



A000133X

THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 622

DECEMBER 2002

60 CENTS

Thank You

Doug Pocock,

Bob Oxlade

and

Pearson Cresswell

Many thanks to Doug Pocock
for making and installing a books cabinet and shelves
and to Bob Oxlade and Pearson Cresswell
for making and putting up picture rails
in our clubrooms.

These improvements are much appreciated!



MBW Christmas Party

Wednesday 18 December

*From 7 pm, Function Room
First Floor, Trades Hall*

Cnr of Lygon & Victoria Sts, Carlton

Come along full of good cheer!
Catch up with old and new friends.
All welcome.

Please bring a plate to share.
Drinks to be purchased at the bar.

This year there will be awards for leaders
presented at our annual Christmas party.
If you have led a walk, etc. for the club this year
then you will be in our **Leaders' Draw**.

The names of all leaders will go into a hat
and **three names will be drawn at random**.
(If you have led more than one walk, etc. in 2002
your name will be included more than once.)

Each of the three lucky leaders whose names are drawn
will receive a \$50 spending voucher
kindly supplied to us by Bogong Equipment,
374 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne.

Clubrooms Closed

Christmas Day

and

New Year's Day

Please note the clubrooms will be closed
on the two Wednesdays prior to
the **Sunday Bus walk to Phantom Falls, Lorne**
on 5 January 2003.

John Coe, the walk leader has kindly agreed
to take bookings from 7 to 8 pm
in the clubrooms on **Wed. 18 December**,
the evening of our Christmas break-up.

John will also accept phone bookings from members
but stresses that if members book,
but do not turn up, they will still be charged.

Visitors may also phone John
to see if there are spaces left on the bus
and may turn up at the bus
and not be charged the late fee.

The bus will leave at 8.30 am on the day
so come early to pay.

ENQ: . . .

CLUB OPEN: 7 - 9 PM WED., HORTICULTURAL HALL, 48 MACKENZIE ST., MELB.

WEBSITE: www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

EMAIL: info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
meet on Wednesday evenings
between 7.00 & 9.00 pm in the Clubrooms,
Victorian Horticultural Society Hall,
48 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) in:
printed edition only: as below, or
printed & on-line editions: as below + 25% or
on-line edition only: as below + 25%.

Size:	1 Issue:	3 Issues:	12 Issues (1 Year):
¼ Page	\$35	\$90	\$330
½ Page	\$55	\$150	\$550
Full Page	\$100	\$250	\$900

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

What was planned was a 7-10 day stay in hospital, for the removal of a bowel cancer. It was just supposed to be a nip and tuck, cut out the mouldy bits, rejoin and re-plumb the sewage system, staple the stomach back together then off you go; but it turned into nearly 6 weeks in hospital!

Apparently my body did not read the script, objected to being invaded by doctors and reacted by sending various vital signs (temperature, blood pressure, blood count, etc.) into areas they shouldn't ought to be. So they filled every orifice they could find with liquid that makes you glow in the dark, to take x-rays and check for leaks. As the problem could not be specifically identified they decided to just keep me alive and let my body fix itself. This worked! But various organs took the opportunity to have their 15 minutes of fame and send the system into unstable mode. The prognosis was good "cancer gone, no follow-up chemo or radiation", but I felt like I was not going to survive the recovery stage (makes mental note: "Bugger!").

After 3 weeks of "nil by mouth" (makes another mental note: next time go to jail, at least they feed you there!) they decided on intravenous feeding before I got thrown out with the laundry when they changed the sheets. After another 2 weeks my gut eventually got the message that the holiday was over and it was time to start work again, but with reduced resources. Although I have been referred to in the past as "a short arse", I guess this is now technically correct.

Thanks to all those that sent their good wishes by card, phone or personal visit. They were all greatly appreciated. Special thanks to the one that provided a soft hand and positive encouragement, particularly during the low times, when it was most needed.

You will probably see me back on the bus soon; at least I don't have to jump around in front of the mirror to make a reflection any more!

Thanks to all.

DAVID LAING

JANUARY DAY WALKS, ETC.



Sunday Bus: Phantom Falls, Lorne

DATE Sunday 5 January
STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 13 & 16 km
LEADER(S) John Coe & Bill Donald
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 7 pm
AREA Angahook - Lorne State Park

There will be no better way to celebrate the start of the new year than with an outstanding walk in the Otways! Come and discover the best of what this area has to offer - lush and cool, fern gullies, majestic, tall trees, delightful streams and imposing waterfalls.

