



ADVANCE NOTICE:

TRIP TO THE SOUTH WEST OF W.A.

I am going on a trip to the south west of Western Australia in October, possibly for 3 weeks, and would like to hear from anyone who would like to join me.



The trip is in the very early stages of planning but it will be a touring, wildflowers and walking kind - of one, leaving from Perth and probably using a hire car to get around.

I would like to visit Geographe Bay, Leeuwin - Naturaliste National Park, Margaret River, D'Entrecasteaux and Pemberton National Parks, Walpole - Nornalup, Torndirrup and Porongurup National Parks, Albany, Stirling Range and Fitzgerald National Park, Esperance, and Cape Le Grand National Park on it but this is a flexible plan open to discussion.

I am aware that some people in the club have a better knowledge of these areas than I do and would appreciate their advice and suggestions to help plan and organise the trip.

If you are interested in joining me or would like more information about it could you please contact me, **Sandra Mutimer**, before the end of April on telephone number: _____ or _____

NEW SECRETARY!

Many thanks to Celesta Fong who has kindly volunteered to be the Club's Secretary for this year.

INSIDE:

- Leaders' Training Day Preview
- 2 Cape Conran Walk Articles
- Conservation Forum

LEVEL 2 FIRST AID TRAINING

Following on from the successful course run last September, the Club is planning to run another course this year to be conducted over 2 weekends.

N.B.: Change of Dates – Due to a lack of numbers the program has been moved to the following dates:

Part 1: April 7 & 8

Part 2: May 5 & 6

It is important that we have as many people as possible with the skills to assist Leaders, if the need arises.



The cost for 20 hours of training is \$120 with a subsidy from the Club of \$50 for Members to assist people develop their First Aid skills.

ACT NOW if you want to be part of the program as numbers are limited to 12.

*Brian Crouch
Training Coordinator*

CHANGES TO THE AUTUMN WALKS PROGRAM

April – The Easter Canoe Trip has been cancelled. Unfortunately, the leader/replacement leader were unavailable for this trip.

April – Sunday Bus trip on 8th April to Warburton – Upper Yarra Goldfields. New Leader is Tracey Jamieson. Telephone Tracey on

May - The Wednesday Walk in May has been rescheduled to the “third Wednesday of the month”. The walk to Blackwood – Garden of St Erth will now be held on the 16th May (not the 24th on the program). Contact Sandra Mutimer for more information on

May – Sunday Bus trip on 13th May. New leader is Alan Miller (replacing Sally). Telephone Alan on

May - Pack Carry on 11-13th May to the Major Mitchell plateau. New Leader is Mark Walters (replacing Gina Hopkins). Telephone Mark on

*Rod Novak
Walks Secretary*



Goulburn River Canoeing Trip March 2001

Quentin Tibballs sets up camp for the night by the river. The leader of the trip, George Zamora is passing in the background.

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. meet 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

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

Edited by Vicki Scrivenger.

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 electronic mail is preferred, and that walk previews, articles, etc. for The News may be sent to the Editor by:

- ★ Emailing to:
- ★ Placing diskette (or hand written material) in the “Red Box” in the clubrooms or posting to: The Editor, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, VIC, 3001
- ★ Posting diskette (or hand written material) to:

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
ELECTRONIC MAIL IS PREFERRED**

APRIL/MAY DAY WALKS, ETC.



Warburton - Upper Yarra Goldfields



Switzerland Ranges

DATE Sunday 8 April

STANDARD Easy & Easy Medium

LEADER(S) Tracey Jamieson & Bill Donald

TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 9.00am

RETURN TIME Approx. 6.00pm

MAP REFERENCE O'Shannassy

DATE Sunday 29 April

STANDARD Easy Medium & Medium

DISTANCE Approx. 15km & 17km

LEADER(S) John Kittson & Art Terry

TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 8.30am

TRAVEL DISTANCE 110km from Melbourne

RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00pm

AREA Yea/Molesworth

MAP REFERENCE Dropmore, Molesworth, Yarack,
Yea 1:25,000

This is a circuit walk on 4 wheel drive tracks & walking tracks. Both groups have a couple of slight climbs with an extra climb for the easy/medium walkers at the end. Both groups have a creek crossing so bring an extra pair of shoes & socks to change at the end of the walk.

The walk follows the old goldfield tracks & is very pleasant with plenty of trees, ferns & birds.

Switzerland Ranges in the autumn with Mt. Broughton, alt. 655 mts. its crowning glory. It could not be called any less than fantastic, what with the 360 degree views, total silence, and it's a great place to take lunch. Both Art Terry and myself are a bit chuffed about whole thing, so armed with your camera, day pack and all your goodies, come and join us for a great day.

We will head out from the city via the Hume Freeway, 'loo' stop just past Wallan and we will head east off the freeway at Tallarook along to Trawool on the Goulburn Valley Hwy, then travel towards Yea, and up the Ghin Ghin Road to Highlands - this is the start of our walk area. The medium group are to be dropped off at the base of Mt. Broughton, starting their climb from about 200 Mts. through to the top at 655 mts. and a well earned rest.

