



THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 610

DECEMBER 2001

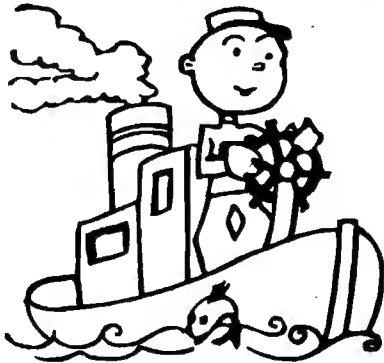
60 CENTS

JOIN THE CREW IN 2002!

CONSIDER COMING ON BOARD
& HELP STEER THE CLUB
INTO THE FUTURE!

All Committee Positions
Become Vacant in February

Present Committee Members
Not Standing for Re-election:
Vice-President, Secretary,
Walks Secretary, Training Officer
& Some General Committee Members



SPECIAL BUYING NIGHT AT THE WILDERNESS SHOP

This is early notice of a special buying night
that I have arranged
with the Wilderness Shop in Box Hill
for next April.

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers
will be able to buy any stock
at special prices for this one night.

So if you need new boots, tents,
other large (or small) equipment,
just keep this night in mind.

More information closer to the date.

JAN PALICH

PLEASE NOTE:
CLUBROOMS CLOSED
WEDNESDAY 26 DECEMBER

MBW Christmas Party

Wednesday 19 December

From 7.00 pm

Function Room

1st Floor

Trades Hall

*Corner of Lygon & Victoria Streets,
Carlton*

*Come Along Full of Good Cheer!
Talk with Old & New Friends
about Past & Future Trips
Everyone is Welcome*

*Drinks to be Purchased at the Bar
Please Bring a Plate to Share*



CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 12 December - B Crouch & D Pocock
Wednesday 19 December - P Cresswell & A Wilkins
Wednesday 29 December - Clubrooms Closed
Wednesday 2 January - P Havlicek & M Jagow
Wednesday 9 January - P Beers & D Henry

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 7 January at 7.00 pm

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

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Attention ALL Leaders – NEW VISITOR FORM FOR FEDERATION INSURANCE COVER. Please ensure ALL visitors complete the "Acknowledgement of Risk and Obligation Form" prior to undertaking the trip. This new visitor form is a Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs requirement.

For Club night bookings eg Sunday Bus / Weekend Trips, the form will be available at the front desk. Completed forms are kept in the Visitor Form Folder at the front desk with an A to Z index – the form can take 3 trips with room for 're-acknowledgment, trip and a signature'.

For other bookings eg Dandenong Explorers and Wednesday Walks - the Walks Secretary will send out Visitor Forms with the News Preview worksheet, booking form with emergency contact and the Walk Report.

Note: ALL Visitors must read and sign the 'Acknowledgement of Risks' form. If a visitor refuses to sign the form then they are not allowed to participate. No exceptions.

Helpful Hints – to help you and our volunteer leaders:

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.

NEED A CREDIT FOR THE SUNDAY BUS?

1. You must ring the Walk Leader to advise of your cancellation (please telephone at a reasonable hour) and the Walk Leader will note your cancellation on their Walk Report.
2. Then you need to apply in writing for the Credit stating your name, address, telephone number and the walk destination, leader and date of the activity with the reason.
3. Forward your application letter to the Walks Secretary [Rod Novak in 2001] in the Clubrooms most Wednesday evenings (but not all!) or alternatively by mail to the Club's address.
4. The Walks Secretary then checks the walk report and will organise a credit note for you.
5. Give the Credit Note to the Walk Leader when you book your next Sunday Bus trip.
6. Please Note: Only reasonable requests will be granted eg illness, work commitments. 'Sleeping in' or 'hung-over from the big night out' do not count!!
7. Need more assistance – then contact Rod Novak at Club nights.

WEEKEND TRIPS – weekend bushwalkers help us to help you. Important guideline: Please assist the leader in organising the trip by attending a briefing/meeting in the Clubrooms at 8 pm on the Wednesday prior to the trip, eg directions where to meet, equipment required, checking maps, car pooling and transport etc.

Dandenong Explorer and Wednesday Walks – please ring the leader for details.

Country Code: Attention all Leaders – please follow the Country Code of leaving farm gates as you found them. There has been a recent report of bushwalkers having closed an opened gate which resulted in distressed stock. It is suggested that leaders re-group their walk party at each gate and to leave the gate as you found it.

ROD NOVAK
WALKS SECRETARY

JANUARY DAY WALKS, ETC.



Sunday Bus: Maude to She-Oaks - Moorabool River

DATE Sunday 6 January
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 9.5 & 12-15 km
LEADER(S) Sue Ralston & Stephen Bentley
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
AREA Lethbridge
MAP REFERENCE Lethbridge & Medina 1:25,000

In the western district of Victoria, the Moorabool river goes virtually unnoticed as it threads its way through private property. The Melbourne Bushwalkers have obtained kind permission from the local landowners to walk beside a section of this river and take in the splendour and beauty of its features. A well-traveled son of one of the locals claims that parts of this river rival some of the best scenery offered by the Northern Territory!

This is also a great walk for viewing our native fauna: 3 echidnas, a koala and baby as well as kangaroos, wallabies and many native birds featured in our first preview.

Both walks are shorter than normal in order to allow for the slow terrain, possible hot weather, and time for a swim in the magnificent waterhole.

The easy-medium walk follows almost the same route as the easy walk except for a diversion which involves some crossings of the river, a possible cross-country addition at the start, and a slightly longer distance.

There are no tracks beside the river, so our course can sometimes be slow and a bit of a scramble. The grass may also be long, and gaiters or trousers are recommended.

When the going gets rough we climb up to the ridge-tops and take in the fantastic birds-eye views of the river and surrounding hills.

Bring bathers for a swim and of course plenty of drinking water.