The easier walk will commence at the Sheoak Picnic Area and walk to Phantom Falls via Won Wondah Falls, Henderson Falls and The Canyon. From the Phantom Falls, we will walk to the Cora Lynn Cascades and finish at the Blanket Leaf Picnic Area.

The harder walk will start from the Sheoak Falls car park on the Great Ocean Road and proceed to the Sheoak Picnic Area via the Sheoak Falls and Swallow Cave. This walk will then follow the same track as the easier walk.

Plenty of water, sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat are essential items for this walk.

N.B. 8.30 am start and special booking arrangements on front page.



Sunday Bus: Moorabool River Gorge & Lilo Derby

DATE Sunday 12 January
STANDARD Easy/Med., Medium & Bludge
LEADER(S) N. Dow, C. Volpato & S. Ford
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am

Please talk with the leaders in the clubrooms about these two Sunday Bus walks.

Lilo Derby: This historic event hasn't happened for a whole decade, high time we had another and in the self same spot as the last one i.e. the biggest pool in the linked Moorabool pool system. It is a day spent in deadly earnest, a keen competition of racing lilos up and down, across and back at break neck speed by mighty navigators. And the triumphant winner receives the Moorabool Cup! (oh, alright, a mug, but no sinking anyone else's lilo, Derrick!)

Come and enjoy this day of utter bludgery. B.Y.O. lilo and all necessities for your comfort zone. The bus will deposit us at a nearby farm, it's only a short walk, down hill all the way, to this delightful and scenic spot.

Should it be cold or there be no water flowing through we'll call it a day. **S.F.**



Wednesday Walk: Fryers State Forest, Malmsbury

DATE Wednesday 15 January
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 15 km
LEADER(S) Geoff Mattingley
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 7 pm
AREA Central Victorian Goldfields - between Castlemaine & Kyneton
MAP REFERENCE Drummond Vicmap 1:25,000

This walk is through old gold-mining country, with evidence of the activity still visible in the form of mullock heaps, mine shafts, and water races. Although criss-crossed with tracks, we will avoid them where possible, as the area is very pleasant open forest, quite easy to walk through. The creeks are usually dry, but there some interesting little gorges which we will try and explore. It is not a particularly steep area, but there are enough hills to make walking interesting.

We will meet in Malmsbury (95 km from Melbourne via the Calder Freeway/Highway). On the left, at the bottom of the hill past the main part of the town, is a garden area adjacent to the Coliban river, with toilets on the corner of a side street. Meet here at 10 am.

I am planning to do a circular walk so we don't have to do a car shuffle. If the day is excessively hot or there is a high fire risk we will either shorten the walk or go somewhere else.

I will be in the clubroom for only the one Wednesday prior to the walk - the clubrooms will be closed on 1 January. For further information or to let me know you are coming please ring me on

FOR SALE

Light Weight Women's Walking Boots

Rockport cross trainers

Size: U.S.A. 8 / Europe 38

Brand new - worn twice around local street
(incorrect size)

\$180 o.n.o.

If interested please phone

JAN PALICH



**Sunday Bus:
Karratha - Lyonville Spring**

DATE Sunday 19 January
STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 15 & 19 km
LEADER(S) Hans Edlinger & Maureen Peck
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 7 pm
AREA Daylesford
MAP REFERENCE Daylesford / Bullarto -
 Colinban Vic. Map 1:25,000

This walk has not been done for 10 years, it will take us through different varieties of forest vegetation and we will be seeing relics from Victoria's gold rush era. Also heavy logging has been done in this area and we will be able to note the impact on the environment that this has had. We will also have the pleasure of tasting the water of the mineral springs.

The walk will take place on mainly four wheel drive tracks. During the preview I noted a fair bit of wild life. Lunch will be at the Bullarto Reservoir, if you want to catch your own lunch the locals say that you can drop a line in for yabbies and red fin.

After lunch there is a small hill to climb from which you get a great view of the surrounding areas. Down hill to Lyon Spring picnic ground, where the brave can taste the heavy metal spring water. Afterwards we head toward the Loddon River, small climb back out to the main track and head back to the bus.

We will need to stay together in one group, as there are so many tracks cut through the bush by the logging. I noted during the preview, that it would be very easy to get lost if you are separated from the main group. Also as the walk will be held mid summer make sure you bring plenty of drinking water.

N.B. 8.30 am start.



**Sunday Bus:
Breamlea - Ocean Grove**

DATE Sunday 26 January
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Peter McGrath & Cherie Horne
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am

Please speak with the leaders in the clubrooms about these two Sunday Bus walks.

