



A0000133X

JUNE, 2000



STOP PRESS!!! A Major Win....

As of 3.30pm on Friday 2nd June 2000 the National Parks (Amendment) Bill was passed through both Houses of Parliament. The Bill will:

-  Return the 285 hectares of alpine land excised in 1997 back to the Alpine National Park
-  Add close to 13,000 hectares of the Wongungarra Valley to the Alpine National Park
-  Add over 100 hectares of former freehold land to Organ Pipes and Yarra Ranges National Park, Kamarooka State Park and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park; and,
-  Empower the National Parks Advisory Council to advise on proposed park excisions.

Graeme Thornton

Congratulations

must go to a well known Melbourne Bushie –

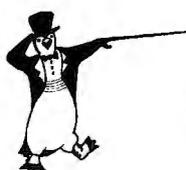
Bill Metzenth.

Bill has made a huge contribution to the Federation of Victorian Bushwalking clubs, especially over the past three years serving on the VicWalk Executive as Secretary to the Federation; and his personal contribution to the numerous sub-committees, e. g. Conservation and Tracks and Huts. Bill has now been promoted (read voted in) to the position of President of the Federation.

On behalf of all Melbourne Bushwalkers, I would like to thank Bill (and Marilyn) for his boundless energy and enthusiasm for promoting bushwalking in Victoria.

Three cheers for Bill!!!

Rod Novak



Mt Hotham Ski Lodge Weekend

8-10 September

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

Bookings to Rod Novak in the Club Rooms. \$90 per person – full payment required when booking in. Only 20 places available. Trip Leader is Dianne McKinley

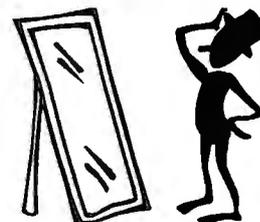
Great Weekend - Lots of Fun!!

Mission Impossible II

Starring *Tom Cruise*
Friday 23 June

Put your glad rags on and join Marisa and friends at the Jam Factory Cinema, Chapel Street, South Yarra for a fun night at the movies and a bite to eat or coffee afterwards. Ticket cost around \$9 to \$10. Exact time of show to be confirmed.

Please see Marisa in Club Rooms for further information, or phone



From the President

Last month I represented the Club at the 'First Australian Tracks & Trails Conference' held at Merrijig. About 130 delegates attended, the bulk being representatives of state government, local government, park managers (Parks Vic and interstate equivalents) and various interests in the tourist industry. To my knowledge, I was the only one there specifically representing walkers. I gave a presentation outlining some of 'our' views on tracks.

Clearly the interest at the conference was all on track establishment, management and marketing. Not much about the users. Major themes seemed to be:

- Rail Trails: the practice of turning old railway lines into foot, bike or horse tracks.
- Bike tracks
- Farm trails: an interesting initiative in NZ, where poverty stricken farmers are developing walking tracks across their lands, charging fees for entry and accommodation.
- Long distance tracks

From our point of view, the latter was the interesting and potentially most contentious issue. There was much talk of the so-called 'icon' tracks, such as NZ's Milford Track, the ones that everyone has heard of and many make a special journey to see. State Governments and tourist operators want a slice of this action and are trying to work out how to 'create' suitable tracks, together with the associated tourist infrastructure.

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.

This will be something to keep an eye on. We want to see any developments done sensitively, appropriately and with the needs of walkers in mind. My message to the conference was that we don't ask for too much - just a **GOOD WALK!**

Pearson

Attention ALL Walkers - Changes to the Winter Walks Program

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

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

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

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

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

**5 Day
Sand Island
Wilderness
Safari**

Fraser Island

Depart Brisbane



The most extensive hiking and walking tour of world Heritage listed Fraser Island. Two great National Park campsites. Experienced Eco-guide/driver and first class equipment. Delicious meals (including wine) and secure outdoor living with comfortable 4WD transport. We'll look after you!

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And more - from the campsite depart magical walking and hiking trails to the moss garden, hell hole gorge, the amphitheatre, cathedral cave, aboriginal rock art, and on and on..... For the best walking in Outback.