The easy/medium group are to start at Highlands and head south across open country with a short climb onto Mt Broughton to join up with the medium group for lunch. It is then a pleasant walk for both groups along a well defined bush track through the Switzerland Ranges. Keep an eye out for kangaroos, wallabies, koalas, varied bird life, tall gums and fern gullies. The drop from the Range back down to the Goulburn River is a little steep, but take your time and enjoy the views. When I led the walk 2 years back, I noticed at one point all the cameras were out for the great views as the sun was shining on the Poplars along the river's edge, with their autumn foliage, it made a great sight.

At this time of year it could be cool up through this area, so have your coat with you just in case, also bring water as no supply will be available throughout the walk. Leave a change of clothes back on the bus along with a pair of clean dry shoes for the trip home. So come along and enjoy yourself.

P.S.: a thermos of hot tea or coffee left on the bus is a nice pick-me-up at the end of the walk.



Dandenongs Explorer: Doongalla Forest

DATE Saturday 28 April

STANDARD Easy

DISTANCE Approx. 14km

LEADER(S) Warren Baker

TRANSPORT Private

RETURN TIME 3.30pm - 4.00pm

AREA Doongalla Forest
Channel 10 Track

MAP REFERENCE Melways 65 & 66

Meet at Wicks reserve (Melways J8 map 65). We will do a round trip visiting the Doongalla homestead for lunch. After lunch we will make a short climb to the channel 10 track and return to the cars. Coffee after the walk.



Track Maintenance Day (& Afternoon Tea)

DATE Saturday 5 May
STANDARD Easy
LEADER(S) Anne Wilkins
TRANSPORT Private

This will be a lovely day & chance to do some much appreciated maintenance on a track close-ish to Melbourne.

As a reward for your donated time & effort we'll stop for an extremely yummy afternoon-tea.



Kilcunda - San Remo

DATE Sunday 6 May
STANDARD Easy & Easy Medium
DISTANCE 12 & 15 km
LEADER(S) Fay Pratt & Clare Lonergan
TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00am
RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00pm
AREA South Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE Melways p.527

The E/M walk will commence on the cliff tops at Kilcunda, following the George Bass Coastal Walk. Easy walk will start some 3 kms further along this walk.

The varying terrain overlooks Bass Strait, some parts along the cliff top & some on beaches. There will be rock hopping & a few undulations to achieve the desired cardiovascular effect, wonderful ocean vistas to take in & green, hilly grazing lands to pass through. A short section of road bashing is needed to by-pass a short section through farmland & any altercations with cattle.

Make sure you bring warm clothing, wet weather gear & good sturdy footwear as the wind off the ocean can be quite chilly.

This is a most enjoyable walk & some yummy delights await at the end of the day. The fish shop, coffee shop & pub are all within sight of the bus when you reach San Remo.



Pyrites Creek (Gisborne)

DATE Sunday 13 May
STANDARD Easy Medium & Medium
DISTANCE 10/15 km
LEADER(S) Alan Miller & Peter Havlicek
TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30pm
AREA Gisborne
MAP REFERENCE Toolern Vale 1:25000

These walks are through open eucalypt forest & largely along fire trails. We start on Pyrites Creek & part way through each walk, we cross Pyrites Creek – same creek, different spelling! Because of the refusal of permission by one property owner, we take a detour at the start to get onto the main N-S fire trail. He also refused permission to the CFA which then cut its own access road!

There are plenty of good views, particularly on the medium walk, to Mt. Macedon, the Bullengarooks, the You Yangs, Lake Merrimu, Mt. Blackwood, etc.

There are several climbs & descents on both walks so they are both harder than the distances suggest.



Wed: Garden of St Erth– Simmons Reef

DATE Wednesday 16 May
STANDARD Easy Medium – 12 km
LEADER(S) Sandra Mutimer
TRANSPORT Private (back to cars at 4pm)

We will meet at 10.30am at the Garden of St Erth carpark, Melway ref. 509 E11.

The Garden of St Erth is located where the mining township of Simmons Reef once existed. This was one of the small mining towns that developed in the Blackwood area after gold was discovered here and evidence of mining remains in the former water races and mine shafts we will see on the walk. The sandstone cottage on the property was built in 1860 when the owner made his fortune on the diggings and it is named after his Cornish birthplace. From the outside we will be able to see this cottage that was restored by the Garnett family and also part of the beautiful garden they established here.

Our walk will take us past the garden and we will climb up to Foster's Lookout, from where there are good views if the weather is suitable. We will gradually make our way down to join the Lerderderg Heritage River Walk and wind along the the Lerderderg Valley on a water race track before returning towards the Garden of St Erth along the river flats.

I may need to adapt the walk a little due to heavy rains.

Please phone **Sandra Mutimer** on _____ to let me know if you are coming on this walk. Also let me know in advance if you'll be needing a lift or would like to car pool.

