



JULY, 2000

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As I am off on holidays (yes again) in August/September, David Arnold has very kindly agreed to edit the September edition of *News*.

Please send all walk previews, articles, features, photos, snippets of news, recipes, gossip, complaints, etc. directly to David via

Email:

Leave: in Red Box in Club Rooms

Post:

Phone:

Clare Lonergan

Social Night

Friday 28 July



Folk Club of Victoria

East Brunswick Hotel

280 Lygon Street

7.30pm onwards.

Pub meals available until 8.30pm followed by folk music.

Admission \$5

Call Fiona on



September School Holidays Jaunt

National Parks of the NSW South Coast

Easy/medium and medium moving base camp led by Jopie Bodegraven (Sept 16-29)

On this trip we are going to explore with day walks the lovely national parks on and inland from the NSW South Coast between Nowra and the Victorian border. Camps will, where possible, be in National Park Campgrounds.

Places we will visit include Jervis Bay, Beecroft Peninsula, Pigeon House Mountain. The Castle, Murramarang National Park, Mt Dromedary, Bournda, Mimosa Rocks and Ben Boyd National Parks and possibly Tantawangalar Creek. Because it will coincide with the NSW school holidays (and the Olympics) we will need to book some campsites, so numbers will be limited and I need to know who's coming by the 5 August, preferably much earlier. I will be overseas until 3 August but you can ring Jen on _____ to put your name on the list. The areas are beautiful and with the good weather that I will also book we will have a smashing good 14 days. We will be back in Melbourne on the Friday night so you needn't miss out on whatever weekend activity you may have planned, or you can prepare for school on Monday!

The grading can be flexible but will be mostly easy/medium or medium with some more challenging bits thrown in if we have takers. I'll organise a get together night closer to the trip.

Mt Hotham Ski Lodge Weekend

8-10 September

60th Anniversary Celebrations
Snow Party
Down Hill, Cross Country and
Snow Bunnies.

Trip Leader is
Dianne Mc Kinley.

Bookings to Rod Novak in the
Clubrooms.
\$90 per person – full payment
required when booking in.
Great Weekend – Lots of Fun.
Only 20 places available.

Attention ALL Walkers - Changes to the Winter Walks Program

The Oops department – Sunday 16th July – The leader is Jill Dawson (not Jan Palich as in June News). Apologies.

July

Wednesday Walkers – please note Andrew Bodegraven's correct telephone number is

Pack Carry - 7-9th July Pyrenees Ranges. Please note Deb Henry's new telephone number is

Change of Leader – Sunday Bus trip on the 16th July - Lynda Larkin (replacing Peter Havlicek) is co-leader with Jill Dawson.

August

Change of Leader – Sunday 6th Liz Telford has replaced Jerry Karbownik on the Mt Worth Sunday Bus trip.

Change of Leader – Sunday 20th August David Arnold has replaced Julie Ralph.

Rod Novak
Walks Secretary

The News is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.

Edited by Clare Lonergan.

Articles (max 1000 words), walk reports, poems, snippets of news, 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 articles, letters or other contributions, where space, clarity or propriety dictate, and to maintain editorial consistency.

Please note that articles for The News may be sent to Clare Lonergan by:

- ◆ Placing article in the Red Box in the clubrooms
- ◆ Mailing to:
- ◆ Fax:
- ◆ E-mail:

Advertising Rates (artwork ready)

¼ Page 1 Issue - \$30; 3 Issues - \$80; 12 Issues (1 year) \$300

½ Page 1 Issue - \$50; 3 Issues - \$135; 12 Issues (1 year) \$500

Full Page 1 Issue - \$80; 3 Issues - \$220; 12 Issues (1 year) \$800

Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc.)

Members Ads – FREE

Closing date for receipt of material for *The News* is the last Wednesday in each month.

Meetings are held in the Clubrooms,
MacKenzie Street, Melbourne (rear of the
Royal Horticultural Society Building) on
WEDNESDAY evenings between 7.00pm
and 9.00pm

Visitors are always



Welcome!!!

General correspondence should be directed to:
The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001

Walk's Secretary's Report

All Private Transport Trips: The Committee has increased the car expenses rate to 7cents per km per person. The Spring Walks Program is with this issue of The NEWS.

We are currently working on the first draft of the Summer Walks Program [Dec-Feb] and are seeking Walk Leaders for the Sunday Bus trips.

Sunday Bus Protocol

Please help to keep the Sunday Bus clean: It is important to have a spare pair of clean shoes to wear on the bus after the walk. Also, please assist Bob by keeping the bus clean and tidy. Check for rubbish and all your gear at the end of the trip.

Application for Credit

If you need to cancel your Sunday Bus booking, you must telephone the walk leader (at a reasonable hour!), and apply in writing to the Walks Secretary who will, at his/her discretion, issue a Credit Note.

Track Junctions: It is essential for all walkers to STOP and re-group at each track junction and to wait for the whip before proceeding.

Day Walks for July & August, 2000

Saturday 29 July Easy	Dandenongs Explorer Silvan/Mount Evelyn
----------------------------------	--

Leader	Michael Humphrey
Transport	Private
Area	Silvan/Mount Evelyn
Approximate length of walk	12 kms
Expected time of return	3.30 – 4.00pm
Please call me at home on this walk.	for the details of

Sunday 6 August Easy & E/Medium	Mt. Worth (Warragul)
--	-----------------------------

Leaders	Brian Crouch & Liz Telford
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area	Warragul
Approximate length of walk	13km and 18km
Expected time of return	7.00pm

It has been a few years since I have led this walk and I will do the preview in the next few weeks to refresh my memory.

