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THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 614

APRIL 2002

60 CENTS



Special Buying Night: The Wilderness Shop

Tuesday 23 April
6.00 - 9.00 pm

969 Whitehorse Road,
Box Hill

20% Off Regular Prices
5% Off Sale Items
Free Snacks & Drinks

Door Prizes donated by Mont & White Mountain

Jan Palich



Slide Show

Wednesday 17 April
8.00 pm

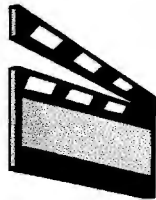
Clubrooms

Mr. Pocock will bring his Magic Lantern
& show Amazing Scenes
from the recent club trip to the Apple Isle.

See Unparalleled Wilderness,
Wild Craggs, Beauteous Camp Spots,
Scenes of the Abode of Higg's Boson!
Intrepid Bushies captured on
Mr. Kodak's Wonderful Invention!

Wine and cheese will be available
for your delectation.

N.B.: Bookings for walks, etc. to be made
between 7.00 & 8.00 pm on this night please.



Film Night: Mulholland Drive

Saturday 4 May
7.30 pm

The Astor Theatre
Corner Chapel St. & Dandenong Rd.,
St. Kilda

A Film by David Lynch Crime/Thriller
\$9 per person

See me in the clubrooms
or call me on to show interest

Carol Criddle
Social Secretary

Social Events

Got a great idea?

*Going to an event we may join in on?
Like to comment on our social functions?*

*Talk with me in the clubrooms
or phone me on*

*Watch the board in the clubrooms
for other possible events*

Carol Criddle
Social Secretary

ENQUIRIES:

CLUB OPEN: 7 - 9 PM WED., HORTICULTURAL HALL, MACKENZIE ST., MELB.

WEBSITE: www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

EMAIL: info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au

WALKS PROGRAM CHANGES

Saturday 4 May Training Day – New Leader is Alan Clarke who will run a navigation practice (map and compass skills). Contact Alan on [redacted] for more information.

Sunday 19 May – Cape Woolamai. Please note Sybille Holdheide's correct telephone number is [redacted]

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

FROM THE (NEW) WALKS SECRETARY

Why do we belong to the Melbourne Bushies? Presumably the one thing we all have in common is a love of walking in the bush. The reasons we love it may vary enormously. When I first started walking with the Club, it was the exercise that I most enjoyed. I loved nothing more than a good medium grade Sunday walk, blasting up hills and pounding along ridges. Coming from England, the sense of space and vastness of the bush had great appeal. In my first year of belonging to the Club, I was a regular on the Sunday bus almost every weekend. After a while the love of the bush took over and I began to enjoy more the experience of just being in the bush rather than belting through it. I discovered the joys of weekend walking and the delights of finding beautiful campsites in true wilderness. On a weekend trip there is time to savour the ambience of being in the bush and sharing the experience with like-minded people. We are lucky having so many wonderful places to go to just here in Victoria.

Inevitably, the time came when I felt drawn to give something back to the Club through which I had gained so much pleasure. I signed up to lead my first Sunday walk. It was not a great experience. To begin with, the *leader* (I was only sub-leader) was away on leave when we (or I) needed to do a preview. For that first walk I did three previews and still managed to get myself "geographically embarrassed" on the day (rescued by my husband who quietly whispered in my ear that we were heading 180° in the wrong direction!) After that I wasn't too keen to lead any more walks but somehow forced myself to try again. I have to admit, all these years later, that the experience of being a walk leader is still quite daunting. There was another trip when, as leader, I lost the President. I made the classic mistake – turned off the main track without waiting to check that everyone was there. The President, who meanwhile had stopped to put on a raincoat, just carried on past the turn-off. Well, we did find her eventually and the party laughed and joked about it around the campfire that night. However, I swore after that trip that I would never lead another one again. How many of us leaders have said that, I wonder! But here I am still leading. OK, sure, it's nice to hear "Thanks for a great walk" at the end of the day (if people bother to say so) but the main reward is just knowing you are doing your bit to help keep the Club going. So, if you have been a member for a couple of years or more, then think about it. Isn't it *your* turn to have a go at leading a walk and give something back to the Club? These days I believe that new leaders are given very good support by co-leaders in preparing for the challenges of leading a walk and the Club provides you with the opportunity to attend training days for prospective and current leaders. (Feedback would be appreciated from new leaders if they have suggestions for improving the training and support system.)

Really, there is no excuse – if you enjoy walking then have a go at leading. Unlike me, you may find you love it!

