



AM033X

# THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 632

OCTOBER 2003

60 CENTS

## *Wine and Cheese Night*

*Wednesday 22 October*

*7 - 9 pm, Clubrooms*

## *G.T.'s 60th Birthday Celebrations*

*Saturday 22 November*

*12 pm until late, 20 Tarcoola Dve, Yallambie*

G.T. and Tracy invite all their Bushie mates to come and throw a prawn on the barbie with them on this most auspicious of occasions. B.Y.O. drinks and prawns. Be there or be square!

## *MBW Formal Dinner*

*Fri. 5 - Sun. 7 December 2003*

*Wilkinson Lodge*

Hello party goers. Yes, it's that time of year again. Time to dry clean that little black number and head for the hills. Grab that special bottle of red and break out that secret recipe of Aunt Murtle's. Yes, pack carriers, stuff your packs with goodies for it's time for the annual formal dinner.

As you are all aware, last summer the High Plains were burned to a crispy black. With this in mind I have decided to stage this year's event at Wilky to avoid any messiness under foot and tent. This should enable you to bring along all those added extras.

I intend to run a day walk on Saturday to stimulate your appetite. Then it's back to Wilky for some serious wining and dining. We may walk again on Sunday, depending on how heads feel?

As always we will all provide a meal to share. As tradition dictates, this will be a black tie affair. To find out more and register your interest, contact me via our club email [info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au](mailto:info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au) or call **Debbie Henry** on

Don't miss the social event of the year. Act now to avoid disappointment.



## *Bus for Sale: \$17*

Join our weekly Sunday Bus for a great variety of bushwalks usually about 1.5 hours from Melbourne. The bus departs at 9 am (unless advised as 8.30 am) from Southbank Boulevard and usually returns around 6.30 pm.

Fantastic value at just \$17 (plus refundable \$8 visitor fee), these safe, guided and pre-viewed walks compare more than favourably to similar commercial operators.

All Sunday walks feature separate Easy and Medium walks, each with an experienced leader and co-leader ("whip"). Every walk is previewed and a write-up of the walk featured in advance in *The News*.

It's a great day out and requires only a medium level of fitness. Bookings in clubrooms every Wednesday night.

## *Film Night*

*Thursday 30 October*

*Village Cinema, Jam Factory*

*Calendar Girls*, due for release here in Australia in early October, tells the story of a Yorkshire Dales Women's Institute foray into the world of nude calendars! No Pirelli calendars here, however, but glorious pictures of ladies of a certain age, doing the things WIs have been doing for years - with no clothes on. The film stars Helen Mirren and Julie Walters and has been a huge hit in the UK. It is set in Upper Wharfedale in the Yorkshire Dales, a beautiful part of the country known for its superb fell walking.

I am hoping we will be able to meet for supper, before or after the film, somewhere around Chapel Street or Toorak Road. Please come along, it's a great film. All enquiries to **Sara Watson**, Social Secretary on

ENQ.:

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

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

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.  
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:

- ★ Emailing 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



## Introducing Berry Durad

Anne Wilkins and David Durad  
are proud to announce the arrival of  
another future bushwalker.

Berry Durad was born on 3 August 2003  
weighing 2.4 kg (5lb 6oz).

Early indications are that she will be  
lacing up the walking boots real soon.

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## Treasurer's News

We are still looking for a new Treasurer.

Tasks: Processing incoming funds  
from walks and other activities.  
Paying accounts during the month  
and reporting back to the committee meeting  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month.

This is a great way to become part of the club!

Talk to Jan Palich for more information.

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# PREVIEWS OF DAY WALKS, ETC. - OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2003

## Sunday Bus: Pyrites Creek, Gisborne

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 19 October
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium and Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	11 and 19 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Roger Wyatt & Hans Edlinger
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus-Southbank Blvd-8.30 am

This preview is of the Medium walk only. The walk will take us through a very interesting area that allows you to see the way ahead and behind you. It will be mainly on four-wheel drive tracks and on about 2 km of bush track down to Pyrites Creek. The descent down to the creek is reasonably easy and once across the creek, we will have a small climb up and, at the top of the hill, we will stop for lunch. Weather permitting we should have a fantastic view of the surrounding area.