The Easy/Medium walk is about 13 km. While it is not that difficult there are few short steep ups and downs; and a moderate climb at the end of the walk. The tracks are likely to be wet under foot and it is essential that you bring a raincoat and change of clothes. The area has a high annual rainfall.

While it may be wet, the walk is delightful. There are beautiful fern gullies, creeks, a tiny waterfall and superb stands of mountain ash. Just before lunch we visit the "giant", a huge mountain ash which is over 300 years old and seven metres in circumference. On the way back we walk along an old timber tramline, where we will see evidence of old mill sites and sawdust heaps, set amongst tall tree ferns.

Brian will lead the medium walk and this walk will be approximately 3 – 4 kms longer. Could all walkers be at the bus promptly by 9.00, as we have a fair distance to travel.

Saturday 6 August Easy	Historical Walk – Around South Yarra
-----------------------------------	---

Leader	Lance Mobbs
Transport	Train
Area	South Yarra
Approximate length of walk	7-8 kms
Expected time of return	3pm

I have decided to do one of Athol Schafer's walks again.

It will be around South Yarra so there should be quite a few historical buildings and features of interest. The walk should take about 3 hours.

We will meet at 10 am at Flinders Street Railway Station under the Clocks **OR** at the main entrance to the South Yarra Railway Station on Toorak Road between 10.15 and 10.30am (depending on train timetable from Flinders Street).

I can be contacted by phone _____, by post at _____, or see me in the Club Rooms on Wednesday nights.



Sunday 23 July preview – page 7

Bus fares

The bus fares for the Sunday walks are as follows :
Members \$15.00 Concession \$10 Visitors \$20
 Late fee of \$2.00 (for both members & visitors who attend on Sunday without having booked on the walk).

Sunday 13 August Easy & E/Medium	Conglomerate Creek & Mt Teneriffe
---	--

Leaders	Bill Donald & Lynda Larkin
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Map reference	Riddells Creek 1:25 000
Area	North of Riddells Creek
Approximate length of walk	14 & 17 km
Expected time of return	6.30pm

The walks on offer should interest everyone. The vegetation and landscape changes regularly over the length of the walk. We also travel over a variety of surfaces including track, bush bashing and across some pastoral land. A large number of wallabies were spotted on the preview as were rosellas and other bird life.

Both walks essentially go by the same route. Starting at the Conglomerate Creek Tk heading north before picking up the Lighthill Ridge and heading further north and then northeast back to the bus.

Wednesday 16 August E/Medium	Kinglake – Andrews Hill
---	--------------------------------

Leader	Alister Rowe
Transport	Private
Approximate length of walk	12km
Expected time of return	4.30pm

Meet at 10am at "The Gums" Camping Ground on Eucalyptus Road. This is in the Northern Part of the Kinglake National Park and can be accessed via Kinglake (continue on PAST the Island Crook Picnic Area), or via the Melba Highway – turn left into West Bridge Road.

We will have a gentle climb up Andersons Hill and then walk through variable bushland depending on the altitude. Following recent rain there should be some water in the creeks.

Please ring me on _____ for more details.

Sunday 20 August Easy & E/Medium	Angahook State Park (Anglesea)
---	---

Leaders	Peter Havlicek & David Arnold
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Map reference	Aireys Inlet 1:25 000
Area	Along Great Ocean Road
Approximate length of walk	14+ and 17km (this may change after we preview)
Expected time of return	6.30pm

The walk has not been previewed yet, although I have done the walk previously. Some of the delights of the walk include very pretty Melaleuca forest, wild flowers (even though this is yet early in the season), waterfalls (Currawong Falls) and views over the bush towards the ocean.

Vertical displacement is not overchallenging (maximum elevation ~ 250 m) although enough ups and downs to blunt the pangs of unrequited masochism. We start at Distillery Creek and finish at Moggs Creek.

Saturday 26 August Easy	Dandenongs Explorer
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Leader	Michael Humphrey
Transport	Private
Approximate length of walk	12 kms
Expected time of return	4.00pm
Please call me at home on _____	for the details of this walk.

Sunday 27 August E/Medium & Medium	Hawkes Hill – Mollisons Gorge
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Leaders	Jean Woodger & John Kittson
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area	Pyalong (Northern Highway)
Map reference	Goldie Nth 7823-1-3, Tooborac 7823-1-4 (1:25 000)
Approximate length of walk	16 & 20 kms
Expected time of return	7.00pm

Both walks are across rolling open countryside, with wonderful views from grassy peaks strewn with huge granite boulders. Later, descending to the lower paddocks, we'll cross a couple of small creeks on our way to Mollisons Creek, which we will follow to Mollisons Gorge.

Up above Hawkes Hill, the medium group will spread out to the west and climb a few more hills, adding on about 3 kms. A bit extra at the end of the walk makes up the difference. Whether both groups get to visit Mollisons Gorge will be dependent upon how much water is in the creek at the time, and which paddocks the farmers may need to reserve for lambing ewes.

This is truly picturesque walking, undulating throughout and all on private farmland. We should be able to find some gates, but there will be several fences to be negotiated. The whole area is exposed, and can get quite cold and sometimes foggy in the winter. Be prepared with warm clothing just in case.



