



THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 611

JANUARY 2002

60 CENTS

Happy New Year to All!



Wine & Cheese Nite

*Come & enjoy our new clubrooms!
Starting 23 January,
the Club will put on wines & cheeses
on the third Wednesday of each month.
So come in & catch up with your mates.*

Wait, there's more...

*Let's take advantage of our new garden areas!
Once every quarter,
we'll be having a (bring your own meat) BBQ -
again, wines supplied by the Club.
Watch for dates to be announced.*

FROM THE EDITOR

Attention: Leaders of walks, etc. in March.

I would be grateful if you would keep your previews as brief as possible for the next *News*. There are a large number of previews to fit into the February edition as there are 2 long weekends in March this year (Labour Day & Easter) & there will be reports for 2001 from office bearers included too.

Thank you very much.

VICKI SCRIVENGER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday 27 February 2002
8.00 p.m.**

**The Annexe
Level 1, Trades Hall
Corner of Lygon & Victoria Streets, Carlton**

It's your club, make sure you know what's happening & what's planned. Come along & cast your vote (members). Non-members also welcome to attend but may not vote.
New committee to be installed.

JOIN THE CREW IN 2002!

**CONSIDER COMING ON BOARD
& HELP STEER THE CLUB INTO THE FUTURE**

All Committee Positions Become Vacant in February.

Present Committee Members

Not Standing for Re-election:

Vice-President, Secretary,

Walks Secretary, Assistant Walks Secretary

& Some General Committee Members

(Social Secretary is Currently Vacant)

**A Form for the Nomination of Officers
& Committee Members is on Page 11**



ENQ.:

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

WEBSITE: www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

EMAIL: info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au

WALKS PROGRAM CHANGES

25 – 28 January - Australia Day weekend canoe trip.
Please note George's correct telephone numbers are

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

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Attention ALL Leaders – NEW VISITOR FORM FOR FEDERATION INSURANCE COVER. Please ensure ALL visitors complete the "Acknowledgement of Risk and Obligations Form" prior to undertaking the trip.

For Clubnight bookings eg Sunday Bus / Weekend Trips, this form will be available at the front desk. Duty Committee Members will give a copy of the form to all visitors at the 'meet and greet' desk adjacent to the front door. Completed forms are kept in the Visitor Form Folder at the Sunday Bus bookings desk. The folder has an A to Z index – & the form can take 3 trips with room for 're-acknowledgment, trip destination & a signature'.

For other bookings eg Dandenong Explorers and Wednesday Walks - the Walks Secretary will send out Visitor Forms with the News Preview worksheet, booking form with emergency contact and the Walk Report.

Note: All Visitors must read & sign the 'Acknowledgment of Risks' form. If a visitor refuses to sign the form then they are not allowed to participate. No exceptions.

Helpful Hints – to help you & to help your volunteer leaders:
Attention all 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 the 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 Clubnights.

WEEKEND TRIPS – weekend bushwalkers help us to help you.

Important guideline: Please assist the leader by attending a meeting in the Clubrooms at 8pm on the Wednesday prior to the trip. At this briefing the leader will give directions where to meet, the equipment required, maps, car pooling and transport etc.

Dandenong Explorer and Wednesday Walks – please ring the leader for details.

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

FEBRUARY DAY WALKS, ETC.



Sunday Bus: Woodmore Range - Mt. Despair (Murrindindi)

DATE Sunday 13 January
 STANDARD Easy & Medium
 DISTANCE Approx. 10 & 18 km
 LEADER(S) John Kittson & Mike Low
 TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
 RETURN Approx. 7.30 pm
 AREA South of Yea
 MAP REFERENCE Taggerty South 1:25,000

Both walks will be on bush tracks & four wheel drive tracks. The Easy walk starts from the Murrindindi Cascades Car Park & follows the river down stream finishing at the suspension bridge on the Murrindindi River.

The Medium walkers will also start at the Murrindindi Cascades Car Park & climb up to Mt. Despair via Horsesyard & Woodmore Ranges & down to the suspension bridge. Possibly if time permits a look at the Winelmina Falls making the Medium walk about 18 km whilst the Easy walk is about 10 km.

Could be hot so bring hat, sun screen, fresh water & that changes of shoes to be left under the coach in the cabinets along with a dry change of clothing.



