



A000133X

THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 604

JUNE 2001

60 CENTS

INSIDE:

- Previews of Winter Ski Trips & Walks
- Doug Pocock & Co. Celebrate the Club!
- Where Eagles Fly
- Letter from Poland & Email from Austria

Restaurant Night

Friday 29 June



*Enjoy a Banquet
of Fine Middle Eastern Cuisine
with a Bunch of Bushies
at the Kan Zamam,
458-460 Bridge Road, Richmond.*

*Choose from a delicious selection of entrees,
mains, desserts & coffee.*

*For example: baba gahnnoj (eggplant),
homos, falafel, feta in filo,
spicy lamb & chicken,
baklava & coffee.*

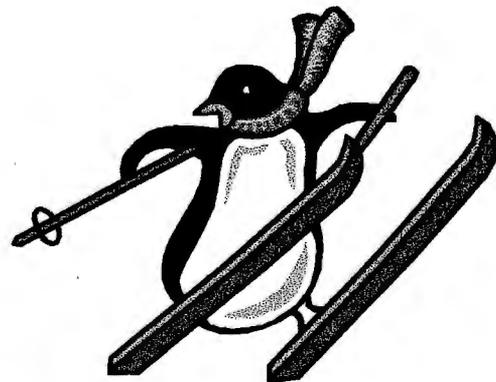
*Hopefully you are now tempted to pay \$33
for this culinary experience.*

*Combined with good company it is
certainly a night to put in your diary now!*

*Please contact Trish on:
to confirm your seat.*

INTRODUCTION TO CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Wednesday 20 June at 8.00 pm



An Information Evening for Anyone
Who Wants to Get Started on Skis
or Wants to Know More

Gear

Where to Go

How to Do It

Your Questions Answered!

Hosted by Pearson Cresswell, President

WE HAVE MOVED!...

WELL... SORT OF...

OUR CLUBROOMS ARE BEING RENOVATED

OUR TEMPORARY ADDRESS IS:

VICTORIAN HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY BUILDING,
VICTORIA STREET, MELBOURNE

(OTHER SIDE OF HALL
TO OLD CLUBROOMS)

ENTER FROM VICTORIA STREET

B.Y.O. MUGS

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Attention ALL SUNDAY BUS WALKERS: - For the Winter 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.

CHANGES TO THE WINTER WALKS PROGRAM

22-24 June – the weekend trip to Eildon [Fraser N.P] will now be a base camp. Contact Quentin Tibballs for more information on

27-29 July an "Extra Trip" – Les Sobey is organising a weekend ski trip staying in accommodation at Tawonga South. For experienced skiers only – with space for 4 people only. Contact Les on for more information.

ROD NOVAK
WALKS SECRETARY

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

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
meet in the Clubrooms
in the Victorian Horticultural Society Building,
Victoria Street, Melbourne
on WEDNESDAY evenings
between 7.00 and 9.00 pm

Visitors are always Welcome

Member of

VicWalk



 **FLY TO SYDNEY & BE ON
THE TRACK THE SAME DAY**

FAST TRAINS LEAVE MASCOT AIRPORT EVERY 30 MINUTES
FOR CAMPBELLTOWN RAILWAY STATION BUS TERMINAL.

THE NSW WILDERNESS BUS

Destinations 

IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS
**KATOOMBA. JENOLAN CAVES. KANANGRA WALLS
YERRANDERIE GHOST TOWN**

IN THE BUDAWANG MOUNTAINS
BUNGONIA CAVES. WOG WOG. NERRIGA

Departs from Sydney's Campbelltown Railway Station

Blue Mts Mon & Wed at 11am Frid at 7am
Budawangs Tues & Thurs & Sun at 11am
Yerranderie Ghost Town first Saturday in each
month (or any Friday minimum of 6 passengers)
Group booking discounts and charter service

Tel 0246 832 344 Mob 0428 832 344
www.wildernesstransit.com.au

JUNE/JULY DAY WALKS, ETC.



DATE	Sunday 24 June
STANDARD	Easy & Easy Medium
DISTANCE	10 & 14 km
LEADER(S)	John Kittson & Andrew Francis
TRANSPORT	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME	Approx. 6.00 pm
AREA	Oaklands Junction via Melb. International Airport
MAP REFERENCE	Gellibrand Hill Park Map

Here we have a walk close to Melbourne in a nice rural setting dotted here & there with old river red gums along the upper reaches of the Moonee Ponds Creek on its way to the Yarra.

Both walks will have good views of the city & nearby Tullamarine Airport. This Park also has over 1,000 kangaroos & many species of birds, with wedge tailed eagles seen on the preview. Aborigines occupied this land before Europeans arrived in the mid 1830s. Throughout the Park are many scarred trees, evidence of the Woiworung people who used the bark for making shields, containers & shelters. Both groups will stay within the boundary of this Park.

