



# THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 606

AUGUST 2001

60 CENTS



## **SLIDE SHOW**

**Wednesday 29 August  
8.00 pm**

**Ray Thomas**

**from the Regent Honeyeater Project  
(our September Tree Planting Weekend)**

**will present**

**an informative & colourful slide show  
to further whet our appetites  
for the September 8-9 planting weekend.  
(More information on page 7)**

## **HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING**

**8.00 PM, WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST**

**TEMPORARY CLUBROOMS**

**VICT'N HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY HALL, CITY**

## **ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS (CRANBOURNE) WALKING GROUP**

**Walks to Start from August 2, 2001**

**on Thursday Mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 am**

**Bookings are Essential**

**Ph.: 5990 2200 or E-mail: [rbgc@rbg.vicgov.au](mailto:rbgc@rbg.vicgov.au)**

**SANDRA MUTIMER**

## **INSIDE:**

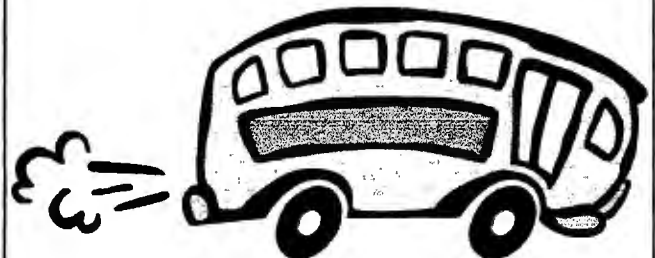
- August & September Previews
- Advance Notice of a Canoe Trip
- Odd Spot
- Mt Cole or Bust?
- Blue Wrens, Breakers & Bull

## **LONG TRIP ON OUR BUS**

As done successfully some years ago we are planning a Long Weekend Trip to South-West Victoria for the next long weekend which will be March 8 - 11, 2002. The plan is to cater for members wanting to do Pack Carry Walks, Day Walks & Canoeing with all those involved camping either in Base Camps or over-nighting on the track or river bank.

This will be a top weekend and gives the opportunity for Sunday walkers to move a little out of their "comfort zones" and to mix with weekend walkers. The bus will be driven by Bob, our regular and popular driver, and will leave Melbourne late Friday afternoon and return late Monday evening. The all up cost will be around \$100 per person which will cover bus hire and fuel costs.

This needs a lot of organizing, that's why we are looking for an early commitment from those serious about sharing in this experience. Act Now if you want to be part of it as numbers will be limited to 40 - talk to me or any other Committee Member and put it in your diary now!



**BRIAN CROUCH**

**ENQUIRIES:**  
[www.vicnet.net.au/~bushwalk](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~bushwalk)

**CLUBROOMS OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 7.00 - 9.00 PM,  
VICT'N HORTICULTURAL SOC. HALL, VICTORIA ST., MELB.**

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.  
 meet on Wednesday evenings  
 between 7.00 & 9.00 pm  
 in the temporary Clubrooms,  
 Victorian Horticultural Society Hall,  
 Victoria Street, Melbourne.

Visitors are always welcome.



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

**The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.**  
 is the newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.  
 & is published monthly.  
**Editor: Vicki Scrivenger.**

Walk previews & reviews, articles, poems, news items,  
 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 contributions  
 where space, clarity or propriety dictate  
 & to maintain editorial consistency.

Contributions to **The News** may be sent to the Editor by:

- ★ Emailing to:
- ★ Placing diskette or hand written material  
 in the "Red Box" in the clubrooms
- ★ Posting diskette or hand written material to either:  
 The Editor, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,  
 PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, VIC, 3001  
 or  
 V. Scrivenger, *News* Editor,

**Electronic mail is preferred.**

**Closing date for receipt of material for *The News*  
 is the last Wednesday of the month.**

Advertisements in *The News*

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

Advertising Rates (Artwork Ready):

Size:	1 Issue:	3 Issues:	12 Issues (1 Year):
¼ Page	\$30	\$80	\$300
½ Page	\$50	\$135	\$500
Full Page	\$80	\$220	\$800

## ODD SPOT



Members who have been in the Club for five years or less  
 (like me) may not realise that the tireless walker who ap-  
 pears on the MBW logo, has not been wearing a hat for all  
 that long! I only discovered this while I was looking at the  
 walks program archives and noticed an under-equipped  
 figure on the front of walks programs as recent as the  
 early 90's. The Spring 93 Program shows the earlier ver-  
 sion (left logo above). The Summer 93-94 Program seems  
 to predict the downfall of this character as per the repro-  
 duction shown here (right logo above). The Autumn 94  
 Program shows a re-sketched character but still no hat.  
 The Winter Program is missing from the archive, but the  
 hat appears on the Spring 94 one.

**DAVID ARNOLD**

## LEVEL 2 FIRST AID TRAINING

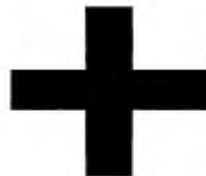
Following on from previous successful courses, the Club  
 is planning to run another course this year to be conducted  
 over 2 weekends.