Sunday Bus: Woodmore Range - Mt. Despair (Murindindi)

DATE Sunday 13 January
STANDARD Easy & Medium
LEADER(S) John Kittson & Mike Low

Please see the leaders in the clubrooms or phone John Kittson on



Wednesday Walk: Lake Mountain

DATE Wednesday 16 January
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approx. 13 km
LEADER(S) Jerry Karbownik
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE Marysville & Lake Mountain
 Outdoor Leisure Map

Middle of January – hot town, summer in the city? Come with us to LM... should be more pleasant. Overindulged too much on the food and wine over the festive season? Come with us to LM and do just a little exercise... not too much, but enough to get the system going again. Already slowing down on that New Year's resolution? Use this walk as a catch-up... come on! You know you should.

We will meet at the Snowy Hill car park close to LM... then a leisurely walk through lovely snow gums and views to surrounding mountains, along mainly wide open ski trails or clear forest tracks. This walk will not include the usually done Grace Darling track... it is far too overgrown and taxing... it took about two hours on the preview to do about 2 km! This day we want to enjoy.

The overall walk should take about 5 hours... should be enough time to entertain a relaxing iced-coffee at the Marysville tea rooms, a stroll through the shops and/or an early return to the heat of the city.

All details & bookings by phone: _____ to the leader only.

WALKS PROGRAM CHANGES

25 – 28 January 2002 Australia Day weekend canoe trip - N.B. George's correct phone no. is

OCTOBER WALK STATISTICS

October 2001	Trips	People	Average	Oct. '00
Sunday Bus	4	145	36.25	36.6
Other Day Wed 8 & Dand 17	2	25	12.5	15
Pack Carry	1	13	13	8
Base Camp	3	44	14.6	18
Cycle	1	12	12	-
Cancelled	1	-	-	3
Total	12	239	-	264

N.B.: 1 cancelled trip: the wildflower & NPs of S-W W.A. trip.



**Sunday Bus:
Werribee Gorge**

DATE Sunday 20 January
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Fiona Gallery & Quentin Tibballs
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00 pm
AREA Bacchus Marsh
MAP REFERENCE Ingliston 1:25,000

Both E & E/M groups will be doing the basic Werribee Gorge Circuit walk with both groups beginning and returning to the bus which will be in a car park just inside the Park's northern boundary and both groups (although not simultaneously) will do a loop off this circuit from the gorge bottom up Iron Bark Gorge to Falcon's Lookout, the Ballan Ingliston Rd. then down Western Bluff Track back to the gorge. (Total height climbed for these loops: 400m). The E/M group in addition will loop to a plateau known as The Island at the western end of the gorge.

Both walks involve some passage through long grass so long pants (and gaiters if possessed) should be worn. Also several river crossings occur and the loop Ironbark Gorge/Western Bluff Track is steep & a little hairy so those not partial to heights could wait at Needles Beach where this second loop takes off - this is a superb little beach by a large swimming hole - ideal for a hot summer's day (this could be the Easy Easy group).

The Werribee Gorge is also renowned for its interesting geology and a handout will be available pointing out particular rock types and formations.



**Sunday Bus:
Cape Schanck to Rye Back Beach**

DATE Sunday 27 January
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 12 & 16 km
LEADER(S) Maureen Hurley & Helena Sarbinoski
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00 pm
AREA Cape Schanck/Rye
MAP REFERENCE Melway p.258 & 252

This walk will begin in Point Nepean National Park - Cape Schanck on tracks with beautiful ocean views. There are many lookouts along the way. We will wind our way down to Fingal Beach where you can swim if you wish or dabble your toes in the ocean. We will then continue along the beach to Gunnamatta Beach, where Bob will welcome us.

Remember to bring a hat & other protective clothing, plenty of water & sunscreen. It could be hot so put your swimmers in.



**Historical Walk:
"Bridges of Kananook Creek"**

DATE Monday 28 January
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approx. 9 km
LEADER(S) Nigel Holmes
TRANSPORT Train
RETURN TIME 5.00 pm at Flinders St. Station
AREA Frankston, Seaford & Carrum
MAP REFERENCE Melway p.99 & 97

Inspired by Dacre Smyth's book of the same name, this walk commences at Frankston Station & follows walking trails & grassy reserves generally northward to Carrum Station. We'll have lunch on the seashore & may detour through part of the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands. A copy of Smyth's book of paintings & commentary will be available for discussion along the walk. Bring sunscreen, hats & lots to drink.

(As usual, the walkers & leader will meet "under the clocks" at Flinders Street Station around 9.45 am in time for departure on the first Frankston train that leaves after 10.00 am).

Call the leader anytime on

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THE TRACK THE SAME DAY**

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JANUARY WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



Wilkinson Lodge: Alpine Day Walks

DATE Mon. 31 Dec. - Tues. 8 Jan.
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Bogong High Plains - past Falls Ck.
MAP REFERENCE Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000

Early January is a wonderful time to spend some time up in the High Plains. The flowers should be in full bloom & the weather hopefully not too hot. This time, up in the High Plains, I will try to get to some new areas as well as going to some of the spectacular areas. There will be a wide range of walks to suit everyone ranging from easy short strolls around Wilky to the more arduous walks of medium standard.

If people bring a pair of binoculars along, & we get a clear sky at night, we could get in some stargazing. Because there are no external lights up there & the high elevation (5000 ft+), the night sky is ablaze with stars so it is well worth taking a pair of binoculars along.

This trip is open to everyone, so come along & enjoy New Year's Eve at Wilky & take in the sights of the High country.

Please see flyers on the notice board & take one if interested, or please contact me in the clubrooms. If you are unable to make it to the clubrooms, either write to me at



Three Pack Carry Trips: Tasmanian Triple Treat

DATE Thurs. 3 - Wed. 23 January
STANDARD Hard
LEADER(S) Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private

For information about these trips please refer to October *News* or see Doug Pocock in the clubrooms or phone him on

Free

1 Synthetic Sleeping Bag

Never Been Used

&

1 Pair of Boots

Good Condition

Please See Me in the Clubrooms

Lance Mobbs



Pack Carry: The Bluff - Mt Lovick

DATE Friday 11 - Sunday 13 January
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 30 km
LEADER(S) Ralph Blake
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Late Sunday Night
AREA Near Mt Buller
MAP REFERENCE Buller South & Howitt - Selwyn

This walk will be a circuit beginning and ending at Refrigerator Gap.

