



THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au

INSIDE:

- A Preview & A Preview from Paul Beers
- A Little Article from the President
- A Large Review & a Medium-Sized Review
- A Poem



Christmas is Coming!

MBW Christmas Party
Wednesday 19 December
From 7.00 pm

Function Room

1st Floor

Trades Hall

Corner of Lygon & Victoria Streets, Carlton

Come Along Full of Good Cheer!
Talk with Old & New Friends
about Past & Future Trips
Everyone is Welcome

Drinks to be Purchased at the Bar
Please Bring a Plate to Share

NEW WEBSITE & EMAIL!

I have been busy for some time now on a new version of our club's website. There are some new features, such as an online edition of *The News* & a bulletin board, which I hope you will like and use regularly.

The most obvious change is from a homepage to a domain name. We are now known as www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au I hope this will be easier to remember & more accessible for others on the web when they are searching for walking clubs. Certainly as one of the largest clubs in Vic. it is not before time. We also have a new club email: info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au where you can send any questions regarding the club or the site.

The online edition of *The News* is password protected & available on site to view or as a pdf file download. You can take your pick. All you need to do to gain access to the membership area is to email me at our new email address & I will send you the password. For your convenience I will be running a mail list of names which will serve as a monthly notice to those on the list that *The News* is available for viewing or download. Receiving the news online is a noble act as it saves much time & resources. Trust me this will make you feel virtuous. Just think of all those trees & the many club members who once a month run the risk of suffering terrible paper cuts just to fold printed copies of *The News*. Have a heart & help liberate these poor souls from their servitude.

We now have a bulletin board on our website. This is a very easy feature to use & I hope it will be popular with not just members of the club but many others on the web who share our enthusiasm for wilderness areas. For this reason the bulletin board is available to all who visit the site, no need to be a member of MBW. I would like to encourage as many people as possible to use this feature as I feel it has the potential to be a great draw card for the website and in so doing bringing MBW to the attention of many more people. So please help by hopping on the board and leaving a posting about your pet topic.

At present there are some great pictures scattered throughout the site but I always need great pictures so if you have any please let me know.

I hope that you will all take the time to visit our new website often & use the features that it has to offer. I would like to thank Bill Metzenthien for all his work in maintaining the club website since its beginnings back in the mid 1990's. Thank you Bill!

I officially declare www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au up & running so go to it & support our new website!

DEB HENRY
WEBSITE MANAGER



Bushwalkers Discussion Forum

Club Members May Join the Forum
by Visiting the VicWalk Website:
<http://vicnet.net.au/~vicwalk>
& Following the Prompts

The More Bushwalkers that Participate
the More Robust the Forum

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
meet on Wednesday evenings
between 7.00 & 9.00 pm in the Clubrooms,
Victorian Horticultural Society Hall,
MacKenzie Street, Melbourne.

Visitors are always welcome.



General correspondence should be directed to:
The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,
PO Box 1751Q,
Melbourne, Vic., 3001.

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
is the newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
& is published monthly.
Editor: Vicki Scrivenger.

Walk previews & reviews, articles, poems, news items,
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 contributions
where space, clarity or propriety dictate
& to maintain editorial consistency.

Contributions to *The News* may be sent to the Editor by:

- ★ Emailing to:
- ★ Placing diskette or hand written material
in the "Red Box" in the clubrooms
- ★ Posting diskette or hand written material to either:
The Editor, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,
PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, VIC, 3001
or V. Scrivenger, *News* Editor,

Electronic mail is preferred.

Closing date for receipt of material for *The News*
is the last Wednesday of the month.

Advertisements in *The News*
Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking
will be accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc.).
Members' ads are free.

Advertising Rates (Artwork Ready):

| Size: | 1 Issue: | 3 Issues: | 12 Issues (1 Year): |
|-----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|
| ¼ Page | \$30 | \$80 | \$300 |
| ½ Page | \$50 | \$135 | \$500 |
| Full Page | \$80 | \$220 | \$800 |

MINIMAL IMPACT BUSHWALKING

This club supports the concept of minimal impact bush walking. This code, originally developed for the alpine areas of Tasmania's World Heritage Area, is a sensible way of "walking softly" so that we don't love our natural areas to death. Most of the code is common sense but it does not hurt to be reminded of some of the points.

If you can carry it in, you can carry it out. When you leave check out your camp spot for any scraps of wrapping material or silver foil. Don't throw food scraps (including apple cores and banana skins) into the bush. They can take a long time to break down and another group after you doesn't want to camp in your squalor. Of course, this applies to day walks just as much as weekend walks. If you really want to gain brownie points try carrying a spare plastic bag and pick up other peoples rubbish.

Never wash in streams or lakes. Detergents, toothpaste and soaps can harm fish and water-life. Besides, the next people downstream might wind up drinking your washing water! Wash 50 metres away from the stream so that washing water is filtered through the soil before it reaches the creek. If you want to have a full shower or shampoo then a "camel pack" type drink cask is an ideal and ample container to use. It can be suspended from a branch and the drink valve used as the shower. Otherwise have a friend tip a billy or water bucket over you, this way you get clean and your friend gets to know you better at the same time. When swimming try to avoid being covered in greasy sunburn lotion.

Do not wash your cooking or eating gear in the creek, do the same as for your own washing.

If there is a toilet then use it. If not then bury your faecal waste in a hole 15 cm deep at least 100 metres from camp spots or watercourses. Make sure you have at least one toilet trowel in the group. If waste is not buried then flies can cause the spread of lots of stomach nasties.