When it comes to learning new skills, there is nothing  
 like first hand experience in the bush as well as classroom.  
 This course has plenty of both, with particular emphasis  
 on remote area first aid, including bush exercises and is  
 invaluable in the skills it provides for both Day Walkers  
 and Weekend Walkers.

The cost for 20 hours of training is approximately \$120  
 with a possible subsidy from the Club to assist people de-  
 velop their First Aid skills.

It is important that we have as many people as possible  
 with the skills to assist Leaders, if the need arises.

I have some definite "starters" and a number of others  
 "thinking" about it so ACT NOW if you want to be part of  
 it as numbers are limited to 12.



**BRIAN CROUCH**  
**TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR**

# AUGUST/SEPTEMBER DAY WALKS, ETC.



## Ski Trip: Lake Mountain

**DATE** Saturday 18 August  
**STANDARD** Easy Medium  
**DISTANCE** 15 km  
**LEADER(S)** Greame Thornton  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**RETURN TIME** Approx. 8.00 pm  
**MAP REFERENCE** Vic Map Leisure Series -Lake Mountain

This trip is intended to be a bit of exploration. Much, or all, of it will be off formed tracks. I would like to visit Keppel's hut again so there could be a steep descent/ascent on narrow tree-lined tracks. It is unsuited to beginners & requires confidence on variable snow. Lake Mountain has some delightful country so I'm expecting good fun to be had. Please note that there is an option to go in via Mt. Margaret Gap if the snow is low enough – thus avoiding the main part of Lake Mountain.

We shall meet near the information board on the south side of the Marysville road (near where the Stevenson River crosses) at 9.30 am. Please carry extra food, clothing & a spare ski tip – if you have one.



## Sunday Bus: "Mystery" Destination

**DATE** Sunday 19 August  
**STANDARD** Easy & Easy/Medium  
**LEADER(S)** Max Casley & Lance Mobbs  
**TRANSPORT** Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00 am

All daring walkers please see the leaders in the clubrooms to learn how to best prepare for these mysterious walks or phone Max Casley on:

**N.B.: New Leader: Max Casley (old: David Laing).**



## Dandenongs Explorer

**DATE** Saturday 25 August  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**DISTANCE** Approx. 12 km  
**LEADER(S)** Doug Pocock  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**RETURN TIME** Approx. 3.30 pm  
**MAP REFERENCE** Melway p. 120 & 122

We will meet at the Silvan Reservoir Overflow car park (on the north side of Stoneyford Rd.) at 10.30 am, Melway 120H 11. The walk will be in the N.E. section of the Dandenongs i.e. Mt. Evelyn and Kalorama.

Walking will be on tracks but wear footwear with good tread as some of the red soil tracks can be slippery in the winter wet. Flowers should be looking good at this time of year, especially the Mt Evelyn form of *Grevillea alpina*. As we walk on the higher sections there will be glimpses through the trees of the distant ranges.

We should have time for the traditional afternoon tea after the walk.



## Tanglefoot Track - Mt. St. Leonard

**DATE** Sunday 26 August  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium & Medium  
**DISTANCE** Approx. 15 & 20 km  
**LEADER(S)** John Kittson & Jean Woodger  
**TRANSPORT** Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00 am  
**RETURN TIME** Approx. 7.00 pm  
**AREA** Toolangi State Forest, Nth of Healesville  
**MAP REFERENCE** Monda 8022.4.4 1:25 000

The E/M group will start at the Wirra Willa area, which is along the Silvia Creek Road at GR 693454 – ("Wirra Willa" means green trees in the Koori language) – then the medium walkers, start from Myers Creek Road at GR 682410.

Both groups are to make their way along the Tanglefoot Track after having had lunch at the picnic ground at the start of the Tanglefoot track. We will make our way up onto Mt. St. Leonard for some of the finest views in the area (all being well & no low cloud), then head down to the bus on the Myers Creek Road at GR 682410. A thermos with a hot drink & a change of clothes, just in case it rains & of course that pair of clean dry shoes that we all talk about. These items can be left on the bus during the day for the end of the walk.

Our way out of town will be along Canterbury Road via Lilydale to Healesville up Myers Creek Road to the walk area & back home the same way.



## Bostock Reservoir - East Moorabool River

**DATE** Sunday 2 September  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium & Medium  
**DISTANCE** 14 & 16 km  
**LEADER(S)** Jean Woodger & Ralph Clayton  
**TRANSPORT** Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00 am  
**RETURN TIME** Approx. 6.30 pm  
**AREA** Ballan  
**MAP REFERENCE** Yaloak, Cleever Hill 1:25 000

Bostock Reservoir is part of the Moorabool water supply system for Geelong - sadly, the water level is very low, but there's still enough for the fishermen who regularly try their luck. The reservoir is in a picturesque setting surrounded by 100 hectares of pine trees.