CREDIT VOUCHERS FOR SUNDAY BUS WALKS

A walker who has paid for a Sunday Bus walk and was then unable to attend, is entitled to a credit voucher provided that the leader was informed *before* the walk. Please note that not showing up on the Sunday does not entitle you to a credit.

A request for a credit voucher **must be put in writing** to the Walks Secretary, stating the following:

- your name and address
- the date and name of the walk missed
- the amount paid

Leaders must note in their walk reports the names of non-attenders who had paid and the reason and notice given. This information is used to validate a request for a credit voucher.

Credit vouchers are non-transferable and are only valid for 12 months from the date of the walk credited.

WALKS STATISTICS

October 2002	Trips	People	Average	Oct. '01
Sunday Bus	4	139	35	37
Other Day	3	42	14	12.5
Pack Carry	1	9	9	13
Base Camp	1	20	20	15
Cancelled	3			1
Total	9	210	-	245 / 12

There were good numbers of people walking in October, both on the day walks and weekend walks. The Wilky spring clean and working party had to be postponed due to road closure, as was another trip to Square Head Jinny. This walk will be re-scheduled on the Autumn walk programme which is currently being prepared. If you have any suggestions for future walks then please see me in the club rooms or give me a call at home on

**GINA HOPKINS
WALKS SECRETARY**

DEC./JANUARY WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



Base Camp: Shaw's Creek, Tamboritha Saddle

DATE Thur 26 Dec '02 - Fri 3 Jan '03
LEADER(S) Lance Mobbs

N.B.: Change of address:



Base Camp: Avon River

DATE Friday 10 - Sunday 12 January
STANDARD DISTANCE Easy/Medium
Approx. 18 km
LEADER(S) Fiona Gallery
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Sunday Evening
AREA East Gippsland - Maffra
MAP REFERENCE Valencia Creek 1:25,000 &
Ben Cruachan 1:25,000

Although this is a base camp we are likely to camp on a sandy beach on the Avon River for Saturday night. This is about a ten minute walk from where the cars will be parked at Dermody's Camp - where we will meet and spend Friday night.

The plan is for two walks with the shorter of the two on Sunday. Mostly, we will be walking along the Avon River which will involve some rock hopping and river crossings.

There will be lots of opportunities for swimming in some great water-holes.



Cycle Base Camp: Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail

DATE Friday 17 - Sunday 19 January
STANDARD DISTANCE Easy/Medium
142 km
LEADER(S) Di McKinley & Howard Friend
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Late Sunday
AREA Ovens Valley

This cycling trip is in the scenic Ovens Valley & follows historical railway lines. We will camp at the Myrtleford Caravan Park on Friday & Saturday nights.

On Saturday we cycle to Beechworth, an 84 km return trip. The landscape is predominately rural with some bushland. There is a steady climb from Everton to Beechworth & this becomes an exhilarating downhill ride on the return journey. We hope to visit the Gapsted winery on the way back to Myrtleford. Bright will be the destination on Sunday & the return distance is 58 km. Tobacco & hop farms, kilns, vineyards & pine plantations are part of the landscape. Mt. Buffalo is visible in the distance.

Don't be concerned about the length of the rides. It is not difficult to cycle these distances in a day. The trails are sealed so mountain bikes are not essential. It is likely to be extremely hot so lots of sun protection will be essential.

Contact the leaders if you would like further information.



Base Camp: Bryces Gorge

DATE Australia Day Long Weekend:
Friday 24 - Monday 27 January
STANDARD DISTANCE Easy/Medium
Approx. 30 km
LEADER(S) Bob Steel
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 8 pm Monday
AREA North of Licola
MAP REFERENCE Tamboritha - Moroka 1:50,000

Base camp with day walks to waterfalls and escarpments, with great views, alpine meadows and an old cattlemen's hut (Guys Hut). We may drive to visit other areas like Minogues Lookout, Howitt Hut, Mt. Reynard, etc.

I hope to be able to camp by the cars, but be prepared for a walk-in base camp (would only be a short distance). I am quite familiar with the area but it is some years since I was last up there. I hope to be able to preview the area for a camp-site beforehand.

We will rendezvous at Breakfast Creek (down on the Wellington River) on Friday night/Saturday morning & proceed to the Snowy Plains area in convoy. Good campsite for Friday night. Best to bring your own drinking water, or be sure to boil the water in the streams.

I will have notes and sketch maps available beforehand in the clubrooms.