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EAST HIMALAYAN JOURNEY (SIKKIM & BHUTAN)

This trip takes you on an easy trek in the hills of Darjeeling, as well as visiting the Tenzing family. Drive to Bhutan for sight seeing in Paro and Thimphu, trek in remote area. 05-29Nov ex Kath \$4500

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This trip follows the Tilman – Shiton route. Drive to Rishikesh, trek over Kuari Pass- for outstanding views of Nanda Devi, onto Trishul bc mystic lake of Roop Kund. 11 May–01 June 01 ex Delh i\$3245 **HIMALAYAN**

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THIS IS JUST AN EXAMPLE OF TRIPS ON OFFER, CALL FOR DETAILS ON OTHER TREKS, TOURS, CLIMBS & RAFTING IN BHUTAN - TIBET - INDIA - NEPAL - TIBET

Darren Miller (also after hours) ph 9395 1210 fax 9395 1216 email parbat@mira.net

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Weekend Walks for August, 2000

4-6 August Medium	Great Divide Trail	11-13 August E/Medium & Medium	Ski & Walk: Rawson Lodge Weekend
Leader	Rod Novak	Leader	Pearson Cresswell
Transport	Private	Transport	Private
Map Reference	VicMap 1:25,000 Daylesford and Eganstown	The Rawson Lodge Weekend this year will cater for both skiers & walkers. Accommodation is at the Rawson village and costs \$33 per head per night (B&B, twin share). We always have a good dinner at the pub. Skiers will head up to Mt St Gwinear while the walkers get lost in the Thomson valley, or wherever suits them!	
Area	Near Daylesford, Central Victoria	Early bookings would be appreciated so that I can let Rawson know how many are coming.	
Expected time of return	9pm Sunday	18-20 August E/Medium	Ski trip – Tawonga Huts
Approximate Distance	40 km	Leader	Gina Hopkins
The Great Dividing Trail is a historic walking trail based in the goldfields and spa country of Central Victoria. The trail links Daylesford to Castlemaine and usually takes 3 days for the 62 kms. However, we will walk the first section of the 'Dry Diggings Track' to Mt Franklin. Lots of history, gold diggings, and open forests. Be prepared for cold and wet weather. See the leader at Clubnight for Information Sheet.		Transport	Private
		Reference Map	Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Series

Starting from Falls Creek, we'll ski with full packs to Pretty Valley dam and then head towards Tawonga Huts and the Niggerheads. Depending on the conditions we'll camp either near the huts where it is sheltered or further up on the ridge. Either way you need to be prepared for snow camping. Then we'll head off towards the Fainters (although we may not actually get there!) having some fun amongst the beautiful snow gums along the way. Expect to be late home Sunday night.

18-20 August E/Medium	Base Camp: Barmah State Forest
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Leader	Rosemary Cotter
Transport	Private
Area	Murray River – NE from Echuca
Map Reference	Barmah State Park and State Forest Map
Expected time of return	7pm

This base camp will be situated close to the magnificent Murray River in the Barmah State Forest (the largest River Red Gum forest in Victoria). On both days we will explore the Park/Forest including walking alongside the Murray. The area is noted for its wildlife including its waterbirds. See the leader in the Clubroom for further

25-27 August E/Medium	Ski Trip: Mt. Buffalo (Porepunkah)
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Leader	Stephen Rowlands
Transport	Private
Map Reference	Mount Buffalo Plateau 1:30 000
Area	Mt Buffalo/Porepunkah
Expected time of return	Sunday evening
Distance	Various

Accommodation over the weekend will be at the Porepunkah Caravan Park where we will hire cabin(s) for the weekend. The cost for accommodation for weekend will depend on the amount of people in each cabin but hopefully it will be between 10 to 20 dollars per night.

For Saturday night's meal we will most likely go the local hotel. The skiing during the day will be around the Mt Buffalo Plateau or Mt Hotham if the snow is not up to scratch at Buffalo. As I have to book the cabins I would like numbers by July 26th.

For more details you can ring me on

25-27 August Medium	Pack Carry: Lighthouse – Wilson's Prom
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Leader	Deb Henry
Transport	Private
Map Reference	1:50 000 Wilsons Prom
Area	Wilson's Prom
Expected time of return	Sunday evening

We will start at Oberon car park and take the traditional route to the lighthouse on Saturday camping at Roaring Meg that night. We should have time to do a side trip down to South Point, the most southerly point of the Australian mainland.

On Sunday we will take the track from Roaring Meg which leads to the lighthouse and then head along the new track to Waterloo Bay. From here we will walk inland and rejoin the track back to the Oberon car park.

If you have not seen the new lighthouse track then this is your opportunity. As usual I hope to slip in a few swims.

EQUIPMENT HIRE

The club has lots of great gear to hire: tents, stoves, sleeping bags, backpacks. Rates are low and you can pre book equipment up two weeks before a trip.

For any enquires contact the Equipment Officer Deb Henry on .

THE PARK RANGER FROM DOWN UNDER

Many members of the club know Ron Riley, the park ranger at Mount Beauty, who has charge of the Bogong section of the Alpine National Park. Many will also be acquainted with the American humourist and travel writer, Bill Bryson.

Highly recommended is his "A Walk in the Woods" - a hilarious account of bushwalking American style (or, at least Des Moines, Iowa style).

He has written on America, Europe and Britain, and an Australian book has long been awaited. This has now appeared ("Down Under", ISBN 0-385-40817-X, \$36-95). Ron and one of our favourite stamping grounds take up no less than three pages, and are highly recognisable to those who know them. He has done himself and the park proud.

Graham Wills-Johnson.

