

The News

of the

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc



SEPTEMBER, 2000

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Sunday Bus Fare Increase

At the September meeting, the Committee has reluctantly found it necessary to increase the bus fare, as a result of GST flow-on and the current low numbers on the bus.

The rationale for the increase is based on the requirement for Club activities to be self funding. The increase is to return us to "break-even".

Effective from Sunday 1st October, the Sunday Bus fares will be:

Members \$18, Concession \$12

(plus visitor fee of \$5 where applicable)

The Club private transport rate has also increased - see page 4 for details

Stop Press - The historic Clubrooms are about to be refurbished. It will be necessary for us to move out for 6 mths from early Oct. Watch this space!! Jan Palich is researching temporary accom. options and would welcome genuine suggestions -



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The Boite : World Music Café 1 Mark St, Nth Fitzroy

"Trouble in the Kitchen

A high-energy local young band playing traditional Irish dance music 3

> Doors open 7.30pm Music starts 8.30pm \$14 (\$8 conc.)

No bookings, so get in early for a seat. Mulled wine, tea, coffee & cakes on sale.

queries - phone Fiona





"The sport of Rogaining"

Video and talk presented by Nigel Aylott, 1998 World Rogaining Champion

Wednesday 27 September 8:00 pm - See page 11 for further details

The enclosed VicWalk Membership Card

The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Inc. (VicWalk) introduced its membership card in 1998 as a reminder to individual club members that they were a member of VicWalk and to raise their profile. For the benefit of those members who are unaware, the Federation was founded by eight clubs in 1934. Today it represents 80 clubs and an estimated 10,000 bushwalkers. It provides a range of services to member clubs and bushwalkers including a Search & Rescue service, affordable insurance, a staffed office and representation to government and other organisations.

The registered objectives of the Federation are:

- To unite all Victorian bushwalking clubs and cooperate with other organisations having like interests for the protection and advancement of mutual interests
- To promote the pastime of recreational bushwalking
- To encourage good fellowship and co-operation amongst bushwalking clubs
- To maintain a Search and Rescue Section to assist in searches for persons lost in bush and mountain areas of Victoria
- To promote the maintenance of walking tracks so as to enhance their bushwalking value
- To gather and distribute information regarding safety, walking routes, maps and other subjects of interest to bushwalkers
- To promote the conservation of national parks, wilderness and world heritage areas and the appropriate

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

Edited by Clare Lonergan.

The September 2000 News edited by David Arnold.

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 articles for The News may be sent to Clare by:

- Placing article in the Red Box in the clubrooms
- By posting to:
- By emailing to:

Advertising Rates (artwork ready)

¹/₄ 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 the last Wednesday in each month.

management of to the land areas, so as to enhance their bushwalking value.

Our Club has 3 Federation Representatives Jan Palich, Geoff Mattingley and myself who attend the VicWalk monthly business meeting where delegates from all the member clubs are encougaged to attend and participate in the business of the Federation. Rod Novak represents us on the Conservation subcommittee and reports regularly in News of the issues.

As a service to member clubs, VicWalk has obtained discounts to holders of current membership cards from a number of Melbourne based retailers of bushwalking equipment. The benefit ranges from 5-15% off recommended retail (not sale items). Please present your current card prior to the time of purchase. The following is a list of the retail outlets who are participating in the benefit

- Bogong Equipment both City and Collingwood
- Mountain Designs City, Collingwood, Hawthorn, Box Hill
- The Wilderness Shop Box Hill
- * Paddy Pallin Box Hill & Ringwood
- * Outsports in Moorabbin
- Melbourne Map Centre at both Waverley Rd Chadstone & High St Kew
- Ajays in Heathmont and EMC in Glenferrie Rd Hawthorn
- Aussie Disposals
- Outdoor Adventure, Camberwell
- Pinnacle Outdoor, City

Trish Elmore

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

Egon Josef Donath, 18/5/1906 — 11/8/2000

On the 11th August, 2000, Egon Josef Donath, the cofounder of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Club, and self proclaimed 'the ancient bushie', died peacefully after a short illness. He is survived by his loving wife (another one time bushie!), Martha, and his natural and stepchildren and grandchildren, to whom he was devoted.

Born in Vienna, Austria on the 18th May, 1906, Egon had a saying that if it weren't for Adolf Hitler the Melbourne Bushies wouldn't exist. He fled Austria in March 1938, walking unaided over the Austrian Alps to Switzerland.

Egon finally arrived in Australia in September 1939, just escaping the outbreak of World War Two. In 1940 he started up the Donath School of Languages, one of his students was an Australian woman, Marjorie Elmore (who later became the club's co-founder). Egon mentioned to her that there were many German and Austrian refugees living in Melbourne who missed the outdoor recreation they had had in Europe, namely walking in the mountains during the weekends. Marjorie bought a book entitled Fifteen walks around Melbourne and asked Egon to invite various refugees to join up with the language students so that the latter could practice their German as they walked together. (The woman later to become my grandmother, was one of the language students whom Egon, later to become my grandfather, invited on the walks!)

'Enemy aliens' or 'reffos' as they were affectionately called, initially had the problem of having to ask permission to travel if they were going more than 10 kilometers. And when on such an excursion, they had to check in at the local police station. Egon always thought it an amusing sight, seeing twenty or so young people lounging around outside a police station in the middle of nowhere while about three went in to sign.

Egon Donath led the first official walk in April 1940, which was from Ferntree Gully Station and went up to Mt Morton. From 1944, the Melbourne Bushwalkers always had a 20-kilometre walk as well as one of 13 kilometers — the easier ones often led by Egon, which he cheerfully referred to as his 'sissy' walks.

In the winter of 1941 the Quaker Society of friends supplied the venue for the first Bushwalkers concert. At

this occasion Egon remembers knowing everyone — the audience were all parents and friends of his little band — except for two male strangers sitting at the back. Who were they? Men from the secret service...

It was around this time that the Bushwalkers began to offer two to three day camping trips. Egon, never a tough walker, did go on one weekend trip to Wilson's Promontory in 1948. Everyone had tents except Egon, who didn't really fancy camping. There were still two old wartime training huts that had been used by the Australians and the Canadians. Egon was friendly with the ranger and managed to make use of a hut, a move viewed with amusement by the rest!