Pack Carry: The Bluff - Mt. Clear

DATE Australia Day Long Weekend:
Friday 24 - Monday 27 January
STANDARD DISTANCE Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Jopie Bodegraven
TRANSPORT Private
MAP REFERENCE Howitt-Selwyn & Buller South
1:50,000

The walk listed in the summer programme has been changed. The Mt. Clear to Mt. McDonald medium walk has been shifted to the Labour Day long weekend in March and replaced by The Bluff - Mt. Clear which is a bit easier.

This is a classic alpine walk. The highlights will be the fabulous views we will get from the Bluff, Picture Point, the King Billys, Mt. Clear and several points in between. The Bluff is always imposing with its impressive cliffs and Mt. Clear rears up like a beacon. We will start at Refrigerator Gap or as close as we can get the cars and do the 500 metre vertical grunt up to the summit of the Bluff. Then we will cruise in a generally downwards direction along the Bluff, past the Blowhole and over the lower Mt. Eadley Stoney to camp somewhere in the vicinity of Bluff Hut.

Sunday takes us along the ridge to Mt. Lovick and Picture Point, then over the King Billys to camp at Chesters Yards. Monday is mostly downhill back to the cars with an optional side trip without big packs to the summit of Mt. Clear, 2 km each way and a 300 climb but the views and summit area are well worth the effort. The walk is almost all on tracks.



Pack Carry: Long Spur - Mt. Wills - Watchbed Creek

DATE	Australia Day Long Weekend: Friday 24 - Monday 27 January
STANDARD DISTANCE	Medium Approx. 49 km with packs + 8 km side trip
LEADER(S)	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private Cars (approx. \$55 each)
RETURN TIME	Late Monday Evening
AREA	Bogong High Plains
MAP REFERENCE	Bogong Alpine Area 1:50,000

This is a beautiful area in which to walk. On Saturday we start across the northern part of the High Plains following the road past Mt. Nelse, Roper's Hut for morning tea and down Duane Spur to the Big River for lunch. Then steeply up the T-Spur to our camp site near the Madison Hut ruin in Camp Valley. About 17 km for the day, with a steep climb but it is all on tracks.

On Sunday we will go along the Long Spur, which runs east from Mt. Bogong, and along to Big River Saddle for lunch, about 13 km mainly downhill. Then there will be a side trip of 8 km return to Mt Wills which we rarely visit. We could camp at Big River Saddle, but about 6 km further on there is an excellent camp site beside the Big River. This would make a long day but would make the last day easier.

Monday's walk will be 13 km (if we do the extra 6 km on Sunday) and will see us climbing back up to the High Plains. After crossing the Big River - usually an easy wade, we climb up a spur, through light scrub according to previous report, to join the "Mittagundi" Track 107 which winds gently up to Kelly's Hut, a possible lunch spot. We may visit Fitzgerald's Hut and then stroll across the Plains to finish at the cars.

This is a solid medium walk which requires previous backpacking experience and ability to deal with severe weather (which hopefully we won't get).

FOR SALE

Maps: Tour du Mt. Blanc

These are two maps you would need for the Tour de Mt. Blanc, an amazing walk over The Alps.

Chamonix and St-Gervais

Brand new (unused extra set)

\$60 o.n.o.

If interested, please phone

JAN PALICH



Canoe Trip: Barmah Forest (Murray River)

DATE	Australia Day Long Weekend: Friday 24 - Monday 27 January
STANDARD LEADER(S)	Easy (suitable for beginners) George Zamora
TRANSPORT	Private
DISTANCE	Approx. 250 km from Melb.
MAP REFERENCE	River Murray Charts - Maureen Wright

Come and explore with me the most beautiful scenery that the Barmah Forest Park has to offer. On Fri. night we will camp at Morgan Beach (nice swimming beach). On Sat. morning we start our paddle downstream to Barmah township. The next two nights we will camp along the river, wherever we see a nice beach (plenty on this trip) and should arrive at Barmah township on Monday afternoon after smooth water paddling all the way.

For those people who has been on previous canoeing trips, these areas are completely different to other parts of the Murray River, the river in the Barmah Forest Park has lower banks, so not big walls but plenty of beautiful sandy beaches. You will see magnificent river red gums (the park contains the largest natural red gum forest in the world). You also will see grey kangaroos and joeys, ducks and other type of birds (more than 200 bird species inhabit the park), beautiful campsites, in short, a trip to remember. Don't forget to bring your camera. It will be an easy trip with lots of swim stops, lunch & afternoon breaks. Warning: it will be hot - old pyjamas, plenty of 15+ sun cream & a hat.

We will hire the canoes at Barmah. The two person Canadian canoes are supplied with life jackets & compasses. A non-refundable deposit of \$20 per person is required for canoe allocation as this time of the year is the busiest.