Happy walking!

GINA HOPKINS

APRIL/MAY DAY WALKS, ETC.



Dandenongs Explorer Doongalla

DATE Saturday 27 April
STANDARD Easy Medium
LEADER(S) Warren Baker
TRANSPORT Private

Meet at 10.30 am at Wicks Reserve (Melway 65.J8).

This is an old favourite walk and we will lunch at Doongalla homestead and follow the channel 10 track after lunch returning via Glasgow track. During the walk I want to examine a variation for a walk later on in the year & I want to examine a new coffee place for afterwards.



Training Day: Navigation and Leadership

DATE Saturday 4 May
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Max.: 12 km
LEADER(S) Alan Clarke
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.00 pm
AREA Mt Disappointment
MAP REFERENCE Reedy Creek 1:25,000
 (will be provided)

This will be an easy and fun navigation practice day. It will NOT be for those who do not know the basics of navigation. It WILL be for those who know the theory and have done some of the practical but are not as confident as they would like to be and would like some easy practice in a fun setting. The day is on the permanent rogaining course and so there are lots of markers to go and find in a nice bushland area. Incentives will be on offer and if I can get my act together we will incorporate some easy walk leadership updating as well for those who want it.



Sunday Bus: Bamganie State Forest - Woodburne Creek

DATE Sunday 5 May
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 & 15 km
LEADER(S) Jean Woodger & Tracey Jamieson
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN Approx. 7.00 pm
AREA Meredith
MAP REFERENCE Grenville, Elaine, Bamganie
 Medina 1:25,000

Woodburne Creek winds through the little known Bamganie State Forest, home to kangaroos, echidnas & koalas. The forest is surrounded by open farmland, & it is not unusual to see wedge-tailed eagles hovering above. There are some mine shafts dotted throughout the forest, reminders of the late 1800s when gold was discovered in the area,

& nearby Steiglitz was a booming gold mining township with over 1000 inhabitants.

Some of the walk follows Woodburne Creek, crossing as necessary when large rocky outcrops block the way. Sometimes we will climb high above them, then descend steeply to the creek again. There are quite a few crossings, but kangaroos have already formed the best spots to cross & we won't get wet feet.

Both walks follow a similar route. The easy walk has some hills, but nothing too steep or too prolonged, & will spread out across farmland towards the end of the walk. The easy/medium will walk an extra 2 to 3 kilometres, with some more energetic scrambling up & down the banks, & a few more hills.



Sunday Bus: Cathedral Ranges

DATE Sunday 12 May
STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 10 & 13 km
LEADER(S) Fiona Gallery & Bill Donald
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00 pm
AREA North of Marysville
MAP REFERENCE Cathedral Range Outdoor Map

The Cathedral Ranges cover some 3600 hectares of forested ridges, open bush & rocky escarpments situated N.E. of Melb.

Both walks will start at Ned's Gully & make the steep ascent to Ned's saddle. From there, the Medium group will take in Little Cathedral, then follow the rocky ridge top back to Cathedral Peak (870m).

The EM group will take the lower track below the ridge line from Ned's saddle to the Farmyard (so called because the lyrebirds in the area mimic the domestic animals on the valley farms below). The Medium group will also come to the Farmyard but will follow the ridge line.

Both groups will descend along the Jawbone Creek, then take the river track back to the bus after passing through Cooks Mill camping area. Plenty of great views to be had from both sides of the range!

N.B.: 8.30 am start.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

- are running at about the same rate as last year, that is not quite fast enough.
 - paid up: 105 members (that is about 23% of membership).
 - you know that you have not paid if the label on your *News* says "Subs due". If it is clean, pat, pat on your shoulder.
 - you have until the end of May to pay. That is 6 weeks away and counting... If you have not paid by then, the BAD news is no *News*. So hurry it up!
 - How much do you pay? It is at the bottom of the last page.
- Please note that holders of a 'Seniors Card' are not entitled to the concession rate - that is for full-time students and those entitled to Commonwealth Health benefits.

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



Wednesday Walk: Mt Macedon - Mt Towrong

DATE Wednesday 15 May
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 13 km
LEADER(S) Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME (Pre Afternoon Tea) before 4 pm
AREA Macedon Ranges
MAP REFERENCE Macedon & Woodend 1: 25,000

We will meet at 140 Anzac Rd., Mt Macedon at 10.15 am. This is the first street on the right after the Trading Post & Mountain Inn when travelling northwards along Mt Macedon Rd & Douglas Rd is on the left just before it. (Melway VicRoads 285 T4).