There are copies of the bush walking code in the clubrooms which elaborate further on minimal impact bush walking. Please take time to browse through these.

PEARSON CRESSWELL
PRESIDENT

LEVEL 2 FIRST AID TRAINING

N.B.: Change of Dates

Due to the trainer now being unavailable
until early next year
this course will now be conducted
over two weekends in February & March 2002

Part 1: Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 February
Part 2: Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 March

Cost: \$140 per person
with a Club subsidy of \$50 per member
Thus members cost will be: \$90

Please contact me: .



BRIAN CROUCH
TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

DECEMBER DAY WALKS, ETC.



Sunday Bus: Richards Tramline - Big Pats Creek

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| DATE | Sunday 2 December |
| STANDARD | Easy/Medium & Medium |
| DISTANCE | Approx. 14 & 19 km |
| LEADER(S) | Ian Langford & Bob Steele |
| TRANSPORT | Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am |
| RETURN TIME | Approx. 7.00 pm |
| AREA | Yarra State Forest |
| MAP REFERENCE | Ada River 8022-2-4 1:25000 |

This walk begins 7 km from Warburton at a picnic area near Big Pats Creek. It follows a circuit, westward along Richards Tramline Walking Track and returning eastward along Mississippi Road to the start point. It is a pleasant walk which gradually climbs up 400 metres through mixed bush with lots of tree ferns. The medium walk is an extension of the circuit to Gifford Saddle where there are some good views.

It is suggested that you bring a change of footwear and clothes, plus something hot for afternoon tea at the end of the walk.



Sunday Bus: Forest Caves - Pyramid Rock

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| DATE | Sunday 9 December |
| STANDARD | Easy/Medium & Medium |
| DISTANCE | 11 & 16 km |
| LEADER(S) | William Cone & Peter McGrath |
| TRANSPORT | Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am |
| RETURN TIME | Approx. 7.00 pm |
| AREA | Phillip Island |
| MAP REFERENCE | Melway pp. 531 - 534 |

Take a walk on the wild side! The wild, rarely visited south side of Phillip Island that is. This is an opportunity to see some interesting country the club hasn't visited for several years.

Both easy/medium and medium walks will be along some very rocky beaches. Boots are strongly recommended.

The medium walk will start with a 6 km walk along paths in the Woolami State Faunal Reserve – the south-east tip of Phillip Island. The Reserve has Mutton Bird Rookeries and good views. In a separate area both groups will walk from Forest Caves Reserve along the south coast to Pyramid Rock. This part of the walk is initially on sandy beaches. The coastline soon becomes rocky and a more interesting and challenging walk. At the end of the Pyramid Rock can be viewed from boardwalks.

The walk has been divided into two sections to avoid walking on and collapsing Mutton Birds' nests along the beach as much as possible.



Wednesday Walk: Bayside Coastal Art Trail

| | |
|---------------|--|
| DATE | Wednesday 12 December |
| STANDARD | Easy |
| DISTANCE | Max. 17 km (maybe less) |
| LEADER(S) | Sandra Mutimer |
| TRANSPORT | Public or Private |
| RETURN TIME | 4.30 pm (at the latest) |
| AREA | Brighton Beach - Keefers Boat Shed |
| MAP REFERENCE | Melway p. 76, 85 & 86 & Coastal Art Trail Leaflet (Bayside City Council) |

Our meeting point is the War Memorial at Green Point, Brighton Beach at 10 am. A car shuttle to Ricketts Point will be required from here. (Sandringham line train or Bus 600 from St Kilda to meeting point at Brighton Beach. Bus 823 to North Brighton Station on the Sandringham line from Ricketts Point at the end of the walk).

We will start the Bayside Coastal Art Trail at Brighton Beach and follow its route along beaches and clifftops in Hampton, Sandringham, Red Bluff, Black Rock areas and from Ricketts Point to Beaumaris. There will be the opportunity for people to join or leave us at different points if they make their own transport arrangements.

Along the way there are signboards locating the coastline scenes depicted by Heidelberg School artists who held summer camps in the area and also the work of artists from later periods. We will also pass some sites of the Bunurong people who were attracted by the abundance of food and fresh water here.

We will have lunch at the Half Moon Bay Fish and Chippery (as recommended by Debbie Collie) so there is the opportunity to join us there and for others to bring their own lunch if they choose. The walk will finish at Ricketts Point, where we will have the opportunity of sampling the wares of the Tearoom Kiosk. Sounds to me as if it will be a pleasant last Wednesday walk for 2001.

N.B.: 2nd Wed. of month rather than the usual 3rd.



Marysville Lookouts - Stevenson Falls

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| DATE | Sunday 16 December |
| STANDARD | Easy & Easy/Medium |
| DISTANCE | 12 & 14 km |
| LEADER(S) | Brian Crouch & Adrian Bolzan |
| TRANSPORT | Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am |
| AREA | Marysville |

Both walks will start and finish at Marysville, take in visits to a number of spectacular Lookouts and include viewing Stevensons Falls. Being our last walk before Christmas we plan on finishing early so we can enjoy a shared Afternoon Tea and some Christmas Cheer at the end.

Both walks will pass through very pleasant forests, varying terrain, good views, wildlife and some good climbs. Come along for a fun Day.