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Sunday 23 July Easy & E/Medium

Mt. Alexander

Leaders Ian McPhee & Rod Novak
Transport Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area Harcourt near Castlemaine
Map reference VicMap: Chewton 1:25 000
Approximate length of walk 14 & 19 kms
Expected time of return 7.00pm

Mount Alexander is an important Regional Park in Central Victoria offering pleasant walking, a koala park, and great views of the surrounding area. Major Mitchell climbed this hill in 1836 and named it after Alexander the Great. Also, the Mt. Alexander Road in Melbourne is the well worn access road to the Bendigo goldfields back in the 1850s. The koala sanctuary - Leanganook - established in 1939 and is named after the local Koori tribe. The Easy/Medium group will enjoy a warm-up by walking along the water channel [adjacent to farmland and lots of majestic Red Gums], before following the footsteps of the Easy group and tackling the ascent of Mt Alexander. The Easy group will commence higher up the mount and will climb up to the Leanganook Koala Park,

then across to Dog Rocks, and the West Ridge Walking Trail to Mt Alexander and the lookouts; then descending down to the Bus at Picnic Gully. Remember to bring your thermos, a change of clothes and shoes for the Bus.

WALKS STATS for May 2000

Ten activities were scheduled for May with 188 Melb Bushies participating in 8 club activities. Two trips were cancelled - one Base Camp (no interest) and the Dandenongs Explorer due to snow/inclement weather. Please help us to keep the Sunday Bus viable - come and join us for a Sunday walk in July and/or August.

May	Trips	Total Walkers	Average	1999
Sunday Bus	4	153	38.25	41
Pack Carry	3	20	6.6	6
Base Camp	Cancelled	-	-	10
Lodge	Nil			
Other Day Wed - 15 Dand- cancelled	1	15	15	13.3
Totals	8	188		268



Conservation Forum



FROM THE CONSERVATION CONVENER

Congratulations to all Bushies on getting 285 hectares at Falls Creek and 13,000 hectares of the Wongungarra Wilderness returned and added, respectively, to the Alpine National Park. A lot of you have put a lot of blood, sweat, and probably tears into these two projects. Thanks to each and everyone.

As per the *NEWS* news flash last month, the bill passed both houses of parliament on Friday 2/6 [certified and given the Royal Assent as act 50/2000 on 14/6]. Whilst this is what was hoped for, it was, well, unexpected. Particularly given the lobbying against the bill that was done by the Mt McKay development's principal proponent, Dr Ron Bassett of BCR Asset Management. It seems that part of the reason for the smooth passage was that Dr Bassett has changed tactics and now believes that the ski lift(s) can be built on that part of Mt McKay which remains in the Falls Creek Resort [the eastern and south-eastern flanks to a point on the summit of Mt McKay are in the Resort, the rest is in the Park]. The lift design would presumably have to be modified, with perhaps a dog-leg, but BCR are proceeding with an amended development proposal.

The future of Mt McKay along with its mountain pygmy possum residents is still far from secured, Dr Bassett is not going to give up on Mt McKay. I think BCR are only using Mt McKay as a lure, a sales pitch, the true agenda is elsewhere. Even allowing for exaggeration, of the \$100million and 1000 jobs that the development of Mt McKay is claimed to be worth to the local economy, only \$12million is for the ski development itself. The balance, to make up \$100million, is \$40million of "further investment" and then geared by a 2:1 "multiplier effect". [For more info see the Vic. Parliamentary *Hansard*, eg, page 2109 1/6/00 – Plowman, Liberal Party MLA for Benambra. The \$/jobs figures quoted are Mr Plowman's figures and were most likely supplied by BCR.] The agenda is with the \$40million "further investment" and the multiplier effect. The only saving grace, this time, is that BCR will have to go through a full Environmental Effects Statement process for their proposals – there will be no short cuts.

In the meantime, this winter, skiers are being encouraged to ski Mt McKay via "kat" skiing. The scheme is that skiers will ski down Mt McKay, be picked up by an oversnow vehicle (a "kat") and returned to the top to do it all again. It is being advertised as the most exciting skiing that can be done at Falls Creek, with glossy brochures and glossy photos to prove it. There is even a short feature on kat skiing in the July edition of the RACV's magazine, *Royal Auto*.

As I understand it, oversnow vehicles are supposed to be restricted to certain areas within the resort. Around Mt McKay this means that they have to stay on the formed

roads and can't enter the Alpine National Park. It is therefore difficult to see how skiers could experience the full "excitement" of skiing Mt McKay and then be picked up by a vehicle which remains on the roads. There are no roads on the SE side of Mt McKay below the level of the road out to Pretty Valley Pondage. The Victorian National Parks Association are interested in monitoring all oversnow vehicle activity near Mt McKay, particularly that of the large "kats". I've volunteered to coordinate this on behalf of The Bushies.

The details of interest are: date/time, weather, vehicle type ("kat", skidoo, etc), skiers route, number of skiers seen, number of skiers per vehicle, where they were dropped off, where they were picked up and particularly importantly, the route taken by the vehicle. If possible, vehicle registration numbers would be very useful.

For those of you who might happen to be visiting the High Plains or in "Wilky" this winter, the trip toward Mt McKay from "Wilky" via the Rocky Knobs is some of the best skiing that can be had on the High Plains. So make a pleasant day of it, enjoy the Rocky Knobs and "Rocky Knolls" which have been saved from lifts, and help keep an eye on who's doing what, when, and how on Mt McKay at the same time.

I can be contacted on _____ or via
e-mail at _____

Graeme Thornton

FROM THE WALK SECRETARY

Congratulations to all – for the successful return of 285 hectares of prime Mountain Pygmy Possum -*Burramys* - habitat [the environs of Mt McKay] back into the Alpine National Park. Your letter writing and lobbying of local polities is very much appreciated.