In 1836 Mt Macedon was named after Philip of Macedonia by the explorer Thomas Mitchell when he sighted Port Phillip Bay from its summit. During the 1870s in Melbourne's post gold rush boom times its mountain air and temperate climate attracted wealthy families to establish summer residences here to escape from Melbourne's heat. With Mt Macedon's rainfall and rich volcanic soil extensive ornamental gardens were established around these estates and they now form the most important collection of colonial gardens in Australia. There are also scenic views, native forests, including some snow gums, ferny gullies, mountain streams and abundant wildlife.

It is interesting to observe how badly this area suffered from the bushfires of Ash Wednesday in February 1983 when lives were lost, homes destroyed and forest and farmland burnt out and reflect on the restoration and recovery that has occurred since then.

Our walk will be along the tracks of the Macedon Regional Park, 4WD tracks & country roads & will involve a little climbing as we will pass historic homes & gardens to visit Mt Macedon with its Memorial Cross, the Turritable Falls & Mt Towrong with both these mountains on the rim of the ancient volcano.

We will be fortunate to be accompanied on the walk by a former club member who lives here. He has a deep love of the area and an impressive knowledge about it and has walked extensively here, as well as in many other areas.

Our walk will end up at *Corsham Park* which has an impressive garden containing 30 different species and cultivars of birches. We will have afternoon here & I would like to ask those coming along on the walk if they could bring something special to share.

It is possible for people to do part of this walk if you would like to discuss this with me.

SEARCH & RESCUE REPORT

Last month the Bushwalkers Search & Rescue received a call-out late one Thursday evening to search for a 34 year old man who had gone missing. One of our members, Stephen Rowlands, responded to the call-out and assisted in the search. The search area, near Noojee, was infested with blackberries which made it rather tough going for our teams. The unfortunate outcome of the search was that the body of the missing person was found, by an SES team. Details of the cause of death are not yet known.

GINA HOPKINS
SEARCH & RESCUE DELEGATE



Sunday Bus: Cape Woolamai (Phillip Island)

DATE Sunday 19 May
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Sibylle Holdheide & David Easton
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am

Please see the leaders in the clubrooms about these walks.



Dandenongs Explorer Kalorama

DATE Saturday 25 May
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 8 km
LEADER(S) Maureen Hurley
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Melway 66 J2

We will meet at 11.30 am at the Car Park in Falls Road Kalorama (opposite the entrance to the National Rhododendron Gardens).

This is an easy walk which traverses the Rhododendron Gardens and the Olinda Golf Course. There are views of the Silvan Dam and should be some nice late autumn tones at this time of year.



Sunday Bus: Yea Spur

DATE Sunday 26 May
STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 15 & 18 km
LEADER(S) Maureen Hurley & Ralph Clayton
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm
AREA Yea
MAP REFERENCE Flowerdale & Homewood 1:25,000

This is a pretty walk with rolling hills and fantastic views. The Medium walk will climb Mt Marion (487 m) and Yea Spur, and the Easy/Medium group traverse the Spur, both groups taking the same route for the final leg of the walk via Junction Ridge and Trig Point.

N.B. 8.30 am start.

WILKINSON LODGE UPDATE

There are still some places left in some of the winter weeks. If you have been thinking of going then make your mind up. See me in the clubrooms for further information. N.B. There are no rules to say you can't go more than once!

DOUG POCOCK
WILKY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

APRIL/MAY WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



Pack Carry: Mt. Margaret - Crolls Gorge

DATE Friday 26 - Sunday 28 April
STANDARD Medium - Approx. 32 km
LEADER(S) Trish Elmore
TRANSPORT Private

This walk will start from near Licola on the Mt Margaret walking track, and will hopefully finish there too. In between we will camp at some delightful spot somewhere on the Wellington River which we will follow downstream as far as Crolls Gorge. There we shall have an exploratory wander in and around the gorge and then find a suitable spot to take us back up on to a ridge to join the track near Mt Margaret. There could be a bit of bush-bashing involved and a couple of steep hills to negotiate so come prepared with this in mind.



Pack Carry: Refuge Cove circuit

DATE Friday 10 - Sunday 12 May
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 37 km
LEADER(S) Max Casley
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Late Sunday Evening
AREA Wilsons Promontory
MAP REFERENCE Wilsons Promontory Leisure Map

Come to scenic Wilsons Promontory after the Easter crowds have gone! Friday night we will camp at Tidal River. Saturday morning we will start at Telegraph Saddle & walk via Windy Saddle to Sealers Cove for lunch & maybe a swim. Then we go to Refuge Cove & camp & shared entrees.