Invitation

to Celebrate the Life of the late Deny King
who used to live at Melaleuca in Far S-W Tasmania
& the Melbourne Launch of His Biography
"King of the Wilderness" by Christobel Mattingley

Tuesday 13 November at 6.00 pm
The Wilderness Shop
969 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill

Light Refreshments will be Provided

RSVP by Nov. 10: Ph. 9898 3742 or wildshop@ozemail.com.au

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Helpful Hints – to help you & our volunteer leaders:

Sunday Bus walkers: Please remember – NO TELEPHONE BOOKINGS FOR THE SUNDAY BUS. If you need to ring the leader to advise of cancellation, then please ring at a reasonable hour.

Need a Credit for the Sunday Bus? Here's how to go about it...

1. You must ring the Walk Leader to advise of your cancellation (please telephone at a reasonable hour) and the Walk Leader will note your cancellation on their Walk Report.
2. Then you need to apply in writing for the Credit stating your name, address, telephone number and the walk destination, leader and date of the activity with the reason.
3. Forward your application letter to the Walks Secretary [Rod Novak in 2001] in the Clubrooms most Wednesday evenings (but not all!) or alternatively by mail to the Club's address.
4. The Walks Secretary then checks the walk report and will organise a credit note for you.
5. Give the Credit Note to the Walk Leader when you book your next Sunday Bus trip.
6. Please Note: Only reasonable requests will be granted eg illness, work commitments. 'Sleeping in' or 'hung-over from the big night out' do not count!
7. Need more assistance – then contact Rod Novak at Club-nights.

Dandenong Explorer and Wednesday Walks: Please ring the leader for details.

Weekend Trips: Important guideline: Please assist the leader to organise the trip by attending a briefing/meeting in the Clubrooms at 8 pm on the Wednesday prior to the trip, eg directions where to meet, equipment required, checking maps, car pooling and transport etc.

Country Code: Attention all Leaders – Please follow the Country Code of leaving farm gates as you found them. There has been a recent report of bushwalkers having closed an opened gate which resulted in distressed stock. It is suggested that leaders re-group their walk party at each gate and to leave the gate as you found it.

ROD NOVAK
WALKS SECRETARY

SPECIAL CONSERVATION ACCOUNT

The Club is about to Receive
the Interest Payment
on this Account

The Amount should be around \$800
The Committee would Welcome
any Suggestions as to Worthy Causes



Electronic Binoculars

Both times I have been out with the club this year there have been outbreaks of serious bird watching, to the extent of people compiling written lists, & pressing their binoculars on you with detailed instructions about how to twist the left barrel to compensate for an unfortunate accident in the Flinders Ranges, to make both fields line up.

There may thus be some interest in a report of a new patent in the 29 September 2001 issue of *New Scientist* (p. 21). This is for image sensors & memory chips to be incorporated such that the sighting can be video-recorded as it is being made. Instead of taking home a written list & a lot of enthusiasm (tempered by seeds of doubt that it may actually have been a stunted example of the greater spotted mugwump, & not really the frightfully rare lesser spotted mugwump), it seems that the twitcher (that's what *New Scientist* calls them) of the future will be taking home a stack of memory sticks. There they will be able to pore over Simpson & Day in front of their computer screen, where the recording can be run over & over until all doubts are resolved.

Graham Wills-Johnson

LONG BUS TRIP UPDATE

There is good news & bad news regarding the plan for an extended bus trip. First the good news, over 30 people responded positively to the proposed trip. Now the bad news, you will all have to wait a bit longer for your adventure on the bus.

The Parks people initially told us we couldn't book before November for the vital campsites we needed within the National Park. However, only a week or so ago they informed us all campsites were fully booked for the March weekend, smells like an "inside" job. This means we have decided to postpone our trip until the next long weekend, the Queen's Birthday weekend in June, 2002. This is frustrating to all of us but we don't have any choice as there are no suitable campsites which will cater for all our needs, as we had originally planned.

The plan now is a bus trip to Hattah Lakes area next Queen's Birthday which will give us the flexibility we want for Base Camp, Pack Carry and Canoeing activities. More details in the New Year, but everyone who put their name down will get priority for June 2002.

A canoe trip will still go ahead over the March 2002 long weekend in the South West area, using private transport with Doug Pocock as leader, more details soon.



BRIAN CROUCH

DECEMBER WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



Pack Carry: Mt Buffalo National Park

DATE Fri. 30 Nov. - Sun. 2 Dec.
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approx. 28 km
LEADER(S) Roger Wyett
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 6 pm Sunday in Melb.
MAP REFERENCE Eurobin 1:25,000

Starting from Lake Catani, across the Long Plain to views from Mt Dunn, and then on to the Devil's Couch, this pack carry will visit numerous rock formations with excellent views. Including Og & Magog, Eagle Point and Mollisons Gallery before camping at Rocky Creek amongst some excellent Mountain Gum forest. Day two will be a easy climb up to Mac's Point, then on to the Giant's Causeway.

This will be an easy pack carry, contact me at the clubrooms on 21 Nov., or after, as I am interstate 10 - 20 Nov. Max. No.: 8.



Base Camp: Feathertop & Bogong

DATE Friday 7 - Sunday 9 December
STANDARD Medium/Hard
LEADER(S) Rod Novak
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 10 pm Sunday
AREA Alpine National Park

Mt Bogong at 1986 metres and Mt Feathertop at 1922 metres are Victoria's highest peaks. This base camp weekend will involve climbing Mt Bogong on the Saturday - up 1400 metres by the "Staircase" and down via Eskdale Spur. On Sunday we will climb Feathertop - up 1340 metres by the Bungalow Spur and down the north-west spur. Total elevation gain for the weekend will be 2740 metres.