We intend to visit the mineral springs close by, follow a branch of the river back to the reservoir, then walk along the shore line if fine, or through a pine forest where we can see some beautiful fungi - *Amanita muscaria* - or Fly Agaric - bright orange/red with white spots, but beware, they are poisonous.

From here on, it's bush tracks and open forest. The medium group will follow the course of the Moorabool River, where it may be necessary to cross or climb higher in order to negotiate some of the steep sides. A final crossing and a walk through some more pines will lead back to the bus. The easy/medium group will walk back through the open bush known as the Whipstick Scrub.



### Sugarloaf - Masons Falls (Kinglake)

DATE	Sunday 9 September
STANDARD	Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Approx. 14 & 16 km
LEADER(S)	Jerry Karbownik & Bill Donald
TRANSPORT	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	Approx. 6.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Kinglake National Park

This walk is one of the Club's perennial favourites. Kinglake NP is the largest national park close to Melbourne - with about 22000 hectares of tall forests, fern gullies, rolling hills, an extensive network of walking tracks and vantage points offering scenic views. Our walks are planned to capture elements of all of these.

Both groups will do the same circular main track, with the E/M group getting just a little more distance and cardio-vascular exercise. Whatever the weather, track conditions should be favourable. The immediate area around Mason's Falls should be a delight.



### Tarilta Creek (Daylesford)

DATE	Sunday 16 September
STANDARD	Easy & Easy Medium
DISTANCE	Approx. 14 & 16 km
LEADER(S)	Jan Palich & Ian Langford
TRANSPORT	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	Approx. 7.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Guildford & a little bit of Daylesford 1:25000

For once we have a walk that starts downhill! The two walks are north of Daylesford and incorporate walking along the Tarilta Creek and Great Dividing Trail. The surrounding country forms the Upper Loddon State Forest, and is a gently undulating iron-bark forest scattered with numerous old gold mines. The bird life is numerous and quite noisy.

The Easy Medium group will walk along the Tarilta Creek which is really quite beautiful. As you meander through extensive grassy flats, you will cross from one side of the creek to the other many times as the Tarilta Creek Gorge is quite steep in parts. Leaving the creek you will traverse cross country through the bush to join the Great Dividing Trail at Sebastapol Creek gold diggings and continue through to Vaughan.

The Easy group traverses the Great Dividing Trail from start to finish. The terrain is undulating with quite a few ups and downs. It is an easy, well marked walking track.

Please take dry footwear for the return bus trip, in case the area has had rain - creek will be wet.



### Wed. Walk: Birds Land - Lysterfield Lake Park

DATE	Wednesday 19 September
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Approx. 18 km
LEADER(S)	Janice Llewelyn
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Approx. 4.00 pm (back to cars)
AREA	Belgrave - Lysterfield
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 83 & 84

Meet at 10.00 a.m. at Birds Land Reserve parking ground, adjacent to shelter shed and toilets - Melway 84 B2.

The area is a combination of revegetated reclaimed farm land and remnant vegetation - a haven in the creeping suburbia that is now the Dandenongs. Bird life is plentiful, especially on the lakes, where we saw a darter. The area is relatively flat but with some surprisingly good views. Walking will be on tracks.

Please ring me on \_\_\_\_\_ to let me know if you are coming.



### Sunday Bus: Angahook State Forest

DATE	Sunday 23 September
STANDARD	Easy & Easy Medium
DISTANCE	Approx. 15 & 17 km
LEADER(S)	Peter McGrath & Sibylle Holdheide
TRANSPORT	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	Approx. 7.00 pm
AREA	West Coast

At time of writing, this walk has not been previewed.

The walk is at the rear of Airey's Inlet. Walks will commence at Distillery Creek Picnic Ground and include views of the ocean and ferns and orchids. A visit to Painkalac Dam will be included.

There are many fine trails in this region. Just not sure what ones we will do as present. Ask the leaders when you book on the walk.

# AUGUST/SEPT. WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



## Ski Lodge: Mt Hotham

<b>DATE</b>	Fri 31 August – Sun 2 September
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy Medium
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Dianne McKinley
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	Late Sunday Night

We have booked all the beds at the RCH ski lodge for the Friday and Saturday nights. There are 22 places and MBW skiers (X-country & downhillers), snow shoe shufflers, skaters, and lounge lizards are welcome to come along also. The lodge is cosy & comfy, making it easy to relax alongside the huge open fire with fantastic views of the snowfields.

Activities will depend on the snow conditions. Downhillers will at the least have man-made snow, while the X-country folk will have to hope for a dump soon. We will have 2 full day trips such as Dinner Plain, Wire Plain trails for skaters, Mt Loch and the Huts, or potentially out along the Razorback for the more experienced (leader required). For those who have not had a chance before, lessons can be taken at the nearby Big D.

The cost for the weekend is \$90. Payment is required with bookings, to Di by 17<sup>th</sup> August (or the very latest to Rod in clubrooms on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August). You need to bring sheets, a towel and all food. Before departure on Sunday late afternoon we all pitch in and clean up the lodge. It will be a full and fun weekend.