On Saturday we will climb steeply to the summit of The Bluff (altitude 1725 metres). We will then continue along the ridge to Mt Eadly Stoney hopefully finding a nice spot for lunch along the way. After lunch we will walk along the ridge tops to Mt Lovick where camp will be made and water should be available.

After a brief visit to Mt Lovick on Sunday morning we will leave the track and descend very steeply off Square Head Jinny. Once off the top we will pick up the track which will eventually take us back to Refrigerator Gap.



Pack Carry: Briagolong

DATE Friday 18 - Sunday 20 January
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Bill Donald
TRANSPORT Private

As the club has not done a pack carry in this area before I am unable to tell you much about the walk.

Please see me in the clubrooms prior to the walk and hopefully I will have some information available.



Lodge: Walhalla Weekend

DATE Friday 25 - Monday 28 January
STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE Various
LEADER(S) Brian Crouch
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE Walhalla 1:25,000

YES, its on again! The traditional Australia Day Weekend Base Camp at picturesque Walhalla. As the 26th is Saturday there will be no long weekend, however, for those creative enough to get the Monday off we can promise a great weekend.

We will be based at Tisdall Lodge which provides comfortable accommodation. Bring your own pillows & food, particularly something to share at our Sat night Banquet.

We have the lodge for Fri, Sat and Sun nights with walks organized for Sat and Sunday. Weather permitting we will probably walk one day in the Baw Baw Alpine area and the other time will be spent around Walhalla. For those able to stay Mon it will be a relaxing day to look around the sights of Walhalla.

This is a beautiful part of Victoria with lots of history and we are lucky to have a local legend Ian Richardson to assist with insights into what Walhalla is all about, hopefully the steam train will be running right into Walhalla by Jan.

Book early, before Jan 9th as numbers are limited and we have lots of regulars! Phone Brian Crouch on



Pack Carry: Mt. Bogong

DATE
STANDARD
LEADER(S)
TRANSPORT

Friday 25 - Monday 28 January
Medium
Sak-Hong Wan
Private

2002 is the International Year of the Mountains. Would you like to be amongst the first few Melb. bushies to be standing next to the highest mountain in Victoria? Well here's your chance to accomplish it during the Australia Day weekend.

We will camp at Mountain Creek campsite on Friday night and leave early the next day. We will climb the longest Staircase in Victoria and set camp at Cleve Cole Hut. Elevation gain for this day will be approx. 1400 m.

Sunday night will see us set camp at Bogong Creek saddle. On Monday we will leave early again back down to our starting point at Mountain Creek campsite.

The three day walk is contingent upon Monday 28th being gazetted a public holiday by the Bracks' govt. Otherwise we will return from Cleve Cole Hut on Sunday via the Eskdale Spur.



Canoe Trip: Goulburn River

DATE
STANDARD
LEADER(S)
TRANSPORT
AREA
DISTANCE

Friday 25 - Monday 28 January
Easy
George Zamora
Private
Shepparton/Nathalia
240 km from Melbourne

Come & explore with me the wonders of the Goulburn River. On Fri. night we will camp at Loch Garry which is on the Shepparton/Barmah Road, not far from Bunbartha (small town). On Sat. morning we start our paddle downstream to McCoy Bridge. On Sat. night we will camp on one of the sandbars along the river (plenty of sandbars on this trip). We should arrive at McCoy Bridge on Mon. afternoon after smooth water paddling all the way.

This section of the Goulburn River is on State Forest land & this river is completely different to the Murray River. Firstly, there are no high speed boats on the river, just canoes, so you don't have to insert your fingers in your ears each time a speed boat passes. Secondly, the river is not as deep & so does not have such strong currents as the Murray which means it is easier to negotiate obstacles such as snags. You will see magnificent River Red Gums & many types of native birds; but you will not see people. Beautiful campsites will provide a trip to remember (don't forget to bring your camera). It will be an easy trip with lots of swim stops, lunch & afternoon breaks. Warning: It will be hot - old pyjamas, plenty of 15+ sun cream & a hat.

We will hire canoes at Barmah. The two person Canadian canoes are supplied with life jackets, waterproof barrels, detailed maps, bird ID books, fact sheets & compasses. A non refundable deposit of \$20 per person is required for canoe allocation as this time of year is the busiest.

As lots of people like to come on this canoe trip you must book early, otherwise you may miss this wonderful experience. Beginners welcome! You can book at the club-rooms or telephone

WILKINSON LODGE

I recently had an on-site meeting with National Park staff at Wilky. The purpose of the meeting was to sort out a few details regarding our lease. One of the queries raised was our ownership of Wilky. Luckily, I had the copy of our purchase contract from the Ski Club of Victoria. I was also able to locate a copy of a receipt showing the S.C.V. had bought Wilky from the S.E.C. in 1948.

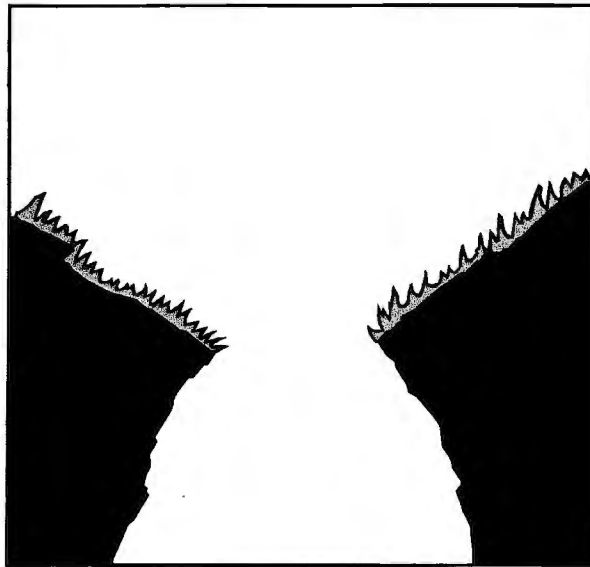
One of the N.P. staff was there in his capacity of hut inspector. The N.P. will be carrying out inspections of all huts from now on and will monitor the septic tanks. (It looks like the EPA are making the N.P. do away with pit toilets and install either septic tanks or composting toilets). It is important that we only have the permitted number of people use Wilky at any one time so that we do not overload the system.