The grade is medium/hard and we will travel fast with our day-packs. Carry three litres of water for the summer heat. This trip is suited to fit and experienced bushwalkers only. Petrol Cost: \$65 per person.



Base Camp: Anglesea Beach Walks

DATE Friday 14 - Sunday 16 December
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Paul Beers
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 5 - 6 pm Sunday
AREA Anglesea

Camp at the Family Caravan Park, situated right on the beach at the Anglesea River mouth. (Camp fees are approx. \$11 per person per night & due on Wed 12 Dec. to enable bookings). Saturday morning we take the Surf Coast Walk heading east along the cliff tops (magnificent views, wildflowers and echidnas) to Point Addis, where we will lunch, before returning along the beach, tides permitting. Plenty of opportunities for a dip! Round trip: 11-12 km. Sat dinner at Anglesea Hotel - excellent menu!

Sunday morning, we ascend Mt Ingoldsby then turn south to traverse Angahook Lorne State Park, where wallabies and various bird species abounded in the preview. Crossing the Great Ocean Road, we re-join the beach and walk east around Point Roadnight back to camp. Total: 11-12 km.

Musts are: sunscreen, hats, sunglasses and water. Cameras and binoculars a good idea also. For colour pictures & full info. visit: www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au



Blue Mountains Canyoning

Is there anyone out there who is interested in this spectacular and challenging activity? There are some truly beautiful slot canyons in the Blue Mountains and canyoning, or following them downstream, is a popular activity with many Sydney clubs. It is little known here because of the distance; a full day's drive to get there; but for a week trip it is well worth it. For some great photos and information on canyoning look on the internet at <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~dnoble/canyoning.html>

I have done some canyoning many years ago and am keen to do some more. In early Jan., I am organising a canyoning trip for VMTC which is also open to any Bushies who may want to come. It is classified by VMTC as a joint VMTC/Bushies trip. The dates currently are 5-11 Jan. but there is some flexibility here.

The canyons are graded from 1 to 6. Grade 1 means easy with no abseils but may require liloing. Grade 6 involves numerous long and difficult abseils. I am proposing up to grade 3 which will involve some abseils but none that are long or difficult. It will involve rock-hopping, scrambling and wading and possibly swimming or liloing in cold water. Each participant must have a wetsuit, a climbing harness and an abseiling descender such as a figure of 8, and a lilo.

Please give me a call, Jopie Bodegraven on _____ to express interest and have a chat about it. I will unfortunately be interstate from 8 Nov. till 19 Dec. but if you leave a message with Jenny I could return your call.

Jopie Bodegraven



**Pack Carry:
Davies Plain and Beyond**

DATE Sat. 22 Dec. - Tues. 1 Jan.
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 95 km
LEADER(S) Bill Metzenthien
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Kosciusko & Jacobs River 1:100

Davies Plain has not often been visited by our Club. Davies Plain is south of Tom Groggin, near the Murray River.

The trip will start and end at Tom Groggin. The first three days or so will be spent traversing the Davies Plain Ridge on the way to the Cowombat Flat area. Our route will then turn north, visiting features such as The Pilot and the Tin Mine area.

My current intention is to spend the last few days of the trip ascending the Rams Head area and descending a complicated ridge system to take us back to Tom Groggin. An alternative may be to spend more time elsewhere, e.g. The Cobberas, and return to Tom Groggin via the Murray.

There will be a mix of track and off track walking. There may be some sections of walking through scrub.

N.B.: Max.: 10 & the trip will end on the 31st, leaving the first day of the new year for a slow return home.



**Base Camp:
Bogong High Plains**

DATE Wed. 26 - Sun. 30 December
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT Private

Xmas/Summer period is a wonderful time to visit the High Plains. The flowers will be in full bloom & the weather can be just right. This trip will be a great opportunity for those who have not visited the High Plains before to go up & enjoy the spectacular views & scenery.

For those who have never done any camping before, but wanted to experience what camping is like without having to carry a pack, this base camp is an excellent chance to try out some camping.

We will most likely camp near Edmonson Hut on the slopes of Mt. Nelse, which is well sheltered with water nearby in a creek & explore the surrounding region.

There will be a range of walks to suit people's needs, from easy day walks to a more strenuous medium walk to just relaxing around camp enjoying the peace & quiet.

N.B.: There are 2 walks up on the High Plains, this one is a base camp & the 2nd one is at Wilky Lodge which will go from 31 Dec. - 8 Jan., so anyone wishing to stay on at Wilky is more than welcome.

If interested please contact me in the clubrooms or write to me at: There are flyers on the notice board you can take too.



**Pack Carry:
Gungarten & Jagungal (N.S.W.)**

DATE Wed. 26 Dec. - Tues. 1 Jan.
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE A Fair Way
LEADER(S) Lloyd Young
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Late Evening Jan 1 2002
MAP REFERENCE Khancoban & Mt Kosciusko 1:50000

This walk is in one of the most spectacular areas of Australia. We will cover varied terrain from Mountains to plains.

Travel from Melbourne will be on the 26th. The trip will start on the 27th at the Guthega power station where we will walk up Gungarten and the Kerries camping in the upper headwaters of the Valentine Creek. On the 28th we will traverse the Brassy Mountains then camp at the upper Geehi River. Jagungal will be a day trip on the 29th. We will then head to the Valentine area on the 30th for a possible exploration of the falls and camp. The 31st will be a return to Guthega. Travel back to Melbourne is on the 1st.

