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# THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 618

AUGUST 2002

60 CENTS



## ***Tenpin Bowling Night***

***A Friday or Saturday Night in August  
Northcote Tenpin Bowl  
166 Victoria Road, Northcote***

Cost will be \$17.95 for 2 games including hire of shoes.  
For 15 or more people – free burger and beer (or soft drink).

Contact me if you are interested in the clubrooms or on  
7.00 & 9.00 pm weeknights.

## ***Club Wine & Cheese Night***

***Wednesday 28 August  
7 - 9 pm, Clubrooms***

## ***American Roots Music***

***Sat. Aug. 31 (8 pm) - Parts 1 & 2  
+ Benny & The Fly-By-Niters***

***Sat. 14 Sept. (8 pm) - Parts 3 & 4  
+ Moonee Valley Drifters  
The Paramount Cinema  
433 Melville Road, Brunswick***

Cost will be \$24 / session.

See me in the clubrooms or ring me on  
between 7.00 & 9.00 pm weeknights up to August 21 and  
September 4 respectively, for more details & bookings.

## ***Film Night***

***Friday 27 September***

Title, review and more details in next *News*.

*"The Hayseeds"* Film Night was very well received.  
Those present enthusiastically supported the idea of  
showing non-mainstream Australian films from the past  
regularly on a Friday evening.

***Carol Criddle  
Social Secretary***



## **HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 28 AUGUST  
8 PM, CLUBROOMS**



## ***URGENT ACTION REQUIRED FOR BUNYIP STATE PARK!***

See the article by Rod Novak, Club Delegate, VicWalk  
Conservation Committee on page 7 for details.



## **BUSHWALKERS SEARCH & RESCUE**

### **ILLUSTRATED TALK**

**WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER  
8 PM, CLUBROOMS**

"Lost Bushwalkers Found!" When you see a news caption like this you may wonder who does the finding. Apart from the police and the SES, the **Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs** has a **Search & Rescue** section that is called out to assist in bush and snow searches. Our club has three Contacts who help with the call-outs and nine members who may be called out on searches at any time.

**Duncan Brookes** from **BS&R** will give us an illustrated talk on the history, workings and exploits of the **Search & Rescue** group. Don't miss it!

**GINA HOPKINS  
BS&R DELEGATE**



ENQ.:

CLUB OPEN: 7 - 9 PM WED., HORTICULTURAL HALL, 48 MACKENZIE ST., MELB.

WEBSITE: [www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au](http://www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au)

EMAIL: [info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au](mailto:info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au)

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.  
meet on Wednesday evenings  
between 7.00 & 9.00 pm in the Clubrooms,  
Victorian Horticultural Society Hall,  
48 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) in:  
printed edition only: as below, or  
printed & on-line editions: as below + 25% or  
on-line edition only: as below + 25%.

Size:	1 Issue:	3 Issues:	12 Issues (1 Year):
¼ Page	\$35	\$90	\$330
½ Page	\$55	\$150	\$550
Full Page	\$100	\$250	\$900



## FREE WINE!

Your club is in need of a gas barbeque for its regular  
socials - both at the clubhouse and at other occasions  
when appropriate. If any member has a gas barbeque  
they no longer use and wishes to donate it to the MBW  
for this worthy cause, they will be rewarded with a fine  
bottle of shiraz. Please telephone me on

In my photograph above are some members enjoying  
themselves at the last quarterly club barbeque at the club-  
rooms on Wednesday 26 June.

PAUL BEERS

## Great South West Walk Accommodation

The property consists of two, all new,  
double studio apartments  
with basic cooking facilities.

It is situated in a quiet location,  
on the seafront,  
with 180 degrees elevated sea views  
of Portland Bay.

Ideally suited for *walking,*  
*reflection, reading...*

Local knowledge is available on *orchids.*  
Access to *The Walk* can be facilitated.

Reasonable rates.

For further information:  
phone Jeanne on (03) 5523 6930 or  
email: [jelle@hotkey.net.au](mailto:jelle@hotkey.net.au) or  
write to: J. Elleway, PO Box 824,  
Portland, 3305.

# AUGUST/SEPTEMBER DAY WALKS, ETC.



## Sunday Bus: Mt. Gordon Ridge - Marysville

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 25 August
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium & Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	Approx. 14 & 17 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Alan Miller & Hans Edlinger
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	Approx. 6.30 pm
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Marysville - Lake Mountain Outdoor Leisure Map 1:30,000

This is a beautiful walk which is new to both of your leaders. We will be walking about two-thirds of the way around Marysville at a distance of about 3-5 km from the town, including walking from the 14th to the 15th tee of the town golf course (it is a public right-of-way!).

The walk starts with the gradual ascent to Mt. Gordon Ridge, with its TV and communications towers, and extensive views towards the north. After descending, we cross the Steavenson River. Our first attempt was across an old log bridge which had almost collapsed. We decided against taking the group this way, though it would certainly have provided plenty of entertainment. The crossing on the golf course is very disappointing in comparison. The last part of the walk is via the Trestle Track, which is a popular Sunday walk with the local town people.