Next morning we climb around the side of Kersops Peak & on to Waterloo Bay with views of the Lighthouse & Rodondo Island on the way. Then we go inland up to the Lighthouse Track & return to Telegraph Saddle.

Remember: no fires, bring a stove. Camping cost: about \$14. Suggested transport cost: about \$35.



Base Camp: Beechworth - Mt. Pilot

DATE Friday 17 - Sunday 19 May
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 235 km North-East of Melb.
LEADER(S) Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00 pm Sunday
AREA Beechworth area
MAP REFERENCE Reids Creek & Eldorado maps
 1:25,000

The Saturday walk will be from Beechworth along the gorge to the Woolshed falls, returning past the powder magazine. The Sunday walk will either be in an area S-E of Eldorado or from Lake Sambell to Lake Kerford.

Camping will be at the Lake Sambell Caravan Park in Beechworth. Tea on the Saturday night can be arranged at a local pub. Leader will need to know numbers in advance to book places at the Caravan Park and for the Saturday night meal.



Pack Carry: Mt Avoca & Pyrenees

DATE Friday 24 - Sunday 26 May
STANDARD Medium
LEADER(S) Bill Donald
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Late Sunday Afternoon

This walk starts at Avoca and takes in the picturesque Pyrenees Ranges. Saturday morning will see us tackling the heights of Mt Avoca on the way to our luxury (a runda with seating) campsite.

The walk is entirely on track and water should not be a problem. Come prepared for cold weather. Sunday should be an early finish so we might take our pick of the bakeries in Avoca for a late lunch or an early afternoon tea.



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Mountain Equipment

THE BLUFF

11 – 13 JANUARY

After a pleasant drive on Friday night we arrived at Sheeppark Flat only to find that our proposed campsite was over-run with cattle. We decided to minimise our risk of stampede and camped away from the herd, although during the night we could hear grazing nearby.

The next morning we drove just past Refrigerator Gap to the start of our walk. It was chilly but the immediate uphill climb from the Gap to the Bluff quickly had us stripping down to lighter clothing. Our first destination, The Bluff, made the climb worthwhile: magnificent views, clear skies, a light breeze. After we refreshed ourselves with morning tea we continued across the ridge and a stop on the edge of Mt Eadley Stoney, one of the best in my opinion. The ridge was wide and gentle, and we even saw a falcon (or hawk) hunting. A long lunch on the track and some warmer weather made for a comfortable and sleepy break.

We then continued down to Bluff Hut to pick up some rusty-tasting water, and had brief conversation with the other (four-wheel driving) tourists there. Up the hill, then, to our campsite on Mt Lovick. We made camp early on a grassy patch just below the top that afforded views across to Mt Speculation and the Crosscut Saw. After another nap, some speculations on our proposed route the following day and dinner we retired for the night.

Unfortunately, the weather turned inclement on Sunday so Ralph prudently decided to forego the off-track walking down Square Head Jinny and through a gully, instead proceed back along the road via Bluff Hut to the car. We then returned to Melbourne via Mansfield with a pleasant lunch at the Sweet Potato in Mansfield (well worth the stop in either direction).

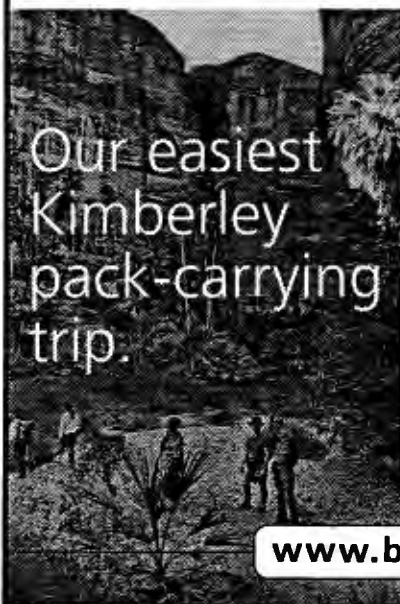
All in all, a spectacular walk. Thanks, Ralph.

Group: Celesta, Dagma, Ralph Blake (leader) and me.



ADRIAN BOLZAN

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TYNDALL RANGE WALK

16 - 21 JANUARY

Leader: Doug Pocock & participants: Jan Llewelyn, Graham Wills-Johnson, Joan & Ken MacMahon.

An exploratory walk in the little visited Tyndall Range on the west coast near Queenstown. With up to four metres of rain per year, it's the wettest place in Tasmania. We must be mad!

