you must book early, otherwise you may miss this wonderful experience. You can book at the club rooms or ring

Between 26 Dec and 1 Jan Canoeing Between Xmas & Easy New Year - Murray River Touring 2 - 3 days duration Hume Weir to Howlong

Leaders Wendy Judd
Joy Carver

Transport Private

Xmassed out with the family? Feel like a turkey? Now's the time to get a fix for that 'Cirrhosis of the River' problem. Beware, not too much elbow bending, unless you are holding onto a paddle. This will be a trip where not much happens. Beginning with early mornings on the river with ample opportunity to observe bird life, stops along the way for swimming or siestas in the mid day sun, ending each day with great sunsets reflected in the water as we make camp on the riverbanks. Expected to take two or three days; time is no object. Limited numbers.

Further details:

Starting point is the Hume Weir boat ramp very early in the morning as this is the best time to enjoy the bird life, visiting lagoons in morning mists. We can explore all the anabranches or whatever takes our fancy. To offset the early start, we will enjoy swims, and a long brunch stop along the way with siestas in the mid day heat. With a bit of luck we might get to Albury in time to enjoy a pizza dinner at Norieul Park before making for a bush camp further downstream. This is a trip where the object is to see how much time we can take, rather than how much distance we can travel. We should end the trip feeling revived to a long hot summer. The distance is 59 miles in total and we intend only to do 20 a day (approx 30 km). If we choose to do less there are pull out options all along the way with easy road access, and lots of local 'ground crew' who would be willing to meet us with the trailer.

Bushies Good Food Guide

Portland - On Marika's 4 day Cup Weekend Base Camp, we tried the following eating houses for culinary sustenance. For an afternoon snack try the *Port of Call Café* in the main street overlooking the bay. We celebrated Monika's birthday here with excellent coffee and cake, comfy sofas and Michael Mann really recommends the iced chocolates here.

For an evening meal there is only one choice - *Mac's Hotel Bentinck*. This restored three-storey heritage hotel has great ambience as well as good country fare and local wines by the glass. Mains at \$15, and sweets at \$4 offers great value. Lots of historic photos on the walls of old sailing ships.

At nearby Cape Nelson, the *Lighthouse Café*, which opens from 10am, is a great reviver. We spied three VMTC bushies (Mark, Theresa, and Jenny) enjoying a lazy start to the day with coffee and newspapers. Great coffee and cake, free newspapers to read and we recommend the Lighthouse tour - as Sandra spotted a pair of Albatross on

WILKINSON WORK PARTY

Willing Wilkinson workers wrought wonders recently at Wilky workparty.

The kitchen shelves and walls were scrubbed courtesy of Jan and Merilyn, chimneys swept by Bill and Stephen, electric fence re-installed by Debbie and Rosemary, woodshed re-stacked by Therese, kitchen hearth repaired by Mark, flexible gas hose fitted by Stephen and new cistern fitted by Bill. Doug sat around drinking coffee and supervising.

Painting the shower was put off for a while for technical reasons. The roof was measured in preparation for new cladding.

Wilkinson now has some new mattresses. To prolong their life would users please stand them up rather than hang them.



Doug supervising

After a shortage towards the end of winter, there are now plenty of tea-towels in the storage tin (I think they must have been breeding in there). Please ensure you take your own up with you if you feel you cannot wash and return Lodge ones.

All the tilleys are working perfectly. If you have problems you are probably not following the lighting instructions correctly.

There are some bookings over summer but still empty times especially during the week. Have you considered a wonderful stress free holiday at YOUR lodge??

Doug Pocock
Lodge Manager

Treasurer:	Accounts for October 2000
Opening Balance	48,145.55
Receipts	3,123.66
Payments	2,937.34
Closing Balance	48,331.87



Conservation Forum



The following items were discussed at the VicWalk Conservation Committee Meeting on 22/11/2000.

Victoria's Draft Native Vegetation Management framework is available for public comment. Copies available from NRE Melbourne office. Closing date for submissions is 8th December 2000.