As a lot people like to come on this canoe trip you must **book early**, otherwise you may miss this wonderful experience. You can book at the clubrooms or phone

WILKINSON LODGE

The High Plains Road is now open so you can all rush me with bookings for Wilky! Especially those of you who have not emptied your winter lockers.

Thanks to all those people who have been leaving bags of their old clothes at Wilky to be used as rags. We now have enough rags to take us into the next century! However, if we need more I'll let it be known through *News*. Please wait for a request before dumping any more.

DOUG POCOCK
WILKINSON LODGE MANAGER

VALE FRED WILLIAM HALLS

Life Member Fred Halls died on 15 November aged just short of 90. Despite short notice thirteen Bushies were able to attend his funeral service on 19 November.

Fred was an keen bushwalker even before he joined the Melbourne Bushwalkers in 1952. I remember him talking of walking in the Powelltown mountain ash forests before the 1939 fires when the mature forest was easy walking with very little undergrowth. Fred was a very active member leading many walks from one day to extended Christmas walks. His walks were always very popular as he had a deep knowledge and love of the bush, which he was happy to share. He also had a good knowledge of Aboriginal sites and goldfields history. Some of his trips that spring to mind were The Grampians, Kooyoorra and the Goldfields historical and botanical trips.

Fred was on the committee for many years serving as Walks Secretary, Vice President and general committee member. He was made Life Member in 1969. Fred had an active interest in conservation matters and was involved in having Kooyoorra made a State Park and in the preservation of the Kamerooka Forest.

At the service Robert Taylor (Fred's nephew and former member) gave a very moving eulogy which I hope to get the text to print in *News*. Goodbye to Fred from all his Bushie friends.

DOUG POCOCK

QUENTIN'S QUIZ

LESSON 8: HOW (NOT) TO GET LOST

- 1) Following spurs downhill. In actual bushwalking you often have to follow spurs but care is needed. On a map ridges and spurs (a spur is a ridge running downhill from another spur or a ridge) appear to be very easy to distinguish. On the ground this is not so, especially in timbered country and it is very easy to walk off a side spur without knowing it.
- 2) Not paying attention to where you are going or where you have been. The classic case is when you are following a track and fail to notice that you have passed a "Y" junction (it's easy if the track comes in from behind). When you return along the track you are then confronted with a junction which you don't expect (assuming that one of the tracks was created since the map was made) and if you haven't been looking back occasionally to see what the terrain looks like you could quite easily take the wrong leg.
- 3) You should know the date of the map and therefore have some idea whether it was made before any of the tracks on it.
- 4) When leaving the track for a short period (say to look at flowers or a call of nature) you should leave your pack where you leave the track and pay attention how to get back to it. On a cloudy day it is easy to become disoriented and walk in the wrong direction. Once you realise your predicament, if you are unsure of which direction to walk, you should stay put and attempt to attract attention by calling out.
- 5) Check the detail on the ground with the map frequently.

Acknowledgement: I would like to acknowledge **Bruce Key** of the Albury - Wodonga Bushwalking Club as the original author of this series of eight articles which I have adapted here for the Melbourne Bushwalkers.

QUENTIN TIBBALLS
TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

USING GPS DEVICES IN THE EASTERN OTWAYS

Many club members now use GPS (Global Positioning System) devices. Recently I was a bit puzzled when using the device in the Mogg's Creek area near Airey's Inlet. The readings did not correspond to the grid marked on the map "The Otways & Shipwreck Coast - Outdoor Leisure Map".

The cause is a change in grid zone just east of Lorne (**Quentin Tibballs** mentioned this in his **Quiz** in the newsletter in October). Normally this is not a problem when we use standard maps. However, the abovementioned map covers a very large area and combines several maps. Presumably the map makers decided not to have a grid change part way across the map; instead the grid of the western zone was continued into the eastern zone.

This can be illustrated by entering into the GPS device the grid references from the abovementioned map, for example, the Painkalac Dam Wall - 54 H 07678 / 57404. The device instantly converts this to the "correct" reading - 55 H 02442 / 57408. (These readings are to the nearest 100 metres).

However, you can still find where you are: - Enter a known point using the grid references from the map, and then use the device to find your distance and direction from this known point.

MAX CASLEY

WALKING WITH STRANGE BIRDS

GREAT SOUTH-WEST WALK PACK CARRY

2 - 5 NOVEMBER

The party: Sakhong Wan (leader), Gina Hopkins, Derrick Brown, Tracey Jamieson, Dianne McKinley, Max Casley, Bill Donald, Val Baird (visitor), Des Pipakis (visitor), Steve Johnston (visitor) and myself.