Our inspection passed with flying colours. He was impressed by us having our wood stacked inside the woodshed which will hopefully discourage people from camping at Wilky and having illegal fires (i.e. no properly constructed fireplace). At his suggestion we have installed a smoke detector, please familiarize yourselves with the operation of it, it has a false alarm turn off which is useful if you burn your toast. It seems to work well so do not tamper with it.

We are currently looking at replacing the roof. At present no firm date but are thinking of a weekend early in February. We will be looking for volunteers, any plumbers or roofers especially welcome.

Don't forget to empty your food locker before the end of the year. Any food remaining in lockers will be cleared out for general use.

DOUG POCOCK
WILKINSON LODGE MANAGER



GORGE NINE

KATHERINE GORGE - 28 JUNE

The day is warm; a hot, unshielded sun is counterbalanced by a cool, persistent breeze. We have spent the day paddling upstream to the last of the series of gorges in the system, seeing many wonderful sights along the way – waterfalls, swimming holes, sandy beaches, rock formations and more. The previous day we had had a hot walk in, carrying heavy liloes as well as full packs, followed by a paddle upstream to camp (without paddles as we hadn't managed to fit them into the car). We are now heading back downstream to our welcome camp in a sheltered little side stream.

The slow current caresses us into the start of the next gorge. Sheer cliffs rise high on either side, enveloping us and shielding us from the sun's rays. The dull roar of the rapids that we have just portaged around recedes as we curve around a corner and are suddenly engulfed in a castle of quiet. Here the water is dark and green, broken by little wavelets thrown up by the light breeze, while half a moon sits suspended in an unbroken sky above. Without a word or sign we at once cease paddling and allow the lazy current to take control of our progress, and the occasion to take control of our senses.

Course red walls, cracked with eons of time, reflect the silence in which we now float. Here or there a small tree struggles skywards from one of the cracks, (seemingly) reaching towards the straggly spinifex at the top of the cliffs. From somewhere faintly in the distance comes the occasional sound of a bird calling. We drift on slowly, slowly, ever so slowly, rounding another bend into a wider pool.

The silent walls have captured us, have enwrapped us in a spell of beauty and beautiful silence that we are powerless to break should we even want to. Or dare to. We are acutely conscious of the spell, the moment, the magic, and of sharing it with the others, and not wanting for a millimoment to spoil it for each other or ourselves. We drift, we listen, we observe, and absorb, our senses at once stretched and curtailed.

The silence echoes around the walls and continues to absorb us; our thoughts are our own and yet the same. Across the dappled water a drifter sits silently on her raft, her face relaxed, blissful. The only movement is the water as it slowly, slowly draws us on; the only sound the light lapping of the waves against the walls; the only touch is the warm air as it gently caresses us. None of us dares to make a sound lest we damage the fabric of the moment, which we know is at once both fleeting and timeless.

We are inexorably and inescapably drawn around another bend and, at first so quietly as to be only subconsciously perceptible, the low murmur of more rapids subliminally touches us. As the sound grows we are, gently, insistently, inevitably brought back into the world. We refocus our senses, look around at each other and smile, but still do not verbalise, until we all agree - "That was Fabulous!"

Then one of the many helicopters, which by some grace have been absent during our brief sojourn, roars into view, well and truly breaking the spell.

Bushies present: Jopie Bodegraven & Jenny Flood & me.

ALAN CLARKE

CUP WEEKEND AT CROAJINGALING

FRIDAY 2 - TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER

Group 1 ("West to East") Jopie Bodegraven (leader), Jenny, Sharon Johnson, Liz, Lesley Hale, Ken MacMahon, Jerry Grandage & Paul Beers & Group 2 ("East to West") Max (leader), Sue McInnes, Tracey Jamieson, Lorna Clerkin, Fiona, Leo, Ron & Bob.

The numbers worked out neatly: the four men and four women in each group fitted into two pairs of cars which were exchanged across groups at the Cann River Caravan Park on Saturday morning, eliminating car shuffles. Group 1 (my group) headed down Tamboon and Point Hicks Roads to park borrowed cars at Thurra River Camp Ground, stopping repeatedly to enjoy the abundant wildflowers along the way. Group 2 left our Group's cars to be retrieved at the 'keeper's cottage' at Mallacoota airstrip.

The previous weeks of rain had cleared to breezy sunshine as we set out "eastwards" along the sands and we continued to warm over the next two days, once the headwind dropped, until cooled by faint drizzle on Cup Day. March flies greeted us as part of the summery experience and of course mosquitoes enjoyed us each time we stopped. When we sought shade among the trees the ticks tended to find many of us.

Beach walking was the highlight of the early part of the trek while coastal heath land and forest trails dominated the final sections. We enjoyed a stunning coastline studded with rocky outcrops and headlands, which shifted from predominately mudstone to granite, and back again. The beach debris included a couple of huge rusted ship floats and the ancient remains of wooden surfboards.

The inland trails were edged by a profusion of wildflowers, and the botanists and horticulturalists in the group identified at least thirty varieties – from "flying duck orchid" (*caleana major*) to the "fairy fan flower" (*scaevola aemula*) and native violets. Listening to the flower naming I was in danger of merging those labels with equally prolific naming of the bird calls. Other entertainments included sighting several blacksnakes, and the wide relatively straight tracks their powerful bodies carve through the sand; and from time to time we seemed to provide interest to gangs of sightseeing wallabies and eastern greys.

We became connoisseurs of drinking water during the trip as we, at times desperately, sampled brackish streams and rock pools to compare their potability with the brownish contents of our water bottles. We were tickled to learn that Group 2 had found the water at their first campsite so unpleasant they voted to skip breakfast until a less tainted source could be found further on. We found their rejected water far superior to our first camp's supply.

Our campsites were: behind sand dunes and a dry creek bed along the beach west of Petrel Point where a track leads to Gale Hill, under giant *melaleuca armillaris* on the eastern shore at Wingan Inlet, with glorious views of the skerries and their seal population at the mouth of the Inlet at sunset and sunrise and among melaleuca and blue olive berry at the edge of Seal Cove which has its own "fresh" water supply. We carried water to the first two campsites but fortunately not too far – and we did have some help at Wingan (see below).