Box-Ironbark Forest – Help is needed. Can all Bushwalkers write to their local politician asking them to adopt the EEC Recommendations for the Box-Ironbark Forests. Please emphasise the importance of nature based tourism to the local economy.

Mt McKay – still no news of the Proclamation ie returning the excised land to the Alpine National Park. Bill Metzthen is compiling information on the Kasboro movement this winter, especially on the western slopes. Skiers can you help Bill out?

Mt Hotham – still no start date on the underground Powerline work. There is some concern over a proposed road alignment with possible damage to *Burrhamys* habitat. **Cattle Grazing** – it is believed the cattle will still be excluded from the Wellington Plains area this summer, but may be allowed into other fire affected areas. The National Competition Policy will review the National Parks Act in relation to the transfer of alpine cattle grazing licenses.

Otways – recent article in *The Sunday Age* 19/11/00 questioning the proposed logging of the Sabine Falls area. A Planning Group will be established to investigate short walks in the Otways as a way to boost tourism. **Devilbend Reservoir** – The reservoir will be de-

commissioned. A series of public meetings has been held to discuss the future of the reservoir. Community consensus to date is to preserve the environmental values of the area. A draft report will be available in December. **Great Divide Trail** – the new Federation Track from Ballarat to Daylesford (70kms) has opened. The Great Divide Trail now has over 125 kms of walking trails. **Bunyip State Forest** – local concern over the noise of trail bikes and damage to tracks. The Ranger estimates over 100 trail bikes each weekend. The Management Plan will be reviewed next April. Some track closures (for revegetation) near Windy Peak Road due to 4 wheel drive damage. The Aqueduct track is now closed. However, walker access is possible if you ring the Melbourne Water Caretaker – Mike Harrison on 0427 520 334.

Tanglefoot Track – the track is temporarily closed due to fallen trees and damaged bridges (lack of Park staff and funds to fix at present!).

Urgent Request - The Victorian National Parks Association are asking bushwalkers to write to their local politicians (upper and lower house) requesting support for the EEC recommendations for Box Ironbark Forest to be protected by new national parks. Please help and put pen to paper.

Rod Novak
Club Delegate
VicWalk Conservation Committee

New members:

STEPHEN A BROWN

CHRISTINE MC DONALD

JULIE CRANE

DAGMAR SCHADE

LILLIAN DODEMAIDE

SUE SIGMAIER

CATHERINE L HILL

BARRY SMITH

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IAN LANGFORD

TIM A STIRKUL

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Phone: (08) 8985 2134

Fax: (08) 8985 2355

Altered Address/Phone:
PAUL LAMPRECHT

GRAEME WALKDEN

Life members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	326
Family memberships	98 (=2x49)
Total membership	444
Membership this time last year	483

WALK STATISTICS FOR

October 2000	Trips	Participants	Average	October 1999
Sunday Bus	5	183	36.6	31
Pack Carry	1	8	8	4
Base Camp	2	36	18	10
Other Day -Wed: 21 -Dand: 9	2	30	15	11
Training Day	1	7	7	
Cancelled Trips	3			2
Total	14	264		238

Duty Roster

13 December Doug & Alan Ide
3 January* Amanda & Deb
10 January Peter & Brian

**Date of next committee meeting:
Monday 8 January 2001 at 7PM**

Cancelled trips include the Mt Bogong Ski Weekend, the Cycle Trip to Westerfolds Park and the Beginners Pack Carry to Sealers Cove - Wilson's Prom, all due to lack of interest.

Bushies' Burlblings



'Cup Day Weekend Base Camp at Discovery Bay'

This was a challenging weekend, but not because of the degree of difficulty, obstacles to be met or disasters to be overcome. Instead the challenges this group faced were ... keeping up with all the interesting places we visited and all that was happening, as well as keeping up with those people coming and going throughout the 5 days. [*I certainly didn't envy Marika's task here !*]

Debbie and I were lucky enough to have an early start and were compensated for the long drive down to Portland by sighting a Southern Right whale at Logans Beach, Warrnambool and a very good pizza at Port Fairy. [*A word of warning here, don't think in terms of anything larger than Small unless you've been in serious training !*]. Others in the group arrived and left at different times after taking varying amounts of time to travel by different routes.