Sunday Bus: Ada Tree

DATE Sunday 3 February
 STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
 LEADER(S) Tracey Jamieson & Ralph Clayton
 TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am

Please see the leaders in the clubrooms about these walks.



Sunday Bus: Mt. Worth (Warragul)

DATE Sunday 10 February
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
 LEADER(S) Hans Edlinger & David Easton
 TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am

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



Sunday Bus: Cumberland River (Lorne)

DATE Sunday 17 February
 STANDARD Easy Medium & Medium
 DISTANCE Approx. 14 & 19 km
 LEADER(S) John Coe & Bill Donald
 TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am
 RETURN Approx. 7.00 pm
 AREA Lorne
 MAP REFERENCE Lorne 1:25,000

This walk is entirely on maintained tracks - walking tracks and 4WD tracks. It takes in a number of waterfalls and rivers that both groups will need to cross. As such please bring a change of footwear for the return journey home on the bus. Bring plenty of drinking water also as we could be in for a hot day.

Please note the early start of 8.30 am & that the trip home might be delayed because of road works.



Wednesday Walk: Mornington Peninsula

DATE Wednesday 20 February
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE Approx. 16 - 20 km
 LEADER(S) Alister Rowe
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME Approx. 4.00 pm to Car Park
 AREA Western Port Bay
 MAP REFERENCE Melway

On the assumption that it will be a hot day, this will be a one-way beach walk of 16 - 20 km depending on the weather, with opportunities for swimming.

Meet at 10.15 am in the car park of the Somers Yacht Club (Melway 194 A10). We will walk past Balnarring, Merricks & Point Leo to Shoreham or perhaps a bit further. There is usually firm sand & we should have a cooling southerly in our faces.

I will need some volunteers for a car shuffle. Please ring me on



Dandenongs Explorer Sherbrooke Forest

DATE Saturday 23 February
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approx. 14 km
LEADER(S) Warren Baker
TRANSPORT Private

Meet at Map reference Melway 75 K4 at 10.30 am.

This is our first walk for the year and is towards the end of summer. I would ask people to ring in in case it is necessary to cancel the walk due to fires.

The walk will be in the reverse direction to the first walk of the 2001 program. In this case we will walk through Sherbrooke forest to Foden's track. There will be a short road bash along Grantulla and Jackson's Hill Road to Hermons Saddle Reserve where we will have lunch. From there we will find our way back along Black Hill Road to Coles Ridge Road and Cowes Road in the forest. This gives us a bit of a climb back to the starting point & afternoon tea.



Sunday Bus: Hepburn Springs to Mt. Franklin

DATE Sunday 24 February
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 13 & 18 km
LEADER(S) Jan Palich & Paul Beers
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm
MAP REFERENCE Guildford & Daylesford 1:25,000

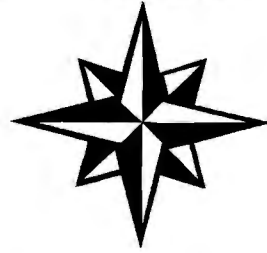
This walk will take in the southern end of Tarilta Gorge which is a very pretty part of the area, then we will traverse farmland to climb Mt. Franklin for lunch. The easy group will then take the bus for a few kms down toward Hepburn Springs where we will explore Widows Gully, Woman's Gully & Jacksons Lookout, before ending the walk at the kiosk at Hepburn Springs.

FOUND



Found at our Christmas Party
on Wed. 19 Dec. 2001 at Trades Hall

See a Committee Member on duty in the clubrooms
if these sunglasses belong to you



NAVIGATION SKILLS PRACTICE TRAINING DAY

SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY

This Training Day will be held
at an area close to Melbourne
& will give the opportunity to
practice your navigation skills &/or
learn basic & advanced navigation skills.

We may have an Information Night
on Wednesday at the clubrooms,
depending on numbers.

Please telephone me on
to register your interest
so I can arrange the details.

BRIAN CROUCH
TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

BOOK BORROWERS



Calling all those books that people
have borrowed from the club. Some
of our recent book purchases have
been borrowed (which is great),
however, they have not as yet been
returned (which is not great).

Do you have any Bushies' library
books at home? If so, can you
please return them so that others
can enjoy the read. I can remember
the club buying books on flowers,
amazing people, interesting places
over the last few years, but they are
not in our library. So borrowers -
please return them to Jan Palich.