## Pack Carry: Warby Ranges

<b>DATE</b>	Friday 7 – Sunday 9 September
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	Approx. 25 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Mike Low
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	Sunday Night
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Vic Map Warby Ranges 1:25000

Having not had an opportunity to preview this area I am relying on walk reports and talking to people who have walked in this area for information. At this time of year the ranges are a nice place to take a stroll with running water and open bush to walk through. Previous walks have been circuits taking in the high points to get views of the mountains and valleys to see waterfalls.

There are a number of options as to where we can camp and plenty of access to the area. Wherever possible we will avoid roads and will probably spend quite a bit of time off track. (Good opportunity to brush up on your navigation skills). I will be previewing the area in the coming weeks.



## Base Camp: Holey Plains State Park

<b>DATE</b>	Fri 14 - Sun 16 September
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	Choice: Up to 18 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Doug "Macquarie Monster" Pocock
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	Earlyish
<b>AREA</b>	South Gippsland
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Park Notes - Holey Plains

Rod thinks this is a first for MBW in this area. Holey Plains State Park is 10460 ha. of mostly Banksia - Eucalypt open forest and woodland with some private Pine plantations in some parts. The park contains over 500 sp of native plants including 25 sp of Orchids. We previewed it in early winter without many plants in bloom though we found two species of orchids. There have been 126 species of birds recorded there, we saw lots - from wrens to emus.

We will camp at Holey Hill camp spot, we will be able to claim to be "holeyer than thou" after this weekend. An 18 km walk is planned for the Saturday but there are shorter options if anyone wants to just bird watch or take life easy. Sunday will be a morning walk and then we will visit Harrier Swamp in the afternoon for a short walk before heading home.

Bring water for the weekend and also some firewood if you can. See me in clubrooms for a map.



## Pack Carry: Northern Grampians

<b>DATE</b>	Fri 21 - Sun 23 September
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	Approx. 18 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Jerry Grandage
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	North Grampians, Outdoor Leisure Series

The route will be Roses Gap - Beehive Falls - Briggs Bluff - possible side trip to Mt. Difficult - then the eastern branch of the Mt. Difficult Range to finish at the Plantation Camping Ground. All walking will be on-track. The walking on Saturday may be familiar territory to some but Sunday's walk isn't often done. Distances will be quite short.



**Moving Base Camp:  
Mutawintji, Mungo & Pink Lakes**

**DATE** Sat 22 Sept - Mon 1 Oct  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**LEADER(S)** Jopie Bodegraven  
**TRANSPORT** Private

No hairy-chested endurance feats on this trip. Instead we will have lovely campsites and pleasant walking of a flexible nature with hopefully lots of spring wildflowers. However, be prepared for about 2,500 km of driving.

The core of this trip will be Mutawintji (formerly Mootwingee) National Park north of Broken Hill and Mungo National Park closer to Mildura with extra delights added. Mutawintji has nice rocky scenery and is of great aboriginal significance. We will include an aboriginal heritage tour there. Mungo is a dry lakebed bordered by large sand dunes and has been World Heritage listed because of its great archaeological significance. En route from Mutawintji to Mungo we will stop at Kinchega National Park where water from the Darling River has been diverted into lakes at Menindie.

I have also included Pink Lakes in Victoria because it is a lovely spot not very often visited by the club and it will be near peak wildflower season there. Finally we will pop in on the Raak Plains, an extensive flat area dotted with shallow salt lakes and gypsum deposits. They sound like they might be worth a look.

The plan as it stands is to camp 2 nights at Pink Lakes, 4 nights at Mutawintji, 1 night at Kinchega and 2 nights at Mungo, returning to Melbourne on the Monday. Transport costs @ 8 cents will be around \$200, camping and park entry about \$60 and the heritage tour is \$20.

Due to some of the roads being gravel, earth or sand, we will try to only use 4WDs, Subaru or better.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**



**Canoe Trip:  
Corowa - Bundalong**

**DATE** Melbourne Cup Long Weekend  
Saturday 3-Monday 5 November  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** Approx. 56 km  
**LEADER(S)** Joy Carver  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**MAP REFERENCE** River of Island, Charts: 13 - 5

12 noon: Meet at Corowa. This is about 300 km from Melbourne. To make it a pleasant day's travel, a leisurely start to the day's program is allowed for. It is expected that Melbourne arrivals would make time to have lunch prior to meeting which will be on the banks of the Murray River, just downstream of the John Foard Bridge at Corowa, NSW. This is the neighbouring town to Wahgunyah which is on the Victorian border. Via Rutherglen, Wahgunyah, Corowa.

The canoes will be available at the riverside ready for your trip. You will need to unload and pack your gear for the next two days into the canoes. Drivers will then be required to deliver their vehicles to Bundalong to a point near our destination. Allow 2 hours for this. Those left to guard the canoes may prepare afternoon tea ready for the driver's return. By 3 pm. we should be ready to get into the canoes and start paddling past South Corowa to a spot near Lake Moodemere for the evening camp. A walk up to the winery on the edge of the Lake will finish off the day. Camps each night will include a small fire for cooking and warmth.