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For registration or a brochure please contact Terry Howard

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Day Walks for June & July, 2000

**Sunday 18 June
Easy & E/Medium**

**Bunyip State Forest (East
of Gembrook)**

Leaders	Jan Palich & Alan Miller
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area	East of Gembrook
Map reference	Gembrook South 1:25 000
Approximate length of walk	14km and 17 km
Expected time of return	6.30pm

Both walks are from Mortimer Reserve to Dyers Creek Picnic Ground. This involves a climb of about 260m to cross the Black Snake Range. When we previewed this walk we were surprised to see quite a variety of wild flowers, which is unusual in late autumn. As well as grevillea, banksia and epacris, there was a lot of Spyridium parvifolium (otherwise known as Dusty Miller). At first glance it looks as if this has a large number of small white flowers, but when you look closer you find that the leaves are a dusty white colour; the flowers are inconspicuous and don't appear until August.

Unfortunately, we will probably have the company of some bikies on our walks. In places, they have churned up the tracks quite badly. Your boots will be several kilograms heavier at the end of the walk so please bring along a change of footwear, and don't carry the mud back onto the bus.



**Saturday 24 June
Easy**

**Dandenongs Explorer
The Basin - Doongalla
Forest**

Leader	Michael Humphrey
Transport	Private
Map reference	Melways Maps 65 and 66
Approximate length of walk	12 kms
Expected time of return	4pm

We will meet at Wicks Reserve (Melway map 65 J 7) at 10.45 am where we make our way to the Doongall Homestead site for lunch. After lunch we encounter a

climb and then a leisurely walk through the lower reaches of the Doongall Forest.

If you are coming by public transport please ring me at home on () and I will pick you up at Boronia Station – train arrives at 10.24 am.



SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!

Sunday 25 June Easy & E/Medium	Woodlands Park – Gellibrand Hill
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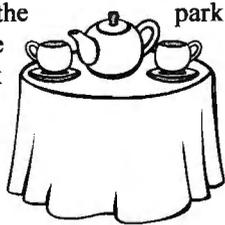
Leaders	Jean Woodger and John Kittson
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Map reference	Woodlands/Gellibrand Hills Park leaflet
Area	Tullamarine/Greenvale
Approximate length of walk	8km and 12km
Expected time of return	6.00pm

Thank you to Clare (Editor) for a well informed preview of this walk in the last News. I have now had a chance to find out more about the area.

Do come and enjoy a surprisingly rural walk through River Red Gum - Grey Box woodland, see billabongs and water birds, ruins of homesteads of early settlers, and the preserved homestead of Woodlands. Kangaroos and rabbits a-plenty, sometimes a hare, occasionally wedge-tailed eagles, and rarely - an eastern barred bandicoot.

Aborigines occupied this land before Europeans arrived in the mid 1830s. Throughout the park are many scarred trees, evidence of the Woiworung people, who used the bark for making shields, containers and shelters.

Devonshire Teas are served on the last Sunday of every month at Woodlands. And what is the 25th of June? Bring along about \$4 if you are interested, and let us know at time of booking so we can get an idea of



Saturday 1st July Easy	Training Day
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Leader	Brian Crouch
Transport	Private
Approximate length of walk	15km
Expected time of return	6pm

Being in the middle of winter I plan to conduct the next training day at a location within easy reach of Melbourne.

Activities will include advanced navigation, first aid and leadership skills development. There will be

opportunity to share your knowledge with other leaders and potential leaders.

Lunch will be provided by the club and the day is open to all members, even if you have no intention of leading walks you will benefit from being involved.

We will hold a training night in the big hall on Wednesday 28 June at 7pm which will involve discussion on issues listed for Saturday. This will include a “mystery meal” for those attending training.

NB Saturday October 6th will be the next training day which will include basic navigation training. Contact Brian Crouch .

Please make an effort to come to one or both of these events which are part of our ongoing training program.

Sunday 2 July E/Medium & Medium	Mt Beggary – Mt Jerusalem (Kinglake)
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Leaders	David Arnold & Tracey Jamieson
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area	Kinglake NP
Map reference	Kinglake NP 1:25 000
Approximate length of walk	14km and 17 km
Expected time of return	7.00pm

Banksias, grass trees, and lyre birds abound in this section of the National Park which stretches from Kinglake almost down to Yarra Glen. Both walks start and finish at the Steels Creek picnic ground (elev. 150m). The circuit takes in Mt Jerusalem (440m), Cookson Hill (500m), Mt Beggary (490m), and Mt Everard (470m). The Medium walk will travel in the opposite direction to the E/M and will take in an additional side trip along a narrow foot track to the Jehosaphat Gully picnic area. Despite the number of mountains and hills, there is nothing very steep or unpleasant - just the classic undulations as we follow the ridges and spurs. As we head towards winter, remember to bring that change of footwear and spare warm clothing for your comfort on the return trip in the bus.