## Sunday Bus: Lal Lal Falls - Mt. Doran

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 1 September
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium & Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	Approx. 13 & 16 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Quentin Tibballs & Howard Friend
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	Approx. 7.00 pm
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Lal Lal 1:25,000

The walk will include the historic blast-furnace at Bungal Dam (classified by the National Trust and which was operational in the 1870s when Ballarat was in full swing), Champion Hill and Mt. Doran.

The route will be along tracks and open forest and will include areas with an unusual density of Xanthorrhoea Minor (or small grass tree) which is not found so far east in Victoria.



## Sunday Bus: Creswick State Forest

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 8 September
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy & Easy/Medium*
<b>DISTANCE</b>	Approx. 13 & 17 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Bill Donald & John Coe
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	6.30 - 7.00 pm
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Creswick 7623.2.2 1:2,500

The area around Lake St. George abounds with bird-life and was once prosperous due to its gold mining past.

The Easy group will stay north of the highway and will take in the views over Lake St. George and the surrounding area. The Easy Medium group will initially head south roughly following Slaty Creek before heading east, then north on the way back to the bus.

Both walks are circuit walks with all of the Easy walk on tracks. The Easy Medium walk is predominantly on tracks with some bush bashing after lunch.

**\*Note the change of grades.**



## Sunday Bus: Mt. Hickey - Warragul Rocks

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 15 September
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium & Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	Approx. 16 & 19 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Hans Edlinger & Max Casley
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	Approx. 7.00 pm
<b>AREA</b>	Tallarook
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Strathcreek/ Seymour/ Broadford 1:25,000

This walk is one of the more challenging Sunday walks, and one of my personal favourites. It commences in the lovely area adjacent to the Goulburn River. Both the E/M and the Med. groups will start from the same spot and head south with an immediate steep climb, through farmlands, and on up to the Warragul Rocks, where we will have lunch. Hopefully, with good weather, the view will be excellent.

The walk continues with most of the day spent walking on forest tracks, with some quite steep sections. This area has apparently some heritage qualities. (I will have more information for you during the bus trip.) After the climb to the top of Mt. Hickey the group will split, with the Med. group continuing south and down the spur, where the bus will pick us up. The E/M group will head down to the waiting bus.

It is recommended that you bring a change of footwear and warm clothes as being September it will be muddy and perhaps cold...if it does turn warm you will need plenty of drinking water...come prepared for anything.

As this is a long drive plus a longish walk with quite a bit of climbing, we will need to leave dead on 8.30 am, so make sure you arrive at the bus early.



### Wednesday Walk: Jubilee Lake - Wombat Reservoir

**DATE** Wednesday 18 September  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** Approx. 14 km  
**LEADER(S)** Trevor Thomson  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**RETURN TIME** Back to cars by 3.15 pm  
**AREA** Daylesford  
**MAP REFERENCE** Daylesford & Bullarto 1:25,000

Meet at Jubilee Lake at 10.30 am. The signposted access road is 1 km south of Daylesford P.O. This recreational lake, nestling beneath Italian Hill, is quieter and at least as attractive as nearby Lake Daylesford. The walk will explore around Jubilee Lake, then continue upstream following Wombat Creek, through Wombat Forest to Wombat Reservoir (part of Daylesford's water supply), maybe even passing the odd wombat burrow, till reaching a suitable lunch spot.

The continuation through the forest will be along a section of the 3 lost children track; the area of their wanderings between the last recorded sighting at Specimen Hill Mine, and where their bodies were found in 1883, not far from the present day reservoir.

From near there, the route will follow that of the single track Daylesford-Ballarat railway line (operated from 1886 to 1953). There is a long steep-sided cutting and a corresponding built up embankment, which contains an impressive 200 m long fully bricked creek underpass, which can usually be walked through. The railway line leads back to Jubilee Lake, crossing it beside the spillway.

N.B. My phone no. given in the spring program is incorrect - the correct number is



### Sunday Bus: Angahook State Forest

**DATE** Sunday 22 September  
**STANDARD** Easy & Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** Approx. 15 & 19 km  
**LEADER(S)** Peter McGrath & Sibylle Holdheide  
**TRANSPORT** Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am  
**RETURN TIME** Approx. 7.00 pm  
**AREA** West Coast  
**MAP REFERENCE** "The Otways & Shipwreck Coast"  
 Survey & Mapping Vic. 1:50,000

Sibylle and I led this same walk last year.

There is a great stretch of forest to be experienced here with great views of natural bush, rocky outcrops and the ocean. The walk is also at just the right time for the local tea tree festival, and it was a spring bonanza when we led this walk last year.

Our intention is to give you the best walk we can. This means seeing as much of the local interests as possible. With the limited available tracks, this means the Easy Medium may be 2 km longer than a standard Easy/Medium, however, from experience, we will arrive back at the bus on time and all who go on the longer walk will be rewarded by seeing more of the available interests.



### Dandenongs Explorer

**DATE** Saturday 28 September  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**LEADER(S)** Warren Baker  
**TRANSPORT** Private

Please phone Warren Baker on about this walk.



### Sunday Bus: Tallarook - Mill Creek

**DATE** Sunday 29 September  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium & Medium  
**LEADER(S)** Tracey Jamieson & Ralph Clayton  
**TRANSPORT** Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am

Please talk with the leaders in the clubrooms about these two Sunday walks.

