



AC00133X

THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 633

NOVEMBER 2003

60 CENTS

Lavender Fest

Weekend: 22 & 23 November

*Warratina Lavender Farm
Quayle Road, Wandin Yallock
(Melway: 121 F.1.)*

Featuring: musical and dancing entertainment, alpacas, market stalls, animal farm, craft demonstrations and wine and food of the Yarra Valley. Entry is \$5 (\$3 conc.) and children under 12 years are free.

Spit roast dinner on Saturday night (b.y.o.): 7 - 11 pm. There will be late night jazz and rock. Tickets are \$35 per person.

Anyone interested in going on the Saturday please speak to **Lynda Larkin** in advance so we can organize a car pool. Please phone



Club Barbeque

Wednesday 26 November

7 - 9 pm, Clubrooms

Summer is just around the corner... Come along to this Bushies barbeque in late November. The club will provide all the food and drinks for just \$10 per head.

+ Letter Writing Night

If you'd rather eat a cow than walk with one... We will also have a letter writing campaign on this barbeque night regarding: 1) cows in the Alpine National Park and 2) the ACF campaign for the River Murray asking for a national management plan.

It's easy: pre-written letters will be available which can be signed and sent and there will also be paper if you wish to use your own words.

Come and have your say on these issues that affect both the enjoyment of club walks and the health of Australian wildlife.

See **William Cone**, Secretary in the clubrooms if you would like to take part.

MBW Christmas Party

Wednesday 17 December



ENQ.: -

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

WEBSITE: www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

EMAIL: 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.
and 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
and to maintain editorial consistency.

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

- ★ E-mailing to:
- ★ Placing diskette or hand written material
in the Editor's pigeon hole 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



Wedding News

*It is with great joy that I can let members
know that Vicki Scrivenger and William Cone
are to be married on Saturday 15 November
2003. On behalf of everyone I extend best
wishes to you both.*

Doug Pocock

Treasurer's News

*The Melbourne Bushwalkers is still looking for
a Treasurer.*

*This is a very important role for managing the
club's activities, as there is always incoming
and outgoing funds to monitor.*

*If you have never been a Treasurer, but have
accounting experience, or even if you have
been a Treasurer and would like to be one
again, please give Jan Palich a call on*

*She will be very happy to give you
more information.*

PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS, ETC. - NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2003

Cycle Trip: Lilydale - Yarra Valley

DATE	Saturday 22 November
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Howard Friend
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Melway: 38, 118-119, 285-290

Come along for a scenic ride following the Yarra River valley on the Warburton Rail Trail from Lilydale. There are plenty of good places to stop along the way for coffee, or visits to wineries.

This day trip is offered as an alternative to the weekend cycle trip which has been deferred until March next year. For further details, including where to meet and when, please see the leader in the clubrooms or ring

Sunday Bus: Ada Tree - Powelltown

DATE	Sunday 30 November
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	14 and 18 km
LEADER(S)	Vik Dunis and Steve Axford
TRANSPORT	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
MAP REFERENCE	Ada River 1:25,000

These walks will follow a part of the *Walk Into History Walking Track*. The harder walk will start with a descent from Smyth Creek Road down to the old Ezard Mill site and then follow the old log tram track route as it winds its way up to Starling Gap. The gap is the starting point for the easier walk and from here both groups follow the same path along old log tram track routes as far as the disused New Federal Mill Site. From this point a recently cut track through rainforest will allow us to join the Ada Tree loop track, a short distance from the magnificent tree itself. Both walks will end at the Ada Tree Picnic Area.

The gradients on these walks are not challenging but the tracks can be rather wet and muddy due to poor drainage in places and close contact with nature in the form of a leech or two is almost guaranteed. We will pass a number of old mill sites on the walks and the remains of old machinery can be seen at some. The remains of bridges and cuttings for the log tramway are clearly visible and several different vegetation types will be encountered.