Sunday 9 July Easy & E/Medium	Greens Bush – Arthurs Seat
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Leaders	David Laing & Peter McGrath
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area	Mornington Peninsula
Map reference	“Discovering the Peninsula” - Conservation Forests and Lands
Approximate length of walk	15km & 17km
Expected time of return	7.00pm

This walk offers some pretty views over Bass Strait and Port Phillip Bay. It has the best collection of grass trees, in Green's Bush, in the writer's opinion, in the state. It is a relatively flat walk.

The Easy/Medium walk starts at Boundary Road, Dromana, and goes via the OT Dam to Arthur's Seat. This interesting and pretty walk has views over Port Phillip Bay. OT Dam stored water for the old Cottées Passiona plant and is a great place for morning tea. The Easy/Medium walk will then proceed to the start of the Easy walk.

The Easy Walk will start at Baldry's Crossing and progress via Green's Bush to Cape Schanck. The walk goes via Bushrangers Bay where excellent coastal views will be enjoyed. The coastline, from Bushrangers Bay to Cape Schanck, offers some of the best coastal views in Victoria.

Sunday 16 July E/Medium & Medium	MYSTERY DESTINATION
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Leaders	Jan Palich & Lynda Larkin
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area	Definitely somewhere in Victoria
Map reference	Bring your GPS
Approximate length of walk	13km and 16km
Expected time of return	7.00pm

Our two adventurers - Jan and Lynda - will take us on a magical tour of one of the Bushies favourite walking areas. This walk is guaranteed to have lots of fun bits, maybe some bush champagne if we're lucky, with a warm and spiritual finish!!

Our experienced Assistant Walks Secretary - Prof Alan Miller - has studied our 60 years of walk archives long and hard and his suggestion is [!@*^&] and he should know!!

Thanks to Jan and Lynda for doing the hard leg-work.

Come along for a fun time and a great walk. Sorry no details on booking in - it's going to be a surprise!!

Wednesday 19 July E/Medium	Werribee Gorge
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Leader	Andrew Bodegraven
Transport	Private
Map reference	Ingliston 1:25 000
Approximate length of walk	10km
Expected time of return	5pm

Meet in Service Road, Cnr. Western Highway & Hamilton Street, Deer Park. Melway Ref. 25 D8 at 9.15am for car sharing. Then we drive to the River Car Park in the Gorge arriving about 10am.

We will do a circuit walk along both sides of the gorge with two river crossings. Please register by phone on _____ as I will not be in the clubrooms prior to the walk.

Sunday 23 July Easy & E/Medium	Mt Alexander (Harcourt)
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Leaders	Ian McPhee & Rod Novak
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area	Near Bendigo
Expected time of return	7.00pm

At the present time I have not received a walk preview from the leaders, but Rod Novak tells me that it will be ready for the July News.

Apparently this walk goes through a koala sanctuary near Bendigo which is a lovely forested area with spectacular views. *Ed*

Sunday 30 July Easy & E/Medium	Tarilta Creek (Daylesford)
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Leaders	Alan Miller & Trevor Thomson
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area	North of Daylesford
Map reference	Guildford and Daylesford 1:25 000 maps
Approximate length of walk	13km and 16km
Expected time of return	7.00pm

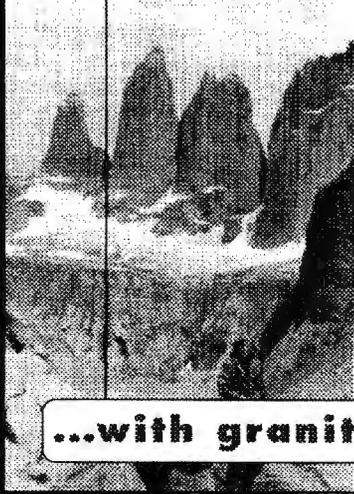
On one occasion I led a walk to Mt. Franklin. The previous leaders had added on a loop at the northern end which I thought was to make a reasonable length of walk for the E/Medium walk. That loop took in the southern end of Tarilta Creek Gorge. The surrounding country forms the Upper Loddon State Forest which is a gently undulating ironbark forest scattered with numerous old gold mines. It is astonishing to find this gorge winding its way through. The gorge is wide with extensive grassy flats. It is the home of large mobs of kangaroos. Walking through the gorge is easy.

