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THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 603

MAY 2001

60 CENTS

INSIDE:

Photograph Mystery!
Queen's B'day Weekend Walk Previews
Cape Conran Base Camp Article
High Plains Pack Carry Review
Conservation Forum

JANE BELFRAGE

LA BOITE - SAT. 5 MAY



*An Evening of Harp Music –
Traditional Celtic Tunes &
Original Contemporary Pieces*

La Boite, 1 Mark Street, North Fitzroy

Meet me there! (inside)

*You need to arrive by 7.40pm
to obtain a seat*

Phone Maureen: for details



If this Donkey has a Red Nose,
This is your Last Copy of The News!

Pay your Subscriptions Now!

Form is on the Back Page.

WE HAVE MOVED!... WELL...SORT OF...

YES, AT LONG LAST 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

(RENOVATIONS TO TAKE
AT LEAST 6 MONTHS)

THE COMMITTEE APOLOGIZES
FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
meet in the Clubrooms
in the Victorian Horticultural Society Building,
Victoria Street, Melbourne
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

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 in the You Yangs, near Geelong.

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

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Closing date for receipt of material for The News is the

Last Wednesday in each month
ELECTRONIC MAIL IS PREFERRED

MAY/JUNE DAY WALKS, ETC.



Cement Creek – Mt. Donna Buang

DATE Sunday 20 May
STANDARD Easy Medium & Medium
LEADER(S) Lance Mobbs & William Cone
TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard
 at 9.00am

These walks will be going over Mt. Donna Buang & Boobyalla Saddle & finishing at Cement Creek.

The Easy/Medium walk will start at ten mile turntable, while the Medium walk will start further down & go over Mt. Victoria first.

Autumn is an enjoyable time to walk in the Yarra Ranges, so come along & have a good time.



Dandenongs Explorer: Emerald Area

DATE Saturday 26 May
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approx. 14km
LEADER(S) Warren Baker
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Melways p.124 F1 & p.127 G4

Meet at 10.30 am at Emerald Reserve. This is at the third roundabout through Emerald going eastwards. A car shuffle will be required to get to the starting point at Baynes Reserve.

The walk is quite flat with a little scrub scrambling along the creek edge for part of the way. The walking is quite pleasant and there is no serious climbing.

After we finish and return to collect the cars left at Baynes Reserve we will have afternoon tea at Possum Café. The scones used to be delightful & I hope they still are.



Yankee Creek – Lerderderg

DATE Sunday 27 May
STANDARD Easy & Easy Medium
DISTANCE 13 & 17 km
LEADER(S) Brian Crouch & Stephen Bentley
TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard
 at 9.00am
AREA Wombat State Forest
MAP REFERENCE Trentham 1:25,000

Yankee Creek is in the Wombat State Forest north of the gold mining town of Blackwood. Our club has rarely explored this part of the forest, so today is a special day you should not miss.

Both walks will start and finish beside the Lerderderg River in Blackwood. The easy walk will remain on tracks throughout the day.

Those who are prepared for a little more challenge, join the easy/medium walkers who will walk alongside a section of the Yankee Creek. The track through this valley follows the course of a disused water race-line and requires some scrambling. The effort is well worth it though, to see the crystal waters of the creek and to startle the native wildlife, which will not be expecting us. Long trousers and gaiters are recommended.

Both walks will pass through very pleasant forests. Remnants of the gold mining times will be evident with mineshafts and mine tailings a common site. Visiting this area will be a special experience so please come along.



Sunday Bus: You Yangs

DATE Sunday 3 June
STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE 12.5 & 14.75km
LEADER(S) Jean Woodger & Ian Langford
TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard
 at 9.00am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30pm
MAP REFERENCE You Yangs 1:25,000

The distinctive granite peaks of the You Yangs were originally named by Aborigines 'Wurdi Youang' or 'Ude Youang', meaning 'big mountain in the middle of a plain'.

Our walks are through varied terrain. Sometimes on track, some bush-bashing, even through areas of erosion where large old quarries dot the landscape. Now water-filled, they attract much bird life. Many kangaroos inhabit the open grassy plains which the medium group will cross to climb to peaks strewn with huge granite boulders.