As the weather will be getting warmer, make sure you have plenty of drinking water for there are no places to fill bottles along the way. If it is raining the track will become very muddy and a change of shoes for the bus travel would be recommended. I also noted some bird life along this track: carrawong, red robin, and I was accompanied by a wedge-tail eagle. Maybe I looked like easy prey! See you all on the bus for a great walk.

**Please note 8.30 am start.**

## Dandenongs Exp.: Grants Picnic Reserve

<b>DATE</b>	Saturday 25 October
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy
<b>DISTANCE</b>	12 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Warren Baker
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Melway 75 J4

I thought that we would walk in the western section of Sherbrooke Forest. Meet at Grants Picnic Ground at 10.30 am. We will cross Monbulk Road (carefully) and walk up to O'Donoghue Picnic Ground. From there we will walk down to Sherbrooke Falls for morning tea. Back-tracking slightly we will make our way to the northern extreme of the park and work our way towards Ferny Creek Reserve where we will have lunch.

After lunch we will walk along the western outskirts of the park, along Moore Break down to Ridge Track. We will then follow Terrys Avenue down to the Monbulk Road again. Crossing the Monbulk Road, we will head northwards back to Grants Picnic Ground and afternoon tea. Please ring me if you are coming.

**N.B. My phone no. is**

## Bus: Hepburn Park - La Franchi's Hut

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 2 November
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy and Easy/Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	12 and 15 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Peter McGrath & Sue Ralston
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	7 pm
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Eganstown 1:25,000

This is a pretty walk in an old gold mining area renowned for its spring flowers and bird life. It passes through a range of terrain and scenery from light bush and gullies to pineforests and grassy clearings, with the occasional spectacular view to distant ridges. Also of interest are some remnants of the region's old gold mining days, such as, some old ruins and La Franchi's hut.

Both walks will be mainly on track, with a few attractive off-track sections along gullies, and through pineforests and light bushland. The two walks will cover largely the same route, with the Easy Medium being a little longer and involving a few more off-track sections. The area is relatively flat, with a few small hills. In the last month of spring, this should be an enjoyable way to celebrate the Cup Day weekend. Hope to see you there!

## Track Maintenance

<b>DATE</b>	Saturday 8 November
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy and fun
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Rod Novak
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private

I am liaising with the 'Conservation Volunteers Australia' organisation for a fun day. The C.V.A. has started a new initiative "Making Tracks" focusing on the development and maintenance of walking tracks. See me in the clubrooms on 5 November for an information sheet or telephone me for further information.

## Bus: Lysterfield and Churchill NPs + BBQ

<b>DATE</b>	Sunday 9 November
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium and Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	15 and 20 km
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Lynda Larkin & Stephen Bentley
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Bus - Southbank Blvd - 9 am
<b>RETURN</b>	6 pm
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Melway 83

This very agreeable walk is located a stone's throw south-east of Melbourne near the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges. Both walks will start at the entrance to Lysterfield Lake Park on Horswood Road following tracks through remnant native forest and eucalyptus plantations established by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission. Both courses include some gentle climbs and picturesque views of surrounding farmland, rocky outcrops, the city and the Dandenongs from several vantage points.

There is an abundance of bird life in the area and their wonderful calls could be heard when the preview was done in early spring. Small groups of wallabies were also seen. Some excellent opportunities for photo fiends!

The day will end with both groups meeting at the picnic area for a barbeque (which will be provided by the club) at the edge of the lake. In view of this, a light lunch is recommended as well as the usual water, sunscreen, hats and change of shoes. Book early so you don't miss out on a great day.

### Bus: Little River Gorge, Cathedral Range

**DATE** Sunday 16 November  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium and Medium  
**LEADER(S)** Bill Donald & Elizabeth Ingham  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Southbank Blvd – 9 am

Please talk to the leaders in the club about these two walks.

### Wed.: Northern Brisbane Ranges-Spring Ck

**DATE** Wednesday 19 November  
**STANDARD** Medium  
**LEADER(S)** Geoff Mattingley  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**RETURN TIME** 4 pm (back to cars)  
**AREA** Melway up to edition 28: 511 E2; edition 29 +: 611 E2  
**MAP REFERENCE** Vicmap 1:25,000 Ingliston, Staughton Vale, Yaloak or Bushmaps 1:50,000 Brisbane Ranges NP

This walk is in the northern section of the Brisbane Ranges National Park, close to where the President's Weekend was held last November. At that time some of the weekend party walked through this area and found it to be very pleasant country, with some lovely park-like areas, as well as typical Brisbane Ranges forest. Spring Creek lived up to its name by having many pools of water, despite the drought, and we were also impressed by the amount of birdlife. The walk is described under the title of "Spring Creek" in the book "Day Walks, Victoria" (Chapman, Chapman, and Siseman).