APRIL/MAY WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



Canoe Trip: Flavours at St. Leonards

DATE	Saturday 7 - Sunday 8 April
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Approx. 40 km
LEADER(S)	Joy Carver
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Murray River/Keogh Island
MAP REFERENCE	Chart 19-14 River of Islands, Kath & Leon Bentley

The Bad news is that All Saints are not holding their Opera in the Rose Garden event. The good news is that we save \$60. It gets even better. Here is the replacement finale.

Greg Lawrence of St. Leonards Winery has shared with me some exciting news about "Flavours of Rutherglen". This is a market-day format to which over 30 local producers of fine foods have been invited to participate. Alan, of "Graces Place" Yackandandah is the guest chef and will be utilising some of these products in a number of specialty dishes. The usual "Le Café" will not be operating and there will be no room for the usual jazz on the lawns. But nevertheless, we will still have fun. (Are there any volunteers to perform in the place of the local jazz musicians?)

I have been able to make bookings for 15 people. It is expected the meals will be less than \$15 and if you wish to enjoy the local wines, allow around \$16. There will be delights from "The Pickled Sisters", no doubt, an olive or two, and Margie Hyslop's marinated eggplant. So bring some of the housekeeping funds if you wish to take something memorable home.

Canoes will cost \$25 per person, providing life jackets, and delivered ready 8.30am. on Saturday morning.

(If Melbourne visitors wish to visit the region over an extended time, you may camp at the Howlong Common on the banks of the Murray River which is just over the road from the starting place.) Local police tell me that the gate is not locked.

N.B.: Change of destination.



Base Camp: Alpine N.P. at Bennies

DATE	Friday 4 – Sunday 6 May
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
LEADER(S)	Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT	Private

Mt Cobbler is one of our most spectacular alpine peaks. It has a rocky summit block that gives superb views in all directions of lots of big name peaks. This is your chance to bag this classic alpine summit in the easiest way possible, a day walk of under 10 km return with a climb of under 600 metres. In addition there are some most impressive waterfalls (rainfall permitting) coming off the plateau to look at and some more short walks to more beautiful places. And all this from the luxury of a national parks drive-in campground by a sparkling drinkable river.

On Saturday we will drive the 18 km to Cobbler Lake and walk up Mt Cobbler. On our way back we will detour to look at the top of Dandongadale and probably an other waterfall. If we have time we may do an optional rockhop of 1 ½ km to the base of Dandongadale Falls on our way back to Bennies. On Sunday we will do the 260 metre ascent of the small but rocky and specy Mt Typo near camp. Then on our way home we will have short walks to look at Paradise Falls, a nearby smaller falls and Powers Lookout.

Our route up and back is via Yea, Bonnie Doon and Whitfield. Travel time from Melbourne should be between 3 and 4 hours depending on where in Melbourne.

Bring a chair, good food, something to share for Happy Hour on Saturday and high spirits. This will be a top weekend.

Bennies is by the Rose River 18 km before Lake Cobbler. To get there we go through Whitfield. Our basecamp site is in a National Parks Campground with all the usual facilities, ie longdrop loo and good drinking water from the river.

N.B.: New phone no.:



Eco-Lodge: Glen Wills

DATE	Friday 11 – Sunday 13 May
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER(S)	Joy Carver
TRANSPORT	Private
TRAVEL DISTANCE	450 km from Melbourne
RETURN TIME	Options: Sunday or Monday pm
AREA	Alpine N. P. - Glen Wills/Mitta
MAP REFERENCE	CFA 336

Walks (and other activities) for Glen Wills Lodge:

1. Mt Wills: Drive a short distance to the track and it is a 3 hr return walk along the Razorback Ridge. Before turning back, explore from the summit we can return the way we came. Alternatively, we can go via Mt Wills South and join the Alpine Walking Track returning to the lodge. 5 hr option.

2. Kelly's and Fitzgerald's: This is a big walk for those who usually visit these huts from the high plains. Start from Lanes track along 10 km up Kelly's track somewhere near Shannonnvale. Visit the huts, and return via Track 107 to Big River Bridge. (pre-arranged cars for return to lodge)

3. Wombat Falls: This is a 30 minute walk to two waterfalls, Track starts 5km from lodge.

4. The Knocker: This is yet another area to explore within easy reach of the lodge.

5. Other activities: There is a tennis court to occupy those who have discovered that it is possible to hit the ball within the court boundaries, and take on whoever in a "MB" tournament. Have you ever got home after a long hard walk and wished for a hot tub massage? Try out Glen Wills – a hot tub on the verandah will ease those tired muscles after a great day on the mountains (or tennis).

Glen Wills Lodge is situated on the Omeo Highway (C543), some 450 kms from Melbourne on the east side of the highway. If you travel from south eastern suburbs, it is 52 km north of Omeo. If you travel from north of Melbourne, it is 56 km south of Mitta.

Accommodation: 5 bedrooms: combination of bunks, double or single beds. Enough for 12 to 15 people.

