



MAY, 2000

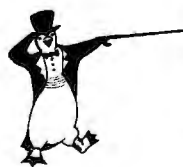


### In this Issue

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If your mailing label carried the hint  
“subs due” ...  
...and you have not sent in your subscription within the last few days ...  
...then this little donkey’s nose ought to be RED!  
(because this could be the last NEWS you will receive).



## Mt Hotham Ski Lodge Weekend

8-10 September

60<sup>th</sup> 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!!

## Restaurant Evening

Come and join Fiona & Maureen at ‘The Base Camp’, 648 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, on Friday 26 May from 7.30pm.

*Reasonably priced Nepalese banquet and/or meal*



Come and farewell Fiona before she heads off to far North Queensland.

Confirm booking with Maureen ( )  
by Wednesday 24 May.

# Spotted at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

At the 60th Anniversary Celebrations held at Gilwell Park on 26 March, 2000 over 150 Bushies and friends gathered for a picnic.

One of those attending was Egon Donath, a founder and life member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers. Egon led the first official Melbourne Bushies walk in April 1940 from Ferntree Gully Station to Mt. Morton and back. The Mt. Morton walk was re-enacted in 1950 and 1960 to celebrate the Club's 10th and 20<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. Today this area is covered in housing.

The early Club walks always included an 8 mile (13km) walk. Egon enjoyed leading these easy or 'sissy' walks as he called them. In the height of summer when it was deemed too hot to walk, walkers caught the last train out on a Saturday night and went on night walks. These walks sometimes included seeing the lyrebirds at dawn in Sherbrooke Forest. A swim was often the order of the day and certainly a stop by water was a feature on many walks. At the beginning of every walk a circle was formed and everyone introduced themselves, just as we do today. Cakes would be taken to share and a billy was always boiled at lunchtime.

Perhaps the most famous early tradition started by Egon was the annual 'cream hunt'. Cream in wartime years was almost unobtainable but at Waldheim, a guest house at Bayswater (still standing as a Greek club), accessible from Ringwood, Mitcham and Bayswater Stations, an old German fellow called Busch kept a couple of cows and was keen to develop his daytime



**Egon Donath**

A Founder and Life Member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers.  
Photo: Bob Steel

trade. Some walkers would go on a long walk that ended there, while others were happy just to stroll in gently to Waldheim; all would have afternoon tea together.

Egon with Nancy Morgan and Norm Richards edited the first issue of *News* (No. 1) which came out in August 1948.

*(This issue is No. 591 – what a tradition they started!!!)*  
Clare Lonergan

Adapted from: B. Weiss (Ed.). (1994) *The Melbourne Bushies: Fifty years along the track*. Melbourne Bushwalkers Incorporated. Melbourne.

**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*



## Wilkinson Lodge

I will be joining the U.K. Branch of the Melbourne Bushwalkers for May and June. Bob Steel will be acting Lodge Manager in my absence.

*Doug Pocock.*

## Attention All Walk Leaders – We need your Help!!

We are missing some walk reports. These are very important club documents. If you have an outstanding walk report, please return promptly to Rod Novak (Walks Secretary), as we are doing a statistical analysis on our walk numbers. Please help us to run a great Club with prompt attention to this important record keeping.

*Rod Novak*



## Colour Slides of Nepal

In the Club Rooms  
Wednesday 24 May at 8pm

Mingmar & Marilynne  
Sherpa  
of OmTrek

will show slides of everything  
from mountains to monasteries,  
including a shaman ceremony.

## Attention all Walkers

### Changes to the Winter Walks Program

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June Woodlands – Gellibrand Hill New Leaders are Jean Woodger and John Kittson. Enquiries to Jean on

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July Werribee Gorge. Andrew Bodegraven's telephone number is

A new **Booking Sheet** is being used which requires an emergency contact name and telephone number. Please provide this important information when booking in for your trip at Clubnights.

The **petrol allowance** for private trips is currently under review by the Committee. We are waiting for the latest RACV annual survey on vehicle operating costs. This is expected in late May or early June. Meanwhile, the current rate of 6c per km applies for private transport trips. Road tolls to be shared by all occupants in the car.

### Minimum party size for private transport trips.

A new by-law [for Section 4 – Booking and Transport for Walks] was approved at the Committee Meeting on 3/4/2000.

By-Law 4 - 7 reads as follows

"For safety reasons, the minimum number of participants for a private transport based club trip shall be four (4) persons, or for a smaller party – with approval from the Walks Secretary."

*Rod Novak*

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> \$4,785

**Annapurna Sanctuary trek**  
21 days departing November 2<sup>nd</sup> \$3,795

**Temples & Tigers minibus**  
14 days departing 23<sup>rd</sup> November \$3,200

**Mingmar & Marilynne Sherpa of  
Om Trek**  
03 9781 1280  
<http://travel.to/kathmandu>

## Bushies Good Food Guide

Recent Club trips in the Gippsland area enjoyed these culinary wayside stops ...

**Cann River** – A fascinating pub with lots of history. It has a grand staircase and saloon doors salvaged from the shipwrecked SS Riverina (wrecked near Gabo Island in the 1880s). Chinese cuisine and Pearson recommends the Chef's speciality of Hakka Chicken.

**Rosedale** – Unless you like tinned peas - keep on driving!!

**Trafalgar** *The Criterion Hotel*. A reasonable meal break for the return trip into Melbourne from the Licola, Walhalla and Gippsland areas. The pub has a large meals area with lots of tables, a reasonable selection of meals and drinks at bar prices. Fairly quick service and easy car-parking.

**Traralgon** The pub on the main road opposite the Shell Petrol Station. A great range of meals, very quick and reasonably priced. Good bottled wine by the glass and the Coffee (with free mint) is great too. Strongly recommended.