We met at the information office in Portland at lunchtime on the Saturday, before driving out to the campsite at Tarragal. The cars were then driven back to Portland Police Station for safekeeping and Gwen, one of the "Friends of the Walk" ferried the drivers back to camp. We did a leisurely circuit of the surrounding forest before getting back to share a few nibbles and dinner. Then it rained, rained more, and blew and blew more. Somehow, Derrick managed to get a fire going from my dry track notes and damp wood so we stood around trying unsuccessfully to get warm and dry. A wet and windy night.

Sunday am started out sunny as we made our way down the beautifully maintained track, along the tree line and across grazing land affording us our first glimpses of ocean and then posing for group shots in the rock caves and after, relaxing by Bridgewater Lakes for morning tea. The views were spectacular along the cliff tops where the track meandered. In addition to roo and wallaby sightings, we sighted two rare Hooded Plovers (only 600 remaining) on the beach where the good ship *Marie* came to grief. A little further, we sighted a partridge-like bird that neither Gina nor Max could identify (see pic). I took a few pics and Gina later did some investigations. The "mystery" of this bird is rather sordid: A property at Cape Bridgewater originally stocked *Chukar Alectoris* for hunting/shooting purposes for in the USA they are considered "delectable".

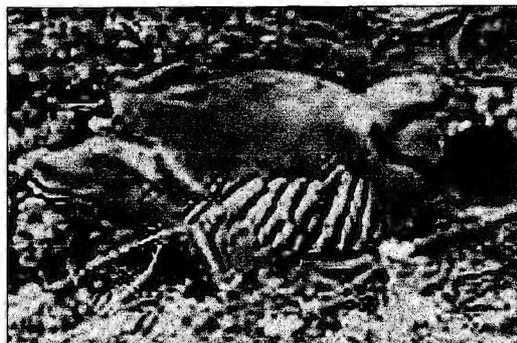
We reached Springs Camp about lunchtime and set up camp in strong winds. After lunch, we set off to find the actual springs, which involved a scramble down the cliff face to a spring gushing out at the base of the cliff just metres from the crashing surf. Remarkable how early settlers managed to lead cattle herds down here during droughts. Again, dinner was accompanied by rain and wind, although a supply of dry firewood at this excellent campsite made cooking easier and things cheerier. Another wild, wet and windy night.

Monday opened wet, but quickly became sunny as we set off past the two gas hole pools and on to The Blowholes area and petrified forest - trees that have been buried over time then revealed by wind erosion (see pic). Further on, at Cape Bridgewater, we came onto Australia's only mainland fur seal colony - dozens of seals swimming, sunning themselves or romping over the rocks. Then it was up and over Victoria's highest coastal cliff top point at 130 metres before descending onto Bridgewater Beach for lunch - where, much to our disappointment, the kiosk was closed. Steve braved the water for a dip. A brisk beach walk had us at Trevalla Camp, a fabulous site close to the beach with its own lookout and where a foot cooling paddle was enjoyed. Lots of grassy, level and sheltered tent sites here.

Tuesday breakfast was enjoyed atop the lookout taking in the scenery and passing freighters. A short 1 km walk to the highway ended the walk and we flagged down a passing tradesman for a lift back to Portland (no mobile service to ring Friends of the Walk as arranged). A side car trip to Cape Nelson Light House, including a very welcome coffee and cake, was particularly enjoyable. After a pub lunch, we set off with radios tuned into the running of The Melbourne Cup.

As an overview, this section of the Great South West Walk is well maintained, clearly marked and generally excellent. All three campsites were serviced by toilets, water tanks, tables, fireplaces and all well maintained. Thanks, Sakhong for organising and leading this very interesting walk.

PAUL BEERS



DANDONGADALE RIVER - MT. COBBLER PACK CARRY

15 - 17 NOVEMBER

The party: Gina Hopkins (leader), Derrick Brown, Susan McInnes, Trish Elmore, Ray Thomas and me.

We met Ray in Benalla at the bridge over the lake where Ray had just been swimming. Then it was off to the Royal Hotel for dinner taking advantage of Ray's discount vouchers. The evening campsite was at Bennies beside the Rose River.