Dinner: The kitchen lends itself to cooking for a crowd with a slow-combustion stove. When booking please nominate your preference & how you wish to contribute (money, food, cooking).

Breakfast & Lunch: It is suggested you provide your own breakfast & lunch items. Bread may be baked in the oven.

Contact: Joy Carver:

Pack Carry: Major Mitchell Plateau

DATE	Friday 11 – Sunday 13 May
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER(S)	Mark Walters
TRANSPORT	Private



DATE	Friday 18 – Sunday 20 May
STANDARD	Easy Medium
LEADER(S)	Rosemary Cotter
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	7.00 pm
AREA	Murray River N.E. from Echuca
MAP REFERENCE	Barmah State Park & State Forest Map

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 Clubrooms for further details.



DATE	Friday 25 – Sunday 27 May
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Approx. 34 km
LEADER(S)	Bill Donald
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Approx. 7.00pm Sunday Night
AREA	Steglitz
MAP REFERENCE	VMTC Brisbane Ranges

The walk will commence at the Little River camping ground, heading south through the Brisbane Ranges. Camp on Saturday night will be at the Old Mill camp site. Sunday sees us walking to Steglitz along tracks and following Sutherlands Creek.

As the walk is close to Melbourne we will meet early on Saturday morning for the car shuffle. Expect the worst in weather, driving rain and cold nights. On the bright side we should be able to spot a few koalas.

Group limit: 10. Please see Bill in the rooms for any additional information.

TRAINING DAY – SAT 12 MAY

“Leading a Walk” - Following on from a series of successful Training days during last year this will be an opportunity for Members to further develop their Leadership Skills.

The Saturday will be preceded by an Information Night at the Club on the previous Wed (9th May). I suggest to gain any benefit that people need to commit to both activities. The Saturday will involve a full Day, somewhere close to Melbourne.

Activities to be covered include:

- Planning a walk
- Advanced Navigation
- Bus Procedure
- Leadership Skills
- Weekend Walk Procedure
- Dealing with Incidents



All members are invited to come along regardless of experience level to share your knowledge and learn new skills.

For further information or to book a place for this fun Day contact me ASAP.

*Brian Crouch
Training Coordinator*

Congratulations to those Members who have paid their Subscriptions to date - that is 25.5% of you!

For the rest, please take time to note that your address label still says "Subs Due". We are hoping to hear from you soon!

Subscriptions are due before the end of May, just 7 weeks away!

*Peter Havlicek
Membership Secretary*

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

ATTENTION ALL SUNDAY BUS WALKERS. On a recent Sunday Bus trip we had 16 “walk ups” on the Sunday morning trying for a vacant seat. This caused a lot of additional pressure on the Sunday Bus leaders who are trying to load the bus as quickly as possible. For a speedy departure and the enjoyment of all, can you please ensure that you have booked and paid for your bus seat, at Wednesday Clubnight (or by posting in a cheque 14 days before the trip). If you haven't booked a seat at Clubnight then there is a late fee of \$2. Please assist the Leader by paying this surcharge. Remember – no telephone bookings are accepted and to reserve a seat you must pay at Clubnight.

For the cooler months, can all Sunday Bus walkers please bring a change of footwear for the Bus, a change of clothes and a thermos is always welcome at the end of a cold day.

Sunday Bus Leaders – Please help Bob our Sunday Bus driver with a map with clear directions for the Bus drop off and pick-up points. Use a highlighter pen for the main roads/bus route. Bob would like some useful reference points eg nearest town, main roads, distance along the track etc.

State Forest Walking Track Survey - This objective of this survey is to build a database of walking tracks in state forests to help protect them from logging operations ie buffer zones. Walk reports are still required of walking tracks/routes in state forests. Contact Rod Novak if you can help.

Dandenong Explorers – **HELP** is required for these popular Saturday rambles for the second half of 2001 – from June to December. Warren (our new Dandenong's Explorer Coordinator) will be overseas during this period and has requested assistance from Club members. Can walkers who would like to assist with these fun rambles please contact Warren on

*Rod Novak
Walks Secretary*



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CAPE CONRAN LABOUR DAY WEEKEND WALK

10 - 12 MARCH 2001

The party met up at the Picnic ground just before 12.30pm at Eastern Beach Car Park in Lakes Entrance for lunch. Soon after lunch we set off for a leisurely walk along a section of the ninety-mile beach to the actual "Entrance". Whilst at the "Entrance" we saw several boats surfing the waves created by opposing tides by the sea and the lake. Further along, we saw a huge pump gushing sand dredged from the marina. Accordingly the pump operates on a 7 days a week 7 hours per day pumping approx. 18 tonnes of sand per day from nearby marina, apparently to remove the sand that's being constantly pushed up by sea current. The figure of eight circuit took approx. 6 kms. and before long we were back at the picnic ground.

Return to the cars, we were off to Wiarewa to take a look at the Hospital Creek Timber Trestle Railway Bridge. This is a disused bridge that towers approx. 30m above the road. Apparently this railway bridge was built with the intention to service the planned national capital city somewhere in this region. Obviously that didn't materialise. Nevertheless it was subsequently redeployed for other domestic purposes.