It should be a medium standard due to the area and distance, however, I am not planning on going through like a racehorse. The park can experience interesting weather conditions so prepare for anything although at this time of year it is usually hot, but can sometimes snow. A park fee will apply for this trip.

I will be in the Clubrooms on the 12th of December for bookings. If you need to call me please ring my mobile in the evening. (Don't even think about ringing it in the day for I will be asleep & it will wake me up and you will have to do the optional side trip to the Bogong Swamp!).



**Canoe Trip:
Snowy River**

DATE Wed. 26 Dec. - Tues. 1 Jan.
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 75 km
LEADER(S) Quentin Tibballs
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Monday Night
AREA Snowy River

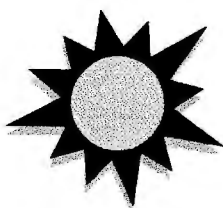
We intend to canoe the section of the Snowy between McKillops Bridge and the confluence of the Buchan and Snowy Rivers. This section requires about 16 hrs paddling given a suitable water level. However, this section also includes the Tullard Ard Gorge which has several grade 4 or 5 rapids which will be beyond most members' capacity and will need to be portaged. Grade 2 & 3 rapids are encountered the whole length and those with open Canadians can expect to be swamped at regular intervals so all gear should be in barrels or watertight containers.

A morning exit from Melb. on Boxing Day would be best so there would be time to meet at Buchan and a car shuffle before camping at McKillops Bridge that night. It is anticipated canoeing three & a half days with a rest day (depending on how we go) and finishing early on N/Y Eve in time for those seeking other humanoid company that night. A return to Melb. could be made on N/Y Day.

The water level will also be monitored close to the event and if too low/high another river will be proposed (?upper Murray) - the participants will be kept informed.

PROGRESSIVE BASE CAMP

PINK LAKES, MUTAWINTJI, KINCHEGA & MUNGO NATIONAL PARKS

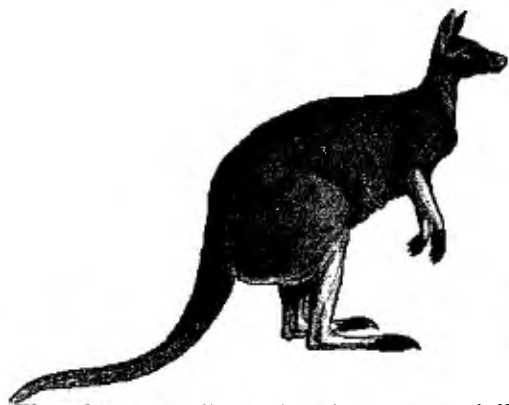


A party of nine eventually set off, in three vehicles, two members unfortunately having to cancel at the last minute. We left on Saturday morning, 22 October at 8.30 a.m. and arrived at Pink Lakes in the late afternoon, after a long hot drive. Sunday was very hot and windy – more so as the day increased, however, we managed a day walk around Lakes Kenyon and Crosbie, and a look at Lake Becking, the group full of energy and enthusiasm on our first day. The wildflowers were colourful and abundant – in particular the small white and yellow everlasting daisies and the brilliant yellow cassias. We saw kangaroos, emus, parrots – mallee ringnecks and blue bonnets, a red-capped wren which posed for us, black and white stilts on the amazingly pink salt lakes, and large noisy groups of choughs around the camp. There were also many sun and spider orchids in one area, and large widespread casuarina and native pine woodlands. Jenny's bird and Jopie's plant knowledge enhanced the walk for us. We were all fascinated by the crunchy salt beaches and evidence of previous salt mining. Back at camp we all subsided and waited hopefully for the cool of the evening. Meanwhile we hoped our tents would not blow down, anchored only in sand.

After a hot night we packed up and headed for the Raak Plains, an amazingly flat and undifferentiated area of shallow gypsum salt pans, with signs of past mining. Bert (Joycelyn, Jan and Monika) went via Ouyen, to pick up petrol, but Jopie and Rob approached more adventurously via the National Park. At Mildura we did a quick supermarket shop, then had lunch at Wentworth, leaving Gail and Rob to search for parts for their stove, damaged by the rough road to the Raak Plains. By this time it was raining heavily and we wondered, by the time we got to Broken Hill, whether we would be able to get into Mutawintji, as the road was a dry weather road, only. Bert and co. made it, however, collecting a great deal of sticky red mud along the way. We put up our tents in pouring rain – I needed help from Bert and his hammer – then retreated to a very welcome shelter to cook dinner. The rain soon ceased and Rob and Gail turned up after dark in their campervan. It seemed as if Jopie in his Suburu had decided to stay at Silverton overnight because of the rain.



Next morning, Jopie, Jenny and Graham (W-J) arrived in time to do the Mutawintji Historic Site Tour conducted by a member of the Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council – he showed us Aboriginal art sites and told us about the traditional uses of some of the plants. It was another very hot day, but we all enjoyed the 4.5 km Sunset Ridge Trail, with its wonderful views. Our campsite was very beautiful, set on the Homestead Creek – at this time an empty red sandy bed fringed by very large river red gums. Although it was school holiday time, there was plenty of room. We had taken a site recently vacated by another group because of exposure to wind, which had dropped with the cool change on Monday night. The views of the red ridges surrounding the campsite against a background of bright blue sky were breathtaking. On a more practical note, we were amazed to have flushing toilets, cleaned daily, and showers, although cold and regulated by continuing to exert pressure on a chain.



The negatives were a cold wind, very prickly ground and a hand-reared red kangaroo that leant and slept on our tents, pulled out our guy ropes and sniffed suspiciously around the openings to our tents. We were nevertheless rather charmed by it and enjoyed the chance to see a red kangaroo up closely – we soon were able to distinguish between euros, red and western grey kangaroos.

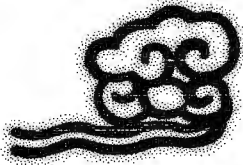
Wednesday saw us embarked on the longest walk of the trip. We started with a very pretty nature trail up a sandy riverbed, but were soon off the track with Jopie in his element navigating his way over the rocks. It was hot and exposed, but the views were spectacular and the drops down to the gorges welcome, if somewhat unnerving for those less comfortable on rocks.

Thursday was sadly our last day at Mutawintji and we did the Old Mutawintji Gorge Walk with Gail and Rob in the morning, before they left us to head off to Tibooburra. At the end of the gorge we were delighted to see a Nankeen Kestrel flying in and out of its rock shelf nest. Jopie and Bert then climbed up over and down the Gorge to the other end, while Graham, Jan and Monika took the easier way over the top, crossing and coming down on the other side to meet up with Joycelyn and Jenny for lunch. They had been birding, but we (Jopie and Jan) thought we saw a Peregrine Falcon. In the afternoon we drove to the north of the park and climbed an outcrop on the way to Split Rock for a view.

We saw three kinds of eremophila, one prostanthera (mint bush), brilliantly coloured mulga, mallee ringneck, blue bonnet and Major Mitchell parrots, little correllas, peaceful doves, crested pigeons, zebra finches, and made the acquaintance of the large noisy family groups of apostle birds which wandered around the camp. There were also some very large wedge-tail eagles, with huge stick nests.

Continued over page

Friday, Day 7 saw us back at Broken Hill, shopping again, then on to Kinchega National Park on the Darling River. We camped on the riverbank, near but not under huge and beautiful red river gums, with a lush understorey of purple flowering veronica. Here there was some sign of the mosquitoes we had been warned about, possibly carrying encephalitis. However, partying locals turned out to be more of a problem, with loud music on the other side of the river, the boundary of the park, until 5 a.m. Next morning Graham and Jopie heard in the Menindee milk bar that there had been a large birthday party the night before for two eighteen year olds. Before leaving the park we explored the lakes by car, seeing water-birds, including shelducks and dotterels, then enjoying morning tea at a delightful shady camp spot on the shore of Cawndilla Lake. Bert's carload then paid a visit to the Menindee Visitors Information Centre on the railway station. Lunch was on the Darling at Menindee, under again huge beautiful river red gums throwing most welcome shade in the heat of the day. We enjoyed watching two mudlarks take turns on a perfectly made mud nest above us.



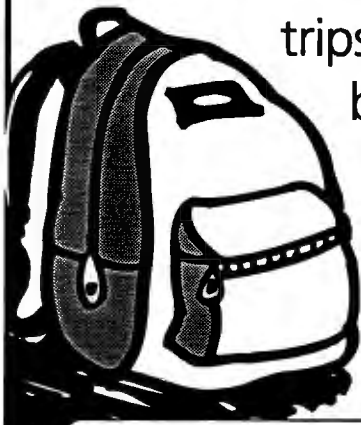
Next was Lake Mungo, again a campsite popular with apostle birds. In fact there was a large mud nest above us. There were also many blue bonnet parrots and Major Mitchell Cockatoos. Sunday dawned very hot and windy. We did the 60 km drive tour, venturing out of the car very briefly at points of interest. Only Jan, Jopie and Graham did the barefoot sand walk to look for fossils. Further on the group was driven back by wind-blown sand. The best stop was at the underground cellar of an old pastoral property - and the sheltered woolsheds built of cypress pine (Kinchega, also formerly a pastoral property, had had a similar restored woolshed). We also enjoyed the display at the visitor's centre, as well as the free hot showers. Conditions became almost unbearable over lunch, so we abandoned the plan to do the two short walks available, and retreated to the shelter at camp to escape the wind and the heat for the afternoon. Evening brought a spectacular thunderstorm.

We returned home via Balranald, rather anxious about the effect of the heavy rain on the dry weather only roads. However, all was well and we sadly parted company at Balranald. I felt regretful at leaving such a fascinating area, having only had a glimpse of it, and jealous of Rob and Gail who were to have the whole fortnight there. It was a wonderful trip in spectacular countryside. Thanks Jopie and Jenny both for the work you put into planning the trip and your leadership during the trip - your natural history knowledge was infectious, even for the avowed non-birdos and the non-botanical. Thanks too to the group for all the practical help and support on the trip - the first long camping trip I have done for many years without my very practical husband, Doug!

JAN LLEWELYN

Last Chance: Light Pack

2002 may be the last time we offer these trips, so if you've been thinking about trying one, now is the time.



www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

Something New: Kimberley Day Pack Explorer

On my two week exploratory trip in August, I finally found a remote area perfect for daywalks without the tourist hordes that you might encounter at more accessible locations. Those who come along are guaranteed to see an amazing variety of Aboriginal art sites, beautiful waterfalls, lots of wildlife and a variety of landscapes both on foot and from the 4WD as we continue the exploration begun this year.