We hopefully will have some lovely new book shelves to
display our old treasures and new books.

Donations: ...If you have any books on conservation,
amazing climbs, walks, historical walking books or cur-
rent interest books that you would like to donate to the
club, please let Jan know and she will include them in our
bookcase.

JAN PALICH

FEBRUARY WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



Canoe Trip: Goulburn River

DATE Friday 25 - Monday 28 January
STANDARD Easy
LEADER(S) George Zamora
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Shepparton/Nathalia
DISTANCE 240 km from Melbourne

Come & explore with me the wonders of the Goulburn River. On Fri. night we will camp at Loch Garry which is on the Shepparton/Barmah Road, not far from Bunbartha (small town). On Sat. morning we start our paddle downstream to McCoy Bridge. On Sat. night we will camp on one of the many sandbars along the river. We should arrive at McCoy Bridge on Mon. afternoon after smooth water paddling all the way.

This section of the Goulburn River is on State Forest land & this river is completely different to the Murray River. Firstly, there are no high speed boats on the river, just canoes, so you don't have to insert your fingers in your ears each time a speed boat passes. Secondly, the river is not as deep & so does not have such strong currents as the Murray which means it is easier to negotiate obstacles such as snags. You will see magnificent River Red Gums & many types of native birds; but you will not see people. Beautiful campsites will provide 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 canoes at Barmah. The two person Canadian canoes are supplied with life jackets, waterproof barrels, detailed maps, bird ID books, fact sheets & compasses. A non refundable deposit of \$20 per person is required for canoe allocation as this time of year is the busiest.

As lots of people like to come on this canoe trip you must book early, otherwise you may miss this wonderful experience. Beginners welcome! You can book at the clubrooms or telephone



Li-lo Trip: Thompson River

DATE Friday 1 - Sunday 3 February
STANDARD Medium - Approx. 30 km
LEADER(S) Mark Tischler
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 8.00 pm Sunday
AREA Gippsland
MAP REFERENCE Matlock 1:100000 or Dargo 1:100000

This lilo trip's location will be ultimately decided on the Wednesday prior to the trip. Depending upon river levels it may be switched to the Mitchell River.

It will be a leisurely trip with many stops & the usual safety gear is mandatory (helmet & life jacket). A box walled lilo, paddle & lilo repair kit (large size) & optional wetsuit are the only gear different to walking with 2 - 3 sturdy plastic bags to waterproof the pack. Spare lilos would be of an advantage. Please phone me on if new to liloing.



Pack Carry: Little Cobbler - Cobbler

DATE Friday 8 - Sunday 10 February
STANDARD Medium/Hard
LEADER(S) Mark Walters
TRANSPORT Private

Please see Mark Walters in the clubrooms about this trip or phone him on



Lodge: Mt. Buller

DATE Friday 15 - Sunday 17 February
STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium/Hard
DISTANCE Approx. 30 & 40 km
LEADER(S) Dianne McKinley & Bill Metzthen
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Late Sunday Night
AREA Mt Buller & Mt Sterling

Option 1. The easy / medium group will do 2 day walks. Day one will be a walk over to Mt Sterling (13 km return) and day 2 probably a combination of walks to Little Buller (5 km return), Corn Hill (6 km return) and the summit taking in snow gum forest and snow grass plains.

Option 2. Bill has kindly agreed to lead the medium hard group. Day one begins at Timbertop Saddle Sat. morning, going up the West Ridge of Buller. In Bill's previous walk notes from his trip in April '97 he mentions some snow and ice on the slopes. Sunday may be a trip over to Mt Sterling and down a spur into the Delatite Valley. In Bill's previous walk notes he wrote "... the track crosses the river 12 times and there are no safe bridges." This option requires a car shuffle and is dependent on enough interest to start, so give Bill an early call to discuss it.

The weekend lodge cost is \$30 (less if doing Option 2 with only one night at the lodge). Payment is required with bookings. You need to bring sheets, a towel, a group entrée & all other food. Before departure on Sunday late afternoon we all pitch in and clean up the lodge.

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



Pack Carry: Upper Yarra – Baw Baw

DATE Friday 22 - Sunday 24 February
STANDARD Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 32 km
LEADER(S) Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT Private
AREA Baw Baw
MAP REFERENCE Tanjil Bren 1:25,000, Bush Maps
 Victoria Baw Baw NP 1:50,000

The idea for this walk came when we were walking the Australian Alps Walking Track during Christmas 2000 and Jean Giese pointed out where the Upper Yarra Walking Track joins the AAWT. For whatever reason the Upper Yarra Track has not been maintained and appeared to be fairly overgrown, but the Ranger advised me that it was still passable. (Admittedly, that information is now several months old!) So we shall go and do our bit to keep this track open, or at least this small section of it.

The plan is to start the walk somewhere not far from Tanjil Bren, and to follow old walking tracks, possibly very overgrown, to the Upper Yarra track and then up to join the AAWT in the Baw Baw National Park. Sunday should be a very pleasant day walking amongst Snow Gums and with great views from various lookouts along the way. We will finish the walk at Baw Baw village so a car shuffle will be required.

Because of the uncertain nature of the first day of this walk – unknown amounts of scrub and an unknown quality campsite – together with a fair amount of uphill, this walk is not suitable for complete beginners. But please don't be put off – I can adapt the walk according to the standard and experience of the walkers on the day.



WILKINSON LODGE WORK PARTY

SAT. 9 & SUN. 10 FEBRUARY

There will be a work party on this weekend to re-roof Wilkinson Lodge.

Any plumbers or roofers are very welcome but we will also need general labourers.

(If the weather turns lousy we may have to finish the next weekend).

See me in the clubrooms for details.

DOUG POCOCK
WILKINSON LODGE MANAGER



OF VANS & VANS

It was interesting to read Marianne Gemperle's description of her weekend at Langi Ghiran ("Some Bushie History - Melbourne Cup Weekend," Dec. 2001 *News*) - walk reports are always good to read! - but I had to write to put the record straight about Les White's van (pictured above). Les/Norm White used to take the YHA bushwalkers away for day and weekend walks. Norm must have thought that Marianne was from the YHA bushwalkers. The Melbourne Bushies used Gronow's vans from 1946 to 1979. J. Gronow was a furniture removal firm.

From 1952 Denis Barson became a regular driver for the MBW trips. Denis drove for club trips for a total of 37 years and is a life member. Denis was a skilled and dedicated driver taking the van down many tracks a bus wouldn't go near. An example of his dedication was waiting till 10 pm for a weekend walk to turn up from a walk in the West Tyers river area. Among the many places the van got to was Eight Mile hut on the Howqua River and it was used for trips as far away as the Bogong High Plains. In early 1979 the Gronow's business was sold and we had to use other operators.

We used Jack Baxter's vans from late 1979 to mid 1984 when the club bought one of the vans when Jack became ill. The club operated the van for seven years until, after much debate, the van was sold.

If you wish to learn more about the vans (and many other things), have a look at our publication *The Melbourne Bushies - Fifty years along the track* (1994).

ROD MATTINGLEY

OF ROBINS & WRENS

Erratum - Apologies to Birdos - we saw a red-capped robin at Pink Lakes National Park on Jopie's moving base camp in September 2001, not a red-capped wren as in my review ("Progressive Base Camp - Pink Lakes, Mutawintji, Kinchega & Mungo National Parks," Nov. 2001 *News*).

JAN LLEWELYN

CROAJINGALONG NATIONAL PARK

MELB. CUP WEEKEND 2001

Leader: Jopie Bodegraven assisted by Max Casley.

Four cars with sixteen walkers traveled to Carr River Caravan Park on Friday night.

Saturday morning our group led by Max with Tracey, Fiona, Susan, Lorna, Len, Leo & me drove the other group's two cars to Mallacoota to begin the 55 km walk west to Thurra River near Point Hicks. Jopie's group of Jenny, Liz, Leslie, Sharon, Jerry, Ken & Paul took our cars to Thurra River to begin their walk to Mallacoota. Each group camped at different locations en route. N.B. Jopie's information sheet suggested likely meeting place to exchange car keys as around Wingan Inlet.

As the water was a little salty at our Saturday night camp at Benedore River we decided to have Sunday breakfast about 1.5 km along our way at fresh water.

After a bit of scrub bashing due to the undisturbed track approaching Red River we found the tide in & waded across about lunch time. Around 3 pm we emerged from the bush & down to the sandy flats of Wingan Inlet. As low tide was approx. 5.30 pm we were about to water-proof our gear for the crossing to our campsite when we saw a small boat loaded down with 5 persons. To our surprise it was the first of Jopie's group getting a lift across as they still had some distance to go to camp. The obliging boat owner agreed to our first four back to the jetty on his return for the remaining four of Jopie's group & our remaining four on his final return. We wished him best of luck on his search for rare orchids.