Our next stop is Grandview Lookout in Newmerella. This lookout offers us a magnificent view of the Snowy River floodplain from all directions. After a few minutes of ogling, we were off to Banksia Bluff Bush Camp at Cape Conran.

When we picked our adjoining camp sites, it was almost 6pm. After setting up our tents, we whipped out our deck chairs and table. We were set for the next task and the leader ordered "right, it is entrée time !"... Out came the goodies like Turkish bread, olives, oysters, chips, nuts, biscuits etc(not forgetting the wine), all piled onto the little table like a mini sundry shop in China town. We scoffed ourselves like starving seagulls, then Anita proclaimed this was her dinner and not her entrée. We looked at each other and sheepishly nodded in quiet agreement. But what about the nutritious dinner we have planned for the night? It was all Rod's fault, encouraging us to bring a plate to share... Well, perhaps it was the sea air, despite what we had consumed, we proceeded with our dinners. The rest of the night was spent in front of a small fire (with a few roaming possums) exchanging bushies yarns, punctuated by the sound of gentle waves in the distance.

It was a relaxing day 2 start. We drove a short distance to the start of our walk to Dock Inlet. The air temperature was mild. Apart from a couple of anglers at the start of the walk, there was not a single soul in the entire stretch of the beach. It was peaceful to walk along this stretch of the beach, listening to the waves, gaze into the horizon and occasionally looking at the footprints in front. When we reached Dock Inlet, we headed for the fresh water lake looking for the Dock Inlet walking track as we have decided to return via an inland walking track. It was uneventful and we had to turn back to the beach to look for one further. It was in one of the sand dunes where Marika picked up a drift card (see separate account by Marika on opposite page).

We finally picked up the walking track that lead to us a beautiful spot by the lake. Lunch was had and Lloyd had his customary swim in the lake and commented the water temperature was warm but there were no takers.

After lunch we headed back to the starting point via an inland track. The walk was quite featureless. By then the temperature was rather warm and we hastened our pace like horses on a home trail. Just before our destination we took a side track which lead us back to Yeerung beach and fresh water lake where a number of us had a good swim before heading back to the cars.

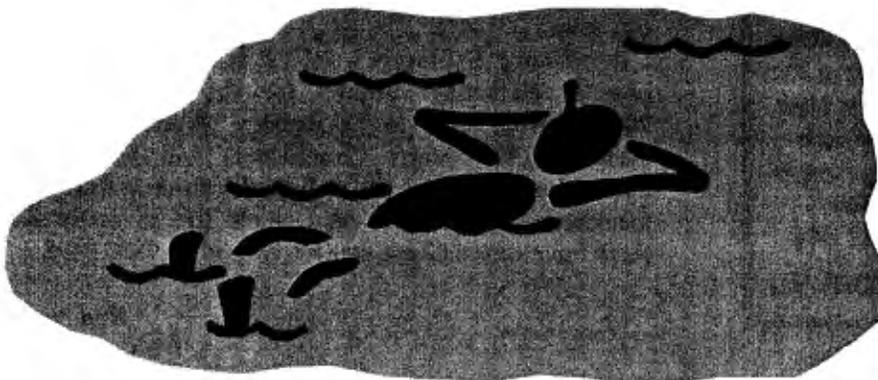
Entrée no. 2 was consumed in a similar fashion followed by the main meal. We sat around the campfire and were entertained by some spectacular sheet lighting in the distance that lasted for nearly ½ hr.

Day 3 morning saw us taking a very leisurely 4 kms East Cape circuit walk before we packed up. En route to Marlo we stopped at French's Inlet and also explored the surrounds of the mouth of the Snowy.

On our way back to Melbourne, we stopped by Holy Plains State Park for a couple of brief walks as we were just a tad early for our 6pm dinner at Traralgon.

Thank you Rod for organising such a wonderful walk on such short notice. The magnificent eight were "don't you dare come in my tent you possum!!!" Jean, "I don't need my main meal" Anita, "where is my torch??" Dianne, "I'll have my lavender bath" Sandra, "is this a bathers' crowd?" Lloyd, "cold shower is actually quite warm !" Sakhong, "wow a drift card !" Marika and "OK lucky dip" Rod.

Sak-Hong Wan



FINDING A DRIFT CARD

I thought I had found my opportunity to take part in some exciting research when I stumbled across a drift card the size of a postcard on my way down a sand dune on the Cape Conran Walk. The drift card advised me that it had been released 1.5 km out to sea to test the water flow in the research phase of installing an outfall pipeline.