At the time of writing (mid-September) I have not decided where we will meet on the day before starting the walk. For details and to let me know you are coming please ring me on \_\_\_\_\_ in the week prior to the walk, or see me in the clubrooms.

### Sun. Bus: Warburton Rail Trail and Winery

**DATE** Sunday 23 November  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium and Medium  
**DISTANCE** 14 and 17 km  
**LEADER(S)** Peter McGrath & Quentin Tibballs  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Southbank Blvd – 9 am  
**RETURN TIME** 7 pm  
**MAP REFERENCE** The Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail, Parks Victoria

You may have seen this walk promoted on TV. The concept of riding or walking through Melbourne's picturesque Yarra Valley is attractive. Besides being a pretty walk, it also offers the opportunity to visit one of the region's fine wineries.

We have selected the best section of the trail – from Wandin to Launching Place. The walks progress through beautiful bushland and open pastures and offer beautiful rural views. The walks finish with views of the Central Highlands as we descend into the Yarra Valley flood plain. At the end of the walk, there will be time to visit a winery. We have selected the Ainsworth winery in Wandin. Do come along and enjoy one of the finest experiences Melbourne can offer.

### Dandenongs Exp.: Kurth Kiln area

**DATE** Saturday 29 November  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 12 km  
**LEADER(S)** Pam Rosso and Bob Steel  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**RETURN TIME** 6 pm  
**AREA** NE of Gembrook

Meet at Ship Rock Falls at 10.30 am. Falls are marked in Melway 512 S4 near Tims Corner. Take the Gembrook-Launching Place Road from Gembrook. Alternatively, Maroondah Hwy to Lilydale then Warburton Hwy to Launching Place then take the Gembrook-Launching Place Road to Ship Rock Falls.

Interesting walk on tracks and minor roads through open forest, with a couple of small lakes to view and an interesting historical relic (Kurth Kiln) to examine. We will tell you all about the history of the Kiln on the walk. Could be some steepish climbs, but not too long. Pace will be leisurely.

Phone Bob Steel on \_\_\_\_\_ anytime or Pam Rosso on \_\_\_\_\_ for more details. We could pick people up at Belgrave if you need a lift.

### Sunday Bus: Ada Tree, Powelltown

**DATE** Sunday 30 November  
**STANDARD** Easy and Easy/Medium  
**LEADER(S)** Vic Dunis and Steve Axford  
**TRANSPORT** Bus – Southbank Blvd – 9 am

Please speak with the leaders in the club about these walks.

# PREVIEWS OF WEEKEND WALKS, ETC. - OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2003

## Canoe: Murray River, Corowa - Bundalong

<b>DATE</b>	Melbourne Cup Weekend: Sat. 1 – Tues. 4 November (three and a half days)
<b>STANDARD</b>	Easy/Medium
<b>DISTANCE</b>	63 km canoeing
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Joy Grinham
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private (distance: 600 km)
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	3.20 pm, Tues. 4 November (Melbourne Cup time)
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	CFA Region 23, Maps 225/226, 1:100,000 "River of Islands" K & L Bentley (charts 13 - 5)

This is a classic canoe trip which continues on from the Howlong to St. Leonards trip taken some years ago. This section of the Murray River passes within reach of a couple of local wineries, so be prepared if you wish to include a walk to either Pfeiffers or Moodemere for a bottle to go with dinner. The upper reaches of this river have been badly affected in the summer bushfires and there is a lot of ash in upper streams and rivers. Water will need to be carried for drinking and food preparation this summer.

Because we will be paddling on the Murray during spring, this trip has been graded Medium. The route will generally be easy to recognise, and there is not expected to be any white water. You will be expected to have good manoeuvring skills to handle your canoe loaded with equipment and supplies for 3 days. This trip is open to those with demonstrated ability, and subject to trip leader's discretion.