Egon's interest in the club never faltered, faithfully attending every anniversary. I think that the affectionate feelings he had towards the club which he co-founded are well summed up in the foreword which he wrote for *The Melbourne Bushies: Fifty years along the track:*

"I doubt whether any bushwalking club has had such mixed beginnings as that of the Melbourne Bushwalkers; I also doubt whether any of the early Bushies thought during the tense years of World War II that the Melbourne Bushwalkers would ever reach the age of 50 years.

The Club has enriched the life of many young and old 'wanderers' during five decades, has generated many marriages (including mine) and gave birth even to another walking club.

I trust that some of today's young Bushies will celebrate the centenary of the Melbourne Bushwalkers in 2040 in peace and prosperity while the old bushies will look down at them with nostalgic envy."

Adapted from: B. Weiss (Ed.). (1994)
The Melbourne Bushies: Fifty years along the track.
Melbourne Bushwalkers Incorporated.
Melbourne.

Respectfully submitted, Alice Donath Goodwin.



Walks Secretary's Report

THANK YOU to MICHAEL HUMPHREY

Michael is taking a hard-earned rest from organising the Dandenong Explorers. On behalf of the Committee of the Melbourne Bushwalkers, and all current and past Dandenong Explorers, and all Melbourne Bushwalkers, I would like to say a special THANK YOU to Michael for his boundless energy and enthusiasm for organising these great Saturday rambles. The special attraction to many Dandenongs Walkers is Michael's research on the best Coffee & Cake venues. Michael's first Dandenong Explorer was on Saturday 30th September 1989 from 'The Patch to Kallista' with seventeen people enjoying this walk, 11 members and 6 visitors. Over the next eleven years Michael has introduced the delights of the Dandenongs to many Bushies and visitors. Thank you Michael for sharing your love of the Dandenongs with so many. Three Cheers for Michael.

Rod Novak

And Welcome to Warren Baker -The new Dandenongs Explorer Leader/Coordinator for 2001

These popular walks, scheduled for the last Saturday of the month, continue with Warren Baker as the new Coordinator - telephone The first Dandenongs Explorer walk in 2001 will be on Saturday 24th February. Check the January NEWS for more information.

Private Transport Rate-

An increase to 8 cents per kilometre is effective immediately due to the recent spike in petrol prices.

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Changes to the Spring Walks Program - September

Sunday 10th September – Northern Brisbane Ranges. New Leader is John Kittson telephone and assisted by Ches Volpato.

15-17 September Weekend Ski Trip - Razorback / Mt Feathertop. New Leader is Merilyn Whimpey [has replaced Bill M.] Telephone

Walk Statistics for July

July 2000	Trips	Total Participants	Average	cf. July 1999
Sunday Bus	5	190	38	35
Pack Carry	1	5	5	5.7
Base Camp	1	7	7	9
Other Day - Wed 5 - Dand 14	2	19	9.5	14
Training Day	1	12	12	
Ski – Day	1	18	18	
Ski – W/End	Nil			8
Cancelled	4 (ski Trips)			5 (ski trips)
Total	12	251		208

Are you covered?

For those of us who are unaware the Federation of Victoria has a club policy that provides a very basic level of medical insurance cover and income support for walkers who are injured during official club activities.

Our club pays a levy to be included in a policy that extends to all Clubs affiliated with Federation. Injured walkers can be entitled to \$2000 for medical expenses and this includes ambulance costs. If anybody has been unfortunate enough to have used and been charged for ambulance transport you will appreciate that this essential professional service is costly eg. A one km trip could cost \$300 and longer distances involving air trans-

port can cost in excess of \$1500. This means very little change from your \$2000 bene-



fit for any additional medical ex-

It is acknowledged that some of our Club activities involve potential risks to walkers. The message is to strongly recommend that ALL club members have ambulance membership which cost \$45 for a single 12 mth membership. Good advice don't you agree?

> Trish Elmore Federation Rep

Day Walks for September/October, 2000

	ay walks for Septe	
Sunday 24 September Easy & Easy/Medium	Mt Gordon Ridge – Marysville	Sat Eas
Leaders	Les Southwell & Andrew Francis	Lea
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 8.30am	Are
Area	Marysville	Wa
Map Reference	Marysville – Lake Mountain Outdoor Leisure Map	Thi
Approximate length of walk	Easy: 12km, E/M: 15km plus 150m extra climb	Nav
Expected time of return	7 pm	not. and

PLEASE NOTE 8.30AM START!!

Both walks start at the saddle above the Marysville Trout Farm. The easy walk follows the valley route via the Triangle Road - Mary Meadow Track to the Golf Course, then up the Taggerty River Valley via Dickinson and Oak Tracks to finish near the old Vic Oak mill site.

The easy/medium walk takes the higher route, beginning on the Gordon Ridge to Woods Lookout, then along the (upper) Triangle Track to the Golf Course.

Both walks are along tracks through fairly open forest, except for one short stretch off track. If time permits, we will also do the Michaeldene and Manfern tracks from Lady Talbot Drive, near Marysville - an optional extra 2km.

Saturday 30 September Easy	Dandenongs Explorer
Leader	Warren Baker
Transport	Private
Area	Kalorama
Map Reference	Melway maps 52 & 66
Approximate length of walk	10km
Expected time of return	4.30pm

Meet at fiveways, Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Kalorama at 10.30 am. There is parking behind the tearooms near the church. Kalorama means great views and the morning part of the walk lives up to this expectation with views from Mt Dandenong and Mt Corhanwarrabel. We will also visit the site of the crash of the Kyeema.

In the afternoon we will have a climb back to Kalorama. Wear shoes with a good tread.

If you want to come by public transport give me a ring and a phone number. I'll try to arrange a lift from Upper Fern Tree Gully. WARREN BAKER

Saturday 30 September Easy	Training Day
Leader	Brian Crouch
Transport	Private
Area	Close to Melbourne
Want more info?	Call me or see me in the clubrooms

is will be a fun day and informative in developing vigation and Leadership skills. All members are urged attend regardless of your aspirations to lead walks or t. Training days are now being held every three months and so far have been well attended, fun and successful. We are fortunate to have experienced helpers assisting people learning on the day.