Day 2: The Murray River continues its journey passing through a couple of Forestry reserves, and becomes quite slow and meandering. We will be keeping to the left-hand branches where the river parts. We will take the time to stop and explore Lumby's Bend, and the sandy beaches along the way. As the sun sets, there will be quite a lot of bird life to observe, and a delightful spot from which to do this is Buddha's Bend. Stillness of water reflects the wash of colour from the setting sun and is a wonderful place to linger over dinner.

Day 3: Time to get back onto the water, as our journey takes up into the back waters of Lake Mulwala, and the confluence of the Ovens River. Next year the Lake is to be drained to allow maintenance to take place on the weir at Yarrowonga-Mulwala, so it could be much less water next year. We will slip over to the Ovens River darting in and out of reeds, minding the submerged trees, as we see Bundalong settlement appear on the left bank. Expected time of arrival: around 3 pm.

Trip will not include Tuesday (gives Melb. people a chance to get back). We will spend two nights on the river.

The river is really lovely at the beginning of the season (IF IT'S NOT IN FLOOD!). I will confirm status of the trip with participants by October 26, with current river levels and conditions.

My telephone contact number is incorrect on the Spring Program sheet. My current work number is:

If interested, please indicate by phoning Joy at home on:  
or better still by email to:

This is best done prior to September 14. I will be unavailable from 14 September till 25 October, and would be happy to receive email details and confirm arrangements by email.

**FLY TO SYDNEY & BE ON THE TRACK THE SAME DAY**  
 FAST TRAINS LEAVE MASCOT AIRPORT EVERY 30 MINUTES FOR CAMPBELLTOWN RAILWAY STATION BUS TERMINAL.

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**YERRANDERIE GHOST TOWN**

IN THE BEDAWANG MOUNTAINS  
**BUNGONIA CAVES. WOG WOG. NERRIGA**

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## WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Attention all Sunday Bus walkers: - Please remember – NO TELEPHONE BOOKINGS FOR THE SUNDAY BUS. If you need to ring the leader to advise of cancellation, then please ring at a reasonable hour.

For the Winter months, can all Sunday Bus walkers put a torch into their daypacks (short days) and please bring a change of footwear for the Bus, a change of clothes, and a thermos is always welcome at the end of a cold day.

**Advance Notice – Sunday Bus Fare Reduction for the Spring Walks Program.** - Effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> September, the Sunday Bus walk fees will reduce to \$17 per member and \$11 per concession member (proof of concession required when booking). Visitor's fee remains at \$5.

For members who have not booked and paid for their seat by the Wednesday prior to the walk, they will have to pay an additional late fee of \$3. This means \$20 for the last minute 'walk ups' on Sunday.

**Private Transport Rate.** - The RACV 'Annual Survey of Motoring Costs' [Royal Auto May 2001] was discussed at the May Committee Meeting. It was agreed to retain the current rate of 8 cents per km per person for private transport trips. Trip leaders will try to car pool 3 people per car (24 cents/km) and will need to equalise costs when there are 4 to a car.

## WALKS PROGRAM CHANGES

18 - 19 August an "Extra Trip" - Project Hindmarsh Tree Planting weekend at Nhill. Travel by bus. For more information contact Anne Wilkins on Bookings close on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> September – Dandenong's Explorer – Churchill National Park. Please note the correct grading for this trip is Easy/Medium. For more information contact Jill Dawson on

2-6 November - Wellington Plains (& Lake Tarli Karng) long weekend trip. Please note Ian's surname is incorrect on the Spring Walks Program. Contact Ian Langford for more information about this great trip. Telephone Ian on

## JUNE WALK STATISTICS

June 2001	Trips	People	Average	June 2000
Sunday Bus	4	135	33.75	30.5
Other Day	2	33	16.5	12.3
Pack Carry	1	11	11	6
Base Camp	3	24	8	10.5
Cancelled	3	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>192</b>

ROD NOVAK  
WALKS SECRETARY



## Regent Honeyeater Project Tree Planting Weekend

8 - 9 September

*in the Lurg district near Benalla  
to help restore some of the winter feeding areas  
(Ironbark Forest) of the Regent Honeyeater.*

*This is a chance to help with a great project,  
and meet some locals who care  
about the bush and wildlife  
that we so love experiencing as bushwalkers.  
It's not hard work, is fun,  
something a bit different and very rewarding.*

*Accommodation, hot showers, some meals  
and a folk dance on Saturday night  
will be provided and we'll aim to car pool  
like other weekend club trips.*

*Please come to the slide night in the clubrooms  
on Wednesday 29 August to find out more,  
or contact me, Anne Wilkins on*

## Sincere Condolences

*The Club Extends its Deepest Sympathy  
to Michael Humphrey  
on the Passing of His Father.*

*Michael Humphrey Organised  
the Dandenongs Explorer Walks  
for the Club for Many Years.*

## Thank You

*I would like to express my appreciation  
to all those who offered to lead  
Dandenongs Explorer Walks  
in my proposed absence overseas.  
My trip did not eventuate this year  
but may come up next year.  
I could not use all who offered  
but I shall come back  
to those who offered next year to lead.  
Thank you all.*

WARREN BAKER

# MT COLE OR BUST?

20 – 22 JULY

Eight bushies (Sue, Trish, Leslie, Dianne, John, Jerry, Roger and Bill our leader) set off two by two to overnight at the Ferntree Picnic Area in Mt Buangor State Park. But only six arrived on the Friday night, as Trish decided that the 2<sup>nd</sup> night's camp had to be previewed, and not even the beckoning fire could draw her onwards until morning. (The truth is she could not wait to christen her new tent).