Some of us enjoyed a swim at Petrel Point, our Monday night camp.

Tuesday was mostly beach walking & we finished up by wading the Mueller River of a depth to the bottom of our shorts if lucky. We found our cars as arranged just as light rain became more serious. The previous days had been ideal conditions. The walk consisted of approx. 2/3 lovely coastal forest & the remainder beach & easy rocks.

We saw lots of flowers, many seals (some very big at "The Skerries"), some varied bird life including sea eagles & oyster catchers, a goanna, two snakes, two minor ticks on myself & a more serious one on Max. Also some deer between Orbost & Carr River on Friday night.

This very enjoyable walk was well worth the drive. Thanks to Jopie for organizing a great weekend & to Max for leading our group.

BOB OXLADE

VicWalk



Working Bee at Mt Stirling

The Mt Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board are organising two working bees in early 2002 at Mt Stirling.

Saturday 9 February & Saturday 20 April

The task is to lay rubber matting on the summit area to prevent further soil erosion by horses. Bushwalkers and friends are encouraged to participate in helping to restore this fragile alpine environment.

Mt Stirling is a popular and important area for outdoor recreation and education.

All enquiries to Elizabeth Doery

(Elizabeth Doery is the VicWalk representative on the Mt Stirling Alpine Advisory Group).

Temporary Closure -

Old Steel Bridge at Poverty Point, Australian Alps Walking Track

VicWalk has received a letter from, Mark Connors, Parks Victoria, Erica giving notification of the closure of the Old Steel Bridge at Poverty Point on the Australian Alps Walking Track.

This historic bridge which crosses the Thomson River will be temporarily closed

from 11 December 2001 until 31 January 2002.

An alternate track will be signposted approx. 200 metres south or downstream of the bridge.

This will require fording the river at a shallow point.

For any further advice on this matter please contact Mark Connors on

WILKINSON LODGE

MELB. CUP WEEKEND 2001

A companion from another bush walking group on a trek north of Birdsville in July spoke so warmly about "Wilky" I just had to experience it for myself.

The 5 hour drive to Falls Creek was through beautiful green countryside. On arrival at the barrier where all vehicles remain while you walk the remaining track to Wilky, I was worried about my heavy pack. But no need to be concerned, it was downhill and took exactly 15 minutes. It wasn't until we were almost at Wilky that it came suddenly into view sitting in a small clearing surrounded by snow gums. It looked like a doll's house.

Sleeping quarters in the loft area under the roof were reached via a vertical 7 rung ladder which was located next to the toilet and hot water shower on the ground floor. The loft was spacious warm and cosy with open windows at each end. By nightfall we had all arrived – Doug, Alex, William, Jan, Marg & me.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday were spent walking the stunning Bogong High Plains – Spion Kopje, Mt Cope and Basalt Hill in gorgeous weather. But if you preferred to stay at Wilky and read a book, the peaceful surrounds would have been ideal. The downside is you would have missed seeing the marsh marigolds and flame robins.

It was amazing how much food could be stored in the lockers, all eaten hungrily each evening after "guest chefs" whipped up culinary delights in the fantastic slow combustion oven. Often accompanied with singing by Doug.

Monday lunchtime we bid farewell to William and Monday night we could hear the rain pouring down. During a break in the weather on Tuesday morning 3 of us departed leaving Doug and Jan to wait for new arrivals. The misty drive down the mountain was full of atmosphere and after a break for lunch at Mt Beauty found us returning to Melbourne in fine weather. I can't wait to go back again.

MARGOT MARASCO

This is an African trip with a difference...

Southern Africa

Our 2001 trip was such a success
we're doing it again

8 weeks beginning September 2002

Wildflowers and wildlife

Mountains and coast

The natural world and ancient rock art

Walks and more walks

Southern Africa has some of the **best bushwalking trails in the world**. We can't do them all, but we will do some of the best. If the full trip is too long, you can do parts.