Rod sent the card into the Reply Paid address on behalf of Melbourne Bushwalkers. Within 2 working days I had a reply with the following: Thank you for taking the time to return the Drift Card that you recently found near Yeerung River. From the information on the card we suspect that it was used for the pre-design investigation for the Saline Water Outfall Pipeline, at McGauran's Beach near Seaspray. As this pipeline has been in operation since 1983, we suspect that the card has been in the environment for about 20 years (*imagine my surprise!*). Whilst it's amazing that the card has survived for so long, it's a pretty sobering example of the persistence of plastics in the marine environment. Thanks again for returning the card. I hope you enjoyed your recent trip to Gippsland. Yours sincerely, Scientific Officer – Environment, 15 March 2001.

The good old drift card has a story to tell after the 20 years in the environment – always take your rubbish with you and recycle where possible.

Marika Jagow

MT HOTHAM LODGE WEEKEND

On the weekend of 16th – 18th February Dianne McKinley organised a Club trip staying at the Royal Children's Hospital lodge at Mt Hotham. I hadn't walked in the area before so I went along.

At 9:05 on Saturday we started the walk to Mt Feathertop – Victoria's second highest mountain. We were to walk along The Razorback, a high, flat topped,  steep sided ridge. From the Mount Hotham road you can look along the ridge and see Mt Feathertop above the ridge, looking rocky and bleak.

The start of the ridge is too high  for trees. Several types of ground cover plant compete to make the best use of their exposed position. On the lower sections of the ridge there are sections of snow gums. We had morning tea on a grassy patch among the trees with views out to the High Plains. People talked about the Christmas trips they'd done – which trips were harder or easier, who went etc.

In any stretch of grass there were lots of small grasshoppers. As you walked along the insects would jump ahead of you. There were patches of orange everlasting – a native flower a bit like a large orange daisy. I was impressed how natural life uses any available opportunity. A high, very exposed ridge, which is covered in snow every winter doesn't seem like a good place to live. Yet many different types of plant, animal and insect belong there.

By early afternoon we'd past High Knob and reached the turn off to the summit. To the west the track led to Federation Hut sitting attractively on a small grassy saddle. We went to the north east up the final 200 metre climb (quite steep) to the summit.

Lunch on Mt Feathertop, looking over to Mt Buffalo. The weather was warm, sunny and completely calm. White butterflies flew above the tussocky grass. Coming down from Mt Feathertop Rob and Dianne talked about club weddings – especially since there were two weddings of club members in Melbourne that weekend.

The trip back along the Razorback was fairly hot work – with the sun beating down. I learnt that you need to carry even more water in the high country than when walking lower down. That evening most people cooked in the RCH lodge and some (like me) went out to eat. Very few people were at Mt Hotham,  and most eateries were closed. The pub at Mt Hotham only had pizza cooked by someone other than the  chef. Hardly a recommendation, so David and I drove to Dinner Plain and had a nice meal at the Dinner Plain Hotel. Then back to the lodge for more conversation.

On Sunday morning we ate breakfast on the balcony of the RCH lodge. It was peaceful in the sun looking over the trees around Mt Hotham. We started our walk by going up Mt Loch – which I recommend for views, including an excellent look at The Razorback and Mt Feathertop. The sides of Mt Loch had orange everlasting, a lot more grasshoppers and tufts of  mountain celery. We went along the edge of the ski area to Derrick Hut – a nice, tidy hut. Further on  we saw Spargos Hut perhaps half a kilometre away and somewhat lower down. David had gone ahead  and told us the rest of way to the hut was scrubby, so we turned around for the trip back to Melbourne.

Thanks Dianne for organising a great weekend.

On the walk : Liz Moore, Rod Novak, Rob Davis, Paul Beers, Sandra Mutimer, Anne-Marie Tolsma, Jodie Jay, Roger Browne, Deborah Collie, David Arnold, Ralph Blake & me.

William Cone

CONSERVATION FORUM

Here are some reports from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting of 24/01/2001:

Wilson's Prom. The *Draft Management Plan* is now available for public comment. Copies are available from Parks Victoria at a cost of \$8.80. Public submissions closed on 16th March.

State Forests - Rubicon area - as reported in the last NEWS there was a report of walkers being denied access to the Aqueduct Track. VicWalk followed this up with DNRE and the Alexandra region staff to resolve this issue. Walkers are now allowed access to the Aqueduct Track, however the barricaded trestle bridges are not to be crossed - as they are extremely dangerous. Alternative crossings exist beside or beneath the bridge.

Powelltown - VicWalk had been alerted of DNRE maintenance work on the "Walk into History" track along the Starlings Gap tramway. There has been excessive track widening for machine access and this has resulted in some damage. VicWalk contacted DNRE and pointed out this track was in a Special Protection Zone, a Heritage site and listed on the Historic Register. DNRE immediately stopped work and will make arrangements for the DNRE, VicWalk and Historic Branch Section to meet, and walk in to review the situation. It is VicWalk's intention to protect the integrity of the track.

Federation Trail (the Great Divide Trail from Daylesford to Ballarat). Part of this newly opened track will be affected by logging operations and the track will need to be relocated. Currently this track does not have 'special protection zone' status and logging operations will commence. This case illustrates the importance of identifying our walking tracks in state forests to give them special protection status and a buffer zone will exist between the track and logging operations.