Portland was a good base from which we were able to radiate out in different directions and go on walks in different environments [*more about these later !*] and to also sample some of the delights of the town. These included The Port of Call cafe and its cakes, Mac's Hotel, [*read all about these in Rod's Dine-out article*], a local red, its Botanical Gardens, a glimpse of the town's Glenelg Festival, involvement in its Three Bays marathon [*well, some of us drove past it 3 times in a car shuttle*], its history of white settlement that has led to it being described as ' Victoria's birthplace ', ... and that's not all. Yes, I haven't forgotten the walks, after all it was a walking club trip !

Our Mt Eccles walk took us around part of the crater rim of a volcano, into laval caves and along a laval canal. In the centre of the Mt Eccles crater is Lake Surprise, which is fed by underground springs and is a beautiful green colour. Apparently it is correct to say volcano rather than extinct volcano because vulcanologists state that 10,000 years must pass before the possibility of another eruption can be ruled out. The last volcanic activity took place here 6,500 years ago and the first believed to have begun 19,000 ago.

Mt Eccles National Park is not only interesting from a geological point of view but for its heathland and manna gum forest and the birdlife and other fauna. Your chances are very high of spotting a koala here. For future reference it has a camping area for which a permit is required and it has toilets and hot showers.

On the next walk we walked along the beautiful coastline from Bridgewater Lakes on Discovery Bay, around Descartes Bay to Bridgewater Bay. The views of the rugged cliffs, rocky outcrops and turquoise-coloured seas were spectacular as we walked past the Blowholes that were subdued on a relatively calm day, near aboriginal middens, through the Petrified Forest with the

remains of tree trunks and roots preserved in yellow-coloured limestone and along the highest coastal cliffs in Victoria, 130 metres above sea level. At Seal Point we looked down [*and smelt*] a colony of Australian fur seals as they layed in the sun on the rocks and swam in the water nearby.

We walked in the Mount Richmond National Park the next morning. This was also a volcano but instead of basalt consists of tuff, a porous rock formed from volcanic ash, and has been covered with sand blown inland from Discovery Bay a long time ago. Open heathland, swamps and forest have developed on this base and they support a wide range of plants and wildlife. Our walk covered a combination of those available as we travelled through the varied habitats. We didn't spot any of the more elusive orchids but then it's hard to look forward, around, up and down while walking along the track.

That afternoon we went on the not-so-enticingly-named Smelter Nature Walk in Portland. The big highlight of this pleasant walk along cliff-tops and through heathland was the Australasian Gannet rookery on the mainland and we also overlooked Lawrence Rocks, the largest breeding grounds for these gannets in the Southern Hemisphere, We'd seen large numbers of them heading in this direction the previous day. On our last day we headed to the Cape Nelson lighthouse and the State Park surrounding it. In the cosy cafe converted from the Store and Workshop we saw 3 bushwalkers known to us relaxing over their breakfast and reading the newspapers. I'd be tempted to make the comment *cappuccino bushwalkers* but this could invite the response that it would be a bit like the pot calling the kettle black.

We walked along the spectacular coastal cliffs and returned to the lighthouse by an inland track that passed through rare Soap Mallee. Then it was off home for some of our group while others took the opportunity to have a look over the Cape Nelson lighthouse that now operates automatically. We heard about its history and how shipwrecks in the area had led to the lighthouse being constructed in 1882, out of local stone There are remains of a high stone fence built around the perimeter, some say for the purpose of protection from strong winds that buffeted the area while others say it was to keep out the local Kerrup-Tjmarra people. 123 steps up to the top of the lighthouse and we had wonderful views out to sea, around the coast to the east and the west and inland and, there below, sitting on a rock shelf were two Wandering Albatrosses.