We will have a preview night at the clubrooms on Wed 27th as a lead-in to the Saturday activities. Come along with an open mind and a willingness to share your experiences with others.

Sunday 1 October Easy & Easy/Medium	Kalatha Valley – Mt Klondyke
Leaders	John Kittson & Jean Woodger
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area	Toolangi State Forest, north of Healesville
Map Reference	Klondyke 8023-3-3 Monda 8022-4-4 Glenburn 7923-2-2 Murrindindi 8023-3-4 (all 1:25 000)
Approximate length of walk	15km & 18km
Expected time of return	7 pm

Fred Halls, who is one of our life members, asked of me some 9 years ago, "would you be interested in co-leading a walk with me in one of my pet walking areas, namely Mt. Klondyke and Kalatha Valley". Of course I said yes, but little did I know that in years to come I would be following in his footsteps. The best description of this walk was written by Fred himself with the following words -

There are many beautiful groves of tall timber, Mountain Ash and some Shining Gum, with a lush understorey of Blackwood, Silver Wattle, Myrtle Beech and Hazel Pomaderris growing along the lovely valley of Kalatha Ck. There are many kilometres of pleasant walking through the Kalatha Valley with its abundant wildlife living in the

The News - September, 2000

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walking tour of world Heritage

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And more - from the campsite depart magical walking and hiking trails to the moss garden, hell hole gorge, the ampitheatre, cathedral cave, aboriginal rock art, and on and on..... For the best walking in Outback.

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virgin forests. It may seem that they are virgin forests, but in reality it is mainly regrowth, as is evident by the occasional large tree stump situated by the side of the brown track.

This is probably the best forest valley situated just to the north of the Great Dividing Range, where clear Kalatha waters bubble down the narrow trench between the Mt. Klondyke Ridge and Horseyard Range (Mt. Despair). On the crest of Mt. Klondyke look for the fragrant Narrow Leaf Peppermint, the Mountain Ash and the exquisite grove of tall, bright Candlebarks (Euc. rubida) their stems alight in the afternoon sunshine.

Sunday 8 October Easy/Medium & Medium

Mt Beenak -**Bunyip River**

Leaders

Max Casley & **David Laing**

Transport

Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am

Area

East of Gembrook

Map Reference

Gembrook South 1:25 000

Approximate length of walk

12km & 16km

Expected time of return

7 pm

This walk goes through the Bunyip State Forest east of Gembrook. Both groups start with an easy climb up Mt Beenak and then along a track and a quiet road to Basan Corner. The easier group will follow the road to Tomahawk Gap. The medium group will go the long way round, starting by following the Bunyip River. From Tomahawk Gap we cross the Blue Range and then there is a long descent to Dyers Creek which we will follow to finish at the picnic ground.

Bus fares

The bus fares for the Sunday walks are as follows:

Members \$15 Concession \$10 (until 30 Sept)

Members \$18 Concession \$12 (from 1 Oct)

Plus \$5 visitor fee where applicable.

Late fee of \$2.00 (for both members & visitors who attend on Sunday without having booked on the walk).

Saturday 14 October	CYCLING – City to
Easy/Medium	Westerfolds Park

Leader Merilyn Whimpey Private **Transport** Approximate length 33km

Meet under Princes Bridge, Southbank at 10 a.m., bringing lunch, snacks and water.

According to Bicycle Victoria notes, the ride to Westerfolds Park along the Main Yarra Trail is about 33.5 km, and should take up to four hours. Attractions along the way include the Collingwood Children's Farm, Fairfield Boat House, the scenic Yarra River and Westerfolds Park. There are two sets of steps along the way, as well as a few short, sharp climbs if I remember it right.

At Westerfolds Park there is an Aboriginal art gallery and tea rooms. There are also interesting short walks. From Westerfolds Park we can ride about 3 km to Eltham railway station to catch the train home; we can ride back to Southbank along the bike path; or we can find our way back to Southbank via the streets and roads.

Sunday 15 October Easy & Easy/Medium	Mystery Destination	
Leaders	Alan Miller & Lance Mobbs	

Bus from Southbank Transport Boulevard at 9.00am

Expected time of return 7 pm

Come along for a great walk and a BBQ lunch! Sorry, no details on booking in - it's going to be a surprise.

Wednesday 18 October Easy/Medium	Hepburn Park – LaFranchi's Hut
Leader	Trevor Thomson
Transport	Private
Area	West of Hepburn Springs
Map Reference	Eganstown 1:25 000
Approximate length of walk	15 km
Expected time of return	5.30 pm
Meet 10:20 am Lake Daylesfo	ord, with a short drive to

follow.

The western part of the Hepburn Regional Park is rich in old gold mining history. In a remote corner, an old miners hut later became a farm outpost, when it was extensively

planted around with bulbs. In October this "secret garden" blooms with bluebells and lilacs, making for us a pleasant lunchtime spot.

The walk, mostly along old tracks, will be on undulating terrain through eucalypt and pine forest. Other features of interest are the remains of the Charlesford gold mine, an old slate mine, and Henderson mineral spring.

to register in case you're not Ring me on sure of arriving by the appointed time, or to get more details.

Sunday 22 October Easy & Easy/Medium	Labertouche – Boronia Reserve
Leaders	Peter Havlicek & Mary de Salis
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area	Bunyip State Forest, Labertouche (along Princes Hwy, Gippsland)
Map Reference	Spion Kopje 1:25 000 8022-2-3
Approximate length of walk	13km & 18km
Expected time of return	6.30 pm

The walk is in the Wildflower Reserve off Forest Road in the Bunyip State Forest. The walk is circular, starting at the Brighton Grammar School camp. The medium walk takes in a longer route along Bullock Link Track to South Hells Gate before following the easy walk route.