It was decided to start from the historic Margaret River hydro power station built c1914. The males in our group were fascinated by the old whirring machinery. Jan and Joan studiously ignored it. After registering our intentions with the very friendly Hydro staff, we struggled up a steep, steep track to the top of the steel pressure pipe (a climb of about 300m). Lunch was had amongst ugly, dilapidated engineering structures. Contrasting this was a grand vista of beautiful mountains. Far away to the west we could see the coast and Macquarie Harbour, including Cape Sorell Lighthouse. To the east were the rugged peaks of the Tyndall Range... and a quaint wooden tramway disappearing mysteriously and enticingly round the mountainside. Running parallel to it and looking like a huge worm was a very leaky, four foot diameter wooden pipe. This delivered water to the top of the pressure pipe and so to the power station way below. It was built of king billy pine about 70+ years ago, a tree which probably once grew commonly all over these mountains, but I guess most of them went into making this pipe, so only a few examples remain. Walking along the comparatively flat and very scenic tramway was a joy. Lining the way and reveling in the clearing were thousands of blandfordias, trigger plants, and other wildflowers including a few very large sun orchids. Far ahead we could see the tramway and pipe hanging off a near sheer rock face before curving into a tight fold of the range.

Soon enough the tramway brought us to the Lake Margaret dam and across the water we could see where we wanted to go, only a few kilometres away. The tramway lulled some of us into imagining we'd just keep cruising along to our planned camp high up on the range. We discovered, however, that the track went no further, terminating at a little aluminium workboat without oars – how inconvenient! Nevertheless, with considerable enthusiasm we charged into the scrub above the left end of the wall. Two hours and about 150 metres later, we understood well that it takes more than enthusiasm to get through west coast scrub.

Retracing our footsteps, we camped at a workers hut beside the tramway (Ken & Joan actually pitched their tent right on the tracks with the help of a few spare planks). Next day we set off in a different direction, and after fighting our way through a lesser patch of scrub we eventually found our way up into sub-alpine vegetation, which didn't put up so much resistance. Lovely purplish-black hewardia flowers (or is it isophysis now?) carpeted the area. Below us and only a few kilometres away to the south we could see the scars of the Mt Lyell mine. With eagles soaring lazily on the updrafts in the balmy weather, we set up camp beside Lake Adam nestled at the foot of Mt Sedgwick.

Day three dawned, again calm and sunny. We set off past Lake Barnabas, numerous picturesque unnamed tarns and on past Lakes Patrick, Polycarp. At Lake Peter we enjoyed a swim/wash during our lunch stop. It was c-o-l-d, but good. Nearby a channel, cut by hand long ago as part of the hydro scheme, redirected Lake Peter's water into nearby Lake Paul. This was just about the only indication we saw of other people ever having visited this area. After crossing a saddle that was thankfully free of scrub we ascended through rocky outcrops in the heat of the afternoon to the delightful Nectar Lakes – a compact chain of tarns. We were hot and tired and anxious to make camp, but the best spot we could find was on tufts of button grass. Lemon-scented boronia grew here too, so while it wasn't comfortable, at least it smelt good and the surroundings were a treat. Crescent Honeyeaters enjoyed the banksias and Ken saw a platypus in one of the lakes. Goodness knows how it climbed the cascading mountain stream to get here.

We were in the heart of the Tyndalls now so day four was spent exploring in a leisurely manner without packs. First we headed for nearby Farquhar Lookout which, in the sunny conditions, provided a panorama dominated by towering Eldon Peak across a wild valley to the east, while three kilometres to the west were the higher peaks of the Tyndall Range. The rocks of this region are conglomerates laid down over 400 million years ago and relatively recently they were carved and re-arranged during the ice age. Continuing our ramble we kept to the high ground obtaining views of Lakes Matthew, Mark, Malcolm, Monica and Myra, (we couldn't quite see Lakes Magdala, Myrtle, Michael and Maxfield). Before long we arrived atop a high cirque overlooking the jewel in the crown, Lake Mary. It was so hot, we sought the shade of a large boulder while we enjoyed our lunch – no shady trees in these parts, just scraggy, wind sculptured banksias and stunted tea trees, white with flowers.

Day five was again sunny as we bid goodbye to our lumpy campsite and continued our tour. After descending a spur past Lake Martha we had to fight our way through a cutting grass swamp before emerging onto the fine pink sand bordering much of Lake Mary. It didn't take long to decide that this was the place to camp – no evidence of other people, spacious, no lumps, a delightful little island just offshore and surrounded by craggy mountains – just gorgeous! During the afternoon we swam (briefly, as one does in these parts) and explored the rain-forested far corner of the lake. At last the weather was changing and at dusk it turned on the entertainment. Low cloud and mist gently swirled in from left and right, creating multiple rainbows with the sun's last rays.