During the day we will visit the historic "Woodlands Homestead", having been shipped from England in the 18th century. It was the first pre-fab house built in Victoria. It has since been extended by various owners during its life. We can spend quite some time in & around the Homestead enjoying its atmosphere with its large open log fire in the grand old dining room of yesteryear.

The Friends of the Park can organise a devonshire tea which could be taken in the quaint old servants' quarters in keeping with days gone by, with a cosy log fire warming the area. One can just imagine going back in time with walks in the Park, log fires & afternoon teas, & we will have all this at our fingertips.

Now if you would like to take devonshire tea on the day for \$4.00, please let me know & pay when booking for the walk. Trust me it would make life a lot easier than trying to settle up on the walk day.

Come & join us for a great day.



DATE	Saturday 30 June
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Approx. 14 km
LEADER(S)	Warren Baker
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Melway 75 K4

We will meet at 10.30 am at Grant's Picnic Ground.

This is a delightful round walk. We will walk from the meeting place through Kallista. The track along Sassafras Creek will be taken and we will climb to Sassafras township. From there we will move on to Ferny Creek Reserve for lunch.

After lunch we will take a walk through the western section of Sherbrooke Forest, visit the Sherbrooke Falls and then descend and work our way back to Grant's Picnic Ground and afternoon tea which should be at approximately 3.30 pm.

If you need a lift from a railway station please give me a call on: and I'll see if I can arrange it.



	Bungal State Forest - Moorabool River
DATE	Sunday 1 July
STANDARD	Easy Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	12 & 15 km
LEADER(S)	Mike Low & Stephen Bentley
TRANSPORT	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00 am
MAP REFERENCE	Lal Lal & Yaloak 1:25,000

The Bungal State forest is located in western Victoria about half way between the towns of Balan and Meredith. On the boundary of this little forest are the Bungal Creek and the upper reaches of the Moorabool River.

Both walks start and finish from the same point and are quite short with only a minor amount of climbing. The walking will be mainly off track and progress slow as we pick our way along the valley, following the course of the Moorabool River and Bungal Creek. There are a number of water crossings but not enough to get wet feet on the preview. High water flow may require some improvisation of our route. For this reason the walk grades are set a little higher than one might expect for these short distances.

The easier walk will follow less of the river valley and cut across through the forest for a few kilometres instead.

The area has a wide variety of scenery, numerous Kangaroos and if you are lucky a Koala or two may be seen. I am sure you will find this walk interesting and it is a remarkably pleasant place to be beside the pretty Moorabool river.



Forest Cave - Pyramid Rock (Phillip Is)

DATE Sunday 8 July
STANDARD Easy & Easy Medium
LEADER(S) Peter McGrath & William Cone
TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 9.00 am

Please see the leaders in the clubrooms about these walks.



Ski Trip: Mt Stirling

DATE Saturday 14 July
STANDARD Medium
LEADER(S) Trish Elmore
TRANSPORT Private

Hopefully we will be lucky with good snow conditions despite it being early in the season. Depending on the energy and enthusiasm of the group we could consider either exploring some of the trails around Stirling, practicing our skills on the slopes around the summit or heading off for an energetic tour out to Craigs Hut (for those who don't know was the set for the film *The Man from Snowy River*). I am sure any of these will provide us with enough excitement for the day, especially that wonderful ski down from the top at the end of the day!

Mt Stirling is more suitable for skiers that have experience, so please bring along all the appropriate clothing for cold conditions and a good supply of food & snacks.

Please contact me if you have any queries.



Martin Point - Little Yarra River - The Bump

DATE Sunday 15 July
STANDARD Easy Medium & Medium
LEADER(S) Fiona Gallery & Tracey Jamieson
TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 9.00 am

We haven't done the preview yet so can't give a detailed description, however, this walk will be a bit longer than the last Sunday Walk that these two intrepid leaders lead (when we got back to the bus at 2.00p.m.). We can't, however, promise afternoon tea - we will see how it goes.

The walk is in the Yarra Ranges, all on tracks but it could be a bit wet and muddy underfoot so bring a change of shoes for the drive home. It may also be very cold so bring thermals or warm clothing and a rain coat is a must.



Wednesday Walk: Murrindindi Falls

DATE Wednesday 18 July
STANDARD Easy Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 19 km
LEADER(S) Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 5.15 pm
AREA Murrindindi Scenic Reserve
MAP REFERENCE Part of Taggerty South
(Old Klondyke)

Meet at 10.00 am at the Falls Creek Picnic Area in the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve which is about midway between the Wilhelmina & Murrindindi Falls at each end of the Reserve - See Melway Map: 510 R9.