While the weather did not look promising, after a car shuffle to Ditchfield Camp we set off down ferny glens past two waterfalls to morning tea at Richlands, the weather improved, but not the incline of the track as Bill ensured we worked up an appetite. The convenience of tables and toilets for lunch was soon forgotten as we climbed 320m to the Sugarloaf Saddle, and views out to Langi Girhan. As some of us were starting to doubt our leaders view of, "there is only a little more up", (we had been yo-yoing from 690m ↓ 440m ↑ 600m ↓ 470m ↑ 800m ↓ 750m ↑ 820m ↓ 400m). We headed for Middle Creek Camp for the night and a warm fire.

Bill promised that the 2<sup>nd</sup> day would be easier (bulls\_\_t) as we visited "The Cave" under Cave Hill (where else would it be), with some "easy contouring (\*#!)". Then after the standard "deleeching", what else but a little more up to Mt Sugarloaf (934m), with Sue proving the gym membership has improved her aerobic abilities as she sailed past all, on a track with no zig or zag. We (eventually) all made it to the top of Sugarloaf for lunch, to marvel at the gastronomic delights coming from John's bottomless lunch box. As it was getting a little chilly amongst the snow gums on the summit we headed along the Great Divide Track (as distinct from the Great Divide Trail) towards Mt Buangor. As the day was drawing to a close 5 adventurous souls decided to drop packs and what else but head up again to conquer the leech infested summit of Buangor. Upon our return to the packs we found an "agitated" Jerry playing "dodge the dead fall", thus we keenly headed for fern Tree Falls and the cars.

Over a glass of grape at Gee Cee's (427 Sturt St Ballarat, highly recommended) with dinner, all the tribulations were forgotten as it had been an extremely enjoyable walk, with views, waterfalls, wildlife and good company. A job well done Bill, a walk to Mt Cole without climbing (no more up) Mt Cole.

ROGER WYETT

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# BLUE WRENS, BREAKERS AND BULL

After a cold night I unzipped the tent to greet the new day. Soon I had company. A group of Blue Wrens arrived in the vestibule of my tent and fossicked around looking for food scraps. For a while I just lay there enjoying their antics. As an engineer I had to marvel at the structural efficiency of their long, ultra-slim legs and their feet, which not only support their fat little bodies but also accelerate them along the ground and into the air. It was a good way to start the day.

Young Rodney (Novak) and I were camped on the Glenelg River on the fifth day of the Great South West Walk. This is a circuit walk of about 12 or 14 days duration in an interesting area of country beyond Portland and extending to the South Australian border. The circuit involves three or four days in the Cobboboonee Forest and heathland, 2 ½ days on the Glenelg River, 3 ½ days on the long sandy beach of Discovery Bay (one day of which can be by-passed by taking the longer route inland over Mt. Richmond), finishing with three days over the 'Three Capes' (Bridgewater, Nelson and Grant). Much of the area is protected as Parks of various categories but one of Victoria's largest pine plantations also imposes itself on the region. While the area doesn't exactly match the Kimberley for spectacular scenery, the coastal scenery of the Three Capes is inspiring and climactic, coming as the 'icing on the cake' at the end of the trip, assuming the circuit is walked anti-clockwise starting at Portland. The Lower Glenelg is a big, tranquil river flowing through a limestone gorge which assumes impressive proportions as it approaches the sea. The vegetation of the forest, heathland and coastline is varied and we were surprised at the amount of colour in the middle of winter. We enjoyed the three different species of *Correa* (red, green and white) and I have never seen so much brilliant red *Epacris Impressa* as in the Lower Glenelg and Mt. Richmond heathland. The Coastal Beard Heath was coming into flower and its fragrance filled the air at times, and the coastal wattles were starting to add splashes of yellow. The bird-life was great and I'll never forget seeing and hearing a huge flock of Black Cockatoos taking to the air from across the river just before dusk one evening.