Donation - Each year the Committee donates the Bank Account interest to a current conservation theme/agency which meets our bushwalking aims. At the June Meeting, the Committee agreed to direct \$1500 to the Victorian National Parks Association, specifically to their Alpine program.

State Forests – The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs have commenced a survey of walking tracks/routes in State Forests. This will help the Federation to protect a very important community recreation asset, as past land management reviews (eg RFAs) have ignored walking tracks.

Please note: Walking tracks in National Parks, State Parks and Regional Parks (managed by Parks Victoria) are not needed for this survey. For this project we are only interested in State Forests (managed by DNRE) with the aim to minimise impacts on walking tracks/routes by logging, trail bikes and other detriments.

We need your help in identifying walking tracks in State Forests. Please see/ring Rod Novak if you can help.

Hindmarsh BioLink – The annual community planting weekend on 19– 20th August will be based at Kaniva this year. The project aims to relink the Big and Little Deserts with vegetation corridors. 100 volunteers from Melbourne are required to assist the local volunteers. There is free camping on site – but you need to register before 14th July. For more information contact the west Wimmera Shire Offices on 5392 7700.

A “Great South West National Park” vision – Environment Victoria and the VNPA are campaigning for the important Cobboboonee forests to be added to the Lower Glenelg park system.

Rod Novak

VICWALK NEWS JULY 2000 SUMMARY

The September Council meeting will be held on Saturday 2 September in Warrnambool. Further details will be forwarded later.

The National Parks Amendment Bill passed through Parliament on 2 June returning the excised land to the Alpine National Park, adding area from the Wongungarra valley to the Alpine National Park, adding land to the Organ Pipe and Yarra Ranges NP, Kamarooka SP and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Parks.

Vicwalk is examining club’s emergency contact systems (leaving details of a trip with a contact in case of delay or disaster). Please provide written comments to Claire Garrett c/o the Vicwalk office (332 Banyule Rd Viewbank 3084) or by email to c.garrett@obgyn-rwh.unimelb.edu.au.

There have been a number of searches lately. On 30 April and 1 May several BS&R members from the Birkebeiners and Wangarratta Outdoor Clubs took part in a search for a man lost in the area of the Fainters. The man was found on Monday. Melbourne based BS&R members were called out on 30 April for a man missing in the Federation Hut area. The search was called off when the man was found. On 29 May Birkebeiners were again called out for a man who hadn’t returned from a walk on Mt Bogong. The man was located and rescued by helicopter.

The conservation committee has formed a sub-committee to deal with walking tracks and routes in State Forests. They want clubs to forward information about what you consider important, popular walking tracks and routes in State Forest. That can include vehicle tracks, possibly unused or overgrown.


Jim Harker
Secretary

VALE

It is with sorrow that we hear of the death of Grant Mattingley. The Club offers Geoff, Rod and Stuart and their families its sincere condolences on their loss.

New members:

ADRIAN BOLZAN
CELESTA FONG
ROSS G JACKSON
QUENTIN TIBBALLS
MARVENA Y VAN KANN
ROGER K WYETT



Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	284
Family memberships	90 (= 2x 45)
Total membership	395

Treasurer: Accounts for May 2000	
Opening Balance	\$52,605.25
Receipts	\$9,943.00
Payments	\$6,001.52
Closing Balance	\$56,546.73



Duty Roster

12 July	Rod & Alan Ide
19 July*	Trish & Doug
26 July*	Clare & Alan Miller
2 August	Pearson & Deb
9 August*	Peter & Brian

**Date of next committee meeting:
Monday 7 August, 2000 at 7PM**

Roamers'



In the Pink: Pearson's Birthday Weekend 2000

Cast: Brian, David, Max (leader), Paul, Pearson

The purpose of this trip was to celebrate Pearson's birthday, and the Queen graciously allowed us a long weekend to celebrate this significant event. God save the Queen!

We'd heard rumours of snow in alpine parts, so we headed somewhere where we could be pretty sure of an absence of snow. Our destination was Pink Lakes in the Murray-Sunset national park, about 50 km west of Ouyen, right up in the north-west of Victoria. The walk was to be a hybrid base-camp/pack-carry walk, camping at Lake Crosbie on Friday and Saturday nights, then exploring the new sunset remote walking track on Sunday and Monday. The Saturday base camp also offered some important benefits:

- we could bring lots of goodies to celebrate the presidential birthday on Saturday
- we could have a campfire on Saturday night - open fires are not allowed on the sunset remote track, but are OK at Lake Crosbie (Sign: "Conserve firewood - share a fire - make friends")
- we would then have plenty of time to explore the Pink Lakes on Saturday

That was the plan, and we stuck to it. Our select group set off from Melbourne about midday on Friday, in 2 Subaru's, one travelling via the Calder highway, and the other via the Sunraysia, meeting at the Ouyen pub for food, then travelling in convoy to Lake Crosbie, arriving by 9 pm. We found a good site on the southern shore of Lake Crosbie, and it was surprisingly warm as we set up camp in the soft glow of the moonlight.

Saturday was our Pink Lakes day. The Pink Lakes, Lakes Crosbie, Kenyon, Becking and Hardie, are salt lakes, 800 times more saline than sea water, which support no life except for one type of alga, which secretes the red pigment beta-carotene which in turn gives the lakes their pinkish colour. The lake water evaporates in the summer leaving only the salt beds, which for many years were harvested commercially. There are many remnants of the salt harvesting still to be seen - salt stockpiles turned almost to rock, wooden causeways embedded in the sand leading into the lakes, the remains of an old tramway, various bits of old rusting machinery, oil drums etc.

