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THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 615

MAY 2002

60 CENTS

Club Wine & Cheese Night

Wednesday 15 May

7.00 - 9.00 pm

Clubrooms



If this donkey has a red nose,
this is your last copy of *The News*!
Pay your subscription now!
Form is on the back page.



Bush Dance

*Doug Pocock would like to invite
all his bushwalker friends
to a bush dance
to celebrate his 60th birthday.*

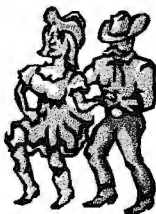
Saturday 22 June

8.00 pm

Wandin North Hall

*Cnr Clegg Rd & Warburton H'way
(Melway p.119 C.11)*

Band: "Five and a Zack"



*Please bring a plate for supper,
B.Y.O.G. & glasses.*

*No presents please,
only your presence is expected.*

*R.S.V.P. Carol Criddle
on - 8 to 20 June*



Open House:

20 Tarcoola Drive

Yallambie

(Melway p.20 K.8)

*GT & Tracy are pleased to announce
that they will be "AT HOME" on*

Sunday 30 June

from 10.00 am until late.

*Light refreshments & a cosy fireside provided,
or for the legendary few (Mark, Bill & Marilyn)
squally blizzards will be organised
out on the decking.*

*If you want to do some meat scorching
by all means bring the doings & use the barbeque.*

*We are looking forward to seeing
all our Bushie mates!*

GT & Tracy

Phone:

INSIDE:

- "Rally for our Forests" information
- More Navigation Practice - 6 hr Rogaine
- 2 New Series: Quentin's Quiz & S.O.S.!
- 2 Labour Day Long Weekend Reviews

ENQ.:

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

WEBSITE: www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

EMAIL: info@melbournebushwalkers.org.au

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Progress of subscriptions: 236 members have paid out of 464.
This is just over 50%, about the same as last year.

May is the last month to pay your subs. If your mailing label still says 'Subs Due' and the little donkey has a red nose, it is time to reach for your cheque-book! Do it now!

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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.

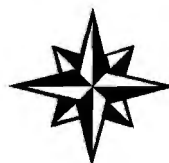
Closing date for receipt of material for *The News*
is the last Wednesday of the month.

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):

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



MORE NAVIGATION PRACTICE

SATURDAY 15 JUNE

Here is another great opportunity for all you leaders, would-be leaders and might-get-lost walkers to hone your navigation skills. If you have just done Alan Clarke's navigation training then this day is a must to put what you learnt into practice. If you missed out on the last navigation exercise then here is another chance for you to get some "on the job" training.

The idea is for a number of us more "experienced" navigators to mentor teams of 2 to 3 persons in a 6 hour Rogaine. Rogaining is cross-country navigation with a purpose, the purpose being to gain as many points as you can by visiting as many checkpoints as you can in 6 hours (or less if you wish). Each checkpoint has a score, & typically the harder the checkpoint the higher the score. Each team has to plan their route to visit the checkpoints that they think they can do in 6 hours and then they go off to find them. The mentors will be there to help with the planning & to help the teams find the first few checkpoints, giving them hints & tips along the way. Once the team is feeling confident, they will be left to complete the course on their own. We will make sure that they all get back safely. At the end of a Rogaine you are rewarded with a great feast, & hopefully a feeling of achievement at all the checkpoints that you found. We may even have a prize for the Bushies team with the highest score.

So please come along - it is a great day out in the bush, a lot of fun and the best way of learning how to navigate. If you are interested, please call either myself, Gina Hopkins on _____, or Trish Elmore on _____, or see us in the clubrooms. The cost is \$24 (\$17 event entry plus \$7 membership). Registrations must be in by 5 June 2002.

GINA HOPKINS
WALKS SECRETARY

MARCH WALKS STATISTICS

March 2002	Trips	People	Average	Mar. '01
Sunday Bus	5	173	35	35
Other Day	3	40	13	12
Pack Carry	4	34	8.5	10.5
Base Camp	3	49	16	8
Canoe	1	12	12	7
Cancelled*	4	-	-	-
Total	16	308	-	219

*There were 4 trips cancelled due to lack of numbers: the Mitchell River lilo trip, the Murray River canoe trip, the Lime-stone Creek - Cobberas pack carry & the Alpine NP work party.

There was a very high number of walkers in March - 308 - one of the highest monthly totals ever, in spite of a record number of cancelled trips. This was due to having five Sunday walks and two long weekends, with strong interest from members in base camps.

MAY/JUNE DAY WALKS, ETC.



Sunday Bus: Cape Woolamai (Phillip Island)

DATE Sunday 19 May
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 14 & 17 km
LEADER(S) Sibylle Holdheide & David Easton
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm

Come & enjoy a great day out on the island!

Both of these walks mainly follow the beach, with a variety of fantastic scenery. The Easy/Medium walk starts in San Remo, along the beach & over the bridge to Phillip Island. Here, where the bridge meets the island, the Easy walk starts & both walks follow the same route along the beach to Cape Woolamai, then onto the beautiful track around the Cape on top of the cliffs with superb views over the island, the surrounding ocean & coastline. Then along the surf beach towards the Colonnades where we will finish both walks.

Let's hope for a sunny day, be prepared for a healthy fresh breeze & don't forget that change of shoes for the bus, as it's going to be very sandy!

Ed. Note Sincere apologies to Sibylle Holdheide for this preview should have appeared in the April *News* but was misplaced in my home. V.S.



Sunday Bus: Britannia Range and Falls

DATE Sunday 2 June
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 14 & 18 km
LEADER(S) Alan Miller & Nick Dow
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm
AREA Near Warburton
MAP REFERENCE Gladysdale 1:25000

Britannia Creek was the location of Australia's only Wood Distillation Plant from about 1907 until 1924; it was destroyed in a bushfire in 1926. We will be walking along the routes of some of the tramways constructed to supply timber to the plant.

This walk was last on the club's program as a Sunday walk in 1991. On that occasion, there was only one walk which will be roughly the E/M walk. Most of both walks will be along the top of the Britannia Range until after lunch when we will drop down to Britannia Creek. The lyrebirds have discovered that the fastest way of moving through the bush is along the old tracks. Several of them popped out of the bush just ahead of us, looked around and then ran along the track while we watched. Your leaders have done some track clearing for you along the range, but have not found one of the tramways which we want to use. The 1991 report said that the entrance was a bit overgrown and well-concealed. The falls are just small cascades.

You must wear footwear which will give you a good grip. In a few places, 4WD vehicles and bikies have made the main track up to the range very slippery. We will be avoiding this track as much as possible. Bring along spare footwear for the bus.



Sunday Bus: Andrew Hill - Island Ck. - Kinglake

DATE Sunday 9 June
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE 15 & 17 km
LEADER(S) Peter McGrath & Sibylle Holdheide
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN Approx. 7.00 pm
AREA Kinglake
MAP REFERENCE Kinglake National Park 1:50,000

This is a very pleasant area in which to walk. The tall gums, and ferns alongside the river here are very attractive. (The route at this stage is not settled as a preview has not yet been completed).

Look forward to seeing you on the day.



Historical Walk: Williamstown Circuit

DATE Queen's B'day: Monday 10 June
STANDARD Easy
LEADER(S) Nigel Holmes
TRANSPORT Public

Please see Nigel Holmes in the clubrooms or phone him on for more details about this walk.



Sutherland Ck - Beards Gully, Steiglitz

DATE Sunday 16 June
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 10 & 13 km
LEADER(S) Jerry Karbownik & Quentin Tibballs
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm
MAP REFERENCE Brisbane Ranges N.P. 1:50,000

Sunday walkers have apparently not ventured into this area for some years – so a good opportunity for a visit. Both groups begin their walks from the old Steiglitz Courthouse, travelling south to Sailor's Track on mostly open forest roads. Then comes the really interesting part – following the Sutherland Creek north as it meanders through old gold diggings & associated history. Though all of this is done "off-track" the going is not considered difficult. The E/M group adds a few more kilometres at the end to "beef-up" the cardio-vascular system (Quentin's a doctor and he says that's good, trust me. Oh Oh!) Come & join us – better than sitting at home!

House Sitter Available

Short or long term.

Have had a police check.

*Please call **Brenda Millar** on*



Wednesday Walk: Werribee Gorge

DATE Wednesday 19 June
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 12 km
LEADER(S) Stuart Hodgson
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 4.00 pm
AREA Bacchus Marsh
MAP REFERENCE Lerderderg & Werribee Gorge
 (field notes) 1: 35,000

We will meet at the quarry picnic area at 10.15 am & basically follow the river through the gorge. I do plan, however, depending on the depth of water, to include a few diversions off the track to explore parts of the area not normally visited by your average tourist (& also to make the walk a bit longer!)



Sunday Bus: Lysterfield Lake Park

DATE Sunday 23 June
STANDARD Easy & Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 15 & 19 km
LEADER(S) William Cone & Halina Sarbinowski
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm
MAP REFERENCE Lysterfield Lake Park Notes

Both walks will commence at Lysterfield Lake, an ideal spot in the park. The easy walk will start north of the lake and travel along grassy lush fire tracks through the centre of the park while the easy/medium group will take the eastern boundary. Both groups will head towards Monbulk Retarding Basin for lunch. In this area many Bell Miners (Bellbirds) were heard and at the Retarding Basin some water birds can be seen. The park has become an important refuge for wildlife.

After lunch the two groups will again take separate paths. The easy group will follow the eastern boundary while the easy/medium group will generally follow the Tramline Track. This track was used by trolleys bringing granite to build the lake wall. Both walks will finish near the lake.

This is a nice relaxing walk, with lots of interesting aspects and some great views. It is difficult to believe how close to suburbia this park is. As the walks move between the northern and southern sections of the park crossings of Wellington Road will be required. Hopefully we will see some of the wildlife the park is renowned for.



Dandenongs Explorer: Sherbrooke Forest

DATE Saturday 29 June
STANDARD Easy
LEADER(S) Warren Baker
TRANSPORT Private

Please phone Warren Baker on about this walk.



Sunday Bus: Kilcunda - San Remo

DATE Sunday 30 June
STANDARD Easy/Medium & Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 14 & 19 km
LEADER(S) Linda Larkin & Ches Volpato
TRANSPORT Bus - South Bank Blvd at 8.30 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm

This impressive coastal walk is highly recommended as it offers not only a decent physical challenge, but also includes splendid ocean vistas & panoramic views from cliff tops overlooking Bass Strait (& Cape Woolamai) along the George Bass Coastal Walk. We will be passing through hilly grazing lands, viewing historical coal mining sites & enjoying a measure of rock hopping & cliff climbing as we explore some of the beautiful coves & beaches & awesome geological sites between Kilcunda & San Remo. The Med. walk commences at Powlett River & the E/M at Kilcunda Caravan Park with both groups finishing together at sites of gastronomic interest in San Remo!

N.B. 8.30 am start.



TO YOU FROM M.E.

RECEIVE YOUR FREE M.E. MEMBERSHIP CARD UPON PRESENTING YOUR M.B.C. CARD, AND BE ENTITLED TO M.E. MEMBER BENEFITS, SUCH AS A 10% DISC..

Mountain Equipment

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 Melbourne 3000 PH: 03 8626 1060

JUNE WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



Pack Carry: **Hattah – Kulkyn National Park**

DATE Queen's B'day Wknd: 7-10 June
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 48 km
LEADER(S) Roger Wyatt
TRANSPORT Private (or Bus)*
RETURN TIME Late Monday Evening
MAP REFERENCE Hattah Lakes -Colignan Stn 1:25,000
 Hattah-Kulkyn Meridian Productions

While this walk only has a height variation of 20m over its length, we can expect a variety of bird life around the seasonal lakes and at the two overnight camps by the "mighty Murray".

After a Friday night with the base campers at Hattah Lakes: Day 1 will be approx 19 km along tracks with some cross country to camp near the Messengers settlement on the Murray. Day 2 will follow the Murray down stream past Fireman's bend and Retail Island to camp near the wreck of the "Florence Annie", after a sedate 11 km, or so. Day 3 will follow the Cantala Track (with possible side trips) for approx. 13 km to Lake Mournpall, then 5 km back to Lake Hattah.

*N.B. Private transport (eg. car) but subject to numbers may combine with the pack carry on a 22 seater bus.

See me in the clubrooms on 29 May or email me at:

firm up numbers for bus or car, as we must book the bus by then. (If we get the numbers the bus will keep costs down). Secure parking is available from the bus departure at Broadmeadows.



Base Camp: **Hattah – Kulkyn National Park**

DATE Queen's B'day Wknd: 7-10 June
STANDARD Easy
LEADER(S) Gina Hopkins
TRANSPORT Private (or Bus)*
AREA North West Victoria
MAP REFERENCE Hattah Lakes Outdoor Leisure Map

Hattah Lakes are in north west Victoria, about 450 km from Melbourne and 74 km south of Mildura. The lakes are part of Hattah - Kulkyn National Park which encompasses Mallee, floodplain and dune country. A great place to go in winter with milder temperatures than here in Melbourne.

There are several lakes, generally only filled when the Murray River floods, a rare occurrence these days, and at the moment only Lake Hattah has any water in it. This is a beautiful setting for our camp with magnificent River Red Gums and prolific bird life all around. The Apostlebirds and White-winged Choughs at camp are a little too friendly but very amusing. You will see lots of kangaroos and emus too.

On Saturday and Sunday we will go for a walk, about 17 km or so, and explore the lake system and the mallee. On Monday we will do a shorter walk and may take in the Murray River. If you're a bird lover then this is definitely the trip for you. Even if you're not, there is plenty to enjoy in this distinctive habitat so different from the parks closer to home.

*N.B. Private transport (eg. car) but subject to numbers may combine with the pack carry on a 22 seater bus.



Pack Carry: **Wilsons Prom. Lighthouse Track**

DATE Queen's B'day Wknd: 7-10 June
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Alan Clarke
TRANSPORT Private

Please talk with Alan Clarke in the clubrooms or phone him on about this pack carry.



Base Camp: **Bentley's Plain**

DATE Queen's B'day Wknd: 7-10 June
STANDARD Easy/Medium
LEADER(S) Lance Mobbs
TRANSPORT Private

As I have not been able to preview this walk, this trip will be a bit of a mystery tour, so it will be a great opportunity to go & explore the area. This trip will also be an excellent opportunity for new members to experience camping in the mountains during the colder months. As the weather will be cold, please make sure to bring winter equipment & clothes.

Please see me in the clubrooms about this walk or write to me at



Pack Carry: **Dry Diggings Track**

DATE Saturday 29 - Sunday 30 June
STANDARD Easy/Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 44 km
LEADER(S) Bob Oxlade
TRANSPORT Private
RETURN TIME Approx. 9.00 pm Sunday
AREA Central Victoria
MAP REFERENCE Daylesford & Guildford
 Vic. Maps 1:25,000

The Dry Diggings Track, in the historic goldfields & spa country of central Victoria, is one of three sections of Victoria's Great Dividing Trail.

We will walk the last part of this track from Vaughan Springs via the Upper Loddon State Forest to camp at Mt. Franklin on Saturday night. Sunday will be through the Hepburn Regional Park via the Blowhole & mineral springs to Daylesford.

We will meet at Daylesford on Saturday morning, so it's also an opportunity for an interesting pack carry for those with Friday night commitments at home.

See the leader on club night for more details.

"RALLY FOR OUR FORESTS"

SATURDAY 18 MAY

11.00 AM

BATMAN PARK

CNR. FLINDERS & SPENCER STREETS, MELBOURNE
(MELWAY 1A)

Bushwalkers show that you care - help to stop the logging of old growth forests in the Otways, East Gippsland, Melbourne's water catchments & the Wombat forests.

"...the Victorian environment movement is holding a massive forest rally outside the ALP state conference... This is the big event of the year for forests; Victoria's unprotected old growth forests are being destroyed by practices currently employed by DNRE and the State Government. This is a great opportunity for bushwalkers to be involved and to stand up and be counted on the issues relating to forests". *David Rimmer, Convener of VicWalk's Conservation Committee.*

This rally is organised by: The Wilderness Society, Environment Victoria, Australian Conservation Foundation, Victorian National Parks Association, Friends of the Earth and 15 rural environment groups.

Contact Environment Victoria on for details.

ROD NOVAK



OTWAY RANGES

VicWalk has been advised from a reliable source that the **Government are considering a transition scheme to phase out logging in the Otway Ranges.** To help convince the Government that this would be a propitious move the **Conservation Committee is urging all members to write letters to the Minister of Conservation & Environment Sherryl Garbutt c/o Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3000 urging a cessation to all logging in the Otway Ranges and a transition to a Recreational/Tourist based industry.** This to be facilitated by a panel representing a broader community interest.

DAVID RIMMER

CONVENER

VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Second Hand Skiing Gear Sale

Saturday 1 June

Hawthorn Town Hall

More details on notice board in clubrooms.

Carol Criddle

The Charnley River and the Munja Track

The Charnley is one of the most spectacular and least accessible rivers in the Kimberley. The lower section goes through about 30 km of continuous gorge.

Dozens of Aboriginal art sites show that this has been a special place for thousands of years. With so many interesting side creeks to explore, our Charnley Explorer includes a number of day walks where we don't carry full packs.

Want something easier? To get to the Charnley, we drive about 200 km along the Munja track. There is an incredible wealth of lovely short walks along the track: waterfalls, pools and art sites galore. We offer two trips: the Munja Track Explorer with walks of up to four days and the Light-Pack Explorer where you carry only day packs. By using the airstrip at the end of the track, you drive only in one direction.

Want more info? Log onto our website, click onto the Kimberley tour list and click the photo gallery link below the trip. No web access? Ask for the trip notes.

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

QUENTIN'S QUIZ

This is the first of a series of articles on navigation that will appear in *The News* over consecutive months. There will be questions relating to the articles for both novice & expert with answers at the bottom of the page. Possession of a map preferably of scale 1:25,000 or 1:50,000 will be helpful.

LESSON 1: MAP READING AND SCALE

All maps have a scale, usually represented as 1:25,000, 1:100,000 or similar. 1:25,000 means that the map is 25,000 times smaller than the ground – that is, that 1 cm on this map is equivalent to 25,000 cm on the ground (or 250 metres) – so 4 cm is equivalent to 1000 metres (or 1 km) and vice versa. Also almost all the maps we use have a grid which can be used together with the scale to judge distances and can give a feel for the size of things.

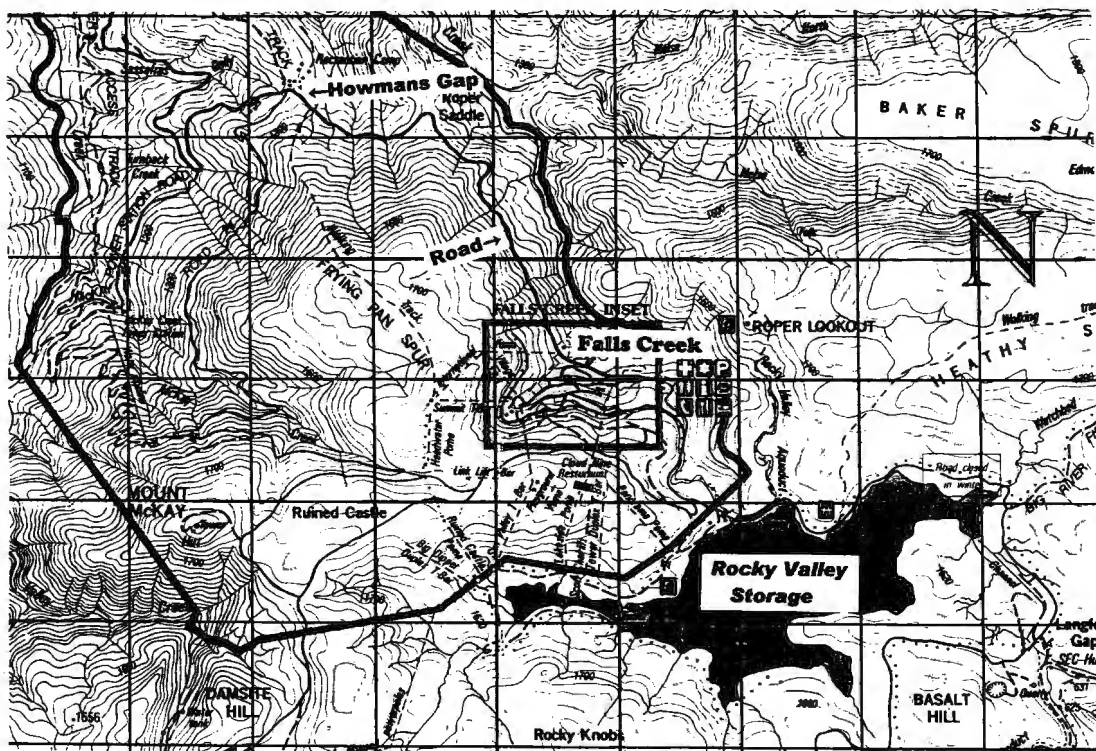
Have a look at the map below, which has a 1 km grid on it – that is, the grid lines are 1 km apart. Now answer these questions by eye estimation not by measuring.

Questions for Novices:

- 1) What is the longest dimension of Rocky Valley Storage?
- 2) How far is it from Howmans Gap to Falls Creek?
- 3) Roughly how long (to the nearest ½ hour) would it take you to walk at 4 km/hr around the shore of Rocky Valley Storage?

Question for Experts:

You draw a line on a map from one point to another which is approximately to the north of you, where you want to go. You notice that the line is **exactly parallel** to the Magnetic North arrow on the declination diagram in the margin. Can you set the bearing without putting the (Silva style) compass on the map? What bearing would you set?



QUENTIN TIBBALLS
TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

Notice that you were not told the scale of the map yet you were able to answer the questions using the grid – conclusion: grids are very useful for estimating distances on a map.

Answers to Questions for Novices: 1) 4 km. 2) About 4 km via the road. 3) About 3½ hours at 4 km/hr.

Answer to the Question for Experts: The obvious answer is that it is possible to set the compass to zero, or zero plus or minus the annual variation, however, this is incorrect. On most maps the declination diagram is just that – a diagram which is not necessarily drawn to scale. For instance on the Dargo Plains – Cobingra 1:50,000 map the grid north-magnetic angle is quoted as 12 degrees but it actually measures 20 degrees! So the number of degrees quoted should be used not the graphical diagram.

MACHINERY AND SWINDLERS SPUR

LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND: 8 - 11 MARCH

Friday night we drove up the Hume Highway then past the towns of Myrtleford and Bright, then just outside of German-town we located the public camping ground next to Snowy Creek and set up camp for the night. The next day we discover that the Harrierville motel had a couple of bushies staying in comfort for \$66 and there were 6 beds in the room!

Saturday morning we awoke to find most of the party had arrived and was going through the morning routine of packing the tent, backpack and having breakfast. Our starting point was Mt Loch car park, to get there we drove up the Mt Hotham road. The cross winds were strong with the wind socks blowing horizontal. A section of the road was a white out with low cloud cover.

At Mt Loch car park there was an assembly of bushies cars. We gathered around to hear our leader, Roger Wyatt whet our appetite for the walking ahead. We had blue sky and a refreshing breeze. Our group equalled a baker's dozen as we set off along the 4 wheel drive track. There was extensive revegetation in progress following the laying of the electric cable last year (thanks for the info. Rod!)

We passed a number of ski runs and lifts and could see the Mt Hotham village disappearing into the distance as we walked towards Machinery Spur. Along the way we had morning tea which included a tasty lucky dip chocolate treat from Roger. We dropped packs to walk down to Red Robin mine. There was no gold for us and we continued on along and down Machinery Spur for a late lunch next to Blair Hut and a cooling creek. Some horse riders had just passed through ahead of us.

There was some up hill after lunch and it was noisy like a washing machine near Red Robin battery. After the battery there was another hill to climb before dropping down near Dibbin Hut. There were several other groups out walking on this long weekend and we found a camping area a couple of hundred metres from Dibbin Hut which was starting to look like tent city. Everyone found a tent site and later we were glad to be further away from the hut.

Our minds turned to food and cups of tea or soup. We camped next to the creek and so had easy access to water for our meal preparation or to chill wine. The entrees starting to spill out of the backpacks including mussels and crackers. Everyone started on their main meals which included fresh vegetables (snow peas, zucchini & broccoli of course!) or frozen dinners that had just thawed out after the day's walk. The eating continued with biscuits and port. The evening cooled down quickly and the thermals were in order and a fire was lit.

Sunday morning was very frosty, a film of ice on all our tents. Day 2 was great, just day packs. We headed for Basalt Temple which gave a view over the high plains. The sun was shining and the navigation team of Roger & Dianne took us to a wonderful lunch spot with bathing spots for girls and guys and a great resting spot for sleeping in the sun. In the morning we had seen the cows and groups of brumbies.

After lunch we ascended Mt Jim before finding the Alpine Walking Track to Weston Hut. The Hut provided a perfect area for afternoon tea number 1. We descended and passed a few groups including a group of 8 men with full packs, they were out for 6 days. Later we were back on the 4 wheel drive track that passes Red Robin Battery. On the way back to camp we had our second afternoon tea.

Back at camp there was an opportunity to rest as we did not have to set up our tents. There was a second night of entrees including the freshly made popcorn by Sue (very creative!) The clouds passed over us and as night fell the stars became clearer. A pack of cards entertained those quick enough to learn the rules. The fire was a comfort as the temperature started dropping again.

Monday and it was time to pack up the tents and load the backpack up for our climb up Swindlers Spur. It was a good climb to a flat section at snow pole 150. Later there were a few more uphill sections which took us to Derrick Hut. The sun was out again and the surrounding hills were a delight. The alpine flowers were fantastic. The views changed as we came closer to the ski runs and the Mt Hotham village was in sight.

It was 12 degrees when we were out of our cars. We arranged a rendezvous at the Myrtleford bakery with the baker's dozen. In Myrtleford it was 32 degrees and it was a great idea to have lunch which then allowed us to return to Melbourne with enough time to unwind before the new working week.

Thanks to Roger, our leader for a great walk. See you all again – Roger, Sak Hong, Rod, Liz, Dianne, Howard, Bill, Brenda, David, Tracey & Jenny.

MARIKA JAGOW

MOUNT BULLER

LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND: 8 - 11 MARCH

The campsite at Sheeppark Flat seemed to be full of cars roaring in for the long weekend as we made camp late on Friday night. We soon left them on Saturday as we drove to Timbertop Saddle to start our walk. The track is uncompromising here, going straight up the fall line. I'd rather be going up than down, I thought, even though it was a tad slippery on the dry leaves and dirt. It was soon quite warm but we had shade until we entered the logged part. Less said about that the better. We had lunch under some trees then did a road bash along a logging road until we turned off the road to a track and began the climb up the west ridge of Mount Buller. We collected beautiful clear, clean water for the night before the climb. It was fairly steep, gradually becoming more of a clearly defined ridge. Our campsite was on a flat on the ridge with terrific views of the peak of Mt Buller (without any sign of the skiing infrastructure) and the west ridge, now looking pretty fierce and rugged. We had excellent views all around including Mt Cobbler. The sunset was spectacular.

We continued next morning up the ridge. Soon after setting off Gina flushed a couple of Spotted Quail-thrush which she seemed excited about. The ridge became a sharp, rocky, sometimes a little airy climb, steep in parts. We could see down to the Sawmill Settlement and the Grollo property. At the top of Mt Buller we encountered the public who'd driven to within 60 metres of the summit and climbed the last few metres. They were surprised to see us appearing up the ridge as from the top it looks sort of difficult. We had lunch away from the crowds and then took the Little Buller Spur track over Mt Little Buller and then down, and down to the Howqua River. Parts of this descent were again rocky, a bit airy and not easy. Further down, the spur became broader and lightly forested. At some point here Jerry decided to have a fight with a fallen tree and he lost. I noticed him hanging by his pack upside down struggling to get to his feet. Blood was everywhere. He had put a stick into the base of his thumb making a large hole and he was a bit battered around his lower regions. Being the first on the scene I gave him first-aid then others arrived and gave him second-aid. Despite this he seemed to be OK so we continued down to the river and camp. The public are unable to access the river here so we had a campsite to ourselves and a lovely swimming hole that was badly needed. We sat around the campfire and watched the stars come up, eating and yarning away until bedtime.

Next morning Jerry was still alive so we followed the river back to Sheeppark Flat. This route took us through many campsites full of the public. In one site we had to walk around a body in a swag, lying amidst some forty or fifty empty cans and bottles. His unseeing eyes looked into the distance. Going through one campsite Bob decided to liven things up by slipping on some gravel and caused bruising and scratches and more blood. More first-aid. The team was beginning to look like the retreat from Moscow. We passed Gardiners Hut which is privately owned and we spoke to the owners there, sitting drinking wine in a lovely area with some non-native, large and beautiful trees. Passing Tunnel Bend we crossed the river and arrived at Sheeppark Flat where we lunched and some swam and cleaned up. A walk along tracks took us by a couple of Koalas and Lyrebirds and back to Timbertop Saddle and the cars. We left with plenty of time for an ice cream stop and a dinner stop. The latter was at the Glenburn pub where they serve *excellent* steaks and other carnivore food at reasonable prices. Another great weekend, thank you, leader.

Party - Gina Hopkins (leader), Bob Oxlade, Jerry Grandage (now fully recovered but with scar), Rod Mattingley and me.

DERRICK BROWN

S.O.S.!

(SUSAN'S OCCASIONAL SERIES)

What's your favourite walk? I thought I might ask this of two of our long-time club members. Perhaps it will inspire *you* to lead, explore, revisit these tracks.

I thought I'd first ask this question of our newly-elected Walks Secretary, **Gina Hopkins**. Gina was hard-pressed to name one particular walk as a "favourite" but settled for the **Crosscut Saw**, feeling that all walkers should aspire to visit this area of the Australian Alps. (I'd second that.) For herself she'd already had a number of visits there & was, indeed, preparing for yet another trip that particular weekend. It's easily within "our patch" & in good weather provides the most stunning views. In every direction there is pure wilderness - it touches every sense.

Max Casley decided to recommend the **Big River Track, Mt. Bogong**, being an *easy* three-day walk offering the thrill of Mt. Bogong & the wonderful experience of being up on the High Plains. Moreover, this has the added attraction of being a circuit walk. The track follows Camp Creek, Quartz Ridge, Bogong Creek Saddle, Timms Lookout, with views to Mt. Buffalo & takes you past a couple of the High Country huts.

Views, endless blue sky, the bounty of a wilderness experience, fresh air & the company of Bushies. These are modest aspirations - but huge, attainable rewards!

SUSAN MAUGHAN

CONSERVATION REPORT

Here are some notes from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting of 24 April 2002.

East Gippsland - VicWalk received an e-mail on the proposed 300 km East Gippsland walking track linking Croajingalong and Copra-cambra national parks. There will be a \$330,000 scoping study undertaken and letters of support are encouraged from the bushwalking clubs. **Goolongook blockade** - Environment Victoria's April 2002 newsletter described the pre-dawn raid and tactics by police and NRE officers. The NRE declared an exclusion zone which also denied access to the media. 4 logging teams then moved in cleared the coup with 70% of the old growth timber believed to be for wood chipping.

Upper Bunyip Action Group - VicWalk representatives attended the April meeting. The U.B.A.G. is trying to protect the state forest in the Upper Bunyip river catchment from logging, especially the 350 block. This area is noted for attractive forest and walks eg Fisher's track. Bob Thompson (the convenor of UBAG) wants to develop a walking track along the Upper Bunyip River connecting to Fisher's track. A slide show will be held at Pakenham Council Office on 23 May to showcase the area. Bob Thompson is in need of support. Bushwalkers are strongly encouraged to help U.B.A.G. Contact Bob Thompson on 03 9702 1017.

Central Highlands - The Forest Manager at Powelltown is very keen to reconstitute the 'Walk into History' walking track. [This historic track and special protection zone was extensively damaged in 2001 by track works, with the construction work stopped by bush-walker/VicWalk intervention.] Also, the Forest Manager is very keen to talk to bushwalkers concerning the walking tracks in the Powelltown area. Issues such as the walking track to the Bump, conditions of the tracks (eg Richards Tramline reported to be overgrown), and recent logging at the Old Ada Mill site have prevented walker access.

Gippsland Forests - VicWalk have a representative on the Management Plan Review Panel as the 'Recreation nominee'. Of note, the Australian Alps Walking Track follows the **Champion Spur and C.S. 1 roads** (near the Black River). The Forest Manager is proposing to close these roads to vehicles and allowing for 'walkers and management vehicles only'. The four wheel drive clubs have sent submissions asking for these roads to be kept open. Also, the Australian Alps Walking Track north of Rumpf Saddle, up to Mt Sunday and to Low Saddle follows a jeep track. This may be considered for 'walker access only' in the future (it inadvertently was overlooked in the current management plan). **Red Jacket AAWT campsite** - the current campsite is close to the road and is just a gravel clearing. There is the possibility to recommend another site. A VicWalk rep. will undertake a field trip to check suitable sites.

Tasmania - current issue with logging in the Styx Valley. The Wilderness Society are encouraging members and the public to write letters to the Commonwealth Bank and ANZ bank concerning their large shareholdings of Gunns Timber Co. There will be a meeting at The Wilderness Society on Wednesday 1st May [Ross House, Flinders Lane] to organise the 100 bank shareholders to convene an Extraordinary General meeting on this issue.

Mt Stirling - the current situation with the proposed car park development at the 'cricket pitch' and new road access (west of the summit) for 4 wheel drive traffic to Craig's Hut. The 'cricket pitch' is a grassy saddle surrounded by snow gums at 1550 metres. With the recent poor snow seasons, the current parking area at Telegraph Saddle (1200 metres) has been snow free, and the nordic skiers have to walk 1+ kilometre to access the snow. Nordic skiers pay an entrance fee (and other summer park users pay no fee) and many expect to drive to the snowline. A round table discussion ensued with delegates stating their position. The consensus view is not to develop the cricket pitch as a car park and for the VicWalk rep. to present this view at the next Advisory Group and Board meetings. The issue of the Mt Stirling Board's 'less reliance on government funding' was also discussed with delegates suggesting a year round entrance fee for horse riders, 4 wheel drive and other users to raise revenue for the park operations eg Ranger presence and maintenance. **Cattle on Mt Stirling** - the suggestion of impounding the stray cattle on the summit has been forwarded to the Board. VicWalk 'Letters to the editor' of the Mansfield regional newspapers have been published on this issue have been published.

Great Ocean Walking Track - VicWalk have been invited to attend a 'Great Ocean Walking Track' briefing on Monday 20th May. This proposed walking track starts at Cape Otway and will finish at Port Campbell. The Victorian Trails Coordinating Committee will also be present at this meeting.

Kosciuszko National Park - a recent advertisement in *The Australian* 17 March 2002 calling for community consultation with the new management plan. To register, e-mail: kosciuszkopom@npws.nsw.gov.au

"Rally for our Forests" - All bushwalkers are strongly encouraged to attend this protest. Meet at Batman Park, corner of Flinders Street and Spencer Street, City at 10.45 am. Melway 1A. More information - contact Environment Victoria on 96671500. 'It's time to stop the chop' in our Gippsland, Otway and Wombat forests.

Great Dividing Trail - The Great Divide Trail Association has contacted VicWalk with concerns on the logging operations in the Wombat State Forest and its impact on the Great Divide Trail. DNRE have placed exclusion zones around the logging coups. A legal opinion from Senior Counsel is the DNRE exclusion zones are illegal. Local community action groups at Blackwood and Trentham are continuing their protest at Mt Wilson.

Track Clearing - Delegates to consider the future of track clearing. It is noted the 4 wheel drive clubs are very active in public land maintenance eg rubbish removal, hut maintenance etc. and this is seen as very good public relations exercise for them. Track clearing operations by bushwalking clubs have declined. Delegates need to consider whether track clearing continues on a club basis (eg Club's responsible for individual tracks) or should we have a Federation approach with a list of active helpers.



ROD NOVAK
CLUB DELEGATE
VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

NEW MEMBERS

MARK CLAVARINO

SARAH DEVINE

HELENA VAN DER HEYDEN

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

NANCY BELYEA

ALAN & JAN CASE

DEIDRE CASSELS/GEOFFREY STUART CHESTNEY

STEPHEN & SUZANNE CHENOWETH

STEPHEN DOWN

DIANNE EDLIN

DAVID & LILLIAN EVERITT

LESLEY D HALE

MICHAEL HUMPHREY

GABRIELLA IASCHI-BATE

SUSAN MAUGHAN

ANDREA MAYES

LANCE MOBBS

MICHAEL D QUINN

ELIZABETH SPENCER

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	358
Family Memberships	106 (=2x53)
Total Membership	485
This Time Last Year	464

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

FEBRUARY 2002 ACCOUNTS

	\$
Opening Balance	47,344.35
Income	3,611.30
Expenditure	5,651.55
Closing Balance	45,304.10

JAN PALICH
TREASURER

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wednesday 1 May - T Elmore & D Henry
Wednesday 8 May - C Lee & V Scrivenger
Wednesday 15 May - H Friend & D Pocock
Wednesday 22 May - P Cresswell & M Jagow
Wednesday 29 May - T Elmore & Q Tibballs
Wednesday 5 June - D Henry & W Cone

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 3 June at 7.00 pm in the clubrooms

JUNE 2002

Sun 2	Britannia Range – Britannia Falls	BUS	E & E/M	Alan Miller & Nick Dow	#
Queen's Birthday Long Weekend:					
7 – 10	Pack carry: Hattah Lakes National Park	Private	M	Roger Wyatt	
7 – 10	Base camp: Hattah Lakes National Park	Private	E/M	Gina Hopkins	
7 – 10	Pack carry: Wilsons Prom Lighthouse track	Private	E/M	Alan Clarke	
7 – 10	Base camp: Bentley's Plain	Private	E/M	Lance Mobbs	
Sun 9	Andrew Hill – Island Creek – Kinglake	BUS	E/M & M	Peter McGrath & Sibylle Holdheide	#
Mon 10	Historical walk: Williamstown circuit	Private	Easy	Nigel Holmes	*
Sun 16	Sutherlands Creek – Beards Gully, Steiglitz	BUS	E & E/M	Jerry Karbownik & Quentin Tibballs	#
Wed 19	Wednesday Walkers: Werribee Gorge	Private	E/M	Stuart Hodgson	
Sun 23	Birdsland Reserve – Lysterfield Lake	BUS	E & M	William Cone & Halina Sarbinowski	#
28 – 30	Pack carry: Dry Diggings Track	Private	E/M	Bob Oxlade	
Sat 29	Dandenongs Explorer: Sherbrooke Forest	Private	Easy	Warren Baker	
Sun 30	8.30 am start Kilcunda - San Remo	BUS	E/M & M	Linda Larkin & Ches Volpato	#

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RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP/ALTERATION TO PARTICULARS

Name (new) Name (old)

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 2002 \$21.00 less visitor fees *The News* – \$18.00

**Make cheques or money orders payable to 'Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.' and post to:
 Membership Secretary, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001**