The area is well covered in Tyrone Thomas' book '60 Walks in Central Victoria's Gold Fields and Spa country'.

	All ski trips are previewed under weekend walks.
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"A wonderland of rugged mountains..."

Nowhere is a place



...with granite spires"

If you believe Bruce Chatwyn and Paul Theroux, Patagonia is that place. Willis's Walkabouts has been taking people bushwalking in Patagonia since 1990. We are the only company described as "highly recommended" in the current edition of the Lonely Planet guide *Trekking in the Patagonian Andes*. One of our clients described our trips as follows.

"The Patagonian Andes are a wonderland of rugged mountains with granite spires, snow covered mountains, glaciers, beech forests, fields of daisies, waterfalls and more. The opportunity for some terrific trekking shouldn't be missed. The aim for budget travelling with some comfort in mind makes the trip affordable but not too rough." (Helen O'Callaghan, Hobart)

Ask for our Patagonia trip notes.



Willis's Walkabouts
12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810
Email: walkabout@ais.net.au

Phone: (08) 8985 2134

Fax: (08) 8985 2355

Weekend Walks for June/July, 2000

30 June to 2 July
E/Medium

Ski Trip – Bogong High Plains – Start of Ski Season

Leader Pearson Cresswell
Transport Private
Area Bogong Alpine Area

Pot luck as always. Where we go and what we do will depend on snow conditions. Most likely a camp up on Heathy Spur (so there by lunch time) and then off to explore.

As this is a camping trip it is not suited to absolute beginners, but modest experience of skiing will do. Talk to the leader closer to the time.

7-9 July
E/Medium

Pack Carry Pyrenees S.P.

Leader Deb Henry
Transport Private
Map Reference Avoca North & South
 1: 50000

For those of you who are looking for a winter walk not involving snow, this is the walk for you. This is a low forested area around Mt Avoca in the Pyrenees State Forest. The walking will mostly be on four wheel drive tracks so this will probably be a good beginners pack carry as well.

As far as the actual route is concerned I am keeping my options open for the time being, so for those who are interested please come and speak to me in the club rooms on the appropriate Wednesdays or call me on

7-9 July
Medium

Ski Trip – Mt. Stirling

Leader Graeme Thornton
Transport Private
Map Reference Mt Stirling Leisure Map
 Series 1: 50000
Area Alps – Mt Buller/Stirling
Expected time of return Late Sunday night
Approximate Distance 15-25km (???)

We will meet outside the Mt Stirling toll entrance near the Mt Buller turn-off at 9:30AM on the Sat. This will allow people to drive up Sat morning. We will then organise ourselves into the minimum number of the most appropriate vehicles for the trip up the mountain. Please remember that wheel-chains must be carried and fitted where directed.

From Telephone-box Junction we will either take the most direct route or the delightful meander via the circuit road and the River Spur, depending on the snow,

the number of skiers about and the weather. I hope that we will be able to camp at an idyllic spot we found a few years ago just a few hundred metres to the east of the main summit. It has spectacular views but is exposed, so if the weather looks like being bleak we will find somewhere lower down in the tree line.

If we have very, very bad luck and the weather is extremely bleak (= rain) before we set off, then it would be more appropriate to go for a walk in the vicinity of the aptly named Buttercup. Now I know this won't happen and there is going to be 10cm of powder snow over a firm base, but put a pair of walking boots in the car to cover the remote possibility and to ward off the evil demons of gloom.

I rate the trip medium as Mt Stirling is very steep in places (wheel!) and can be icy (whoops!). It isn't suited to beginners or to those who haven't skied steepish slopes with a full pack.

Saturday 15 July	Ski Trip for Beginners
Easy	

Leader	Trish Elmore
Transport	Private

If you have been waiting for the opportunity to try XCS your time has arrived! The recent snow falls in May hopefully herald a bumper year and Lake Mountain is the perfect



location for a first time experience on the snow. On the day a core group of experienced skiers will assist you in mastering the basic technique of "staying upright" and before you know it you too will be hooked on the snow. Join us on the day with a sense of humour, a sense of adventure, a full compliment of warm clothes & waterproof gear and you will be assured of a fun filled, energetic, exhausting, exciting day.....the first of many

21-23 July	Ski Trip – Introduction to
E/Medium	Snow Camping

Leader	Ken MacMahon
Transport	Private

Expected time of return	Late Sunday night
Approximate Distance	10 km with packs

Snow camping can be a wonderful experience, provided you have the right gear and know how to use it. This trip is for those who would like to give it a go. I will make sure it is relatively easy and will provide advice and support.