The easy walk climbs up a ridge to Quartz Creek Road, then down to a very pretty and interesting Nature Walk along Lawson Creek, then up Discovery Track and completing the circuit along Tea Tree Road. There is a great variety of bush flowers including Gudenias, Dusty Millers, Banksias, Grevilleas and Boronias along Discovery Track. Wallabies, lyrebirds and land yabbies are amongst the fauna observed on past visits.

Sunday 29 October Easy & Easy/Medium	Portarlington – Edwards Point
Leaders	Clare Lonergan & Fay Pratt
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Map Reference	Melway maps 241 & 240
Approximate length of walk	13km & 15km
Expected time of return	6.30 pm

This is a delightful walk which should be classified as Easy & Even Easier. Although we do the distance it is dead easy and extremely pleasant - not a hill in sight. This is why Fay and I are more than happy to lead it again.

We start off by walking a loop through the Edward Point State Faunal Reserve over flat sandy terrain. We should see many birds including groups of tiny Rednecked Stints, White-fronted Chats, Crested Terns and Pied Oyster-catchers. We then head north along the coast where we will have endless views across Port Phillip Bay until we hit the bakery at St. Leonards. After lunch we continue north along the coast passing many historical landmarks and several ship wrecks. The easy walk finishes where the Ozone foundered and the E/Medium group continue to Pt George.

We then board the bus and head off to Kilgour Estate Winery, a hillside vineyard with spectacular views over Corio Bay. The winery specialises in Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon. There is a restaurant surrounded by a lovely rose garden (the roses should be at their best at this time of the year) where we can taste wine, have a coffee or just wander around the garden and enjoy the ambience. Come and join us on a very civilised bush walk.





Federation Base Camp 21st & 22nd October

This year's Federation walk is being hosted by the Dandenong Valley Club and the location is in the Grampians springtime is such a wonderful time to visit the Grampians with the wildflowers in full bloom. The event will be based at Halls Gap Caravan Park, and judging by the programmed walks there is something to suit all levels. In fact the program has 29 listed walks from a leisurely 3km to a more challenging 18km in the Wonderland Range.

The caravan park has facilities for camping, cabin accommodation and caravans so depending on your personal comfort requirements everybody should be satisfied. Demand for accommodation should be high so if you are interested please contact me asap to enable early booking. This is a great opportunity to support Federation, to walk with fellow Bushies and to meet other club members in a fabulous environment. Hopefully I shall see you at the camp or on one of the walks.

Trish Elmore

Weekend Walks for Sept / October 2000

Pack Carry: Mt

Medium/Hard	Margaret – Croll's Gorge
Leader	Gina Hopkins
Transport	Private
Map Reference	Licola – Wellington 1:50 000
Area	Alpine National Park, near Tali Karng
Approximate Distance	32 km

This walk will start from near Licola on the the Mount Margaret walking track, and will hopefully finish there too. In between we will camp somewhere on the Wellington River which we will follow downstream as far as Crolls Gorge. There could be a fair bit of bush-bashing, and some steep hills to negotiate so the walk is only suitable for the fit and more experienced bushwalker.

6-8 October	Base Camp:
Medium	Northern Grampians
-	

Jerry Grandage Leader

Private Transport

Map Reference North Grampians (Outdoor Leisure Series)

varied Approximate Distance

This is an opportunity for newcomers to introduce themselves to the Grampians when the wildflowers are at their magnificent best and for confirmed Grampians freaks to return to some of their favourite territory. Hopefully we can organise two walk options each day and the agenda should include Mt.Difficult, Briggs Bluff, Beehive Falls and Mt. Stapylton. The area is loaded with interesting rock formations and waterfalls. We will be walking on tracks all the time. The campsite for both nights will be Troopers Creek.

22-24 September

Drysdale River National Park in the wet

2 Weeks: January 28 - February 10 2001

Fly in, fly out. Waterfalls, gorges, beautiful pools, Aboriginal art and a "lost city" where you can sit in a rock shelter and relax while the weather does it's worst (or best) just as the original inhabitants did for thousands of years. This should be the easiest "major" wet season expedition we have ever run.



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11 days: January 9-19 2001

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6-8 October Ski Trip: Mt Bogong Hard

Stephen Rowlands Leader

Private **Transport**

Map Reference Bogong Alpine Area

Area Mt Bogong

Sunday evening Expected time of return

Approximate Distance unknown

I am planning to climb up the staircase on Saturday morning and make camp somewhere near the summit then spend the rest of the weekend skiing/exploring the gullies, returning back down the staircase on Sunday afternoon. Please phone me for more detail on.

13-15 October Pack Carry: Eagles Peak Medium

Leader Max Casley

Transport Private

Map Reference VMTC King, Howqua &

Jamieson Rivers 1:50 000

Агеа Mansfield (Sth of Mt

Expected time of return Late Sunday

Approximate Distance 25 km The plan is to walk from Sheepyard Flat up to the Mt Darling ridge to camp on Saturday night. Sunday we will visit The Governors as a side trip, and then climb over Eagles Peak to finish at 8 mile Gap. "Why go up rather than down", do I hear you ask? The idea is to save carrying all our water needs for Saturday and Sunday morning. Also there are steep sections which are easier to ascend than descend. However it is possible that we may do the walk the other way round. Anyway, it will be a great Spring walk with magnificent views.

Meet Saturday morning 8am at Sheepyard Flat when the car shuffle will start. Hopefully we will start walking soon after 9am. For Sunday night the Merrijig Pub has been recommended.

Suggested transport cost will be about \$32 per person.

Advance Notice

Cup Weekend 3rd - 7th November 2000

Leader – Lance Mobbs 9399 4856 (AH)

Map – Bogong Alpine Area 1:50 000

This walk will start and finish at Bogong Village, going via The Springs Saddle, Tawonga Huts, Cope Hut, Wilky Lodge and Ropers Hut. We will visit most of the major peaks such as the two Mt Fainters, the Niggerheads, Mt Jim, Mt Cope, Marme Point and the two Mt Nelses.

Full details in October News or from the leader.

The News - September, 2000 ***********************************

TRAINING REPORT



Mentoring System for New Leaders

My recent experience of getting lost whilst doing a preview at Mt Worth made me very aware of the need to ensure leaders do not go out alone to do previews. Fortunately I had a Co-Leader, thanks Liz, who would have known what to do if I didn't turn up. We need to have a network of Leaders who we can call on to assist other Leaders when going out to do previews.

This is even more important when New Leaders are going out to do a preview of their first walk. As well as having their Co-Leader it is far better to have a Mentor allocated to new leaders who takes on a support role in assisting with

- 1 Planning the walk
- 2 Taking the new leader on the Preview
- 3 Being there on the day of the walk as a "back up"

This will assist the new leader to feel confident on the day to have a successful day.

There is a lot in leading a walk but with the right support we can nurture new Leaders to gradually gain the skills and confidence which will enable them to lead successfully, with minimum stress and be able to enjoy the whole experience.

l was fortunate in having people like Jean Giese, Alan Miller and John Kittson to show me the ropes when I started Leading walks and I am very grateful for their time, patience and support. I have been recently doing some mentoring and while I enjoy it I need some other dedicated, experienced Leaders to assist as Mentors for new Leaders both on Day & Overnight walks. Is there anyone out there prepared to help in this way ?? If there is, please contact me ASAP.

Where are our Leaders??

The Club has an ongoing challenge in getting sufficient Leaders, particularly for Sunday Walks. We tend to rely on a mix of "old faithfuls" and "newies" and we realy appreciate the effort put in by all those people and everyone who walks should acknowledge the Leaders' commitment, remember if we don't have Leaders we can't have walks so do your bit to help the Leaders. To "quote" someone more famous than me, Think what you can do for the Bushies NOT just what the Bushies can do for you!!

There is a commitment required in terms of time and effort to be a Leader, but it is very rewarding and enjoyable in terms of achievement and in helping with your own Personal Growth.

What do you need to be a Leader?? Basically a love of the Bush and a desire to give something back to the Club. We now run regular Training Days and can gradually give people the necessary skills to be a competent Leader, so

why not contact me or any Committee Member and make a commitment to help keep the Club active and enjoyable.

First Aid Training

Level 2 First Aid Training is currently in progress with 9 members enjoying gaining knowledge of how to help people who may have a mishap on a walk. The format is very "Bushie" with half of our time being spent out in the Bush doing real life activities, that's why we are running it over 2 weekends. We plan to run another Level 2 program in Feb/March next year and then, dependent on level of interest, to run a Remote First Aid program later next year.

The Club needs to have as many people as possible with First Aid skills, Leaders and Walkers on all our walks should be equipped to handle any emergency. I urge members to participate in this worthwhile program.

Next Training Day

On Sat 30th September we will be holding another enjoyable Training Day close to Melbourne which will include further developing Leadership and Navigation skills. All members are welcome to participate regardless of whether you have Leadership aspirations or not - a number of current new Members have found these days to be an enjoyable intro to the Club. Equally we want experienced Leaders to share their knowledge and experiences with others.

For further details on any of these activities contact me on

Brian Crouch Training Coordinator



Rail Trails

"Railtrails are multipurpose public paths created from abandoned railway corridors. They make perfect walking, cycling and horse riding trails that are easily followed and have gentle gradients. Railtrails are corridors of greenery often with abundant bird and animal life offering scenery not visible from roads."

Railtrails Australia is a national organisation which promotes the preservation of old rail corridors for alternative public uses such as cycling, horse riding and bush walking. For further details, visit their website at

www.railtrails.org.au

Or phone them on 03 9306 4846

Submitted by Stuart Mattingley

Website address: http://www.vicnet.net.au/

The Mystery Destination Walk

Sunday 16th July 2000 (more or less to the tune of "Catch A Falling Star")

Catch the mystery destination don't expect much information. 'tis secret women's business you see, but you may find the signposts are revealing that's what I say, and Steven's profile should help to keep on peeling the mystery away.

Catch the Morning Star Track, follow with your back-pack, never let it fade away. for Blackwood should be just around the corner, on and on I pray that soon we'll find the bridge that we cross over on this perfect day.

Catch the track to Shaw's Lake, meander, but don't hesitate to pick it up again straight away, for you should find you're heading to the north-east to wood-chip paradise, where you can see the beauty humbled by the beast before your very eyes.

Catch the golden Point Track, follow with your back-pack all the way to Lerderderg Gorge, for you may find the perfect place to eat out high on a sun-trapped hill, and you may even wish to go on walkabout to see the tunnel's spill.

Catch the Byer's Back Track and you will want to come back to savour every twist and turn, united like a caterpillar crawling around every gully you'll wend, sometimes moving, sometimes even stalling until you reach the end.

Catch the sights of Blackwood where mining days were very good but now there's little left to find, except for a pony minding the old mail-house eating our apples too. and Hettie the Hen who's quiet as a kitchen mouse, but she's a landmark true.

Catch the Blackwood Hotel if you want a little spell of pool and beer and fireside warmth, or you may wish to laze beneath the setting sun until it's time to go, and surely the mystery's gone for each and everyone when the map is put on show!

Jill Dawson

Treasurer: **Accounts for June 2000** Opening Balance \$56,546.73 Receipts \$2,615.35 **Payments** \$10,797.49 Closing Balance \$48,364.59 **Accounts for July 2000** Opening Balance \$48,364.59 Receipts \$4,617.47 **Payments** \$3,752.30 Closing Balance \$49,229.76

"The sport of Rogaining"

Video and talk presented by Nigel Aylott, 1998 World Rogaining Champion

Wednesday 27 September 8:00 pm in the Clubrooms

Nigel will show us a video taken at the Australian Rogaining championships last year to give us an idea of what is in involved in this growing sport.

The video includes footage of one of our past Presidents (Janet Norman) trying to get across a creek, and shows us what a Rogaine is all about. They are a lot of fun and a great way to learn about and improve your navigation, surely a benefit for all bushwalkers.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to hear about Rogaining from one of the top proponents of this sport.

Gina Hopkins



Duty Roster

13 September Doug & Amanda 20 September* Fiona & Trish 27 September Pearson & Anne 04 October Deborah & Peter

> Date of next committee meeting: Monday 2 October 2000 at 7 PM

The News - September, 2000



Conservation Forum

<u>~</u>*******************



The following items were discussed at the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting of Wednesday 30th August 2000.

VicWalk State Forest Survey – this important survey is in progress. Help is still needed for the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Survey of Walking Tracks in our State Forests. Can you help? We still need more of our Sunday Bus Leaders to share their knowledge of our walks in State Forests. Contact Rod Novak on 9561 2407 for more information / offers of assistance.

Australian Alps Walking Track – the Poverty Point bridge over the Thompson River (near Walhalla) will be refurbished with help from a Heritage Victoria funding grant. The Federation trying to have the AAWT re-routed over the Kosciusko main range.

Mt Stirling – proposed road closure this summer with logging in the State Forest adjacent to King Saddle. It is believed the road at King Saddle will close during forest operations during the week, but will re-open each weekend for access.

Wilsons Prom – a report of extensive refurbishment at the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage.

Bush Month - October 2000 Brochure

The Trust for Nature *Bush Month – October 2000* brochure is now available at the Reception Desk at Clubnight. This brochure details the many special events and activities scheduled for October. A must have for nature lovers. Get your copy now.

Rod Novak

VicWalk News September 2000 Summary

FEDERATION WEEKEND 21/22 OCTOBER 2000 GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK

OVER 20 WALKS Short / Medium / Long
Free Tea & Coffee - All Hours
Free Talk Show - Saturday Night
Contact Your Club Delegate -Make a Booking! Cost: \$15
per person. Hosts: Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Club

Let someone know before you go!

Simple enough, but many outdoor enthusiasts still don't abide by this basic rule. Advising a responsible person of where you are walking or skiing could literally mean the difference between life and death. This was highlighted in the recent Yarra Ranges search. If details had been left with a reliable person, the missing people would probably have been found earlier. As it turned out, they were very lucky to have been found at all. The Contact System for club trips provides a safety net in the event of an accident or other emergency. It means that someone does know where the group intended to go, when they were due out, how many were in the group, where cars were left and other relevant details. It does not take very long for a leader to provide this useful information to their Club Contact and this process should be encouraged.

Monica Chapman Convener, Bushwalkers Search and Rescue

Conservation - AAWT

Representation has been made over the years regarding the route in the Snowy Mountains area specifically Charlottes Pass to Guthega power Station. We have continually suggested that this route is inappropriate and to consider alternatives. At the last meeting of the Alps Liaison Committee it was resolved to again approach the Region with a view to a feasibility study being undertaken. A rely from the regional manager indicates that they refuse to consider any alternative. A letter expressing our disappointment at their attitude and their refusal to address the issues has been sent to the convener of the strategy group.

STATE FORESTS

We are still waiting on replies from Clubs to the walking track survey as outlined in the August VicWalk News YARRA RANGES

We are concerned at plans to expand logging in catchments, incidentally where we are not even allowed to walk, we intend following this up.

Member Discount at Outdoor Adventure Outdoor Adventure, 535 Riversdale Road Camberwell, joins our list of retailers offering discounts to current holders of VicWalk membership cards. The standard discount rate will be 10% with the only restriction applying to goods already reduced, sale items. If members wish to purchase their equipment as a group, a discount up to 20% is offered. For larger purchases discounts of 25% are available or lower prices can be negotiated. If members wish to purchase items not usually stocked they are happy to quote for special purchases. Most brands and products are available, if members have been quoted on a "House Brand" by another store they are able to offer comparable products.

from Hugh Carrigan and the Promotions Committee

Roamers' Ravings

Great Divide Trail

5-6 August 2000

In the Daylesford area there is a historic walking trail through the old gold diggings, past mineral springs and spas. The complete trail is 62km but we did a 44km section from Vaughan Springs to Lake Daylesford. There were seven of us: Rod Novak (leader), Roger Wyett, Bob Oxlade, David Everitt, Bill Donald, Jerry Grandage and me, Max Casley. We met 8am Saturday at Lake Daylesford for breakfast - thermos tea, sticky buns and toast cooked on Roger's stove. Jerry had camped nearby and the rest of us drove up that morning. The overnight frost soon melted after the sun rose in the cloudless blue sky.

We drove to the start of the walk at Vaughan Springs beside the Loddon River. Just after starting we saw a platypus swimming in the weir - it quickly dived out of sight when it saw us. We were soon removing layers of clothing as we warmed up. At the first rest stop Rod produced his "lucky dip" bag of treats - chocolate frogs, caramel koalas. This happened regularly and so we never lacked nourishment. Just before lunch a Powerful Owl flew onto a nearby branch and gazed down at us with golden-brown eyes. Binoculars were passed around and we all got a good view.

We walked up Sailors Gully, Stones Gully, Middleton Creek and then on top looking down into Tarilta Creek. The track wandered through open forest and was generally clearly marked. However, occasionally at a junction Rod had to make an informed guess, which each time turned out to be correct.

Not long after lunch we saw Mt Franklin a mere 3km away. This was our campsite for the night. "Nearly there" we thought. Wrong! Mt Franklin is almost completely surrounded by private land and this meant an 8km road bash to get there. We were footsore when we arrived but it was worth it. We were in the crater of an old volcano with our tents pitched under trees.

Before dinner we went to the top near the fire watch tower and watched the sunset. On return we had no problem collecting firewood. Then the eating started. Everyone had brought entree or dessert. There was so much that Bill decided not to eat his main course. Bob cooked falafels for all of us, and wine and liqueurs were offered around. Around the campfire we discussed various options for avoiding the road bash in future, such as leaving cars at strategic places or even a base camp. Overnight it was surprisingly mild. A fan-tailed cuckoo called most of the night.

Next morning we left our extinct volcano crater. The road bash was short, the sky blue, new born lambs gambolled in the paddocks so we were in good spirits. Soon we were back in the forest with occasional good views across farmland to Mt Franklin. We followed another Sailors Creek but this was flowing southward. Possibly these were named after sailors who jumped ship to search



for gold. At Golden Point the spring was closed off and we wondered why the water downstream was discoloured yellow. We lunched beside the track near a gurgling stream. Our egos were severely

dented when a young girl rounded the corner and on seeing us ran back. She waited for the protection of her family before going past us. Did we look as bad as that! Lunch included left-overs: Rod's Cheezels, Bob's Tim Tams, Bill's chocolate and Jerry's minties.

We went to the Blowhole and briefly explored. It is a gold miners trench cut through rock. Tipperary Springs was such a nice spot that we stopped for afternoon tea and Roger brewed yet another cuppa. At one stage David was pursued by a barking dog which could have been the last straw for a footsore bushwalker. However, he survived possibly because the dog was about the size of a fox terrier and was wagging its tail.

When we arrived at Lake Daylesford it was very busy with sightseers and picnickers. After the car shuffle we made for Bacchus Marsh to chew the fat in a Chinese Restaurant. We had a meal too.

Thanks Rod - a good walk. We should do it again.

Max Casley

A Short Walk in Scotland

Derrick and Gina were catching a train from Edinburgh leaving at about 4 a.m. and arriving at Fort William some six hours later. In view of the early departure I wondered whether it would happen but I shouldn't have worried. It was good to see two familiar Aussie bushwalkers stepping off the train clad in shorts and carrying larger-than-average packs. The reason for our meeting had its origin about three years earlier (June 1997) when I was visiting the Scottish Highlands for three months. During that visit I walked from Glasgow to Fort William via the West Highland Way, one of Britain's official Long Distance Walking Tracks which are supported by detailed track notes, sign-posts and track markers on the ground and bed-and-breakfast accommodation at convenient intervals to allow the walker to carry nothing more than a day pack.

After completing the West Highland Way I read a magazine article on the so-called Cape Wrath Trail, followed by a book of that name, by one David Patterson. The 'Trail' continues northwards all the way to Cape Wrath at the northwest tip of Scotland, a distance of around 320 kilometres. The fact that the Cape Wrath Trail had no track notes, no markers on the ground, and passed through some of the less accessible areas of the Scottish highlands where accommodation is almost non-existent, made it more intriguing. The route seemed to offer scope for Australian-style walking, involving movement through and camping in the most remote regions of the British Isles and carrying full weight packs as we are

accustomed to on extended walks here. An idea was born.

I arrived in Fort William on 12 May, having agreed with Derrick and Gina that 'we might do some walking somewhere, sometime in Scotland'. Their schedule of 'rello visiting' etc. gave them a window of opportunity to join me for the first six days of the walk to Cape Wrath. I spent several days in Fort William researching the route, buying maps and food, inquiring about transport and foodbuying prospects further north, and generally enjoying the comforts of civilisation. The weather was perfect and had been so for several weeks in Scotland. The countryside was in the full flush of spring and was looking magnificent. Would the good weather last?

We started our walk on 16 May in cloudy conditions. Our route initially took us along the Caledonian Canal, which is part of the system of canals, rivers and lochs that follow the massive fault line northeastwards from Fort William via Loch Ness to Inverness. The rain started that first morning and the low cloud stopped us from seeing the awesome northeast face of Ben Nevis which might have been visible. Our timing could have been better with respect to the weather: in fact it couldn't have been much worse! After leaving the canal we walked through some delightful woodland on the shores of Loch Lochy, by which time the rain had stopped. We proceeded northwards to our first campsite at an elevated location overlooking Loch Arkaig. That evening we had our first encounter with the dreaded midges, little insects that sometimes make life unpleasant for people in the Highlands. Normally they are not active until later in the season but presumably the warm conditions in early May this year had encouraged them out earlier than usual. The evening was serene in spite of the midges.

There followed a further six days of walking for the three of us, and then another two and a half weeks on my own. In that time we/I experienced much of the finest walking country that the British Isles can offer. The bad news is that the weather in general was disappointing. Much of the time the clouds precluded views of the 'tops' and on some occasions when we ventured onto the tops we merely saw the well-known spectacle of the inside of a cloud. Surprisingly Scottish clouds are similar to Australian ones when viewed from the inside. It rained often although never hard or for long. The good news is that the few days of brilliant weather that I was treated to after Derrick and Gina left me seem all the more magical in retrospect.

The landscape of the Scottish Highlands is very different from what we see in Australia and New Zealand with respect to both topography and vegetation. Unlike the sweeping plains and rounded or flat-topped hills of Australia, and the stunning grandeur and scale of New Zealand, the Highlands offer small-scale mountains and valleys. Vegetation-wise the Australian walker first notices the absence of trees over most of the Highlands, and also the relative lack of troublesome ground scrub. A few thousand years ago the land was covered with trees, largely Scots pine, oak, rowan and silver birch, but landuse practices have destroyed so much that the original woodland is now confined to just a few remnant areas. A

stand of mature Scots pines is a majestic sight and even two or three trees can add much to the ambience of the surrounding area. Regrettably the new generation of Scots pines, along with other tree species, are being decimated by an introduced deer species which roams freely over large regions of the Highlands. Furthermore many valleys have been partly planted with non-native conifers which greatly detract from what would otherwise be a natural looking landscape. The dominant vegetation over much of the hills is heather, grass and bilberry with patches of sphagnum moss etc. in the wetter areas, of which there are plenty. The open-ness of the vegetation allows the walker to see the landscape (weather permitting) most of the time instead of only when above treeline. Some of the hills are quite 'craggy' and rock is often visible either as cliffs or as impressive scree slopes which sometimes cover huge areas of hillside. The Highlands were extensively glaciated during the last ice age and this has resulted in the typical broad U-shaped valleys, partcircular amphitheatres (called 'corries') that are often separated from each other by sharply defined ridges, and glacial lakes of all sizes and shapes which are a joy to behold. The rising sea-level has produced a convoluted coastline with peninsulas and sea lochs which extend a long way inland.

During the journey northwards I/we passed through a good sample of Highland scenery and even some coastline at times. The through route to Cape Wrath was mostly at a low level and generally but not always on some form of track. Since many of the main valleys are aligned westto-east we frequently needed to walk up to a saddle before descending into the next catchment. The route went close to some of the less accessible and highly prized peaks, and the potential for challenging high level side trips was endless. Regrettably the weather didn't allow many such side trips. One day we spent about seven hours walking up and down two rather spectacular peaks. We started in clear weather but soon the clouds descended and we saw nothing until we emerged downwards out of the mist near the end of the day. Of course it would have been great to have had visibility but in the event the ambience of the scene was beautiful in its own way. Further northwards I enjoyed some side trips and higher level walking in better conditions and I treasure the memories of the magnificent vistas; the network of valleys and sparkling lakes; the peaks and ridges, some of them dominated by rock formations and scree slopes, and others clothed with grass and heather; the seemingly endless ranges in all directions; and sometimes the coastline with the Atlantic Ocean beyond.

On 8 June I reached Sandwood Bay, an expansive sandy beach a short way south of Cape Wrath which presented an amazing contrast with every other part of the route. It was a joy to walk bare-footed in the sand and watch the Atlantic rollers pounding the beach. From here the route followed a fascinating stretch of coastline to the Cape, which is as far north as one can go on the west coast of Scotland. The area near the Cape features the highest sea cliffs in Britain, vast numbers of sea birds which nest on the cliffs, a remote light-house and a military firing range. My exit from the area was delayed for a day be-

cause the firing range was in use on the day that I had planned to finish the walk.

Most of the nights were spent camping and I/we camped in some brilliant locations. The season was close to the summer solstice and it was great to relax during the long summer evenings. The sun didn't set until about 10.30 p.m. and then followed the long twilight. The midges were in evidence only in still, humid air. Any wind is enough to keep them away and hence it is good practice to look for an exposed location when selecting a tent-site, a curious reversal of the usual guidelines! I recall one particularly beautiful campsite on a sandy beach at one end of a small, high level lake near a saddle. The lake was flanked on both sides by spectacular craggy peaks and in the middle distance was Stac Pollaidh (pronounced Stack Polly), one of the more shapely peaks in the area. The whole scene was loaded with atmosphere. I reached the lake after walking through one of the most scenic sections of the whole route and this coincided with one of the few days of perfect weather. A day to remember! And there were others of similar quality, such that when I look back on the whole adventure the less-thanideal weather doesn't seem important.

Jerry Grandage

New members: JOANNE BERGHOEF

JOY CARVER

OLIVER DAMIAN

PHILLIP JONES

ALANNA KIOUSSIS

HELLENA LOZANOVSKI

PAUL A WAKEFIELD

Add to membership list: STEFANIE PEARCE

Altered Address/Phone: **GRAHAM & MARIJKE MASCAS**

GEORGE ZAMORA

Search & Rescue Report

On Tuesday 15 August, Federation Search & Rescue members were called out to assist on a search for a missing downhill skier at Mount Hotham. About 30 members, including two from our Club - Stephen Rowlands and myself, duly assembled at the Police Transport Centre in Melbourne at midnight. The coach journey took nearly eight hours as we had to go via Bairnsdale and Omeo as the road from Harrietville was closed due to the heavy snow. The summit of Mount Hotham was still shrouded in cloud when we arrived and the temperature was below freezing. Naturally there was great concern over the welfare of the missing skier given that he had been out for two nights in terrible conditions.

After some time spent planning and organising the search groups, we set off in teams of four to start our searches. Stephen and I were in a group searching amongst the trees of the incredibly steep slope just below the Ski Patrol office in the centre of Hotham. The weather cleared soon after 1030 and the helicopters then joined in the search for the first time. From one of the police helicopters someone saw what they believed to be a pair of skis near a creek. All the groups were called on to search this area which was at the bottom of our thickly treed steep slope. It was hard to imagine how anyone on downhill skis could have got anywhere near this point given the trouble we all had getting there! After a thorough line search had failed to find signs of either skis or the missing person we were all sent back to our original areas to continue searching. While returning up the slope we heard the good news over the radio that the missing skier had been sighted "alive and well" down another creek on the other side of Hotham. The ABC helicopter were the first to see him. He was soon winched to safety.

It is quite a feat that this person managed to survive two nights of snowfalls and sub-zero temperatures, and suffer nothing further than "mild hypothermia". He did all the right things that a lost person should do - he stayed put and made a shelter as best he could, a snow cave in his case, and waited to be found. It was a great outcome for everyone involved.

> Gina Hopkins Search & Rescue Representative

BARBARA WEISS

Life Members 11 Honorary Members 10 Single memberships 308 Family memberships 94 (= 2x 47) Total membership

SEPTEMBER

Sun 17	TALLAROOK – MILL CREEK	BUS	E/M & M	David Arnold & Anne Wilkins	#
Wed 20	Wednesday Walkers: Cathedral Ranges	Private	E/M	George Sawenko	
22-24	Pack Carry: Mt Margaret - Croll's Gorge	Private	Med/Hard	Gina Hopkins	
Sun 24	8.30 Start MT GORDON RIDGE – MARYSVILLE	BUS	E & E/M	Les Southwell & Andrew Francis	#
Sat 30	Dandenongs Explorer	Private	Easy	Warren Baker	
Sat 30	Training Day	Private	Easy	Brian Crouch	
		осто	DBER		
Sun 1	KALATHA VALLEY -MT KLONDYKE	BUS	E & E/M	John Kittson & Jean Woodger	#
6-8	Base Camp: Northern Grampians	Private	Medium	Jerry Grandage	
6-8	Ski Trip: Mt Bogong	Private	Hard	Stephen Rowlands	
Sun 8	Mt BEENAK – BUNYIP RIVER	BUS	E/M & M	Max Casley & David Laing	#
13-15	Pack Carry: Eagles Peak	Private	Medium	Max Casley	
Sat 14	Cycling: City to Westerfolds Park	Train	E/M	Merilyn Whimpey	*
Sun 15	SPECIAL DESTINATION with Free BBQ	BUS	E & E/M	Alan Miller & Lance Mobbs	#
	Wednesday Walkers: Hepburn-LaFranchi.	Private	E/M	Trevor Thomson	
20.22	Page Comp. Grampians (Federation W/end)	Private	F/M	Trish Elmore	

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