For me, walking a sandy beach has a special kind of appeal that is lacking in all other types of walking. If the sand is too soft it is labourious and frustrating, but if the sand is firm the walking is easy and rhythmic. We first encountered Discovery Bay at Nelson when the tide was high and our packs were heavy after we had collected food packages. The high tide forced us onto the soft sand high on the beach. I saved energy by walking behind Rod and in his footsteps. Two days later he recognised my ploy but was too much of a gentleman to ask an old bloke to take his turn at the front. One morning we experienced beach walking at its best after leaving camp early to catch the low tide. The sand near the water's edge was firm and consistent, the sun was shining, the air was cool and crisp and the headwind of the previous day had abated. On our right the breakers were pounding the beach after their long journey across the Southern Ocean from the Antarctic. Ahead of us the linear environment seemed to continue endlessly, finally vanishing into an indeterminate mixture of spray, sky, sea and sand. This atmosphere persisted for several hours but by lunchtime the headwind had re-established itself, the tide was rapidly coming in and we were working hard. The campsite at Swan Lake was welcome. And it lived up to its name, with one solitary Black Swan in residence.

The last three days were probably the highlight of the whole circuit, with great views of Bridgewater Lakes and Discovery Bay, followed by the impressive rocky headlands of the Three Capes. The 'lunar landscape' of Cape Bridgewater is a major feature of the area and has been formed by erosion of the overlying soil and vegetation, the process being initiated by rabbits and livestock. This has uncovered the well-known Petrified Forest, a reminder of the vegetation of previous years. Another feature of the area is the seal colonies, which we smelt but didn't see!

The Great South West Walk is a track of about 250 kilometres. The project was planned and implemented, and is now maintained, by the Friends of the GSWW, a voluntary group. Sixteen walkers' campsites, consisting of water tanks, toilets, fireplaces and tables, are located at suitable points around the circuit. The track is well maintained and reliably marked with posts and red arrows which appear to have been put in place by people who actually know something about bushwalking, unlike so many of the track markers in other parts of Victoria. The Friends group also publishes a book of reliable track-notes with sketch maps. The end result is an opportunity for up to two weeks of straightforward walking in a region offering a diversity of interesting landscapes. The track markers ensure that navigational and route-finding challenges are almost non-existent and up-and-down walking is minimal other than on the last few days. The track is never far from a road, although most of the time one isn't aware of this. For these reasons the walk, either in total or in sections, is an ideal introduction to extended walks of four days duration or longer. The Friends group has a Walkers' Liaison Officer who can be contacted for advice on track and campsite conditions, organizing food dumps and transport etc., and this helps when planning the walk. The Friends are doing a fine job.



If you're wondering where the 'bull' comes into the picture, this isn't a comment on what you've just read. On the second day of the circuit we were walking along the edge of a paddock and noticed a sign saying 'entry free - bull will charge later'.

JERRY GRANDAGE

# CONSERVATION FORUM

Here are some reports from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting of 27/06/2001:

**Otway Ranges** – The consulting firm - Connell Wagner – have issued their draft report on ‘Tourism Infrastructure Priorities in the Otways’. So far, its distribution has been restricted to participants of their Workshop conducted in April this year. The report contains 4 recommendations focusing on short ‘tourist-based’ walks with: - (i) Swing Bridge at Triplet Falls, (ii) Little Aire Falls Circuit Walk, (iii) Old Beechy Rail Trail, and (iv) Forrest to Lake Elizabeth walking track. It is most disappointing the ‘Trans-Otways Walk’ was not included in their report and it appears that it will not be re-visited. VicWalk will write a submission to the consultants asking them to re-consider the ‘Trans-Otways walk’ and to include this option in their final report.

**Bunyip State Park** – As reported in the previous minutes, VicWalk have concerns with excessive trail bike & 4 wheel drive traffic and subsequent erosion on walking tracks. Apparently, the 1998 Management Plan has not yet implemented the walker only tracks with correct signage.

**Mt. Stirling** – Some members of the Advisory Group insist on informal status as an ‘open group’ for all users and do not want incorporation. The VNPA are advocating for the Advisory Group to be Incorporated and set up with a formal Constitution. Until this happens, the VNPA will not participate and/or attend these ‘informal’ meetings. Apparently, the issue has reached the Minister and the Minister’s view is for this issue to be a Mt Stirling Board decision. At the June Board Meeting, the summer Ranger gave a presentation on the current issues eg lack of adequate signage for summer use, ski trail washouts, erosion from the horse trails, and the sphagnum bogs have suffered from cattle trampling. It is estimated over 300 cars per week visited Mt Stirling during the summer months. The Mt Stirling Board *Annual Report* is now available. The Department of Infrastructure are now funding a “Strategic Framework and Mission Statement”, as a cooperative effort between the D.O.I. and the Mt Stirling Alpine Resort. A consultant will be appointed to meet with a Steering Committee. [Here we go again!!] Logging operations will commence in the vicinity of Kings Saddle next Spring and will operate in this area for several years. With the increased logging traffic the access roads will need to be upgraded. Possibly Carters Road – although the Board prefers the Stirling access road from Mirimbah. A community grant of \$12,000 has been awarded for the development of a ski trail, interpretative panels & signage and money will be available for ski patrols this winter.

**Alpine – Mt Hotham Development Plan.** The VNPA are opposed to new ski tows at Golden Point as this area contains valuable Burramys habitat. The Mt Loch (underground) Power Line is now operational.

