



THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 613

MARCH 2002

60 CENTS

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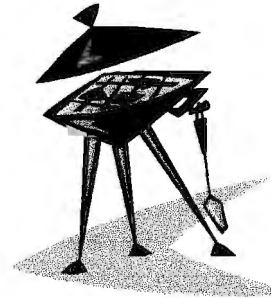
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Club Barbeque this Month

Wednesday 20 March
7.00 pm

*The Club will Hold
the First of its Quarterly Barbeques
Outside the Clubrooms in March.*

All Are Welcome.

*Just Bring Your Own Meat
& a Plate of Something to Share.
The Drinks and Barbeque Gear
will be Provided by the Club.*

See You at 7.00 pm!

Deborah Henry

SPECIAL BUYING NIGHT AT THE WILDERNESS SHOP

Tuesday 23 April
6.00 - 9.00 pm

969 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill

20% Off Regular Prices
5% Off Sale Items
Free Snacks & Drinks

Door Prizes donated by Mont & White Mountain

JAN PALICH



Paramount Film Festival

Presents the Film Documentary

Johnny Cash: Man in Black
plus

Dancehall Racketeers (live)

Saturday 16 March
8.00 pm

Estonia House
43 Melville Road, West Brunswick

Enjoy a Night of Film, Music & Dancing.
Show: \$24 (Conc.: \$18) Alcohol & Snacks Avail.

Bookings and Payments to Halina or Carol
Wednesday 6 & 13 March in the Clubrooms

For Further Details Please Phone

Halina on
or Carol on

ENQUIRIES:

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

Thank you everybody for your kind support and encouragement that made my job as Walks Secretary during 2000 and 2001 so much easier. Gina Hopkins is the new Walks Secretary for 2002. Happy Walking everyone in 2002.

WALKS PROGRAM CHANGES

Labour Day weekend 8 - 11 March. Base Camp is now at Halls Gap (the Grampians). Contact the leader Rob Davies on _____ for more information.

Labour Day weekend 8 - 11 March. The Canoe Trip on the Glenelg River is a private transport trip not Bus. Contact the leader Doug Pocock for more information on _____

Sunday 31 March Mt. Blackwood - Lerderderg Gorge. Jill Dawson is the Assistant Leader. Contact the leader Alan Ide for more information on _____

Saturday 4 May Training Day - New Leader is Alan Clarke who will run a navigation practice (map and compass skills). Contact Alan on _____ for more information.

Sunday 19 May - Cape Woolamai. Please note Sybille Holdheide's correct telephone number is _____

JANUARY WALKS STATISTICS

Jan. 2002	Trips	People	Average	Jan. '01
Sunday Bus	4	145	36.25	30.7
Other Day Wed 16 & Hist 13	2	29	14.5	9
Pack Carry	7	44	6.2	10.3
Base Camp	-	-	-	9
Lodge	2	34	17	17
Canoe	1	24	24	24
Cancelled	-	-	-	-
Total	16	276	-	222

ROD NOVAK
2001 WALKS SECRETARY

MARCH/APRIL DAY WALKS, ETC.



Sunday Bus: Lake Mountain

DATE Sunday 17 March
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 12 - 13 & 15 - 16 km
LEADER(S) Paul Beers & John Coe
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am

This will be the last walk in the Marysville-Lake Mountain area until after winter, so make sure of a seat on the bus. Both walks will follow approx. the same route - starting from Snowy Hill Playground and stopping for the spectacular views at Sherlock, Taggerty, Alps and Marysville lookouts. Then from Gerraty's we take the Echo Flat Trail up past Helicopter flat to The Camp for lunch. Then down Jubilee track to Woollybutt Trail and down Muster Trail back to Gerraty's. The easy-medium group will also do the Long Heath trail up to Crossways before joining the Muster Trail. These are walks on grassy tracks in beautiful bushland and great views.

N.B. 8.30 am start.



Dandenongs Explorer One Tree Hill

DATE Saturday 23 March
STANDARD Easy Medium
LEADER(S) Warren Baker
TRANSPORT Private

Meet at Upper Ferntree Gully station at 10.30 am. We will be walking in the Dandenong Ranges National Park. We will climb the Kakoda steps at a leisurely pace and have lunch at One Tree Hill. After lunch we will do a circuit via Tyson's track, View Track and The Boulevard and back to the station and afternoon tea. All the serious climbing is before lunch.

N.B. This walk has been brought forward a week due to the Easter long weekend.



Bus: Tarago Latrobe State Park - Glen Nayook/Neerim

DATE Sunday 7 April
STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE 13 & 16 km
LEADER(S) Jerry Karbownik & Max Casley
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am
RETURN Approx. 7.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE Neerim 1:25,000

Due to adverse weather conditions only half of the preview has been completed at the time of writing. Balance will be done over the next few weeks. Please contact the leader by phone or discuss in clubrooms on booking nights.

The area is generally composed of open forest with some overgrown patches that may require the wearing of long pants etc. to protect from vegetation. We begin the walks from the Powelltown-Noojee road and make our way south (with the Med. group going as far as the Tarago River) and then back around the surrounding hills to the awaiting bus and Bob's welcoming smile!

N.B. 8.30 am start.