## FROM THE WALKS SECRETARY

My feet are freezing and my hands are cold too. We are definitely in the middle of winter. Good! There is plenty of snow in the mountains this year so now is the time to be out there, ski touring on cross-country skis. Never mind the lack of insurance, just get out there with some friends and give it a go. It really is fun especially once you have mastered the basics. I hope that everyone going to Wilky this year has a wonderful week there. We deserve it after several poor years.

If the snow doesn't have much appeal to you, well not to worry. It doesn't last long and the first walks of Spring are already previewed in this *News*. September is a fabulous month for walking, with flowers everywhere and birds in full song. So for those of you who have been hibernating, dust off your walking shoes and come join us again for some great walks.

Finally, the Summer Programme will soon be taking shape. If you have any special requests, a favourite walk that we haven't done for a while or any suggestions for extended walks during the school holidays, then please let me know.

## JUNE WALKS STATISTICS

June 2002	Trips	People	Average	June '01
Sunday Bus	5	135	27	34
Other Day: Wed. 10 & Dand. 23	2	33	16.5	16.5
Pack Carry	3	26	9	11
Base Camp	1	13	13	8
Cancelled	1	-	-	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>203 / 10</b>

The number of Sunday walkers in June was well below average. Fortunately the numbers appear to have picked up again in July.

**GINA HOPKINS**

# SEPTEMBER WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



## Tree Planting and Box-Ironbark Forest Tour

**DATE** Saturday 7 - Sunday 8 September  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**LEADER(S)** Marika Jagow  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**RETURN TIME** Approx. 5.00 pm Sunday  
**AREA** Near Benalla  
 (2½ hours drive from Melbourne)

You may have heard Ray Thomas, who co-ordinates these tree planting weekends speak at our clubrooms on Wednesday 31 July. Last year a group of Bushies and their friends enjoyed a day and a half of tree planting to support the regrowth of plant life for the endangered Regent Honeyeater. Join us this year for tree planting and a tour of the Box-Ironbark Forest and, at the same time, enjoy some healthy bushland in full spring blossom.

Free accommodation (or bring your tent), BBQ and bush dance provided as well. Come on the Saturday or both days. See the leader in the clubrooms to confirm numbers for the accommodation and meeting point details. B.Y.O. gardening gloves & gum boots.



## Base Camp: Mt. Samaria State Forest

**DATE** Friday 13 - Sunday 15 September  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**LEADER(S)** Lance Mobbs  
**TRANSPORT** Private

Mt. Samaria State Park is approx. 130 km north of Melbourne, near Mansfield. There will be waterfalls and spectacular views to check out.

We will make camp at Camphora camping ground which will entail a short walk of approx. 200 metres from the cars. Even though everyone is welcome, this walk will suit new members to the club who have not tried camping before but would like to experience it. This is also a good opportunity to try any new equipment.

Anyone interested can either see me in the clubrooms or call me on . A note can also be sent to



## Pack Carry: Lake Eildon National Park

**DATE** Friday 20 - Sunday 22 September  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**LEADER(S)** Anne Wilkins  
**TRANSPORT** Private

Please see Anne Wilkins in the clubrooms about this pack carry or phone her on



## Base Camp: Mafeking, Eastern Grampians

**DATE** Friday 27 - Sunday 29 September  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**DISTANCE** 1 x 16 km and 3 short walks  
**LEADER(S)** Alan Clarke  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**RETURN TIME** Sunday Evening  
**MAP REFERENCE** Southern Grampians  
 Outdoor Leisure Map

This will be a base camp at a site little-visited by the Bushies on the eastern edge of the Grampians. Mafeking was a gold- mining town of 10,000 for a little while but is now long gone, although nice campsites and the usual old workings are left.

One day will be a day walk across the Mitchell Plateau with its attendant views, rock formations, wildflowers and wildlife. The other a selection of three shorter walks including Mt Abrupt and Mt Sturgeon (the southernmost peak in the Grampians).

### *Private Ski Trip to the Fainters*

*Fri. 13 - Mon. 16 September*

**Please Note: This is not an official club trip. All persons going on this trip do so at their own risk and are not covered by the Club's insurance policy. This trip will not have an official leader.**

If there is still some good snow around I plan to visit the Fainters for some spring skiing. This is not a club trip, but any experienced skiers out there are welcome to join me in exploring this hard-to-reach part of the Bogong High Plains. At this stage my plan is to climb up to Mt Fainter North from Bogong village, going via Bogong Jack Saddle. We'll return the same way.

Depending on the weather I would like to make camp not too far from the top as I intend to stay 2 nights (making this a 3-day trip) and perhaps do a day trip to the Niggerheads and back on the Sunday. The rest of the time will be spent exploring the Fainters.

If you're interested, call me on

*Gina Hopkins*

### *Private Ski Trip to Mt. Bogong*

*Fri. 27 - Mon. 30 September*

**Please Note: This is not an official club trip. All persons going on this trip do so at their own risk and are not covered by the Club's insurance policy. This trip will not have an official leader.**

Please see me in the club about this private 3-day ski trip for experienced skiers or phone me on

*Ralph Blake*

# QUENTIN'S QUIZ

## LESSON 4: GRID REFERENCES

A grid reference is a number which gives a position on a map. Most maps have a little instruction box on them to show how to give a grid reference, but I will repeat the important parts here.

Take for example the grid reference number 288769, it is actually composed of two parts, the Easting 288 and the Northing 769. Remember that the parts must be in alphabetical order, i.e. E. N. The Eastings are the grid numbers at the top and bottom of the map which increase as you move to the east, and the Northings are the numbers on the sides of the map which increase as you move to the north. With a six digit grid reference you need to estimate the tenth parts of the grid square (assuming that you are using a map of 1:100,000, 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 scale). Only use the large numbers on the grid lines not the small numbers which are ignored. Make sure you understand how they are derived because from now on we are going to use grid references a lot.

Note that a six digit grid reference is accurate to 100m on the ground. It is also possible to use only four digits to indicate a general area of 1 km square.

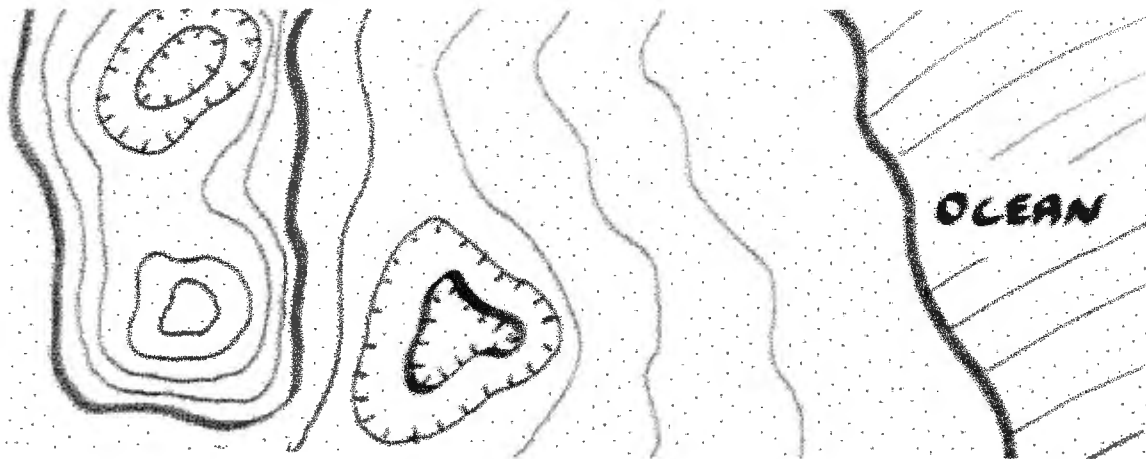
We are learning about grid references at this stage so that we can use them to locate specific features on maps. For instance they may be used in trip reports to indicate where you went e.g. – we started at Mount Warby GR (short for grid reference) 288769, had lunch at the creek junction at GR 278752 etc...

**Questions for Novices:** Now for some questions for you to answer:

- 1) How accurate is a six figure grid reference, e.g. GR 321789?
- 2) How do you remember which set of 3 digits comes first?
- 3) How do you describe a point on a map without using a GR? (Answer: with great difficulty)
- 4) Look up on a standard map (not the Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000 which is a "special") the "How to give a grid reference" and confirm that what I have said is correct.
- 5) Can you work out how far you would have to travel to find a point with the same GR?

**Question for Experts:** You are following a straight high tension line but have lost track of how far you have gone along it. You look at about right angles to the line and see a prominent peak about 3 km away. You read a bearing to it (standing under the line but well away from a tower) plotting the bearing backwards to intersect the power line and thus determining your position. Later you discover that the position was in error by about 600m. What has gone wrong? What if you were 1200m out of position?

**Also: on the map below, mark each contour line with its correct elevation, using a contour interval of 40m. (Answer on the clubroom notice board.)**



**QUENTIN TIBBALLS  
TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR**

**Answers to Questions for Novices:** 1) Within a 100m. 2) They are in alphabetical order E, then N. 5) If you travel 100 km to the north, south, east or west, (subject to some exceptions) the grid reference will be the same if it is not prefixed by the 100,000 metre grid square reference (which we would not normally use).

**Answer to Question for Experts:** If you were 600m away from the correct position, it would be because you forgot to correct for the grid-magnetic angle of 11 degrees. If you were 1200m away it would be because you applied the grid-magnetic angle in the wrong direction. The power line would have no effect as it is an alternating current.



## URGENT ACTION REQUIRED FOR BUNYIP STATE PARK!

Bunyip State Park is very close to Melbourne and has great potential for day walks. At present it is overrun by trail bikes and four wheel drives – causing lots of track damage – deep ruts, muddy pools and erosion. Bunyip SP is Victoria's second largest state park and a review of the Management Plan is pending.

**Urgent Action:** Would all bushwalkers please write a letter to Mr. Greg Young, Ranger-in-Charge, Bunyip State Park, East Beecan Road, Gembrook, 3783 requesting: (i) a new management plan for the Bunyip State Park, (ii) concern over the lack of 'walker only' tracks – there are 350 km of bush roads and only 20 km of walking tracks, (iii) complaining about the number of trail bikes, many of which transgress walker only tracks and their damage eg. deep ruts, muddy pools on tracks & 4 wheel drive tracks deeply eroded and (iv) lack of signage controlling motor bikes and 4WDs.

State Parks are established primarily for the protection of natural values, not an adventure playground for trail bikes. VicWalk would also like a copy of your letter. Email your copy to vicwalk@vicnet.net.au marked attention for Dave Rimmer. Or by post – 332 Banyule Road, Viewbank, 3084. For further information – Call Dave Rimmer on 9758 4802.

**ROD NOVAK**

## THE CAPITAL CITY TRAIL INNER URBAN BUSHWALKING

“What’s the Capital City Trail?”, you ask. Most of you will have been on at least a bit of it, even if you didn’t know it. You have probably passed the signs that mark it, without realising what they meant. They are dark green with a mandala style design featuring dogs, cyclists and buildings but - curiously - no walkers. There are also drinking fountains with the same design.

The Trail does a big loop around the city centre and makes an interesting walk. You get to see the city from, literally, all points of the compass as you walk past some of Melbourne’s finer assets. The full distance is 29 km, but it’s accessible at many points by both public and private transport, so it’s easy to pick off a section at a time. Flinders Street Station is an obvious place to start.

Recently I had an opportunity to walk the Trail with Geoff Mosely, who was involved with the establishment of the Trail in the early 90’s and wanted to see what it looked like today. Conveniently for me, we chose to start the walk from the Ramsden Street oval, in Clifton Hill.

From there the route heads north, following the bike path on the west bank of the Merri Creek. Passing under Heidelberg Road and High Street we come to Rushall Station. Here the Trail leaves the creek to follow the old Inner Circle railway line, which is now a linear park cutting across North Fitzroy and North Carlton. At Nicholson Street, we stopped to enjoy coffee and a bun at the Natural Tucker Bakery. Continuing west we passed through Princes Park and then through the old railway tunnel under Royal Parade, into the northern part of Royal Park. Near the zoo, we cross the railway and follow it on the north side down to a footbridge over the Tullamarine Freeway. This brings us down into the Moonee Ponds Creek, which is a pretty abused waterway at this point but does get slightly better.

The Trail follows the Moonee Ponds Creek as far as Dynon Road, with passages under all the busy streets. Across Dynon Road, we skirt the docklands - looking at all the new developments - and go past the Colonial Stadium. At this point things get messy because development has chewed up the old without yet putting in the new. We cross a muddy paddock to get to the Charles Grimes Bridge and then have to brave six sets of traffic lights to cross a very busy Montague Street. There may be a better way.



Once we get to the Maritime Museum, it’s all plain sailing. Past Jeff’s Shed, past the Casino and we’re onto Southbank: Food! Beer! Coffee! Cakes! And it’s lunchtime in the sun amongst the office joggers. Now we are into good walking. The Trail follows the south bank of the Yarra as far as MacRobertson Bridge, where it crosses to the north. There is more good coffee to be had near Como wharf. Round past the Burnley Gardens we get into a very picturesque section. At Walmer Street (the fire station) we cross again and drop into Dickinson Reserve, scene of some very determined re-vegetation work. And watch out for the vineyard! The route crosses the river again at Collier Bridge to take the path past the old Abbotsford Convent and the Collingwood Children’s Farm. On our walk, we found this bridge closed for repair, so we stayed on the Kew side and found a well made track high above the river. This is urban bushwalking at its best! At Johnston St we get back to the west bank, on to Dights Falls and up the Merri Creek is the final stretch to home.

A great walk on a bright winter’s day. It took us about 7 hours, including all the coffee stops, so we were home in time for tea! Try it some time.



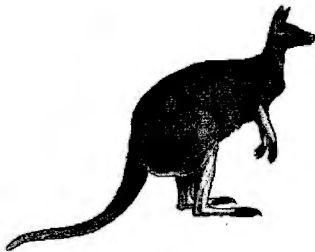
**PEARSON CRESSWELL**

# A LONG WEEKEND AT HATTAH - WITH THE PACK

## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND PACK CARRY: 8 - 10 JUNE

Leader, Roger Wyett, accompanied by Alex Stirkul, Anne Wilkins, Bill Donald, Bob Oxlade, Derrick Brown, Doug Po-  
cock, Dzung Nguyen, Jan Llewellyn, Susan McInnes and me.

At this time each year we fend off the onset of winter with an expedition to the north-west of the state, hoping for a final taste of warm sun on bare skin. Last year Roger took his team to the Little Desert where we practised trudging through sand in the rain. This year we went further north to Hattah-Kulkyne National Park with rather more success – mostly pale grey skies but only a few light showers after making camp on Saturday. And the sun shone as some of us enjoyed a brief bracing swim in the mighty Murray the following day while drying off tent flies.



Roger rounded up his dispersed flock early on Saturday at the Hattah Lakes Camp Ground, winnowing us away from Gina's bird watchers who would be setting up a base there. We headed eastward on the Bugle Ridge Track and found Lake Nip Nip for morning tea, one of the many "potential" lakes we traversed during the weekend. Soon after, we headed cross country through mallee gums and red sand ridges, wattle scrub and saltbush, disturbing some great red kangaroos along the way. We admired the vast landscape during lunch on the 60 metre hill then continued across open grassland to the Murray to make our camp in a (relatively lush) grassy clearing just north of "Messenger's station".