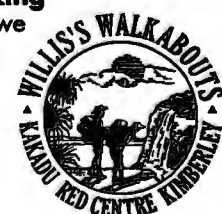
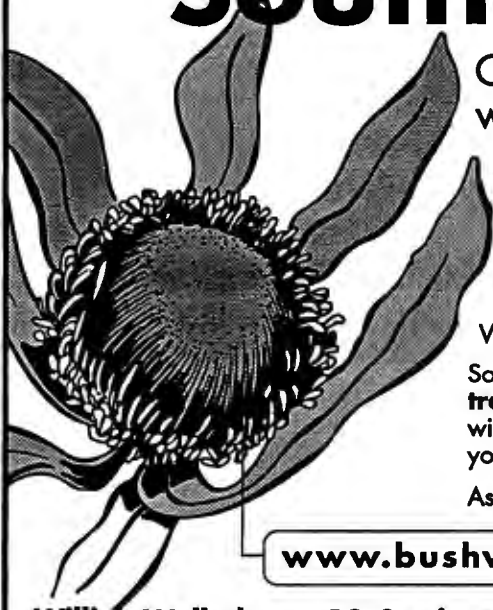
Ask for our trip notes.

You Walk!

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



MT. BUFFALO NP PACK CARRY

FRI. 30 NOV. - SUN. 2 DEC. 2001

We set off from Lake Catani bathed in sunshine. A pleasant walk through the valley and we soon downed packs for the first of our side trips. We took in the views whilst we had morning tea at the top of Mt Dunn. We were then off to our next side trip, this time to Devils Couch. After a good look round we had a bush bash/scramble/steep descent till we found a lunch spot close to the reservoir. Bob did his best to upset the local ant population by sitting on a nest.

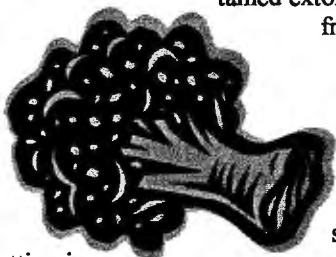


A short steady climb and we arrived at another junction. The side trip took us to the top of Gog & Ma Gog. Again, great views and massive granite boulders. After a longish walk we found something else to climb, Eagle Point. We then set off to Mollisons Galleries. Mollisons Galleries is a number of large granite boulders perched on the edge of the plateau. We were able to go under a number of the rocks. The views extended down the valley and included Buffalo Lake. Our last walk for the afternoon involved a steep descent down to Rocky Creek, our campsite for the night.



Roger asked everyone to bring a treat to share amongst the group. As such our communal rock was full of goodies, both to eat and drink. There was plenty of conversation and light-hearted banter as we all enjoyed the feast. Sak-Hong kept us entertained extolling the merits of broccoli. Roger produced a pack of cards and three of us had a very friendly game, something to do with the fact that we did not score.

We were up off at around 8:00 am to minimize the chances of getting wet. The early walking involved a gradual but long steady climb. Once again we had the luxury of removing packs and through doing some side trips. The first being to Macs Point and then a scramble through thick scrub to the Giants Causeway.



The weather started to close in and we decided to head back to Lake Catani before the rain started. Getting in early we had a group lunch at Myrtleford. Some of the group decided to stop at Milawa to sample the mus-

tards on the way to catch up with the rest of the group at Browns Brothers.

Highlights of the walk included the abundant wild flowers, the granite rock formations and the views.

Thanks to Roger Wyatt for a great well-lead walk. Many thanks also to Di, Bob, Marika, Sak-Hong, Roger & Monika for your company.

BILL DONALD

 **FLY TO SYDNEY & BE ON THE TRACK THE SAME DAY**
FAST TRAINS LEAVE MASCOT AIRPORT EVERY 30 MINUTES FOR CAMPBELLTOWN RAILWAY STATION BUS TERMINAL

THE NSW WILDERNESS BUS

Destinations 

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

IN THE BUDAWANG MOUNTAINS
BUNGNIA CAVES. WOG WOG. NERRIGA

Departs from Sydney's Campbelltown Railway Station

Blue Mts Mon & Wed at 11am Frid at 7am
Budawang Tues & Thurs & Sun at 11am
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CONSERVATION FORUM

Here are some notes from the *VicWalk* Conservation Committee November meeting:

Otway Ranges – The consultant's report is now available on the DNRE website called *An Examination of Strategic Public Land Recreation and Tourism Infrastructure Priorities in the Otway Region – July 2001* by Connell Wagner. This report is primarily focused on developing car-based tourism. There are 4 proposals (3 from DNRE) based on upgrading the existing facilities eg 200 metre short walks to scenic features from a car park. Nothing in this report to excite bushwalkers eg the Trans Otways Walking Track considered but rejected. Also circulated were the O.R.E.N. newsletter on 'Clearfell logging in the Otways' and the September newsletter 'Garbutt breaks agreement on Otway forests'. Also, it is believed that discussions concerning the future of Sabine Falls and the Midway Corporation have temporarily fallen down.