This section of the Murray does not allow for speed boats until the waters of Lake Mulwala bank up, which is about 10 km from the end of our journey. The river is full of bends which beckon exploration, and with the extra day available we make decide to spend more time doing this rather than frantic paddling. Names like Bongeroo, The Shanty and Jillamatong mark historic spots along the way. We will make camp in a lagoon on the last night before reaching the ski-boats at Bundalong.

Highlights may include bird identification (there will be ample scope to observe bird life in early morning and evening light so include binoculars and bird guide), dinner in the setting sun riverside, and music by the fire to round off the evening. So bring along your talents to share and make this a memorable time for all. A full list of instruction and information will be sent to those who register for this trip. (Corowa is 280 km from Coburg North. There will be a car shuffle to deliver cars to Bundalong before the canoe trip - 35 km x 2 will take one hour. Travel distance from Bundalong to Melbourne is 267 km back to Coburg.) Please contact me on:

## Base Camp: Native Dog Flat (Cobberas)

<b>DATE</b>	Melbourne Cup Weekend: Fri. 31 Oct. – Tues. 4 Nov.
<b>STANDARD</b>	Various
<b>DISTANCE</b>	Various
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Geoff Mattingley & Bob Steel
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>RETURN TIME</b>	Tuesday Evening
<b>AREA</b>	Melway up to edition 28: 523 C10/D10; edition 29 +: 623 C10/D10
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	NSW 1:50,000 Suggan Buggan 8524-II & III

We were planning to put this base camp on for the third Easter in a row this year, but due to closures of roads and camp grounds in the Alpine National Park following last summer's bushfires, we decided not to go there. At the Walks Secretary's suggestion, we are putting the trip on the program again for Melbourne Cup weekend. So if you can take a day's leave or a rostered day off on the Monday, come and visit this beautiful alpine campsite at 1200m altitude, only 15 km from the source of the Murray River. It has plenty of camping space, fireplaces, running water in the Buchan River, a composting toilet, and great views from the nearby peaks.

There will be walks of various standards, or you can just enjoy the mountain air, perhaps seeing some of the many brumbies which inhabit the area. It's a fair distance to get there, including some gravel roads, but we believe that they are quite OK for ordinary cars. We will check road conditions nearer the time, particularly since it is possible that there may still be snow around after such a good snow season.

We will camp by the cars, so for those who haven't camped before this is a good opportunity to try it without having to carry a heavy pack. As always, the club has tents and other equipment for hire. In previous years at Easter there have been plenty of other people around the area, but we have had the camping area mostly to ourselves. To try and ensure that the same applies this year, at least one of the leaders will arrive at the campsite a day early.

One of the leaders will be in the clubrooms on 22 and 29 October to provide the latest information on road conditions, as well as details of how to get there and what to take.

## **Pack Carry: Cobberas - The Pilot**

<b>DATE</b>	Melbourne Cup Weekend: Fri. 31 Oct. – Tues. 4 Nov.
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>LEADER</b>	Leo Lynch
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private

Please see Leo Lynch in the clubrooms about this pack carry or phone him on

## **Pack Carry: Grampians Victoria Range**

<b>DATE</b>	Melbourne Cup Weekend: Fri. 31 Oct. – Tues. 4 Nov.
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>LEADER</b>	Jopie Bodegraven
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	Southern Grampians 1:50,000

This is a trip for rockhoppers and those who don't mind some scrub and rough country in order to get to see some of the most spectacular country the Grampians have to offer. Having said that, the intention is to keep it down to a Medium standard so the pace will be moderate. Everyone must, however, be comfortable on rough rocky terrain.

Highlights will include: the Fortress, Mt. Thackeray, Red Rock, The Maze, Billywing Gorge and several other rocky features, chasms and good lookouts. Although we will be carrying tents, I hope to only have to use them on one of the three backpacking camps. The first night out will be in a recognised camping cave at the Fortress. The second will be in caves along a creek near Mt. Thackeray, and the third will be tenting it in an unknown spot that looks promising on the map.

Where possible we will do side trips with only a day pack so that we can enjoy the rocky terrain unencumbered. This will include romps around the Fortress and the Maze. Total pack carry distance over 4 days is about 26 km of which 10 is off-track. There will also be about 12 km of probably rocky and, at times, scrubby off-track side trips.