Our exploration of the lakes started on Saturday morning, following the nature trail which wends its way around the edge of Lakes Crosbie and Kenyon. The lakes were magnificent - very still and with superb reflections of the surrounding sand hills, and of the sky and clouds, but with a pink tinge for added effect. The cloudy day added to the beauty of the reflections. Our walk was a very leisurely one of perhaps 6 km, with lots of time spent

exploring the remains of the salt harvesting, and we were back at camp for lunch. Saturday afternoon, I must confess, was even lazier - we drove! Up to Lake Becking to explore the

remains of the old tram line (an unmitigated disaster as it operated for less than 2 years), and also to reconnoitre the sandy 4WD tracks leading to the start and finish of our subsequent days pack-carry.

Now the birthday celebration. We began with a blazing campfire. Max brought lots of pine off-cuts, and the rangers kindly delivered a load of mallee roots which we immediately raided. The combination was excellent. Then it was champagne, nibbles, pate, and several bottles of red wine with our meal. The high point of the night was the birthday cake (Molly O'Rourke's Guinness Stout cake) complete with candles.

Sunday morning, no hangovers, and magnificent sunshine! The sunset remote walking track is a 55 km 3-day circuit, and we planned to complete about 30 km of this, basically the eastern part of the loop. Reaching our starting point required a 30 minute drive, which was followed by a 45 minute car shuffle to leave one car at our Monday destination, Mt. Crozier. We were walking by 10:30. The track generally meanders through the mallee, is sandy underfoot, and is very gently undulating. Our minimum elevation on the walk was about 40 m, and the maximum 111 m, no drama here! The bushland is relatively uniform, the variety being in moving from the scrub, into open clearings, into areas of regrowth from fire damage, and with occasional distant views over the trees. There is nothing scenically spectacular here - the beauty is in the detail. Kangaroos abound, as do feral goats. A number of emu tracks were evident on the path, but the emus remained unseen. Everything was very green and beautiful after the recent rains, and there were birds and the sound of birdsong everywhere. My bird-ignorance means that I can't report in any sort of precise detail, except that there were a pair of Major Mitchell cockatoos, numerous parrots, the usual galahs, and lots of little birds. Pearson in his wanderings saw a tree groaning under the weight of the number of pardalotes in it. Next time I must bring some binoculars so that I can see some of these birds, instead of just hearing them! Now that I've mentioned the sounds - there was one extraordinary bird that we heard just a few minutes after starting out. It was not melodic, Max described it as sounding like a scissor grinder, very strange, very exotic.

That was pretty much the story for both Sunday and Monday. The walk was very pleasant, sunny by day, but quite cold and frosty on Sunday night. Water was available from tanks, which were full, but the taps had been adjusted to provide minimal flow to conserve water, so filling water bottles was excruciatingly slow. The only people that we met on the walk were a large group from VMTC, including the person who designed the Melbourne Bushies logo. Somewhat ironically, we met them at the furthestmost point of our remote walk.

Now for a word from our sponsors: Gourmet Paul recommends Aunty Betty's self-saucing steamed puddings as the perfect dessert on a remote walk. And

Brian does not recommend dried fish under any circumstance.

The return trip had both cars follow the same route, with dinner in the Avoca pub (the one on the east side of the road – we tried the opposite one first, but it was completely deserted, no patrons, no staff, but open nevertheless.) Thanks to Max for leading an excellent winter walk.

David Everitt

Brisbane Ranges

9 - 11 June

Queens Birthday long weekend and the Brisbane Ranges await. Arrive at Steiglitz early on Saturday morning for a car shuffle to the start of our walk. The signs were not good, the drive up gave the windscreen wipers a fair work out, the sky was black and the wind had a chill about it. Also in the back of our minds was the weather from the two previous weekends that were arctic like.

Crammed into two cars and off we set to the start of the walk at Boar Gully the skies opened up as they became darker. The weather seemed to ease as we got kitted up for the walk; two hardy souls even dared the elements by not putting on jackets. The sky kept threatening to open up but we managed to keep just ahead of the rain as we headed for our first campsite.

A late start meant that the day's walk was going to be fairly short, even allowing for a side trip at morning teatime. Made camp at around 1.30 and decided to have a wander without our packs. Arriving back we set off looking for firewood. Cameron & Deb set about starting the fire and then handed over responsibility to Roger who managed to keep the fire going for the rest of the night providing the group with a welcome source of heat.

Rod had organised for everyone in the group to supply either an entree or a dessert to share amongst the group. We were very fortunate to have Samantha amongst us as she managed to produce the culinary highlight of the weekend, toasted focaccias for our first entree. We also had a dip and tinned oysters on offer. Bob & Rod provided some red grape juice as we enjoyed the fire while eating our mains. Dessert had us scoffing chocolate Tim Tams washed down with Roger's 12-year-old port. The night was fairly mild, the only distractions being a couple of passing showers and a screeching koala.

Day two and we were off in overcast conditions at 9:00 o'clock to the Old Mill campsite with a possible side trip on the way. Today we were on koala watch, Bob's keen eyes spotted a few along the way. With a number of wallabies and a host of bird varieties seen the walking was great. Had a side trip before lunch along the Anakie Gorge.

Made camp at the Old Mill site late in the afternoon after a long but not terribly strenuous day. At around 8:00 o'clock that evening Bob again spotted a koala high in the tree we had all been sitting under, mind you we had already been there for 4 hours before it was spotted. Again Cameron started the fire with Roger taking over to ensure that it lasted the night.