The Easy Medium group will start at the entrance to the park, climb to Big Rock for great views, and to Flinders Peak for even better. They will then descend through the bush to The Saddle Picnic Area, visiting an Aboriginal Cave along the way. Lunch may be taken further north east at a sheltered area with open views. A bit more 'off track' walking leads south to Branding Yard Walking Trail, and eventually back to The Turntable Car Park, where the walk ends.

The Medium group will be starting their walk at Big Rock, following through as above to The Saddle Picnic Area, then heading further north to ascend and descend several peaks before heading back south to finish at the same point as the Easy Medium group.

Both walks constitute a good day's walking. Be sure to wear some light weight warm clothing, bring a raincoat, and remember to leave dry clothes and a change of shoes in the bus. A thermos of hot tea or coffee is an extra treat to return to.



Cobblers Gully – Irish Town (Taradale)

DATE	Sunday 10 June
STANDARD	Easy & Easy Medium
DISTANCE	10/15 km
LEADER(S)	Alan Miller & Jill Dawson
TRANSPORT	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00am
RETURN TIME	Approx. 6.30pm
AREA	Castlemaine
MAP REFERENCE	Castlemaine & Guildford 1:25,000

This is gold mining country. The rush started in 1852. By 1854, the Fryerstown – Irishtown area had 5 breweries & umpteen pubs serving a population of about 8,000.

Most of the E/M walk will be along the Great Dividing Trail from the outskirts of Castlemaine, via the Poverty Gully water race, the Monk, Cobblers Gully, Spring Gully & Irishtown to Vaughan Springs.

This is open, ironbark forest country with plenty of wattle which should be just starting to come out.

See Tyrone Thomas's book on walks in the gold fields & spa country, particularly his maps 10, 11 & 12 for an idea of the route.



Historical Walk

DATE	Monday 11 June
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER(S)	Nigel Holmes
TRANSPORT	Private

Please see Nigel in the Clubrooms about this walk or phone him on:



Cherry Tree Range (Trawool)

DATE	Sunday 17 June
STANDARD	Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	14 & 17km
LEADER(S)	John Kittson & Peter Havlicek
TRANSPORT	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00am
RETURN TIME	Approx. 7.30pm
AREA	Trawool (near Seymour)
MAP REFERENCE	Mt Stewart & Seymour 1:25,000

Both the easy/medium & medium walkers are starting from the same spot. The easy/medium group will pass through spectacular picturesque granite boulder formations along with open grassy plains, so it's quite an interesting place to walk in. After a few hours into the walk you will find yourself on a high ridge with great views overlooking Trawool on the banks of the Goulburn River down below. We have a few undulations along the way with a fairly strong downhill walk back to the river & the awaiting bus, but well worth the effort.

The medium group will do roughly the same walk, but after starting off will climb up onto some of the local peaks at 540 metres, then down to 270 metres, & back up to 500 metres, then level out & follow the same trail as the easy/medium group for the rest of the day. It's a fairly exposed area so if it is cold, be prepared with that fleece or coat. When you get back to the bus have a change of clean shoes & dry clothes in the locker under the bus. A thermos with a hot drink & a few 'bickies' to enjoy & warm you up before we head home, so come along & enjoy yourself.



Wednesday Walk: Kinglake National Park

DATE	Wednesday 20 June
STANDARD	Easy/Medium 18km
LEADER(S)	Rod Mattingley
TRANSPORT	Private

Meet at 9.30am at the Jehosophat Gully Picnic area. To get there, turn off the Kinglake-Healesville Rd about 1km east of Kinglake. We will do the Mt. Beggary, Mt. Everard, Mt. Jerusalem circuit starting and finishing with the picturesque Shelley Harris track. All the walk will be on easy tracks with the exception of a short section, less than 1km, which we will take to avoid walking along the Old Kinglake Road.

Phone me on: if you are coming.



Ski Trip: Mt. St. Gwinear

DATE	Saturday 23 June
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER(S)	Pearson Cresswell
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Approx. 7.00pm
AREA	Baw Baw National Park

Skiers know that skiing at Gwinear (or anywhere else) in June (or at any other time) is pot luck. So pray for snow. Then we can celebrate the new season with a thrash around the Baw-Baw Plateau.

This is not a beginners trip. Not too difficult either but you should be confident skiing both on & off track.