The cool and misty conditions carried over to day six and it was a pleasant change. We found a rough track the Hydro workers had told us about, leading down to the rocky shore at the back of Lake Margaret. Due to the hydro scheme the water level here varies considerably, creating a bare rocky shore. It was relatively easy to rock hop our way back to the dam wall and soon enough we were back on the wooden tramway and heading out of this delightful little visited corner of Tasmania. Thanks Doug for leading such an enjoyable walk. We must visit the 'sunny' Tyndall Range again.

KEN MACMAHON



NEW ROOF FOR WILKINSON LODGE WORK PARTY: 9 & 10 FEBRUARY

The work started on Thursday afternoon when Doug & Jan brought the delivery truck and their van down the Wilky road and began unloading. The empty truck left and after a few loads were carried to the lodge the weather broke. Rain stopped play. Next day, when the rain eased a little, Dave H and Geoff began removing the old roof from the eastern side, while Doug and Jan continued portering. Ken (the foreman) and Joan arrived late morning, bringing better weather. Sheets of iron really began to fly off the roof. Don arrived, to be given porter duties, while Doug did a hasty trip to Mt Beauty for more supplies. A decision was made to remove the old malthoid covering - a bit of a time-consuming mistake but which, once started, had to be finished. Eventually the roof was ready for new Sisalation and battens. Just as the battens were screwed down the weather broke again, so it was out with the tarpaulins and hope the wind didn't get any stronger.

Next morning we had the full crew with Dave L and Ken B so, while one crew began roofing the eastern side, others began stripping the western side. Jan and Joan did sterling work cleaning up the scrap malthoid and nails, all 0.3 tonne of it! After early drizzle the day remained fair, so work proceeded well and we felt satisfied with progress.

Sunday morning started sunny but, by the time we had eaten breakfast, rain had started. "Can't get worse," said Dave. Wrong! It started snowing! This made the job more dangerous as well as more miserable, so early morning tea was declared. As the weather improved slowly all were able to get back on the job and eventually the roof was essentially finished.

The new roof is somewhat lighter than the old and shows up more through the trees. We will have to see if this causes problems. All the group worked steadily and efficiently under Ken's direction under very difficult conditions. A good job well done.

Thanks to Ken & Joan MacMahon, Dave Hespe (captured putting everything into the job in my photo above), Geoff Mattingley, Don Weston, David Laing, Ken Baird & Jan Llewelyn.

Soon after the Wilky roof was completed I received the following letter:

Dear Doug

Parks Victoria inspected the new roof at Wilkinson's hut and found it to be a great improvement on the previous roof. The roof was constructed in a professional manner and with weathering will blend into the environment adequately.

It was pleasing to note that great care was taken, not only in keeping the site clean, but also in protecting the vegetation from any damage in the delivery and removal of roofing material.

The professional manner in which Melbourne Bushwalkers conducts its business is greatly appreciated by Parks Victoria and makes working with your club a pleasure. Congratulations on a job well done.

Yours sincerely

etc.

I think that says it all.

DOUG POCOCK
WILKINSON LODGE MANAGER

TANJIL BREN - MT. BAW BAW PACK CARRY 22 - 24 FEBRUARY

Seven of us met at a convenient camp site along Link Road. Leo & myself arrived just before dark, having seen about five lyrebirds at various intervals along the way.

On Saturday morning, approx. 9 km to Tanjil Bren, then a car shuffle to Mt. Baw Baw car park. After inspecting the Tanjil Bren dug-out shelter from the 1939 bushfires we began walking along an old 4WD track in the State forest. Fortunately Gina & Derek had anticipated the first 3 or 4 km being overgrown with blackberry bushes, etc. & did a great job with their secateurs. Much time was spent removing leeches & we couldn't even rest with our packs off at morning tea.



Lunch was at a more open area near our crossing of the Tanjil river. A short distance along the river, with blackberries again, & we began an untracked medium climb (although Gina commented that she hadn't noticed the climb). We emerged onto a disused aquaduct track, along which we saw three or maybe four tiger snakes coiled up. On one occasion our fearless leader stepped right over one.

Camp was near a narrow stream being the Thompson river. On Sunday morning careful navigation was required to find the Upper-Yarra track which led us to the A.A.W. T. Both morning tea (where we were entertained by a small lizard catching flies), & lunch were had at delightful areas with great views of the Alps & the weather was near perfect. Amongst many flowers the Trigger plants in full bloom were outstanding.

A side trip to Mt. St. Phillack & then onto Mt. Baw Baw summit & our cars at the ski village.

Thanks for the company of Max, Bill, Leo, David & also Derek & to Gina for the prior enquiries, etc. on the route taken & leading this interesting walk which could very well be a popular one if not so overgrown in the State forest.

BOB OXLADE

HEPBURN SPRINGS TO DAYLESFORD SUNDAY 10 MARCH

T'was about 4k south of Hepburn Springs where we milled around the Lord of our ring. Our group was small but the weather was grand, with azure sky framing the bluegum stands.

Soon off the track through an open forest, then Argyle Gully where our leader knew best, 'til a track and bridges galore appeared, and signs of the Springs as our first stop neared.

Onward we strode up a gentle ascent, to Jackson's Lookout where lunchtime was spent. T'was quite a chore moving out from the shade, but once we got going, good pace was made.

With tailings and mines to our left and right, you wouldn't walk there in the dead of night! It occurred to me that a mine so deep would be great as a loo to use and keep.

On such a warm day, t'was a common goal to cool ourselves at the mighty blowhole. But both groups met and discovered while there that the mighty blowhole was almost bare.

A southerly trek we began to forge, high on a track overlooking the gorge. Below there was water in shadowy pools, up there was a breeze to caress and cool.

And then there was Daylesford Lake at last, where I saw a fishing line or two cast. And the thought of realising my dream of that long-awaited strawberry ice-cream.

Well what can I say, except sorry to those who found that the kiosk had come to a close. So take my advice, you ought to arrive with money in hand no later than five!

JILL DAWSON



CONSERVATION FORUM

Here are some notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting on 27 March 2002:

Bunyip State Park - A new walking track – Ferres Track will be established to link Mortimer's Picnic Ground to Silver-top Ridge Track. A small excavator will be used to cut the track. Barricades of concrete bollards and wire will be constructed to prevent trail bike access. Of interest, koalas have been released into the park. A Review of the Bunyip State Park will commence in 2003. However, more letters are encouraged from bushwalkers requesting for the Rangers to improve walking tracks, concerns with the trail bike numbers/damage to be forwarded to: Mr Geoff Young, Ranger-in-Charge, Bunyip State Park, East Beenak Road, Gembrook, 3783.

Central Highlands – Upper Bunyip River area. Bob Thompson (convenor of Upper Bunyip Action Group) has sent a 15 page submission to DNRE objecting to the logging of forestry block 350. Bob would like bushwalkers with an interest in this area to join this action group. Telephone Bob Thompson on 03 9702 1017 for more information. **Mt Bullfight** – VicWalk have been contacted by the 'Actively Conserving Marysville Environment' action group concerning the forestry operations at Mt Bullfight. A VicWalk submission on the proposed logging of the western slopes of Mt Bullfight state forest (facing Lake Mountain and a visual eyesore) has been sent. The reply from the DNRE senior forester re: Harvesting in the Upper Royston area stated:- that it is zoned as a general management area in the R.F.A. and that no walking tracks will be affected. However, this area contains an endangered lily and has pockets of beech forest/rainforest. VicWalk will follow up with more research and will send in another letter to DNRE.

World Forestry Day – VicWalk received an invitation to attend this event at Alexandra on 26 March at Alexandra with a tour of the Blue Range and Rubicon forest. A VicWalk rep. attended but the tour was cancelled at very late notice due to rain (concerns with muddy tracks and bus access). The tour will apparently be re-scheduled for Spring 2002.

Gippsland Forests – The Gippsland Forests Management Plan Review Panel has commenced their consideration of the 33 submissions. VicWalk have a representative as the 'recreation nominee'. There has been some discussion of the status of 4 wheel drive tracks near the Australian Alps Walking Track. Some confusion and lack of accurate mapping of the 'permanently closed', 'seasonally closed' and 'open to walkers and management vehicles only' track status.

Mt Stirling – A VicWalk rep attended the Mt Stirling Advisory Group bi-monthly meeting and AGM held on Sunday 24 March. At the poorly attended AGM, Craig Jones (commercial operator) has been appointed as the new chair with Elizabeth Doery (VicWalk delegate) as the acting Minutes Secretary.

Current issues at Mt Stirling include the cattle on the summit. Apparently, the electric fencing has not been working this year and over 100 telephone calls have been made concerning cattle on the summit. It appears the local grazier is not concerned with this issue. One suggestion has been to impound the trespassing cattle!!

Portland Wind Energy Project – the panel hearings are in progress at Portland and Port Fairy. The April 2002 issue of *Trust News* outlines the National Trust's opposition to wind farms at this scenic location.

Falls Creek – The Rocky Knolls & Dam Hill EES has been advertised in *The Age* on Saturday 23 March. The summary document is also available from the State Library. CD-ROM and hard copy are available for a fee from the Dept of Infrastructure.

Tasmania – current issue with logging in the Styx Valley. The Wilderness Society are encouraging members and the public to write letters to the Commonwealth Bank concerning their large shareholding of Gunns Timber Co – which are logging in the Valley of the Giants.

Tracks:

Yarra Ranges – Grace Darling Track (Lake Mountain area) is very overgrown. Rangers have now given permission for track clearing and the Maroondah club will do this.

Central Highlands - The 'Walk into History' track, Federal Mill and new Ada Mill are ongoing concern with VicWalk due to use of heavy machinery on the walking tracks. There is a proposal to log in the vicinity of Federal Mill.

Great Dividing Trail – The Great Dividing Trail Association have alerted VicWalk with concerns on the newly built track from Daylesford to Blackwood. This new track has been constructed with DNRE permission, with Green Corp funding and great expense by local volunteers and now DNRE have announced 10 logging coups along 17 km of the track. This is a repeat of the DNRE logging of the newly opened Federation track to Ballarat. It appears that DNRE have an in-house communication problem.

ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

NEW MEMBERS

DANIELLE A BRUNEAU

ERRICO COLACI

PAUL LOGSDON

JO MC CUTCHEON

ELAINE T MC DUFF

JAMIE REDDOCH

CAROLYN M SHINE

LIZ VAUGHAN

SARA WATSON

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

ANDREW BODEGRAVEN

MEREDITH A CHELL

JANET CROWE

PETER DAY

ALAN KELLETT

JEROEN KRAMER

JOHN ROSEMAN

BARRY SMITH

JANTY TAYLOR

PHIL TAYLOR

ALAN TRAVELL

BARBARA WESTON

DOUG WILHOFT

DR GRAHAM WILLS-JOHNSON

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	359
Family Memberships	102 (=2x51)
Total Membership	482
Membership This Time Last Year	457

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

FEBRUARY WALKS STATISTICS

Feb 2002	Trips	People	Average	Feb 2001
Sunday Bus	4	147	37	35
Other Day	3	48	16	7.5
Pack Carry	1	7	7	7.5
Lodge	1	13	13	13
Cancelled	2	-	-	-
Total	12	215	-	201

Cancelled: Little Cobbler - Mt Cobbler pack carry & Thomson River lilo trip.

GINA HOPKINS
WALKS SECRETARY

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 3 April - D Henry & Q Tibballs
Wednesday 10 April - W Cone & C Criddle
Wednesday 17 April - P Beers & D Pocock
Wednesday 24 April - H Friend & Q Tibballs
Wednesday 1 May - T Elmore & D Henry
Wednesday 8 May - C Lee & V Scrivenger

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 6 May at 7.00 pm in the clubrooms.

MAY 2002

Sat 4	Training Day: Leadership & Navigation	Private	Easy	Alan Clarke	
Sun 5	Bangammie State Forest (Meredith)	BUS	E & E/M	Jean Woodger & Tracey Jamieson	#
10 - 12	Pack Carry: Refuge Cove circuit	Private	M	Max Casley	
Sun 12	(8.30 am start) Cathedral Ranges	BUS	E/M & M	Fiona Gallery & Bill Donald	#
Wed 15	Macedon Ranges	Private	E/M	Sandra Mutimer	
17 - 19	Base Camp: Beechworth - Mt Pilot	Private	E/M	Rosemary Cotter	
Sun 19	Cape Woolamai (Phillip Island)	BUS	E & E/M	Sibylle Holdheide & David Easton	#
24 - 26	Pack Carry: Mt Avoca & Pyrenees	Private	M	Bill Donald	
Sat 25	Dandenongs Explorer	Private	Easy	Maureen Hurley	
Sun 26	(8.30 am start) Yea Spur	BUS	E/M & M	Maureen Hurley & Ralph Clayton	#

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Address

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

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 Family/Couple -membership \$50.00 **Concession** – couple \$28.00 (proof required)
 New members joining on/after 1 October 2001 \$21.00 less visitor fees *The News* – \$18.00

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