Otway Ranges - The January meeting of the ORTWA was held in Apollo Bay and was attended by representatives from OREN, VicWalk, Chamber of Commerce and local Councillors. The following issues were canvassed:- (1) At a preliminary meeting with DNRE representative's it was stated the Sabine Falls area would not be logged this year. (2) Consultants are to be appointed to examine walking tracks and options for the Otways. (3) A large show of public support was a picnic organised for 11th March at Sabine Falls Picnic Ground. (4) Permission has been given to survey the Trans Otway walking route from Sunnyside Road to Skenes Creek Road.

Mt Stirling - A *Position Paper on Mt Stirling* has been developed by VicWalk. VicWalk have major concerns with the lack of detail of the development proposals, especially the planned road routes and construction methods, the Cricket Pitch car park, and new buildings and structures. There is now a Memorandum of Understanding between the Management Board and User Group.

Alpine - The Ski Lift company at Falls Creek has applied for permits for three new ski tows - on the Rocky Knolls, Dam Site Hill and on the north-east slope of Mt

Creek resort land). An EES will commence on the proposed Mt McKay ski tow but the application for a permit for the other two was via a process which would not involve an EES. The VNPA are concerned with the proposed Rocky Knolls and Dam Site Hill ski tows as they cross important alpine bog, as well as the development on Mt McKay. The VNPA has requested the EES to examine all three proposed ski tows. The public consultation period for the two non-EES proposals has been very short and closed on 18th January 2001.

Construction of the **Mt Loch Powerline** to Mt Hotham has commenced. The Machinery Spur track is (temporarily) closed from Mt Loch to Red Robin Mine.

The helicopter service between Falls Creek and the Horsehair Plain airport is being promoted. There are concerns over this increased flight pattern and noise level on the High Plains. Bill Metzthen recommends for skiers to maintain pressure by writing to Parks Victoria, the Department of Infrastructure and the ski tow company each ski season concerning excessive noise and to monitor flight patterns on the Bogong High Plains.

VicWalk attended the **Mallee Parks User Group** meeting on 5th January at the Hattah-Kulkyne Park Office. A scientific study on water flows in the Wyperfeld region over the past 100 years was presented and argued that two distinct 50 year phases exist. Pre 1944 Lake Albacutya filled once in every 20 years, with water also flowing into Wyperfeld. The 1944 to 1999 period indicates that Lake Albacutya will fill once in every 100 years, with little or no water flow into Wyperfeld with very serious effects to Wyperfeld national park habitat and tree re-generation. Water flow has been greatly affected by irrigation and agricultural water use.

The **deer shooter** convicted of manslaughter in 2000 for shooting a walker in the Warburton State Forest appealed his four year jail sentence. He lost the appeal.

An "Australian Alps Best Practice Field" forum was held between 26-29th March 2001. The cost was from \$795 and \$835. The objective of this three-day forum was to examine techniques and methods of **track management**.

Here are some reports from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting of 28/02/2001:

Wilson's Prom. - Prom Campers Association is seeking views from VicWalk on:

- (a) proposed additional walking track starting at the entrance to the Prom,
- (b) a hut at Darby River (Conservation Committee opposes most new huts and there appears to be no compelling reason for one at Darby River), and
- (c) "Where should the Great Prom Walkers be accommodated at Tidal River?"

Alpine Area - Royal assent has been given to the bill returning excised areas to the Alpine National Park and also additions will be made to the Upper Wongungurra catchment.

It is hoped that an Environmental Effects Statement process will be applied to the three Ski lift proposals in

Mt. McKay area.

The second powerline to Mt Hotham via Mount Loch is now under construction.

Wellington Plains - most of the graziers are not interested in selling their leases back to the state.

Mount Stirling - It is proposed to:- spend \$5 million on roadworks, the entry fee will increase by 2.5 per cent, summer visitation numbers have increased, rubber mats for tracks have been ordered (some \$20,000). There is a request for assistance by bushwalkers in laying mats (it seems likely that there will not be sufficient notification time allowed for bushwalkers to participate). There has been some discussion on Geelong Grammar paying rent for their hut.

State Forests - Otway Ranges - The DNRE has stated the Sabine Falls area will not be logged in 2001. There was a supporters' picnic at Sabine Falls on 11th March 2001 at 11 am.

Box-Ironbark - A group consisting of VicWalk, the VNPA, the Field Naturalists, and Birds Australia intend to organise a rally camp sometime in October with the aim of applying political pressure in favour of the box-ironbark areas.

State Forest Track Survey - members of this sub-committee note that some Clubs are unsure of the distinction between state forests and national parks. The sub-committee will apply a more targeted approach to the clubs.

A memorial service for Stephanie Rennick - initiator of the Two Bays Walking Track and author of the Peninsular flora and fauna guidebook, was held on 31st March.