Bus: Michaeldene Track - Tree Fern Gully

DATE	Sunday 7 December
STANDARD	Easy and Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	15 and 18 km
LEADER(S)	Max Casley and Mark Heath
TRANSPORT	Bus-Southbank Blvd-8.30 am
RETURN TIME	7 pm
AREA	Marysville (100 km north-east of Melbourne)
MAP REFERENCE	Marysville - Lake Mountain 1:30,000

We will be walking through the beautiful forested hills that surround Marysville along the many foot tracks in the area. We will walk up Mt. Gordon to Woods Lookout which is an excellent place for lunch. After lunch we will cross the Steavenson River - by bridge - and go along Michaeldene Track to Island Hop on Taggerty River and return via Tree Fern Gully. We might arrange to finish at the bakery (no promises!) Be early for a great day.

Please note 8.30 am start.

Wed. Walk: Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail and End-of-Year Get Together

DATE	Wednesday 10 December
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	12 km
LEADER(S)	Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	3.30 to cars
AREA	Williamstown and Altona
MAP REFERENCE	Melway: 56, 55, 54, 209 and Hobsons Bay Coast Trail leaflet

We will meet at 10.15 am at Point Gellibrand, Williamstown, in the carpark at the northern end of the Williamstown Oval where Battery Road turns to join Morris Street (Melway: 56 D11/E12). Some people will be starting the walk from here while others will be involved in the car shuffle.

This walk will be along the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail from Williamstown to 100 Steps, to Federation at Altona Meadows, near Cheetham Wetlands. I have learnt from experience when leading walks combined with social occasions not to over-estimate what can be covered so on the walk there will be time for people to move at a relaxed pace and catch up with each other, birdwatch in an area that attracts migratory birds and have an ice-cream.

People not familiar with this western part of Melbourne will be surprised at what it has to offer. Although we will be walking along the edge of

residential and industrial areas we will travel through coastal parks and reserves, along beaches, past wetlands and coastal salt marshes, often with views of the city as a backdrop. There is quite a bit of work going on along the western part of this trail near the end of our walk and we will have the opportunity to get a good overview of what is planned here.

Weather permitting, I have chosen a really good place where we'll be able to relax afterwards so bring food and drink to share plus tables and chairs. If the weather isn't suitable I have an alternative in mind. Those who are interested might like to meet for breakfast or coffee beforehand somewhere in Nelson Place, Williamstown, and I will be able to give you more details about this when you book on

Please note this walk is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month rather than the usual 3rd Wednesday.

Sunday Bus: Switzerland Ranges

DATE Sunday 14 December
STANDARD Easy/Medium and Medium
LEADER(S) Peter Havlicek and Jan Palich
TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd – 9 am

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

Bus: Point Nepean (Christmas theme)

DATE Sunday 21 December
STANDARD Easy and Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Maureen Hurley and Ralph Clayton
TRANSPORT Bus – Southbank Blvd – 9 am

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

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PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS, ETC. - NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2003

Cycle Trip: North Geelong - Queenscliff

DATE Sat. 22 - Sun. 23 November
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Stephen Rowlands
TRANSPORT Private

This weekend cycle trip has been deferred until March next year. For an alternative day cycle trip please see Howard Friend's preview on page three.

Pack Carry: Sealers Cove, Wilsons Prom

DATE Fri. 12 - Sun. 14 December
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE 26 km (18 km with packs)
LEADER(S) Liz Telford
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME 6 pm

The walk will commence at the Mount Oberon car park on Saturday morning and we will walk 9 km with packs to Sealers Cove. This is a very enjoyable walk with a variety of different vegetation and scenery including banksias, tall grass trees, a small waterfall, tree ferns, swamp lands and a tall messmate forest to walk through.

We should arrive at Sealers Cove by lunchtime, set up camp and have time for a swim. In the afternoon I will lead a walk to Horn Point, where most of the northern parts of the park and the Seal Islands can be seen. Next morning we will walk the full length of Sealers Cove before heading back to Mount Oberon car park. The weekend will be at a relaxed pace and hopefully warm enough to enjoy several swims.

Please bring something to share for starters for the Saturday night meal. We will camp at Tidal River on Friday night. Please see me in the clubrooms to co-ordinate the meeting place on Saturday morning for the start of the walk.