Sunday Bus: Elphinstone Tunnel - Fryerstown

DATE Sunday 14 April
STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 15 & 18 km
LEADER(S) Alan Miller & Nick Dow
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm
AREA South of Castlemaine
MAP REFERENCE Drummond 1:25,000

This is ironbark and gold mining country. We will be picking our way through mullock heaps which have been alongside dry creek beds since about 1854. Gold was found in this area about 1852, and within a couple of years, there were about 10,000 miners in the Fryerstown/Irishtown area. There were so many hotels that it needed 8 breweries to supply them. Today there is not even a single shop.

This is easy country to walk through. One previous leader said in his report "Go in a straight line for 2.5 km with a compass bearing of 246 degrees". We will not be taking his advice. Both walks will be quite different from previous walks starting at the tunnel. We will walk along old tracks, along ridges, down gullies and along creek beds. The easier walk will make its way along Nuggetty Creek. The medium walk will visit Columbine & Salters Creeks, visiting an old "flume" where a water race crosses a steep creek valley. We will be finishing on the Irishtown Track, & you will probably not see what remains of Fryerstown.



Wednesday Walk: Jumping Creek - Yarra River

DATE Wednesday 17 April
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 18 km
LEADER(S) Alister Rowe
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 4.00 pm
AREA Wonga Park/Warrandyte
MAP REFERENCE Melway p.279 & 24

This walk is similar to the one we did in May of 2000 except that we will end at the Jumping Creek car park & we will not "screw up" the car shuffle!

Meet at 10.15 am in the car park on the bank of the Yarra at the end of Lower Homestead Rd. (Melway 279 B4). We will follow the river to the Jumping Creek car park (Melway 24 A9). Given a nice day, this is a great river walk.

I will need some car shuffle volunteers



Sunday Bus: Barwon Heads - Point Lonsdale - Queenscliff

DATE Sunday 21 April
 STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE Approx. 14 & 17 km
 LEADER(S) Rod Novak & Tracey Jamieson
 TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
 RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00 pm
 AREA "Sea Change" Country
 MAP REFERENCE Melway p.233 - 236
 Ocean Grove & Queenscliff 1:25,000

Come along for a great beach walk in "Sea Change" country. We will be on the lookout for Bucket (often mentioned but never seen in the *Sea Change* television series) as we walk from Barwon Heads to the historic town of Queenscliff. Features of this trip include Buckley's Cave (of "Buckley's or none" fame) and historic lighthouses at Point Lonsdale (built in 1902) and Queenscliff's White Lighthouse and Black Lighthouse (both built in 1862) to guide ships into Port Philip safely through "the Rip".

The easy medium group will commence from the 'Bluff' and walk down to the Barwon River, across the bridge and then along the beach. The easy group will commence at Ocean Grove. Bring a wide brimmed sun hat, sun cream, sunglasses, long sleeved shirt and your bathers for a quick dip at lunchtime. Please bring a change of shoes and a thermos is handy at the end of the day. A good raincoat is necessary for rain and/or cool sea breezes at this time of year.

For more information see the leaders on club night.



Dandenongs Explorer Doongalla

DATE Saturday 27 April
 STANDARD Easy
 LEADER(S) Warren Baker
 TRANSPORT Private

Please phone Warren Baker on . about this walk.



Sunday Bus: Conglomerate Creek - Mt. Teneriffe - Mt. Charlie

DATE Sunday: 28 April
 STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
 DISTANCE Approx. 14 & 17 km
 LEADER(S) David Arnold & Brian Crouch
 TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
 RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm
 AREA Near Gisborne
 MAP REFERENCE Riddells Creek 1:25,000

The walks start near the township of Riddells Creek, and passes through forest and open grazing land, to finish near Mt Charlie a little further to the north. Both groups will visit Mt Teneriffe, a climb of just 120m from the Teneriffe Poll Hereford Stud below. Plenty of rosellas and other bird life were seen during the pre-view.

An interesting walk with a variety of on-track walking, farm crossings and (for the medium group) an energetic bush-bash over Mt Charlie.

The Red Centre



We go to places that no other tour operator will visit because no other tour operator will take you walking off-track.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

Easy to organise?

Except for the West Macdonnells, you need a 4WD to get to where we walk.

Park managers know us. We have permission to use helicopter food drops and visit places not normally open to the general public.

The ranges contain many permanent and near permanent waterholes. **We know where they are.**

Our trips go to great places you might never find if you went on your own. We offer relatively easy trips where you never carry more than a day-pack and others where you carry all your food and equipment off into a wilderness you'll never forget.

In winter, you'll enjoy crisp, clear days and cold nights. In spring, you'll enjoy warm to hot days, pleasantly cool nights and a chance to have a swim.

Too expensive? Bring your own 4WD and save big dollars.

Want more information. Check out our website or ask for our brochure and trip notes.



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

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

MARCH/APRIL WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



Pack Carry: Mt. Bogong twice

DATE Easter Wknd: 29 March - 1 April
 STANDARD Medium/Hard
 DISTANCE Approx. 50 km
 LEADER(S) Jerry Grandage
 TRANSPORT Private
 AREA Mt. Bogong & Bogong High Plains
 MAP REFERENCE Bogong Alpine Area Leisure Map

Jopie and I decided independently of each other to run trips to this area on the same week-end and hopefully there will be enough interest to justify both trips.

The route will be up the Eskdale Spur to Bogong summit and on to a camp near Cleve Cole hut, then down to the Big River and up to Roper's Hut or possibly beyond it on the second day. I haven't worked out the details of the return part of the circuit but we will go up and over Mt. Bogong on the last day.



Pack Carry: Mt Murray - Wongungurra River

DATE Friday 12 - Sunday 14 April
 STANDARD Hard
 DISTANCE Approx. 30 km
 LEADER(S) Ralph Blake
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME Sunday Night
 AREA Near Mt Hotham
 MAP REFERENCE Dargo High Plains - Cobungra


On this walk we intend to explore the valley of the upper Wongungurra River. Saturday night camp will be made somewhere on this river. We may also visit The Twins, Mt Murray and Mt Blue Rag. A car shuffle will be done between Mt St Bernard and Mt Blue Rag.

This area is very rugged and remote. There will be very steep and sustained descents and climbs with most of the route being off track. This trip is suitable for fit and experienced bushwalkers only.



Base Camp: Otway National Park

DATE Friday 19 - Sunday 21 April
 STANDARD Easy/Medium
 DISTANCE Approx. 20 km
 LEADER(S) Bob Steel
 TRANSPORT Private
 RETURN TIME Sunday Evening
 AREA Otways
 MAP REFERENCE Outdoor Leisure Map:
 The Otways & Shipwreck Coast



Regent Honeyeater Project Nest Boxes for Endangered Species

Sat. 13 - Sun. 14 April

*This will be an interesting weekend with activities including:
 placing new nesting boxes in trees, a night time spotlight walk
 to view possums and sugar gliders in their habitat &
 a dusk viewing of sugar gliders emerging for the evening.*

*B.Y.O. food & drink and sleeping bags.
 Showers, bunks & and cooking facilities available.*

*This is an ideal weekend for children
 or those wanting a less strenuous trip.*

*Please contact me on _____ or email at _____
 to coordinate transport & numbers
 or meet at the NRE Offices in Benalla at 10.00 am on Sat.*

Roger Wyett

We will be staying in the Head Lightkeepers Cottage at the Otway Lighthouse. I have booked the cottage, which can sleep up to 18 people, for Fri. and Sat. nights. Should be a great weekend on a fabulous coastline with comfortable accommodation.

Approx. cost per head is \$80, depending on numbers (so it could be a bit less). Because I need to advise numbers before Easter, I will need definite bookings and full payment well in advance. So don't wait until the list goes up on the board - telephone me on a.s.a.p. to secure your place.

The cottage has all facilities and all linen and towels are supplied. There are a number of bedrooms, a large dining area, fully equipped kitchen, and other facilities. There are two open fires and an outdoor BBQ area. Excellent for staying in this spectacular area, with great views over "the eye of the needle", as the early seafarers described the 50 km-wide passage between Cape Otway and the northern end of King Island - hence the numerous shipwrecks along this coastline.

Walks along the coast towards Caryfish Bay, to the sea-caves under the lighthouse, to Rainbow Falls, the old cemetery, and the Parker River - Blanket Bay area. See me for detailed directions - I will have an info. sheet.



Pack Carry: Mt. Margaret - Crolls Gorge

DATE Friday 26 - Sunday 28 April
 STANDARD Medium
 LEADER(S) Trish Elmore
 TRANSPORT Private

Please talk with Trish Elmore in the clubrooms or phone her on _____ for more details about this trip.

EPIRBs

No doubt many readers have read the article entitled, "Emergency in the bush", in the summer 2002 edition of *Wild* magazine concerning Electronic Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs). I would like to relate how practical (and how valuable) they can be on bush walks.

On Friday 28 December, 2001 my son Wayne and five friends were into Day 2 of a 4-day walk down the Genoa River in eastern Victoria, when he slipped on rocks and severely broke his left leg. This occurred about 2.30 pm. Shortly thereafter, the group decided to activate the EPIRB that our family has carried around many parts of Australia for the past 5 years.

This resulted in a rescue helicopter picking him up shortly after 5.00 pm. He was then flown to Bega Hospital, arriving sometime around 6.00 pm. He was operated on beginning around 8.00 pm and the prognosis for an eventual full recovery is excellent.

Had Wayne not had access to an EPIRB, his injuries could not possibly have been treated until some time on 30 December, at the earliest. Circumstances would have meant some of the party back-tracking upriver and then doing a day's walk along a track until reaching one of their cars. After that they would then have faced driving for an hour or so, to the nearest telephone, in order to raise the alarm. In those circumstances, it is possible that night might have fallen on 30 December, before a rescue aircraft could have reached Wayne.

From the Search and Rescue perspective, it transpired that the first signal was transmitted by satellite to AusSAR (Australian Search and Rescue), Canberra at 2.42 pm, only minutes after the EPIRB was activated. At first the priority was to establish that the signal was not just some odd radio "noise". This was discounted after several aircraft confirmed picking up the signal also. By this time the source of the distress signal had been narrowed to within an accuracy of about 20 km. On some occasions nothing more can be done until another satellite pass over Australia helps pinpoint the position but the time is used to locate and alert suitable aircraft.

In this case, a Southcare helicopter, based at Canberra was alerted at 3.29 pm. We're uncertain what time it took off but it was fitted with direction finding equipment, and homed in on the EPIRB signal. The helicopter did several passes over the party before hovering over the river and lowering a medic. He performed first aid and he and Wayne were then hoisted into the helicopter and headed for hospital. Wayne was given a headset so that he could communicate with the crew during the flight.

As for the EPIRB in question, it is GME model MT310M made in Australia by Standard Communications. Now that it has been used, all I have to do, is take it to the Melbourne office of the manufacturer, to have it swapped over for a serviceable unit. After that it will go back into the glove-box of my vehicle and will be ready to be transferred into somebody's pack on our next trip. As far as I'm concerned (and to borrow a phrase from that well known credit card), "Don't leave home without it!"

GEOFF KENAFACKE



Mountain Equipment

SYDNEY 491 Kent St
Sydney, 2000
New South Wales
Tel: 02 9264 5888
Fax: 02 9261 2025

CHATSWOOD 72 Archer St
Chatswood, 2067
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Fax: 02 9412 3372

HORNSBY 106 George St
Hornsby, 2077
New South Wales
Tel: 02 9477 5467
Fax: 02 9476 5566

MELBOURNE 98-100 Elizabeth St
Basement, Block Arcade
Melbourne, 3000
Tel: 03 8626 1060
Fax: 03 9671 3500

TALES OF TASMANIA

3 PACK CARRY TRIPS: 3 - 23 JANUARY 2002

Three of us, Doug, Jan and Graham, went over on the ferry and, after last minute shopping, drove up to the Central Plateau at Lake McKenzie. The Andrews were there to meet us and in light rain we set off. After a few kilometres camp was established in a pencil pine grove and explorations were made to the edge of the Western Tiers. Next day the Andrews departed after reaching Lake Lucy Long, while other three went on along Higg's track. Doug was convinced that he would photograph the elusive Higg's Boson even though Graham claimed they were extinct – indeed, they may have never existed! Long Tarn provided a good camp for two days, which enabled us to explore Mersey Crag. A long lunch in the sun admiring the views of the distant DuCane range meant that we didn't have time for Clumner Bluff. Next days climb up Turrana Bluff brought lousy weather, thick fog with just the odd sighting of the way up. Eventually there was no more up but thunder and hail made us find a quick way off. A very windy camp for the night then a quick trip back to the car.

Luxury is visiting the Andrews in Deloraine. Washing was done and gear dried in the wonderfully hospitable Andrews house. Comfortable beds and lovely meals tempted us to linger but the next trip beckoned.

Once again all five of us started the next trip heading off to Lake Dixon in warm, sunny weather. An idyllic camp was found on short turf at the edge of a beech forest with views of the King William Range. Unfortunately nowhere is perfect and we had to contend with lots of leeches and sand flies. The Andrews were heading back next day, but eventually all of us went back as Doug decided the Franklin River was a bit too much of a challenge to cross for the three of us. Instead we went to Cynthia Bay and had a wet and windy button grass bash up the Cuvier Valley. At Lake Petrarch we waded the Cuvier River and then climbed up to the Franklin Tarns, eventually finding a camp spot very reminiscent of Mustering Flat. Graham and Doug explored the northern end of the Cheyne Range battling scrub and tiger snakes while Jan had a day's rest.

From our camp we found a lovely clear ridge which took us to the Hugel Range. Access to the range was via a beech covered boulder climb, not greatly appreciated by all of the group. Once on top it was easy going to Little Hugel, where we eventually found a way down yet another boulder field, and then clear walking back to Cynthia Bay.

The first people we saw at C.B. were Joan and Ken MacMahon having a break from the Queenstown Bus. They disembarked and joined us so the crew was complete for the next section. After a day of washing and drying at Queenstown we set off for the Tyndall Range. We approached the Lake Margaret way: this started with a very steep climb up the Hydro pipe and then along the wooden railway to the dam wall. All were impressed by the massed display of Christmas Bells and orchids. From here we attempted to climb to a ridge to the north but an hours scrub bashing only gave us about 100 metres so we retreated. Camp that night was back on the railway line, Doug and Jan in a hut, Graham on a vaguely level spot, while Ken built a wonderful platform on top of the railway and nailed his tent down.

Next day found us on another steep scrub bash, but this time we got to the top of the ridge where we had pleasant open walking through fields of hewardia lillies. The clear weather over the next four days gave us excellent views, from Strachan on the coast to Cradle Mountain. Camps were made at glacial tarns where we could swim. Eventually we got to Lake Mary for a camp on a sandy beach looking out to a cliff surrounded lake. Half a day was spent exploring the rainforest on the edge of the lake and generally enjoying the place. Finally for our last day the clouds came down for the boulder hop out along the lake side and back to civilization.

JAN LLEWELYN

NORTHERN WILSONS PROM

4 - 6 JANUARY 2002

Thunderstorms predicted for late Sunday – not another cancellation! A check with local fisherman, Frank, alleviates our fears. After two cancellations the trip was finally on.

Our small group of five, David Arnold (leader), Di McKinley, Anian Bader, Katia Nefzer and myself set out on the Friday in two groups to meet at the Foster Hotel for dinner and a night at the local caravan park. Up bright and early the next morning for an 8.30 a. m. meeting at Port Welshpool with Frank who will ferry us over to Tin Min Cove in the Northern Prom.

Landing on the shore we feel for the family who thought that they had this beach to themselves. Dropping packs we manage to locate our campsite 50 meters inland... the pit toilet took a bit longer. The campsite was great – sheltered, isolated and intimate, allowing for only about six tents. After setting up camp we move onto our first walk along the foot track around Tine Mine Hill, a short way along Chinaman Long Beach, accompanied by thousands of crabs, then onto a 4WD track to Lighthouse Point on the east coast. The track was heavily overgrown in places with gaiters definitely the go. We were rewarded with some stunning scenery and lots of wildflowers. Evidence of bushfires that swept through the area two years ago was highly visible with black, burnt soil, the skeletal remains of tea-trees dwarfing new growth and charred remains of a variety of flora.

We scattered ourselves among the rocks and sand at Lighthouse Point and enjoyed a leisurely lunch. The lull of the sea whispered us all to sleep. An hour later refreshed and sunburnt we made our way back to camp along the same trails as our outward journey, a 15 km return trip.

Straight into dinner preparations on our return with each of us checking out what the other was eating for ideas for our next weekend walk. Anian's walk to the beach was rewarded with six small flathead fillets from the family on the beach who we befriended over the weekend. These were put on ice (not all our drinking water had thawed) overnight while we decided what to do with them. A return trip to the beach was met with increased numbers of campers. Our walk along the beach as the sun set, accompanied by a variety of sea birds, was a delightful way to end a perfect first day.

Breakfast the next morning was supplemented by the delicious flathead from the family on the beach who also had to provide the oil and flour to cook them. Our first walk for the day was over the rocks along the shoreline to the next beach. I piked out a short way into this walk after deciding that the beach and the crystal clear waters were much more inviting, and less hazardous to my health. The group went onto Shallow Bight where David decided to take a swim in the cold but highly invigorating waters.

On their return lunch was next on the agenda, then packing up the camp. David wanted to check out the northern overland track, which goes via the swamps to Lower Barry Creek camp. Anian and I decided to accompany him. As we walked the length of Chinaman Long Beach to find the start of the track there seemed to be more crabs than the day before. When Anian walked towards them they moved away from him like ripples in water. A wallaby bounding along the beach made a quick retreat when he saw us, but the hundreds of black swans did their usual and totally ignored us. We finally found the track but less than 100 meters inland we concluded that it was overgrown and probably useless as an overland track into the Northern Prom.

On our return it was packs to the beach and a short wait for Frank and our return trip to the mainland over choppy waters. The weekend was a great success with every walk planned achieved and a group that enjoyed each other's company and the walks. Special thanks to David, who persevered with the walk after two cancellations until a weekend of perfect weather. We all appreciated his efforts and the weekend. Photo: Anian Bader

HALINA SARBINOWSKI



MT BOGONG AUST. DAY WEEKEND PACK CARRY: A VISITOR'S PERSPECTIVE

The weekend started well. My friend Sara (another visitor) and I arrived at the designated campsite at night and endeavoured to pitch a tent we'd borrowed from the club. Having never seen it set up and without the aid of a torch we ran into a few problems...perhaps a lesson in there for us. Thankfully our gracious leader Sakhong and Danny came to our assistance and also lent us a torch.

The next morning with a great sense of anticipation and some apprehension I set off on my first walk with the Melb. Bushies. The challenge for the day sounded slightly daunting...to ascend the ominously named "Staircase". After toiling upward for what seemed like endless hours, my heart pounding, I met with the wonderful sight of my fellow hikers sitting and enjoying a break...we had made it above the tree line. Our reward was spectacular views of mountains extending to the horizon, a gentle refreshing alpine breeze and the ground to sit on.

Once I recovered I was surprised to hear talk of our continued upward hike. Apparently we were only on a 'landing'. I braced myself for further exertion and slowly picked my way to the top. Along the way we passed tall metal pipes that were protruding from the ground and pointing skyward. They had been drilled with holes and the breeze passing through created a mystical sound.

Further along I was startled by a loud "swoosh" overhead. Wondering if we were experiencing an extra-terrestrial invasion I looked up to see a glider-of the plane variety- swooping low.

Upon reaching the top we continued on a pleasant ramble to our picturesque campsite nestled among large snow gums and lush green grass. After setting up camp there was a chance to meet fellow hikers and relax.

The following morning we disbanded camp, threw our packs on and continued. The day involved some descent. As the experienced bushies leapt downhill like mountain goats my friend and I plodded and picked our way downhill aware that there was some technique we were obviously lacking.

We were incredibly lucky with the weather and aside from nasty blisters there were no mishaps. Thankfully the black snake waiting on the side of the track did not attack.

Highlights: Fab weather, an abundance of alpine flowers of many colours, drinking fresh spring water, sharing 'entrée' with everyone and getting to know a bunch of inspiring people and a divine icy water dip in the river at the end of the journey.

Quote of the weekend: "It's all downhill from here"...well meaning though not entirely factual encouragement from our leader SakHong on day three.

Fellow hikers: Sakhong (leader) and Marika, Gina and Derek, Wendy, Deborah, Danny (visitor), Diane & Howard, Marilyn, Wendy, Dagmar, Susan, Paul, Deborah, Sara & myself.

Thanks Sakhong for help and friendly leadership.

See you on another walk...think I'll try a base camp walk next time.

BRENDA MILLAR

BRIDGES OF KANANOOK CREEK AUSTRALIA DAY 2002

Thirteen bushies met under the clocks at Flinders Street railway station at 9.45 am. All were inspired by Nigel's trip preview in the December *News* about the '18 bridges along the Kananook Creek. We caught the 10 am train down to Frankston and chatted for the one hour journey. Nigel passed around the book *The Eighteen Bridges of Kananook Creek* by retired naval captain Dacre Smyth. A very interesting book with a painting of each bridge and its abridged history. We also learned the valuable lesson of calling 'Port Phillip' or 'the Bay' but never Port Phillip Bay by the good captain. Nigel's engineering and industrial history certainly made the nine kilometre journey fascinating as we stopped and discussed each bridge, the sewerage pumping stations, weirs and sluice gates, and even a classic 'concrete' 1912 railway building built for the electrification of the railway system. Thank you Nigel for a great day and your insights into the Kananook Creek and its interesting history.

ROD NOVAK

TREASURER'S REPORT

2001

Receipts & payments are divided into the four sub-accounts below.

Sub-Account	Opening Balance	Closing Balance (year end)	Profit/(Loss)
Admin.	2,214.18	3,025.44	811.26
Special	20,937.85	20,937.85	0.00
Walks	6,698.19	7,131.69	433.50
Wilky	16,167.31	14,258.12	-1,909.19
Total	46,017.53	45,353.10	-664.43

The 2001 year resulted in a loss of \$664 compared to last year of \$780. As at 31 December 2001, the Club's net worth was \$51,395.13.

At the AGM last year I forecast that we would have a bottom line profit of around \$1,343.00. However, due to the unforeseen expenditure of \$1,910 on chairs, vacuum, & other bits & pieces for our new clubrooms, our bottom line is a negative \$664.00.

The Club's investments are held in the following accounts at the ANZ Bank, Melbourne.

\$20,000 - Term Deposit for a period of five years, from 11/11/1998 - 11/11/2002 at a rate of 4.6%. During 2001 this generated interest of \$920 for the year. This will be re-invested with the highest interest rate.

\$10,000 has been held in a Term Deposit for a five year period at a rate of 8.0%, and matured in July 2001. Due to the uncertainty of the economic situation at the time, the best interest rate was in the low 4%. I decided to invest this amount for a 4 month period in the hope that the financial market would improve. However, after 11 September the market was worse, so I let the investment roll over for another 4 months and in March I will review the situation again. During 2001, interest of \$956.70 was credited to the "Admin" account and assisted with running costs.

\$11,000 - "V2 Plus" (which is an "at call" account) had a variable rate of between 3.39% - 4.80% during 2001. Interest of \$487.74 has been credited to the "Admin" account. In November 1999, the Committee agreed that \$5000 from the "V2 Plus" account be transferred to the Cheque Account to assist in cash flow, and the amount returned to the investment in due course. This has not occurred as cash flow has not increased sufficiently.

Last year I recommended that the Annual fees be increased due to the introduction of GST, and the implication to our Club of having to pay GST, but not being able to pass that cost on.

This year we have additional expenses - electricity / gas / tenant insurance - tbc / increased rent. At this stage, except for rent, I cannot estimate these costs. Also, it is anticipated that our insurance to VicWalk (which covers us as members) will not be increased this year, as no-one knows what the insurance companies have planned.

Therefore, I am recommending that the Annual Membership Fees not be increased for the 2002 year. However, be forewarned that next year, there may be a substantial increase in our membership fees to cover all of the above.

JAN PALICH
TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET

2001

	2000	2001
Cheque Account	\$5,017.53	\$4,353.10
Reserves Account	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00
Term Deposit	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Total	\$46,017.53	\$45,353.10
Postage Float	\$500.00	\$500.00
Camping Equipment	\$2,948.00	\$2,948.00
less Accum Depreciation	-\$2,493.66	-\$2,585.50
	\$454.34	\$362.50
Other Equipment	\$1,056.40	\$2,775.90
less Accum Depreciation	-\$596.38	-\$840.62
	\$460.02	\$1,935.28
Maps & Books	\$1,166.00	\$1,261.00
less Accum Depreciation	-\$559.35	-\$723.15
	\$606.65	\$537.85
Wilky Lodge Contents	\$8,122.00	\$8,321.00
less Accum Depreciation	-\$4,626.10	-\$5,614.60
	\$3,495.90	\$2,706.40
Total Assets	\$51,534.44	\$51,395.13
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$51,534.44	\$51,395.13

INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2001

Administration Account	2000	2001
Opening Balance	\$3,639.14	\$2,214.18
INCOME - 60th Celebration	\$286.45	\$0.00
Advertising	\$655.00	\$0.00
Equipment Hire	\$468.00	\$129.00
Interest	\$1,471.96	\$1,462.70
Membership Fees	\$12,646.00	\$13,056.00
Visitors Fees	\$2,425.00	\$3,165.00
Other	\$2,964.90	\$858.70
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,917.31	\$18,671.40
EXP. - 60 Year Celebration	\$683.46	\$0.00
Advertising	\$27.00	\$87.00
Annual Membership	\$205.00	\$33.00
Bank Fees	\$108.05	\$91.78
Catering/Entertainment	\$317.90	\$455.90
Computer Equipment	\$35.00	\$463.90
Donations	\$0.00	\$120.00
Equipment	\$261.55	\$0.00
Federation Insurance	\$5,658.00	\$4,937.70
Maps	\$344.10	\$55.25
News - postage	\$2,157.09	\$1,971.90
News - printing	\$3,921.27	\$3,703.87
News - programmes	\$601.42	\$357.50
General postage	\$319.25	\$122.65
Gen. printing/photocopying	\$456.08	\$306.80
Petrol Rebates (various)	\$127.45	\$82.00
Rent - Premises/PO Box	\$2,769.35	\$2,182.50
Telephone	\$399.80	\$364.03
Training	\$473.40	\$300.00
Other	\$3,477.10	\$2,224.36
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$22,342.27	\$17,860.14
Surplus/Deficit	(\$1,424.96)	\$811.26
CLOSING BALANCE	\$2,214.18	\$3,025.44

Special Account	2000	2001
Opening Balance	\$21,427.33	\$20,937.85
INCOME - Interest	\$922.52	\$920.00
Other	\$118.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,040.52	\$920.00
EXP. - Donations	\$1,500.00	\$920.00
Other	\$30.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$1,530.00	\$920.00
Surplus/Deficit	(\$489.48)	\$0.00
CLOSING BALANCE	\$20,937.85	\$20,937.85

Walks Account	2000	2001
Opening Balance	\$7,115.62	\$6,698.29
INCOME - Sunday Bus	\$25,422.00	\$27,211.00
Other	\$230.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$25,652.00	\$27,211.00
EXP. - Bus Hire	\$25,957.06	\$26,762.60
Other	\$112.27	\$15.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$26,069.33	\$26,777.60
Surplus/Deficit	(\$417.33)	\$433.40
CLOSING BALANCE	\$6,698.29	\$7,131.69

Wilky Account	2000	2001
Opening Balance	\$14,615.71	\$16,167.31
INCOME - Accommodation	\$5,589.00	\$4,264.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,589.00	\$4,264.00
EXP. - Club Refurbishment	\$0.00	\$1,795.40
Insurance	\$1,348.51	\$1,479.50
Petrol - working bees	\$672.00	\$384.00
Repairs/maintenance	\$427.35	\$874.24
Supplies	\$739.54	\$440.05
Wood	\$850.00	\$1,200.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$4,037.40	\$6,173.19
Surplus/Deficit	\$1,551.60	(\$1,909.19)
CLOSING BALANCE	\$16,167.31	\$14,258.12

CONSERVATION FORUM

Portland Wind Energy Project – the public hearings as part of the planning permit have commenced. The Melb Bushies Committee do support wind powered energy although we have concerns with the location of 40, 120 metre tall towers along the Great South West Walk, especially at Cape Bridgewater and Cape Nelson. The Committee has donated \$100 from the Conservation budget to the 'Friends of the Cape' who are representing bushwalker interests in this Environmental Effects Statement/planning process.

Valley of the Giants (Tasmania) – the tallest trees in Australia are being cut down, The Wilderness Society and Planet Ark have an awareness campaign on this issue.

East Gippsland – with the demise of the timber industry there is a plan to develop a major tourist walk in the area. The walk will be a 400km loop, with trackwork and well equipped campsites, starting near Orbost encompassing the coastal walks as far as Mallacoota, rainforest areas of Erinundra, Coopracambra, and the Snowy River. The goal is to make the area a centre for ecotourism and to market it worldwide.

A big "20 years of Forests Forever" camp is planned for Easter, camping on the Brodribb River is being organised by GECKO (Goongerah environmental committee).

Upper Bunyip Action Group – this group need interested bushwalkers to join them to protect the catchment of the Upper Bunyip River from logging and to create more 'walkers only' tracks. If interested contact the convenor Bob Thompson – 03 9702 1017

Victorian Forests – recent media report of an independent report confirming the over-cutting of Victorian forests. The government has announced a series of reforms aimed at making the timber industry more sustainable.

Some notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee's January 2002 meeting:

Bunyip State Park - Representatives of VicWalk and the VNPA had a field visit of the Bunyip State Park in December. Photos of the track erosion/damage and an article on this issue will be in the next issue of *ParkWatch* (VNPA magazine). The VNPA will also raise concerns with this park with Mark Stone, Director of the National Park Service. An interest group called the Upper Bunyip Action Group has their next meeting on the 29th January and VicWalk will send a representative. The aim of the Upper Bunyip Action Group is to protect the state forest near Tomahawk Gap and the Bunyip River from logging.

Melbourne Water, due to safety concerns, has now closed the walking track along the Bunyip River weir to bushwalkers. A member of the Bunyip State Park Focus Group has suggested the overgrown old tramway 'Freeman's Mill Track' to 7 Acre Rock has the potential to be developed as a good walking track.

Yarra Ranges National Park – Lake Mountain VicWalk received an e-mail with concerns of the Grace Darling Track being very overgrown and difficult to follow. VicWalk followed up with the Ranger who stated the track in question was classified a 'remote track' and therefore is not maintained (no resources to look after remote tracks!) For clubs to undertake track clearing it now appears that a letter needs to be written to the Ranger in Charge seeking permission and all track clearing now has to be supervised by a ranger (eg safety concerns with tools, especially power tools).

Alpine - Alpine Advisory Committee – VicWalk will have a new rep. on this panel. An important hearing on the Fitzgerald cattle grazing licence (near the Rocky Valley Dam area) being up for review and maybe subject to a commercial transfer. Currently, the alpine cattle licences can only be transferred between family members.

Mt McKay E.E.S is still in process. This involves the ski tow development on the Falls Creek Alpine Resort side of Mt McKay (the eastern slopes).

The Aqueduct Track from Clover Dam to Bogong Creek Saddle has now been closed by the power company. Signs have been posted stating 'No Access'. An alternative route is via the adjacent fire trail track.

Riggall's Spur Track – a report of sections of the track being overgrown and hard to follow. Ranger had stated 'no problems' with this track. This is our 2nd report in 6 months of concern with this track. VicWalk will follow up.

Macalister Springs - bushwalkers have reported of a large memorial plaque being placed on a rock facing the Wonnangatta Valley. VicWalk will follow up as the Management Plan states no memorials to be erected unless with permission. Also, a report of 4 horses at Mac Springs and even being watered directly in the Spring!! VicWalk will follow up – to check the Management Plan for horse restrictions. Also, a new memorial near Molly Hill cairn on Mt Feathertop. Again, it is believed memorial plaques are not allowed in the Management Plan. VicWalk will follow up.