*Rod Novak
Club Delegate*

VicWalk Conservation Committee

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BUSHIES' GOOD FOOD GUIDE

Savoie Patisserie, Bright – This is on the road to Harrietville, next to the ice-cream shop and over the road from **The Tin Dog**. It is run by a French couple and their son and has beautiful croissants, pastries and cakes and also serves coffee and icecream. The problem is that it closes at 4 : 30 pm.

Vienna Patisserie, Allan's Flat – Where is Allan's Flat, did you say ? Not far from Yackandandah is probably the easiest explanation. Re-inforcing Merrilyn's recommendation ... This is in a chalet - style building run by a young Austrian couple, Walter and Waltraub, that Merrilyn aptly describes as 'a cuckoo clock couple'. They serve tortes, strudels and other cakes with coffee, smoothies etc. This is open from 10: 00 am till 6:00 pm, every day except Tuesday.

Sandra Mutimer



Blue Dorsel, Euroa – Travelling through Euroa and can't get into **Cafe Euroa** (see Rod Novak's article Jan 2001 newsletter). Another alternative is readily available. Directly opposite **Cafe Euroa** in the main street is the **Blue Dorsel**. A good variety of options on offer, including fish, lamb, pasta and satays at very reasonable prices. The service was excellent. When we mentioned that we were short of time they really looked after us (us being Trish, Tracy, Fiona and myself).

Bill Donald

DUTY ROSTER

11 APRIL Paul & Marika
 18 APRIL Trish & Tracey
 25 APRIL Pearson & Vicki?
 2 MAY Brian & Deborah

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY 30 APRIL AT 7.00PM

FEBRUARY 2001 WALKS STATISTICS

February 2001	Trips	Partici-pants	Average	February 2000
Sunday Bus	4	140	35	35.7
Other Day-Wed: 4 Dand: 11	2	15	7.5	14
Pack Carry	2	15	7.5	12
Base Camp	1	5	5	7
Lodge	1	13	13	7
Li-Lo	1	10	10	7
Cycle	1	3	3	-
Cancelled	nil	-	-	nil
Total	12 trips	201	-	217

JANUARY 2001 ACCOUNTS

	\$
Opening Balance	46,017.53
Receipts	3,475.31
Payments	2,285.88
Closing Balance	47,206.96

FEBRUARY 2001 ACCOUNTS

	\$
Opening Balance	47,206.96
Receipts	1,779.00
Payments	467.03
Closing Balance	48,518.93

*Jan Palich
 Treasurer*

NEW MEMBERS

MATTHEW C CAMERON

NICHOLAS CHATZ

DIANNE EDLIN

HEATHER GRIERSON

ANGELA VETSICA

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

BRIAN R ALDRIDGE

PAUL BEERS

ROS BREEN

JOY CARVER

JOHN COE

JILL DAWSON

BILL DONALD

DAVID & LILLIAN (nee DODEMAIDE) EVERITT

FIONA GALLERY

IAN HOAD

DONALD JAMES

KEITH LLOYD

RODNEY NOVAK

MAUREEN PECK

DOUG POCOCK

PENNY & TONY STAPLEY (NEWS subscriber)

PAUL A WAKEFIELD

MERILYN WHIMPEY

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members:	11
Honorary Members:	10
Single memberships:	332
Family memberships:	104 (=2x52)
Total membership:	457
This time last year:	504

Peter Havlicek
Membership Secretary

APRIL 2001 WALKS, ETC.

Sun 15	Cape Schanck to Rye Back Beach	BUS	E & E/M	Peter McGrath & Jean Woodger	#
Mon 16	Historical Walk	Public	Easy	Nigel Holmes	*
Wed 18	Starlings Gap – Ada Tree	Private	E/M	George Sawenko	
Sat 21	Cycle Trip: City to Jells Park	Public	E/M	Rod Novak	*
Sun 22	School House Ridge (Toolangi)	BUS	E/M & M	Tracey Jamieson & Fiona Gallery	
Wed 25	Doug's Day Walk	Public	Easy	Doug Pocock	*
27-29	Pack Carry: Eagles Peaks	Private	Medium	Max Casley	
Sat 28	Dandenongs Explorer	Private	Easy	Warren Baker	
Sun 29	Switzerland Range	BUS	E/M & M	John Kittson & Art Terry	#

MAY 2001 WALKS, ETC.

4 -6	Base Camp: Alpine N.P. at Bennies	Private	E/M	Jopie Bodegraven	
Sat 5	Track Maintenance Day (and Afternoon Tea)	Private	E/M	Anne Wilkins	*
Sun 6	Kilcunda – San Remo	BUS	E & E/M	Fay Pratt & Clare Lonergan	#
11-13	Eco-Lodge: Glen Wills	Private	Easy	Joy Carver	*
11-13	Pack Carry: Major Mitchell Plateau	Private	Medium	Mark Walters	
Sat 12	Training Day: Leading a Walk	Private	Easy	Brian Crouch	*

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ALTERATION TO PARTICULARS

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Address

Phone h) w) h) w)

Email

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 *The News* – \$18.00

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