P'Carry: Snowy Mtns, Twynam-Gungartan

DATE Fri. 26 Dec. 03 - Fri. 2 Jan. 04
STANDARD Medium
LEADER(S) Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT Private

The Main Range of the Snowy Mountains is my favourite alpine area on the mainland. It has that wonderful combination of open alpine ridge tops, fabulous views, lots of interesting granite out-crops, glacial lakes and, at Christmas, loads of glorious wildflowers. So I'm going there for the second year in a row!

Last Christmas we covered the area from Kosciusko north to the Rolling Grounds where we had to retreat off the tops due to bad weather. This year we are overlapping about two of the days, namely the area around Mt. Twynam, Blue Lake,

Watsons Crag and north to the Rolling Grounds. In addition we will explore the Rolling Grounds, in good weather this time, and go on to Gungartan and points north. There will also be a day walk around the Ramsheads as a warm up before the main pack carry event.

We will drive up in daylight on the 26th, camping at Leather Barrel Creek just before Dead Horse Gap. Then on the 27th, we will do a full day walk from Dead Horse Gap taking in all three of the Ramshead Peaks, camping that night at another National Parks campsite. On Sunday the 28th we set off on our six day (five night) pack carry. This will include two campsites where we camp two nights each and a single one nighter. There will be two full and one half day side-trips with only day packs.

Total pack carry distance over the six days is around 37 km and about 62 km of side trips! Be prepared for some climbs, however. We should finish by about lunch or early afternoon on Friday 2 January so that we can return to Melbourne the same day.

Be prepared for possible atrocious alpine weather with full riot gear. We certainly copped some last year! Each car will need an annual NSW National Parks pass which I think is about \$80 to be shared by the cars occupants. Transport costs at 8c/km should be about \$100 or a bit more. Contact me on _____ if you're interested in joining me in this wonderful area.

Base Camp: Snowy Plains

DATE Fri. 26 Dec. 03 - Sat. 3 Jan. 04
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Mt. Tamboritha-Mt. Howitt

This year we will be camping along the Conglomerate Creek area. I have been told this is a very pleasant campsite with a swimming hole handy, and the two km walk into the campsite is very easy. There will be plenty of walks of varying degrees from easy 8 km strolls to the more arduous medium ones. We will be visiting mountain tops, plains, waterfalls and gorges - so there will be something for all.

This trip will suit everyone from the experienced to the novice so if you have been thinking about going on overnight trips but have never done so before, this will be a golden opportunity for those who have never camped before to try it out. There will be experienced campers on this trip to help out if needs arise.

I am hoping for fine weather on this trip, however, because of the altitude and changeable climate, both summer and winter gear and clothing is needed.

Even though the camp will be up behind Guy's Hut there is a possibility that we might camp there for four or five days, then shift down to Back Creek via Tamboritha Saddle for a couple of days.

Please see me for details in the club. I can also be contacted by mail at _____

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A reminder to all members that in February 2004 we have the Annual General Meeting when all **committee positions** become vacant. Quite a few current committee members have indicated they will not be available to stand again next year. For the smooth running of the club we need all positions filled. If you are interested in making yourself available have a chat with me or anyone on the committee.

The club's policy on **camp fires** is below. We will maintain a folder on regulations so that you can make yourself familiar with them. We have applied for more copies of The Bushwalking Code for treading lightly in the bush. These will be available for members.

DOUG POCOCK

CAMP FIRE POLICY

Preamble: The club recognises that campfires are part of the outdoor experience. Used responsibly they can be useful for cooking, for keeping warm and for socialising. However, the need to minimise the impact of bushwalking activities, particularly in sensitive or heavily used areas, means that campfires must be treated as a privilege rather than as a right. The purpose of this policy is to allow us to enjoy a campfire, where it is appropriate, while maintaining respect for the bush.

Policy: Walkers must be aware of, and comply with, all fire regulations for the areas they are visiting, including total fire bans. To assist this the club will endeavour to have up-to-date copies of regulations available in the clubrooms.

The club follows the guidelines set out in the *Minimal Impact Bushwalking Code*. Copies will be available in the clubrooms.

Fuel stoves are encouraged.