Timing considerations meant that Group B had slightly different experiences: they bedded down at the mouth of the Benedore River, the overnight camping area on the western side of Wingan Inlet which boasts a continuously running piped fresh water supply on site, and our dune patch below Gale Hill.

The two groups expected to cross paths (and exchange intelligence and car keys) on the day of the Wingan Inlet crossing. Jopie had warned us all that the crossing might involve pack floating and a swim, rather than a paddle, laden with the four or five litres of water each member of Group 1 would be carrying to camp. So we had joked about tasking the "younger females" of our group with the job of finding a fisherman to ferry us across. It wasn't exactly like that. After a late lunch at the water supply on the western shore (and a couple of kms away from the crossing) a couple of the "older guys" headed down to the jetty and returned promptly to report that they had done the deal! A sometime bushwalker with a borrowed boat was at a loose end for the afternoon because his daughters had stood him up. The first four volunteers clambered eagerly into his boat and made good progress until the craft with its heavy load floundered in the shallows. Our obliging ferryman promptly leapt into the water and pushed/pulled the boat into a deeper channel. And as we raised our eyes to the other shore we gaped in astonishment as the forest disgorged first one, then twoyes, eight bushwalkers! Our frantic waving and yelling eventually registered with them and they set about wading through the shallows to the sand bar we were heading for where they could fill the boat on its return trip. Such perfect timing! Discussion at the crossing confirmed that we were the only trekkers in the Park that weekend.

Having chosen a delightful camp on the eastern shore (and a refreshing swim) rather than lugging our water further on, we made an early start on our third day for what could have been a 24 km trudge to find a watered campsite for our final night. The day was very hot and much of it was spent traversing a shadeless heath land. Fortunately, our lunch stop beyond Sandpatch Point had a top quality drinking supply and the opportunity for an invigorating ocean dip; and even more fortunately we lopped a few kilometres off the journey by striding past the overgrown turnoff to the potential side trip to Little Rame Head, and finding drinkable water at Seal Cove rather than having to continue to Shipwreck Creek for camp.

We decamped for the final stretch on Tuesday morning just before the rain drops appeared – and strode on at a good pace to the cars. We enjoyed a real lunch in Mallacoota then bumped into Group 2 leaving their lunch stop at Cann River. Perfect timing again.

The only injuries for the weekend were a set of blisters which were seriously inflamed by the last day (the result of their owner having completed "The Prom in a Day" the previous weekend) and a grazed elbow which could have been much more serious but that its owner fell very gracefully after losing a grip on the rock face to land on her pack.

And the only geographic uncertainty was at Benedore River where the track inland disappears into the water instead of showing the way to the escarpment. But we soon found an alternative way up.

So many thanks Jopie and Max, and fellow walkers. I enjoyed the fifty kilometres immensely.

LESLEY HALE



SOME BUSHIE HISTORY

MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND

On the Melbourne Cup weekend my partner and I decided to go to Mt Langi Ghiran for some bushwalking. For those not in the know, it is west of Ballarat, just after Beaufort and not far from Ararat. The landscape has similarities to the Grampians which is not far away and it is a short step to Mt Cole.

We drove in on the gravel road to the picnic ground and to our surprise there was a large furniture moving van there. Who goes picnicking/bushwalking in a furniture moving van? Whilst we were finding our bearings, getting our big packs on (yes, when you haven't carried one for a while, an overnight pack is a substantial burden and it feels as if the world's worries are all carried on your back, and there are a lot of those at the moment) the removal van driver came over and chatted. He was taking a group of Trinity College students; his last trip, he said. There were too many regulations now, and he couldn't do it any longer. But he had special permission for this one. He used to do these trips all the time. Now, these rather obscure remarks led me to say that I had heard the Melbourne Bushie old-timers talk of the 'van' and how that used to take them on their Sunday walks. At which time Les White (whose real name is Norm White – Les is the father, but Norm answers to either) said that this was THE van, and it is still going, but, as said, the regulations were now so difficult that he won't be doing it any more.

Les/Norm was very nice, a real bushie-looking bloke, thin, bearded and rugged. He produced a polaroid photo of the van, because I said I'd tell the Bushies of my encounter. I had a look inside the van, with its benches along the sides (didn't look too comfortable), surprised at the size of it all, because I had imagined a small van, not a bus-sized one. Les/Norm was spending the night in the van & then going to pick up the 20 Trinity students the next day somewhere else.

Just in case you haven't been to Langi Ghiran: although not showing on the 1980s map we had just bought, there is a nice track going up to the dam (so you don't have to follow the dusty road). The dam is very picturesque, but the peace was disturbed by some hooligans shooting at something and the dam made the shots echo in a very disturbing manner, so we didn't hang around. (We met the ranger further up the track and told him and he set off hoping to catch them – it is a National Park and no shooting is allowed.)

There is an equally pleasant track going up to the look-out point, following the pipe overflow. And parts (Why only parts?) of the overflow are painstakingly lined with large, flat, granite stones (see comments later on this). And not a soul around apart from us. We took the track up to Mt Langi Ghiran, unfortunately this goes up, up, up but once up we found a lovely spot for overnight camping and had our evening port on a rock overlooking Mt Langi Ghiran vineyard. Lots of birds around, especially cockatoos which are extremely noisy. Reasonably open country, with large rocks, some of which are 'split' in a rather peculiar manner. Almost like somebody had put a charge into them to split them into thick sandwich-like slices. I'm sure a geologist would come up with some theory of water seepage, freezing and splitting in some pre-historic ice-age, or ...? (The 'slices' were too far away from the overflow to have been intended for that, but that is of course amateur speculation.)