If you think you might be interested in a genuine exploratory trip where you might be the first non-Aboriginal to visit a particular location or in any of our other light-pack trips, ask for the trip notes. Wait a year and it might be too late.



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

Phone: (08) 8985 2134

Fax: (08) 8985 2355

CHURCHILL NATIONAL PARK - LYSTERFIELD LAKE PARK (CIRCUIT)

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

*The sun smiled down on eleven faces –
walkers possessed of quite different paces;
but nonetheless there was common intent
to do some climbing before strength was spent.*

*From Churchill National Park we rose
toward the summit where the Lookout goes,
but a slight detour via Woodlands Walk
produced some rather animated talk.*

*For there on the track lay a copperhead,
so early to rise from its winter bed!
But no harm was done, so onward we strode
up a kangaroo trail to lighten our load.*

*'Neath the shade of a tree on Grassy Spur,
t'was time to relax and simply savour,
time to let go of the world's horrid news,
aided by truly magnificent views.*

*Much further along when the Lake drew near,
we stopped for a peek from the northern pier,
and there on the end standing very still
was a rare but photogenic spoonbill.*

*After lunch by the Lake in the cooling breeze,
we trekked to the north by spotted gum trees,
then detoured toward the Valley View Track,
feeling hot but happy while heading back.*

*The final goal was Lysterfield Lookout,
though a long tiring climb, there was no doubt
that the views from there made it all worthwhile,
even Warren (the Whip) could manage a smile!*

*Most stayed behind for some afternoon tea,
well after our planned return time of three,
caring not to see the Grand Final match,
preferring to stay in that lovely patch.*



JILL DAWSON

BOX-IRON BARK FESTIVAL

A group of twenty six bushies (led by Rod Novak) participated in the Box Iron Bark festival in state forest outside Maryborough on the 6th to 7th of October. The festival was organized by VMPA, Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs, Field Naturalists of Victoria and Maryborough Field Naturalists. Catering was provided for a fee of \$22. Most bushies self catered and so were in the second, quieter camping ground. The organizers were thrilled by the numbers attending (estimated to be 460 plus). A busy educational program was organized for Saturday afternoon with a range of bush walks and other activities such as bird-watching provided for Sunday.

Most of us drove up on Saturday morning. The official opening and speeches started in drizzling cold rain. There was a very impressive range of scientific experts who ran a series of workshops on topics ranging from mammals, geology, flora, history and bryophytes. We could choose a maximum of three out of possible nine topics. We all found the workshops informative, informal and enthusiastically presented. I did not even know what bryophytes were before the workshop but now know that they include mosses and ragworts. It was amazing how many different bryophytes we saw in a five minute wander in the bush. During the mammals talk given by Barry Trail (a well known scientist living in the Chiltern area), I learnt why the tuon (brush tailed phascogle) is under threat while other mammals such as kangaroos are thriving since western settlement. The male tuons have a great life with heaps of sex in their first year but then they all die of exhaustion at the start of summer. Population density is low and tuons need breeding hollows in large trees, which are becoming scarce with grazing and felling. There is concern that these cute oversexed little critters may be vulnerable if their habitat is not preserved.

The bushies retired to their campground, enjoyed group entrees & built a great fire. Anne Marie and Jodie went off to the main camping area to enjoy entertainment including music, searching for bats & wine tasting. The catering was apparently tasty & healthy.

On Sunday, some of us did organized day walks, others bird watched and some went by shuttle bus to an area of less degraded forest nearby. There was some concern that the activities for Sunday might all be booked out but we all found something to do. Four of us went on a walk led by a member of the Maryborough Field Naturalists. We spent a great deal of time identifying the fauna and the occasional bird. There were some very knowledgeable people in our group. Although the bush had been extensively logged, there were still heaps to see if you looked hard enough. We left by mid-afternoon after a stimulating and social weekend.

The weekend was organized to highlight the damage that has already been done to this forest and what needs to be done to preserve the best of it. Jason Doyle from the VMPA is working on a box iron bark forest campaign. Everyone had been provided with a folder with some information about the box iron bark forest and suggestions for lobbying politicians to preserve this unique habitat. Logging needs to be stopped and some of the state forest should be upgraded to a National Park. The bushies who attended contributed \$50 to the campaign and cost of the weekend. Hopefully we will all be motivated to write some letters and harass politicians after this great weekend. Thanks to Rod for organizing the weekend.

Participants: Derek, Gina, Anne Marie, Jodie, Gina Horn, Rod, Liz, Jean Giese, Will Roland, Allan Clarke, Sandra M, Jope, Doug, Jan, Jerry, Evan, Susan, Deb. & Geoff plus a few others.

LIZ MOORE

CONSERVATION FORUM

NOTES FROM THE VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Alpine Bill Metzthen advised the Development Framework for the Mt Hotham Alpine Resort is still open for public comment. A similar framework proposed for the Falls Creek Alpine Resort has been postponed until after the release of the 2020 report. It appears the ski resorts are to be more oriented as "all season resorts" due to 2020 report and the greenhouse effect and its impact upon snow conditions. News report of BCR Asset Management [the owners of the Mt Hotham and Falls Creek Alpine Resorts] as withdrawing their alpine resorts from sale due to poor snow conditions. It was stated the proposed sale would be postponed indefinitely on Radio 774 22/9/01.

Mt Stirling The closure of the summit road at Mt Stirling has caused some confusion. The summit road was closed from 25th May due to erosion and track damage from vehicles. It was then believed to be a permanent closure, however, it appears to be only an 'early' seasonal closure for the winter season. The track will re-open later this year.