Any fires to be kept to a minimum size.

No rubbish to be burnt on fires.

Fires to be completely extinguished before retiring or leaving.

WALKS STATISTICS

September 2003	Trips	People	Average	Sept 2002
Sunday Bus	4	118	29.5	36
Other Day	3	45	15	11
Pack Carry	-	-	-	-
Base Camp	3	35	12	15
Total	10	198	-	9 / 229

The Sunday bus walks continued to be poorly attended in September. With the weather now improving we hope that more of you will be tempted to take a day off from the home chores and enjoy a good day out in the bush in the company of other like-minded people. If you haven't been out for a while, dust off those walking shoes and get in some exercise before Christmas!

GINA HOPKINS

FROM THE WALKS SECRETARY

Sunday Bus Survey Results: Thanks very much to the 72 Sunday walkers who participated in the Sunday bus survey about the bus radio.

The results of this survey were as follows: 20% of the total are indifferent as to whether the bus radio is played or not and 69% of those who expressed an opinion are in favour of having the radio played, with 31% against.

For the majority (72%), the bus radio does not encourage or discourage them from going on a Sunday walk. Of those who expressed an opinion, 65% are encouraged and 35% discouraged if the radio were to be played.

As a result of this survey, the bus radio will continue to be played at the discretion of the driver.

CREDIT VOUCHERS FOR BUS WALKS

A walker who has paid for a Sunday Bus walk and was then unable to attend, is entitled to a credit voucher provided that the leader was informed **before** the walk. Please note that not showing up on the Sunday does not entitle you to a credit.

A request for a credit voucher **must be put in writing** to the Walks Secretary, stating the following:

- your name and address
- the date and name of the walk missed
- the amount paid

Leaders must note in their walk reports the names of non-attenders who had paid and the reason and notice given. This information is used to validate a request for a credit voucher.

Credit vouchers are non-transferable and are only valid for 12 months from the date of the walk credited.

QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

This month Assistant Walks Secretary, Peter McGrath answers some questions.

When did you join the club?

I joined in 1991.

How did you first learn about the club?

My sister told me about it.

What made you decide to join the club?

I had always had a love of the bush. Our family trips to the Dandenongs on Sundays, when I was growing up, left a permanent love of going out to the bush on Sundays.

What do you like about the club?

Bushwalking is a very pleasant thing to do. I do love tennis, but bushwalking is a good supplement.

Which club activities do you do?

I am a Sunday walker. I sometimes do the weekend walks. I used to go to a lot of the movies as well.

How often do you walk?

Not as much as I should. I have been leading four walks a year, and these require at least one preview. This leaves too little time to go on others' walks.

Do you have a favourite walk/s or walking area/s?

I used to have favourites. Now that I am Assistant Walks Secretary, I know so many good walks that it is hard to have favourites.

When did you join the committee?

I was on before in 1998 and 1999. I rejoined it this year.

What have been your areas of responsibility on committee in previous years?

I was Treasurer in 1998 and 1999.

What do you like about this/these job/s?

I liked being Treasurer because I am a financial consultant, and it was good to put the principles into practice. I have always wanted to be Assistant Walks Secretary – you get to schedule the walks you love.

What don't you like about this/these job/s?

Being Treasurer is a busy job, and Assistant Walks Secretary has its moments too. But being on the committee of such a club as the Melbourne Bushwalkers is such a special experience, that the negatives are in fact positives. It is like anything else – it is important to minimise the negatives and to maximise the positives.

What skills/experiences do you believe you bring to the committee?

I hope I bring a love of the club firstly, to make it better by being there. My accounting skills were very useful as Treasurer. I am trying to use my MBA to help improve the Walks programme.

What are your plans for 2003 as Assistant Walks Secretary?

I hope to improve the walks we do. There are still issues with our walks to do with the transition from running the van to running the bus. There is also a need to introduce new walks.

Will you stand for committee again next year?

Yes, it is definitely the place to be.

Where were you born?

I was born in East Melbourne (at the Mercy Hospital).

Where do you live now?

I live in Mornington.

What other interests do you have besides bush walking?