We will camp Friday night at Buandik Camp Ground and should finish by lunchtime on Tuesday with the option after lunch of an early return home or short walks to Cultivation Creek Falls and/or Glenisla Aboriginal Shelter. There will be a limit of 12 on this trip so ring me on to book early.

## **B/Camp: Otway Waterfalls - Barramunga**

<b>DATE</b>	Fri. 14 - Sun. 16 November
<b>STANDARD</b>	Medium
<b>LEADER(S)</b>	Jopie Bodegraven
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	Private
<b>MAP REFERENCE</b>	The Otways & Shipwreck Coast 1:50,000

This weekend has arisen out of last year's Federation Weekend at Lorne. There were a large number of tantalising walks on offer. Due to walks clashing and to some of the better walks being booked out before I could get my name on to the list, I missed out on some of the best waterfall walks. Luckily the organisers produced a lovely little booklet with maps and walk notes for all the walks. This weekend will consist of doing some of the most appetising looking walks out of the booklet.

On Saturday we will do 2 walks. First is the Four Falls Circuit which takes us to 4 waterfalls in the Upper Cumberland River catchment. We will need lunch on this one. Next is the Allambee Beek Falls Circuit, also in the Upper Cumberland area, which takes us to 2 more waterfalls. On Sunday we will visit Stevenson's Falls near camp before driving on to do Wild Dog Falls (taking lunch again). We should have time to walk in to the Upper parts of Sabine Falls as well before heading home after our banquet of wonderful Otways waterfalls. They should all be flowing well at this time of the year.

Camp will be at the Upper Gellibrand Camp Ground near Barramunga. To get there, drive via Winchelsea to Forrest. About 6.4 km further turn right at Barramunga onto the Upper Gellibrand Road. There's probably a sign to Stevenson's Falls. Take the left fork again after 1.3 km. The camp area is 3 or 4 km further.

Being a base camp, bring the usual comforts: chairs, tables, lights, drinks, etc. plus lots of good cheer. Be prepared, however, to get your feet wet and do some serious medium walking, possibly steep and slippery in parts.

## **Cycle Trip: North Geelong - Queenscliff**

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

Please see Stephen Rowlands in the clubrooms about this cycle trip or phone him on

## Pack Carry: Mt. Erica - Mt. Baw Baw

**DATE** Fri. 28 - Sun. 30 November  
**STANDARD** Easy/Medium  
**DISTANCE** 30 km  
**LEADER** Bob Oxlade  
**TRANSPORT** Private  
**RETURN** 7 pm  
**AREA** West Gippsland  
**MAP REFERENCE** VicMaps 1:25,000  
Tyers and Mt. Baw Baw

On Friday night we will do a short walk to camp at Mushroom Rocks. On Saturday we will continue along the Australian Alps Walking Track over Mt. Erica to camp near Mt. St. Phillack. Then, time permitting, a walk to Mt. Baw Baw and return.

On Sunday we return along the A.A.W.T. with a side-trip to Mt. St. Gwinear and also off-track to a secluded snow plain, and through a gully of magnificent Beech trees to return to our cars. This is a unique opportunity to wake up twice out in the bush on an ordinary weekend.

## Wilkinson Lodge: Spring Clean/Work Party

**DATE** Fri. 28 - Sun. 30 November  
**STANDARD** Easy  
**LEADER** David Laing  
**TRANSPORT** Private

Please speak with David Laing in the clubrooms about this weekend or phone him on

## Level 2 First Aid Course

### A Weekend in November

*This first aid course will be run by the Victorian Ambulance Service in Parkville and will be specifically for bushwalkers with provision for coverage of prior nominated topics.*

*Please call **Quentin Tibballs, Training Officer** on if you are interested.*

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## Lost Property

*A grey woolly hat was left on the bus after the "Lost Children's Track" walk on Sunday 7 September.*

*If anyone is missing this hat please see one of the committee members on duty in the clubrooms to get it back.*

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## WALKS STATISTICS

August 2003	Trips	People	Average	Aug. 2002
Sunday Bus	5	141	28	37
Other Day	3	47	16	16
Pack Carry	1	7	7	8
Base Camp	1	18	18	6
Lodge	1	12	12	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>225</b>	-	<b>10 / 205</b>

**GINA HOPKINS**  
**WALKS SECRETARY**

# QUESTIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

This month **Maps Officer, Howard Friend** answers some questions.