Otway Ranges The convenor of the VicWalk Conservation Committee attended a meeting of the newly formed "Sabine Forum" [groups with an interest in the Otways] on the 16th September. It is believed the forestry operator – Midway Corporation – may be willing to sell the native forest next to their pine plantation. The Sabine Forum will investigate this further and will try to establish the price. Possible funding from the Bush Heritage Fund. It has now been clarified that the Sabine Falls are located on Crown Land and not on private land (eg owned by the Midway Corporation). The Sabine Forum has sent the following resolution to the Victorian Government and the D.N.R.E.:

1. Cease all clear fell logging of the Otway State Native Forests immediately.
2. Ban clear fell logging on public land and State Native Forests in the Otways,
3. Ban all logging in designated water catchment areas in the Otways."

The Conservation Committee then debated the above resolutions and agreed that, in accordance with our own Conservation Policy of opposing clear fell logging in native forests, that the VicWalk Conservation Committee approve and support the Sabine Forum resolution. It is believed the Minister for Conservation has a new Chief of Staff whom may be more favourable to conservation in the Otways.

Bunyip State Park As previously reported this State Park is greatly affected by vehicular traffic (4 wheel drive and trail bikes) with erosion, track damage and conflict with walkers. A new lobby group to promote walkers' interests in this park has been organised and their first meeting is scheduled for 7th October. It has been suggested the proactive VNPA 'Park Monitoring System' may focus on the issues raised in the Bunyip State Park. Their is proposed DNRE logging of the coup at Tomahawk Gap and this will affect a good walk on overgrown jeep tracks along Fishers Track and the Bunyip Valley Road.

Box – Ironbark Forests VicWalk Conservation Committee have sent letters have been sent to Bracks, Napthine, Garbutt and Perton urging acceptance of the recent recommendations. Also, VicWalk sent "letters to the editor" of the local press of regional Victoria welcoming the protection of the Box – Ironbark forests. However, the point was made that only 6.5 per cent of the original extant vegetation will be protected, and asking for more reserves to protect this valuable habitat. Delegates (and others) are asked to see if the letters are published. If seen, then please send a copy to Dave Rimmer via the VicWalk Office. The Box-Ironbark Forest Workshop will be held on 6 – 7th October.

Lake Mountain A proposed new building at Lake Mountain will be positioned near Gerraty's car park and will provide for a classroom and static display for education/information. Lake Mountain is the most western alpine area and provides opportunities for school groups with environmental studies and outdoor education. Visitor numbers [non-snow season] are over 60,000 each year, and increasing by 1,000 per year. There has been an evident increase in mountain biking activities. Rangers have been using sterilized straw and wood chips as a measure to control track erosion. Chris Sewell has requested from bush walkers to loan 'old photos' of Lake Mountain for this new static display (a notice will appear in the next issue of *VicWalk News* with contact details).

Powelltown 'Walk into History' Track at Starling Gap. As reported previously the DNRE have stopped their track widening work as this track is in a special protection zone which prohibits machinery and alterations. The convenor of the VicWalk Conservation Committee will meet senior representatives of DNRE to discuss this issue. It appears the DNRE want to widen the tramway all the way to the Federal Mill site to allow vehicle access to maintain the track. Also, there is a safety issue with the fallen old log bridges with DNRE cutting tracks around the culverts with some vegetation disturbance to date. VicWalk Conservation Committee agreed the tramway should not be widened just for 'vehicle access' for maintenance and it would be better to develop the existing sidetracks down and through the culverts as they provide a better view of the old bridges (rather than cutting new tracks into the vegetation).

ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER WALK STATISTICS

| Sept. '01 | Trips | People | Average | Sept. '00 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|
| Sunday Bus | 5 | 158 | 31.6 | 32 |
| Other Day - Wed 17 & Dand 11 | 2 | 28 | 14 | 8.5 |
| Pack Carry | 2 | 17 | 8.5 | - |
| Base Camp | 3 | 40 | 13.3 | 9.5 |
| Ski Lodge | 1 | 21 | 21 | 16 |
| Cancelled | 2 | - | - | 3 |
| Total | 15 | 152 | - | 269 |

N.B.: The 2 cancelled trips were the Warby Range pack carry (no interest and/or clash with the Tree Planting weekend) & the Mt Bogong (Hard) Ski Trip (no interest).


ROD NOVAK
WALKS SECRETARY

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 7 November - M Jagow & A Wilkins
 Wednesday 14 November - C Fong & D Pocock
 Wednesday 21 November - P Cresswell & B Crouch
 Wednesday 28 November - P Beers & T Jamieson
 Wednesday 5 December - D Henry & V Scrivenger

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 3 December at 7.00 pm



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NEW MEMBERS

ANIAN BADER

BEVERLEY COOPER

CATHY HANNANT

HUGH G KILPATRICK

HELEN E SMITH

HASAN TITIZ

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

DENNIS BARSON

CLARE LONERGAN/ALAN MILLER

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Life Members | 11 |
| Honorary Members | 10 |
| Single Memberships | 330 |
| Family Memberships | 104 (= 2 x 52) |
| Total Membership | 455 |
| Membership This Time Last Year | 434 |

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

SEPTEMBER ACCOUNTS

| | \$ |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance | 49,265.30 |
| Income | 2,756.78 |
| Expenditure | 2,491.05 |
| Closing Balance | 49,531.03 |

JAN PALICH
TREASURER