We enjoyed our Sunday stroll north through the red gum and black box woodlands along the river bank to Ki Bend (for morning tea and a swim) and Jinkers Bend (for lunch), with their stunning sandy beaches and surprising rocky island outcrops. Pelicans, cockatoos, rosellas, apostle and butcher birds visited from time to time and Doug drew our attention to the treetop nests of others.

We made camp just before Fireman's Bend in a dry clearing offering views of the tranquil grey-green river lined by the graceful arch of river gums. Roger convinced most of us that the day would not be complete without a packless leg stretch for a further 4k return trip to visit the wreck of the Florence Annie, a river boat which came to grief long long ago. It was so long ago that all we could see was a couple of metres of rusty iron, a sight that may not impress everyone!



We made an early start after a warm dry night and headed for the Cantala Track as our south-west path back to Lake Hattah. Some clay sections of the track were crossed by paw prints that seemed big enough for baby dinosaurs, but the journey was uneventful apart from sighting a soaring wedge-tailed eagle. On reaching the Stockyard Track we decided to go cross country in a straight line (except where avoiding scrubby patches) back to Lake Hattah rather than take the tourist route via Lake Mournpall. By now the thought of the 500 km five hour drive ahead was dominating our thinking and we put on a strong finish to arrive at the cars before 2 pm, which gave us time to take a welcome break for a pub meal on the way home.

Many thanks Roger for another great weekend, and thanks to fellow walkers for your company over the 45 km trip.

**LESLEY HALE**

### *TOYS FOR BOYS (AND GIRLS)*

*Having had the opportunity to borrow a GPS unit and play with it on the recent Hattah Lakes walk (8 - 10 June) I found that there was some interest expressed by my fellow-walkers. I made enquiries and found that I could buy a number for \$300 each instead of the near \$400 usual asking price. I ended up buying nine of them! Don't be surprised then if you see a Bushie playing with one of these devices on your next walk.*

*There have been previous articles on these by Bill Metzenthin in The News but briefly they are a navigational aid using satellites that can provide your position (grid co-ordinates) to within a few metres. Useful for that situation when you say "Where the #@\*\$ are we?"*

*The unit weighs only 150g with batteries and fits into the palm of your hand. It performs many functions (it's a powerful computer) and can tell you where you've been, where you're going and what you're going to have for dinner! I have one left looking for a home if you have a spare \$300.*

**DERRICK BROWN**



# BRISBANE RANGES PACK CARRY

20 - 21 JULY

Present: Bill Donald (leader), Dagmar, Jerry, Rod and myself.

We met at Steiglity on Saturday morning and although the sky was very dark we were only having an occasional few drops of rain. I was wondering how Bill knew his way along a maze of roads when we arrived at our starting point near Little River picnic area.

Along a fairly easy undulating track with some views across the Ranges and nice gullies and although a lot of green growth it was fairly dry on the western slopes. We were to see quite a lot of bird life on this walk and whilst having morning tea at Stony Creek picnic area a friendly little tree creeper hopped across one of our packs.

A 6 km return walk without packs, through Anakie Gorge was interesting. We saw a water pipeline which was the main supply for Geelong in the 1870s. Also diversion tunnels, etc. from the early gold mining days. I kept a keen lookout for koalas but none were sighted.

A light shower of rain fell as we arrived at Old Mill Camp for the night. Fortunately we all had some good water with us as the small water tank tap had been leaking and there was just enough water left for our evening meals. As we enjoyed the warmth of a good fire we agreed we were lucky not to have had more rain.

A light frost on Sunday morning as we awoke to many bird calls including some loud kookaburras. A few sightings of crimson rosellas as we continued the walk with more evidence of gold mining days and some nice sections of grass trees. A pretty blue wren hopped amongst us as we rested at The Crossing picnic area. Then, just as I had almost given up on the koalas, Bill spotted one!

Lunch was at the crossing of Sutherland Creek only about 2 km from our cars but we detoured south along the creek for approx. 2.5 km viewing some good rock fold formations. This left 3.5 km to go and as we neared the cars we saw lots of kangaroos.

Thanks to Bill for the time involved in leading this good walk.

*I thought this worth a mention of how some people really make an effort:*

*One member of the Dry Diggings Track walk on 29 - 30 June rode a bicycle, also carrying a week-end pack, about 6 km from Ormond to Glen Iris to meet at 6.15 am Saturday. Seemed like the start of a week-end triathlon to me, but they declined a swim after the walk to complete the trio. Congratulations!*

**BOB OXLADE**

## Save Big Bucks!!!

### our costs are rising

- Park entry up 23%
- Dried veg up from 50 to 300%
- Transport up from 5 to 30%
- Public liability insurance up.

### Plan well ahead.

Our prices will have to rise to reflect the increased costs but, if you can plan well ahead, you can beat the increase.

The 2003 program is going onto our website at the 2002 prices. Anyone booking before we do the complete recosting will lock in the current prices.

One additional super special discount: Kakadu Circle No. 1, May 11 - June 1, 2003.

This is one of Russell's two favourite Kakadu trips. We can't run it if we don't have bookings by mid November. Anyone booking and paying before then will get a 25% advance purchase discount, the largest AP discount we have ever offered.

Complete details are on the website or contact us for a draft 2003 program.