The next day we looked for a way to go to the lagoon, which was not far away, but separated from us by a very steep mountain slope. You know the kind where the contour lines are a mm apart for about 5 cm. We knew it must be possible, because that is the route we thought the Trinity boys must have taken. But rock-scrambling is not a favourite pastime of mine, remembering vividly when we tried it at Wonnangatta-Moroko once, and the heavy pack wanted to pull me backwards as I tried to scramble up something which was clearly beyond me (well, it wasn't, we got up, but it wasn't much fun). So we decided to go back the same way, meeting a party of the Trinity boys who had lost 4 of their lot. Had we seen some boys without back-packs, they asked. No, we hadn't. Well, they had split into 3 groups – one group going back to the van and two others searching for the lost ones, who had taken off in the morning. And yes, the scramble to the lagoon was rather difficult, they said (I'm sure this will turn some of you on) with lots of bushbashing. So we got back to the car and found a large group of young boys waiting at the van, telling us that "all had been sorted out". We met the lost party and their leaders later a good distance away as they walked along the dusty, hot road towards the van. The leaders did not look in the least amused.

Continued over page

WELLINGTON PLAINS (TALI KARNG)

MELBOURNE CUP WEEKEND

Our plan was to camp in Licola Caravan Park overnight on Friday, then drive to McFarlane's Saddle car park early the next morning. Ian Langford (our walk leader), had secured tent sites for us all at Licola, so Ian and I set off early Friday afternoon from Mordialloc station to make an early camp by dusk that evening. The remainder of our party – Deborah Henry, David Arnold and Jerome Kramer left the city later that day to arrive and setup camp around midnight.

We rose early to a beautiful morning on Saturday and took the opportunity to have our last hot showers for the next few days! Over breakfast introductions were made, then the final packing and sorting of equipment before we departed Licola and began a 60 km drive to the car park where we would leave the cars and commence our walk with full packs to our base camp approx. 10 km away near Nigothoruk Creek.

The campsite we were headed for was mentioned in previous "Track Notes" on walks into this area, and as the grid coordinates had been documented in the report, we were able to pinpoint the location exactly with our GPS.

Saturday was a warm day and the walk in was quite pleasant, near Moroka Gap we decided to take a short cut to our intended campsite. After a bit of "bush bashing" we located a cleared campsite in a secluded area off the main walking track, which was also within easy walking distance of fresh water from the creek. We setup camp and settled in for the evening, taking advantage of a stone fireplace that had been setup by previous campers.

Sunday turned out to be an even warmer day, so we set off early to take advantage of the clear views from the lookout at the "Sentinels". Atop of the Sentinels we were able to scramble out onto a rocky outcrop for a perfect view below of Lake Tali Karng – our walk planned for the next day. After the Sentinels we headed off to another lookout at "Gable End" where we stopped for lunch (and a snooze) in the shade of the spreading snow gums, out of the midday sun. After a short rest we headed back to Millers Hut, then tackled another steep climb up to "Taylor Lookout" before heading back to our base camp and a well-earned dinner.

Monday was an early departure heading out onto Gillios Track to start the long descent down to Tali Karng. We reached lakeside by morning tea time, where we took a short break whilst the more "daring" of the party (Ian and Deborah) decided to brave the icy waters for a ceremonial dip in the Lake, whilst the rest of us provided them with moral support!

We then set off on a circumnavigation of the Lake planning to stop at the east end for lunch at Snowden Falls. The track around the Lake is quite rough in places, but we made reasonable time and reached the falls by around 1 pm. The falls themselves are about a 10 min. walk away from the Lake, but well worth the effort as the cool glade surrounding the falls provided a sheltered resting-place out of the midday sun. After a short stop at the falls we then headed back around the south side of the lake, until we met up at the bottom of the track where we started the long climb up from the lake and back to our camp for the evening.

By the time we had reached our camp the weather had changed and the expected rain had started to set in. The rain fell most of the night but gave us a short break in the morning, long enough to have breakfast and pack up the campsite. As we set off back to the car park the rain started to set in and poured for most of the walk back to the cars. At the car park we all changed into dry clothes we had left there for the purpose, and drove back to Heyfield for a welcome counter lunch, before saying our good-byes and heading back to Melbourne.

The group were all experienced walkers, and even though we covered a lot of ground during the weekend, the walks were handled at a leisurely pace with plenty of time to take in the sights and just enjoy the beautiful countryside around Lake Tali Karng.

Well done Ian for organizing a great weekend of walking!

STEPHEN MURPHY

Our second walk was up to the lagoon along the marked walking track. As the map indicates, it goes straight up for some 800 m and it is rather hard work. After that it is a couple of kilometres to the lagoon. Again, we made it and arrived eventually at the Hidden Lagoon, which really is quite beautiful. As we sat contemplating life at its edge, a flock of swallows came and did a flight display for us, seemingly aimlessly darting around, up and down. We hoped for an African-like evening parade of animals coming to drink, but this did not eventuate. After all the rain, there was probably no need to come to the lagoon. Apart from the screeching cockatoos who started their symphony at regular intervals and the odd kookaburra, it was very quiet. No other humans around either.

Next day we drove out, as the rain drove in, and visited Langi Ghiran winery on the way. They had a very nice cleanskin for \$75 a dozen (a Chardonnay/Semillon mix and for someone who normally does not like either of those varieties, it was most pleasant). And we fell totally for their top wine, the Shiraz, which was just superb! Price is equally superb (\$55), but it is equal to the best of the Coonawarras and think of all the money we saved on motels whilst camping in the bush.

The tally for the 2 days was: 2 echidnas, 1 kangaroo, 2 snakes (1 black, 1 brown), 2 stumpy-tail (terminology?) lizards (possibly behaving amorously), plenty of birds, a generous display of various orchids and 13 bottles of wine.

MARIANNE GEMPERLE

Letter from Devon

Nov. 2001

Dear Everyone,

Here's wishing you a very Happy Christmas.

My final holiday in Poland was just before I left in June. This was again with another teacher from our school in N. E. Poland who could speak Polish quite well. We went to the S.E. of Poland taking in a folk festival of choral singing (dire). But their local costumes were incredibly varied, the musicians terrific not to mention their instruments & the genuine article craft fair delightful. All this was in an old town which was once a busy port & trading post on the Vistula River. Then we went to the furthest S.E. corner to the Carpathian Mountains which were of decent dimensions & had high grassy meadows & abundant wildflowers including five different types of orchids in a smallish area. I stood on the top of one mountain & could see into Belarus & Slovakia, the range spreads a heck of a long way.