State Forest Track Survey – survey forms still required. Contact Rod Novak for more information.

National Party Discussion Paper on Public Land Use (especially cattle grazing). VicWalk sent a submission on alpine cattle grazing as 'bushwalking and cattle grazing' are not compatible.

Regent Honey Eater Project Volunteers required for a Nest Box and Spotlighting activity. Free accommodation. Contact Ray Thomas on BH (03) 57 611 611 for more information.

Otway Ranges – It is believed an 'ALP anti-logging in the Otways group' will ask for a ban on all logging and wood chipping in the Otway Ranges at the March A.L.P. state conference.

Baw Baw National Park – a review of the Management Plan is coming up with a public meeting to be held on Saturday 9th February at the La Trobe Convention Centre, west Traralgon.

Mullum Mullum Creek Track is now officially open all the way to Tikerlara Park.

**ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

NEW MEMBERS

PAUL DONOHOE

MILLICENT HENRY

FIONA JARMAN

BRADLEY R QUINN

WILLIAM SHARPE

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

JACQUELINE LOUISE BRENNAN

PETER HAVLICEK

GEOFF MATTINGLEY

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	349
Family Memberships	104 (=2x52)
Total Membership	474
This Time Last Year	449

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

JANUARY 2002 ACCOUNTS

	\$
Opening Balance	45,353.10
Income	3,503.96
Expenditure	1,512.71
Closing Balance	47,344.35

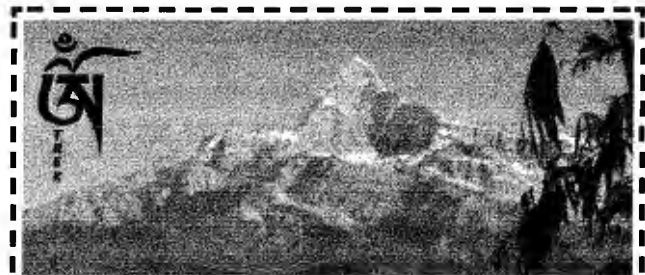
JAN PALICH
TREASURER

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 6 March - D Henry & V Scrivenger
Wednesday 13 March - D Pocock & H Friend
Wednesday 20 March - P Cresswell & T Jamieson
Wednesday 27 March - M Jagow & T Elmore
Wednesday 3 April - D Henry & Q Tibballs
Wednesday 10 April - W Cone & C Criddle

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 8 April at 6.30 pm at the President's residence.



What's it to be –
walking the Kali Gandaki gorge
views of Everest from Gokyo Ri or
beautiful Thyangboche in the Khumbu?

Contact
Mingmar & Marilynne Sherpa
of Om Trek

on 03 9781 1280 or msherpa@labyrinth.net.au
for more information.

<http://travel.to/kathmandu>

☺ 5% discount to members of Bushwalking
Clubs who book direct with us ☺

MARCH 2002

1 - 3	Li-Lo Trip: Mitchell River	Private	M	Marilyn Whippey	
Sun 3	Condons Track	BUS	E & M	Ralph Blake & t.b.a.	#
8 - 11	Base Camp: Halls Gap (The Grampians)	Private	E/M	Rob Davis	
8 - 11	Pack Carry: Swindlers & Paling Spurs	Private	E/M	Roger Wyatt	
8 - 11	Pack Carry: Buller - Lt Buller - Howqua	Private	M	Gina Hopkins	
8 - 11	Canoe Trip: Glenelg River	Private	E/M	Doug Pocock	*
Sun 10	Daylesford - Hepburn Springs	BUS	E & E/M	William Cone & Peter McGrath	#
Mon 11	Historical Walk	Public	Easy	Nigel Holmes	*
15 - 17	Wilkinson Lodge: Alpine N.P. Work Party	Private	Easy	Graeme Thornton	
Sun 17	Lake Mountain (8.30 am start)	BUS	E/M & M	Paul Beers & John Coe	#
Wed 20	Donna Buang - Cement Creek	Private	E/M	Max Casley	
22 - 24	Base Camp: 'Prom in a Day' circuit	Private	Hard	Pearson Cresswell	
Sat 23	Dandenongs Explorer: One Tree Hill	Private	Easy	Warren Baker	
Sun 24	Somers to Flinders (Winery)	BUS	E & E/M	Clare Lonergan & Fay Pratt	#
29 - 1	Base Camp: East Gippsland	Private	E/M	Michael Mann	
29 - 1	Pack Carry: Spion Kopje - Grey Hills	Private	M	Jopie Bodegraven	
29 - 1	Pack Carry: Limestone Creek - Cobberas	Private	M	Lance Mobbs	
29 - 1	Pack Carry: Mt Bogong twice	Private	M/H	Jerry Grandage	
29 - 1	Canoe Trip: Turrumbury to Barham	Private	E/M	Doug Pocock	*
Sun 31	Mt Blackwood - Lerderderg Gorge	BUS	E/M & M	Alan Ide & Jill Dawson	#

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Address

Phone h)..... w)..... h)..... w)

Email

Subscription Fees: **Ordinary** - single membership \$35.00 **Concession** - single membership \$24.00 (proof required)
 Family/Couple -membership \$50.00 **Concession** - couple \$28.00 (proof required)
 New members joining on/after 1 October 2001 \$21.00 less visitor fees *The News* - \$18.00

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