Cape Nelson is certainly a good place to visit and to walk around, to eat at the cafe and perhaps stay in the lighthouse keepers' cottages.

Now it was time for those remaining in the group to head off home. Debbie and I were fortunate enough to have the time to travel home mainly by the coast and take in the wonderful attractions of The Great Ocean Road in

beautiful sunny weather.

Thank you to Marika for organising this base camp and for leading us on these varied walks while at the same time allowing us the time and flexibility to do this in a leisurely manner and to also have the opportunity to look around Portland.

It was a most enjoyable weekend and the company added to this enjoyment. There was also the benefit of being able to share in Monika's birthday celebrations.

Members of this group were Marika Jagow, Lyn Christensen, Rob Davis, David Durad, Jill Gregory, Monika Hollander, Michael Mann, Liz Moore, Sandra Mutimer, Rod Novak, Jan Palich, Quentin Tibballs, Debbie Stanford, Anne Wilks and Jenny Yates.

Sandra Mutimer



David enjoying the delights of an Aussie pie

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN BOMBAY

We planned on being here last year but at the last minute changed planes for Australia. We planned also on a brief visit to Bombay (now called Mumbai) but it has been a couple of weeks already and it is starting to feel like "home". We will be buying tickets at the extraordinarily beautiful Victoria Station (now called Chatrapati Shivaji Mararaj Staion) for a trip to Goa next week.

Recently we went to the Prince of Wales Museum (now called after Shri Shivaji too) and the botanical gardens that used to be called Victoria and Albert Gardens and are now called an unpronounceable name. The local party, called Shiv Sen (army of Shiva), has been on an historical erasure campaign for the last 10 years. All the streets, fountains, and public buildings have been stripped of their colonial midwives. This was once a magnificent city, but the grime, neglect and crushing population have made it a living, teeming, ruin. But, we like it!

Eating is the best part: dhosa marsala, tandoori, samosas, biriyanis, etc. made spicy and tasty for pennies. A full meal for two at a good restaurant would maybe cost 6.00 U.S. We try to order one familiar dish and one new one each day and so far no unpleasant surprises. The worst outcome is when both dishes are almost identical.

We have become temporary members of the Bombay Asiatic Society which gives us reading privileges in a dusty, decrepit, yet historic building built in 1833. It has a continuous collection from that date. India is not efficient and it sometimes takes a while to get a book, but I love the atmosphere. Although I have to shower and wash my clothes after an afternoon there.

There is a continual haze of suspended dirt in the air. Everyone is coughing and spitting (as well as performing other bodily functions) everywhere. I almost tripped over a woman squatting on the sidewalk as I walked to our favourite restaurant tonight. The key is to ignore all the ugly things, I guess. But no one ignores us. We get stared at all the time. You would think that after 200 years of British rule, the sight of a European would not be that unusual. At the museum today, people spent more time staring at Norma than at the exhibits!

The markets are wonderfully bizarre. The crush of people and the swirling sights. I can't take many photos because everything is in motion. The smells come in waves: incense burning at the food stalls (to ward off flies I guess) sewage smells, urine, the sweet smell of betel and lime which men are spitting all over the place leaving huge red stains, and the mouth watering smells of cooking food. So you can go from mouth watering to gagging, nauseated in a few steps.

Surprise, the Mumbai Film Festival starts tomorrow. I got signed up as a delegate, so we will be able to watch a week's worth of movies (90 films). Some choice offerings of Bengali films. We went to an ordinary screening last week and they break for commercials during the film! Shouldn't complain too much, admission was 80 cents.

We miss our outings with the Bushies. Let us know any news.

P.S. We will be back in Italy in March and plan to travel down through Slovenia, ...to Greece. Best to you all.

David Turner and Norma Carlson

Email: turnercarlson@yahoo.com

Thanks Everyone



Thanks very much to everyone who sent me cards and get well messages.

A special thanks to Jean Giese who has been a tremendous help and support all through my illness

I am recovering well from a major operation and, also found out at the Vice-President's weekend, I'm just about up to doing an easy half-day walk.