Now I'm back in the U.K. in the S.W. & doing emergency teaching in five local schools. So far so good. There's heaps of excellent walking in Devon alone e.g. I went to Exmoor yesterday on a National Parks organized walk through ancient oak & beech forests seeing scores of red deer & still glorious autumn colours. October was the warmest since records began (1600s) which has prolonged autumn no end. Soon I shall check out the local rambles groups.

Last summer after I'd finished teaching in a language school in Bath I took off for Scotland with my mum traveling up by the West Coast. Can't think why I've lived so long & never been there before, fantastic beautiful mountains. Then we went on to the north coast which is where my mum comes from. Lots of rellies around. We came back via the Lake District, more drooling, & Ironbridge where the Industrial Revolution started. All ever so interesting.

From News it seems you're going from strength to strength, I do enjoy reading about Bushies happenings. Thank you!

Sylvia Ford

BOOK REVIEWS

TREKKING BY DAVID NOLAND (\$37.95)

David Noland's treks of 20 walks spanning 6 continents are a result of his quest for the best.

I would love to be able to say I'd walked the Darien Gap (the 230 miles between Panama & Columbia that is the missing link in the Pan American Highway) but in the meantime I'll have to make do with Noland's description. Likewise, the Atlas Mountains of Morocco might have to remain a daydream.

However, if you're tossing up between the imminently attainable Milford Track, the Gokyo & Everest Base Camp or the Inca Trail, this book can help you. It's filled with tips like: what to do about altitude sickness (while ascending Kilimanjaro), trip length, a rating system for both the physical & mental challenge, costs for the independent trekker, price range for an outfitted group trek.

He also has recommended reading at the end of each chapter. I particularly liked this: "No recommended reading. This area is so remote & unknown that nothing has ever been written about it!!!" - Jujuy, N.W. Argentina. Other snippets are offered, like, to go to Sikkam, it being like Nepal was 30 years ago, & so you can read up about the Kanchenjunga Trek (9 - 10 days).

He includes warnings about trouble spots. Probably the Tian Shan, W.E. Kazakhstan might be a bit dodgy, & unfortunately the Snow Lake of Pakistan is not only off-the-beaten-track, but just plain off.

This highly recommended book is armchair trekking for troubled times.

LONELY PLANET 2002 DIARY (\$24.95)

This is a practical spiral bound book featuring a week-to-a-page & is illustrated with beautiful colour photos from their guide books. My favourites are a small boat drifting on clear waters in the Maldives, Buddhas in Laos & wildebeest on the move in Kenya.

RULE NO. 5 - NO SEX ON THE BUS BY BRIAN THACKER (\$19.95)

Did you do a bus trip through Europe in your youth? Relive the memories, hangovers & embarrassments in this book by Brian Thacker, who was a tour leader on 20 trips. In addition to that he has vast writing experience, having written over 1,000 postcards on his travels!

SUSAN MAUGHAN

CONSERVATION FORUM

Here are some notes from the *VicWalk* Conservation Committee October meeting:

Alpine – at Mt Hotham there is a proposal to shift the road in the village area at an est. cost of \$1-2 million dollars with possible funding from VicRoads. The proposed ski tow for Avalanche Gully has been postponed as there is little demand for 'double black' high standard skiing. This same company operates the Falls Creek ski resort and are developing Mt McKay for the same double black standard – yet little demand for it!!! Rooftop Maps have published several maps of the alpine area but have not included the ski resort boundaries. Alps Advisory Committee – with the passing of Bill Morgan, the Government has asked for three nominations for a representative.

Mt Stirling - VicWalk attended the October Advisory Group and Mt Stirling Board Meetings. Mt Stirling is suffering from a funding crisis with only 50% visitation due to the poor snowfall this winter. Skiers are the only source of recreational fee generation eg winter entry fees. The Board are examining possible options for revenue generation with

1. a 4 wheel drive levy, 2. Summer entry fee, 3. No ski patrols/grooming of trails, 4. Asking Parks Victoria for funding, and 5. a Day Visitor area fee. It appears the rumour of the Mt Buller Alpine Resort taking over the Mt Stirling operation is false. However, the Mt Buller entrance station may be re-located 1.5 km towards Mansfield to minimise the bottleneck during peak time. This will definitely affect the Mt Stirling turn-off. Also, the bridge over the Delatite River is in need of repair/update. A reminder that logging operations will commence this summer with the Circuit Road being closed mid-week and re-opening for weekend traffic. There will be a working bee to lay rubber matting at the summit on the 9th February and possibly on the 20th March. Bushwalkers assistance is required. Contact Elizabeth Doery at VMTC for more information.

East Gippsland – Concerns with the recent logging operations in the Tambo region. In the last two years there has been a 700% increase in logging for woodchips and sawlogs are down by 20%. The three major sites of concern are Goolongook, Dingo Creek (a rainforest of national significance on the edge of Errinundra), and Yalmy which has just been opened. Roads have been made into Yalmy which is an 'over mature' (old growth) forest. Most of the logs are for pulp and only 30% for saw logs.

Gippsland Forests (central Gippsland) - Public submissions close for the Proposed Management Plan on 2nd November. The VicWalk Conservation Committee will send a submission.

Bunyip State Park – This park has an on-going problem with excessive trail bikes and 4 wheel drive traffic. Progress to date with the Management Plan installing walking track signage and protection has been very slow. The last Government de-regulated recreational motor cycle licences for forestry roads with a huge upsurge in trail bike traffic in Bunyip State Park – the closest trail bike area for the south-east suburbs of Melbourne. A bushwalking lobby group has been formed with eight people from local clubs. This group will lobby for more walking tracks and to be separate from vehicular traffic eg trail bikes. A VicWalk rep. attended the Public Meeting convened by Mr Neil Lucas MLC for Eumemmering Province held at Gembrook. 64 people attended with local people very concerned with the trail bike noise. The public meeting discussed "solutions" as being pursued through (a) the Local Council Environment Advisory Committee (VicWalk has a rep), (b) the existing Focus Group (VicWalk has two reps) and (c) raising issues with Neil Lucas. VicWalk position is:- 1. We should make our views known to the Chief Ranger, Ranger in Charge about the lack of a walking track network. 2. We should work through the Focus Group to voice our dissatisfaction with the current Management Plan. 3. The first priority needs to be on the existing walking tracks and bringing them up to standard with signage and effective barricades. 4. Our second priority will be on a more balanced walking track network – building link tracks, closing 4 wheel drive roads to traffic. The Victorian National Parks are likely to set up a 'Park Monitoring System' for Bunyip State Park. Failing any positive outcomes from these initiatives, then Dave suggest we take our grievances to the Director of National Parks and then the Minister.