[www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au)



Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810 Email: [walkabout@ais.net.au](mailto:walkabout@ais.net.au)

Phone: (08) 8985 2134 Fax: (08) 8985 2355

# TRACKS, HUTS AND CONSERVATION

Here are some notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee 26 June 2002 meeting:

**East Gippsland** – a disturbing report of a proposed new wood fired electricity generator to commence operations in 2004. It will use 'waste wood' to generate power. This will put more pressure on the East Gippsland forests. A scoping study will be done on a proposed long distance walking track in East Gippsland.

**Central Highlands** – A 'Save the Ada Tree' rally was organised for the 25<sup>th</sup> May by local Warburton and Marysville conservation groups. Approx. 250 people attended expressing their concerns with the proposed logging in the vicinity of the Ada Tree.

**Upper Bunyip Action Group** – this group is trying to save the 350 block (between Tomahawk Gap and Seven-Acre Rock) from logging which will start this summer. This area is very popular with day walkers from Melbourne. The action group is trying to have the area included into the Bunyip State Park. More bushwalkers are needed to help. For more info. go to [www.nex.net.au/users/ubag](http://www.nex.net.au/users/ubag) or ring Bob Thompson on 9702 1017.

**Lake Mountain** – VicWalk attended the 'official announcement' of the proposed new three storey Visitor and Interpretation Building to be built at Lake Mountain. All old buildings will be removed for the new building, which will have displays, toilets and classrooms for school groups.

**Bunyip State Park** - the Bushwalker Focus Group have discussed with park staff the development of more walking tracks. One possibility is Freeman's Mill Track (currently very overgrown) to be cleared and signposted. Local residents are very unhappy with the trail bike noise and damage (as are us bushwalkers).

**Mt Stirling** – A VicWalk Conservation delegate attends the User Group and Board meetings. VicWalk advocate for the closure of the 'Summit Road'. However, strong opposition from the 4 wheel drive clubs as Craig's Hut has 'icon tour' status and attracts over 900 4WDs per week.

**Richards Tramway** – the link between Mississippi Track and the Big Pats Creek Picnic Area is very overgrown. The Warburton Information Centre is advocating for this track to be cleared for walkers as it contains a lot of heritage and tourism potential.

**Great Divide Trail** – the Lerderberg Track Stage 1 will be opened with a special walk on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July.

**Hindmarsh Biolink** – this tree planting weekend will be held on the 10 –11 August. Contact the VNPA for more information.

**Mallee Parks** – see the July issue of *VicWalk News* for a great book review on *Wyperfeld – Australia's first mallee national park*. (in the clubrooms).

**Track Maintenance** – the four wheel drive clubs are very active with park maintenance and this earns lots of brownie points with the public land managers. Track maintenance in the Federation has declined in recent years. Some Parks staff comment that bushwalkers only come to the parks for a walk and rarely 'help out'. Bushwalkers need to put something back into the parks. The Federation is encouraging Clubs and bushwalkers to be more active with track maintenance.

**Kosciuszko** – VicWalk Conservation Committee are contributing to the review of the Kosciuszko National Park management plan. The current plan of 250 plus pages was written in 1988 with amendments in 1998 and 1999. VicWalk has raised concerns with increase in the feral pig population, especially in Upper Goodradigbee area, Jagungal Wilderness and along the Ramshead Range; the increase in feral horses, especially in the Pilot Wilderness, north Ramshead and the Cootapatamba Valley. Both feral pigs and feral horses are causing erosion, damage to boggy areas and approaches to stream crossings. VicWalk would endorse an urgent and humane eradication program. VicWalk have concerns with the steel walkway to Rawson Pass being very slippery in freezing conditions. Also, the Tri-state Alpine Walking Track needs to be relocated. At present it follows a management vehicle track and along the road to Guthega Power Station. VicWalk would prefer the track to follow the length of the main range. VicWalk have reports of local horse group riding parties accessing the Pilot Wilderness area via the Charcoal Range and Pinch River fire tracks.

Here are some notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting held on 24 July 2002:

**Devilbend draft Management Plan.** VicWalk representatives attended the Information Day (held at Mt Eliza on 20/7/02) and release of the draft plan. It appears the draft management plan is a 'one size fits all' for this so-called urban forest trying to please the many recreational user groups. A 9 km (18 km return) walking track will be built linking Devilbend to Bittern Reservoir. Trust for Nature covenants will be placed on the northern bushland. VicWalk will write a submission voicing concern with the building of fishing shacks, of having a shared walking and cycling track (two paths could be separated by the existing spooned drain) and for Woods Reserve (council owned land) to be added to the Primary Conservation zone.

## Central Highlands:

(a) **Upper Bunyip Action Group** – The UBAG have an aim to stop the proposed logging in the 350 block (near Mt Beenak) and for this area to be added to the Bunyip State Park. A VicWalk representative attended the tour of the Fishers Loop Walking Track (Tomahawk Gap to Basin Corner) on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July and strongly recommends this walk. The Bunyip River Road has special old cuttings – possible evidence of an old timber tramway route. Bob Thompson (Convener of UBAG) is proposing for a walking track to be established along the Bunyip River. DNRE have yet to commit and have asked for a detailed proposal. UBAG presented to Cardinia Shire on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July and this was favourably received.