The venue will be determined by snow cover (last year we went to the Mt Loch area). Camp will not be

<p>PLEASE NOTE THAT AS FROM 1ST JULY 2000 PASSENGER RATE FOR PRIVATE CAR TRAVEL WILL INCREASE FROM 6 CENTS PER KILOMETRE TO 7 CENTS PER KILOMETRE</p>
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28 – 30 July	Base Camp – Tidal River
Easy	

Leaders	Liz Telford and Rosemary Cotter
Transport	Private

Base camping in the middle of winter is likely to be a challenge. It could be freezing, or windy, so come prepared but at least the walking tracks should be quiet.

Rosemary and I plan to lead two easy walks. On Saturday we will leave from Tidal River, climb Mount Bishop and enjoy some terrific views, complete the Lilly Pilly Gully Nature walk and make our way back to camp via Squeaky Beach and Pillar Point.

On Sunday we will start from Darby Saddle, walk to Tongue Point and the delightful Fairy Cove and finally back to Darby River. If there is time we may explore Cotter Lake on the way home.

For those coming down on Friday night, try to camp around the Picnic Shelter near the Monument in Tidal River. Camp Fees are paid at the entrance to the Park or at the Rangers Office. You will need to bring a stove for cooking and an entree to share for Saturday night tea.
Limit 15 walkers.

Saturday 29 July	Advanced Beginners Ski
E/Medium	Day

Leader	Alan Ide
Transport	Private
Area	Lake Mountain

This trip is designed for people who have used Nordic skis a few times before and now want to build up their confidence and control. We will be working on snow plough turns on groomed and un-groomed slopes and step-turns in deeper snow. Depending on what the conditions are like we may experiment with telemark turns, assuming I can do them myself!

The plan is to leave Melbourne at about 8am and hire gear for those that need it at the Black Spur Roadhouse/Cafe/Petrol Station/General Store/Ski Hire place at Narbethong. If you know somewhere that is better or cheaper then I am happy to consider it. Ideally we will all have 4WD cars and will get as many into each car as we can before heading up the mountain to save on the access fee. All cars have to carry chains, even if they are 4WD, although I have never needed to fit them on my Subaru.

You will need to bring your best wet weather (including wet weather pants) and thermal gear, sunscreen, dark sunglasses. Gaiters are very useful as are two pairs of socks. Bring a change of clothes for the trip home.

If we can't go because there is too much snow, too little snow or the road is closed we may divert to do a

bushwalk somewhere so bring some bushwalking boots as well.

Costs are:

- \$20.00 / car to get up Lake Mountain (!)
- \$9.00 per adult trail fee
- \$4.50 per child up to 17years
- 6 cents/km to paid to drivers.
- Skis, boots & poles hire: ~\$16.00 plus GST*
- Chains hire: ~\$10, \$5 if not used, plus GST. *
- (* Marysville Ski Hire prices. See <http://www.mmtourism.com.au/crosscountry/>).

New members:

ROSS G JACKSON

MEGAN NASS

Altered Address/Phone:

ALISON BLAKER

PETER CHALKLEY / MARY LEONARD (NEWS subscriber)

MARK WALTERS

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	392
Family memberships	90 (= 2x 45)
Total membership	503

Social Evening – 26th May

Twenty Melbourne Bushies descended to “Base Camp” in Hawthorn for an evening of Nepalese cuisine (and fine Australian wine) to send off Fiona, Maureen, Tracey and Jenny for their trip to northern Queensland. Lentil Soup, mo mo’s, curried goat, dhal (lentil), bhat (rice), curried vegies, spicy chicken, and for dessert - rice pudding with fruit. Lots of great conversation, lots of smiles, new friends, old friends – and all enjoying the superb photos of the Himalayas. Top value for a \$20 banquet with nice coffee to finish off. Thanks go to Maureen H. for organising us. Namaste.

Trek with Aust / Sherpa team to the heart and soul of Nepal

Trek the Himalayas, enjoy exotic Kathmandu or ride elephants in Chitwan. We organise and escort trips to Nepal taking only small groups for the experience of a lifetime.

Gokyo Lakes and Everest Base Camp trek
28 days departing October 5th \$4,785

Annapurna Sanctuary trek
21 days departing November 2nd \$3,795

Temples & Tigers minibus
14 days departing 23rd November \$3,200

Mingmar & Marilynne Sherpa of Om Trek

03 9781 1280

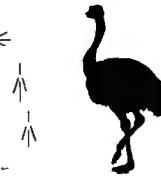
<http://travel.to/kathmandu>

Mingmar and Marilynne Sherpa from Om Trek have left two videos of their travels at the Clubrooms for members to borrow. If you are interested please contact Deb Henry at the Clubrooms or phone .

WALKS STATS FOR APRIL 2000

In April, 248 Melb Bushies participated in 14 club activities. The Sunday Bus average is still trending “down”. Please help us to keep the Sunday Bus viable – come and join us on a Sunday in June.

April 2000	Trips	Av	1999	1998
Sunday Bus	5	29.8	43	37.5
Pack Carry	4	10.5	9.5	6.8
Base Camp	1	8	8	12
Lodge	0	-	10	-
Canoe	Cancelled	-	-	-
Other Day Wed: 14 Dand: 9 Saturday: 8 Training: 18	4	12.25	10	12.5
Cancelled	1			



Conservation Forum

The following items were discussed at the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Conservation Committee on Wednesday 31st May 2000.

Some important dates are:

7th September – National Threatened Species day

8-15th October – Weedbuster Week with a theme of “Don’t hesitate, weeds won’t wait”. For more information, look at www.weedbusterweek.info.au/

Alpine – See GT’s announcement on Page 1 of *News*. There have been reports of large numbers of mountain bikes on the Razorback walking track. The Federation will raise this issue with Parks Victoria, as bikes are not allowed on walking tracks.

Western Victoria – The draft report for Box-Ironbark Forests is now available at \$8. Submissions are invited. Closing date is 8th August. There is a free “glossy brochure” summarising the draft report. Ring NRE on 9637 8325 for a copy, or you can download from www.nre.vic.gov.au

Great Divide Trail (central Victoria) – reports of proposed trail extensions, Castlemaine to Bendigo, and Blackwood to Bacchus Marsh.

Environment Liaison Officer – has been appointed to represent conservation groups and to lobby State Parliament.

Parks Victoria – calling for expressions of interest for Board Members and membership of Advisory Committees. Ring 131963 for an Information Kit

Tasmania – The TAG [Track Assessment Group] have

released their Draft Report *A Way Through the Wilderness*. Cost \$5, or download from the web – hyperlink via VicWalk site, or on Tassie Parks site.

Submissions called for. The deadline is 7th June.

Tasmania – There is a proposal for scenic helicopter flights and landings in world heritage areas. There is much public opposition (98% against) but it may still proceed. Ring 1800 640 988 for a Stop the Helicopter Invasion card and info kit.

MacAlister River (Gippsland) – there are reports of fire suppressant used in the bushfires 2 years ago having entered into the river with ecological consequences. EPA findings reported in the press.

Wombat State Forest – reports of recent logging activities disturbing the habitat of the threatened Powerful Owl. Apparently, the Minister is investigating. **Tread Softly** – this Federation of Vic Walking Clubs’ brochure on minimum impact bushwalking is now available from the Clubrooms.

Wilson’s Prom – Bill M. represented the Federation at the recent Prom Coalition meeting on 23rd May. The draft Parks Victoria Management Plan is still in progress – due in November. Proposed walking tracks include The Entrance to Darby River, and Tidal River to Telegraph Saddle.

First Aid Training

The Club is planning on running two first aid courses in spring this year and we want people to let us know as soon as possible if they would like to be part of this service.

The courses proposed are:

Level 2 first aid which would include areas such as: Responding to emergencies, CPR, bleeding and bandaging, shock, breathing emergencies, cardiac emergency, snakebite and stings. Exposure to heat and cold, handling and moving victims.

This course could be run over two weekends or on week nights depending on the level of interest. If the Bushies have 12 people we could run this as an exclusive program which gives us flexibility in tailoring to our specific needs.

I believe all leaders should have current level 2 first aid skills to be confident in dealing with any

incidents they may encounter.

Remote Area First Aid

This is a more advanced program which is best done by people who already have Level 2 qualifications. It includes two full weekends with one weekend being residential at a scout outdoor venue. Content includes CPR update, incident management, remote casualty assessment, observation and management. Group leadership and decision making, hypothermia and hyperthermia prevention and treatment, pre-expedition planning/safety. Remote transport of injured people.

This would be valuable to all leaders but particularly those who do weekend or extended pack carries. This course would need a minimum of 10 to make it happen and both courses will be partially subsidised by the Club. Please contact me as soon as possible to get more details or indicate your interest in being involved

Brian Crouch,
Training Coordinator



Himalayan Travel Centre

Let Tenzing put the world at your feet

HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENTS DRIVING TOUR (INDIA & NEPAL)

Starting in Delhi, visit Dharamsala, private audience with His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. Manali, Shimla & the pink city of Jaipur. Then Kathmandu, Pokara, Chitwan N.P. 29 Dec – 23 Jan also 02 Mar – 27 Mar \$5223

DARJEELING PANORAMA (SIKKIM)

As guest of the Tenzing family in Darjeeling (old Tenzing's home) you will experience this area in a very special way. Short trek and driving tour, with a taste of the Raj comforts. 19 days, 10 Nov & 18 Dec \$2860

MUSTANG TREK (NEPAL)

A trek to the remote and restricted area of Lo Manthang following ancient trails.

Fly in and out of Jomsom. 14 Aug – 03 Sept 2000 ex Kath \$4115

ULTIMATE EVEREST (attempt ISLAND PEAK) (NEPAL)

Trek from Lukla to Gokyo lakes, cross Chugima and Kongma pass's. Attempt Island Peak (6189m).

16 Oct – 13 Nov 2000 ex Kath \$4000

TIBET OVERLAND TOUR (TIBET)

From Kathmandu, fly over Himalayan range to Lhasa, visit Potala Palace, Norbulingka (summer home of Dalai Lama).

Drive south to Gyantse, Shigatse, Shegar (Everest North face) back to Kath. 12 days Oct & Nov \$2300

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

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

“As part of the Tenzing family network, you experience the Himalaya like no other”

Major Mitchell Plateau - May 6 – 8

This has to be one Victoria's great bushwalks with classic views from high up on the escarpment plus the added bonus of the climb to the Grampians highest peak – Mt William - at 1167 metres. Back in 1836 the Major Mitchell expedition climbed Mt William and the high rugged plateau carries his name. Cameron, David and Rod travelled up to Jimmy Creek camping ground on the Friday night and braved cool and wet conditions for both the drive and setting up camp. We drifted off to sleep with the marching drumbeat of rain on the tents.

The other three party members – brave souls - drove up on Saturday morning, leaving Melbourne at 4 am in the morning to join us for breakfast. After a short car shuffle we donned packs and parkas and walked up the Jimmy Creek track towards the plateau. We lunched at the 1103m lookout – unfortunately there were no views due to low cloud and drizzle. However, the trangias provided a welcome warm drink.

We journeyed along the plateau and pondered on Cameron's comment of 1960s Bushies visit [and before the modern walking tracks] had to “scrub bash” through the sharp and biting Grampians vegetation. We reached camp at Wannan Creek at 3.30pm and after setting up

tents (yes, in the rain) we went for a short stroll exploring the nearby gorge and waterfalls. Nothing spectacular – but well worth the visit. After several attempts with saturated wood we finally started a small, but cheery fire. After dinner discussion was enjoyed with the fire-light dancing / reflecting on the nearby rocks.

Up early on Sunday (yes it was still misty and drizzling) and we continued on to Mt William enjoying some rock scrambling on the descent and rest breaks on the climb to the summit. The clouds lifted momentarily and great views emerged of the Serra Range to the north and the western plains to the south. Descending Mt William, we passed by the rocky escarpments of Cathedral Rock and the Wild Sheep Hills (didn't see any in the rain!), across the brand new log bridge over Fyans Creek, and back to the cars. We finished off a great (albeit wet weekend) with a delicious dinner at the Golden City Hotel (my favourite bush pub). Thanks go to Cameron for organising another great walking weekend.

Rod Novak

June 2000 Vicwalk News Summary

GPS - In early May 2000 the US Defence Department turned off the selective availability feature of the GPS system. This has improved the accuracy of the GPS used by bushwalkers from about 100 metres to about 15 metres. However bushwalkers would be irresponsible to rely exclusively on these devices for navigation.