Box-Ironbark Rally – This very successful weekend was held on the 6- 7th October with over 500 people attending including many politicians (eg Victor Perton – Shadow Minister for the Environment). VicWalk received a reply from the Premier, Steve Bracks which stated the government welcomed "... further community involvement in the decision making process." VicWalk also received a thank you letter from Jason Doyle of the VNPA. Of the eight letters sent to the regional press urging support of the Box-Ironbark National Parks, three have been published to date.

Powelltown – A VicWalk rep. attended a site visit at the "Walk into History Track" at Starling Gap with Richard Wadsworth (DNRE – State Co-ordinator of Recreation with State Forests), Daniel Catrice (DNRE - Historic Places branch) and a local DNRE representative. All agreed the construction to date has caused massive problems with the track too wide, damaged by construction works traffic and the new track takes you away from the trestle bridges. DNRE will draw up new plans to rectify this situation. VicWalk will be invited back to view the new plans.

Dromana Scenic Walkway – the opening has been deferred to Saturday 1st December. VicWalk invited to attend.

Portland Wind Energy Project – details of the E.E.S. and Planning Report were published in *The Age* on Monday 22/10/01. Printed copies of the E.E.S. are available for \$50 and CD-ROM sets at \$10 from Pacific Hydro 9620 4400. A summary report is available at www.doi.vic.gov.au/environment. Pacific Hydro has applied for 4 planning permits for the 120+ wind turbines. Public submissions invited and the closing date is 3/12/01.

Victorian Trails Co-ordinating Committee - excerpts from the 'Public Comment Summary' from the Draft Victorian Trails Strategy. Comments received on policy, access, shared use of trails. Walking Tracks to be for walkers only.

ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

NEW MEMBERS

MEREDITH A CHELL

GINA HORN

LEO LYNCH

BARRY I MC ILWAIN

GAEL MOLYNEUX

CHRISTINE ZANGERL

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

WILLIAM CONE

LANCE MOBBS

VICTORIA SCRIVENGER

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	336
Family memberships	104 (=2x52)
Total membership	461
This time last year	444

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

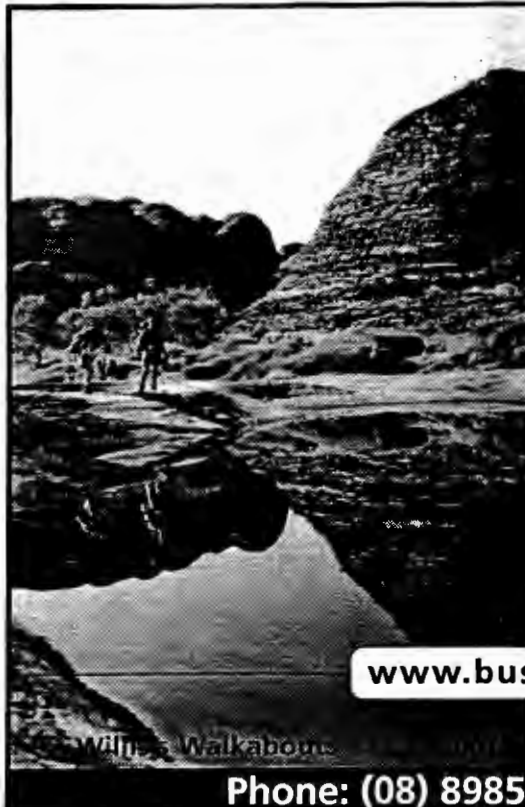
SEPT. ACCOUNTS (AMENDED)

	\$
Opening Balance	49,265.30
Income	2,756.78
Expenditure	2,491.07
Closing Balance	49,531.01

OCTOBER ACCOUNTS

	\$
Opening Balance	49,531.01
Income	3,392.41
Expenditure	3,654.38
Closing Balance	49,269.04

JAN PALICH
TREASURER



The Kimberley has changed!

Well not the Kimberley itself, but our program has just undergone its biggest change in 15 years.

Six new trips and major changes to others. Ask for the new list or check it out on our website.

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DECEMBER 2001

30 - 2	Pack Carry: Mt Buffalo National Park	Private	Easy	Roger Wyett	
Sun 2	Richards Tramline – Big Pats Creek	BUS	E & E/M	Ian Langford & Bob Steel	#
7 – 9	Base Camp: Bogong & Feathertop	Private	Med/Hard	Rod Novak	
Sun 9	Forest Cave – Pyramid Rock	BUS	E/M & M	William Cone & Peter McGrath	#
Wed 12	Bayside Coastal Art Trail	Private	Easy	Sandra Mutimer	
14 – 16	Base Camp: Anglesea Beach walks	Private	E/M	Paul Beers	
Sun 16	Marysville Lookouts – Stevenson Falls	BUS	E & E/M	Brian Crouch & Adrian Bolzan	#
Sun 23	NO SUNDAY BUS TRIP	Nil		Merry Christmas Everyone!	
22 – 1 Jan	Pack Carry: Davies Plains and Beyond	Private	M	Bill Metzenthien	
26 – 31	Base Camp: Bogong High Plains	Private	E/M	Lance Mobbs	
26 – 1 Jan	Pack Carry: Gungarten & Jagungal (NSW)	Private	M	Lloyd Young	
26 – 1 Jan	Canoe Trip: Snowy River	Private	M	Quentin Tibballs	*
Sun 30	NO SUNDAY BUS TRIP	Nil		Happy New Year to All!	

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Address

Phone h)..... w)..... h)..... w)

Email

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 Family/Couple -membership \$50.00 **Concession** – couple \$28.00 (proof required)
 New members joining on/after 1 October \$21.00 less visitor fees *The News* – \$18.00

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