**Fishers Track Open Day** – 27<sup>th</sup> October. All welcome to walk the track. Contact Bob Thompson on 9702 1017.

(b) **'Walk into History Track'** Proposed logging near Federal Mill has not commenced (but is expected to start). The track from New Ada Mill to Big Creek Road – the section through the logged area – will be re-marked as close as possible to the original route. Work to commence in Spring.

(c) **Richards Tramway** – It is proposed to extend the Richards Tramway by opening the historic 'curves' section. The 3 km route is currently very overgrown. DNRE have inspected the 'curves' proposal & have given permission to mark the track with tape. *Cont. p.12*

## NEW MEMBERS

MELISSA BEDFORD

MARK CLIFTON

ELLEN DAY

TOBY HORROCKS

BARBARA JAMES

JUSTINE SIEDLE

## ADD TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

LIZ BOLYOS

JENNY GRICE

JUDITH JAY

STEFANIE PEARCE

BRADLEY R QUINN

BARRY & GWENDA SHORT

JOSEPHINE TALAREK

## ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE No.

LANCE MOBBS

DAGMAR SCHADE

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	306
Family Memberships	102 (= 2 x 51)
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>429</b>
This Time Last Year	436

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

## ACCOUNTS

May 2002	\$
Opening Balance	45,834.15
Income	10,570.00
Expenditure	4,432.89
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>51,971.26</b>
June 2002	\$
Opening Balance	51,971.26
Income	3,725.58
Expenditure	11,410.13
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>44,286.71</b>

**JAN PALICH**  
**TREASURER**

## CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 7 August - W Cone & C Criddle  
Wednesday 14 August - P Havlicek & C Lee  
Wednesday 21 August - T Jamieson & D Pocock  
Wednesday 28 August - P Beers & Q Tibballs  
Wednesday 4 September - C Criddle & M Jagow

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 2 September at 7.00 pm in the clubrooms

## AUGUST 2002

2 – 4	Base camp: Mt Kooyoora State Park	Private	E/M	Max Casley	
Sat 3	Ski trip: Mt Stirling	Private	M	Trish Elmore	
<b>Sun 4</b>	<b>Anglesea to Bells Beach (8.30 am start)</b>	<b>BUS</b>	<b>E &amp; E/M</b>	<b>Paul Beers &amp; Paul Wakefield</b>	<b>#</b>
9 – 11	Lodge: Rawson - Ski & Walk	Private	E/M	Pearson Cresswell	
<b>Sun 11</b>	<b>You Yangs</b>	<b>BUS</b>	<b>E/M &amp; M</b>	<b>Jean Woodger &amp; John Coe</b>	<b>#</b>
16 – 18	Pack carry: Warby Ranges	Private	E/M	Mike Lowe	
<b>Sun 18</b>	<b>Vaughan Springs – Loddon Falls</b>	<b>BUS</b>	<b>E &amp; E/M</b>	<b>Sue Ralston &amp; Jan Palich</b>	<b>#</b>
Wed 21	Wednesday Walkers: Kinglake Nat. Park	Private	E/M	Jerry Karbownik	
23 – 25	Ski trip: Mt Buffalo (Porepunkah)	Private	E/M	Merilyn Whimpey	
<b>Sun 25</b>	<b>Mt Gordon Ridge – Marysville</b>	<b>BUS</b>	<b>E/M &amp; M</b>	<b>Alan Miller &amp; Hans Edlinger</b>	<b>#</b>
30 – 1	Pack carry: Central Grampians	Private	M	Jerry Grandage	
Sat 31	Dandenongs Explorer: By the beach	Private	Easy	Rod Novak	

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The Upper Yarra Bushwalkers will mark the track and the Walking Club of Victoria will undertake the track clearing. The National Trust will also be approached for the historical significance and protection covenants. The clearing of the curves section will allow a walk linking Starling Gap Track to Mississippi Road to Richards Tramway and return down the 'curves' track.

**Bunyip State Park** – The Bunyip SP Bushwalkers Lobby Group (Graeme Kidd – convenor) are trying to improve bushwalking tracks in this park. Parks Victoria staff (Gembrook) are keen to re-establish the Freeman's Mill Track. VicWalk Conservation Committee believe Freeman's Mill Track has little potential as it's very overgrown and outside the capability of a walking club to do extensive track clearing/restoration. A new map of the area has omitted Churches Fire Line and Parks Victoria intend to close Old Andersons Track. VicWalk Conservation Committee believe Churches Fire Line and Old Andersons Track makes a good circuit walk, although Little Bunyip Track has a lot of trail bike damage and erosion. VicWalk have submitted a proposal with a detailed map to open these tracks up as 'walker only' tracks.

**Ferres Track** (Near Mortimer's Picnic Ground) linking Diamond Creek and Nicholl's Hut Track. Parks Victoria have established a new track (2 km in length) with a new bridge over the creek.

**Kosciuszko National Park** – VicWalk Conservation Committee delegates are in contact with the Confederation of NSW Bushwalking Clubs regarding the preferred re-alignment of the AAWT onto the main range.

**Box-Ironbark Forests** – Jason Doyle, the VNPA Box Ironbark campaign officer, has requested help from all bushwalkers to write letters to the Government requesting support for the E.E.C. recommendations for the Box-Ironbark Park system.

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