Gippsland Forests (central Gippsland) – VicWalk have written a submission on the proposed Management Plan. Chris provided a brief overview as: concerns with the effects of logging on threatened species; the need for buffer zones and special protection zones to be doubled in size; for the A.A.W.T. to have a buffer zone of 100 metres in State Forest logging coups; the concern of loss of old growth forests and impacts upon wildlife; and VicWalk opposing mining activities in declared special protection zones. D.N.R.E have asked VicWalk to nominate a representative for the Central Gippsland Reference Body.

Portland Wind Energy Project – VicWalk attended the public meeting held on 20/11/01. Pacific Hydro does admit 'a perceived visual impact of the wind turbines by a few people' *sic* however they believe the turbines are a 'thing of beauty' which will attract tourists to the area. Another comment being the wind turbines would be 'obscured by sea mist' for part of the year. The potential for green energy is great with an estimated 900,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas saved each year. The megawatt hours generated will power approx. 114,000 homes. The Victorian government is keen to promote green energy. The wind turbines will only be located on private land and will create several hundred jobs for the region. VicWalk forwarded a submission to the E.E.S. consultants with our position opposing the wind turbine development at Cape Bridgewater, Bridgewater Lakes and Cape Nelson because of the visual aesthetics/distracted and supporting the development at Cape Sir William Grant and Yambuk provided the environmental and heritage requirements are met. It is believed this project could be the first of many wind farms to be developed in Victoria. The committee then discussed the importance of preserving coastal scenery and to consider our position for wind farms on public land.

Bunyip State Park – Photos were circulated of deeply eroded ruts on forest tracks caused by trail bikes and 4 wheel drives in this park. At the November Focus Group meeting it was stated the police will have 2 traffic control motorbikes patrolling the park on a regular basis (based at Pakenham). The police patrol will be looking for unlicensed trail bike riders, illegal unloading in picnic areas, and trail bikes on walking tracks. New trail bike unloading areas will be established (away from picnic areas). Parks Victoria has erected some track barriers. Ferrers Track will be cleared in 2002 (est. cost of \$2000). There is a proposal to investigate possible opening of old tramway track to 7 Acre Rock. Melbourne Water has 'safety concerns' with public access to the Aqueduct. At Egg Rock there will be a new fire tower built with the possibility of guided tours. On 5/12/01 VicWalk has arranged for a site visit with Phil Ingamells [VNPA].

A 'Friends Group of the Upper Bunyip River' is being established. They are keen to establish a walking track along the Bunyip River, but the D.N.R.E. are opposed to this (it will go through logging coups). Also, they are seeking to join the Upper Bunyip River state forest to the Bunyip State Park. On Sunday 9th December a field trip has been organised to promote passive outdoor activities in the area. Meet at 8.45 am at the park next to Gembrook Railway Station. The field trip will visit Mortimer Reserve, Basin Corner and include a 4 hour bushwalk in the upper Bunyip River area.

Yarra Ranges – Proposed Badger Creek Track - This has been delayed as there are concerns with pedestrians crossing over the Maroondah Highway. It is believed Melbourne Water want a trade-off for this new track. It is proposed to close the Graceburn Weir track and the track along the aqueduct to Donnelly's Weir. There is strong local opposition to closing the track to Graceburn Weir. VicWalk will write a letter to Parks Victoria requesting bushwalker access to the Old Black Spur Road, as it will make a good circuit walk linking Morley's Track. If Parks Victoria supports this request, then Melbourne Water will be approached. The final decision rests with Melbourne Water, as it is a closed water catchment area.

Box-Ironbark Forests – Jason Doyle from the VNPA has advised the State government has accepted 'in principle' the recommendations for the Box-Ironbark forests. However, the VNPA has some concerns with the implementation process which may involve 'phasing out' over a longer period of time with logging, firewood collection etc. activities.