**Falls Creek** - a draft Development Plan will be issued in July.

**State Forest Track Survey** – the database for this important inventory has commenced. Keep the State Forest Walk Reports rolling in.

**Mt Cole State Forest** - At the D.N.R.E. request, VicWalk forwarded a ‘letter of support’ seeking Green Corp funding to develop a two day overnight bushwalking track linking the Mt Cole State Forest with Mt Buangor State Park.

**Devil Bend Reservoir** – A *Future Directions* report has now been issued with public comment invited. VicWalk suggests that a walking track be developed as well as better access to the public land eg gates.

**VNPA** – Amanda Martin has resigned from her position as Director of the VNPA and will take up a position at Parks Victoria.

**Draft Victorian Trails Strategy 2001-2004** – this report has now been issued by the Victorian Trails Co-ordinating Committee (a whole of government approach) with the closing date for submissions on 30/6/01. The VicWalk submission suggested the following key points - questioning why VicWalk has not been accorded key stakeholder status (representing over 80 clubs and 11,000 walkers); and advocating for ‘walkers only’ tracks as there is conflict with bikes, horses, camels etc. VicWalk is opposed to the development of roofed accommodation in national parks for walkers. VicWalk is for the development of a Trans-Otways Walking track. It appears the Trails Strategy favours cycling activities whereas the research indicates the trails are used pre-dominantly by walkers (cycling usage is only 4%). Also, the draft report has focused on developing icon trails of ‘Milford Track’ status with associated economic and tourism benefits – which may not work for Victoria (no world heritage?) Rod Novak has a copy of this report if you would like to have a closer look.

A ‘**Friends of the Hume and Hovell Track**’ will be established (similar to the success of the Friends of the Bibbilum Tack in W.A. with over 1300 active members).

**The Box-Ironbark Celebration** at Paddy’s Ranges near Maryborough is on for the 6 – 7th October.

**ROD NOVAK**  
**CLUB DELEGATE**  
**VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

## NEW MEMBERS

IAN & JENNIFER ADAMS

JILL FINCH

LESLEY D HALE

ELIZABETH INGHAM

WAYNE G LOCKETT

SUE PARKS

SONIA PLAVCAK

PATSY ROBERTSON

## ADD TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

MARY DAMOUSI

JENNY GREGORY

SAMANTHA S MARKS

CHRISTINE MC DONALD

STEFANIE PEARCE

MERRYN & STEPHEN ROWLANDS

PAULA H STEPHENSON

## ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

PAUL BEERS

CRAIG CARPENTER / AMANDA SMITH

DAVID LAING

LANCE MOBBS

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	315
Family memberships	100 (= 2 x 50)
Total membership	436
This time last year	399

**PETER HAVLICEK**  
**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

## JUNE ACCOUNTS

	\$
Opening Balance	50,534.55
Income	4,904.03
Expenditure	5,383.00
Closing Balance	50,055.58

**JAN PALICH**  
**TREASURER**

## CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 15 August - *CF* & *MS*  
Wednesday 22 August - *PC* & *DP*  
Wednesday 29 August - *PB* & *BC*  
Wednesday 5 September - *PH* & *DH*

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 3 September at 7.00 pm

### FOR SALE

Men's Downhill Ski Boots

"Lange"

Black with Aluminium Clips, Gel Insert

Size: 8.0 (41)

As New - Only Used Twice (Too Small)

\$195 O.N.O.

Call Jan Palich:

**AUGUST 2001 WALKS, ETC.**

Sat 18	Ski Trip: Lake Mountain	Private	E/M	Graeme Thornton	
Sun 19	"Mystery" Destination	BUS	E & E/M	Max Casley & Lance Mobbs	#
24 - 26	Base Camp: Kamarooka State Park	Private	Easy	Jerry Grandage	
24 - 26	Ski Trip: Mt Buffalo (Porepunkah)	Private	E/M	Ken MacMahon	
Sat 25	Dandenongs Explorer	Private	Easy	Doug Pocock	
Sun 26	Tanglefoot Track - Mt St Leonard	BUS	E/M & M	John Kittson & Jean Woodger	#

**SEPTEMBER 2001 WALKS, ETC.**

31 Aug-2	Ski Lodge: Mt Hotham	Private	E/M	Dianne McKinley	
Sun 2	Bostock Reservoir - Moorabool (Ballan)	BUS	E/M & M	Tracey Jamieson & Ralph Clayton	#
7 - 9	Pack Carry: Warby Ranges	Private	E/M	Mike Low	
8 - 9	Base Camp: Tree Planting at Lurg	Private	Easy	Anne Wilkins	*
Sun 9	Sugarloaf - Masons Falls (Kinglake)	BUS	E & E/M	Jerry Karbownik & Bill Donald	#
14 - 16	Base Camp: Holey Plains State Park	Private	E/M	Doug Pocock	
Sun 16	Tarilta Creek - Franklin Gorge	BUS	E/M & M	Jan Palich & Ian Langford	#

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