MAY/JUNE WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



Pack Carry: Major Mitchell Plateau

DATE Friday 11 – Sunday 13 May
STANDARD Medium
LEADER(S) Mark Walters
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Southern Grampians
 Outdoor Leisure Map

The walk will begin at Mafeking (due south of Major Mitchell Plateau). Leaving the cars on Saturday morning we ascend up onto the Plateau. Spectacular views can be had across to the Serra range to the west and east across the western plains. We will then camp on the Plateau with some to explore for the more enthusiastic. We return via the Mt William track on the Sunday.

As the route is exposed in places and sub-alpine on the Plateau adequate clothing needs to be taken in case of cold weather.

Mark's phone no.s are:



Pack Carry: Dry Diggings Track

DATE Friday 8 – Monday 11 June
 (Queen's B'day Long Weekend)
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 61.2 km
LEADER(S) Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT Train

AREA Daylesford, Castlemaine
MAP REFERENCE Daylesford, Eganstown, Guildford
 & Castlemaine 1:25,000

This walk is a golden opportunity for people to come along & experience the history of gold mining in Victoria between Daylesford & Castlemaine.

We will most likely be camping on Friday night at Lake Daylesford where we will begin the walk on Saturday.

As I have not done a preview at the moment, please see me in the Clubrooms or ring me after 7.00pm weekdays for more information on



Base Camp: Burrowa – Pine Mountain Nat. Park

DATE Friday 8 – Monday 11 June
 (Queen's B'day Long Weekend)
STANDARD Easy Medium
LEADER(S) Rod Novak
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME 10.00 pm Monday Night
MAP REFERENCE Parks Victoria Walking Track Guide

Burrowa – Pine Mountain National Park is in the north-east corner of Victoria (near Corryong). Come along for a fun and friendly base camp with 2 walks in this National Park and possibly another walk at the nearby Mt Lawson State Park.

Expect very cold and wet conditions - you will need good camping gear, warm clothes and a good rain jacket. Petrol Cost: Approx. \$68 (est. of 850km X 8c) per person.

See the leader at Club night for an Information Sheet.



Pack Carry: Little Desert National Park

DATE Friday 8 – Monday 11 June
 (Queen's B'day Long Weekend)
STANDARD Medium 47 km
LEADER(S) Roger Wyatt
TRANSPORT Private
TRAVEL DISTANCE 375km NW of Melbourne
RETURN TIME Approx. 8.00pm Monday Night
 in Melbourne after a pub meal
AREA South of Dimboola
MAP REFERENCE Parks Vic. Discovery Walk Leaflet

This pack carry will follow the Little Desert NP Discovery Walk from the Horseshoe Bend Camping Ground via Crowhurst Flat & Eagle Swamp to the Yellow Gum Camp on day one. A distance of approx. 20km through the river gums and black box of the Wimmera River and into the desert proper.

Day two will be 14km to the Mallee Walkers Camp for a nice fire in the chilly desert night. Day three will be approx 13km to the walk end, after experiencing some of the 670 species of native plants and 220 birds that form part of the most over looked NP in Victoria.

Walk numbers are limited to 8, so see me in the Clubrooms on 30 May for an information sheet.



**Base Camp:
Fraser Nat. Park (Eildon)**

DATE Friday 22 – Sunday 24 June

STANDARD Easy

LEADER(S) Quentin Tibballs

TRANSPORT Private

TRAVEL DISTANCE Approx. 145km from Melbourne

RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00pm Sunday

MAP REFERENCE Collier Bay 1:25,000

The walking will be mostly through grassy flats and open bushland as well as the lakes' edge with views of snow capped Mt. Buller (and possibly Torbreck) visible in the distance. Our campsite by the magnificent Lake Eildon has hot showers and gas BBQs available and for those wishing to indulge further there are self-contained cabins.

The Sat. walk (the less easy of the two) will be 15-17 km taking in Blowhard Spur & Devas Gully Track (vertical climb of 220m) with a side jaunt to Blowhard Summit. The Sun. walk will be shorter (9km) and around Bolte Bay via Point's Mead and Mibus, and Estate Spur which has some of the best views in the park.

We should finish mid afternoon on Sun. well in time for coffee and cake in Alexandra with arrival back in Melb. early eve.

N.B.: This trip is now a base camp.

SUBS DUE!



*Thank you, all members who have paid your subs,
- that is 48.7% of you!*

*For the rest, please take time to note
that your address label still says "Subs Due"
which means that your donkey
on the front of the NEWS
will have a RED NOSE!!!*

*We are hoping to hear from you soon,
since if we do not,
this is the last issue of the NEWS you get.*

*I anticipate being buried
under an avalanche next week—
of subscriptions.*

*Last date to remain a member in good standing
is the end of the month.*

**PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Kakadu - Kimberley - Red Centre

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WHO IS IT?

*It's amazing what you come across!
During the recent clean-out of the clubroom
(prior to moving), a greetings card was found
& this photograph (left) was inside it.*

*The front of the card reads:
"The Seasons Greetings
from Macquarie Island".*

*Who is this hirsute person?
Could he be a club member,
even perhaps a Life Member?*

*One thing's for sure,
with the winter coming on,
he'll be needing all that hair
– assuming that is that he still has it!*

PEARSON CRESSWELL

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

ATTENTION ALL SUNDAY BUS WALKERS:

Need a Credit? You must ring the Sunday Bus Leader to advise of your situation before the Sunday (at a reasonable hour please) and then apply in writing to the Walks Secretary stating the date of the trip, destination, leader and the reason for non-attendance. If you need help/advise on this, then see Rod Novak at Clubnight, or telephone him on 9561 2407 or drop a note via my pigeon-hole in the Clubrooms.

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.

CHANGES TO THE AUTUMN WALKS PROGRAM

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

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

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

**ROD NOVAK
WALKS SECRETARY**

CAPE CONRAN BASE CAMP

10-12 MARCH 2001

Eight Melbourne Bushwalkers enjoyed this long weekend base camp at Cape Conran. We departed Melbourne early on Saturday morning for the rendezvous at 12 noon at Eastern Beach – at Lakes Entrance. After lunch we walked down the ‘Ninety Mile’ Beach to the actual “entrance” to the Gippsland Lakes. This area is rich in history with the old flagstaff, signalling station on the hill and the old channel piers at the mouth of the entrance. The shifting sands means the channel needs to be constantly dredged from 7 am to 4 pm seven days a week. We watched the dredge in action with a series of pipes and a geyser of sandy sludge, some 18 tonnes per day, spewing onto the beach. After our 7 km beach walk it was back into the cars with the next stop at Hospital Creek Trestle Bridge. This timber bridge is ‘huge’ and built of local timbers back at the turn of the century when Dalgety was favoured as the possible site for federated Australia’s new capital. Canberra was eventually chosen and this led to the demise of the Orbost rail link. Onwards to the ‘Grandview’ Lookout which provided a spectacular panorama over the rich Snowy River alluvial flats and even more railway trestle bridges over the flood plain. We arrived at Cape Conran and camped in the Banksia Bluff Bush Camping Area (run by Parks Victoria – fee payable). Tents were quickly pitched and then a quick look at the surf beach. Lloyd enjoyed a swim and claimed the water temperature was a cool 13 degrees!!! We returned to camp for a pre-dinner drink and a feast of snacks and entrees. The campfire was lit and all enjoyed another fabulous bush sunset and yarns long into the night.



On Sunday we walked eastwards along the Croajingalong coast to Dock Inlet. Along the way Marika found a “Drift Card” from the Latrobe Valley Sewerage Works who are examining the drifts and currents for their new sewerage outlet. We sent the new looking ‘drift card’ in and they answered saying the card was over 20 years old! Dock Inlet is a freshwater lake just behind the beach and Lloyd enjoyed another swim. We returned along a bush track and then followed the Yeerung River back to the beach. Another swim beckoned and the river water was silky smooth. Another great sunset, pre-dinner drink and group entrée, with dinner being eaten in front of a cheery fire with a fascinating electrical storm over Bass Strait to entertain – lots of sheet lightning but little rain eventuated.

On Monday we enjoyed a quick walk around the Eastern Cape, with its Aboriginal heritage and nature trails. Marika demonstrated her gym skills with a series of cartwheels and back-flips along the beach. Even the surfers applauded. Back to camp for morning tea, then we packed up for the drive to “French’s Narrows”. This is where the Snowy River meets the sea. We walked down to the river and lagoon but time prevented us from walking right up to the river mouth. We journeyed on in the cars with a brief stop at Marlo to see the historic picture theatre with its murals of Australian movie scenes. We stopped for lunch on the banks of the Snowy River and Jean saved the day with a giant thermos full of hot water - hot cuppas all around. Homeward bound with a brief stop at the Holey Plains State Park, with a stroll around the Banksia Forest trail, a view from the Holey Hill fire lookout tower and another quick ramble around Harriers Swamp. Holey Plains is famous for its Spring flowers and birds. After a group meal at the Grand Junction hotel in Traralgon it was back home for that welcome hot shower.



Party: Rod, Jean, Sak-hong, Marika, Sandra, Anita, Dianne and Lloyd.

ROD NOVAK

MARCH 2001 - LONG WEEKEND ON BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

Our intrepid leader, Roger Wyatt had a challenge for us. He advised everyone to be well prepared for all types of weather (para 1 and para 5 of walk review) and we were not disappointed. We had sunshine, blue skies, every time we sat down for sunshine. I don't know how Roger organised that.

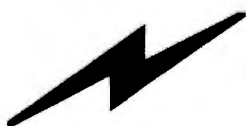


Everyone left Melbourne on Friday night at various times, most of us heading for the Mt. Beauty Caravan Park. The group of 14 - Roger, Debbie, Jill, Jan, Jopie, Jenny, Jean, Bill, Trish, Tracey, Fiona, Jan, Ian, and Jereon, met on Saturday morning at Falls Creek, proceeded to Pretty Valley Pondage - left the cars and walked to Tawonga Huts. After we had shooed the cattle out of the yards, we set up camp, and then left for Mt. Fainter South.

As everyone was walking so well, and it was such a beautiful day, the leader was persuaded to continue out to Mt. Fainter North. (refer photos in Club Rooms). On the way back to camp the group divided into 2, with one group traversing the Niggerheads and the other going along the road. The group on the extended route did not arrive back in camp until dusk, and by then some of the others were ready for Roger's promised walk to watch the sunset. (Roger has sunset walks each night - with a surprise at the end). Two walkers went up the Niggerheads for the sunset, finally came down, then everyone was able to go to bed.



On Sunday, our departure time was 8.30 am, and with Roger's predilection for punctuality and his gentle persuasion, no one dared to be late. But there was an ominous sound in the air! Five minutes later thunder, lightning, rain and hail started. As we were heading to Ryders Yards over the high plains, I for one was glad we were on the Alpine Walking Trail. Those poles would help when lightning hit.



Discussion was held on the 2 planned side trips (Weston Hut and Basalt Temple), but due to the inclement weather we decided to press on. Mt. Jim beckoned us, so we dossed packs and climbed to the top (nor far). Around that time, the weather cleared and so we decided (democratically) to walk to Basalt Temple which is over towards Mt. Hotham (8km return). Basalt Temple is an amazing rock formation - a small mountain of rocks all the same size and just piled on top of each other. Situated in the middle of the bush as if a dump truck had engineered the feat. Morning tea and the sun came out again (refer photo in Club Rooms).

Then we returned to our packs, finding them in the fog and proceeded to our lunch spot next to the aqueduct. Fog left and sun came out. As it was only a short walk to Ryders Yard we hot footed our way there and set up camp. This weekend we were the only people staying in the yards which was great. No people, no horses, no cattle. Most of us opted to have a lazy afternoon reading and relaxing. But a hardy group of 5 - Roger, Jopie, Ian, Jan and Bill strode off to climb the south side of Mt. Cope. A little rain occurred and all this time we had thunder and lightening in the distance - it was quite beautiful.

Due to the hard terrain and their love of wandering, this pre dinner nibbles, and Jopie was only just in time for the prepared. After dinner - Roger took everyone (nearly) on more surprises. But they were rained out and came back to



hardy group of boys missed all delicious meal Jenny had another sunset walk - with camp very quickly.

Our third day - Monday - we woke to blue skies again, and again were ready for our 8.30 am departure. After a short walk of 5.5 kms back to the cars, we had time to check out the views from the top of Mt. McKay before a change of clothes at Falls Creek, and off to lunch at the Mt. Beauty Bakery. Roger was so concerned about our well being, that he was continually bringing out biscuits for everyone, and even arranged time for showers at the end of the walk.

Unfortunately two of our newer Bushies - Jo and Paul were not only stuck in Melbourne traffic, but their car broke down at Myrtleford and they did not make the walk. But I have been told they experienced the joys of Bright.

Roger - thank you for being a great leader - a very enjoyable weekend was had by all.

JAN PALICH

CONSERVATION FORUM

Here are some reports from the VicWalk *Conservation Committee* meeting of 28/03/2000:

Mt Stirling - The Summit Road has recently been graded (although the Federation has been lobbying for this road to be closed). The Howqua Gap hut is in need of restoration/repair. Cattle are still accessing the summit area - it appears the temporary electric fencing is not reliable. A commercial tour operator has complained of the 4 wheel drive traffic congestion at Craig's Hut on long weekends. The Winter access fee for Mt Stirling will be \$20 per car.

Alpine Area

Falls Creek - An environmental study is proposed for the two additional ski tows at the Rocky Knolls (but unfortunately not a full E.E.S).

Mt Hotham - most of the powerline to Mt Hotham via Mount Loch has been completed and should be finished by winter. The powerline has been laid along the 4 wheel drive track. The VNPA are happy about the minimal damage to vegetation to date. However, the road has been "roughened" up by the excavation and heavy vehicle use.

Red Robin Mine - It is believed the mining lease for the Red Robin mine may be up for renewal. The current operators are seeking a renewal. There are some concerns with pollution from the tailings dam entering the national park.

Mt Feathertop - the stone masons (from Scotland) are still working on the summit track project.

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 in buffer zones. Walk reports are still required of walking tracks/routes in state forests. Contact Rod Novak if you can help.

Box-Ironbark Forests - A special camping weekend will be held at Maryborough on the weekend of 6-7th October with members from the VNPA, Birds Australia, Field Naturalists, and Bushwalking clubs all encouraged to participate.

Otway Ranges - The DNRE has stated the Sabine Falls area will not be logged in 2001. The supporters' picnic at Sabine Falls on 11th March 2001 attracted over 600 people and was considered a great success.

Australian Alps Walking Track Strategy Meeting - held on the 5th March.

The bushwalking clubs "Adopt a Section of the AAWT strategy" has been raised yet again by the Park Managers. The current AAWT from Rawson's pass to Schlink Pass is on a road and the Mt Kosciuszko park managers recognise this as not being ideal but will not commit funds to investigate an alternative track as they are spending money on the steel walkways on the more trafficked approaches to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko.

Devilbend Reservoir - the proposed "open day" has yet to be advised by Parks Victoria.

Cape Liptrap - the Management Plan has still not been released.

Wilson's Prom - recent press advertisements for the 'Walk with Rangers to the Prom lighthouse'. The 2 day trip with 1 nights accommodation will cost \$295.

**ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 9 May	Doug & Marika
Wednesday 16 May	Anne & Celesta
Wednesday 23 May	Brian & Paul
Wednesday 30 May	Pearson & Vicki
Wednesday 6 June	Debbie & Rod

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 4 June at 7.00pm

MARCH 2001 ACCOUNTS

	\$
Opening Balance	48,518.93
Income	5,392.48
Expenditure	7,395.27
Closing Balance	46,516.14

**JAN PALICH
TREASURER**

NEW MEMBERS

FANG FANG

MICHELLE GILBERT

DENISE & RAINER KALLENBERGER

DZUNG NGUYEN (NEWS subscriber)

AMELIA NOWLAN

BRIGITTE S SANGSTER

ANNE-MARIE TOLSMA

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

DAVE & SYLVIA ANDREWS (NEWS subscriber)

WENDY BODDISON

ANDREW BODEGRAVEN

LYNNE BOURKE-FINN

RENAE B BURTON

MATTHEW C CAMERON

WILLIAM CONE

PETER DAY

ANDREW FRANCIS

MICHELLE GIBBINGS

JAN GROSS

JOHN ROSEMAN

VICTORIA SCRIVENGER

MARVENA Y VAN KANN

GEORGE ZAMORA

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	337
Family memberships	106 (= 2x 53)
Total membership	464
This time last year	509

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

MARCH 2001 WALKS STATISTICS

March 2001	Trips	Participants	Average	March 2000
Sunday Bus	3	106	35.3	33
Other Day	3	37	12.3	10
Cycle	1	4	4	-
Pack Carry	2	21	10.5	7.6
Base Camp	3	25	8.3	10
Lodge	1	8	8	8
Canoe	1	7	7	10
Cancelled	Nil	-	-	3
Total	14	208	-	190