Tonight's entrees were more smoked oysters and cashew nuts. Rod & Bob again supplied the red grape juice for the mains. Tonight's dessert was chocolate teddy bears washed down with some more port. Cameron put the sealer on the evenings dining with some after dinner mints. A clear sky saw most of the group linger a bit longer in front of the fire before retiring. The night was cold but we awoke to the sun edging its way through the trees and fog with not a cloud in sight.

Day 3 and again the walking was great with more wallabies, koalas and rosellas on offer. Had lunch in Dead Mans Gully on the banks of the Sutherland Creek before walking the last kilometre and a half back to Steiglitz.

A great crew to walk with, and a great walk with many thanks to Rod for leading us, also thanks to the rest of the group Deb, Samantha, Cameron, Bob & Roger for the company.

Bill Donald

Snowy Bluff

Labour Day Weekend

After a mix up with Friday nights camp spot and Saturday mornings meeting spot, we were on our way to the start of the walk at Horse Yard Flat where we weighed in packs with the use of Jopie's scales. Our packs ranged from just over 10kg to over 17kg. From Horse Yard Flat we followed the walking track down stream along the Moroka river to a large water fall with a great looking swimming hole at its base which looked very inviting. After about 10 minutes and no swim we were off again heading towards the gorge, but stopping just short of it at the junction of Kent creek and the Moroka river, where we then left the river and climbed up to the road just below Mount Kent.

The weather all weekend was very warm and muggy with lots of cloud cover and very little breeze, which was making me sweat from head to toe. At this stage of the walk I wished I was carrying the 10kg pack instead of the 17kg pack. By the time I made it up to the road everybody else was having lunch, so it was time for a well earned rest. After lunch we followed the road around for a couple of kilometers to Shanty Hollow where we set up our first campsite. After setting up camp Gina informed us of a side trip to the summit of Mount Kent that we all could do. At first I didn't really want to go but she said it would only take half an hour, so off we climbed. But after 45 minutes we were no where near the top so I decided this was too much for me as this was the first time in 12 months that I had carried a pack. I headed back to camp got changed and lit the fire and waited for the others to return some time later.

The next morning started with another up hill slog to the summit of Mount Dawson where we found a stone wave shaped ridge. After some debate about the summit we followed Dawson ridge around, walking along a cleared fire break. Just after lunch we reached Snowy Bluff where we visited the summit but because of the low cloud cover we couldn't really see much. Camp that night

was going to be at a water falls a couple of kilometers south down hill, but when we arrived there, there was no water flowing over the falls so Gina decided to move the camp down to the banks of the Moroka river which was about two kilometers away. All of us were looking forward to a nice swim at a sandy beach. On arrival at the river the campsite was not up to scratch so we moved on up stream following the road while looking for that perfect camp site with a sandy beach, deep swimming hole and flat grassy area to pitch the tents. After a kilometer or so we couldn't find anything suitable, and we had arrived at Higgins Yard which was our last place

A Wednesday Walker's Whale of a Tale **21st June, (Winter Solstice) Peninsula Coastal Walk, Sorrento.**

Like most bushies, we Wednesday walkers enjoy a bit of variety and, along with great company, this walk certainly had that — an area rich in historical heritage, seascapes of beaches and headlands, ancient weathered rock-stacks, pounding ocean waves, near-shore reefs, jagged cliffs set against the sky and sea, an endless procession of sand dunes covered with thickets of Coast Tea-tree, Marram grass and Beard-heath; and the ever-encroaching presence of human habitation. I, for one, enjoyed the day.

The weather forecast for Melbourne that morning had mentioned the likelihood of hail and thunder, but, despite the early strong winds, ominous skies and lunchtime shower, it turned out to be a great day for beach-walking. Starting from Sorrento Ocean Beach, our group of thirteen set off along the historic Coppins Track (formerly the Life Saving Track) towards picturesque Diamond Bay, and then up to St Pauls Lookout with its 360 degree views taking in Point Nepean, much of Port Phillip Bay, Arthur's Seat and Cape Schanck. Rejoining the main trail, we pressed on past Koonya Beach to our brief lunch stop on a tiny sheltered beach below the aptly-named Spray Point. Then onwards once again to our destination of Bridgewater Bay. With the tide almost in, the beach was under a metre of water, as was the rock-pool at the eastern end, a popular swimming spot during summer. From the nearby headland we had stunning views of more bays and beaches stretching all the way to distant Cape Schanck, its lighthouse and prominent cliffs illuminated by the mid afternoon sun. As the breeze was light and blowing off-shore, the waves below us sent up only minimal spray. I recommend another visit to this exquisite bay at low tide and with a stronger southerly wind to see the full fury of the sea.

On the return, we left the main track and clambered around the exposed cliff-tops of Koreen Point, and then through the sand dunes above Fowlers and Montiford Beach. Tracks here were not well defined and often led off in odd directions or petered out altogether. It was with some sense of relief that we eventually made our way back onto the old Life Saving Track.. We are told this meandering track, which is intersected by a couple of dozen beach-access paths, was constructed in the 1890s after 2 disastrous shipwrecks in these waters. The once-

on the river before our climb out along the McMillans track. We set up camp and all enjoyed a wash in the river.

We started walking on Monday morning around about 8am following McMillans track up the side of Playboy Creek. The track was at first fairly easy to follow but recent bush fires made the track hard to find in places, we made it up to the cars in time for lunch. The three drivers went and retrieved the cars while the rest of us laid around having an extra long lunch. The cars arrived about 2pm which finished off another weekend of walking.

Thank you Gina for a wonderful weekend.

paved track provided access for a team with rescue rocket and line to assist foundering ships, of which there were many.