We will do a circuit walk to Wilhelmina Falls & another circuit to Murrindindi Falls. There is a significant climb to both falls but those wishing for a shorter walk (14 km) can wait at the Murrindindi Falls car park. If recent rains continue, both falls should look great.



Ski Trip: Beginners - Lake Mountain

DATE Saturday 21 July
STANDARD Easy
LEADER(S) Doug Pocock
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00 pm
AREA Marysville
MAP REFERENCE Lake Mountain Ski Trails

This day is designed to be an introduction to cross-country skiing for club members who would like to "try before they buy". It is also for those who have tried but would like a bit more experience. We try to have enough experienced skiers to offer one-to-one coaching.

We will meet at Marysville at 9.30 am ready to load into as few vehicles as possible (saves on resort entry fees). Please hire your skis ahead so we are not held up. Apart from vehicle transport there will also be trail fees.

As snow cover can be light, a final decision whether the trip is a "goer" may not be made until Thursday.



Anakie Gorge - Steiglitz (Brisbane Ranges)

DATE Sunday 22 July
STANDARD Easy & Easy Medium
LEADER(S) Brian Crouch & John Coe
TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 9.00 am

Please see the July *News* about these walks.

JUNE/JULY WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



Cabins/Base Camp: Lorne Waterfalls

DATE	Fri. 29 June – Sun. 1 July
STANDARD	Easy Medium
LEADER(S)	Anne Wilkins
DISTANCE	Approx. 15 & 18 km
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday Evening
AREA	Lorne
MAP REFERENCE	The Otways & the Shipwreck Coast, Outdoor Leisure Map

On Saturday we'll walk through the Angahook Lorne State Park south of Lorne, visiting various waterfalls (Cumberland, Cora Lynn etc) passing through lush rain-forest and fern gullies.

Sunday having packed up, we'll start a walk from behind Airey's Inlet from Distillery Creek Picnic Area, making our way back to the coast at Moggs Creek.

The choice of accommodation is varied around Lorne, from camping under the stars as bushies love, to Motel/Hotels.

It's a beautiful part of Victoria and the forests/waterfalls should be looking great. Hope you can come.



Ski Trip: Start of Ski Season

DATE	Friday 6 - Sunday 8 July
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER(S)	Ralph Blake
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Late Sunday Night
AREA	Alpine, North East of Melbourne
MAP REFERENCE	Bogong Area

This will be a two day ski trip and we will be snow camping on Saturday night.

It is most likely we will be going to the Bogong High Plains, but this will depend on snow and/or weather conditions. Other possible areas for the trip could be: Mt Hotham, Mt Stirling or Baw Baw Plateau.

On Saturday morning we will ski out with our packs and set up camp at a suitable place. And then go off exploring with day packs on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. On Sunday afternoon we will pack up camp and return home.

This trip is suitable only for experienced snow campers and ski tourers.



Base Camp: Walkerville/Cape Liptrap

DATE	Friday 13 – Sunday 15 July
STANDARD	Easy Medium - Approx. 20 km
LEADER(S)	Sakhong Wan
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Approx. 6.00 pm Sunday Night

Cape Liptrap is a narrow peninsula formed by the spine of the Hoddle Range running out to the sea providing strikingly beautiful scenery. It is situated approx. 160 km SE of Melbourne just off the Prom.

There are a number of short walks available in this area and extensive sections of the remote coast are accessible only by walking. To take advantage of the beautiful scenery, this trip will involve doing some rock hopping along the rock platforms and small shattered coves. The going could be slow due to the rock hopping but we should take time to enjoy the views of rugged peaks and island of Wilson's Prom. National Park.



Pack Carry: Mt Cole State Forest

DATE	Friday 20 – Sunday 22 July
STANDARD	Medium - Approx. 30 km
LEADER(S)	Bill Donald
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Approx. 9.00 pm Sunday Night
MAP REFERENCE	Buangor North & Beaufort North 1:25 000

This is the Mt Cole walk where we do not visit Mt Cole. However, we do spend the bulk of day 1 in the Mt Cole State Forest, camping in the Mount Buangor State Park on Saturday night. Day one involves walking beside creeks in fern covered gullies, passing by some waterfalls before picking up the aptly named Paradise Track. After lunch we get some great views of Mt Langhi Ghiran from the Sugarloaf spur but to get the views we will be climbing.

Saturday night's campsite has fireplaces, a shelter and toilets.

On Sunday we will pass by 'The Cave' on our way to Mt Sugarloaf, again a bit of an up hill slog. From the top of Sugarloaf we will head off to Mt Buangor that has been used as a launch site for hand gliders, again the views are spectacular. On the way back to the cars we again encounter fern covered gullies and waterfalls.

This walk has a bit of everything, a wide variety of vegetation and walking surfaces, some steep descents, challenging climbs, views and great scenery. A number of wallabies were spotted on the preview along with different bird species that were often heard but not seen. A really good challenging walk with plenty of things of interest along the way.

If you're feeling fit, ready to tackle some hills and prepared to put up with some ordinary weather, a cold night and don't mind the sound of squawking cockatoos join us.

Please see me in the rooms for more information.



Extended Ski Trip: Bogong High Plains

DATE Friday 20 - Sunday 29 July
STANDARD Hard
DISTANCE More than 80 km
LEADER(S) Bill Metzthen
TRANSPORT Private & Taxi (probably)
AREA Bogong High Plains
MAP REFERENCE "Bogong Alpine Area"
 Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50

After putting off doing this trip for years, I decided that now was as good a time as ever. The idea is to ski from Mt Hotham to Mt Feathertop and enjoy the country on the way.

We will need to get transport between Harrierville and Mountain Creek. Depending upon the number of people, available transport, and so on we may use a taxi service to get us from Harrierville to Mountain Creek to start the trip. Then it's a long climb with leaden packs to the top of Mt Bogong. This will justify spending the next day just skiing around on Mt Bogong.

The next several days will be spent getting from Mt Bogong to the Bogong High Plains and traversing towards Cobungra Gap. Hopefully we will find the time and energy to visit Mt Fainter.

We will quickly get past Mt Hotham and ski along The Razorback to Mt Feathertop and finally descend the Bungalow Spur to the car(s) at Harrierville.

The trip will be varied as required to suit the snow conditions, the weather, and the inclinations of the party. This trip is suitable only for experienced skiers who are capable of skiing difficult terrain with a heavy pack.

N.B.: This is a new trip (& not listed in the Winter Walks Program).



Ski Trip: Tawonga South (Falls Creek)

DATE Friday 27 - Sunday 29 July
STANDARD Medium
LEADER(S) Les Sobey
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Bogong National Park
 Leisure Series 1:50,000

Staying at a small house at Tawonga South & doing day trips to Falls Creek. Your choice of XC, Alpine or snowboarding. Skiing ability is required.

The cost is approximately \$40 & includes all food & accommodation.

For further details see the club noticeboard or phone me on:

N.B.: This is a new trip (& not listed in the Winter Walks Program).

BS&R: SEARCH PRACTICE FRIDAY 27 – SUNDAY 29 JULY



This weekend should be attended by
all BS&R section members
or Club members who are experienced skiers
and interested in becoming a BS&R member.

It will be held at Mt Stirling
and transport will be provided by Police bus
leaving early Saturday morning
and returning Sunday evening.

There will be workshop activities on Saturday
and a practice search and evacuation on Sunday.

You will need to bring
normal ski-touring and camping gear
and your own food for the weekend.

If you are interested in going,
please contact Bill Metzthen on:

GINA HOPKINS
SEARCH & RESCUE CO-ORDINATOR

FOUND: A HAT

*Left on the Bus
after Pyrites Creek Walk on 13/5/2001*

*The Poor Little Beast
is Residing on our Club Premises,
Bleating Pathetically, Missing its Mistress.*

*Will All Honest Owners
Front Up to Claim Their Property?*

Peter Havlicek

WARRAMATE HILLS (& DOUGLAS) CALLING!

These little wooded hills push upwards between Lilydale and Healesville, little-noticed beyond the ever-increasing vineyards, bypassed by the main roads and ignored in the main by walkers with their eyes on the heights of the Great Divide beyond.

They are the scene of Doug Pocock's first walk with the Club 40 years ago. Scene too, of another life-turning event of club members when two young men (who shall remain nameless) on another walk there decided the attentions of a third on one of the young ladies present (who shall also remain nameless) had to be nipped in the bud, a significant decision leading to romance and life-long marriage! There must have been other equally romantic events on club walks as several bush-oriented and long-married couples took up Doug's challenge to celebrate the anniversary of his first club walk.

In fact, 600 years of membership took to the track, 29 walkers in all, signifying the importance of the Club in their lives. As the oldest present was 74 and the youngest in her early thirties there was an age range of about 40 years. Those long-standing members answering the call were Ann and Lindsay Crawford, Sue and Graham Errey, Gwenda and Barry Short, Jim Brooks, Barbara and Dave Hespe, Bob Steel and Pam Rosso, Max Casley, Mark Tischler, Lars Lindahl and Helen Lind, David Laing, Maureen Hurley, Doug Wilhoft, John and Marion Siseman and a number of newer members.

We started from Killara Station site, now a car park on the Warburton Trail. In the olden days 40 years ago the train ran to Warburton so public transport could be taken to here and one could return from Tarrawarra Station on the Healesville line. After a section of attractive, open, green, horsey country properties we entered the Warramate State Park and enjoyed the open forest and steep little hills.

The local birds had no hope of being heard above the chatter of renewing old friendships and getting to know some of the more recent members. The steep hills soon quietened down the geriatrics. At the top the communications tower, closed to would-be climbers, now replaces the fire tower which one used to be able to climb to get a better view. However the view is still extensive, of the green valley of the Yarra and the Great Divide from Donna Buang to Mt. St. Leonard and the hills around Kinglake. Lunch atop a hill in a grassy clearing was interrupted by many wasps - a worry to find them in such numbers in the bush. We thought they may have had their eyes on the grapes below until 29 packets of sandwiches and fruit appeared.

Descending, we found ferny gullies and tea tree thickets, a surprise in this otherwise dry forest. It was a short day walk but excellent, and finished with a well-earned feast of tea, coffee and cakes at Doug's home in Wandin where Jan had stayed behind to prepare for the horde. Thank you, Jan and Doug. We all had a great day and we're looking forward to Doug's 60th Anniversary Walk!

MARION SISEMAN



LABOUR DAY WEEKEND WALK

STANLEYS NAME SPUR - HOWITT - MT SPECULATION - MT KOONIKA - KING SPUR—10-12 MARCH 2001

Mount Speculation has long been a favourite mountain walk of mine so I couldn't resist the chance of another trip there for the long weekend. Gina and I camped near Telephone Box Junction on Friday night - the spot by the road looked OK in the dark but less salubrious in the cold light of a damp dawn with mud, cow pats and puddles. We met the others at Howqua Gap, car shuffled, and off we went - straight up the (steepish) Stanleys (or Stanley depending on the map) Name Spur. The sweat was soon running and we were glad of the catch up times. 'Catching up' was the word - Jerry and Steve were bouncing along and the patient 'recovering' from her operation (Gina) was out of sight for most of the morning.



Camp was made at a saddle on the spur, along with several other parties. The water was only just running and as I was finding the best route down to it I became aware of a large shadowy presence - a very large stag, complete with a magnificent set of antlers was standing just metres away! I had a strong instinct to flee, but I then became aware that the poor creature was crippled and was extremely nervous. He had a broken front leg and possibly a dislocated shoulder and he was quivering and collapsing as he stood. For once in my life I wished that I had a gun.

Shortly after I sat down on a log to fire up the choofer and again became aware of a movement - a large brown snake was coming straight at me along the log! I created the new Australian high jump record and found somewhere else to sit down.

Next day we climbed to the saddle on the Cross Cut Saw, dumped packs and went to Mt Howitt summit, getting there as the heavens opened amid thunder and lightning. Back to the packs, then along the ridge to Mt Buggery for lunch - in sunshine. Down to Horrible Gap (what evocative names!) and then the climb to Mt Speculation. We set up camp right on the edge with magnificent views of the ridge, Mt Howitt, the Viking and Razor and the rolling mountains beyond. Gina was able to spot some...er, um, birds, and one of them was definitely a male.

The spring was flowing - just - and as we returned to the tents with water the heavens opened again, this time with hailstones! After a few minutes we were blanketed in white. It stopped as quickly as it started. The setting sun then provided us with a Son et Lumiere as the inky black sky gave way to reds and orange, yellow and blue hues, so that we stood in groups at the edge and watched the sun slowly vanish and the stars appear.

Next morning we set off along the ridge to Mt Koonika before dropping off the edge into a steep gully. We missed the normal route and had to traverse around the steep cliff before we made King Spur. At this point Gina decided to take the hard route and ended up dropping her pack some metres in order to climb down an impossible cliff. Fortunately the pack stopped rolling inside a score or so metres (vertical). King Spur contains several steep cliffs that makes this an especially interesting route. I remembered walking up it some years ago but of course it's all different walking down. We continued the steep descent with great views across to Mt Howitt, Square Head Jinny and Stanley Name Spur to a suitable lunch spot where several members of the party got excited with another brown snake. The photographers managed to get several shots before our snake decided he'd had enough. Shortly before we made the road and the cars we saw a large feral dog to complete our wildlife observations.

What a great weekend! The company, the scenery, the wildlife and yes, even the weather contributed to yet another classical Victorian Alps walk. Thanks, Jerry for organising and leading a most interesting and enjoyable trip.

Leader - Jerry Grandage, team - Rupert Barnet, Dennis Fisher, Steve Grandage, Max Casley, Gina Hopkins and me.

DERRICK BROWN

SUMMER GREETINGS FROM AUSTRIA

...where I am on vacation at the moment, and from the Black Forest, where I am living at the moment. The view is awesome here, hilly landscape with lakes and in the background the majestic mountains of The Alps. I am far away from the ocean having exchanged it for the mountains. Now I am living in Freiburg again in the foothills of the Black Forest and it seems like living in Mt Beauty in the Victorian Alps.

I was sad reading your Easter program, Jopie's NSW trip sounded terrific, and I had to realize there was no possibility of me going. Early in the morning on the Tuesday after Easter I had to fly out and packing, organising, putting the bike into storage and other stuff (plus having good bye barbies) took all the Easter holidays. So I left with at least the option in mind to be back for the Christmas trip. While the weather increased to beautiful spring weather everything blooming in Freiburg, I enjoyed my job as a bicycle courier and pushing as hard as I could, not minding heavy loads but remembering Rod's words that you need to build up for the Christmas pack carrying trip.

At the moment I am on a "visit friends and family tour" throughout Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Israel and I am trying to be as active as possible in between cafés & cakes. Whoever has southern Germany on the itinerary - drop by for a walk or mountain-bike ride in the Black Forest. Enjoy the snow, sunny greetings from Salzburg.

DAGMAR SCHADE



EAGLE AT EAGLES' PEAKS

He appeared suddenly, as if from nowhere, magnificent wings fully outstretched capturing the prevailing thermals, hanging effortlessly without a single flap, gracefully sliding from one current to the next. I could almost feel his keen eyes giving us and our assorted lunches, the visual "once over" as we watched him from our perch on one of the three peaks. Later, we all were scratching our heads wondering how Max had so perfectly arranged for this lunch time entertainment - such a terrific finale to top off what had been a great hike - unbelievable weather, spectacular views and excellent company. This was a second attempt for Max, Bob and Bill, their first had been washed out and curtailed without ascending the actual peaks. But this time we had perfect conditions.

Friday night we dined at the Glenborne Hotel, and were all amazed at the size, economy and quality of our meals, especially Trish's filet mignon! So good in fact, that we all repeated the performance on Sunday evening. Friday night camp was a quick set-up on a damp Sheeppark Flat, then on Saturday morning, a group decision was made to avoid wasted time on car shuffles to 8 Mile Gap and instead do a longer, circular walk on Sunday back down Eagles' Peaks track.

We sped off to "Frys Hut" and camping area, impressed at how well this whole area is maintained - probably because of the now very popular Stockman's Horse Race held here annually. Morning tea was at Lickhole Creek, and we later crossed Reid's and Barney's Creeks, making good time until a welcome lunch amidst ferns and leeches at another small creek, our last water point for the remainder of the trip. Four walkers from the Essendon Bushwalkers also turned up, doing the same route. Saturday afternoon was a steep go up Mt Darling to our camp site beside the track, although we did well enough for an early and welcome 4 pm finish. Some thought was then given to resurrecting the originally planned side trip across to the Governor's Peaks, but the attraction of a relaxing, early dinner and cosy camp fire proved too strong for everyone.

As always, dinner is a high interest point, the never ending conundrum of how to achieve maximum taste via minimum grams providing great curiosity! For afters, Max produced a fine port, only to be outdone by Bob, who somehow conjured up a flask of Coitreau liqueur! Goodonya Bob!

Sunday morning was bright and sunny, as we bush-bashed through thick scrub across to Lickhole Gap and the track up to Eagles' Peaks. This also involved some rock climbing which also added a touch of variety. Along the way we came across several scientific looking traps which seemed to be there to catch both insects and small rodents - due to be collected the next day.

Atop the 1446m peak, the 360° views were exhilarating, across to The Bluff, Mt Buller and all the way across to Lake Eildon. No wonder our eagle friend came out to see who was trespassing his beautiful sanctuary. After an early lunch, it was back onto the track, up and over hill 1260 and then a long, steep descent, through lovely, ferny country in dappled sunshine. We reached the cars at 4.15 pm, and were sitting down to a hearty, Sunday pub roast by 8 pm.

Well done Max for organising perfect company, perfect country and perfect weather..... but just how did you cue that eagle?

The group: Max Casley (leader), Rod Novak, Trish Elmore, David Coates, Bob Oxlade, Bill Donald and me.

PAUL BEERS

LETTER FROM SYLVIA FORD IN POLAND

Poland May 20th

Dear Bushies,

I glad you all didn't all come by the plane load for this promised walk in the mountains in May, because it didn't happen. When I looked at it more closely I found transport didn't link up & the mountain refuge huts could possibly still be closed, not to mention it all being under snow still. Nothing seems to get going in these remote corners till July when summer proper starts.

So instead, in the company of another teacher who's command of Polish was not bad, a great asset, we went to N.E. Poland. This area has over 3,000 glacial lakes & is flatish to gently undulating. With our trusty Lonely Planet Guide we zig-zagged around taking in things that caught our fancy & travelling by local buses.

These were slow but ran very promptly & frequently, & we weren't in any hurry. The roads were empty, very peaceful. We saw the best castles & churches & for a bit of contrast went to the Wolf's Lair. Hitler set up a huge H.Q. here, 18 hectares of it in this remote corner of East Prussia. It's thickly forested & the concrete bunkers were well hidden. Apparently he stayed here between 1941 & 1944 & hardly left. But as the Germans retreated in 1945 they blew much of it up, but with walls up to 8 metres thick quite a bit remains. You can stay there too, in the restored former officers' hostel, but we thought not.

We did stay in unlikely places from a 15th century gatehouse, unbelievably cold with that dampness you get in dungeons, & plumbing to match, but scenic, to an ex-monastery on a peninsula surrounded by lake in a National Park, absolutely lovely. The Pope stayed here too, just a few years before. From here we wanted to get to a village right on the border with Lithuania as the ethnic mix was apparently interesting. Public transport was too hard, maybe we should try bikes? We went by the scenic route beside the National Park along sandy back roads (read: fall off in deep sand, farm dogs unfriendly & headwind). But I was able to take photos of old farm buildings to my heart's content, & we came back much more quickly. The village was interesting & we managed to get onto an old man who was single-handedly putting together a museum of local crafts & implements. He gave us a conducted tour round speaking in Polish, Lithuanian, German & Russian, in the same sentence. 50 km that was, my friend's bike didn't even have gears, but we survived!

She went back to Torun next day but I went further south to see another National Park which is on the border of Belarus & where the famed European Bisons live. However, I'd no sooner got to the next big town, walked round the bus station once to try to find where I was going when I heard voices speaking English, up till then we hadn't heard any. "Good heavens" I said, "You speak E... oh, hello Mike!" Another teacher from school who'd met up with an American family. In fact we were all going in the same direction & even better the Americans had already organised an English-

speaking guide to get us into the National Park. Would we like to join them? You bet.

This park is Europe's biggest low lying primeval forest. It had been the hunting ground of kings & tsars & so kept the wood chopping peasants out & hence pre-decimated & quite birch, & storey, but & quite right too. What a gem. Mostly larch, pine, oak, ash, elm & birch, & growing to enormous heights, & surprisingly with no understorey, but with a wonderful ground cover of early spring flowers. We walked for four hours along some areas were wet & with animals' tracks aplenty, sign of them. Just as well. I later cycled off to a reserve & there they were. Seeing bison moving among the trees was dead scary, they're so big. They'd been brought back from extinction by breeding from stock in zoos & were now released back into the wild & are doing well. The native horse, tarpan, didn't fare so well. It became extinct last century, but as Polish farmers had made use of it being small, stocky & extremely tough it has been selectively bred & is known as a cousin of the original. It's Welsh pony size & shape & a beautiful silver grey colour with black mane, tail & legs & a stripe down its back. So along with elk, lynx, wild boar & two types of deer they are all out there.

I'm not a total failure as a bushwalker these days. I did go away in February for a week with the local club to the mountains in the mid south. It was called a snow walking trip & dead right, it was. Mega snow to begin with but the long distance tracks that wound up & down over the lowish mountains had been stamped down already as they linked remote farms. Forests were of pine, beech, larch & birch & were mostly planted so it didn't feel all that remote, but the views were terrific especially over to the high rugged Tatras. We also visited a nearby interesting old village & ancient fortified monastery & a hot springs resort & we put in long days till after dark every day. The company was good, one person spoke passable English, she's a Torun Guide & has been really helpful.

I spent 5 days over Easter in Krakow, what a glorious city. Like Torun these two places were the only ones that survived the war intact. There was so much to see & do there including Kasimerez, see Schindler's List. I was happy as a pig in mud there, except it snowed... Winter went on for ever.

Even so I shall be very sorry to leave when my contract expires at the end of June, but I thought I ought to move on. I'm going back to the U.K. then & will do summer school in Bath again. As for after that, I'll keep you posted.

All the best for a great snow season, again!

Miss you all. Love Sylvia.

CONSERVATION FORUM

Here are some reports from the VicWalk *Conservation Committee* meeting of 25/04/2001:

Otways – In April there has been extensive media coverage of the protest at the Cianti logging coup. Work had been halted due to safety concerns and the recent heavy rain in the area. The current controversy had Minister Sheryl Garbutt on the defensive promoting the many conservation reserves (on steep valley sides – no logging value!).

DNRE have appointed the consulting firm - Connell Wagner – for a project ‘Tourism Infrastructure Priorities in the Otways’. VicWalk received an invitation [on the 17/4] to provide a submission and submissions closed on the 18/4. VicWalk have since been granted an extension to 2/5. The short deadlines to respond are a major concern – it appears to be just ‘window dressing’ DNRE plans with token public consultation. A workshop was then conducted on 22/4 (again VicWalk could not send a delegate due to the short notice). ORTWA attended and reported the aim of the workshop was to establish criteria to identify the priorities for the project. 35 people attended this workshop. The process appears to be Consultant’s Report – which will then be vetted by a Steering Committee – and then reviewed by DNRE.

Mariners Falls – there has been some work undertaken in this area to mark a route into the falls (the Wilderness track consultants from Tasmania – and recent track work at Wilson’s Prom - were engaged to complete this study).

Box-IronBark Rally Camp - the date for this weekend is the 6-7th October at Paddy’s Ranges (near Maryborough). It is suggested for Clubs to include this important event in their Spring Walks programs. There will be many experts in ecology, birds, bats, mammals, flora, trees, etc. Also, many social activities include music, children’s activities and possibly a steam train ride. This weekend has been organised to celebrate the special Box-Ironbark forests with the Victorian National Parks Association, Birds Australia, Field Naturalists of Victoria and VicWalk. All Bushwalkers are encouraged to participate.

Proposed Portland “Windfarms” – This project has a possible impact on the Great South West Walk. Although we recognise the importance of clean energy, there are some concerns with the noise level and visible detriment if located near to the walking track.

Mt Stirling - The Mt Stirling Board are advocating for a Ski Day visitor’s centre to be built near the summit. There is possible funding from the Department of Infrastructure for a strategic framework and public consultation for Mt Stirling. At present, they are waiting for the 2020 Alpine Resorts strategy to be published. The Board is requesting a Steering Committee to be set up to assist with the public consultation process. As the Board has only three members there is a need for extra people to assist with this process.

11th August – Razorback rush – ski race will be held on this day.

A *Weekly Times* report on 25/4/01 discussed the upcoming review of the alpine cattle grazing licences by the National Competition Commission. This organisation is investigating their restricted licences [being held in perpetuity with exclusive possession by the catlemen families]. Section 32 of the *National Competition Act* is seeking to open up these leases to competition.

The ‘Conservation Volunteers Australia’ are seeking expressions of interest from volunteers to assist with conservation projects.

Vale - A memorial service for Mac Caton (ex VicWalk Treasurer) was held on Thursday 26th April.

ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE - VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE



Kakadu Kimberley Red Centre

There is no one else

No one else who offers a regular schedule of off-track bushwalking holidays.

No one else who can take you far beyond where any vehicle will ever go.

Willis's Walkabouts is the **only** Northern Territory tour operator who offers trips that take you far beyond the vehicle tracks into a wilderness where no vehicle will ever go. **No one else offers such a selection:** 35 different bushwalking holidays in the NT, 20 in the Kimberley and Pilbara.

Why go overseas?

In northern Australia you have

- No worries about the collapsing Aussie dollar.
- Spectacular scenery & predictable weather.
- Clear tropical pools, perfect for swimming, pure enough to drink.
- Aboriginal rock art.
- True wilderness where you can walk for days or weeks without seeing a soul.

If you'd like a different kind of nature-based holiday, check out our website or ask for our brochure and find out why our clients come back again and again, year after year.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

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

Phone: (08) 8985 2134 Fax: (08) 8985 2355



APRIL 2001 WALK STATISTICS

April 2001	Trips	Participants	Average	April 2000
Sunday Bus	5	175	35	29.8
Other Day	3	56	18.7	12.25
Pack Carry	3	37	12.3	10.5
Base Camp	1	18	18	8
Canoe	1	10	10	-
Cancelled	2	-	-	-
Total	15	296	-	248

APRIL 2001 ACCOUNTS

	\$
Opening Balance	46,516.14
Income	6,989.53
Expenditure	3,847.70
Closing Balance	49,657.97

JAN PALICH
TREASURER

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 6 June Debbie & Rod
 Wednesday 13 June Marika & Pearson
 Wednesday 20 June Doug & Trish
 Wednesday 27 June Paul & Vicki
 Wednesday 4 July Brian & Tracey

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 2 July at 7.00 pm

FOR SALE

Mountain Design 3 Layer
Cirro Stratus Gore-Tex Jacket

Colour: Blue & Black
Size: Extra Large
Very Good Condition

Price: \$350

Contact: Bill Donald on
or see him in the clubrooms

NEW MEMBERS

DEIDRE CASSELS

DAVID COATES

CAROL B CRIDDLE

GABRIELLA IASCHI

JUDITH JAY

JEROEN KRAMER

37 ARNOLD STREET, CARLTON NORTH 3054

HELEN LIND

MARTIN LOVETT

PENNY MITCHELL

LYNNE YEAMAN

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

Changes will appear in the Membership List which will accompany the next *News*.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members 11
 Honorary Members 10
 Single memberships 349
 Family memberships 106 (= 2x 53)
 Total membership 476
 This time last year 503

% membership paid-up : 78%. This is creditable, but there are still almost 100 members who have not yet paid up. Some may yet do so!

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