In a few more weeks I'll be back on the track with a pack

Gina Hopkins

Treasurer:

Accounts for November 2000

Opening Balance 48,331.87

Receipts 3,863.52

Payments 2,902.26

Closing Balance 49,293.13

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC. 28TH FEBRUARY 2001

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. will be held at the end of February 2001. The meeting will be held on a Wednesday night and Annual Reports will be tabled and all Committee positions will be declared vacant. There will then be an election of Office Bearers for 2001. Everyone is welcome, however only members can vote. An Agenda will be published when it is available.

At this point in time the bearers of the following positions will not be standing for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

- Assistant Walks Secretary
- Social Secretary
- Editor of News

As it is up to every Club member to put back into the Club what they have taken out, I ask you to seriously consider whether you, or a fellow club member you know, would be suitable for and able to take on any of these positions in 2001.

ATTENTION DAY WALKERS ASSISTANT WALKS SECRETARY REQUIRED

We need someone who is prepared to take on the task of organising the Sunday Walks. This person holds the position of Assistant Walks Secretary and is therefore a Committee Member. There are Sunday walks usually every week of the year with the exception of Christmas and sometimes the New Year Weekend. The Walks Secretary is supported by the Walks Committee who meet about 4 – 5 months before the start of each quarterly program to select the walks. The printed program is distributed with the newsletter about 6 weeks before the start of the program which allows some 3 months to find leaders for the program. We are fortunate in that many people offer to lead at least one walk in each program. Alan Miller, the current Assistant Walks Secretary, is prepared to help and support the new incumbent should they wish this.

Form of Nomination of Officers and Members of the Committee of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Nomination: Enter President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Walks Secretary, Assistant Walks Secretary, Social Secretary, "News" Editor, Wilkinson Lodge Manager, General Committee, as appropriate and return form to The Secretary, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne 3001

Name of Nominee

Proposed by

Seconded by

Acceptance of Nomination: I,agree to stand for this position

Signature of Nominee Date

DECEMBER 2000

15-17	Base Camp: Otway Ranges	Private	E/M	Alan Clarke	
Sat 16	Cycling: Inner Eastern Circle	PUBLIC	E/M	Jan Palich	*
Sun 17	PORTSEA to SORRENTO Xmas Theme	BUS	E & E/M	Clare Lonergan & Alan Miller	#
Sun 24	NO SUNDAY BUS TRIP	Nil		Merry Christmas Everyone	

Christmas- New Year Extended Trips

23 - 1 Jan	Pack Carry: Snowy Mountains (NSW)	Private	Medium	Ralph Blake	
26 - 1 Jan	Pack Carry: AAWT Mt Skene to Walhalla	Private	Medium	Rod Novak	
26 - 3 Jan	Base Camp: Bogong High Plains	Private	E/M	Lance Mobbs	
26 - 7 Jan	Lilo/Canyoning: Kowmung River (NSW)	Private	Med/Hard	Jopie Bodegraven	
Sun 31	NO SUNDAY BUS TRIP	Nil		Happy New Year to ALL	

JANUARY 2001

Sun 7	KEPPELL FALLS - THE BEECHES	BUS	E & E/M	Peter Havlicek & Bill Donald	#
12-14	Pack Carry: Razorback to Mt Feathertop	Private	E/M	Max Casley	
Sun 14	BIG PATS CREEK - STARLINGS GAP	BUS	E/M & M	Doug Pocock & Hans Edlinger	#
Wed 17	Warburton Goldfields	Private	E/M	Roger Wyatt	

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GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne 3001

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Subscription Fees: Ordinary - single membership \$35.00 Concession - single membership \$24.00 (proof required)
 Family/Couple -membership \$50.00 Concession - couple \$28.00 (proof required)
 New members joining on/after 1 October \$21.00 less visitor fees.

**Make cheques or money orders payable to 'Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.' and post to:
 Membership Secretary, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001**