I love a game of tennis. I also enjoy drinking but perhaps I should not say that!

What music do you like?

I am bit eclectic. I can listen to rock and also to classical. It depends on the mood.

What do you like to read?

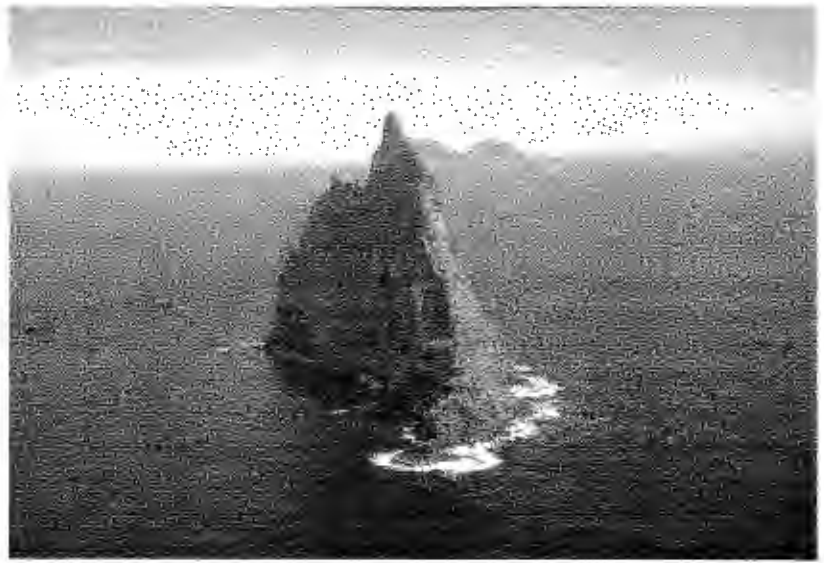
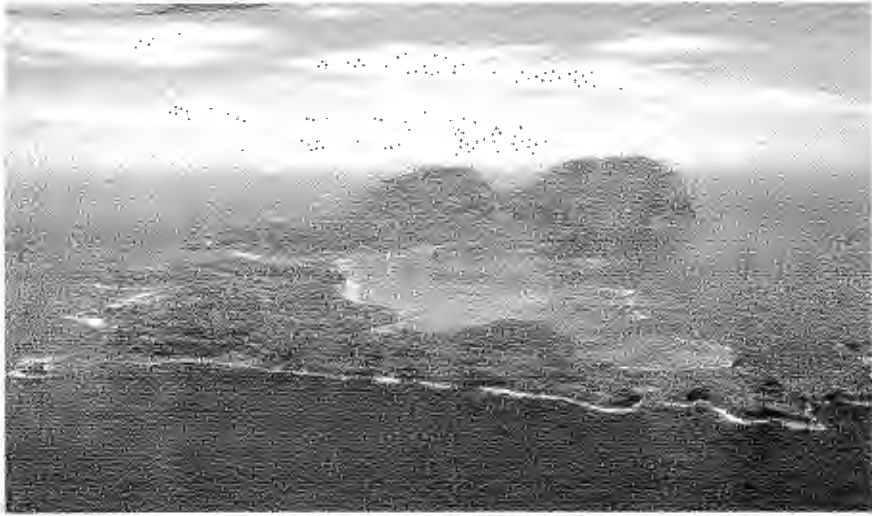
I have read some great books recently about the early history of Melbourne, Australia and Tasmania.

What food/restaurants do you like?

I could say *McDonalds*. But seriously, I enjoy a good Italian meal, with wine.

Which films do you like?

My favourite movie is *Laurence of Arabia*. Something about the desert and wonderful photography. They went well together in that film.



LORD HOWE ISLAND

18 - 25 OCTOBER 2003

Picture an island of lush vegetation, rugged mountains, pristine beaches, blue sea, turquoise lagoon, colourful corals, countless vividly coloured fish, dense colonies of sea birds, land birds - some endemic to the island, ducks that swim in the sea, and the home of the Kentia Palm. This is the setting in which we spent our week on Lord Howe Island.