**Where were you born?**

Blenheim, Marlborough, New Zealand.

**Do you remember your first significant walk?**

Yes, I hadn't reached the age of five, we had moved to Queenstown and I walked with some friends of my parents to the top of Queenstown Hill.

**Did you continue to walk after that?**

Yes, I've walked a number of the South Island tracks but only in recent years have I belonged to a club.

**Is there a less well known N.Z. national park that you could recommend?**

Nelson Lakes National Park. It is near the top of the South Island and the standard walks are circuits. There are lakes, rivers, beech forests, mountain passes and a large glacial moraine.

**Any differences between walking where you used to live in the North Island and Victoria?**

In Victoria there aren't as many hills and there isn't as much mud.

**When did you join the club?**

In 1998.

**How did you first learn about the club?**

I worked for a guy in Auckland who had walked with the club when he worked in Melbourne.

**Are there any excursions you have particularly enjoyed?**

Mount Bogong in January, the alpine flowers were superb and rock-hopping in the Grampians with Jopie Bodegraven and Jenny Flood.

**What impresses you about the club?**

The amount of time put in by key committee members and walk leaders.

**Anything that you have been involved in recently, that has impressed you?**

I think the tree-planting work that Ray Thomas is doing at Lurg is outstanding.

**Does anything sadden you about the club or bush walking?**

I think it is a great pity that there aren't more younger people bush walking. This seems to be an Australasian trend.

**Is there anything in particular you have gained from the club?**

I've improved my navigation skills and gained an introduction to rogaining. Thanks Gina. I encourage anyone who wishes to improve their navigation skills to try rogaining.

**When did you join the committee?**

In 2002.

**What made you first stand for committee?**

I was visited by the leader of the press gang and she was very persuasive. It's good to put something back.

**What other interests do you have besides bush walking?**

Wine, films, golf (hacker), tennis (tennis equivalent of hacker) and reading.

**Favourite wines?**

Gerwurztraminer, particularly from Alsace, Rutherglen fortifieds. Darryl Weinert put me on to the latter. I think they're Australia's best kept secret.

**Seen any good films this year?**

*The Whale Rider* and *Travelling with Birds*. I've also seen some good re-runs and directors cuts at The Astor.

**What are you reading at present?**

I'm currently undergoing an Australian literary immersion and have two books on the go: *Cooper's Creek* by Alan Moorehead and *They're a Weird Mob* by Nino Culotta.

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## MBW GOOD FOOD GUIDE

### Shamrock Hotel, Kyneton

Bill, Bob and I tried this pub on the way to Roger's Kamarooka pack carry weekend in August. You need to exit the Calder Freeway, however, the pub was warm and inviting and located in the centre of town with easy parking. Meals are priced from \$12 to \$18 and if you are a very hungry omnivore bushwalker with an appetite then try the Mixed Grill. I had the fish of the day and it was superb. Top bottle wine priced at \$4.50 per glass. Recommended.

ROD NOVAK

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# TREE PLANTING

LURG HILLS: 6 - 7 SEPTEMBER 2003

Actually, it's more like plant planting, because we planted much more than just trees. Because the aim is to replace the original ecosystem as much as possible the organisers arrange to plant a wide range of species of shrubs, ground cover, etc. Up to 27 species in all, including some rare ones.

Ten intrepid Melbourne Bushies joined a group of about seventy for another of these very rewarding weekends, just east of Winton, past Benalla. We planted three thousand, five hundred and sixty-four plants over a day and a half in one of the most picturesque spots in the area. The planting site had splendid views across the nearby plains, and with Sunday especially being a lovely sunny day it was worth it for the scenery alone.

Along with the work and the scenery there was great camaraderie with like-minded people, many also from clubs of one sort or another. Then there was the excellent evening meal, put on by a local mother's group, the bush dance for those who had the energy, and the good night's sleep for those who didn't, woken by numerous bird calls from the nearby lake in the morning, and the second ever meeting of the Regent Honeyeater Appreciation Benefit Society (RHABS) at 8am at one of the local bakeries. Not to mention seeing the results of previous years' work on the way to and from the weekend's site.