Our last point of interest (or so we thought), required taking a detour to an imposing headland known as The Dogs Head. Again, more spectacular vistas along the coast to east and west, and behind the sand dunes, a number of aboriginal shell-middens and the calcified remains of ancient tree-stumps with roots preserved in limestone.

Back at Sorrento ocean beach, relaxing and sipping cappuccinos and cups of tea at the cafe overlooking the ocean, we became aware of a sudden ripple of excitement from a group of locals sitting at a table on the other side of the room. They were pointing excitedly at something that had caught their attention out in the murky waters of Bass Strait. We looked through the huge glass window and, there they were, several hundred metres off the beach — two Southern Right Whales slowly making their way eastwards and close enough for us to see them spouting their distinctive V-shaped 'blows' and breaching the surface with those magnificent shiny black tail flukes and flippers clearly visible. Needless to say, for a full ten minutes or more, we watched this spectacle as if mesmerised. The cafe proprietor told us that this was the first sighting here for this season. Still considered rare, Southern Right Whales arrive in Australia's southern waters during the winter months to calf. In the early Spring, mother and her rapidly-growing calf return to the plankton-rich sub-Antarctic waters to feed on krill (a small crustacean).

All in all, it was a most enjoyable and memorable day. The walkers who took part were: Barbara (walk leader), Lindy, Keith, Sandra, Doug, Roger, Teresa, Max, Jean, Margo, Alister, George, and Margaret.

'The Mallee in Winter' - or 'How Pink Were My Lakes'

President's Birthday Weekend 2000

Five intrepid walkers (they always are, aren't they?) left Melbourne about lunchtime on Friday for the long haul out to the north-west. We gathered at the Ouyen pub for dinner and then made the last stage to camp at Lake Crosbie.



Saturday was overcast and cold. We spent the morning following the walking track which winds around the various lakes, including relics of the old salt workings. The Pink Lakes are pink because they are filled during winter with very salty ground water. The only thing that can live in them is a pink alga (*Dunaliella salina*). During the summer they dry out, forming layers of salt which were harvested for many years.

The mallee is a harsh place, but in the cool of winter, after a good fall of rain it had a pleasant green veneer. Deceptive though, as those green plains turned out to be saltbush - there is scarcely any grass to be found.

Our plan for the following two days was to explore the 'Sunset Remote Walking Track', a 3-day 50km circuit through the park. Having only two days, we wanted to organise a car-shuffle and set off up the Mt Crozier track in the afternoon to investigate. The track was sandy with deep ruts. Your correspondent, being new to his Subaru and uncertain of its capabilities, was daunted by the prospect: 'On, on!' said Max, who knows about these things. On we went and thrashed our way north to duly find the walking track.

Back at the camp the evening was chilly but a good pile of mallee roots, thoughtfully provided by the rangers, kept us warm. It was time to celebrate the President's Birthday. And no, that's not a Republican gesture - it was THIS president's birthday, and he wasn't about to let them forget it! Max's champagne was followed by a suitable number of bottles of red - just to

keep the chill off.

On Sunday morning we set up the car-shuffle and shouldered packs. 'What do you reckon?' said Max, heading west. 'We reckon it's the other way' said the rest of the party - and headed east. And a very pleasant walk it was. Mountains out there are civilised - there's nothing higher than about 100m. The track wound through the mallee, over dune and plain. There was abundant wildlife: kangaroos and feral goats. A pair of Major Mitchell Cockatoos, Ringnecks, Blue Bonnets and the Restless Flycatcher in 'scissor-grinder' mode. The Crested Bellbird had us scratching our heads, but the Splendid Wren was simply that.

That evening we filled our water bottles from one of the tanks provided for walkers and settled down in the scrub. As the sun went down, the temperature seemed to go with it. Fires aren't allowed out there, but it's amazing how warm you can get just thinking about it. We awoke to find the tents and my bivvy-bag covered in frost. But it was another beautiful day as we made our way to Mt Crozier and the car. Then home, with a break for dinner and a beer or two at Avoca.

Thanks Max for a great weekend. It's a long way, but well worth it to explore some interesting country which is easily ignored.

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JULY

Wed 19	<i>Wednesday Walkers: Werribee Gorge</i>	Private	E/M	Andrew Bodegraven	
21-23	Ski Trip: Intro to Snow Camping	Private	E/M	Ken Mac Mahon	
23 Sun	Mt ALEXANDER (Harcourt)	BUS	E & E/M	Ian McPhee & Rod Novak	#
28-30	Base Camp: Tidal River	Private	Easy	Liz Telford	
Sat 29	<i>Ski Trip: Advanced Beginners</i>	Private	E/M	Alan Ide	
Sat 29	<i>Dandenongs Explorer</i>	Private	Easy	Michael Humphrey	
30 Sun	TARILTA CREEK (Daylesford)	BUS	E & E/M	Alan Miller & Trevor Thomson	#

AUGUST

4-6	Pack Carry: Great Divide Trail	Private	E/M	Rod Novak	
6 Sun	Mt WORTH (Warragul)	BUS	E & E/M	Brian Crouch & Liz Telford	#
11-13	Ski & Walk: Rawson Lodge Weekend	Private	E/M & M	Pearson Cresswell	
13 Sun	CONGLOMERATE CREEK	BUS	E & E/M	Bill Donald & Lynda Larkin	#
Wed 16	Wednesday Walkers: Kinglake - Andrew Hill	Private	E/M	Alister Rowe	
18-20	Base Camp: Barmah State Forest	Private	E/M	Rosemary Cotter	

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