Terrick-Terrick State Park – VicWalk will write a submission to the draft Management Plan. Of interest, there is a proposed camp-fire ban for the designated camping area eg stove only area.

Management Plans for Long Forest, Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve and Beechworth Historic Park have been received.

Cape Liptrap – VicWalk has forwarded a submission to this Management Plan. In general VicWalk supports the direction of the Management Plan. VicWalk suggestions include the installation of a toilet at Five Mile Track camping area, to establish fireplaces at Boar Gully to prevent fire scars, to have a Camp Host during peak holiday season, and there is a need to have a new walking track between Arch Rock and Walkerville South. It is believed a 'Great Victorian Coastal walk' will be developed in the next 5 – 10 years.

A report that the Curley Creek track [in Erinunderra] is in very poor condition due to recent fire re-growth.

The Mullum Mullum Creek Trail extension will be officially opened on Sunday 2nd December and will allow access from Westfold's Park to Mullum Mullum Creek.

ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER WALK STATISTICS

November '01	Trips	People	Average	Nov. '00
Sunday Bus	4	100	25	32.5
Other Day - Wed. 10, Dan. 23 & Hist. 5	3	38	12.6	11.5
Pack Carry	2	25	8	11
Base Camp	1	9	9	21.5
Lodge	2	12	6	9
Canoe	1	8	8	-
Cancelled	2	-	-	3
Total	12	192	-	248

N.B. The cancelled trips include the Cup Day weekend ski trip to Kosciusko and the pack carry to Northern Wilson's Prom. The latter trip has been postponed to early January due to poor weather conditions for the boat.

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 2 January - P Havlicek & M Jagow
 Wednesday 9 January - P Beers & D Henry
 Wednesday 16 January - A Smith & A Wilkins
 Wednesday 23 January - P Beers & P Cresswell
 Wednesday 30 January - P Havlicek & V Scrivenger
 Wednesday 6 February - D Henry & T Jamieson

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 4 February at 7.00 pm

NEW MEMBERS

JASON CAMERON

ANDROULA DEMETRIOS

GRAEME HALAS

PAULETTE SMYTHE

SANDRA J WEIR

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

NANCY BELYEA

GEORGE ZAMORA

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	341
Family memberships	104 (=2x52)
Total membership	466
This time last year	445

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Walks Secretary, Assistant Walks Secretary, Membership Secretary, Social Secretary, Wilkinson Lodge Manager, News Editor or General Committee

Nomination

Name of Nominee.....Position.....

Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

Acceptance of Nomination

I,.....agree to stand for this position.

Signature of Nominee.....Date.....

Enter names & position as appropriate & return to:
 The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001.

JANUARY 2002

31/12-8	Wilkinson Lodge: Alpine Day Walks	Private	E/M	Lance Mobbs	
3 - 23	3 X Pack Carry Trips: 3-9 Western Tiers/Clummer Bluff/Devils Gullet, & 11-16 Cheyne Range/Mt Rufus, & 17 - 23 Tyndall Range (TAS)	Private	Hard	Doug Pocock	
Sun 6	Maude to She-Oaks - Moorabool R.	BUS	E & E/M	Steve Bentley & Sue Ralston	#
11 - 13	Pack Carry: Bluff - Mt Lovick	Private	M	Ralph Blake	
Sun 13	Woodmore Range-Mt Despair (Murindindi)	BUS	E & M	John Kittson & Mike Low	#
Wed 16	Wednesday Walk: Lake Mountain	Private	E/M	Jerry Karbownik	
18 - 20	Pack Carry: Briagolong	Private	E/M	Bill Donald	
Sun 20	Werribee Gorge	BUS	E/M & M	Fiona Gallery & Quentin Tibballs	#
25 - 28	Lodge: Walhalla Weekend	Private	E/M	Brian Crouch	
25 - 28	Canoe Trip: Murray River	Private	E/M	George Zamora	*
25 - 28	Pack Carry: Mt Bogong	Private	M	Sak-Hong Wan	
Sun 27	Cape Schanck to Rye Back Beach	BUS	E & E/M	Maureen Hurley & Helina Sarbinoski	#
Mon 28	Historical Walk	Public	Easy	Nigel Holmes	*

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 New members joining on/after 1 October 2001 \$21.00 less visitor fees *The News* - \$18.00

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