Saturday was hot and sunny, as forecast. We drove to the start of the walk beside the Dandongadale River - this was also our finishing point. Our route was south up a spur, from which we glimpsed the imposing cliffs of Mt Cobbler, and eventually led to the top of Little Cobbler. Then we swung to the west toward Mt Cobbler. At the saddle there was a couple setting up camp beside their car. Next was the main challenge that Gina had arranged for us - a steep climb up the western side of Mt Cobbler in the full sun. At first this was just steep but then we came to the first cliff line. I am not the right person to comment on this section of the walk because, with my lack of co-ordination plus cramp, my recollection is not favourable. Without the help of the rest of the group, especially Gina and Ray, I could still be there on the cliff clinging on to a spindly bush. However, the others were obviously enjoying the climb and, further up, even I began to enjoy the magnificent views.

At the top we got 360 degree views of the Victorian high country and of Lake Cobbler nearly 4 km away, its surface reflecting the surrounding trees. Another group had walked in from the lake and were setting up camp on top. From the peak it looks like there is a deep chasm to cross. However, there is a narrow land bridge which leads to a sloping rock slab which we crossed to our most welcome camp site among the trees. Gina, Ray and Susan found a plentiful supply of water just to the south of the campsite while Derrick and Trish got the fire going. Dinner around the campfire was very pleasant after a hard day. Nearby was a group of youths on a 9-day walk from Mt Typo Centre in the Rose River valley. Next morning they went to the peak for the sunrise, but despite all their noise as they walked past my tent I scarcely stirred.

Next morning we went to Lake Cobbler for a swim and a side trip to Dandongadale Falls. Although the water flow is small they have the highest vertical drop in Victoria. We then followed the road for a while before turning on to a ridge above the Dandongadale River. The old road is now very overgrown and in many places it was better to follow the ridge. We descended to the river for a very welcome swim a short distance from the cars.

We dined at the Whitfield Hotel- it only serves pizzas on Sunday, but has tables in a lovely garden beside a stream. An enjoyable weekend - thanks Gina for organising this walk in a wonderful area.

MAX CASLEY

TALK TO THE EXPERTS

- RIGHT GEAR
- RIGHT ADVICE
- RIGHT PRICE

Bogong people walk- a lot; here and overseas. We really use the gear we sell. We talk to hundreds of people each week about their walking and their gear. What we learn we pass on to you.

So if you want your equipment to best match your needs and budget, seek out the specialists - come talk walking with Bogong people.



EQUIPMENT
bogong

BOGONG EQUIPMENT

374 Little Bourke St. Melbourne 3000
Tel: 9600 0599 Fax: 9602 1997
email: bogong@bogong.com.au

Join the
Bogong Club
for a 10%
discount

TRACKS, HUTS AND CONSERVATION

Here are some notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting of 27 November 2002.

Central Highlands – Richards Tramline historic 'Curves' track clearing has commenced. The local ranger has unfortunately underestimated the size of the job and to date about one third of the track has been cleared. More work is required and clubs are encouraged to help.

Upper Bunyip Action Group – on 27th October the Mayor of Cardinia opened the Fishers Loop Walking Track and attracted an estimated 140 to 200 people at Tomahawk Gap. Aboriginal heritage sites are believed to be located in the 350 forestry block. The Aboriginal guided nature walk was a very popular activity.

A recent letter from the DNRE Powelltown Forest Manager (dated 7 Nov.) states that all forestry coups in the Upper Bunyip area had been withdrawn from this summer's harvesting program. One exception is the Chancellor Spur coup which will be unfortunately logged this summer. Of note, a new DNRE Project Officer will be appointed for the Powelltown Region to develop a recreational startegy for the area.

Box-Ironbark Forest – Congratulations to all – the legislation proclaiming the new Box-Ironbark National Park has successfully passed both Houses of Parliament. A VicWalk representative attended the 2nd November official opening ceremony at Whipstick (Greater Bendigo National Park). Also, a VicWalk rep is on the Box-Ironbark Advisory Committee and their next meeting is scheduled for 2 – 3rd December.

Bunyip State Park – Parks Victoria are very keen to develop a walking track along Freeman's Mill old tramway (very overgrown). The Bunyip State Park Bushwalker Focus Group believe there are better options in the park as this track/route is very overgrown and would need lots of work. A possible extension of the Freeman's Mill Track to connect with 7 Acre Rock needs further negotiation with Melbourne Water.

Bunyip State Park Management Plan – hooray, the letter writing campaign of the excessive trail bikes has worked. There will now be a review of the Management Plan, possibly in late 2003. VicWalk's ambit claim is to ban all trail bikes from Bunyip State Park. The Bushwalker Focus Group will discuss connecting walking tracks into networks with the possible vehicular track closures.