The opportunity to visit Lord Howe (top photo opposite) arose when Doug Pocock wrote in *The News* of his intention to go, and invited other Bushies to join him and Jan on their trip in October - limited numbers. Places were snapped up, and Doug set about the huge task of organising flights and accommodation for 21 people, and kept us informed on his progress. Apart from sending off money as instructed, we just sat back and had our tickets and documents handed out to us, ready to go! How easy was that!

On arrival, we were driven to our accommodation at Somerset Apartments, nestling unobtrusively in their sub-tropical garden setting. Quick bit of basic shopping, a clean up, and it was out to a pre-arranged dinner. The next day provided opportunities to explore our surroundings, and do some fresh food shopping in the morning. Some hired bikes, and after lunch some of us walked to Malabar Hill and Kim's Lookout, sighting sooty terns and red-tailed tropicbirds, and gazing at the views, before returning for a barbecue at Somerset.

Monday was Mt. Gower day, you will know who climbed it - just watch for the T-shirts. (Mt. Lidgbird and Mt. Gower are in the bottom photo.) Others walked with Jan to Intermediate Hill, past Rocky Run to Mutton Bird Point, where large numbers of masked boobies are nesting, together with some common noddies, wedge-tailed shearwaters and sooty terns. A couple of people went on Ron's Ramble, a historical stroll crammed with information and some gossip about the island. That evening, torches in hand, we walked to the Milky Way restaurant, and dined on a delicious feast of fish and chips. Yummy.

Tuesday was glass-bottom boat coral viewing and snorkelling morning. Spectacular underwater colours of coral and many varieties of fish. A barbecue that evening on the shores of the lagoon was rewarded with the most amazing sunset imaginable, then a darkened sky filled with a myriad of stars.

Several activities next day, a group went on a boat trip to Ball's Pyramid (middle photo), others chose a boat trip to North Beach, with some en route snorkelling the wreck, and morning tea at the beach. I did the walk from Middle Beach to Valley of the Shadows, Clear Patch, Transit Hill and Blinky Beach, occasionally meeting others doing the same route. Bumped into Liz and Phil, just returned from their scenic flight over the island and Ball's Pyramid - on this beautiful sunny day, the views were the best ever. Ho hum, out again to the Beachcomber for a fish fry buffet dinner for some of us, others chose another venue, and some of course used their cooking facilities at Somerset for a meal in.

On Thursday, some more people chose the boat trip to North Beach. Marilyn and Bill kayaked there, some others walked. From here it is possible to explore Old Gulch, the Herring Pools, and Mt. Eliza, which is a nesting area for sooty terns and other seabirds - a climb up there is rewarded with sweeping views over North Beach, the Lagoon, Mt. Lidgbird and Mt. Gower. Dinner for most that night was at Lorhiti, serving Chinese and Australian meals. My choice of chicken and cashew nuts was followed by Chinese ice-cream with a caramel topping. A torch was essential for returning 'home' on those dark nights, even then it was possible to take the wrong turning!

We had an option of walks for Friday - Goat House Cave or Rocky Run and Mutton Bird Point, or whatever you might wish to do. Goat House Cave was in cloud early on, but lifted to clear and sunny by lunchtime. Some people stayed up there to lunch and enjoy! I headed back down to explore Little Island, Salmon Beach, Kings Beach, Johnsons Beach and Lovers Bay. With a swim or paddle at each, it was possible to walk all the way back to Cobbys Corner and observe the marine life in the rock pools along the way. That night we had our final barbecue. Island cow sausages featured on the menu.

We all did our own thing on Saturday morning. I walked to Ned's Beach and sat quietly amongst the sooty terns, which were busily nesting and ignoring me. Close by, I noted one banded bird choose a spot to lay her egg, then promptly did so, leaving it briefly so that I could admire her speckled creation. Normally a wildflower enthusiast, I was overwhelmed by the bird life on the island. Still time to check out Stevens Reserve, good spot to see emerald ground doves, and have a last swim in the lagoon before heading off to the airport, flying back to Sydney in our little 36-seater aircraft.

I want to thank you Doug for giving me the opportunity to experience this wonderful island, to which I shall certainly return, and to thank you for all the effort you put in to arranging everything. I know all other members of our party would wish me to say so on their behalf, and all will have their own special memories. (Party: Alan and Jan, Liz and Phil, Marilyn and Bill, Jan and Loch, Fay, Liz, Liz, Pam and Bob, Millicent, Doug, Maureen, Stuart, Max, Jan and Doug and me.)

JEAN WOODGER

NEW MEMBERS

PATRICIA BORTON

STEPHEN HARLEY

DOUG LANGTON

JING REN

LINDA WILKINSON

JANELLE ZAHMEL

ADD TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

BARRY SMITH

ALTERED ADDRESS / PHONE

BILL DONALD

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	351
Family Memberships	94 (= 2 x 47)
Total Membership	465
This Time Last Year	448

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 12 November: M Jagow and P McGrath

Wednesday 19 November: T Elmore and P Havlicek*

Wednesday 26 November: P Beers and J Palich*

Wednesday 3 December: H Friend and D Pocock*

*J Palich, Treasurer present

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 1 December at 7 pm in the clubrooms

TRACKS, HUTS AND CONSERVATION

Here are some notes from the VicWalk Conservation September and October 2003 meetings.

Alpine National Park - There will be a very informative alpine ecology course this coming January. For further information go to: www.latrobe.edu.au/agriculture/alpecol.htm

The alpine grazing issue decision is due in the next few weeks. Bushwalkers please write a letter to the Premier asking for cattle grazing to stop in the Alpine National Park.

Baw Baw National Park - Draft Management Plan. Main points include:

Fuel Stove only area.

New toilets at Stronach and upgrade of toilet at Mushroom Rocks (very hard to find).

Eradication of feral cattle.

Removal of CRB hut and Swinburne shelter.

Protect the habitat of the Baw Baw frog.

Close access to Mustering Flat from St. Gwinear and to Currawong Flat. (Difficult – Robert to clarify).

Horse based and vehicle based camping prohibited in the park.

Great Divide Trail - Official opening of the Leagahook Track on Friday 21 November at the Bendigo Railway Station at 11am.

Kosciusko National Park (NSW) Closure - The national parks are considering closing the Jagungal Wilderness area again this late spring, summer and autumn season. If you do need to venture into the area, please *stay* on the management vehicle tracks and keep all off-track movements to a minimum. The Pilot Wilderness Area (south of Cascade Hut to the Victorian Border) is also closed. The fires destroyed approx 1,000 brumbies and many pigs. We only saw 2 occurrences of pigs and believe them to be individual animals. Scientists believe as many as 80% of small mammals were also destroyed in the severe fires, and the cooler burnt areas saw a mortality rate of 20%. Bushwalkers please check the park website / ring the Park Office for updates.

Track Maintenance - Clubs are not covered by Insurance for “major” track work such as using tools, uprooting trees, and heavy clearing. However, Parks Victoria insurance can apply if the activity is ranger supervised.

Western Arthurs (Tasmania)- Bushwalking is having a significant impact on this wilderness area with extensive track erosion and campsite debilitation. There is a major funding shortfall to repair the damage and concern with excessive numbers. Three strategies have been identified in an ‘Options Paper’. Option 1 is to close the area completely to allow for natural rehabilitation. Option 2 is to introduce a new Overnight Walking Contribution fee (as well as the national park fee). It is expected to start at \$25 and then rise to \$50 per person. Option 3 is to introduce a track specific fee of \$100 to walk the Western Arthurs with restricted numbers/permit basis. Option 3 is the parks’ preferred option. Public submissions invited and close on 14 November. Website is: www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/JFRY-5892U3?open

ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Club History for Sale

*Ever wondered how the club started? We still have available some copies of the book: **50 Years Along The Track**. These are for sale for \$5. Excellent value, ideal for your bookshelves or as Christmas presents.*

*We also still have some cds of the **Wilkinson Lodge log books**.*

*And, if that is not enough, we have some copies of **Walk** magazine for sale. (This was an annual publication of the club.)*

*Please speak with **Doug Pocock** if you are interested.*

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New members joining on/after 1 October 2003 \$24.00 less visitor fees *The News* – \$20.00

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