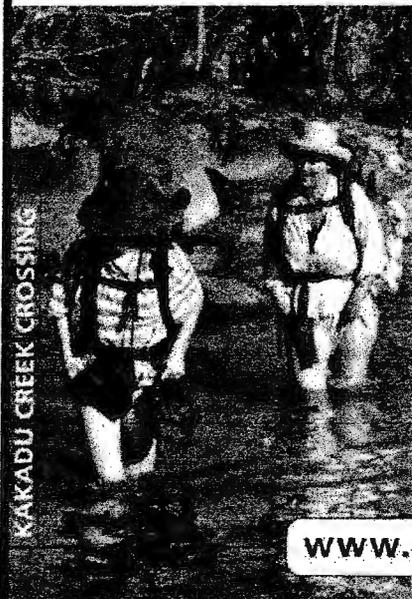
All in all it was a most enjoyable and rewarding weekend. This had been my third weekend and I thoroughly recommend it to those who have not become involved yet. By our reckoning we outdid the earlier group quite easily on a per capita basis, even though their total was higher! Thanks to Gerry, Geoff, Rod, Bob, Dianne, Howard, Doug, Jan and Ray. OK, so Ray was also the overall organiser as well, but we are pleased to have him as a new club member and we'll claim him!

ALAN CLARKE

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

## Minimal Impact

maximum pleasure



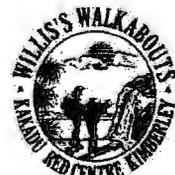
Experience the joy of walking through the northern bush; relaxing in clear, tropical pools; sleeping under the stars; letting yourself unwind as your senses soak up the sights, sounds and scents around you.

Pristine wilderness needs care if it is to survive.

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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

## NEW MEMBERS

MAREE T BAGNARA

CHARLOTTE BRADLY

EVELIINA HUIANEN

NINA SHEDRIN

JULIE TYERS

## ADD TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

JENNY GRICE

BARBARA HORWOOD

CAROLE PATTERSON

DARRELL ROLFE

## ALTERED ADDRESS / PHONE

ANNA ANSON / BARRY I MC ILWAIN

BILL DONALD

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	345
Family Memberships	94 (= 2 x 47)
Total Membership	459
This Time Last Year	437

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

## ACCOUNTS

August 2003	\$
Opening Balance	50,066.11
Income	1,716.00
Expenditure	3,058.35
Closing Balance	48,723.76

**JAN PALICH**  
**TREASURER**

## CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 1 October: D Henry and V Scrivenger\*  
Wednesday 8 October: W Cone and P McGrath  
Wednesday 15 October: T Elmore and H Friend\*  
Wednesday 22 October: M Jagow and P McGrath  
Wednesday 29 October: S Watson and J Coe\*  
Wednesday 5 November: D Henry and D Pocock\*

\*J Palich, Treasurer present

## NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 27 October at 7 pm in the clubrooms

# TRACKS, HUTS AND CONSERVATION

Here are some notes from the VicWalk August 2003 Conservation Committee meeting.

**Alpine National Park** - The VNPA based *Alpine Grazing Committee* held its first meeting held on Thursday 21 August. This group will meet on a fortnightly basis and Bill will attend as the VicWalk representative. The committee's objective is to develop a strong campaign to remove cattle from the Alpine National Park. Bill summarised the first meeting as: VNPA funding for focus group research on 'community attitudes of cattle in the Alpine National Park'; VNPA has nominated scientists to the Victorian Scientific Advisory Body [to provide advice to Parks Victoria], and to the Tri-State Scientific Body [Bill mentioned the Mountain Cattlemen's Association are having difficulty nominating a scientist to represent their position]; Grazing and the 2003 bushfire – prior to the fires the alpine boglands were partially protected from the cattle by surrounding shrubland. Now the boglands are at great risk from trampling/cattle damage as the fire has burnt the protective shrubs. The scientific view is to allow the regeneration of the alpine bogland & heathland/shrubs by keeping the cattle out of the national park at least for this summer and hopefully for several years; Alpine Grazing Committee members [Phil Ingamells, Anne Casey, Heinrich Wahren] are willing to speak at Bushwalking clubnights. Contact Phil Ingamells at the VNPA on \_\_\_\_\_ for bookings.

*Alpine National Park Hut replacement* - VicWalk representatives attended the Parks Victoria Alpine Hut Replacement workshop held at Bright on Wednesday 20 August. Other interest groups attending were the High Country Huts Association, VNPA, Mountain Cattlemen's Association, 4 wheel drive association, North-east Freemasons (community project to help re-build huts, eg. Ropers?) and VicWalk. The PV workshop objective was to gain consensus and make recommendations to the Ministerial Alpine Advisory Committee, who then advise the Minister of Sustainability and Environment.

*Huts with a prior right (eg. mining, cattle leases, other permits) then no objection could be raised but the hut may or may not be re-built by the interested parties.* These huts are:- Mt. Benambra Fire Tower Hut, Bogong Aqueduct Huts (Southern Hydro), West Kiewa Logging camp huts (grazier?), Ropers Hut (the Roper and Madison families use this hut when taking cattle up and down from the alpine area), Burnside Hut (Kelly family), Charlie Creek Hut, MacFarlane Hut, Red Robin Mine Accommodation Hut & Red Robin Spargo Hut.

*The following huts were agreed by workshop participants not to be re-built:* - Batty's Hut (some parties were keen to re-build but VicWalk argument convinced the group not to rebuild this hut (as no refuge value for the remote location), Bon Accord Hut (VicWalk argued for a water tank to be installed at this location but Parks Victoria said No!), Bogong Creek Huts, Honeymoon Hut, Quintet Mines Huts, Red Hut, Spring Saddle Hut, Gibbo River Huts, Carmody Hut, West Humfrey Hut and Sykes Hut.

*The following huts are recommended to be rebuilt:* Federation Hut on Mt. Feathertop (and there was a view expressed by Rangers of possible enlargement and management eg. hut bookings and fees New Zealand style – this may be addressed in the Management Plan review expected in next few years), McNamara's Hut on Bucketty Plain (social value – Mittagundi allowed to replace this hut), and Michell Hut (Mt Bogong) VicWalk argued for the rebuilding for refuge value but the Parks Victoria position is the hut is illegal? (it had no original permission to be built, having been placed by the Bogong Club for Friday night stopovers for Cleve Cole Hut access). A smaller refuge structure may be permitted by Parks Victoria. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Alpine Advisory Committee. Of note, a bushwalker is on this committee representing community recreational interests.

**Bunyip State Park** - Local residents have strong concerns with the excessive trail bike noise and damage. There will be another legal enforcement campaign by Rangers and the Police bike squad. State Parks have the same protection as national parks, however, Bunyip State Park has become a trail bike adventure playground to the detriment of passive recreation users and local residents. All bushwalkers to write a letter to the Minister of Sustainability and Environment on this issue.

Saturday 11 October - Friends of Bunyip State Park are having an official opening of the 'Button Grass Walking Track'. All invited to attend. Meet at 2 pm at the corner of Guide Track and Camp Road. Guided walk with John Reid, botanist.

**East Gippsland** - A Potoroo was found last month (just been officially identified via hair samples) in the upper Bonang catchment area - Survey Road.

*continued over page*

**Grampians** - Camping permit fees (eg. for Troopers Creek, Hollow Mountain, etc.) can now be obtained by telephoning with credit card details.

**Mount Stirling** - Recent developments with a new Chief Executive appointed with a "pro-development" approach. There is a renewed push to shift the visitor centre from Telephone Box Junction to the 'Cricket Pitch' area; a sealed road to the Cricket Pitch; basic facilities, eg. toilets at TBJ and King Saddle; and a combined entrance station at Mirrimbah. The VicWalk position is opposed to development at Cricket Pitch, opposed to the sealed road to the Cricket Pitch (okay to TBJ), for closing the summit road, and against cattle on the summit.

**Aust. Alps Walking Track** - Apparently, a lot of track markers have been damaged/lost with the recent bushfires. There is a new colour (orange) and possibly a re-design of the marker logo. Do we still want the legs logo?

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

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### ALTERATION TO PARTICULARS

Name (new) ..... Name (old) .....

Address ..... Address .....

.....

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

Email .....

**Subscription Fees:**

**Ordinary** – single membership \$45.00                      **Concession** – single membership \$30.00 (proof required)

**Family/Couple** - membership \$70.00                      **Concession** – couple \$38.00 (proof required)

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

**Make cheques or money orders payable to 'Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.' and post to:**

**Membership Secretary, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001**