Rod Novak

# Himalayan Travel Centre

*Let Tenzing put the world at your feet*

### **TENZING BIRTHPLACE TRIP (TIBET)**

Join Tashi Tenzing (Grandson of Tenzing Norgay Sherpa) on a tour to Lhasa and four wheel drive back to Kathmandu, visit the old Tenzing family & Rongbuk. 09 July – 29 July 2000 ex Kath \$4640

### **PILGRIMAGE TO MOUNT KAILAS (TIBET)**

Walk the ancient pilgrims' route over the Himalaya from Nepal into Tibet. Visit Lhasa & Potala Palace. Fly from Lhasa over Himalayan range back to Kath. 03 June – 03 July 2000 ex Kath \$6800

### **HEART OF BHUTAN (BHUTAN) (other trips available in Bhutan/ Sikkim, call for details)**

Unique tour that allows you to touch Bhutan - literally and culturally. Traverse by road from west-east, sample village life, monasteries, temples, beautiful Bumthang valley. 18 Oct – 04 Nov 2000 ex Kath / Calcutta \$4855

### **MUSTANG TREK (NEPAL)**

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

Fly in and out of Jomsom. 18 May – 07 June 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

### **MANASLU / ANNAPURNA CROSSING & CLIMB OPTION (NEPAL)**

The ultimate trek, three options on the one trek. Trek the Manaslu, Annapurna Circuit's & attempt Pisang Peak (6091m) followed by a crossing of Tilicho Lake area. 01 – 29 Oct 2000 ex Kath. \$2775

### **TENZINGS EVEREST (NEPAL)**

Follow the old expedition route from Jiri up to Everest base camp, via Namche. Trek up Kala Pater for outstanding views, visit Tenzing family in Tami village. 13 Oct – 11 Nov 2000 ex Kath \$2780

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

# Day Walks for May & June, 2000

## Saturday 27 May Dandenongs Explorer Easy

**Leader** Michael Humphrey  
**Transport** Private  
**Map Reference** Melways Maps ?  
**Expected time of return** Approximately 4pm  
**Approximate Distance** 12kms  
 Please contact me at home on \_\_\_\_\_ for details of this walk.

## Sunday 4 June Cobaw Ranges Easy & E/Medium

**Leaders** Alan Ide & Marissa Rizzuto  
**Transport** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am  
**Area** North of Hanging Rock  
**Approximate length of walk** 12km & 18km  
**Expected time of return** 7.00pm

The plan is for the Easy group to walk along the length of the range from near Cobaw roughly parallel with Ridge Road. Much of this walk is cross-country through the open woodland that covers this range. There is some bracken and the like so gaiters or leggings of some kind may be an advantage. The medium walkers will take a more circuitous route along the many FWD tracks that crisscross the forest to finish at the same location as the Easy group.

## Sunday 11 June Bungal S.F. – Moorabool River Easy & E/Medium

**Leaders** Alan Miller & Anne Wilkins  
**Transport** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am  
**Map reference** Yaloak & Lal Lal 1:25 000  
**Area** Ballan – Meredith  
**Approximate length of walk** 14 & 17 kms  
**Expected time of return** 6.30pm

The Moorabool is my favourite river. This walk takes in the east branch and Bungal Creek. I remember that on one walk, someone said 'You promised us koalas'. It was lunchtime. I looked up a tree in the middle of our lunch spot, and there was a koala. Expect an easy walk/stroll along the river with koalas, parrots and perhaps an echidna or two. The E/M walk spends more time walking along the river and less road bashing.

## Monday 12 June Historical Walk Easy

**Leader** Lance Mobbs  
**Transport** Train

This walk should see us do a stroll through Carlton. Being an old part of Melbourne there will be some old and interesting buildings to look at plus places of historical interest to browse over.

We will meet at 10am at The Elizabeth Street Tram Terminus opposite Flinders Street Station. I can be contacted at the Clubrooms on Wednesday nights or phone after hours on \_\_\_\_\_ (Sun – Thurs.) or write to me at 31 Rosshire Road, West Newport 3015.

## Sunday 18 June Bunyip S. F. – Mortimer Reserve

**Leaders** Jan Palich & Alan Miller  
**Transport** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00am  
**Map Reference** Gembrook South 1:25 000  
**Expected time of return** 6.30pm

**Area** East of Gembrook  
**Approximate Distance** 12 & 16kms

At the time of writing this preview, we have not been out to Gembrook to do our preview. I was hoping to write something based on the last leader's walk report – but that has only 3 sentences; one says where the bus was parked and another gives the location of the toilet stop!

Both walks are entirely on tracks. We will be crossing the Black Snake Range, but don't expect many snakes – they should all be asleep for the winter. There will be some exercise in the morning with a climb of 250m to the ridge line along a track marked (position doubtful) on the map. Position doubtful! – just outside Gembrook! Have no fears, the position is correct. After lunch, the walks average downhill.

### 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

17 May\* Pearson & Alan Ide  
 24 May Debbie & Anne  
 31 May\* Brian & Fiona  
 7 June Amanda & Rod  
**Date of next committee meeting:**  
**Monday 5 June, 2000 at 7PM**

**Wednesday 21 June**  
**E/Medium**

**Mornington Peninsula NP**

**Leader** Barbara Weston  
**Transport** Private  
**Map Reference** Melways Maps 156, 157 & 158  
**Expected time of return** Approximately 6pm  
**Area** Ocean Beach Walk from Sorrento  
**Approximate Distance** 14kms

Meet at the Sorrento Ocean Beach Carpark, Melway map 156 J 9, at 10.30 am. We will walk to Bridgewater Bay and back using the Lifesaving Track and alternating this with some beach walking and some scrambling over sand dunes. We will include the "climb" over St Paul's Lookout. I can guarantee some spectacular coastal scenery, birds and coffee back at Sorrento Beach cafe. There will not be any water along the track, although there is a toilet block at Koonya Beach as well as at the Sorrento car park. Please register by phone as I will not be in the club rooms prior to the walk.



**Bridgewater Bay – photo: Barbara Weston**

**Saturday 24 June**  
**Easy**

**Dandenongs Explorer**

**Leader** Michael Humphrey  
**Transport** Private  
**Expected time of return** Approximately 4pm  
**Approximate Distance** 12kms  
Please contact me at home on for details of this walk.

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	388
Family memberships	96 (= 2x 48)
Total membership	505

**Sunday 25 June**

**Woodlands – Gellibrand Hill**

**Leaders** Jean Woodger & John Kittson  
**Transport** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9am  
**Expected time of return** Approximately 6pm

Because of the change of leaders to date I have not received a preview for this walk.

However I have been on this walk some years ago when it was led by John Kittson and remember it as being a lovely walk. There is a historical homestead which we visited (and probably has tea rooms!!). I remember Art Terry led part of the walk and we were taken way down the back somewhere to see an old blue stone tower that I seem to recall resembled something from medieval times!! I also took some lovely colour slides of a babbling brook in the area which was populated with kangaroos.

All in all this is a great place for a winter walk and is close to Melbourne.

*Ed.*

## Melbourne Bushies Library

The Melbourne Bushies have quite an interesting collection of books that can be borrowed by members. They are situated in a cupboard underneath the Wilky Booking Board on the back wall. There is a Library Index in a clear plastic folder next to the cupboard.

There are quite a number of books describing in detail walks in Victoria and other States. We have also just purchased two new Lonely Planet books on New Zealand and Tramping in New Zealand.

Please feel free to browse through the library books when you are next in the club rooms. There is an exercise book in which to enter your name when you borrow books.

### New publications in Library

*Lonely Planet New Zealand.* (Includes colour flora & fauna section) Turner, P., Williams, J., Keller, N. & Wheeler, T. 1998. ISBN 0 86442 565.1. RRP \$27.95  
*Lonely Planet Tramping in New Zealand.* DuFresne, J. 1998. ISBN 0 86442 598.8 . RRP \$24.95.

*Clare Lonergan & Alan Miller – Club Librarians*

## ACCOUNTS FOR MARCH 2000

Opening Balance	\$47,285.07
Receipts	\$7,537.05
Payments	\$4,226.94
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>\$50,595.18</b>

## ADVANCE NOTICE NATIONAL PARKS OF THE NSW SOUTH COAST

**September 16 to 29 (14 days during school hols)**

**Leader: Jopie Bodegraven**

The NSW South Coast is a beautiful stretch of coastline with numerous lovely beaches, headlands, rock platforms and some exciting hinterland. There are lots of great daywalks to be done there and ample good places to camp. Places that I intend to visit extend from Nowra south to near Eden and include Jervis Bay and Beecroft Peninsula near Nowra, Pigeon House Mtn and the Castle in the Budawangs, Murramarang Nat Park, Mt Dromedary, Mimosa Rocks Nat Park, Bournda Nat Park, Tantawangalo Creek and Ben Boyd Nat Park.

Camping will where possible be in the National Parks but we may strike some trouble as NSW has its school hols at the same time and many of the camp areas will be very busy. The Olympics will be on as well but I don't know if that will make it busier or not. I will endeavour to book the first 4 nights and maybe one or two other camps but others will be on spec and we may have to use some non Nat Park camps in towns. Walks will all be day walks and will vary from easy to medium with possibly some challenging options involving rockhopping and maybe a bit of scrub for those who are keen.

I will need to limit numbers to 12. I will be overseas until August 3<sup>rd</sup> but you can ring Jenny on (same number as mine) to get your name on the list. I will need to have the group list finalised by the 5<sup>th</sup> of August to enable me to make camp bookings. I may need to ask for deposits if I have to make advance payments. Very soon after I get back I will organise a get-together night, probably for early September to explain the trip in more detail, sort out transport arrangements, look at some slides and have a fun social night.

It's a great area and it'll be a great trip. Come and enjoy it with us.

### WALKS STATS FOR MARCH 2000

March 2000	Trips	Average	1999	1998
Sunday Bus	4	33	36	39.4
Pack Carry Incl. NZ trip	3	7.6	6	11
Base Camp	1	10	-	7
Lodge	1	8	17	7
Canoe	1	10	18	18
Other Day -Wed	1	10	7.8	12
Cancelled - ie	2			
Historical			4	15
Dandenong			13	16
Explorer				

## “PROBLEM WALKERS” AND HOW THE BUSHIES PLAN TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE

Have you recently been on a walk where the group became separated, a person wandered off, or did not obey the instructions of the Leader? It is highly likely that you may answer yes to this question and the person or persons involved in the incident may be entirely unaware of the consequences of their actions on the wider group of walkers. The reality is that these events do occur, they cause much worry & consternation to leaders and do little to encourage prospective leaders as they do not wish to be faced with the responsibility of dealing with the problems that I am referring to.

As a result the committee has recently been proactive in establishing a club policy to address this problem and make walking an enjoyable experience for all the participants. The general policy is as follows:

- ❖ When a problem occurs during a walk the leader is to approach the person privately during the walk and clearly describe the activity/behaviour that is unacceptable, explain why this is so and ask that it cease and not be repeated. An example of this would be failing to stop at a track junction and waiting for instructions from the leader. The leader may decide that no further action is necessary.
- ❖ If necessary the leader may inform the person that the issue will be reported to the Committee
- ❖ Where necessary, at the Committee's discretion, the person will be spoken to personally by a Committee member who will advise the person of the action required to enable them to be considered for further walks. The Committee will also write to the visitor/member and clearly state the problem and what behaviour needs to be modified or stopped in order for them to continue to be accepted on club walks.
- ❖ A copy of the letter is to be filed by the Walks Secretary where it will be kept on file for 12 months.
- ❖ If repeats of the problem occur, then the Committee may decide to suspend or terminate their membership. Again these actions will require a personal talk and a written note.

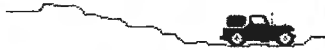
In formalising the process for dealing with these people the Committee believes the Club will send a strong, clear message to the person that will enable them to have an insight into the problem behaviour and how it affects other people during a Club walk. The Committee wants all members and visitors to enjoy bushwalking and hopes that you understand their concern for the safety and enjoyment of all bushwalkers. Please do not hesitate to speak to myself or another Committee member if you wish any of the above clarified or need to discuss this further.

Many thanks  
*Trish Elmore*

**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!

- Explore 8 different lakes
- Walk in a rainforest & eerie sandblows
  - See dingoes, turtles, wild dolphins and humpback whales (in season)
  - Birdwatching

All inclusive  
**\$700**

Address: 1 Eversleigh Road, Scarborough, Qld. 4020  
Phone/fax (07) 3203 4241

Quote "Bushy" for 10% discount in 2000  
Group (5 or more) discount 15%

**Carnarvon Gorge**

**6 Day Outback Explorer**

Depart Brisbane

Camped in Carnarvon National Park under a palm and cycad forest: native animals abound, platypus in Carnarvon Creek, birds



*This is Queensland's  
Outback Oasis*

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.

All inclusive  
**\$770**

Quote "Bushy" for 10% discount in 2000

For registration or a brochure please contact Terry Howard

**Sunover Expeditions**

*10 years touring service*



**Weekend Walks for June, 2000**

**9-12 June -Queen's  
Birthday Weekend  
E/Medium**

**Brisbane Ranges Pack  
Carry**

**Leader** Rod Novak  
**Transport** Private  
**Map Reference** VMTC Brisbane Ranges  
**Expected time of return** 8pm Monday  
**Area** NW of Melbourne  
**Approximate Distance** 32 kms

We will walk the Parks Victoria three day route - from north to south, mainly on tracks and roads - from Boars Gully to Steiglitz, via Little River and the Old Mill. The Brisbane Ranges are in close proximity to Melbourne and have lots of history. Be prepared for very cold and wet weather. See the Leader in the Clubrooms for an Information Sheet. Note: Limit of 8 walkers.

**9-12 June -Queen's  
Birthday Weekend  
E/Medium**

**Beechworth - Chiltern  
Base Camp**

**Leader** Stuart Mann ( )  
**Transport** Private  
**Map Reference** Reids Creek 8225-3-1  
Eldorado 8225-3-4  
**Expected time of return** 8pm Monday  
**Area** Beechworth  
**Approximate Distance** 32 kms

To begin, here are some names and numbers

- |                                  |      |           |
|----------------------------------|------|-----------|
| Armour Motor Inn                 | (03) | 5728 1466 |
| Beechworth Motor Inn             | (03) | 5728 1301 |
| Golden Heritage Motor Inn        | (03) | 5728 1404 |
| Newtown Park Motel               | (03) | 5728 2244 |
| Empire Hotel                     | (03) | 5728 1030 |
| Hotel Nicholas Kookaburra Bistro | (03) | 5728 1051 |
| Tanswells Commercial Hotel       | (03) | 5728 1480 |

What do you do with them? Use them!!!

My first base camp is in the town of Beechworth,



in the heart of Lake Sambell Caravan Park, not that far from the HOTWATER shower block.

That means, apart from the stated obvious, all those people who I have heard hummed . . . and arred . . . about base camps can now see what they are nearly like! A petting zoo for adults.

And all the "die-harders" (who on this base camp will just have to live a bit longer) will gladly show you the joys of tents, campfires, wine tasting and sleeping bags (?).

Should be fun. Bush walking during the day and semi base camping at night. It is always FUN!

As for this being an attempt at a real preview, the maps vaguely indicated that there should be some (insert appropriate descriptive adjectives here) gorges and waterfalls in the area.

Now is your chance, I don't want to hear, in the future, "I should've...." when it is much better hearing sentences starting with "Remember when Sylvia ...." or "I did WHAT?!!"

Contact me and I will give you Guest Houses' and Bed & Breakfasts' phone numbers as well

**9-12 June –Queen's Birthday Weekend Medium**

**Pink Lakes Pack Carry & Base Camp**

**Leader** Max Casley  
**Transport** Private  
**Map Reference** Underbool and Sunset Maps 1:100 000  
**Expected time of return** Late Monday evening  
**Area** Mallee, Ouyen  
**Approximate Distance** 50 km

Our club has not been to Pink Lakes for a long time so this trip will be a bit exploratory. Originally the intention was to spend the entire 3 days on the "Sunset Remote Walking Track". However, this would not leave enough time to explore the Pink Lakes which the Ranger says are beautiful after recent rain and should be even more picturesque in June.

Therefore, now I plan to camp Friday and Saturday at Pink Lakes and then do a 2 day pack carry on the Remote Track. This has the slight drawback of needing a car shuttle on 4WD tracks – the Ranger says Subaru types are O.K. as the tracks are just sandy. The roads around Pink Lakes are fine for normal cars.

Bring water containers, sunscreen, hat and warm clothing for cold nights. A stove is needed for the Remote Track because fires are only permitted at Pink Lakes. Water is available at the Remote Campsites and at Pink Lakes, but bring plenty in the car as well and make sure you carry plenty during each day.

Bring camera, bird and plant books. It's about 600 km each way – suggest car fare about \$72 per person.

**23-25 June E/Medium**

**Pack Carry: Mt Langi Ghiran**

**Leader** Cameron McMillan  
**Transport** Private  
**Map Reference** Buangor North 1:25 000  
**Expected time of return** 9pm Sunday night  
**Area** North West Victoria, East of Ararat  
**Approximate Distance** 14km

Langi Ghiran Forest Park is a nice place to visit mid winter as I remember from my last visit in July 1998.

This will be a short weekend walk taking in Langi Ghiran Reservoir, Mt Langi Ghiran and Mt Gorrin. It will be cool so bring enough clothes to keep warm. Camp will be made in a dry lagoon where we shall have a fire. Of note last time we saw an owl sitting on a tree branch.

**Saturday 24 June to Wednesday 5 July Medium**

**Great South West Walk – Extended PACK CARRY**

**Leader** Rod Novak  
**Transport** Private  
**Maps** LOTS!!!  
**Area** Near Portland, Western Victoria  
**Approximate Distance** 250km

The Great South West Walk links Portland to Nelson (near South Australia) following the Glenelg River and back to Portland along the rugged coastline of Discovery Bay and Mt Richmond. This 250 km pack carry is guaranteed to be **very cold, wet and windy**. This trip is suitable for very fit, experienced and equipped walkers. See the leader in the Clubrooms for more information. Note: Limit of 6 walkers.

**New members:**  
 CONNIE COMBER

HARUKA KAI

JAN GUSTAV LOVGREN

RENEE THOMAS

MARGOT TOBIN



# Conservation Forum



The following items were discussed at the Federation of Vic Walking Clubs "Conservation Committee" on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**Cape Liptrap Coastal Park** – the Bear Gully Camping Area now has a toilet and water tank.

**Mt Buffalo** – Both Lake Catani and the Reservoir have been drained for engineering works on the dam-walls.

**Mt Hotham** – press reports of scheduled Qantas flights (esp. from Sydney!!) to the Dinner Plain Airport. It is believed the airport cannot take the intended large jet aircraft and can only handle smaller aircraft.

**Mt Stirling** – The Federation was represented by Bill Metzthen at the recent Management Board and Users Group meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> April. There is a draft proposal for the current infrastructure at TB Junction to be relocated to the Cricket Pitch for better snow access. The Users Group (with representatives from Cattleman Assoc, 4 wheel drive clubs, Horse safaris etc) have a new committee and will incorporate. There is a rumour of a new road to be built for access to Mt Buller via the TB Junction road

**Philip Island** – there is a proposed grand hotel to be built at the Motor Racetrack – on the cliff-top for views which will impact the walking track and access to the beach – except for hotel guests. The Environment Defenders Office have requested for the hotel plans to be revised and for the hotel to be located inside the race-track.

**RFA – Western Victoria** There are new additions to the Mt Arapiles, Langi Ghiran, Lerderderg and Mt Eccles State Parks.

**Wilson's Prom** – The Federation met with Parks Victoria on the 12<sup>th</sup> April and presented a strong case against the proposed "standing camps" for the commercial lighthouse trips. The new draft management plan will include the proposed walking tracks from Tidal River to Oberon car park and from the entrance along the coast to Tidal River. The Outdoor Leisure Map for the Prom has been updated and now includes the new walking track to the lighthouse. It has been a long, dry summer with the no fresh water at either Sealers or Refuge Cove.

*Rod Novak*

## May 2000 Vicwalk News Summary

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 2nd May. All clubs are urged to send delegates, and observers are welcome. A light supper will be available. - The President

### Insurance Scheme

At the time of writing there are indications that the premiums for schemes such as ours have risen by about 15% over the last year. In addition there will be a 10% increase due to the GST. It is not possible to say how much our premiums will increase but clubs should anticipate an increase. - The Secretary

### Search and Rescue

BS&R members are reminded to ensure that their equipment is in order given that the weather is beginning to get chilly and the likelihood of being called out increases accordingly. Delegates are reminded that they should return their updated membership lists to Ron McInnes as soon as possible. - Monica Chapman

### McMillan's Walking Track

Jon Smith from the Ben Cruachan Walking Club, Inc, has sent a letter with a lot of updated information on this track (from Woods Point to Omeo). If any club needs brochures there are still plenty available. They also have a more detailed set of notes and maps for walkers who wish to do the walk or part of it. All enquiries for same to J. Smith, 180 Johnson Street, Maffra 3860 or phone (03) 5147 1817.

## Training Day 15 April

The first training day for this year was held on Saturday 15 April at the You Yangs. It was very successful with a total of 18 people attending. Alan Clarke ran navigation and I took charge of the 'leadership training' group with help from Derrick Brown and Trish Elmore. Areas covered were navigation, first aid and "issues" which can arise on a walk. Everyone enjoyed a good day, a BBQ lunch and great weather. Thanks to those who participated – I am sure everyone got something positive out of the day.

The Club has now developed a set of training policies which are included in the Club By Laws. The committee has put much effort into developing these policies and it is now time to start applying them to all our Club activities.

Training can benefit all members and I urge everyone to participate in our program which will include a total of four training days spread throughout the year. Put the following dates in your diary now Saturday 1 July and Saturday 7 October.

The Committee asks that walkers, new leaders and experienced leaders all take an active interest in building and sharing their skills. The Committee has developed a list of 'desired skills' which apply to all members so that they take responsibility for their own actions and are considerate of other walkers.

We realise that it is unlikely that anyone will have 100% of all skills listed below however the training program is designed to gradually give people the skills they require. Score yourselves on a scale of 1 – 10 in each skill area.

I would appreciate feedback so I know how to best met your needs. We have many training documents available with detailed information which are readily available from myself. Please become involved in the training program, which I am sure you will find enjoyable and beneficial.

*Brian Crouch – Training Coordinator*

### Summary of Desired Skills

#### Walk Procedures

Knowing and observing the rules for the proper and safe conduct of a walk

#### Walk Administration

Arranging and recording those to participate in a walk.

#### Club Rules

Knowing the club rules as they apply to club activities.

#### Trip Planning

Designing an interesting walk of appropriate standard.

#### Navigation

Finding the way through the walk via the most appropriate route.

#### Leadership Skills

Guiding and influencing the party in the proper conduct of the walk.

#### First Aid

Coping with general injuries likely on a bushwalk.

#### Fitness

Completing the walk without undue difficulty, physically

or otherwise.

#### Food and Equipment

Knowing and obtaining the food and equipment appropriate for the walk.

#### Health and Safety

Knowing and pectising the actions necessary for the safe participation in a walk

#### Conservation Practice

Knowing and observing appropriate conservation practices on a walk.

#### Incident Management

Responding appropriately to incidents that may arise on a walk.

#### Advanced skills

Leading or participating in activities of a more extended or skilled nature.

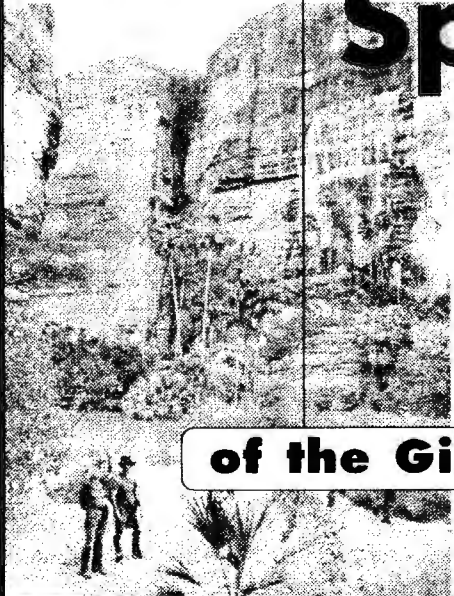
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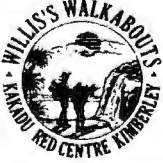
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# A CLOSE SHAVE ON THE RAZOR

Or

## “Just How Much Excitement / Exhaustion Can One Pack Into a Single Weekend?”

Having attracted your attention let me just clarify that at no time was anyone actually physically imperilled in any way. We were however plagued / blessed to varying degrees by rugged rocky ridges, spectacular views, a GPS (geographical position stuffup) problem, comfortable bed deprivation, lack of water where you expect it syndrome, vanishing tracks, lack of daylight, lack of sleep and depletion of energy resources, otherwise known as feeling stuffed. It was one of those trips that may pass into Melbourne Bushies folklore, that people will speak about around future campfires in hushed tones with reverence and awe.

The Razor & Viking are two very rugged and spectacular peaks, the centrepiece of the Razor/Viking Wilderness Zone in the heart of the Victorian Alps. The stage was set for a medium/hard trip on the weekend of the 1st & 2nd of April starting from the West Buffalo River. It didn't occur to us that the Saturday was April Fool's Day! After the pack weigh-in on Saturday morning, nine eager bushwalkers set off along a 3 1/2 km section of vehicle track and then headed up the trackless spur towards the north peak of the Razor. Pack weights ranged from Jenny's ultra light 10.2 kg to Ralph's fruit & vegetable laden 17.5 kg. We all had some extra water because we were a bit uncertain about the water situation at our proposed campsite at Viking Saddle, given the current dry conditions.

Progress up the spur was quite reasonable. It got rockier and slower as we got higher and soon we were scrambling up the final slabs and standing on the summit of the north peak. The views of all the big name peaks were magnificent. There was Howitt, the Crosscut Saw, Speculation, Cobbler, Buffalo, Feathertop, Hotham, Kent and the Viking. The main summit of the Razor looked enticingly close across the intervening gully.

I don't remember how long it took for the whole group to cross the gully but it was a long time. The problem was a series of rocky ribs which forced us a long way down and involved tiring little cliff climbs and scrub bashes. By the time we all stood on the main summit of the Razor it was late in the day and we were a tired bunch of bushwalkers. “Soon we'll be on the Alpine Track and it will be plain sailing” - or so we thought!. The walk now along the Razor was very tortuous and rocky and very slow. Time was running out and as an extra complication, mist was rolling in. Soon it enveloped us.

Eventually with half an hour of daylight left we hit what appeared to be a track about where the Alpine Track was shown on the map. “Yippee! Now we'll just turn left and follow it to the Viking Saddle campsite, get some water by torchlight, cook dinner on the campfire and have a great night's sleep. No drama.” We came to a cairn with a stick marker pointing the way and found a

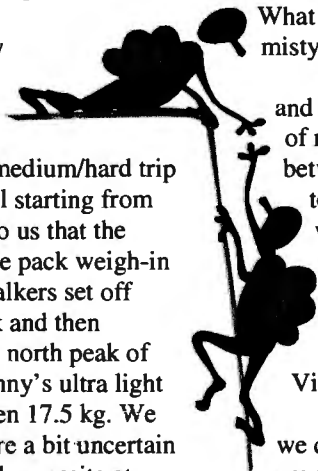
yellow track marker. The track was well defined so on we went but heh! It divided! The track we followed petered out in a mess of scrub and steep rock slabs and by now it was quite dark. We retraced our route by torchlight and took the other option. It too seemed to disappear! Back to the last seen marker and yes, we were on the alpine track so we tried again and this time we found more markers but boy what a track. It twisted and turned through scrub and over perilous slabs and then disappeared again. We were standing by a clear yellow track marker; the track appeared to be going in the right direction to that point, rough as it was, but then it appeared to deadend. It was dark; here we were, surrounded by steep rock slabs and scrubby gullies. We couldn't make any sense out of the this disappearing track; with little water and no chance of a fire and no suitable place to camp either where we were or where we had been in the previous 2 hours! “OK guys. What do we do now?” Luckily it was mild and although misty it wasn't raining.

We chose to spend the night there as best we could and sort out the mystery in the morning. We found bits of near flat, sloping and lumpy ground wedged in between rocks and trees. We had breakfast or tomorrow's lunch or nibbles in lieu of dinner. Tents were either partially erected in distorted form or draped over prostrate bodies and some of us managed to get some sleep. We arose at the crack of dawn, some of us feeling sore and sleep deprived but all eager to get on with it and get to Viking Saddle.

In the clear light and excellent visibility of day we could see what had happened. We were heading the wrong way along the alpine track! It just so happened that the first part of the track towards Mt Speculation was going roughly the same way as the correct track to the Viking in order to get round difficult rock slabs, and the cairn with the pointing stick was actually a track junction where we should have turned left! The track we had first come across after the Razor was not the Alpine Track but a side track accessing the Razor! For interest sake I tried to find where the track to Speculation went but after 10 minutes of searching I gave up. No wonder we had so much trouble in the dark! We decided that the Alpine Track is definitely only the Alpine Route here.

The track to Viking Saddle was often almost nonexistent due to fallen trees, branches and leaf litter and hard to follow but we eventually got to last night's camp, exhausted but relieved. A brief rest and down to where the water should have been. Water? What water? There was none! Things were grim. Two of us set off further downstream. We went down and down and down until finally, a long way down, we found a small rock pool with some stagnant water flavoured with insects and twigs. We struggled back to the saddle with 11 litres between us and boiled it all up. Everyone had a feed, a drink and put some water in their bottles and finally at 11 am we set off, dreaming of flowing rivers and bottles of cool drink. We all seemed to cope fine.

The Viking was superb with its massive cliffline. Progress became difficult and slow however, firstly because the route skirted below the rocky slabs through



scrub and then because it descended very steeply off the end of the Viking. The tireder we got, the slower we went. It improved once we got down and we plodded on to Barry Saddle where there was a rainwater tank with discoloured water but heh! it was wet wasn't it! Then a 7 km road bash, much of it in the dark again and finally at 8pm we were all back at the cars, not really looking forward to the long drive home.

I can't speak for everyone but I can say that at least 3 of us thought that it was a wonderful trip and we loved it, even the night rogaining part of it. The country is truly spectacular and the whole adventure was full on. The weather apart from the mist on Saturday was kind

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## The Anakie Gorge – Steiglitz Walk

### Sunday 16 April 2000

A map to peruse is normally sufficient to determine which walk to choose, but a cross-section, drawn by our capable gent, gave meaning to those contour clues.

From the outset, our leader made it very clear that front-runners must stop for the rest, no need to worry when the mountain was sheer, when endurance was put to the test.

We were warned to watch the ground beneath while clambering like goats uphill, on the mountains, littered with slate and leaf, one could easily slip and spill.

Luckily we had Linda to handle repairs and some fancy first Aid stuff, those special bandaids among her wares weren't skin, but t'was near enough.

I learned a thing or two from Graham about the local vegetation, that the 'grass tree' is the proper name for that 'black boy' aberration.

to us. Everyone pulled together well and coped admirably, especially our 2 visitors who got a bit more than they bargained for. Next time this excellent trip is programmed, maybe it should be rated hard and put on in November or December when there is longer daylight and more water. I certainly want to do it again.

The group consisted of Ralph (leader), Cameron, Diane, Pearson, Jenny, Jopie, David, Adrian & Celeste (apologies if I have spelt any names incorrectly)

*Jopie Bodegraven*

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Much of the die-back cleverly conceals an abundance of growth anew, and after some rain, one certainly feels a part of that rebirth too.

Through the gorge (cut from age-old granite, we trekked by the river slow, aside cliffs soaring to a lofty height, engulfing we mortals below.

After straddling the boardwalk across a creek, the manna gum forest did beckon, not so the koalas playing hide and seek, who are shy of humans, I reckon.

Atop at last at Outlook Lookout, some spoke of hang gliding in jest, some took photos or simply lazed about, admiring the view from our nest.

Well, I'm pleased that I did the 20ks (though a tour of Steiglitz must wait): to Stephen, our leader, goes lots of praise, for this excellent bushwalking date.

*Jill Dawson*

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## Mutiny on the High Plains

### Easter 2000

#### Cast:

The Macho Men: Bob, Brian, David, Max (leader)  
The Mutineers: Alan, Carol, Jan, Jill, Maggie, Tracey

**Friday.** A Good one. The cast assembles at Pretty Valley at 10:00 for 10:30. A well-balanced group of five women and five men set off in a westerly direction. Some cloud was about, but it was above the peaks, and a cool wind was blowing. We strolled up to Mt. Niggerhead for the first of many excellent views of Feathertop. Then it was north over the Niggerheads, suffering temporarily through a "was it snow or was it small-hailstones" shower, to Little Plain for camp. A beautiful campsite with views both NE towards Spion Kopje and NW to the Fainters, but

unfortunately not as sheltered as we would have liked. A biting wind drives us from to campfire to bed by 7:30.

**Saturday.** We awake to the morning sun, and peer out of the tents to find a winter wonderland of white covering tents and ground. This is the beginning of a still-to-be-resolved discussion: was it snow or was it a deep frost? Can it snow when the sky is perfectly cloudless? Nevertheless, it was damned cold! Many flame robins are twittering in the trees, oblivious to the cold. At this stage our well-balanced party becomes unbalanced, and the mutiny begins. The Mutineers have found it too cold, and decide to return to sunny Melbourne for a good warm night's sleep, leaving the Macho Men to continue on their merry way. The Macho Men wander off packless to the Fainters South and North for a cloudless day and fantastic views in all directions. We crunch through frozen mud in places, and even find 15 cm long icicles glinting in the sun

where a stream dribbles onto the path. A superb and easy walk! After arriving back at mutiny campsite for lunch, we pack up camp, and seek a more sheltered site. Fortunately this was easily found about 1 km in the direction of Tawonga Huts - Max's prior map annotations have paid off big-time. This is a 5-star campsite on a grassy plain surrounded by snow gums, near water, and attracting both evening and morning sun. We soak up the sun in anticipation of another cold night.

**Sunday.** Easter Sunday. Definitely frost-not-snow this morning after a night even colder than the last. We abandon our plan of camping at Mt. Jim and head instead for lower altitude in search of a warmer night. It is a beautiful cloudless day again, but the wind has returned. We head, via Weston Hut, Blair Hut, Red Robin Battery and Cobungra Gap to Dibbin Hut. It is still a bit windy, but we find a semi-sheltered campsite by the river, with views across the plain, and away from the crowded hut. By 5 pm the wind drops, and some high cloud appears. Without the wind, the campsite becomes much more pleasant, and we spend another night around the campfire, finishing the last of Alan's donated wine. The prior night time temperatures induce much discussion of the comparative merits of our sleeping bags - and Max threatens his bag with a cleaning. The cloud means a warmer night - until about 1 am, when it disappears, and the temperature plummets, almost down to its now-accustomed levels.

**Monday.** Another cloudless day. Uphill today, past Basalt Temple with even better views of Feathertop (again) and the Razorback (again). We can see most of our previous couple of days route, above along the Niggerheads to the

Fainters, and below along the West Kiewa River. We lunch in the glorious sunshine on top of Mt. Jim, and then camp in the snow gums and horse shit, just to the SW. A 4-star campsite (5 stars for the site, minus 1 for the horse shit). We spend many hours admiring the beauty of the trees with their massive trunks and gnarled shapes. Our afternoon expedition, packless, is via the Cope West aqueduct to High Plains Creek falls, a beautiful small waterfall (20 metres?) with a clear and inviting pool below. We somehow avoid the temptation of a freezing swim. The evening is again spent by the campfire, under a cloudless star-filled sky, with no wind, followed by a warmer night, perhaps down only to zero!

**Tuesday.** We depart at 9:00 for 9:30. A gentle sunny stroll across grassy plains back to the cars by 11:00, and then to the Mt. Beauty bakery by 12:00. Decent coffee, bliss.....

In summary: five days of fabulous mountain views, four excellent campsites, one day of high cloud and four cloudless days, one decent and three excellent campfires, and good company for the whole trip. Thanks to the Mutineers for leaving behind some good red wine, Easter eggs for all, and gloves for Brian. Thanks to the Macho Men for toughing it out. And thanks especially to Max for organising an excellent, relaxing, well-planned trip at short notice. And extra-special-super thanks to the manufacturers of thermal underwear.

*David Everitt*

## Snow Gums to Behold

Not pruned  
Nor shaped by stake or hand  
Not orderly or in line  
They stand

Not pillaged  
Nor nurtured by some product brand  
Not fruit do bear  
They stand

Not tall  
Nor giant (some as nature planned)  
Not tho'lost their beauty be  
They stand

Not campestral  
Nor cultured parks, or coppice grand  
Not there, but being a top "The Pilot"  
They stand

To all they who have seen the reward of walking to the top of "The Pilot"  
*Ed Little*

## DOWN THE COBUNGRA a walk on the wild side

This trip was in the planning for over a year, and although not designated as a Club walk, it could be one for the future. It was planned as a 2-2½ day walk over Easter from Dinner Plain to Anglers<sup>1</sup> Rest, a distance altogether of approx. 35-40kms. The tricky part was going to be exactly where to exit the Cobungra River and bush bash up to the junction of Greys Hill & McCoys Track, the latter leading straight into Anglers Rest. As a precaution, we did a preview of this exit section on a previous Sunday, marking the exit spot on both river banks. and committing the terrain and features to memory. We (myself and my daughter Michelle, a very fit 26 y.o) were ready.

**GOOD FRIDAY:** We left the Dinner Plain area at 1pm on Good Friday, hoping to find a track to the Cobungra. But we could only find a muddy, slippery horse trail, and from a previous walk, I knew it led west to Swindler's Creek. So we went bush, following a northerly bearing with rain pelting down. This was extremely dense and thus hard, slow going. The long



**May 2000**

Date	Location
19-22	THE CRINOLINE
21 Sun	INGLISTON & WERRIBEE GORGES
26-28	NORTHERN WILSONS PROM
27 Sat	DANDENONGS EXPLORER
28 Sun	MT MACEDON - BRAEMAR TRACK

Transport Standard	Leader (s)	Phone (H)
Private M	Rod Novak	
Bus E & E/M	Stuart Mann & Peter McGrath	#
Private E/M	David Arnold	
Private E	Michael Humphrey	
Bus E & E/M	John Kittson & Jean Woodger	#

**June 2000**

4 Sun	COBAW RANGE (Kyneton)
<b>Queen's Birthday Weekend</b>	
9-12	Pack Carry: Pink Lakes
9-12	Pack Carry: Brisbane Ranges
9-12	Base Camp: Beechworth / Chiltern
11 Sun	BUNGAL S.P. - MOORABOOL RIVER
Mon 12	Historical Walk:
18 Sun	BUNYIP S.P. - MORTIMER RESERVE
Wed 21	Wednesday Walkers: Point Nepean

BUS	E/M & M	Alan Ide & Marisa Rizzuto	
Private	M	Max Casley	
Private	E/M	Rod Novak	
Private	Easy	Stuart Mann	
BUS	E & E/M	Alan Miller & Anne Wilkins	#
Public	Easy	Lance Mobbs	*
BUS	E & E/M	Jan Palich & Alan Miller	#
Private	E/M	Barbara Weston	

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