Federation representatives attended a meeting with Parks Victoria on 12 April to discuss the proposed new management plan for Wilson's Prom. They conveyed the Federation's opposition to a proposal for camps to support guided walks on the Prom. On 16 April Federation representatives attended a meeting with the Mt Stirling Management Board. The Management Board presented a rough draft proposal for development of the mountain including a road from Mirimbah to the car parks on Mt Buller via Telephone Box Junction. Also there would be a sealed road from Telephone Box Junction to the Cricket Pitch area on Mt Stirling and some buildings at the Cricket Pitch. The Federation opposed the proposed development of the Cricket Pitch area.

Jim Harker
Secretary

Treasurer:

Accounts for April 2000

Opening Balance	\$50,595.18
Receipts	\$5,412.23
Payments	\$3,402.16
Closing Balance	\$52,605.25

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).

Duty Roster

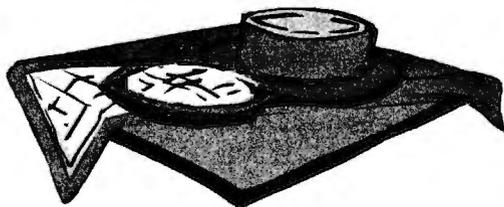
14 June*	Alan Ide & Pearson
21 June	Deb & Brian
28 June*	Clare & Alan M.
5 July	Anne & Amanda

Date of next committee meeting:
Monday 3 July, 2000 at 7PM

Fruity Muesli Bars

115 g margarine	1 tsp mixed spice
75g soft brown sugar	50g sultanas
3 tbsps. Golden syrup	50g dried pears, sliced
150g muesli	(or apricots or apples)
50g rolled oats	

Pre-heat oven to 180 degrees C
Put margarine, sugar and syrup into a saucepan. Gently heat stirring continuously.
Remove from heat. Add muesli, oats, spice, sultanas and pears. Transfer to a square tin, and smooth surface.
Bake 20-30 mins until golden brown.
Cool slightly and cut into bars.
When firm remove from tin and cool on wire rack.



Full-O-Fruit Bars

1 1/2 cups flour	2 eggs
1 tsp salt	1 tsp vanilla essence
1 tsp nutmeg	1 sm. can crushed pineapple
3/4 tsp soda	(drain off juice)
1/2 tsp cinnamon	1 cup finely chopped,
1/4 cup butter	unpeeled apple
3/4 cup sugar	1/2 cup raisins

Stir dry ingredients together.
Cream butter, add sugar. Beat in eggs.
Add vanilla essence.
Stir in pineapple.
Add dry ingredients.
Add apples and raisins.
Spread on to a Swiss roll tin.
Bake at 180 degrees C for 20 mins.

Cream Cheese Icing for Bars

30 g cream cheese
2 tbsps butter
Beat in 11 tsp each: milk, pineapple & grated peel
Beat in 2 cups icing sugar

Recipes provided by Susan Maughan

June 2000

23-25 Pack Carry: Mt. Langi Ghiran	Private	E/M	Cameron McMillan	
Sat 24 <i>Dandenongs Explorer</i>	Private	Easy	Michael Humphrey	
24 June Extended Walk: 12 days } to Great South West Walk (250 km) }	Private	M	Rod Novak	
5 July				
25 Sun WOODLANDS – GELLIBRAND HILL	BUS	E & E/M	Jean Woodger & John Kittson	#

July 2000

30-2 Ski Trip: Bogong High Plains--Start of Ski Season	Private	E/M	Pearson Cresswell	
Sat 1 <i>Training Day – All walkers are encouraged to participate / attend.</i>	Private	Easy	Brian Crouch	
2 Sun Mt BEGGARY-Mt JERUSALEM (Kinglake)	BUS	E/M & M	David Arnold & Tracey Jamieson	#
7-9 Pack Carry: Pyrenees S.P.	Private	E/M	Deb Henry	
7-9 Ski Trip: Mt Stirling	Private	E/M	Graeme Thornton	
9 Sun GREENS BUSH-ARTHURS SEAT	BUS	E & E/M	David Laing & Peter McGrath	#
Sat 15 <i>Ski Trip: Beginners</i>	Private	Easy	Trish Elmore	
16 Sun "MYSTERY" DESTINATION	BUS	E/M & M	Jill Dawson & Linda Larkin	#

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Subscription Fees: **Ordinary** – single membership \$35.00 **Concession** – single membership \$24.00 (proof required)
 Family/Couple -membership \$50.00 **Concession** – couple \$28.00 (proof required)
 New members joining on/after 1 October \$21.00 less visitor fees.

**Make cheques or money orders payable to ‘Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.’ and post to:
 Membership Secretary, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001**