Yarra Ranges - This Management Plan has finally been released with little change detected from the draft plan. As discussed in earlier reports, the more remote tracks such as Grace Darling Track, Goulds Track (near Keppells Hut), Royston Gap Track (over Mt Bullfight) and the Bentick Road (to Upper Taggerty Road) are all very overgrown and will no longer be maintained by Parks Victoria. This is because of a lack of funding and Parks Victoria are giving priority to the more popular walking tracks to waterfalls, lookouts, etc.

continued last page



If you visit the North only once in your life...

Make it May!

it's magical

May is when the nights turn cool and the last rains finish.

Water is everywhere.

The waterfalls for which the Top End is famous look like they do in the tourist brochures. In a few months they will have begun to disappear. Many 4WD tracks remain closed so you can enjoy places like Jim Jim Falls without the day tourists who arrive in June.

Places which become too dry to visit later in the year are still accessible.

Our May trips all run at a leisurely pace so you can enjoy the best that Nature has to offer at this time of year. Book now and get a 20% discount.

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

NEW MEMBERS

VINCENT ABALAIN

HEATH ALLISON

CHRISTINE BLACK

JODY CALLAGHAN

IRIS CURRAN

MICHELLE HEALEY

JANINE HOLLAND

BARBARA HORWOOD

ROSS HUTCHESON

STEPHEN F JOHNSTON

BARRY J MURRAY

BERNADETTE O'CONNELL

DESPINA PIPAKIS

ANNE SHARP

JULIE TU

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE NO.

ERRICO COLACI

DAVID LAING

LANCE MOBBS

PAUL A WAKEFIELD

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	337
Family Memberships	104 (= 2 x 52)
Total Membership	462
This Time Last Year	461

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 4 December* - H Friend & M Jagow
Wednesday 11 December* - P Havlicek & D Henry
Wednesday 18 December* - H Friend & D Pocock
Wednesday 8 January* - W Cone & V Scrivenger

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 6 January at 7.00 pm in the clubrooms

DECEMBER 2002

Sun 1	Moondara Res – Wirilda Trk (8.30 am start)	BUS	E & E/M	Jerry Karbownik & Steve Axford	#
6 – 8	Pack carry: Mt Bogong – Stirling Gap	Private	E/M	Bill Donald	
Sat 7	Navigation practice: 6 hour Rogaine	Private	Varied	Trish Elmore	
Sun 8	Captain Creek – Wombelano Falls	BUS	E/M & M	Ian Langford & Mike Low	#
Wed 11	Heidelberg School Artists Trail, Yarra Flats	Private	E/M	Sandra Mutimer	
13 – 15	Base camp: Bimbi Park, Otways	Private	E/M	Sylvia Ford	
Sun 15	Airey's Inlet – Anglesea	BUS	E & E/M	William Cone & Elizabeth Ingham	#
Sun 22	Cockpit Creek – Blowhard Range (Xmas theme)	BUS	E & E/M	Quentin Tibballs & Tracey Jamieson	#
26 - 1 Jan	Pack carry: Huts of Bogong High Plains	Private	E/M	Alan Clarke	
26 - 1 Jan	P/carry: Snowies Main Range – lakes & high places	Private	Medium	Jopie Bodegraven	
26 - 3 Jan	Base camp: Shaws Ck, Tamboritha Saddle	Private	E & E/M	Lance Mobbs	
26 - 2 Jan	Lilo trip: Upper Shoalhaven River	Private	Medium	Gina Hopkins	
Sun 29	No Sunday Bus trip				

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers
 Print Post Approved. PP No 338888/00016
 If undelivered please return to:
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne 3001

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**

Mt Stirling – The Mt Stirling Board have requested the farmers take further action with their fencing to keep the cattle off the summit. Perhaps another last warning...

'Tall trees' Long Distance Walking Track proposal. A proposal from The Wilderness Society to develop a 6 day walking track linking Healesville, Marysville and Lake Eildon to protect and showcase the ash forests. Unfortunately, they are advocating for roofed accommodation in the form of large huts (New Zealand style). VicWalk have a preference for camping sites rather than large huts.

Alpine Cattle Grazing - Bill Metzenthon found a recent article in *New Scientist* September 2002 'Go easy on the manure' which showed a causal link between *e. coli* food poisoning and the presence of cattle on land used for music concerts. VicWalk (via Bill) will ask the Minister to investigate the link between alpine cows and bushwalker food poisoning.

Ostlers Lane Road Reserve - this reserve adjoins Green Bush and is used by bushwalkers. It is currently very overgrown with weeds, long grass and blackberries. VicWalk will write to DNRE asking them to clear the blackberries and to build fence stys to allow better access.

ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE